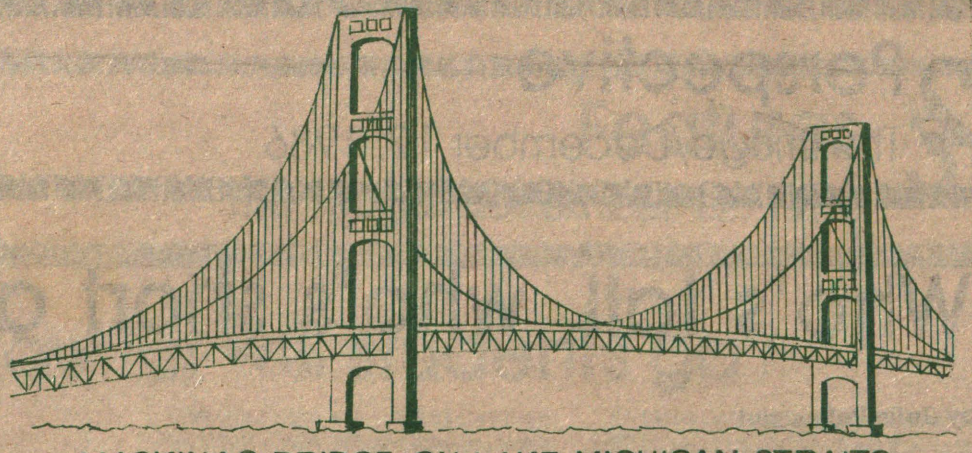


The Bridge

West Chicago Community High School
326 Joliet St. West Chicago, IL 60185
Volume 16 Number 5
December 12, 1986



MACKINAC BRIDGE ON LAKE MICHIGAN STRAITS

We-go makes the grade

by Jim Rowley

Report card. This sounds like something that a student would worry about. But this time it is West Chicago Community High School getting graded.

Last February, Governor James Thompson, while addressing the General Assembly, stated, "Parents and taxpayers must be assured that the schools they trust and support are as accountable as their students." This statement brought about the school report cards.

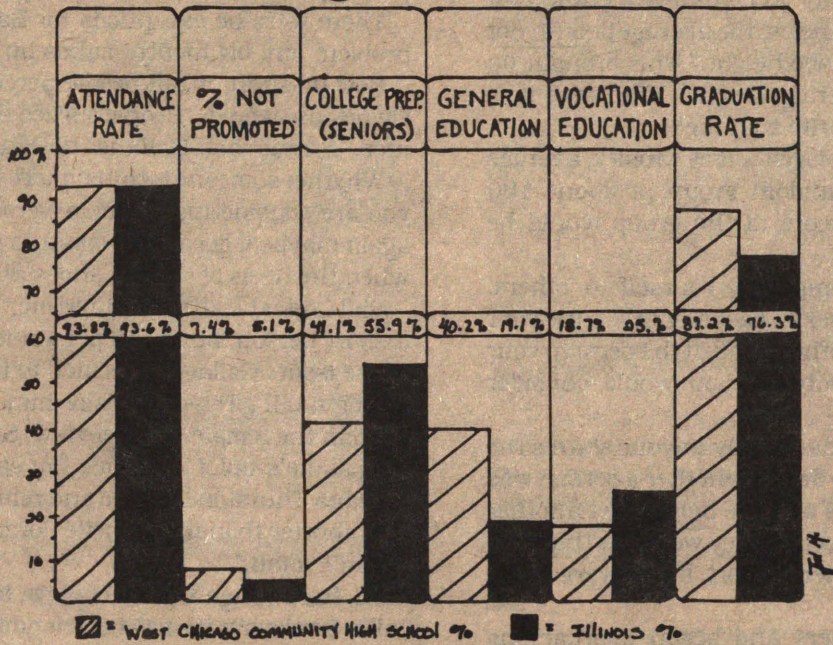
The cards grade such things as attendance, enrollment of low income students, student transfers, average class size, student/teacher ratios, ACT and SAT scores, and teacher/administration salaries.

Although We-go's ACT scores were within a point and a half of New Trier High School, which has the highest ACT average score in Illinois, Superintendent Richard Kamm sees there is room for improvement. The schools average of 20.5 topped the state's score of 19.1. With 170 students at We-go taking the test, about 49.6% of the senior class, the average scores were; English 19.1, mathematics 20.1, Social Science 19.4, Natural Science 23.0.

The average SAT scores 481 for the verbal portion and 553 on the mathematics section.

We-go's attendance rate was 93.8% of the students attending school every day, this is compared to the states average of 93.6%. This is important since if students attend school daily their achievement scores tend to improve.

"I would like to see a more prepared senior for college," says Kamm due to the fact the school scored 41% to the state's 55.9% in



Based on THE BETTER SCHOOLS ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT for 1985-1986

the number seniors prepared for college. This would include general and vocational education.

The graduation rate at We-go is measured by the number of students who entered WCCHS in 1982 as a ninth grader and graduated in 1986 as a senior. The percent of students not promoted to the next grade for WCCHS is 7.4 compared to the states 6.1%. While the graduation rate is 76.3% at We-go to the states 87.2%.

The percent of low income enrollment is 5.3% compared to 23.7% at state level. This too is important because studies have shown that these students do less well on their achievement tests.

The costs for running We-go are as follows and is compared to the state averages: \$30,201 for We-go in teachers' salaries, \$40,699 for WCCHS administrators, operating expenditure per pupil (84-85) is \$4,288, and per capita tuition charge of \$4,014. State averages are as follows: \$27,014 teacher salary, \$41,284 administrator salary, operating expenditure per pupil \$3,526, and per capita tuition charge \$3,071.

For more information contact the office to get a report card which was made public Nov. 1.

Inkspots

H.M. spells honorable mention for Volpe

by Jim Rowley

Jean Volpe, In-depth/Features Editor, won an honorable mention at Nov. 21-23 JEA/NSPA convention.

Volpe has been writing for the Bridge for two years. This was her first convention. "I was shocked when I heard I had won an award. I thought the H.M. next to my name were someone's initials or something," said Volpe.

Eight staff members of the Bridge accompanied Volpe on the trip.

Uncle Sam wants you!

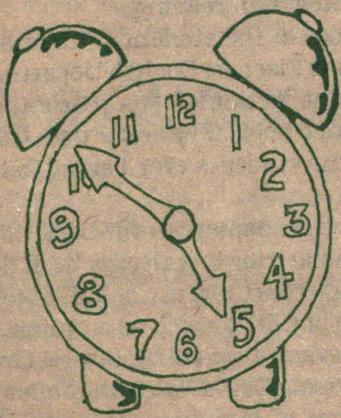
SPRINGFIELD — All male students were reminded of their obligation to register with the Selective Service System in an announcement issued by Colonel Richard E. Northern, Illinois State Selective Service Director. Colonel Northern urged all young men to register within thirty days of their 18th birthday. Federal law requires all young men to register within this thirty day period.

Registration is a very easy process according to the State Director. Young men may visit any United States Post Office and fill out a simple registration form. The form asks only for the name, address, telephone number, social security number and date of birth of the applicant. When the form is completed, the applicant needs to show some identification to the postal clerk and then sign the form. He will receive proof of this registration in about four to six weeks.

Registration with the Selective Service System is necessary to qualify for federal and state college financial aid, Federal Job Training Benefits and federal employment. Young men can register up to 120 days prior to their 18th birthday to help insure receipt of proof of registration in filing for these benefits.

Colonel Northern stated it is important that all young men understand the registration requirement in order to avoid losing the possibility of federal employment or college financial aid. Failure to register, he noted, is also a violation of federal law which could lead to prosecution.

Ticking off the minutes



by Doug Durr

The student council opened discussion on some of its Christmas plans for this year at the November 12 meeting.

Randa Bascheron, head of the cafeteria committee, reported plans of decorating the cafeteria for Christmas. There are also plans for surveys to find out: how many people go to which lines, and which foods are more popular than others.

Tracy Knutson was named the head of a committee to do something for the residents at the West Chicago Terrace. Details will be researched at the next meeting.

