

The last journalism class says goodbye

By Alexandra Garibay
Center Spread Editor

For at least 40 years journalism production has been offered to students as a class, and starting next year it will only be a club.

"There are many reasons why a club won't work. You have to have class time so that kids understand press law and style. They need to understand the concept of deadline, and they need to be taught everything about journalism that you have to know before you can begin writing a story," Wildcat Chronicle adviser Laura Kuehn said. "If you're asking someone to do that in a club, then you spend most of the semester after school trying to teach kids everything that they would have learned in an enriching environment in a classroom, and I just find that very difficult."

Adjusting to not having the class will be difficult for Kuehn.

"It breaks my heart knowing it won't be a class anymore. I have been teaching this for 14 years and I can't imagine my life here without it," Kuehn said.

Over the years the staff has been able to improve the paper bit by bit.

"Over time we have turned into a phenomenal newspaper with phenomenal kids working really hard to understand journalism. It has come such a far way, because it has become something that people now recognize. It is a program of excellence," Kuehn said.

Kuehn will not continue to be the sponsor of the Wildcat Chronicle when it becomes a club.

"I thought long and hard about being able to continue my sponsorship of the paper when it becomes a club, but I know firsthand the work that goes into it. And knowing that all of the work put into the



Photo by Laura Kuehn

After over 40 years of journalism being run as a class, it is being moved to an after school club. The final staff as a class presents several national and state awards won throughout the year.

paper through the class into the club would have to all be moved to an after school club, I know that it couldn't work," Kuehn said. "I don't know how that time can be fit in unless the quality of the product is reduced, and I am uncomfortable putting something out that is not at our standards."

Staff members are also heartbroken from the change.

"In all the interviews we have had about how the Wildcat Chronicle will work in the future, the response we have always gotten is that it will run as a club next year. I don't see how this can happen. It isn't just an issue of class time, it is an issue of who. Every member currently on the staff has refused to join the club, because we are all aware that it is a horrible idea. This includes our current adviser," editor in chief Kyle Paup said.

This creates problems with the plan of making the class

a club.

"So, if no one with experience is willing to join the club, and no one will be there to teach club members how to do the seemingly endless steps of printing a good paper, how can this ever work? A club can never work the way I see it, if the club is ever even formed that is," Paup said.

Paup contributed to the class, and the school by winning awards with his stories.

"After only submitting stories written in my first semester of journalism production, I won a first place national award, two honorable mentions in national competitions, and a second place award in a state competition. Considering that I have had only a month of experience before I was able to write award winning stories, just thinking about how much I could have contributed to the school and myself upsets me, because

now that the class is gone it can never happen."

Three other honorable mentions and a blue ribbon were awarded throughout the staff when stories and pictures were submitted to national competitions.

Katelyn Foehner, who won an honorable mention for sports writing, has plans to be a reporter after college.

"I really want to be a sports writer after college, and the journalism class has really helped me to get the skills that I need, especially interviewing people," Foehner said. "Before I couldn't even interview anybody and now I can think of questions to ask and I can interview coaches, players, teachers, students, anybody."

Being on staff has offered students opportunities to travel and attend journalism sessions that help broaden their journalism skills and knowledge.

"We were able to go to New York and attend sessions there through the class. I heard from professional sports writers which really helped me. Then in San Diego we competed. Both (Garibay) and I won national awards which was very exciting because it is just nice to be recognized for all of your hard work and effort. To win a national award especially in the final year of the newspaper, it just goes to show how good we are," Foehner said.

Some students have been dedicated to the paper since they started high school.

"It's really disappointing because I have been on the staff since I was a freshman and this year I had to take off a semester because it was too much, but now that they're taking the newspaper away, it makes me really regret my choice because now I won't have a chance to ever do the newspaper again," reporter Sarah Szremski said.

After three years on staff Szremski won't be able to use her journalism skills during her senior year.

"It's my senior year next year and senior year is supposed to be about doing what you love and appreciate, and doing what you want to do in college, and now that opportunity has been taken away from me," Szremski said.

Staff members realize how having journalism only as a club won't be as effective as a class.

"Being on staff is a huge time commitment, you have to be really dedicated to it, having it as a club students will feel they can come in and out whenever they want to, and not be as committed to it if it was a class," Paup said. "It may work as a club in some way, but it will never work the way it did as a class. The name may still go on, but to me, after this year, there is no more Wildcat Chronicle."

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Tea with Belle brings children

Actors in "Beauty and the Beast" welcomed community children to tea with Belle -- see News page 4



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Involved student in many activities

By Megan Provenzale
Reporter

West Chicago is filled with students desiring to make an impact, and senior Steven Stanz is one of them.

His involvement in Art Club, Creative Writing Club, Gay Straight Alliance (GSA), National Honor Society (NHS), Student Council and Presidents' Council helped shape his four years at West Chicago.

As vice president of GSA, Stanz desires to make the club and school a safer place.

"Compared to other schools and places all around, we've got a heck of an opportunity to blend cultures here and I love seeing when we come together," Stanz said.

His positive attitude never ceases.

"Clubs like Art Club, Creative Writing Club and GSA emphasize how important having a safe space to feel

accepted at school is. They give a great spot to hang out and talk to people outside of one's comfort zone. The other clubs focus on leadership aspects, benefitting the school and preparing the students for life outside of Wego," Stanz said.

Somehow Stanz juggles participating in all of these school activities while working, being a member of the Eagle Scouts, and volunteering at his church regularly.

He believes that everyone should get involved and should not be nervous to join a new club.

"It's hard to plan out all of the going-ons of high school life. I would say you're only going to regret the missed opportunities of high school.

Seldom have I done something new in high school that didn't later either give back to me an important lesson, skill, or at least gain a different perspective on an opinion of



Photo by Megan Provenzale

Senior Steven Stanz, who is involved in several after school clubs, recently took on his latest challenge: helping to paint the new senior mural.

mine," Stanz said.

Another factor that helped shape Stanz's positive attitude are the relationships he made. Besides being so involved, it was his favorite part

of high school.

After graduation Stanz plans on going to school to pursue a career in law.

"After that? Job, work, marriage, kids, adventure, self-

actualization, write a book or two, learn the harmonica. All in good time," Stanz said.

The senior mural was also designed and painted with the help of Stanz.

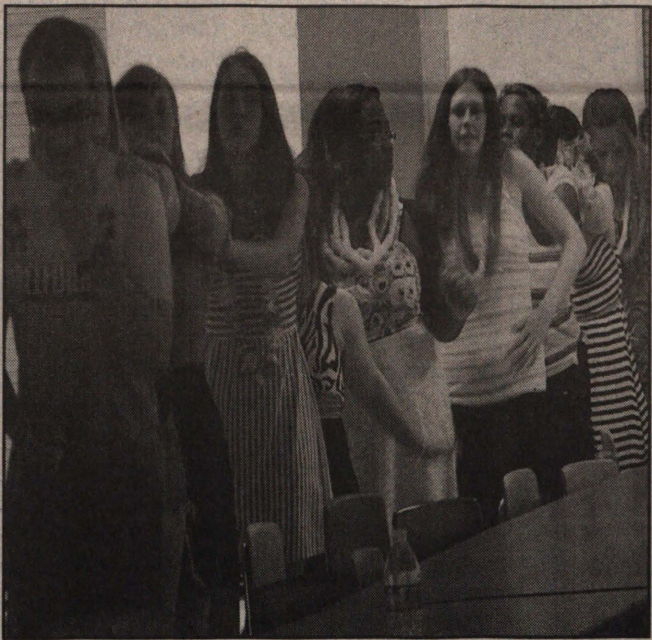


Photo by Sarah Szremski

Members of Wego Buddies form a conga line during the dance on the beach.

