



West Chicago Community High School, 326 Joliet Street, West Chicago, IL 60185 December 20, 1991 Volume 21, Issue 5

Education Week a success

by Elisa Biancalana, Mary Merrick, and Diane Yonan

During American Education Week, which was held during the week of November 18 to November 22, parents were encouraged to visit West Chicago High School.

About twelve to fifteen parents took this opportunity to sit in on their children's classes. According to Principal Alan Jones, "This is the first year it has been done. It was a very effective week. This will be done again next year." One parent who visited was Haydee Lizyness. She said, "In the majority of the classes I was very pleased. When I was walking in the halls, students seemed eager and polite about helping me."

Jones researched for a Parent/Teacher conference to go along with Open House. On Open House night, a survey was distributed to parents. The results obtained from the survey showed that parents liked the idea of having both the Open House and the Parent/Teacher Conference. The survey also indicated that parents disagreed with the idea of having conferences in place of Open House.

Jones said, "I think it [Parent/Teacher Conference] is a good idea. Parents all want Open House. Parents have another day to talk to teachers during Parent Teacher conference." The parents will be able to call the

school and make an appointment with the teacher they are interested in seeing.

"It (American Education Week) was a very effective week. This will be done again next year."

Looking ahead into next year, Jones is already planning a conference day separate from Open House night. It is tentatively scheduled for October 30 of next year. If there will be a conference day, there would be early dismissal for the students.

Jones also suggested that if parents were interested in talking with one of their children's teachers, they should contact the school and schedule an appointment. There is no Parent/Teacher conference scheduled for the 1991-1992 school year.

Interdisciplinary program accepted at We-go

by Jennee Caligiuri

Out with the old and in with the new.

That's just one description used to describe the new proposed freshman curriculum. The curriculum is called the Interdisciplinary program. It is proposed to be used for freshman in the 1992-1993 school year.

The program is a block program. It will schedule the teachers and the students in a block of time of four hours.

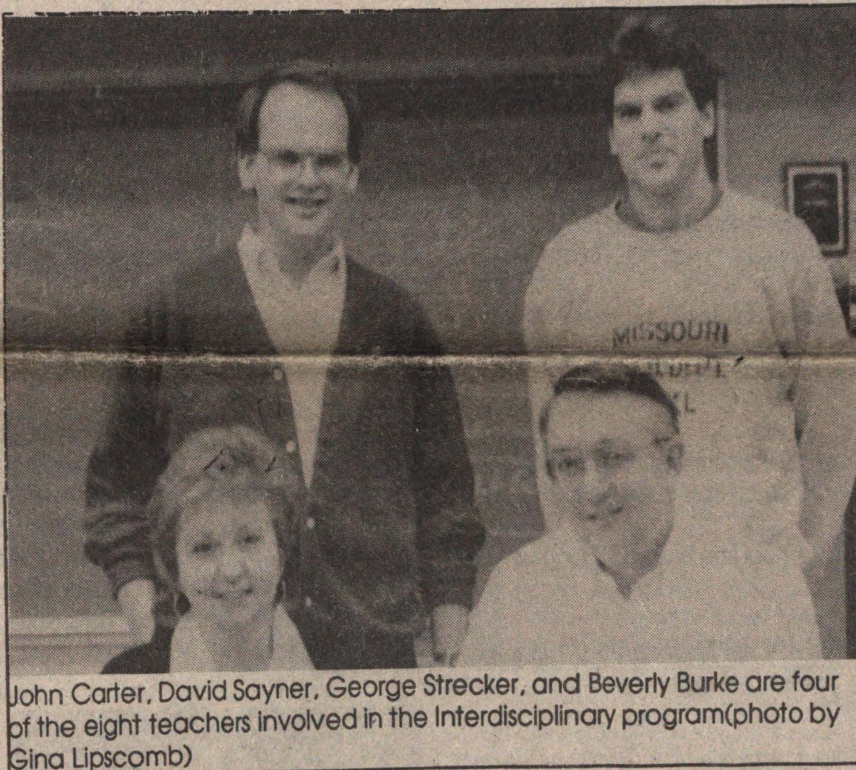
During the four hours, a combination of Mathematics, English, Science, and Social Studies will be taught to the 125 prospective students.

The plan will be a possibility for next year's freshman who enroll in English I, Biology, World Geography, and Algebra I or Pre-Algebra.

The teachers involved in the interdisciplinary plan are Stephen Arnold (Social Studies), Carol Binkley (English), Beverly Burke (Science), John Carter (Mathematics), David Sayner (Social Studies), and George Strecker (Social Studies).

This program would take up four hours of each school day, and will be taught by four teachers: Binkley, Burke, Carter and Sayner.

The teachers and students in the program would have common planning periods to de-



John Carter, David Sayner, George Strecker, and Beverly Burke are four of the eight teachers involved in the Interdisciplinary program (photo by Gina Lipscomb)

velop a weekly schedule based on the topic or problem being studied and the strategies (e.g., lab experience, cooperative learning, field trip, guest speaker, video independent projects, etc.) that would be used to examine the topic or problem.

According to Carter, "In a typical class students think every course is restricted to only one subject, but in the real world, we don't think in terms of one subject at a time. We use many different disciplines at once. That's how this program will help the students." Carter continued by explaining that students will be introduced to solving problems with real life applications. The problems could combine the four subjects, instead of limiting a problem to one subject.

According to Principal Alan Jones, there are approximately 200 students expected to sign up for the course combination of English, Algebra or Pre-Algebra, World Geography, and Biology. Each student will be assigned a number, and these numbers will be pooled. Randomly, 125 numbers will be chosen, and a letter will be sent to the chosen students. If the student rejects the offer, another student will be chosen to replace that one, until a total of 125 are enrolled in the program.

We-go scores high on ACT School receives report card

by Jennee Caligiuri

ACT scores.

WCCHS has often been thought of as having low ACT scores although they do not.

The state average score for ACTs is 20.8 combined. The national average for 1990-1991 was 21.1 combined.

West Chicago's scores for the ACTs were 21.1 for the 1990-1991 school year.

Principal Alan Jones "has no concerns about the high school scores because they are above both the national and state average."

"West Chicago has often been thought of as having low ACT scores although they do not."

Jones responded, "A test such as the ACT does not prove the effectiveness of the school."

Jones believes, "ACT scores are used to see how successful a student will be in college, not if West Chicago teachers are doing a good job

teaching."

Jones has no plans to help better WCCHS ACT scores. There is an ACT class that is offered through night school at WCCHS.

"The ACT scores do not reflect the quality of a school."

"There are only 116 to 120 students that take the ACT test, and there is a whole population of students that need attention. I can't focus the curriculum around just a small portion of the school," said Jones.

Jones believes WCCHS is doing very well. "I am secure we have the best teaching staff and a fine curriculum."

Jones replied, "The ACT scores do not reflect the quality of a school."

by Liz Gernand

Report cards are out!

No, don't race your parents to the mail box because this time it's the school's report card.

The state of Illinois has required every school in the state to send out an annual report card. This is in result of a 1985 reform legislation.

Each school must send information to the state and the state then puts that information into the report card form that parents should have already received.

The wrap-around (blue cover) was added to the state's report. Superintendent Joel Morris said that this was done in an effort to "describe the rest of the school." He said the states report card is just "one piece of information" and that you can't describe a school with just those statistics.

