

The Bridge

West Chicago Community High School

Volume 14 Number 4 November 30, 1984



Glowing days may be over

by Scott Tepe

Huge, gaping craters where houses once stood. People turn their heads and whisper "thorium deposits".

But does anyone know what's being done about it?

Does anyone actually know what happened?

In August of this year, the school grounds were checked for waste deposits by a private company known as Radiation Management Corporation. The test results showed only normal, safe radiation levels. By request, the company surveyed the inside of the school building. The results were also negative.

According to Scott Munson, nuclear engineer at the Kerr-McGee site located on Ann and Factory streets was owned by a small operation known as the Union Tool Company in 1930.

In 1932, the site changed hands and became the property of the Charley Lindsey Company, moving from Chicago to West Chicago. This company produced gas mantles for street lighting and these gas mantles needed thorium for operation.

Thorium itself is not dangerous, but the method they use in separating the substance from the earth leaves a low-radioactive, powdery residue. This residue was placed in a large dump in the city

grounds and reputedly caused low-level radioactive poisoning in the area. Furthermore, the thorium waste dump became a convenient place to pick up soil for landfill jobs.

Thorium is part of a certain set of chemicals called the Rare Earth Element. The Rare Earth Elements are at the bottom of the Periodic Table, grouped with Uranium and other valuable chemicals. Not all of these are radioactive, but have a tendency to carry trace amounts of radioactive earth chemicals in their compounds.

Many local areas such as Reed-Kepler Park and Weyrauch Road have used contaminated soil as landfill. An estimated 80 or 90 private lots have been found to contain thorium.

In 1958, the American Potash Chemical Corporation took control of the site and continued the production of gas mantles.

In 1967 the Kerr-McGee Corporation bought the area and continued operation until shutdown in 1973 because it was no longer economical to keep it going.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) planned to survey the area and bill the cost (\$40,000) to Kerr-McGee. Instead of paying the money, the company decided to clean up the mess and came up with a plan for the stabilization of their West Chicago property and any contaminated

area.

So far, they have kept that promise and have excavated 35 poisoned properties, reduced the number of contaminated factory buildings from 21 to 3, and submitted a concrete plan for the storage of waste materials.

The excavation part of the plan includes the following basic outline; Kerr-McGee hires an outside company to survey properties and excavate those found with desposits, the city then restores the excavated areas, putting in trees, landscaping and other necessary changes, and Kerr-McGee restores the building, if needed.

The storage plan is a layering of certain substances which keep the thorium wastes in a "bubble" safe from erosion, weather, and other variables. The "bubble" system will necessitate a monitoring system for groundwater (there are many contaminated ponds on the waste site) and air sampling stations to make sure the waste stays where it belongs.

The thorium waste deposits have not caused any noticeable mutations or defects, but the long range effects of thorium are still not known.

If you have any doubts or suspicions regarding the thorium waste issue, contact the Environmental Protection Agency.

We-go bans smoking

by Laura Pollastrini

Will students at West Chicago ever see a smoking area for students?

According to Superintendent Richard Kamm and John Highland, Dean of Students, a smoking area has absolutely no chance of becoming a reality in this high school. "The School Board is adamantly opposed," stated Kamm.

Highland and Kamm agree on the fact that by having such an area the school would be promoting smoking, which, according to the Surgeon General, is "hazardous to your health." They could not recommend a substance as harmful as cigarettes to the students. By allowing them to smoke it is telling the students that the school approves of the habit.

West Chicago has never had a smoking area, but according to Highland and Kamm, other schools have. At Naperville North and Naperville Central the students were given an area designated for smoking, but they abused the privilege by smoking in other places, not using ashtrays, and leaving butts and ashes strewn over school grounds. Students would also try to smoke between classes, therefore making themselves late for their next class.

West Chicago is not equipped to accommodate a smoking area, according to Kamm. The room would have to be quite large with a considerable amount of ventilation, and there is no such room here. "The chances are zero," Highland announced.

Also there is the problem of the parents disapproving of their children smoking, and then the school condoning it. Kamm felt that the taxpayers would not approve of their money being spent on the pro-

motion of a bad habit.

Highland feels very strongly against smoking. He does not smoke, and does not enjoy being with people that are smoking. "It's a bad habit to get into, and an even harder one to shake." He thinks of cigarettes as a form of an addictive drug. "More kids would start smoking if a room was designated for it," quoted Highland, due to the strength of peer pressure.

The issue of acquiring a smoking area here at We-go has only been brought to Highland's attention two or three times during his five years here. All he can do is refer the students to the Board policy and tell them to talk to Dr. William Renner, Kamm, and the Board. He does not think that a policy change would be likely.

Chapter 23, Section 2357

Sale of tobacco to any minor prohibited. No minor under 18 years of age shall buy any cigar or cigarette or tobacco in any of its forms, unless upon the written order of the minor's parent or guardian. No person shall sell, buy for or furnish any cigar or cigarette or tobacco in any of its forms, to any minor under 18 years of age, unless upon the written order of the minor's parent or guardian or unless sold in the presence of such parent or guardian. As amended by act approved August 10, 1965.

Chapter 23, Section 2358

Penalty. Any person who violates any provision of this Act is guilty of a petty offense and for the first offense shall be fined not to exceed \$50, and for a second or any subsequent offense shall be guilty of a petty offense and fined not to exceed \$100. Amended by PA77-2348, Section 1. Effective January 1, 1973.

Ink ★ Spots ★

Oops ... sorry!

In the November 9 issue of the *Bridge* the story Additional math classes at Wheaton North was printed with a number of errors. Below is the corrected information.

Advanced Placement Calculus has been taught at West Chicago Community High School for ten years. The class is sponsored by the College Entrance Examination Board.

