



Highlake fund neglects decay

Despite spending \$150,000 on capital improvements, school requires repair

By Kaitlyn Sladek
Reporter

Capital improvement funds were tapped into for \$150,000 throughout the year, but some students are looking for the proof.

Specifically, the Highlake Building and Maintenance Fund helped fix doors, replace moldy ceiling tiles, and took care of mice problems.

"Constantly, unfortunately, students break doors in the building non stop," said Assistant Principal Pete Martino.

In summer the money will be used for more improvements.

"This summer alone they're going to re-surface all the [parking] lots,

and the Bishop gym which had a huge amount of water damage recently," said Martino. "[They're fixing] a good amount of doors, too."

Senior David Padilla wishes the school put more money in certain repairs over the last summer.

"Well if anything, all lockers should be replaced," said Padilla. "Especially the ones in senior hall."

But, overall, the school really is in fair condition, according to Martino and Supt. Lalo Ponce.

"I think the school is one where attention has been given to

the environment; the atmosphere," said Ponce. "I've never seen any errant marks on the walls."

Senior Amanda Rathe thinks simple repairs can improve the atmosphere.

"I think the school could be a lot worse, but they could also do a lot better," said senior Amanda Rathe. "If they would just fix things in a more timely fashion, it would be appreciated. A bathroom stall should not be missing a latch for three years."

Martino thinks the school is more orderly than other schools.

"I've been in a lot of

schools and I think the condition of our school is quite good," said Martino. "Even the more affluent schools... they don't look all shiny."

Some students disagree.

"It's dirty," said sophomore Kenita Petties. "The bathrooms are nasty."

Freshman Aaron Fagalde agrees.

"The locker room smells," said Fagalde. "The bathrooms are just horrible, especially the gym ones."

There is also the issue of the mice running

around in senior hall.

Martino agreed mice are a problem, but added they come with the territory.

"I will tell you in any large building there are going to be mice," said Martino. "Wherever there is food, there will be mice."

Mouse traps have been placed all around the school.

"I saw a mouse in my office once, and they caught it within the week," said Martino.

Photo by Jacob Wucka

Giant holes in the ceiling above student lockers are just one of the many fixes that the school needs to repair.

INSIDE

Plays Cancelled

After many years of entertainment, the German plays have been cancelled for next year -- see **NEWS**, page 2.



Technology

Teenagers are some of the most tech-savvy people on the planet. But how far will their addiction to technology lead them? -- see **CENTER SPREAD**, pages 10 and 11.

Behind the Scenes

A lot goes into the production of a high school musical. Read about how musicians, set and wardrobe designers, and actors come together in order to produce "West Side Story" -- see **FEATURES**, pages 12 and 13.

Olympics-bound

Volleyball player and alumnus Andy Hein is forever immortalized in the athletic hallway. Read about the ceremony honoring him, and his triumphs -- see **SPORTS**, page 19.



German curriculum to exclude plays

By Yasmyrn McGee
Perspectives Editor

German plays are out and a more technology-focused approach to German is in.

The world languages department has decided to discontinue the plays and take the classes into a different direction next year.

"This year's German play performances were great and, as always, we collected feedback from students and staff," said world languages department division head Janelle Stefancic. "We talked about the curriculum and how to make it better and we think we have a better opportunity to involve the students with some technology in the future and spend some more time learning German."

According to Stefancic the discontinuation has nothing to do with the retirement of

Kerry Strohm or the discontinuation of the French plays. German teacher Jane Rodziewicz agreed that this change is a step in the right direction.

"It's hard especially for the students [to not have the German plays] but I think that the students are going to be better served through more technology-based projects and to do different types of things that have specific relevance to what we're learning in German," said Rodziewicz.

But senior Kevin Szul fears that the absence of the plays will only hurt students in the long run.

"I'm disappointed it's not going to happen anymore," said Szul. "Even though I'm not going to be here next year, [the plays] were a learning experience and a tradition."

Junior John Heinze feels that the German plays helped

to expand his German vocabulary.

"It's awful [that the plays were cancelled] because throughout German [class] you learn the basics but with the plays you need to know key, useful language," said

Heinze.

Still some students like freshman Jose Guzman are excited to expand their usage of the language in other ways.

"I think it's a good idea because it'll give us other op-

portunities using the German language," Guzman said.

However, Stefancic says that there is still a chance that the plays could come back in later years.

"Every year we've been evaluating if the German plays are [meeting] the curriculum needs. We always will re-evaluate it every year and have the option to re-include it in our curriculum but right now we're really excited about doing something different," Stefancic said.

Rodziewicz feels that no matter what changes are implemented, students will most likely benefit from them.

"Well I think anytime you change something there's always some type of impact but we're coming up with creative...projects and something different, so I think students are going to be affected positively," said Rodziewicz.



Photo by David Garcia

The German plays took place for the last time in March. They will be replaced by different, technology-based activities to supplement the curriculum.

Rewards motivate students to donate units of blood

By Kaitlyn Sladek
Reporter

Although the total units of donated blood were down from the fall blood drive, guidance counselor and blood drive facilitator Ward Rau is happy with the 130 units of blood donated on Friday.

"I personally really believe in community service," said Rau. "And this is a very valuable community service."

At the fall blood drive, 183 units of blood were donated.

"It seems that our spring blood drive is always smaller than the one in the fall of the same school year," said Rau. "I think there is a lot more stuff going on in the spring, more kids in sports and other activities, and this year there were those two field trips that happened to be on the same day. Both of them were for juniors and seniors, so certainly there were some students who would have donated if they had been here."

Lifesource, a nonprofit organization, sponsored the blood drive.

In past years, students have been generous with their blood.

"Every year we set a goal, and usually we try to set a new record," said Rau. "A couple of times we have been close to 200 units [of blood]."

Students aren't the only generous donors.

"There are many teachers who participate," said Rau. "Some teachers encourage

their students to donate and that's good."

But foreign language teacher, Susan Junkroski, has taken this to a whole new level.

Junkroski started donating her blood when she was a freshman in college.

"If I'm not sick, I try to give every eight weeks," said Junkroski.

That equals about six times a year.

Junkroski has received plaques for her extraordinary amounts of donated blood.

"It's an easy way to give back to the community," said Junkroski. "It doesn't cost me anything except time."

The last step of the blood

donation process isn't so bad either.

"They force feed you cookies when you get finished so how do you lose?" Junkroski laughed.

Aside from cookies, there are a couple other rewards student advisories receive for donating the most blood.

"One of the things we started a few years ago when we started with advisories was rewards," said Rau. "Ice cream for every advisory that donates five units."

Of course, this is not the main reason to give blood.

"It gives them an incentive," said Rau. "It encourages them."



Photo by Kaitlyn Sladek

Junior Evan Bernard contributes to Key Club's spring blood drive.

What's Happening?

Swing dance with jazz band

By David Garcia
Reporter

As the end of the year approaches, jazz band is readying for the last concert of the year; the Spring Jazz Fling.

The May 18 fling will be a dance modeled after a 1940's swing dance.

Jazz band director Steve Govertsen is one of the faculty members, along with Music Booster Club members Amy-Jo Wierenga, and Judy Hahs, running the dance, and choir director Brandon Fantozzi.

"It was a great suggestion initially. We waited for the right year that we thought we could be successful," said Govertsen.

Jazz Band and chamber choir will both be performing. For all those that cannot dance, the year's fling will include swing dance lessons, along with 50/50 raffle.

Last year's dance was a success for the band, and Govertsen said that more students should come.

"If you like dancing or if you like jazz [you should come]. Last year's was a really fun time and well attended," said Govertsen.

The dance will be in the auditorium from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. with a \$5 admission.

The fundraiser was successful last year, and will again benefit the music department.

It's easy being green

By Keyuri Parmar
Reporter

Club Green is putting together their last project of the year which is getting recycling containers to capture donations for locker clean out day.

"Students can donate lightly used school supplies so next year's student can use them if they need it," said adviser Suzanne Burchacki.

The club recently made an advisory lesson for Earth Week which is from April 17 until Sunday.

Students who are interested in Club Green or want to help can go to the meetings the first Tuesday of every month after school.

"By reading the Club Green stall signs and recycling school papers and projects, all students can be green at school and at home," said Burchacki.

Past projects that club green ran include selling hot chocolate. They have also put out recycling bins and put up signs in the bathrooms to make students aware of how they can help the environment.

School considers weighted grades

By Jacob Wucka
Editor in Chief

Thinking of ways to increase student performance, the Board of Education has recently looked at the possibility of instating weighted grades.

"This is something that has been brought up to previous boards, and at this point, is more informational than anything else," said board president Katherine Doremus.

Weighted grades are used in more difficult classes, in which students are offered equal credit for a receiving lower grade.

"Basically, assigned to certain courses, the grade may be weighed heavier. If you get a B in honors English, it is like getting an A in a regular English class," said division head of support services Maura Bridges.

Supt. Lalo Ponce informed the board on AP classes and the potential impact of weighted grades.

He also presented what other schools do with AP classes, and their grading systems.

"The board must continually look at ways to increase rigor for our students and give them every opportunity to achieve the highest level of academic success," said Doremus.

According to Bridges, weighted grades have its advantages and disadvantages.

"[Weighted grades] encourage kids to take harder classes because they could potentially raise their GPA," said Bridges. "But who decides what a more rigorous class is? There's a contention with what could be weighted and not."

Doremus says the board has been informed of all the potential benefits and risks that the school could face if weighted grades move from an informational topic to a debate.

"We were made aware of the pros and cons of weighted grades and will probably continue to discuss this for some time before, and if, it becomes an action item," said Doremus.

However, Bridges does not expect weighted grades to move beyond a topic of discussion.

"In the time I've been here, it seems like a cycle where we have to talk about weighted grades. I think we revisit it so that we can make sure that we are happy with the system we have now," said Bridges.

Bridges also believes that weighted grades are not a major concern to students.

"My experience talking to college representatives is that high schools have so many systems that they consider many different things like classes and test scores to look at who they allow in and give scholarships too," said Bridges.



Photo by Kaitlyn Sladek
Senior Blair Skarin's dedication to many activities, including baseball, makes him March Student of the Month.

Work pays off

By Sam Young
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.

A hard-working student, Blair Skarin was named Student of the Month for March.

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

I was amazed and surprised because I didn't know that it was coming.

Are you involved in any sports or extracurricular activities?

Right now, I'm in baseball. I was also on the golf team this year.

Why do you like baseball?

I like baseball because it's a physical sport that you have to be smart to play, and I've played it since I was four.

Why do you like golf?

I like golf because it is relaxing and I can play it my whole life, and I have been playing it since I was five.

What do you value most in life?

I value school and my family. I value my family because they are the ones who have made me who I am today.

Who influences you the most?

My brother influences me the most. He has put a lot of work into college, he graduated with a 3.5 GPA, and is just a good person to look up to.

What do you want to do in your future?

For my future, I'd like to go to Miami University and become a dentist; my dad is an orthodontist, so dentistry would be an easy profession because of that.

New project implemented

By David Garcia
Reporter

A mandatory fourth year of English has inspired the English department to create a senior equivalent of the junior research paper (JRP).

The JRP has been a constant part of the high school curriculum and up until now, one of the few exposures that high school students get to writing college papers.

Three years ago, the Illinois school board made a fourth year of English mandatory, and the English department saw this as perfect way to give students practice with research skills that will be needed in college by introducing a senior research project (SRP).

Language arts division head Chris Covino said that the goal of the senior research project is to "extend a student's mastery of the research skills."

The project will have a small written section of about three to five pages. The bulk of the project is the application of research skills as well as a presentation that the student will have to give "such as a webpage or lesson plan," said Covino.

The main purpose of the SRP is to reinforce the research lessons that were taught as underclassmen.

"One of the main goals for the English department is consistency from year to year," said Covino.

While the research project will probably be a hefty part of a student's grade it will not be as much work as the JRP.

English teachers are still figuring out how they are going to effectively introduce the SRP into their lesson plans.

"We are hoping that the student will, depending on the [English] class they're in, pick a topic that is relevant to that class," said Covino.

Students will have to create a project for every English class that they are enrolled in. For instance, those who have music as literature and creative writing will have one for each class.

The year-long classes will only be required to finish one, but it will be a larger and more detailed project.

"I don't expect anyone to like more work," said Covino.

Online-gaming novelist set to visit

By Liz Ramos
Reporter

Science-fiction author Cory Doctorow will discuss his new book about online gaming, "For the Win," at school on May 12.

"[Doctorow] is our third author coming [to the school]. I know students have read his books. I'm a big fan," said LRC director Eric Bodwell.

Doctorow will be in the auditorium during second and fourth period speaking with classes and students that signed up.

Doctorow will speak about the elements of game theory and economics as they apply to video games and the social issues in the world.

He will also speak about the experiences and stories behind writing "For the Win."