Dance on the beach

By Sarah Szremski
Reporter

Wego Buddies dance was a success again, but this time they chilled on the beach on May 22.

"Someone wanted to start it for the special needs kids because sometimes they're not able to go to prom or homecoming and it would be nice for them to have their own dance," special education teacher Magdalene Labuhn said.

This is the second time Wego Buddies is hosting this dance.

"For the first dance we had a deejay, games and snacks. Last year our theme was

"Masquerade" so they got to dress up and wear prom dresses. This year was more relaxed since it was Hawaii themed," Labuhn said.

With games, snacks and DJ's everyone going was in for an experience.

"I like coming to the Wego Buddies dance; I like the songs," junior Lazaro Cuatzo said.

At the dance you could eat snacks, make sand bracelets, and of course, dance.

"My brother-in-law is the deejay and some parents donated snacks. It's just a relaxed beach theme. We're wearing shorts and flip-flops," Labuhn said.

Competition at a national level after success at state

By Hector Cervantes
Perspectives Editor

LifeSmarts competitors participated at nationals in Orlando, Fla. at the end of April.

Junior team captain Jacob Urban led his team with seniors Logan Bruce, Sonya Olson, Emma Noelke and freshman Garrett Hostika placing 23rd at the April 26-29 conference.

LifeSmart adviser is Nancy Blume with assistant coach Donna Durbin.

Winning state on March 4 led the team to compete in nationals.

"At nationals and all throughout the competitions, I was lucky enough to experience unique and valuable learning opportunities. I received helpful tips, advice and knowledge about personal finance, the environment, health and safety, technology and consumer rights and responsibilities," Olson said.

The team gave West Chi-

cago positive recognition.

"We did very well in competition, the team did their best and fought hard. They were good ambassadors for our school by showing good sportsmanship and teamwork," Blume said.

Adjusting to the buzzer was a struggle and a lot of the times the team knew the answers, but the team wasn't fast enough on pressing the buzzer, according to Blume.

"I like seeing what they know. They know so much and got an opportunity to show what they know," Blume said.

Having the opportunity to compete at nationals was an excitement.

"I had never expected this competition to be so rewarding," Olson said.

"It was an awesome opportunity and experience to represent not only our school, but the state of Illinois in a national competition," Noelke said.

In one out of the six com-

petitions, each state had another state joining forces. Illinois was paired with South Carolina known as a sister team.

"I liked being paired up with a really nice and fun sister team because it made the trip even more enjoyable," Noelke said.

While at nationals, students went to Disney World and met and interacted with companies that help consumers.

"At nationals we met experts, so we got to meet people that advocate for consumers. People were there from Underwriters Laboratories that monitor the products safety," Blume said.

Having the experience for nationals will hopefully help LifeSmarts place high for next year, Blume said.

"Jacob and Garret are returning next year, coming back from that experience will help in nationals for next year," Blume said.

Finals schedule

The final day for seniors is Friday. For everyone else it is June 10.

Finals begin on June 6 Zero hour finals go from

7:00-7:50, first period goes from 7:55-9:25, second period goes from 9:35-11:05, and third period goes from 11:15-12:45.

On June 9, periods four, five, and six go from 7:55-

9:25, periods six, seven, and eight go from 9:35-11:05, and ninth period goes from 11:15-12:45.

On June 10, the last final for tenth period goes from 7:55-9:25.



Photo by Katelyn Foehner

Senior Alexandra Garibay and sophomore Kyle Paup both won national awards for their stories sent in to competition.

Chronicle stories win nationally

By Katelyn Foehner
Sports Editor

Two Wildcat Chronicle editors won blue ribbon and honorable mention awards from the Northern Illinois School Press Association (NISPA).

Center Spread editor, senior Alexandra Garibay, won a blue ribbon for photography and an honorable mention for feature writing.

Garibay also won an honorable mention from the Journalism Education Association in April at the San Diego national convention for feature writing.

Editor in chief, sophomore Kyle Paup, won an award for his in-depth team writing with junior Jacob Urban from NISPA. The article also won second place for best news writing from the Illinois

Journalism Education Association. Paup also won first place for his editorial from Quill and Scroll.

Garibay and Paup are both happy that they were able to win awards for the newspaper's last year as a class.

"It felt great winning because we put a lot of hard work into the paper, and we were able to go out with a bang," Paup said. "[We] really contributed to the final year of the paper as a class."

Both editors won awards at the national level, and couldn't have been prouder.

"The fact personally that I won a national competition and won so many awards, it feels great to be recognized," Paup said.

Garibay was also thrilled winning multiple awards.

"It feels great having won multiple awards this year, it's good to know that my writing is being recognized by different journalism associations," Garibay said.

Even with their excitement at winning, both editors are disappointed that the newspaper will not be available next year.

"I'm very proud of myself for having won awards this year, I wish there could've been more students experiencing this next year because it really is an honor to be recognized for your work and to be awarded," Garibay said.

NHS rewards mothers

By Kyle Paup
Editor in chief

Mothers gathered in commons to be appreciated for their hard work as National Honor Society hosted an annual Mother's Day pancake breakfast with the assistance of several other clubs and raised about \$300.

All proceeds of the breakfast are donated for a cause outside of the school.

"We give away all the money that we make. This year we picked (to donate to) the Humanitarian Service Project in DuPage County," NHS adviser Nick Caltagirone said. "All the proceeds go to that, and through our earlier

fundraising efforts, we paid for the breakfast."

Several clubs throughout the school other than NHS help make the event happen.

"Most years Art Club is of a great help to us, and most years Wildcat preschool and child development help as well. This year Horticulture Club helped additionally," Caltagirone said.

With the help of these other clubs, other activities were available for the little kids attending, other than the breakfast itself.

"We always try to have some crafts and some games to entertain the kids in addition to serving the pancake breakfast," Caltagirone said.



Photo by Hector Cervantes

Senior Lindsay Fiegler assists kids do arts and crafts as a part of the annual NHS Mother's Day breakfast.

Computerized test likely to come again

By Kyle Paup
Editor in chief

The piloting of the new PARCC assessment that began March 26 at the school overall went successfully.

"We tested in two groups, we had four sophomore classes, three junior classes, and we just finished on May 19 with two freshman classes," Assistant Principal Allister Scott said.

Despite the technological concerns of the PARCC test before the testing occurred, there were not any issues.

"There were no major problems specifically on our end (technology wise)," Scott said.

The PARCC test will most likely be initiated again next year, not just in high school, but in lower grade levels as well.

"We are anticipating that we will be assessing with at least one year group next year using the PARCC test. It will most likely replace the ISAT at the elementary and middle school level," Scott said.

Aside from PARCC re-

placing the ISAT test, there is a possibility of it replacing the ACT as well. The school however still stresses the importance of the ACT.