Students who complete the Advanced Placement Calculus class are eligible for college credits depending on their performance on the Advanced Placement Exam.

Three classes are offered at Wheaton North High School; Multivariate Calculus which began in September, Differential Equations which is offered during the winter quarter, and Linear Algebra, which is offered spring quarter. All of these courses are held in the evening.

These classes are taught by professors from College of DuPage, and each class is worth five college quarter hour credits.

Library fines

by Scott Tepe

Have you seen the list of overdue books at the library?

The amount of people on these lists is staggering!

Maybe people don't know or don't understand the library's services and fees?

To check out any library materials, you should have a school I.D. with you. Books are allowed out for two weeks and the overdue fine is 10 cents per day. Reference books are allowed out for one night, with a 50 cent overdue charge. Magazines and music cassettes are allowed out for as long as needed.

Calculators are available for one period with 50 cents per hour overdue, up to one dollar per day.

Computer programs for PET and IBM computers, vertical files and filmstrips are also available through the library.

National Honor Society

by Jenny Sheriff and Bill Fairbanks

On November 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the Learning Resource Center 44 students were initiated into the National Honor Society.

These students were chosen out of a possible 62 who were scholastically eligible. National Honor Society members are listed below.

Amy Beckman, Rinske Boersma, Brad Bonga, Heather Brizzolara, Craig Brown, Jaime Cantu, Linda Choe, Daniel Davis, Sandra Davis, Janice Dibella, Tanja Duda.

Erik Duus, Cindy Fisher, Jennifer Galecki, Beth Gebhardt, Marilyn Getlinger, Keri Giller, Margarito Gonzalez, Julie James, Robert Kierzyk, Louise Krone, Stephen Lemkau.

Angelo Lopez, Michelle McCluskey, Kent Melum, Cheryl Miers, Jon Neuhoff, Kristine Neuhoff, Marcia Otto, Laura Pollastrini, Rebecca Rackmyer, Carrie Reif, Daniel Reuster.

Suzanne Sackett, James Stanford, Lori Stonehocker, Elizabeth Sullivan, Catherine Summers, James Terdina, William Tiferina, Heidi Walter, Geri Warsop, David Worthy, Daniel Zarndt.

Little Rock trip

by Rosa Snell

Bridge In-Depth Editor Julie James recently won second place for news editing and headlining at the National Scholastic Press Association and the Journalism Education Association Convention held in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Eight editors from the *Bridge* attended and were judged against other high school newspaper delegates from across the nation.

Bridge editors who attended include Scott Grenke who competed in review writing, Brendan Lambert competed in editorial writing, and Laura Pollastrini competed in layout.

Rosa Snell competed in news writing, Becky Thuer competed in photography, Rebecca Welz competed in features writing, and Carrie Wroblewski competed in sports writing.



Does We-go have a busing problem? Turn to page 2 and read the editorial which investigates the problem. (photo by Becky Thuer)

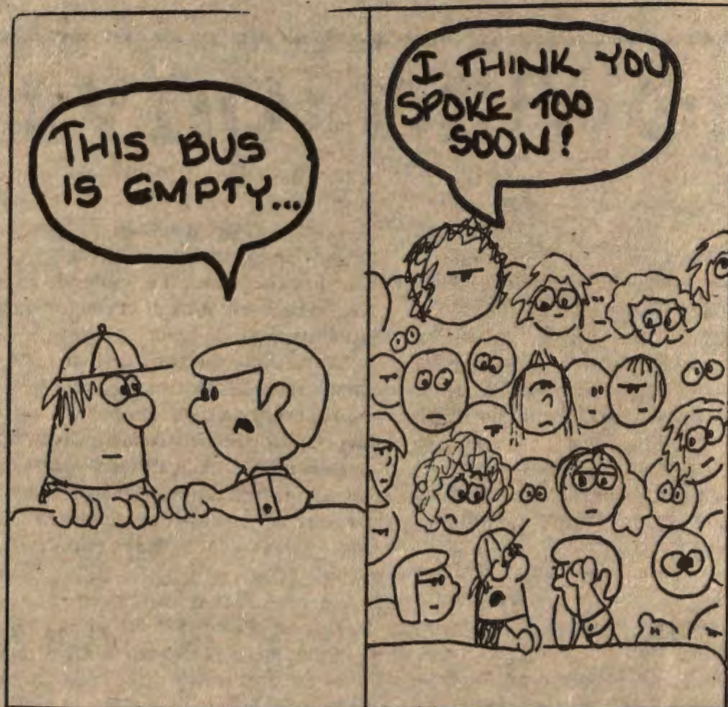
Why is busing still a mess at We-go?

Busing — is it still a problem at this high school? The answer is yes. Problems such as overcrowding and infraction of the rules are frequent in the high school busing system. Another problem is that the buses will not turn left into the high school. Why do these problems exist and whose fault are they? The administration, the students and the city of West Chicago are all to blame for the problems ailing the busing system here at the high school.

The school buses, operated by Kammes Bus Company, have a capacity to hold 71 people. That means the 24 seats are supposed to hold three people. Unfortunately, three students will not always fit in each seat. Some routes have more than 71 students eligible to ride. Even though some students drive, too many students riding a bus is a safety hazard. If the administration changed the routes, then overcrowding would no longer be a problem and it would not create a safety hazard.

Breaking the rules seems to be very popular among the students. The rules for riding the bus are clearly stated in the student handbook. The handbook clearly says "Horseplay that would interfere with the safe operation of a school bus is not permitted." Throwing things, screaming, not sitting down, and using obscenity are examples of "horseplay," and should not be permitted. The handbook also states that "In the event that a student violates these rules, he or she may be suspended from riding the bus." If students are supposed to obey these rules, the bus drivers and the administration should enforce them to a greater extent.

