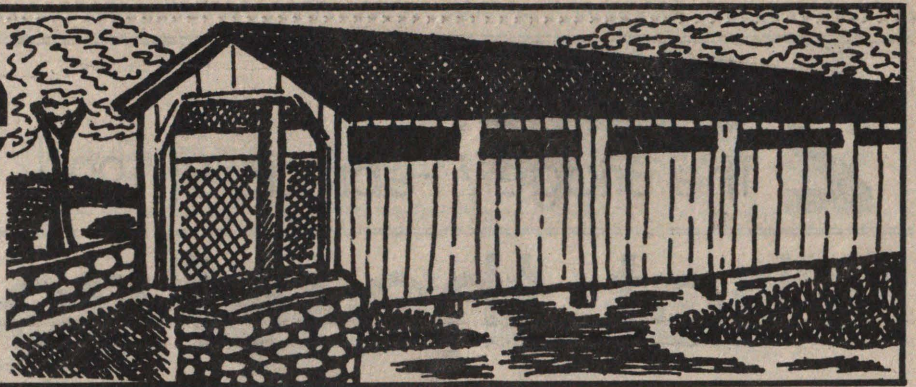


The Bridge

West Chicago Community High School
326 Joliet Street West Chicago, IL 60185
February 9, 1990 Volume 19 Number 7



West Chicago attempting to remove rusting eyesores

by Michele Rittorno

West Chicago is trying to pass an ordinance to remove junk cars and unlicensed cars from being in plain view.

Patrick McMahon, Police Chief of West Chicago, explained that a junk car is one that is not in an operable condition. McMahon gave one example: a car that has flat tires and has been sitting in one position for a large amount of time.

McMahon described the process in which an ordinance like this passes. Investigation takes place when a citizen, the police, an alderman, or mayor feels that there is a need for an ordinance. Then the city reviews and studies the problem. If they consider it to be a problem then it is handed over to the staff. The staff passes it on to eight aldermen. Each alderman has a committee of different departments. McMahon explained that this particular problem would be considered by the Personal and Community Relations Committee. The attorney looks at the proposed ordinance to check if there are any legal problems. When the proposed ordinance passes through the attorney, it is referred to the Committee of Code Revisions. The committee of aldermen then recommend it to the entire council, if they like it. If it is disliked, it is sent back to the committee to be rewritten.

McMahon said that the West Chicago Police Department studied the concerns of



Representing a public eyesore, these cars, along with others abandoned in other fields and parking lots may soon be gone if this new ordinance passes. (photo by Kelly Howard)

this particular proposed ordinance. He explained, "We talked to other police departments that have similar ordinances." They talked to towns including Wheaton and Glen Ellyn. The ordinances of several cities were combined to make the one for West Chicago.

The proposed ordinance allows the city to remove junk cars and unlicensed cars that have been stationary for a long period of time. Police cadets investigate junk car sightings from police or citizen reports. In a case where the car is parked in a single home, the cadet will ask the owner to simply remove the car. McMahon suggested, "We will help remove the car." He commented that they usually call a tow truck and it does not cost the owner any money. Some cases involve cars being parked near apartments. In these cases, the cadets will take down the license number and contact the owner.

Some students had a few comments on this issue. Senior Maureen Plucinski said, "It will make the town look cleaner." Senior Renee O'Barr replied, "It will make the town look classier." Senior Brandi Winqvist added that these cars are a health hazard. Although Plucinski and O'Barr would not be directly affected by this ordinance, Winqvist, on the other hand, will. Her parents own apartments and might be held responsible for some of the cars. "There are a lot of junk cars there," said Winqvist.

FBLA striving to be the best

by Dana Billick

"Getting together as a team makes us stronger overall," says Future Business Leaders of America President, Claire Brodido.

The WCCHS chapter of FBLA was founded in March of 1978 when business teacher and current FBLA advisor Donald Zabelin arrived.

According to Brodido, "Our membership this year is at an all time high of 124 members. Our past record was achieved last year with 86 members."

The current FBLA officers are: President Brodido; Vice-President, John Pohodich; Secretaries, Amy Brigowatz and Nicole Yoder; Treasurer, Christine Miller; Parlia-

mentarian, Kate Jemsek; and Reporter, Margaret Walen.

One goal of FBLA is to create a better understanding of careers available to students. Walen expressed, "FBLA is an exciting experience involved with meeting new people and doing new things."

On November 3, 4, and 5, FBLA attended the Fall Leadership Conference in Des Moines, Iowa. The trip involved teamwork and attendance of workshops concerning business careers. There will also be an officer conference in August in Washington D.C. to demonstrate different business skills.

Coming events include selling links in the Chain of Hope, a bowl-a-thon, and annual

variety show. The money raised from the Chain of Hope and bowl-a-thon help to raise money for the March of Dimes. Each link in the chain costs 10 cents and can be purchased from any member. The bowl-a-thon is being held on February 4 and raises money from door-to-door sponsoring.

On February 22 the annual variety show will be held at 7:30 in Weyrach Auditorium. This year's theme, "The Sky's the Limit" will feature student and faculty acts as well as former WCCHS student Brian King. All funds and donations will go towards the American Cancer Society.

Brodido expressed that overall, "FBLA promotes the cooperation of many willing and capable members to public relations as well as the future."

Will smoking be snuffed out at WCCHS?

by Debbie Caruso

Is a no smoking policy in the future for WCCHS? Legislation restricting smoking in most work places and public buildings in the state was signed by Governor James Thompson on January 9, 1990. This new law becomes effective on July 1, 1990.

This law prohibits smoking in most public areas, including restaurants, retail stores, theaters and other buildings open

to the public except in designated smoking areas. If you are caught violating this law you will pay a \$500 fine. Not included in the law are bars, bowling alleys, hotel rooms, factories, warehouses and rooms rented for private functions.

The law also allows employers or restaurant owners to have a designated area for smokers with a capacity of 50 people in a room. The law presumes that certain public buildings will prohibit smoking unless a designated smoking area is created.

Principal Jones said that West Chicago does have a designated area for smokers. When there are COD classes here at night the cafeteria is used for a smoking area.

"I have no problem seeing that smoking is found obnoxious," math teacher, Robert Lemon said. Lemon (a smoker) feels that segregation is fine when it comes to designated areas for smokers. He also said that he doesn't want to blow smoke in anyone's face. Lemon said that if the school decided not to have a designated smoking area he would have to quit smoking.

West Chicago was brought to a standstill on January 25, when up to a foot of snow fell in some areas. As a result of our first major winter snow storm, WCCHS was affected as all extra-curricular activities were cancelled. (photo by Kelly Howard)

Inkspots

Cheerleaders win

Both the Varsity and Sophomore football/basketball cheerleaders received a third place trophy on January 13 at ICCA regional competition at Ludwig Grade School. Varsity received 454 points out of a total 500, and Sophomores received 442.5 out of 500 points in the JV division.

Peer listeners

Any Juniors or Sophomores interested in becoming involved with the Peer Listening Program should listen for application announcements within the next few weeks. Students who are accepted will complete training over the summer. The Peer Listeners are positive peer role models who mainly help freshmen and sophomores make the transition into high school.

Thespians trippin'

by Danielle Caffarello

Thespians recently attended the fifteenth annual Illinois Theater Festival at Illinois State University in Bloomington/Normal Illinois.

On January 4, 5, and 6 the group attended the festival. "Some things that were taught," said Mary Hafertepe, Thespian Advisor, "were make-up, improvisational techniques, auditioning skills, using voice for stage, and 74 other offerings."

