

The Bridge

West Chicago
Community High
School
326 Joliet Street
West Chicago, IL
60185
November 1, 1991
Volume 21, Issue 3

SEAC expands and encourages recycling

by Jennifer Calliguri

Student Environmental Action Committee (SEAC) is reforming.

According to West Chicago Community High School's Government teacher and SEAC advisor Steve Arnold, the reason the club needs to reform is because of the lack of continuity from the 1991 school year to this year.

Last year SEAC members decided there would be several co-officers instead of one single president. Arnold claims this is part of the reason for the lack of continuity.

As of now, SEAC is starting again with mostly new members.

SEAC was founded on May 20, 1990, Earth Day, by senior Kelly Howard, and junior Matt Moran.

"Last year SEAC was moving strong. They accomplished many important steps toward improving the environment," said Arnold.

The "Paper Savers" boxes placed in every classroom were accomplished by SEAC. These boxes are there to recycle notebook, copier,

and computer paper.

Also last year, a group of four seniors, Amy Brigowatz, Claire Broido, Matt Moran, and David Vish strongly pushed for the approval of House Bill 097. This bill states "Beginning July 1, 1992, at least 10 percent of the total dollar value of paper products purchased must be manufactured from recycled materials. The total dollar percentage increases to 25 percent in 1995, 40 percent in 1999, and 50 percent beginning July 1, 2001."

On September 19, 1991, Illinois Governor Jim Edger signed the House Bill in Weyrauch Auditorium at WCCHS.

SEAC has many plans for the recycling future. "First of all, West Chicago needs to recycle newspapers," said Arnold. According to Arnold, "newspapers that are received by the school are just thrown away. SEAC will try to set up a program to recycle them."

"SEAC will also continue to recycle all paper and hopefully make the students more conscious of recycling," comments Arnold.

West Chicago hosts four exchange students

by Liz Gernand

This year WCCHS will be hosting four exchange students who are from three different countries.

This year's group of exchange students are: Claudia Beaugrand, who chose not to be interviewed, Thilo Hey, Torge Runge, and Samantha Wilson. They will be staying here in West Chicago for the whole year.

Runge is here from Germany and is an exchange student through Youth for Understanding. He is a senior here at West Chicago and is staying with junior Ned Miller.

Hey is also a senior from Germany, but is here on a Rotary Club exchange program and is staying with the Oeslager family of West Chicago.

Wilson is from Scotland and is a senior this year. She is staying with senior Kelle Spoden.

Of the three, Wilson is the only one who has spoken English all her life. Hey has had three years of English and Runge has had four.

When asked about how school is different here, Wilson explained, "We learn much more



Samantha Wilson and Thilo Hey are part on the exchange at West Chicago. (photo by Gina Lipscomb)

(in Scotland)... because she says they, "work harder in class." Another difference she noticed was here teachers are stricter on tardiness. She explained, "We can walk in (to class) five minutes late and they (teachers) wouldn't say anything."

Runge, on the other hand, commented on how long our school day is compared to his in Germany. He said that back home they get out of school around one or two o'clock. He said the biggest difference that he saw about school in the United States is that we have more activities to be involved in.

Just about three weeks ago when the Washington Redskins were in town to play the Bears, Hey and some other exchange students got a chance to do something even most Americans don't get to do, meet three members of a National Football League team. Hey met Monte Coleman, James Geathers, and Ricky Sanders.

Wilson said, "The people here are friendly" and they have made her feel at home.

Inkspots

by Elisa Biancalana, Karina Bite, Jennice Calliguri, Liz Gernand, and Julianne Graczyk

Phoenix to acceptworks

The Phoenix, the school's literary magazine, is presently accepting original student works of artwork, essays, fiction, poetry, and any other literary or artistic outlets. All works must be accompanied by a submission form which will be made available at the office and through your English teachers. It is suggested that students submit possible entries before the Thanksgiving holiday. For more information contact Mrs. MacDonald in room 321.

Bilingual club reforms

The Bilingual Club is no longer in existence. The new International Club is now accepting students from all nationalities. Mrs. Carmen Aviles hopes to succeed by exploring the customs, music, and folklore of all countries in organized social and academic activities. All new members and nationalities are welcome.

Exchange cancelled

This year West Chicago Community High School was to play host to a group of German students as an exchange program, but the German students will not be coming to West Chicago this year. Last year they cancelled their trip to West Virginia because of the war and will make that trip this year. They have postponed their trip to West Chicago until next year.

New officers elected

New officers have been elected for FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America). President Dan Yanan, Vice-President Lisa Grey, Secretary Maria Mendoza, Treasurer Scott Kiosowski, and Historian Peter Holloway. These are the officers for the 1991-1992 school year.

The new French Club officers for this year are: President Vanessa Talbott, Vice-President Karla Sosulski, Secretary Tom Fox, and Treasurer Nick Streams.

The newly elected German Club officers are: President Malla Leck, Vice-President Karina Bite, Secretary Tom Fox, and Treasurer Jennifer Vavrek.

National Honor Society Members to be initiated

The following 60 students will be initiated into the National Honor Society on November 14, 1991 at 7:30 p.m. in the Learning Resource Center: Courtney Adams, Gretchen Ausigen, Christine Baginski, Natalie Baker, Rebecca Baker, Sarah Bant, Duane Belniak, Anna Berendson, Elisa Biancalana, Olaf Birchholz, Karina Bite, Jason Blenkle.

Kirstin Bopp, Laura Bozidarevic, Jessica Bridge, Tanya Brooks, Douglas Cambell, Kurt Christopherson, Shaun Cronin, German Cruz, Laura Cruz, Lynn Ellerbruch, Tom Fox, Alicia Garceau, Elizabeth Gernand, Julianne Graczyk, Matthew Haverty, Jessica Heath, Carlo Herrero, Andrew Johnson, Thomas Kessler, Malla Leck, Jesus Macias, Jamie McDole, Victor Miranda, Claudia Montes.

Jabaar Murray, Erin Myers, Samantha Newby, Jeanne Newton, Gustavo Nieto, Sean Odell, Josefina Passillas, Matthew Pheneger, Sean Power, Vanessa Price, Eric Reffett, Kelly Roy, Jason Rudigler, David Siers, Karen Siuser, Victoria Smith, Carla Sosulski, Arnie Spalo, Jason Spinelli, Andy Srachta, Amy Sawajkowski, Jennifer Vavrek, Regina Viscogliosi, and Mike Zelman.

Honors Band Selected

Congratulations to Natalie Baker and Jeanne Newton for being selected in the IMEA Honors Band. They will perform at Evanston Township High School on November 16. Dr. Myron Welch from the University of Iowa will be conducting.

FBLA to hold conference

FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) is holding their Fall Leadership Conference November 22-24 in Cincinnati, Ohio. They will be attending seminars dealing with business.

Spanish Club grows

Spanish Club has grown considerably over last year's usual attendance of five people. At their first meeting they had twenty-five members in attendance. They elected Dina Bascharon, Laura Rapinchuck, and Candi Kairys as their co-officers.

Fall Play Performances

The play *Egad, The Woman in White: An Astonishing and Inspiring Melodrama* will be presented on November 7-9 at 7:30 p.m. and November 10 at 3:00 p.m. The cost of the play will be \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for students.

Inside this issue

Horoscopes p. 2

Hugo Miranda makes guest appearance in the Kitty Litter p. 7

Late Night Laborers p. 6

Find out more about gangs pp. 7 & 8

Students make bill, set way for the future

Recycling bills are now part of the future for West Chicago. On Thursday, September 19, Illinois Governor Jim Edgar signed a recycling bill which "requires all public elementary and secondary schools in Illinois to buy paper and paper products manufactured with recycled materials whenever economically and practically feasible."