For example, the wrap-around has a list of awards that have been received by the students. It also told about facilities that the school offers to students such as the new Macintosh labs that were added just last year.

Morris thinks that the school should be proud of our report card because on most statistics WCCHS is better than the state average. One of the statistics that Morris is especially proud of is the attendance rate.

He said, "Our attendance rate is outstanding. We can be proud of (it)." According to the state report, WCCHS had only three chronic truants out of 34,427 in the state of Illinois. This number means that only three students miss 18 full days out of a 180 day period.

Morris did say, "We need to take a look at raising the number of students enrolled in science" even though WCCHS is close to the state average. According to the state report 65 percent of the students are enrolled in a science class while the state average is 68 percent. Morris was impressed with the enrollment in English even though it is below the state average of almost one hundred and four percent of students. Our average is almost 98 percent which Morris said means that only about 28 students are not enrolled in an English class.

Inkspots

by Karina Bite, Jennee Caligiuri, and Dan Yonan

IMEA selects students

Dayna Yoder and Ned Miller were selected for seventh and twenty-second cello in the Illinois Music Educators Association (IMEA). They performed in the orchestra on November 16 at Evanston Township High School. Yoder also made All-State Orchestra.

FBLA to hold dinner

FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) is holding a Spaghetti Dinner on January 25. It will be held before the basketball game. Proceeds go to help the March of Dimes. For information see Dina Bascharon or Nancy Blume.

Meetings to change

Student Environmental Action Committee (SEAC) will be meeting on Tuesday mornings each week in Room 149. New members are welcomed. Any questions, see Steve Arnold or Jennee Caligiuri.

Let's promote the good and not the bad at We-go

The "best kept secret in DuPage County."

This is one of the motto's of WCCHS. We-go is not known for its accomplishments. It is mainly known as a storehouse of nuclear waste, teacher/board disputes and strikes, unethical school board politics, and as an unsafe community with gangs.

People notice the bad things that happen in West Chicago, because they are publicized more than the good things.

We need to showcase WCCHS as a fine school and community with competitive athletic teams, a variety of extracurricular activities, good facilities, caring teachers, strong academic programs, and quality students.

Take girls' swimming for instance. Look at their accomplishment. They took third place in state while performing academically as well. People outside of the school see our football team and automatically assume that all sports at We-go have losing records. We-go is a small school and is in one of the toughest conferences in the state. Glenbard North and Wheaton Central were both in the state finals for football this year. This shows the competitiveness of the DVC.

Our basketball team won the Oswego Holiday Tournament this year. But where is the publicity WCCHS is looking for?

Much of the publicity goes toward the bad things that happen at We-go rather than the good.

About a month ago, elections were held in West Chicago to elect new school board members. President Lawrence Hapgood was not reelected to the school board by the voters. Sonja Long (school board member) resigned and then the board selected Hapgood to fill this vacancy. Soon after, the school board voted for Hapgood as its president.

In other words, the people of West Chicago voted Hapgood out of office but the school board put him back in. Who is more powerful in this instance, the people, or the school board? Were the elections even necessary?

Then there is the question of the nuclear waste in West Chicago which has been plaguing the city. Kerr-McGee left thorium in various places and now West Chicago has the only low-level radiation dump inside its' city limits in the United States.

Good ole' West Chicago.

Also about a year ago the teachers of West Chicago got in a dispute with the school board over their contracts. This went on for about two weeks, with the threat of a possible strike. Finally, they came to an agreement and the teachers received a new contract.

These three incidents are the three that have been most publicized recently. What about the good things at West Chicago?

Governor Edgar visited our school to sign two bills. One of the bills that was passed was created by students at WCCHS. But the negative ideas people have of West Chicago still live on.

What about the facilities at WCCHS? Not too many schools have a computer lab like ours. Our computer lab has 48 Macintosh computers a scanner, two laserprinters, and eight other printers.

We have a great pool, gyms, and library. Our pool has hosted sectionals for the past two years.

All these things are overlooked.

WCCHS deserves more publicity, but this will not happen until the idea



changes that West Chicago is a place that has lousy sports teams, dirty politics, and radioactive materials.

According to Superintendent Joel Morris, the high school is sending local newspaper editors press releases.

The school is also trying to get publicity through the parents by sending home letters to keep the parents updated on what is going on.

These ideas are good and will eventually change the reputation of We-go. The school needs a quicker way to change its reputation. Instead of only sending the press releases to local papers, maybe the school should send some press releases to other schools and try to promote the school around the state.

Look around us. There are computers at our disposal, a nice pool, a library filled with a variety of materials, and three gyms. These things should be stressed over the politics, thorium, and so called "gangs in our school."

The reputation that We-go has now must first be changed in our minds before we can try to change the minds of other people. WCCHS is a good place to go to school.



POWERful respect

by Jamie McDole

Respect.

The one trait most students at We-go do not possess.

A select number of students at We-go have this urge to be disrespectful to the adults. Where were you born? Didn't your parents ever teach you what respect is?

Well, if they didn't, listen up. Respect is something that reflects your personality. It is a consideration that you give to others. In return you can expect to receive this same consideration from others.

Here in our school though, this consideration is not apparent.

Take the Fall Sports Night for example. The golf team members were being called down for awards in the Bishop Gym. Coach Tim Courtney was reading off names and Coach Wilbert Walters was handing out the awards. As myself and teammate Joe Wagenaar walked down the steps of the bleachers, a cry of, "Wilbert, Wilbert, Wilbert," came from a group of students at the top of the bleachers.

Now almost everyone knows Walters does not like to be called "Wilbert"

So why do people call him that? How do you think that makes him feel?

Walters had quite a bit to say on the subject.

On the subject of why people call him Wilbert, Walters said, "It doesn't really have anything to do with respect, it is racist."

"It's cruel and disrespectful he went on to add. He also said that kids think that it is a lot of fun and that they just get carried away.

The name calling of Walters had gone out of control. Get some respect and leave him alone.

Black adults are definitely not abundant at We-go. Walters said that he felt he is being singled out because of his race, and to try to imagine yourself as being the minority. How would you feel?

What ever the reason is that students are calling Walters, "Wilbert", it is disrespectful. If you're doing it for fun, don't you have something better to do than to disrespect him for fun, or are you that shallow to call a man doing his job by his first name.

Several people have asked me to write a column on why hats are not allowed to be worn in the building. Here it is.

This is a building and hats are not to be worn in buildings. Is it really necessary to wear a hat in school? Does it boost up your self-esteem? Is it a form of respect to take your hat off when you enter a building, just like it is a form of respect to take your hat off when the *Star Spangled Banner* is being played.

Maybe the school doesn't want hats to be worn because they think it promotes gangs. What purpose do the hats serve? Is it to show who your favorite sport team is?

Show a little respect to your elders and yourself, leave your hats off in the school. You can wear them all you want when you get outside.

Respect reflects one's personality, and if you have no respect, you have no personality. Get a personality, and show some respect!

Letter to the editor

'The journalistically deprived' Sean Power

Dear Mr. Hein,

I have finally mustered up my ego and scraped together what little journalistic skills I might possess in order to respond to your letter of November 22, 1991.