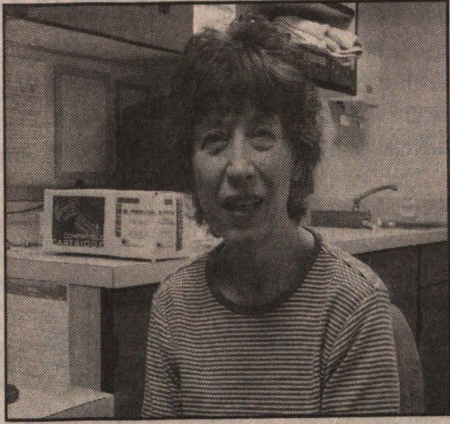
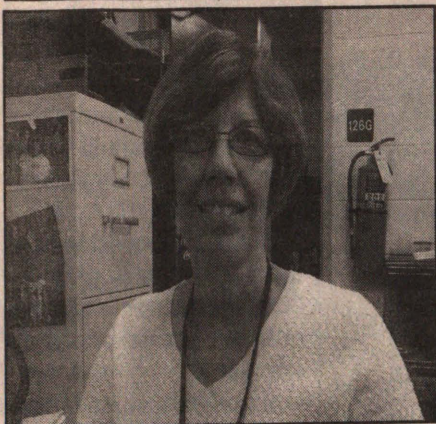
"We are yet to see how that plays out with the state, but we as a school are very focal about wanting to keep the ACT's and the importance of the ACT," Scott said.

Feedback from the students who have taken the PARCC test this year has been positive so far.

"From feedback we have gotten when speaking to students, they really think that the PARCC test aligned with what they did in class. So that's a huge positive that what you are doing in class is representing what is on the test, and that the test does assess on that higher sort of thinking skills," Scott said.

The test does still come with a negative side though.

"We have concerns about the time component and also then how that works with the ACT and the SAT being a college entrance test, and the PARCC currently not being a college entry test," Scott said.



Photos by Alexandra Garibay

Health and gym teacher Amy Gibson, left, and AV/LRC clerk Susan Siegfried, right, are retiring after several years at West Chicago.

Travel plans and smashing clocks

By Alexandra Garibay
Center Spread Editor

Traveling and spending time with friends are a few of the ways Amy Gibson, and Susan Siegfried plan on spending their free time after retiring this year.

Gibson has been working at the school since 1978 as a gym and health teacher.

"I started here when they built the pool and taught the diving team," Gibson said. "Later I became the head coach for the Sharks team."

While teaching Gibson was a physical education and health teacher.

During the summer Gibson will be coaching private swimming lessons, volunteering at a food pantry with her church and traveling.

"I will be traveling to Orlando for my nephew's wedding," Gibson said.

Gibson will still be a substitute teacher at the school.

"I will miss seeing the people I work with and the students," Gibson said.

AV/LRC clerk Siegfried is also retiring.

"Once I retire I'm going to smash my alarm clock and not get up in the early morning hours," Siegfried said.

Siegfried is looking forward to traveling and socializing with a lot of her friends.

Not having a time schedule is also an aspect Siegfried is looking forward to.

"I can do whatever I want, whenever I want," Siegfried said. "No time schedule."

After working at the school since 2006, Siegfried will miss her co-workers.

"I'm going to miss the great people whom I work with," Siegfried said. "It's been wonderful."

Science teacher Pat Carrow is also retiring but declined to be interviewed.

Hard working students awarded for the semester

Sarah Szremski
Reporter

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

Four seniors were honored this semester as Students of the Month.

Winners were Grant Hosticka, January; Emma No-

elke, February; Karla Soto, March; and Eric Noelke, May.

Students were recognized not only for their academic accomplishments but the involvement and commitment to this school.

Being involved has helped these students to be good students and made them eligible for the award.

"I think I received the award for my commitment to the school and my clubs as well as my time spent volunteering in the community through community leader-

ship and the Bridge 8.5 program. I also believe my leadership roles in various activities may have added to it as well," Emma Noelke said.

For some winning this was also a goal accomplished.

"I was very surprised when I opened the letter saying I was recognized as Student of the Month. I felt like I had accomplished my goal before my high school career was over," Soto said.

Teachers help in the process of choosing who wins the award by nominating students for the award.

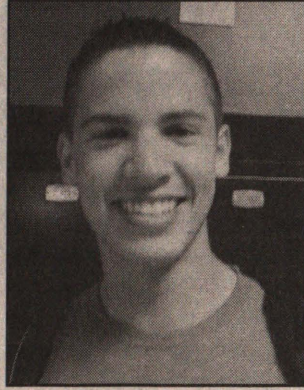
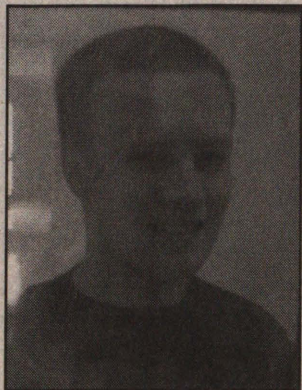
"I feel that teachers noticed my positive influence in class, a willingness to help others when needed, and as well as be a leader," Eric Noelke said.

All of the students who have received this award have worked hard and been dedicated to their high school careers.

"I believe I received this award because of the hard work and dedication I put in towards my class work or any sport/activity. Also I believe I received this award because of the positive attitude I have among my teachers and fellow classmates," Soto said.

Students that win this award go above and beyond what is expected of them.

Hosticka did not respond to a request for an interview.



Photos by Sarah Szremski

Seniors, from left, Grant Hosticka, Emma Noelke, Karla Soto, and Eric Noelke have all won the Student of the Month award.

Young 'Beauty and the Beast' fans gather for Tea with Belle

By Sarah Denning
Reporter

Whether it was tea time with Belle or watching the Disney princess on stage with her fellow cast members, the characters captured the hearts of all that attended the "Beauty and the Beast" production.

As kids joined students dressed up in their costumes on May 11 for Tea with Belle, they were able to join Belle, played by senior Gilyry Valenzuela, Lumiere, played by senior Josue Munoz, and Cogsworth, played by junior Matt Loftus, as they served them snacks and juice and had story time with the Disney princess herself.

"I got to meet so many mini Belles and I couldn't get over the fact that they thought I was really Belle," Valenzuela said.

The kids who attended were dressed in princess gowns and tiaras while Belle read them some of her favorite Disney stories with enthusiasm.

As the kids sat in commons, Belle sat front in center for all of them to see in her famous white and blue commoner's dress and her hair in that sig-

nature pony tail with the blue ribbon ties in the back.

Only half an hour after the tea party, Belle was on stage with her fellow cast members giving the final show of "Beauty and the Beast".

"It's a very fast paced show," Valenzuela said.

As tickets were bought and the stage was set up, the seats were filled up with parents, family, friends, students and

teachers.

"It was simply amazing! It really wowed the audiences," adviser Mark Begovich said.

The cast and backstage spent late nights working on the production to make it a memorable experience for the audience.

"I will remember all of the hard work the whole company put in and how all of those late nights spent at school

were worth it because the finished product was, and still is, really something for all of us to be proud of," Valenzuela said.

Students and faculty members spent over two months on the production

"I'm so proud of them. The rehearsal process is very taxing on them mentally and physically. They handled it like pros," Begovich said.

