



For the review of 'The Avengers'-- see page 10

The Wildcat

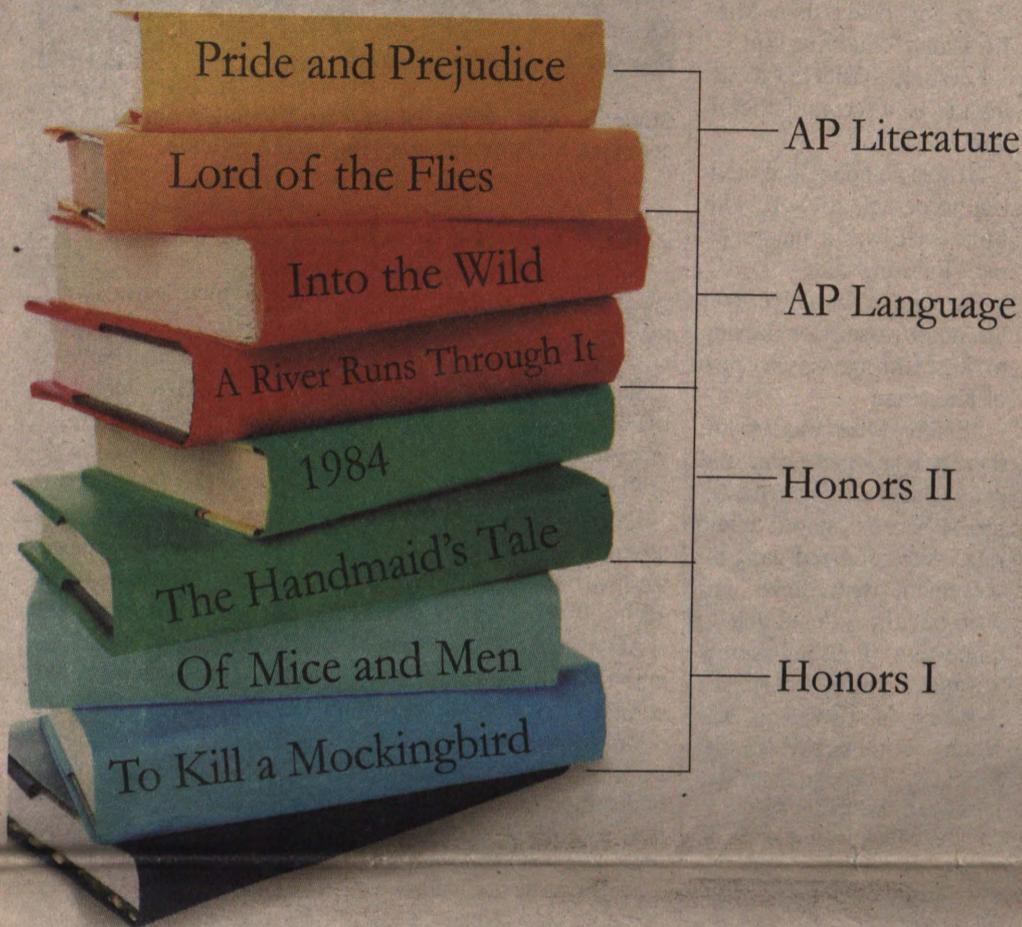
Chronicle

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Summer reading for all students



By Liz Ramos
News Editor

In past years, only honors and AP English students were required to take part in summer reading but now every student must participate.

"What we're introducing this year is a comprehensive summer reading program so that all students are required to participate in summer reading," language arts division head Mary Howard said.

Students who are not in honors or AP are required to read one book which comes from a list of five designed for their grade level. Each of those sets of five is thematically connected to one of the major concepts of the upcoming school year.

Honors and AP students will continue to do online posts to go along with the two assigned books as they have done in the past but in addition, they will have to read a book chosen from a list.

"(Students) choose from

a list and the list is for each grade level. (The books) are fun and engaging and moving books," English teacher Mark Begovich said. "There is something that each grade level, that every student can find to connect with."

English teachers and faculty members suggested books, and the lists were narrowed from there.

Summer reading, according to Howard, is building background knowledge for the units students will do during the school year that follow their grade level's theme.

"Our goal is not to have kids writing essays on the summer books in the non-honors sense. With the AP students it's a different situation because it's a standards based program that has requirements but for the non-AP students, what we're looking to do is just have them read. We wish they'd be reading a lot more than one. One book is a very bare mini-

See Reading page 4

Achievement recognized through scholarships, awards

By Keyuri Parmar
Features Editor

Students will receive scholarships and merit awards at honors night on May 31.

This year seniors Aubrie Sole and Kathy Rodriguez received the Sharon Bokker Scholarship which was \$1,000.

The Sharon Bokker Scholarship is awarded in memory of former teacher Sharon Bokker who passed away of cancer. She gave a bequest to the school's Teachers' Association to help support students who plan on choosing a career path in teaching.

Any student who plans on pursuing teaching as a career can apply for the scholarship

which consists of an application and a personal statement.

"I was super excited when I found out because all the work I put into the application paid off," Sole said.

Sole understood that she was not guaranteed the scholarship when she applied.

"Applying for the scholarship was a challenge I was willing to take since I know a lot of kids from my grade are going into education," Sole said.

Another scholarship of \$1,000 was given out in memory of science teacher Hank Maher, who passed away in February, and was awarded to senior Zitlalic Valdivia who plans on majoring in biology at Illinois Wesleyan Univer-

sity.

"I am very thankful I received the scholarship and am really excited to tell my parents," Valdivia said.

Each year, the Teachers' Association asks all employees in the school to nominate seniors who have shown moral character, citizenship, perseverance, and contribute to the community for the Outstanding Individual Merit Award.

According to Association member Brad Larson, the Teachers' Association gives this award to show that spectacular grades and involvement in activities are not the only aspects which show learning and success.

Twelve seniors received the Outstanding Individual Merit



Photo by Keyuri Parmar

Senior Aubrie Sole is surprised when she opens the letter that told her she won the Sharon Bokker Memorial Scholarship from the Teachers' Association. Senior Kathy Rodriguez also won the scholarship.

Award: Ariel Berumen, Ramon Cruz, Jose Garnica-Munoz, Andrew Kruthoff, Jeffrey Martin, Edgar Martinez, Carolina Osorio, Filiberto Toxtle, Emily Warkins, Jessica Wood, Tyler Zbilski, and Simeon

Zenteno.

"We had excellent candidates for the awards and are happy to have such good candidates. We are proud of the people who received the scholarships as well," Larson said.

INSIDE Spring Fling

Music Boosters and the music department collaborated to hold the Spring Fling. Proceeds went towards equipment and scholarships--see NEWS, page 3.



Activism

Activism is trendy and people are jumping on the bandwagon. People see themselves as social activists, despite their lack of involvement--see PERSPECTIVES, page 6.



The Magic Man

Daniel Martin is no ordinary magician. He uses unique tricks to amuse his audience members and dazzle magic fanatics. To learn how he got started and what he does now--see FEATURES, page 11.

Bonding time

The track team does more than just run. With more than four hours at a regular meet, the team needs to find ways to amuse themselves and support their team--see SPORTS, page 16.

Heart attack takes life

Sadness runs through West Chicago citizens after Mayor Mike Kwasman passes away



Photo by Ryan Weier

A memory visitation was held in the Bishop gym for Mayor of West Chicago, Mike Kwasman on April 22.

By Ryan Weier
Reporter

Many emotions were worn on people's sleeves at the memorial visitation for West Chicago Mayor Mike Kwasman on April 22.

The visitation was at the high school in the Bishop Gym.

Kwasman suffered a heart attack on April 14, and he died at Central DuPage Hospital April 17.

"(Kwasman) will leave a big hole in West Chicago. We will miss him in many

ways," alderman Alan Murphy said.

Murphy had knew Kwasman for 18 years.

"(I knew him) through city council and various other things throughout the years," Murphy said.

Alderman Jim Smith had many heartfelt comments about Kwasman.

"He was always at city hall and spent more time there than anyone. He was extremely dedicated to what he did," Smith said.

Smith also liked Kwasman's unique personality.

"He studied people well. He was definitely a people person, a great teacher, and he also had military experience. I can't believe he is gone," Smith said.

Alderman Matt Fuesting agreed with Smith.

"He was a wonderful individual. They don't make them any better than Mike Kwasman," Fuesting said.

Fuesting considered Kwasman to be a second father to him.

"It was an honor and privilege to be able to work with Mike. He was a mentor to me," Fuesting said.

Fuesting also added that his main reason for moving to West Chicago was because of Kwasman.

"Before Mike was mayor, there was a lot of crime and gang related activity here. After he became mayor, crime rates decreased and gang involvement went down. His vision really wanted me to come here," Fuesting said.

Smith's most cherished memory of Kwasman was when he took part in the Mexican Independence Day parade in West Chicago.

"He really promoted the diversity of West Chicago. He rode around in the cars wearing a sombrero around the town. He made the diversity a positive," Smith said.

Alderman Ruben Pineda is acting mayor.

Citizens can post their favorite memories of Kwasman at www.obit.dupagecremations.com.

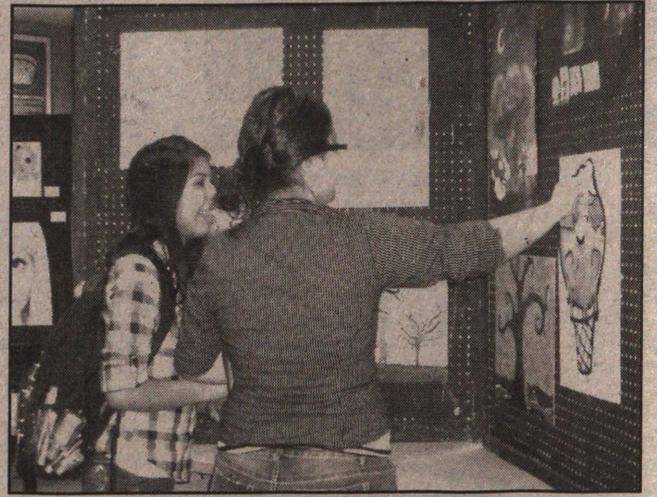


Photo by Rosa Romero

Students look at pieces of art made by students in art, ceramics, and photo classes during the art show.

Artistic showcasing

By Rosa Romero
Reporter

Sketches, sculptures, photographs and paintings with vibrant colors were presented at this year's art show.

The show was held during all lunch hours in the administrative board room May 15-18.

Art teacher David Exner enjoys his students being commended on their pieces.

"You want to support your peers and encourage them. It builds more of a community that way, it's a whole lot of fun," Exner said.

Students in art, ceramics, or photo classes had the opportunity to be showcased.

"We try to get one piece per student if we can. A lot of the times we don't get pieces back from first semester because they're at home or were given to a friend. Students are not forced to be in the show,

we need their permission," Exner said.

Freshman Emma Novitski was honored that her pieces were selected for the show.

"I really appreciated it because a lot of other students could have been chosen, but I got to have two of my pieces showcased," Novitski said.

Sophomore Ashlee Augustyn had her photography displayed for the second time.

"I just like being able to see the different artistic talents of everyone at school," Augustyn said.

Sophomore Genesis Quintana had his art shown for the first time.

"It's pretty exciting, I've never had my art displayed before," Quintana said.

Quintana hopes that the art show will continue for years to come.

"I like it, and the paintings are very amusing," Quintana said.



Photo by Giuliana LaMantia

To raise money for projects and community trips, Horticulture Club and the transition program sell plants. From left, seniors Lucy Delgado, Betsy Speer, Joanna Hernandez, and adviser Corrie Stieglitz help out at Blooming Fest Saturday.

