

Taking over the DVC

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

By **Connie Kim**
Perspectives Editor

Cheerful smiles. Patience. Generosity.

Science teacher Hank Maher gave these to his students and co-workers each day, making his sudden death even more tragic.

Maher, 58 taught at the school for three and a half years before passing away from a heart attack in his sleep on Feb. 1.

Throughout the short duration of his time at the high school, Maher positively affected the lives of many through his teaching.

Senior Courtney Toman especially was impacted by Maher.

"He was my uncle. We were always really close but got even closer this year. Every morning before school, we would talk a lot, and we always shared our birthdays together," Toman said.

School remembers

Senior Anthony Soliven also was affected through Maher's teaching.

"As a teacher, I genuinely felt like he enjoyed teaching and enjoyed what he was doing," Solliven said.

Maher was well-known for always keeping a smile on his face and consistently being in

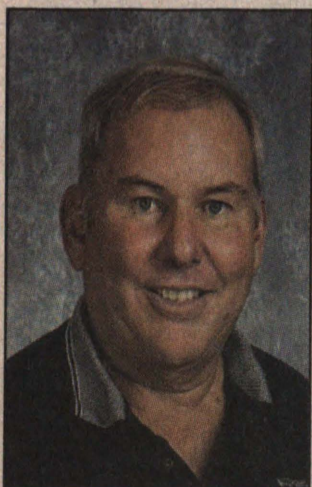
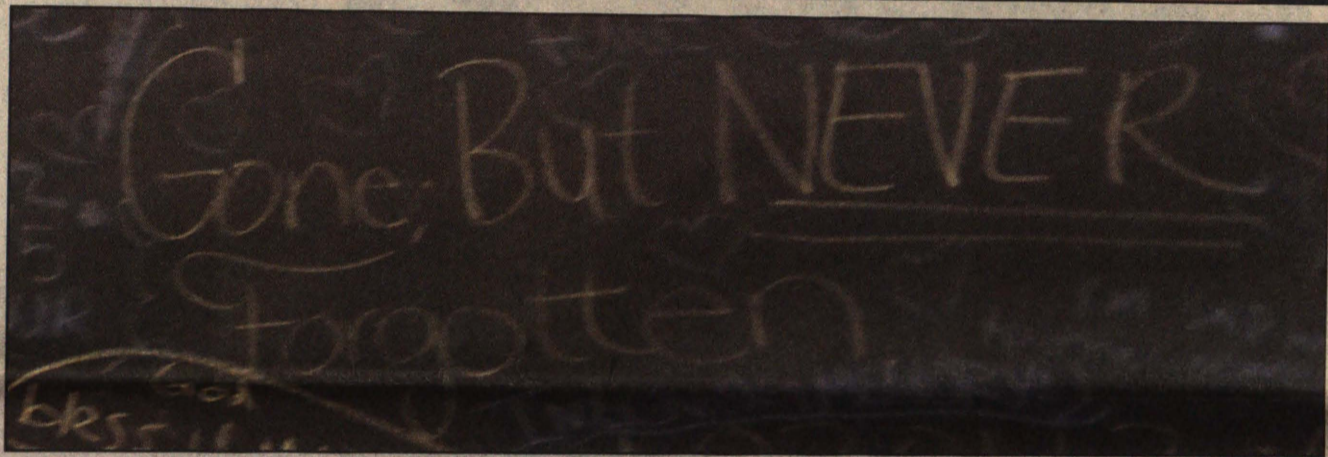
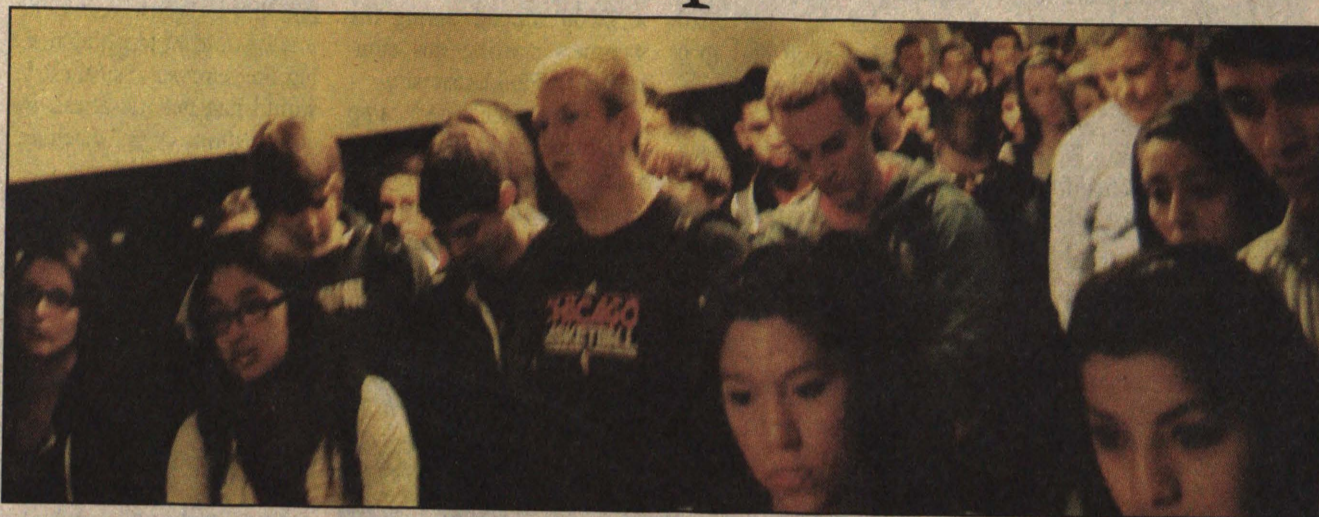


Photo courtesy of Challenge

Science teacher Hank Maher passed away unexpectedly at the age of 58.



Photos by Connie Kim

Students and teachers gather in the science hall on Feb. 2 for a moment of silence in honor of Hank Maher (top). Students wrote messages and memories on Maher's chalkboard the day after Maher passed.

a cheerful mood.

"(When I think about Mr. Maher), the first two words that come to my mind are nice and jovial. He was always smiling, even if he had a bad day," science teacher and close friend Hank Murphy said. "Last year, he locked his keys in his car, so after school we went out to the parking lot and tried to break into his car. The police showed up and were about to arrest us. (Maher) started laughing and joked about how if we could steal any car in the parking lot, why we would break into his old car. He never stopped smiling at the policemen who had originally come to arrest us. The policemen ended up helping us out instead," Murphy said.

Allister Scott, the division head of math and science, agreed with Murphy.

"He was an extremely happy person who always met life with a smile," Scott said.

Maher was also known for his quirkiness and willingness to let his students have as much fun as chemistry or physical science students can have.

"I think he was fun to have because he really got students involved in learning the material. One time, I asked him if I could try an experiment in physics and he let me throw pencils at the ceiling," Soliven said.

Only the good die young

Students as well as teachers couldn't stress how much of a good person Maher was.

"(On the day he died), I talked to all my classes about him. What I asked them is if they ever heard the expression 'only the good die young.' I kept thinking of that expres-

sion because he just was such a good guy," Murphy said.

Physics teacher Pat Carrow, who hired Maher, could instantly see that he would be an asset to the school.

When asked what her first impression of Maher was, Carrow said, "He was incredibly thoughtful as a teacher and wanted to grow and develop. As I worked with him, I found my first impression was correct, and he was truly a gift to work with. He was always positive and gentle, and he demonstrated that he cared deeply for the students."

Murphy also believes that Maher truly cared for all his students.

"I was always struck by how much he cared; he was always (at the school) to help out. I used to joke with him that I just couldn't beat him in. He came in early and left late

because he was dedicated," Murphy said.

Shock sweeps the school

Both students and staff had a hard time accepting his death.

"(When I heard he had died) I was shocked, and I just stood there with my mouth open for the longest time. I was drained for the rest of the period; it was just heartbreaking," Solliven said.

Maher's family was shocked as well.

"It was really unexpected," Toman said. "On (the morning of his death), all my family came together from different states and grieved through it together. We helped out my aunt in any way we could."

Students organized a moment of silence outside his classroom the day after his

See Maher page 4

INSIDE Finalists

Four students were chosen as finalists for the Golden Apple Foundation scholarship. Winners will become public March 1--see NEWS, page 2.



Stupid goes viral

When one performs an illegal or violent act it is never a good idea to film it. Yet when six boys jumped another not only did they video tape it, they posted it on YouTube --see PERSPECTIVES, page 7.

Inspiration

Inspiration can come from anywhere and can sometimes affect the entire course of one's life. Read where these students' inspirations came from --see FEATURES, page 10.



Tear-jerker

The box office hit destroyed records and attracted hoards of hopeless romantics. For our review of tear-jerking movie, "The Vow" --see ENTERTAINMENT, page 12.

Passion turns into practice

By Carly Tubridy
Editor in Chief

After eight essays, three letters of recommendation, and a completed application, four students have been chosen as Golden Apple Scholarship finalists.

Seniors Cassie Thill, Elsa Cadwallader, Kathy Rodriguez, and Ashley Aparicio were chosen out of 1,300 students who applied for the scholarship. Just 290 were chosen as finalists.

"(The application) was pretty long. Filling out the

forms and getting letters of recommendation was easy but it was the essays that were the hard and grueling part of it," Cadwallader said.

English teacher Amanda Cordes held a meeting at the beginning of the year to find people who were interested in the scholarship and then she nominated the girls for the program.

To qualify for the scholarship, the girls had to be planning on pursuing a career in education at a school of need. A school of need is classified as a school where

there is 30 percent or more free or reduced lunch or if 60 percent of test scores are below standards.

The girls also had to be planning on attending an Illinois school.

Part of the scholarship is a \$2000 stipend during the summers starting this summer at DePaul University.

"It's like teacher boot camp and that's what really separates Golden Apple from other scholarships," Cordes said.

The scholars teach and take classes during the institute.

"You're practicing your

job at a school in Chicago. You're teaching summer school or you're assisting summer school from 7 a.m.-noon, and you come home, have a quick nap, and then have classes in the afternoon," Cordes said.

This experience sets the scholars apart from other future teachers.

"I will have hands on training that colleges can't offer me. I would be teaching during the summer institutes. It would just put me ahead in competitions for teaching jobs," Aparicio said.

Cordes affirms that the summers of hard work pay off.

"I was really prepared my first year of teaching because I had those experiences. I had been in classrooms; I had taught lessons; I had done all these things before," Cordes said.

Cadwallader feels this is the most important part of the scholarship.

"I think Golden Apple isn't really about the money. I mean, sure it helps. But, the training they provide in the summer for their scholars... That type of experience and learning is not available at universities. They are teaching their scholars about teaching before they ever step onto their college campus," Cadwallader said.

Through the experiences the students will receive from the program, the Golden Apple Foundation hopes to turn dreams into reality.

"They want to help you become a really good teacher. They see the passion in people and they want to turn that passion into really good practice," Cordes said.

Each of the girls have different plans for their future. Thill plans on majoring in bilingual elementary education.

"I really enjoy teaching young children and I also enjoy Spanish so it is a perfect major," Thill said.

Cadwallader will be going to school for English with a focus on secondary education.

"I love English, it has always been my favorite class. And I love kids. Putting those two together is like having the best of both worlds. I can't see myself studying and doing anything else than those two things," Cadwallader said.

Aparicio hopes to become an elementary school teacher.

"Simply because I love children and I want to make an impact in the lives of children," Aparicio said.

Rodriguez is planning on studying elementary education with a bilingual endorsement.

"I love children and because the Hispanic population is growing I would love to be able to help students succeed. Everyone, especially students who will become future leaders of our country, should know their full potential," Rodriguez said.

Just 120 scholars were chosen Feb. 4 but the winners will not be announced until March 1.

"If I don't win, it still means a lot to be a finalist and writing the essay itself has taught me a lot about myself," Rodriguez said.

With all the hard work put in to become a finalist, the girls have high hopes of winning.



Photo by Carly Tubridy

With a passion for education and hard work, seniors Cassie Thill, Elsa Cadwallader, Kathy Rodriguez, and Ashley Aparicio have been chosen as Golden Apple Scholarship finalists out of 290 students.

Step to DVC victory

First generation of steppers to capture first

By Diana Carrillo
Reporter

Steppers won first place in the DVC competition on Jan. 18 at Naperville Central.

This was the first generation of steppers to win a DVC competition.

