

the bridge mp

West Chicago Community High School
326 Joliet Street West Chicago, IL 60185
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FBLA working to be number one

by Soren Johnson

Things are really happening in the West Chicago chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America.

FBLA is a national organization to promote future business leadership in students.

Adviser Don Zabelin predicts that this could be the largest turnout ever for the West Chicago chapter, perhaps topping 100 members by mid-November. This could once again make West Chicago's FBLA the largest chapter in the state.

During the first weekend of November, 25 members attended the Fall Leadership Conference in St. Louis. This conference gave those who attended the opportunity to learn and employ business skills for their futures.

The students attended workshops on topics such as stress management and problem solving skills. They also listened to motivational speakers on various subjects.

Historian Jamie McDole said, "The business workshops were fun, educational, and taught me something about the business world."

To relieve the routine of the weekend, members had the opportunity to go to dances both nights and do some sight-seeing. "The workshops were okay, but my favorite part was going up in the Arch and being able to see St. Louis," said sophomore Adrian Yule.

FBLA gives members the chance to compete against other FBLA clubs. After the area competition, the students can advance to state competition, and then nationals if they place high in their event. These com-

petitions test the knowledge of the members in different areas of business.

FBLA will be sponsoring their annual Career Day in the fieldhouse on December 5. They are also working on two fundraisers. Right now they are selling a video yearbook. In February they will sponsor a celebrity auction and variety show. For the auction, they are writing famous actors and sports stars to collect autographs and memorabilia.

Students are learning that FBLA is fun and well worth joining. "It's fun because everyone's in it, and it prepares you for the real business world," said Yule. J.J. Schwan thinks "it will look great on my college resume."

It is not too late to join FBLA. See Zabelin in room 302 to become a member or for more information.

Inkspots NHS members

The following 67 students were inducted into the National Honor Society on November 15:

Ana Alfaro, Edward Bachner, Craig Baldwin, Brandi Bane, Melody Benson, Tim Benson, Dana Billick, Jennifer Bowen, Claire Brodco, Vincent Caputi, Sharise Carlson, Javier Chavez, Alan Courtin, Bonnie Croyl, Laurle Davidson, Claudia Delatorre, Kimberly Derby.

Bradley Doerschuk, Daniel Gray, Cheryl Greenwalt, Debbie Hahn, Kim Hays, Arnel Herrero, Sally Høhbein, Heather Jardis, Blong Kong, Jennifer Kramer, Kimberly LaBelle, Charles Lasky, Linna Lim, Dayna Lobralco, Julie Loek, Kai Martin, Kelly Matthews.

Shannon McKenzie, Christine Miller, Patrick Murzyn, Joy Nevin, Erika Noble, Brian Ohins, Talis Osis, Ami Patrick, Annette Pavone, Carina Perez, Diemchau Pham, Danielle Potts, Makrina Rodriguez, Karen Saad, Douglas Sawyer, Loretta Schuermann.

Amy Schultze, Kimberly Smith, Mary Snyder, Susan Stajduhar, Anthony Standish, Bonnie Staniels, Jamee Taylor, Susan Thomas, Gayle Trava, George Valdez, David Vish, Sharon Volpe, Margaret Walen, Jennifer Walters, Jessica Walters, Tom Wetland, and Brian York.

Seper and Walen to Albuquerque

by Brian York

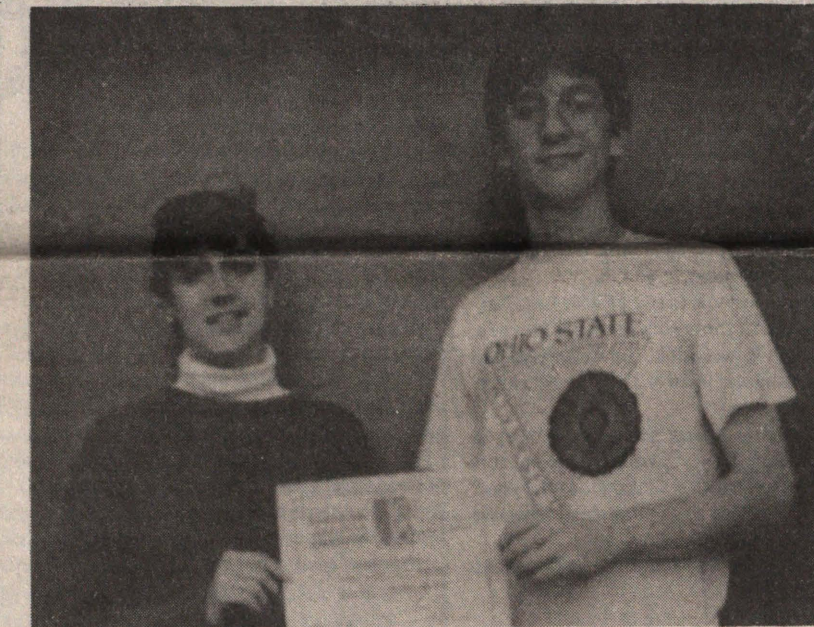
Imagine being one of the top few honored for your writing from nearly 700 other people in 17 states.

Two Bridge editors, Chris Seper and Margaret Walen don't have to imagine; they received Excellent (2nd) and Honorable Mention (3rd) (respectively) at the Journalism Education Association/National Scholastic Press Association convention in Indianapolis on October 28th.

Seper and Walen were in separate competitions. Seper wrote about sports, and Walen wrote about news. The competitions consisted of listening to a speaker for 40 minutes, 15 minutes of question and answer, and 70 minutes of pressure writing.

Seper was not surprised of his success in the competition. "Last year, I missed by very little. I put a lot of pressure on myself to win an award this year," Seper explained. Although Seper put pressure on himself to win an award, he said, "I was more relaxed this year because I had already been through the competition. I knew what to prepare for. I think that gave me an edge over the other sports writers."

Walen, however, was not as confident going into the contest. "I was unsure of how I would do, because it was my first time competing like this," Walen said. Through the competition, a metamorphosis occurred. Walen said, "The competition helped me to realize I could write a well written story in a short amount of time." Walen decided before the competition that



Chris Seper and Margaret Walen advance to the JEA/NSPA convention in April after receiving an Excellent and an Honorable mention at the Indianapolis convention. (photo by Gina Lipscomb)

she would be happy with whatever place she got. "When I move on to Albuquerque I will strive to do better because now I know what the competition is like," stated Walen.

Bridge adviser Tim Courtney was "pleasantly surprised" at the idea of two winners. Courtney saw the competition as more of a learning process. "In competition, they saw things that they could do better,"

Courtney said.

The Bridge has an impressive track record for winners at this competition. Seper and Walen completed a five year span of consecutive winners.

The next conference will be in Albuquerque, NM, April 11-14. "I think that they have a good chance in Albuquerque," Courtney said.

Musicians recognized

Band members Julie Loek and Jeanine Newton, and orchestra members Ned Miller and Dayna Yoder performed as part of the Illinois Music Educators Association Senior Band and Orchestra on November 17. The musicians had to perform an audition before being selected.

Upcoming concerts

The WCCHS band and orchestra winter concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 13 in Weyrauch Auditorium.

The choirs, Swing Choir, and Madrigals will have their Christmas Vespers Concert at 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 16 in Weyrauch Auditorium.

Home-ec night

Home Economics Night will be at 7 p.m. on Thursday, December 6 in Weyrauch Auditorium. Featured will be the mock wedding and the fashion show. There will be special performances by Dance Production and a mixed octet.