Organizations benefit

By Giuliana LaMantia
Center Spread Editor

From pancakes in commons to the streets of West Chicago, clubs benefited from hosting fundraisers in May.

The National Honor Society raised \$1,000 during the "We Going to Take Mom to Breakfast" fundraiser on May 12 for Anna's Hope. Anna's Hope is a local charity dedicated to fighting neuroblas-

toma.

Horticulture Club and transition program students showed off their green thumbs selling plants and flowers at Blooming Fest Saturday. The groups split the profits 50/50.

Money for Horticulture Club went towards their monthly projects, and money made by the transition program went back into the program for community trips.

A total of \$654 was raised.

Save energy a switch at a time

By Giuliana LaMantia
Center Spread Editor

One light switch at a time, the school works to save money and help the environment, proving the energy program started last year is a success.

"We started forming an energy program the beginning of last school year," Energy Education specialist Don Zabelin said. "We are working with an outside firm called Energy Education Incorporated."

According to Zabelin, the firm works with him and the school to reduce energy consumption.

"The most significant thing we can do as a school is to drastically cut back energy used when school is not in session," Zabelin said.

In order to do this, the school has been working on turning off lights, heating and cooling systems, and computers in areas not in use after school hours.

In doing this, the school has reduced energy consumption by over 21 percent, and removed 2,091 tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

"A lot comes down to common sense, and if we come together we can help the cause," Zabelin said.

Besides helping the environment, reducing energy has saved \$276,049 in gross savings and \$84,941 net savings.

"After four years of working with Energy Education, they still work with you but you don't pay them," Zabelin said. "We've been working

with them for one and half years, so after two and a half years, savings should skyrocket."

Zabelin is pleased with the savings on energy that can go back into education and believes the school can set standards even higher.

"We plan to continue what we are doing now and reducing energy consumption by 20 percent, and we fully believe we can do better and move to 30 percent by doing the same things in greater proportions," Zabelin said.

Zabelin encourages students and faculty members to get into the routine of helping the program, such as taking advantages of opportunities that are natural, such as increased temperatures in classrooms with body heat, turning out unnecessary lights, and shutting down computers at the end of the day.

"It's amazing when everyone does just a little bit; for example, one person turning off a computer at the end of the day saves \$70," Zabelin said.

Dance, shimmy, sway the night away

By Kristina Manibo
Entertainment Editor

Although prom has passed, students were still able to attend one more dance of the year at the Spring Fling on Friday.

The Spring Fling was a tribute to the big bands, and was put together by the Music Boosters in the auditorium. The fling was meant to recreate a 1940's swing dance club, where instructors taught swing dance moves.

Afterwards, chamber choir performed, and jazz band presented old jazz numbers while students continued dancing. A raffle was also held, where the proceeds supported music scholarships and new stereo equipment.

"(The Spring Fling) was tons of fun. Kids legitimately danced, everybody dressed

up, and it was a really good time," jazz band director Steve Govertsen said.

Freshman Jay Lundquist played trumpet in jazz band

and had a great experience overall.

"It was a very enjoyable and pleasurable time. There was a lot of preparation but

it was so much fun that the Spring Fling was worth it," Lundquist said. "I felt that everyone was getting more of the music; they were partaking and dancing to it instead of just listening."

Senior Louie Boers also performed, but contributed to the fling along with the chamber choir.

"I am a four-year participant in the Spring Fling. What the experience is like can be best described as nostalgic because it's such a memorable night for me," Boers said. "It's pretty cool to do music from the jazz era because it's a genre that is different from all the others because it's fun and something new for high schoolers today. The rush and buzz you get can't really be described, but it's awesome to perform on that night."



Photo by Kristina Manibo

Senior Katherine Schofield performs her solo at the Spring Fling on Friday. Along with Schofield's solo, chamber choir performed while students that attended danced along.



Photo by Kristina Manibo

Jazz band performs their final concert of the year at Spring Fling with many musicians having solos.

Transition between schools made easier

By Giuliana LaMantia,
Kristina Manibo, Keyuri Parmar, Liz Ramos, and Carly Tubridy
Chronicle Reporters

Entering high school as a freshman can be an exciting yet frightening experience, but with the help of teachers and staff from Benjamin, Winfield, and West Chicago middle schools, the eighth graders are well prepared.

"They teach us to depend on ourselves and to do our work without holding our hands," Sotero Barajas from West Chicago Middle School said.

Eighth grade teachers have been stressing the importance of high school.

"There's been a lot of strain and I'm stressed on going to high school. It seems like the teachers and the students are stressing high school and may be a little over the top," Peter Lowellbartell from Benjamin Middle School said.

Winfield students are worried about transitioning from a small class of 25 students to a student body consisting of over 2,000 students.

"The high school is so big. Winfield is a tiny school in a tiny town where you know everybody," Jacob Vogt said.

Upperclassmen and the workload can be frightening to a freshman.

"I'm afraid of getting a lot

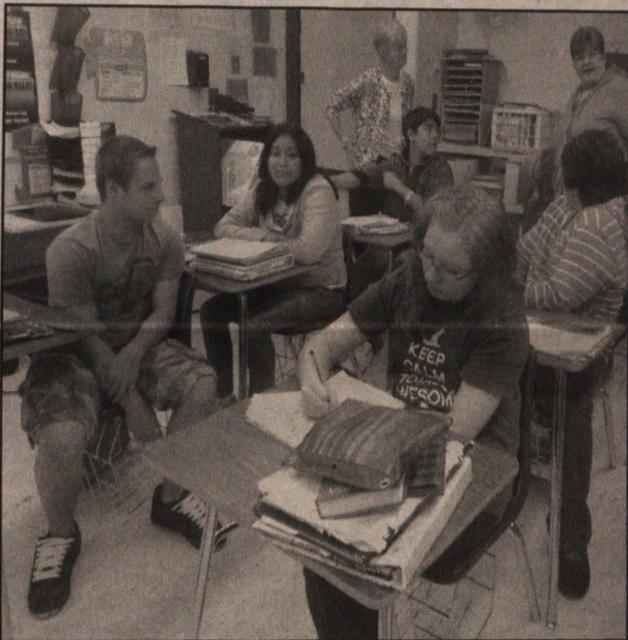


Photo by Liz Ramos

Eighth graders from West Chicago Middle School work hard in class to prepare for the transition from eighth grade to freshman year.

of homework and people that may be bigger and stronger than me," Noah Clarke said.

Many incoming freshmen are excited to meet new people and make new friends.

"(I'm excited to) make new friends from West Chicago and other schools and interacting with the other freshmen that are coming in," Nicole Baranowski from Benjamin Middle School said.

Eighth graders plan on getting involved in many sports and clubs that are available.

"I'm going to be playing sports like lacrosse, football, basketball, and maybe wrestling," Branden Winkelman from Benjamin Middle School said.

Danielle DeChristopher, a teacher from Benjamin Middle School, thinks the eighth graders will do well in high school and will have no troubles adjusting to high school.

"I think they'll be fine as long as they keep doing what

they've been doing (in middle school). I think they're ready to take freshman year," DeChristopher said.

The school has taken many steps to let the eighth graders know what the school has to offer including eighth grade open house and the sports festival, which allows eighth graders to see and get familiar with the school.

For the past four years, WeGo in with Pride has allowed freshmen to be in the school without upperclassmen on the first day of school.

"The freshmen are on their own schedule and (the upperclassmen) go home earlier, and we put the freshmen through an orientation again and meet the coaches, meet the sponsors, and give them a little speech. They get to go in the school and follow their schedule with no one else in the building but freshmen," Principal Moses Cheng said.

Reading: Summer work

Continued from page 1

num," Howard said.

Research shows a loss of knowledge over summer, but reading can prevent that.

"If you take a look at any of the research, it talks about students needing to read four, five, and six (books) to try and maintain the level that they had at the end of the school year. A lot of the research as well talks about the idea of the summer slide and how ultimately, the accumulation of that slide over time can be something that ultimately accumulates into grade level loss," Howard said.

Although summer is a time for students to take a break from school, students should keep working towards their education.

"As much as summer is a time for everyone to recharge a bit, it's also not a time to fall behind. We want to see every student succeed," Begovich said.

Being able to offer the opportunities that students need to go to the college of their choice is important to teachers and summer reading is a way to keep students skills intact, according to Howard.

"Being able to maintain the skills over the summer is one thing that ultimately can lead to their being prepared by the time they get to their senior year and choosing where they would like to attend," Howard said.

Students will discuss the books and have activities that are related to the theme in the fall.

"This is not something that we want to measure with essays or multiple choice essays. What we're wanting to do is encourage students to read and offer a list of great books hoping that one of them will catch students' eyes, and will motivate them to potentially read more than that," Howard said.

List of summer reading books to choose from

Freshmen:

- 'The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian'
- 'Speak'
- 'The Chocolate War'
- 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time'
- 'Monster'

Sophomores:

- 'The Running Man'
- 'Ender's Game'
- '1984'
- 'The Time Machine'
- 'Uglies'

Juniors:

- 'A Lesson Before Dying'
- 'Born on the Fourth of July'
- 'When I was Puerto Rican'
- 'A Tree Grows in Brooklyn'
- 'The Joy Luck Club'

Seniors:

- 'Tuesdays with Morrie'
- 'On the Road'
- 'There Are No Children Here'
- 'Into Thin Air'
- 'The Last Lecture'

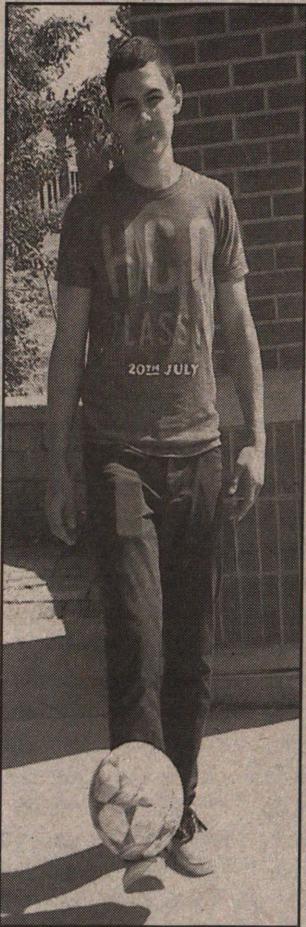


Photo by Kristina Manibo

Dedication to multiple soccer commitments has earned senior Richard Paret April Student of the Month.

Kicking to achievement

By Kristina Manibo
Entertainment Editor

Student of the Month is based on a solid academic history, commitment in extracurricular activities, and community involvement. Students must be nominated by at least one staff member, and the final selection

is made by the student activities director and committee made up of additional staff members.

Being involved in a wide variety of soccer activities has earned senior Richard Paret the title of April Student of the Month.

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

When I found out that I was Student of the Month, I was shocked and very happy. I was wondering who nominated me.

What extracurricular activities are you involved in?

I have played for the soccer program all four years of high school and I played on varsity three years. I've been a scholar athlete since freshman year. This past season, I was captain of the team and I was part of the all-conference team. I volunteer as an assistant coach for my church's youth soccer team during the summer. I used to play club soccer for the Chicago Fire Development Academy team where we won the 2010 state cup and were the finalists during 2011. I'm currently playing for the Inter FC (International Football Club).

What are your plans for college?

I will be attending Olivet Nazarene University and I plan on majoring in accounting. I will also continue my soccer career there.

What do you like most about high school?

I love the pep assemblies the school prepares for us. I also like how I get to see my friends every day.

Musical talent shared

By Lorena Orizaba
Reporter

The Fox Valley Music Festival gave 26 nominated students the opportunity to share their talent with other students involved in music from schools across the area.