Steppers competed against four other high schools in the region.

Twenty-six steppers attended the DVC competition.

When the Steppers heard they won, they all ran to each other and hugged and cheered, according to freshman Adeline Gallegos.

"I was happy and excited because we worked hard and it paid off," freshman Lisette Hernandez said.

Emotions were high when they found out they had won DVC.

"I could not believe this, I cried of so much happiness," senior Laura Martinez said.

Activities director, Marc Wolfe was happy with the result of Steppers.

"I was extremely proud of them because they put in a tremendous amount of hard work and dedication and they really deserved it," Wolfe said.

Some Steppers celebrated individually with their families.

"I went to IHOP with my mom to eat and celebrate," Gallegos said.

After winning DVC, Steppers are looking to enter other competitions.

"There's a few that we are looking into and hopefully state," Steppers adviser Emma Garcia said.

Steppers will compete at Tolono, Ill. on Sunday and in Bolingbrook on Monday.

"If we place at two of these competitions then we advance to state in March," Garcia said.

Steppers encourage others to join next year.

"It's a great way to meet people. You don't even have to know how to dance," Gallegos said.

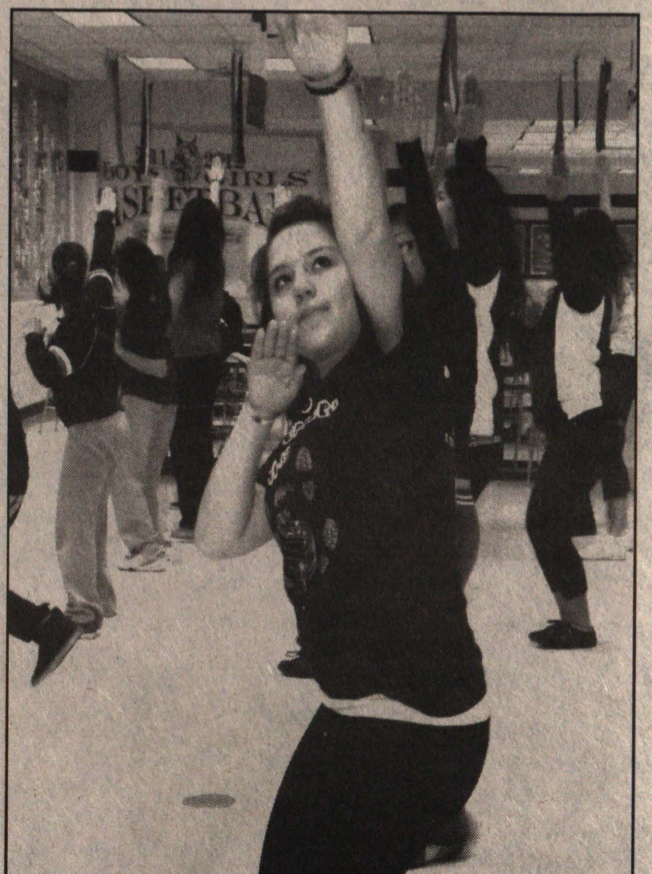


Photo by Diana Carrillo

After a DVC victory, Steppers continue to practice to enter in other competitions and hopefully go to state.

Everyone counts

By Lorena Orizaba
Reporter

Although the math team did not have a math teacher to coach them for most of the season, they still competed at DVC.

Math may not be math coach Dave Jennings' strong suit, but he is a passionate coach.

Jennings carried the team to DVC Feb. 8 at Glenbard East.

"It was based on individual scored and we didn't accumulate enough points to place higher," Jennings said.

The team placed eight because the team had only about a week to prepare for competition, they did not finish as high as they hoped, but they all had fun and Jennings was pleased with the results.

"DVC was a lot of fun. We brought about 35 kids, we went and competed, and we did as best as we could and I think we did good," Jennings said.

Jennings' student teacher, Krystal Kost, who accompanied the team to DVC, was also impressed with how the team performed at the competition.

"I was very proud of our team regardless of placement," Kost said.

One of the most important aspects of the math team was

to have fun and enjoy the competition.

"Honestly, for me, the sense I had from the administration was that the most important thing was that we compete and had fun, and that is what we did," Jennings said.

How does an English teacher become the coach of the math team?

"No other teachers expressed an interest in the club so I stepped up," Jennings said.

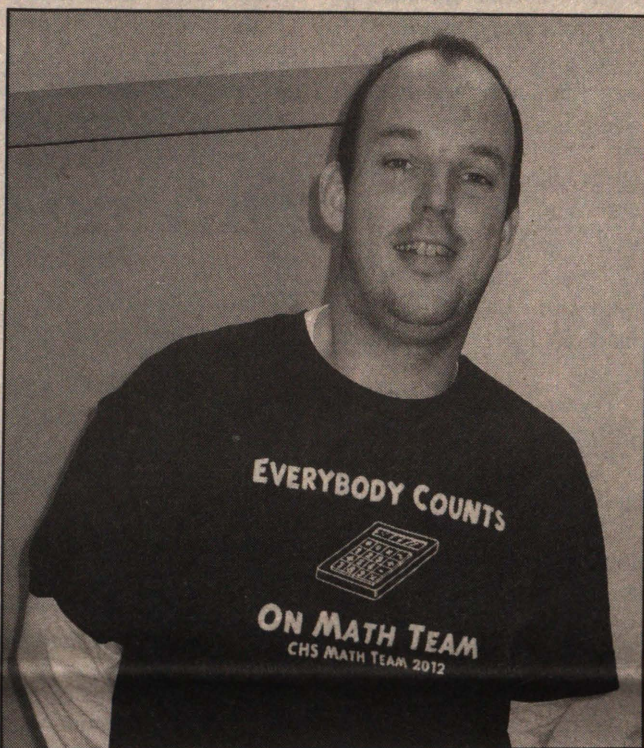


Photo by Lorena Orizaba

Head of the science and math department Allister Scott shows pride for the math team as they headed off to their only competition which was DVC.

According to head of the science and math department, Allister Scott, the math coach opening was advertised on the school's website and also several e-mails were sent out to the staff.

"It was an open position. It was open since the beginning of the year. It's been open since I got this job and Mr. Jennings was the only applicant," Scott said.

Math teachers Michele Torres and Aaron Hayes said they didn't have time to dedicate to the team.

"It didn't feel into my schedule," said Torres.

What's Happening?

Placing for regionals

By Diana Carrillo
Reporter

Seventeen Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) members placed at Gurnee Township High School for the regional competition on Jan 21.

"We had a few students that had never done this before so just to get their first time experience was good," FBLA adviser Donna Durbin said. "Overall, I thought they were fabulous."

Ten out of the 22 FBLA members that went to the

competition placed.

Senior Vito Loiotile placed first with senior Alex Weier placing second in business communications. Junior Jake Wirth placed first in desktop publishing. Senior Justin Huey placed third for spread sheet applications. Junior Melinda Elmazi placed third in public speaking 2 and junior Matt Wenz placed third in accounting 1.

FBLA will travel to Decatur on March 30-31 for the state competition and if qualified, to San Antonio, Texas, at the end of June for nationals.

Freshmen help food pantry

By Ryan Weier
Reporter

"Give a can, spread some love" was the slogan for the Student Council freshman food drive that took place from Feb. 6 through Monday.

Student Council members passed out boxes to each third hour teacher on Feb. 3 where students could donate food cans.

"The kids were in a giving mood and wanted to do another food drive," Student Council adviser Chris Lukas said.

The cans will be donated to the St. Mary's food pantry.

Brandon Fantozzi's mixed chorus class won the competition collecting 189 food cans. In return, the class received Dunkin' Donuts on Tuesday.

Disney: a motivational treat

By Rosa Romero
Reporter

Choir arrived at the home of imagination Wednesday.

Sixty-one students departed for Disney World Tuesday on buses and will return Monday.

"I'm going to be able to bond with my students in an outside setting," choir director Brandon Fantozzi said.

Sophomore Natalie Seh-

weil is nervous and excited for the trip.

"I think choir is a good activity and just being in choir is great. We don't need to go to Disney to get motivated as a chorus, but it's a nice treat that we will remember; we thank Mr. Fantozzi," Sehweil said.

Students have worked hard throughout the year and feel they have earned this trip.

"My students work very

hard on a daily basis and are very dedicated," Fantozzi said.

Students will get a chance to learn new singing techniques with the Disney staff.

"We will be doing a workshop with Disney staff and the chorus will be performing in the downtown part of the theme park," Fantozzi said.

Sophomore Jeff Morrow hopes to have a memorable experience.

"I'm looking forward to singing, going on the roller coasters, and making long lasting friendships," Morrow said.

Junior Aaron Morden looks forward to the workshops.

"I'm super excited. I haven't been to Disney in forever. We will be performing and learning skills in singing with the Disney workshop," Morden said.

For the future, Fantozzi hopes to be able to travel again with his students.

"I hope that someday we will be able to go to Europe," Fantozzi said.

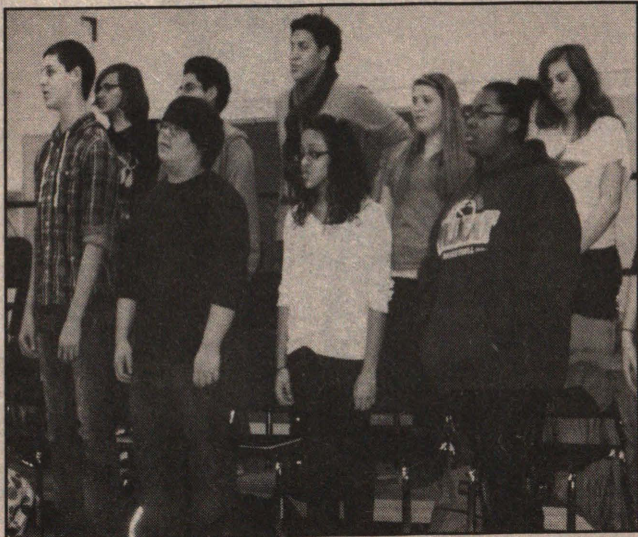


Photo by Lorena Orizaba

Choir members rehearse before they head off to Disney World on Tuesday to perform.

Exercise and raise funds

By Sarah Szremski
Reporter

Get exercise and raise money at the Habitat for Humanity's Volleyball Tournament on March 3 at North Central College.

"It's another way of raising money and it's a fun way for people to do it," Habitat for Humanity president and senior Brooke Hennessy said.

Habitat for Humanity hopes to have at least five

teams for the tournament.

The money is going to Habitat for Humanity so that more people can be homeowners.

Anyone ages 14 to 22 can participate. Each team must work together to raise a minimum of \$150. The teams must be coed with a limit of 10 players and a minimum of six. One male and one female must be on the court at all times.

The tournament runs from 9 a.m. - noon.

Dance in the jungle

By Giuliana LaMantia
Center Spread Editor

Students can unleash the animal within at the "Welcome to the Jungle" themed winter dance.

All profits of the event benefit WeGo 2 Africa to help build a new elementary school.

The community leadership class planned the dance and the theme.

"There are not a lot of opportunities for dances at the

school, and there are going to be refreshments and great music," WeGo 2 Africa adviser Mary Ellen Daneels said. "It's for a great cause."

The dance will be held from 7-10 p.m. at the school Feb. 25.

Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door.

"If you buy a WeGo 2 Africa shirt, you get free tickets to the dance," Daneels said.

Tickets are on sale until Feb. 24.



Photo by Ryan Weier

Senior Alex Hund's love for helping the community and involvement in Interact Club and other extracurricular activities has earned her January Student of the Month.

Involvement in community leads to honor for senior

By Ryan Weier
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.

Wanting to give back to the community and helping others is a quality that senior

Alex Hund possesses, earning her January Student of the Month.

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

I was shocked. I've had the worst case of senioritis this year so I don't know who would have nominated me.

What extracurricular activities are you involved in?

I am involved in Student Council, Interact Club, and I am a student ambassador.

What is going to be your

major in college?

I will double major in psychology and sociology and I'm planning on getting my master's in social work.

Who is your inspiration?

My inspiration would have to be my grandma. She was always so sweet and everyone just loved to be around her.

What do you like about high school?

I like all the different events that my clubs put together and being able to participate in all of our charity events.

Bringing energy to the stage

Performance of 44th show

By Kristina Manibo
Entertainment Editor

Students brought energy to the stage during the 44th annual dance production show.