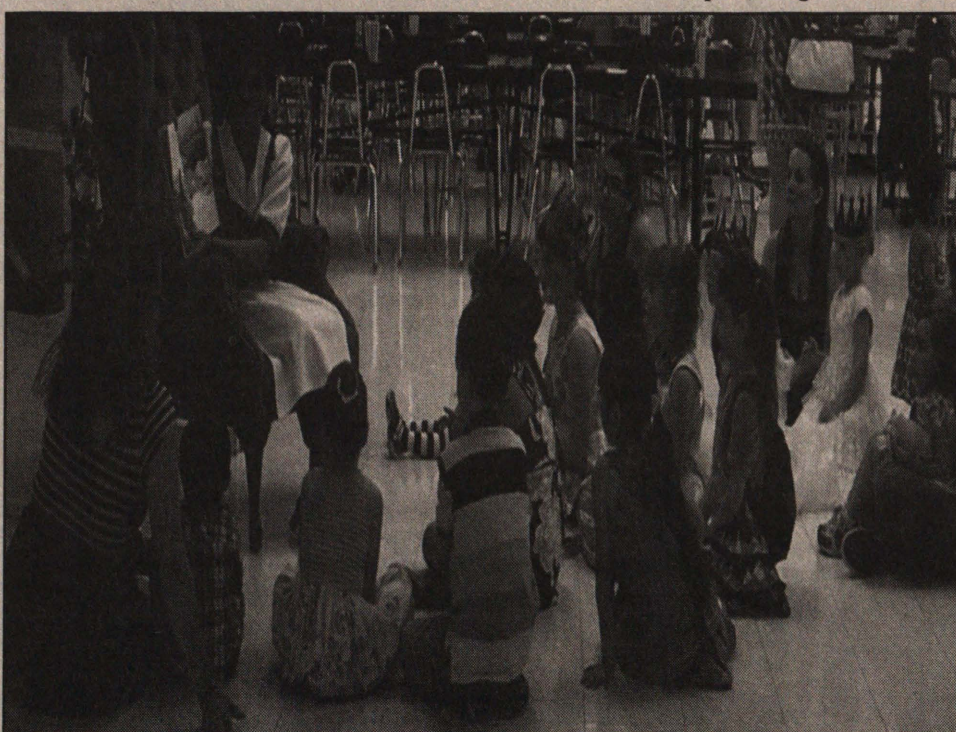


Photo by Sarah Denning

Belle from 'Beauty and the Beast' played by senior Gilyry Valenzuela reads to children during Tea with Belle on May 11 before the final showing of the play.

Broadcast students recognized

By Hector Cervantes
Perspectives Editor

Students in broadcasting won positive recognition at the Chicagoland Television Educators Council (CTEC) Video Festival at Nequa Valley High School on April 25.

Seniors Trevor Speer, Josue Munoz and David Kordik brought home the highest honors possible, a gold award.

"CTEC Video Festival is an organization for all high schools in the Chicagoland area for all TV media classes. It is like the Oscars but only for high school students," adviser Dave Jennings said.

West Chicago won the top third in entries.

"Although we didn't come in first, we still finished in the top third of entries and I think it's something we should be proud about," Kordik said.

Films were submitted online two months before the festival and the students get feedback on the positives and negatives of the films they submit by professionals.

"Our video was a music video for the very talented freshman Jessica Garcia. We wanted to make a video that gave a message and showcased her talents, and I think both were accomplished," Kordik said.

Besides recognizing students, the awards give students the chance to see how others broadcast in different schools.

"It's a nice way to honor the students. Not a lot of students have the opportunities to get recognized, but CTEC allows students to get honored in a nice way," Jennings said.

Telling a good story and having good lighting and cinematography is important to win awards at CTEC, according to Jennings.

Deadlines, working in groups and giving students real world experience is what broadcasting has to offer to students.

"Students learned just how talented some of the students making films are and it raises the bar," Jennings said.

CTEC is a way to compete and have fun at the same time.

"I loved going to CTEC, it's a lot of fun to see students be recognized," Jennings said.

Horticulture and Botany sell together to raise funds

Spring plant sales nearly clean out inventory to help with next year

By Hector Cervantes
Perspectives Editor

Botany class and Horticulture Club finished their spring plant sales by selling at the Blooming Fest in downtown West Chicago on May 17.

Plants were sold after school on May 8 and 9 as well.

Selling after school and at Blooming Fest gave the Horticulture Club \$1,600.

"We sold so much it starting to clean out our inventory," adviser Corrie Stieglitz said.

The money will be used

for next year's botany class and Horticulture Club to put money back for next year's teaching, learning and the club.

Since the club is free, the sales help replenish the money used to plant.

"I liked seeing a lot of students and the staff in commons (at the after school sale) picking and buying plants and asking questions," Stieglitz said.

Basil, petunias, begonias, fox gloves, lavenders and gerbera daisies were sold at the sales.

"Being able to give some-

one something we created was something that I enjoyed," sophomore president and treasurer of Horticulture Club Moises Perez said.

Students running the sale were helpful.

"The students were really helpful. They helped created signs, they showed up on time, helped carry plants to the customers' cars and were eager to help," Stieglitz said.

According to Stieglitz, planting earlier in the season is something to improve on for next year's sale so the plants will be in full bloom.

"I like planting because it gives me experience working with plants," sophomore Isaac Fernandez said.

Dedicated students helped botany and the Horticulture Club.

"I've had the best year of the club and botany class in 10 years. The students are



Photo by Hector Cervantes

Senior Mackenna Ellis helps sell flowers for Horticulture Club, which raised \$1,600 during their sales.

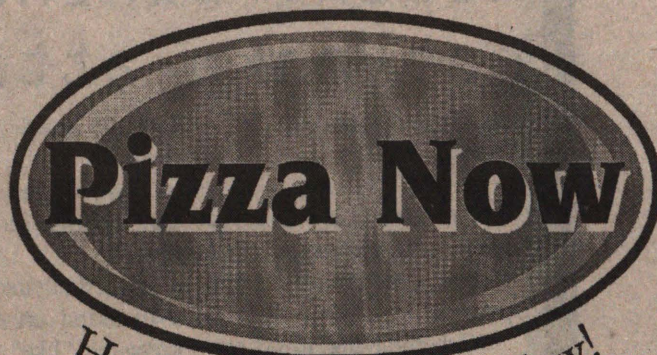
dedicated and worked hard for growing. The sales would not have happened if the stu-

dents were not dedicated and enthusiastic, both in the class and the club," Stieglitz said.

Congratulations to the Class of 2014!!!



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Feeling depressed?

It could be your social media time making you ill

Nothing much to like about online time

By Megan Provenzale
Reporter

Recent psychological studies have shined the light on social media's negative characteristics towards its users.

The American Academy of Pediatrics found that more than half of teenagers log onto a social media site at least once a day and their favorite sites at least 10 or more times.

Being a teen immersed in a culture where social media is dominant is becoming over-

whelming.

Daily overuse of media and technology has a negative effect on the health of all children, preteens and teenagers by making them more prone to anxiety, depression and other psychological disorders, as well as by making them more susceptible to future health problems, according to www.aap.org.

A place that is supposed to make people more social and happy is doing the exact opposite.

Findings suggest that while

Facebook itself is not an evil menace, it can become a breeding ground for self-destructive behavior, like negative comparison, according to www.prevention.com

The number of likes, hearts and favorites users receive are becoming large indicators of how users feel about themselves.

"We want to learn about other people and have others learn about us but through that very learning process we may start to resent both others' lives and the image

of ourselves that we feel we need to continuously maintain," psychologist Beth Anderson said in an interview for the New Yorker.

Good can come from social media when used correctly.

"Kids' social spaces are shrinking. They don't have the places or time to hang out like their parents did. Social media allows them to have time to reconnect. But, it has to be done in a way that's not all encompassing," Dr. Gwenn O'Keefe said for an interview for www.health.us-news.com.

O'Keefe believes social media is a great opportunity for kids if they know boundaries and guidelines to stay safe.