The letter, of course, dealt with Brian Levake's column which focused on... no, not Pep Club or even the controversial spirit stick, but rather a lack of spirit at WCCHS. His column utilized a technique known as satire to express his own personal opinion concerning the present state of spirit in our fine school.

As I write this, I have both your letter and Mr. Levake's column in front of me. Gee, I don't know. I just cannot seem to find those horrible insults that he supposedly threw in the face of yourself and the aforementioned Pep Club. All I see is a genuine criticism of the student body for failing to properly cheer for its athletes. Of course, I could just be looking in the wrong place, or it might be a result of the "journalistic skills" I have failed to acquire as I have trod the road of life.

Anyway, you go on to remind Mr. Levake that he is writing for the *Bridge* and thus, for the students at We-go. Well, I—being a student—am grateful for Mr. Levake's column and for his ability to clearly express his opinions, but I again

find myself lost and confused when you go on to say that he is not being paid for what he writes. So?

Are opinions only relevant when backed by a paycheck? And what if he did get paid? Would that mean that his column and the opinions expressed therein would suddenly develop a new importance?

Why can't the *Bridge* have its own Bernie Lincome or Mike Royko? Opinions are not the trademarked practices of commercial papers only. Neither are columns or satire or sarcasm.

You end your letter: "Somehow I thought one goal of any student newspaper should be to promote our school and to help our students to feel good about themselves." I might be the one with the poor "journalistic skills," but even I cannot help noticing the similarity between this belief and the definition of propaganda.

For those of you who may not know, propaganda was used in the U.S.S.R. to promote the spread of communism and to stifle any opinions that were contrary to those of the Communist Party. Writers such as Alexander Solzhenitsyn were sent to Siberian Labor Camps for refusing (although admittedly in a much larger extreme) to sacrifice their own personal opinions.

We may live in the "land of the free and the home of the brave," but forget about writing as a form of expression and concentrate on making people feel all warm and fuzzy! (Note: this last sentence was also sarcastic.)

Most humbly,

Sean Power

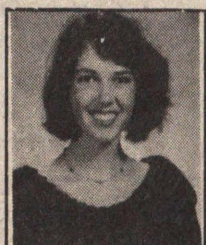
P.S. I'm REALLY sorry if I offended anyone!!!

"It were not best that we should all think alike; it is difference of opinion that makes horse-races."

—Mark Twain, *Pudd'nhead Wilson's Calendar*

Sir Lancelot would be proud

by Skye Studabaker



ing torture chamber, there wasn't much to do. After waiting forever in this dungeon of a lobby overflowing with cheap but over-priced merchandise for over an hour, the moment finally came when you get escorted into the tournament arena. The stadium was filled with long tables for eating and a sawdust covered arena where the knights on horseback performed. Hell for anyone with allergies.

The rest of the night was something to remember. There was falconry, sparkling swordplay, jousting and games, and all done by brightly covered knights on horseback, to watch while we ate. It all seemed so real, especially since we weren't given any silverware to eat with. Yes, my friends, 1200 people each digging into their whole cornish hen with their fingers. Yum. Great way to get guys or gals to notice you.

The knights were incredible. They showed unbelievable agility and poise on their horses. The entire time, it kept me on the edge of my seat, peering excitedly over my goblet of Medieval Pepsi. Their show of courage and coordination made up for all the boredom you endure while waiting for the show to begin.

So, if you've saved up about two weeks worth of lunch money and are looking for a fun and wholesome thing to do, try out time travel at the Medieval Times restaurant. Just remember to bring your own plastic fork.

Throughout history, man has wanted to travel through time. I was lucky enough to have experienced the Medieval Times Restaurant, which comes pretty close to time travel. Almost.

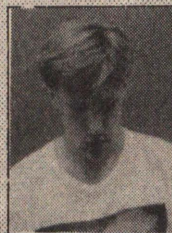
A "castle" of a building, Medieval Times is located at Roselle rd. and I-90 in Schamburg. They recommend that you arrive an hour and a half before the dinner and tourney of the knights so you can see all the great wonders of the castle. It's hard not to have high expectations when you get greeted at the drawbridge door by oddly dressed people talking in Old English dialect. Then they direct you to ticket booth where you plop down \$35 for the dinner and show plus an extra dollar for the privilege of viewing the torture chamber. (Way to work up an appetite!)

Maybe it was the drunk 40 year-olds in paper crowns or the vendors selling everything from faux swords to stuffed unicorns, but the illusion of the magical Medieval era wasn't there. Even after the horribly disgust-

4th year philosophy

Fifth Plea

by Brian Levake



The holidays are here. The first major one, Thanksgiving, has come and gone. Most people had nice, quaint family dinners with turkey and all the fix'n's. But then, on the other hand, there was mine, an excursion into hell.

My parents again decided to travel to Alabama for the turkey treats. This was no surprise, since we had done this for the past, oh, seventeen years or so. I begged and pleaded and cried and tried all drastic measures to keep from taking this unnecessary and dreadful journey to hick metropolis, but alas, I was unsuccessful. And hey, I even promised that I wouldn't go back (Last year, issue 11). I feel like such a traitor.

In fact, I was doomed before I even left West Chicago. Minutes before our scheduled departure time, a friendly West Chicago police officer issued me a ticket for going 10 over on my own street. I couldn't believe it. If you can't drive how you want on your own street, what can you do? I started to laugh when he gave me my \$50 treat because I knew that it was all a nightmare that I was destined to live through because my ancestors stole horses in France.

The car ride down wasn't that bad, considering that I was asleep all the way (I wasn't allowed to drive.) When I woke up we were in the parking lot of this sinister Dairy Queen in southern Illinois that we always stop at. The reason that this place sticks out in my mind is because every time we go in this place, the people look at you like you are some kind of variation to the human species ("He's not like us Jethro, let's kill it"). I ordered food for my family and we left. No tears on my part.

About an hour later we stopped in the Shoney's Motel. In case, you don't know, Shoney's also owns a restaurant named "Shoney's Big Boy." So I'm staying in a hotel that shares the same name of a restaurant that's named after an obese boy. The place was pretty mellow and surprisingly, pretty nice. They had towels and everything. So what do I do? I fall right asleep. There must have been something in the great southern air.

We left fat hotel bright and early Thursday morning. We were planning to stop at Hardee's for breakfast, but it was closed because it was Thanksgiving day. So we scratched our heads and look for an open place to eat. Right across the street was a place called "The Cracker Barrel." If you know what's good for you, don't go into this place. It's supposed to resemble Grandma's quaint country kitchen, but that illusion failed for me because I know what an

authentic country-grandmother-owned kitchen is like. Besides, I hate it. And not to mention that my Grandma doesn't sell souvenirs out of her humble kitchen.

Still, I was starving. So I opted for the cherry pancakes. Grossness. This was a really bright choice. We had to eat in the car because my dog, Duffy, accompanied us on this trip and is not mature enough to sit and behave in the car all by himself. So I "accidentally" spilled my pancakes in the back seat, but that was ok. At least I didn't have to eat them. I gave one to Duffy and stuck the other one on the car next to us. While sticking the pancake on this person's car, I saw some fat kid (probably from Shoney's) marching and blowing a whistle all by himself through the parking lot. He was also moving his arm in an up-and-down type motion. This didn't surprise me, but it did worry me a little because fat kids participating in group things all by themselves in a "Cracker Barrel" parking lot generally means bad karma. I ended up eating licorice that I bought at a gas station.