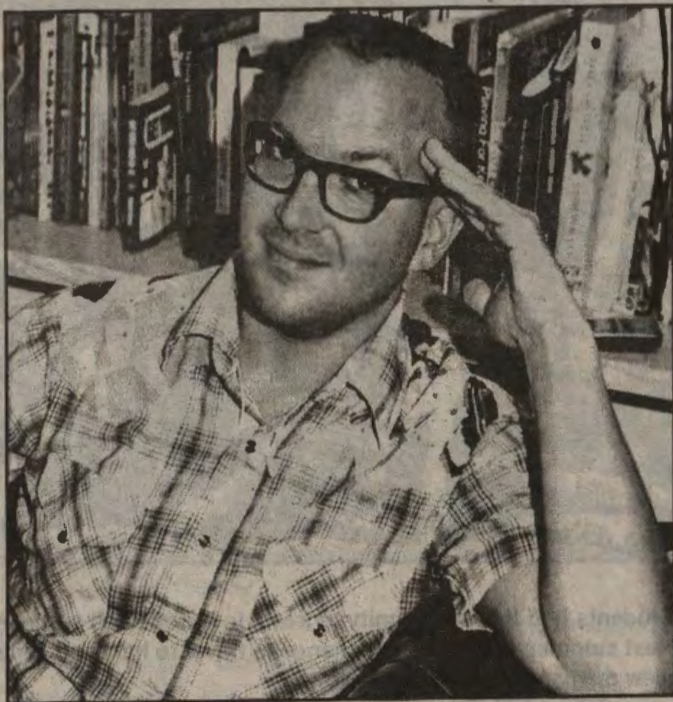


Photo courtesy of Cory Doctorow

Science fiction author Cory Doctorow will visit and speak to classes and students interested in his new online gaming book, "For the Win."

"For the Win" was written for teenagers interested

in computers, online gaming, and social issues.

"[This book is] for teens and adults that like to be challenged in the way they think and are interested in science fiction, technology, and independent thinking," said publicist Karen Wadsworth.

Students will be able to submit questions for Doctorow to answer before he arrives.

"[Doctorow] likes engaging kids in discussions about technology and its place and effect on people," said Wadsworth.

Doctorow is going to be at Anderson's Bookshop in Naperville May 12 to sign copies of his books.

"For the Win" will be available on May 11 and the school will sell the book and give the money to Anderson's Bookshop.

There is more information about Doctorow on the LRC website.

Students strut down the aisle

By Carly Tubridy
Reporter

Wedding bells rang to congratulate a newly "married" couple in the annual mock wedding as a part of the family and consumer science department (FCS) showcase on April 8.

Seniors Carlos Perez and Amanda Winters wed at the ceremony. But at the ceremony the bridal party did not walk down the aisle to the traditional wedding march, instead they danced down the aisle to Chris Brown's "Forever."

"My favorite parts were getting my dress and veil on;

looking pretty, and dancing down the aisle with my mother," said Winters.

The bridal party started the night off with a skit on how the bride and groom met.

After the couple exchanged vows they cut their cake, and received toasts from the best man junior Jesse Short and maid of honor senior Jackie Salgado.

Winters' and the bridesmaids' dresses were either from the prom expo or donated from the House of Brides in Aurora.

"Donations helped a lot, so we didn't really have to pay for anything," said FCS teacher Patty Clifford.

The money that was raised from the event goes to the Skills USA scholarship. Seniors in Skills USA apply for the scholarship and after the event FCS teacher and Skills USA adviser Patti Kozlowski chooses the recipient.

"It's usually between \$500 and \$1000. It's not much, but at least it's something," said Kozlowski.

Foods 1 students and teacher Judy Harwood also helped to provide refreshments, however the event was completely student-run.

"I basically give them the framework, and they do the rest," said Kozlowski.

According to Clifford, three weeks of planning went into the event.

Also as a part of the showcase, a casual wear fashion show put on by clothing construction students, took place. The models sported everything from pajamas to spring dresses.

Child development students led the preschoolers in song.

"In child development they pick what they think the children will be comfortable with," said Kozlowski.

The children also played a parachute game with stuffed animals. The kids sat in a circle and used a parachute to toss animals into the air as the audience laughed and took pictures.

The final event before the big wedding was the formal wear fashion show put on by



Photo by Carly Tubridy

Seniors Amanda Winters and Carlos Perez prepare to say their wedding vows at the annual mock wedding, which also included a fashion show and cake raffle.

fashion technology construction students. The girls constructed advanced garments for the show.

Junior Daisy Fuentes showed off a rocker look of black skinny leg jeans, a purple satin top, black flowered vest, lace glove, and a hat to top it all off.

"The hardest part was putting the collar in because you really have to work with it," said Fuentes.

Also, sophomore Deirdre Hofman made a fitted floral dress, and sophomore Marianne Ulett made a black polo dress to wear.

Foods 2 students also made cakes that were raffled off throughout the wedding. The cakes ranged from a Red Bull can to a wii game system.

"A lot of time and patience and a lot of good ideas [went into the event]," said Winters.



Photos by Carly Tubridy
Juniors Hadama Thompson (left) and Daisy Fuentes strut their styles down the catwalk.

Immersion in Italian culture

By Sarah Berger
Center Spread Editor

Not only is Italy famous for its designer shoes and delicious pizza, but for its incredible works of art as well.

Students now have the opportunity to explore some of Italy's most profound art pieces in the summer European tour of June 2011.

The next meeting for the trip is May 27 at 7 p.m. in room 197.

This student-paid trip is not connected to any class, and is the perfect opportunity for any student of any grade level to experience the Italian culture and art.

"The trip focuses on two time periods; the ancient and renaissance. Some of the

highlights of the tour include the Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel," said trip coordinator Nick Caltagirone.

The trip costs around 4,000 dollars, but ultimately depends on the airline fares at the time.

"Students on the trip will be able to spend two nights in Venice, two in Tuscany, and three nights in Rome. Other main highlights of the trip include the Colosseum and Uffizi Museum.

Senior Chelsea Ross went on the trip last summer, and treasures the memories from her experience.

"The trip was so fun because you got the experience of walking around on your own and seeing the small towns and the famous things



Photo courtesy of Tammy Caltagirone

Students had the opportunity to travel to Europe last summer on the European history tour. Next summer, they have the chance to travel to Italy and experience the culture as well as view many famous pieces of art.

in Italy. My favorite part was staying in Montecatini, a town outside of Florence, and just walking around and knowing where everything was it was like I had lived

there forever," said Ross.

This trip is not only enjoyed by students, but by the chaperones too.

"All students interested in art and history of Italy would

enjoy the trip. It's a unique opportunity to experience a slice of a different country. Walking into a cathedral that could be 800 years old is awe-inspiring," said Caltagirone.



Photo courtesy of Peggy Peach

Seniors (from left) Tegan Cenja and Kelly Bertling, state representative Randy Ramey, seniors Jennifer Sanchez, Karen Montoya, and Jenny Ramirez met to discuss green service projects that can be implemented around the community.

Trip gives seniors a chance to share green service projects

By **Giuliana LaMantia**
Reporter

Students from Cooperative Work Training classes (CWT) had the chance to present their sustainability and community service projects at Career and Technical Education (CTE) Legislative Day in Springfield on March 23.

Legislative Day took place in the Capitol, where seniors Jennifer Sanchez, Karen Montoya, Tegan Cenja, Kelly Bertling, and Jenny Ramirez met to present their projects, "Going Green While Doing Good," to state representatives and senators, including representatives Mike Fortner and Randy Ramey.

"It's a way to publicize and inform our state reps about the things students learn in CTE classes," said Peggy Peach, who teaches CWT classes.

The goal of "Going Green

While Doing Good" was for students to explore career pathways while helping the environment and local community.

The first project presented was "Selling Sustainability," in which the marketing career cluster students sold stainless steel water bottles at school. According to Peach, this helped the environment by reducing waste of plastic water bottles, and helped others since all profits went to Northwest DuPage Food Pantry.

In another project, "3R's Squared," students interested in the education and training career cluster created a lesson that they presented to a religious education class of younger students, informing them about the importance of taking care of the earth and how to make eco-friendly choices.

For the project "Solar Swimming," students consid-

ering careers in manufacturing/installation researched the feasibility and cost benefit of installing solar panels to heat the local community pool.

They contacted the West Chicago Park District recommending the installation on solar panels, which is healthier for the earth, and saves money for the park district and taxpayers by using renewable energy.

"Green Journalism" involved students writing an article to promote awareness on environmental concerns, which appeared in "Winfield Stuff."

Other attendees of Legislative Day included students from Technology Center of DuPage and other community colleges.

"CTE Legislative Day was an opportunity for some of the other schools to showcase or highlight some of their special projects," said Peach.

Strong showing

FBLA steals 9 of the top spots in state competition

By **Liz Ramos**
Reporter

Nine students placed out of the 16 that competed at state for Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) recently.

Sophomore Anthony Venen came in fifth place for computer applications and sophomores Alex Marano and Justin Olson placed seventh in desktop publishing. Juniors Tim Kotche, Curtis Hajec, and Brandon Fischer placed eighth in global business. Sophomore Brandon Danial came in ninth in introduction to business. Juniors Matt Rayos and Luis Guzman came in tenth in business ethics.

"Computer applications and desktop publishing were the strongest events in the competitions. Scantron test taking categories seemed to be the weakest point in the

competition," said adviser Maria Wirth.

Students picked the categories they competed in.

"I think I did well. I could have done better if I didn't drop out of the desktop publishing class," said Marano.

The competition was March 26-27 at the Decatur Hotel and Conference Center in Decatur.

"Going to state teaches members to act in a business manner, meet new FBLA members throughout the state of Illinois, and learn more about what FBLA is truly about," said Wirth.

Senior Courtney Vargas competed in word processing 2 where she typed letters and took a written test.

"I think I did well. I know for sure that I could have done better. I could have studied a lot more," said Vargas.

Kotche, Marano, and FBLA chapter president senior Matt Matson competed at previous state competitions.

"It was an awesome time and I am going back every year," said Marano.



Photo courtesy of Maria Wirth

Sophomores Justin Olson (left) and Alex Marano show off their awards at the Northern Area Conference. They moved on to place at state.

Students inspired by creative writing conference

By **Ahmad Zaidi**
Reporter

Junior and senior English students went to the overnight Tongue & Ink Conference at Wesleyan University on March 26 and 27 to show off their writing skills.

"It's a really good place for students to network and be in a competitive environment and have fun at the same time," said English teacher Amanda Cordes. "It's not for competition, it's just for fun."

Seniors Steven Duda, Tony Wondolowski, and Jacob Wucka, and juniors Brandon Castillo, Nicole Clark, and



Photo courtesy of Amanda Cordes

At the Tongue and Ink Conference, (from front) senior Jacob Wucka, junior Nathan Leffler, and senior Steven Duda practice creative writing techniques.

Nathan Leffler went to the fellow English teacher Tara conference with Cordes and Deleon.

"It's good for getting over personal fears of performing in front of a crowd," said Deleon.

Students brought writing they wrote in class, such as poems and stories and attended workshops where they received advice from professors and practiced writing.

"The conference was absolutely amazing, I will definitely go back in the years to come," said Clark. "The memories made there were priceless and golden. I've learned a lot about poetry, which not only extend my own, but helped find new ways to inspire my writing."

One night, the students at-

tended a poetry slam where students performed pieces of poetry they brought from class and other entertainment, such as beat-boxing.

"The poetry slam was held the night that we arrived, and was full of laughter," said Clark. "Me and a few of the other members from our group performed some of our pieces we brought to the conference."

This was the first time the students went to the overnight conference.

"The opportunity of the T & I conference was an amazing experience," said Clark. "I have found new ways to write my own poetry."

Relay against cancer *Teams raise thousands to fund cancer research*

By David Garcia
Reporter

It's another year, another night, and another hope for the West Chicago Warrenville Relay for Life.

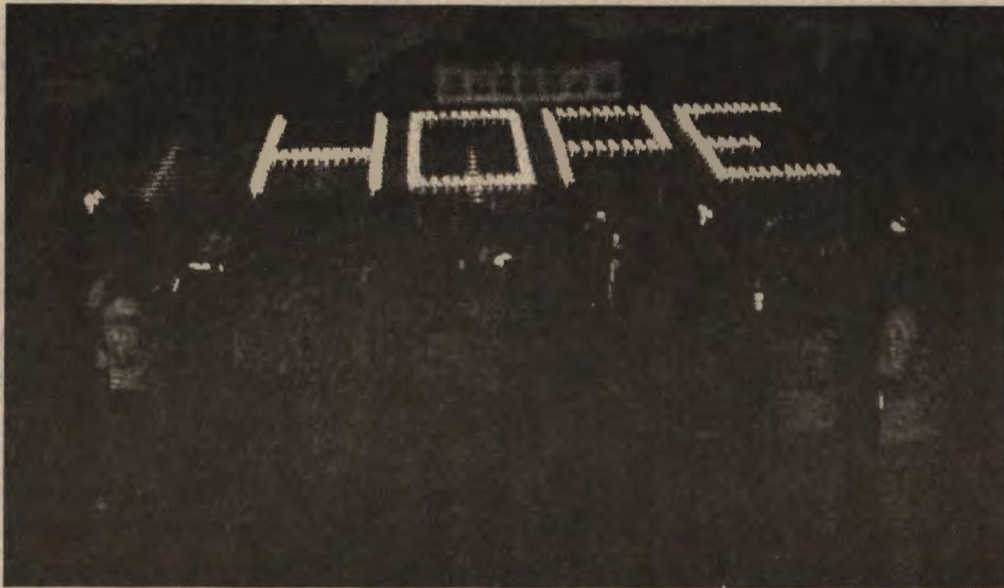
Every year the local community pairs up with the American Cancer Society to organize the biggest single charity event in the world, Relay for Life.