Beginning next year, 10 percent of the paper purchased by Illinois schools must be manufactured from recycled materials. In 1995, the amount purchased will increase to 25 percent, and by 1999 50 percent of the paper will be from recycled products.

This was all made possible by former students Amy Brigowitz, Claire Broitdo, Matt Moran, and Dave Vish who went down to Springfield to present the bill. Many other students helped by writing letters to legislators.

On April 20, 1990, Moran helped form the group SEAC (Student Environmental Action Committee) along with former student Kelly Howard. SEAC works to better our environment. Last year, Paper Savers boxes were placed in every classroom to recycle paper by SEAC.

The **Bridge** is pleased that someone has taken the initiative to help cut down of our waste problem by recycling. We feel this bill will help us become environmentally conscious because the landfill problem is a significant dilemma. We also think this bill is a great example of what students can do to change the world when they set their minds to something.



Sean Power dominates letters to the editor

Mr. Hein's response to Sean Power

Dear Mr. Power,

In response to your column of 10/11/91 "Homecoming: A school sponsored joke".

I question your journalistic skills since you chose to insult my intelligence based on one incident. I doubt that you know very much about my intelligence or my integrity. Your very brief interview with me is the only conversation you and I have ever had.

If Homecoming is a joke, then it is one of the biggest jokes in America. Thousands of high schools elect homecoming royalty in much the same way that we do. It's been a time-honored tradition here at We-go. It has also been traditional to dress up for this occasion. I have been Pep Club advisor for many years and I have never had a participant or Pep Club member question the dress code for this assembly. While some of the students in this year's assembly were not very formal in their attire, I did not feel they were challenging the request to be "dressed up". I believe that having a part in this assembly is a privilege and not a right. It is not intended to be a forum to express yourself nor is it a stage for comedians or entertainers.

Admittedly the selection of a king and queen is a popularity contest but I think a lot

of students enjoy and look forward to it. I would also like to point out to you that Homecoming is sponsored by the Student Council and the Pep Club, both student-run organizations, not the administration. I have not heard requests from these groups or any others to omit this part of Homecoming. These groups were also the ones that planned the activities which you wrote of in a disparaging way in your column.

'I believe that having a part in this assembly is a privilege and not a right.'

A student that was actually honest? Mr. Phipps certainly wasn't honest when he filled out his autobiographical form, writing of his activities as that of a "womanizer" and "riverboat gambler".

I do not feel that I owe Mr. Phipps and apology. I think you owe the members of the Pep Club, Student Council, and the court an apology for the remarks you made about Homecoming. They worked very hard to make this occasion an enjoyable one for the majority of the student body.

Sincerely,

R.W. Hein

And another letter for Mr. Power

Dear Sean Power,

I agree totally with what Mr. Power is saying, but I think he's leading the readers the wrong way when he states, "When a student comes along who is actually honest and not busy playing the sycophant for every possible vote he or she can scrounge up, the student is not even allowed a chance." All 14 of the other King candidates, including Tom, are friends of mine. I know that not one of us took this a bit more or less serious than Tom Phipps. We were just as mad to see him denied participation in the assembly as anyone else.

'I agree totally with what Mr. Power is saying, but I think he's leading the readers the wrong way...'

I also know that there was no one who went out of their way to "scrounge up" any votes. The only campaigning was done for Mr. Phipps.

I'm not saying that this was wrong. Heck, was telling people to vote for him too.

The article is good and it gets a point across. However, in doing so, I think Mr. Power, in his haste to pass judgement on the administration, passed judgement on the other candidates and disregard how we actually felt.

Erin Porter

Pep Rally turries

Dear Editor,

We are writing this letter to express that we feel some teams were given more time than others at the Pep Rally. We are referring to the fact that the pom-pons performed a second and unscheduled routine which took time away from the presentations of the remaining teams e.g. Girls Swimming and volleyball. We feel it is the administrations duty to see that all teams/squads are recognized, respected, and not overlooked at these kind of events.

Amy Garceau (swimming)
Gretchen Austgen (softball)
Lynn Ellerbruch (volleyball)
Vallerie Lund (pom-pon)

"Thank you for calling my astrological forecast. I need a little information on you before we get started," the machine blurted out. Then the machine asked for my birthday and if I was male or female.

The machine blurted out in a barbaric voice, "Hi, Mr. Taurus!" After that I was laughing so hard, I thought to myself, "It doesn't get any better than this!" But just then it did.

My personal forecast came on. It started out that this month will be nothing short of fascinating. I should also thrust myself into work. If I do that I'll get a raise or something good will happen at work. I found this amusing because I don't have a job.

Also, it told me to listen to my mate, because if I do our relationship will benefit from it and we'll have more fun.

Just when I thought it was over and was about to hang up, the machine came back on and said for my personal love reading dial two. So I did, and again the machine came on.

This said, "You want to look good for a date but don't wear all your jewelry at once."

After that I had enough and hung up. The forecast was just what I thought it would be. A generalization of life in general.

Horoscopes are a total joke. They are almost as real as professional wrestling. Face reality, horoscopes don't predict the future, they generalize the past.

THE BRIDGE
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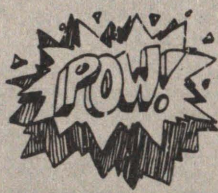
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The **Bridge** is the student newspaper at the West Chicago Community High School. The **Bridge** office is located in room 216.

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and must be legibly signed, with a maximum of five names appearing on 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.



The amazing joke of horoscopes

This month you will have great luck. You will meet someone that your heart grows fond of. You will accomplish something that you set your mind to. Your lucky days will be November 9, 13, 27, and 29.

Oh my! It's a horoscope. Could it be true? I wonder how lucky I'll really get? Who will be the person that my heart grows

fond of? I'm going to try to jump a stack of 60 flaming cars on November 13, because that is my lucky day!

Just kidding.

Horoscopes are a complete joke. They are the general assumptions of someone trying to make a buck.

According to **Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary**, a horoscope is a diagram of the relative positions of the planets and signs of the zodiac at a specific time (as at one's birth) for use by astrologers in inferring individual character and personality traits and in foretelling events of a person's life.

That's a mouthful.

Astrologers now can predict a person's future. Yeah, right!

In the October 23, 1991 issue of the **Chicago Tribune** I read my horoscope. I looked up Taurus, and this is what it read: "Important relationships reach a grand climax, meant to bring deeper understanding. Avoid struggling against the inevitable. Excellent career advancement."