When we got to my Grandma's house, a couple of my relatives were already there. So in order to escape their hellish taunting about how much I've grown and how: A) I look just like my great-great-great Grandpa Herbert or-

B) I don't look like anyone from the family, therefore I must have been dropped out of the sky by the friendly maternal stork. I did the bed thing.

The minute the food came on, I grabbed some chow and split for my room. I didn't feel like discussing anything over broccoli casserole and pickled peaches and, oh, yeah, turkey. The food actually wasn't as bad as it usually is, or I was so hungry that it didn't matter if I was eating some egg-plant creation or my own arm.

After dinner, I went back to sleep. Friday was boring, except for when my Dad and I went to this junkyard and I saw about 20 guys walking around with loaded firearms. Saturday was much like Friday, except for one great thing.

I got to leave. We left late in the afternoon and drove through the night. So, I did what I had gotten accustomed to doing-the whole sleep thing. When I woke up this time, we were all the way in southern Illinois and in the parking lot of fat hotel-again. I think that my parents really enjoy fat hotel. Hey, I know I did. I'd stay in Roach Motel if I had to keep out of my favorite state.

I always seem to learn a lot every time I go. I learned that I could never function if I had to live there. I would die. No more Brian. Do I hear cheers from Pep Club? Anyway, I also realized that people prefer the comfort of Fat Hotel over other name-brand hotels. You know what other info I came out with?

We're better here in West Chicago. Really.



Top ten reasons to write for the Bridge

by Brian Levake

10. Great hours.
9. Learn the fine art of brown-nosing.
8. Work side by side with one of the greatest journalistic minds in the world-Mr. Courtney.
7. Way to get real popular with local spirit organizations.
6. Find out why it has so many spelling errors.
5. Be part of the prize-winning heritage.
4. If you ask, Jamie McDole might outline some of the better Chris Seper vs. the Universe battles.
3. You get to read all the anti-editor letters before they are printed or set on fire or both.
2. Take part in the first annual "Bridge Office Lock-In."
1. It's a stepping stone to such publications as "The Bonne Buyer."

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Deck the halls at

Will the economy damper holiday shopping?

by Tom Fox

There seems to be a lot to worry about this holiday season for the average American family. The recession will be the big issue among shoppers in December, just as it will be for voters next November. A recession is defined as a **temporary** falling off of business activity during a time of general prosperity. It is difficult to tell when the recession will end, but it is certainly not going to happen overnight.

The recession will certainly influence the shoppers' tendency to spend money this season. Yet, the shopping malls seem as crowded and zoo-like as ever! How drastic of an effect will the recession have on retailers? What is selling this season? These are some questions posed to a few popular retail stores in the Chicagoland area.

When asked how well they expected to do this December compared to last December, managers from JC Penny, Kay Bee Toys, and The Sharper Image gave surprising answers. Each manager expected to do better this December. They predicted a five to ten percent gain in total sales over last year's holiday figures. A manager at JC Penny in Stratford said that a "merchandise mix" is essential and that a large assortment of products means more sales.

Terry Mack, the manager of The Sharper Image store in Woodfield Mall, said that his store was hurt in November by Thanksgiving, which was one week later than last year, meaning a loss of seven shopping days. However, he said that ten to twelve percent gain in December could offset these losses. Mack also mentioned a "good product mix" as the key to success this season.

He said, "Sharper Image made changes and gambled in the assortment of what we sell here." The Sharper Image has lowered their prices from last year's \$60-\$90 average to a more reasonable \$10-\$30 range, in hopes that this will spark a rise in sales.

Both Kay Bee Toys and The Sharper Image noted that water guns are a hot seller. Remote control cars are already selling quickly as well. Kay Bee Toys said that always reliable video games were selling quicker than expected this year. An interesting item called Mr. Cool, a cup which cools beverages without ice, has sold out at The Sharper Image. The manager at JC Penny said that leather jackets, ski clothing, dress shirts, and ties are selling quickly.

"Sharper Image made changes and gambled with the assortment of what we sell here."

Optimism was the common feeling among the retailers. All three said prices were much lower this year and that shoppers will find lots of bargains. So while consumer confidence is low, prices are as well.

It really is a wonderful life

A shiny happy movie



by Alicia Garceau

They don't make 'em like they used to and now that Frank Capra has passed away, I doubt anything will ever compare to the movies made.

In 1946 Capra produced the movie **It's a Wonderful Life**. This movie starring Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed has become a holiday tradition in the lives of many Americans.

Stewart plays the role of George Bailey, the owner of the Baily Building Loan in the town of Bedford Falls. The movie traces Baily's life from childhood to his present life. Baily inherits the Building and Loan when his father dies. Though his dreams were to travel the world, he puts them aside because he knows the people of Bedford Falls need the compassion his father had provided. If he was to leave, the town's ruthless businessman, Mr. Potter, would cause financial havoc in Bedford Falls. Potter was devoid of any compassion or redeeming human qualities.

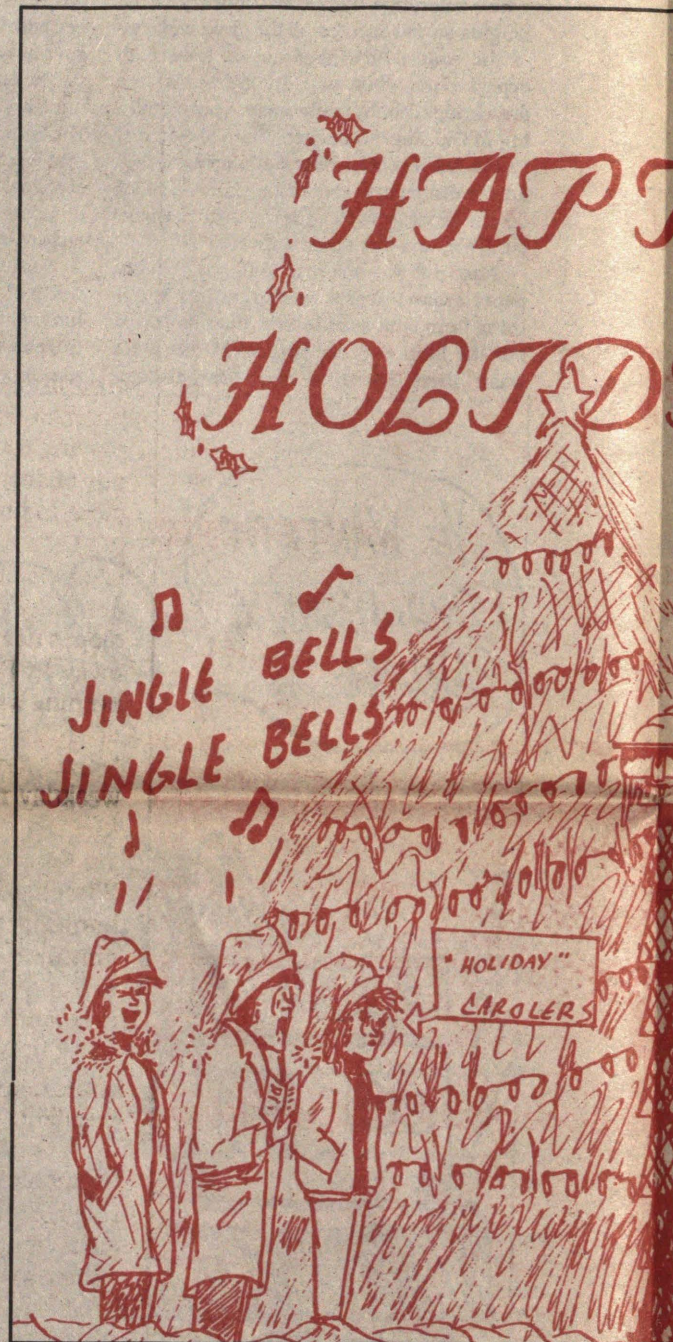
Baily remains in Bedford Falls and consistently

sacrifices himself for the benefit of the townspeople. Baily marries a girl he has grown up with, Mary Hatch, who is played by Reed and they have a family.