WCHSTA and Board settle eight month dispute

by Christine Miller

Though a new teachers contract has been approved, feelings of frustration still remain.

After being approved by 57 percent of the West Chicago High School Teachers Association, the contract was passed by the Board of Education in a six to one vote.

The new contract provides the teachers with a 24.8 percent salary increase over the next three years. Board of Education President Lawrence Haggood believes this is overly generous when compared with pay increases in other professions.

According to WCHSTA President LaVora Singleton, all teachers will not realize the full 24.8 percent raise.

The Board also agreed to continue to pay 90 percent of the teachers' insurance. The

deductible though, will be paid by teachers, and will increase from \$100 to \$300 in the last two years of the contract.

WCHSTA is frustrated with the Board's refusal to compromise on the issues of snow days and fair-share. "It would not cost the Board one cent for fair-share, and the Board is being insensitive to the community's desire for the snow days," Singleton said.

Even with an approved contract, the teachers say the struggle is not over. They have decided to form a Political Action Committee to support candidates running against current Board members in the next election.

"We are not pro-teacher. We are pro-education," Singleton said, "We will have to do this all over again in three years, and we shouldn't have to give up the things we worked for in the past."

Teachers' conference a success

by Christine Pomeroy

On October 26 and 27, Kim Austin, Dorothy Carter, Wayne Kosek, and Thomas McCann, spoke at the fall conference of the Illinois Association for Teachers of English, in Springfield.

Austin, Carter, and Kosek described the "Integration of Language Arts in the English classroom" (putting different ideas together). Using a mythology unit as a focus, the speakers demonstrated how teachers can integrate writing, reading, speaking, listening, and critical thinking.

In another session, McCann offered a presentation on "Structure and Instruction for the At-risk Student." He described how to plan instruction for students who are "at-risk" of dropping out of school.

"Mr. McCann's presentation was the most enjoyable," said Carter. She thought that the conference went very well. "I was able to trade ideas and gained more experience

with presentations," Carter said.

"The conference was satisfying. There were important speakers in English education there," McCann said. Miles Meyer, Professor of English at the University of Illinois was one of the important speakers. McCann stressed that teaching ideas are shared from school to school and the experience gives teachers the chance to learn more about the teaching of English. Austin said, "Not only did I share ideas, but I was able to gain more from listening to other presentations."

"I came away with some ideas for our curriculum here," Kosek said, "I thought the conference went well."

"WCCHS stands out when we attend a conference," said McCann. Austin also pointed out, "Yes, we get recognized because this integrated process is being approached more by schools."

"I think recognition is found. The people asked questions, paid attention, and received information very well," said Kosek.

Fighting in West Chicago becomes a new sport

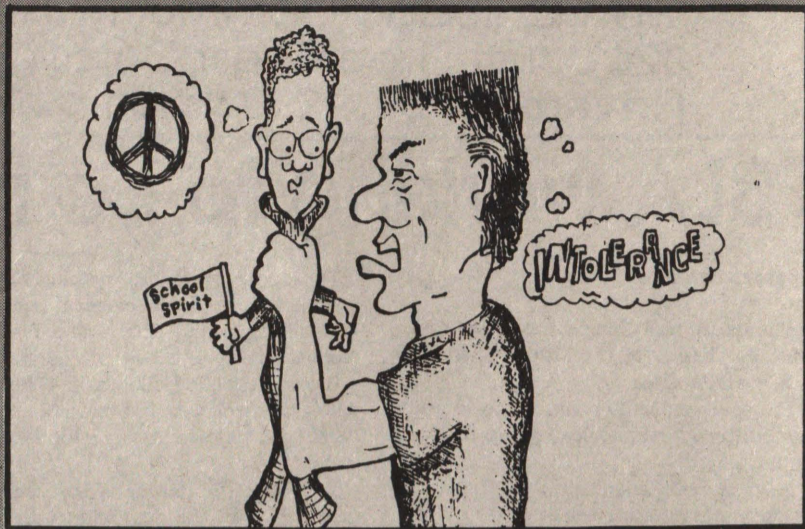
The students at West Chicago have started a trend that we hope is soon broken. Many fights have broken out this fall. This is stupid and very childish. There are definitely better ways to solve your problems than to start a fight.

School Social Worker, Ron Dow said in a recent interview, "Most people often get into fights about something that really isn't what's bothering them!" He also added, "If you have a problem with someone, you should talk it out." We totally agree with Dow. Problems can be solved by just talking them out or walking away.

West Chicago Community High School has a program where not only will the person be suspended but also will be required to work out the problem with the other person, with someone else playing referee.

Maybe the school can offer more alternative solutions to the problem, hoping to find one that students will respond to.

People getting into fights at West Chicago is just some excuse to get attention. Next time your confronted with a situation that might turn out in a fight think of the consequences. Try to talk the problem out, and if that doesn't work, just walk away.



Freedom of speech abolished at We-go

by Jamie McDole

Freedom of speech is every human's right on earth but this has been jeopardized at West Chicago.

Having the freedom of speech is a right issued by the United States government. It clearly states in Amendment I, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

When I am in school, some teachers don't give a student the right to express himself or herself in the class, especially if the teacher doesn't like the person. Some of these students are very intelligent and never have a chance to show it.

Once I was in class learning from a lecture and a teacher asked a question. One student, who happened to dress differently, sort of like a burn-out, raised his hand

slowly, wanting to answer the question. The teacher looked straight at him like he was some kind of scum from the bottom of the ocean and turned around and called on his "pet."

Some teachers are trying to harm the grades of these students. Is this really fair? Certain students get favored because they are smart, but the people who are not as smart do not get a chance to improve.

Teachers should give students the right to speak in class. I'm not talking about conversations with friends, but a chance to participate in class.

Another example is the article that Chris Seper wrote in the sports section #2 issue of the Bridge. It was about the football games and the language used on the student side of the field.

We say what we feel is necessary to say in order to cheer for our team. School spirit is not abundant at West Chicago so why don't people let us show our school spirit when we have some.

I'm not saying that it is polite or courteous

to do what people do, but the student side of the bleachers is a place where everyone gets together with all of their friends and has a good time. If it consists of swearing and other things that are legal, then I don't see what is wrong with it.

Parents and teachers, I invite you to come to our football games and sit on the student side of the bleachers. However, you should be prepared for the loud and obscene yelling that goes with it.

Parents and teachers also have the right of leaving our side of the field and returning to where they would be more comfortable, which would solve the whole problem. There is plenty of room on the parents' side of the bleachers for them to sit.

Freedom of speech should not be taken away from any person for any reason. There just is not any reason for it. If you are a person that does take away a person's right of freedom of speech, think how you would feel if you were not allowed to voice your opinion on something. Think of yourself not being able to say what you want to say.

photo-opinion

"What are your feelings on the fights that have broken Out this fall?"



"If there is reason to believe that the person provoke the fight, the student should be expelled."
Karen Slusar, '92



"I think this school's reputation will go down with the increase of fights!"
Pat Quane, '91



Fighting doesn't solve anything, it just gets you in trouble!"
Lesely Ryan, '93



"someone is going to get hurt for some stupid reason"
Tanida Suwannath, '92

I wanna go home

by Jamie McDole

Are you tired of not being allowed to go home when you are sick, just because you don't have a temperature? Well, I am!