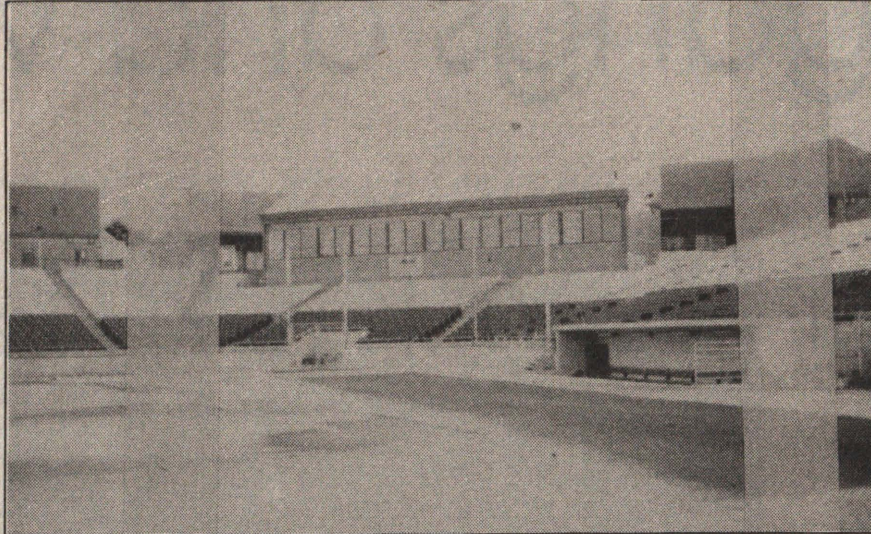
In the **Tribune** it also said that Astrologer Joyce Jillson will give you a personal forecast if you call 900-226-1992. Your phone company will bill you 95 cents per minute.

Well, I had to try it. The overwhelming desire to know my personal forecast was killing me.

I dialed the number and a voice of a woman on a machine came on.

How about a free baseball game?

by Brian Levake



Kane County Events Center, home of the Cougars (photo by Gina Lipscomb)

Baseball. America's passtime. And who ever said you should pay for a passtime?

That's the philosophy that former **bridge** editor Chris Seper and this reporter used when we wanted to go see a Kane County Cougars game last summer. We called up the Cougars p.r. man, and requested a couple of free press passes which enabled us to sit in the nice, plush, comfortable press box, get the best view in the house, and most important of all, get all the great ballpark food we could eat for free.

We got to the ballpark at about 7:15 p.m., about fifteen minutes after the start of the game. We missed the national anthem and the starting lineups, as well as seeing their mascot, Ozzie, run around and pat kids on the head. We made our way into the press office and before we could even mutter our names, two press passes were put in our hands. Our enjoyment was ensured.

After departing the office, we strolled to the building which encompassed the press office. Upon entering, this reporter saw a large, kiddie pool type object in the middle of the floor, filled with all kinds of pop and other liquid refreshments. Also in there were a couple of other legitimate journalists.

The view from the box certainly was spectacular. I could see every pretty girl in the place, so I start to whistle and scream at them. About this time, Chris pulled me down from the table. "Dude", Chris exclaimed, "You gotta be quiet or they will kick us outta here, so take some notes and look reporterish." I whipped out my notebook and took some notes.

Looking out to the field where it was the visitors time at bat, I saw my two favorite players in the field, left fielder Keith Schmidt

and catcher Greg Zaun.

Schmidt was my favorite player for a couple of reasons. For one, he would always give out free bats and balls to adoring fans like myself. But the main reason was because he was the most pathetic starting baseball player I've ever had the pleasure of seeing. His outfield plays were pretty- pretty bad that is. He would stand out in the field and scratch his head and paw at his rump and stare at passing by airplanes and when a ball came to him, oh well. He was also a nightmare at the plate. Opposing pitchers would face him with smiles on their faces, for he was sure to weakly ground out or whiff. It got to the point that when he was out there, I would start to laugh and scream "Schmittidy!" From then on, when anyone made a bad play or struck out we would scream "Schmittidy" or "Schmittidy could've made the play!" It was unreal.

Zaun, on the other hand, was a real talent. He could hit and catch with ease, sometimes showing that his abilities were far superior to the rest of the single-A system. Except for one thing. His mouth was dirty.

I once saw him drop an easy pop fly. When the ball hit the ground, he closed his eyes and exploded into a chorus of four letter words

that carouselled around tiny Kane County events center. Then he calmly picked up the ball and threw it back to the pitcher. Thus, he was deemed "potty-mouth" by my friends and I.

Around about the middle of the fourth inning, I started to get really hungry. And I'm talking ballpark hungry. And to make it worse, I was sitting right above where some ballpark guy was cooking hamburgers. I turned to Chris and screamed "Where is all this free food you kept telling me about?"

"It's coming soon, I think", he replied. And sure enough, this woman with bleached blonde hair came in and took my order. "Yes", I said proudly and reporer-like, "I'll have a hamburger with everything on it, a bag of potato chips, and one of those ice cream pops that look like a space shp." And by God, I got every thing I ordered. **Everything**. And it was full-on yummy.

After Chris and I ate our food, we had experienced everything we had set out to experience, the press box, the food, the cursing, the actual game and especially the freeness of the whole thing. So kids, if you get the chance to ever be a clever reporter type guy like Chris and I, go see the Cougars. For free.

4th year philosophy

third time's a charm

by Brian Levake



A new (very new) crowd rousing device has been given to us at We-go this year that I can't quite figure out. It's that wacky "Spirit Stick" projectile thing that gets us so full-on aroused.

In the first place, why is it a stick? Sticks are generally tossed along with stones in an attempt to wound people, or thrown and carried back by a pet dog. Yet at We-go, it is a sign of pride and good tootsie feelings. What does this stick imply about our spirit at We-go? Although I have never actually come in physical contact with the "Spirit Stick," it seems to look more like a fluffy baton, with tiny strands of pom-pon material coming out of the rear. Is that representative of our We-Go spirit? I mean, if I were to encompass my school spirit in a physical object, it would most likely not be a stick.

According to Angie Chavez, Pep club co-president, the "Spirit Stick" was an old tradition at We-go that the Poms and Advisor Robert Hein decided to bring back this year. Oh.

To me, the effectiveness of the "Spirit Stick" is questionable, but according to junior Thea Hopkins, at the first pep assembly where it was again incorporated into the spirit curriculum, it "seemed to bring a lot of people together." For your information, the sophomores won the "Spirit Stick" that day. Were they really that turned on by implications of the "spirit stick," or did they consume too many nutty bars at lunch that day? No one will ever know the truth.

And where is this "Spirit Stick"? Is it kept in the sacred ark of the "Spirit Stick"? Since the seniors won the last "Spirit Stick" competition, Senior Class President Alicia Garceau is in possession of it. When asked where it was exactly, she claimed it was in the bottom of her locker underneath all of her other stuff. It surely won't release much spirit there.

And what a blunt theme. It might as well be called the "Spirit Object."

The point I'm trying to make here is, why do we need a little fluffy object to rouse school spirit? If it takes a little stick to rouse school spirit, why don't we wave other long sticks? Is the cheering in vain? It's not cheering for the teams, it's cheering for a prize, as cheesy as it may be. It's like paying us to cheer. What's next? The "Spirit Swastika"? Or is it really that hard to cheer on our own? I guess so.

Geez, if we only had the "Academic Stick." Maybe we would all get straight A's.

Wierd photo of the month



photo by Steve Broido

Top ten reasons not to go to haunted houses

by Matt Filippo and Brian Levake

10. The new fall TV line-up is just as scary.
9. The best ones are always in Cleveland.
8. Jeff Dahmer
7. Spend the money on nine tacos and savor the goodness.
6. I just want to be loved.
5. Go see a wholesome movie like **Cool as Ice**.
4. Jeff Dahmer
3. Too many of intoxicated/ inebriated people.
2. Senseless violence will be the downfall of all mankind as we know it.
1. You can put about 800 stink bombs in your darkened room and get the same effect.

If you've got any wierd photos that you would want in the monthly "Wierd photo of the month" box, contact Brian Levake or Mr. Courtney in room 216.

Have gangs and violence

Are there really gangs at We-go?

by Julianne Grayzck

"West Chicago has always had the reputation of containing gangs," says West Chicago High School's Assistant Principal John Highland, "but what we have are some pretty good kids that just don't get involved in school activities." A suspected gang member believes that people do not join gangs because of school, but for other reasons regarding family, friends, money, or drugs.