"[Relay for Life] is an event that is celebrated world wide," said event coordinator Rita Berger of the event's size.

The West Chicago relay is only one of many that is occurring in DuPage county. Eighteen relays are in the 60185 area code alone.

Due to the events size, and new activities the relay will be held at DuPage Airport, 2700 International Drive, West Chicago.

The relay will begin on May 22 at 6 p.m. and end May 23



The 2009 relay was held at the football field. This year it will be at the DuPage Airport.

Photo courtesy of Steph Kuecker

at 6 a.m.

The relay consists of an all night walk around a circular track, to symbolize the constant march of cancer; small events like luminaries; and fund raising on and off the track.

The 45 teams that are currently signed up for the relay

each had to make sure that they had 15 members per group and an adult to chaperone any youth groups.

This year, students like senior Liz Fortner are working hard to make this years Relay for Life theme 'One More Birthday...The Gift of a Lifetime,' reality through their

donations.

"My grandfather has lung cancer, but because he's in an experimental treatment plan, he's already doing much better," said Fortner. "We can still go out to lunch with him."

Junior Andrea Siefert is participating in relay as well

and is motivated by the fact that so many people have been impacted by cancer.

"Basically, cancer is all around us. Everyone knows someone who's been affected," said Siefert. "Every little bit helps, and everyone can help a little bit."

One of the main goals of Relay for Life is to gather funds for cancer research that can improve the quality and length of another's life.

Each person on a team had to have an initial donation of \$100. The West Chicago Warrenville Relay has a goal of \$73,000 and \$67,500 brought in by the 45 current teams puts it well on its way.

Student Council has raised over \$1,000 so far. The rest of the money will have to be made up from the small fundraising events that will be held on the track during the relay. Teams will be looking for donations up to the day of Relay.

St. Mary's set to close doors

After 88 years, staff is sad to say goodbye

By Liz Ramos
Reporter

After 88 years St. Mary's Catholic School is shutting its doors.

"Everyone was very saddened. St. Mary's school has been around for a long time and served as the center of the West Chicago Catholic community," said principal Nancy Coughlan.

After 9/11, the enrollment at St. Mary's dropped which affected the budgets, the enrollment has been unsteady ever since.

There was a drop in 154 students since the previous year in the preschool through eighth grade school.

"With the rising cost of today's economy it's hard for people to afford Catholic school education. Some choose to go to public school since they're already paying for it in their taxes," said Coughlan.

Parents might choose to send their children to the neighboring Rockford Di-

ocese but with the longer trip many are choosing to go to public school because they take the Dist. 93 bus route to school.

Students' parents were the ones to break the news to the students, according to Coughlan.

"Parents found out before on the radio and the Internet," said Coughlan. Hearing the news brought tears to parents, students, and staff.

"Young students didn't understand what was happening," said Coughlan. "Seventh and eighth graders are upset that they're not going to be able to graduate at the school that they love."

Seventh graders were upset that they wouldn't be able to do the certain activities that would have been available to them as eighth graders.

"Many students and staff were optimistic about the 2010-'11 school year. The mayor of West Chicago said St. Mary's is a piece of town history," said Coughlan.

June 4 will be the last day for students but the process of officially closing the school will go further for teachers, secretaries, and Coughlan.



Photo courtesy of Patti Kozlowski

Seniors Angela Gentile (left) and Emily Tullipano show off part of their entry in the SkillsUSA state competition.

Three SkillsUSA members ready to move on to nationals

By Giuliana LaMantia
Reporter

Skills USA had a successful state competition, with many members placing in events, and three members moving onto nationals.

"We did very, very well," said adviser Patti Kozlowski. "We had a great time."

State took place in Springfield April 15, 16, and 17.

First place winners included senior Peter Rubino in essays and sophomore Jeffrey Pekosh in related technical math. Pekosh, sophomore Chelsea Madsen, and Junior Mayuri Parmar are moving on to Nationals.

Not only did members of Skills USA compete at state, according to Kozlowski, they learned about business, business attire, elevator etiquette, and bonded more as a team.

An inspirational speaker spoke to the attendees about getting out of something what you put into it, and helped their attitude going into the competitions.

There was also a pie-in-the-face fundraiser to help raise money for state officers.

The three state officers elected were Parmar, juniors-Mehak Damini, and sophomore Steven Celmer.

"I think they did fantastic," Kozlowski said. "They all

felt that they really did their best."

According to Kozlowski, placing anywhere in the top 10 in an event at state is excellent.

"I was shocked with technical related math, because we've never placed in that, and we got first," said Kozlowski.

Competitors were also successful in events they've never done before, including web design and preschool teaching assistant bulletin, in which they came in second place.

The National competition will be in Kansas City, Mo. on June 21-25.

Getting ready for a night in Rome

By Ahmad Zaidi
Reporter

Students can go on a journey to Rome for prom on April 30.

Uperclassmen are looking forward to having a great time at prom, which is themed "A Night in Rome."

"This year I'm looking forward to all my friends at prom and just dancing and having a fun night with my date," junior Kathy Fletcher said.

However, fun comes with a price.

"I spent \$200 on my prom dress for this year," said senior Annette Eichenberger.

Prom tickets cost \$55.

Coming to prom with an eye-catching ride is expensive. Limo's can range from \$100 to \$500, depending on how many people you share with and what type of limo is rented.

After prom tickets are \$15.

The after-party is going to be at Funway Entertainment Center in Batavia. Students can roller skate, bowl, and play mini-golf.

To get to Funway after prom, there will be transportation from Drury Lane or from the school. Once students enter Funway, they will not be allowed to leave.

Prom goers will find a menu change.

"This year's prom is going to be a little different because there'll be a more buffet-style dinner," said Eric Lasky, Student Council adviser. "In the past dinners, students sat down and didn't touch the food because it 'wasn't appetizing.' I think they're going to enjoy the dinner more this year."

Some people did not like the dinner; others enjoyed the meal.

"Last year's dinner was very filling and I loved the flavoring," said Eichenberger. "The chicken was delicious!"

Prom runs from 7-11 p.m. and after prom will go from 11 p.m.-3 a.m.



Photo by Jacob Wucka

Prom court member Junior Joe Wais flaunts his prom attire at the annual fashion show during advisory hours.

Helping Chile warm up

Key Club project aids earthquake relief by collecting winter clothing from students

By Ahmad Zaidi
Reporter

Devastation hit Chile with an 8.8 magnitude earthquake that destroyed people's houses.

Help came rushing over from Key Club who collected winter clothing for the Chil-

ean refugees.

"There weren't a lot of people killed in Chile's earthquake compared to Haiti, but a lot of homes were destroyed, and people are living without shelter," said Ward Rau, Key Club adviser.

Key Club collected items in commons April 15 to 17 to

help the refugees.

"Because Chile is in the southern hemisphere, they are going to enter winter and we are just leaving winter," said Rau. "They will need the winter clothes to survive the cold weather, and we can help because we won't need warm clothes for a long time."

Key Club tried to collect almost anything people had to offer.

"We need anything that the student body has given us," said Key Club leader Shelby Copple. "The roads were the most devastated, so the civilians cannot go to the grocery store to buy food, water, and other necessities, so the basics, really."

Key Club took the donations to the drop-off site at First Baptist Church of Wheaton.

The Bright Hope Organization then took the donations to Chile.

"Although this is a Christian organization, the effort is focused specifically on humanitarian aid, not necessarily religion," said Rau.

Copple believes that the media focus has been on Haiti, and helping Chile should be just as important to students.

"I think that it is a great way to support Chile in their time of crisis," said Copple. "The 24/7 media exposure of the earthquake in Haiti has exhausted so many students, doing this fundraiser for Chile will give a new focus to the student body."

NHS spends break building homes

By Jake Hageman
Reporter

Habitat for Humanity goes brick by brick, nail by nail and two by four to get the job done.

Chaperoned by National Honor Society (NHS) adviser and math teacher Kristina Mallon and math teacher Lynn Peto, Habitat's members were able to complete three out of four houses' interior touch-ups in Mobile, Ala. during spring break.

"This was our third trip," said Mallon, "and we were instructed to finish the interior of the houses. We actually e-mailed Habitat International to be directed to the area that needed the most work. So they sent us to Alabama."

They traveled to Alabama on March 27 and returned on



Photo courtesy of Kelly Loftus

Senior Brad Cole works on a house for Habitat for Humanity as part of a spring break trip.

April 4.

Students attending were NHS members and seniors Nick Hawco, Brad Cole, Caitie Sekema, Tanya Star-

key, Kelly Loftus, Kelsey Skogsberg, Madeline Warkins and Danielle McAvoy.

"Our job was to finish up each house and get it ready,"

said Hawco. "We did a lot of painting, caulking and replacing tiles. We didn't get a chance to build a house, but our main job was tying up the

loose ends."

The teachers and students had to work eight-hour days in order to finish the work needed on the houses.

"It was a good time, and I was glad that I got to go," said Cole. "[The intensity] varied...I was given more physical labor like digging holes and filling trenches."

McAvoy believes that it was a memorable event.

"It was a really good experience and a lot of fun," said McAvoy, "something that I'll remember forever."

Overall, Mallon believes that the students enjoyed the trip and plans on doing more Habitat work in the future.

"All eight of the kids asked to go back this summer," said Mallon, "and on top of that we're going back during spring break [of 2011]."

Our View

Defending the rights of soldiers

"Semper fi fags."

These three words were held up by protestors on a laminated poster outside the funeral of Lance Cpl. Matthew Snyder on a morning in early March 2006.

Semper fi, meaning "always faithful," and also the motto of the Marine Corps, stood for Matthew's life. He was faithful to the country he lived and died for.

These protestors, however, stood outside his ceremony and made a mockery of his life.

This group belongs to a "church," the name of which will be withheld out of plain decency and repudiation of publicizing them, and their backwards cause.

This "church," which is made up of family members from Kansas, travel to stand outside military funerals holding these signs, and shouting these vulgarities at the grieving families.

Their reasoning for these protests: Soldiers defend a nation that is tolerant of homosexuality, therefore when a soldier dies this "church" sees it as their duty to honor God by condemning the soldiers at their services.

In response to the protestors outside his son's funeral shouting "thank God for dead soldiers," Matthew's father, Albert, sued this group, and won.

However, the decision was appealed, and on April 1, overturned. To make matters worse the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals ordered Albert to pay this "church"

\$16,000 in legal damages.

This decision is a huge slap in the face for not only everyone that has ever served in the military, or lost someone in combat, but to every single American.

It also showcases a flagrant flaw in our society; a flaw that now has acknowledged what our nation needs to decide: When does free speech become hate speech?

The Supreme Court has agreed to hear this case, and many Americans are left wondering where our progressive court stands, and if it will defend those that have stood in the line of fire protecting the free speech rights of all Americans, including those that protest at their funerals.

As Americans, we should be repulsed by the actions of this "church." But no action has been taken on our behalf against this brand of hate.

We need to finally establish what the Supreme Court will be deciding: When does free speech cross a line, and can we restrict this right?

We need to make a law banning these types of protests at military funerals and become more aware as a nation of these ideologies and these debates need to be in the national discussion more.

Regardless of your personal views concerning current military actions in the Middle East, you should be aware that what this "church" is doing is beyond disgusting.

We need to finally say "You can't do that" and not worry about violating the Constitutional rights



of those that abuse it.

We need to finally say if "God hates the U.S.," another one of their signature signs, then why don't you leave?

Let's have our soldiers defend the rights of those that actually deserve it.

More money for improvement

Dusty lockers, missing and water stained tiles in the ceiling, and door handles coming off are just a few problems the school is facing.

A quick walk around the building reveals many problems.

In the field house, the girls track team spotted a mouse during one practice.

Drinking fountains either don't let out enough water or they let out too much water.

Some of them don't even work or the water is too warm or tastes disgusting.

Bathrooms are gross but the fact that the doors don't always close or have locks makes it even worse. Bathrooms also have graffiti in the stalls.

Some students have to go to the attendance office because their lockers are jammed. Then they're late for

class and don't have what they need. After the locker is fixed it ends up being jammed again.

Lockers are dented in and bent out of shape. Windows that are broken are barely fixed.

Insulation is peeling off pipes in some places.

The building obviously has problems that need to be taken care of so why aren't they doing more to fix these problems? The administration has spent \$150,000 for improvements but it's apparent that this is not enough.

If the money saved for capital improvement is not going to be utilized more then it should go towards the budget. The school needs to do more about these problems.

Most schools would be lucky to have the money to make repairs. So if we do, then why not do more?

Recognizing diversity

Every 10 years Americans must define who they are through the census.

The census is used to determine ethnic diversity and dispersion, average income, population, birth rate and other aspects in American society. However, race has always been one of the most controversial issues about the census.

On www.stanforddaily.com, Matthew Snipp, professor at Stanford University and director of the Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity program, said information gathered about racial ethnicity is used to guard civil rights and determine whether or not congressional districts have been racially redrawing electoral districts to gain an electoral advantage for a political party.

