

# The Acronym

## Woebegone Weekends and Collective Community

by Jonathan Koch  
Features Editor

IMSA has a long history with the word "community." Our first Mission Statement identified the Academy as "a community of scholars" and our current mission statement emphasizes "collaborative relationships." Our new Belief Statements contain the phrases: "belonging to a community requires commitment to the common good;" "indifference diminishes individuals and communities;" "diversity in communities inspires discovery and creativity." We like to use that word a lot – and I believe that we should – but what does it really mean? That is, what is a community and what can we define as the IMSA community?

Perhaps the best way to begin answering this is by looking once again at our past. On several occasions, I have been fortunate enough to hear IMSA Alumni speak of the bygone days of living together in the main building. If you have something against the current paint jobs, you should have

seen the old carpeting – it was bright orange. At the same time, these individuals – our proverbial forefathers – highlighted the very core of the original IMSA mission statement, a community. They lived, ate, slept and learned together. It's hard not to develop deep friendships with other people when you have all of the connectedness that our pre-Res-Hall alumni did.

Why then do we even call them residence halls and not dormitories? Perhaps it's because we want to emphasize the "residence" part – re-

*"Why then do we even call them residence halls and not dormitories?"*

side, live, interact, learn, grow. Clearly community is still an important part of IMSA. As a matter of fact, part of the mission of Student Council is to "build and strengthen the IMSA community by implementing positive changes."

During Convocation, Dr. McGee also recognized our need for "a collective community, rather than a collection of communities." We all belong

to various communities at IMSA: 1505, Student Council, math team, French-speakers, Schmen, Student Ambassadors, basketball players, computer gurus, Ad Chem-lovers [thanks Dr. DeVol], Synergy, AASA members, et cetera. But at the same time, we are all part of an even greater community:

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## Taking the Side Door: Are We More Secure or More Divided?

By Meagan Biber  
Opinions Editor

The hallways of IMSA, just like those of any high school, hear their share of complaints – especially concerning the injustices of bureaucracy, since we're teenagers and all. Being

the opinions editor of The Acronym, I have my own personal grievance quota to satisfy with every new edition of the paper. To say that I consider my griping constructive doesn't necessarily make it so; however, I have tried especially hard in writing this article to be practical as opposed to grouchy. I do sincerely hope that this article in

particular may reach the eyes and ears of school officials, as I think it's safe to say that I speak for the majority of the IMSA students when I voice that several of the new security policies are hardly inspiring. So, with all due respect, I'd like to call into question the basis on which these policies were established.

Merriam-Webster defines security as "freedom from danger [and] freedom from fear or anxiety." In the case of security by practice, the definition extends to "measures taken to guard against espionage or sabotage, crime, or attack." That's a pretty noble responsibility, and although I'm sure it can't be easy, I think some approaches are arguably better than others. I am not alone in this regard; I decided to chat with Dr. Nokkentved after hearing of his respectful opposition to certain aspects of the new policies. During our

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## STEPHANIE PACE MARSHALL WILL TAKE YOUR QUESTIONS NOW

by Amy Allen  
News Editor

As most know, Stephanie Pace Marshall, who led IMSA for its first two decades, retired at the end of last year. But Dr. Marshall's time with IMSA is not finished yet. She plans to continue her involvement with the academy as president emerita and as a member of several boards. We spoke with Marshall about her plans for the future. She affirmed, as we believe, that it is important for students to be well-informed about the goings-on in the mysterious office above the cafeteria.

Marshall clarified that the position of president emerita is "an honorary distinction and voluntary role—not a job." Nevertheless, she plans to make the most of it. Marshall will remain a member of the strategic planning team and serve on the board of the IMSA Fund for the Advancement

of Education, the school's fund-raising body. She will be a panel member of Great Minds Seminar on Neuroscience and Cognition on October 20. Additionally, she plans to design an emeritus program for the academy, through which "distinguished retired faculty and staff [could] remain connected to IMSA." With the retirement of beloved teacher David Workman last year, an emeritus program would be a promising development.

IMSA's current president, Max McGee, took over July 1st. Marshall said that she was "thrilled" with the selection of McGee, whom she described as a "dynamic, knowledgeable, thoughtful, and proactive leader." Dr. McGee was a member of IMSA's strategic planning team last year, and brings "not only great experience, but a strong commitment to IMSA's next

generation." McGee previously served as the state superintendent of education and head of the Winnetka Public Schools.

Marshall's is an unconventional retirement. IMSA's president emerita made it clear that she is not looking forward to playing shuffleboard or going to Florida once the weather gets crisp. She emphasized that, "although I have stepped down as president, my work to advance IMSA will continue." The former president will keep busy outside of IMSA, as well. "One of the areas I am fascinated by is the new advances in neuroscience and how they are informing the intentional design of learning environments," Marshall enthused. She will "continue to advance science education" as a member of the board of the

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## Book : Cover - Team : School?

by Cati Crawford  
Sports/Events Editor

So check it out: I am sitting at my desk wearing sweats, a t-shirt, and slippers. My alarm clock forgot to wake me up this morning so I am about 2 hours behind in what I would have liked to accomplish today; and here I am, Cati Crawford, the Sports/Events editor of the Acronym embodying the definition of lazy. Now how does that work out?

For starters, hasn't your mother ever taught you to hold your judgment? Like I said before, at the moment I appear to be the human stereotype of laziness; but ill have you know that my sweatpants read "Soccer" down the leg, my t-shirt screams IMSA Cross Country, and how do you know that it isn't actually 7:00am and my alarm clock meant to wake me up at 5:00am? Tsk Tsk.

In truth, I know that IMSA students are not that judgmental, seeing as every fall, winter, and spring, we come together to cheer on the supreme effort put forth by our sports teams. We all know that IMSA is stereotyped to excel in academics rather than sports, but who is to say

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# IT'S ALL UP TO YOU

by Catrina Kim  
Staff Writer

Our generation of youth has witnessed many events that have threatened our sense of comfort and security. The massacres at Columbine and Virginia Tech and the terrorist attacks of September 11th took away part of our innocence. Now, officially as the result of an external review, IMSA has instituted new security policies that serve as a reminder of how fickle and dangerous the world outside of our sheltered campus can be. As most know, the east and west main doors are now closed to students, and the doors leading away from the gym area now require fobs. Jim Bondi, IMSA security chief, responded to questions and

noticed how easy it is for anyone to get into those doors. The receptionist is very busy...it's impossible for her to focus totally on that front door," he said. Now that the east and west main doors are closed to students, it is easier to monitor visitors coming in. The fobbing-in helps prevent guests at sporting events from entering most of the main building.