This year the city of West Chicago removed the policeman that controlled traffic in the morning. Then they said that no left turns would be allowed onto Ann street or into the high school parking lot. They thought that this would help keep traffic moving smoothly and safely. Unfortunately it's still congested and the buses must go all the way around the high school if they are coming in from the south. The



buses from the north must also go out of their way to make a right turn into the high school. The school board has sent a letter to the city council requesting the replacement of the traffic cop. This is the only solution to this problem. Hopefully the city will take it into consideration and replace the policeman soon.

The administration should open its eyes to the problems in busing, and do something about it. This would make riding the bus easier and more enjoyable for everyone involved.

Letters to the Editor

Clean up plan for the washrooms flushes down the toilet

Dear Editor,

Everyone has probably noticed that the washrooms are not being well kept by the janitors, and the ones on the third floor are always locked. The washrooms that are kept unlocked have a rotten smell in them. They smell like nobody has cleaned them for a whole week. The worst thing that a school could have is dirty washrooms.

It is also not fair to have plenty of washrooms for the students, but to keep them locked on certain floors —

especially on the third floor. That's the worst floor, because what happens when a student has to go to the washroom for an emergency? Well, what happens is that the student has to suffer for a few minutes until they get to the washroom, and that's not fair at all to the students, or what if the student wasn't feeling well? I think it would be an inconvenient job for the janitors, as well as for the school.

All washrooms should be kept OPEN and CLEAN.

Oscar Pasindo

A teachers view on politics

Dear Editor,

This letter is in response to not only Stefanie Duda's rebuttal to Sue Love, but is addressed to a great number of students of West Chicago.

I was extremely disappointed in the lack of depth exhibited by our student body over election issues. I say the plural "issues" because the most common refrain regarding the election was that "Mondale would raise taxes." This statement was normally meant to be a signal that the discussion had ended, election to Reagan. But this is where the discussion should have begun.

How can Reagan cut taxes, keep Social Security solvent, greatly increase the defense budget, and lower interest rates all at the same time? How can an increase in weapons research and development lead to peace? I still wait for an answer to these and many other questions that Reagan ignores or sluffs over. And we haven't

touched upon civil rights, or how a significant raise in defense spending (tax dollars spent on scientists and private sector industries) is in line with Reagan's professed vow to cut government spending and get government out of our lives. As an individual who works two out of five days for the government, I have no qualms about paying more taxes if they are spent for just and legitimate social purposes.

Phrases such as "the Peacekeeper" for bombs, "revenue enhancement" for taxes, and "Peace through strength" should cause at least a wave of concern throughout much of a student body that is currently reading and discussing the doublespeak of the novel, 1984. In this election, I am afraid that "style" (albeit a grade "B" style) which makes America "feel good," without thinking whether we have reason to, has won out over reason, and that disappointed and worries me.

Thank you,
Larry Price

It's not their fault

Dear Editor,

For this issue I have written an article concerning the thorium waste incident in our area. I would like to clarify my opinion based upon my extensive research into the subject.

If you read my article carefully, as I hope you have, or will, you will notice that there were thorium waste problems before Kerr-McGee took over control of the local site.

They knew of it and made plans and took action to clean up the West Chicago site. In five years the company has removed 18 of 21 contaminated buildings on the site, begun detection and removal of contaminated areas and proposed acceptable systems for

storing waste material.

What's more, many rumors were spread about how Kerr-McGee was involved in the Manhattan Project, the first atomic bomb, and they were testing it and/or making it at the West Chicago site. According to Scott Munson of Kerr-McGee, these rumors were partially true. Another company which previously owned the site created harmless components for the A-bomb.

Although the contamination was not their fault, they received the criticism of our ignorance and took the responsibility for the damage. For this they should be commended.

Thank you,
Scott Tepe

One more opinion of Mondale

Dear Editor

Last issue a letter to the editor, written by Stefanie Duda, appeared in the Bridge. Duda's letter had very little to do with Mondale's political platform. Indeed her letter presented only one word of truth and that was his stand on taxes.

Mondale never said that Russia would necessarily go along with a nuclear freeze. Instead he believes that we as a nation must stop the production of nuclear weapons if necessary unilaterally. It is his hope that this freeze on nuclear weapons will restore negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union which existed from 1960 until they were dissolved during the Reagan administration.

Taxes are another issue entirely. It is true that Mondale planned to raise taxes, but it is important to understand why. During the years of the Reagan administration taxes were lo-

wered, but at the same time, spending by the government increased, creating the largest fiscal deficit in U.S. history to be added to the already existing 1.2 trillion dollar deficit. Mondale feels the government should be able to cover its own expenses and in order to do that taxes must be raised.

Duda also in her letter stated that Mondale seemed to be a procrastinator. This is an untrue defamation of Mondale's character. I would think that in order to make such an attack on his character that it would be founded at least partially in truth.

I would suggest that a certain student should begin to base her ideas of Mondale on fact instead of the rhetoric provided by President Reagan. It would also be advisable for her not to concede to the feeling that nothing can be done to decrease the chance, or at least the effects, of a nuclear war.

Thank you,
David Mark

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

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

Letters will be printed as time and space permit. The editor reserves the right to edit, if necessary, for length and libelous material.

Unsigned editorials appearing in the paper are the opinion of the majority of the Bridge editorial board.

S.A.D.D. saves lives of thousands

by Kateri Weibler

About 8000 people between the ages of 16 and 24 die each year. The cause is the number one health problem among teens today — alcohol related car accidents.

To help fight this problem, Robert Anastas started an organization called S.A.D.D. (Students Against Driving Drunk). Anastas, who is a member of the Task Force on Highway Safety and Alcohol Abuse in Massachusetts, founded the program in a small school about 20 miles from Boston in September of 1981.

