

Wildcat Chronic

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

By Carly Tubridy
 Editor in Chief

Over \$8,000 was raised for the Susan G. Komen Foundation during an emotional night at Volley for the Cure on Sept. 29.

After two and a half weeks of organizing, the volleyball team helped raise money for Breast Cancer Awareness Month by integrating a rivalry game against Glenbard North with fundraising efforts.

"It was a very heartwarming experience to see everyone pull together to put this huge success together," varsity coach Kris Hasty said.

According to one of the event coordinators, Kelly Powell, a core group of about 13 put the event together, but an "army of 50" helped to make it happen.

Awash in pink

People were faced with a sea of pink when entering the hallway: raffles, baked goods, face painting, ducks, pink hair and dresses were everywhere.

Throughout the night the Art Club painted faces, the community leadership class sold affordable dresses and Namaste Salon put in pink extensions.

"It was quite a sight to see all the parents at 4:00 bustling around to get everything ready. It's a good feeling to see everyone help get it together," Hasty said.

Mama E's toffee, baked by dean's assistant Edi Freund, was just one of many baked goods that were available for purchase during the night.

"We had an unbelievable \$800 in baked goods donated for this event," Hasty said.

Around 90 raffle prizes were given away. Prizes included items such as gift cards, gift baskets, Bears tickets, and box tickets for the Blackhawks.

After making one's way through the jam-packed hallway and into the gym, there

was yet another sight to see. The school painted the stands pink. Students, teachers, and parents filled the gym to take part in the festivities.

School comes together

"The best part is seeing all of our student population joined together to support such a great cause," senior varsity team member Megan Taddeucci said.

Students donated money to teachers who volunteered to dye their hair pink for the game as a part of a community leadership fundraiser called 'Wego Pink.' However, when social studies teacher Nick Caltagirone revealed his wife had been diagnosed with breast cancer in May, students stuffed his jar to show support.

Fellow social studies teachers showed their support by dyeing their hair as well.

Emotions run deep

The night turned serious when stage three breast cancer survivor Margie Pilalis spoke.

Silence fell in the gym. Tears were shed as Pilalis spoke about her fight against cancer and the effects it had on herself and her family. She also encouraged people to reach out to those with cancer because it gives them hope.

"I was proud to be a teacher and coach when you could hear a pin drop during that

speech. The students had the utmost respect," Hasty said.

Other survivors were honored by receiving pink roses from members of the volleyball team. Mother of Evan Bernard ('11), Lorri Bernard was honored by sophomore Shelly Molskow and junior Ashley Nevitt.

Bernard is a two-time breast cancer survivor. According to Bernard, her cancer returned after 10 years to the day.

"I was never supposed to have Evan. I was so lucky," Bernard said.

Recognizing the effects

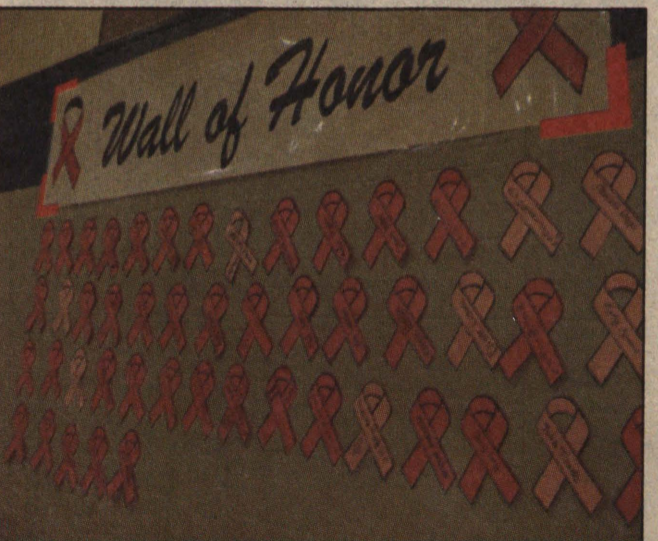
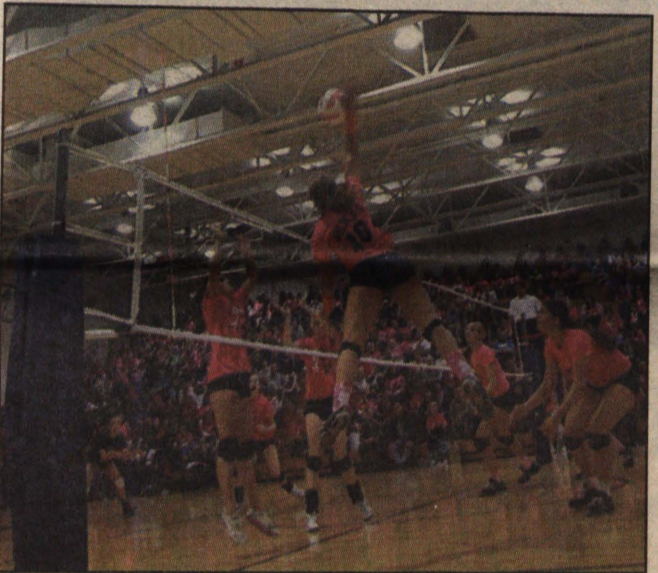
The Wall of Honor recognized breast cancer survivors who couldn't make it to the game and those who had died.

To illustrate the devastating effect of breast cancer, necklaces were passed out every 3 minutes to represent the fact that every 3 minutes someone is diagnosed with the cancer.

During the game those with necklaces were asked to stand up and an overwhelming number of people had 'been diagnosed with breast cancer.'

With all the activity surrounding the cause, one might have forgotten a game going on but with a win from each level no one could deny the overall success of the night.

"It was icing on the cake," Hasty said.



Photos by Carly Tubridy

From the top: Volley for the Cure helped bring in over \$8,000 for the Susan G. Komen Foundation with raffles, games, and baked goods; senior Julia Conard attacks the ball for a kill; both survivors and women that have died from the disease were honored at the event.

The Facts

In 2011, it is estimated that

There will be 230,480 new cases of invasive breast cancer.

There will be 39,520 breast cancer deaths.

and women should know,

At age 20, women should get a mammogram every three years and at 40, every year.

That by understanding what is normal for yourself, you can spot changes earlier.

Source: Susan G. Komen Foundation

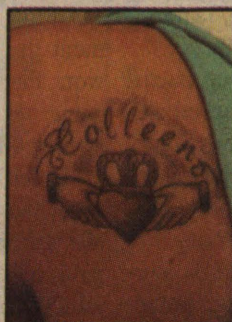
INSIDE Addiction

Facebook addiction is running wild. A few students have chosen to unplug from the world of social networking but not all--see NEWS, page 2.



Unjust Killing

The death penalty was called into question when a man was put to death after witnesses recanted their testimonies. To see the staff's view--see PERSPECTIVES, page 7.



Honoring moms

Tattoos are sometimes seen as negative, however spontaneous decisions gave these students a way to honor their mothers after they passed. For the full story--see FEATURES, page 11.

Victory!

At homecoming the football team won their first game of the season. To read a full account of the team's triumph over the Glenbard East Rams--see SPORTS, page 15.

Author: Following dreams is important

By Connie Kim
Perspectives Editor

Author Laini Taylor stood in front of students in the auditorium, gathering curious looks to her bright pink hair.

"I was inspired to dye my hair by Clementine, the protagonist in the movie 'Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind,'" Taylor said. "It's also why I made the main character's hair blue [in my book]."

Taylor visited the school on Sept. 28 to promote her newest book, "Daughter of Smoke and Bone."

A National Book Award finalist, Taylor's work previous to her most recent novel, was recognized by critics nationally.

For her whole life, Taylor knew she wanted to be a writer.

"I've always loved books, and I was even writing stories at the age of 6," Taylor said.

With the help of her husband, Taylor writes books falling into the supernatural and paranormal romance genres.

For her latest book, Taylor said that she created the setting based on a trip to Prague.

She also incorporates what happens in her daily life into some of the scenes.

As Taylor spoke to students, she talked about the writing process of creating a book.

"By the time it's about to

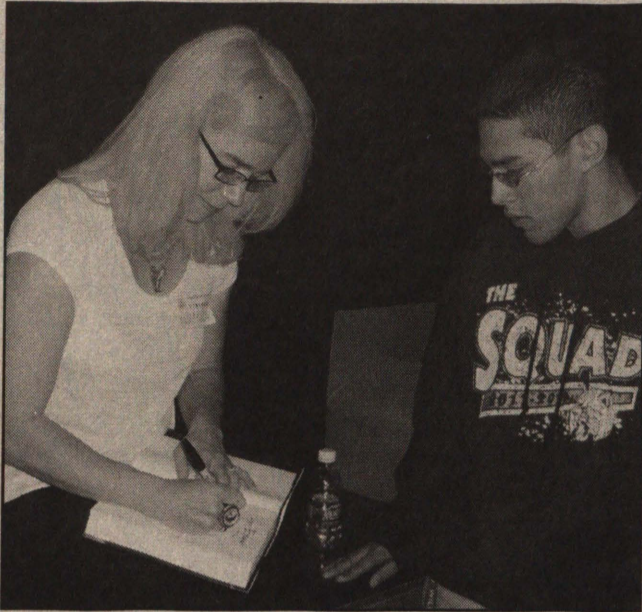


Photo by Connie Kim

Author of "Daughter of Smoke and Bone," Laini Taylor signs senior Edgar Martinez's book after speaking to students about the process of writing her book.

be published, you've read your book about 300 times and it loses its originality, but you're really lucky if you do sell a book," Taylor said.

Taylor emphasized that she firmly believes in finishing what she starts as a writer.

She also encouraged students who want to be writers in the future but don't think it'll be much of a career.

"Just do it. Put all your energy into [writing] because when you're young, that's the time for you to live your dream," Taylor said.

When writing, there are two things Taylor focuses on to be in her books.

"The two things most important to me about my books are the story and the

language. I focus primarily for it to be an entertaining story and at the same time for the language to be beautiful," Taylor said.

The school's partnership with Anderson's Book Shop in Naperville helped arrange the visit.

LRC director Eric Bodwell was excited about Taylor's visit.

"I recognized her name because we have one of her books, and I thought the students would be interested to meet her," Bodwell said. "If you like 'Twilight' or any other realistic fantasy novels with romance that have crazy out-there ideas, you'd probably be interested in her works."

What's Happening? *Tutors available*

By Giuliana LaMantia
Center Spread Editor

Students in need of tutoring, computers, or a quiet place to study can attend the LRC after school program from 3-4:30 p.m. every day.

Math tutor Rudy Mendoza offers tutoring for all students.

"Mr. Mendoza is bilingual, so Spanish speaking students are encouraged to take advantage of his help,

but tutoring is open to all students," LRC director Eric Bodwell said.

Bodwell hopes the program will grow.

"We'd like to start a peer tutoring program," Bodwell said. "I feel it's pretty successful, but we hope to expand it and get more students."