Fortunately, most students understand the reasons for the tighter security.

"I think [the new security measures] are a bit much, but I'd rather be safe than sorry," says Ariel Liu '09. This is the kind of attitude that students and staff alike have decided to take. Mr. Stalmack, math teacher, said, "I don't think it has affected me at all...tighter security is a 'necessary evil,' especially when considering the things that could happen."

Other safety precautions have been set up outside of the main building. One of them is the blue emergency call boxes set up around campus in case of emergency. Some students think that these are ineffective. Chelsea Elder, '09 says, "[The emergency call boxes] have instructions, and it would be difficult to read through them when you are in a rush." Otherwise, she says, the added security has not really changed much for her.

Bondi also asks students to consider that security is very much up to cooperation of students. "You are as safe here as you, the IMSA students, make it. We have all the necessary security systems—both physical and procedural." The only way to make security effective is to have the complete cooperation of students. When students prop doors or allow strangers into buildings, they are essentially decreasing the effectiveness of the barriers in place necessary for safety. "If [the students] don't do their part, IMSA will not be a safe place.

*"The reason we took away the east and west main entrances is that an outside consultant came in... and noticed how easy it is for anyone to get into those doors."  
- Jim Bondi*

complaints.

"The reason we took away the east and west main entrances is that an outside consultant came in [to examine the Academy's security] and

# IMSA STUDENTS SHARE AND SHARE ALIKE

by Amy Allen  
News Editor

Contrary to what Mr. Rogers may have told you, sharing is not always a good thing. At least not in the eyes of the courts that recently disabled eDonkey, the second largest file sharing site on the internet. Seven German courts issued injunctions against the hosts of eDonkey servers, which will stop 1.3 million of the site's 4 million users from connecting with one another. eDonkey joins the ranks of Kazaa, Napster, and Grokster, all music sharing sites that have been shut down through legal action. According to an article in the Times of London, 14% of internet users "exchange music files for free." An informal survey of students at IMSA suggests that it the practice is commonplace here, as well. Since it is illegal under the U.S. Digital Millennium Copyright Act to distribute copyrighted music--though no one here has been prosecuted for it--all students we spoke to remain anonymous.

All of the students to whom we spoke said that they download

music for free online. They mentioned using sites like Torrent, BearShare, LimeWire, and the software DC++. The first student we spoke to said that he preferred not to buy CDs because "not all the tracks are good," but still used free downloads rather than buying tracks from iTunes and other online music stores for 99 cents. He said that "it should be enough for them [the artists] that I'm listening to their music." Fair enough--aren't artists supposed to pursue their work for its own sake, not to make money? This sentiment was echoed by several other students. "[The copyright laws] are making it illegal to hear music," one said. "The artists get paid enough anyway, from commercials and paid performances," she added. Her classmates shared this view. "Artists make enough money, anyway," commented one downloader, though when asked if he would pay for songs if artists were poor, he said he would not. Others preferred not to address the potential ethical conflicts in their behavior. "I

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by Amy Allen  
News Editor

# STEPHANIE PACE MARSHALL

Society for Science and the Public, which governs the Intel Science Talent Search, among other things. This fall, Marshall will serve as a delegate to an international conference organized by the Wellcome Trust, "the world's largest medical research charity funding research into human and animal health." She will attend the annual meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative, the work of another former president, which focuses on "bringing together a community of global leaders to devise and implement innovative solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges." Marshall will also travel to South Africa and meet with women leaders in Parliament. But amidst her jet-setting schedule, IMSA won't be forgotten. "What I will miss is, of course, the daily engagement with staff and the direct involvement in the IMSA community, which remains one of the most remarkable and nurturing learning environments that I have ever been a part of," Marshall said.

predicts "a new" IMSA laboratory campus, situated within a learning innovation park with a consortium of research universities, museums, and technology incubators." She also expects the "I" in IMSA's name to stand for something else--international. Right now, all of IMSA's students, of course, come from Illinois, with visits by exchange students from Korea, Germany, and other places. By 2027, Marshall foresees "an international student body with students supported by their governments and corporate sponsors." Dr. Marshall has lofty expectations for what students will do while at IMSA. She predicts that an "IMSA problem based learning network" will exist where "students work collaboratively on some of the world's most pressing problems. Their solutions are presented annually to the United Nations." Who's to say that Marshall's hopes won't come true? After all, in 1987, no one would have predicted that students at IMSA would have work published in scientific

*Marshall predicts "a new IMSA laboratory campus, situated within a learning innovation park with a consortium of research universities, museums, and technology incubators."*

Lastly came, what was for Marshall, "the hardest question of all." We asked her: "You served and directed IMSA through its first twenty years. How do you imagine the Academy after its next 20?" She foresees that, by then, "IMSA as an institution--our alums, who will number over 10,000, and our staff--will have significantly influenced the way people learn and live." Marshall

journals, and that alums would go on create a popular alternative to Cliff's Notes. Dr. Marshall's guidance and direction helped shape IMSA into one of the best and most innovative high schools in the nation. As Marshall and Dr. Max McGee launch the academy into its next two decades, even greater achievements are sure to follow for the IMSA community.

know its unethical, but I don't think about it that much," one student said.

So, in the face of these reasonable-sounding arguments from your peers, why exactly do the government and the recording industry object to free downloads? Copyrights are intended to stop others from profiting from the work of someone's imagination, just as patents protect

incentive of music artists to create--Britney Spears and Justin Timberlake keep churning out hits. But the music industry is not ready to give up. The Justice Department has established an Intellectual Property Task Force to crack down on music piracy. On September 20th, the Recording Industry Association of America sent four hundred "pre-litigation letters" to twenty two universities across the country warning them that legal action could result if campus computer networks continued "to be used for the purpose of copyright infringement," aka free downloads. "The enormous damage compounded with every illegal download is alarming -- thousands of regular, working class musicians and others out of work, stores shuttered, new bands never signed," said Steven Marks, general counsel to the group. Earlier this month, the RIAA filed lawsuits against universities who had received these warning letters in the past and "ignored" them, including the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and Columbia. But even as companies pursue legal action, new sites for free downloads spring up every day. For the time being, it seems like the game of cat and mouse between the music industry and the consumer will continue.