In the past, ethnicity choices have only included whole race options such as African American, Cauca-

sian or Hispanic with no gray areas in between.

But the most controversial debate about this year's census is the addition of the mixed race option.

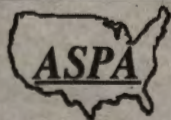
And while some feel it is a negative change, it actually should be embraced.

In today's world, more and more Americans are from more than one ethnic background. And it's these people who have been confused about what race to identify themselves as.

These questions can finally be put to rest with the addition of the mixed race box. Perhaps someday the options will be even more in-depth so that Americans will truly be able to define who they feel they are.

Either way, the decision to place the alternative on the 2010 census shows the government is starting to realize what many Americans have known for awhile; that this country isn't just black and white.

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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@d94.org or delivered to room 319 before or after school.

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School week showdown

Should schools have a five-day week or four-day week?

Allows students more time for other activities

Keyuri Parmar
Reporter

More time to do homework, more sleep throughout the week, and saving the school money can all be achieved with a four-day school week.

And these perks could become a reality for Illinois students if the Senate approves the bill the Illinois House already passed.

If the bill is passed school boards will have the option to have a four-day school week.

The biggest advantage to the school's budget is using less money towards buses according to www.iu.edu. Not having to pay for buses once every week could save school money that can be used for more important academic related activities like tutoring or ACT prep classes.

By the time Friday comes around students are exhausted, which distracts them from staying focused in class. With a four-day school week, students would get to sleep in three days a week instead of two.

Also getting one day off would be one more day to do homework. Students fall behind on homework throughout the week when they have a lot going on.

Athletes may have many games or meets during the week and don't have enough time to do their homework.

A lot of extracurricular activities take place on Friday nights and not having school on that day would help students do well in those activities.

Athletes would do much better by sleeping

in and having a healthy breakfast on the day of a competition.

Not having school and relaxing that day would help the athletes do better in their sport.

The day off from school can still be put towards academics. Schools could offer tutoring on the day students

would be able to work on Fridays.

Most students would rather hang out with their family and friends on Friday and Saturday nights. And not getting the time to be with their family and friends because they are employed is not fair to them.

This would also help

Cuts into students' learning time

Carly Tubridy
Reporter

At first glance, a four-day school week looks great, but the disadvantages end up outweighing the positives.

Over 100 districts in 17 states currently use the four-day system according to npr.org and now Illinois lawmakers are

wander and kids will not reap the benefits from the time meant to make up for the lost day.

Teachers are also concerned with students' achievement with the four-day plan.

A longer school day would affect achievement because a longer school day means sports

Thursday. Attendance rates would become crucial. Students will need to be there every day because each day counts.

Unfortunately, you can't help when you get sick and even missing one day could set a student back. Quickly students and teachers will see a four-day week turn into a two or three-day week.

School will turn into a place where you just do what you have to do to pass and then forget all of it after you take the test.

According to principalpartnership.com special education students may also have retention issues.

Adding an additional setback to special education students, or any student for that matter, is unacceptable.

Making school more difficult on children is not what legislators should be looking to do; they should be looking to encourage and help students to learn.

The next problem comes in with day care, which is not cheap these days. The parents of elementary school children will have to find day care for Fridays which will cost them time and money.

It's not fair to the children's families to pass on the financial burden to them.

Hooray! The school is saving money, oh wait, now the students have none. That doesn't make sense.

Overall, the four-day school week may be saving money, but it will cost the students' their education.



don't have school.

According to www.usm.maine.edu the extra day when students aren't at school can also be used for staff development, parent teacher conferences, enrichment activities, and student support.

Students could take advantage of the offer and bring up their grades in their classes.

Honors students could help out and get community service hours.

Many upperclassmen have part-time jobs and it is hard to juggle a job and go to school. Instead of coming home from school and rushing to work right after, students

relieve stress. Could you imagine going to school and working all the time and not having time to yourself?

Also many students do community service for National Honor Society (NHS), for college applications, or to just help out. Students struggle to find time to do community service.

Having a day off would give students plenty of time to do community service.

All the advantages of a four-day school week sound like a positive to everyone. Hope for a four-day week in the future.

considering it.

The idea is that it will save money on transportation and utility bills. Unfortunately, that will also make the school day much longer.

"[School days are] about an hour more a day, about an hour and 10 minutes in most cases, over the traditional school day," said senior school finance analyst for the Education Commission of the States, Mike Griffith, in an interview with NPR News.

The school day is already challenging enough for some students to stay awake. Imagine if the day got longer. Minds will

practices and games get pushed back. With sports being pushed back, athletes will have less time to study and do homework.

There also comes the problem of scheduling games against teams that continue on a five-day week.

Kids that work won't have the time to study because that hour or so before their shift started that they would have normally used to do homework is no longer there.

The extra day off would make it more difficult on Monday to remember the topics that the students learned on

Students Face Off

Compiled by Yasmyn McGee

Should we have a four-day or five-day school week?



Freshman

Ryan Weier

"Four-day because I'd get a three-day weekend and less school."



Senior

Annette Eichenberger

"Five-day because people would still procrastinate over the weekend."



Sophomore

Jessica Quinn

"Four-day weeks because there's more time to hang with friends and relax."



Junior

Joe Wais

"Five-day because I like having summer vacation for three months."

*all statistics from www.digitalbuzzblog.com

400
MILLION USERS ON FACEBOOK

50%
OF USERS LOG-ON
TO FACEBOOK EVERY DAY

THERE'S AN
IT'S SAFE TO SAY THAT
OFFICIALLY GONE VIRAL, BUT
BAD THING? HAVE WE R
OVERU

PRESS FAST-FORWARD

NOW PLAYING
MEGAN HERNBROTH
"FUTURE GENERATION"

With the latest gadget from Apple or the newest version of Facebook, students seem to be well-connected to a lot of technology. Some believe, however, that having so much technology at their fingertips will do more harm than good.

"I think technology has affected the students in a positive and negative way," said english teacher David Jennings. "I think it is positive because I think the students are very tech-savvy and everything comes to them intuitively."

However tech-savvy students may be, Jennings has noticed the "addiction" students have to technology such as social-networking and cell phones.

"High school students seem incapable of not being connected to technology for six and a half hours a day," said Jennings.

Not all students see the dark side of technology.

"[Technology] has made us take part in a lot more communication," said junior Maggie Tikka. "You always have someone to talk to between Facebook and texting."

Even though technology provides lines for communication, Tikka sees the effects technology has on relationships.

"[Technology] can be good for relationships with your friends or a boyfriend, but it can be really bad for the relationship with your family because you be-

come distracted from them," said Tikka.

The effects of technology, according to Jennings, may not be pleasant for current students.

"I think, in four or five years, their generation will struggle with 'tech addiction,'" said Jennings.

Senior Kyle Loftus does not think a future with "tech addiction" exists for him.

"Some people won't be able to get away from technology," said Loftus, "but others, like me, will be able to get away and still be okay. I think the overall benefits of technology outweigh the bad effects."

Another obstacle for students will be job availability because of the rise of technology.

"[Technology] has always changed labor and employment," said English teacher Ronnie de Vries. "More and more machines replace human beings. There will be fewer jobs available and more poverty and unemployment."

In his personal life, de Vries acknowledged the influence of technology in his interactions with others.

"I'm more fascinated with the gadgets and gizmos on my iPod than with the people around me," said de Vries. "Acceptable communication used to involve eye contact with people, but now you have people with Bluetooths that look like cyborgs on the street."

LOGGED-OFF AND LEFT OUT:
A WEEKEND WITHOUT TECHNOLOGY

By Sarah Berger
Center Spread Editor

I knew it was going to be a challenge. I mean, a weekend without Facebook or my cell phone was like a weekend of being exiled to an island. As much as I liked to think that I didn't have to rely on cell phones or the Internet to make my life feel fulfilled, this weekend changed that.

The task was simple. I was not allowed to log-on to Facebook or use my cell phone for an entire weekend,

Friday after school until Sunday. It was all for the sake of journalism, so I could experience first-hand what life really would be like without the amount of technology I was used to. What I discovered, though, was that life wasn't just challenging without a cell phone or Facebook, it was impossible.

After school on Friday I already started bending the rules. I thought, "Well, I'll just log on to Facebook one last time to clean up my notifications and change my sta-

tus." Of course, I spent more than five minutes on the site, and instead found myself mindlessly looking through the site for about an hour.

I was not off to a good start.

Now, the main problem for me was that I had no weekend plans. I rely on my cell phone to keep myself connected to my friends, since the majority of them go to different schools. It's not like I can see them at school and solidify where we were going on the weekend. It takes a lot of tex-

ting, messaging, and IMing in order to get a big group of us together for a night of fun. And now, my only chances of a social life were turned-off and logged-out.

So, I spent the night shopping with my mom. Nothing like a little retail therapy. This experiment was already slowly killing my social life.

Saturday and Sunday were far less painful, considering the fact that I had work almost all day both days.

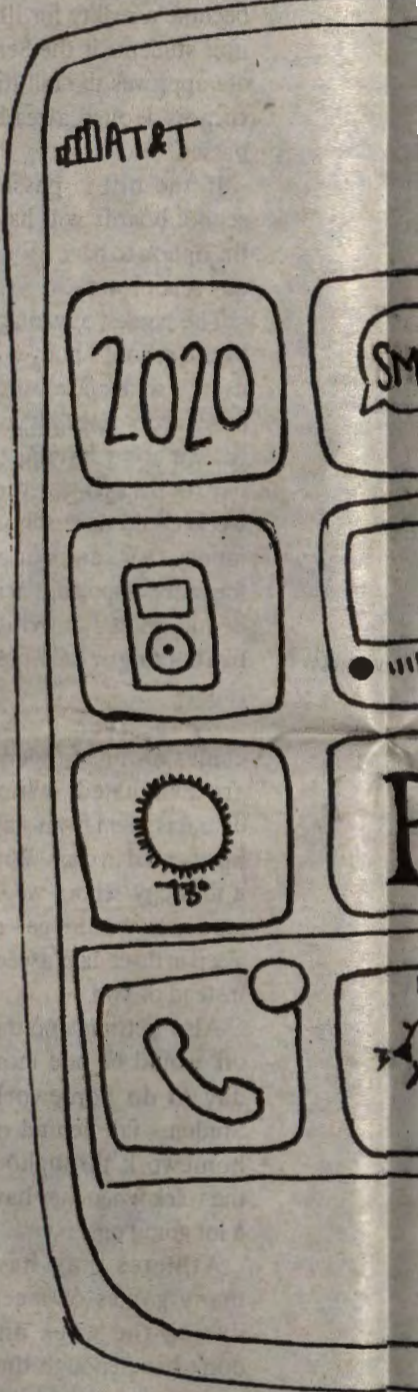
I kept myself busy, at my part-time job and actually

followed the rules for the first time by not sneaking a text between customers or chatting on the phone in the freezer.

It was torture watching my co-workers text away their boredom while I swept the same floor six times. I have to admit, without my phone I was able to get my work done faster and therefore got home faster. I tried extremely hard to forget about technology. I cruised around in my car trying to enjoy the beautiful day (and burned a half hour worth of gas in the process). I cleaned the bathroom, read a chapter of a book, and had lunch with my dad. I was try-

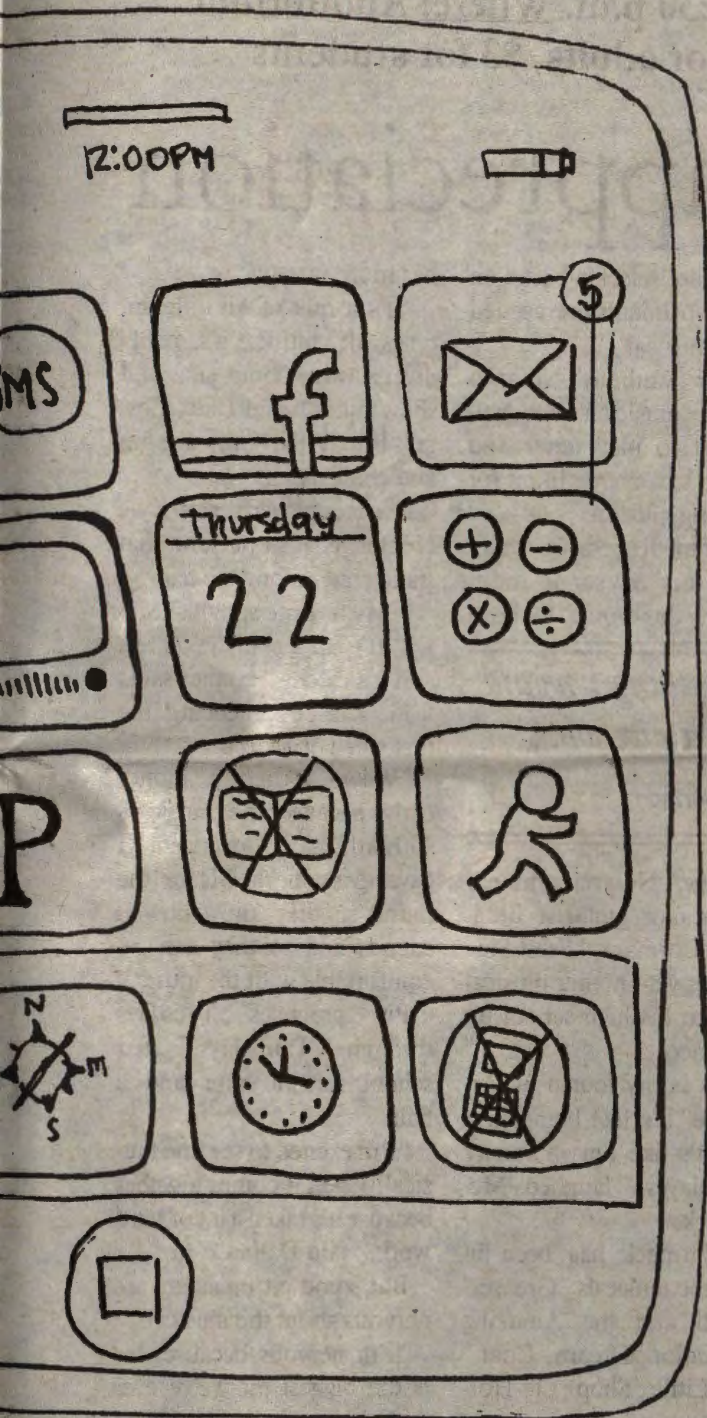
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APP FOR THAT

THIS GENERATION HAS
IT IS THAT A GOOD THING OR
REACHED TECHNOLOGY
LOAD?