The original plan was to awaken the students in the school to the fact that driving drunk was becoming a major health threat to them. It could no longer happen just to others, but it could happen to themselves as well. The students wanted to fight this problem and make others aware of it. This was just one step in this fight.

In an attempt to get not only students to help, but also parents, Anastas made up the SADD Contract for Life. This contract was devised so that teens and parents would provide help if they were in a drinking situation and needed a safe way home.

Now there are SADD chapters in almost 6000 high schools in 50 states. West Chicago joined the program last spring after being invited to Glenbard West to learn more about SADD. Several students accompanied Robert Hein to the school, and afterwards decided they wanted to organize their own chapter. Hein offered to be the group's sponsor.

Since organizing, not much has been accomplished. The school was given a membership certificate and a few meetings were held. The one major success this year was the SADD assembly conducted here. For those who were unable to attend

the assembly, a tape is now available for viewing in the LRC.

The program is not yet on its feet. The meetings have yet to draw more than 12 people at a time. The bank account is to be opened sometime this month.

Although the group is not going as smoothly as possible now, Hein hopes that by the end of the year the group will "get kids to care for each other." Hein believes that if kids start thinking about what they are doing, they will realize what harm drinking can do.

Hein also stresses that although the program takes its stand against drunk driving it does not condone drinking and then finding a ride. The program teaches that it is okay not to drink at all.

The program is proof of "positive peer pressure", according to Hein. "I think it's a great program, especially if it's student operated." He states that if parents can't

get through to their children, friends can.

Kris Sims, the president of the West Chicago chapter, said that getting people to simply think about drinking and driving and the dangers involved "makes you feel good." The first step to action is the thought.

To get more people thinking, the group will sponsor fund-raisers. They will sell SADD bumper stickers and buttons. A dance is also in the plans for the future.

The program's goal for next year is to get it going at a smooth pace and make it a "permanent and ongoing program," Hein says. He adds that he wants the group to have its place in the school and in the community.

Although the group is not strong enough now to get many people to stop drinking and driving, Sims says, "If they've thought about it, I think we've accomplished something."



Bryan Rude: active participant

by Alice Pegel

Bryan Rude's name doesn't suit him in the least. In fact, judging by his popularity, he's probably one of the least rude people around. Despite the fact that he's only been here since July, most people either know him or have heard of him.

Rude didn't expect this notoriety, though. When he learned that he was going to spend his senior year in Illinois, he prepared for "a year without friends."

Fortunately, this didn't happen. Rude auditioned for and was cast in the fall play, *David and Lisa*. He played Carlos, a Puerto Rican musician. Drama is one of Rude's

interests which has carried over from his days in Ohio. "It's different here, though," he says, "Back home, my drama teacher knew me and could tell me what roles I'd be good in." Here, Rude had to fend for himself.

He also auditioned for Swing Choir. "I didn't think I would make it," he says, "I didn't think I was good enough." Ronald Benner, director of Swing Choir, disagreed, because Rude did make it.

In addition, he joined the yearbook staff, because "the yearbooks back home were really great, and I was curious to see the ones here."

Rude's involvement in these extra-

curricular activities helped him get used to life at We-go. Still, he's not entirely happy here. Spending your senior away from everyone and everything you know can be depressing.

The letters he receives from his friends in Ohio help, but there's a small problem. "There's a whole bunch of them, and only one of me," he says. "I spend my entire weekends writing letters."

Rude isn't particularly concerned about leaving a great impression on We-go. He's basically looking towards the future. "I'm going to Yale," he says.

And then he smiles, showing us that Bryan Rude really isn't — rude, that is.

We-go's first serious drama is a hit

by Thom King

EXCELLENT, BRAVO, WELL DONE! Summed up in a few words this year's fall play was a hit.

When I first heard the lead part was going to be played by a freshman I thought, "no way". I had gotten the chance to look over the script several times and I have never seen such a demanding role before. And to think they wanted to use it as a high school show seemed out of the ordinary.

The play consisted of, I would guess, about 24 very short acts and, at times between the acts I found myself sort of left out. I found that from where I was sitting I could not hear them, many times missing an important line. This made the play overall hard to follow.

The play, just to sum it up, was about two mentally disturbed children who are put in

an institution. David was put in by his parents because he has a fear of being touched. Lisa is a young girl who is put there by the state because her parents had passed away. She suffers from a split personality.

This play like all others in the past, had a very strong back up cast and at many times the show was stolen by a smaller role. Just about every time there was a scene that had a group in it there was a one man show going on somewhere on the stage. Often the one man who was stealing the show was a newcomer to We-Go's stage: senior Bryan Rude who played a tough guy from the big city, who always had something to say. But of course there were the more serious of the smaller parts.

Overall, despite a few well covered errors, I, and I am sure, many others were impressed. Nice job cast and crews!



David, for security, glances at his Teddy Bear hidden under his pillow. Todd Fuja, freshman, starred as David in this year's fall play. (photo by Thom King)



Lisa, portrayed by Milena Slapak, chants sing-song rhymes to herself in her child-like state. (photo by Thom King)

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ARMY. BE ALL YOU CAN BE.

Exchange program: 'a Foreign faces spend a year at We-go

by Rachel Hadden

This year We-go is hosting six foreign exchange students. They are: Oscar Alanis from Monterrey, Mexico; Mirjam Gelinck from Goirle, Holland; Natalia Goldaracena from Bilbao, Spain; Jitan Gori from Bombay, India; Barbara Nienabar from Varrel, West Germany; and Janne Wagner from Hamburg, West Germany.