"The festival was very helpful to me. I learned a lot," said Senior Diane Madden. Junior Chris Seper remarked, "We got to choose what seminars we wanted to go to, which made it more beneficial to all of us."

There were 2,400 people who attended statewide, fifteen from WCCHS.

In order to become a thespian, one must work on two school theater productions. The troop has 25 current members, and the troop officers are: Peg Osterman, President; Mark Carlberg, Vice-President; LeAnn Jones, Secretary; and Jenne Wilke, Treasurer.



What, the ref goes both ways?

Before the game, the opposing team's cheerleaders bounce onto the court. "One, two, three, four, get the cattle off the court!" answers the We-go crowd. Then the team is introduced, and the fans flip up newspapers in a facade of boredom. Later, We-go begins its premature countdown, yelling, "Five, four, three, two, one, psyche!" with 30 seconds still on the clock.

Is this unsportsmanlike conduct or school spirit? What may seem rude behavior to some is more of a release for students. Basketball games allow students the chance to blow off steam bottled up during the school week. The problem then, lies in channeling this energy into positive behavior.

The administration has attempted, and largely, succeeded, in improving the conduct of the Wildcat fans. Principal Alan Jones read a statement during the student announcements on January 19 and spoke to many students individually about fan behavior. The next game was more controlled, though fans sarcastically shouted, "We've got class," and carried signs such as, "We're the polite crowd."

Fans view their behavior differently. They see it as school spirit, while the administration sees chaos. The two need to come to an

agreement about what should be the norm of behavior at a basketball game. In his statement, Jones said, "We (the administration) do not support malicious taunts that bait players, coaches, and refs. We define cheering as shouting approval, encouragement or congratulations. Cheering is not abusing the opposition or embarrassing our team." Some fans feel that an entirely respectable game would be dull, and think this year's games have been an improvement from previous years when games were sparsely attended.

There is no indication the Wildcat basketball team is offended by the conduct at the games, even when the fans wore bags over their heads in embarrassment of We-go's low DVC standing. Coach Lee Maciejewski chartered a bus for fans to attend the January 26 game at Glenbard East.

The Bridge editors feel it is better for students to save their energy for Friday's game instead of going wild during school. We view the current fan behavior as school spirit, but agree that cheers and chants should be kept in good taste. Games should have enthusiasm, but without taunts like, "Hey, ref, how's your wife and my kids?" We would rather see an emotional game than a silent one.

Ribbit, ribbit, rip it, cut it, chop it.....

by Chris Seper

There is a revolution going on, ladies and gentlemen, and I think you should know about it.

It's a revolt against the revolting. (Read that through again and it will make sense.) High school students all over the country are just saying "no" to dissection. And in 1987, the first battle in the revolution was taken to court.

A high school student from Missouri, Jennifer Graham, had her biology grade dropped from an A to a C because she refused to dissect a frog. For that reason, Graham took the school to court.

Her case was dropped, however. The court said that a suitable alternative could be worked out without a judicial ruling. Graham is appealing the case to a higher court, and the school compromised by saying that she could dissect a frog that died of natural causes. But the controversy was far from over.

That same year, the state of California heard about the case and passed a law. The law stated that a student under the age of 18 should be able to do written work as an alternative to dissection.

Last year at West Chicago, freshman Michelle May refused to dissect a fetal pig.

After a visit with her counselor and a discussion with her biology teacher, May was given a decision: drop the class, fail the dissection, or do the dissection. May chose to fail.

"It exploits animals," May said. "We didn't learn anything. After we finished it, it looked like slop." May is a vegetarian, and has not eaten meat in several years.

May said that when she came to her science teacher with the problem, her teacher told her that there was no alternative to dissection.

"She just got mad," May said. "She told me it wasn't her problem."

May also brought up the point that students didn't actually realize what they were doing. "The people didn't realize they were living creatures," May said. "They didn't realize what they were before they started cutting them up." May plans to hand out pamphlets about dissection to biology students when dissection time comes.

Last year, when I was required to dissect, I asked, "Why do we kill pigs when other people starve?" My teacher's answer was, "The reason farmers sell us the pigs is because we pay more."

West Chicago ... Where history and progress meet? It seems like in the dissection



area, We-go is sorely lacking in progress. Students have the right to an alternative project when dealing with dissections, and they're not getting it.

For the frog and other creatures, there are now computer aided dissections that will simulate the cutting up of a frog. Here in the LRC, we have Operation Frog. But even if that idea doesn't sit well with the administration, we could make a school policy out of the California decision.

By no means is West Chicago the worst dissection villain. In other schools, students must dissect birds, cats and dogs as well as pigs. In fact, over 40,000 cats are killed for dissection each year.

The old argument for making mandatory dissections is that students will try to get out of dissecting just to get out of work. But teachers could devise an alternative assignment just as difficult as the dissection itself. Right now, Wheaton North and both the Naperville high schools have such plans available to students.

If you have a problem with dissections, the Humane Society has set up a number for you to call. Problems can range from anxiety to legal advice about dissection. The number is 1-800-922-FROG (no kidding!).

The blade is in your hands now.

Honor thy girls' sports

by Claire Broido



Respect (re spekt') — An act of noticing with attention; to consider worthy of esteem.

When you think of sports teams at West Chicago, do you think of guys' or girls' teams? Most people do not pay as much attention to girls' teams as they do guys' teams.

Girls' sports certainly deserve respect at WCCHS. Girls' volleyball, tennis, swimming, basketball, soccer, softball and even badminton; girls work hard at the sports they are involved in, and it still seems that no one notices them.

Take a normal weekend. On Friday night, the Bishop gym is full of fans that are there to see the guys play basketball. It's great that people have enough "Wildcat Pride" to go to these games and cheer their team on.

Plus, we do have some pretty avid and excitable fans, and it's a great thing to see people cheer for their school.

But Saturday afternoon, only the visitors' bleachers are taken out, and only a handful of fans show up at the girls' basketball games. There is a big difference between two hundred or more fans cheering at the guys' games and the usual twenty at the girls' games.

As it turns out, most of the fans at the girls' games are parents. There is no reason for this lack of support.

Just in the past year, many of the WCCHS girls' teams have excelled in their sports. The volleyball team has won regionals for

the last two years in a row, the girls' basketball team is defending regionals champs, the first girls' cross country team in years went down state, four of the girls' swimmers went down state and one even placed in the top five, softball was first in the DVC last year and golf and soccer both had sectional qualifiers.

It seems that the recent girls' teams have proved themselves very capable of doing well in the DVC and elsewhere. So it really is a shame that so many of the girls' teams still are not noticed, and that they still are not earning the recognition they deserve.

It was great to see that so many fans came to the volleyball regionals and last year's basketball regionals. It was appreciated. But why is it that no one can come to normal games when the girls are working hard to fight throughout the season?

Most people always talk about guys' teams. But girls deserve attention that the guys get every weekend. Hopefully, the future will bring more respect to the girls that truly deserve it.

Try to start the decade out right, and see what the girls' teams have to offer.

by Jason Wold



There is something terrible on the horizon. More terrifying than the greenhouse effect. More devastating than a nuclear exchange. No, not THAT horizon. The one behind you. Yes, it's already come, twenty or thirty years ago. It has been in your home for over a generation, right under your nose, and yet you consider it merely a minor annoyance. It's called the television commercial.