"When (Helen) Zmrhal was the coach, the show began as more of a show for tumbling and gymnastics. It was also coed," dance coach Julie Wyller said.

Now, the dances are more lyrical and consist of all girls.

"Save the Last Dance" was the theme of the show on Jan. 26 and 28.

The dances were choreographed by different dancers. "Party Rock Anthem" and "Footloose" were some of the more energized songs and

included most of the dancers.

Senior Bailey Jagusch and sophomore Emma Noelke choreographed the dance to "Run This Town."

"It was hip hop lyrical; that was my favorite because it was two types of dances in one and it was really energetic," Jagusch said.

Sophomore Cristin Zaputil started dancing at a young age.

"Since I have been dancing since I was 3 or 4 years old I was mostly excited for this show. My favorite dances were the dances I was nervous about. Even though I knew them so well, I am a perfectionist and just wanted them to go as planned," Zaputil said.

Zaputil danced a duet with senior Juliet Santelli.

"(It was) choreographed last minute, but we had want-

ed to (choreograph it) since day one. We work really well together and we both are good lyrical dancers so even within only 48 hours we made up a great duet," Zaputil said.

Wyller is pleased with the show's outcome.

"I was really satisfied. The girls put in a lot of extra time and worked hard all semester long. During the end we had a little bit of crunch time, but we really pulled it together," Wyller said. "They delivered their performance really well. Some of the parents who have been to the show for a few years said that this was one of the best shows."

Jagusch suffered through a small injury in the first show.

"I damaged my tendon. I fell and my ankle popped, but I kept dancing on it," Jagusch said.

Despite her injury, she loved being onstage.

"Being onstage, it's when all the energy kicks in. I liked the performing aspect the most," Jagusch said.

See dance production page 5

Driving to success

By Sarah Szremski
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.

Being on the varsity golf team has landed senior Sean Fayfar December Student of the Month.

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

I was surprised and very happy about it because I had never gotten an award like that before, so it was really nice, especially to be recognized.

What extracurricular activities or sports are you involved in?

My main thing this year has been the golf team. I've been in it for four years and

I've been on varsity for three of the years, and I've just been a big help this year helping with the new kids, teaching them how to play and help running and getting stuff for team. It's been a good year.

What are your plans for college?

Hopefully, I think I'm going to Illinois State University and everything should go well there. It looks like a nice college and I'm really excited about it.

Who is your inspiration?

No one in particular, but I've always just strived to do my best in high school and I've always known that I can do well, and with that, I just did the best I could in everything I did.

What do you like about high school?

Just about everything, it's really nice. You've got the little community here and everyone working together. It's a really nice atmosphere to start learning and preparing for college.

Speech state qualifier unable to attend

By Rosa Romero
Reporter

Speech team celebrated victories at regionals and sectionals Saturday, with one state qualifier.

"By far we have the hardest regional competition," head coach Paul Lichy said.

Junior Farrell Lewis advanced to state, but is unable to go due to his trip to Disney World.

"I feel really disappointed. I feel like I'm letting a number of people down, and I worked really hard to get here, but other people have worked harder than me so it's really disappointing that I'm

the only person in the school who can go to state and I won't be able to go," Lewis said.

Along with Lewis, senior Megan Tennis competed at sectionals.

"I think (Tennis) did amazing. I'm so proud of her and she is an inspiration to me. She worked so hard," Lewis said.

Even though Tennis didn't qualify for state, she is proud of her performance.

"I felt I did really good (at regionals), sectionals too. It's hard sometimes because it's completely out of your control. It's up to the judges and you're given 8 minutes to give a speech you could

either totally kill or do a terrible job," Tennis said.

Throughout the competition Lewis and Tennis had constant support.

"(Tennis and Lewis) were fantastic and to break into a final round means they are beating people with teams twice if not three times the size of ours," Lichy said.

Tennis loved the experience speech team gave her.

"I don't think I could do anything better because you can only prepare yourself so much. I worked really hard during the week for the tournaments. I wouldn't change anything, and I don't regret anything from this season," Tennis said.



Photo by Sarah Szremski

Senior Sean Fayfar's success on the varsity golf team has helped him to earn December Student of the Month.



Photo by Lorena Orizaba

Part of GSA's activities include selling t-shirts and a survey on school climate. Advisers Shannon Sanchez and Brad Larson show off student-made t-shirts.

Survey leads to results on safety

Gay Straight Alliance learn how most students feel at school

By Lorena Orizaba
Reporter

Concerns about bullying and safety sparked the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) to conduct a survey to learn how most students feel at school.

About 1,000 surveys were given out last May to students from all grades, the surveys were completed in the English classes. Results were returned in November.

"Most students are generally positive about the atmosphere in our school," GSA adviser Brad Larson said.

The survey showed that all students think everyone should feel safe and welcomed no matter who they are, however, according to Larson, there are some students that have experiences that have them feeling less safe nor welcomed.

"Some of the factors that contribute to (kids not feeling welcome and safe in school) are students who either intentionally or unintentionally use language that is offensive or hurtful," Larson said, "and some students go further by treating others disrespectfully."

Despite the 49.3 percent of students that reported in

the survey that they hear or are told words and phrases that are hurtful somewhat frequently, the teachers are encouraged by the high number of students who do feel safe and welcome in school compared to the number of students who don't.

"Being a teenager is really hard; most teens go through times when they feel disconnected. The survey was informative for the adults of the building to hear how kids feel," adviser Shannon Sanchez said.

The survey also shows that 20.3 percent of students feel that there is not an adult in school with whom they feel comfortable talking to about problems.

"We need to work harder to make sure all students in our school feel there is an adult to whom they can go to if they have a problem," Sanchez said.

GSA has already made students feel better, in the sense of feeling safe and welcomed by having people know about the club.

"Just the fact that we exist makes students feel like they have a valid perspective in our school," Sanchez said.

According to the GSA advisers, they have received

reports from counselors and social workers that they have seen an improvement in some students. Some students now feel that they have someone to identify with in the building and they have the right to be.

"When we first started the GSA was not public. Staff had fliers and would hand them out to kids who they thought might be interested," Sanchez said.

Since the club is now public, the club has 60 members, an increase from last year's number of 50 members.

"Staff has also said that GSA has really helped students feel that they are a part of the school," Sanchez said.

The members of GSA created the 20 questions that appeared on the survey which were rephrased and edited by the club advisers.

"It is our job to help, protect, guide, and mentor all students and help them feel that they belong," Sanchez said.

The challenge and goal for the staff is to keep moving toward making every student in school feel safe and welcome at all times.

"GSA, working with the faculty and other student organizations, has been working to make this happen," Larson said.

To fundraise, GSA sells t-shirts for \$7.

work paid off when you do well," Noelke said.

The girls all got a chance to bond over the show.

"(Dance production) gives me a chance to talk to a lot of people that I normally wouldn't talk to. Plus, we literally get to dance everyday which is something I love to do," Valenzuela said.

Agreement reached

Teachers' contracts finally negotiated

By Carly Tubridy
Editor in Chief

An agreement has been reached for the teachers' contracts after almost 11 months of negotiations.

"(Reactions have been) relief, frustration, and a little of everything," Teachers' Association president Kristina Mallon said.

A notice of impasse was filed on Jan. 11, which meant the Teachers' Association and the Board of Education were not getting anywhere in negotiations.

The teachers also showed their dissatisfaction with the lack of progress by donning buttons that read 'Enough.'

"That was decided when the bargaining team decided to declare impasse. So the day that impasse was declared we had the teachers start wearing black and the 'enough' buttons," Mallon said.

Had a tentative agreement not been reached, the two final offers would have become public on Jan. 25. A tentative agreement was announced on Jan. 22. The agreement was ratified by the Teachers' Association on Jan. 27 and by the board on Feb. 7.

"The contract was ratified by an overwhelming margin and the teachers were ex-

tremely unified in their vote," Mallon said.

The long negotiations have made teachers just glad that they have a contract.

"I am relieved that the contract is settled and I am proud of how my colleagues conducted themselves in this difficult time," social studies teacher Mary Elyn Daneels said.

After much concern, it has been agreed that teachers will receive previously approved lane changes.

However, steps are frozen for the duration of the contract. The contract includes a one percent raise from last year.

The Board feels that the contract is a fair compromise.

"It was difficult work and lots of changes were made we created a good contract for the teachers and the Board of Education and it gives us an opportunity to work together better in the future," Doremus said.

According to Doremus, the delay in resolution was due in part to the communication barrier set forth by the mediator.

"When they were able to sit down face to face, they did a better job at communicating," Doremus said.

The contract lasts for three years with a reopener at the start of the third year. Negotiations for the reopener will start next January.

Maher: Loss of a teacher

(Continued from page 1)

death to show their respect.

"I thought it was very sweet," Toman said. "It hit me very hard. I knew how much (my uncle) cared about his students, but I never knew that the students cared about him as well. He would always tell my aunt about his students, and he loved them so much. Seeing how much students supported and loved him back was comforting."

Although he was known around the school as a science teacher, not many knew that he was a Marine.

"He would always say 'Semper fi' which means always faithful, and he said that because he was loyal and faithful to all he had done while in the Marines," Murphy said.

Sophomore Vinny Romano feels like he had a close relationship with Maher.

"I used to go see him a couple times a month before school a lot, but we didn't always talk about chemistry," Romano said. "We talked

about other things like him and his background, and he helped me by talking about what military branch I should join."

When asked what she would miss most about Maher, Toman said, "Everything. I'll miss his little lessons about things, his smiling face, and his sweet heart."

Donations sought

Division of math and science head Allister Scott recently sent out an email to staff asking for donations in science teacher Hank Maher's name.

The reason for Scott's action was to give some way of expressing emotions for Maher's death.

Working together with Maher's wife, Scott is searching for which charities to donate to.

"We're looking at either Marine Corps. charities or some kind of environmental peace," Scott said.

Dance: Save the last dance

(Continued from page 4)

The whole production took a large amount of effort. "Being onstage is kind of a love hate feeling because you've worked on these dances for so long, trying to perfect every move. It comes down to two performances to show

what you can do. So when you perform, you need to go all out and have fun with it otherwise you'll just be nervous about messing up. Performing is such a great feeling though, because you get this rush of adrenaline and you see how all of your hard

Perspectives

Our View

Invasion of privacy

Early in February, Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire had a drug trafficking problem via cell phones that brought into question the student's Fourth Amendment rights after cellphones were confiscated.

Some students may be suspended and some expelled after their cellphones were confiscated by the Lincolnshire police and school administrators as part of the investigation. Lincolnshire police said they obtained a search warrant to view records of cellphone text messages. The Chicago Tribune reported that the Lincolnshire police only had a search warrant to view one cellphone but in reality, they confiscated and searched more than one, which made some students and parents upset.

The police and the school reacted by stating that they were only taking phones when they had credible evidence that a student might be involved in selling or buying drugs. Reading the text messages was just a part of the investigation, text messages from one student led them to several other students. For many people, that was considered a violation of privacy.

While the Fourth Amendment protection in schools is limited, it does not mean that they are nonexistent. Searching the contents of the phone is considered a bigger violation than just merely confiscating the phone.

With cell phones being everyone's primary source of information and communication, keeping cellphones out of reach is close to impossible today, and problems because of the use of cellphones are becoming more and more common, especially in schools.

As phone use in schools becomes more popular regardless of the restriction policies that schools adopt against the use of cellular phones during school hours, students need to be more aware of the risk of their phones being searched and their confidential information being read (maybe deleted) lawfully or not.

Even though the Fourth Amendment prohibits schools to seize a person's personal property, including phones, in order for schools to provide a safe learning environment, they have to actively investigate student misconduct including something as serious as the selling, purchasing, possessing, or using intoxicating substances, or planning to do so.

The line of where the rights of students are violated becomes very faint when it involves a criminal investigation. While students might be very unhappy about their cell phones being taken away, the police and the school retains the right to solve the crime to keep those who were not involved safe and increase safety in schools.