It is at this time in his life when Baily loses his faith in himself after the Building and Loan loses \$2,000 and a warrant is sent out for his arrest. He contemplates suicide, but he is saved by a comical angel. The angel, Clarence Oddbody, played by Henry Travers, is sent as an answer to prayers for Baily. He is also trying to earn his wings.

After saving Baily's life, the angel grants his wish that he was never born. Baily is able to see how many lives he has touched and how much he is needed.

It's a Wonderful Life is an optimistic film that has become as much a part of the holidays as Santa Claus himself. It is available at any local video store and is shown on television at least two times daily during the holiday season.



Project defines true s

by Alicia Garceau

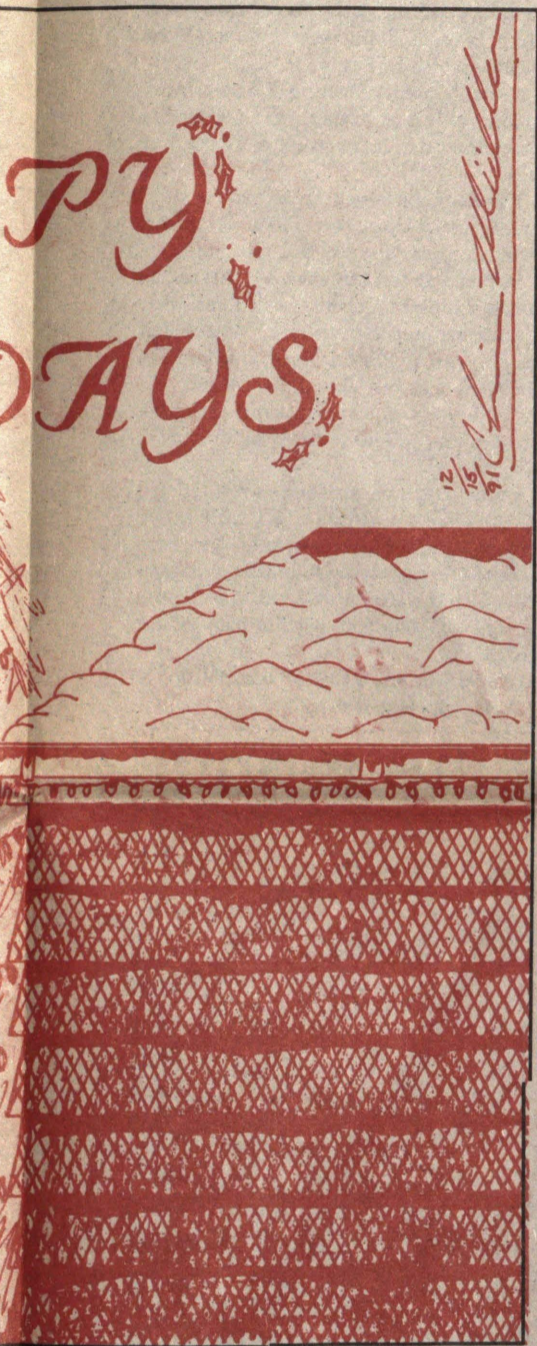
The joy expressed on a child's face while opening a gift could never be captured with words, but for many there will be no joy this holiday season. Approximately 1000 children in the DuPage County will not receive decent meals, warm clothing, or toys this December.

Twelve years ago The Christmas Project, a Wheaton based non-religious group, was organized by Karole Kettering. The goal of the project is to reach out to families in the area that are having financial difficulties and provide them the things they would otherwise have to do without. Many families are suffering unemployment and this has been compounded by the recession.

Usually The Christmas Project receives donations from the Marine's "Toys for Tots" program, but because of the state of the economy, those donations will not meet the demand. For this reason Wego's student council decided to run their own "Toys for Tots" program from December 11 to December 17. It is programs like

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4:30 p.

West Chicago...



Winter fun-o-rama

by Nick Streams



What to do...What to do? The snow is on the ground again and the winter doldrums are setting in. You don't have to spend your winter inside playing Nintendo and watching **Hey Dude**. Get out of the house. There's plenty of winter fun close to home.

Let's play word association: winter, cold; snow...skiing! Granted, Illinois is not the ski epicenter of the world, but there are numerous slopes nearby. Villa Olivia, located twenty miles away in Bartlett, makes for great afternoon or evening with no travel. Even though Villa Olivia is tiny by skiing standards, it's an ideal place to learn. Try to avoid the crowds by going on a weekday night and don't wear your best gloves (the tow ropes will eat them).

For a day trip, consider heading up to Wisconsin. Wilmot, just over the Wisconsin border, gets an A+ for recreational skiing. Located only one hour away, Wilmot has a slope for everyone. From the bunnyhill to the moguls, everyone can enjoy a day of skiing without having to get up at all hours of the morning. Farther up (three hours away) Devil's Head and Cascade are excellent.

If you want a taste of the bigger snow, Upper Peninsula Michigan will quench your thirst. Indian Head, Big Powderhorn and Blackjack are only an eight hour drive through a beautiful Wisconsin winter wonderland.

If you're interested in skiing or just want to learn, join the ski club. The ski club meets irregularly in the Learning Resource Center classroom. There are trips to Devil's Head, Cascade

and Chestnut planned for this winter.

For some inexpensive outdoor fun, Easton Pond on Geneva Road is just right for skating. If hockey is your game, there's a game to be found. Several indoor rinks including Center Ice in Glen Ellyn and the Carol Stream rink cater to those players who like to play at 2 a.m. on the 'just like NHL' ice. The best way to experience hockey is 'au natural' on any of the ponds in Wego. You

You know you're playing the game right when you have no feeling in your fingers, toes, or your nose.

You know you're playing the game right when you have no feeling in your fingers, toes, or your noses.

"Winter is lacking any sort of enjoyment whatsoever," lamented senior Tom Phipps. Actually winter is more of what you make of it. You don't need anything, aside from some creativeness, to have some fun this winter. "I just love to play in the snow," laughed junior Corrie Gilgallon. Senior Jamie McDole explained that even summer activities are possible during the winter. "I play in a golf tournament called The Snowball" Sledding is always an option if you can find a hill.

Whatever you chose to do, get out and have some fun. The precious two week break would be a shame to waste. Remember... 'tis the season to be jolly.