For those of you lucky enough not to know, a commercial is a selected series of images, designed to compress lots of information into thirty seconds, with the intent to alter your behavior. This causes some MAJOR problems that are destroying the fabric of our very souls.

Due to the American creed of freedom of speech, the psyche of everyone, from the moment of conception (or birth, or employment, or forty, depending on your views of when life begins) is being bombarded with

information. From cold hard facts, to stupid opinion articles and back again, there is no way to assimilate it all.

The commercial (and indeed every other form of advertising) urges us to accept crass generalizations over the truth. Certainly it's much easier to remember, "If you ain't eatin' Wham, you ain't eatin' ham!" than it is to remember all the nutritional information, the ingredients, or

... the psyche of everyone from the moment of conception is being bombarded with information.

even the taste. Since advertisements generalize, in order to bypass your intellect, and you see them all the time, you are being conditioned into stupidity. It appeals to our sense of convenience, allowing it to override our critical thought processes. No one can say they actually know anything unless they've found it out for themselves. Combine this with modern protectionism, and it makes actually thinking for oneself an impossibility.

Next time your nephews and nieces are watching the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, think what it's doing to their minds. Then kill them for their own good, and the good of society. This concludes (unless I am incapable of an original thought NEXT time as well) our two part series on mindless propaganda. Keep an eye out for it. It's everywhere. Even in your breakfast cereal. ESPECIALLY in your breakfast cereal.

THE BRIDGE

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The opinions expressed by the newspaper are not necessarily those of the majority of the student body or the high school.

Hip hop rock the house! Word!

by Anissa Garcia

You walk into a dimly lit place. On the dance floor guys with their baggy pants and loose shirts are all trying to dance the best new moves while everybody looks on.

The music is so loud, you feel as if the bass is beating in your stomach. You can feel the rhythm travel through your whole body as the D.J. starts to do some serious mixing and scratching. This is what you've been waiting for all week — a chance to forget all your troubles and dance the night away with the tunes of "house" music.

"You feel so intense, you feel like you can move everybody off the floor," explained junior Ruby Dominguez about how she feels when she goes to a disco.

Most teen discos in the Chicagoland area play a new type of music called "house." House music has had a big impact on the disco scene ever since it was first heard in the late '70s. Disco music was fading out and a new dance music was beginning at house parties.

The new music had a more dominating bass and a unique type of rhythm to it. People caught on to house music and began to demand it at discos and on the radio. It was called "house" music because of where it originated. Slowly it began to creep into radio air waves and many of Chicago's dance spots.

Why is house music in such great demand? Junior LaVell Tyler believes house is "... funky and cool because it has a lot of bass." "It's fast paced and easy to dance to," added Sophomore Damian McBeth. Senior Patrick "Kid Nice" Steward said, "The reason why I listen to house music is because it originated in Chicago. I try to build up Chicago's ego by supporting it."

Most people who listen to house music hear it on the radio and go to discos on the weekends. Some of the most popular dance spots are in the city. Discos such as the Riviera, Phoenix, Bizmarkes, and Prime and Tender are where some WCHS students spend their weekend nights. Other clubs in the area include Reactions, Discovery, Crazy Rock, and Toto's.

Senior Katrina Blake goes to discos on the weekends because, "I always know these places will be packed and I like the variation of people." "I like to go to discos because I like to dance and I like to meet my friends up there," said senior Leti Acosta. Dance places are "... lots of fun and you get to see all your friends," agreed Senior Wendy Haugh.

Steward said, "I think it's really important to go out dancing because you can really find yourself. What I mean is, you're

going to see so many people, you're going to excite yourself. You can go there and see how much fun young people can have without drinking."

"Dance places are basically a meeting place for teens from different areas to hang out," believes Blake. "People are in competition to make the best fashion statement and to show off their dancing abilities."

Some "housers", those into house music, wear their best outfits on the weekends when they go dancing. House guys wear their Z* Cavaricci's and IOU fashions,



while house girls either wear really baggy pants or the shortest, tightest skirts that can be found with bolero jackets.

"All house guys have short hair and the girls have some tall, high hair," said McBeth.

Almost everybody wears the color black; it seems to be very popular among housers. Freshman Teresa McGriff believes black is used a lot, "Because it's a dominating color." Sophomore Luz Nunez said housers wear black, "Because they look cool." Sophomore Tammy Magnusson said black is worn so much, "Because it makes them look skinnier." McBeth believes "It seems to fit the music."

House outfits can be expensive. Senior Alex Beltran said that he spends about \$150 to \$175 on a complete outfit. Acosta said, "When I go shopping, I usually spend from \$120 to \$200 on an outfit. When it comes to clothes I just spend. My favorite store is Merry-Go-Round in Woodfield Mall." Other stores where housers shop are Contempo Casuals, Le Chateau, D.J.'s, Silverman's, and Oaktree.

Besides looking good for the disco crowd,

housers often spend most of their time either listening to the newest house mixes or practicing their dance moves.

McBeth explained that he listens to house music "... all the time, except when I'm at school, and when I'm at school I got the songs in my head." A teen regular at the Riviera said she listens to house "... every day. When I clean house, when I sleep — I'm always listening to it."

Sam Harris, a teen who goes to many discos, explained that he always practices his dance moves. Harris said he comes up with new moves by "... mixing different parts of dances together so that it goes with the beat." Some dances are the Freddy Krueger, Roger Rabbit, and McHammer. McBeth believes house dancing is "... like African native dances, because of the way you move your body around."

At times, the dance floors at the discos will be cleared for a dance battle going on, when battling dancers will compete move for move to try to show the other dancer up. The one the crowd cheers for is the winner, but this is when tempers can get riled up and fights can break out. Because of so many fights, some dance places get closed down.

There are many different types of house music. "Original" house and "Miami" have a faster beat than regular Top 40 music. Artists like Sa-Fire, Seduction, Inner City, Technotronic, and Shana produce records that fit into the original house/Miami category.

"Hip house" is music with a deep bass sound and vocals sung in fast raps. Hip house is mostly demanded at discos be-

cause it gets people "jumpin' and stumpin'." Fast Eddie is a prominent hip house rapper. Almost all hip house cuts have some parts of James Brown rhythms mixed into the music.

There is also "acid" and "deep house" music. Acid house is mostly in demand in the United Kingdom. It's music dealing more with the technical sounds of the keyboard mixed with a heavy bass line. Deep house is just like old disco with some hard-core bass. Yet, with all the different types of house music, there are still people who don't enjoy it.

Said senior Chuck Picton, "I try not to listen to house music. From what I've heard, I think it's kind of pointless. It all sounds the same and has no meaning behind it." On the same note, senior Jeff Hynd said, "I feel that house music has no talent behind it. Some of it is good, but most of it sounds the same to me."

On a more considerate side, senior Jeff Showalter said, "I consider it to be very repetitive and boring at times. But there are times when I listen to it. When I'm at a dance, I like to listen to a few house songs I like, because you can't dance to songs like *Tom Sawyer* by Rush."

To those who enjoy it, however, house is something that will become more popular in time. Steward claims, "Hip house is sweeping the nation, and let it keep movin'. Ice, my brotha!" Senior Lovelle Jackson said, "House is repeatable music with the rhythm that people like." D.J. Louie "Lat'n Groove" said, "A house scene is a group of party people that understand how the music and dance go together. House is hip! Word!"