*All of the students to whom we spoke said that they download music for free online.*

inventions. If every book, movie, and song were held in the public domain, the theory goes, people would have no incentive to create, because they would not be able to make money from their work. Clearly, the millions of free downloads that happen every year have not taken away the

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## Coming Soon...

by Katie Tu  
Copy Editor

As summer's last rays disappeared down the horizon of 2007, the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Venice Film Festival began gearing up for another 11 day round of watching some of the year's best films. This summer, Venice saw 22 feature films covering a broad range of topics in its competition portion, with criminals, outlaws, spies, and Bob Dylan coming out on top. On September 8, 2007 (the 11<sup>th</sup> day of non-stop film watching), the jury led by Chinese director Zhang Yi Mou came to a very tough decision. The festival's most prestigious award, the Golden Lion Prize, went to *Se Jie*, or *Lust Caution*, the newest film from last year's Oscar winning director Ang Lee. The Volpi Cups for Best Actor and Best Actress went to Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett, who were last seen in last year's *Babel*. Brad Pitt won his award for playing famous outlaw Jesse James in Andrew Dominik's contemporary Western film, *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*. Cate Blanchett won for her role in an outstanding ensemble cast in Todd Haynes's Bob Dylan biopic, *I'm Not There*. Other notable films include Tony Gilroy's *Michael Clayton* with George Clooney as the title crook and Sidney Pollack as his boss, Wes Anderson's *The Darjeeling Limited* with Owen Wilson, Adrien Brody, and Jason Schwartzman as three brothers who embark on a physical and spiritual journey through India, and Kenneth Branagh's twisted thriller *Sleuth* that has Jude Law and Michael Caine playing mind games with each other.



Title	<i>Lust, Caution (Se Jie)</i>	<i>The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford</i>	<i>I'm Not There</i>
Country of Origin	China	USA	USA
The Plot	An erotic thriller set in WWII-era Shanghai that has a young actress engaging in a dangerous game of love and espionage.	Drawn to the fame and romance of Jesse James's gang, Robert Ford joins only to find himself resentful of the legendary outlaw and hatching a plan to kill him.	Seven characters (see actors below) embody a different aspect of Bob Dylan's life.
The Actors	Asian cinema icon, Tony Leung and newcomer Tang Wei (handpicked by Ang Lee from hundreds of girls in China) as the two main characters. Joan Chen as his wife.	Brad Pitt as the famed outlaw and Casey Affleck as the "coward" who kills him	Cate Blanchett, Heath Ledger, Christian Bale, Marcus Carl Franklin, Richard Gere, Ben Whishaw : all Bob Dylan
Date of Release	September 28, 2007 (limited)	September 21, 2007 (limited)	November 21, 2007 (everywhere)

## CD REVIEWS

by Cait Guerra  
Staff Writer

### Interpol: *Our Love to Admire*

Released: July 10, 2007

Interpol's junior CD flows with a new wave edge. The band uses beats reminiscent of glitter Goth-rock. Recently compared to R.E.M., you can see how that holds true for Interpol when you listen to "The Heinrich Maneuver", their first single off the CD. *Our Love to Admire* has been well received by fans world-wide, with the CD reaching #2 on UK's Album Chart and #4 on U.S. Billboard's Top 200 Album Chart. Produced by Rich Costey, who has worked with Muse and Franz Ferdinand, *Our Love to Admire* has helped Interpol gain fans, making this one of their fastest selling records to date. Though Interpol's first two CDs had the same incoherent lyrics, *Our Love to Admire* has a faster moving pace. Generally accepted by a rather large audience, this CD is a must-have for fans of other bands such as Hot Hot Heat and Franz Ferdinand.

### Kanye West: *Graduation*

Released: September 11, 2007

Released on an important date in U.S. history, *Graduation* is Kanye West's best CD so far. West's third CD is much shorter than the previous two albums, mainly due to the absence of skits between the songs. West seems to draw on many more influences, calling on Daft Punk to help with a few songs and also adding a fresh sound to today's hip-hop. A few of the songs, such as "Stronger", remind the listener of hip-hop pre-Run DMC. *Graduation* has been given great reviews from several magazines and one can see why. With the record selling about 780,000 units within the first 3 days of release and the single "Stronger" becoming the top selling song on iTunes within the first 4 days, *Graduation* is definitely one of the best albums of the fall season. Unlike the clobbering beats of "Jesus Walks" and other previous songs, the music on this CD builds up, and in conjunction with West's neurotic lyrics, leaves the listener dancing wildly and begging for more.

## Fall Concert Calendar

by Kelsey Gee  
Entertainment Editor

Autumn in Chicago is always jam-packed with great concert options; from folk to blues to emo pop, venues like the Riviera and the House of Blues offer some incredible shows to all those willing to dish out a bit of their dough. This fall is no exception—with bands like Of Montreal and Regina Spektor showing up around town in the next couple of months, avid fans should begin planning their trips to the city right...now.

Who?	Sounds like?	Where?	When?	Age/Cost?	Worth it?
Dashboard Confessional with Augustana, John Ralston	The original emo god of acoustic love songs	House of Blues	6:00 pm - Oct 29 & 30	\$26-\$29.50	If he plays the early stuff, then extremely
Lupe Fiasco	Bold and thoughtful hip-hop	House of Blues	8:00 pm - Oct 31	\$35-\$37.50	Probably not
Coheed and Cambria with Cluth, The Fall of Troy	Conceptual, catchy rock with both power and poise	The Riviera Vic Theatre/	7:00 pm - Nov 2	\$26.50	It's a lot of money, but for true fans, this show is totally worth it.
Stars	Tender indie pop with strings, horns, and cheerful vocals	Brew & View	7:30 pm - Nov 2	\$22	Hands down, yes.
New Found Glory with Senses Fail, Dr. Manhattan	Whiny, new wave emo with plenty of screaming for good measure	The Metro	6:00 pm - Nov 5	\$21-\$24	...If you're into this kind of music, this is probably as "worth it" as it gets.
Do Make Say Think with Apostle of Hustle	Rhythmic, mature post-rock sharing members with Broken Social Scene	The Metro	9:00 pm - Nov 10	\$15 (18+)	With such a low price (and a promising opening act), this show is definitely worth attending.
Feist with Jason Collett	Haunting, eclectic electro-ballads from our neighbors to the north	The Riviera	7:30 pm - Nov 17	\$29	This should be a fantastic concert, if you're free that night, and into this type of music, buy tickets quick.
Vanessa Carlton with Graham Colton	Pop princess with more talent than Britney, Paris, and Kelly combined	Park West	7:30 pm - Nov 18	\$20	This one's up in the air; should be a good show, though.
Sondre Lerche with Dan Wilson	Sweet-voiced, charming Norwegian rock	Park West	7:00 pm - Nov 20	\$15	If you can get out on a Tuesday night, YES.
MIA with the Cool Kids	Funky, audacious political hip-hop with love from Sri Lanka	Vic Theater/ Brew & View	8:00 pm - Nov 23	\$22	Only if you're in a dance-all-night mood

# Mission: Explainable – The IMSA Mission Statement

by Jonathan Koch  
Features Editor

What is a creative, ethical, scientific mind? How can we measure the advancement of the human condition? What make collaborative relationships different? As you are hopefully well aware by now, IMSA has a new Mission Statement. It was developed during the Strategic Planning process last year. Yet perhaps it still remains shrouded, to some degree, behind the elegant language that comprises it. It sounds good – but what does it really mean?