The spirit of season

These are the things that define the true spirit of the season. Kettering said, "It is something we take for granted, but to a child, a toy at Christmas can mean so much."

When thinking of the holiday season, gifts usually come to mind, but what about the basic necessities of life. Many of these children who will not receive toys also are lacking warm clothing and decent meals. The Project is in need of financial donations which they use to purchase additional holiday meals and a supply of groceries for needy families. Kettering explained, "I don't want to just give them a meal for Christmas. I want to fill their cabinets as much as I can."

During the holidays it is great to receive, but it is even greater to give. Think of those who are not as fortunate this season and volunteer. The greatest gift you can give is your time and a little bit of kindness. To get involved with the Christmas Project, call 462-7992 between 8:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m..



Senior Eric Scholtzer hits the slopes on his snowboard. (Photo courtesy of Challenge)



Bridge well-wishes for people with very strong stomachs

by Santa Levake and Elven Owens

"And I want a new bike and a football and a Nintendo and a Teddy Bear and a great big bone for my dog, Scruffy, and"

Shut up, kid. This is real life and you never really get what you really want, now do you? In the proud tradition of high school, Christmas and all things that bring good cheer, the Bridge dishes out its warped well wishes, new year's resolutions and semi-serious presents to all high-profile WCCHS attendees...

To the Spirit Stick, a permanent place in the bottom of the student council president's locker. To the people who worship it, a realization that school spirit is something to be chosen, and not a prerequisite to attend West Chicago.

To Alan Jones, principal of this institution, an official Bridge dictionary—unabridged.

To superintendent Joel Morris. A fruitcake. Good job doc, we like you.

To John Highland, a male student of the month.

To Lee Maciejewski, a little unseasonal luck of the Irish, so that all close games will be happy ones.

To Bob Hein, the first amendment.

To Gatorade, a new slogan—Be like Heinz.

To the pep club, an "r" to put after the first P.

For the seniors, a new (flexible) attendance policy.

To student council, something to do (any-

thing).

To the freshman and their petty existence, the puberty thing.

To the faculty, a permanent mediator.

To the sophomores, a copy of the Nirvana single, Smells Like Teen Spirit.

To the paraprofessionals, shotguns. (Hey, it's a jungle out there.)

To the voters of West Chicago, our condolences.

To Dave Dean, a new set of drafting pencils and some overdue congratulations.

To the juniors, some visibility. (You haven't done anything!!!!)

To Kerr McGee, we give them West Chicago's own activist, Steve Arnold.

To Steve Arnold, we give West Chicago's very own activist's dream, Kerr McGee.

To Lawrence Hapgood, nothing. Christmas came early.

To the rest of the school board, backbone.

To the girls swim team, credibility at last.

To Tim Courtney, our much maligned adviser, some portable Pepto Bismol and a trip that will take him as far away from the bridge as possible.

To the authors of this fine list, a fast car.

Well, there you go. An optimistic present would be that all recipients (or victims, either way) on the list will also receive a good sense of humor. (Nahhh). But as we dash out the door and turn out the lights, a Merry Bridge Christmas to all, and to all a good night.

You don't get a career

by Jennifer Caligiuri



There will be no Career Day this year.

I was shocked to hear this. Career Day, usually sponsored by the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is one way students can become better acquainted with future careers and jobs.

I remember when I was a freshman. I entered We-go with no goals, and no idea what I wanted to do with my future.

Then I attended Career Day. I spoke with a local disc-jockey and decided that was what I wanted to do with my future.

Then sophomore year, after a long discussion with the McDonald's representative, I was sure I wanted to attend Hamburger University, and eventually own my own McDonalds.

Last year, when I was a junior, I visited with the Central DuPage Hospital representatives and they helped steer me in the direction of radiology.

Career Day was the reason that I broadened my knowledge of careers for the future. It allowed me to interview various types of business and careers. By doing this I was able to find out the type of schooling and experience I needed for the job, the type of hours expected to be worked for this job, the type of pay, and the chances to advance at the job, along with many other questions about the job.

These questions are all ones that are needed to make an intelligent decision about a career. This year students will not have the ben-

efits of discussing and learning about other careers for the future.

President of FBLA, Dan Yonan said, "Career Day has been around for many years and the officers decided a change was needed." He went on to explain that Career Day was a ritual for FBLA, and the officers were getting bored with it.

According to Yonan, in the past years Career Day has had a bad response, and students did not take it seriously. Many students just used it as an excuse to get out of class, and few students actually interview and learn from the different career representatives.

Yonan explains that the FBLA officers are planning a substitute for Career Day, but it will not be ready for this year, "but most likely it will be set up for next year."

It hardly seems fair of FBLA to deprive students of learning experiences involved in Career Day, that has become a tradition at We-go.

There is not a better way to become more familiar with a future career than discussing it with someone who has that job.

By taking Career Day away, FBLA is taking students' knowledge about their futures away.

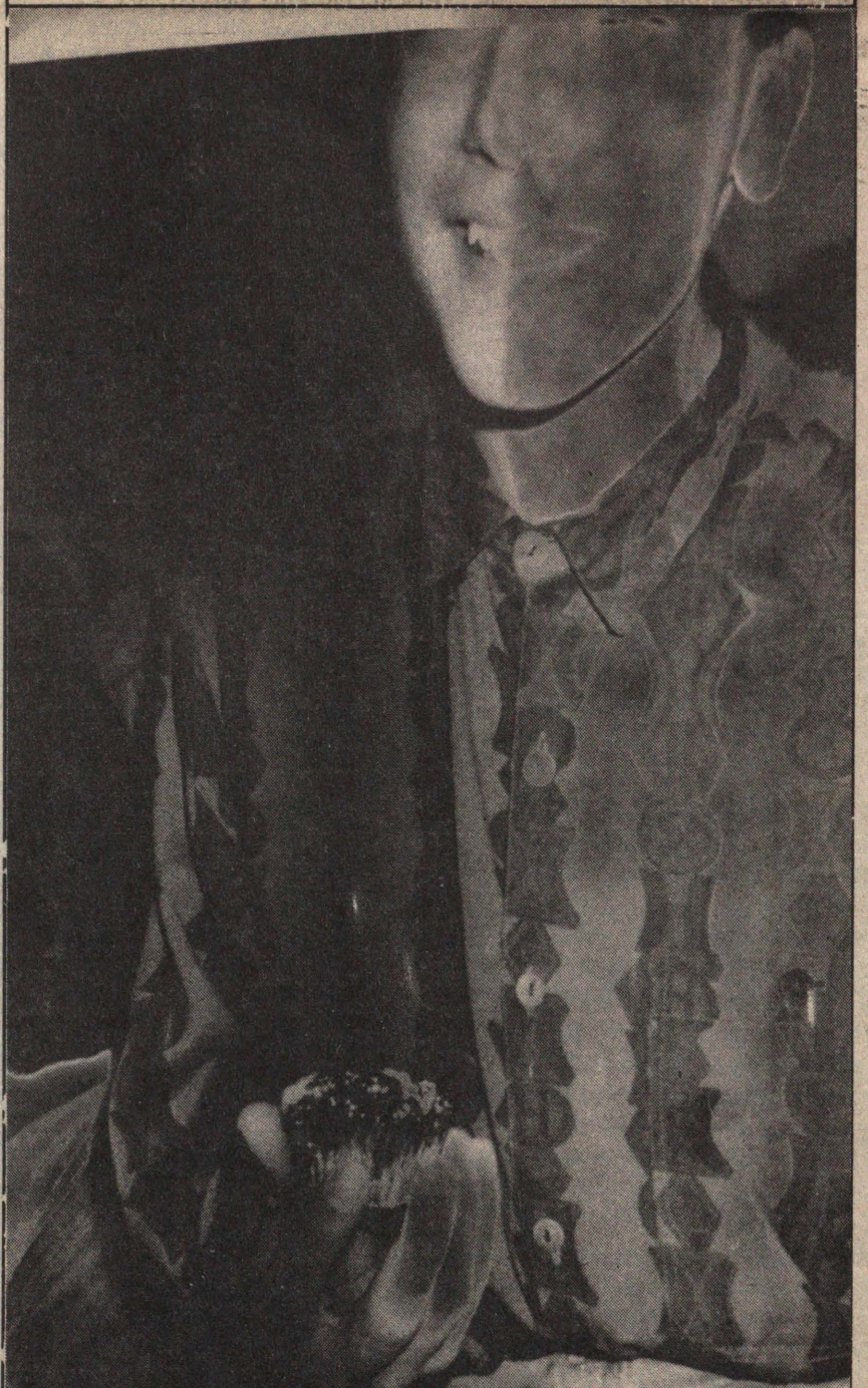
Students need to have the knowledge that was provided by FBLA's Career Day to make intelligent decisions about their future.