3
BILLION PHOTOS UPLOADED
TO FACEBOOK EACH MONTH

60
MILLION STATUS-UPDATES
ON FACEBOOK EVERY DAY

NOW PLAYING ALEXIS HOSTICKA

“BOOKS GO TECH”

Technology is invading the book industry. With multiple devices that have e-book applications, e-books made up 2 percent of all books sold in 2009, according to www.nyt.com. As an English teacher, Jason Kling spends much of his time reading, but doesn't think that the new technology is for him. “I don't see any problems with books,” said Kling. “They're portable, don't break, and there's just something I like about a book.” Tech-savvy readers can choose between the Amazon Kindle, the Samsung Ereader E60, the Apple iPad, or the Nook from Barnes and Noble as well as a few other devices.

On each device, users can purchase books that are priced at about \$10 a book.

Junior Haley Soutar is an avid reader, in school and out, and thinks that the prices for the e-books are pretty good, and would love to have one of her own.

“Compared to buying real books, I think it's reasonable,” said Soutar. “I really want one because they're easier to carry and easier to change books by just going online instead of carrying multiple thick books.”

Several hundred free e-books are available for download due to the fact that no one owns the copyrights any longer.

Users can also purchase subscriptions to newspapers or magazines on some of the devices, including the Kindle, which has 118 choices. Amazon charges between \$5.99 and \$14.99 per month or week, depending on the publication schedule of the newspaper or magazine.

The devices also include a few extras. On the Kindle, users have 3G and access to Wikipedia, and on the Ereader 360, users have free WiFi.

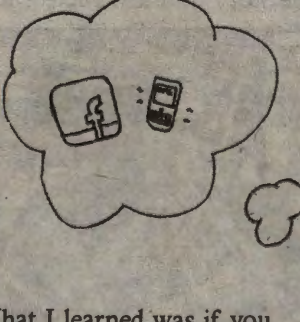
The price on each device ranges from \$259 for both the Kindle and the Nook to \$499 for the iPad.

PRESS PAUSE II

ool myself into think-
I didn't need technol-
order to have a good

so, I have to admit, I
It was before work on
y, and I just *had* to tell
m date I had found
fect dress. Oh, and I
I to ask my best friend
he did last night.
o mention, I just *had*
my other best friend
e were doing the rest
weekend.
e I knew it, I was in
pase mode. I was tex-
a storm, chatting on
ok, and I finally felt at
gain. Yes, I had failed
eriment.

What I learned was if you
even want somewhat of a
social life these days, a cell
phone or a Facebook are a
must.
Technology-addicted teens,
like myself, also feel a sense
of loss and emptiness with-
out their phones or Face-
book, and the entire weekend
I couldn't shake the feeling
that I was being left out of
something, simply because I
didn't know exactly what my



friends were doing every sec-
ond of the day.
I know that feeling is prob-
ably extremely unhealthy, but
it's the way my generation
grew up.
By the time we were 12
we were begging our parents
to let us have a MySpace. It
has been etched in our brains
that we need to always be
connected to each other, via
phone or computer.
Those two days that I
wasn't connected to anybody
outside of my family were
the two hardest days of my
life. Okay, I'm exaggerating a
little bit, but they were really
hard.
I had work, homework,

and shopping to do, but the
fact that my cell phone was
off distracted me so much
that living a normal life was
impossible.
I'm not saying that on the
weekends I sit on the comput-
er for hours on end, I'm only
saying that Facebook and cell
phones help shape my social
life by giving me the power
to be in constant contact with
my friends. Even if I had to
tie tin cans together in or-
der to be able to talk to my
friends, I would.
Indeed, the day the Internet
dies or the cell phone towers
collapse will be a dark day for
technology-addicted teenag-
ers everywhere.

Behind the scenes at

WEST SIDE STORY

When: May 13-15, 7:30 p.m. **Where:** Auditorium

Ticket Cost: \$5 for adults, \$3 for students

Dressing the part

By Carly Tubridy
Reporter

Setting the scene for "West Side Story" cannot be done by set design and acting alone. Dressing the part is also key in transporting the audience to the 1950's.



to find modest

costumes Photo by Carly Tubridy to dress Senior Amy Ratliff the cast

was not easy for the crew and their adviser Maggie Haas.

"It's not like today, like how much skin can you show? It was more modest back then," said Haas.

In previous shows like "Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat," the crew made a lot of the costumes but was forced to scale back this year.

The crew is renting a lot of the costumes that will be used but they are planning on making some shawls that are needed.

Since it's the last show of the year, the budget for is running out and the crew has to look to alternate sources for funding.

"[The hardest part is] being financially restricted," said senior Amy Ratliff.

When trying to stay in the budget sophomore Bailey Jagusch asked companies to lend fences for one of the scenes.

"I asked to borrow a fence and they laughed at me and they hung up on me," said Jagusch.

The crew is not discouraged though and enjoys find-

ing inexpensive items.

"It's fun trying to find cheap things though, like we went to St. Vincent's and found things to use," said Ratliff.

They also found some dresses at the prom expo that they plan on modifying and using for the show.

"It's cool because we get to support the Education Foundation and get the dresses we needed," said Haas.

For the Shark girls' costumes, the crew is renting full skirts because they do a lot of dancing and they have more to move around with. The Jet girls' costumes will be the dresses that they bought from the prom expo.

"The Shark girls' [costumes] are cool because they need really big, fluffy skirts," said sophomore Hannah Martin

The crew will be renting jackets with 'Sharks' and 'Jets' on the back for the boys which will be paired with jeans or khakis.

Makeup is also a part of crew but stage makeup is different from regular makeup. The makeup is thicker, so when the actors sweat, their makeup doesn't come off.

"It doesn't matter if you're a guy or a girl, you're wearing makeup," said Haas.

The lights used for shows make actors look pale and creates the necessity for all the cast to wear at least foundation to keep them from looking like ghosts, Haas said. The makeup also helps accentuate facial expressions on stage.

The crew plans on keeping the makeup simple to agree with the time period the musical is set in. The crew doesn't always do the cast's makeup for every performance but they are "an extra set of eyes to make sure everything is right" according to Haas.

"We're going to put forth the effort we always do, which is 110 percent," said Haas.

Musical appreciation

By Kristina Manibo
Entertainment Editor

Because of the difficulty of the music pit has to perform for "West Side Story," it is necessary to remind the musicians that their work is not going unnoticed.

"Have I told you guys I love you?" Govertsen joked

It's tough music beyond anything I would have picked. They're doing a nice job...

- Pit director Steve Govertsen

during "West Side Story" pit practice.

Pit director Steve Govertsen understands the hard work pit has done handling the difficult music for "West Side Story."

Govertsen said that he tries to make sure the pieces of music are as close to the original pieces as possible, which is demanding for the high school musicians.

"We try not to edit the music, but if we have to, we change it here and there," said Govertsen. "It's tough music beyond anything I would have picked. They're doing a nice job with it. At the pace we're going, it's okay for where we are."

Even if changes are made, "West Side Story" music is unusual compared to other musicals.

"['West Side Story'] music is harder than regular band music because the rhythms and key signatures are different," said sophomore clarinet player Laura Dalla Costa. "I like this music because it's well-known instead of music people haven't heard of."

Dalla Costa initially joined pit because not enough clarinet players volunteered to play for the musical.

Any student can join pit, but according to Govertsen, he takes volunteers first, and

the rest are selected based on what instruments are needed for the musical.

Junior Anthony Nolzco was one musician who volunteered to play tenor and soprano saxophone in pit for the spring musical.

"[I joined] because saxophones are awesome and I knew it was going to be a

has more variety.

"It's a mix of all different types of music; it's really diverse with some jazz and show tunes," said Dalla Costa. "But all the songs are fun and challenging."

Clarinet player senior Kyle Hunter recalls one song that stands out among the rest.

"[My favorite song] is 'Maria.' It's got a really good feel and it's catchy," Hunter said.

Pit started practicing the first week of March.

"We've started a month early because the music is so hard," said Govertsen. "I gave everyone a CD of the music so they know how it sounds and so they can get comfortable with the music."

Pit practices Tuesdays through Thursdays after school for an hour and a half.

"I'm excited to see [the musical] when it comes together because it's taken a lot of hard work," said Dalla Costa.

But some pit members are nervous about the musical.

"I'm nervous because this is the biggest pit we've ever had. It's a challenge just to get everything together," said McCormack.



Photo by Kristina Manibo

Senior Erin Lee (front) and juniors Dani Keller (middle) and Joe Wais practice in pit for the upcoming musical, "West Side Story."

Generating a new wave of emotions

By Yasmyn McGee
Perspectives Editor

Students hope to generate a wave of emotions to the audience in this year's production of "West Side Story."

Play director and English teacher Mary Hafertepe said that this will be one of the most difficult plays she has directed.

"I think it's a huge project and it has the most difficult music I have ever worked with in any play I've done," said Hafertepe. "For example, spoken lines come on top of music and [actors] have to hit them at just the right notes that they hear, so it's a real challenge. I think, though, we've got the group ready to do it."

Lead roles include senior Anna Duran and junior Nik Kmiecik who play Maria and Tony.

"It's about a fa-

mous love, a great romance with two rival gangs battling it out," said Kmiecik.

"One [person] from each gang loves the other. It's a beautiful piece off of Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet.'"

But Kmiecik said one challenge that he faced this year was the difference between this year's play and last year's play "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat," where Kmiecik played Joseph.

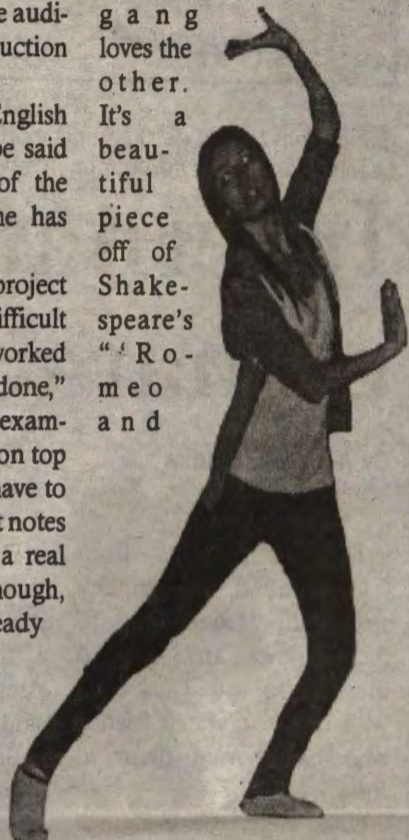
"I never actually acted before on stage. Last year in 'Joseph' [it] was just singing so this is my chance to act and dance," Kmiecik said. "And working with such a big group is a little bit different. It's just a lot of talented people trying to figure it all out together."

However, Duran is sure that the audience will enjoy the effort put in from the actors. "The audience can expect to be blown away by the music and touched by the emotion of it all [through] the lyrics and dancing," Duran said. "It's the type of musical that creates a big wave of emotion."

"West Side Story" is Hafertepe's last director's job as she is retiring after 28 years of teaching here. "There have been a couple times when it caught up to me and I felt some emotion, but mostly I'm just worried about getting it all done so I don't think about it too often," said Hafertepe. Despite, the tremendous effort that goes into making the production Hafertepe admits she will miss directing the plays. "It really is mentally stimulating," Hafertepe said. "It's almost nonstop problem-solving and, while that's highly exasperating, I know I'll miss that and the students a lot."

Besides the extensive acting and music elements of the play, choreography also greatly contributes to the production. Choreographer Devin Vassar said that there will be dance styles including jazz, ballet and modern. "But I think [the audience] will be pleasantly surprised," said Vassar. "There's a lot of hidden talent so it should be really good; I'm excited."