"It is a festival between a whole bunch of high schools within our area where kids get to perform in a large ensemble with other talented students from local high schools," band director Stephen Govertsen said.

The concert took place April 30 at West Aurora High School.

"There is a band, choir, and an orchestra, each made up of students from all high schools that participate," Govertsen said.

Choir teacher Brandon Fantozzi selected 19 choir students: seniors Josh Guskos, Breanna Kmiecik, Noah Strayve, Amarin Young, and Louie Boers; juniors Braeden Austgen, Kiara Walker, Melinda Elmazi, Marco Garcia, Jon Sanders, Dan Stomp, and Taylor Walker; sophomores Sophia Bass, Lindsay Fiegle, and Anakin Hughes; freshmen Elyssa DiRaddo, Ben Skipor, Zandra Starks, and Brendan Walsh.

Band students that participated in the music festival were sophomores Antonia Loboeki, Quinton Letts and Natalie Farrell, junior Ben Stibal and senior Jamie Maguire.

"I look at students that can handle the level of music that is being played at the festival," Govertsen said. "The level of music they picked to be played was technically demanding."

Orchestra teacher Allison Zabelin nominated freshmen Jake Gillespie and Mae Elizabeth Gimre to participate in the festival.

"They are both hardworking, talented freshmen with much potential," Zabelin said.

More students were nominated but the number of students that get to participate is decided based on the need of instrumentation in the concert.

Students that participated enjoyed the opportunity.

"My favorite part was meeting new people," Kiara said.

The concert also gave students a learning opportunity.

"I would do it again because it's fun learning perspectives of what other teachers like," Loboeki said.

Govertsen was pleased with the results of the concert.

"I think the concert went well. The students were prepared and played well on very difficult music," Govertsen said.

At the end of the night, the concert was a success.

"My favorite part was the finale where all the band, orchestra, and choir all came together to play one piece," Govertsen said.



Photo by Lorena Orizaba

Five band members were nominated to perform in the Fox Valley Music Festival on April 30. From left, sophomore Antonia Loboeki, junior Ben Stibal, sophomores Natalie Farrell and Quinton Letts prepare for the Fox Valley Music Festival. Senior Jamie Maguire was not available for a photograph.

Hard work pays off for senior

By Rosa Romero
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 involved in various clubs and sports while working hard in and outside of class has earned senior Brandon Danial May Student of the Month.

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

I was pretty surprised. I didn't really see it coming, especially this far in the year.

What extracurricular activities or sports are you involved in?

I'm in several clubs. I've been a part of Future Busi-

ness Leaders of America, Student Council, Ambassador Club, chess team, and Snowball. Besides this year, I've been on the golf, wrestling, and volleyball team.

What are your plans for college?

I'm going to be attending college at the University of

Wisconsin-Madison.

What do you like about high school?

Meeting the different kinds of people that you're going to meet throughout your life, and getting a taste of what other cultures you get to converse with, and see what's new in the world.

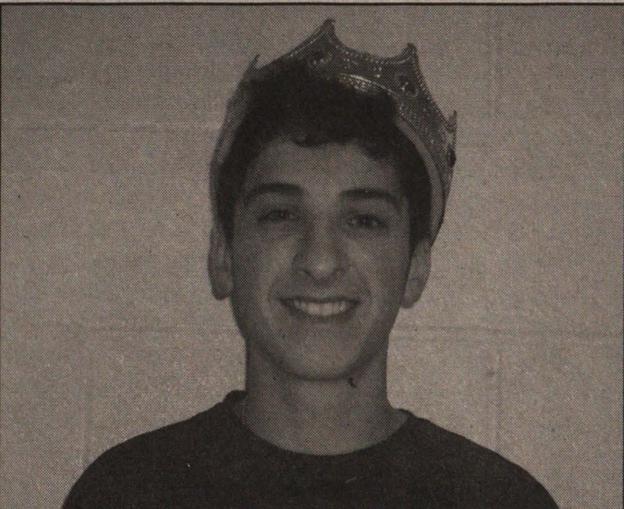


Photo by Rosa Romero

Involvement in numerous extracurricular activities and sports along with being homecoming king has landed senior Brandon Danial May Student of the Month.

Future artists

By Ryan Weier
Reporter

The school's future Poes and Lil Waynes are performing in the annual Show Me Watchu Got on Friday. Twenty-six students are performing in the show.

According to adviser Tara Deleon, the theme of the show is 'all words spoken', meaning that anything that is created and spoken by the students.

"The show is performed by students that perform poetry, rap, music, or original lyrics," Deleon said.

According to adviser Amanda Cordes, the show is mainly student directed.

"They organize the show and really take ownership, which I think they did this year more than past years," Cordes said.

Senior Adam Costa will be one of the performers in the show and is performing a poem.

"I've always been a decent writer and it's my senior year so why not go out with some fun," Costa said.

Senior Dan Stanz will also be performing a poem.

"Cordes helped me share my writing more this year and I've always liked to write," Stanz said.

Junior Michael McCarthy performed in the show last year and is performing again this year with a poem.

"Last year, I was nervous doing it for the first time, but once you're up there, it's no big deal," McCarthy said.

Cordes and Deleon are looking forward to the show.

"It's cool to see the students that have never done it before and go up on stage. It shows how bold they are and they really overcome barriers," Deleon said.

Tickets are \$2 at the auditorium door. The show is at 7 p.m.

Festival brings success

By Diana Carrillo
Reporter

Broadcasting students won seven awards at the Chicagoland Television Educators Council (C.T.E.C.) festival.

"It was one of the coolest things in my life," broadcasting teacher Dave Jennings said. "It was a cool feeling to be sitting there and receiving all these awards."

C.T.E.C. held its annual competition April 27 for Chicago area schools. About 35 schools participated.

First place went to: senior Tim Almaraz in animation, junior Valentin Barrera in commercial, and junior Zack Burghardt and senior Kevin Schwarz in the public service announcement category.

Seniors Marco Aguilar and Eddie Fuentes won second in animation; and senior Tyler Hunter and Schwarz won second place in drama.

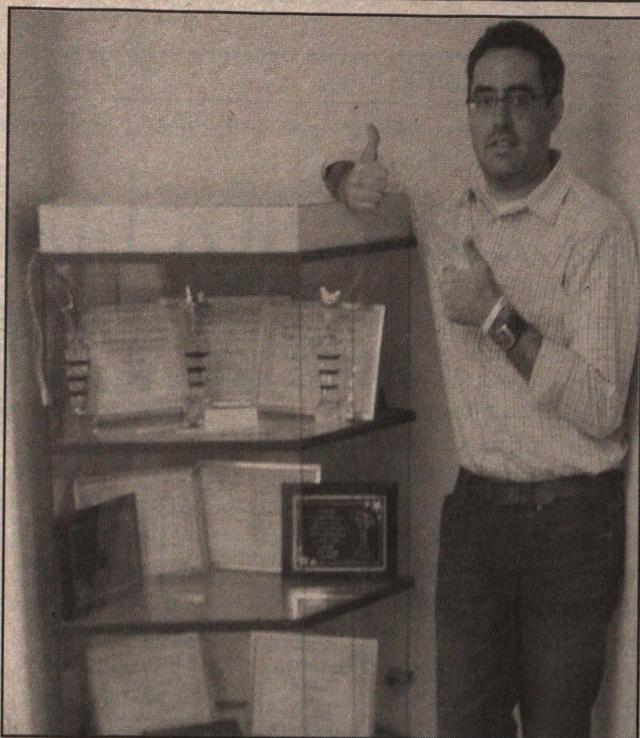


Photo by Diana Carrillo

Broadcasting teacher Dave Jennings shows off the many trophies students from the broadcasting class won at the Chicagoland Television Educators Council Festival.

Barrera and junior Dylan Dewey won third place in documentary, and senior Brad Larson won third place in movie trailer.

"When they called out my name it was very surprising, I didn't expect it," Larson said. "I was very happy about that."

Jennings said he cried tears of joy when the names were read.

"It was crazy. It was a very,

very special feeling," Jennings said.

The students were also very happy with their success.

"Walking up on stage and them handing you your trophy and people were congratulating you, it felt really good," Aguilar said.

In the past four years, the broadcasting students won two awards: a platinum in comedy and a platinum in drama.

Weight added on, pressure taken off

Changes to grading system start next year

By Lorena Orizaba
Reporter

The wait is finally over. Weighted grades are here.

The Board of Education voted in May 2011 to implement weighted grades for the 2012-2013 school year.

Instead of having the grade point average based on a 4.0 scale, next year it will be based on a 5.0 scale. To make this happen the school will weight advance and honors classes.

"Weighted grades basically are additional points that are added to the regular GPA for certain courses that the school chooses to identify, usually it's because the classes are that much harder, that much more advanced than your regular class," Principal Moses Cheng said.

The school has Advanced Placement (AP) and honors classes now, but they are not weighted more than regular classes.

"All classes that are AP are specifically set up by the College Board, and then classes that have honors attached to the name of the course title, will be weighted," Cheng said.

However, the number of AP classes that run every year is decided by the students.

"We have a variety of AP courses. Whether or not they are actually going to occur the following year is based on how many kids sign up for them," Cheng said.

Other high schools in the area are already on the 5.0 grading scale.

"The idea behind the weighted grades is that it puts us a little bit more on the same playing field as all the other schools and hopefully it will give our kids that level playing field for like scholarships," Cheng said.

Bringing in weighted grades can make choosing a valedictorian challenging.

As a result the Board of Education is considering not having valedictorians anymore.

"There is a little bit of discussion with the valedictorian and salutatorian among the (Board of Education) right now," Cheng said. "One of

the things that the weighted grades committee did recommend to the board was to not have a valedictorian and salutatorian anymore because then it is a little bit of competition between students and it comes down to sometimes a thousandth of a point, like the decimal point."

Weighted grades can also come with some disadvantages that the Board of Education has discussed.

"The committee and I wrestled over what a weighted grade says. We know there are a lot of kids that try their hardest and push themselves, so we didn't want it to seem like the classes with the weighted grades are worth more, it's just that in general, society and colleges recognize those classes as being above and beyond," Cheng said.

Some teachers believe the weighted grades system will encourage students to take advanced classes.

"Maybe more kids will be interested in honors and AP classes if they know it is not going to kill their GPA," English teacher Shannon Sanchez said.

Some students feel the new system won't make a difference.

"They don't affect my class choices," junior Elizabeth Youngwith said.

Other students think that weighted grades won't matter when they get to college.

"I think they're okay, I don't see the point because colleges look at averages on 4.0," junior Alex Blanco said.

Meanwhile, some students take advanced courses hoping to get college credit.

"They don't make a difference to me, I would still take advanced classes because they are beneficial for college," junior Nicole VanDoren said.

Regardless of the grading system that is being introduced next year, Cheng encourages students to take challenging classes.

Cheng stated that weighted grades are meant to help kids in their academic performance rather than hurt them, especially when it comes to the college application process.

"Every college has their own way of looking at their admissions process, some colleges will unweight them, some might still keep the weights," Cheng said.

The West Chicago High School Teachers' Association is pleased to announce the following scholarship recipients:

The Sharon Bokker Memorial Scholarship
for students pursuing a career in education:

Aubrie A. Sole

Kathy Rodriguez

The Hank Maher Memorial Scholarship
for a student pursuing a career in science:

Zitlalic Valdivia

and the 2012 recipients of

The Award for Outstanding Individual Merit:

Ariel Berumen

Carolina Osorio

Ramon Cruz

Filiberto Toxtle

Jose Garnica-Munoz

Emily Warkins

Andrew Kruthoff

Jessica Wood

Jeffrey Martin, Jr.