*“The mission of IMSA, the world’s leading teaching and learning laboratory for imagination and inquiry, is to ignite and nurture creative, ethical, scientific minds that advance the human condition, through a system distinguished by profound questions, collaborative relationships, personalized experiential learning, global networking, generative use of technology and pioneering outreach.”*

It is my hope that after reading this article, you have a better idea of what the

Mission Statement means and how it can and will affect IMSA and you in the coming years.

*“...the world’s leading teaching and learning laboratory for imagination and inquiry...”* This statement is not what we are, but rather what we aspire to be. A teaching and learning laboratory is a place that focuses on the creation of knowledge through the development of the best practices. Our institutional goal is to allow imagination and curiosity to flourish so that all members of the IMSA community can pursue fields that are important to them and investigate burning questions.

*“Ignite and nurture creative, ethical, scientific minds that advance the human condition.”* This statement is our goal; it explains what we desire to accomplish. Creative minds think of new ideas and how to incorporate them into everyday life. They look through the details and

examine underlying assumptions and preconceived notions of how things work. Class of 1995 alumnus Sam Yagan, guest speaker at IMSA Convocation 2007, is a great example of this. He explained in his speech that through finding the flaws in rival company CliffsNotes and working to redefine a new business plan, his company, SparkNotes, dominated the market share within two years of its creation. This was only possible by investigating and changing the small factors that could help to redefine how the company worked.

Ethical and scientific minds approach things logically and seek to examine potential consequences of actions. The combination of the three – creative, ethical, scientific – creates a volatile combination ready to initiate changes and improve people’s lives. When we improve people’s lives, we advance the human condition. IMSA students have the potential to do this even despite our youth and the Strategic Plan will work on recreating an environment that truly allows students to make a difference while at IMSA.

*“...through a system distin-*

*guished by...”* This statement outlines the processes we will use and values we will hold as we work to implement the Strategic Plan within the context of the Mission Statement.

*“...profound questions...”* We will seek to explore important questions that demand answers and action. Through investigating these questions, rather than more trivial questions, we seek to maximize our influence and outcomes.

*“...collaborative relationships...”* Collaboration is different from cooperation. Collaboration achieves an end that is greater than the sum of the parts. Essentially,  $1 + 1 > 2$  (I’m sure there must be some way to prove this using Number Theory...). Through collaboration, we can break down and attack monumental problems and find partial or complete solutions to them. Our atmosphere should be one of constant support and should rest on the desire to help others achieve their dreams, aspirations and goals, even and especially while we try to do the same.

*“...personalized experiential learning...”* Our emphasis will be placed on learning through experiences; living at IMSA teaches us valuable lessons that we could never learn inside

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## Woebegone Weekends and Collective Community

by Jonathan Koch  
Features Editor

the IMSA community. If we constantly divide ourselves into various sub-communities but do not make an effort to develop our collective community, we soon become more divisive than cohesive. We then become more devoted to the parts, rather than the whole.

So what, you ask, does this mean for IMSA today? Over two-thirds of IMSA students live in the Chicago-land area. A brief scanning of the sign out sheets reveals that, interestingly enough, around two-thirds of IMSA students go home on the weekends. Most leave Friday and come back Sunday. Consider the effect this has on a community that nearly disbands

for two days a week. How, then, can we create a collective community when we are not even around to interact with one another?

Two days from the weekends, half of an I-Day, extended weekends, Thanksgiving, Christmas and Spring Breaks – the days that we do not have a chance to learn from our peers add up pretty quickly. Think about it like this: you might spend three years total at IMSA, but you really only intermingle with the people that have the potential to change your life for two years. It will truly be what you make of it: the more time you spend in your room playing computer games, the less time you

can spend getting to know your peers. Take it from someone who has spent more than his fair share of time on assignments, papers, problem sets,

*“... there are much more important things in life than homework.”*

and take homes: there are much more important things in life than homework. When you look back on your IMSA experience, I suspect the highlights won’t be from your academic experience. Instead, you will remember the jokes, secrets, laughs and all around good times you shared with some of the most interesting high school aged students in the state of Illinois. Soak up everything while you can; it will be gone before you know it. The more you invest in IMSA and in others and in yourself, the more you will benefit – I guarantee it. And in one, two, five, ten or twenty years, it will be an investment that you continue to appreciate.

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Send in 100-200 words to [eh2008@imsa.edu](mailto:eh2008@imsa.edu)  
and you may be featured in the next Acronym.



of a classroom. Also, each experience may be different so that students can maximize their time at IMSA and seek to pursue those things that interest them the most.

**"...global networking..."**  
We will continue to develop IMSA's influence on the world through venues such as the IMSA Alumni Association. Connecting people around the world will give us unique insights and further creativity and the ability to accomplish great change on a larger scale.

**"...generative use of technology..."**  
Technology, if used correctly, can increase our efficiency (precisely the opposite of AIMing during American Studies) and make our lives easier. "Generative use" means using technology in such a way that it will benefit us and others in myriad ways.

**"...and pioneering outreach."**  
In order for other institutions or organizations to partner with IMSA and to ensure that IMSA continues to live up to its legislative charter and benefit students and teachers in Illinois – and even the world – IMSA will work to create both new connections with constituents and connections with new constituents.