According to Highland, the two possible gang related groups at West Chicago have depleted to one small group. "The other group either took the GED exam, went directly to work, or ended up in jail," commented Highland. Any gang members now in the school and community have been cooperative with West Chicago's administration, according to Highland and Detective Richard Theodore, West Chicago's gang/crime specialist.

The suspected gang member claims, "I was harassed at the beginning of the year for suspicious gang involvement. They still suspect that I'm a gang leader." Any recognized gang members at our high school have been informally talked to and asked for their cooperation. Highland states, "We're not trying to pick on them, but we will take any precautions necessary to keep a safe environment." The West Chicago police department said officers are present mostly after school. They have identified gang members by certain colors and jewelry. Theodore said, "After school is an active time for gang recruitment, but anyone not belonging to the high school has, and will be arrested."

The West Chicago Police Department reports that the most recent account of a gang related problem in West Chicago was on October 1. An individual was beat up with baseball bats at an apartment complex. The individual was transported to Central DuPage Hospital, and two gang members were arrested with \$15,000 bonds. Other than this incident, the most frequent evidence of gang activity in West Chicago is graffiti.

Theodore said, "By working in conjunction with the school we have been able to help each other out a lot, and the school identified and put a stop to any gang related problems."

New jack movies

by Tina McDermott and Molly Stutz

Gangs have been present in the United States for nearly 140 years. They began with river pirates along the Mississippi and progressed to organized crime by the 1920's. The mob flourished during the prohibition era with leaders like Al Capone. In the 1950's motorcycle gangs came into being.

Since the beginning of Hollywood, movies have been made depicting each different era of gangs. Countless mobster movies have circulated theaters and they have done quite well. *The Untouchables*, *Goodfellas*, and *The Godfather* are some examples. One of the most famous musicals of all time, *West Side Story*, portrayed gangs representing racial differences in the 1950's. So, it is not surprising that television and films are dealing with gangs more than ever before.

Throughout the 80's and 90's gangs have gained more publicity in newspapers, television, and films because of their increased violence. The lifestyle of drugs and violence associated with gangs have become the focus of many films.

New Jack City, a movie starring rapper

Ice-T, tells the story of two rival gangs that fight to control the city's drug traffic. The random drive-bys are so realistic, they are frightening.

Boyz n' the Hood, one of the most recent gang movies, was just released last summer to a large amount of controversy. Because the movie-goers attracted to this movie were unaware of its peaceful themes, a rash of violence near many theaters broke out. For this reason, a subtitle "Increase the Peace" was added to the movie's bill.

The movie itself dealt with themes such as responsible parenting, teen pregnancy, poverty and violence. Though the characters lived in the 'hood', a violence infested area of Los Angeles, there lives finally seemed to be taking a positive turn when, unexpectedly, a family suffers a tragedy at the hands of a gang. Though this negative event happens near the end of the film, the audience is left with with a small amount of hope and the horrifying statistics of increasing violence.

In the past, movies tended to glorify the drugs, guns and murders associated with gangs. Only recently have movie producers begun to address the problems of gangs realistically and with their help perhaps the violence will end.



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Michael Jordan isn't the only one asking, "Is it the shoes?"

by Alicia Garceau

After the Chicago Bulls won the NBA championship earlier this year, Michael Jordan's Nike commercials became even more popular. Perhaps the most successful pro-basketball player in NBA history, Jordan is a hero to young people, boys and girls alike.

Combined with the efforts of film director, Spike Lee, Nike has launched an advertising campaign that netted the company 2.4 billion dollars last year. The commercials target young

teens, especially those from the inner-city. Unfortunately, a pair of Jordan's Nikes can cost a buyer over 100 dollars and have become a status symbol among teens.

Because the desire to own a pair of these shoes is so great and the inner-city income is generally low, youths have resorted to theft, beatings, and murder to obtain the shoes.

It has come to the attention of community leaders that people are dying for the shoes off their feet. According to *Update Magazine*, Rev. Tyrone Crider,

director of Operation PUSH said, "Nike continues to exploit our youth for money while they (Jordan and Lee) go on pitching items that are getting people who look up to them killed. That, to me, is obscene."

At the same time a spokesperson for Nike, Liz Dolan, said, "Our ads don't tell teens to go out and rob or kill each other."

In the end it becomes a moral question that the Nike Company, Jordan, and Lee must decide upon. If they target inner-city teens, why make the price of the much desired shoes out of reach for most of these youths?

Crime Invaded DuPage?

Violent crimes on the increase

by Alicia Garceau

Violent crimes are on the rise in the United States and their decline is not seen in the near future.

The shocking truth is more of these violent crimes are being committed by youths than ever before. According to Update Magazine, in the past seven years homicide committed by young adults under 18 in the U.S. has increased three times, rape by two times, and robberies five times. The article also said nearly 100,000 youths are confined to some type of correctional facility.

What is going on here? Have the children of America lost all sense of moral values and respect for human life? Sadly it appears so.

This increase in violence is often times linked with gangs. In 1986, DuPage County State's

to gang involvement.

While it is estimated that in Chicago and surrounding suburbs there are nearly 30,000 gang members, those gangs in Chicago are probably not affiliated with those in DuPage County. The Task Force suggests many youths in this area are involved in "copy cat" activities. This is not to say these activities are of a less serious matter.

In order to curb the increase in violence people, adults and children alike, must be educated on gangs. Parents need to take an interest in their child schooling and life beyond school. Volunteering to get involved at their child's school can also have a positive effect.

Schools, which once were safe learning environments, have become ridden with gang problems. Administrators need to begin gang

While it is estimated that in Chicago and surrounding suburbs there are nearly 30,000 gang members, those gangs in Chicago are probably not affiliated with those in DuPage County.

Attorney James E. Ryan recognized that youth gangs had established themselves in this area and the State's Attorney's Task Force on Gang Crime was formed.

Through their research, the Task Force has come to the conclusion that teens join gangs for a variety of reasons. One of the primary reasons for gravitating towards a gang is that a young adult may need to compensate for their failures in school and their lack of involvement with extracurricular activities. Problems at home can also contribute

education when children are young instead of waiting until they are in high school.

Though the gang problem in DuPage County is on a much smaller scale than those in the inner-city, it is a problem nonetheless. State's Attorney Ryan said, "I'm happy to report that street-gang crime and activity is not present in monumental numbers in DuPage County." Hopefully with the combined efforts of the community, the violence and the involvement in gangs will quickly decrease.

Youth crime-rate sky rockets

In the past seven years, crimes committed by young adults under 18 years of age have increased.

-murder increased **three** times

-rape increased **two** times

-robbery increased **five** times

The mall-slasher: Man or Myth?

by Lynn Ellerbruch

Recently, there has been a lot of talk about the "Mall Slasher." It has the believers talking and the non-believers a little frightened.

As the story goes, a prospective gang member hides underneath a car in a mall parking lot. When the car's owner, a female, goes to get into her car, her Achilles tendon is slashed and she is dragged away to be raped by the gang. This, supposedly, is the new recruit's initiation into the gang.

Upon hearing the story, Steven Arnold, a government and psychology teacher here at We-go, immediately felt the "Mall Slasher" story fit the pattern of a suburban legend. A suburban legend usually begins as a small rumor and over a period of time, erupts into wide spread panic. After reading an article in the *Chicago Tribune* about the "Mall Slasher," Arnold then knew it was "absolutely a legend."