According to Bodwell, the program varies from having a few kids to being packed closer to exam times.

Help and serve

By Connie Kim
Perspectives Editor

Members of Interact Club are already getting involved within the community and will be helping the park district for Halloween festivities.

The trick-or-treat event will be located downtown on Saturday and will help the park district judge costumes and give out candy from 1-3 p.m.

Focused on volunteering at different events, the club performs community service including the annual school blood drive and helping out at the park district.

Interact Club adviser Gavin Engel encourages all students to sign up and par-

ticipate in the club.

"One of my favorite quotes is 'Serve up and get back what you give', and I feel like this quote applies to the club as it helps you realize how lucky you are and humbles you to give back to the community that you love," Engel said.

Engel is the club adviser for the first time this year.

Students who are interested in making new friends and being involved in the community are invited to join.

The club meets on the second Wednesday of every month in the auditorium at 7:30 a.m.

Students should sign up outside Engel's room in the counseling office to join the club.

Writers sought

By Hailey Lenahan
Reporter

Horror enthusiasts and creative writers get ready, the LRC is hosting a Dare to Scare short story writing contest.

Students inspired by the spirit of Halloween can enter a short scary story and be eligible to win a \$15 gift card to a book store, iTunes, or their favorite coffee shop.

Food drive scheduled

By Keyuri Parmar
Features Editor

During Thanksgiving everyone deserves a well rounded meal, which is why SkillsUSA is organizing a food drive from Nov. 1-17.

All the canned/boxed food donated by students

Participants need to save their completed story in the LRC drop box on the G drive.

Submitted stories will appear on the LRC Web page beginning Oct. 17 where others can comment on the submissions.

The author whose story receives the most comments wins. All stories need to be submitted by Nov. 4. The winner will be announced Nov. 18.

will go to St. Mary's food pantry.

FBLA is helping SkillsUSA with the food drive, along with various other clubs so the drive can be more successful.

One student from each grade and one teacher will receive a gift card for donating the most cans.

Firsts mark homecoming



Photo by Hailey Lenahan

Seniors Emily Warkins and Brandon Danial embrace after being crowned homecoming king and queen during the pep assembly Oct. 6.

By Hailey Lenahan
Reporter

Homecoming week was a week full of firsts from powderpuff to the homecoming game.

Starting on Oct. 5, the junior team beat the seniors in the powderpuff game for the first time in seven years with a final score of 35 to 28.

"It was a really big blow to my senior year, next year it should be tackle football," said senior Hayley Macko.

The Oct. 6 pep assembly brought the crowning of the new homecoming king and queen, seniors Brandon Danial and Emily Warkins.

"It was really awesome winning home-

coming queen," Warkins said.

Keeping the trend going, the seniors won the float building contest, making it the classes fourth year winning.

"All of us who have been involved in Student Council all four years work really hard on them and we're really proud of the way they've all turned out," senior Deirdre Hofman said.

Adding to the excitement the football team won the homecoming game in a matchup against Glenbard East.

"It felt amazing [to win], we worked hard all year and it finally paid off," varsity captain Matt Green said.

Distractions lead to disconnection

Students unplug from Facebook to focus on studies

By Liz Ramos
News Editor

Students are disconnecting themselves from one of the most popular social networks in order to stay focused on school.

According to the New York Times, there are "350 million members worldwide, who, collectively spend 10 billion minutes [on Facebook] every day."

"Like anything in moderation if you know that you want to check your Facebook then you can allow yourself 15-30 minutes. You can check your status and see what's going on. Anything beyond 30 minutes or even 15 minutes is plenty and any more is being reactive instead of proactive," English teacher Brian Turnbaugh said.

Junior Julia Caithamer has been Facebook-free for six weeks.

"Well, I thought that it being junior year and all, I should try and stay off it for awhile. And I also hated going on all the time just because I was bored," Caitham-

er said.

Staying off Facebook has allowed students to finish school work more efficiently.

"It helped me concentrate a lot more. When I was typing something up, Facebook would usually delay me," junior Erika Macias said.

Macias attempted to stay off Facebook but ended up going on after six weeks. She is attempting for the second time.

"I deactivated it because I remember last year I couldn't get any homework done," Macias said. "I'm going to [stay off Facebook] because testing is coming up and with the junior research paper [JRP] I need to focus and I know I'm going to want to go on Facebook a lot."

Not only are Macias and Caithamer disconnecting from Facebook but school and students around the country are doing the same.

Two students from San Francisco University High School are staying off Facebook as well. According to the New York Times, "The two are among the many

teenagers, especially girls, who are recognizing the huge distraction Facebook presents — the hours it consumes every day, to say nothing of the toll it takes during finals and college applications, according to parents, teachers and the students themselves."

Temptation to go on Facebook has not gotten the better of Caithamer or Macias.

"[I've been tempted to go on Facebook] a lot. Every couple of days I have the urge to go on but I tell myself I need to try and stay off longer," Caithamer said.

Turnbaugh believes the fact that there's immediate feedback from others makes students want to log on.

"People want to know that they are being heard and be-

ing seen. We like to know that we're being connected and Facebook allows us to do that. Whether we put a picture up we want to know the people are seeing it. Even though it's 2-D we still like to know they are seeing it," Turnbaugh said.

According to Nielson Company, a market research firm, "In October, Facebook reached 54.7 percent of people in the United States ages 12-17, up from 28.3 percent in October last year."

Different tactics have helped keep Caithamer and Macias stay off Facebook.

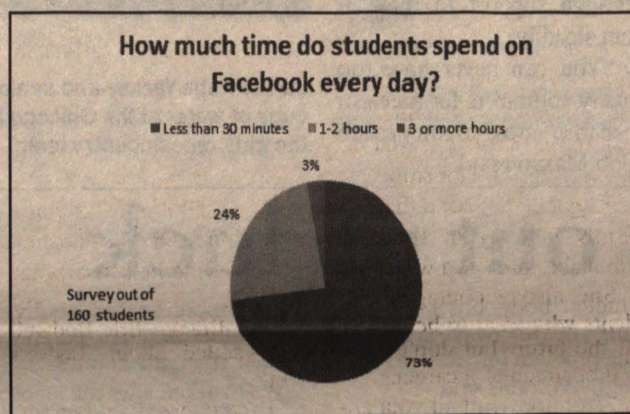
"I just used the fact that I'll think of myself as weak if I were to let myself go on, and my boyfriend helps me," Caithamer said.

Macias gets help from her friends to stay logged off.

"I had my friend change my password for me so I wouldn't be able to log on. It went well until I was tempted because of a link that was sent to me for homework and I had to check it somehow," Macias said.

Although staying off Facebook has helped Caithamer focus on her studies she feels more disconnected from the world.

"Not only does the cross country team have a Facebook page that they put announcements on but I feel like I'm missing out on the latest information that people don't tell people but decide to put on Facebook," Caithamer said.



95 out of 160 students find themselves going on Facebook when they should be working on school work.

31 out of 160 students would or have disconnected from Facebook to avoid distraction.

113 out of 160 students believe that Facebook is a distraction to school.

First Amendment rides into school

Students explore freedoms in a bus

By Liz Ramos
News Editor

The First Amendment came to life when students visited the Freedom Express in late September.

The Freedom Express is a mobile interactive experience that the McCormick Foundation funds and has been coming to the school for the past two years.

All government classes, the journalism class, and a reading class visited the Freedom Express.

"The Freedom Express is important because it shows people who have stood up for their rights. Hopefully it will reinforce what they've learned in class about the Bill of Rights," government teacher Mary Ellen Daneels said.

Students enjoyed the experience aboard the Freedom Express.

"I thought it was really cool and interesting. It was like the museum came to you instead of you going to the

museum. It was really interactive," senior Aubrie Sole said.

Along with the interactive experience, students learned more about the First Amendment and Bill of Rights.

"[The Freedom Express] taught me how many people in history have fought for freedom and how many different ways they fought for

freedom. Also how the First Amendment has changed," Sole said.

Students were able to learn facts they didn't learn in class.

"I was able to see firsthand examples of the civil rights movement. We learned about the different ways the First Amendment affects our lives every day," senior Hayley Gillespie said.



Photo by Connie Kim

Senior Nikki Vertheen looks at an exhibit about the five freedoms during a trip to the Freedom Express with her government class.

Budget final; contracts pending

By Carly Tubridy
Editor in Chief

The Board of Education approved the budget on Sept. 6 with no major cuts, however the teachers' contracts have yet to be approved.

By law, the school board had until September to approve a budget but the negotiations for the teachers' contracts continue. If need be, the board can amend the budget to accommodate the salary changes.

Teacher Association president Kristina Mallon and board president Katherine Doremus declined to comment on the matter as the negotiations are ongoing.

This year's expected revenue is \$29.97 million, however the school is still waiting on over \$1 million in state funding from last year.

Expected expenses for this year is \$30.3 million. Other funds and interest earnings will cover the difference.

Capital spending has increased by \$470,100 from last year.

"Capital spending is the purchase of items that will last over time. So that would be items like hardware, the new computers and other equipment," Supt. Lalo Ponce said.

A change in the school's contract with Quest, the school's cafeteria management company, will save the school an estimated \$560,600,000.

"They now handle the expenses and revenue and we get a commission," business manager Gary Cole said during the meeting.

Two new departments were added this year. According to Ponce, the new speech pathologists and the new AVID program required new sections to the budget but they did not change the bottom line. AVID is a program to help students prepare students for college.

Volunteers help at marathon

By Brandon Jackson
Reporter

Chicago hosted its 35th annual Marathon with the help of the girls cross country team on Oct. 9.

Seniors Diana Serio, Kelsey Sayner, and sophomore Catherine Serio were just a few participants who volunteered at the half mark, providing water and healthy snacks for the runners.

"It went really well. We got up after homecoming night and only with a few hours of sleep, still had a great time," Diana Serio said.

Generally there aren't as many volunteers as runners, however this year volunteers were greatly needed.

"I was not too overwhelmed until a man, who was running at a pretty fast pace, grabbed onto me and was collapsing. It was frightening, but I helped him along," Diana Serio said.

This year the weather

played a major role with the results of the runs.

"I ran with my dad for about a mile and encouraged him to keep going. Since it was so hot, he wasn't as pleased with his time as he hoped, but still finished under five hours," Diana Serio said.

Fifty-four people sought medical attention during the race due to the temperature.

Diana Serio is not daunted by the injuries.

"I plan to run the actual marathon next year since I will be allowed to. I want to run it because it would be a great accomplishment," Diana Serio said.

For now volunteering will suffice. Volunteers like the girls cross country team made sure the Marathon had enough support to make it run steadily.

"You can never have too many volunteers for an event like this," cross country coach Bob Maxson said.