Tyler Zbilski

Edgar Martinez

Simeon Zenteno



In addition, the Teachers' Association congratulates the entire 2012 graduating class and wishes you all the best in your future endeavors!



Perspectives

Our View

What it takes to be a social activist

In a year where social activism has become some sort of trend, many people are claiming to be activists for taking interest in a certain issue.

With each cause that sparks controversy in this country, more and more "activists" are coming out of the closet and jumping onto the bandwagon.

For those people who only want the title of being a social activist, just stop.

There are a few things that people need to think about before dubbing themselves as an activist in this society.

First of all, watching a 30 minute video about Kony 2012 does not make a person a social activist. With that statement, how many people actually watched the video, felt some kind of sympathy, and then moved on with their lives?

That's just human nature. Humans tend to feel sorry for those who live unfortunate lives, then forget all about them to completely focus on their own lives.

Now, even more people are trying to play the sympathy card for certain issues.

A documentary called "Bully" just came out about how certain lives are impacted from bullying.

According to www.thedailybeast.com, HBO is creating a documentary about obesity. But how many documentaries are people going to make to get their point straight?

People may see those documentaries and want to take action, but what are they supposed to do?

When the Kony video came out onto YouTube, many people discussed it, many people shared it on Facebook, and many people said they would participate in 'Cover the Night' to spread the word of Kony.

People started to take action when the video

came out in March but couldn't finish when the time came.

Can you honestly say you know what's going on with Invisible Children at the moment?

Granted, there have been certain issues that were actually resolved with public protest including the SOPA and PIPA bills.

However, it was somewhat of a selfish cause in the way that citizens didn't want any restrictions when browsing on the Internet.

People felt threatened that they wouldn't be able to see the websites they like anymore, therefore, they decided to take part in the cause.

People aren't really up for the commitment; they just want to be a part of a stand.

For those who are activists and can commit, there are some social activist groups such as Habitat for Humanity or Feed My Starving Children that actually help people who are worse off, as hard as it is to believe, especially for the Wall Street protesters.

Those groups, instead of protesting for what they want, are taking action to help others and are impacting so many more lives.

If you want to actually make an impact as a social activist, you can't just sit around waiting on the sidelines while everyone else does the work because nothing can get accomplished that way. If you find an issue that's worthy of your time, stick with it.

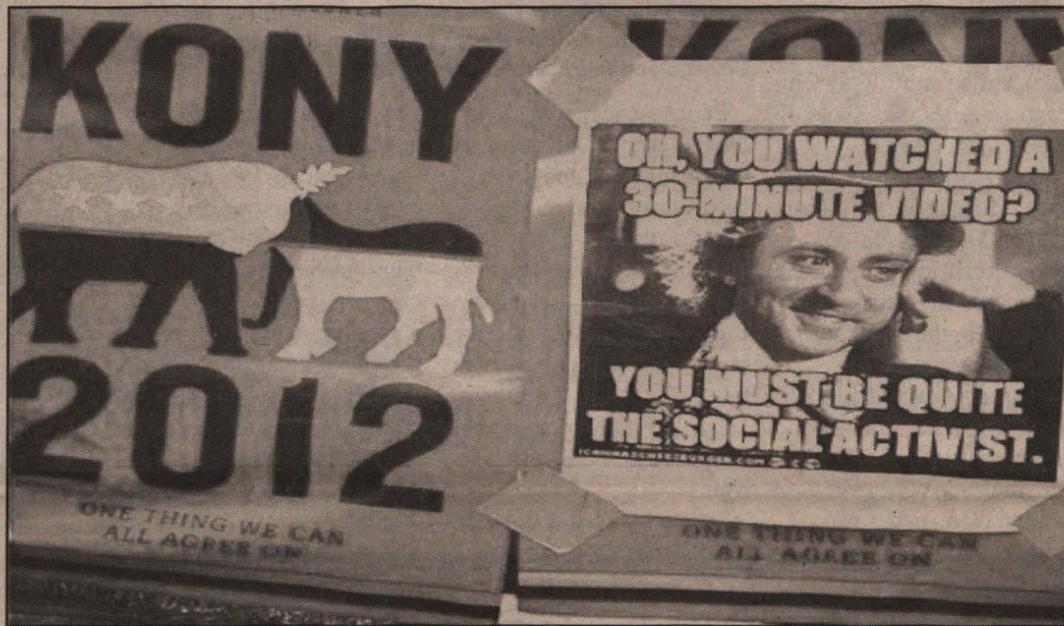


Photo Courtesy of Flickr

Despite many false beliefs, it takes a lot more than watching a 30-minute YouTube video to become a social activist.

Senators lack interest in student debt

Education is vital to becoming successful in the future. In a land with so many opportunities, is it fair to increase the interest rate on student loans making it more difficult for students to pay off their debts?

On May 11, the Senate voted to change the fixed interest rate on student loans from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent as of July 1. The final count of votes was 52-45 with the Republican senators being more dominant.

With tuition for colleges and universities being so high, the interest rates should be low or nonexistent.

According to www.nea.org, the average college student graduates with \$25,000 in loans. With a doubled interest rate, students would have to pay \$850 more.

Something about the education system needs to change so education is cheaper.

Since it is apparent that the economy has not fully recovered from the recession, the federal government should be doing everything in its power to make financial dilemmas simpler, especially for future generations.

Doubling the interest rate on student loans is just asking for the next generation to have more debt to pay off, causing the nation to be in a recession still.

The price students are paying to attend universi-

ties is already ridiculous enough. Especially when students going out of the state have to pay an average of \$10,000 more than in-state students.

As long as students are living in the same country, they deserve to pay the same amount as other Americans. Students attending schools out of state have to pay \$350 more than an in-state student because of the high interest rate on student loans.

Having the next generation graduating buried in their student loans will not benefit the economy at all. The least the government could do is not have an interest rate on student loans. Every little bit saved helps students a lot.

'Something about the education system needs to change so education is cheaper.'

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



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

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Summer to remember

of fun memories.”

Kaylee Benda specified by saying how they’ve all gone to Six Flags before, but they wanted to do it together.

The list not only is specifically meant for one summer, but it’s an ongoing list.

Instead of doing simple and unoriginal activities, the girls try to add a twist.

“We get creative with our ideas, so it’s not just boring like a movie and dinner,” Kaylee Benda said.

One idea they got creative with was canoeing.

“We canoed on the Fox River and packed a picnic with us,” Michelle Benda said. “It was fun because it’s something we’ve never done before.”

With a lot of activities on the list, it’s a challenge for the girls to finish it.

“There are so many things on our list that we might not finish ever, but we’re trying to do most of it this summer,” Michelle Benda said.

For Hennessey, she’s looking forward to camping the most.

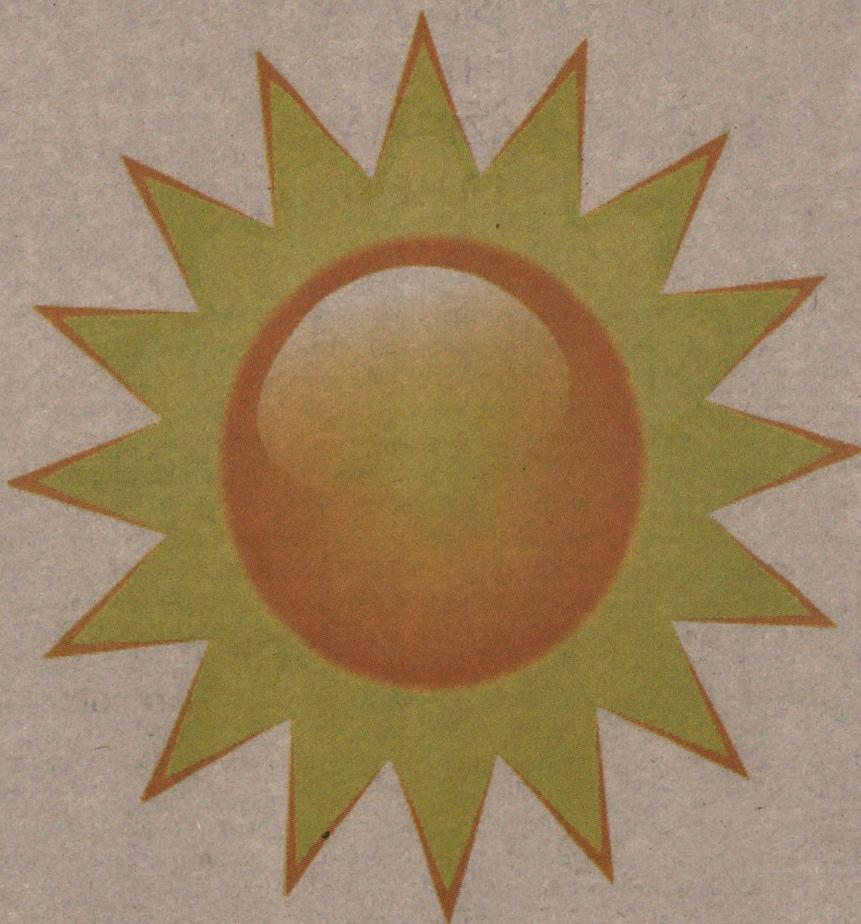
“I think my favorite thing on the list I’m looking forward to the most is going camping,” Hennessey said. “I love camping to begin with, and I think it will be a blast to go with friends.”

“We started

it two years ago, but we kept adding to it as we went,” Michelle Benda said.

As they’re still working on the list, more ideas are added to it consistently.

“We have approximately 70 things on the list but not are all done,” Kaylee Benda said. “Some things we have are activities like skiing, canoeing, and also crazy things like coning and forking.”



**SUMMER BUCKET LIST:
A LIST OF FUN THINGS TO DO
WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY
OVER THE SUMMER BEFORE
SCHOOL STARTS AGAIN**

A bright idea

By Sarah Szremski
Reporter

The 2007 movie “The Bucket List” may have popularized the idea of listing tasks you want to accomplish before you die, but the idea is not new.

“When you think about it, we do everyday goals in our daily lives. We make a daily routine and daily routines can be stressful,” school psychiatrist Susana Pichardo said.

Not only are bucket lists good stress relievers, they can help organize goals. Bucket lists can also help people work through their problems.

“If you’re a businessman and a workaholic and you don’t spend that much time with your family, a (bucket list) gives you a reason to go out and do something,” Pichardo said.

Although it may be difficult to complete a bucket list, it comes with a sense of satisfaction.

“It gives you something to look forward to,” Pichardo said.

Also, having a bucket list can set your mind to achieve goals that you would have otherwise ignored.

“For people who come from a low social status, I think it’s more like a moti-

vation to better yourself in terms of being able to do some of these things. I actually have to make some money and save money so I think it’s kind of a motivation and encouragement to better yourself,” Pichardo said.

Even though a lot of people make bucket lists, there aren’t many people that actually accomplish them. According to Pichardo, they either give up or can’t continue on.

“It’s basically opportunity and self-confidence and I think you kind of have to build the guts to go out and do something on your own, something not in your comfort zone,” Pichardo said.

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Features

Moving on to the next chapter of their lives

Another milestone

Kristina Manibo
Entertainment Editor

Saying goodbye after 34 years of teaching business is another milestone in business teacher Peggy Peach's life.

"I am retiring because I can. My children are grown, finished with college, and independent now, so why not retire?" Peach said.

Peach has enjoyed her time teaching business.

"I would describe my teaching experience at West Chicago as being just peachy," Peach joked. "I started teaching here immediately after college in 1978, so I have made some great friendships."

Some of Peach's plans after retirement are traveling with

her husband, "particularly to the national parks in the off season. I have a couple of irons in the fire that I'm considering. I would like to take classes to get my real estate license in order to dabble in that," Peach said.