According to O'Keefe, when the boundary is crossed social media can produce signs of depression, change in eating and sleeping habits, mood swings and, social isolation.

She believes moderation is the key factor to a successful experience for young adults.



Number of Instagram users: 152,000,000



Number of Tumblr users: 47,000,000

Bullying goes viral

Hiding behind a screen does not make attacking people okay

By Sarah Szremski
Reporter

With the opportunity to remain anonymous to their victims, cyberbullies are empowered.

"Cyberbullying affects students on multiple different levels. I think you can attach cyberbullying to regular bullying. It's all based on what is being said and the perception of what is being said," dean David Pater said.

Once the bully has posted on the web it's not between

the bully and the victim anymore.

Anybody can see and say their opinion on the subject too.

"Cyberbullying becomes a thousand on one. People press the "like" button and some people will put a comment and this thing will snowball into a greater issue," Pater said.

Cyberbullies can also be elusive and you may not even know who the bully is.

"There are platforms and different apps where you

can cyberbully someone and be anonymous where your name isn't even on the post, it's just a blank screen that says something that can be a very hurtful thing," Pater said.

Anything placed on the Internet that hurts people is bullying.

"The most common type of cyberbullying is obviously verbal or what you perceive to be verbal. Obviously online it's all typed and it's slang or name calling or things of that nature," Pater said.

Cyberbullying doesn't just happen to students, it can also happen to teachers and other adults.

"I think cyberbullying is crazy, like I said before it can snowball and it can go. All it takes is a post and it's gone," Pater said.

Cyberbullying can be stopped by anyone.

"The next time that someone goes to post something, think 'will this hurt anyone?' and if you second guess yourself, it probably will," Pater said.





Broadcast Yourself™

Number of YouTube users: 4,250,000,000

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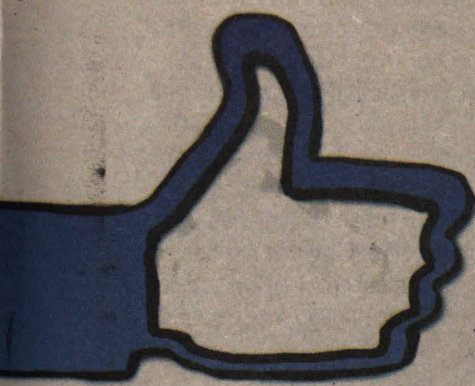


Number of Twitter users: 645,750,000

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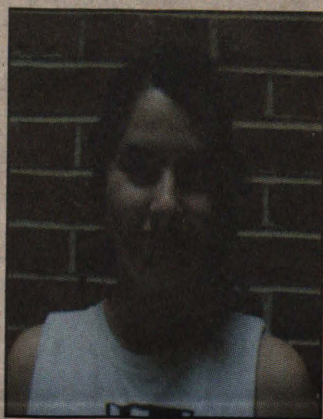
Number of Google searches annually: 2,161,530,000,000



Number of Facebook users: 1,310,000,000

SAMSUNG

Kids don't realize dangers online



By Alexandra Garibay
Center Spread Editor

Kids should not be on social media until they are at a responsible, mature age.

When growing up kids should be worried about school and having fun.

Not sending Facebook requests and tweeting.

Being on social media networks at such a young age can cause negativity in their lives.

Parents should keep an eye on their children when playing on a phone, or a computer.

Even if their child claims to just be playing a game they should make sure to confirm they are not on any social media or inappropriate websites if they don't want them to be.

Also, if the child is on social media the parents should discuss guidelines and rules for for them.

Being online opens up the doors to many sites and people that a child does not need.

For example, they could meet people online that say they are someone when they really aren't.

Children can be talking to a sexual predator who claims to be a person their age, from there they might tell them personal information and send them pictures of themselves.

The child might not realize what they're doing is wrong.

They could also be exposed to sites their parents wouldn't want them exposed to.

Growing up I didn't have any social media profiles until I was in middle school.

I think all kids should be restricted from making profiles online until they are in middle school or until their parents believe they are mature enough. But of course this lands on the parents shoulders to make sure they are not.

I've run into social media profiles that belonged to kids and they don't realize that some of the things they post are inappropriate, immature or simply pointless.

Of course, at some point in their lives they will grow up and realize that the posts or pictures they might have been posting were not okay.

Our View

Students' safety needs top priority at universities

For many seniors, the anticipation of college is overwhelming and exciting.

But how are they supposed to be excited when 55 colleges across the nation are under federal investigation for the legality of how they handled sexual violence and harassment claims?

Many schools on the list are some of the most prestigious colleges in the nation including Dartmouth, Princeton, and Vanderbilt.

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights is citing that these universities have violated Title IX over their handling of the sexual violence and harassment claims.

Colleges and universities as well as K-12 schools that receive federal funding must comply with Title IX, which is a federal law demanding that students not be denied the ability to participate fully in educational and other opportunities due to their sex.

It also addresses universities' handling of sexual violence.

The Department of Education can withhold

funds from any school that does not comply with the rules.

But will that teach schools anything? Many universities, especially private ones, receive endowments that can make up for the federal funding.

The department has known for years that schools do not handle these claims with the respect they deserve.

Schools obviously do not care about their students enough to treat sexual harassment claims

with respect and dignity, and to have them reviewed in a timely fashion.

If a student reports sexual violence or harassment to the administration, that claim should be reviewed immediately and the assailant should be suspended until proven guilty, and then expelled.

The safety of students should be colleges' top priority, not something they sweep under the rug until the government gets involved.

Female students deserve respect, especially when they are shelling out thousands of dollars for an education.

According to Fox News, the White House has stated that one in five female students is assaulted.

The National Sexual Violence Resource Center states that 15 percent of males are victims of forced sex on campus.

Females and males should not have to worry about being sexually assaulted on campus. Instead they should be worried about their grades and finals.



Photo By Katelyn Foehner

Common Core standards segregates students on ethnicity over intelligence

Common Core is a system of grading in which all students in their respective grade levels have to be able to meet a set of standards academically depending on their race. Even though this system is trying to make a change for the better in places of education, it is a horrible idea that will ultimately do more bad than good for the students.

It is true that there is a limit to how much students should have to know at their level, and yes, there should be standards that students have to follow.

But at the same time, we can not be so quick to judge every single student the same way, when every single student is an individual and learns differently. Common Core does acknowledge this, but its way of acknowledging it is possibly the worst part about Common Core.

Common Core standards are racially segregating students. These standards are making an attempt to judge students as individuals, but it is doing so in a racist way.

"Under a dramatic new approach to rating public schools, Illinois students of different backgrounds no longer will be held to the same standards, with Latinos and blacks, low-income children and other groups having lower targets than whites for passing state exams," according to the Chicago Tribune.

Is that the answer to the issues with Common Core? Racial humiliation and segregation?

According to the Chicago Tribune, it is expected that 85 percent of white students will be able to

pass tests, while only 73 percent of Latinos are expected to pass, and only 70 percent of black students.

This is directly addressing common stereotypes from today's society.

For what reason do students now have to all be judged by a special set of standards depending on their race, after the educational system has run so long without it until now?

In general, why is our educational system today so lazy that instead of putting the slightest bit of effort into reaching into the hearts of the future of America as individuals, that instead it focuses its time trying to find a way to make it simpler for the current generation by forcing them into a single group so that they don't have to deal with us as much?

As students, we are humiliated by Common Core.