A candy cane committee was set up to organize the sale of candy canes with a message on them. Kevin Crawford was named to be the head of that committee. Details and dates will be planned at a later meeting.

A Christmas dress up date was set for December 19. "The council invites everyone to get in the Christmas spirit and dress up."

Jeni Weins and Kara Nelson were named to be heads of the art fund. Later they will travel to Chicago to buy a painting to be hung in West Chicago's hallways.

Kanold wins award

by Jim Recchia



Former We-go math teacher Tim Kanold received the Presidential Award for excellence in mathematics teaching.

In October, each state chose one math teacher and one science teacher for this award. In Illinois 160 teachers submitted nomination packets, in which a teacher fills out a resume which includes: educational background, professional background and to state mission as a teacher in which Kanold called the "neat part."

First, Kanold was nominated for the award by superintendent Dr. Kamm. After that nomination, the packet had to include four recommendations: a co-worker, a student, parents, and the last one by a professor of a university. After the state committee narrowed their selections down to three, the remaining candidates had their packet sent to Washington, D.C. where 12 people from different parts of the country selected the winners from each state.

After winning the award, Kanold said, "I don't know if I would have won the award without the great administrative support and a nice atmosphere at West Chicago with

both the teachers and students."

Kanold shares his experiences in winning this award with us in the following letter.

Dear Students of Community High School, West Chicago:

About six weeks ago I had the very good fortune of going to Washington, D.C. for four days. I was the Presidential Award recipient for excellence in mathematics teaching from the state of Illinois for 1986. More importantly, I was representing the school community of West Chicago - its students, staff and administration. I felt honored to have been the representative of this award. The ceremonies did include meeting President Reagan and Vice-President Bush which was a very enjoyable experience. However, it was very humbling when upon meeting George Bush I panicked, forgot my name and said "Illinois mathematics teacher!" I found it enlightening that at this moment of stress, with TV cameras buzzing, I at least knew the bottom line - I was a teacher!

It is very difficult to explain the feelings of pride I had knowing I had received this award as a representative of West Chicago High School. During my six years at West Chicago it was you, the students, who provided the motivation for my continual growth as a teacher. I will admit that I miss many of you as well as the life that you brought to the programs I had an opportunity to take part in. I wish to thank all of you for your support and for the chance to have been your teacher. And remember - when things aren't always going right... "there are no problems, only misunderstood opportunities!" Have a Merry Christmas.

Tim Kanold

Inside Christmas

pp 4 & 5

Cheating in school p. 3

DuPage Valley basketball preview p. 8

Who's tall, who's short and who cares?

by Julie Pollastrini

How do you know if you are tall or short? Do you judge by the insulting jokes people make? This is just a big indication of someone else's opinion of what they think tall and short mean.

What does tall and short really mean? According to **Funk and Wagnall's** dictionary, short means, "being below the average height; not tall." Tall means, "having more than average height." This brought up a few questions of my own. What is average height? Who says it is average? And did a tall or short person write that fact.

Well, according to our new school psychologist, Jerry Kinsley, average height is determined by surveying a random group of about 100 teenagers the same age. The medium score of the group would be considered the average height.

You probably compare yourself by comparing yourself to others. Generally, if you find yourself bending over to casually talk with your friends, you consider yourself tall. On the other hand, if the perm in your hair only reaches your friends' belly buttons, you would consider yourself short.

Scanning the halls of We-go, I noticed that hardly anyone shares the same height with another. No how was I to decide whether a person was short or tall? I tried to consider who was of average height. Yet another dead end. I decided to compare them to myself. If they were less than five foot six inches, they were going to be considered short. If they were above it, then they were tall.

With this in mind, I crossed my fingers and began approaching students to find out how they felt.

Tim Gallagher, (a short senior) when asked about how he felt about being short he replied, "Not bad, except for the jokes."

Janelle Jordan, (a tall freshman) stated, "I don't mind it except when people put things low so I hit my head."

There were no exceptions for Barb Strobel. She quickly replied, "No problem, my big mouth makes up for my shortness!"

How do short or tall people perceive short or other all people? Jenni Ownes answered, "People's sizes don't matter, just as long as they are nice." Strobel and Gallaher both agree that tall people are pretty cool.

Whether someone is tall or short probably is of little value to you unless you are considering dating a person of greater or lesser height. Then again maybe it doesn't. It means a great deal to me. I feel uncomfortable when the heels of my flat shoes allow me to check my date's dandruff.

Phil Cotter (a tall senior) told me, "Dating a tall person is just like dating a short person, but a tall person is easier to kiss." On the shorter side of the issue, Gallagher seemed to indicate that being a short guy that's dating a tall girl would make him feel inferior or insecure.

From the female point of view, Sherrie Lloyd (a short junior) said, "As long as he's taller than me, I'm satisfied."

Diana Thurston laughed and remarked, "It would be pathetic if anyone was shorter than me" Janelle Jordan casually stated, "I don't mind if he doesn't mind."

So, from We-go's point of view, the fact that a person may be short or tall is irrelevant in making friends. The person's personality makes up for the difference in their heights.

To make a long story short, Cliff's Notes are popular

by Brian King



Cliff's Notes. Are they useful in the learning process or are they just an easy "A"? Why do we buy those yellow and black striped books with most of the answers?

According to the students talked to, the most popular reason they buy Cliff's Notes is because they didn't have time to read the assigned book. Or maybe they just didn't feel like reading.

Students who use Cliff's Notes assume they are an acceptable compensation, because they roughly sum up events in the novel. Some students think that it is easier and better than reading.

The ideas of the teachers oppose those of the students. "The use of Cliff's Notes is harmful," says Dr. Thomas Fischer, English Department Chairman. "It doesn't allow the student to think." His reasoning is believable when a student is asked about a book, if he or she uses Cliff's Notes, the answers are there without the students ever having to look for them.

Fischer has his students summarize the chapters in the book. If the student uses Cliff's Notes, then the summarizing has already been done so the skill of summarizing is lost through repetitive use of Cliff's Notes.

Fischer also feels that, "students use of Cliff's Notes as a crutch," in order to get out of reading. There are several types of literature, Greek and Latin for example. If students keep using Cliff's Notes, they miss the opportunity to experience different kinds of literature. This in a way produces ignorance in the field of literature.

Fischer has a logical argument when he says that Cliff's Notes do not allow the student to think, therefore the benefit is not to your learning. There is no real reason to use them because reading the book is much easier and more enjoyable than the money spent on Cliff's Notes.

Letters to the editor No LRC for off-campus students

Dear Editor,

There is a new policy that students with off-campus privileges are not allowed in the LRC during that period. If we are forbidden to work in the Learning Resource Center, how can we be expected to do research projects for other classes? As seniors, we have the off-campus privilege but it is sometimes necessary to remain at school to use the resources that are available to us as students. We feel this new restriction is unfair to us and should be altered in some way so that we can be free to use the library as needed.

Sincerely,
Robin Hein
Dana Madden
Karen Swan
Mary Beth Eaton

Dear Bridge,

First we would like to thank you for considering us as one of your advertisers. We hope that advertising in the **Bridge** will help us to build our business.

We would also like to congratulate you on a wonderful newspaper. I have never seen such insight from teenagers before. It feels good to think you have a true understanding of life around you.

Sincerely,
The staff at Images Hair Studio

The Bridge

326 Joliet St.
231-0880 ext. 268

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Advertising Manager..... Doug Durr
News Editor..... Jim Rowley
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In-Depth Editors..... Kim Mauk
Melanie Miller
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Tim Courtney

The Bridge is the student newspaper of Chicago Community High School. The Bridge office is located in room 216.

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and must be legibly signed, with a maximum of five names appearing in the paper. Letters will be printed as time and space permit. The editor reserves the right to edit, if necessary, for length and libelous material.

Unsigned editorials appearing in the newspaper are the opinions of the majority of the Bridge editorial board. Content and editorial policy are determined by the editors with concurrence of the Bridge editorial board. The advisor acts in the capacity of a professional consultant. The opinions expressed in the newspaper are not necessarily those of the majority of the student body or the high school.