Although teaching business will be over, Peach's teaching career won't be left behind.

"I'll also continue going to yoga and maybe even become certified to teach it," Peach said. "That should fill the 'teaching' void for me. And, of course, I can always substitute teach (here) once in awhile."

Peach will miss the positive energy given from her colleagues and students.

"I will definitely miss the

contact with my colleagues and of course, all the happy and smiling faces of my students. I will miss seeing the spark in a student's eyes as they realize their passions and develop them into career goals," Peach said.

Seeing the spark in students' eyes taps into Peach's advice for both students and teachers.

"My advice for students is for them to find their passion and create a career goal based on that. Then every decision they make and every action they take should point toward that goal," Peach said. "And my advice for the faculty is to assist students with finding their passion. If a teacher taps into a student's passion, creating lesson plans that are relevant and exciting from the students' perspective will be that much easier."

Retirement is bittersweet for Peach after her bond with the staff and student body.

"I know it's cliché to say that I will miss the people,

but it is true. The faculty and students are a great group of people. I will miss the day-to-day contact with such a large group," Peach said.

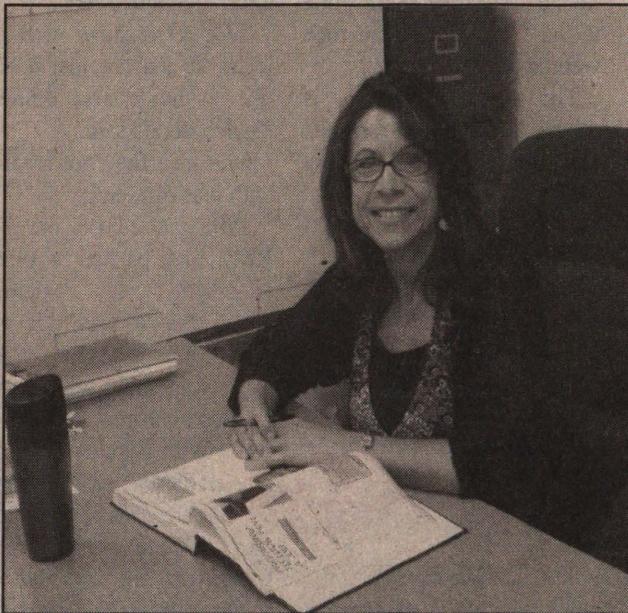


Photo by Kristina Manibo

Business teacher Peggy Peach sits at her desk, with a business book which shows her passion about what she taught.

Walking out for the last time

By Sarah Szremski
Reporter

After 25 years, physical education teacher Bruce Donash is about to walk out the doors of high school for the last time.

Over the years Donash has enjoyed teaching what he loves most.

"I got into physical education primarily so that I could coach," Donash said. "I was always physically active and the things I enjoyed doing most were playing sports and being physically fit, so I decided to do what I enjoyed."

After leaving the school, Donash wants to continue

to guide people with their fitness goals.

"I'm going to continue coaching football and basketball. I think I'm going to work as a personal trainer and see how that goes," Donash said.

Donash knows the feeling of saying goodbye, but thinks that it will be different this time.

"Every year seniors leave and I miss them, but then there's a new group coming in. Now I won't have a new group to work with so I'll miss that," Donash said.

He remembers the reason that he came to work here.

"My wife was pregnant with our third child and the others were young too, so we chose not to have her work. I needed to leave the private school, so I came here to West Chicago so I could make a bit more money than I was making at the private schools," Donash said.

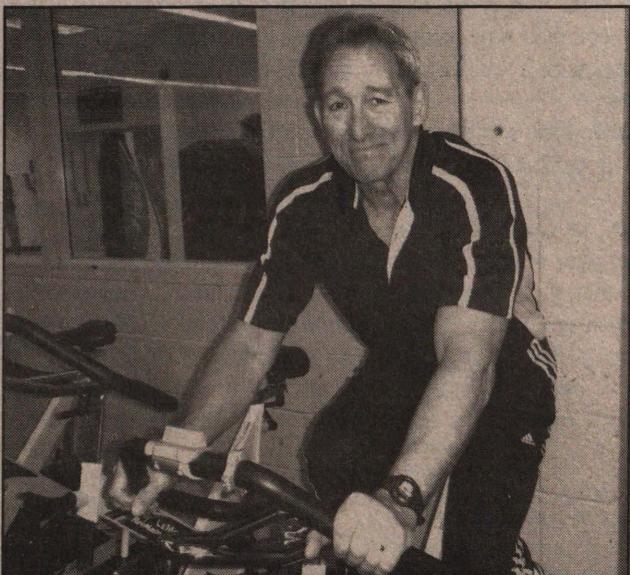


Photo by Sarah Szremski

Physical education teacher Bruce Donash bikes in the fitness center where he teaches gym classes.

Closing the door on teaching

By Giuliana LaMantia
Center Spread Editor

After 17 fulfilling years working at the school, special education teacher Michael Koulos' teaching career is ending, but there are new opportunities on the horizon.

"It really hasn't sunk in yet," Koulos said. "When I was younger I saw retirement as something old people did. I don't feel like one of those old people, so as the sun sets on my teaching career, I look to it as opportunity to do something else."

Working as a teacher since 1979, Koulos plans to relax before starting anything new.

"I intend to relax over the summer and not work," Koulos said. "I have plans to re-enter the work force in the fall, but I am undecided what it will be."

One of the hardest parts of leaving for Koulos is not being part of the tight knit group he and his colleagues have become.

"We're like a giant family, the hard part is going to be not seeing them anymore," Koulos said.

Despite the stress that comes along with the job, there is nothing Koulos wants to change in his experience.

"I would leave everything the way it is," Koulos said. "If anything, I would change the public's attitude about teachers. Teachers often get blamed for things that go wrong, when in reality teach-

ers work very hard at their jobs and need to be supported."

That being said, Koulos wishes his colleagues encouragement.

"I want to encourage my colleagues to keep their chins up and not get discouraged," Koulos said. "My colleagues are worth their weight in gold."

As his teaching career ends, Koulos knows he will miss the experience.

"Working here has been a wonderful experience," Koulos said. "WeGo is truly the best kept secret in DuPage

County."

The relationships Koulos made were important and will be one of the hardest things to walk away from.

"I've developed strong relationships and it's going to be hard not to be a part of that anymore," Koulos said.

Koulos believes working at the school was rewarding as well as fulfilling.

"I feel like my experiences here have enriched my life much more," Koulos said.

One of the most wonderful things is the diversity. That is a very important thing to have."

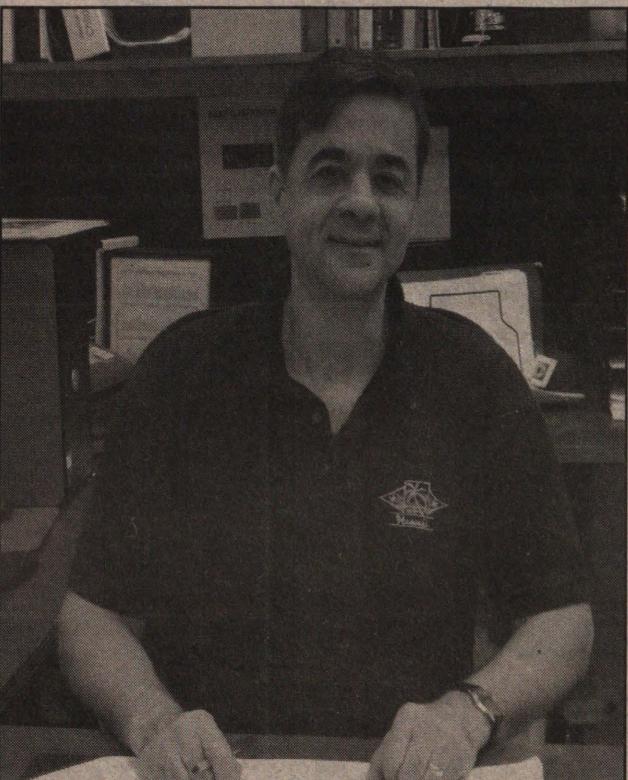


Photo by Giuliana LaMantia

Special education teacher Micheal Koulos sits at his desk while the grades papers.

Magic without a wand

By Liz Ramos
News Editor

Magician Daniel Martin amuses his audiences without a magic wand or pulling a rabbit from a hat.

Martin began his career as a magician when he was 6 years old after he got a magic set from his grandparents to keep him out of trouble.

"I used to get in a lot of trouble pick pocketing people when I was a little kid so they wanted to make sure I didn't get into any more trouble and they thought getting a magic kit for Christmas was the best way to do it," Martin said.

Martin started doing shows when he was about 12 years old and did magic as a way to pay through school.

Performing magic in front of an audience is the best feeling in the world according to Martin.

"It's really surreal. You're up there and you're going full steam and it's a blast. It has nothing to do with drugs but to me, it's the biggest high I think someone can ever have, just being in front of a bunch

of people and showing them things, that are not actually supposed to be happening, while making them laugh," Martin said.

Doing magic for a living is a dream come true for Martin.

"From the moment I got my own magic set, I loved doing shows. I've always dreamed of actually (being a magician) so the fact that I get to do it now is kind of a full circle dream come true," Martin said.

Martin does between 150

and 200 shows a year all over the world.

As Martin performs during a show, he tries to find that one audience member that might not be having as much fun and connect with them to make enjoy the show.

"It's that one person that I can tell by the way they're sitting or their eyes that I want to make sure that by the end of the show they're the first ones jumping to their feet for a standing ovation or having the best time and will come up to me at the end. If I can

connect to that one person in the audience, the rest of the audience is along for the ride too," Martin said.

Just like every magician, Martin has secrets to his tricks and won't share them with anyone.

"Most of the pieces that we do in the show are original to me and to my show. They're things that we've developed over years so we keep them very close," Martin said.

Inspiration for these tricks come from many places.

"Sometimes we take suggestions from a fan or from someone who has come to a show where they say it would

be really cool if you did this. Sometimes it's just a thought or a dream that I had. It could be an inspiration from a song or a movie," Martin said.

Traveling from city to city is something that Martin loves but it can be tiring and difficult for him.

"I love to travel but a lot of times I'm not in a city long enough to be able to explore or hang out or find out the local food or what people do," Martin said.

Although Martin has performed these tricks thousands of times, the tricks sometimes go wrong.

"The audience will never know if a trick goes wrong because I have a backup," Martin said. "The whole show is a bunch of surprises and stuff that's out of the ordinary anyway."

With surprises coming up during his show all the time, Martin loves to make people laugh while entertaining them.

"I don't think there's any better combo than seeing someone laughing uncontrollably and suddenly they just stop and are like wait a second, something just happened here," Martin said.

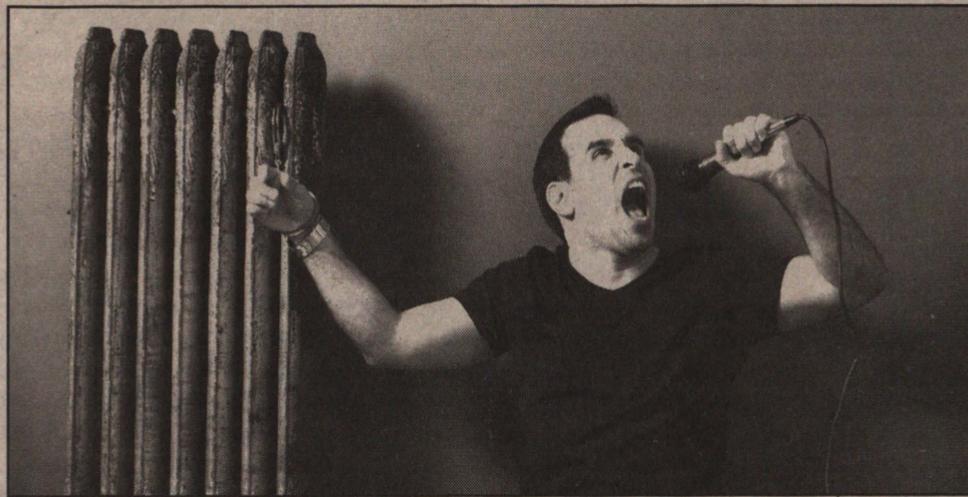


Photo Courtesy of Daniel Martin

Magician Daniel Martin poses for a promo picture for a magazine article.