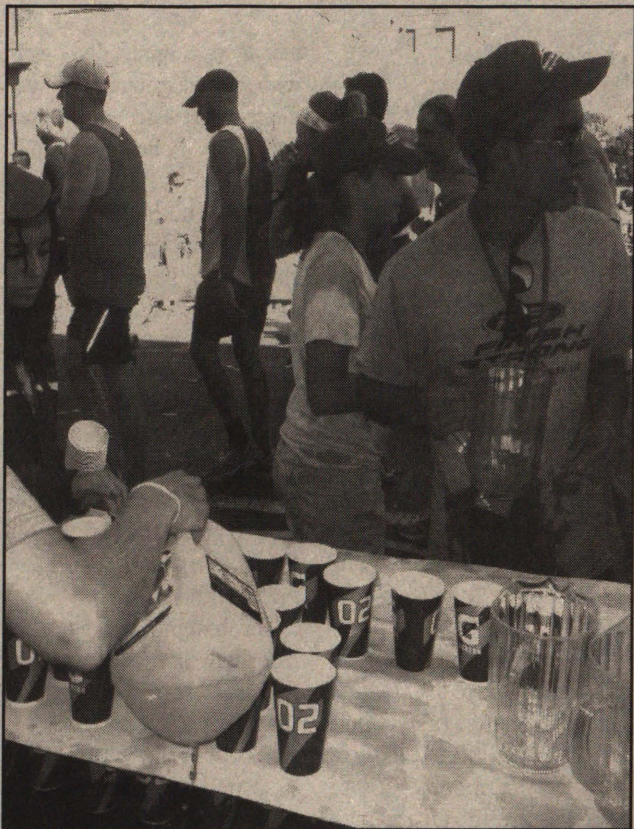


Photo courtesy of Diana Beltran

Junior Katie Yackey and senior Jon Hernandez help pass out cups of water at the Chicago Marathon on Oct. 9 along with the girls cross country team.

Old dresses raise money for Red Cross

By Hailey Lenahan
Reporter

The community leadership class sponsored the first WeGo Dress Up sale this month and raised about \$150 for the American Red Cross.

Girls donated their old formal dresses to the sale so that others could buy them at a reduced price.

"I first got the idea when a friend told me about giving her prom dress to a consignment store for 40 percent of the profit," senior Megan Taddeucci said. "I came up with this idea so that girls who couldn't afford beautiful dresses could get the dress of their dreams."

Around 35 dresses were donated to the sale and all of the profit and the dresses that were not sold went to the Red Cross.

"We chose to donate to Red Cross because we knew if we lost everything due to a natural disaster, we'd be devastated, so we thought they would be most appreciative of the donations," Taddeucci said.

The students were pleased with the outcome of the sale and are eager to do the same thing when prom comes around.

"I hope to do the same thing for prom, and hopefully with more advanced notice more girls will donate dresses and it can be 100 times better than the first fundraiser," Taddeucci said.

Seniors out of luck

By Connie Kim
Perspectives Editor

Parking policies will not change this year even though seniors showed up at the Sept. 20 school board meeting to express their concern about the school board's new policy that removed special senior parking.

Fifteen seniors, led by seniors Emily Warkins, Alex Hund, and Steven Celmer spoke on behalf of the senior class.

"A school board works to reflect the best interest of the

student body, but I felt like [the board] was accepting the problem [of student parking]," Warkins said.

One issue Warkins pointed out, was the seniors did not have any input in forming the new parking policy.

Another concern was the cost of parking and where the money goes.

Principal Moses Cheng said that the money generally goes to the parking lots and for other parking maintenance.

Students and parents suggested solutions such as

paving more spaces or giving seniors different parking stickers than other students.

When asked after the meeting if the board decision to take away senior parking was final, Cheng said, "Right now, the parking policy still remains as it was approved by the board several months ago because decisions have already been made, and the parking process already started. However, I appreciated the students expressing their opinions appropriately and respectfully."

Seniors protesting the

cause were able to bond through the experience.

"If anything good came out of this, it would be that the issue unified us as a senior class," Celmer said.

The decision is final for this year, but it may not always be for the future.

Warkins thought the protest at the board meeting made somewhat of a difference.

"I think they didn't do anything to get [senior parking] back, but I think the school board and administration realized the next time they make a decision, they need to consider our thoughts," Warkins said.

Highest honor for hard work

By Keyuri Parmar
Features Editor

Waking up early on a Saturday morning to take the PSAT/NMSQT, was worth it for senior Jeffrey Pekosh.

He found out why on Sept. 30 when his guidance counselor sent for him. What he thought would be more college information ended up being an award naming Pekosh a Commended Student in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Commended Students are recognized for their academic promise shown by their results on the PSAT/NMAQT.

A national selection index score of 202 is needed to be in the running, but participants who receive a score of 202 or higher and below the state/selection unit's semifinalist qualified score, become Commended Students. Pekosh was not told his score.

"I thought it was cool that I made it this far in the competition," Pekosh said.

Thirty-four thousand students are recognized as Commended Students for their academic achievements on the PSAT/NMSQT. These students are pulled from the 1.5 million students who took the test in 2010. From the 34,000



Photo by Keyuri Parmar

Guidance counselor Mary Roley gives senior Jeffrey Pekosh an award for being a Commended Student in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program.

students 16,000 are chosen as semifinalists, and then the finalists are picked from these students.

Mary Roley, Pekosh's counselor, was proud of Pekosh. "Winning the award was a pat on the back for him

because he works so hard and takes hard classes. He deserved to be recognized," Roley said.

Appreciating vets

Students write essays showing recognition for sacrifices

By Hailey Lenahan
Reporter

Students are taking the time to show their appreciation for our veterans in this year's Voice of Democracy competition.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars and Ladies Auxiliary sponsor the Voice of Democracy competition, which is a national competition where students write and record an essay on a specific prompt.

Students who participate in the competition have a chance to earn a financial reward for their efforts. Government teacher Mary Ellen

Daneels encourages students to participate in the competition for many reasons.

"For one, it shows appreciation for the veterans and all they sacrifice, two, it's a great way to earn scholarship money, and three; it's a great activity to put on your college applications," Daneels said.

Senior Kristyn Pavnica's essay was one of the top essays in the school last year, and Pavnica is looking forward to participating again.

"I did Voice of Democracy because it's a great opportunity to let our veterans know that they are appreciated and respected. They work so hard

to protect and preserve our country, and we need to be reminded of their sacrifices," Pavnica said.

For Pavnica, the best part of Voice of Democracy is the reaction from the veterans that get to listen to the essays.

"If you make it to the regional level of judging, it's really cool to meet the veterans at the awards dinner. They really appreciate what you write," Pavnica said.

The deadline for essays this year was Oct. 14, but students are encouraged to participate next year and show their appreciation for our veterans.

This year 151 students submitted essays for the competition and the participants should find out how they did at the February board meeting.

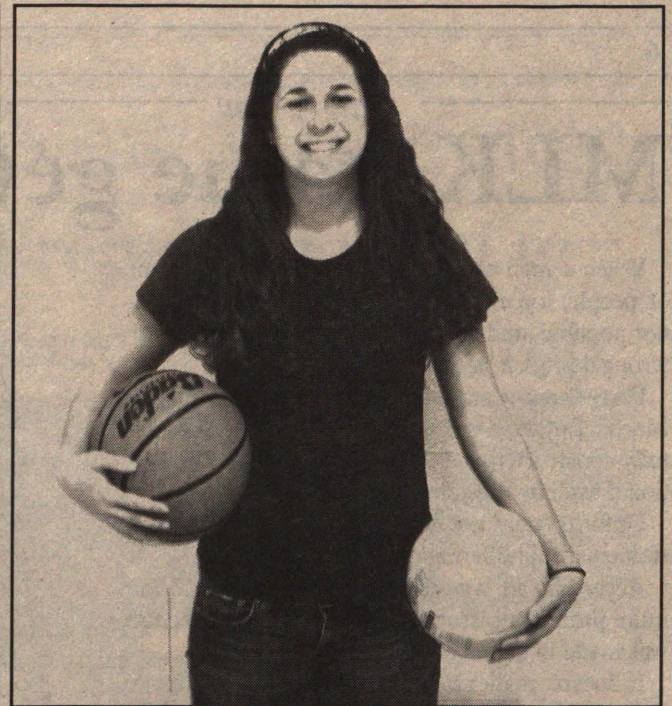


Photo by Kristina Manibo

Involvement in volleyball, basketball, and track along with many other extracurricular activities has awarded senior Emily Warkins September Student of the Month.

Dunk for success

By Kristina Manibo
Entertainment Editor

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.

Balancing extracurricular activities and three sports has earned senior Emily Warkins the title of September Student of the month.

What was your reaction when you found out you were Student of the Month?

I was honestly surprised when I first found out; I was

not expecting it at all.

What extracurricular activities are you involved in?

I play volleyball, basketball, and run track. I'm also in NHS, Spanish NHS, Interact Club, Ambassador Club, and Pep Club.

What are you majoring in college?

I am planning on majoring in zoology and minoring in conservation biology.

Who is your inspiration?

My inspiration is Tony Fitzjohn. He opened Mkomazi National Park in Tanzania and is one of the leading conservationists in the world today. He reintroduces orphan animals into the wild, like elephants, lions, leopards, and rhinos.

Bus company creates woes for school

By Kristina Manibo
Entertainment Editor

Rolling into the first quarter of the year, complaints about new bus company Illinois Central still have not improved.

In September, issues with Illinois Central caused complaints. Students were late to school or had to wait after school for a long time due to the late arrivals of the buses.

"[The buses] were very late in the morning. They were late for maybe 20 minutes one time," sophomore Alex Reynada said.

Principal Moses Cheng is doing what he can to get the message across to the bus company.

"We're continuing to communicate the issues and problems to the bus company. We're expressing our frustration to them about their services," Principal Moses Cheng said.

Problems with Illinois Central have not been solely in Dist. 94.

"It's been happening in other districts as well. At one point, they needed more drivers. Illinois Central needs to figure out their problems on their own," Cheng said.

Sports teams have also been affected by the bus problems.

"The sports bus has had issues. One time they sent a tiny little bus for 30 girls and a coach," sophomore

Catherine Serio said, who is in cross country. "Multiple times for meets we have had to wait for at least 15 minutes for the bus. Also, [coach Bob] Maxson has just told the driver to come at an earlier time than we really need so they are actually on time."

As far as assessing the problem, the district will have to wait and see if Illinois Central will improve.

"We're going to have to evaluate again soon. With the school year already started, our options are very few," Cheng said.

However, lately the bus company has improved.

"I'm in cross country but that's the only bus I take," junior Katie Yackey said. "It's been better lately; they seem to be on time more. They send the right type of bus now, instead of small buses that don't compensate our team."

Illinois Central customer and community relations director Patrick McCarthy declined to comment for an interview request.



Photo by Kristina Manibo

The bus arrives five minutes late on Tuesday due to Illinois Central's continuous problems.

Newspaper grabs the gold and more

By Keyuri Parmar
Features Editor

For the first time the Wildcat Chronicle received the George H. Gallup Award from Quill and Scroll, along with a gold certificate from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association.