Cheating in schools: How far will students go?

(YNS) - As the students in a California high school classroom waited for their Spanish III final exam to be distributed, they glanced at one another with knowing eyes.

The students knew they should all pass the test with high grades. One of the teacher's student helpers had made copies of the test and sold them to eager classmates - for \$20 each.

One of the buyers, age 16, said she was pressured into spending the \$20. "My friend told me that if I didn't, the rest of the class would blow the teacher's curve and I would receive a poor grade," she said.

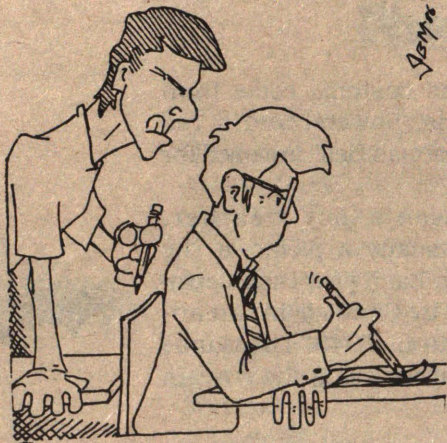
The incident just described may not be unusual.

A former educational psychologist at the University of Georgia in Athens, Dr. Fred Schab, began conducting studies of cheating at 22 Georgia high schools nearly 19 years ago. His poll of 1100 students showed an increase in cheating over a 10-year period.

Why do students cheat?

"Students are forced to cheat by competition and parental pressure to do well in school," said Schab. "The material students are tested on is often too difficult. It's aimed at the best students and the rest have to struggle," he said. But even the smartest kids cheat."

Cheating starts as early as elementary school, and if it's successful, students



continue cheating through high school and college, said Schab. "Students know cheating is wrong, but they do it for short-term success without seriously considering the consequences," he said.

Alice Davis, of Fullerton, CA, said, "It's unfair when the rest of the class cheats and you don't. It is to your disadvantage if you don't."

How do students cheat?

In high schools across the country many other situations involving dishonesty occur. Cheating can range from copying a friend's homework to smuggling cheat sheets.

Theodis Peoples, a Los Angeles high school senior, said he tapes answers to the inside lenses of his sunglasses.

Some students also admit to stealing copies of tests.

"In all of our classes, kids look over someone else's shoulder," said 16-year-old Christine Stephens of Lake Forest, IL.

Schab's Georgia poll indicated that the number of people who allowed others to copy their work rose from 59 percent to over 82 percent.

"I guess I hate it when I know an answer and someone else doesn't, so I give it to them," said Amy Metz, 17, of Richardson, TX.

In addition to copying homework and cheating on tests, there are some students who buy and sell term papers. A California-based company sells term papers - students can purchase pre-written term papers on numerous subjects for \$6 per page.

Cliff Notes and Monarch Notes are yet another method students use to "beat the school system," explained 16-year-old Vinnie Barrett of Coral Springs, FL. "I'm too lazy, so I read Cliff Notes. I read them before a test, because even if I do read the book, I usually forget what it is about by the test date."

That such companies are able to operate legally is evidence of a weak national attitude that refuses to condemn cheating, said Schab. "We've gotten soft," he said.

And schools are also guilty of being "too soft", he said. "Look at the kind of penalties we give, a slap on the wrist. I'm afraid a lot of teachers let it go. They don't want to get into a hassle, because cheating is hard to prove.

"There is no one way to solve the cheating problem," said Schab. Teachers should endorse seating arrangements, observe students for unusual behavior or body movements by standing at the back of the class and walking past students' desks, he suggested.

"If I see someone cheating during a test, I give the student a zero on the test, I call the parent, and I report them to the vice-principal," said Wendy Fairbanks, an English teacher at Venice High School.

But such measures solve the symptoms and not the cause of the cheating problem. Two of the main causes of cheating - test anxiety and pressure to get good grades - are related, said Schab. Grades are often based upon a single type of measurement, the test, he said.

"As long as teachers use one set of standards that don't take into account students many individual differences, you're going to have problems," he said. One way to relieve that pressure is to evaluate students in ways that accommodate their learning differences.

"People are competitive and parents are always telling us that we must get our grades up," said Barrett.

Have you made your kids feel guilty today?

by Milan Hinich

Perhaps when you were a child and did something wrong your parents spanked you. Now there is a question as to whether using this kind of punishment is effective in the discipline of children.

According to the authors of **Punishment and Discipline**, the best way to discipline a child is to attain a long range goal. That is, to allow the child to feel sorry for his wrong. This keeps the child from feeling like a terrible child. Harsh punishment can discourage a child from looking up to his parents.

As a child experiences punishment his feelings can reverse in many ways. For

example, when a child grows older, he may seek revenge on his parents instead of learning from his mistake. The authors of **Punishment and Discipline** feel that a good way to discipline a child is not be negative punishment, as many parents do, but by a more positive type of discipline.

It is more useful to let the child take responsibility for his actions and to let him deal with his guilty conscience. By using this method a child will be more likely to apologize for his actions rather than continuing to act out negatively.

Take, for example, a child who has stolen something. The goods that were taken should be returned to the store owner by the child. One mistake that parents often make

is that they embarrass the child, which provokes the child to act out again. Embarrassment usually makes the child so angry that he forgets any guilty feelings that he may have. Many parents, as a punishment, may take away a child's possessions or free time. However, they don't realize that they are also taking the child's sense of value away.

To most parents, punishment is the way to maintain discipline, but the actual definition of discipline is "to instruct and to be imparted to disciplines." This suggests that love and admiration, not harsh punishment, are powerful motives in teaching a child ideals and values.

Throughout the discipline of a child,

parents need to be consistent in their actions towards their other children. If parents favor one child over the other, it causes jealousy and may even cause some children to strive to be perfectionists. On the other hand, if a child feels that he is being treated fairly, he will accept the disciplinary actions easier.

In order to discipline well, a parent must be secure, upright and responsible themselves. A secure parent will understand a child's anger towards him or her after disciplinary actions are taken, and let the child get over their anger. When parents set a mature example of living for their children and respect for them, children can accept the teaching of values and principles.

Wax your skis, it's time to make tracks!

by Kim Mauk

Alright all you Midwest skiers! It's that time again to start hitting the slopes! Are you ready?

Okay, so maybe all of your equipment isn't all geared up to go, and maybe Colorado does have more snow and steeper runs than the Midwest, but that's no excuse for you not to catch up on the latest hot spots of the Midwest.

The following ski areas are for all types of skiers: those who want to take the "easy way out" in a "sheltered valley" or on the "bunny run," and those who strive on the "racer's edge," dodging those "hot dog bumps," fighting the "mogul monster," encountering "satan's revenge," and ending the day with a "wipe-out." These are only some runs you will confront in the Midwest.

Alpine Valley - East Troy, WI. Chicago ski condition number: 263-5884. Rates: (depending on whether you go on a week or weekend, day or night) \$10.25 (rope only) to \$16.75. Alpine has five beginner runs, three intermediate, and three advanced



Dawn Herold skiing at Cascade

runs. Vertical drop: 368 feet, longest run: 3000 feet.

Americana - Lake Geneva, WI. Ski conditions: 800-558-3417. Rates vary from \$11, to \$15.50. Americana has two beginner, two novice, four intermediate, three advanced, and two "very expert" runs. Vertical drop: 211 feet, longest run: one-quarter mile.

Cascade - Portage, WI. Ski conditions: CASCADE. Rates: \$7 to \$12 (beginners only), \$10 to \$19. Special "all nighters" from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. on December 31, February 7 and 21, and March 7. Tuesday-free clinic for all levels. Thursday-student night-

under 18 (with I.D.) only \$6. 14 runs, 30% beginner, 40% intermediate, 30% advanced. Vertical drop: 460 feet, longest run: one mile.