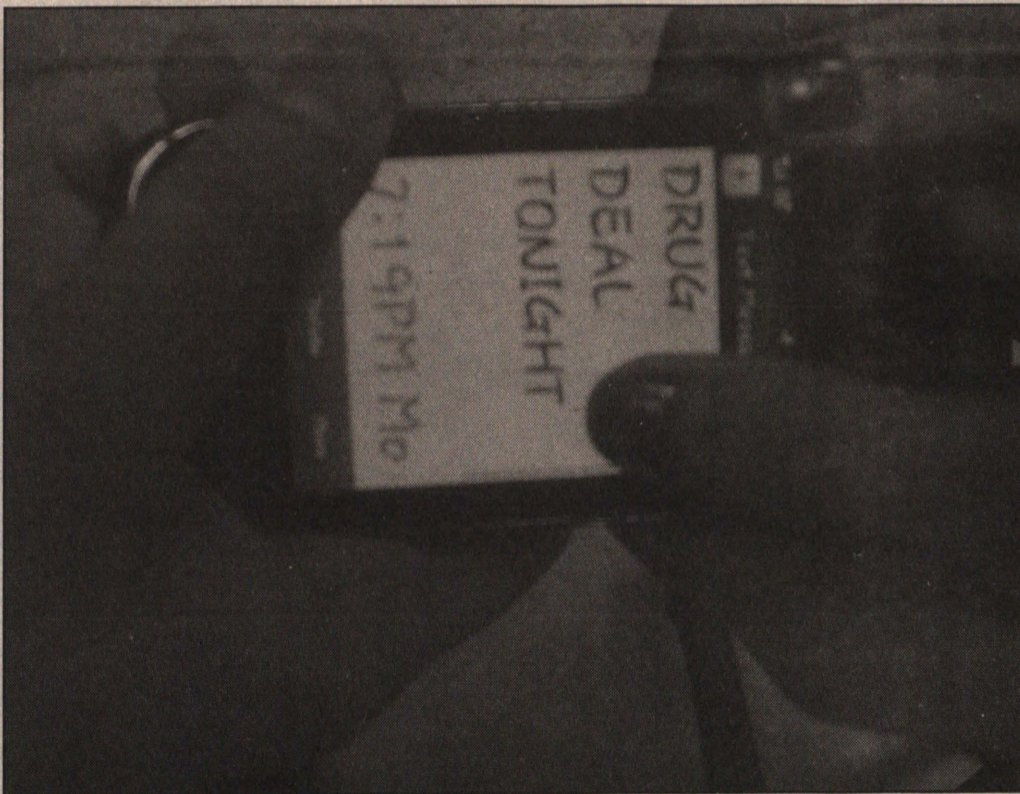


Photo illustration by Connie Kim

Crossing the line

The Westboro Baptist Church (WBC) is an organization that isn't easy to like. But recently, they've taken things too far.

The WBC is infamous for its harsh stance against homosexuality, and its protests. The members picket at military funerals and protest gays in the military with signs that say "God hates fags," despite the fact that the families are in mourning. It should be against the law, but the WBC finds loopholes so that they can protest without getting in trouble. They're also known for desecrating the American flag.

They have a specific picket schedule located on their website. The next protest against the Academy Awards' Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) will be in the Kodak Theater in Hollywood, Calif. on Feb. 26. The GSA encourages youth activists to fight homophobia in schools through GSA clubs.

The WBC takes freedom of speech the wrong way. There's nothing wrong with protesting for one's rights and freedoms. But protesting someone's sexuality takes it too far.

On Feb. 6, the WBC protested at Clayton High School in St. Louis. Administrators were not completely sure what triggered the picketing specifically, but they had a hunch that it had something to do with their Gay-Straight Alliance, according to www.studlife.com. The students took a bold move and protested back, holding signs, singing, and chanting for support.

Clayton High School wasn't the only school targeted. WBC also planned to picket at Fort Zumwalt East High School in St. Louis on Feb. 6 but didn't show.

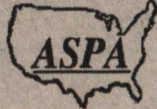
Bringing their anti-homosexuality protests into military funerals and now spreading it through high schools is anything but morally right. Students are trying to find who they are; they should be able to express their homosexuality and feel safe about it. They shouldn't have to worry about being silenced for expressing their sexuality.

Unfortunately, nothing can be done to stop these hateful acts. The loopholes the WBC finds through the First Amendment prevents them from being in trouble. It doesn't help that the head pastor of the church owns a law firm, and some of his children work there.

There's no point to the WBC's efforts. No type of positive impact has ever come out of the WBC's hateful acts.

How long will the hate continue?

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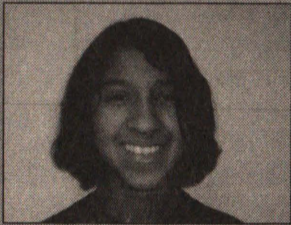
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Students Speak

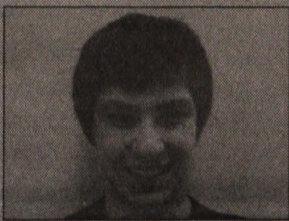
Compiled by Rosa Romero

What do you think about the government trying to enforce laws like SOPA and PIPA?



Freshman
Erica Davis

"I don't like it because I use Twitter a lot, and you can connect with your family through the Internet."



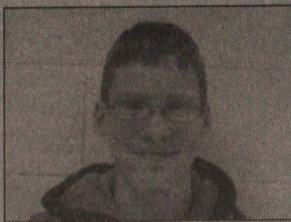
Sophomore
Alex Celmer

"I feel that it is unjust, and we should have power over the Internet."



Junior
Ashley Bannon

"It's stupid, and it will cause a riot for people addicted to the Internet."



Senior
Scott Schoeller

"The government shouldn't because it's invading our privacy, and the government should worry about more important things like the economy."

Teenage violence shared on the Internet



By **Giuliana LaMantia**
Center Spread Editor

It's one thing to do something stupid. It's another to videotape yourself doing something stupid and put it on the Internet.

For example, the Youtube beating that took place in a Bridgeport alley in January.

According to the Chicago Tribune, seven students were involved in the attack. Raymond Palomino, 17, three

16 year olds and three 15 year olds allegedly lured the victim into an alley behind an elementary school before six of the kids beat and robbed him, while the other caught the entire fight on tape and uploaded it to Youtube.

Michael Palomino, Raymond's father and a Cook County sheriff's deputy, called the police and turned his son in after seeing the video on the news.

Although the beating may have been retaliation for the victim and his friends allegedly jumping Raymond and another boy after school one day in October, what these kids did was still incredibly wrong. Their foolishness for filming themselves and letting the video go viral, clearly exposing their faces, made it simple for the police to catch them.

Perhaps society can be blamed for the fascination among the youth of today for violence, with shows such

as "Jackass", "Ridiculousness", and fights on the Internet promoting it.

While this may be true, it cannot serve as an excuse.

Although young and not fully matured, teenagers can distinguish right from wrong, and there is nothing right in luring another kid into an alley then beating him up in a fight of six against one, and posting the video of the helpless victim on Youtube.

Beating someone up is completely wrong in itself, but videotaping it and putting it online for all to see is almost inhumane.

Not only is it humiliating for the victim, but showing you are capable of hurting somebody does not make you cool, especially if the fight happens to be six on one.

Why people will post videos of themselves doing stupid or illegal things on the Internet I will never understand, and this case is firm evidence that anything you do on the Internet can potentially come back to haunt you.

After all, it is what got these kids caught and in trouble with the law.

Public protest makes an impact



By **Connie Kim**
Perspectives Editor

Censorship has taken a new form through bills such as Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA), and Protect IP Act (PIPA).

The original intention of the bills was to protect copyrighted property on the Internet and keep counterfeit goods from spreading.

However, the bills were criticized as they would affect pretty much everyone and become a potential threat.

To protest the bills, on Jan. 18,

www.sopastrike.com collaborated with over 115 thousand websites to create an Internet blackout in which they enlisted the help of many popular websites including Wikipedia, Google, Mozilla, and Reddit.

The Google webpage included a link to a petition in which 4.5 million people signed, according to cbsnews.com.

Why were so many people infuriated by these bills?

If SOPA and PIPA had been signed, many Internet sites would be shut down due to copyright infringements they may violate. Social media networks would have been at major risk as users post links from other websites or videos from YouTube all the time. Speaking of YouTube, the popular website would also be shut down because it violates SOPA and PIPA as people make covers of songs, reference copyrighted materials when talking, or repost other copyrighted materials

such as songs. Legal action would have been taken against those who use copyrighted logos or videos and post it on their own websites.

The bills were unfit for our society and especially our generation. In a society where the majority depend on the Internet for information and communication, the bills would destroy all the technology built up within the last century.

It was unfair of the government to think that citizens would be okay with the bills. Especially as SOPA and PIPA were created by men who are older than the Internet themselves who may have the inability to know the impact of the Internet and all the information it contains. When thinking about it, most members of the Senate and the House of Representatives are older people who don't know the impact that the Internet has made on our generation.

The Internet is eminent as it is one of the main sources of communication, place of obtaining information, and has been a major advancement in our society today.

The fact that the government cannot understand that is just plain sad. These bills aren't welcome in our country, and they should just stop trying to censor every little thing that they disagree with.

Thankfully through public protest, the government was able to realize how much citizens disagreed with the two bills that would restrict online freedom, and both bills were shelved.

It was good to see that people actually cared about what's going on in the government for once as they protested the bills and even more amazing that it was actually able to make a difference for our future.

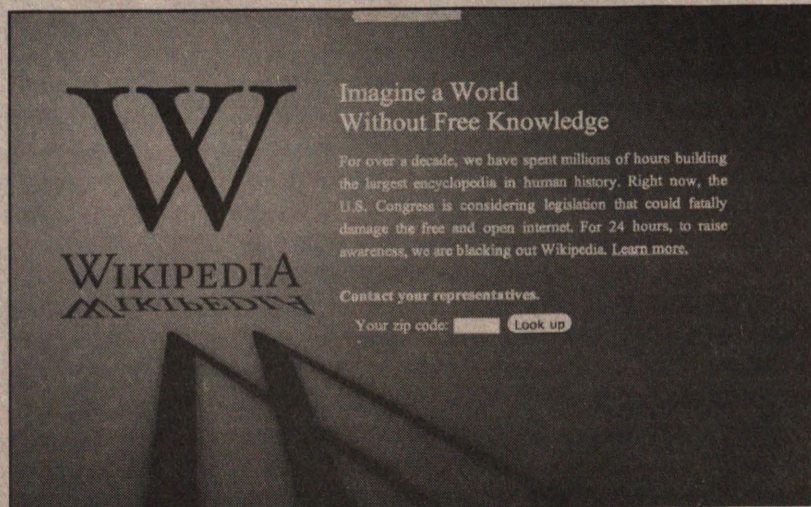


Photo courtesy of www.sopastrike.com

Wikipedia was one of the 75,000 websites to participate in the SOPA/PIPA Internet blackout day.

Never a boring moment



Photo courtesy of Anica Hosticka

Having a large family doesn't bother the Hosticka family.

By Liz Ramos
News Editor

The Brady Bunch has nothing on the Hosticka family with nine kids and two parents.

The Hosticka children range from the oldest, Alexis (class of '11), who will be 18 at the end of February to Aubrina, who just turned 3 in November.

Freshman Anica Hosticka is the third child and loves having a big family.

"It's fun. It's always busy. I like it because I can help

out with all the younger ones. I like it because there's always someone to be with. You can pick and choose who you want to be with," Anica said. "I guess the negative is there's so many and that probably in a single family or parents with an only child is that they get a lot more attention but it still works out."

Second child in the family, sophomore Grant Hosticka, likes having many brothers and sisters.

"I just like having all the brothers and sisters, there's always someone to play with or talk to. There's never a boring moment," Grant said.

Being one of the older siblings, Anica feels that she has more responsibility but also has her older brother Grant and sister Alexis to look up to.

"(Grant and Alexis) are good students and are involved," Anica said.

Grant likes being a role model for his younger siblings.

"I like being one of the older siblings because the other ones look up to me, and I can teach them stuff like baseball for example," Grant said.

With having a big family, there can be a couple negatives.

"Sometimes it can kind of get to you having all the noise in the house like when you're trying to do something and you want it quiet but it's not that bad," Grant said.

Having eight kids needing to get to different places can cause some problems.

"It's a lot of you getting dropped off early and you're a little late or carpooling," Anica said.

Anica's idea of family is "people who care for each other and look after each other."

Family Ties

Broken but together

By Kristina Manibo
Entertainment Editor

Sometimes, divorce can tear families apart. But to senior Alex Hund, divorce brings family closer.

Before Hund was born, her parents were separated. They officially divorced when she was 1 year old. Hund and her siblings live with her mom and stepdad.

"Technically, my parents have joint custody, but we don't get along with my dad's wife," Hund said.

Since Hund's parents divorced when she was young, the divorce didn't have a big impact on the kids' lives at that time.

