

## EVENT WATCH

### SHOWCASING THE ARTS

Visit the auditorium during school to bring some creativity into your day. The art and music departments are hosting Fremd's ArtsFest 2007 with presentations from students and professionals.

Nov. 12-16 and 20

### GOT FUNC?

The Model United Nations Club hosts its annual conference (FUNC), which simulates a real U.N. conference. This will be held at Fremd from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Nov. 17

### GIVE BLOOD, SAVE LIVES

If you're 16 or older and weigh at least 110 lbs., you can donate blood in the south gym.

Nov. 20

### GIVE THANKS FOR TURKEY

Count your blessings over this four-day Thanksgiving weekend while you enjoy some turkey and football!

Nov. 22-25

### SEE FREMD'S TALENT

Fremd's finest will be showcased in the V-Show. Come to the auditorium at 7 p.m. for dance, music and more.

Dec. 6-8

### GET YOUR CRAFT ON

Decorate your home for winter! Come to Fremd from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to buy arts and crafts at the Booster Craft Fair.

Dec. 8

### ORCHESTRATE YOUR EVENING

Visit the auditorium at 7 p.m. to enjoy the musical masterpieces of Fremd's orchestra.

Dec. 11

### BAND TOGETHER

Enjoy the band's musical stylings in the auditorium at 7 p.m. All four sections of the band will perform a selection of holiday-themed pieces.

Dec. 13



Logue photo by Dana Hogan

**GIFTS FROM ABOVE.** Pigeon droppings, like these on a trash receptacle outside of the school, lead some to wonder if the mess poses a health hazard.

## Birds waste no time

Mihir Awati

Contributing Writer

For students and staff, pigeon droppings near entrances one and two have been a recurring problem.

Pigeon droppings are transmitted from the feet of students to the inside of the building during sports practices and gym classes. When this occurs, it poses a safety hazard, according to student supervisor Judith Zajac.

"Students and employees are bringing droppings into school, and kids are sitting on the infected carpet every day," Zajac said. "The droppings infest the carpet with bacteria and different diseases that could make students sick."

Student supervisor Beverly Bayne agrees.

"My biggest concern is it is a health hazard to the children," Bayne said. "I think it is important that the pigeons be kept away from the canopies with some kind of netting or mesh, so that the pigeons don't stay in the canopies."

The droppings would need to be cultured to determine if there is any bacterium, according to nurse John Reyes.

"Bacteria needs a warm, moist environment to survive. Most likely, the pigeon droppings are harmless, but you'd need to culture it to make sure there is no bacteria," Reyes said.

Zajac says the pigeons have come into the school.

"There are pigeons in the ceiling," Zajac said.

Freshman Matt Benson, a trombone player in Symphonic Band, says that a pigeon actually came into the new music

room.

"We came in the class, and everyone was making a commotion inside," Benson said. "Then Mr. [Matt] Moore said there was a pigeon in the band room and to try not to pay attention to it. It was hugely distracting, as everyone was scared they would get droppings on their heads."

Geese droppings also have been a problem on the back practice fields.

"If you fall on the ground, it gets on your skin, so it's very disgusting," senior wide receiver Mike Koeneman said.

Assistant Principal Eric Dolen says geese migration in the fall aggravates the situation.

"This area of the state has a large resident geese population. This population increases in the fall due to migrating geese that visit," Dolen said. "The pigeons are a new nuisance. We are looking into ways to keep them from roosting in our canopies."

The district has tried different methods to stop the spread, but a long term, lasting solution has not been found.

"They have tried spreading goose repellent on the fields, but this has not shown to be effective," Dolen said.

As her own contribution to improve the situation, data entry operator Theresa Dahlstrom recently donated a fake 18-inch owl to scare away the pigeons.

"This is a humane way to scare away the pigeons. Pigeons are afraid of owls, and the owl might scare them away," Dahlstrom said. "Its head bobs around, so it looks more real. I donated the owl to be used near entrance one, but it has not been put up yet."

## Local teens participate in Schaumburg tobacco sting

Eunhye Oak

News Editor

Undercover missions are not just fantasies found in books and movies. In fact, the Village of Schaumburg conducts its own undercover operation.

The program, the Tobacco License and Compliance Inspection, is carried out by the village's Community Development Department and its interns, who happen to be high school students.

The inspection targets any establishment within Schaumburg that owns a license to sell tobacco products, ranging from gas stations and convenience stores to hotels and bars.

The program enforces Schaumburg's ban on tobacco sales to minors and is funded by a grant from the Illinois Liquor Control Commission.

"Our goal is to focus on the education so stores are aware of our ordinance, as well as prevent the sale of tobacco to minors," code enforcement field supervisor Deborah Parran said.

Also known as a "sting operation," the inspection procedure is simple. Following established protocol, a minor and code enforcer go out to see if the local stores will sell cigarettes or tobacco to the teen.

"We make sure he or she does not take any identification into the establishment," Parran said. "He or she goes in alone while staying within view of the inspector who waits outside. The minor then asks to purchase tobacco products."

One important rule of the inspection is that the minor cannot attempt to persuade the clerk or lie in order to purchase the tobacco.

"Otherwise, it becomes what is known as entrapment," director of community development J. Christopher Huff said.

The minors can only respond to a clerk's demand for I.D. by claiming to have left it in the car or asking if they do not look old enough, according to Parran.

Schaumburg ordinance requires clerks on duty to ask for an I.D. from any customer who appears to be under 26 years old before selling the tobacco. If the store un-

## Day of silence spreads pro-life message

Alex Jin

Contributing Writer

While many students struggled to stay quiet during the newly established 15-second moment of silence on the morning of Oct. 23, a group of students warmed up for the Pro-Life Day of Silent Solidarity.

During this globally recognized event, 200,000 people, including students from over 4,600 schools in 19 countries, took a vow to stay silent all day.

Participants say this day-long speech boycott was in honor of the 46 million babies who have been aborted since the legalization of this practice on Oct. 22, 1973.

Although they could not speak, students spread their message by handing out flyers and wearing red duct tape bands over their mouths inscribed with the word "LIFE."

Junior Elizabeth Holmberg heard about the cause through a Facebook group created by volunteers from standtrue.com, a pro-life website.

"I think it's a cause that people should be aware of," Holmberg said. "It's good to honor those that don't have their own voice, those who have been silenced."

Sophomore Beata Luczywek, another participant, said her peers and teachers reacted positively to her silence.

"Most students were supportive, and I even heard some students in the library talking about it," Luczywek said. "Teachers were also understanding. They didn't call on me."

Some students, however, felt the event was a distraction.

"I think duct taping your mouth shut is inappropriate during school hours and could cause a negative reaction among some students," senior Rita Pello said.

Senior Stephanie Tham believes that the silence did not necessarily provide a means for an end to abortion.

"If they wanted to make a difference, the demonstrators should take action, not be silent," Tham said.

Participants say they hope the day of silence will change people's minds about abortion because there are other options.

"You can put your baby up for adoption," junior Lisa Gagliardi said. "My mom has friends who have been waiting for children to adopt for years."

Students like Gagliardi hope that the day of silence will prompt people to consider these other options instead of abortion.