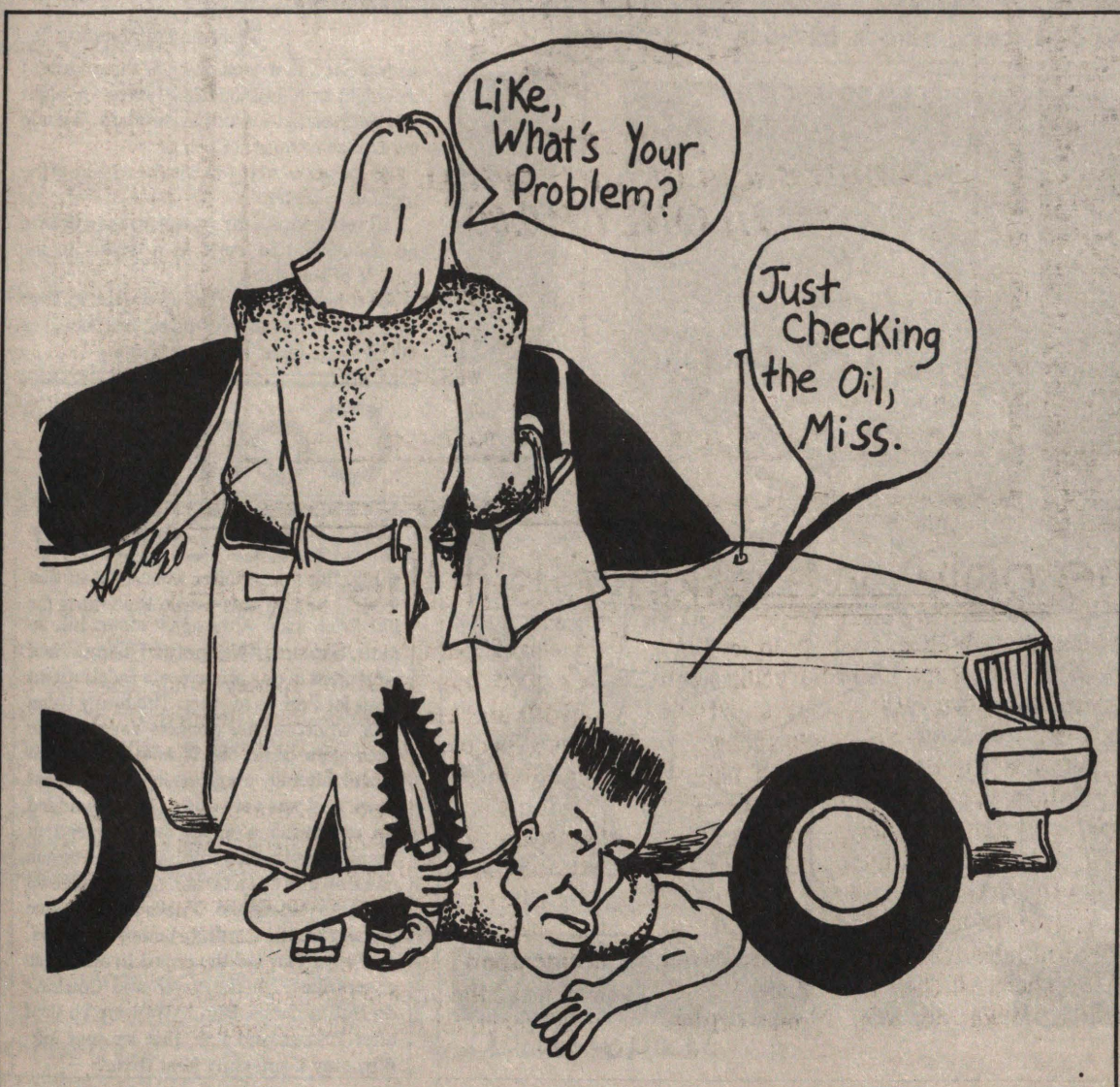
Arnold also stated that the whole story is not a plot to target gangs. "We're dealing with some force in our culture that allows men to attack women," he explained. The legend is a way for people to cope with their fears of sexual attacks. The fact that gangs are associated with this story is mere coincidence.

In actuality, the whole concept of the "Mall Slasher" is not logical. Picture yourself walking out to your car in a well-lit parking lot. When you go to unlock the door, you are looking down. Wouldn't you notice a hand with a knife jutting out from underneath your car slashing at your ankles?

Arnold brought up a very valid point. If you've ever changed the oil in your car, then you know it is "very, very hard to get under a car, let alone get out and attack a person."

When security personnel at two local malls were questioned, both dispelled the rumors of the "Mall Slasher." The Charlestown Mall security department said there had been no instances of any attacks there. Fox Valley Mall security department also denied the rumor.

According to the article in the *Chicago Tribune*, the "Mall Slasher" legend is a rumor that has been circulating the United States since approximately 1977. It undoubtedly has become varied and more violent as opposed to its original counterpart, but it is false nonetheless. So, feel free to shop at any suburban mall, but don't be surprised if you still find yourself checking under your car.



Late Night Laborers- the story

by Brian Levake



It's was musky, cold Monday night. My Friends Eric Schlotzer, Michelle May, Sean Power and I pulled in to the Wag's in Carol Stream at about 12:00 P.M., ready for cheap food, coffee and an interview with one of the people that work all night at menial jobs-the late night laborers.

I got the idea for the story from reading an old Andy Behrens article entitled "Wag's, Home of the Heathens." Plus, since I spend so much time at Wag's, I figured that it would be an ideal place to base some data on this story.

Unfortunately, it didn't work like that. We walked in and were seated. Then the "Wag's Wave" hit. If you've ever been there in the middle of the night, then you know what I mean. The overwhelming urge to drink coffee hit. The funny thing is that I don't drink coffee. Besides, I was there for an interview, so I wasn't gonna order anything.

Our waitress came up and took my friend's orders. "What do you want to eat tonight?"

"Nothing for me ma'am", I replied.

"Well guess what", she snapped back, "If you want to sit here you have to order something."

"Well what's the cheapest thing that you've got here?"

"We got cheap jello."

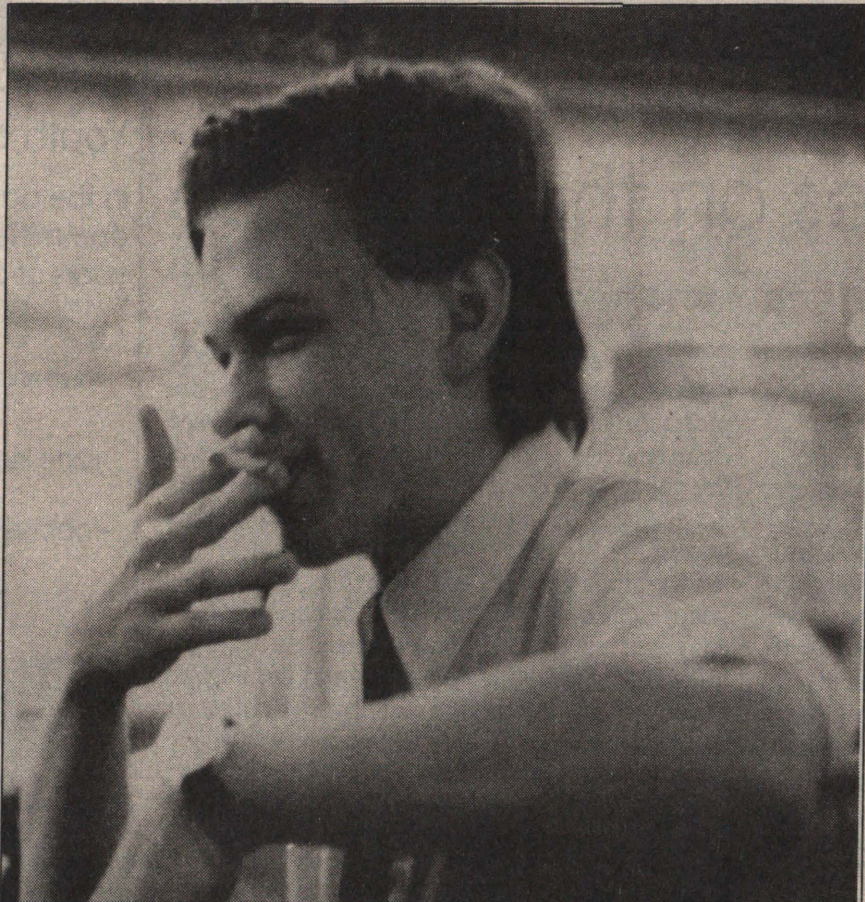
"Well, I'll have that then."

