

# Academics on the Rys!



By Alex Ryser  
Editor-in-Chief

When traveling with the academic team, I have seen a variety of schools and their academic expectations. From schools with several AP courses, to those who are trying to start up one, graduation standards and academic expectations vary all over Illinois.

Recently, the Illinois State Senate passed a bill requiring high schools to increase graduation requirements over a period of time. Moline has already begun its scholastic renovations starting back in 2005 and continuing to 2008-09 school year.

Beginning in the 2005-06 school year, incoming freshmen were required to earn another credit in math raising the total necessary math requirements to three credits.

This year's current freshmen will be required to take two years of certain writing intensive courses selected by the school.

The following year, the class of 2011 will see another science credit added to the current one-year requirement. Finally, the 2008-09 freshmen will take four years of English in order to graduate.

Although the bill requested elevated standards, the school was already contemplating heightening expectations with some motivation of improving state test scores. From the current 21.5 required credits, the total could elevate to 23 or 24.

The primary reason for adding credits to the total is the school's desire to maintain its wide selection of elective courses in such departments as family and consumer sciences, fine arts, industrial arts, and business.

In addition to raising the bar for core classes, P.E. classes will now have bearing on students' grade point average.

However, the grades will have no bearing on class rank.

The school's view on this situation is that like fine arts and other specialty courses, grades should reflect ability as well as effort.

Not to mention, the good ol' dodgeball days of gym class are fading away.

Since the inception of athletic P.E., the department has begun to focus more on fitness related activities such as cardio and weightlifting exercises. No offense to the general teenage population, but doing the bare minimum just to get by is one of today's generalized standards.

I am surprised that there have been no complaints about the heightened standards.

However, I know there have been complaints about P.E. and I think it's safe to say that so far, changing into a uniform and doing what you're told (which is not much to ask) hasn't been too difficult even for most slackers. So I guess I give a big touché to the educational mind of

the state of Illinois. The "suits" have finally figured out a way to make kids work more! Just raise the standards and the teenagers will go along with it.

Heck, if they don't do them, they will never graduate high school, and not to mention if they actually do them, they may just get more out of a high school education than previous graduating classes!

Also, it is great that our high school doesn't want to cut out any more electives. I know the first round of elective cuts (drama courses, some industrial tech courses, etc.) were due to budget problems, so I am glad no elective blood will be spilt due to higher academic standards.

Bottom line, these graduation expectations give the school more of that "Chicago Academy" visage. That way, we can be an academically focused institution and a school where students can enjoy other classes outside the scholastic realm.

## Supporting Darfur is the new black

By: Mark Steffen  
News Editor

When it comes to important affairs, it's time we take a stance against unintelligent celebrities educating the yearning masses.

There are plenty of topical issues that fall anywhere between genocide and the ethical treatment of animals, and they are all significant matters in the world today.

Forgive the animosity, but would so many youth demonstrate for causes they "believe" in if there was not a celebrity urging them to do so?

Newsflash: social and political activism is not a fad. And of course I know there are a multitude of young adults who are remaining active because it is simply what they believe in.

For example, Zachary Manfredi, a senior at Emory University in Atlanta, recently was distinguished as a 2007 Rhodes Scholar in part for Paperclips for Darfur, an organization he self-started that raised \$6,000 to care for refugees who have fled their country. This is an exemplary example of care for mankind.

But when Angelina Jolie takes out an ad for Darfur aid on Hollywood.com, and when George Clooney publicizes a documentary to bring attention to the problem, do their actions promote a will or a whine.

In other words, do fans of these Hollywood big-wigs

pick up a sword and fight alongside their idols, or do they seclude themselves in their own world, chastising "The Man" for his inability to act, when they themselves sit in their basements and applaud People Magazine for being such a faction of freedom fighters? Currently the biggest example of self-promotion through activism is recent Oscar recipient Al Gore.

He has scared Hollywood straight with more than a few pictures of smokestacks and melting ice.

Another inconvenient truth the public will have to deal with will be when Gore decides he has proven himself a savior to the world and runs in 2008.

Those smart enough to understand that his movie is nothing more than a slew of propoganda probably also realize that plenty of other politicians and activists are disproving global warming with equally compelling evidence.

Listen to just about any time Senator Jack Inhofe opens his mouth, or read Michael Chreighton's "State of Fear." But forget about recycling pop cans.

Now every American without a Honda is an enemy of Earth, all thanks to a fad popularizing a senile real-life Captain Planet.

It's important for young people to find an issue that they care about. Bringing issues to light, however, with unbiased activism, is the problem.

## LO'T Editorial Policy

The Line O' Type is a high school newspaper run by the students and for the students. The staff will strive to accurately report school, local, state, and national news that affects high school students. The Line O' Type is also a public forum open to students, faculty, and administration to encourage the airing of opinions representing all sides of an issue.

All submitted material must be signed, due to a code passed by the school board. All responses or questions regarding editorials should be directed to your Editors-in-Chief, Stephanie Mills, Alex Ryser, or the faculty advisors Mrs. Blackall or Mrs. Sweet.