Vassar is trying to find the perfect balance with making the dance moves fall into sync with the unique music. "The different variations of music have been challenging and adapting to those different styles takes a lot of work but it keeps it exciting too," Vassar said. Junior Tori Snell can also attest to the obstacles the actors have faced but said she is enjoying the learning experience that it entails. "Right now it's kind of confusing because Devin changed some of the moves for [my dance] but so far it's been interesting learning how they danced back then," said Snell.



Junior Tori Snell

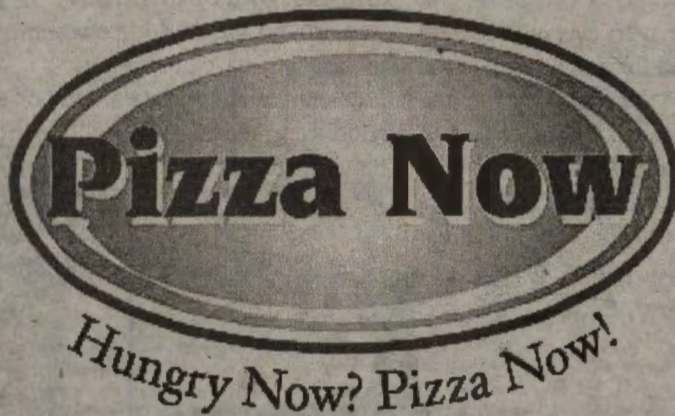


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France, firsthand

Two Chronicle reporters share stories from an exchange trip

By Sarah Berger
Center Spread Editor
Helene Sankovitch
Reporter

Twenty-one French students had the opportunity to travel to Grenoble and Paris, France from March 24 to April 5. Two Chronicle reporters share their adventures abroad.

Day 1

We always knew that there was a world much bigger than West Chicago, but we never expected that world to be so different from our own.

As we walked into Grenoble, France for the first time, the scenery was breathtaking. We were surrounded by quaint cafés and looming mountains. This was France, and we knew that this trip would be the highlight of our lives so far.

As our hosts greeted us with bisous, which is a quick kiss on each cheek, we felt instantly at home. Almost at once, the culture shock set in. Still jet-lagged, we forced our eyes open so we could watch as the city transformed from day to night; revealing a whole new scene before our eyes.

Teenagers everywhere were dressed for a night out on the town, the majority of the girls dressed head to toe in black and the boys dressed as if they had stolen the clothes right off the Ralph Lauren models. Music blasted

from several discotheques, and restaurants were filled with people munching on quiches and sipping late-night coffees.

It was as if the city never slept, and everyone was out to play. Indeed, this trip would be an adventure.

Day 5

Our time in Grenoble passed much too fast, and we knew the relationships we made would last much longer than our short time here.

After attending the French high school for a few days, West Chicago suddenly didn't look so bad after all. Their school had bare walls, minimal lighting, and absolutely no decorations. There was no school mascot, sports teams, or clubs. The bathrooms, if they could even be considered rooms, were simply a drain in the floor and a wall separating the drains. Now that was something we could not handle.

Whenever an American would mention that our mascot was a wildcat, the French teens would make jokes and references to 'High School Musical.'

What we discovered was even though they lived half-way around the world, teens in France have the same problems and priorities as American teens. We will never forget the times we all danced to Lady

Gaga and LMFAO, despite the language barrier, or the times they would constantly ask us, "Do you like Obama? Well, do you?"

In the end, we had made life-long friends and discovered a new love for escargot!

Day 9

Paris. It's the place everybody dreams of traveling to sometime in their lives, and we were there.

Although it was much dirtier than we expected, it still had that air of French elegance that we had been craving. Cafés lined the sidewalks, and people everywhere had flocked to these cafés to just sit, talk, and breathe. Everyone would put everything on hold to enjoy each other's company and remember the small things in life, which is something Americans often forget.

Our days in Paris were spent touring the entire city. We had seen everything from the sparkling Eiffel Tower to Easter mass at Notre Dame, and it was everything we had hoped for and more. Easter at Notre Dame was incredible. Although the mass was in French, the stained glass windows and organ music was enough to capture our attention for the service.

After several blisters and swollen feet, we had covered most of Paris.

Who can resist the beauty of a foreign country and that smell of crepes in the air?



Photo courtesy of Tom Harms

Senior Tom Harms (left) and his exchange student Markus Lesch joke around during Lesch's two-week stay.

International camaraderie

By Alexis Hosticka
News Editor

different classes each day," said Lesch. "It is more boring here."

Thirteen students from Gunzenhausen, Germany said "auf wiedersehen" to their homes and traveled overseas to spend 17 days with their American friends who had hosted them in June.

Despite that, Lesch says that he would rather live in the U.S. than Germany.

"America has better streets, people; it just looks better," said Lesch.

Besides traveling to Chicago, the exchange students

Once here, the exchange students traveled to Chicago and enjoyed many of the typical tourist



sights. The visit lasted from March 21 to April 7.

"Chicago is a nice city with lots of nice big buildings," said exchange student Julian Baals. "My favorite [places] were Millennium Park and Navy Pier."

Compared to students in Germany, fast food is more popular with people in the U.S.

"I liked the food that my host parents made, but not the fast food," said exchange student Markus Lesch.

Baals enjoyed the variety of food that the U.S. has to offer.

"There is not really Mexican food [in Germany]," Baals said. "It is very spicy!"

German teacher Jane Rodziewicz said that compared to Germany, there are many more extracurricular activities connected to schools in the U.S. Lesch, however, likes school better in Germany.

"In Germany, you go to

also enjoyed hanging out with their hosts.

"My favorite thing we did was set off model rockets," said Baals.

Host and senior Kyle Wolf enjoyed his time with Baals.

"I think [the most fun we had] was when we went to a bonfire," said Wolf. "We had a bunch of German kids and American students and it was just a lot of fun."

Wolf stayed with Baals when he traveled to Germany over the summer, and it was a nice opportunity for Wolf to reconnect with his friend.

"We didn't stay in touch that much between the summer and now, but I think now we will," said Wolf.

Wolf would love to go to Germany again, just like the German students would like to visit the U.S. again.

"It was really hard to say good-bye," said Wolf.

The next time the German exchange students come will be in spring 2012.



Juniors, reporters Helene Sankovitch (left) and Sarah Berger enjoy their 10 days in France.

Photos courtesy of Sarah Berger and Helene Sankovitch

If you want to know what is "in," head to the cafeteria and watch for these trends. And for those heading to prom, see what stores are selling.

5 trends to watch

Compiled by Kristina Manibo, Entertainment Editor and Yasmyr McGee, Perspectives Editor

Cartoons make a comeback

Students add a little fun and silliness into their day by sporting juvenile cartoon and superhero backpacks.

Recently, students have carried the backpacks reminiscent to those worn by elementary students inspired from cartoon characters like Hello Kitty to superheroes like Batman.

Senior Jeff Robinson, who carries a Rocket Power backpack, could care less that his backpack isn't the typical high



school student's backpack and wears it proudly.

"I carry this backpack because I found it in my house from when I was little and still thought it looked cool," Robinson said. "People started liking it so I stuck with it."

Robinson also feels the trend has had a positive impact on students.

"I've seen a lot of kids with superhero backpacks so I do think [the trend] is catching on," said Robinson. "It makes things more fun around here."

Environmentally friendly

Say goodbye to those old plastic water bottles and hello to the trendy aluminum bottles making their way to the water fountains.

Freshmen Katie Yackey and Valerie Schroeder use colorful aluminum water bottles at school.

The aluminum bottles come in different colors and patterns and keep liquids cold.

"I had one at home so I started using mine because it's cool and cheaper," Schroeder



said.

Schroeder doesn't just use her water bottle at school.

"The aluminum water bottles are eco-friendly," said Schroeder. "I use it everyday at home too instead of glasses."

Yackey is also hopeful that other students will continue to use the aluminum bottles instead of plastic water bottles.

"I hope it continues [to be a trend] so people won't waste money," said Yackey. "Buying water everyday is expensive."

Homemade hobby

Tennis and charm bracelets aren't the only accessories donning students' arms of late. One bracelet trend catching on is hemp.

Hemp is derived from the cannabis plant that students can use to make creative bracelets.

Students can also use thread, yarn or similar fabrics to mimic the originals. For junior Cara Stompor, who's been making bracelets since she was 8 years old, the hobby

helps her to express herself.

"I like doing them because they're a creative outlet," said Stompor. "I like doing all kinds

of different designs."

She feels that the trend may be short-lived though.

"It's kind of a stage you go through, like a style but it

will probably die down in a little while," Stompor said. "But I'm not going to stop doing them."



Goodbye paper bags

What was once seen in just elementary school cafeterias is making a comeback in commons.

Lunch boxes made of metal, plastic, or soft material are coming out again.

Sophomore Emily Warkins brings a metal Harry Potter lunch box to school everyday.



they come in different colors and patterns. Some also feature cartoon characters or bands like The Ramones.

"They come in really cool designs. I bought mine because of the fact that it's Harry Potter," smiled Warkins.

Although the lunch boxes save money and look better than paper bags, they

do have a flaw.

"It's kind of a hassle to carry around," said Warkins. "It doesn't fit in my backpack."

Despite that, lunch boxes will "be a trend for a long time, especially if people want to be more green," said Warkins.

Bright colors return for prom



Reporter Alexis Hosticka models a long one-shoulder dress.

Color: Pastels are out this year. Bright colors and dark hues of black and gray are in.

Design: Mostly strapless, one-shoulder, or halters. Long dresses are skinny and form-fitting, while short dresses go skinny from the waist up with a bubble bottom. Long dresses are accentuated with beads and open in the back with a lot of detail.

Fabric: Satin fabric is in, but some dresses also come in chiffon. Beading is accentuated along the top of the dress and on the back.



The short bubble dress trend, modeled by reporter Kristina Manibo.

Muggles discover the wizarding world

The Harry Potter theme park shows a glimpse of true magic

By Jacob Wucka
Editor in Chief

Universal Studios in Orlando may soon find itself with an influx of eager Muggles clamoring to be the first to visit the new "Wizarding World of Harry Potter" theme park.

"It's like all of our dreams are coming to real life," said senior Jon Smagacz.

Although not opening until June 18, students are already excited to visit the theme park, which contains a full scale version of the town of Hogsmeade, and the Hogwarts castle, satisfying the imaginations of Potter fans everywhere.

"We get to visit Hogwarts, Hogsmeade, drink butterbeer, and visit all the shops we've read about," said senior Matt Matson.

In Hogsmeade, park patrons can visit a variety of stores like Honeydukes, Olivander's, and Zonko's Joke Shop.

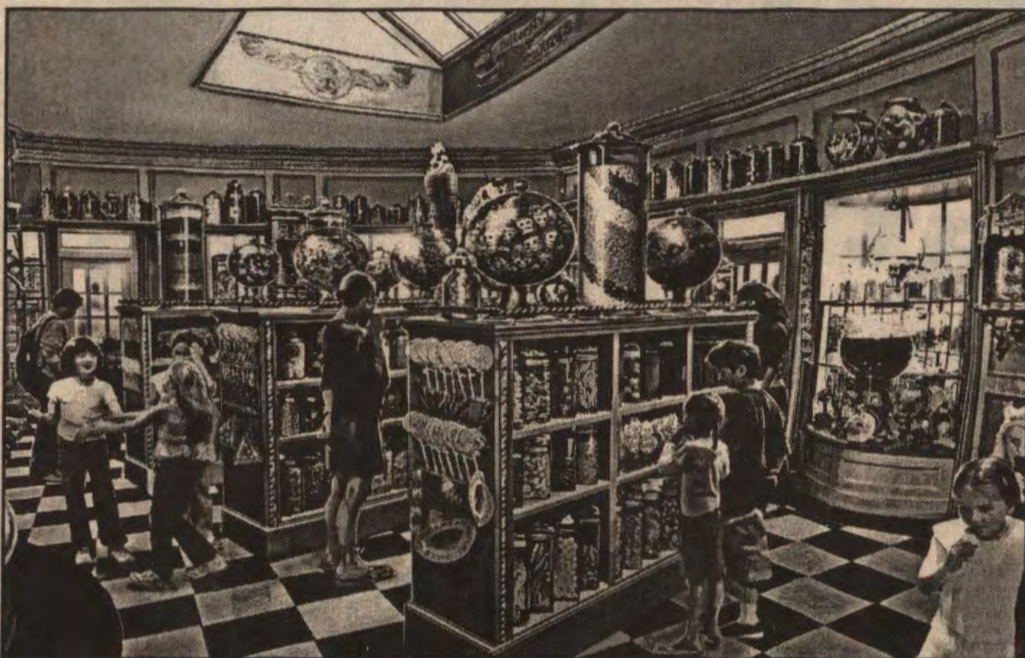
Every store in the theme

park's Hogsmeade has been mentioned in the book series.

"If you read the books, it's like you've already been there," said Smagacz. "When this comes out, it's like we

"I've read all the books three times and I've seen Harry Potter grow from a boy to a man," said Matson.

Along with the stores, there are plenty of rides, including



Courtesy of © 2010 Universal Orlando Resort. All Rights Reserved.

The theme park features the candy store, Honeydukes, from the Harry Potter series.

finally can go see the places we've read about."