Quill and Scroll gave the Chronicle their highest honor because of the Chronicle's superior rating in coverage, visuals, and writings/editing.

"I'm extremely proud of the staff, especially because we got the Gallup award for the first time and it is their highest honor award. The awards are reflective of the hard work the staff puts into the paper. No one but the staff knows how many hours are put in. It's great when a

professional sees what we have done," adviser Laura Kuehn said.

Kuehn encourages students to write to their highest ability not just enough to win competitions.

"I don't think we should write for judges but should write to the highest level we can, consistently having top ranking scores," Kuehn said.

Receiving these awards is very rewarding to the staff.

"I'm really proud of the staff because I know everyone here works really hard and cares a lot about the paper so winning is a really gratifying feeling," editor in chief Carly Tubridy said.

Although the Chronicle has won two awards this month they are looking forward to winning more.

Our View

MLK statue gets undeserved criticism

When a man can assemble a significant amount of people, force change in the most peaceful manner possible, and open the eyes of those guilty of wrong doings, a statue is well-deserved.

Forty-three years after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a memorial was successfully constructed and dedicated Sunday in the National Mall by President Barack Obama.

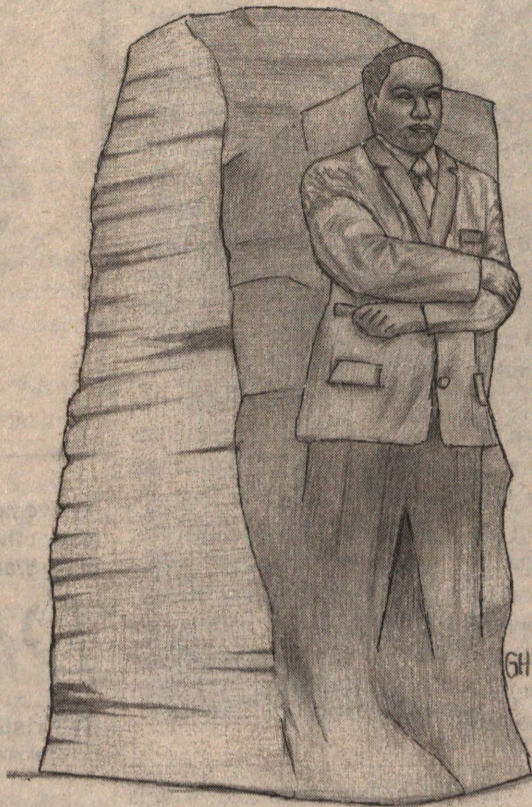
Unfortunately, not everyone could appreciate the statue without offering criticism.

According to www.dailymail.co.uk, one of the more prominent issues was the fact that the statue was made in China.

It doesn't matter where the monument is made. What matters about the monument is what it stands for.

Another issue that arose according to www.architect.com was that the statue strongly resembles those of North Korean descent and gives people uneasy feelings as it reminds them of Kim Jong Il, North Korea's dictator who rules with an iron fist.

When people are fully aware of who the statue is supposed to represent and why it was built, why do they go out of their way to come up with a ridiculous theory?



One man went as far to say that discrimination is being shown by denying King's statue shelter.

This is a ridiculous observation due to the fact that the FDR memorial is unsheltered, along with others.

Some people were complaining about the amount of time it took to successfully build the memorial.

For memorials such as this one, in order for the building process to even take place, it needs to be passed by Congress.

But for those saying 43 years is too long, the Jefferson Memorial took 100 years after his death for a memorial blueprint to be created.

Overall, people are looking way too deep into the making of the statue.

Building a monument is a big deal and should be taken seriously, however people need to understand limitations.

People should appreciate those who have dedicated their lives to achieving this monument, instead of criticizing where the statue was made and who it bears a resemblance to.

King would probably have been thrilled with the statue but saddened that people criticized such a positive action.

Powderpuff game angers seniors

Bad sportsmanship exhibited during the game

The fun homecoming activity powderpuff was taken too far this year.

Sportsmanship on both sides was unacceptable. Many blamed the seniors, as they took their un-sportsmanlike conduct to a public level by defacing a car.

One game was even ended by the refs due to the fights that were breaking out.

However, it is unfair to blame solely the seniors and to lump all the seniors together. Not all the girls took part in the poor sportsmanship that happened that night. A few select girls, both juniors and seniors, took a fun game much too far and the rest were banned for it.

Both sides took part in the scuffles for many reasons. Seniors were being sore losers while juniors were dealing blows that ended in a bruised rib and a dislocated shoulder.

Sparks for the fighting included cheating, losing, and girls getting unnecessarily rough; racism was not a factor.

While student coaches were being accused of being racist because of original teams they formed,

people have to understand that teams were made based on groups of friends. The boys had no intentions of segregating the girls. When the teams were changed, many of the girls tried to go back to their original teams, anyway.

These accusations also shed an unnecessary bad light on the girls. They already have their behavior

to answer for, the motivation behind it should not be blown out of proportion. It was nothing more than poor sportsmanship.

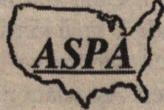
Granted, that doesn't make any of the events that took place better; the sportsmanship on both sides was still awful. The girls involved in these fights and the cheating should be ashamed of themselves. They took a fun game that should have gotten everyone pumped for homecoming and turned it into a brawl that only makes them look bad.



Photo by Giuliana LaMantia

Juniors walk away after seniors interrupt their chant by creating a mob and starting their own chant.

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

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Breast cancer bracelets banned in schools



By Keyuri Parmar
Features Editor

Not being allowed to wear a bracelet supporting breast cancer research violates a citizen's rights according to the First Amendment.

But that hasn't stopped public middle and high schools from attempting to ban the bracelets that sport the saying "I (heart) boobies" and support breast cancer awareness.

According to www.huffingtonpost.com, Easton Area School District in Pennsylvania banned the bracelets because they considered the phrase to be a sexual innuendo.

Administrators in the district agreed that students in both middle and high

schools hear profanity daily, but they didn't like the sexual reference to the bracelets.

When boys began grabbing girls' breasts at the Easton Area middle school, administrators said the bracelets encouraged the behavior, thus they banned the bracelets according

McLaughlin wrote in a 40-page ruling that schools issuing the ban were hypocrites because they used the word "boobies" and that the ban was unconstitutional.

A federal judge in Pennsylvania said banning the bracelets is an unconstitutional move that limits a student's

'Schools don't have the right to stamp out First Amendment rights because they don't like the words on a bracelet.'

to www.huffingtonpost.com.

Sauk Prairie Middle School near Madison, Wis. told a student she could not wear the bracelet because of the inappropriate context.

All generations refer to breasts as boobs or boobies, big deal. And even if some immature boys were inspired to grab some breasts because of the bracelet, it is no reason to stop raising breast cancer awareness.

But the bigger issue here is the First Amendment.

Court cases and judges agree with my assessment. U.S. Judge Mary

right of speech and is a form of school censorship. Banning the bracelets would be violating the First Amendment.

Lawsuits filed by the students who were told they could not wear the bracelets, were filed by lawyers affiliated with the American Civil Liberties Union.

Students should be allowed to wear the "I (heart) boobies" bracelets in school because they aren't inappropriate. They also raise funds for the American Cancer Association because \$1.50 of the \$4 paid for the



Photo Courtesy of www.keep-a-breast.org

bracelet goes to the American Cancer Society.

Schools don't have the right to stamp out First Amendment rights because they don't like the words on a bracelet. And even though the bans were declared unconstitutional and students were allowed to wear the bracelets in school again, it was an argument that should not have happened.

Recent Davis and Knox trials outrage the world

The criminal justice system may have just executed an innocent man while a potentially guilty woman walked



By Connie Kim
Perspectives Editor

The execution of Troy Anthony Davis on Sept. 21 has angered the world as many believed he was not guilty of killing a police officer 22 years ago in Georgia.

He was convicted after seven out

of 34 witnesses at the time said that they saw Davis shoot the officer while two said Davis admitted he committed the crime. However, his case was reopened in 2010 when the U.S. Supreme Court forced the District Court of Georgia to reexamine the charges and hear any new evidence.

During the hearing, seven of the nine witnesses changed or recanted their testimonies, declaring that Davis was not at fault. Many witnesses clearly said in their affidavits that they only admitted to Davis being the murderer as the policemen that interrogated them wouldn't release them unless they admitted it was Davis and signed the statement.

According to www.amnestyusa.org, one witness, Monty Holmes, felt the police were questioning him as if he were in trouble which led him to

sign the statement that Davis was the murderer.

"I told them I didn't know anything about who shot the officer, but they kept questioning me... I was scared... It seemed like they wouldn't stop questioning me until I told them what they wanted to hear. So I did. I signed a statement saying that Troy told me that he shot the cop," Holmes said.

In the Davis case, it appears that most of the testimonies were coerced.

While this should have been enough to at least have a stay of execution or grant Davis a new trial, the judge ruled the testimonies as unreliable, and Davis was executed.

When compared to the Amanda Knox trial in Italy, the judge's ruling is puzzling.

Knox, who was accused and originally found guilty for murdering her

roommate in Perugia, Italy, was given a new trial when two witnesses spoke up saying that Knox wasn't at fault.

Knox's murder conviction was overturned by an Italian jury because DNA evidence was not correctly gathered, releasing Knox from her 26-year-sentence although there was evidence of her DNA on the murder weapon, and she made false accusations, blaming others for the murder.

What has the criminal justice system come to, killing a man before guaranteeing that he committed the crime he was being accused for?

Even worse, a woman who had so much evidence against her was released.

The purpose of the criminal justice system is to punish the guilty while protecting the innocent but that obviously didn't happen here.

Courts should have listened to the new witnesses in the Davis case but wrongly decided not to and as a result, an innocent man may have been executed. That is a miscarriage of justice.



Freshman

Eiyssa DiRaddo
"I believe they push the line at times, and it's more of a fashion statement than a bracelet."



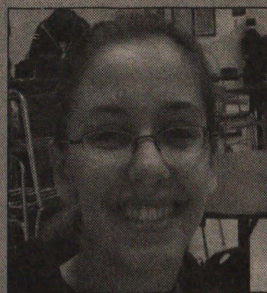
Sophomore

Joe Sawicki
"I think they make a lot of money for the cause, so maybe [people] can wear the bracelet during their free time but not in class."

Students Speak

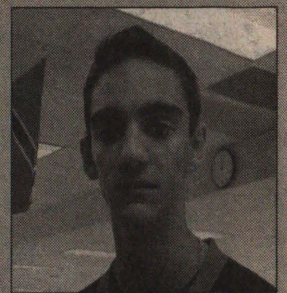
Compiled by Liz Ramos

Should schools be able to ban "I (heart) boobies" bracelets?



Junior

Amy Tedeschi
"No, because they're supportive bands, and schools should be able to have them."