There have been several instances when I have gone to the nurse barely able to stand and about to puke. I walked into the nurse's office and she told me to get my card. I promptly got my card and sat down. She took my card and puts a thermometer in my mouth.

After waiting for five minutes she came by and took the thermometer out of my mouth. With saliva running down my chin she read

the thermometer. She then told me my temperature was normal. Writing out the pass back to class she told me that she doesn't usually send people home if they don't have a temperature, so I would have to go back to class.

Is this really right to judge a person by his/her temperature and not how sick he/she really is? There are many sicknesses that can put you in pain but not cause a temperature. There are other ways besides temperature to tell if a person is sick or not.

If a person goes home then it is not hurting the school, it is hurting the person and his/her grades. A student should have a choice,

if he/she feels sick enough, to go home. Only the student can tell if he or she is sick. A professional doctor might be able to tell you what is wrong with you with hi-tech equipment, but not the school nurse.

Letter to the editor

Dear Mr. Seper,

Being that you are not an athlete nor a teacher, it is my opinion that you shouldn't speak on other sides behalf. Obviously athletics doesn't mean much to you, but for most of us it involves a lot more than just regionals and sectionals. If anyone was selfish it was the Board of Education, not the athletes of our school. You made it seem as if we didn't care about the teachers, which is totally untrue. No one wanted a strike in the first place. Furthermore, if you wish to speak on our behalf, I suggest you know what you're talking about and present both sides fairly.

Sincerely,
Laurie Davidson

THE BRIDGE

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The Bridge is the student newspaper of West 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, as necessary, for length and libelous material.

Unsigned editorials appearing in the newspaper are the opinions of The Bridge editorial board. Content and editorial policy are determined by the editors with concurrence of The Bridge editorial board. The adviser acts in the capacity of a professional consultant.

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

What do you know about Sweden?

by Julia Hill

"We go to parties, listen to music, sit and talk . . . like here." That's what 17 year old Jeanette Gademark from Sweden said when comparing the social lives of teenagers in America with that of Sweden.

From the suburbs of Sweden's capital, Stockholm, to the suburbs of Chicago, Gademark has not found the lifestyle here too different.

However, holidays in Sweden are different. Similar to Christmas she says, "on December 13 we have an event called Lucia. The girls go in a line and one girl has to wear a crown of candles on her head. The other girls behind her have candles in their hands. You all have to wear white night-shirts and glitter around your waist and hair and sing Christmas songs. The little boys are elves and go in line and sing too. We go and sing in different houses and get goodies." They also celebrate Christmas on December 24 rather than 25.

Gademark continued, "We don't celebrate Halloween. We have a similar thing at Easter when children dress up as witches and go and knock on doors and give out postcards which they have drawn themselves."

The major difference Gademark sees about Chicago is "It has big buildings. We don't have big buildings in Sweden. We don't have skyscrapers."

When asked to compare the people of

classroom all day long. She prefers the system at WCCHS, saying, "I like better that we are not with the same class everyday so you get to know more people." Gademark's favorite subject at school is unscheduled be-



Jeanette Gademark, from Sweden is having 'lots of fun' here in America.

Sweden and the United States, Gademark replied, "I find some people (in the U.S.) more open and they express themselves more."

At her school in Sweden, Gademark has a different schedule, but remains in one

cause "you can just sit and talk with friends."

Her major interest here is soccer. "I like soccer. I play here with Sparta. Also, I hope to play on the team at school next semester."

Gademark has started a new habit since staying here in America. "Every time I come home from school, I sit in front of the TV." She points out, "The channels are different in Sweden. We only have two."

Gademark has already been down to Florida with her exchange program **American International Student Exchange**. She said she really enjoyed it. "It was awesome."

Even though she misses her friends, Gademark is very happy with her host parents, the Statz's, and her two "sisters" Molly (a sophomore) and Jessica (grade 8). She says, "They treat me like a family member. It was very easy to enter their system."

The reason why she wanted to come to America, Gademark says was, "I wanted to experience a new country and it's my first time here. I am interested in seeing how other people live and seeing their cultures." Since she has been here, Gademark has learned many new things, saying, "It's a new experience. You learn to take care of yourself, deal with problems you've never had before."

To anyone considering becoming an exchange student, Gademark says, "You'll have a lot of fun!"

Carboloading in effect

by Tina McDermott

"Take a look at me. Tell me do you like what you see?"

Many athletes are asking the same question as Bel Biv Devoe while they are in the pool, on the court, or on the field. Athletes constantly wonder what fans think. Their performance is based on the energy they receive from the food they eat prior to competing. When it comes to nutrition, every athlete has his/her own recipe for success.

Carbohydrates seems to be the common belief among athletes for a good performance. Sophomore and varsity tennis player Jon Martin's only response was "Food? Carbohydrates!" when asked what he eats before a match. Senior varsity swimmer T.J. Weigand eats "lots of good food. Carbohydrates and stuff like that." Sophomore varsity soccer player Teresa Carranza also eats "a light meal full of carbohydrates."

Some players, however, believe in a dif-

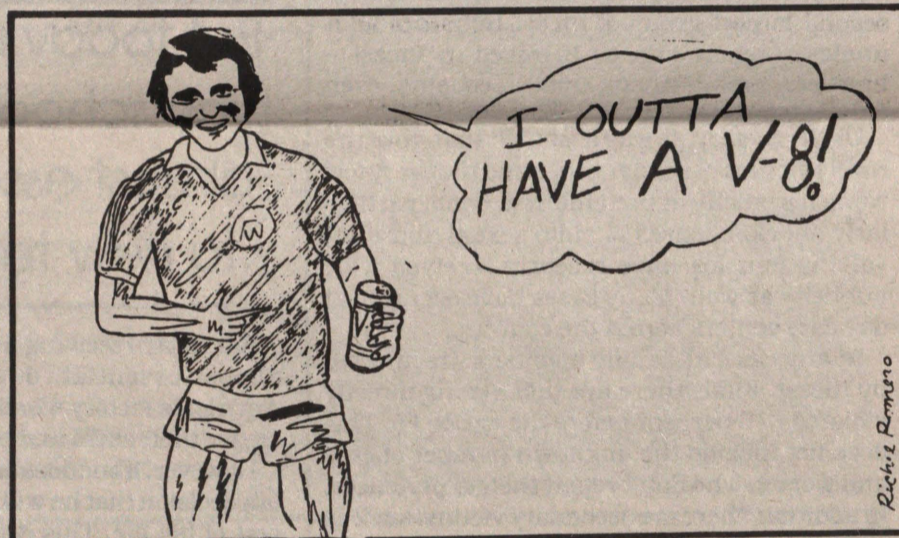
ferent diet. Senior varsity swimmer Matt Phillips claims to eat "a little bit of everything, but mostly carbohydrates. I believe in the pasta diet and I think about water a lot." Buddy Tony Standish claims, "Matt eats burgers before a meet!"

Others believe in fruits and grains for energy. Freshman varsity tennis player Tina Martin eats "fruit and cheetos with a juicebox." Sophomore swimmer Corey Gillgallon claims, "I really do eat bad food," but other sources say, "Corey usually has a juice box, bagels, and dry cereal."

Sometimes though, junk food wins out. Sophomore cross country runner Amy Kosifas comments that usually "people on the cross country team eat peanut butter and jelly sandwiches before a meet." Senior varsity soccer player Richie Romero agrees, "I have to have a good full meal before I play. Usually a sandwich or something. I can't play without having something in my stomach."

