

College applications and rejections at an all time high

By Matt Hartzel
News Editor

Ask any senior who is preparing to head off to college as the year comes to a close if the school that they will be attending was their first choice. The odds are that it isn't; schools across the nation have received a record number of applications this year, and are sending out record numbers of rejection letters.

"There are a lot more student denials this year," said Jill Meyer, the College Career Center coordinator. She also explained that the result has been more students being put on wait lists.

Rejection rates have been increasing for decades and are expected to peak either this school year or the next. This can be attributed to a variety of reasons, including an increase in competitiveness of the pool of applicants each year and the push by schools to get more students to apply to colleges.

"I'm not too worried," said Matt Marol, junior. "I feel like I've done enough to be prepared for applying to college, but the selection process is kind of intimidating."

The most prestigious schools have

Mini-farm begins in Evanston, seeks volunteers

By Tatyana Saleski
News Editor

The Talking Farm, an organic urban farm in Evanston, is looking for volunteers as it launches its Mini-Farm at Twiggs Park.

"Right now we need volunteers to help plant and maintain the Mini-farm. There's a lot of good, hard, but fun work to be done and we need this sooner rather than later," said The Talking Farm president, Carolyn Zezima. Students who would like to become involved with the farm should email Zezima at info@thetalkingfarm.org. The next two volunteer days will be held Saturdays May 10 and May 24.

The Talking Farm, whose name is indicative of the project's mission to inform people of the importance of locally grown food, was launched in Oct. 2006.

"I realized that while we can't necessarily change the large-scale agricultural practices, starting a local farm is something we can do now," said Zezima. "Growing food locally is something that can help Evanston in so many ways."

Since then, the farm's directors have

been working to obtain a several acre plot of land on the border of Evanston and Skokie that is currently owned by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. "It's a very long process, but we hope to have the land within the next year," said Zezima. "In the meantime, we've started the Mini-Farm and Outdoor Classroom to give young adults the opportunity to get involved with the land and the food supply."

The farm plans to sell as much of the produce Mini-Farm as possible. It will be selling its first plants at the May 17-18 Garden Fair at Independence Park.

"This is a particularly good time to



photo courtesy of The Talking Farm

Volunteers pour compost into a pen.

grow as much food locally as we can and support local farmers in general," explained Zezima. "With all of the food shortages and issues surrounding the food system and the environment, we need to make local food a reality and we welcome the support of students and parents."