Oscar Alanis, age 15, is the youngest of the exchange students. He, like all of them, is staying in the United States for one year. Alanis is staying with the Ziemer family of West Chicago. His impression of the U.S. so far is, "The people are different with the things that they do. Some people accept people from other countries and some don't, I don't like that. I do like it here. I live in the northern part of Mexico so the customs are much the same." He is currently involved in Student Council.

Mirjam Gelinck is 17 years old. She is active in school activities and sports. She is a member of the Student Council, she played on the tennis team, and she plans to be on the softball team. Her impression of the U.S. so far is, "It's fun here! There is too much homework, too much food, and school is very difficult. I like it better at home. It is more strict here. School rules are strict and the drinking age seems to be a difficult problem. Back in Holland we don't have a drinking age, so we don't have any problems with it." Gelinck is staying with the Rhodes family in West Chicago.

Natalia Goldaracena is also 17 years old. Some of the activities she is involved with include Student Council, the Jazz band which she plays the piano for, and she also plans on playing on the softball team. She is staying with the Bockmans of West Chicago. She said of the U.S., "It's really very different. There are many things you can do here that you can't do in Spain, and many things that you can do in Spain but not here. Here you need to take a car everywhere, but not in Spain. The rules here are hard, like in school and laws. We can drink in Spain, but not here. I

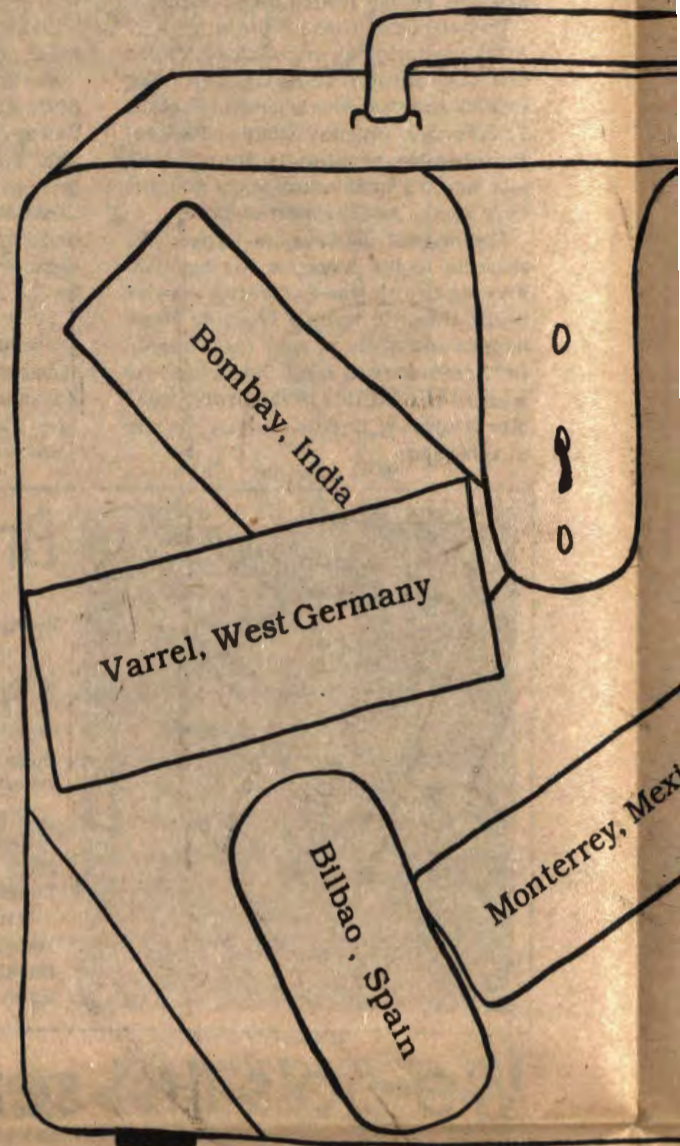
don't like that."

Jitan Gori is 16 years old. Jitan is on the Student Council and has joined the swim team. His impression of the U.S. so far is, "It is very organized here and society is more free here than in India. The people are friendly here and I like it." The Watanabes in West Chicago are hosting him.

Barbara Nienabar is also 16 years old. For her stay in the U.S. she is living with the Nelson family of Winfield. She said, "I like it here. There are many little things different but nothing big." Nienabar is on the Student Council and was on the swim team.

Janne Wagner is 17 years old. She is staying with the Pilz family of West Chicago, whose daughter Sabine is staying in West Germany. Wagner is active with school activities and sports. She is on the Student Council, in French club, and is a member of Dance Production. She said of the U.S., "It's great. I love it. It's like I was hoping it would be. Everyone is really nice."

On the whole, all six exchange students seem to be having a good time. Adjusting to a new culture can be difficult, but they all say that they are doing fine.



Tomas Aviles, '84 graduate, in

by Jackie Gennett

Tomas Aviles, 1984 graduate of West Chicago Community High School, lived in Japan over the summer as an exchange student for three months. Aviles served as Student Council President at We-go for the 1983-84 school year. When in Japan he went to school and participated in community events. He said, "I wanted to learn about their culture and to see if everyone was as nice as they're said to be."

Aviles lived with a family of five in a town called Iiyama-Shi, located in the state of Nagano-Ken. The population of the town is about 30,000 people. Downtown Iiyama-Shi is no bigger than downtown West Chicago. The

people are spread out in the valleys and mountains.

Aviles lived in the valley with his "family": mother, father, grandmother, and two brothers. His mother and grandmother spoke no English so he found it nearly impossible to communicate with them, because Aviles had no prior knowledge of Japanese. His father spoke some English. The sons, one 16 years old and one 17, spoke fluent English. The elder had spent a year in New Jersey as an exchange student. Aviles said that he enjoyed his family and that he was treated, "wonderfully."