The "Raz" behind the mix

by Anissa Garcia

Ralph "The Raz" Rosario has been supplying Chicago airwaves with all the house music it demands since 1983. On the weekends you can hear his house mixes on WGCI 107.5 FM, or see him spin records at a few of Chicagoland's dance clubs, such as the Phoenix or Triffany's.

Since the age of 16, Rosario has been a top name among Chicago's house D.J.'s and was an original member of the Hot Mix Five (HM5). The HM5 was a group of D.J.'s that first introduced house music to Chicago and helped build its popularity to what it is today. Rosario was the youngest of the HM5 that consisted of D.J.'s Farley "Jack-Master" Funk, Kenny "Jammin'" Jason, Mickey "Mixin'" Oliver, and Scott "Smokin'" Silz.

The HM5 started on radio station WBMX 102.7 FM, but in 1987 they all transferred to WGCI. Since then some of the original members have left, but Rosario can still be heard spinning the latest house jams.

Recently, I had the chance to talk to Rosario about his success and how it all began. "I always had a big ambition in music," explained Rosario. When Rosario was just 12 years old he would sneak into parties and watch the D.J.'s mix records. "I was so fascinated by it," said Rosario.

Once, Rosario slipped into the D.J. booth where his sort of idol or inspiration was mixing. Rosario remembered watching Kenny "Jammin'" Jason and studying his every move. Then Jason saw he was there and had him kicked out. Rosario laughs at that because he and Jason now work together and are friends.

"My brother bought me my first pair of turntables," recalled Rosario. Since then he has been mixing professionally, and at 23 years of age has already released about five 12 inch house records. His most successful has been his 1987 cut called *You Used to Hold Me* with Xaviera Gold as vocals.

Rosario said that was the best thing that has ever happened in his career so far. The cut made the Billboard Dance Chart and he received a lot of write-ups on it, including one in *Dance Music Magazine*, a magazine many D.J.'s read. It was a big hit in New York City.

His other records include *Baila, I Want You*, and *Amor Puerto Riqueno*; Rosario does vocals for all of them. He plans on making another album and will start on it early this year. Rosario said he is going to do everything himself, including vocals and all the "behind the scenes" work.

When asked what he liked most about being a D.J., Rosario replied, "I think it would just be the music in general. People ask and that's the only real answer I can give, because that's the way I feel."

Rosario is a firm believer in the phrase "nothing is impossible." He was so compelled by music that he wanted to work at it and become successful doing something



Ralph "The Raz" Rosario spinning disks at a local dance spot. (photo by Anissa Garcia)

that he loves. Rosario believes he is an example showing that "... when you have goals, you should reach and try to achieve them."

For now, Rosario wants to stay with recording. "I've found a new happiness. My future lies in recording because I have such an ambition in it." In the meantime, house fans can continue listening to this D.J.'s mixes on the radio and keep their ears and eyes open for "The Raz" Rosario's new album.

THE Beauty Outlet

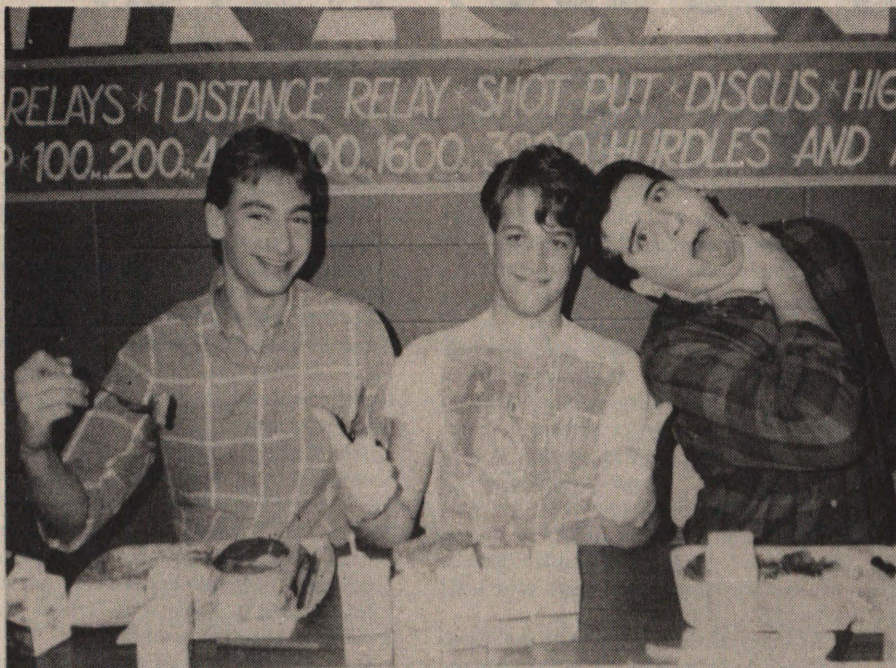
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Cafete food

Comparing WCCHS

by Michele Rittorno

Does the menu at WCCHS measure up to other area schools?

The budgets given to a school decide a great deal of what is sold to the students. St. Charles food service director, Keith Stuewe, said that their budget is determined by the amount of food sold to the students the previous year.

St. Charles offers only ala carte lines. Stuewe said there are five stations that sell various types of food. Station one has two types of pizza. Some pizzas are made at the school, while others are brought in. A station called the "Opinions Bar" sells baked potatoes and nachos with all the trimmings. The Deli bar, station three, gives the students the option to buy made to order sandwiches.

They serve four different
types of pizza,
cheeseburgers,
hamburgers, hot dogs,
and french fries.

There is a station that offers just hot foods, typically hot dogs, french fries, ham and cheese, and chicken. Station five is a salad and snack bar, where students can purchase chips, cupcakes, shakes, and ice cream.

Glenbard West's food service director, Beth Schoemamm, said their school has three serving lines. These lines offer the four basic food groups that are required daily. They serve four different types of pizza, cheeseburgers, hamburgers, hot dogs, and french fries. Glenbard West also has a line known as "Cafe Ole" which serves Mexican food daily. The menu varies from day to day, but the typical items are nacho supreme, chili, burritos, taco salad, tacos, etc.

Various sandwiches are sold in the third serving line. Grilled cheese, ham and cheese, beef, and turkey sandwiches are some of the items that are available. Schoemamm explained there is no soda pop for sale during the lunch hours. However, Mott's juice and milk are also sold in the third serving line.

Does the menu at WCCHS measure up to other schools? Well, you can be the judge of that.

eria

Help!

A student's view of lunches

by Julie Mastro

It's approaching the hour you dread each school day. The clock strikes 12:00. The bell rings. Calculus? Physics? No — it's lunch.

Unfortunately for many of us this is true. Not since the invention of Spam has anything looked as unappetizing as dried up chicken with mayo on a bun. Or as stomach turning as tight-skinned hot dogs. But when you're hungry you've got to eat, and sometimes it seems as if the school uses that to their advantage.

Okay, there are some good items like pizza, tacos, and ... well ... you know the ones. What about the other four days of the week? Granted the school is required to serve certain amounts of food from each of the four basic groups, but why not try a little variety? For the seniors it's been the same old menu for the past four years and it's getting a little monotonous. The school needs our suggestions to improve the menu, so here's a few to start with.

1. Stay away from Alpo and other meat substitutes.
2. Grease is not in any of the four basic food groups.
3. Isn't cheese made from milk? It is getting

hard to tell lately.