The decisions students make in high school are ones that will affect them for the rest of their lives.

Career Day was just one way of helping students make decisions about their future life that will affect them positively. Depriving them of this experience is unfair. I suggest FBLA to rethink their decision, and have a Career Day. Students need to plan for the future.

Career Day was a positive contribution to WCCHS, why take it away?

Weird photo of the month



"Try my cupcake, it's good." (Photo by Eric Schlotzer)

Concert Corner

Jethro Tull at Chicago Theater

by Paul Abella



For one of the most interesting experiences of all time, go to a Jethro Tull concert. In one night, you'll see a comedian play the flute, a keyboardist playing darts with roadies in his spare time, 65 year old headbangers, and some of the most memorable and undated songs in rock history.

Jethro Tull played two packed shows on November 24 and 25 at the Chicago Theater. The show opened with soon-to-be-superstars, band Chrissy Steele. Steele herself was strikingly beautiful, and her band looked like glam-metal outcasts. Songs such as "Magnet to Steel" and "I'm Dangerous" killed. Imagine Lita Ford with Motley Crue as her backing band and you've got a lot of shocked Tull fans who didn't expect as much, and were for the most part stunned.

Not to be stood up, Tull played one of their fiercest sets in years. "Cross-eyed Mary," a fierce rendition of the muzakque "Living in the Past", "A New Day Yesterday" and "Bouree" all made one thing clear, that even if all the members of Tull, especially Ian Anderson are nearing fifty, they could still rock. "Long Thin Girl" and "Mother Goose" were the only quiet songs in the set, and still got plenty of cheers.

They closed their usual set with "Aqualung," the Tull anthem, and then left the stage. Still the crowd didn't figure it out, even when the roadies came out to take down smaller pieces of the set. The band came back out and played "Locomotive Breath," quite possibly the loudest acid rock song of all time, especially live. Then they exited once again to about five minutes of constant screams by the 12,000 sold out crowd.

Eventually the crowd got the point and left. But this wasn't just a concert, it was an experience.

Girls swim team third in state

State Champions

200 Medley Relay

-Erin Myers
-Becky Manning
-Corrie Gilgallon
-Kate Ryan

400 Free Relay

-Manning
-Ryan
-Gilgallon
-Myers

State Placewinners

50 freestyle

Erin Myers-4th
Kate Ryan-9th

100 Backstroke

Erin Myers-3rd
Corrie Gilgallon-6th

100 Breaststroke

Becky Manning-18th

200 I.M.

Becky Manning-13th

100 freestyle

Kate Ryan-11th

100 Butterfly

Corrie Gilgallon-7th

Congrats to all the Lady Cat swimmers

Lady Cat swimmers finish third

by Aaron Owens

After a championship sectional performance, it was obvious the West Chicago girls' Swim Team did not cool down come state competition.

The swim team finished third in the state meet on November 23, paced by their "fantas-

Ryan after the outstanding performance.

Myers swam well in her best event, the 100 yard backstroke. She finished second in her heat, finishing right behind the first seed from Waubonsie Valley. "I got hung up in the lane line," said Myers. "But I still made finals."

Gilgallon was the second Cat to make the

finished 9th with a 24.84.

In the finals, West Chicago's relays stole the show. The girls took first in the 200 medley relay, defeating top seeded Hindsdale Central, in a little bit of a rivalry, with a time of 148.68. They missed breaking the state record by just .35 seconds off the record.



Girl swimming getting wild at the pep assembly, after their third in state performance. (Photo by Eric Schlotzer)

tic four" of senior Erin Myers, junior Corrie Gilgallon, sophomore Kate Ryan and fresh-

'Tomorrow we're going to win it all'

Becky Manning

man Becky Manning. The foursome took first in two of the three relays, defeating first-seeded Hindsdale Central in both. The girls started off right, working up in their first heat was Myers of the 200 medley relay. The Cats swam the second fastest time of all the heats to qualify for the state finals in that event.

The swimmers then competed in the 200 free relay. They responded with their fastest time, allowing them to take first in their heat.

"Tomorrow we're going to win it all," said

finals, and was happy with her performance.

"I'm so excited," exclaimed Gilgallon. "I've tried to swim under a minute all year, and I did it at the right time."

Manningswam well to finish 13th in the 200 medley Relay, and 18th in the 100 yard

'I got hung up in the lane line. But I still made finals.'

Erin Myers

breaststroke. Gilgallon also competed in the 100 yard butterfly, she did not qualify for the finals, but won the consolation heats to finish 7th. Myers and Ryan swam the 50 yard freestyle sprint, which is considered a highlight event of the meet. Myers finished 4th in the state with a time of 24.39, and Ryan

"They (Hindsdale) said they were going to be the first team ever to win all three relay events," said head coach Dan Johnson. "I'm so proud of the girls, they swam great."

Ironically, the Cats defeated Hindsdale again in the next relay. They swam their best time in the 200 yard freestyle, for their second first of the night. Myers finished her outstanding performance with a third place finish in the backstroke, and Gilgallon added a sixth in the same event.

After the Cats' story book performance, they earned many post season awards. Myers finished in the top four balloting for swimmer of the year. Both relay teams earned all-american honors with their state times, and Myers also gained the same honor in the backstroke. To make the year complete, head coach Dan "DJ" Johnson tied with three other coaches for coach of the year.

Many miles underwater; key to Lady Cat success

by Hugo Miranda

It seems as though they have been planning it for years, as though it was only a matter of time before the girls' swim team brought home a trophy that represented the long years of work.

As a person who has been swimming since he was 8, Coach Dan Johnson knows what it takes to be a good swimmer. According to Johnson, this year's team had the right blend of "talent, ... dedication, ... and conditioning."