"It really didn't (affect us) when we were younger," Hund said. "But as we got older, tension started to build up and none of us got along with my dad's wife. Two years ago he disowned us as his kids, but recently we began communicating."

Even if her parents divorced when Hund was older, it wouldn't make much of a difference.

"I know when my brother and sister were older they

definitely had a hard time, but to me, growing up with it was not that big of a deal. Just because you have two different households doesn't mean they're not there," Hund said.

Although she has divorced parents, divorce doesn't have a negative effect on Hund's views on family.

"(Family) is being able to fight and get mad at each other, walk away, and be able to come back and know everyone will accept you back," Hund said.

But divorce gives Hund a negative view of marriage.

"To be honest, I've felt that divorce is inevitable. It's just one of those things that I think will happen eventually. I even expect myself to go through a divorce in the future," Hund said.

Despite the divorce, Hund's family is just like any other family with a strong bond between each other.

"I consider our family to be normal. There's a lot more drama because there's so many kids in the house. Other than that we're a fully functioning family," Hund said. "(Our family is) crazy. We all say things that normal families would never speak openly about. We're all extra close, I think because of the divorce, and we rely on each other a lot," Hund said.

Our Family

FAMILY

Twist on tradition

By Giuliana LaMantia
Center Spread Editor

As the idea of marriage and family changes throughout the years, the true concept of a family will never change: that your family is your family, no matter what.

This is true for senior Anthony Temes, who experiences a traditional family as well as a family with parents of the same sex.

"My parents divorced when I was 5," Temes said. "My dad got remarried, and I got a half brother. My mom and I lived for a while with one of my friends and then we moved into our house with her girlfriend."

Although a change from the traditional idea of family, it did not make a difference for Temes or his family.

"To me it didn't matter, I love my mom no matter what, so to me it was normal," Temes

said.

According to Temes, being with his dad and stepmom is a taste of the more traditional idea of family, doing family activities together such as going to church, and having routine.

"With my mom we branch out and do different things. It's not the same routine every week. If we want to try something new, we do," Temes said.

While the topic of gay couples can be controversial, those around Temes and his family were or are understanding.

"My parents didn't (get ridiculed) and my friends were understanding," Temes said.

For Temes, family is the people who have always been there.

"To me my family is my family, it doesn't matter. I have a little bit more of it now, but it's still the same people I've known my whole life," Temes said.

Family comes in many forms and sizes. As years go by, more and more types of families become accepted into society.

When you look at your life the greatest happinesses are family happinesses.
Joyce Brothers



Photo courtesy of Jamie Stump

Despite differences, the Stump-Hund family remains close.

Some things never change

Humble Heroes

Marine plays down his role

By Carly Tubridy
Editor in Chief

Real heroes don't wear capes; they wear dog tags.

But United States Marine and 2008 graduate Mike Parisi thinks it takes more than just the dog tag and does not consider himself a hero.

"I think the real heroes are the Marines who have lost their lives trying to fight for what we believe, or the ones who have done well and got awarded," Parisi said.

Being a Marine means a lot to Parisi.

"To me, the meaning of being a Marine is no matter how many years you put in, no matter how long you've been out of the corps, when you take off that uniform—yeah, that goes away—but the title we earned is always there. There is the phrase, 'once a Marine, always a Marine' and I believe that down to the bone," Parisi said.

After graduation Parisi attended College of DuPage. When a friend returned from boot camp Parisi went to the

recruiter's office and joined.

"I always thought of joining the military and I wasn't really sure if I wanted to or not, but when I walked into the recruit station for the Marines right then and there I knew that's what I wanted to do," Parisi said.

On Jan. 4, 2010, Parisi started boot camp. Since he started, Parisi has been to San Diego, Calif.; Camp Pendleton, Calif.; Pensacola, Fla.; Whidbey Island, Wash.; Cherry Point, N.C.; and for pre-deployment training Yuma, Ariz.

"I would have to say being away from family, and from everything you grew up with having to adapt to every place you go (is the most difficult part)," Parisi said.

But Parisi has found another form of family to keep him going during difficult times.

"The best part would have to be the brotherhood we all have with each other. I think of everyone I know and work with to be a part of my family; we help each other through every hard time we

go through," Parisi said.

The bond they share runs deep.

"Nothing can come even close to being a Marine. The brotherhood we share alone is much greater than one can believe. We look out for each other and we have each other's back," Parisi said.

Parisi is currently stationed in Cherry Point and is scheduled to leave for Afghanistan on March 26.

"The squadron I am attached to works on jets. So we will be trying to keep the jets up in the air to help jam communications to help our ground troops be able to accomplish their mission," Parisi said.

The move will not greatly affect Parisi's daily life; he is not afraid to be going to the Middle East.

"It will be mostly the same except that we will always have to be aware of everything going on in the surroundings, and all that is possible to happen," Parisi said.

After Parisi finishes his first length of service, he plans on



Photo courtesy of Mike Parisi
United States Marine and 2008 graduate Mike Parisi knew he wanted to be a Marine when walking into the recruit station.

continuing in the military.

"As of now I'm planning on either re-enlisting as a reservist to go to college, or stay in. It's hard to think of just completely getting out when you get everything handed to you, like medical, dental, etc.," Parisi said.

Parisi believes the military is a positive choice, especially for those who want to get their lives together.

"I use to be a typical bad 'teenager' but because of the training you undergo you become so much more mature

and have endless opportunities once you are out. If you don't know what you want to do don't rush into something you think you might regret. Think about the decisions you make because they can really mess up your life," Parisi said.

One decision that Parisi is proud of is his decision to become a Marine.

"Nothing can keep us down; not everyone can be a Marine. We are the few, the proud, the Marines," Parisi said.

Like a friend in need

By Kristina Manibo
Entertainment Editor

The possibility of having to save a life is a big responsibility for two firefighters. But, they don't necessarily recognize how much of an impact they can make.

"(The firefighters) are true heroes that sometimes risk their lives. We definitely owe it to these guys," senior Victor Mendez said.

Being away from Lt. Jason Day's family is a hardship, but luckily he has a second family to support him.

"I'm a firefighter and a husband now. I'm gone a third of my life," Day said. "(Being a firefighter) has changed me

to be more of a team player. These guys are my second family, they made me part of a group."

Firefighter and paramedic Todd Baseggio became a firefighter right after high school.

"It's helped me mature faster for my age, and it's helped me realize that there are more life threatening situations out there," Baseggio said.

The firefighters don't consider themselves to be true modern day heroes.

"I don't really think that what we do is really special because we do it every day. But it brings a high level of satisfaction and security that I can go out and make a dif-

ference," Baseggio said.

Day considers his job to be on a more personal level.

"I think of us as everyday people," Day said. "We take an extra step to make sure everyone's okay, but at the end of the day it's just being a friend in need."

Senior Jessi Bass believes the firefighters are underestimated.

"Firefighters should get more recognition than they do. They do a lot of things that people take for granted," Bass said. "They're willing to risk their lives for others but people don't even think about it."

With each call there is a possibility that something could go wrong.

"We do our best to try and help out, but sometimes we're put in situations that are very difficult. We use our best judgment, but sometimes it doesn't end up the way we want it to," Baseggio said.

Day remembers a specific call he was dispatched to; he had to help deliver a baby.

"At the time, it was just a call we were dispatched to. Eleven years later, she still remembered me," Day said. "It's most rewarding when people come back and say thanks to the guys that were there."

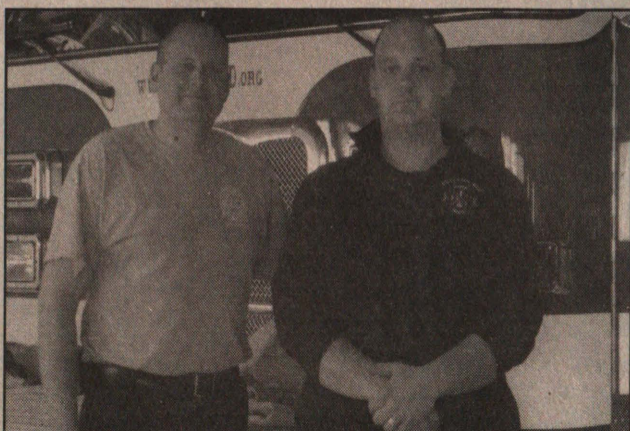


Photo by Kristina Manibo

Firefighters Jason Day, left, and Todd Baseggio, right, consider each other family.

Hero inspires future

By Keyuri Parmar
Features Editor

Senior Emily Warkins found her hero and future by reading one novel.

Warkins was inspired by leading conservationist Tony Fitzjohn, who she considers a hero, after reading his novel "Born Wild" last summer.

According to Warkins, Fitzjohn is conservationist who raises or breeds orphan animals such as lions and releases them back into the wild.

"I like gorillas and I plan on doing what (Fitzjohn) does," Warkins said.

Warkins has had her future planned out since she was young.

"I want to be a primatologist and live in Africa for 15 years while doing research," Warkins said.

A primatologist is someone who studies the scientific behavior of primates.

"Born Wild" (tells) Fitzjohn's story of when he was in Africa. While he was there, he lost all of his friends because most of them had been murdered in various wars. Although

he didn't have anyone with him, he still opened three national parks. Throughout his journey he was almost killed three times.

For Warkins his determination was inspiring and makes him a hero.

"Before I was interested in zoology, but I did not know which direction I would go. Now I have a clear focus," Warkins said.

After reading the novel, it was not something she needed to think about.

"I read the book and it instantly clicked. It is exactly what I want to do," Warkins said.

Another hero Warkins has is lead researcher Dian Fossey who researches gorillas for conservation.

"After reading so many books on Africa and about the animals there, I have become more interested in traveling and conservation," Warkins said.

Warkins believes it's good to have someone to look up to because it's easier to have a model than to start from scratch.

"They started and you just have to follow their footsteps," Warkins said.

Same age, many differences Close bonds and telepathy comes from being twins

By Liz Ramos
News Editor

Two seconds may not seem like much unless you're an older sibling.

Juniors Ahmad and Akeem Asani understand the importance of time due to the controversy of how long apart they were born.

"I believe that it's 2 seconds. At first, he put that over me, but now it doesn't matter. When we were kids, it was like oh yeah I'm older than you and it was kind of stupid but now it doesn't even mat-

ter," Ahmad said.

These twins were born on Sept. 1, 1994 in Hiawatha, Kan.

Being twins make them closer than most siblings.

"We share this weird bond between us like we kind of sense each other and what we're thinking sometimes and my mom said when we were younger, we had a secret language. We'd talk and they had no idea. It was just gibberish and we were just chatting it up," Ahmad said.

As kids, Ahmad and Akeem's parents dressed

them in the same clothes when they were younger.

"We were so cute. When you're a kid, it's fun but once you get older you kind of just want to be different," Ahmad said.

They enjoy being twins and can't imagine life without a twin.

"I don't really know (what it would be like) since we've been twins for 17 years now so I don't know the difference. Everyone thinks it's awesome so it has to be awesome. There's nothing I really don't like about having a twin. It's cool having a sleepover every night and that's probably one of the best perks," Akeem said. "I guess it's kind of weird to see and to know that someone looks exactly like you."

At times, having a twin can be a little too much.

"Sometimes he pretty much has to go everywhere with me and when you're mad at somebody and you don't want them there, then you're like why are you there? There's nothing really bad. The good things are that there is always someone with you. Say you're going somewhere new, you have some-

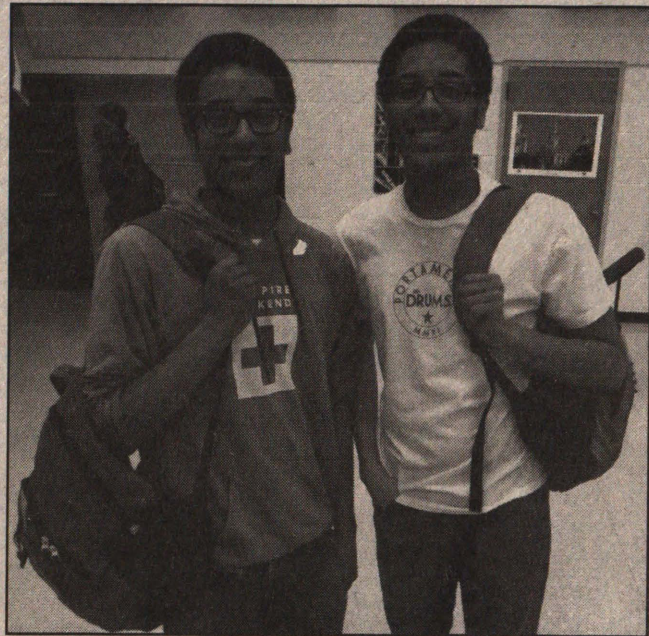


Photo by Liz Ramos

Juniors Akeem, left, and Ahmad Asani are told their backpacks are a good way to tell them apart.

body to talk to and you know somebody," Ahmad said.