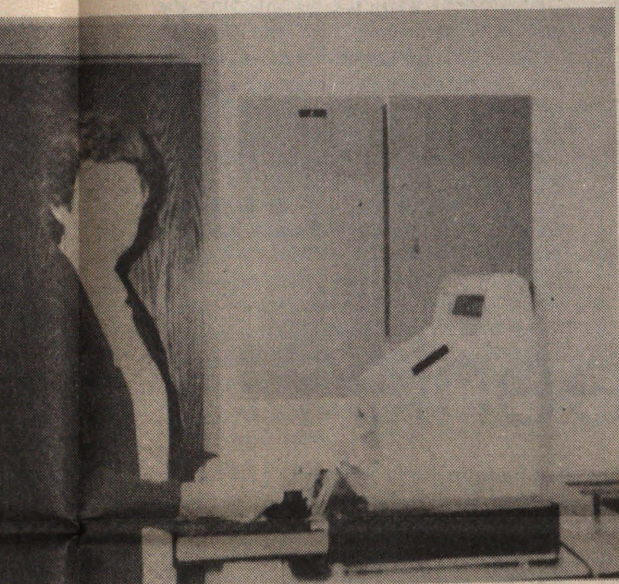
4. If lettuce is included in the entree use some that doesn't taste like it has been frozen since the Ice Age.

5. Italian dishes are fine once a week, but they do get pretty gross after that.

Money is the problem here. The school is given a certain amount of money to work with and they don't want to charge the students too much. Ten out of ten lunch-eaters agreed that they would not pay more for the food we are served. However, what if the food was improved? Quality is determined by price and maybe if the quality was improved kids would be willing to pay more.

St. Charles and Glenbard West are only two examples of schools that offer their students a better selection of food. Baked potatoes, french fries, deli sandwiches, and salad bars are just a few options. No wonder so many people get caught sneaking off campus for lunch at We-go. Do you blame them? Even the idea of paying an extra dollar or two is more appealing than eating another freezer-burned salad.

We have to give the school credit, they do try. But unless the students want to go on eating boring lunches something has got to be done. This is not intended to burn the cafeteria or administration. It's just to show the students that if they don't help themselves nobody will do it for them.



Budget decides menu



by Anissa Garcia

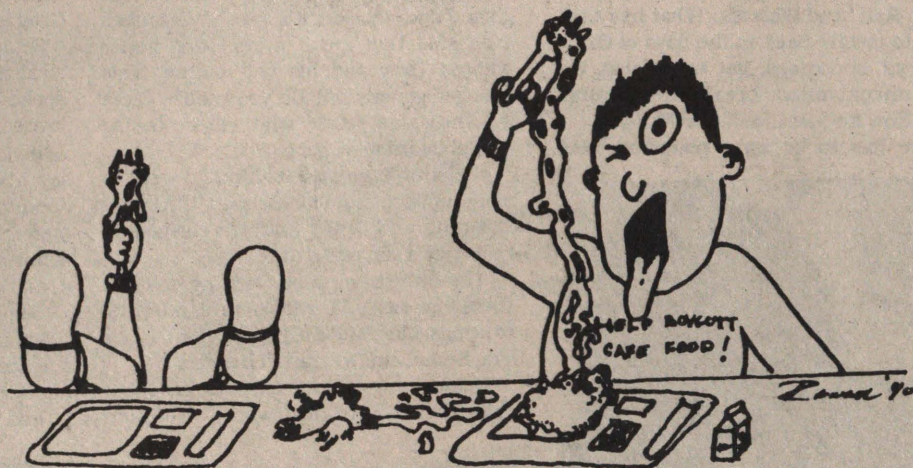
"Hey, what's for lunch today?" is probably the most often asked question in the history of high school. Did you ever wonder how the school decides what kind of food to serve?

Cafeteria Manager, Alice Tinnes says, "I try to see what other schools are serving and what the students seem to like the most. We've (cafeteria workers) tried to keep up with the times.

"We try to offer more nutritious meals. There's a state law that says we can't serve candy or pop," explains Tinnes.

When Tinnes plans out lunch meals she must check with the recommendations from the USDA National School Lunch Program Chart. The chart lists four components of food types, and their recommended quantities for different age groups.

One component is meat or meat alternatives. The hot lunch should serve three ounces of meat, poultry, fish, or cheese. Three eggs, a cup and a half of cooked dry beans or peas, and six tablespoons of peanut butter will fulfill the USDA recommendations. The USDA also recommends that a lunch contain a 3/4 cup vegetable or fruit serving, two slices of bread, and eight fluid ounces of milk. Some of the food is from government commodities and the rest of it is bought from commercial food distributors.



According to James Mast, Director of Business, about \$212,000 is spent on lunch food per year. Tinnes says, "There is no set cost per lunch because we are reimbursed by the government." Mast explained that only about nine thousand dollars comes from the federal lunch program and \$500 from the state, and the rest is covered by the fees.

The set price of \$1.35 for a lunch is the way that the school breaks even for their budget. Mast explained, "I would like to see more involvement from the students — I really would like some ideas."

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Flirting with gang warfare at We-go

by Bill Hein

Gangs have long been thought of as a scourge exclusive to the inner city. But from increasing police pressure and the lure of an untapped suburban market for crime, gangs are moving to the suburbs in increasing numbers.

In the past two or three years, suburban gangs have gone from being mere imitators to ones with real ties to Chicago gangs. Part of the reason for this spread is due to kids moving out of the city, feeling alienated, and then creating a gang to satisfy their need to belong.

So far, the violence has not reached the epic proportions of some big cities. Some suburban gangs lack the firepower of their Chicago counterparts, fighting with BB guns and baseball bats as opposed to automatic weapons, whereas some lack only the extent of organization. Characteristic crimes are drug pushing, car theft, burglary, and vandalism.

Manny Reyes, a counselor at East Aurora, said that Aurora definitely has a gang problem though "... not as bad as some people might think." He said that the suburban gangs, although genuine, were not as organized as those in the city. "They don't have that killer instinct like they do in Chicago," he said.

East Aurora, which has often been singled out as a school with serious gang

problems, has an enrollment of about 2300 students. About 43 percent of these are Hispanic, 21 percent black, and the rest of the student body is primarily Caucasian. According to Reyes, only about 20 of those students are what are called "hard-core" gang members, for which Aurora has hired a full time police counselor. However, the majority of gang activity happens outside of school.

With increased gang activity in towns such as Addison, Aurora, Bensenville, Elgin, Melrose Park, and Rolling Meadows, could West Chicago be next?

With increased gang activity in towns such as Addison, Aurora, Bensenville, Elgin, Melrose Park, Peoria, Rockford, and Rolling Meadows, could West Chicago be next? Principal Alan Jones is not "naive" enough to believe it cannot happen here. Drawing from statistics, media articles, conversations with other principals, and his own experience at other schools, Jones thinks that it would be a big mistake to think "it'll never happen" here at WCCHS.

Occurrences of vandalism, especially graffiti, have happened, most notably at the

Wilson Bridge a few years ago. Some gangs with a more local influence include the Latin Kings and the Deuces, both latin gangs, and the Disciples, a black gang based in Chicago and Aurora.

Currently, however, Jones has not found much sign of gang activity at the school. He is on the alert though, looking for hand symbols, certain clothing, and gang associated activity like harassment.

The most important step in combating gangs is to "open your eyes" in the hall-

ways — don't "hide in your office," says Jones. Paraprofessionals and deans, as well as himself will be on the lookout.

Another thing to do, according to Jones, is to listen to reports from students and teachers. In addition, Jones is planning to eventually bring in outside speakers for teachers to learn more about gangs.