Senior

Anthony Temes
"No, because they're supporting breast cancer."



Home of the Crazyed

By Brandon Jackson
Reporter

My experience at the Elgin Mental Health Center was daunting.

The center is haunted because in the past, disturbing torture methods were said to be used on patients, and many lives were lost within the premises.

Trials and studies were done here so doctors could help treat the illnesses and find out if anything was contagious, while in isolation from society.

Rumor has it that the faculty would torture criminals, and the patients themselves, and when finished, bury them all in the same coffin at this very center.

Also some say that a few patients didn't even belong there because they were perfectly sane, but unfortunately they had a conflict with the wrong person.

I was there with senior Carly Tubridy to see if the compound lived up to the haunted reputation.

Chilling winds swept over the destroyed and rundown buildings, and the faded brick strained my eyes because I was trying to find out what color the building was.

Upon arriving, there was a shift in mood, and suddenly the humor was gone and the atmosphere was more serious.

The building towered over me, casting a shadow where I was standing.

Admittedly, I was already in the mindset of being scared, and the atmosphere solidified my feelings.

The air became harsh and bitter, and Tubridy and I were suddenly paranoid as well as cautious of the surroundings.

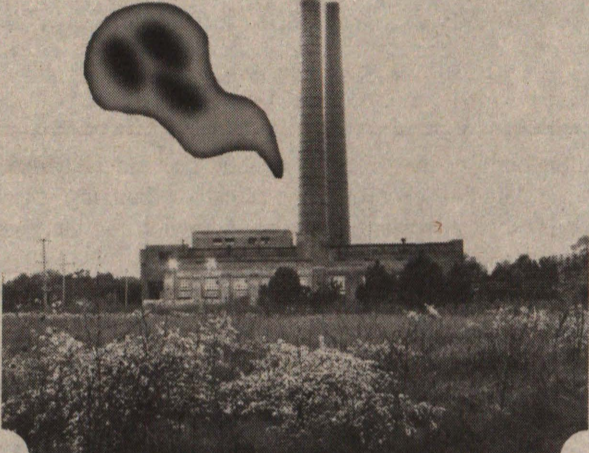
While I was walking up to the building to retrieve a decent snapshot, I had mistaken a plant for some type of rodent brushing up against my leg and had a slight panic attack.

Overall the Elgin Mental Health Center is supposed to be a place that was full of corruption, aggravated spirits, torturing scandals, and an immense amount of crime.

My experience there is definitely one I could do without because it just looked horrible and depressing.

I couldn't begin to imagine having to live there because it seems horribly uncomfortable.

The hopeless environment, the mindset of knowing the history, and the intimidating size leaves you contemplating the question of what things are taking place in the dark hall ways of Elgin.



In a chilling investigative report, the Wildcat Chronicle set out to unravel the truth behind some eerie myths close to home.

Children of

By Carly Tubridy
Editor in Chief

According to legend, the railroad tracks on Munger Road. Legend has it that if you stop on the tracks, put your car will see small handprints on the car.

Ghosts of children that were killed on the tracks when and push cars off the tracks to protect others from their.

Other rumors circle Munger. An abandoned house near ders and an escaped mental patient add to the eeriness of

With these legends in mind, I sought to encounter my

Unfortunately with the new movie "Munger Road" pr

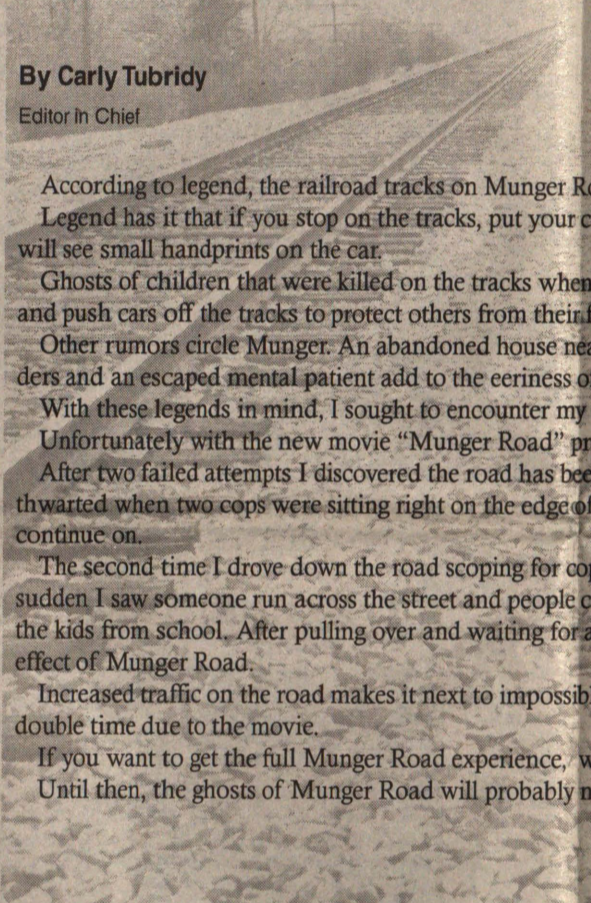
After two failed attempts I discovered the road has been thwarted when two cops were sitting right on the edge of continue on.

The second time I drove down the road scoping for cop sudden I saw someone run across the street and people c the kids from school. After pulling over and waiting for a effect of Munger Road.

Increased traffic on the road makes it next to impossible double time due to the movie.

If you want to get the full Munger Road experience, w

Until then, the ghosts of Munger Road will probably n



You can check in...but you can't check

By Giuliana LaMantia
Center Spread Editor

Numerous legends and interpretations surround the historical Hotel Baker located on the Fox River in St. Charles.

Junior Keyuri Parmar and I set out to uncover the truth behind the hotel's paranormal myths late one night.

Upon visiting the hotel, we were informed by an employee that the founder of the hotel, Colonel Edward Baker, lived in a room on the fifth floor of the hotel, and his into the Fox River. According to legend, guests can hear the mistress' cries and report having their bedding disturbed by unseen hands.

Walking into the hotel, we could tell the place had years of history, from the original wooden doors to the marble staircase. A slew of current mainstream songs and ren tion being held that night, which did not at all fit the dimly lit, old-fashioned lobby.



Although beautiful, there was something spooky about the hotel as we explored the hallways.

When we reached the fifth floor, supposedly haunted by the ghost of Edward Baker's mistress, the mus heard at all. In fact, the single hallway that served as the fifth floor was so eerily quiet one could have eas grunted mistress.

A sudden and tangible chill drove us from the floor.

We made our way back to the second floor, the music loud again, and almost comforting, where we ex the windows for us and let us stand on the tiny balcony over the river. I'll admit there was something crec the river where the mistress had supposedly committed suicide from jumping out of a window just a few

Suddenly, a loud, piercing woman's scream echoed off the walls of the hotel and into the night.

We jumped back into the room, shaken, however the two employees seemed completely unfazed, carry

We left shortly after that, and getting into my car parked on the bridge next to the hotel, I knew that sc at the party.

Either way, we embarrassingly locked the doors and drove away as quickly as possible.

Whether the myth is real or not, or our experience there was due to some supernatural phenomenon or a fascinating yet slightly frightening place.

*Photos by Carly Tubridy, Brandon Jackson, Keyuri Parmar, and Giuliana LaMantia, and from www.clker.com



of the tracks

...r Road are haunted.
 ...ur car in neutral, and put baby powder or flour on your car you
 ...hen a train hit their school bus a long time ago are rumored to try
 ...eir fate
 ...nearby is said to hold the young souls of the deceased. Two mur-
 ...s of the road.
 ...my own Munger Road ghosts.
 ...' premiering, the spook has been taken out of the road.
 ...been stripped of most of its scariness. My first attempt was
 ...of the tracks. As it is illegal to stop on the track I was forced to
 ...r cops, keeping an eye on the spot where the cops were. All of a
 ...le crouched next to the tracks. This spooked me until I recognized
 ...or a while I realized there was just too many people to get the full
 ...ossible to stop on the tracks as well as the police who are patrolling
 ...e, wait until the buzz from the movie dies down
 ...ly not show themselves.

out



...his mistress committed suicide by jumping out the window of his room
 ...remixes reverberated through the tiny hotel due to the wedding recep-
 ...music that had been so loud just minutes before could suddenly not be
 ...easily heard a ghost go "boo," or in our case, the scream of a dis-
 ...e explored the famous Waterfront Room. An employee opened one of
 ...creepy about standing in the chilly late-night air, looking down into
 ...few floors above our heads.
 ...arrying on in casual conversation.
 ...t scream had to have just been from someone on the street or someone
 ...n or simply in our overactive imaginations, Hotel Baker will always be

School spirits

By Keyuri Parmar
 Features Editor

Benedictine University in Lisle is considered one of the most haunted colleges in the state for various reasons.

Legend has said the ghost of a boy in a blue shirt and shorts has been sighted in many areas around campus, no matter what the weather, and then disappears.

In Benedictine Hall no one, not even custodians, will enter the fourth floor because there is supposedly a ghost of a priest who haunts the halls.

At Neuzil Hall it has been said that if a picture is taken of the hall, when developed a little boy and girl are standing at the end of the hall staring into the camera.

Other stories told about the university include legends about there being tunnels under the school, televisions being turned up and down by themselves, radios turning on by themselves, and certain dorms and rooms being closed because of supposed paranormal activity.

After hearing all these legends, taking a trip down to Benedictine University was a must and full of anticipation of something scary happening.



Since the college students had a long weekend, when fellow reporter, junior Giuliana LaMantia and I visited, the campus was more deserted than usual making the experience more eerie.

Every boy walking around on his own with a blue shirt caused goosebumps to form on our arms.

For the first 10-15 minutes on campus we were too frightened to even get out of the car.

While driving along the road which encircles the campus, we passed a statue of what looked like the Virgin Mary.

A light shined through the woods off to the side of the road, and when we finally got out of the car and investigated, we came upon a statue of a woman in a white shelter, with roses everywhere.

As we walked to the statue the wind was blowing causing chills to go through my body. We kept looking behind and around us into the woods to see if anyone was there.

It was too dark to read the sign that described what the statue was there for, all we could make out was the statue was dedicated to someone. We didn't care much; the statue was frightening, with an overgrown path leading from the statue into the creepy woods nearby.

We also visited Neuzil Hall which was abandoned at the time because it was about 10 p.m. on a Sunday night.

We approached the building with no fear; it was a lot less creepy than the statue. But as I began taking pictures down the hall I began to shudder, just the thought of there possibly being a ghost in my pictures made me not want to look at them.

When I did look I found some blurs appeared in the pictures but nothing that looked like children.

Walking around campus on a dark night was creepy. Any abrupt noise would cause us to shudder and tense up. But even though the school was eerie, we did not see any paranormal activity.

At least none we were aware of.

Features

Breast cancer victims leave marks on many Twice the pain caused by two Hofman family members

By Liz Ramos
News Editor

About 1.3 million women are diagnosed with breast cancer each year but only two made sisters senior Deirdre and junior Brianna Hofman realize how big of an effect breast cancer has on a family.