Devil's head - Merrimac, WI. Ski conditions: 800-DEVILSX. Rates \$10 to \$21. One beginner/intermediate, three intermediate, three advanced runs. New non-alcoholic teen bar. Vertical drop: 500 feet, longest run: 4,500 feet.

Villa Olivia - Bartlett, IL. Ski conditions: 289-SNOW. Rates: \$11 to \$16.50. Longest run: one-quarter mile.

Wilmont - Wilmont, WI. Ski conditions: 736-0787. Rates: \$14.50 to \$18.25. Twenty runs, eight chairlifts, six rope tows. Monday-Friday, 3 p.m.-11 p.m. High school students pay \$12.50.

The above ski areas also provide lessons and have NASTAR racing.

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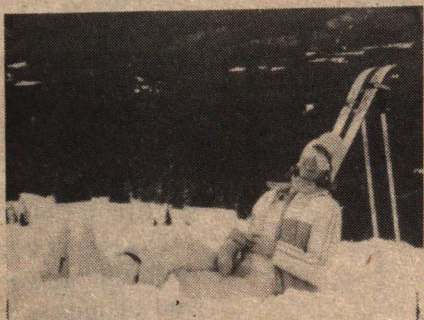
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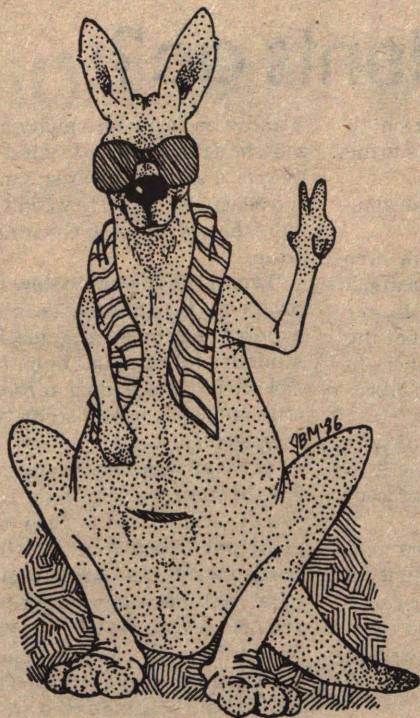
OFF ANY LARGE OR
EXTRA LARGE PIZZA

ONE COUPON PER
CUSTOMER COUPONS
MAY NOT BE
ACCUMULATED



Kim Mauk at Devil's head

by
Jean



Australia

Australian Christmas customs come from the British Isles. Ferns, flowers, and a red flower called "The Christmas Bell" are used for decorations.

Because of the season's "hot" weather, Christmas dinner is usually a picnic at the beach or in the country. Each year the Australians celebrate "Carols by Candlelight" an annual event which began in 1943. Thousands of people of all ages gather along the river in Melbourne to sing.

Germany

The Germans believe it is the Christ Child who brings everyone gifts, not a mythical character.

The tradition of Christmas trees is said to have originated in Germany by Martin Luther. He was walking through a forest and saw a star shining through the trees. He thought this was beautiful and cut a tree down and decorated it with candles in his home. Presents are arranged around the tree, and a wreath is hung in the house.



Italy

The children of Italy receive their gifts from an old ugly woman named La Befana. The story is told that Befana was scrubbing floors when the three Kings passed by carrying gifts for the Christ Child. She begged them to wait until she finished her chores so she could join them but they did not. When she finished, she tried to catch up with the Kings but she never reached them.

On January 6, the Feast of the Three Kings, she rides her broomstick in search of baby Jesus. She comes down the chimney and leaves gifts near the nativity. Every family, rich or poor, has a nativity scene in their home. Wealthy families pass down decorated statues and it is traditional for each family to visit friends and view the *presipa* or manger.



Sweden

The Swedish prepare for the Christmas celebration weeks ahead of time, beginning on December 12, the first Feast Day of St. Lucia.

Because the people admire St. Lucia for her courage and generosity, it is customary for the oldest daughter in each family to dress like her on December 12. They represent her by wearing a white robe with a red sash and a crown of lit candles on the head.

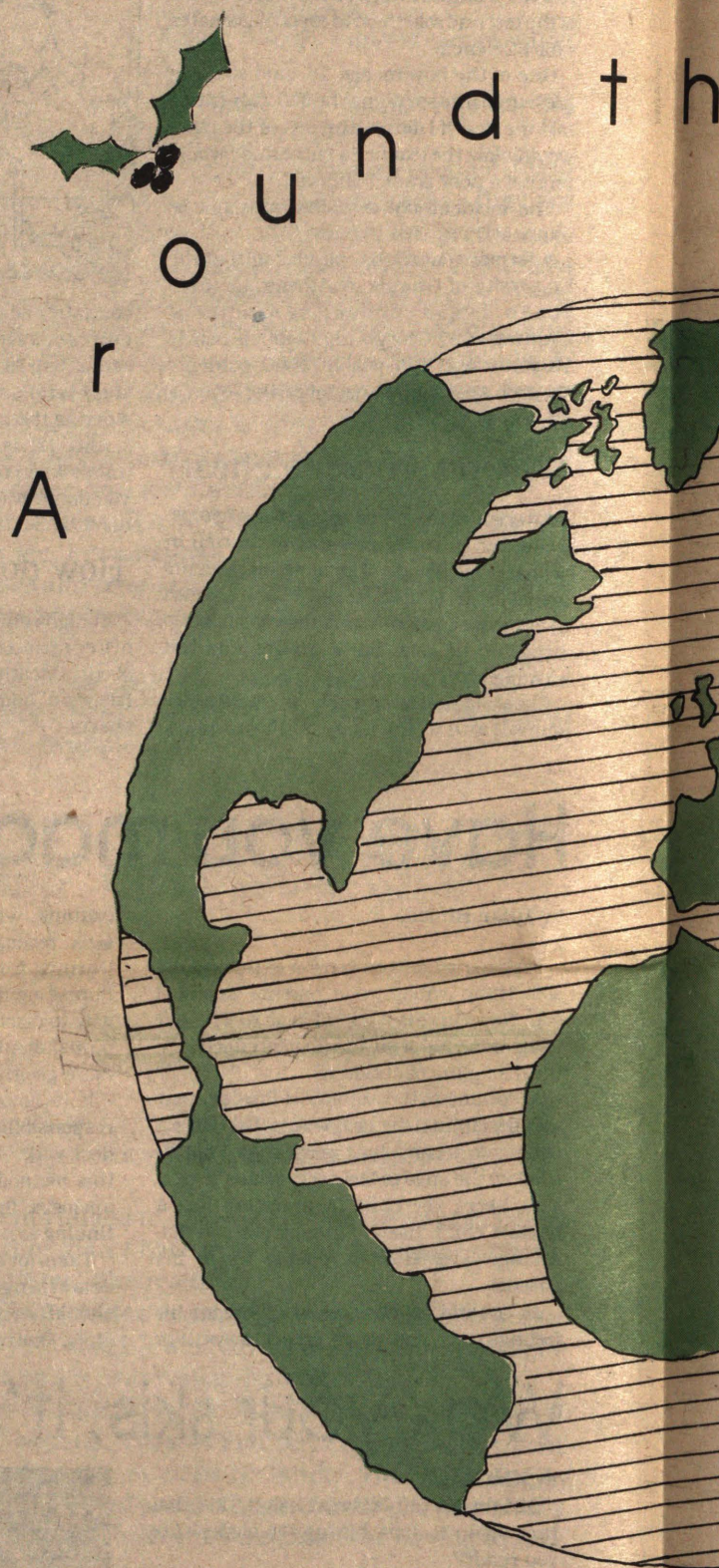
Candles are a special symbol of Christmas in Sweden. They stand for the bright star over the stable in Bethlehem, and at the Christmas church service there is a candle on each seat.

Gifts are delivered on Christmas Eve by the *Tomte* or *Tomtar*; little gnomes or elves. One is a white bearded man and the other is a little old woman who carries a basket filled with gifts.

Some special Christmas foods are *julegrot*, the same as our rice pudding, and *tutfisk*, which is dried cod. The Swedish also make a point to leave food out for the birds and animals.