Senior varsity soccer player Dave Vish seems to have quite an appetite. "A couple of

times, we made boarder runs to Taco Bell. That gives you a lot of energy. Sometimes we go to Wendy's to get some basic junk food.



We also go to one another's houses' where our moms' cook us a big meal." Similarly, senior varsity football player Chris Davidson eats plenty of spaghetti before a game.

This wide range of meal selections may explain some things about the performance of WCCHS athletes. Now that you know what they eat, you decide.

Top 10 most overheard quotes from the cafeteria

by Matt Phillips

- 10) Didn't your mom tell you not to shake up an open milk?
- 9) Is that butter on the ceiling?
- 8) On the count of three, everyone stare at the rhiney.
- 7) Hey, whatever happened to that Mozetti guy?
- 6) Aren't the Bridge editors cool?
- 5) Can I have a lick of your hamburger-cicle?
- 4) What would we do without Bush?
- 3) FIGHT!!!
- 2) Why is it that when you add nuts, carmel, and a stick to a 50 cent apple it still costs 50 cents?
- 1) Heaven forbid we drink pop during lunch!

AFTERNOONS,
EVENINGS,
& WEEKENDS.
DAY & NIGHT
POSITIONS.



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Teenagers, trials,

Family matters

by Dana Billick

Incest-n. Sexual relations between members of family (Webster's Dictionary).

Every day something can be heard in the news about incest. It is an important social problem because of the intense suffering and sometimes destructive long-term effects that result from it. It is a traumatic event.

Incest frequently occurs with consent. Children or teens who are curious about sex and about their development often experiment with sex without using any type of force. By definition, this is still incest and goes beyond most of what is considered by medical professionals to be "healthy" sex play.

Incest can include any relations from a kiss to sexual intercourse. Often times with experimentation, victims feel responsible for negative feelings and take all the blame upon themselves.

Most incestuous relations take place at home among close family members. Fathers are the second largest group of incest initiators after uncles. Anyone can be involved in incest - brothers, grandfathers, uncles, cousins, even female relatives.

Until recently, it was assumed that boys are rarely victims of sexual abuse and that very few women sexually abuse children. Some particularly shocking cases of child sexual abuse involving females have recently received wide publicity as well. Many cases have occurred at day care centers across the country.

In any case, all family members are affected by incest. First, there are those being directly violated: 16 percent before the age of 18. This does not include the unknown number of girls and women who don't report their experiences. In addition, there are secondary victims such as mothers and siblings who have not been violated physically, but emotionally affected. Next, the experience is likely to affect the manner in which incest victims raise their children; they may be overprotective or reluctant to make them aware of sex.

To make a report of incest or rape of any age victim, call the toll-free hotline: CHILD HELP 1-800-4-A-CHILD, 24 hours a day, or check the phone book for the local department of children and family services.

Dropping out: Not the right answer

by Jamee Taylor

Feeling like not going to school? Okay, so you don't go. Then another day comes around and you stay home again. Each week, you continue to fall into this rut, and you are continually missing school. Then when you do finally return to school you are so far behind that you feel that you will never catch up. Why should you even bother to go back to school? You might as well quit school and get a full time job, right? WRONG!

Years ago teenagers dropped out of school to get married and have children, and that was very acceptable back then, because the husband would generally take over his father's business, most commonly their farm.

But today receiving a high school diploma is almost essential, due to new technology.

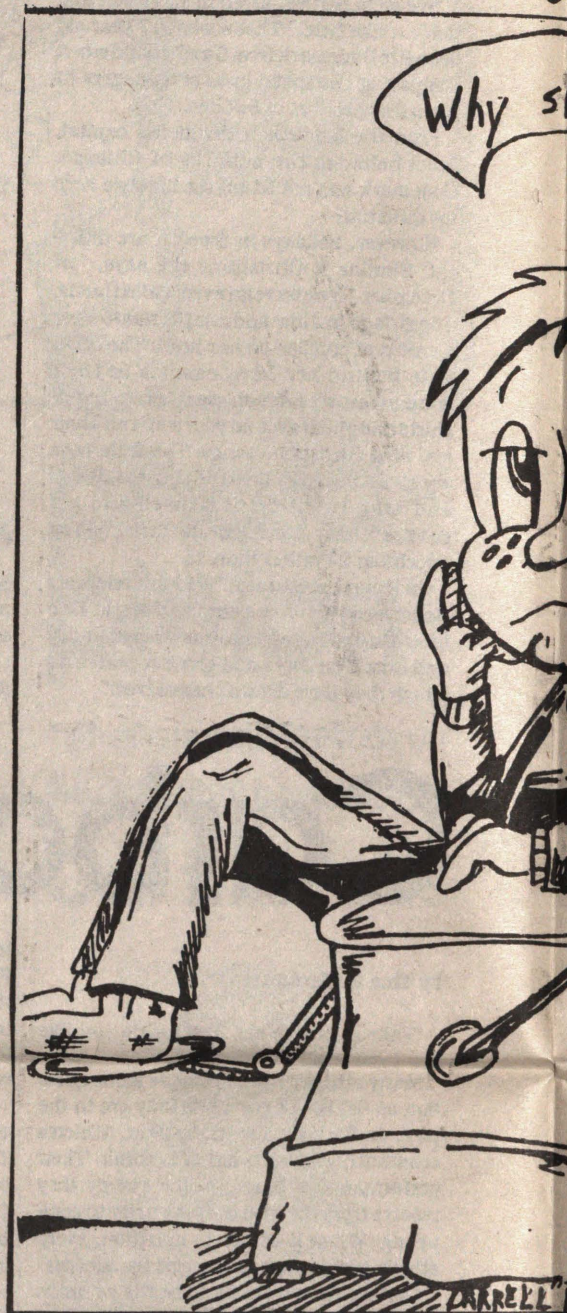
But today receiving a high school diploma is almost essential, due to new technology. America's factory workers also will have to increase their skills and education.

However, if one does decide to quit school, that is a decision that he will have to live with for the rest of his life. This doesn't necessarily mean that maybe he won't get a break in life and become a "Donald Trump." But as each year passes, it becomes less likely this situation will come true.

At the age of 17, one can take the GED (General Equivalency Development) test. With this certificate, a person can continue his education in college. The GED is a series of five tests, and when passed seems to be equivalent to a diploma. Many feel that a diploma seems to be more impressive, though. The diploma shows

that the person made it through school and stayed with the program. The GED seems to show lack of motivation, but at least the student is trying to do something with his life.

Just because a person drops out of school, it doesn't necessarily make them a "loser" but if all he wants to do is to lay around and live off others, this could become a serious problem. It takes 12 years to complete elementary schooling and meet necessary high school requirements. Teachers at West Chicago seem to be willing to meet with students who are having problems before school, after school, and even during their free periods. If the students make the effort, dropping out should not be the right answer for anyone.



Reach for recovery - Don't use drugs

by Abigail Hutchins

Everyone has heard about the drug war; we have all seen the news stories about drug arrests and raids. But do you understand how drugs really affect people? Do you know what groups at school fight drugs? Would you know where to go for help with a drug problem?

How do kids get hooked on drugs? Many come from families where a parent or an older sibling is a user. According to a study by the Illinois Department of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, 85 to 90 percent of Chicagoland teenagers in drug rehabilitation programs come from families with a history of drug abuse. National studies show that 65 percent of the country's drug-addicted teenagers acquired the habit from a family member.