While we were waiting for our treats, we started to prophesize, speak in tongues, and write poetry. Sean wrote:

sitting
waiting
sipping liquid bean and
white powder
psychedelic grays and
blacks
dash within my head
a tie die of death
nothing
I lose

sitting
writing
slipping deeper into coma
country
in hours I will be in school
halls of flourescent
light burn out my eyes
nothing
Wag's wins

About the time we got done



laughing about that, our treats came. My jello was less than, oh, lets say, jello, but who actually goes to Wag's for food? We were there for a story.

The first gentleman I talked to was a guy named John. John seemed to be in a state of higher concenciousness, so in order to avoid any tragic or overly wierd things, we faked taking notes and moved on.

At that point, Wag's seemed hopeless. All the waitresses seemed to be far to busy to talk to us, even though we were the only customers in the place that night. Infact, we got yelled at by some important Wag's woman when Michelle tried to take a picture of the kitchen area. We could tell that this would be a fruitless night.

We tried every other 24 hour place we could think of, like several gas stations, Conventent, and White Hen, but nobody gave us the information we were looking for, due to fatigue, store policy, or just plain wierdness. We knew then that Wag's would have to be the place, we just had to find an ideal night.

Two nights later we tried Wag's again, and sure enough, we found a winner. There was a guy we knew in a round about way that was our age who's name is Ed Krystosek, who worked (he has since gone to college at Northwesrtern) from ten p.m. to six in the morning two nights a week as a waiter. The following is the interview he gave us.

Brian: Why ever did you want this job?

Ed: Waitring is the best money a 17-year old can make legally.

B: What's a good thing about working at Wag's in the middle of the night?

E: I have the floor to myself, and the customers are under my control.

B: Well, what's the worst thing about working all night?

E: Only a few customers come in.

B: What was the most unusual thing that you have ever seen while working at Wag's?

E: Two drunks got in a fight a guy with long black hair got thrown through a window.

B: And finally, what is your favorite entree here at Wag's?

E: The spaghetti. Wag's has the best garlic bread in the world.

Truly an enlightening, for

an interview that took place in the middle of the night at a foul-smelling haven for night travelers, vampires, and insomniacs. It made me realize a couple of things:

A) I never want to work in the middle of the night as a waiter.

B) I should pull my grades up or I will have no choice but to work as a waiter in the middle of the night.

C) I hope I never run up a dept so large that I am forced to take up several jobs, one being a late night waiter at Wag's.



Ed Krystosek, taking a break. (photo by Eric Schlotzer)

Concert

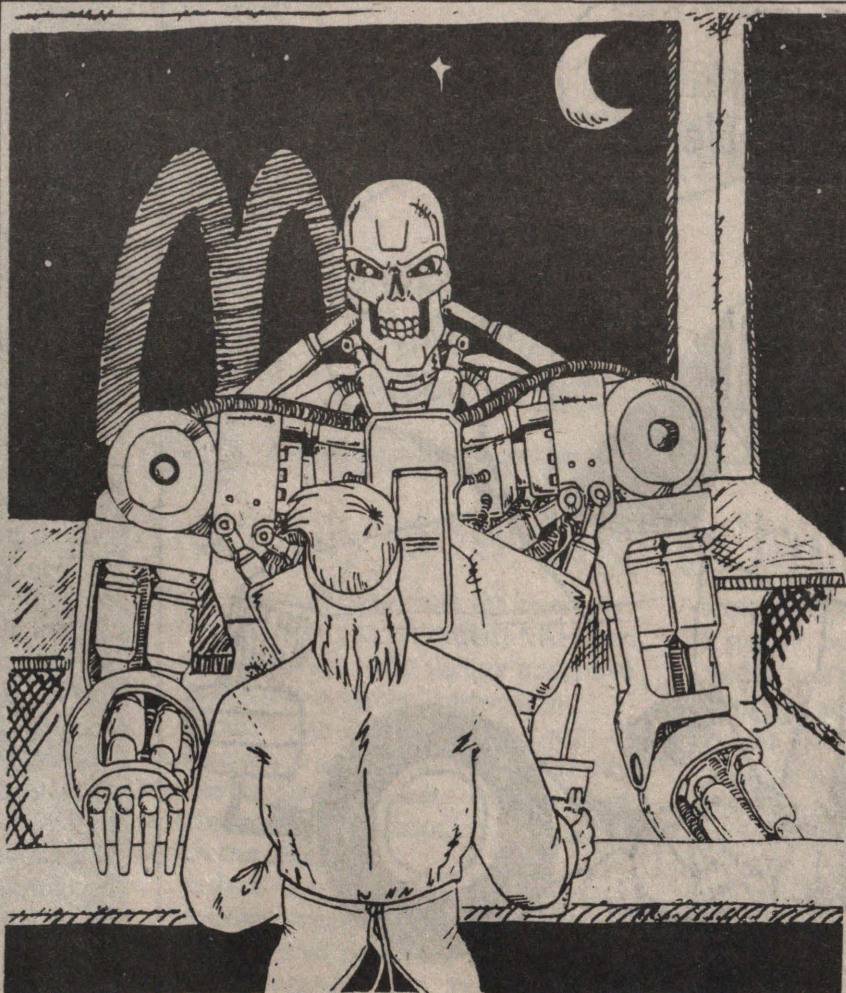
Anthrax

by Brian Levake



On October 10, my friend and I went to the Aragon theater in Chicago to see The Young Black Teenagers, Primus, and headliners Public Enemy and Anthrax.

We got to the Aragon a little early (after having our car over heat) to insure good seats. Since the last concert I went to (Bad Brains and Primus at the Rtv) I almost died of heat prostration, I opted for shorts. The uncool thing was that after walking to the theater, I was freezing to death. The first



JASON SWANSON

Corner

Public Enemy

thing that I went after when I got in was food. I bought this burrito type thing for like five bucks. Although it tasted like so many napkins, it was hot and filling. Then we waited in our primo seats for about an hour for Primus to start. The funny thing was, when suprise openers Young Black Teenagers came on, it was a major let down. Literally everyone in the crowd sat down and was very quiet. I even wadded up my burrito wrapper and threw it at them. About twenty minutes later, Primus came on and put a thrashing on the crowd that was just insane. Publis Enemy came on next and thraxed like homeys possesd.