Matson agrees, yearning to experience what he has read about numerous times.

one where patrons are allowed to ride the Hippogriff from the third book.

Senior Madeline Warkins, who plans on visiting the

park this summer is looking forward to more than just the rides.

In particular, she is excited about partaking in one of Harry Potter's favorite pastimes.

"I'm really excited to go on all of the rides but I'm also excited to play Quidditch," said Warkins.

the bravest characters in the book," said Warkins. "He's funny too."

Smagacz will have fun getting not only himself, but his friends, into character.

"[I would like to be] Remus Lupin because he is really smart, and he's a werewolf so that's cool," said Smagacz.

Matson, although compared to Rubeus Hagrid by Smagacz because of similar facial hair, knows who he wants to resemble when he goes to the park.

"I would have to pick Ron [for who I am most like]. I'm that faithful friend that would never let go of my best friends," said Matson. "And I have a thing for Hermione. She's hot."

Although having no definite plans, Warkins is fine with just enjoying being immersed in Harry Potter's world.

"I would probably be able to spend the whole day there with Matt, pretending we're British, and pretending we're wizards," said Warkins.

Smagacz's imagination runs wild in eager anticipation.

"Maybe they'll give us robes," Smagacz exclaimed.

A brand new sound

By Helene Sankovitch
Reporter

Recently lining the shelves of music stores, MGMT's second album "Congratulations" delivers their highly anticipated, neo-psychedelic style that is sure to be a hit with the indie crowd.

Although less energetic and funky than its previous albums, "Climbing to New Lows" and "Oracular

It's difficult to describe anything by MGMT as a disappointment, but don't expect any songs to be similar to their earlier singles, "Electric Feel" and "Kids." Their single "Flash Delirium" for the new album is much less pop and more electro-rock.

Lyrics like, 'But I've got someone to make reports... To book my stays and draw my blinds, so I can't see what's really there, and all I

Smooth voice won't cut it

By Liz Ramos
Reporter

Usher's new album "Raymond vs. Raymond" brings new beats but the same old sex references bring it down.

"Raymond vs. Raymond" was inspired by his failed marriage and divorce to Tameka Foster-Raymond.

Usher's smooth voice wraps around every lyric in songs like "Papers," "There Goes My Baby," and "Hey Daddy."

The songs "OMG" featuring Will.I.Am and "She Don't Know" featuring Ludacris, provides the signature upbeat tempo Usher typically provides.

Usher's soft and smooth voice is a key point in the songs that brings his screaming fans to love him.

But with the upbeat tempo some of the tracks on "Raymond vs. Raymond" can be dull and boring.

Songs about sex, breaking up or falling in love, or repeating the same lyrics for the whole song clog the album.

In some songs like "Papers" the lyrics are repeated over and over again for the

entire song, which makes it boring.

Sex references become annoying and are used too much in the album.

Listening to each song and hearing sex reference after sex reference is a turn off.

Another turn off is the overuse of robotics in the songs "Monster" and "Mars vs. Venus."

Listeners can't tell whether Usher will actually sing or if the song is just going to be a robotic song with no purpose.

In Usher's last album, "Here I Stand," there were more genres than in "Raymond vs. Raymond," which makes "Here I Stand" a better album.

Another difference is that "Raymond vs. Raymond" has more featured artists including Ludacris, Will.I.Am., T.I., and Nicki Minaj than in the past album "Here I Stand."

The featured artists add rapping and more sex references to the songs, but they add a little bit of their own style making them different and better than Usher's past songs.

The creativity is lacking in "Raymond vs. Raymond" as most artists write about the same subjects that Usher does.

Overall, "Raymond vs. Raymond" is a mediocre album with overused sex references.



Courtesy of © 2010 Sony Music Entertainment. All Rights Reserved.

Spectacular," MGMT continues to entertain with uncanny lyrics and music style that can't compare to other bands. Their combination of late-60's psychedelic rock mixed with today's technology makes "Congratulations" different than previous albums.

need's a great big congratulations,' poke fun at the corporate and celebrity world, giving a sarcastic feel, perfect for rebellious teenagers.

No other band matches up to MGMT's distinctive sound, and the new album will be a great addition to anyone's iPod.



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Spring Season

Coming out on top: *Team pursues wins though stuck in losing streak*

By Kaitlyn Sladek
Reporter

The varsity baseball season has started off well, but their winning streak has started to fade.

Currently, they have a record of 6-7.

6-7

"We started off hot but we're starting to cool off," said varsity co-captain and senior Al Robbins.

Senior and varsity co-captain Matt Ackerman agrees.

"It's a slump we've got to get out of," said Ackerman.

This year's team is still playing exceptionally well, despite their current losses.

"I have to say at this point they have exceeded my expectations," said head varsity coach and business teacher Dan McCarthy.

The juniors are doing espe-

cially well too.

According to McCarthy, juniors Dane Sauer and Jerrick Habecker are both hitting over 400 for their first varsity season.

"You can expect that from seniors but from juniors it's great to see," said McCarthy.

McCarthy is thoroughly impressed with Habecker's pitching, saying it is exceptional.

"Jerrick pitched a complete game victory over Plainfield North High School, [which is] currently 7-1 with its only loss to Wego," said McCarthy. "They are a very good team."

Habecker appreciates his coach's approval.

"I feel I'm doing well, but I think I can be doing better [and] get on base more," said Habecker.

Sauer believes that the team can improve as well.

"We've had several losses in a row that we can't pick

up," said Sauer.

Still McCarthy hopes that his seniors, and Robbins, can continue to lead the team to

success.

"Al Robbins has gotten off to a great start from a hitting and a defensive position,"

said McCarthy.

The boys will have their next game on Monday at Glenbard North.



Photo by Kaitlyn Sladek

Senior Kevin Peterson readies for a catch at the home game on Monday.

On the right path to success *Girls aspire to upset conference challengers this season*

By Jacob Wucka
Editor in Chief

Although maintaining a decent record, softball has plans to continue to upset the competition through more practice, and building on their physical and mental game.

"We're getting there. We get closer and closer each time," said head coach Emily Johnson. "We need to work on less mental errors, wanting the ball, and making those big plays."

Currently, the girls have a record of 12-5. Results from Wednesday's game against Glenbard East were not available as of press time.

Johnson has noticed that despite the team's wins, there are still some aspects the girls need to focus on.

"They need to not clam up [when under pressure] and they need to work on staying upbeat and being loud on the bench," said Johnson. "We still have more to do. We are an all around better team than last year. We're physically better, but mentally we're not there yet."

Senior captain Kaity Olson



Photo by Jacob Wucka

Although tired as the game draws to a close, junior Mary Connolly keeps up the momentum, by launching the ball.

agrees.

"Our biggest strength is keeping our heads in the game, but we could improve on being positive. We can't let up and let ourselves get the best of us," said Olson.

Junior and pitcher Mary Connolly finds support in her

catcher, Olson.

"I put all my focus on Kaity. We get into a tag-team mode," said Connolly.

Although the team has an

12-5

average record right now, Johnson is confident in her girls' abilities to pull an upset this season.

"We would rather be under the radar and come back from there," said Johnson.

On Friday, the girls will face off at Glenbard North.

Team held back by challenges

By Sam Young
Reporter

With a positive attitude, boys tennis is excited to win.

"We have a lot of good talent from the few people we have," said sophomore Zac Michnick.

Results from Tuesday's match were not available as of press time. The team played on Monday against Streamwood and won 4-1. On April 17, they played in the WeGo Quad against Montini, South Elgin, and Lisle.

"It went okay, but disappointing. One player didn't show up, so it messed up the whole day," said coach Sione Moeaki.

The team took fourth, Lisle third, Montini second, and South Elgin first.

The match on April 12 against Oswego was a loss 2-4, but Moeaki again was thinking positively.

"Our singles teams played better this time, but our doubles teams are still struggling," said Moeaki. "Each day [at practice] we improve [though]."

They play Glenbard East at home on Thursday.

Spring Season

Success in rain or shine

Boys, girls competing to achieve outdoor wins

By Megan Hernbroth
Features Editor

After ending the indoor season with success at state, both girls and boys track continue their momentum into outdoor season.

GIRLS

With the first state champion in 10 years, girls track found motivation for the remaining outdoor season.

"I think Annette ran very, very well," said head coach Bob Maxson. "We both went in confident that she could win. She had the fastest time for the 800m in indoor, and she credited the win to harder training."

On March 27, senior Annette Eichenberger became the first state champion in almost 10 years. Eichenberger won the 800 open with a time of 2:16 and competed on the 4x800 relay team that did not place.

"I knew that if I could run that time I could win," said Eichenberger. "I ran with the girls for most of the race and kicked it up a notch on the last lap."

The team's first home meet was against Naperville Central on Tuesday, but results were not available as of press time.

"We did all right," said junior Stephanie Lambert, who competed in long jump, triple jump, and relays.

At the Plainfield North Relay meet on April 10, the girls scored point in long jump, triple jump, pole vault, shot put, 4x200 relay, and the 4x100 relay. They

also broke the meet record with the 4x800 relay consisting of seniors Tanya Starkey, Eichenberger, junior Meghan Nichol, and sophomore Kelsey Sayner.

"The team did well," said Maxson, "but I think the sprinters and field events get the credit for a great meet. The relay meets favor sprinters and field events."

The team's first outdoor meet against Glenbard East and Wheaton Warrenville South on April 7 was cancelled due to poor weather.

BOYS

After building strength in the indoor season, boys track is looking to gain speed over the outdoor season.

"We finished indoor on a high," said head coach Paul McLeland. "We have the momentum rolling."

Senior Matt Kubik competed in pole vault at the state meet at Illinois Wesleyan University on March 27, and ended up winning sixth place.

"I would say Matt Kubik is our MVP right now," said McLeland. "He does pole vault and relays, so he's fast as well."

The team ran against Naperville Central on Tuesday, but results were not available as of press time.

At the Geneva Invite on Saturday, the varsity team placed fourth many individual places. The 4x800 relay took first with seniors Mike Russo, Brent Smith, and juniors Gunnar Sterne and Derrik Pietrobon. Other first place finishes include junior Jeff Foreman in high jump

with a jump of 6'3" and senior Matt Kubik in the 100 sprint.

Pietrobon's second place finish in the 800 open, Foreman's fifth place finish in 110 hurdles, Kubik's second place finish in pole vault, Sterne's third place finish in the 1600, and Foreman's sixth place finish in the 300 hurdles rounded out the meet for the team.

"This meet really showed where our team is at," said Foreman. "It was our first really big invite for the outdoor season and there were a lot of good things about the meet. Some events should have been better but we all gave it 212 percent and did well."

Against Naperville North and West Aurora on April 13, Foreman took first in high jump and second in 110 hurdles. Other results were not recorded.

Warming up for the outdoor season, the team ran an inner-squad meet, where the varsity team competed against the junior varsity team to get times.

"I think if we have the right people on varsity, it will go well," said Foreman. "We're looking good for this season."

After competing at outdoor state last year, Foreman is setting his sights on a return trip to the state meet.

"I got off to a not-so-great start, but with the new schedule the coaches made for me, I should be back on track to doing well this season," said Foreman.



Photo by Carly Tubridy

Junior Justin Malandrucolo digs the ball at practice.

Cautious approach to challenging season

By Carly Tubridy
Reporter

Although injuries are plentiful this season, the boys volleyball team is persevering with the most updated record of 6-10.

"It's been kind of hard as far as our roster because

6-10

we've had people gone; people injured or on vacation," said coach Kris Hasty.

Sophomore Joey Martin, junior Rodger Plant, and now senior Anthony Hasbun have all been out due to injury.

"Our team has been fragmented and hasn't had time to practice," said Hasty.

With the absences, the team has yet to determine an official starting line up.

"I think it's hard, we don't really have a set starting line up and it's still early but it's hard to establish team cohe-

siveness," said Hasty.

The team has stayed competitive in most of their matches, winning their first DVC game against Wheaton North on April 6.

"It was the first time I saw them play with a lot of heart and enthusiasm," said Hasty.

The boys also had a tournament at St. Charles East on April 8-11. They took sixth place, winning against Plainfield and St. Charles East.

"We tried out new stuff [at the tournament] and at first it didn't work but people stepped up," said junior Leo Bartyzel who made all-tournament.

In two close games, the Wildcats defeated the Glenbard North at their first home match on April 13.

"Overall we played well for being a young team but we have a lot of things to fix before we are like a team from Wheaton Warrenville South," said sophomore Liam Flaherty.

Tournament ends with first place title

By Helene Sankovitch
Reporter

The weather and the varsity lacrosse team is warming up for the spring season, with almost four times the number of seniors playing.

"We're looking for a better season than last year. There are more experienced kids and it has been showing through tryouts," said coach Dave Pater.

Junior Darrek Sams agrees, and believes the team will work harder this year.

"We're going to be better than last year because we have a lot of returning experienced varsity members who

are willing to work hard," said Sams.

Finally playing its first game on the football field, as opposed to the middle school,

5-3

the team won 6-4 against Carl Sandburg High School.

"We were determined to win and show the school that we deserved to be on that field," said junior Jeremy Piane.

Schools from Wisconsin to Chicago played at the Sticks and Stones tournament Saturday and Sunday.