Chris



Poland

When the first star on Christmas Eve appears, the daylong fast of the Christmas Eve ends and the family gathers to honor the Christ Child.

The father starts the feast with a Christmas wafer and offers it to the guests as a sign of friendship. The meal follows with seven courses, one for each Apostle, and is meatless. An extra plate is set for the stranger.

In honor of the animals that were in the Manger, the children dress up as animals and go caroling. They receive gifts from the Christ Child, which is spread on the floor as a sign of friendship. Children may also sleep under the Christ Child.

The great midnight mass is held on Christmas Eve. According to legend those who are good and blameless can see Jacob's Ladder in the winter sky.

Christmas

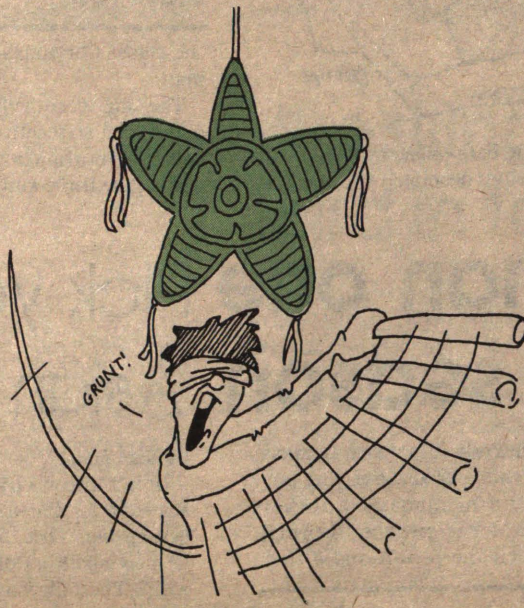
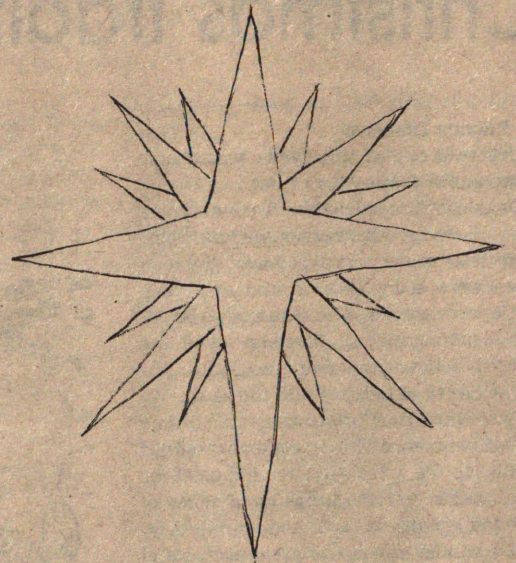
the world



Russia

The first star seen on Christmas Eve marks the beginning of the Christmas celebration in Russia. Some Russian women pray to this star asking to be given a good husband. The children in Russia believe that *Babouschka* brings them gifts, while others believe they are given by St. Nicholas.

In the days of the Czar, a common Christmas tradition was called the "Blessing of the Waters". In a river near the Palace a priest performed this ceremony.



Mexico

Christmas is primarily a religious holiday in Mexico. The festivities begin on December 16 and last until Christmas Eve. The people hold *posados* during this time, which are reenactments of the journey Joseph and Mary made while seeking shelter in Bethlehem. On January 6, the children receive their gifts. A pinata filled with candy, nuts and small gifts is broken as part of the celebration. The Poinsettia was discovered in Mexico and the Christmas flower was later brought to the U.S.

Ireland

On Christmas Eve in Ireland, a lighted candle is put in the window and the door is left open so the Holy Family will stop to rest on their way to Bethlehem.

Strangers are also welcome and are offered food and shelter. The candle is decorated with holly and is placed in a hollowed out turnip or in a container filled with flour or bran. The youngest child has the honor of lighting the candle. Churches sometimes have 12 candles representing the Apostles with a large candle in the middle representing Christ.

On St. Stephen's Day (December 26) wren-boys carry a holly bush with a wren on top to houses while singing songs. They receive pennies and buy candy.

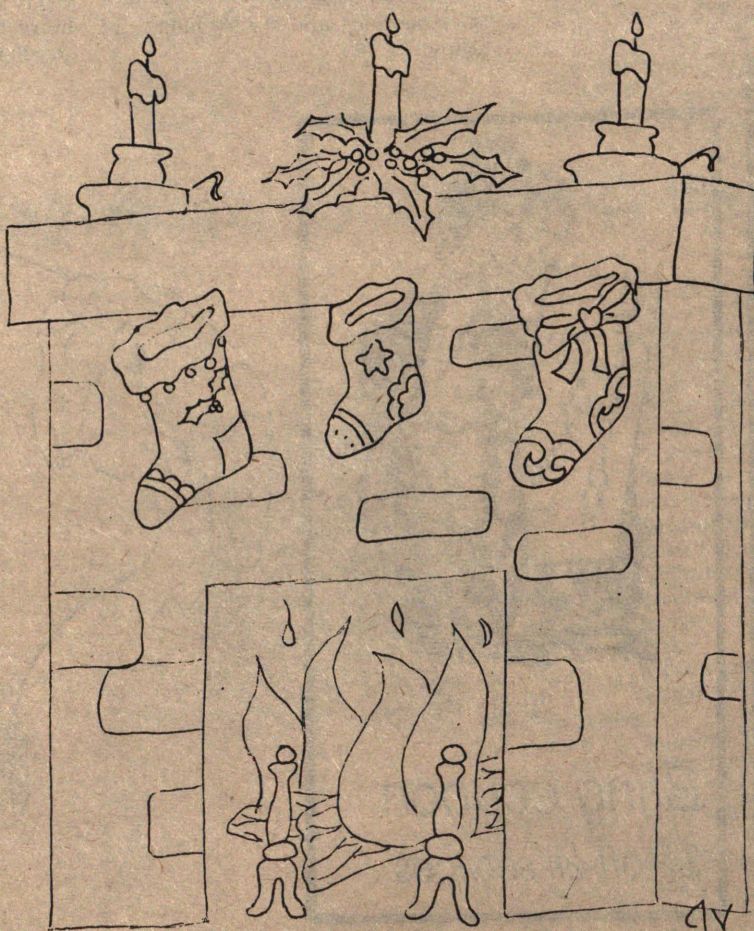


France

Three boys dressed as kings along with children in angel wings and shepherd clothes, spread the holiday spirit in France.

Although Christmas trees are rare, nearly everyone's house has a *creche* or nativity scene. The children gather stones, moss and holly from the woods to decorate the nativity scene. Flour is sprinkled on as snow. The scene is usually placed on the mantle which has three lights symbolizing the Holy Trinity.

Yule logs also play an important role in the Christmas celebration. The log is brought into the house by the whole family. It can be sprinkled with wine or holy water and is sometimes covered by a cloth and "spanked" by the children to chase away evil spirits. Today, some houses don't have chimneys so a cake is made to represent the yule log. A bean is hidden in the dough and the lucky child who finds it becomes the "King" or "Queen".



land

On Christmas Eve a feast of the Polish Wigilia is held. The family gathers at the table to eat.

The feast is broken by the youngest child who offers it to all as a token of good will. The meal following has 12 courses, one for each Apostle, and all are served on a silver plate. A needy person is invited to the table.

Animals that gathered at the table are dressed up as beasts and receive gifts and food. Straw is scattered on the floor as a reminder of the manger. The animals also sleep on straw like the animals in the manger.

The Christmas mass is called *Pasterka*. It is held for those who have been pure since birth. They see Jacob's ladder in the sky.

Christmas traditions from the past to the present

by Rhonda Dispensa

Believe it or not, there once was a time when Santa Claus didn't exist.

Or at least no one had heard of him. There were, however, other versions of him. Some were real, some were legendary. Some of them were scary looking and terrifying. Some were women, one was even a saint. But somehow they all ended up rolled into one jolly fellow we all know as Santa.