However, this championship group did not just come together in the high school years. Erin Myers has been swimming since she was 9, Corrie Gilgallon since age 7, and Becky Manning and Kate Ryan since age 8.

"Most 7 year old girls don't think about practicing at that stage in their lives," commented Gilgallon.

Johnson put a strong emphasis on the

Sharks program success as the key to winning at the state meet. According to Johnson, about eighty percent of the girls that are involved in swimming were involved in the Sharks program.

Ever since Johnson took over the swimming program 14 years ago he has been building patiently. When the program first started Johnson made an example out of other schools. He noticed how a good swimming club and off-season workouts were characteristics of winning programs. The first few years Johnson focused on the Sharks program to assure that the freshman class would have strong swimmers. He had the Sharks compete at a state level to give them a sense of competition.

Johnson is now looking one step further. He would like to have the Sharks compete at the junior nationals, which are "more competitive than the high school state meets."

Johnson says that the program will miss

the leadership of the seniors, but he feels that there is "a good nucleus coming back." He also feels confident about next year's freshman. Johnson also wanted to focus on keeping the relays strong for next year.

Most people know that swimming does not get that much attention until they reach sectionals or state. However, Johnson felt this did not affect the performance of the swimmers. "They learned to perform regardless of how many people show up. They practiced on their own."

Johnson also added that, at sectionals and state, "Friends and family did make a difference."

The future looks promising for Johnson and next year's crew. The swimmers have already returned to the pool and are gearing up for another season. Johnson plan, as it has always been, is to take it "season to season" and

see how it works out.

Girls look top three, DVC

by Brett Siglin

The West Chicago girls' basketball program seems to be getting better every year. The team will greatly miss its five graduating seniors: Melody Benson, Jennifer Kramer, Danielle Potts, Heather Jardis, and Laurie Davidson, from last year's squad. However, these seniors set good ground work for this year's team. This shows in their performances so far. The Lady Cats record as of December 11 is 3-3. They earned second place in the Lyons Township Tournament after a loss to the host school. During the tournament they pounded Joliet Catholic 64-39, and their two other losses were close games.

The teams' early experience will benefit them in conference play. We-Go is looking to be top three in the conference along with Wheaton Central and Naperville Central.

Saturday We-Go play Glenbard South away. They are looking forward to the Christmas tournament, hoping to come away the champions. The basketball team plays 24 games and are hopping to win conference and qualify for sectionals after

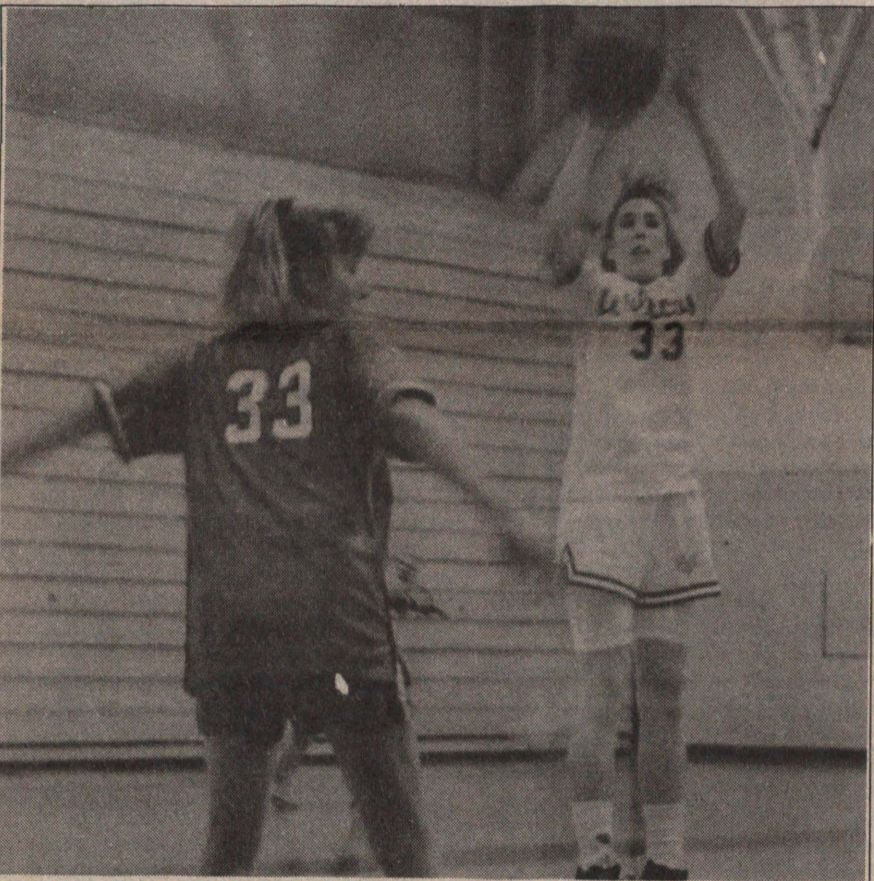
and tries to get each individual secure in her role. Not having a lot of height, We-Go must make sure they are sound rebounders.

"We are setting rebounding goals," said Wallner. "We are working fundamentals. The girls out rebounded in practice. We-Go works a lot of transitional drills as well as 3 on 2, 2 on 1, and fast breaks.

The girls will usually play a 1-2-2 motion offense, which the team hopes will help them score around 50 points a game. The primary go to players will be Murphy, Barnes, and Mason. Smith and Murphy, the teams leading rebounders will crash the boards. Because of We-Go's lack of height, they have a rebounding disadvantage.

Wallner said, "We are working on fundamentals and getting better at rebounding." The girls out rebounded Joliet Catholic in an impressive performance.

On defense, the Cats will play both man-to-man and a 3-2 zone. The Cats may be seen putting on a full court press sometimes as well. The defense has changed drastically from last year as the Cats stuck strictly to man.



Amy Barnes airborne for a jump shot against Joliet Catholic. (Photo by Gina Lipscomb)

their first round loss to Wheaton Central in regionals last year.

Although winning conference may seem somewhat of a long shot this year, next year looks very strong. As of now, four Juniors start on the varsity team. Tiffany Smith is the point guard, Shannon Mason (off guard), Amy Barnes (small forward), and Christy Murphy (power forward). Senior Vicki Smith plays center top finish off the starting five. The bench help consists mostly of seniors. Liz Gernand, Carolyn Cinquegrani, and Jorie Peterson all contribute. Sophomore Julie Kramer and Junior Sarah Myers will be moved up to varsity from junior varsity occasionally. With six players returning with varsity experience, next year's team will be even better.

This year's team is much more offensive oriented. They will look for the fast break, and look to score a lot off turnovers.

"This, we hope, will relieve some of the defensive pressure we experienced last year," said Head Coach Kim Wallner. In practice Wallner runs the girls excessively,

On the lower levels, Tom Rivan coaches the junior varsity squad as well as being assistant Varsity coach. Junior varsity has one win and one loss as of December 11. Dave Sayner is coaching the sophomore team who won second place in the summer league and finished with a winning record as freshman. Paul McLeland coaches the freshman and hopes to have a good team after last year's success.

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Merry
X-Mas

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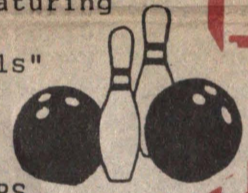
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