According to Ahmad, people are bad at telling them apart since they're identical twins but people usually can tell them apart by their glasses and the color of their backpacks.

They like to play tricks on people, especially when they're in the same class.

"I think it's cool because we trick people in math and the teacher because she can't tell us apart and we're in the same class so we'll switch seats sometimes and she has no idea who it is. It's fun," Ahmad said.

Being called the wrong name sometimes annoys Ahmad but it doesn't bother Akeem anymore.

"It matters kind of whom. If it's somebody who I know really well and they do it it's like c'mon really, you know me, that's not cool. But if it's somebody new then I cut them some slack," Ahmad said.

Although they are twins, they believe there are differences between them.

"I'd say Akeem can be a lot more sassy, and also sometimes he doesn't know when to shut up and it makes people kind of mad. I guess it kind of matters what the situation is," Ahmad said.

Akeem agrees that he is the sassier of the two.

Perhaps you get to be sassier with two seconds hanging over your younger sibling's head.



Photo by Liz Ramos

Juniors Akeem, left, and Ahmad Asani are a part of the band.

Same age, many differences *Ups and downs*

Triplets have positive and negatives

By Liz Ramos
News Editor

The stork dropped more than one present at the Skipor family's door steps.

Freshmen Joe, Ben, and Rachel Skipor were born on Jan. 14, 1997. Rachel was born five hours before Joe with Ben being born 15 minutes after Joe.

"It can be hectic sometimes but other times it's good. There are two other people that can relate to you," Joe said. "We can communicate better than most people, well me and my sister can."

Rachel enjoys being the only girl out of the triplets.

"I actually like it a lot more because my brothers sometimes had to share clothes

and if they're in the same gym that can be weird," Rachel said.

Being in the same grade has its positives and its negatives.

"Being in the same grade you're always in contact and you're pretty much always going to have a class with one of your siblings," Joe said. "In some ways it's good and other ways it's bad. It's good for homework and stuff, if you forget your book chances are that one of your siblings will have it with them. It's bad because if you did something they'll find out right away."

Having two siblings entering high school made the transition easier for the triplets but also came with costs.

"It was easier to get to know people but then at the same time you're kind of judged on what your siblings do," Ben said.

Although they're triplets,

there are certain qualities that make each one unique but there are some similarities between them.

"I'd say my dancing because Joe does a lot of sports and Ben is into acting," Rachel said. "I guess sometimes we think of the same things like you'll say something and somebody else will say it at the same time."

For birthdays, the Skipor family gets one cake and either has family over for dinner or goes out to eat.

"When we were younger we had to share birthday parties. It's weird sometimes and sharing friends is kind of awkward," Rachel said.

People who meet one of the Skipors for the first time aren't aware that they are triplets and usually have the same reaction when they find out.

"Most people are really shocked when they find out that I'm a triplet and they ask what it's like and if it's weird or anything," Ben said. "Sometimes (it gets annoying) just because I hear it so much, probably at least once a week, someone will find

out that I'm a triplet and usually they make a big deal out of it."

Just like all siblings, there can be times that the Skipors want to be away from each other.

"Usually we kind of have our own places in our house

because we're involved in so much stuff that we don't cross paths as much as we used to. Usually it's pretty good. Occasionally, we argue and get into fights but now that we're in high school we don't spend as much time at home," Ben said.

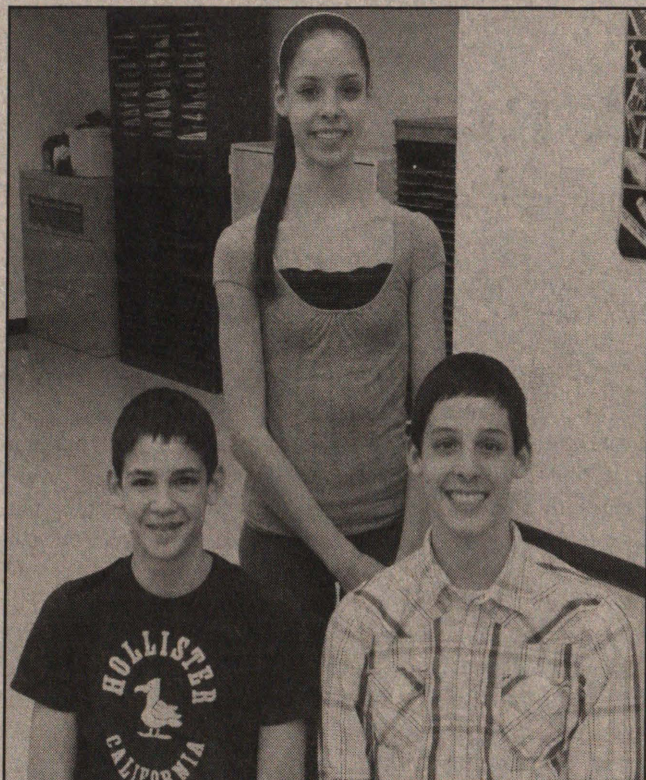


Photo by Liz Ramos

Freshmen Joe, left, Rachel, middle, and Ben, right, find many positives and negatives to being triplets.

February flicks

The Vow

By Liz Ramos
News Editor

Viewers go on an emotional roller coaster while watching "The Vow" but end up wanting more by the end of the movie.

"The Vow" is based on a true story of a newlywed couple that gets into a car accident, and the wife forgets she was ever married.

Channing Tatum (Leo) and Rachel McAdams (Paige) play the role of the couple.

Tatum's and McAdams' previous experiences in Nicholas Sparks' films helped them connect more on screen.

McAdams takes the challenge of being this lost girl extremely well, making the suffering seem real. Likewise with Tatum, being the husband who can't stand knowing that his wife doesn't know or really love him anymore.

"The Vow" starts with confusion as to when the scene takes place. This adds to the mystery of who Paige was and who she's become.

Five years separate the old Paige, a girl in law school at Northwestern University who was engaged to Jeremy (Scott Speedman), to the new Paige, a passionate artist at the Art Institute of Chicago with a new look and personality and love for Leo.

As the movie goes on, the viewer only wishes that Paige could find her art-loving self again.

Not too long after meeting in the parking lot, Leo

and Paige say their vows in the Art Institute of Chicago with all of their closest friends. The promise to find one another no matter what challenges come ahead make this tragedy even harder to believe.

Four years later a truck hits Leo and Paige's car from behind at a stop sign and launches Paige through the windshield.

The moment Paige wakes in the hospital, Leo is there, not expecting news of the memory loss. Paige believes Leo is her doctor and is startled to find out that she is married. Looking at Tatum's face as he hears his wife question who he is breaks the viewer's heart.

After living five years without contact with her parents and sister, Paige's family hears about the accident and comes to the hospital to bring her home. The doctor suggests that Paige go back to her normal routine which Leo says is with him, but Paige's parents insist on her coming

home with a benefit to them regaining their relationship.

Paige's parents trying to convince her to come home with them had the audience yelling at the screen.

With evidence, that Leo is in fact Paige's husband, Paige decides to take a chance of regaining some of her memory and goes home with Leo.

After only a few days with many frustrations, Paige decides to go back with her parents to help with her sister's wedding and back to the life she once lived.

Leo never stops trying to help Paige regain her memory, but his efforts continually fail making the viewer wonder if true love will win. With such potential for another great love story, the ending to "The Vow" was disappointing due to the abrupt ending.

Overall, "The Vow" is a heartbreaking romance with wonderful acting and knowing it was based of a true story makes it even better.

This film is rated PG-13.
★★★★



Photo courtesy of Sony Pictures
Actor Channing Tatum plays Leo, who tries to win back his wife's (Rachel McAdams) love after a car accident.

A new style of music

By Keyuri Parmar
Features Editor

Covering songs has become a new trend rather than singing an artist's own lyrics.

On occasion these cover songs become more popular than the original song because of the different sound along with the lyrics and the voice.

Some popular artists and bands who cover songs are Boyce Avenue, Tyler Ward, Kurt Hugo Schneider, Sam Tsui, and Cimorelli.

Boyce Avenue began their career by posting various covers and original songs on Youtube. Some of their covers received over 10,000,000

views, and 3 Peace released the covers in EPs digitally. Currently the band has signed with Universal Republic and has multiple albums out.

Boyce Avenue's covers for "We Found Love" and "What Makes You Beautiful" are a lot more calm and comforting than the original versions and they use more acoustics. Their cover "What Makes You Beautiful" is better than the original song because of the way they morphed the music.

Schneider and Tsui began working together while at Yale University. Tsui sang while Schneider produced covers and melodies. The Youtube channel KurtHu-

goSchneider received over 345 million views. Since Sept. 2010 the two artists have been releasing original songs as well.

Tsui's music is almost more dramatic than the original version, especially the cover for "Jar of Hearts."

Cimorelli was discovered by the manager of British pop group, the Sugababes who helped them get signed by Universal after she heard their cover of Miley Cyrus' Party in the U.S.A.

The CimFam EP reached number six on the iTunes chart in the U.S. after 12 hours of being released, according to www.cimorelli.com.

The Woman in Black

By Giuliana LaMantia
Center Spread Editor

For those easily frightened and seeking a thrill, "The Woman in Black" will do the trick; however, horror movie fanatics may find it is lacking in the fear department.

The plot of "The Woman in Black" was mostly predictable, nothing more than the stereotypical horror movie and a bit of a let-down after trailers promised something more original.

Daniel Radcliffe plays the role of Arthur Kipps, a widowed lawyer who travels to a secluded village to settle the affairs of a deceased client.

The first 45 minutes of the movie were slow, boring, and confusing, as the characters settled into their roles and Kipps' lawyer affairs were discussed as he traveled to the village.

The movie began to pick up upon Kipps' first visit to the estate. Large, crumbling, and old-fashioned, the house is an obvious set-up for a scary movie.

Exploring the eerie, creaky estate, Kipps catches a glimpse out the window of a hooded figure donning a black cloak.

Upon his arrival back to the village, a young girl suddenly dies, and Kipps is icily shunned by the villagers, who blame him for the girl's death.

Kipps continues to study up on the case at the estate,

and it does not take long for him to become aware of the supernatural presence dwelling in it, due to the rattling doorknobs and mysterious wind-up toys that start playing on their own.

A disgruntled ghost, a haunted house, suspenseful pop-ups, and creepy images made the movie not much more original than most in its category, but still satisfyingly scary.

Eerie-looking dolls and dead children add to the creepiness factor of the movie, depending on your tolerance of scary movies.

It was interesting to see Radcliffe as someone other than Potter, as he has clearly grown out of the role. However, die-hard "Harry" fans may still watch the movie and wonder where he has left his Firebolt.

Just as the movie is typical for that of the horror genre, so is the ending; eerie, and somewhat depressing and unsatisfying. Hopefully filmmakers will one day be able to come up with something new and fresh for the plot of a scary movie, instead of taking the audience through the same old routines, while still maintaining the scares that will always get you.

Overall, "The Woman in Black" is just the same thing that has been done before; the plotline mediocre, with the same old scares and pop ups.

This film is rated PG-13.
★★★

Cimorelli's style is very similar to the original artists version of the song but they use each other's voices instead of instruments.

The similarity between all these artists is their music is not synthesized and real in-

struments are used making the overall sound more real. Since all the music on the radio is not like this, covers attract many.

This new trend will stick around if the artists originality stays.



Photo courtesy of christinagrimmie.com
Christina Grimmie started her career on YouTube, and already has a music video for her single, "Advice."

Taking the world by storm

By Kristina Manibo
Entertainment Editor

Three UK artists have started to take the world by storm.

One Direction

One Direction is a British-Irish boy band widely known amongst teenage girls, made up of five singers: Niall Horan, Zayn Malik, Liam Payne, Harry Styles, and Louis Tomlinson.

One Direction became famous through the 2010 season of "X Factor." Their first album, "Up All Night," was

released on Nov. 18, 2011 through Sony Music.