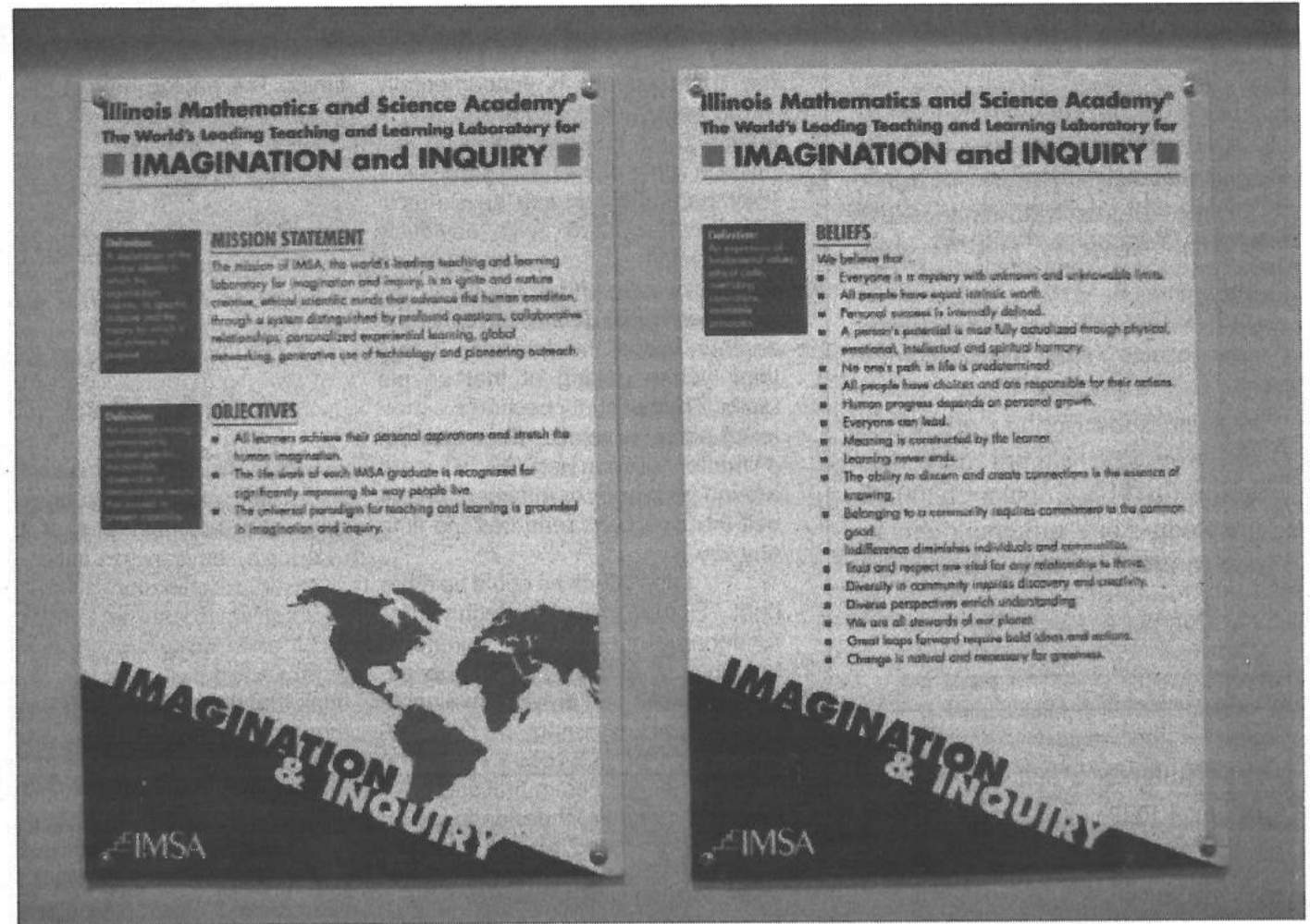
It can be easy to get lost in the eloquent language of the Mission Statement. However, there really is substance

behind every component. Understanding the context and meaning of the Mission Statement makes it much easier to see the connections between the goals and means to achieve these goals. The seven Actions Plans will help lead IMSA

as we re-define our institution.

There is no upper limit to what we can achieve; if you think the goals in the Mission Statement are lofty, consider what would happen if we set them any lower: even when we achieved them, we would not be achieving all of our

potential. As we continue our journey to become the "world's leading teaching and learning laboratory for imagination and inquiry," consider how you can help contribute to this important endeavor.



## Social Mores and Less-ons; Or, Cleanliness is Next to Godliness

by Jonathan Koch  
Features Editor

American Studies. The very combination of words is enough to strike fear into the heart of a sophomore frantically completing his or her website summative or research final. And if those words are not enough to induce fear now, they – or their close counterpart, pithy erudition – soon will be. American Studies often hits at the very core of our social mores: a deep desire to succeed, perseverance, dedication, and, I daresay, cleaning up after yourself.

Perhaps the last one seems a bit out of place, but certainly not to anyone that has ventured into Sodexo over the past month. Even the casual passer-by can observe the trend that some days has me wondering whether we are the "world's leading teaching and learning laboratory" or simply a grade school. In case, for some reason, you have not noticed or are otherwise unaware of what I am referencing, it is the slightly to moderately disgusting state the cafeteria has been left in after meals.

It is nearly impossible to visit Sodexo within a half hour of its closing time at any meal and not discover leftover food, dishes, trays, napkins and the like strewn

haphazardly on nearly every table. It should not be a difficult, time consuming or otherwise complicated decision-making process to determine what to do after a meal. Logic would tell us that if you had enough energy and strength to make it to the table with a variety of plates, cups and food, you are probably also able to carry the dishes – whether disposable or not – to an appropriate location.

Educators and schools around the nation look to IMSA as a developer of best practice both in and out of the classroom. We also have quite a few visitors on a daily basis that often end up in or near the cafeteria. Set a good example: clean up after yourself. IMSA is preparing you, whether you realize it yet or not, for a life of leadership and influence. Learn to be socially responsible now in the little things and it will be easy for you to take these lessons with you to college, your career and beyond.

Social responsibility is not something that one is – it is something that one does. In short, it demands action. Social responsibility is making the right decisions, even when they may be difficult or time-consuming, to better the community. We already have many organizations that work to do this in myriad ways: Peer Tutors, Lorax, Synergy, Student Council, Community Developers and Wing Guides, just to name a few. Yet, social responsibility demands the accountability of the individual. We must each make a constant effort to examine our efforts and actions and their effects – positive or negative – on others.

The next time you see someone not clean up their table, call them out on it. Really. Accountability breeds trust, trust breeds community, and a collective community is what we must strive to be. If nothing else, you can at least think of it as procrastinating a little longer on your next history paper.