The sisters' aunt Joann O'Malley and grandmother, Kathy Harper, both died from breast cancer.

O'Malley died in 2003 just three days after Christmas. She was only 34 and had two young children. Harper died in 2008 at 62 leaving behind her five daughters and 14

grandchildren.

"It was really sad because you go through Christmas and you don't really think about anything else except your family's happiness but the holidays ended with a phone call. I just remember bawling my eyes out and remember the bell from 'It's a Wonderful Life' because of the line 'a new angel is born every time a bell rings,' said Deirdre, "for my aunt, I didn't really understand it because I was young. It really hit me when she was bedridden. It really hurt when my mom and my aunts told me what was going on and that

she probably wasn't going to make it."

The heart-breaking news of O'Malley's diagnosis in 2000 was followed by Harper's diagnosis in 2004.

"When my grandmother got [breast cancer] I was really mad because I thought she would pass away like my aunt. With her treatments, it went away, but then about a year later it came back and I knew that it wasn't good because it came back worse," Brianna said.

Family members were frustrated knowing there was nothing they could do to stop the pain and suffering their loved ones were going through.

"It was really hard knowing that I couldn't do anything. It was really frustrating that the doctors couldn't do anything more than what they're doing," Deirdre said.

Being affected by breast cancer has changed the way Deirdre thinks about breast cancer.

"Breast cancer means that people have to fight for their lives. I don't see it as a good thing because it affects and hurts so many people. I think



Photo courtesy of Deirdre Hofman

Sisters Deirdre and junior Brianna Hofman went through their grandmother's breast cancer struggle together.

it should be a priority for scientists to find a cure," Deirdre said.

Due to Brianna only being 8, she didn't know exactly what had happened with O'Malley but still struggled with the loss.

"With my aunt, since I was only about 8 years old, I couldn't really react quickly but later on I would randomly just start bawling my eyes out and sometimes just wake up crying, and I still do with both my grandma and aunt. They were two amazing women," Brianna said.

After O'Malley died, Deirdre and Brianna helped their cousins and other family members through the loss.

"With my grandma, I know my mother was already mourning the loss of her

sister and now her mother. Mainly both deaths caused tension and emotional parts in my family. It was just very difficult," Deirdre said.

Since the death of O'Malley and Harper, Deirdre and Brianna have participated in many events supporting finding a cure for breast cancer.

"I have participated in Relay for Life all four years of high school. Over this time I have raised over \$1,000 for breast cancer. I've made meals for families with people with breast cancer. I've taken care of my grandmother," Deirdre said.

Through their experiences, Deirdre and Brianna are committed to making sure others don't suffer the effects of breast cancer.



Photo courtesy of Deirdre Hofman

At a young age senior Deirdre and junior Brianna Hofman lost their aunt to breast cancer.

Love and support bring family together

By Hailey Lenahan
Reporter

When a disease threw a curve ball at one family, their love and support brought them together to face the fight.

Social studies teacher Nick Caltagirone's wife Tammy Caltagirone was diagnosed with breast cancer after a routine mammogram she had in May.

"It was very surreal, we were obviously upset but there was also a sense of 'we need to do something.' It all happened very quickly after she was diagnosed," Nick said.

Since the diagnosis, the family has had to make some minor adjustments to their daily life, but for the most part, the days go on as usual.

"She just has to be careful not to overdo it. She still works the same job with the same hours. She's very energetic and active but the reality of chemo is that she gets

tired," Nick Caltagirone said.

Chemotherapy has not only affected Tammy's energy level, but her physical appearance as well. The Caltagirones have noticed that strangers look at Tammy differently now that she has begun her treatment.

"She feels self-conscious because she looks like she's being treated for cancer," Nick said.

Despite the reactions of strangers, the West Chicago community has been extremely supportive of the Caltagirone's situation.

All of the teachers in the humanities department spray painted their hair pink in support of the family.

"People in the community have been wonderful, there has been a sense of community and we've really seen how kind and passionate people can be," Nick said.

With the support and help of the community, the Caltagirone family has been able to keep a positive attitude at



Photo courtesy of Nick Caltagirone

The Caltagirone family, Tammy, Nick, and Joe, spends time together as they learn to stay positive.

home.

"Our mantra is that there is no time to wallow, we have bad days, but they're the exception not the norm," Nick said.

Even with the bad days the family is forced to face, the entire situation has been a learning process, in a medical and a philosophical sense.

The Caltagirone's son, Joe Caltagirone, has a greater interest in what exactly the doctors do since his mom started treatment.

"He's been very helpful with post surgery care; he's very interested in what's going on," Nick said.

While Joe has learned a lot about the medical field, Nick

has learned a lot about himself on more of a philosophical level.

"Things move so fast that there is not much time to think, but it's shown me that whenever we thought we knew something, something else would come up and change that. I'm a little unsure of my own correctness now," Nick said.

One of the biggest realizations the family has made since Tammy's diagnosis is that it is necessary to acknowledge reality.

"The reality of life is the reality of life, we still have to work, go to school, and cut the grass like everyone else, and so often we choose not to acknowledge what is real," Nick said.

Now, the Caltagirones are doing all they can to remain positive and move forward with Tammy's treatment. Most importantly, the Caltagirone family would like to encourage women at the appropriate age to get a routine mammogram because it could be a life-saving examination.

Best performance at DVC attributed to motivation

By Kristina Manibo
Entertainment Editor

Girls golf finished their season with the best performance in 15 years.

Varsity took fourth place in DVC on Sept. 27, and JV took fifth, which is "the best we've done in a long time," according to senior captain Aubrie Sole.

The top six varsity players went to regionals on Oct. 5, and sophomore Hanna Netisingha made it to sectionals on Oct. 11 with fourth place overall.

"I didn't do so well, but I had as much fun as I could.

I tried my best and did all I could though, so I'm happy I got to where I did," Netisingha said. "The team was really happy with how we finished and it was an awesome feeling."

Prior to DVC, Netisingha and the girls had to really focus.

"I practiced a lot with my short game and tried to focus as much as possible during practice," Netisingha said.

In addition to the success at the end of the season, the team had very low scores throughout the season.

"Our lowest was 175, which is the best ever in

Wildcat history," Sole said.

The successful season was because of the girls' motivation and increased progress.

"Every girl on the team improved this year," Sole said. "The girls as a whole have improved so much just within the past four years I have been here. I only see it getting better because of the motivation these girls have."

This season being Sole's last, she hopes the years without her are just as successful if not more.

"I wish the team the best of luck next year, and I hope for a great season like this year," Sole said.

New strategies: Propelling team to success after slump

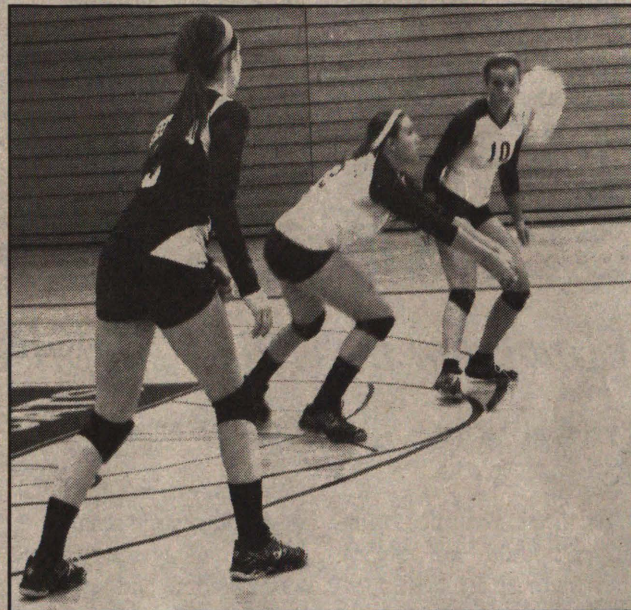


Photo by Brandon Jackson

Junior Nora Palermo passes the ball against York's serve on Oct. 14 during Autumn Fest.

By Brandon Jackson
Reporter
and Carly Tubridy
Editor in Chief

Strategies for the girls volleyball team have proved to be successful as they plan to continue their dominance, building on their 19-9 record.

On Tuesday the girls took on West Aurora; results of game were not available as of press time.

The team took 21st at Autumn Fest on Friday and Saturday.

"We had two really competitive teams in our pool," varsity coach Kris Hasty said.

Providence Catholic and Normal Community bested the team in pool play.

After moving onto the bronze division, the team lost to Wheaton Warrenville South but defeated Glenbard East and Lisle.

In the weeks leading up to the tournament, the team decided to work on certain aspects of their game to improve as a team.

"We need to really work on

our blocking as a unit," Hasty said.

Not only have the girls worked on strategies during the game, but they switched up their pre game and post game rituals.

"Before the game we cut out the side-talking, and take part in team bonding activities," junior Taylor Karg said.

After the game the team has a conference to see what improvements need to be made.

Team meetings after practice have also helped the girls clear the air and work better as a team.

At the practice before Volley for the Cure the girls had one such meeting that helped them get out of their slump.

"It aired out the dirty laundry, so to speak," Hasty said.

The girls look forward to Senior Night on Thursday against Naperville Central.

"I'm hoping I don't cry because it's going to be the last time I'm going to be playing with the name West Chicago on my back," senior captain Julia Conard said.

Looking for strong finish

By Hailey Lenahan
Reporter

After a rough loss to West Aurora, the football team is hoping for the best during Friday's game against Naperville Central.

Coming off a win against Naperville North, Naperville Central has a record of 5-3 this season and will be a tough match for the 1-7 Wildcats.

"Central is a good team, and in order for us to be successful we need to execute and play as a team," said senior Zack Doell.

Heading into the last game of the season, Doell reflected on what it meant to be a senior football player.

"It means a lot that it's the last game of our senior season because, for a lot of us, we many never set foot on a field again," Doell said.

Looking back on his high school football career, Doell is grateful for the time he's had as a part of the team.

Last game of high school career sparks emotion among seniors

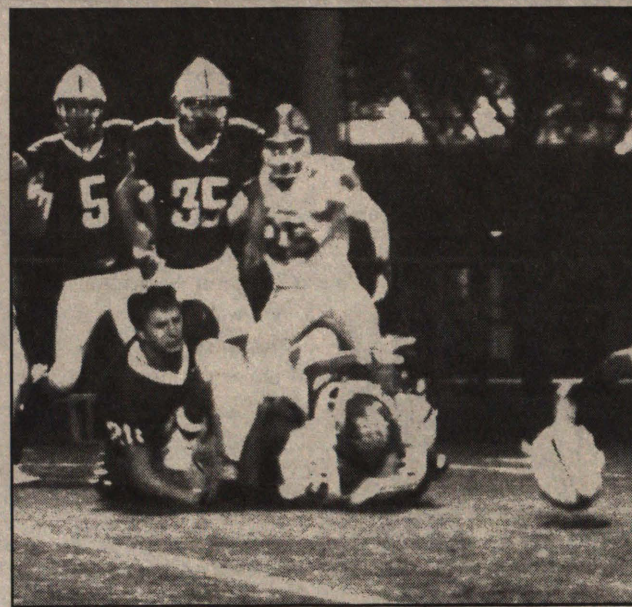


Photo by Carly Tubridy

After tackling an opponent from West Aurora senior Brian Baid's helmet flies loose on Oct. 14.