Kids begin taking drugs because they believe drugs will make them feel better. Using drugs ends in addiction and often death, according to the study.

At first, a drug user uses only occasionally. If the drugs are accessible, the user will take the opportunity to get high. Soon, however, the user begins to look forward to the next chance to use. He seeks out drugs and uses them to combat boredom and depression. Eventually, the user loses control and becomes addicted.

Next, the user becomes totally dependent on drugs; they have become the most important thing in his life. Now the user is high most of the time. Finally, the addict burns out. He becomes suicidal, and the drugs can no longer relieve his emotions. Doing drugs has now become a terminal disease; if the user does not get help, he will die.

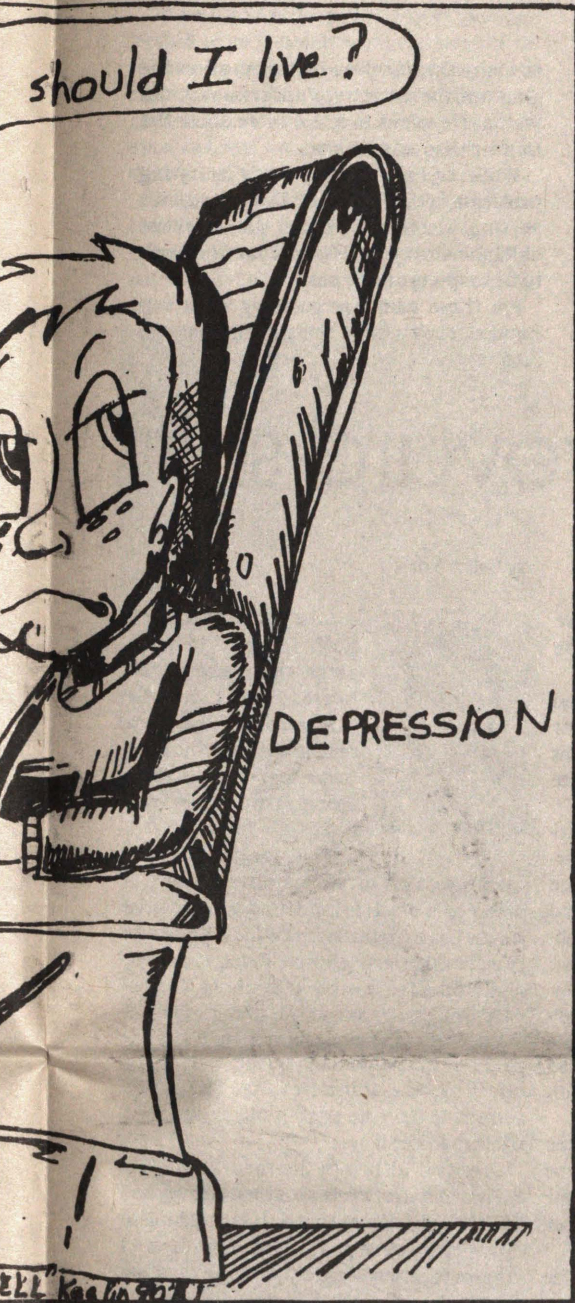
The consequences of drug use can be devastating. While some are able to realize their problem and seek help; others drop out of school, end up in jail, or die from diseases such as lung cancer and cirrhosis.

At WCCHS, there are two groups whose goal is to discourage drug use. Students Against Drunk Driving stages mock accidents and sponsors dances to increase the awareness of the consequences of drug use.

The In-Touch Clown Team directs its attention towards younger children. Members dress up as clowns, and travel to local elementary schools where they put on programs to encourage children to stay away from drugs.

If you know a family member or friend who has a drug problem, there are places to go to for help. Counselors and teachers can provide advice. Nearby hospitals also have drug programs.

... and tribulations



Teen pregnancy

by Michelle May

By the age of 20, three out of four females and five out of six males will have had sex at least once, according to Planned Parenthood. This may not seem very surprising, but half of all pregnancies occur within six months from the first time of having sex.

After a girl finds out she's pregnant there are a lot of decisions she has to make. The controversy between pro-life and pro-choice can make things worse. Both sides of the argument are infrequently presented in the same sources.

"Teen Pregnancy Counseling Center" is a place that a girl would think that she could go to discuss all of her alternatives. However, this group is funded by a religious group. These people counsel girls to give their baby up for adoption or keep it themselves, even in the case of rape or incest. They said, "We would definitely counsel against it (abortion), and do anything in our power to stop it." They never mentioned their stand for pro-life in the advertisement and brochures.

On the other side, the phone directory lists ads like "Need an Abortion?" with a phone number listed. It was described as using the best methods and having the best deals. It sounds like they were selling used cars. Many would argue that this matter of life and death should be taken so lightly.

Whatever the girl's decision, she has to face a lot of consequences. Sixty-two percent of all teenage mothers never finish high school. Of those who do, only 2 percent actually complete college according to *Teen Magazine*. The average teen mother is most likely to live below poverty level. These are some facts the "counseling center" forget to point out. But on the other hand the guilt of knowing you killed the prospect of a new life could be hard to forget.

Suicidal effects

by John Kufer

Fifteen teenagers will die today, according to PTA Today.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death for teens in America. Pressures along with the breakdown in the family structure are reasons why every 78 seconds a teen attempts suicide. "Adolescence is a tough time in life," says Dr. Leonard Ball, Medical Director of Gulfport Sand Hill Hospital for troubled teens in a story from the *Sun Herald*.

Economic depression, social isolation, hopelessness, stress, and drug and alcohol abuse are reasons why 6,000 teens kill themselves every year.

Many teens show signs when determining to commit suicide, however, the signs are not always easily recognized by others. Some of the signs most common are sudden falling grades, or grades that have dropped tremendously, sudden mood swings, personality changes, and long term depression.

All people are at risk of becoming potential suicide victims: not just the mentally ill. Experts say that suicide is just a teen's way of saying that he needs "help." Strong family ties, religious beliefs, verbal expressions, and less lifestyle disruption are ways to narrow a person's chance of becoming a suicide victim.

If you or anyone you know shows these signs of wanting to kill themselves, get them help right away. It may be too late, so don't wait even if you are afraid that that person will be disappointed in you. Help can be easily achieved. Talk to a parent, teacher, relative, or anyone who is willing to listen. If you find yourself not having anyone to talk to call the toll-free hotline at: 1-800-333-4444.

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Who is it this time?

by Christine Pomeroy



It's 9 p.m. on a Saturday night. As I turn on the television, and flip channels to arrive at channel seven, *Twin Peaks* appears. So I sit down to watch and see who killed Laura Palmer this time.

As each episode proceeds, the hunt for Laura's killer grows weirder and the huge crowd of characters spend more time eating pie, doughnuts, and drinking coffee while having psychic vi-

sions.

The Laura Palmer mystery seems to be like a *Clue* game—everyone is suspicious.

We have no idea at this point who killed Laura. Maybe it was no one at all.

If you think about it, there could be a number a people. Her father, for example. He seems quite suspicious and did kill Jaques Renault (the bartender). Laura's mother has continuous psychic visions of a mystery man named Bob.

Then there is Ronette Pulaski who worked with Laura at the perfume counter. She too, was raped and beaten. And what about Dr. Jacoby, psychiatrist or lover? He certainly

has enough clues about Laura such as the cassette tapes and he is always sneaking around.