Congratulations to the Class of 2012!

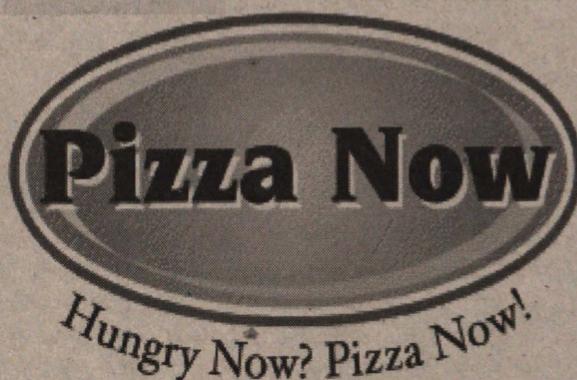
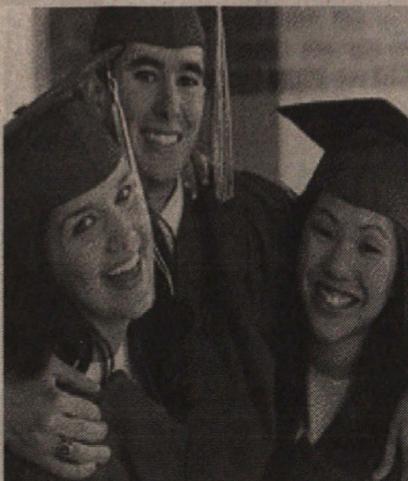
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Entertainment

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May 24, 2012

Wildcat Chronicle

You only save the world twice

Superheroes join forces to create Marvel's most exciting film yet

By Liz Ramos
News Editor

"The Avengers" is an action packed film between good vs. evil that keeps viewers on the edge of their seats as six superheroes join forces to save the world.

Thor (Chris Hemsworth), the Hulk (Mark Ruffalo), Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.), Captain America (Chris Evans), Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner), and Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson), are brought together by Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson) from Supreme Headquarters International

Espionage Law-enforcement Division (S.H.I.E.L.D.) to join forces and create the Avengers.

All of these superheroes have to get over their huge egos and differences to defeat the maniacal and sinister Loki.

For all of the non-comic book readers, Loki is Thor's adopted brother who believes he is the rightful king of Asgard and is planning for world domination with his alien army.

Although the main fight is the six superheroes against Loki, there are smaller fights amongst the superheroes

themselves. Battles of Thor vs. Iron Man vs. Captain America, the Hulk vs. Thor, Black Widow vs. the Hulk, and Black Widow vs. Hawkeye add to the action with each superhero showing off their strengths, weaknesses, and egos.

What helps make "The Avengers" a great movie is the fact that the viewer does not have to see each of the superheroes' individual movies or read their comics to understand what is happening. It's basically good vs. evil with heroes against aliens.

Any questions that arise while watching the movie

about a specific history of one hero is answered through a flashback or dialogue.

But remember, there is not an individual movie for Black Widow or Hawkeye which adds slight confusion as to where they came from.

"The Avengers" starts off with Black Widow being interrogated by Russians but just one phone call from Agent Phil Coulson (Clark Gregg) sets off the action. Black Widow's fighting skills show that not only men can cause some pain, in a scene, she grabs her heels and is on her way after killing three men.

Not only does the action keep your attention but the wise cracks and witty comments from every hero make the audience fill the theater with laughter.

In one scene where Loki threatens the Hulk with his so-called "power," the Hulk destroys Loki by thrashing him to the ground repeatedly, which keeps the audience laughing for minutes after the scene ends.

The chemistry between these heroes makes the movie all the better.

Casting was phenomenal when deciding who to portray these heroes in their individual movies, but combining all of them together, genius.

Downey's naturally sarcastic and funny personality adds to his role as Iron Man and to the comedy of the movie.

Evans is the muscled-up soldier that every female falls

in love with.

Hemsworth didn't have as big of an opportunity to shine as a hero but is the connection between Loki and his invasion of Earth.

Ruffalo's debut as the Hulk added a mysterious element to the movie as he referred multiple times to "the other guy."

Renner, although playing a smaller part, is the traitor as Loki takes over his mind with one touch of his scepter on Renner's heart.

Having Johansson as the only heroine in the movie was no coincidence because now, women have a connection to a hero, as well.

This heroic movie is not just for the comic book junkies or the superhero fans. "The Avengers" is for all ages and is not the stereotypical action movie that only boys will enjoy.

Stay until the lights in the theater turn on because there is a preview to a possible sequel of "The Avengers" in which the Avengers take on Thanos, the dark demi god of Titan.

Thanos worships death and wants to bring death and devastation to the omniverse.

After its theater debut on May 4, "The Avengers" hit \$1 billion worldwide on May 13, which is the first Marvel film and the fifth Disney film to hit \$1 billion, according to www.boxofficemojo.com, and is a must-see movie.

The Marvel collaboration is rated PG-13 and deserves ★★ ★★.



Photo courtesy of marvel.com

Characters Hulk, Hawkeye, Iron Man, Nick Fury, Black Widow, Captain America and Thor make up the Avengers.

Keep cool at the movies

It's time to relax with school ending and the summer beginning. Take a breather, sit back and enjoy the new movie releases for June.

By Kristina Manibo
Entertainment Editor

Apartment 143 (June 1): Another shaky handheld

camera horror film, "Apartment 143" features a team of parapsychologists investigating paranormal phenomena in a new apartment. Every

step of the way will prove more dangerous as more paranormal activity starts to pop up.

Snow White and the Huntsman (June 1): The classic fairy tale takes a different spin as a huntsman ordered to kill Snow White ends up protecting her in order to defeat the evil queen.

Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (June 8): The familiar trio of zoo animals; Alex, Marty, Melman and Gloria, return for the third installment. This time, the group joins a traveling circus to try to return home.

Prometheus (June 8): A team of scientists discover a clue of new alien life forms, leading them on a journey to the universe on the spaceship "Prometheus." The team



Photo courtesy of disney.go.com

Pixar's new movie, "Brave," reveals the story of a princess named Merida, who chooses her own fate.



Photo courtesy of snowwhiteandthehuntman.com

Actress Kristen Stewart works not with vampires, but wolves again in her film, 'Snow White and the Huntsman.'

ends up stranded, and realizes that all of mankind is in danger of an alien threat.

Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (June 22): Abra-

ham Lincoln's secret life as a vampire hunter is exposed, revealing his mission to eliminate vampires who are planning to take over the United States.

Brave (June 22): Skilled archer and flaming red-haired Princess Merida decides to take a new path in life which brings her to defy a sacred tradition. Merida's actions bring chaos to the kingdom, and a witch granted to her makes the situation worse. Merida learns true bravery so she can defeat the curse.

G.I. Joe: Retaliation (June 29): The G.I. Joe military unit take on an arms dealer's evil organization, while fighting threats from the government.

The Amazing Spider-Man (June 29): Peter Parker is back in a spiderman franchise remake. Parker has to accept his destiny after discovering his father's biggest secret.

A spoonful of Mongolia

By Keyuri Parmar
Features Editor

Genghis Grill is a doorway to a flavorful, creative Mongolian meal which is healthy and full of your favorite foods if you choose to build your own bowl.

The aura is casual and fun with the grill occasionally throwing up flames into the bright atmosphere.

Upon being seated, guests receive a menu, but, look beyond the menu. To have a better experience, build a bowl.

Building a bowl gets everyone whatever vegetables, spices, sauces, and meats are desired in the meal.

If you choose to build your own bowl, you will be given a silver bowl. The next step is buffet style where you walk up to the grilling area divided into separate sections for different parts of your meal.

First, you will pick a type



Photo by Carly Tubridy

Tubs of fresh vegetables are available to add to your bowl including mushrooms and zucchini.

of protein for your meal, ranging from a variety of chicken, sausage, tofu, beef, pepperoni, turkey, calamari, ham, crab, and more. Next, you will arrive at the spices where you can add intense flavors to your meal. After spicing up your bowl, the healthiest section comes up. Here you can load up

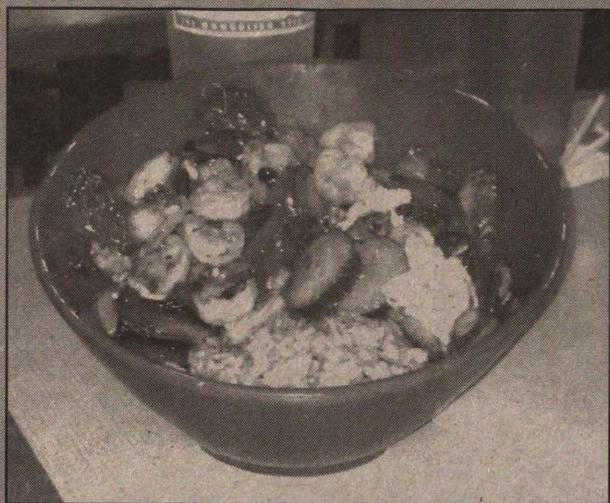


Photo by Carly Tubridy

When personalizing a bowl, you can choose to have rice, udon noodles, spiral noodles, or pasta.

on various vegetables. Last is the flavor of the meal; there are about 15 sauces to choose from, ranging from classics like stir fry sauce to dragon sauce, mongo BBQ sauce, or island teriyaki sauce.

The two I chose were the stir fry sauce, which was a bit tangy and sweet at the same time, and the Szechuan sauce which was a bit salty and spicy.

This process leads you to the grilling area where you cook your bowl and pick a starch (rice, fried rice, noodles, tortillas, etc.). While you wait for your bowl to be prepared, you can watch the chefs grill your food. During this process they make the whole grill flame, which is an exciting experience.

As you walk back to your table to anticipate your meal's arrival you can smell the mixture of spices and authentic sauces in the air.

Your meal will arrive in a bowl with your starch on the bottom, and steaming toppings fresh off the grill.

Upon taking the first bite, my mouth was exploding with a variety of veggies such as broccoli, peppers, carrots, onions, and bamboo shoots covered in spices and sauce, and tofu.

Depending on the sauce and spices you chose this can be semi-spicy or mild. Mine was more spicy and sweet.

Every bite was full of flavor because the tofu and rice had soaked up the spices and sauces. This Mongolian taste is more unique because it has a personal twist on it.

When leaving the restaurant I was beyond full. If you choose the bottomless



Photo by Carly Tubridy

Genghis Grill lets you have it your way with hundreds of choices.

bowl expect to get full and your money's worth.

A bowl cost \$10.99 to build your own and you can get an unlimited bowl for \$14.99.

Genghis Grill is located at 106 N. Hale St., Wheaton and is open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. from Sunday to Thursday and is open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.



Photo by Carly Tubridy

Different spices include ginger, cayenne pepper, and classic Genghis seasoning to name a few.

Celebrity look-alikes

By Rosa Romero
Reporter



Photo by Rosa Romero



Photo courtesy of zooey-deschanel.us

Do you get told often that you look like Zooey Deschanel?

Yeah, about two years ago and recently.

Do you take it as a compliment?