"Despite our record, this has been a pretty good season," Doell said. "This has been the most fun I've ever had playing football, it's been

a great experience that I'll never forget."

The Wildcats take on the Redhawks Friday at 7:30 p.m. at Naperville Central.

Underclassmen make their mark on varsity

By Connie Kim
Perspectives Editor

A few underclassmen on the cross country team are transitioning their way to varsity.

In fact, the top runner on the team is sophomore Lindsey Sayner.

"[Being the top runner

of varsity] is sometimes nice and sometimes sucks because it's a lot of pressure. However, I take all my workouts seriously, and it's paid off," Sayner said.

Among the underclassmen on varsity are freshman Mae Elizabeth Gimre and sophomore Diana Beltran.

"Lindsey was a varsity run-

ner last year, and [Gimre and Beltran] have earned their way onto varsity this year," coach Bob Maxson said.

Not only are there particular underclassmen running very well, but the freshmen/sophomore team has been doing exceptional at meets.

At the Crystal Lake and Wauconda invites, the team

was awarded third and fourth out of 20 teams, and were also awarded second place overall out of 15 teams at the Bartlett invite where Sayner came in first in her event.

"I ran the freshmen/sophomore race at Bartlett, and it was fun but different. I felt it wasn't as competitive [as a varsity race]," Sayner said.

With the added talent from the underclassmen, the team has gained more depth that helps them succeed at meets.

"I think the girls have been doing well because the depth has increased, and the greater number has allowed for us to run with success," Maxson said.

Positivity in the face of injury

By Hailey Lenahan
Reporter

The girls tennis team is working hard to stay positive with some of their top players sidelined with injuries.

According to coach Sione Moeaki, the team has been working and playing hard this season but they have been struggling due to inju-

ries among some of the top players.

"Three of our four top players are injured, so I can either move girls from lower positions up or I'll have to move players up from JV," Moeaki said.

With three of the top four players out with injuries the teams younger, less experi-

enced players have had to step up. Varsity captain Frida Camargo is confident that the younger players can fill the shoes of the injured girls.

"I do think [the girls can step up], they're strong and even if they don't win they know they tried their best," Camargo said.

Despite the fact that the

team is working hard to fill the gaps, the team's morale is lower than usual.

"I see the spirit is down, because during our conference match we had to forfeit three out of seven games because of injuries," Moeaki said.

Camargo agrees that the morale is lower, but also notes that the girls are all

able to remain positive in the tough situation.

Sectionals for singles and doubles were Saturday at St. Charles East. While none of the teams moved on, sophomore Shannon McCarthy and junior Daniela Garcia's doubles team took it to a tie breaking game but ended up losing in a close match.

Season's first win

Homecoming victory surprises and excites

By Keyuri Parmar
Features Editor

As the clock turned 0, the players could not believe they had just achieved a 28-21 win, beating the Glenbard East Rams for a homecoming victory. But the squad did as it rushed onto the field Oct. 7 to congratulate the winners.

All season the boys knew they had the potential to beat Glenbard East, which gave them hope.

"We just saw Glenbard East and we knew we had a really high chance of winning which helped us work harder," senior Cesar Diaz said.

Head coach Paul Reinke was proud to see his players win.

"It was exciting to see the

kids' work pay off," Reinke said.

Energy was felt in the always enthusiastic squad.

"The energy on the field was awesome and energetic. There was a lot of energy," Reinke said.

A feeling of accomplishment swept through the players as they looked up at the score board after the game was over.

"Looking up at the score board when the clock was at 0 and seeing the home team with more points was the best part of the night," junior Chance Coats said.

With a new level of confidence, Reinke anticipates the last games of the season will satisfy the players.

"I hope they have developed more confidence going

into the last two games to pay off for what they have done," Reinke said.

Before the game, the players' mentality was more positive and determined than usual.

"They had a sense of urgency at practice partially because they were amped up for homecoming," Reinke said.

Being optimistic changed the team's attitude.

"We just had a really good week of practice, everyone seemed like they were in the zone," Coats said.

Winning the homecoming game has boosted the team's confidence.

"Practice hasn't changed terribly, they have more confidence, but their effort and energy is the same," Reinke said.

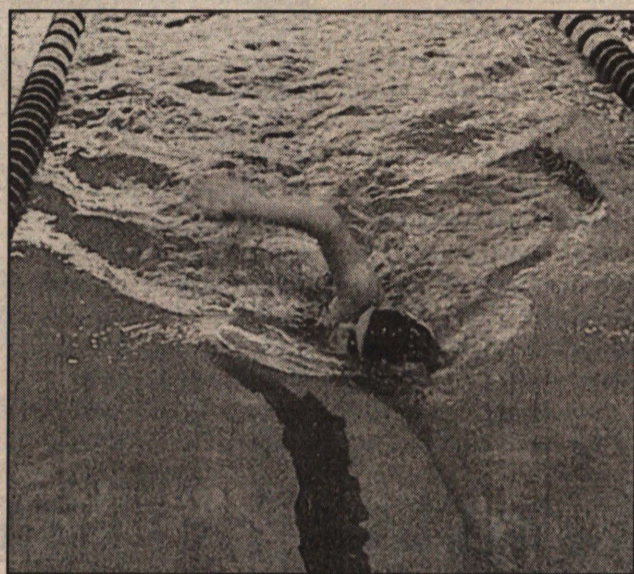


Photo by Giuliana LaMantia

Sophomore Nicole Reitz pushes herself during practice to simulate what a race will feel like.

Race environment improves times

By Giuliana LaMantia
Center Spread Editor

Going faster during practices and setting the bar higher, girls are swimming their way towards success.

"Right now, we are where I would expect us to be," coach Nick Parry said. "Some people are doing a lot better than I thought they would at this time."

During a meet at St. Charles North Oct. 1, the girls were able to swim against 12 teams they would be seeing again during DVC, sectionals, and state, including two of the top swimmers in the state currently.

"Just swimming next to them gave us a feel of what it's like to swim at state, and if you were in a lane next to them they pushed you to go faster," junior captain Maya Skorupski said.

Skorupski was proud to beat one of the fastest girls in the state in the 100 meter back stroke with a time of 58.20 seconds.

"It was really good to verse people I know I'm going to see later on, and it was really good competition," Skorupski said.

With one or two conference meets a week, the girls are competing well.

According to Parry, the program was changed so practices are run more like a race environment, and girls are swimming faster.

Skorupski is currently ranked third in the state for the 100 back stroke, being 2.2 seconds under the state cut, and just above the cut for the 50 freestyle.

Junior captain Yvette Kruk is 8/10 of a second away from the state cut in the 100 breast stroke.

A trip to the beach to break up monotony of practices also contributes to the team's success.

"A few weeks ago we went to downtown Chicago and swam in the lake and ran and worked out on the beach, so I think that helped," Kruk said.

Parry feels the team is coming closer their goal of improvement, winning as much as possible, and being successful in conference.

"We're starting to get to a point where we are starting to win [more]," Parry said. "I'm becoming more positive we can do this."

Overall, the team improved more than they had expected.

"I think since everyone has gone faster than they thought, we are setting our goals higher," Kruk said.



Photo by Keyuri Parmar

Junior John Carlos runs through Glenbard East during an exciting homecoming victory. The squad rushed the field when the Wildcats achieved their first win of the season with a score of 28-21.

Dominating the field

By Liz Ramos
News Editor

With a record of 16-5-3, boys soccer is dominating the field with nothing but success.

"[The season is] going really well. We've had a lot of recent success lately," coach Steve Brugmann said.

With only a few games before regionals left, Brugmann believes the team's record is excellent at this point in the season.

"The teams we've lost to have been great quality teams. We've recently had a 3-3 tie against Larkin and Larkin is ranked third in our section and we're ranked fifth," Brugmann said.

Being successful has players feeling confident in their chances of making it far in

sectionals and possibly to state.

"It feels really rewarding in a way. We've been working hard over the summer and at practice and getting to where we want to be," senior Gilberto Villa said.

Scoring opportunities and working on defense have helped the team.

"We're really focused on defense. We've been focused on not giving up; not giving up free kicks, goal kicks, and corner kicks," Brugmann said.

According to Brugmann, the players with the most impact on the field are senior Esteban Fernandez and juniors Diego Munoz and Jesus Duran.

"In terms of controlling the game, most of our plays go through [Munoz]. In goals

it's [Fernandez] and [Duran]. Both [Fernandez] and [Duran] have scored around 15 goals and [Munoz] allows us to play a very controlled game at our pace," Brugmann said.

According to Brugmann, at least a dozen boys have scored a goal this season. Difference in the atmosphere at practice than in past seasons has the team more focused.

"[Practice is] more serious with less people fooling around. We take it serious because we want to get far and set high goals for ourselves," Hernandez said.

Hopes of doing well at regionals and sectionals are high for the team.

"We have a really winnable sectional and we just have to work really hard to get downstate," Villa said.

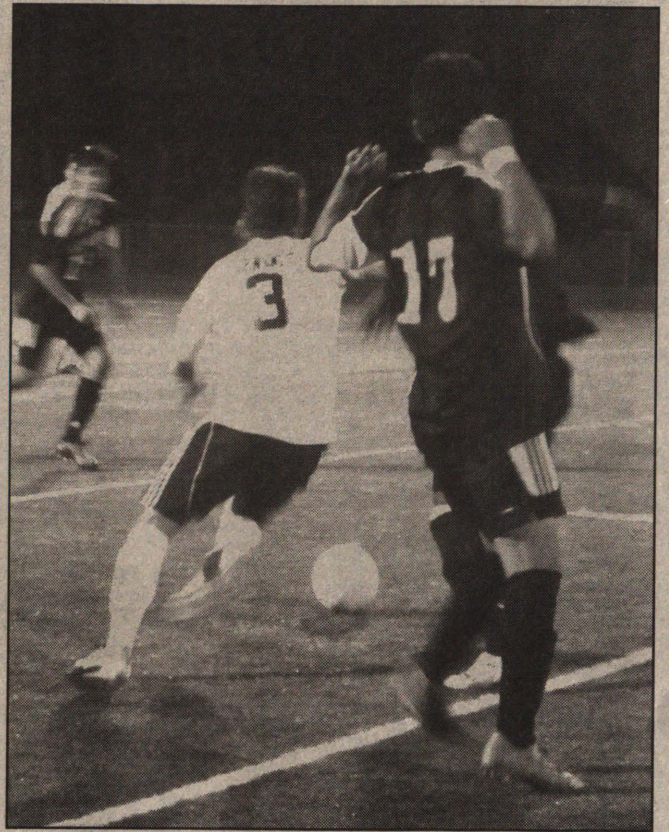


Photo by Liz Ramos

Senior Esteban Fernandez jukes around an opponent while playing against East Aurora on Oct. 10. Fernandez has scored around 15 goals this season.