The Santa of today is still the same. We may see him in a Christmas parade or in a department store with an eight year old girl on his lap. He will always remind us of the child within us who longs for a sense of wonder, joy, peace, love, and mankind.

The star is one of the great symbols of Christmas, because it was a star that heralded the birth of Christ. Stars appear on top of Christmas trees, and electric versions enhance stores, houses, and streets across the land.

In ancient cultures, the people worshipped the tree as the symbol of life. The Egyptians celebrated the winter sol-



stice by bringing date palms indoors. The Jewish tribes decorated their booths

with tree branches. The Christmas tree spread to America when Hessian soldiers practiced the custom while fighting in the Revolutionary War. Later, in England, a tree was set up in Windsor Castle by Prince Albert, who brought the custom from his homeland.

Today, from the huge tree on the lawn of the White House to the plastic imitations sold in department stores, we are still bringing nature indoors, continuing one of

In countless homes today we use mistletoe as an excuse to kiss someone.

the oldest Christmas traditions known to man.

The Magi were the first to give Christmas gifts. By the sixteenth century the focus was on children (thanks to St. Nicholas), who would give three kinds of gifts: a pleasing

gift (such as chocolate), a practical gift (such as a writing implement), and a disciplinary gift (such as a birchrod for an occasional spanking). Gift giving is perhaps one of the most widespread Christmas customs today. It is still up to each individual whether they give out of necessity and social pressure, or out of the same spirit of the wisemen.

During Roman times, enemy soldiers who met under the mistletoe plant would put down their arms, end their fighting, and embrace. In countless homes today, we use mistletoe as an excuse to kiss someone. Legends about this plant are numerous. Early Christians thought it was the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden. Some say the mistletoe was once a tall forest tree, but turned into a dwarf-sized shrub as a punishment for allowing itself to be utilized in the making of Christ's cross.

"He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle, and away they all flew, like the down of a thistle. But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight, 'Happy Christmas to all! And to all a good night!'"

There's more than one reason for the season Pick your pet: a list from Asian rhino to Zebra

by Sara Langellier

Is Christmas too commercialized? Is the true meaning of Christmas exploited? Do people worry too much about how much a gift is worth, instead of what it means to the person receiving it?

Many answers were given when asked if Christmas was too commercialized, but what exactly does commercialization mean? For a business it would mean to exploit an idea or thing to gain a profit. Many gifts are pushed at the public during the

"People worry too much about how much a gift costs, not the reason it is being given."

holidays through television commercials and ads in newspapers. Businesses try to make money off the idea of giving gifts at Christmas.

Father Frank Vidas from St. John the Baptist Church in Winfield says, "Christmas is too commercialized." Vidas explains his answer by saying, "People worry too much about how much a gift costs, not the reason it is being given."

What do some We-go students say?

Sophomore Jeff York says, "Yes, because everyone gets too hyper about buying presents and spending money." Another sophomore Laura McPheters says, "No, but it really depends on the person and if they

"If Christmas wasn't commercialized it would be just like any other day."

understand the true meaning of Christmas."

What is the view of a student who goes to a Catholic school? Becky Smyth from St. Francis gives two different opinions. First, she says, "Yes, the real meaning of Christmas is lost in presents and decorations." Smyth also says, no, explaining, "Jesus was giving and so it's right to give gifts if you understand why you are."

Freshman John Pohotich had a different view when asked if Christmas was too commercialized. Pohotich said, "No, because if Christmas wasn't commercialized it would be just like any other day."

Commercialization during the holidays will always be here, but so will the true meaning of Christmas.

by Kim Mauk

Don't know what to get that special someone for Christmas? Well, how about getting mom a cuddly, lovable Giant Panda? Or how about a Gorilla for dad to wrestle with? The following are prices on exotic "pets" estimated by Saul Kitchener, director of the San Francisco Zoo, and prices at "The Whale's Eye Pet Shop" in Villa Park on Roosevelt rd. of more common pets.

- Asian one-horned rhinoceros: \$125,000.
- Baby hippo: \$400 ("Hippos live a long time (40 years) and are easy to breed. Everybody who wants one has one." says Kitchener.)
- Bengal tiger: "Available at zoos for a stamped, self-addressed envelope.
- Cat (average): \$10-\$15.
- Dalmation: \$300-350.
- Eastern wallaro: \$250.
- Egyptian goose: \$10.
- Ferret: \$125.
- Giant panda: One million for a pair, if they are available from China. (They control the supply.)
- Giraffe: \$5000 in the United States; \$25,000 if you want them from their natural habitat in Africa.
- Gorilla (female): \$100,000.
- Hamster: \$4.99.
- Iridescent shark (small): \$4.99.
- Jack Dempsey (type of fish): \$9.99 (large), \$4.49 (medium), and \$1.99 (small).
- Kenny: \$7.49.

- Lions: Same as Bengal tiger.
 - Mini Lop (rabbit): \$24.99
 - Newt: These run from \$1.99 to \$9.99 depending on whether you want an Eastern, Californian, Fire, or Mandarin one.
 - Okapi: \$100,000. Akin to the giraffe, found in Zaire.
 - Penguin: \$1,000.
 - Piranha: \$15.
 - Queen Alexandra's parrot: \$400. (That's the name of the type of bird. If you really wanted Queen Alexandra's parrot (if she had one), it would probably cost you a lot more.)
 - Rabbit: \$9.99.
 - Snow leopard: \$10,000.
 - Spider monkey: \$250.
 - Tree shrew (male): \$100.
 - Umbrella cockatoo: Anywhere from \$650 to \$800, depending on the availability and the season.
 - Village weaver (bird): \$27.99.
 - Water buffalo: \$2,000 a pair.
 - White-fronted lemur: \$2,000 a pair also.
 - White tiger: \$75,000 and going up.
 - X-ray tetra (fish) \$2.98.
 - Yellow canary: \$59.99.
 - Zebra: \$2,000 for a female, \$500 for a male.
- Well, there you have it from A to Z, but if you're going to buy some, you'd better hurry. Now that the word's out they might go quick!

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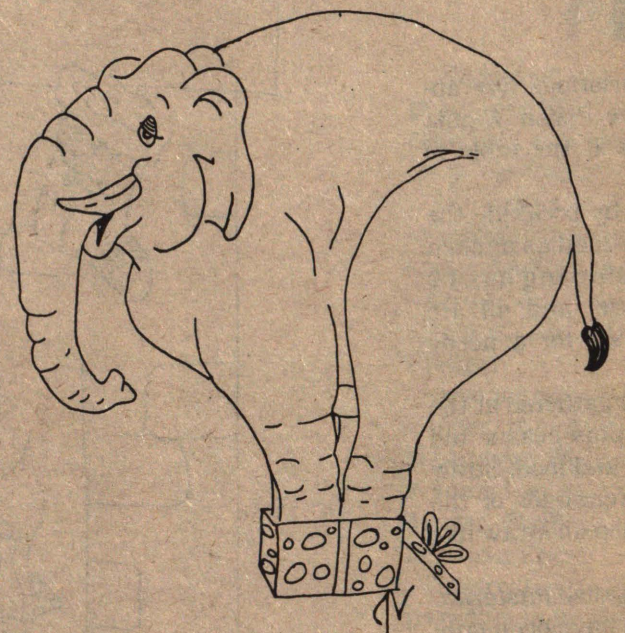
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Don't let winter boredom set in

by Kathleen Murnane

Some look forward to the winter's white blanket and brisk air while others anticipate boredom or plan to do what the bears do - hibernate. Don't let the winter chill spoil your fun this year.

Downhill skiers tend to head up north for a few hours drive to Wisconsin's popular ski spots such as Wilmont, Alpine Valley and Devils Head. West Chicago Park District sponsors many ski trips to these locations throughout the winter.

The trips usually cost less than \$20.00 and it includes transportation. Sometimes they have a problem of not enough people signing up so take advantage of it and get some friends involved.

If you'd like to stay more local take a look

at Oak Brook's Wilmont Mountain or Villa Olivia in Bartlett. Both places are smaller in comparison to further away ski spots however, they are a convenient place to learn without having to drive far.