I hope it's a compliment.

Do you think you look like Zooey?

To a degree, I think our facial structure and our hair look similar.

Students' perspectives

Sophomore Diana Beltran:

Do you think Natalie looks like Zooey Deschanel?

My mom was the first one who ever told her she looks like Zooey because we watched the movie "Yes Man."

What are some similar features?

I think it's the eyes.

Do they have similar personalities?

Natalie is always smiling and so does Zooey, it seems.

Sophomore Pierce McGlynn:

Do you think Natalie looks like Zooey Deschanel?

Yes, I think it's her bangs and facial structure.

What are some similar features?

She's petite, and her face is similarly chiseled.

Do they have similar personalities?

They both like music.



Photo by Sarah Szremski



Photo courtesy of nbc.com

Do you think you look like Dwight Schrute?

I think it's mostly the glasses and the sideburns, I have always hoped I don't look quite that nerdy.

Do you get told often that you look like Dwight Schrute?

Never in my life have I been told I look like Dwight Schrute and I do not believe it.

Students' perspectives

Sophomore Kelsey Windisch:

Do you think Mr. Winquist looks like Dwight Schrute?

Yes, because of his sideburns, they look exactly like Dwight has them on the show.

What are some similar features?

Beside the sideburns, hair color and height (are similar).

Do they have similar personalities?

Yeah, his goofy personality and his strange sense of humor.

Sophomore Rebecca Pennington:

Do you think Mr. Winquist looks like Dwight Schrute?

Yep, he looks like the dude from "The Office."

What are some similar features?

His sideburns and glasses.

Do they have similar personalities?

Kind of, he's serious like Dwight Schrute.

Sophomore Dan Schweitzer:

Do you think Mr. Winquist looks like Dwight Schrute?

He's a better looking version of Dwight Schrute.

What are some similar features?

The hair, glasses, and facial structure.

Do they have similar personalities?

No; Mr. Winquist is funny, but not like Dwight on the show.

Season of learning for first-time coach

By Lorena Orizaba
Reporter

Badminton coach Katie Wood learned a lot about the sport during her first year coaching.

"I loved it and I learned a lot about the sport and how much it takes to be successful. People don't understand how difficult it is to play badminton well," Wood said.

Looking back at how this year's season went, Wood

knows what she wants to focus on for the upcoming season.

"I want to start conditioning earlier so that the girls are ready by the time the season starts," Wood said.

Wood's goal remains the same to improve technique on the court.

"Now I know how to approach it differently," Wood said.

The girls ended their season 1-12.

Besides the learning experience, Wood enjoyed working with the girls and watching them grow as players and also grow closer to each other.

"Most of the girls did show improvement. It started off rough. Losing Ariana (Vigil) was hard and it brought girls closer together, and it made them want to play well for her," Wood said. "They were really supportive and there for each other."

Vigil died in an accident in

March.

Overall, Wood was pleased with the dedication and commitment that the girls showed.

"Their dedication to playing their best improved and they showed they are going to do whatever it takes to get better," Wood said.

The girls really enjoyed having Wood as a coach this year and are thankful for making them better players overall.

"Mrs. Wood was a really great coach, she's always positive and always did the best things to make us improve," senior captain Megan Pietura said.

Pietura will be attending Illinois State University in the fall and she's looking forward to joining the badminton club.

"I'm excited about seeing how other people play that I might not have seen in our conference," Pietura said.



Photo by Giuliana LaMantia

Senior Tyler Hunter, left, fights for the ball during their game against Belvidere on Friday.

After disappointing loss, team prepares for upcoming season

By Giuliana LaMantia
Center Spread Editor

Lacrosse season ended with a loss of 10-0 in the first playoff game Tuesday against Marian Catholic High School.

Players felt some things went well, while others could have gone differently.

"We fought ground balls well, but (something) to do differently was play a more fundamentally sound lacrosse game," junior Jared Baranowski said.

Although the season has come to an end, the team will start working for next season.

"We start right away in off season playing new wave," Baranowski said. "Back to wall ball and the weight room."

Off season leads into the summer where returning players will continue to work on their lacrosse skills.

"To prepare for next season, our team joins a summer club to practice more and

work on our abilities," junior Shaun Paup said.

Despite the loss, they still look forward to next season with plans to raise the bar.

"We will continue to base our expectations for next year off of this year," coach Brandon Kutilek said. "Getting over 500 record, winning Sticks and Stones, winning the first playoff game. The expectations get higher each year."

Overall, players are satisfied with how the season turned out, but feel it could have gone better.

"It was a good season, but we could have done a lot better," senior Anthony Temes said.

Kutilek is pleased with the season.

"I would say this season went pretty well for the team we had," Kutilek said. "We had to rebuild from 13 seniors last year to seven or eight. For having that young of a group we did really well stepping up."

More than just baseball

Seniors look back on their time with the baseball team

By Ryan Weier
Reporter

As the baseball season draws to a close, so do the seniors' careers as Wildcat baseball players.

"(The seniors) I felt had more potential. They all had their good moments," varsity coach Michael McCarthy said.

One individual, however, has done better than expected according to McCarthy.

"Josh Gimre has done well. He has exceeded my expectations by pitching well and hitting well. He deserves some all-conference recognition," McCarthy said.

For Gimre, it's hard to realize that this is his last season ever of baseball.

"Right now I feel like my body is telling me that this will keep going on forever. I don't know what it feels like to not play baseball because I have my whole life," Gimre said.

Senior Sean Elfstrom had similar things to say about this being his last season.

"I'm kind of in denial. It will definitely feel weird to not play baseball anymore and I will really miss it," Elfstrom said.

Over the years, the seniors have learned much from baseball that has been applied to their lives.

"In general I think sports teach you how to work with others and cooperate with them in both good times and bad," Gimre said.

Elfstrom learned that it is important who you are on and off the field.

"Being a part of a team taught me how to help my

teammates through tough times," Elfstrom said.

According to Gimre, being around the guys will be something he misses.

"I have been playing with some of them since sixth grade and it will be kind of weird not seeing them all the time," Gimre said.

Elfstrom, however, will miss the game of baseball more.

"I love this game and there is no way to replicate the feeling of playing on an organized team," Elfstrom said.

Elfstrom also added that he has been playing with some of his teammates for a long time. "I have been playing with

some of these guys for almost half of my life, so it will be weird to no longer see all of them so often," Elfstrom said.

With all the memories of playing baseball over the years, Gimre and Elfstrom each have a favorite memory.

"My best personal game was (against) Wheaton North. I pitched seven innings (with) one earned run and I went three for three with a run scored. Even though we lost 2-1, it was quite an exciting game," Gimre said.

Elfstrom's favorite memory was last year's spring break trip to Kentucky in the Battle of the Bluegrass tournament. "We didn't play our best baseball on the trip, but I think everyone had a great time and it's a trip I will remember forever," Elfstrom said.

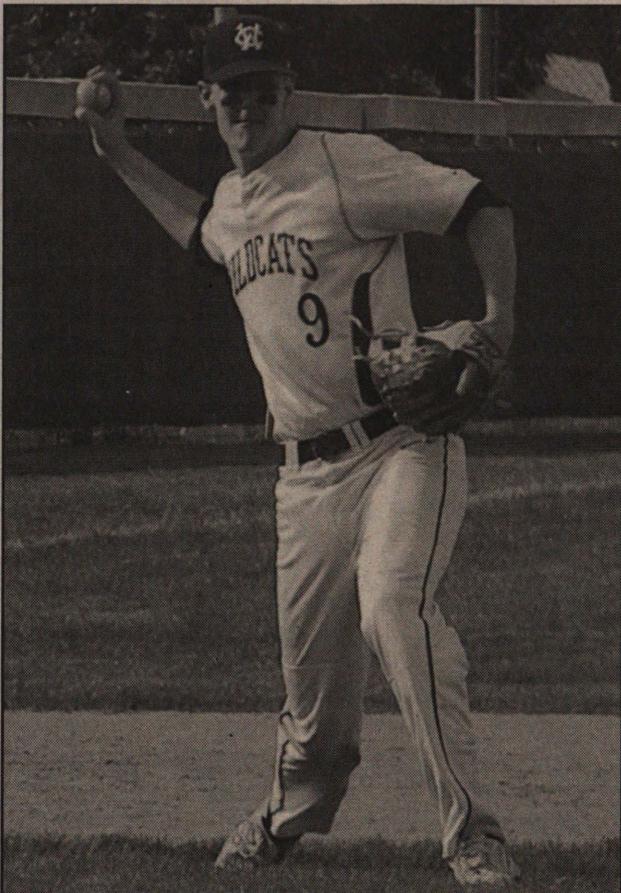


Photo by Ryan Weier

Senior Josh Gimre throws to first base during the team's senior night against Naperville Central on May 15. For Gimre it is difficult to realize this is his last season of baseball.

With injury, Rose will never be the same

By Ryan Weier
Reporter

When Derrick Rose went down with his ACL tear in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference quarterfinals against the Sixers, I'm sure there was one thought going through everyone's mind at that point; will the Bulls be as good when he comes back as they were before he had the injury?

It is hard to say how good the Bulls can be at this point since it won't be another nine months until Rose is able to suit up.

There is no question that without Rose the Bulls lose numerous attributes that no guard in this league can replace.

Rose's ability to attack the paint and get into the lane allows the Bulls' shooters and big men to get open and look around the basket or the three point line.

Not only can Rose get to the basket at will, he can also finish with contact which for some reason with Rose, foul calls don't come as abundantly as they should.

LeBron James acts as if his neck was just attacked by a savage jungle cat after being hardly touched and receives any foul call he pleases, while Rose takes twice as much contact as anyone in the league and gets the same amount of foul calls as Kwame Brown.

What the real story here is what is coach Tom Thibodeau is going to do with the offense once Rose returns?

The Bulls' offense when Rose is in the game is screen and rolls to get into the paint, draw the defense in, and either kick it out to the open man or finish in the lane.

When Rose is not in the game, their offense relies on either Richard Hamilton or Kyle Korver coming off screens and finding the open man off of a double

team.

Now the problem with this, as seen in round one against Philly, is that sometimes there is no flow to the offense.

Whenever they would bring a double team off a screen, the Bulls couldn't seem to find the open man and the result would be either a

bad shot or a turnover.

Now that Rose won't have the same explosiveness and quickness with that knee, getting into the lane for Rose will be more difficult.

The Bulls could go into rebuilding mode by trading away Rose and Luol Deng while they still have trade value for some draft picks.

I disagree with this method as the Bulls still have a chance to win the title with the pieces they have put in place at the moment. They just might have to tweak some things to their current offensive strategy.

So what should Thibs do about the offense? Actually, there is nothing that Thibs should do with the offense.

Rose is going to have to adapt his game to his physical abilities.

We all knew that at some point in Rose's career his explosiveness and speed would decrease; unfortunately, this has come a lot sooner than everyone wanted it to.

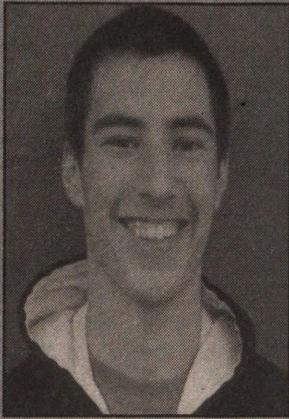
Rose is going to have to pick his spots more on offense and become a much better passer and decision maker.

Chris Paul had the same thing happen to him and he is still a perennial all-star every season.

The Bulls don't need to pull a Miami Heat or Boston Celtic and start to bring in superstars.

They have all the pieces in place to win a championship, we just need to have patience.

Remember, good things come to those who wait.