What makes One Direction popular is not only their looks, but their pop-rock sound that appeals to much of the younger female generation. Their tracks are mainly upbeat and the lyrics are insanely catchy. Most of their songs are about love and crushes, specifically their first single, "What Makes You Beautiful." The single debuted on the UK Singles Chart at number 1 on Sept. 18, 2011.



Photo courtesy of onedirectionmusic.com

One Direction members from left, Niall Horan, Harry Styles, Louis Tomlinson, Zayn Malik, and Liam Payne toured in December and January to promote their album, "Up All Night."

Ed Sheeran

Artist Ed Sheeran takes on a different style of music, mainly folk and acoustic. It's much easier to relax to compared to One Direction.

In 2005, he started recording music through Atlantic Records. It was in 2010 when he produced his album, "+" that his music gained recognition.

Sheeran's mellow voice gives off a relaxing vibe to study or fall asleep to. It's hard not to like all of Sheeran's songs. Although most of them are soft acoustic, the guitar melodies and rhythms differ throughout, making each one unique.

One of Sheeran's singles, "Little Bird," from his album "Loose Change," has a more upbeat vibe to it, and is now played in Hollister clothing stores' official spring playlist. In addition to "Little Bird," Hollister's official spring playlist features "When I Was a Youngster" by British hip hop duo, The Rizzle Kicks.

The Rizzle Kicks
Jordan Stephens and Har-

ley Alexander-Sule formed the energized duo in 2008. Starting with demos recorded in their bedrooms, they slowly made their way to the top through YouTube. The demos caught the attention of record labels; in November 2010, they were signed to Island Records and began to produce tracks inspired by the old school hip hop era.

Their first debut album, "Stereotypical," was released on Oct. 31, 2011, and they will go on tour in March. The Rizzle Kicks also collaborated with Sheeran on hip hop

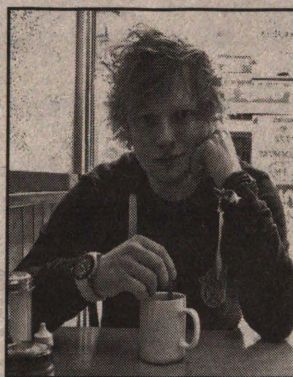


Photo courtesy of edsheeran.com

Artist Ed Sheeran's music is now being played in some clothing stores including Hollister.

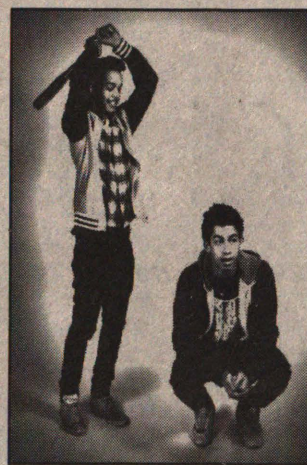


Photo courtesy of rizzlekicks.com

Harley Alexander-Sule, left, and Jordan Stephens form The Rizzle Kicks.

track "You Need Me, I Don't Need You" and Foster the People on "Call It What You Want" in 2011.

Like many hip hop songs, the Rizzle Kicks produce tracks that are fast and catchy. It's hard to get one of their songs out of your head.

"When I Was a Youngster" is a great example of a catchy, upbeat song. Its sound hints at summer and makes you long for the warm weather.

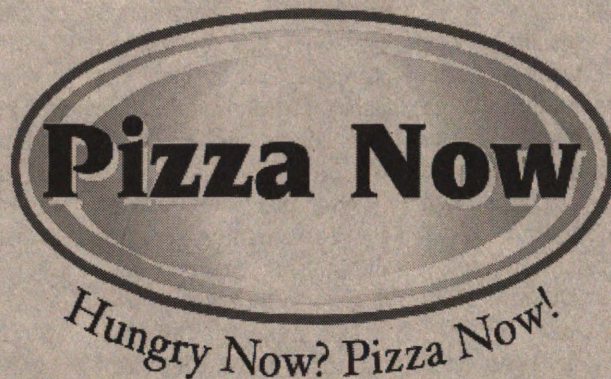
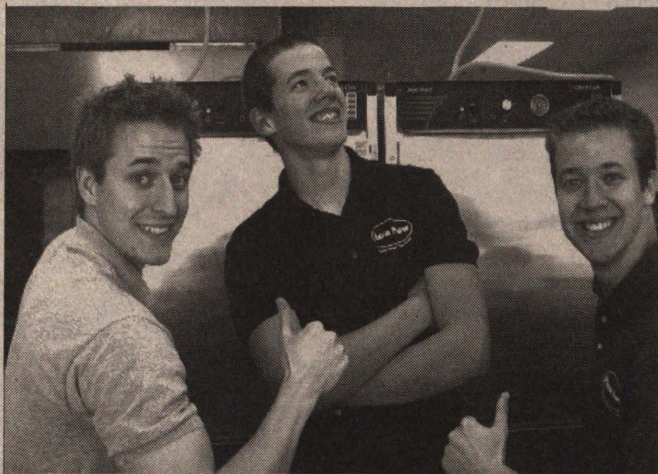
Whether it be pop-rock, acoustic or old school hip hop, the UK artists on the rise will definitely find a way into music playlists across the US.

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Champs: On top of DVC and sectionals

By Kristina Manibo
Entertainment Editor

Wheaton Warrenville Co-op's dedication paid off when JV tasted victory with a first place at DVC for gymnastics.

DVC was at Wheaton Warrenville South on Jan. 27. JV finished in first place while varsity came in third.

"I was ecstatic when I found out we won first place, especially since our whole team worked so hard," junior Aubrey Wolsfeld said. "I wasn't really sure if we were going to win or not but I was hoping for the best."

With a big team, the tension was high before the meet.

"We got what we deserved

with our biggest team yet; there are 35 girls approximately," senior Caitlin Lawson said. "All of our girls were really nervous. We had a team meeting before DVC to pump us up like always, but it was still extremely nerve-wracking."

Wheaton Warrenville South won't have a chance to see if they can win again next year, as part of the team is splitting up.

"This is my last year so it was fortunate that I got to do the team this year. We won't be doing co-op next year," Lawson said. "It makes me really sad that the other West Chicago girls won't have the chance to be on the team with Wheaton North and

Wheaton Warrenville South next year."

According to Lawson, West Chicago will co-op with St. Charles next season.

"The best part about the season overall was just meeting a lot of new girls from Wheaton North and Wheaton Warrenville South. Seventy percent of the team are freshmen so it was really cool teaching them new skills and techniques," Lawson said.

Wolsfeld will be continuing on to merge with St. Charles next year.

"I am proud of the personal goals I achieved throughout the season," Wolsfeld said. "My biggest improvement was being able to score higher on each meet."

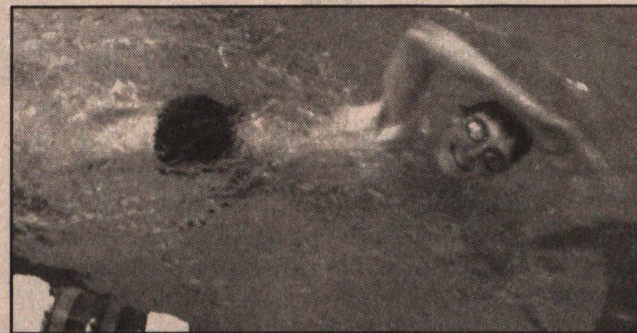


Photo by Giuliana LaMantia

Junior Jack Eichenberger is working hard to make it to state.

Constant improvement solidifies spot at sectionals

By Giuliana LaMantia
Center spread Editor

After a season of improvements and time drops, boys swimming is heading to sectionals Saturday at St. Charles North.

The team is currently tapering in preparation.

"Tapering is reducing the workload but leaving the intensity," coach Nicole Cleveland said.

Junior Jack Eichenberger hopes to make it to state after sectionals.

"I've been working hard in practice. Sectional time is the time to shine, so we'll see," Eichenberger said.

The results of DVC on Tuesday at Naperville Central were not available as of press time.

Overall, the team had a successful season with many

accomplishments.

"It's been a good season, a lot of people have made leaps and bounds (of improvement)," junior Aaron Fagalde said.

In terms of goals, the team was proud of their achievements.

Cleveland commends the athletes for their hard work throughout the season.

"Our biggest goal was overall team improvement," Cleveland said. "That goal is being accomplished, and we are hoping for bigger time drops at sectionals. Sending someone to state is still up in the air. If it happens it does, if it doesn't it doesn't, but the boys should still be happy with their accomplishments."

The boys plan to go into the club season after sectionals to prepare for next season, and continue raising the bar higher.

Inconsistency hurts team

By Carly Tubridy
Editor in Chief

As league playoffs draw to a close, the Wild Hawks look to state to finish out their season.

The Hawks lost to Hinsdale Central and Naperville North which sealed their fate in league playoffs.

Inconsistency hurt them in league and will continue to be a concern as the team prepares for state.

"We can win against one of the best teams in state, Waubonsie, and then we can lose to the worst. We lost to two of the worst teams in the league this year," head coach Dave Dyson said.

Should the team play to their ability, Dyson believes they can go far.

"I hope the right team shows up because if they do, my expectation is that we can win a state championship. We can be playing in

the United Center for a state title," Dyson said.

Dyson is relying on the boys to play to their capability during playoffs.

"Everything starts with Kyle Nielson," Dyson said.

Nielson made 55 saves in regulation and stopped 12 shoot-out goals for the win against Waubonsie.

Seniors are also a large component in the game.

"I expect, especially with such a senior heavy team - I have nine - that the boys are playing like it is their last game of their lives because eventually it will be," Dyson said.

Dyson points out the brevity of the seniors' seasons and stresses the importance of giving it their all.

"You'll never walk this road again so make it count," Dyson said.

Extra effort is being put in as the boys realize the time to focus.

As the Wild Hawks' intensity rises, so does the other teams'.

"Everyone is playing for blood right now," Dyson said.

Being late in the season, the boys are feeling the fatigue.

"There is a lot of wear and tear. Some of the guys are real worn out," Dyson said.

Dyson has cut out conditioning to help counteract the heavy toll that 45 games take on a body.

As the third seed for the state competition, the boys will be playing the 30th seed.

"I'm almost worried with that first game. You don't want to have a game that is too easy and then step into a real game," Dyson said.

The first state game is Feb. 25 against Lockport.

"There is no hiding anymore. People know we're good and people are going to really gear up for us," Dyson said.



Photo by Carly Tubridy

Senior Austin Wiedmyer fights for a face off against Hinsdale Central on Jan. 29. The team's inconsistency is a concern as they enter the state's playoffs.

Family competition

By Ryan Weier
Reporter

Every athlete has a competitive drive to win, but when your opponent is your brother the bar is raised to a whole other level.

This is the case for freshman Tommy, sophomore Tyler, and junior Robert Svestka all of whom are on the varsity wrestling team.

Each one of them goes all out every time they are on the mat during practice.

"There's a different intensity when they wrestle against each other as opposed to another teammate," varsity coach Humberto Ayala said.

According to Ayala the intensity of others increases when the brothers go up against each other. Robert tries to be a good role model for his younger brothers.

"It's difficult. I always have to be good and make a good impression," Robert said.

Robert also warms up with

his brothers and gives advice on how to win.

"I help them warm up and tell them to go hard and that they need to win," Robert said.

Tyler has not only someone to look up to but also has someone looking up to him.

"[Being the middle child] is cool. We've learned the same stuff growing up but I try to help Tommy out," Tyler said.

Tommy has high goals for himself this year.

"I am trying to go to state," Tommy said

The three brothers have all been wrestling since they were in second grade.

"I've coached them since middle school so I've known them for a while. We have a good understanding of each other," Ayala said.

According to Ayala, the boys are all very talented and with their hard work and dedication these boys can raise the bar of competition to every wrestler in the state.

Athletes continuing careers in college

By **Connie Kim**
Perspectives Editor

Seniors Bianca Navejas and Nathan Sudnick signed with Division I colleges on Feb. 1 to continue their sports careers.

Both seniors received a scholarship to play at the schools.

Navejas signed with Eastern Illinois University to play midfield on the soccer team.

"They scouted me my sophomore year at a home conference game against Naperville Central, and then they followed up with my club coach," Navejas said.

Navejas was scouted by other colleges but decided on Eastern.

"(Eastern) was one of my choices because I fell in love with the campus, people, and team on my first visit," Navejas said.

The soccer team at Eastern was what Navejas was looking for.