Villa Olivia is located one block west of highway 59 on Route 20 and Naperville Road. It has lesson packages, starting this December, which includes rental, lesson, and lift ticket for \$14.75 per session or a five lesson plan for \$55.00. Beginner lessons are at 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30 p.m. daily. Rates during the week are \$11.00 plus \$10.00 if renting and \$16.50 plus \$11.50 for rental on weekends and holidays. You can ski evenings 5-11 to cut down on the rates.

Cross country skiing facilities are available in all DuPage Forest Preserves. They are especially recommended at Her-

rick Lake, Pratt's Wayne Woods, West DuPage Woods, and Blackwell which are all in the general Winfield, West Chicago area. Wheaton Rentals has a daily rate of \$9.00 per day for the whole equipment package. Some places have rental services there.

Ice skaters might be interested in taking lessons at the Carol Stream Rink at any level or perhaps just go for open skate. Easton Pond is a local spot to skate outdoors or perhaps get a group together for a game of hockey. Timber Ridge, Winfield Mounds, Pioneer Park, and Blackwell as well as specially recommended Herrick Lake have skating ponds as well as a small hill you could run a sled down.

A disappointment this year is that Elsens Hill, known as Boy's hill, will be closed this season due to unsafe conditions. Blackwell

has tubing, sledding, ice skating and skiing available.

For those that still prefer the indoor climate why not take advantage of open gym at your very own high school? (Sponsored through the park district) check out Wheaton Sports Center - it has tennis and raquetball courts, indoor track, pool and weight equipment available. If you care to be less active yourself, be a supportive spectator of your fellow athletes at hockey games, boys swimming and wrestling meets, both girls, boys, and new this year intramural basketball fills up this winters calendar.

So this winter get out of hibernation. Stop dreading droplets of snow. Just grab some sweats, skis, skates or whatever captures your interest and go where the action is.

Scouting as way of preparing

by Milan Hinich

"Come on people, let's hustle, I want to beat them."

Athletes commonly rephrase such comments, to gear up for a game. But there is a different method of winning and that is team scouting.

Preparing for an opponent is very idealistic for many high school teams. The reason why is because it helps to seek what strategies the opposing team might try. According to Gail George the volleyball coach, scouting is used to find the team's strong points, and its defensive and offensive skills. Also she looks for how each team uses their height.

Usually most coaches have their staff scout by taking notes. The best way to scout, is for the head coach to see for themselves, what they might expect. Scouting is very time consuming and the travel can be very distant. If coaches can't somehow scout a team, they watch video tapes of previous games. Then they break each play into segments to find their weaknesses and strengths. Most of the time a teams' transition play stays similar if they have the same coach. Sometimes it may differ, because the talent of a team may vary. In concept scouting a team is very important because the difference can be losers or happy winners.

Wrestling Wildcats' take third in tournament

by Teresa Berry

"This season the wrestling team is going to be off to a slow start," but Coach Robert Hein says, "I think the little team will grow stronger as the season goes on."

Goals the team has are to have a winning season and win at least one tournament. Hein also added that they would like to finish in the top three in the conference and have three state qualifiers.

When Hein said the season was going to be off to a slow start he may have been wrong. The Wildcats finished third in their own tournament on Nov. 29. Three wrestlers took first place in their weight class Hector Gomez, Charlie Black and Rich Votava.

Some of the strong strengths of the team are the individuals who have worked hard in the off season. Weaknesses point to the fact that many of the guys are out with football injuries and at least two players are ineligible due to bad grades.

This year Hein will look to senior Rich Votava, and juniors Dave Fiala, Luis Gonzalez, and Hector Gomez to be strong players.

Naperville North is expected to repeat as the conference champions, and they are also ranked first in the state, Hein said.

"The Wildcats plan to do the best they can this season regardless of the problems the beginning of the season may bring them."

Test your sports knowledge

by Marla Jemsek

- 1) What famous golfer is nicknamed the Great White Shark?
- 2) What college did Michael Jordan play for?
- 3) How wide is the free throw lane in the NBA?
- 4) What football coach said, "Winning isn't everything — it's the only thing"?
- 5) Who predicted he would, but didn't win six gold medals at the 1986 Summer Olympics?
- 6) Which baseball manager asked, "Can't anybody here play this game"??
- 7) What major sport allows substitutions while play is in progress?
- 8) Who played the most games for the New York Yankees?

- 9) What golfer was nicknamed Emperor Jones?
- 10) What sport is played on the largest field?
- 11) What athlete earned \$70,000 in 1927?
- 12) Who was the first black major league baseball manager?
- 13) What golf club has an 800-year-old bridge leading to the 18th hole?
- 14) What was the Montreal Expos' home before they moved to Olympic Stadium?
- 15) What name did the New York Titans adopt in 1963?
- 16) What baseball player was known as The Say-Hey Kid?
- 17) Who's the only man to have won the Olympic decathlon twice?
- 18) What game did the modern day baseball develop from?

- 19) When playing match play golf, and each player takes the same number of strokes on the hole, the hole is said to be — ?
- 20) In golf how many clubs can a player carry in his/her bag?

Answers

- 1) Greg Norman 2) University of North Carolina 3) 16 feet 4) Vince Lombardi 5) Mark Spitz 6) Casey Stengel 7) Hockey 8) Mickey Mantle 9) Bobby Jones 10) Polo 11) Babe Ruth 12) Frank Robinson 13) St. Andrews in Scotland 14) Jarry Park 15) Jets 16) Willie Mays 17) Bob Mathias 18) Rounders 19) halved 20) 14 clubs

Upcomming Wildcat sporting events

Boys' Basketball

Sat. Dec. 13	Geneva	A 6 pm
Fri. Dec. 19	Naperville North	A 6 pm
Sat. Dec. 20	Marmion Academy	A 6 pm
Fri. Dec. 26	Waubonsie Valley Varsity Tourn	A TBA
Sat. Dec. 27	Waubonsie Valley Varsity Tourn	A TBA
Mon. Dec. 29	Waubonsie Valley Varsity Tourn	A TBA
Fri. Jan. 9	Naperville Central	A 6 pm
Sat. Jan. 10	St. Francis	H 6 pm
Fri. Jan. 16	Glenbard North	H 6 pm

Girls' Basketball

Sat. Dec. 13	Naperville North	A 1:30 pm
Thurs. Dec. 18	Naperville Central	A 6 pm
Sat. Dec. 20	Glenbard North	A 1:30 pm
Fri. Dec. 26	Lady Wildcat Classic	H 6 pm
Sat. Dec. 27	Lady Wildcat Classic	H 6 pm
Mon. Dec. 29	Lady Wildcat Classic	H 6 pm
Sat. Jan. 3	Romeoville	H 1:30 pm
Thurs. Jan. 8	Wheaton Central	A 6 pm
Sat. Jan. 10	Wheaton North	H 1:30 pm
Tues. Jan. 13	Glenbard East	A 6 pm
Thurs. Jan. 15	Glenbard South	H 6 pm



Wrestling

Sat. Dec. 13	East Aurora: Sycamore; St. Charles	H 1 pm
Thurs. Dec. 18	Naperville North at Batavia; Crystal Lake	H 6:30 pm
Fri. Dec. 19	South; Downers South	A 6:30 pm
Fri. Dec. 19	Hinsdale Central Tourn	A 5 pm
Sat. Dec. 19	Varsity at Waubonsie Valley	A 12 pm
Sat. Jan. 3	Junior Varsity at Naperville North	A 11 am
Sat. Jan. 3	Frosh at Batavia	A 9 am
Fri. Jan. 9	Naperville Central	H 6:30 pm
Sat. Jan. 10	Homewood Varsity Tourn	A 10 am
Sat. Jan. 10	York	A 9:30 am
Sat. Jan. 10	Willowbrook	A 10 am
Fri. Jan. 16	Glenbrd North	A 6:30 pm

Boys' Swimming

Sat. Dec. 13	Wildcat Relays Diving	H 9:30 am
Sat. Dec. 13	Wildcat Relays Swim	H 1 pm
Wed. Dec. 17	Waubonsie Valley at Hoffman Estates	H 6 pm
Tues. Jan. 6	Larkin	A 5 pm
Thurs. Jan. 8	Riverside Inv.	A 5 pm
Sat. Jan. 10	Morris	A 12 pm
Tues. Jan. 13		A 6 pm

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DuPage Valley boys' basketball preview

by Maria Jemsek and Rebecca Rivan

West Chicago

With five returning letterman the Wildcats hope to win the conference, regionals and a tournament. Coach Lee Maciejewski also hopes to win at least 18 games, which would make them the "winningest" team in Wildcat history.