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## Taking the Side Door:

by Meagan Biber  
Opinions Editor

discussion, he put it best, "Clearly there are some issues, and clearly we have to be concerned. It strikes me that security is fundamentally about people, not gadgets... And it seems to me that we're missing that piece in some of the latest changes... It's important to address the issues of the periphery, and that's obviously what security is doing. But if you do that really well, and if you do a little bit better job of getting to know one another inside the building, then I think you're getting at that people factor. Then security becomes a matter of personal relationships and not a matter of carrying an ID card around your neck or attached to your belt that you can't read half the time anyway."

I don't think he could be more right. Humans design technology, rendering any equipment vulnerable to being outsmarted. As much as security devices can provide invaluable assistance, we cannot be fully dependent on them. It seems to me that what we need is communal attentiveness: a fundamental dependency on one another to be on the look out for any issues. Sure, cameras in the gym entrance corridors help security, but those in the immediate vicinity should be the ones truly responsible for seeing and reporting any disturbances. In the same way, ID cards are helpful, but they shouldn't be the primary concern. Promoting student and staff familiarity is far more important, as recognizing someone as an intruder is much more effective than recognizing his or her lack of visible identification.

*Not only do the new means of security place too little emphasis on the duties of the community, but those means also contain divisive elements.*

Not only do the new means of security place too little emphasis on the duties of the community, but those means also contain divisive elements. First of all, any sense of communal trust goes out the window when an institution begins doing background checks on its guests. The faculty here is esteemed, the students are chosen for their purported excellence, and we cannot trust one another to bring respect-

able guests to campus? It is already expected that any visitors who aren't alumni remain with their hosts at all times. The gaping hole in this policy goes further, as Doc Nok said, "I do

and they incorporate the objectives of security while maintaining those of the community. Surely we could come together to devise a solution that would work in favor of both.

*Those suggestions are so sensible, and they incorporate the objectives of security while maintaining those of the community. Surely we could come together to devise a solution that would work in favor of both.*

think that there's a serious issue with fundamental rights and the business of scanning and storing information on a computer about our guests. And the thought that we're going to do a security check! I will not invite anybody that I admire – and I've invited other professors and experts to the building, but I won't do it if we're going to do a security check on them. It's a gross violation of the rights of guests, just as much a matter of human rights as of the Bill of Rights." To cap it all off, he points out, "Of course, most of the really bad situations that I know about, like Columbine, were instigated by people who, for whatever reason, had the right to be in the building. So what does this really solve?"

Divisiveness extends past the front desk and to the front door. The fact that students are no longer allowed to enter the main building through the main entrance is by far the most commonly contested security change. For many, it is an issue of convenience, but the vital concern should be its implications and even its practicality from a security perspective. There is a strong symbolism regarding the front door and a fundamental problem in our own students' inability to pass through it. How can we be a community if our students can only enter through certain doors and our visitors only through others? Is such a rift in the community worth the minimal security improvement? The distinct separation of the flow of students and visitors is, in actuality, counterintuitive. Now the majority of movement into and out of the building occurs in an area supervised only by cameras. And there are so many more effective ways to address the issue; Doc Nok had a few judicious suggestions. "The card reader could be on one side – it's a wide set of doors – and the visitor bell could be on the other. If Rose has too much to do, don't give her so much to do. If Rose is stuck behind that counter, get her out from behind that counter." Those suggestions are so sensible,

The last issue I would like to address is the actual decision-making process concerning these policies. It is important to note that there was no community involvement; the security expert visited, assessed, and suggested, but it was up to IMSA to make the changes. Changes were made, but they were made behind closed doors. Rose, who is crucial in the implementation of several of the most controversial policies, was not even invited to these meetings. There were no open forums in which students and staff could have come together to share their thoughts and suggestions. The fact that the entire community was left out of this process is a shame, as our collective input could have broadened and strengthened the ideas already being considered. More suggestions could have been placed on the table, and a more universally accepted solution could have been reached. Even more importantly, when the community is engaged in this kind of discussion, each person will have a better idea of the issue at hand as opposed to being told that, for example, students cannot use the front door any longer simply because it is not secure.

All of this is not to say that I don't sincerely appreciate the efforts put forth by all the faculty and staff. I haven't forgotten that these changes were made for our collective safety. But it seems to me that all the good intentions may not be enough to compensate for the lack of community involvement and unity. I'd like to conclude with more wise words from Dr. Norkentved: "You may remember the speech that Dr. McGee gave at the beginning of the school year about being one community. How can we be one community if half the population can't even come through the front door? For me, that's the bottom line. We need to approach security in such a way that isn't so divisive. That's what the nametags do, that's what having students not come through the front door does – these things divide us."



### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Send feedback, contributions and letters to the editor to [eh2008@imsa.edu](mailto:eh2008@imsa.edu)

# College Admissions: The Key to our Future and the Threat to our Sanity

By Lauren Breckenfelder  
Staff Writer

When Meagan Biver IM'd me asking me to write an article for Opinions, I knew almost immediately what my topic of discussion would be. It's the thing that's on the mind of every IMSA senior, the thing that hangs over our heads like a cloud some days and glows like a shining beacon in the distance on others: college admissions. We hear about it every day with increasing frequency as the fall days slip by, bringing us closer and closer to those looming deadlines. We're bombarded with questions from every direction – from teachers, friends, parents, other miscellaneous family members, and random individuals who find out we're seniors. Where are you applying? Have you started your essays yet? What do you want to study? Do you want to stay close to home? Are you applying early anywhere? *Seriously, have you started your essays yet!?*

These questions and the pressure that goes along with them plague every college-bound high school senior. But I've notice that at IMSA, there's another kind of pressure being put on us: the pressure to make those many hours spent on history papers and problem sets, those all-nighters pulled to get an A, those days after those all-nighters when we found ourselves in a semi-comatose state in all our classes, *mean* something. We feel the need to make all the time spent here lead to something that we wouldn't have otherwise achieved.

Not only that, but we also have the pressure of our very surroundings to contend with. In many ways IMSA is the perfect picture of a cooperative learning environment. Even though as a sophomore I started out at the bottom of the mathematical food chain, I've never felt even the slightest bit of negativity from my classmates who started out in calculus. I found that even though my trigonometry skills leave something to be desired, the fact that I'm somewhat capable of writing papers gave me something to offer to those mathematical geniuses who struggled in English. I've always felt like everyone competed more with themselves than with their

years. Not only that, but in all the discussions we have amongst ourselves about which schools we're applying to, we find ourselves being more aware of how our list sounds to other people. Does applying to *this* school make me sound like I haven't done well enough to be accepted anywhere else? Does saying *this* place is my first choice make me seem somehow less motivated or less impressive than someone else?