As we proceed, Donna Hayward is Laura's best friend, but seems quite jealous of her. She always has her mind on James Hurley, the biker, and getting Laura's diary from some wierdo who never leaves home. What's in that diary anyway? (Clue, clue, clue?!?)

The biggest suspect seems to be Agent Dale Cooper. So far, he's the one who leadsto

so many clues such as his dream about the giant and the recording of a previous murder victim. He seems to know more about the murder than anyone else.

While crybaby Deputy Andy is having problems with his sperm, Lucy (doughnut serving secretary) worries about whose child she's carrying. These two are too dumb to be suspects at this point.

For those who love guessing what will happen, don't worry, this program may go on forever.

Food for thought

by Laura Rapinchuk

The race is on ladies and gentlemen. In a few moments we will actually have live coverage of a lady who warms our buns, makes things hot and spicy, and then asks us for money. She is the one and only cafeteria manager, Alice Tinnies. We will now cover her course of action as she prepares for her day at the starting line.

And she's off! Beginning her daily duties at 7:30 a.m., you will find the all-American cafeteria manager calculating bills, checking the inventory stock, talking with salesmen over the phone, and finishing up any leftover paperwork. Then she's off and running making sure the faculty and staff are prepared for the long day ahead of them with hot, fresh cups of coffee.

At 10 a.m. our fearless food fixer rounds the stretch just in time to join the other cafeteria ladies for a quick lunch. She has to rush and eat because the real challenge of the day soon awaits her.

She makes sure that all the scrumptious cafeteria food is coming along and ready for the starving We-go students. At 10:40 a.m. Tinnies makes a quick dash for the money and places it in the registers. Soon after it's in place, she's psyched for her well awaited challenge. Ding! The signal for first lunch.

Huffing and puffing, she helps serve mobs of students who stream into the lunch lines. Dodging other cafeteria workers left and

right, it's a salad here and a hot pretzel there. But does she give up? Of course not. One hamburger helper heroine serves her little heart out until the next signal nears.

Ding! Finally the end of third lunch arrives. She breathes a sigh of relief and checks to make sure all lanes are clear. The roughest part of the terrain has been covered and she gains her second wind.

It's time to close down the lunch lines and clean everything up. No one has made too much of a mess so she steadies her pace, happy that everything has gone well so far. Taking a short jog to the registers, the cafeteria queen collects and counts the money. A nice amount has been collected, making her work more rewarding.

She continues to lap everyone else and leave them in the dust as she ventures on to preparing menus. In the middle of preparing an order, she hears a report that the dishwasher is broke. This, however, is not a problem for Tinnies, an old pro at handling these types of problems. She arranges for it to be fixed immediately.

At last the day is over and our star has reached the finish line with a remarkable first place victory.

In an interview with our winner, she was asked what she likes most about her job. Responding with a triumphant smile she revealed, "I like dealing with people. I have a lot of excellent people to work with."

So there you have it folks. A day in the life of one of We-go's very own.

Bury Graveyard shift

by Tanida Suwanaath

by Brian York

The movie *Graveyard Shift* should have been, to say the least, buried before it hit the movie screens.

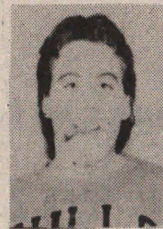
I myself, being a Stephen King fan, had high expectations for this movie after reading the short story in the novel *Night Shift*. After the first 20 minutes, I wanted to leave, badly.

The story takes place in a cotton warehouse in Maine, where the lead character, Hall (David Andrews) is a picker machine operator. He is a college student who dropped out and wanders from job to job. Hall is approached by the foreman, Mr. Warwick who offers him a job in the basement clean-up crew for the fourth of July weekend. The creature which haunts this warehouse is a cross between a huge rat and a bat which ends up killing most of the main characters.

The movie was all too cliché and makes the viewer want to scream, "Don't go in the basement!" But of course they do and the viewer then has to yell, "Don't stick your hand in that hole!" which they also do.

The only thing that made me laugh (aside from the movie's stupidity) was the exterminator (played by Brad Durrick). His character is a Vietnam vet who always has a mouthful of spit and no common sense.

It is during one scene that Warwick literally sends him to his death that Durrick exclaims, "Ain't no job worth it!" That's right, ain't no job worth it and no movie either!



After I saw *Graveyard Shift*, I started to think about what makes a good horror flick. I thought this because it had been reinforced over the past hour and a half that *Graveyard Shift* was not one.

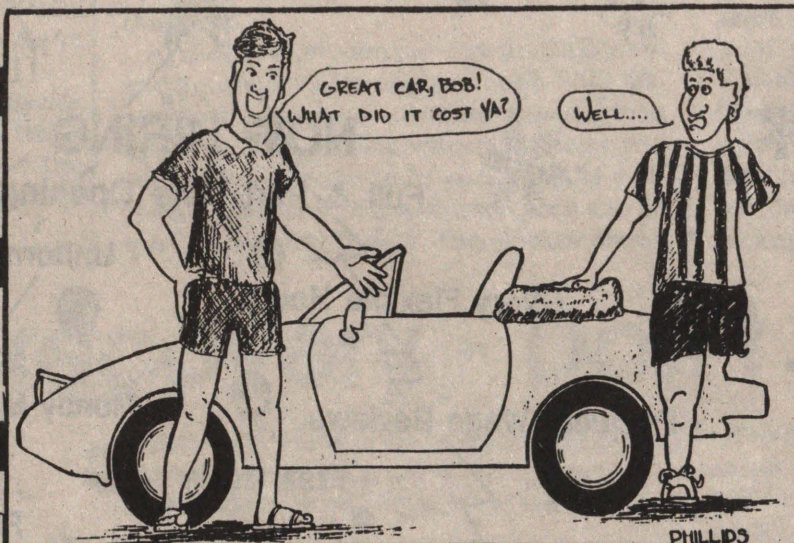
Ten, maybe fifteen, years ago, this movie may have been honored as a classic, but today an audience wants more from a horror film. They want guts, exorcism, ghosts, Freddy, Jason, and all the famous blood brothers. *Graveyard Shift* gives you a big bat that swims.

Not only was I disappointed by the monster, but in addition the acting, writing, or directing was uninteresting. The movie seemed to have no perks to it; it was your basic monster movie.

Granted, although Stephen King (The Sultan of Scare) wrote the story, *Graveyard Shift*, I highly doubt that he had anything to do with the actual production of the movie. I respect Stephen King, but disapprove of his decision to sell out to such management.

To this very minute I wish I could somehow get my 650 pennies I spent on *Graveyard Shift* back. However a raid on the Cineplex Odeon is strictly out of the question. Don't waste your 650 pennies (or 1 penny) on *Graveyard Shift*. Let's show Hollywood that the general public is sick of mediocre movies made by mediocre people.

FROM
THE
DRAWER



What do the words mean?

by Molly Statz

Lots of times I turn on the radio and not really paying attention. When a song is over I think, "The lyrics don't make sense."

For the next few days, I try and listen carefully to hear what the songs really mean. There are two songs out now that are incomprehensible. Students at WCCHS responded to what they thought *Fly to the Angel* and *Something to believe in* meant.

Fly to the Angels, everyone felt was about going to Heaven. O.k. I'll agree to that, but no one explained why. I think the singer has to let the memories of his girlfriend go because she died. Usually, one does not fly to the angels while on Earth.