"I chose to sign with them because they were looking for a tactile player and they like to possess the ball, and that is my kind of game," Navejas said. "I like being able to possess the ball and be creative in making plays, and Eastern has offered the opportunity to be able to play that style of soccer that I love."

Navejas is glad she decid-

ed to sign with Eastern.

"I was super excited and humbled that they took interest in me and just the fact that they took time to come out to one of my games," Navejas said. "That they saw something special in me really made me feel extremely happy and relieved that all my hard work was putting me in the path I've been working for since I was little."

Sudnick signed with University of Dayton in Ohio to play defensive end on the football team.

"Dayton called me in October the day we won homecoming," Sudnick said.

Sudnick was also scouted by other schools like Drake, University of Chicago, and San Diego.

Unlike Navejas, Dayton wasn't Sudnick's first-choice school.

"I didn't even think that I wanted to play college ball until after the season, but I'm definitely excited with my choice," Sudnick said.

After an overnight visit to the college, Sudnick committed on Jan. 30.

Sudnick is content with his decision as he enjoys several aspects of the school and their team.

"I was really excited," Sudnick said. "The program's really great, and the team has a good camaraderie and a family sense. The school is also good as well."

Rivalry evokes revenge

By **Liz Ramos**
News Editor

Years of playing together in park district games when the boys basketball players were younger has caused a brutal rivalry between the school and Glenbard North.

After a competitive game against Glenbard North on Jan. 27, the boys basketball team lost 52-40.

"Since our school borders are right next to each other, I think it's kind of a rival. Some of those kids know each other because they might go to the same park district," coach Kevin Baldus said.

Baldus believes the team never gave up and had a good effort but proved to be too difficult to get back into the game three times.

"We put ourselves in a hole, got back to a 1 point game, made some mistakes, and had some turnovers. They had another run on us. They got it down to 6 points again. With the ball, we turned it over and then we tried to fight back again. It's too hard to try to come back three times in the process of one basketball game. We're right there. I know we can compete with (Glenbard North) but there were some mistakes that we made that really hurt us," Baldus said.

Earlier in the season, the team played Glenbard North and lost 62-47.

"It was a little more lopsided game. I don't think we really ever had a chance to beat them at that game where as (Jan. 27) we were right there with the opportunities to tie it



Photo by Liz Ramos

Senior Justin Mundt shooting a basket during the Friday game against Wheaton Warrenville South.

or take a lead, and we didn't get that close the first time so that's a sign of getting better," Baldus said.

With a loss by only a few points, the team is out for revenge against Glenbard North if they have the chance to play them in regionals.

"Everything is happening in practice. Practice is more competitive and more intense. We're ready to go after it," senior Jajuan Cosby said.

Senior Josh Gimre believes the crowd can have an effect on how the team plays whether it's good or bad.

"I think we like to play with the crowd especially when our teams get here. I don't know if you remember earlier in the year we played Wheaton North but we had a big crowd, they had a big crowd. It makes the game a

lot more fun to play. You get hyped up. You get a lot more adrenaline. It makes the game a lot more exciting I think for the players and the fans," senior Josh Gimre said.

After the loss against Glenbard North, the team went on to win against Joliet Catholic Jan. 28.

"It didn't feel probably as good as we would have like but a win's a win. That's definitely a game we needed to win and we got the win so that was very good about it. It was a little disappointing to leave (Jan. 27) without a win but when you play a two game weekend you want to at least win one," Gimre said.

The team lost against Wheaton Warrenville South on Feb. 10, 45-26.

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

Overcoming slump



Photo by Keyuri Parmar

Senior Claire Monroe looks to pass during the game on Jan. 26 against Naperville North. The girls are working to overcome their losing streak.

By **Keyuri Parmar**
Features Editor

A rough patch in the second half of their season has the girls basketball team looking for solutions.

According to head coach Kim Wallner, the girls were not playing well when they played the DVC teams for the second time.

"The seniors have to deal with adversity and the captains are figuring out what the team needs before regionals," Wallner said.

The first half of the season proved to be more successful.

"We need to get back into doing what we were doing, by gaining our confidence back on the end running," Wallner said.

According to Wallner once the conference season ends they start with a clean slate.

With it being the middle of

the season Wallner has toned down practice since the players are feeling fatigue from working so hard.

The girls played six games within a span of two weeks. Wallner thinks this would test any team's strength.

"I've toned practice down a bit but still get something accomplished every day. We have also been having many film sessions," Wallner said.

Wallner believes the cause of this losing streak is because the team was not as close. Because of this, the team has been doing various team-building exercises bringing the team closer together.

"We pulled together and talked about our issues as a team which has helped us get better," senior Brenna MacDonald said.

More teamwork at their game on Jan. 26 led to a win.

"I really think we trusted each other more after we talked about what they needed to work on, which is what helped us win. Before we didn't really play as a team," MacDonald said.

For junior Laura Panicali the realization of the season coming to an end affected the team a lot as well.

"We came together as a team and the season's almost over so we will never play together again. Because of this we worked harder," Panicali said.

According to Panicali the team went through a rough patch but are back on track.

The team ended the DVC season 14-12 and 6-8 in conference and are starting regionals as the fifth seed.

Losing 62-61 against Naperville Central on Feb. 9 boosted the teams spirit for regionals according to Wallner.

Domination despite injuries

By **Ryan Weier**
Reporter

If someone were to tell me before the mini season of the NBA started that the Bulls would have injuries to Richard Hamilton, Luol Deng, C.J. Watson, and Derrick Rose and still have the best record in the Eastern Conference I wouldn't buy it for a second.

Yet the Bulls have found a way to keep it together through numerous injuries this season.

After losing in the Eastern Conference Finals 4-1 against the Miami Heat, the Bulls have seemed to be playing with a bit of a chip on their shoulder. They are beating the teams they should beat which seems to be pretty much everyone on their schedule.

Rose is still putting up high numbers even with a sprained big toe averaging 23.1 points per game and 7.7 assists with a depleted supporting cast.

They were able to hang with a completely healthy Heat team that, quite frankly, the Bulls should have beaten. When Rose was out they showed that they could still beat other teams but more importantly showed they could score without Rose

which was what hurt them against the Heat last year.

Right now it's all a matter of getting healthy. Winning shorthanded can only last so long.

Evidence to that was the 98-82 loss on Feb. 1 to the 76ers. As the season goes on the starters, more importantly Rose, are going to start to lose a step or two. They need fresh and healthy bodies to balance the load and give quality minutes. Omer Asik and Taj Gibson are probably the best big man duo coming off the bench throughout the league. They keep the pace that Joakim Noah and

Carlos Boozer set or even raise it depending on how much yelling Boozer is doing (typically the more he yells the less he plays).

Who would've thought that little John Lucas III would become a great scoring point guard off the bench? Never mind that he got dunked on by LeBron, if anything it would be embarrassing if the queen didn't dunk on him.

Bottom line, the Bulls are showing that they by far have the most depth than any other team in the league. Willing everyone is healthy by April, the Bulls might just be holding the Larry O'Brien trophy come season's end.

Bulls keep it together through the hurt, shows depth of team by continuing to deliver

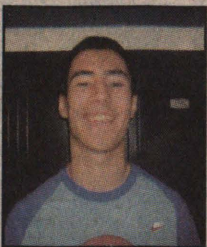


Photo courtesy of Andrew_j_w

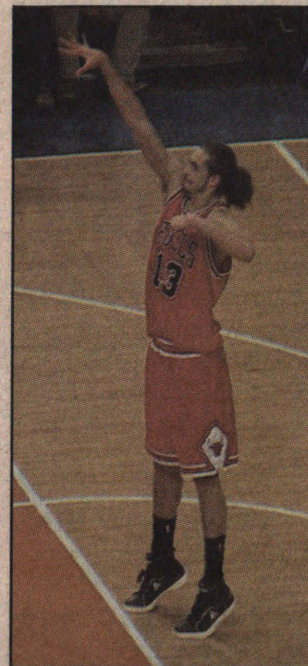


Photo courtesy of Matt Britt

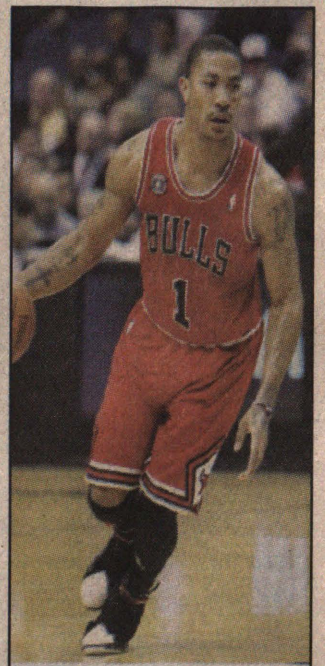


Photo courtesy of Keith Allison

Boozer:
PPG: 14.7 Rebounds: 8.5
Assists: 1.5
Blocks: .54
Steals: 1.1

Noah:
PPG: 8.6
Rebounds: 9.2
Assists: 2.2
Blocks: 1.2
Steals: .68

Rose:
PPG: 23.6
Rebounds: 3.5
Assists: 8.2
Blocks: .71
Steals: .90

The injured list

Rose: Sprained big toe and back spasms
Deng: Torn ligaments in left wrist

Watson: Wrist
Hamilton: Sore thigh

Stand out athletes honored

By **Carly Tubridy**
Editor in Chief
Keyuri Parmar
Features Editor

Two students were recently recognized for their excellence in athletics.

On Feb. 9 junior Laura Panicali received the Tri-

Local High School Player of the Month award. This award recognizes student athletes and gives donations to the school.

"I was honored and excited to receive this award because we've worked really hard together as a team. It would have not have been possible

for me to get this award without the hard work put together by the team," Panicali said.

Panicali found out she won after the voting was done on the website but thought it was a privilege to receive the award in front of the team that has helped her so much.

The award coming as a result of people from the community made it mean more.

"Every award is an honor to get and to be recognized by the community is a great feeling," Panicali said.

According to coach Kim Wallner, Panicali has come a long way in the past year, works hard especially this past week, and deserved the award.

"This award will help me be more determined to work hard and stay on track going into regionals," Panicali said.

Senior Brain Baidis received the Randall Jacobs award for his athletic, academic, and leadership accomplishments in football the same week as Panicali.



Photo courtesy of Julie Panicali

Junior Laura Panicali receives the TribLocal High School Player of the Month award for her hard work throughout the season.

Athletic director Doug Mullaney and Veteran Benner presented the award to Baidis on Friday.

"It was pretty humbling. It was a great experience," Baidis said.

Family, friends, classmates witnessed the ceremony during half time of the basketball game.

"It's nice to have to have some recognition even though our season didn't go so well," Baidis said.

The award was named after

a soldier who died in Vietnam and was voted on by coaches.

"It raises expectations but it's cool at the same time," Baidis said.

Receiving the award made Baidis feel he had to live up to the namesake.

"I told my parents I was actually going to have to do something with my life now," Baidis said.

Support from the community and coaches has left a feeling of honor with two athletes.

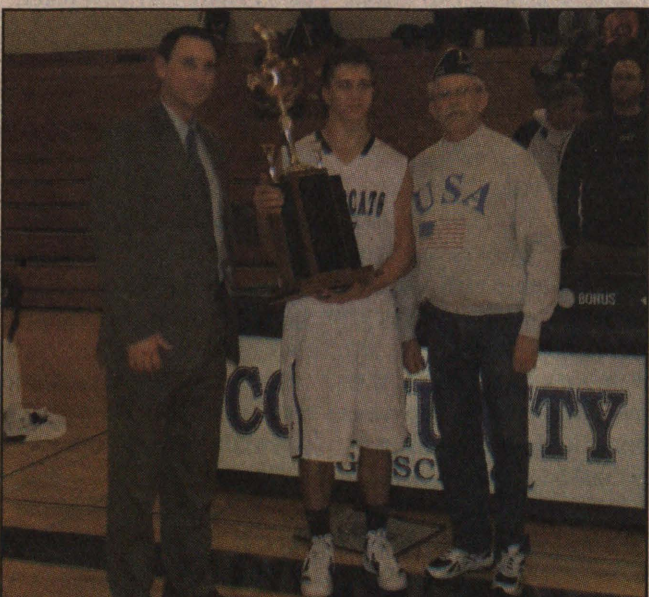


Photo by Carly Tubridy

Senior Brian Baidis is honored to receive the Randall Jacobs award for his athletic, academic, and leadership skills during the football season.