Where is the effort to teach us at our own level, so that we are always feeling accepted, and always feeling challenged?

According to the official Common Core website for Illinois, "It's time to get real about what our children must learn if they are to succeed in today's world. Right now, only 1 in 4 Illinois high school students graduate ready for real life, be it college or career. Part of the problem is that we haven't updated learning standards in Illinois for 15 years."

So the solution to this is to change the system of teaching and learning entirely even though we

have lived for so many years under the 'old' educational system that we have all grown accustomed to at this point so that we can racially segregate students? This makes no sense.

Common Core may be making an effort to update the standards, but it is only throwing off students even more by taking everything they know about learning so far, and throwing it away.

Enforcers of the Common Core standards can argue the benefits of these new standards as much as they want, but as for now, nothing can change this fact. Common Core is throwing off students by changing the education system they have lived with their entire educational career, and the reason for this change is basically just to make our education racist.

So can this system really be considered beneficial for the student body before they take the time to adjust? This is a risk that should not be taken.

We have all heard our teachers cringe at the mention of Common Core themselves as well, because they can not stand the thought of changing everything they know about how to teach students as well.

Common Core takes time to adjust to, and in that time, students are being taught to forget everything they know about education so far. Just as much as teachers have to adjust to a system that they were never taught in their generation of schooling themselves.

This educational system in an attempt to make a change for the students only harms them in every which way, by promoting racial segregation and destroying the system of learning that has been in schools for ages. Our students now a days are being humiliated in the place they go to learn, and it needs to stop now.

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

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

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Death penalty provides cruel punishment for even the guilty

By Megan Provenzale
Reporter



"Difficult to watch," "chaotic," "agonizing," and "disastrous" are just a few words that were used to describe Clayton D. Lockett's botched execution in Oklahoma on April 29.

Three lethal drugs that were meant to be inserted directly into Lockett's vein, began spreading through his tissue when the "line blew," according to The New York Times.

During this time Lockett tried to sit up, conscious, and made spectators uncomfortable by his display of pain.

Lockett was sentenced to death for shooting a young woman and burying her alive.

It's hard to distinguish whether or not sentencing someone to death is morally correct.

I don't think I could ever be empathetic towards Lockett, but I struggle with being completely desensitized to the situation.

A procedure that usually takes 5 to 10 minutes erupted into a 45 minute ordeal for Lockett.

This isn't the first botched execution in the United States or Oklahoma either. According to the Washington Post, an inmate was sentenced to death in Oklahoma on Jan. 10, Michael Lee Wilson, cried, "I feel my whole body burning," after receiving the lethal injection.

The 8th Amendment of the Constitution states that no citizen shall fall victim to cruel or unusual

punishment.

The mixture of lethal drugs was one that Oklahoma had never used before making Lockett's case, in my opinion, an experiment. Oklahoma could have avoided this catastrophe entirely by letting Lockett sit in prison for the entirety of his sentence.

I believe our country should re-evaluate the current legalization of the death penalty.

The euphemism "quick and peaceful" is beginning to deteriorate as the dire need for stricter regulations becomes more and more evident.

How many botched executions will it take for Congress to realize that prisoners on death row should not have to be susceptible to accidents state governments make?

On top of that, it's 10 times more expensive to sentence an inmate to death, than to keep them in prison until life, according to CNN.

There is something twisted about how taxpayer's money can be put towards the death of another person.

Currently the United States is drowning in \$17 billion plus of debt.

Our country needs to focus on putting tax dollars towards a less controversial issue like improving education, or reforming issues that will bring us together; not tear us apart.

We cannot continue to participate in trial and error methods that result in questions of our country's morality.

Innocent or guilty, no one ever deserves to suffer.

Chromebook arrival needs unplugging

New technology loses social interaction and can affect how a student learns at school

Azucena Gonzalez
Reporter



What a wonderful tool technology is.

Only, today's generation spends too much time looking at screens and schools want to help students 'improve' their studies by staring at another screen eight hours every day with Chromebooks.

Too much screen time leads to "obesity, sleep issues, difficulty in school, and increased aggression and violent behavior," Dania Lindenberg, a pediatrician at Scripps Coastal Medical Center, said on <http://www.scripps.org>

Teens already have enough homework to do on the computer when arriving home.

Pew Internet and American Life Project and Common Sense Media, report adding more screen time at school will only "highlight concerns that constant use of

"Too much screen time leads to 'obesity, sleep issues, difficulty in school and increased aggression and violent behavior'"

digital technology hampers attention span and the ability to complete difficult tasks."

Next year, the school will have Chromebooks on carts. In two years our high school will be purchasing Chromebooks for all students.

Computers will save trees, help students have fewer books to carry, and personalize learning, but there are students and staff who would rather have a set of printed sheets of paper that are held together inside a cover: a long written work in their hand than a tablet. Some students would rather submit and receive papers.

Chromebooks are expensive and not many stu-

dents may be responsible enough to take care of the Chromebooks.

If a student damages the laptop they will have to be paying a large sum of money for a new one.

Another problem with the Chromebooks will be theft. If students are stealing other items now, they just might steal a Chromebook.

Being responsible for a Chromebook also questions if students will actually be working or looking for sites that are not blocked by the school.

Laptops will be taking some of the critical tasks out of life.

Such as being social with other students, "too much time with digital devices provide a disconnect of students from face-to-face social activities and family communications. Then the classrooms will be quiet, and there won't be any more teachers saying "it's too loud, quiet down, said <http://education.cu-portland.edu>.

It will also affect the teachers and how they help students.

"The element of empathy and play are important intangibles in the teaching-learning relationship. A computer can

do none of these

things, and if they are forms of communication upon which the student depends, then the absence of a living human teacher can leave the student stranded," said author Stanley Goff, an American anti-war activist writer, and blogger.

Clearly, technology doesn't prove to be the best answer.

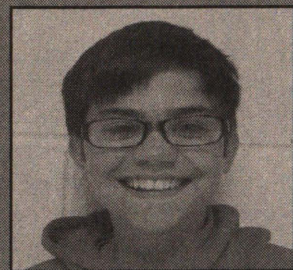
Also, the technological era is starting to overrule, which will lead to future students relying only on technology.

In order to be able to learn, students need to think for themselves, not have something do the thinking for them.

Students Speak

Compiled By Hector Cervantes

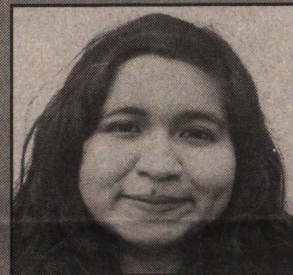
Should the death penalty be considered some form of punishment?



Freshman

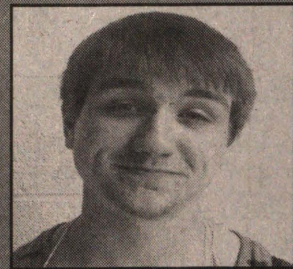
Danny Lamperis

"The death penalty is, unnecessary. The person who committed a crime should dwell on his actions in jail for the rest of his life."



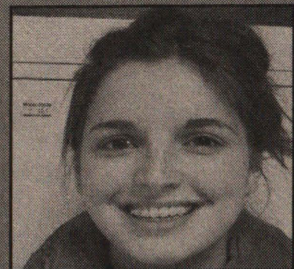
Sophomore
Isabel Garcia

"It's something inhumane. I don't like people killing each other. There's a better humane way to punish them."