Jones is no stranger to the ways of gangs. At Thornton on the south side of Chicago, he dealt with gangs as an administrator. They are "well structured" and "highly organized" he said. Real gang members don't "broadcast" the fact that they belong to a gang. There are a lot more "hangers-on" who only imitate the real thing and are not a serious problem.

One solution to imitators came about from the gang leaders themselves. Jones would call them in and ask if a certain student was a gang-banger. If the person wasn't, they'd answer no and say, "We'll take care of it." After some persuasion, that student wouldn't be imitating the gang anymore.

"West Chicago is in a unique situation," said Reyes. Although towns such as Aurora lie to our southwest, many of the surrounding towns are primarily higher socioeconomic Caucasian neighborhoods. Yet, with all the publicity and talk, it seems almost inevitable that one day gangs will come to West Chicago. Hopefully, our community will be ready.



Two blocks away from the high school ... (photo by Jeremy Mains)

Has heavy metal gone weenie?

by Chris Seper



Remember the glory days of heavy metal?

Remember when Ozzy Osbourne would bite the head off a bat, or when Kiss would blow up a guitar at every concert while Gene Simmons' tongue would flip in and out like an obscene tape

measure?

Now there are weenie groups like Bad English, Bon Jovi, Cinderella, Motley Crue, Poison, Ratt, and Warrant. What has happened to metal? Back in the days of Oz, it was lewd, obnoxious, gut wrenching, insane, uncontrolled, break-all-the-rules metal. Now it's just... well... lewd.

There has to be an explanation. Has



The King of pop metal himself in a relaxed moment. (PolyGram Records)

metal truly gone pop? Is Motorhead destined to open for New Kids on the Block? Where else to find the answers to these questions but from WCCH's own metal experts.

In this article, a glam band is loosely defined as any male heavy metal band that wears a lot of lipstick and has abandoned its roots in favor of prancing about on top 40 stations.

The first person to comment on metal's apparent mellowing was sophomore Kevin

Otto. Otto agreed that metal was going soft.

"There are too many glam bands," commented Otto. "They wear lipstick and they look like (bad word)." Otto also said, however, that metal is still basically the same, but that the number of glam bands is hurting its reputation.

Freshman Mike Campbell disagreed. Although Campbell said that glam bands do "look like dorks," he felt that metal still had its hard edge even with the glam bands.

"It's pretty good," Campbell said about the glam band music. "It's hard." Campbell even said that metal was getting better without Ozzy and his bat routine. This younger generation! Do you realize these are the same people who will be taking care of us when we get old?

After the "Campbell incident," I went to some upperclassmen. Seniors Christine Davidson and Jenny Hoffman clashed on their views of metal's state.

"The only thing that's getting soft are these love songs," Davidson said, referring to songs like Bad English's *When I See You Smile*, and Warrant's *Heaven*.

"Some groups started out to be good, but then turned into (bad word)," Hoffman

said. "It turned a lot of bands into posers," Hoffman said. Hoffman said that she stopped listening to a lot of heavy metal music because of its growing popularity.

Even though Davidson did admit that a lot of metal was soft, she was sure the hardcore stuff like Helloween and Metallica were here to stay. "There are too many hardcore people," Davidson explained.

Junior Scott McCormick said that it is only a few that have started to go down the tubes.

"Motley Crue wimped out on their last album," McCormick said. "But Slayer and Grim Reaper are still pretty good."

Senior Tom Hennessey, who plays in a local metal band called the Lone Sharx, spoke about the glam bands and metal's love songs.

"It slows it down too much," said Hennessey about the lighter, fluffier songs. "It doesn't give it the same effect as the faster, more constant beat." Hennessey said that metal hasn't suffered all that much from it, and even he listened to it on occasion.

"Sometimes it's easier to listen to," Hennessey said. "It doesn't give you as much of a headache as if you were head-bangin' to heavier stuff."

Next were some brotherly opinions.

Sophomore Dave Ragsdale and junior brother Sam Ragsdale clashed on their ideas of metal going soft.

"They're getting a bad name," Sam said, "because of these (bad word) (bad word) bands that do it for the publicity and don't write their own songs."

"They put make-up on their face and look like fairies," Sam said.

Dave disagreed with his brother and even said that he "loved" bands like Poison, Ratt, and Warrant. Dave said that the sound of a metal band was all a matter of culture and timing.

"They're old bands," Dave said about Motley Crue and Ratt. "Back then, it was mostly a rock and roll sound — not all heavy metal like it is now."

Finishing off "the search for metal's true self," I decided to ask junior Karma Krefting about the problem. After a rousing "It's about time!" when I told her that a heavy metal article was going to be printed in the *Bridge*, Krefting summed it all up.

"It's not going soft. Just glam bands like Ratt. They're a bunch of (bad word)."

Warning to all glam bands; Don't show your faces here. We'll kick your (bad word).

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Walters prepares for girls' track

by Chris Seper

Last year, the Lady Wildcat track team went to the DuPage Valley Conference meet. They didn't enter any athletes in the varsity race.

The decision was made to leave the all-underclassman team in the junior varsity events.

The reason was that placing the young team in a position of discouraging losses could break their confidence and hurt them in seasons to come.

The result, the Ladycats dominated most events and brought home several sophomore championships.

Confidence was not put in jeopardy, it may have even been raised by the strong showing at the junior varsity level. But a question remained, would the decision to protect their confidence make a difference for next season?

For the now sophomore and junior Ladycat track team, next season is now six days away.

"The key people this year are Erika Noble in the sprint, Dawn Zylinski in the high jump and relays, Heather Jardis in the middle distance and distance, Nicole Horyn is our best all-around runner in sprint and distance, Kate Jemsek in middle distance and Laura Emery in shot put and discus," said Coach Wilbert Walters. "These are the people we hope to build around."

The still young Ladycat squad will be leaving a legacy of school records behind them. Last season, the Ladycats set 12 new junior varsity records.

Horyn holds and/or contributed to the 400 meter relay, 800 meter relay, 100 dash, 800 meter, 800 relay, 400 dash and 200 dash records.

For Horyn, the hold back from the varsity race may have helped already. This year, Horyn joined the cross country team and placed 26 in state, qualifying for all-state honors.

Also, sophomore track runner Yvette Contreras competed in cross country. Walters said that the extra running will help the two immensely.

"I'm sure both are eager to start the track season," Walters said. Walters said that the build in confidence and running ability will be great assets on the team this year.

The goal of this year's team, according to Walters, will be to try and keep in competition with the DVC. Last year the Cats finished with a 3-10 overall record, not winning a meet in conference.