For the one month that Aviles spent in school, he said that he learned a great deal. He was placed in the equivalent of our high



Oscar Alanis from Monterrey, Mexico. "I do like it here ... the customs are much the same."



Mirjam Gelinck from Goirle, Holland. "There is too much homework, too much food."



Natalia Goldaracena from Bilbao, Spain. "It's really very different ... the rules here are hard."

a learning experience'

Agencies to help

Listed here are some agencies that might be able to help if you would like to host an exchange student or go abroad as an exchange student.

AFS International/Intercultural Programs
313 East 43rd Street
New York, New York 10017

American Institute for Foreign Study Scholarship Foundation
100 Greenwich Avenue (YX)
Greenwich, Connecticut 06830

American Intercultural Student Exchange (AISE)
7728 Lookout Drive (YX)
La Jolla, California 92037

American Scandinavian Student Exchange (ASSE)
228 North Coast Highway (YX)
Laguna Beach, California 92651

Council on International Education Exchange
205 East 42nd Street, Box YX
New York, New York 10017

International Christian Youth Exchange
74 Trinity Place, Room 610-A
New York, New York 10006

The Carl Duisberg Society, Inc. (Program YX)
425 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Educational Foundation for Foreign Study
1528 Chapala Street, Box YX
Santa Barbara, California 93131

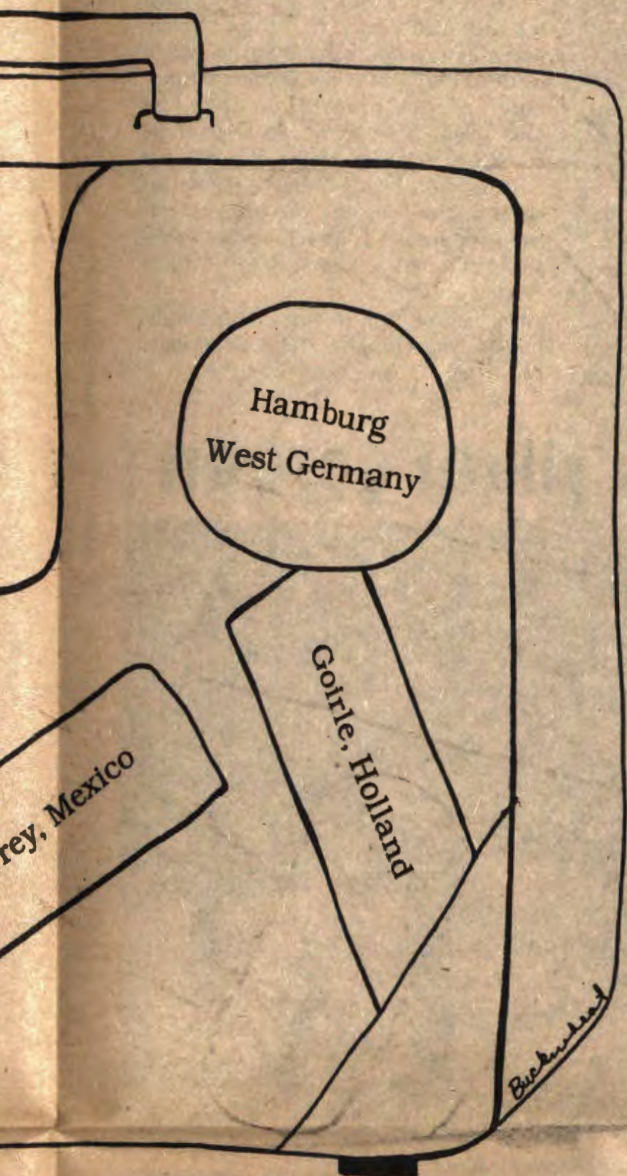
The Experiment in International Living
Youth Exchange Initiative
Brattleboro, Vermont 05301

Open Door Student Exchange
124 East Merrick Road
Department YX
Valley Street, New York, 11582

Partners of the Americas
1424 K Street, N.W.
Suite 700-YX
Washington, D.C. 20005

People to People International-Dept. YX
2520 Pershing Road
Suite 300
Kansas City, Missouri 64108

Youth for Understanding
Youth Initiative Office
3501 Newark Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016



in Japan

school sophomore class. In Japan, students cannot choose their own classes. They're required to take things like physics and chemistry. They also have a class that focuses on the United States. The culture and history of the United States is taught. One of his teachers said that Japan admires the United States more than any other country. Aviles said that he got along with his teachers very well.

Aviles sounded very enthused about his visit. He learned that people of any culture can be interesting, and that they feel no prejudice against him. He said that Japan was so wonderful, "I think I'm going to go there again to study in a few years."

Host an 'ambassador' — or be one

by Julie James

Do you want to spend a year abroad? Or a summer, or even a few weeks? Would you like to host an exchange student from another country in your home? There are many exchange programs available to choose from.

This could be a record year for students going abroad. Travel prices are down, and there is now a privately funded presidential initiative promoting youth exchanges. In this initiative, the U.S. Information Agency gives grants to foreign exchange groups and runs ads to promote the number of exchange students in several countries, including Canada, West Germany, France, Italy, Britain, and Japan.

Prior knowledge of the language of the country is not always necessary. In year programs there is an orientation that includes intense language study. For summer programs

you are taught basic language skills. Students coming here, however, have to have had several years of English.

As an exchange student you will have to adapt to more than language. You need to be an outgoing, flexible person to be able to adjust to a new lifestyle. Food, climate, values, attitudes, lifestyles and social behavior can all pose difficulties, and you must be the one to adjust.

Similarly, go because you want to go, not because your parents or someone else wants you to. Your experience is really what you make of it.

If you decide that you would like to be an exchange student or host one from another country, you can receive more information and a list of agencies to contact by writing Youth Exchange, Pueblo, CO., 81009.