Flavor Flav led the crowd in anthemic cheers like "Fight the Power" and "Couldn't do Nuttin' for ya Man." We were so deaf after Primus and P.E. that we just left. Why stay if you can't hear them?

Aaron's Top Athletes

Football

-Hugo Miranda

Hugo has made a tremendous impact on the Wildcats this year. He is not only a leader in spirit, but backs it up with athletic ability and hard work.

Soccer

-Dave Siers

Senior tri-captain Dave Siers earns another athlete of the week honors by being selected a unanimous all-DVC performer. Siers also was selected to the all-area team by area coaches.

B. Cross Country

-Brett Stigland

Brett was the only Boy performer that earned the right to compete in the Sectional tournament.

G. Cross Country

-Ladycat Cross Country squad

The Wildcat girls cross country team ran very well in earning the right to run as a team in sectionals for the third consecutive year.

Girls

Swimming

-Erin Myers

Senior Myers currently holds the best time in the state in the 50 yard free. She proved her versatility by winning three gold medals at the C.O.D. invite last Saturday.

Girls Tennis

-Tiina Martin

Tiina just missed her second trip to the state meet, while competing in a tougher sectional tournament.

Pom transvestites explode at Pep assembly

by Candi Katrys

For just about as long as poms has existed, so has the senior poms, soccer and football player's dance routine. This year the tradition continues on with their performance to Motley Crue's *Girls, Girls, Girls* and Van Halen's *Beautiful Girls* at this year's last fall pep assembly.

The poms and athletes alike, have been practicing for the past two weeks, and most are excited for the performance, while others are quite nervous.

This year's guy performers are soccer players Juan Carrillo, German Cruz, Roberto Cuiriz, Greg Juarez, Jorge Ortiz, Aaron Owens, and Dave Siers; the football players are Jim Cabrera, Zach Hoffman, Hugo Miranda, and Derek Scheopf.

"It's been a load of fun, but also a lot of hard work," said pom captain Jessica Dibella. "Most of them want to cut the routine in half since they're really nervous and unsure of themselves. I don't know if they will all be ready by Friday, but we're here to guide them."

"Matt, Dave, German, and Hugo have been doing a really good job and are catching on fast," added Dibella and Nikki Giammanco.

Dave Siers's feelings were: "Everything's okay, except that it's kind of dumb to have to wear those pom skirts."

Cuiriz's feelings were: "Awesome! It's not really hard, but a lot of fun!"

When Friday's pep assembly came along, the senior poms along with their male counterparts, were up and ready to perform. The performance went well, highlighted by a show from Cuiriz. Roberto's skirt surprisingly fell away from his body, as a surprised audience and fellow performers looked on. "I loved it," evoked Cuiriz. "It went awesome, it was the best." Some thought Roberto's performance was a little much. Michelle Reiner said, "It was great, but Roberto went *way* overboard." Cabrera said, "It was great when Roberto made a total fool of himself, it was so cool."

Senior performer Juarez said, "This was the most embarrassing thing I have ever done in my life, but I'd do it again."

Siers summed up the performance with this statement, "The flips at the end were incredible."

The Kitty Litter

by Hugo Miranda



West Chicago Wildcat athletes success lie in commitment to sport

In the year and a half that I have been at West Chicago Community High School, I have seen many unfortunate things. In Wildcat athletics, I see, people pointing fingers, name-calling, blaming others, and people making excuses.

In search for the key to success in sports, some people have failed to look at the obvious... commitment. Some teams have it and some teams need it. Although the word and the concept seem simple they are extremely hard to accomplish. I say this from the view of struggling teams.

'In search for the key to success in sports, some people have failed to look at the obvious... commitment'

With all due respect to the teams with winning traditions, they do not realize the value of commitment. West Chicago's winning sports have not realized, "You never know what you have until you've lost it." For example, a student is much more willing to fully commit to the soccer team than the football team. The soccer team is expected to win while it would be an uphill battle if a person wanted to commit themselves to make the football program successful.

I realize this seems like this is aimed toward the football team, but I chose to look at the obvious. Commitment is not just going through the motions... it is not just verbally saying your committed. Commitment has a never ending definition. Commitment is going to practice when your down and tired... it's doing off season workouts or joining other sports. Commitment is believing you can, in your mind, that you and your team will be successful.

Sometimes, it can mean going against what others say. Commitment is to your team. You must believe in them, you must pick them up when their down, help them through rough times. The list can go on forever.

Many times I have seen cross country runners running in the off-season in extremely harsh weather. They realize that for their hard work, there is a reward waiting for them when the season comes.

'Don't get me wrong, successful teams must work just as hard but team mates are more willing to cooperate'

Past results have shown them what can be accomplished. After success, commitment comes natural.

Don't get me wrong. Successful teams must work just as hard, but team members are more willing to cooperate, which makes for a good outcome when they are put in competition.

Maybe all of this is going in one ear and out the other or your just saying "I know", but maybe it will make some teams better and make others rise to great things.

I know it is unrealistic to say these words will make a dramatic change, only people can do that. That is why I challenge you to take an extra step, or possibly take your first step. Either way it's going to be hard, but when you do, the rewards are immeasurable.

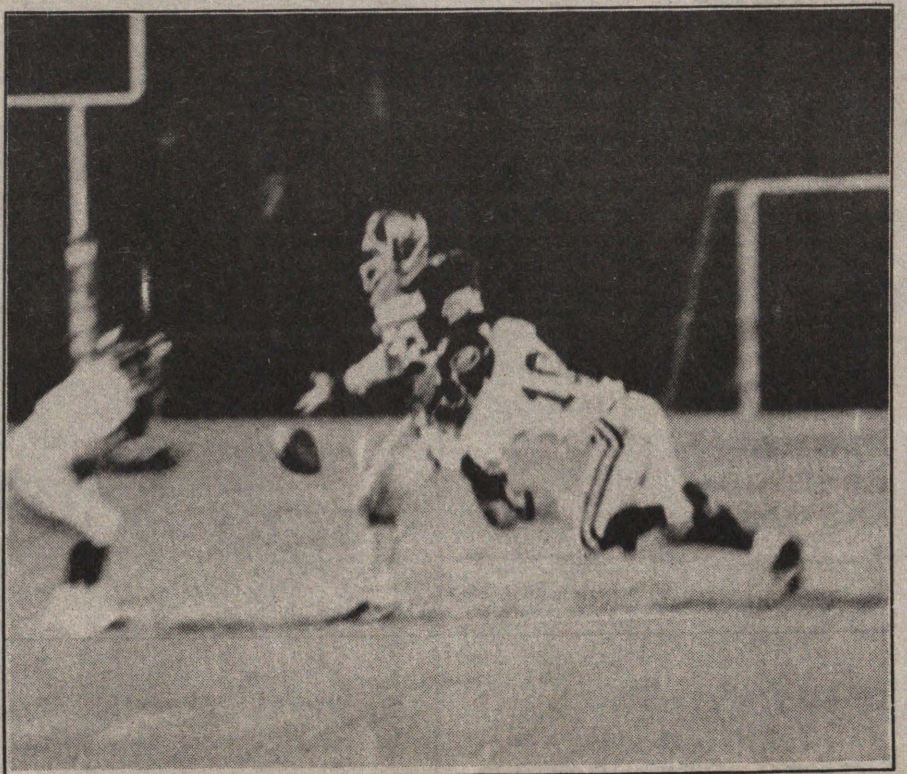
(Editors note: Hugo Miranda is a Wildcat football team captain. He transferred out of a successful program at Wheaton North, to contribute to the cats.)