As a senior whose first choice is undoubtedly the University of Missouri-Columbia, I've had to deal with my fair share of glances and questions about why I want to go *there*. I can answer the questions easily enough: I want to study journalism, and Mizzou has what is considered to be the best program in the country. While many of my friends are looking at Northwestern, the Ivies, Stanford, and the like, it can be awkward to be the only one in the conversation who isn't planning to apply to any of those schools. Sometimes I find myself feeling uncomfortable during those conversations, fearing that people are thinking that I'm somehow less intelligent because the schools I'm looking at are less selective than the ones *they're* looking at.

Then the internal dialogue in my head will start up, and then I'll start questioning myself. After going to IMSA, *should* I be applying to hyper-selective colleges? Does wanting to go to Mizzou somehow mean that attending IMSA meant nothing? And perhaps the most dangerous question of all, if I'd stayed at my old school, would I be at the top of my class and president of everything, would I somehow be a smarter, more qualified person? But then I combine the conversations I've had with my father, an Iowa State graduate and one of the smartest people I know, with those awesome logic skills IMSA has fostered in me, and know that the answer to those three questions is an absolute no.

Why bother applying to schools I wouldn't want to go to anyways? Not only would those extra applications be a profound waste of paper, but I have the opportunity to go to the university that has the top program in my area of interest, whose journalism department head is giving

me a individual tour of the building and taking me to see the news studio on my next visit, and whose campus I'm absolutely in love with. Would I be stupid to want to go there? No. I'd be stupid to *not* want to go there.

And does the fact that I attended IMSA somehow become meaningless when I don't use it get into a really selective school? No.

*IMSA has turned all of us into smarter, more capable, and harder working students than we realize.*

thrive in that environment. Those skills are ingrained in us, and will be with us wherever we decide to go. IMSA is supposed to prepare us to be leaders out in the real world, and every college in the country will prepare us to enter the "real world". It's not the college you go to but rather the things you accomplish there that determine the success we'll achieve once we get out into the real world.

And that final question that I'm sure has plagued most of us during our time at IMSA: Would I be a better,

smarter, more qualified person had I stayed at my home school because we'd all be valedictorians and straight A+ students? No. IMSA has turned all of us into smarter, more capable, and harder working students than we realize. We know things and have experienced things that our home schools could never have taught us. I have a feeling none of us will fully understand how much IMSA has changed us until we all go our separate ways after graduation and are reintegrated into the non-IMSA world.

So as fall progresses and the application deadlines come closer and closer, I wish all of us good luck, all of us experiencing college admissions now and all of you who will experience

it soon, even though I'm not sure we need it that much. Ultimate optimist that I am, I believe everything will work out the way it's supposed to. We're all smart, we're all talented, we all have so much to offer, and no matter what colleges we get in to or where we end up, I'm sure we'll all show up at our reunion somewhere down the road as accomplished, self-assured, and happy people who will laugh about all the fear, however much or little, we had about college admissions back in the day.



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*But now, as all of us are getting into the college admissions process, we're starting to realize that admissions are all about competition.*

classmates.

But now, as all of us are getting into the college admissions process, we're starting to realize that admissions are all about competition. It's about proving yourself to be smarter, more involved, and more capable than all those other people applying, including all those people we've "learned cooperatively" with for the last two

me a individual tour of the building and taking me to see the news studio on my next visit, and whose campus I'm absolutely in love with. Would I be stupid to want to go there? No. I'd be stupid to *not* want to go there.

And does the fact that I attended IMSA somehow become meaningless when I don't use it get into a really selective school? No.

## IMSA Carnival: Better Than Before?

by Nobie Redmon  
Staff Writer

With excitement in mind the carnival event planners set off to make this year's IMSA Carnival better than ever. Beginning with the IMSA Mile, it seems the carnival set off on the right foot. This mile long footrace included many of IMSA's star runners in a fast paced head to head competition, but don't worry every participant

was placed in a drawing for all sorts of door prizes. While the IMSA Mile was fun, the real excitement was to be had in the afternoon. At 2:00 pm the carnival festivities started. Activities included a dunk tank manned by IMSA staff and administration, an extreme cakewalk, a climbing wall, an obstacle course, and many other entertaining carnival activities. Clubs

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## Book : Cover - Team : School?

that this year we aren't going to break free from some of that stereotype? Sports teams are constantly upsetting their opponent, and everyone loves to see the underdog win. Let's see what teams we have lined up for us this fall's sectional competitions, inside and outside of IMSA, who might do just that.

With some of the most physically fit people on campus, cross country is built up a name for itself this year. Even though we are competed against schools whose teams have held summer-long training camps, IMSA shaved off the seconds to reach the top. Last weekend, the team raced at Marmion High School. As we were setting up our tent, I overheard another school (who shall remain anonymous) say "don't worry, at least you'll beat IMSA." Excuse me? If you are going to succumb to pre-determined stereotypes then at least keep your voice down. Well, I can't explain to you the immense satisfaction of seeing our team, led by Adam Leemans, cross the finish line AHEAD of those judgmental fools. Now this is

just one example of how far the IMSA team has come this year, but with veterans like Captain Taylor Barnes, and new comers like Isolina Rossi, IMSA Cross Country was sure to surge ahead. Not only have these two runners placed in the top 20 for multiple races, they are sure to bring home some glory this year at sectionals. Rae Rokosh, two year IMSA Cross Country runner says "This season was great. It already can't get much better. The whole team has worked hard to get faster, and I can't wait to see how much that practice will show in the sectional, and maybe even state, meets."

Every year, the IMSA Volleyball teams are known for 'bringing home the glory'. Well, this year proved no different. After winning 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Genoa- Kingston tournament, some great underclassmen talent, and a huge power-house hitter named Francis Mei the team, once again, made it BIG this year. Seeded 6<sup>th</sup> in their sectional, they hope to keep climbing to the top.

Now, branching away from

at IMSA were also invited to run booths. The gutter split competition was kept from last year with one minor change. Students were not allowed to use their hands to eat the ice cream. While the rule was inconvenient for some it did prevent students from getting frostbite. The night was topped off with a showing of X-Men 3 like a retro "drive-in" movie in the old caf. With no study hours for sophomores and activities late enough for the mentorship kids to enjoy this year's carnival was just as (if not more) exciting than ever before.

by Cati Crawford  
Sports/Events Editor

IMSA, let us take a look at what under-dog sports teams are made some headlines in Chicago. With all of about 2 seconds of thinking, the first team that (should) automatically come to anyone's mind is the Chicago Cubs. Unfortunately, year 99 didn't seem to be the year to win again seeing as they, once again, broke our hearts as they allowed the Arizona Diamondbacks to sweep them out of the series. Of course, even I could not believe how lucky the Cubs were this year, constantly finding that every time they lost, so did the Milwaukee Brewers; but that luck was lost as some bad decisions were made. Oh well. No matter what, no team in baseball can say that their attendance at the World Series game was any different from that of the regular season.