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News flash to NBA: You're not the NFL

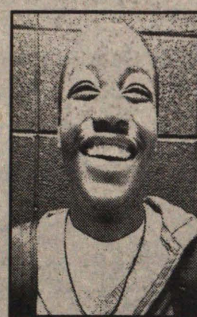
Why is there a NBA lock-out this year?

To break it down simplistically: the owners want more money and the players don't want to give up their money.

There is a major disagreement for who gets the money and where the money goes.

Twenty-two out of 30 NBA teams are projected to lose money this year. High salaries

are said to be the main cause and the players are being told that they need to have a 25 percent pay cut.



Brandon Jackson

The reason this got out of hand is because the team's front office would pay millions for a contract, and if that player doesn't perform as well as projected, or wants out of his contract, the owners lose money.

Not only is there word on a significant pay cut, but there's talk that there's going to be a harsh salary cap. That's going to drastically change the personality of the game.

Will the Miami Heat still be able to keep Chris Bosh, Dwayne Wade, and LeBron James on the same team?

For that matter, will the Oklahoma City Thunder be able to pay Kevin Durant, Kendrick Perkins, and Rus-

sell Westbrook? That's a humble team with fantastic players. How low is this salary cap supposed to be?

In order to have championship teams, you need a few outstanding players.

When a team requires outstanding players, the team who has the most money generally receives the advantage.

The manifest function for the pay cap is to get the finances under control, but the latent function would be to keep the game fair and prevent super teams from forming.

Commissioner David Stern does not want the NBA to head in that direction where it's unofficially fixed.

However, for a team that has solid players with good chemistry, is it fair for the salary cap to split them up?

Who knows? However I believe it's unintelligent for them to cancel the NBA for this year immediately after they've had some of the best reviews since Jordan played.

News flash for the NBA: You are not the NFL.

In order to build a solid fan base, it would be ideal to keep the sporting event consistent, otherwise more money will be lost along with the fans.

It's already bad enough that the first two weeks of the season have been cancelled.

The NBA needs to handle their business and fast before they get the exact opposite of their goal, and lose money.

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Juniors triumph,
tradition changes

"I enjoyed playing the game and winning and hanging out with friends."

--junior Sonja Novitski



"I liked the competition. It was intense. It made it more fun and it made people try harder."

--junior Gianna DeLuca



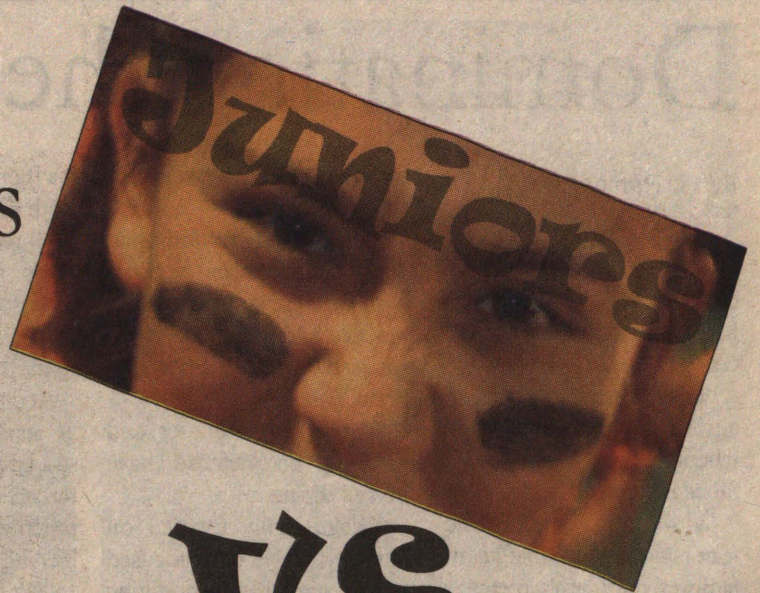
"I like how all the seniors get together and put aside our differences to play. It's not about beating up on the juniors; it's about all the seniors getting together."

--senior Kristyn Pavnica

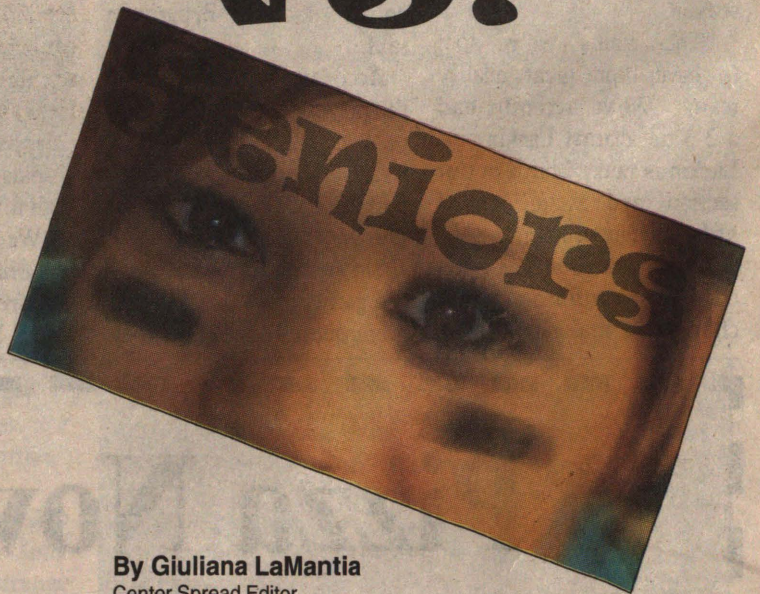


"I really enjoyed playing the game against the juniors because I feel it's good, competitive fun."

--senior Deirdre Hofman



VS.



By Giuliana LaMantia
Center Spread Editor

While juniors are stoked by the win, seniors are enraged by the loss of powderpuff for the first time in seven years.

"It's really kind of a bummer. We worked all this time, so it's just a let down," senior Caitlin Lawson said.

Seniors called out the refs for making "bogus" calls, as well as the scoreboard runners for allegedly rigging the event every year.

"It's just stupid, they rig it every year, why did it change this year?" senior Danielle Pauling said. "It's a tradition, and they shouldn't change tradition."

Despite what students may say, Pep Club sponsor Dave Jennings said the game has never been rigged, and seniors have never had an unfair advantage.

"There's this crazy theory that we help the seniors win every year, but it's not true," Jennings said. "Seniors usually dominate because they are better organized. We don't add free points to the scoreboard; it would be a scandal."

Either way, juniors stand loud and proud.

"It feels amazing knowing we're the first ones to beat the seniors in seven years; it's indescribable," junior Andrea Corre said.

From the beginning, juniors were pumped for a win.

"We have a lot of potential this year, and we're working hard to make sure we win," junior Sarah Triner said during the game.

Many girls admitted to being excited to pushing other girls around and tackling them, however the violence turned out to be a problem.

"I wouldn't want to play on the field with them; they get so intense," Jennings said.

Although fights, accusations, and complaints erupted from the event, powderpuff participants still enjoyed the fun of the game.

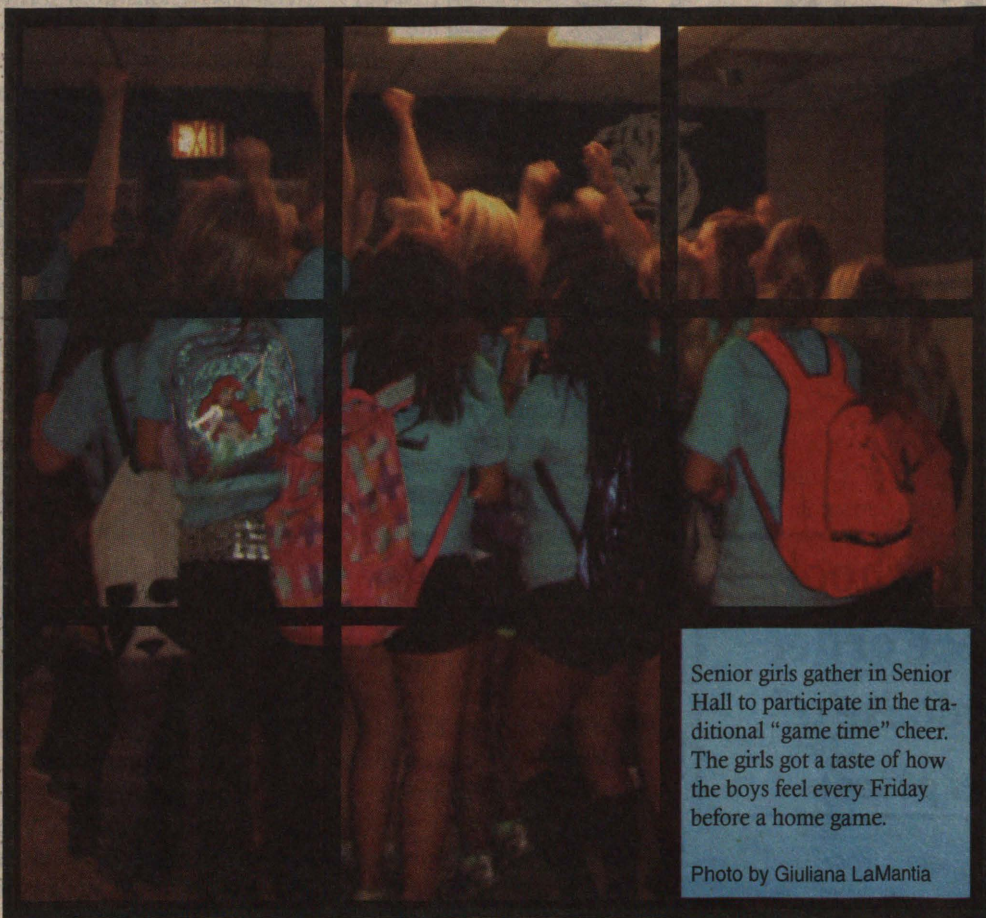
"It gives us a feel of what it's like on Friday night football games, like how the boys feel and the adrenaline," senior Emily Villano said.

Triner agreed.

"It's a really fun opportunity and it's a good time to show the football players how they're supposed to play," Triner joked.

In the end, despite the problems with the game, it is still a highlight of high school for some.

"It's one of the best experiences in high school," senior Alison Place said. "It's really fun to work together and for us to all be one big team."



Senior girls gather in Senior Hall to participate in the traditional "game time" cheer. The girls got a taste of how the boys feel every Friday before a home game.

Photo by Giuliana LaMantia