Junior
Dylan Stump

"I believe that if someone is a serial killer or killed for no reason, they should be sentenced to death."



Senior
Nicole Reitz

"It should be reinstated for a serious punishment."

Seniors create encouraging atmosphere in final season

By Sarah Denning
Reporter

Members of the track and field team are not only ending the season but are also saying goodbye to the seniors who have been part of the track team.

"I have to say with all the athletes I'm very pleased with seniors Alex Celmer, Quentin Virgen and Vinnie Romano, they have showed improvement with themselves and have had a great season," coach Paul McLeland said.

Different divisions within the team include sprinting, high jump, pole vault and throwing.

McLeland trains the team

with Mike Savegnago, the sprint and high jump coach; Jeff Ainsworth, the sprint and jump coach; Matt Kubik, the pole vault coach; and Tyler Belding, the throwing coach.

"You get a more personal connection with the coaches and having a good relationship with them allows you to have a more enjoyable time and learn better," Celmer said.

No matter what division a team member is in, they all do their best to encourage each other and be there for each other throughout the season.

"We support each other by encouragement, and when some people don't get along

we try to lift each other up, because otherwise track is no fun and what's the point of a sport where there's not a convivial atmosphere between athletes?" said Celmer

According to the roster, the varsity team is equipped with 30 members consisting of two freshmen, three sophomores, nine juniors and 16 seniors who have all contributed to the team.

With practices McLeland pushes the students to go above and beyond and pushing themselves to succeed.

"Coming to practice and trying hard is the lowest expectation," McLeland said.

The field team has the final meets Friday and Saturday for the IHSA finals.



Photo by Sarah Denning

Along with having a great season, senior Quentin Virgen sprints to the finish line trying to outrun his competitors.



Photo by Hector Cervantes

Midfielder Vicky Cantu tries to keep the ball away from a Downers Grove North player in hopes of winning the game.

Injury plagued season helps players to improve

By Hector Cervantes
Perspectives Editor

Coping with injuries has caused girls soccer to take on new challenges.

"It's a challenge to be a coach everywhere, but this year it was more of a challenge. We played five games with only one sub and some of the teams we versed had 23 players and we only had 11," varsity coach Cesar Gomez said.

Seven starters were hurt, causing the team to lose some players during their games.

The team approached this setback as a way to become stronger.

"It affected us both physically and mentally, and we did a good job on not using this as an excuse to not play. It helped us mentally and helped us play harder, faster and smarter on the field," varsity team captain junior Kayla Kirkwood said.

To overcome this obstacle, Gomez would tell his team it was their last game which would help motivate them to

play their best.

"We have the same expectation every year and that is always to get something out of the season and to win first title," Gomez said.

Although, these expectations have not been met according to Gomez, the team is continuing to work hard on becoming a better team.

"Our team was able to play with more aggressiveness. We are still working on becoming more aggressive but it still needs work," Gomez said.

Having the aggressiveness not only helped the team improve, it helped them in regionals against St. Charles East High School on May 20.

As the end of the season approaches, the team is taking note about how the team did overall and the future of the soccer program.

"We should mature tremendously for the next season. I don't think we improved as a program but individuals improved. We also learned to be patient and resilient," Gomez said.

Luck not necessary to send athletes to state at EIU

Three badminton players advanced to day one of state, appreciate support from teachers and fans

By Megan Provenzale
Reporter

Luck was no factor in the fact that badminton players senior Molly Ricci and juniors Evelyn Almonte and Amy Dinh played at state held at Eastern University on May 17.

Although the girls did not qualify to move onto day two, coach Katie Wood is still proud.

"I would just say that the fact that we had three state qualifiers is a huge accomplishment. And the girls earned it. I have been really proud of their success this season and it's not a matter of just getting lucky. I think some people will assume that

their success is just because we switched conferences to the Upstate 8. While that might have been a part of it, they are legitimately the best team I've had since I've been coaching," Wood said.

Ricci agrees that she is proud of herself and her team.

"I think I played some pretty good games and wasn't too upset about it because my main goal was to make it to state," said Ricci.

The girls appreciated the support they received throughout the entire season.

"I know the girls love the support. They really appreciated the support from their teachers. They loved seeing some faculty at the games

and some students at the games. Knowing that we will be even stronger next year I just want to encourage everybody to come out and see what it's about, to see what makes us so good that we make it to state," Wood said.

The team was so inspired to become better players that they practiced on their off days. They could have rested, but they wanted to improve as a team.

"Mrs. Wood said we could have practice off in the morning, but we would rather come in and practice. We all really wanted it this year; to do well," Ricci said.

Wood is confident next year's team will rise to the challenge.



Photo by Megan Provenzale

After practicing on their off days, seniors Alondra Garcia, left, and Karla Soto work together to try and put another win in the books on Senior Night.

Senior leadership leads to playoffs

By **Katelyn Foehner**
Sports Editor

With some improvements this year, the boys lacrosse team is having one of their best seasons.

"This season's going a lot better than last year," senior Lucas Radice said.

The team's shooting skills have improved and have helped them score more goals against their opponents.

"We've been running our offense really well, [and our] defense has improved," junior Jake Paler said.

Paler also noted that their stick skills are better than pre-

vious seasons.

Senior Jason Umphrey said that the season has been a strong one.

"[There is] a lot of chemistry this year, [we're] the most winning team at West Chicago Community High School both by numbers and percentage," Umphrey said.

Seniors Colin Lelito and David Theiner said that there is a lot of team work and teambuilding. Theiner also said the team is a family.

Head coach Brandon Kutilek said that there have not been major changes to the team this year.

"[There was] a new offense and defense installed that some of the kids learned over the past summer from the travel teams which did a really good job of helping because of that it helped us out too," Kutilek said.

The team won the Sticks and Stones Tournament, which they host, in April for the first time in 10 years.

"[We] won the whole tour-

namment, not just the division," Lelito said.

The team joked that Kutilek cried after the team won.

"We were all emotional," Radice said. "We've been working hard for that past couple of years, [it was] a big moment."

Kutilek was very proud of his team and cherishes the memory of winning.

This season the team has no captains so the leadership position falls on everyone.

"[The leadership position] all started sophomore year when Jordan and I were the only two varsity players with Kutilek," Lelito said.

Radice added that the entire team works together to win.

"I expected that [the season is going well] because we had so much senior leadership," Kutilek said. "I kind of look to them to do everything possible to get the kids to continue playing all season long."

This season the team add-

ed a coach to the staff who has experience in the sport.

Last season the team's winning percentage was right around .500, according to Kutilek, and this season they have a winning percentage of 80-85 percent.

"[I'm] super proud of the guys for sticking with it for four years, the 16 seniors that have stuck with it all four years have definitely paid off," Kutilek said.

Members of the team are even continuing playing in college.

"Jordan and I are playing at the collegiate level at Trine College," Lelito said.

With lacrosse not being a school-sponsored sport, members of the team believe that it will become school-sponsored in the future.

"I think it's getting really popular, [it's] one of the fastest growing sports," Paler said. "Our junior varsity team is actually pretty good this year, we're hoping to get more people to come out."



Photo by Sarah Denning

Playing in the last regular home lacrosse game of the season, goalie David Theiner blocks the net from opponents.



Photo by Hector Cervantes

Sophomore Justin Thiede sets the ball for a fellow player to spike it against hitters from Waubonsie Valley on Senior Night.

Hardwork pays off, regionals in sight

By **Hector Cervantes**
Perspectives Editor

Making their way to regionals is an achievement boys volleyball is proud of.