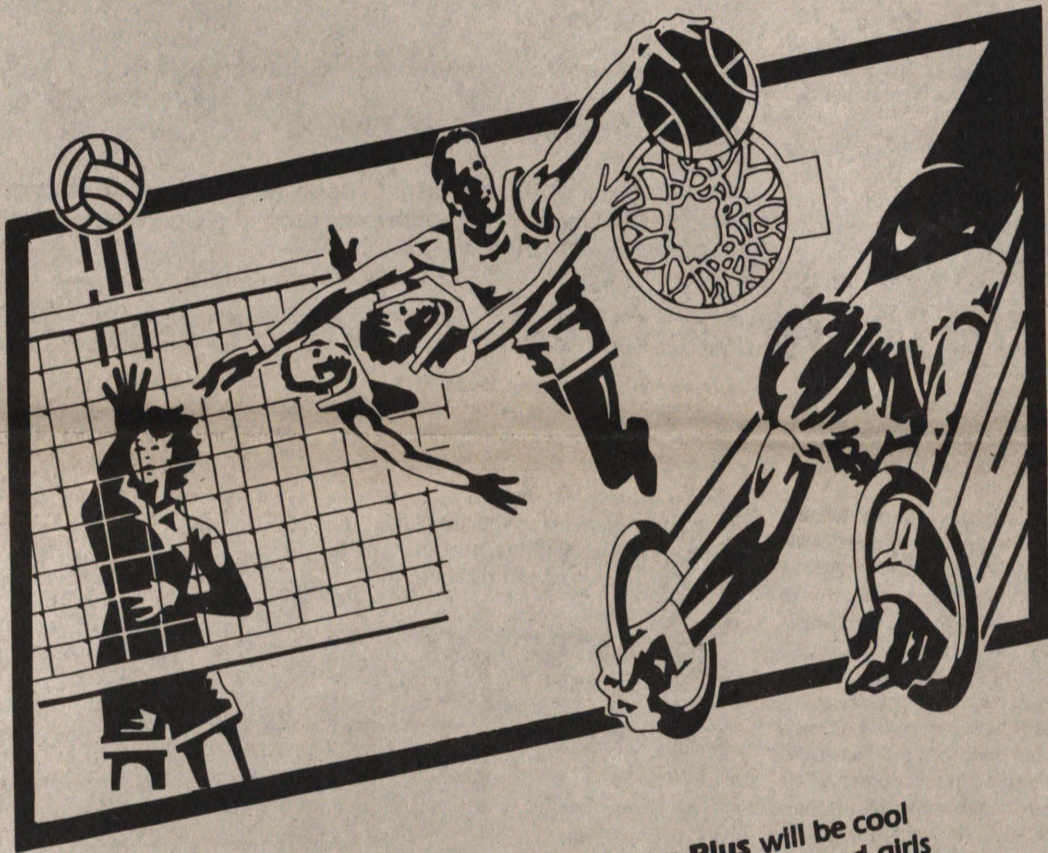
"Last year, we could not field a team in the conference meet because we didn't have the athletes (to compete at the varsity level)," Walters said. "This year, they're going to be able to compete in conference."

Walters said that this year, he just wants to compete with Glenbard South and Glenbard East. Walters predicted Wheaton North and Naperville Central will take first and second in the conference standings.

Even though the whole team is returning from last year, a problem that will hurt the team this year is their size. Last year, the team was made up of a total 20 people, hardly enough for a track team. Walters said that he expects the same this year.

"We still don't have a lot of members," Walters said. Walters said that he can only hope for a high turnout this year.

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WILDCAT SPORTS TRIVIA ANSWER

In 1973, Scott Dierking became the first state champ in West Chicago history at 185 pounds.

Wildcat swimmers rise to the top

by Chris Seper

Does size truly matter? Not much for the boys' swim team, according to Coach Denise Sahly.

This year, a boys' swim squad consisting of a meager 26 swimmers and divers has managed to take their competition by storm. After an early season loss to Marmion, the Cats have won the rest of their meets, posting an undefeated record in triangular meets and a 1-1 record in dual meets.

"I have the quality — I just don't have the quantity," Sahly said. Despite the team's success, Sahly said that size still remains the team's main problem.

The Cats' size hurts them the most in dual meets, where you must place three swimmers in each event. In triangular meets, you only need to place two swimmers in an event.

The Wildcats' success has been mirrored by their top swimmer, junior breaststroker T.J. Weigand.

"He's a real hard worker," Sahly said of Weigand. "He comes in early to work on his stroke."

Weigand's work ethic has seemed to pay off. Weigand was never beaten in the 100 yard breaststroke and picked up a first place finish at the Riverside-Brookfield Invitational. Sahly said that Weigand should be a shoo-in for state.

"He should make it," Sahly said. "As long as he stays healthy."

The success for the swim team comes one year earlier than expected, according to Sahly.

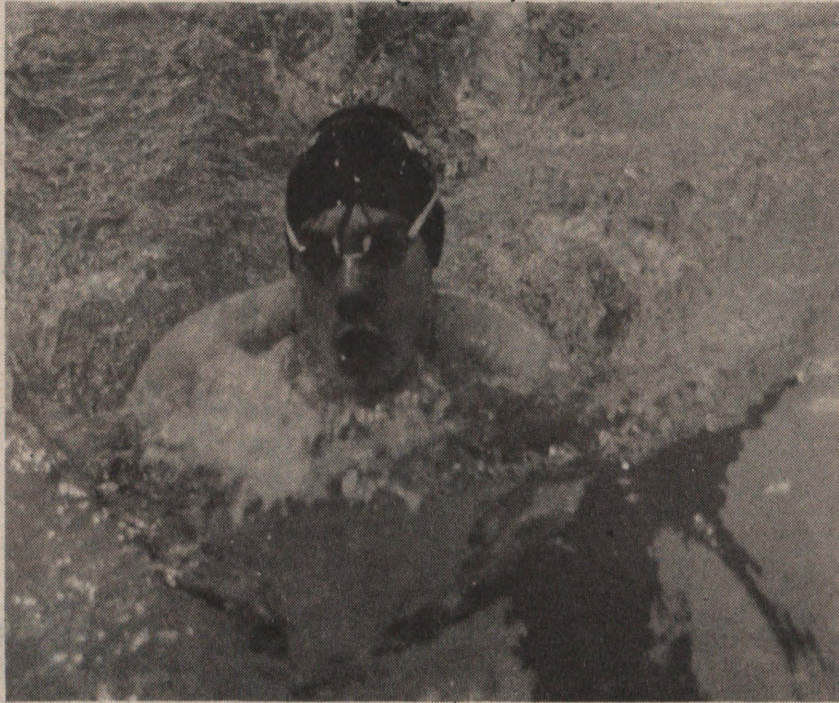
"I wasn't contemplating we would do quite this well," Sahly said. "I thought we'd do this well next season."

The loss of All-State diver Shawn Noonan and last year's Most Valuable Player Chuck Winkler hasn't hurt the Cats as much as expected. Sahly said that this

year's team is too deep.

Sahly's team is basically young, with only three seniors on the team. The team consists of mostly juniors and sophomores, but Sahly said that they have done fine.

"We're strong in almost every area,"



Sophomore Brian Levake skims through the water during a triangular meet win against Crystal Lake South and Larkin. The Cats are undefeated in tri-meets. (photo by Gina Lipscomb)

Sahly said. "We've replaced their times (last year's stars) with equal or better times." Sahly said that, other than Weigand, that the backstroke and long distance racers are her really strong events.

One thing that may hurt the team was the release of senior freestyler Darren Suess from the team. Suess was the team's top freestyle swimmer and Sahly had picked him earlier with a slim chance of going to state.

For sectionals, other than the goal of qualifying Weigand for state, Sahly has a personal goal of her own.

"I'd like to beat Waubonsie," Sahly said. Sahly teaches at Waubonsie and knows all the swimmers on their team. The Cats have already defeated them once this year.

Sahly said that St. Charles and Marmion will battle for the top spot at the sectional. This year, Sahly hopes the team will place fourth.

Sahly said that in order to meet the goals set, the team's health and mental attitude will have to be intact.

"As long as everyone comes healthy and everyone's psyched up we'll do all right," Sahly said. "Now that we have a winning season, I think we'll be psyched to win."