Jim Recchia, Marty Beedle, Milan Hinich, Greg Brown, Andy Zurawski and John Ebnroth are expected to play important roles on this years team. Maciejewski feels that good shooters are Brown and Recchia and the strong rebounders are Beedle and Hinich. Zurawski will be taking on most of the ball handling responsibilities. Ebnroth is valuable because he can play anywhere.

Dave Sostak, the leading scorer in the conference last season graduated and is now playing for Illinois Wesleyan University. One would expect this to hurt the Wildcats this year, but many juniors played last year and gained experience. Maciejewski said, "When you lose the best player in the conference obviously he will be missed but it won't kill us." Maciejewski added that last years seniors were good role players and feels that this years team will benefit from their example.

Maciejewski feels his teams only weakness is their lack of height. The Wildcats are quick, good shooters fundamentally sound and hard workers. Besides West Chicago, Maciejewski thinks that the Naperville teams will be strong in the conference.

Maciejewski coaching responsibilities this year will be shared by coach Ernie Cameron previously the Sophomore coach. Cameron is not considered an assistant by Maciejewski, but will teach and run the defense for the entire team, Maciejewski will handle the offense.

Glenbard South

The Raiders return four lettermen including All-Conference guard John Miller (13 ppg), Chris Sutter (10 ppg), 6'5" center Don Randolph, and 6'5" forward Sean McClennan.

Coach Dave Lohrke's hopes are to move up in the conference standings and be as competitive as possible. Lohrke thinks his goals can be accomplished because he has experience, strong guards and his biggest team in eight years.

Lohrke's team has more depth this year and has good replacements for players they lost.

Lohrke sees the DuPage Valley Conference as a "competitive conference," and sees a lot of teams at having a chance at being the champions.

Naperville Central

Bill Budzyn a 6'6" center leads the list of returning lettermen for the Redskins. They will try to feed him the ball in the middle. Other returnees are guards Tom Thompson (6.9 ppg), Jeff Joyt, and forward Sanjiv Sekhon.

"Experience will be a big plus," said coach Bob Sterr. Sterr also thinks their quickness will help them, but added that his team doesn't have a lot of size.

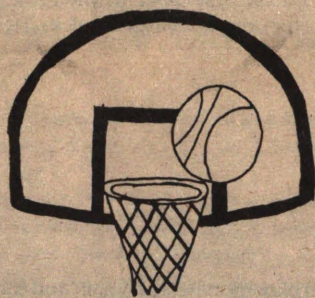
Sterr's goals for the season are to win the conference and while achieving that, win 20 games.

Sterr lost his two top scorers from last season Deese (9.6 ppg) and Andricks (9.3 ppg).

A balancing conference is what Sterr thinks the DuPage Valley is becoming.



Andy Zurawski and Milan Hinich gain some experience in last year's game against Glenbard East.



Wheaton Central

by Marla Jemsek

Barry Brennan will replace Don Mcgee as the Tiger head coach. Brennan was formerly the Wheaton-Warrenville head coach for two years, then he moved to Wheaton North where he has been the assistant for the last three years.

The Tigers return only one letterman, junior Scott Bartman (3.3 ppg). Brennan said that Bartman is a good shooter, ball handler and is also quick. Other players Brennan feels will play are Matt Tewksbury, Sean Galligan, and Tony Gallagher. Either Blake Ebel or John Schmeling will fill the other guard position.

"After the loss of five starters we will have a hard time matching last years record," said Brennan. Brennan's goals for the season are to improve every day and play the best basketball they possibly can.

The strengths of the team are that they have a good attitude and are coachable. One weakness is the teams lack of experience.

Wheaton North

The Falcons lost Tom Grimsey (11.4 ppg) and Paul Osowski (9.1 ppg) to graduation. However these are not the only players the Falcons started the season without. Due to the extra long football season some of the basketball players started the season late. One player who was late joining the team was the Falcons' only returning letter winner Kent Graham (19.6). Graham was the leading scorer in the area last season.

Coach Jim Hedrick feels that a strength his team has is the over all attitude his players have. Hedrick feels that the weaknesses are the late start his team is getting due to football, and the lack of varsity experience. Hedrick feels that it is important for his team to "develop chemistry."

To repeat as the DuPage Valley Conference Champions and place as high as

they possibly can in the State Tournament, are goals Hedrick hopes to accomplish this season.

An "even race" is what Hedrick sees in the DVC. Much the same type of race they had last season where it came right down to the wire.

Glenbard North

The Glenbard North Panthers are coming off a great season with a record of 16-9 overall and 10-4 in the DVC, good for 2nd place. The seniors from last year will be missed greatly as the Panthers will have no returning varsity starters. Dan Frehe (7.3 ppg 3.5 rpg), who saw limited time last year, should be a strong player this year. Other important players will be Brian Flynn, Rick Carlson, Chris Clutino, and senior guards Dennis Bloniarz and Frank Adamczyk. Despite their lack of experience head coach Dave Cudden feels his team's strengths are that they work hard and have a strong tradition and will to win. Cudden hopes to win the conference and thinks his biggest opponents will be Naperville North, Naperville Central, and Wheaton North.

Glenbard East

The Glenbard East Rams had a transitional season last year with a 3-22 record overall and a 0-14 record in conference. Head coach, Jim Carter's goals this year are to win more than 10 games and go 7-7 conference. The Rams will be a young team, with 12 juniors and 4 seniors. Carter will likely start returning senior letterman Eric Edwards 6'3" (8.5 ppg 6.4 rpg), 6'4" junior forward George Witte, and 5'10" junior Bob Tiami and 6'0" junior Jeff Schreiber as guards. The center position is undecided between 6'6" seniors Tim Davis and Pete Gual. The Ram's strengths are that they are good shooters and have a lot of height, but they are young, inexperienced and a little weary for Carter's liking. The teams Carter feels will be strong are Naperville North, Naperville Central, and Wheaton North.

Naperville North

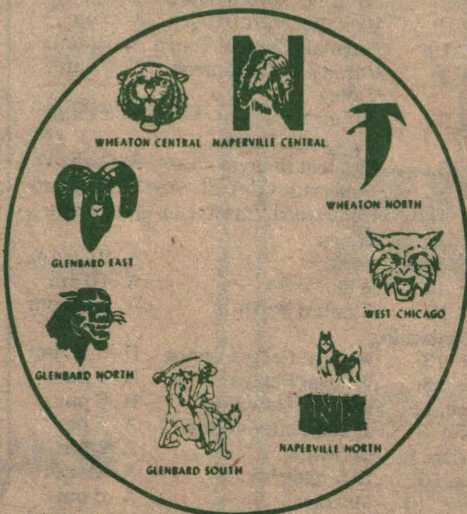
The Huskies return only one starter Chad Randoff (11 ppg), but coach Dick Whitaker said they have some players back that received a good amount of playing time last season.

One of the Huskies strong points is their size. Whitaker says with size they will rely mainly on their inside game. The Huskies size includes 6'9" center Todd Schoettlkotte, 6'8" center Mike Gapen, 6'4" forward Mark Grady and 6'4" forward Randoff.

In competition for the guard position are seniors, Pat Ambrose, Craig Hipp, and Rob Sumser.

Whitaker's goals for the season are to win as many games as possible and be the conference champions.

When asked who he thought would win the conference Whitaker said it would be a tough race. Whitaker added, "You never know who will win."



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