Jitan Gori from Bombay, India. "Society is more free here than in India."



Barbara Nienaber from Varrel, West Germany. "I like it here, there are many little things different."



Janne Wagner from Hamburg, West Germany. "It's like I was hoping it would be. Everyone is really nice."

Can friendship survive the test of miles?

by Laura Novak

You and your best friend have been able to talk about everything imaginable for years. Suddenly he/she says to you that they are moving because their dad got transferred to Tampa, Florida. Now what? Who will you talk to about your personal secrets? Who will put up with you when you're in a disagreeable mood? A lot of people lose their best friends to moving vans.

Laura Pollistrini's best friend, Cheryl Cifelli, moved to Louisville, Texas after being together since sixth grade. Sometimes it takes a while for you to actually realize your friend is gone. A lot of times it's hard to face up to the reality of it ... until they're gone. "I never really got to say goodbye," says Laura, "when I got home from work she was already

gone." A lot of thoughts ran through her mind like "What if she lost my address?!"

What if your best friend happens to be older than you and leaves for college before you graduate? What happens when prom comes along and you need her to help you decide which dress you should get, the blue one or the pink one? Or who are you going to rely on for the other half of the double date?

Erin Schaben lost her best friend, Donna Pavlica, to Southern Illinois University this August. "I felt kind of empty when she left. I wanted her to come home," Erin replied. Although Erin hasn't found time to write, she saw Donna over Thanksgiving.

One summer you go on a trip to Europe

for 3 weeks. When you arrive, you know no one. After a few days of sightseeing you meet someone there and become friends with them. You discuss your friends, what it's like to live in America and even share some feelings. Before you know it the three weeks are up, and it's time to say goodbye to your new friend. You get on the plane promising to write once a week, at least. Three months later you send your first letter explaining how busy you've been.

While in a small town near Hanover in West Germany Sonja Loder had a similar story. Sonja was in West Germany for six weeks visiting her grandmother. She met a friend named Ingo. They met two years ago, which was the last time she was there. The kids in West Germany accepted Sonja right away because she is from

America. Chicago is a big name in Germany so when they heard she was from West Chicago they automatically thought of the windy city and were very impressed. "I tried to explain I was from West Chicago but they didn't catch on," Sonja replied. According to Sonja, communication makes it difficult because of the English/German difference. They would talk about the same things as she would with her friends, but in less detail. It was hard to get used to being with Ingo's friends because fashion and the customs are so much different. "Europe's fashions are two years ahead of America," admits Sonja, "I'd live here!"

It's hard to keep in touch with distant friends, but, remember, "the road between two friends is never very long."

Alien love story zooms its way to the silver screen

Preview: 'Starman'

by Scott Grenke

"Starman" is dazzling to the eye and touching to the heart. It is a funny, unique movie which is worth seeing.

"I can't get no satisfaction!" blasts a recording of the Rolling Stones on Voyager II. As Voyager passes through space, it lands on a strange planet where beings which look like little blue balls of light examine it.

One of these beings decides to visit Earth, and it assumes the form of Jenny Haden's dead husband. He cannot survive on Earth for long, thus he tells her that she must drive him to the area where he will be picked up by a mother ship from his own planet.

At first, Jenny tries to escape from him, but she slowly falls in love with him. As

they try to reach their destination, the army is never far behind, but they are aided by the sensitive government agent Sherman. The climax of the movie leaves you in awe.

Jeff Bridges, who plays the "Starman", said that he was pleased with the movie. He stated that he used his three year old daughter as a model for his part.

Karen Allen plays Jenny Haden, who helps the lost alien. Bridges commented that both he and Karen were uncomfortable doing the love scene since her husband was there and he had a pregnant wife at home.

The producer said, "Right now, there are no plans for a sequel." "Starman" will come to the theaters in this area December 14.



Jeff Bridges and Karen Allen star in Columbia Pictures' "Starman."

What it is like to grow up in another country

by Heidi Walters

Have you ever wondered what it would be like growing up in another country? Well, Eric and Jan Duus did just that. When Eric was five, and Jan was three the Duus family was transferred from Addison, Illinois to Northwood, England which is just northwest of London.

The brothers attended St. Martins, a private grade school for boys. Eric also spent one year in Merchant Taylors Secondary School. Academically, the school was much tougher than West Chicago Community High School. Eric and Jan both mentioned that there was far more competition between students. "There was a lot more pressure to perform in England," Eric added.

Eric and Jan differed in their opinion of how St. Martins compared socially with We-go. "It was pretty boring," Jan said. He felt that since it was a little town there wasn't that much to do. Even though the school was all male, Eric said the social life was pretty much the same as here.

Sports were a major part of life for the boys in the school. "Everyone encouraged sports," Jan stated. They were required to participate in intramurals and if they were good enough they were then forced to play for the school. Two of the teams Jan participated on were rugby and cricket which is the equivalent of baseball with a different style of bat.

When asked whether he likes it here or

in England better, Jan replied that it's better here socially but better there academically. Eric likes it here better because it's easier. "There's more freedom here," commented Eric. "There are more choices here, like electives. In St. Martins there were no electives. Everyone had to take math, French, Science and English every year."

One disadvantage St. Martins had is that it has no clubs. There was a play every year in which Jan participated. The one year Eric went to high school he wasn't in any clubs.

In addition there was never such a thing as a normal day for the brothers. Sometimes school would start at 8:30 and

sometimes it would start at 9:00. There was no bus so they had to provide their own transportation. They had a different schedule every day. Instead of going from class to class like we do at We-go, the different teachers came to their classes. Usually they would have three classes and then a recess. Then they would have three more classes, lunch and a fifteen minute break. The school food there was a lot better than here. "You could actually eat it," Jan joked. On Tuesdays and Thursdays after lunch Eric and Jan practiced for their teams. On the other days, they would have two more classes after lunch. In some ways school there is very much like school here, but in some ways it's quite different.