When it comes to *Something to believe in*, two answers came from sophomore Tiffany Smith and senior Sasha Vullaimie. Smith feels, "It means everything today is so complicated and you can't really trust anyone. The singer wants something he can believe in and trust."

Vullaimie gave her answer in a different way. "It's about someone who has been hurt so many times that they can't trust anyone."

Listen to songs and what they tell you.

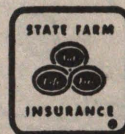
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Returning stars to anchor Lady Cat hoopsters

by Aaron Owens

JUST DO IT! No, it's not the Nike commercial, but this year's purpose behind the Lady Wildcat basketball team.

The outlook for this year's Lady Cat basketball team is considered good because of the team's experience. After last year's 7-7 record in the DuPage Valley Conference, Lady Wildcat Coach Kim Wallner returns six of last year's varsity players to this year's varsity team.

Seniors Melody Benson, Laurie Davidson, Heather Jardis Jennifer Kramer, Danielle Potts and Sue Thomas are the returning six. All but Davidson saw a starting role during

the season.

Wallner believes the team will be in the hunt for the DVC title along with Wheaton North, Naperville Central, Naperville North, Wheaton Central and Glenbard East.

"We lost a lot of those (DVC) games last year by two or three points," Wallner said. But Wallner believes that if the team reverses some of those decisions it will have a very successful year.

For now, the Lady Cat team has to replace three players from last year. Graduates Jessica Andrews, Missy Vega and all-conference Angle Webb's guard positions are going to be filled by Davidson, sophomore Shannon Mason and Thomas.

The Wildcats have a lot to show in the inside with Benson, Davidson, Jardis and junior Vicki Smith. Wallner is looking towards the forward Benson, the top rebounder and scorer returning this year, to add a major contribution on defense and offense.

The only thing that needs to be installed, according to Wallner, is more offense. "We need more much offense to achieve our goals this year," she said.

As for defense, the team plans on playing the same high-pressure, full-court defense as it did last year. Last year's defense was rated first in conference, holding foes to an average of 35 points a game.

In the oven



Naperville stinks

by Chris Seper

In my years of education here at West Chicago, I have learned one thing...

Naperville schools are not good.

"I just don't like their attitude," senior basketball player Vashon Hayes said. "They're stuck up. A rich-type, if you know what I mean."

It has always been this way with the Naperville schools. The DuPage Valley Conference version of Beverly Hills High School, Naperville Central and North have always seemed to strike a cord with West Chicago (known unfortunately as the ghetto of the DVC).

The anti-Naperville sentiments hit a high point when Naperville North (North by the way, is worse. But if you're at a Naperville vs. Naperville game, just cheer for injuries.) played against the Wildcat football team at our Homecoming. The Cats had already been beaten pretty bad by the Huskies, but yet the starters didn't leave the game until late in the third period.

This only added insult to even more insult. The Huskie football team pushed around the cheerleaders before the game began.

"All the Naperville players for every sport are Bill Laimbeers," senior football/baseball player Pat Quane said. "They are all gutless whimps with no backbone."

Basketball was no better, as within two games, one between North and the other with the Redskins (nice racist name, why not call them Injuns?) the three teams recorded six technical fouls and one ejection.

Not bad for Naperville.

Friction for the schools go both ways. Naperville North was the first team to beat the state ranked soccer team, as did Naperville Central in the DVC tournament. Last year, the baseball team handed Naperville Central's top-ranked state baseball team its first loss of the season.

We all enjoy a good laugh, and when a person from either Naperville school comes up to you and asks, "Are there gangs around here," you enjoy telling them to be careful and just watch out for 300 pound guys with baseball bats and knives. But after awhile, it just gets annoying.

If you're interested, Naperville North comes here to play against the boys December 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the first meeting of the year. The girls get a shot at North here one day earlier at 6 p.m. and then play Central two days later at 1:30 p.m.

Grapplers prep for rough and tumble season

by Chris Seper

First year Wildcat Coach Bob French makes no bones about it, the Wildcat wrestling team is going to have a tough road to hold.

"We have a lot more holes than last year," French explained. "The numbers are really down. We're going to take some lumps."

The rookie head coach of the Wildcats faces the new season losing all but two varsity letterwinners, sectional qualifiers sophomore Israel Castro and senior Doug Sawyer. But with the pair of returnees, French is set to build a program.

"I'm looking at two state qualifiers," French said of Castro and Sawyer. "People tell me I'm out of my mind. Israel is really dedicated. Sawyer, things just come naturally to him. They're both natural athletes."

Last year, Sawyer went 1-2 at sectional competition while Castro came one match away from going to state, placing fourth.

"I think we'll have a good team if we work hard," Sawyer said. "It's a fairly young team. But I don't think that will have much of an affect. The young guys have a lot of experience."

The French formula for the rest of the team is simple - fill the varsity spots with junior varsity letterwinners, take some lumps early and hope for a strong finish.

"I'd hate to call it a rebuilding year," French said. "But the second part of the year we're going to have to regroup."

Besides the two lower-weight state hopefuls, freshmen Maurcial Hernandez and Rich Marmelejo and junior Aaron Owens are going to be the other lighter wrestlers that French puts his hopes on to keep the Cats together.

"He was an outstanding IKWF wrestler," French said of Marmelejo. "He'll fill a hole or two for us. He's tough, but we've got some tough competition." Owens saw some varsity time last year, but had to sit out most of the season with a knee injury.

"We're really hurting in the upper weights," French went on. "There's not more than four or five wrestler up there. Out of that, only two are junior varsity letterwinners." Seniors Val Graczyk and Jason Nourie, the two letterwinners in the upper weights, will be the stalwarts in the upper weights.

George retires from coaching

by Margaret Walen

After 21 years of coaching, Gail George is ready to move on. "I'll still be following the kids though," she said.

George graduated from Illinois State University where she played both volleyball and basketball. She then went on to receive her masters in Physical Education and Drivers Education from Roosevelt University. In 1964, George came to West Chicago to begin her teaching career.

"It's a hard decision to make," George said of retiring. "I intend to stay very active in it (volleyball) as assistant athletic director. I'm looking forward to building the program up and promoting it." George coached 21 years at West Chicago.

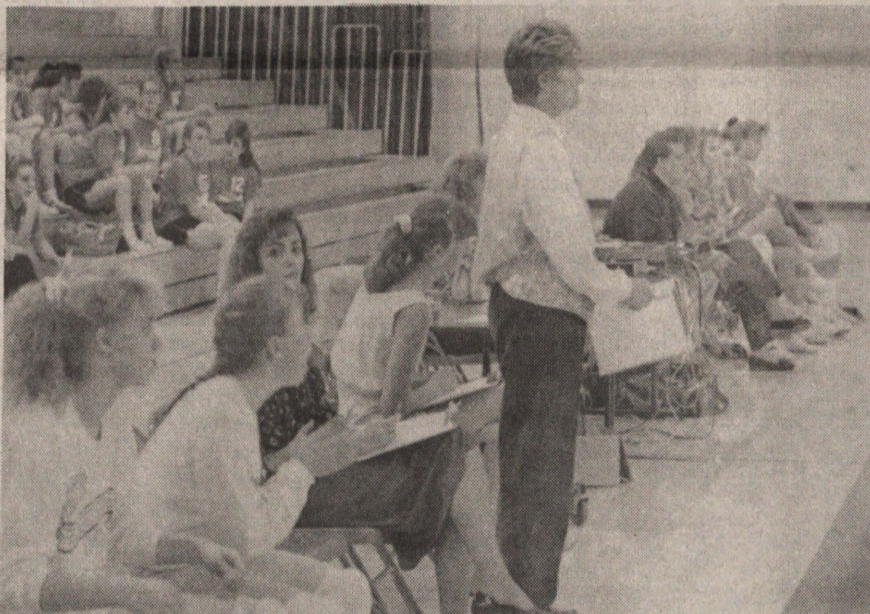
The popularity of volleyball is continually increasing, according to George. The next

step in promoting the sport, in George's estimation, will be investigating the possibility of starting a boys' program at WCCHS.