The Wildcats tied 5-5



Photo by Megan Hernbroth

Senior Brandon Rhodes throws the ball at the lacrosse team's first game at Memorial Stadium on April 15.

against Homewood Flossmoor High School, lost 6-5 to Neenah High School, lost 6-2 to Sun Prairie High School, and won 10-2 and 7-5 against Lane Tech High School and Marmion Academy.

"We played stronger as a team as the tournament went on, and no one could stop us when we got going," said junior RJ Kobriger.

With the season starting off well, the lacrosse team will continue to show their hard work.

"It was a long year last year with no wins, but I think with this new season we are erasing our old reputation," said Piane.



Photo by Jacob Wucka

Alumnus Andy Hein ('02) hugs head volleyball coach Kris Hasty after a wall honoring his success is unveiled in the athletic hallway. Inset, Hein signs sophomore Brian Baid's jersey.

Volleyball superstar returns

By Jacob Wucka
Editor in Chief

West Chicago has another athletic success story to boast about. At Friday's volleyball practice, the boys were greeted by one of head coach Kris Hasty's former players: A player that may soon find himself on the 2012 Olympic volleyball team.

"You can assume this is Andy, right?" joked Hasty, standing next to 6'11" Andy Hein ('02).

Wearing Hein's US National Team jersey, Hasty introduced him to applause and then told of his many successes.

"When he was with us, we went to state. At Pepperdine [University], he was All-American his junior and senior year, and his junior year Pepperdine was the Division 1 champion," said Hasty. "He's on the US National Team, and has a good shot to be in the 2012 Olympics."

Hein was then honored with a display in the athletic hallway under his All-Conference picture. Displayed is his national jersey, as well as pictures.

He then gave a pep talk to all volleyball levels, telling them what to expect at the college level.

"It was a learning experi-

ence. No one cares if you were a superstar in high school because everyone was a superstar in high school," said Hein.

Hein ended his visit by signing the boys' jerseys, shoes, and volleyballs, and by recalling the best moment he's had playing the sport he loves.

"The national championship was the best moment of my volleyball career," said Hein. "To go in and beat [UCLA] was the most satisfying thing I have ever done."

Still, there is one more task he wants to accomplish.

"Winning Olympic gold would top everything," said Hein.

Short season's lasting impact

By Kristina Manibo
Entertainment Editor

Badminton has come a long way in terms of consistency and improvement this season.

Head coach Nick Caltagirone believes all levels have progressed since the beginning of the season.

"Our freshmen in particular, and a number of JV members, have shown a lot of improvement. Varsity started at a different skill level, so we're looking for more consistency than improvement," said Caltagirone.

The DVC singles championship will take place on May 1 and the doubles championship will be on April 29.

There will be a home game Thursday against Naperville Central.



Photo by Kristina Manibo
Junior Marlene Rojas prepares to hit the birdie.

Senior captain Mariella Kruthoff knows exactly how to deal with the losses.

"Of course, you're always happy when you win, but when you lose you know you have to push yourself harder and to step up to the plate for next time," said Kruthoff. "You need to get up to DVC level because it's a hard conference."

Kruthoff's three years as captain are coming to an end.

"I love my team and my coaches and I'm really going to miss them. But I'm preparing the other captains for next year and they should be fine."

Before the season ends, Kruthoff plans on achieving a difficult yet possible goal.

"This season we're on a good track for sectionals," said Kruthoff.

Average record for mid-season

Team has to correct mistakes

By Keyuri Parmar
Reporter

Girls soccer is fixing their minor mistakes that will get them in the top three teams at DVC.

The team's record is currently 4-6-1.

"Our first few games were hard on us because we didn't get to fix our problems," said senior Anna Mercado. "We're fixing what we needed to fix at practice."

The team played Wheaton North on April 13 and lost in a double overtime.

The girls played Glenbard North on April 15 and won 3-2. On Saturday they played Hinsdale Central.

The team played Wheaton Academy on Wednesday, but results were not available as of press time.

"Soccer is about the mistakes because when the other team makes mistakes you have to take advantage of it, and we don't. So it turns into a double mistake," said coach Cesar Gomez.

Gomez wants the girls to limit their mistakes on the back field and take advantage of what the girls can do in the front of the field.

"We need to work on finishing, we can't win if we can't score," said junior Rachel Thomas. "It'll come though; it's still early in the season."

The girls still need to im-

prove on finishing.

"They are improving but a lot of the girls struggle with [finishing the game]," said Gomez. "It's about mental toughness and you can't do it without it. They are getting better every game."

Gomez is still hoping the girls will be in the top three at DVC.

"We work well when we keep it calm and pass to people's feet," said Thomas.

4-6-1

Some of the skills the girls have improved on are possession of the ball and communication, which are key elements in soccer.

"It's hard to tell if we have reached our goals yet because it's still early in the season," said Mercado.

The team is staying competitive by wanting to play for each other and working hard for each other.

"It's wonderful to watch the family atmosphere on the team," said Gomez. "The upperclassmen take care of the younger ones."

So far, the highlight of the season, for Gomez, has been beating Rolling Meadows with a score of 2-1 because it is a hard team to beat.

The girls will go against West Aurora, on Thursday, at 6:30 p.m. on the Memorial Stadium.

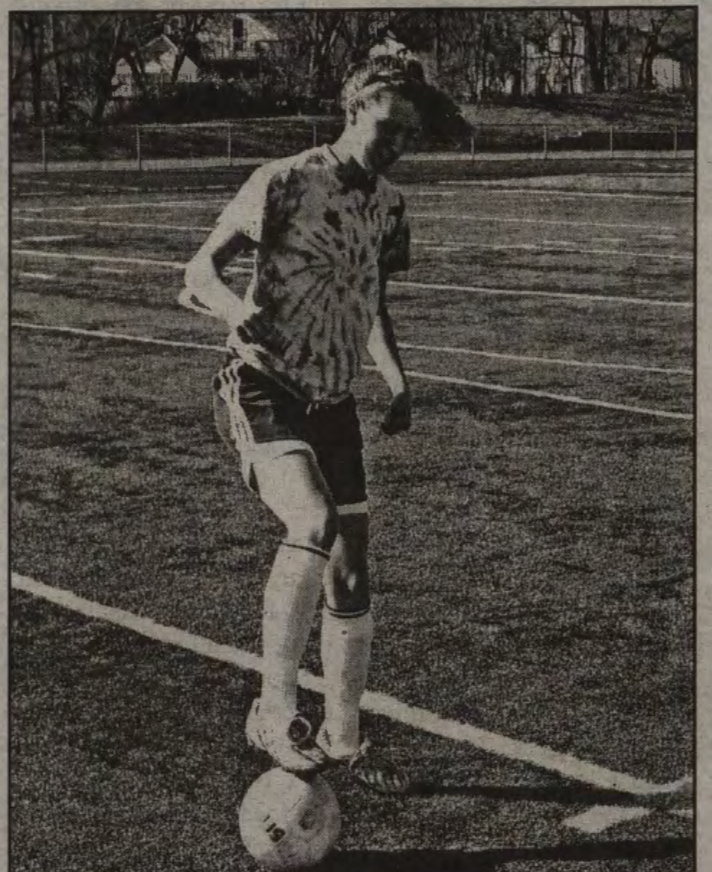


Photo by Jacob Wucka

Freshman varsity player Katie Becker warms up by practicing her dribbling technique.

Pain of the game

Female athletes cope with more injuries than males

By Megan Hernbroth
Features Editor

With 10 seconds left in the game, the girls charge down the field to make a goal. As the forward goes to take the shot, her knee gives out and she crumples on the field in pain.

This scenario is increasingly more

common as more and more girls are experiencing knee injuries due to overuse in sports.

With the introduction of Title IX, schools are required to offer the same amount of sports for boys and girls. However, boys and girls are built differently, and most girls' bodies are not made for the sports they play.

"One of the main reasons girls have more knee injuries is because

there are wider angles between the hips and the knees," said athletic trainer Barb Andrews.

"The angles

put more torque on the knees in girls. Boys are more straight through there. Also, girls don't land the same way and are not taught the same way to run."

Junior Amber Del Rio has been playing soccer since she was 5 years old and basketball since she was 11 years old.

When she was 10, she experienced her first injury in soccer.

"I developed Osgood-

Schlatters disease, which is where your quad muscle pulls against your kneecap and the tendon there. The tendon is attached to your shin and if you keep pulling it, it gets swollen and a bump forms just under your kneecap," said Del Rio. "They said it was common for young athletes."

Despite the pain, Del Rio continued to play both basketball and soccer.

"The pain went away on its own eventually," said Del Rio. "I still have the bump on my knee but it doesn't hurt."

Freshman year, basketball took its toll on Del Rio as well as soccer.

"I had tendonitis in my right knee," said Del Rio. "All I could do were the exercises the trainer told me to do and I had to wear a knee brace."

Another blow to Del Rio occurred in January, when she tore her meniscus because of basketball.

"I was really upset when they told me the surgery was the only way to fix it. Recovery was usually three to four months so that meant I'd be out for most of soccer, too," said Del Rio. "The doctors said it might cause arthritis when I'm older."

Because of her involvement in track, cross country, and basketball, senior Annette Eichenberger encountered the tough experience of sports injuries.

"I've had about six injuries from track and basketball," said Eichenberger.

"Freshman year, I had pain in my knees from basketball, and I had to wear a knee brace when I played."

Shortly after, Eichenberger experienced problems with her ankles.

"I twisted my ankle and sprained my ankle in basketball my sophomore year," said Eichenberger. "I had to wear a brace when I twisted my ankle."

Track contributed to Eichenberger's long list of injuries when she had arch problems in her foot.

But her most painful experience was when she injured the growth plates in her hips at the end of her sophomore

year.

"[The injury] was from being overworked," said Eichenberger. "The doctors can't really do anything for it; I just had to work out in the pool so there wasn't constant pounding on my hips. The injury lasted for three months, so I was really weak."

Both Del Rio and Eichenberger see the difference in female athletes compared to male athletes.

"It takes a lot more for girls to keep up with the boys," said Del Rio.

Eichenberger acknowledged the difference in training for boys and girls.

"I think the girls have to work harder to keep their bodies in-tune," said Eichenberger.

Both athletes do not regret joining their respective sports, even with years of injuries.

"[Injuries] always make me appreciate the sport I'm in," said Eichenberger. "They motivate me to do better and make me do strengthening exercises."

Del Rio focuses on her love of the sports she plays to forget about her injuries.

"I love sports and I know injuries are a part of it," said Del Rio. "In the end, they only made me stronger both physically and mentally."

Battle of the sexes

Title IX reform is necessary; repeal is a little bit ridiculous

I love being in government class.

And this is just a disclaimer to all underclassmen that will someday be sitting in this class: It's not that bad. You're warned of all the government horror stories involving all the work there is to do, all the debating, yelling, and deal-making. But that's why it's called government; it's not happy-happy-joy-joy, singing kumbaya around a fire. There's a lot of passion and intensity that goes into it, and that's what makes it fun.

What I particularly like about this class (besides checking Blackboard.com more than my Facebook) is listening to a person talk about something they know nothing about, which, not only am I guilty of, but many other people too.

However, what I truly enjoy more than listening to misguided speeches, is watching a person debate something that they are passionate about; something that affects them at a personal level.

One of those contentious debates is whether or not to repeal Title IX (pronounced nine, not I-X as I assume some people may have just read it as). Passed in 1972, Title IX is legislation that guarantees women equal protection in educational programs that receive federal assistance.

Although sports are not mentioned in the original text,



Jacob Wucka
Editor in Chief

Title IX has had the most outreaching effect on high school and collegiate athletics. In many instances, if female participation is down in a certain sport, then a male sport would have to be cut in order to keep the programs balanced for the genders, or giving equal opportunity.

Clearly this has its problems.

It's weird though. Being a registered Republican in government, there are clear issues that my party is united on, and others we are not. None of those debates are as divided as repealing Title IX. But it's not because of party beliefs, simply the division of those that support it and those that oppose it lies on gender. Every male athlete has spoken in support of repeal. Every female athlete, on the other hand, has stood in opposition.

Some of the arguments in support of getting rid include Title IX demoralizes male athletes. Some of the arguments in opposition say that female participation is up and Title IX encourages more female athletes. Where do I fall?

To cut a men's sport because there weren't enough playing the girls alternative is not fair, I realize that. But repealing the entire legislation because of that? There needs to be reform, that's a given. When this bill was initially drafted, it was not intended to have such an outstanding effect on athletics. It's an anti-discrimination bill created to make sure no one was being excluded for something they couldn't change.

It wasn't until the Carter Administration when the "completely equal or nothing" clause was added. Simple reforms, like repealing that clause, are needed. Regardless, schools should offer an equal amount of sports. If no girls try out for girl sport, then so be it. Don't deny males the right to play, but don't repeal the entire legislation.

An interesting tidbit I heard from a friend was this: In 1974, her mom went to this high school, and being that she's a female, she was denied from taking a woodshop class. When this high school finally implemented Title IX, she was able to take that woodshop class.

Everyone should have equal opportunities. Women shouldn't be discriminated against, nor should men be discriminated against. Just equal. Why's that such a hard concept to comprehend?