

GEARHEAD GAZETTE



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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK:

- > THE ROBOT TAKES SHAPE
- > THE CONTROL BOARD GETS BUILT
- > THE SHOOTER GETS MOUNTED

Faculty advisor Don Pata—looking stern—fields questions from the troops.

THE SEASON CONTINUES ; GEARHEADS SEARCH FOR BALANCE

The build season is flying by and the competition season is coming on quickly. We all have fond memories of competitions past but can't let that nostalgia effect our work ethic. And even as anticipation of the competitions increases we know that there is still lots to do to make sure that everything is in working order.

With 2 and a half weeks left and the clock ticking down on the robot build, the Gearheads are still working at full force. This week is tough with midterms just behind us. We are tired and could easily be home sleeping or watching T.V. However, we still come to the shop with a smile on our faces and determination in our eyes. Non-Gearheads might not understand why we would spend so much time in



the machine shop building something that is only going to shoot Frisbees. But the students and mentors know that it isn't just robots that they are building, but relationship and skills that will be the very foundation of our future. That's why the students join and stay with the team; they know that

even though they are scurrying to finish the robot, and even though its hard and stressful, in the end its not about how fast you finished the robot, or even how well it shoots those Frisbees, it's about coming out of the season with more than you had before.

COMPETITIONS: WHAT TO EXPECT.

By: Mike Dougherty

First Robotics competitions are everything but boring. The spirits, the music volume, and the tensions are all on high. On the dance floor, the DJ plays pop songs that are



"Y.M.C.A." sang (and danced) the energetic members of Team 1189, The Gearheads of Grosse Pointe, who won the Spirit of FIRST Award for 2010.

upbeat and make people want to get up a dance. In the stands, anxious teams look on the field rooting for team. Behind the scenes the pit crew is working on the robot that has just or is just about to compete in the game. It is a ton of fun but there are more than a couple of rules with which to comply. The first rule is the most important SAFETY! Whenever you enter the work area at competition, also known as "the pits" you must always wear safety goggles. Second, when robots of any team are being transported al-

ways get out of their way. Next, even though many people love to have a good time and dancing on the dance floor, when the match starts it's always polite to stay down or keep seated in order to make sure that you're not in anyone's way. That being said, these competitions are a spectacle of grandiose proportions! If you haven't been to one, you really need to see it to really understand FIRST.

In the end it a great time to have fun and enjoy the competition with your friends and team.

STUDENTS AND ROBOTS AND FINALS, OH MY!

By: Easton Washburn

As it turns out every year, the build season for robotics runs directly through the weeks of midterms for both North and South students. The students, then, are faced not only with the stress of studying for the intensive tests, but also with the lingering business of the ever-dwindling build season.

Not surprisingly, some students will skip robotics altogether in order to

study, or will bring their material into the classroom to study if there is nothing else to do. However, there are always those dedicated souls who arrive at the shop every day to keep working away at the tasks at hand.

This packed schedule, though commonly causing more stress, does not hinder the achievement of students in regards to the robot or to their tests. The members of this

team, as driven as they are, don't let their hard work go to waste. As finals week has wound down, the build season has picked up. Getting into crunch time, everyone's back in the shop and working away, the extraneous stresses of finals officially passed.

The mentors preach balance and commitment; both skills that all Gearheads will need in the future.

Robo-trinity: A Progress Report

Controls:



The coding for control is going swell! Everything is falling where it should be. They decided that the control board will be attached to the robot with 3M Dual Lock a Velcro-like fastener that sticks to itself! Control board is finally complete and will be mounted Thursday.

Design:



Design is currently working on the bumpers. The bumpers are almost complete, the next thing that is to sew on the cloth. Once the cloth is on the brackets will be attached. In addition to the bumpers the CADing is helping with assembly and continues to be invaluable.

Build:



Progress is being made for the build team. Working on preparing the robot for the control team to attach the control board onto the robot. The shooter and loader are complete; next is assembly. The lifter is still in the back of our minds and we'll start on that on Saturday.

PHOTO PAGE