George found her final team, made up of seniors Melody Benson and Claire Broido, junior Jody Burns, seniors Cheryl Greenwalt, Jennifer Kramer, Kelly Matthews, sophomore Chris Murphy, seniors Sarah Ognie, Danielle Potts and Jennifer Walters to be a group of well-rounded individuals.

"They were great - active, extremely hard-working and supportive of one another. They'd do anything you'd asked them to do," praised George.

"I've met some absolutely tremendous kids," George said. Her most rewarding experiences occur when former players come back and want to help coach. "As far back as 12 to 15 years ago, they'll call or stop in. I get really attached to those kids," George said.



Still standing tall, Lady Cat coach Gail George. (photo by Chris Seper)

Home Sports Schedule and Playoffs

Boys' Basketball

Dec. 1	St. Francis	7:30 pm.
Dec. 7	Naperville North	7:30 p.m.

Girls' Basketball

Nov. 13	Larkin	6 p.m.
Dec. 6	Naperville North	6 p.m.
Dec. 8	Naperville Central	1:30 p.m.
Dec. 18	Kaneland	6 p.m.

Boys' Swimming

Dec. 6	Marmion	5 p.m.
Dec. 8	Wildcats relays	9:30 p.m.
Dec. 11	Waubonsie Valley, Ottawa	5 p.m.

Wrestling

Nov. 20	West Aurora	6 p.m.
Nov. 24	Wildcat Invite	10 a.m.
Nov. 30	Glenbard East	6 p.m.
Dec. 14	Naperville Central	6 p.m.

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Wildcats prepare for run and gun season

Youthful squad attempts to shoot past conference foes

by James Smith

The need for speed.
The West Chicago Wildcats coming into the 1990-91 basketball season are a small team, but Wildcat coach Lee Maciejewski hopes that a group of talented guards will make up for the lack of height and make the team competitive.

"Our team is short and we know it," Maciejewski said. "Being that our tallest player is 6-5 (senior T.R. Brizzolara), we will imply a run and gun style this year. It doesn't make any sense to try and play a game that does not suit our team.

Maciejewski expects to run a three-guard offense with seniors Gary Barnes, Vashon Hayes and Matt Logan, leading the up tempo styles. Logan, a 6-2 senior, will run the show at point guard.

Maciejewski would like to see Logan improve. "I think he had a good season last year, (six points, four assists per game) but there will be opportunities for him this year, considering the offense we will run.

Barnes, a six-foot second-year player from Overton High School in Memphis, Tenn., is expected to be the go to man on the Wildcats.



Wallace Sullivan (31) and Kevin Baldus (55) will be two players the Cats will be depending on to come off the bench and rebound. (photo by Gina Lipscomb)

"Gary averaged 10 points a game for us last year," Maciejewski said. "He has come to practice in great shape and I certainly feel he can score more points for us this year."

Hayes, a 5-11 guard, will be the final man

in the three-guard offense for Maciejewski. "Hayes showed a great deal of potential last year (four points per game)," Maciejewski said. "I expect him to break through this season."

With the three-guard offense, it would seem that the 6-5 center Brizzolara would be the odd man out. But Maciejewski doesn't think so.

"T.R. has into this season in the best shape I've ever seen him. I think he will be more confident because of the position in which he has been placed - a starter."

Rob Kuhn, a 6-1 junior, will round out the starting five at the forward spot.

Look for the Wildcats to be running and gunning on the court, but according to Maciejewski, don't count out their defense. "Being as small as we are, we have a group of very quick athletes, who may not get every rebound, but we expect to put pressure on the other team every time down the court."

With 11 underclassmen on his roster, Maciejewski is optimistic on the future, but is still looking forward to this season.

"It will be interesting to see how the season goes, I hope the new system will be successful. I am happy with the amount of underclassmen on the team. But by no means count us out this season. I look forward to knocking off some teams that take us lightly, as well as playing competitive with teams that don't."

Cross country closes year downstate

Montalvo takes fifth as boys, Horyn both falter

by Ed Bachner

"I was expecting a little more from them," Wildcat Coach Bob Thomson said about the boys' cross country team's performance in the state meet on November 3.

The boys' team scored 340 points, which put them in 12th place out of 27 teams at Detweiller Park in Peoria.

This ended the Wildcat cross country season.

We could have done better," Thomson

said. "There were individuals who didn't perform as well as they could have. Also, the team forgot some of the seriousness of the meet and they might not have had as much respect for the other teams as they should have."

However, Thomson didn't place all the blame on the team - this year's competition was stronger than last year.

"This year's times improved by an average of 30 seconds over last year's times," Thomson explained.

said that she felt "lower than I've ever felt in my entire life. I was supposed to place in the top 25 but I blew it." Horyn, who made all-state last year, may not make the list this time.

"Both teams had excellent seasons," Thomson said about the boys' and girls' overall performances. "I'm not disappointed in any way, shape or form. Both the boys' and girls' teams had commendable performances throughout the whole year."

"We had our ups and downs, our good and bad races," Montalvo commented about the boys' team. "We didn't do as well as we were expecting to do at state, but we had a great season overall. I'm happy with how we've run the entire season."

Horyn was ecstatic about the girls' team. "We were totally awesome this year. I'm so

proud of everybody. We worked so hard and deserved everything. We wanted to make it to state, but it just didn't happen."

Thomson was unsure how the team will do next year.

"We'll be losing some quality people because of graduation," Thomson said of seniors Mark Benja, Oliver Koriotoh, Montalvo and Dave Zeisler - all members of the state team along with juniors Mike Callarman and Elliot Popidakis and sophomore Brett Siglin.

"It will be harder for us to repeat being conference champs and going downstate," Thomson went on. "It's going to come down to the kids' dedication. If they run during the summer, then they should do okay. If they don't run over the summer, then they probably won't do very well."



Senior Rick Montalvo ripped through the field during the cross country state champions November 4. Montalvo finished fifth while the boys nabbed 13th. Senior Nicole Horyn earned 54th. (photo by Chris Seper)

WILDCAT SPORTS TRIVIA

What is the highest finish the boys' basketball team has ever gotten in the DVC?

(Answer on page 7)

Senior Rick Montalvo improved over his 22nd-place finish last year to come in fifth with a time of 14:45 on the three-mile course. Montalvo said he felt "very happy - not so much as my place as just how I ran the race. I'm just pleased to have run in the state meet."

Montalvo was named to the all-state list for the third time out of the three trips he has made downstate. Along with his all-state honor, Montalvo is the DuPage Valley Conference, regional and sectional champion.

Senior Nicole Horyn, the only Lady Wildcat to run at Detweiller Park, placed 54th with a time of 12:40 over a 2.1-mile course. Horyn was disappointed with her race and

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