

Commentary

Yearbook staff produces a masterpiece

by Julie Fritzshall
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Having just spent a semester contributing to the production of an award-winning newspaper, I know quite well the level of commitment and effort it takes to produce a publication of which one can be proud. No doubt the 2005-06 *Spectrum* staff is experiencing that feeling of pride right now.

I think most would agree that this year's *Spectrum* is nothing short of spectacular. The all-around theme "Cut and Paste" is very creative and unique. From the crumpled-paper autograph sheets all the way to the index, the theme runs throughout the entire book, consistently maintained.

There is much to admire in this book. I especially like the different backgrounds of the senior pages (designed by *West Word*'s own Martha Scheler), which add color and a scrapbook feel, consistent with the theme; the superimposition of actual negative strips on the page lends an air of authenticity; and the many fonts of the captions strike me as extremely creative.

However, my favorite elements, and probably the most innovative, are the current events pages. I definitely can see myself looking back and reading those years from now and remembering the 2005-06 school year. I don't think Niles West has seen anything like this before, at least not of the magnitude of this yearbook's current events section.

The yearbook features a few drawbacks, including such minor elements as putting in the same photo twice or covering up some faces in the photos. Also, in comparison to past years, the 2005-06 *Spectrum* has very few autograph sheets, leaving friends wondering where to sign. Some signed on the current events page, which frustrated me, because as I mentioned earlier, I really like those pages and didn't want them marked.

This minor criticism aside, the overall "Cut and Paste" yearbook is absolutely amazing. The hard work and dedication of the staff really shines through in this *Spectrum*. I commend all those who worked on it, particularly adviser Sharon Swanson and editor in chief, graduating senior Hanh Pham. This year's *Spectrum* is, by far, the best we have seen in many years.