"It's my senior year and I'm looking to have fun with my friends on the team while I prepare for regionals," varsity captain senior Logan Bruce said.

Regionals began on Tuesday. Results for regionals were not available as of press time.

Preparing for regionals was difficult, but the team managed.

"We knew we'd take our

lumps because of no returning seniors, but we worked on becoming competitive," varsity coach Kris Hasty said.

The team liked all the hard work put in throughout the season.

"The hard work, dedication and the passion we would all put towards the game was something I liked about our season. Most importantly, I liked the family we made during the season," freshman Ricardo Grimaldo said.

Despite a loss on a match on May 6, boys volleyball noted their improvement. Also, the team learned that

working hard pays off.

"Our best match was versus Bartlett on May 6. We felt like playing more together (as a team) even though we ended up losing the match. But the team gave the best efforts of the year, which is important," Hasty said.

The team saw their improvement in practices.

"We would have a general warm up, work on ball control skills and agility as a whole. Then we would break up into the teams," Hasty said.

As the season wraps up the team reflected on how the season went.

"We gained experience with each other and we spent the season getting used to playing with each other," Hasty said.

The team hopes to do better for the next season.

"Hopefully we win the Upstate Eight, make new family and friends and to be undefeated for the whole season. That is my goal," Grimaldo said.

Being able to see the improvement is important to the team.

"It's always rewarding to start with a certain point and continue to improve," Hasty said.

Rocky start to season improves

By **Sarah Denning**
Reporter

Whether it's a home or away game, the softball team is making strides, not only to home base but to finish this season with a homerun.

The girls did well starting off the season, beating rivals Glenbard North 5-4.

"We haven't beat them (Glenbard North) in years so it was a great feeling beating one of our rivals," junior Jenna Foreman said.

The beginning of the season started off rocky, but has slowly improved.

"We've had some really good moments and positive games, the games we have gotten in have helped shape the team. The girls have figured out where they all need to improve," coach Kim Wallner said.

As the season comes to an end the team has improved their skills and the girls practice their plays in order to win.

"We've been working hard at practice and games, always looking for chances to improve. We've really been coming together as a team and only getting better," Foreman said.

Stanley Cup fever returns to Windy City *Los Angeles Kings prove to be too much to handle for Blackhawks*

~~16~~ ~~15~~ ~~14~~ ~~13~~ ~~12~~ ~~11~~ ~~10~~ ~~9~~ ~~8~~ 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

By Katelyn Foehner
Sports Editor

Jonathan Toews and company have worked hard to try and bring the Stanley Cup back to Chicago, but it seems like the Los Angeles Kings will take that away from them. As of press time, results from Wednesday's game were not available.

With the help of Patrick Kane and his better-than-ever mullet, and coach Joel Quenneville and his stylish mustache, the Blackhawks brought hope back to Chicago that Lord Stanley's cup will make another grand appearance in the city this summer.

After the St. Louis Blues took a 2-0 lead in the first-

round series, the Blackhawks bounced back and won the next four straight games.

After another six game battle with the Minnesota Wild, the Blackhawks gave it their all and glided past them in a tight-gripping finale thanks to Patrick Kane's overtime goal.

The Western Conference Finals have proved to be too much for the Blackhawks as they now face elimination from the Kings.

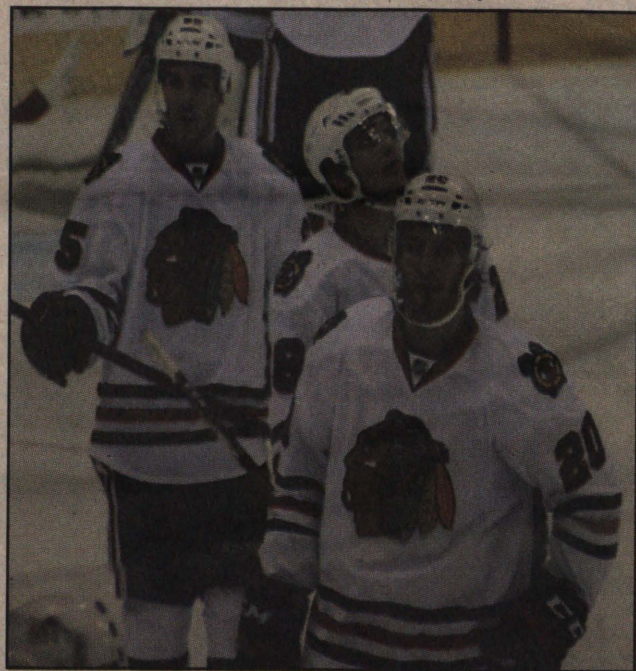
The Blackhawks took the win in game one, and have taken a steep decline for the worse. They lost game two, and the Kings served the Blackhawks their first home game loss in the playoffs this year. The rest of the season looks bleak for the team.



Before his team made it to the Stanley Cup playoffs, Blackhawks winger Kris Versteeg practices his skating skills against the Columbus Blue Jackets in Columbus on April 4.



Blackhawks winger Kris Versteeg, left, and defensemen Duncan Keith and Brent Seabrook joke around before their game against the Columbus Blue Jackets in Columbus.



Andrew Shaw, left, Patrick Kane, and Brandon Saad get ready to take on the Columbus Blue Jackets on April 4.

Photos by Laura Kuehn

Racism should be left in the past, where it belongs



By Katelyn Foehner
Sports Editor

Where do we begin to discuss Donald Sterling's recent comments, mistakes, and excuses? There's so much to say about a man who obvi-

ously does not think before he speaks.

Within the last month, Sterling has become one of the most hated men in basketball, and the Miami Heat are silently thanking him for that. But what nobody is thanking Sterling for is his racist comments.

When you're an owner of a professional basketball team that's worth \$575 million, according to Forbes, you keep your mouth shut. You don't go off on a rant with your girlfriend about her not being able to bring black people to games, especially NBA great Magic Johnson.

But kudos to Johnson for trying and acting like this is

all a joke. The poor guy is probably offended beyond belief and just wants this all to be over with since he is not directly involved.

Granted Sterling probably did not think that those "private" tapes would ever be leaked to the media, but honestly is anything ever private anymore?

And he was speaking with his girlfriend. His girlfriend. He is a married man. If anybody should feel sorry for anyone right now it should be his wife, Shelly. I cannot begin to imagine what she is going through right now.

First her husband makes racist remarks that is broadcasted on every media outlet, and then his mistress comes

into the spotlight. The poor woman can't catch a break.

Sterling has now given his wife the right to sell the team.

But who's at fault for all of this, Sterling or the NBA?

The NBA has known for countless years that Sterling has a bad reputation, and he's not the greatest owner.

But they never did anything about his behavior, until now. This whole ordeal could have been avoided if David Stern had reprimanded Sterling back in the day. Instead it was like a ticking time bomb that exploded with racism and hurt feelings.

Members of the Clippers threatened to boycott and protest until the NBA finally stepped in and banned Ster-

ling for life.

The NBA is now putting pressure on Sterling to sell the team, but if he was banned why is he still technically the owner? There should be an interim owner until he sells the team so that he has no control or power over the Clippers.

But now Sterling is saying that he's not even going to pay the \$2.5 million fine. Is this really surprising though? He will try and drag this controversy out, in hopes that people forget what happened. But how do you forget his racist remarks when this is 2014, not 1964.

Sterling needs to pay up, let his wife sell the team, get a brain, and move on.