No matter if you are an IMSA volleyball fan, runner, Cubs believer, or a Sox fan (stretching there a little bit) cheer loud and proud because all we have to do is believe.

## Reigniting the Chicago Fire

by Nobie Redmon  
Staff Writer

With a pretty rough start and a long standing at the bottom of the MLS rankings, the Chicago Fire have signed some new talent and found their way back into playoff contention. April saw the signing of Mexican forward Cuauhtémoc Blanco for \$2,000,000 per year making Blanco the most expensive player on Chicago's roster. With three goals and five assists in eight games Blanco has seemed to fix Chicago's scoring problem leading them to several wins and movement up the rankings into playoff contention.

September saw the arrival of Colombian player Wilman Conde. Conde's move to the Fire reunited him with Coach Juan Carlos Osorio. Both Conde and Osorio moved from the 13-time Colombian league champion Millonarios. The defender has kept goals to a minimum and made one assist in the two games he has played.

Coach Osorio is confident that these two players will change the Fire's luck for the better. Results have already been seen from the purchase of Blanco, and the Fire hope to continue to see improvement with the acquisition of Conde. With a third of the season left and play-off prospects in sight the Fire will continue to jockey for position in the MLS standings, and hopefully work their way through the play-offs into the MLS Championships.

## Crossword

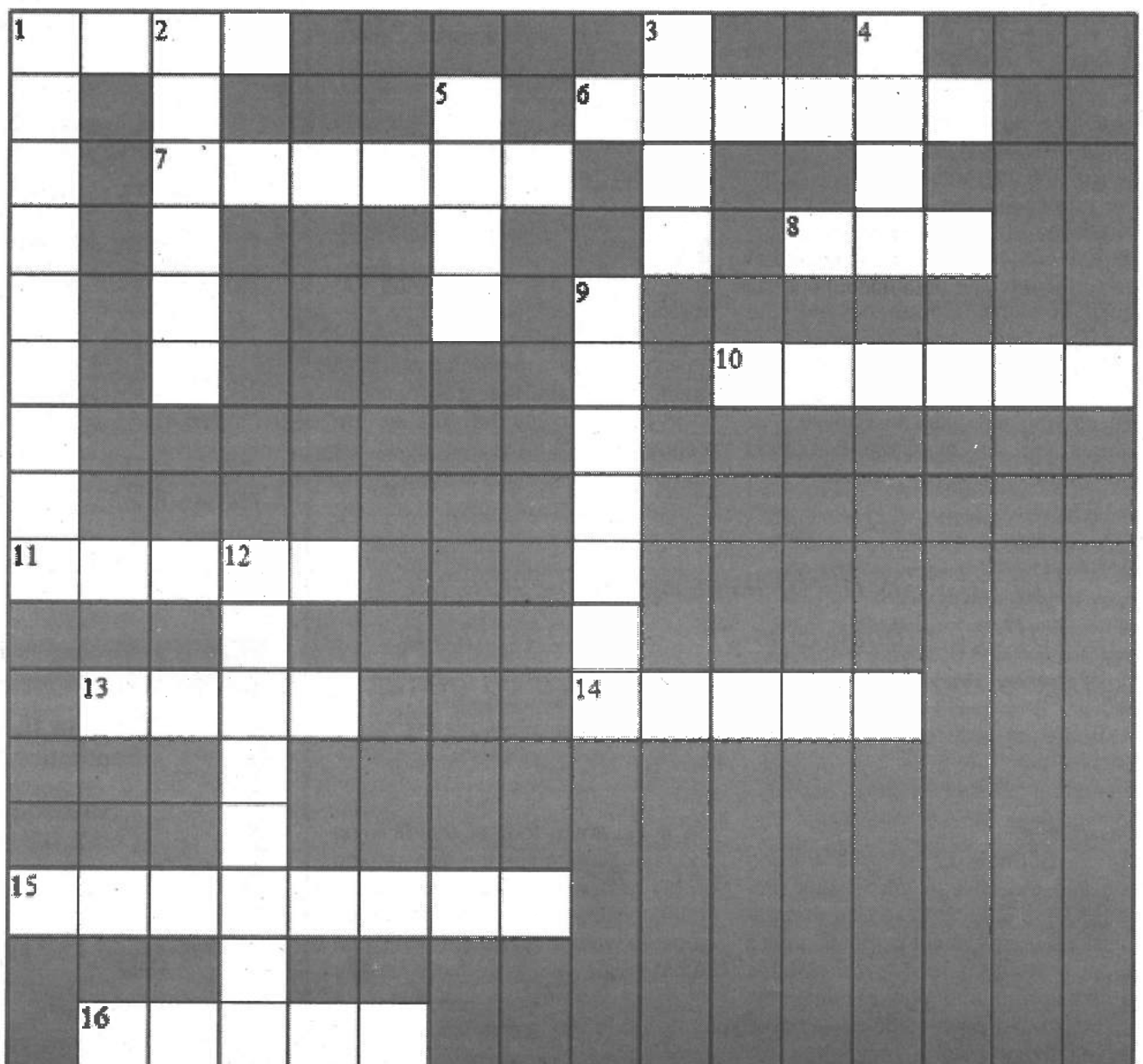
### ACROSS

1. Winner of World Series 1908 (yet still sells out every game)
6. Captain of Girls Volleyball Team (center hitter)
7. Captain of Boys Soccer Team (Goal Keeper)
8. Captain of Girls Swimming (also Editor of Entertainment section in Acronym)
10. Captain of Girls Volleyball Team (plays weak-side)
11. Captain of Girls Swimming
13. Captain of Girls Swimming
14. Captain of Girls Cross Country
15. Winner of World Series 2005
16. Runner up to Superbowl winners 2007

### DOWN

1. Winner of World Series 2006
2. Captain of Girls Cross Country (also is president of Model UN)
3. Captain of Boys Soccer team (plays midfield)
4. Chicago Major League Soccer Team
5. Plays 'First Singles' on Girls Tennis
9. Captain of Boys Cross Country
12. Captain Boys Soccer (Plays Forward)

\*Answers pertaining to Captains only consist of last names



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