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West Chicago action shot vs. Glenbard North. (Photo by Gina Lipscomb)

Ladycats look to regionals

by Brett Siglin

Jean Gotkowski and Jen Topalewski are both first year coaches for the West Chicago volleyball squad. Gotkowski has coached for Sports Performance- an offseason club that plays league volleyball. (It ranks high in the nation.) She also coached for Geneva High School last year. Topalewski is a "rookie" coach. However, she played at Virginia Tech on scholarship as well as for Sports Performance.

As of Oct. 21 the varsity squad was 10 and 13 overall, 5 and 7 in conference play. The JV squad is 9 and 12 and 1, 5 and 7 in conference. The varsity is a young team considered in the developmental stage. They consist of two sophomores, three juniors and five seniors. Only two of these players returned from last year's varsity squad. However, most of them have been in the program. In practice each of the players touch the ball at least 500 times. Coach Gotkowski said, "The players have a lot of team unity and there is a lot of communication on the floor. They are also very well disciplined"

The majority of the varsity squad played in a summer league. A team goal was to equal or better last year's record and that has been achieved. "All of the players have improved," stated Gotkowski. She wants to keep the team playing quick in transition with strong outside hitters. To do this the team works on technique and consistency. The team has experimented with different types of systems to get the best shots. A new development on the team is to attempt tandems, in which two players simultaneously jump up for the ball to spike it and try to fake out the opposing blockers.

' All of the players have improved, stated Gotowski. I wants to keep the team playing quick in transition with strong outside hitters. '

"Seniors to be recognized are Jenny Rose, a backrow specialist and a great ball passer who set up hard spikes; Cindy Burkes, who plays middle on varsity and has quick reaction- which is essential at the net; Lynn Ellerbruch, an outside hitter who is becoming consistent and developing a quick armswing; Kelly Roy is an up and coming outside hitter," said Gotkowski. "Chris Murphy, a junior and Cathy Carrol, a sophomore are setters, who act like quarterbacks and have quick armswings. These two set the tempo and have been playing since seventh grade. Liz Gernand, another senior, plays middle and blocks well."

In conference the Ladycats have been inconsistent, often terminating their own plays with mistakes. They are tied for fifth with Wheaton North, right now, but they can achieve fourth by winning their last two games versus Glenbard East and Naperville North.

' The ladycats are seeded third in Regionals. The Ladycats play Geneva who are undefeated in the Little Seven (conference) in the first round and feel they can beat them. '

The ladycats are seeded third in Regionals. The Ladycats play Geneva who are undefeated in the Little Seven in the first round and feel they can beat them. However, they might have trouble against St. Charles, the number one seed in the regional, who are bigger and have more experienced varsity players.



Senior girls standout Jaime Menola shows her forehand in practice. (Photo by Steve Broido)

Lady Cats come up short in road to state

by Matt Haverty

Is the DVC a cream puff conference for girls tennis? The Ladycats don't think so.

Despite an 8-9 overall record, the Ladycat netters finished the DVC with a 1-6 record, and sixth place. The Cats were shutout 5-0 on three separate occasions, versus Naperville North, Wheaton North, and conference champion Naperville Central. Their lone conference win came in a 3-2 squeaker against Glenbard South.

In the DVC tournament on the twelfth of October, the Ladycats managed to get only one point, with only first singles player Tiina Martin getting past the first round.

Tiina won her first round match against Carrie Miles of Glenbard South 6-1, 6-2. However, she went on to lose her second and third round matches to Jenni Svehla of Naperville Central, and Andrea Galligan of Wheaton Central with scores of 2-6, 3-6, and 3-6, 3-6, respectively.

The sectional tournament a week later, however, was a different story. Martin, along with first doubles players Jaime Menola and Laura Rapinchuk, advanced to the second round of the tournament. Martin won her first round match against Sycamore 6-0, 6-0, while Menola and

Rapinchuk slaughtered the first doubles team from Wheaton Christian 6-3, 6-0. However, both Martin, and Menola-Rapinchuk lost their second round matches. The second doubles team of Sarah Myers and Carey Netzel lost a tough match to the fourth seeded Glenbard North. They went three sets, with scores of 6-4, 4-6, and 3-6. At second singles, junior Jill Westrom also lost to Glenbard North, by the scores, 2-6, 4-6.

Despite a tough season, there were many bright spots for the lady Wildcats. One bright spot is definitely first singles player Tiina Martin. Tiina is only a sophomore this year, and sported a 17-7 record, while gaining all-conference honors in the DVC. Another bright spot is the first doubles team of Menola and Rapinchuk. They held a winning record of 9-8 and Menola was named honorable mention all-conference. However, the most promising fact about the Ladycat tennis team is that they will have 6 out of 7 starters back next year. "We are a young team, and we learned a lot this year," said head coach Sione Moeaki about the youth of his squad.

"We did better than our record indicates. There were some close matches that we couldn't pull out," added Moeaki.

Hoop!
Hoop!
Hurrah!



by Jason Mummert

Well, it's about time that we here at West Chicago can actually look forward to the boys basketball season. Why? Because this year the Cats are a DVC favorite. I'll give you a moment to ponder this...there, is that enough time...? No...? Well then, let me explain myself. The Wildcats went into the 1991 West Chicago Glenbard South summer league with what seemed to be a squad stripped of its top talent. Last years star guard and leading scorer Gary Barnes, who finished with over 21 ppg. is gone to college, along with 6'6" center T.R. Brizzola, F Matt Logan and G Vashon Hayes. Secondly, G Rick Eberman is now at Wheaton North, while G Gene Shelby and G/F Rob Kuhn have also transferred. Nonetheless, the Cats went 26-3, winning the championship. Head Coach Lee Maciejewski says the main reasons are that all of the players showed up every day, staying home from family vacations, and all giving their best.

Why are they so good all of a sudden? This team that was 6-19 last year? What happened was relatively simple, and I'll take you through it slowly, of course, for those of you who are reading this editorial and asking "Who is this fool, and who's his bookie?" True, in past years the guys on the team have gone broke betting against fellow We-Golans on the outcomes of their games-while being confident a mere once a year vs. Geneva, this being their only relief. (If you didn't catch that it meant that they stunk.) As Froshmen, the class of 1992 went a combined 1-39 in the regular season, but still won the Wheaton North Freshmen Tournament with wins over the Falcons and St. Francis. That was the first sign. The second sign was that Senior Eric Heinz transferred from St. Charles. Eric figures to be the go-to man for the Cats. The 5 starters will probably be Heinz, brothers Travis and Wallace Sullivan, Rob Rivan, and Shaun Cronin, who all have improved individually and as a unit. The third sign is that the other teams in the DVC are getting worse. No longer are there any Melvin Knights or Jeff Horsemen to dominate the league.

The highest that West Chicago has ever placed in the DVC was in 88-89, when Tyrone Parks led the Cats to a 13-12 record. Believe it. The Wildcats are good, and if they continue to play as a team, and in the words of the coach "Stay unselfish, work together, and carry the momentum into the season..." the Wildcats will go from the bottom to the top. Sure, the 'experts' said the Cubs were destined for the series, but this is low-pressure high school sports. I pick the Cats to finish 16-8, and 9-5 in the DVC. The Cats will also place 2nd in the Oswego Tournament, 1st in the Waubonsie Valley Invite, and win state-well lets not get greedy-win regionals, and do well in the sectionals. Tryouts start around November 10 on all levels. By the way, my bookie is Jesus Javier Macias Sanchez Martinez EsCover. AKA Chewy.

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