Win against Naperville marks seniors final game in Bishop gym

By Carly Tubridy
Editor in Chief

A senior night win marked the beginning of the end for five seniors in the volleyball program.

Eddie Fuentes, Alex Marano, Joey Martin, Liam Flaherty, and Jim Ogorzalek played their last home game of their high school career on May 17 against Naperville Central. The boys won in three games.

"It is always great to beat Naperville," Fuentes said.

Despite the festivities, it did not feel like the end for Flaherty.

"When I was out there in

that ceremony, it felt like just another game. It was like I was in shock mode almost. I didn't even realize it was my last game at Bishop. It didn't hit me until after the game, after we won," Flaherty said.

The team showed improvement in the first part of the season.

"With the weapons we have, I think we could have done a lot better but we have a pretty young team and we had a lot of guys switch positions more than half way through the season. I think we are only just starting to peak," Flaherty said.

Mentality has gotten in the way during some of the

games.

"I think the season went pretty well so far, it's just that some of the games we didn't have the confidence or the motivation to do so well," Fuentes said.

Lack of leadership and the ability to run plays on the court have proved to be a challenge this season.

"I think (leadership) was a negative throughout the year. Sometimes we would get together and we could get a win off that, though," Ogorzalek said.

Head coach Kris Hasty is still proud of some individuals' personal improvement.

"(Marano) has stepped up. He didn't get the opportunity until later in the season, but he is really digging the ball," Hasty said.

Hasty was also impressed with Fuentes.

"He comes in off the bench and does anything we want him to, doesn't complain, works hard, great kid," Hasty said.

Many of the athletes have been out due to injuries or illness throughout the season.

"It's hard to get back on track (with all the injuries)" Ogorzalek said.

Even with injuries, the boys feel they came together as a team.

"We worked well as a team. The newcomers on varsity really helped out as well as the veterans too," Fuentes said.

As the season draws to a close, the boys realize their high school volleyball career is also drawing to a close.

"I'm really going to miss it," Fuentes said.



Photo by Ryan Weier

Senior Joey Martin and junior Gus MacPherson go up for a block on senior night against Naperville Central on May 10.

Sectionals ends rough season

By Rosa Romero
Reporter

Sectionals were tough on the boys tennis team.

"We all played pretty well, (junior captain Sam Ryłowicz) wanted us to know he was really proud of his team," freshman Jacob Urban said.

The overall score for the boys team was 6-1, 6-1. Ryłowicz won his first set 6-0.

"I was pretty proud of the team. They gave everything they had," Ryłowicz said.

Sophomore Lazaro Ramirez felt the team improved throughout the season.

"We weren't all together at the beginning of the season. But towards the end we came together to work as a team,"

Ramirez said.

Head coach Sione Moeaki was pleased with the overall season.

"I think we improved a lot considering we have a small number and I'm happy with the outcome," Moeaki said.

Moeaki was impressed with the amount of effort the team put in at sectionals.

"I think it went really well. Our two double teams played really hard and played up to our best ability to compete at sectionals," Moeaki said.

Senior Noe Muñoz was proud of his teammate's efforts.

"Well, I'm pretty proud of my team. I thought we did very well," Muñoz said.

Muñoz felt the team's motivation was better this season.



Photo by Rosa Romero

Senior Noe Muñoz serves during his match against Lisle on May 4.

"As a team mostly, over the season I thought we improved in our skill and motivation and team bonding, of course," Muñoz said.

Beyond the running

By Liz Ramos
News Editor

Boys track

During meets, there's always something going on, but most people don't know what boys track members do when they're not participating in an event.

"We just like to bond as a team. Sometimes we like to eat a little bit. We usually do get kind of hungry, but we usually try to stay hydrated and warm," junior Chance Coats said. "We play a lot of Pokémon. We play games on our phones. We tell stories and at the cold meets we just get under blankets and snuggle."

When not participating in their event, members support teammates and help to better their performance.

"When I'm not throwing disc or shot I'm usually help-

ing the younger guys with their form or coaching them along so when they're going to throw they're ready and know what to do because I'm trying to get the best throwing team together. I want to help them out and be a good captain," senior Andrew Kruthoff said.

With support from other teammates, the team is able to have fun and be successful.

"I try and help motivate the team to have fun and try hard. The most important things in life are trying your hardest and having fun," senior Anthony Venen said.

Being together at practice every day and going to meets helps the team bond.

"Doing everything together, doing our run, doing our stretching, doing our warm-ups and just being together every single day just bonds us," Kruthoff said.

The throwers on the team have their tradition of the watermelon toss.

"We put a bunch of watermelons in the middle and try to throw shot to try and hit them. Once we hit them we're allowed to eat them so it's kind of a disgusting, sandy watermelon," Kruthoff said.

Distance runners have their own traditions.

"After meets we have post meet pasta parties which is actually just junk food," senior James Scheck said.

The team has many traditions that are unique to the team.

"We go to McDonald's after meets because we're really unhealthy. We use the same baton every race. It's named Bling. We sometimes rub (junior Toby Thompson's) head for luck," Coats said.

Girls track

"Hey, ho, Wildcats let's go, 'cause there ain't no party like a Wildcat party 'cause a Wildcat party don't stop, what?" is a cheer used as just one of the ways the girls track team bonds.

"On the team we have big sisters and little sisters and we give each other treats and signs that we make for each other to encourage each other and to wish each other good luck," sophomore Catherine Serio said.

With meets lasting for hours after school, some girls try to work on their homework when they're not participating in their event.

"I always bring my homework to meets hoping that I'll get it done. Meets always go faster than you think, even though we leave school at 3:30 p.m. and we get home at 7:30 p.m., you're with your

Behind the scenes of what athletes do with their down-time at track

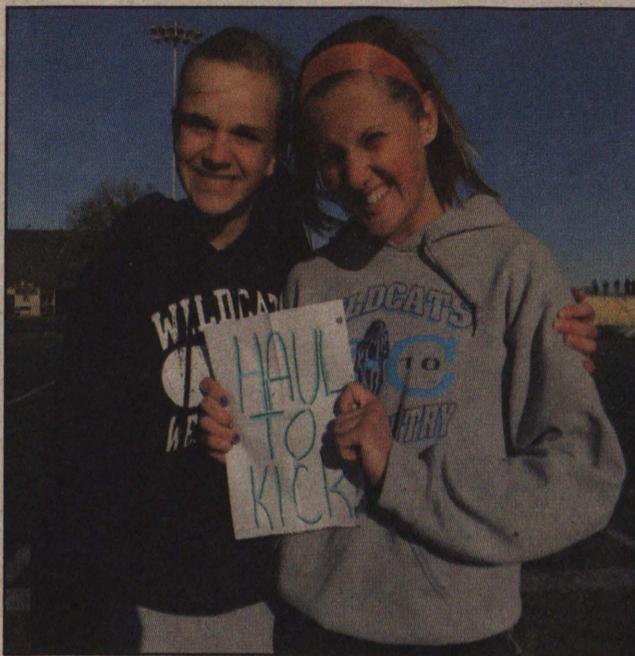


Photo by Liz Ramos

The girls track team has "sisters" from different grades that support each other and cheer them on. Sophomore Catherine Serio, left, and junior Julia Caithamer, right, show off their sign that they use to cheer each other on.

team the whole time, talking with your teammates and cheering them on. It's the whole team aspect," senior Kelsey Sayner said.

Singing cheers during the team cool-down at the end of the meet is one way that the team spends time together.

"I cheer for my teammates. Sometimes when we cool down as a team we sing songs and that's really enjoyable. We sing 'Everywhere We Go' and 'The Wildcat Party' song," Serio said.

Other times the team connects are during pasta parties and gathering in a certain area of the track to cheer for the 4x400 relay team.

"We always cheer for the 4x4, and this year for Rolling Meadows we made these shaker things with water bottles. We put beads in them and decorated them. We used those during the 4x4. We all try and chant the girls names

and do the wave," Sayner said.

The girls think of different activities such as going to Bagels for lunch and organizing cake decorating contests to spend time with each other.

"A couple weeks ago, there was a half day and we all went to (Sayner's) house and we made cakes and had a cake decorating contest. We gave them to (coach Bob Maxson) for his birthday. We kind of all just hang out and laugh and have a really good time because we all love each other," Serio said.

Not just the activities but being together at practice and meets bring the girls together.

"I think that my favorite part is being at practice with them because everyone on our team is great friends. Even if you're having a bad day, coming to practice cheers me up," senior Diana Serio said.

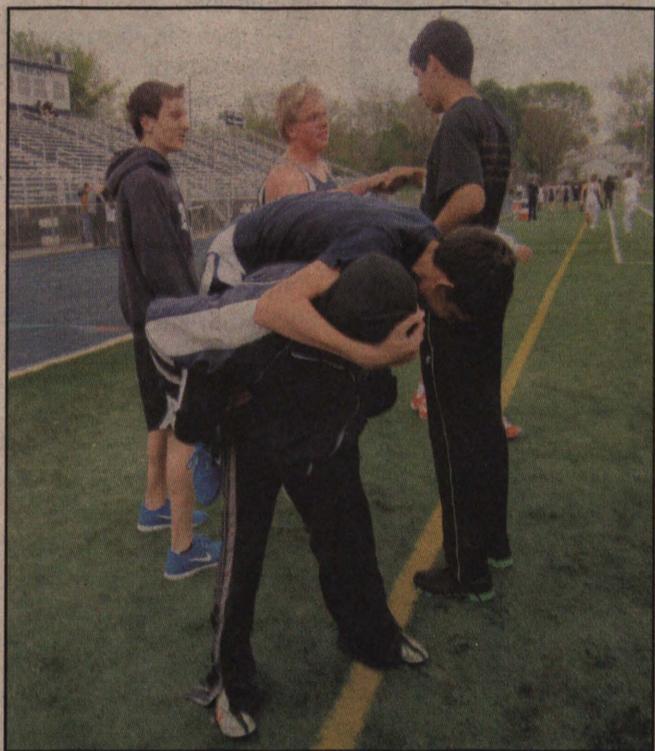


Photo by Liz Ramos

Freshman Joe Skipor playfully attacks senior Bruno Munoz at their meet on May 1.

Geneva ends girls soccer season

By Keyuri Parmar
Features Editor

Being unable to tap into motivation cost girls soccer the chance to continue their season.

The final score of the last game was 8-1, making the final record 5-16-1.

At the beginning of the game the girls had been motivated.

"For the first seven minutes, we played the best soccer we had played all season. We were moving really well and playing our game of possession," senior Kristyn Pavnica said.

Head coach Cesar Gomez agrees the team's strongest

aspect is possession.

"We are still a possession team and I will say that... possession is our strength," Gomez said.

The girls were missing one trait when playing.

"I think we played well, but we did not have enough confidence to take shots," junior Shanda Maldonado said.

After the first goal, the girls lost concentration.

"As soon as they (Geneva) scored their first goal, we became disorganized. But on the positive side we ended up scoring a goal and we never gave up," Pavnica said.

According to Gomez the team constantly had trouble staying positive.

"This is the area where we struggle the most. They always say soccer is 80 percent mental and 20 percent physical, but no one spends time on the mental," Gomez said.

The team scored later on in the game showing they did not give up even though they were less motivated.

"Personally from what I saw, some people did play to their fullest potential because it was the last game and the seniors were leaving," Maldonado said.

Tension of the game being their last was pushing down on them.

"I think we were just nervous that this might have



Photo by Keyuri Parmar

Junior Shelly Molskow attempts to save the ball before it goes out.

been our last game so we didn't play as well as we could have the entire game," Pavnica said.

The girls know they could have done better with a better

mentality.

"We could have wanted it more and have had more shots. Personally, I think we should have wanted it more," Maldonado said.