With the season over, Sahly looks back happily.

"I'm real pleased," Sahly said. "They're (swimmers) throwing out better times because they're getting more experience."

Some of the highlights of the year were the Cats' second place finish in the eight team Riverside-Brookfield Invitational and a fifth-place finish at the eight team Wildcat relays.

Regional repeat for girls' basketball?

by Jon Turkot

Despite the problems during the season, girls' basketball Coach Kim Wallner is optimistic about regional play.

"We're a young team but we've grown up mentally," Wallner said. Last year, a 2-12 Lady Wildcat squad won regionals by defeating DuPage Valley Conference rival Wheaton North. "I think the pressure to repeat will be a challenge."

"The team that will win regionals will be the team that can play the best four quarters," said Wallner.

"They're young," Wallner said. "But they work hard and understand their role on the floor."

This year's starting lineup for the Ladycats has regularly featured three juniors, Melody Benson, Jennifer Kramer and Sue Thomas, but at points has started four juniors with only the all-conference star Webb as their sole starting senior.

"We were hurt by four quick losses in the early going but have been very successful thus far," Wallner said. "I think that is a tribute to the players."

"We need to learn how to come from behind," Wallner said. "The more it happens, the more confidence we have. It's just a matter of time."

So far, West Chicago is seeded second, with Wheaton North first, Wheaton Central third and Glenbard North fourth. The Cats will face Wheaton Central in the first round, a team they face in the last game of the regular season.

"We've lost a lot of games," Wallner said. "But if we're playing at our best, we could do it (regional championship) again."

Tonight is the last night of regionals.

WILDCAT SPORTS TRIVIA

Who was the first wrestler ever to win a state championship?
(Answer on page seven)

Despite tough season, boys optimistic

by Tricia Blum

Bumps and bruises have hurt the boys' basketball team's record, along with the players.

The Cats have only been able to post five victories to what Coach Lee Maciejewski credits to an injury plagued year. Senior forward Jeff Showalter was hit with mononucleosis early in the season. Showalter is one of the starters for the Cats.

"Jeff is playing good," Maciejewski said. "But I don't think he's fully recovered."

Senior forward Chad Busse was out early in the season and out again for two weeks. He has just recently returned. Senior center John Winterhalder and senior guard Scott Pold were both out with ankle injuries as well.

Along with the other injuries, Maciejewski said that the flu bug hit the team pretty hard and had a lot of guys playing with the flu.

Despite the discouraging record, Maciejewski feels that the team's ability to not give up has really helped them.

"The team works hard and has good shooting," Maciejewski said. "I hope that all of this hard work (in practice and games) pays off."

The team has been outsize by almost every team in the conference. The Cats' tallest player is junior center T.R. Brizzolaro who is six foot four inches tall. Other players in the DVC go two to three inches above that. With the height the other teams have, it is hard for the Cats to get a lot of rebounds.

The bright spot of the year has been the guard play of junior Gary Barnes. The high school transfer is leading the area in three-point shots, having just over 40.

Barnes said that he is doing better this season compared to other seasons because he has had more playing time here. Barnes said that he feels comfortable and is fitting in well in the system.

At the end of last season, the Cats were facing a guard problem. The team was losing two guards to graduation, Tom Joyce and All-State player Tyrone Parks. But then two transfers came into the picture; Barnes and junior Matt Logan.

With Barnes coming this year, and Logan coming in during last season, they have each been able to contribute. Barnes has contributed with his three-point shots and Logan has led the team in scoring in a few games.

In two weeks the Cats go into regionals.

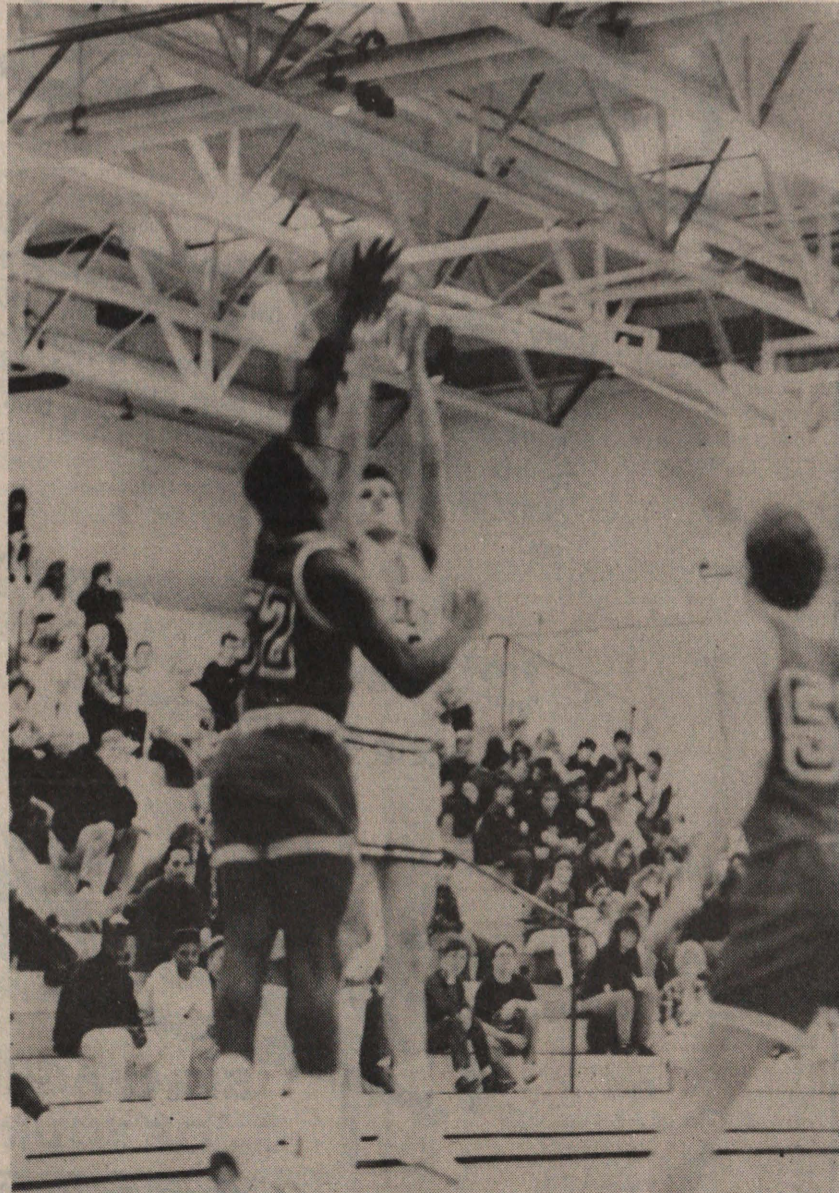
The regional consists of Batavia, East Aurora, West Aurora and West Chicago. The Cats will have to face East Aurora in the first round.

East, ranked in the top 10 in state all year, is led by senior center Thomas Wyatt. The six foot five inch Wyatt is in the top three in the state in scoring and rebounding.

"We are in the toughest regional in the state," said Maciejewski. Batavia and West Aurora are also ranked in the top 20 in state.

"To win this game we need to stay with East Aurora the whole game and have confidence," Logan said.

The Cats' next game will be home tonight against Glenbard North at 7:30.



Senior Chad Busse pops a jumper from the outside during the Cats' 12-point romp of Naperville Central. The Cats' next game is tonight against Glenbard North. (photo by John Kufer)