Computers take over the world in the near future

Review: The 'Terminator'

by Scott Lockert

Imagine being chased through the streets of Los Angeles by an unforgiving, relentless cyborg, cybernetic-organism.

This happens in the movie The Terminator when technology becomes so advanced that computers make their own decisions and discoveries. The computers find out they no longer need the human race and then destroy the world with nuclear weapons. Yet the human race still prevails and grows in strength and power because of a human leader, John Conner, that unites the people and fights the human killing machines.

In the year 2029 the computers decide to reshape the future by changing the past.

They create a cyborg who is played by Arnold Schwarzenegger. The terminator is sent back in time to kill the mother of the leader of the humans, but the humans send a man named Kyle Reese, played by Michael Biehn, to prevent Conner's mother from getting terminated.

What you get is a lightning paced, action-packed film about a conflict with a human and a cyborg. The Terminator was a very violent film but the violence was never a very overpowering part of it. The Terminator was a first for Schwarzenegger because he portrayed a "bad guy" in a motion picture.

I recommend this movie to anyone who enjoys a non-stop action film.



Hockey - 'Fastest game in the world'

by Greg Wilde

Some students go to basketball practice, wrestling practice, or football practice. Sophomore Trevor Barski, senior Bucky DeRosa, and brothers Colby and Peter Walter are just a few students who have practice, but not here after school.

Instead they go to hockey practices and play hockey in late August thru April. Barski and Peter Walter "Just picked up on it," and mostly played with friends and brothers when they were little. They said that they enjoyed it a lot because "There's a lot of action," and also because there's a lot of people from other schools to meet.

"I wanted to do something different," said DeRosa. Instead of playing the same sport everyone else did he wanted to play something different, so he plays hockey now for the Chicago Cougars. Barski plays for the Naperville Sabers AA and the Walters also play for a Naperville Sabers team.

Why do they like hockey so much? "Because it's the fastest game in the world. It's fun," commented DeRosa. The other players agree that action and being involved with the team is what makes it so fun. They also have a good chance of meeting new friends and people from area high schools and universities.

In hockey there's a lot of traveling involved. Some interesting places they travel to are Canada, Sweden, and many other places around the United States. The weekends is when they travel.

Although some of the players are involved with other activities they all agree that hockey comes first. DeRosa seriously plans on excelling through college hockey, "But it's also for fun." Barski feels the



Bucky DeRosa and Trevor Barski are a few students who play hockey for the Naperville Sabers AA. They play hockey August thru April. (Photos by Becky Thuer)

same way and has hopes of making the olympic team.

Freshman Peter Walter hopes he'll excel in it but right now "It's for fun and enjoyment."

Hockey is fun but it's not easy. "It's a lot of fun to play but it's tough and it takes

a lot of work and practice," commented Barski. It is also some what expensive. The basic fee is about seven hundred dollars, and that doesn't include the extra trips, food, equipment, and tournament fees. "But I'm devoted" remarked DeRosa.

They all think it would be neat to have

a team here at We-go. But it would be too hard to organize here. Instead they wouldn't mind students and friends from We-go coming and watching their games. "We need all the fans we can get," and "It would be great."

New coach has new goals

by Marla Jemsek

Lee Maciejewski started coaching because he enjoyed playing sports as a boy. He enjoys coaching because he likes to see his players doing well. Coaching can be a very rewarding profession.

Basketball is not the only sport Maciejewski coaches. He coached softball last spring and football this fall. He would like to be at West Chicago this spring and coach the girls softball team.

Coaching, teaching, being a husband and a father occupy all of Maciejewski's time. This leaves almost no time for anything else. But he enjoys what he does and that is what matters. Maciejewski's day starts at Glenside Junior High school in Glendale Heights. From there he heads over to West Chicago for a couple of hours work with the boys basketball team. Then he finally gets to go home to his family. When asked what kind of season, we as fans, should expect he replied, "you should expect some good and entertaining basketball, I cannot tell you how many games we will win, but as long as we work hard and play our best it is not important."

Maciejewski has two important goals for the team. The first goal is that they play to their ability and the second is that they play hard, and never give up.

Some players that Maciejewski think might do well are Dave Sostak, who was



Lee Maciejewski is the new varsity basketball coach. Maciejewski is pictured here with Frank Santoyo watching drills during basketball practice. David Sostek prepares for a layup (lft). (Photos by Thom King)

a starter last year. Sostak and Bob Dabbert will do most of the ball handling, according to Maciejewski. Mark Malay did "a good job" last year and Maciejewski hopes will do good again this year. Rick Nickelson

"will probably do well because he is a hard worker and has a lot of ambition." Watch for these players and others led by Coach Maciejewski on Thursday, December 6 when they have their first home game.



Freshman Mary Weibler practices dribbling at freshman girls basketball practice. (Photo by Becky Thuer)

Swim to State

Jackie Hildebrand is the first freshman swimmer from West Chicago High School to qualify for state.

Hildebrand attended the state meet held at New Trier High School on November 16 and 17. She qualified for preliminaries in both 500 yard freestyle and 200 yard individual medley (I.M.).

She placed 18 in the 500 freestyle, and 11 in the 200 I.M. The top 12 swimmers in each event went on to compete in finals on Saturday. Hildebrand finished 12 after adding five seconds to the time that allowed her to swim in finals.

Hildebrand said, "I could have done better." She attributes her performance to the fact that there were no West Chicago swim team members on the pool deck to cheer her on.

November 15, the day before state, Hildebrand celebrated her 14 birthday. She has swum for seven years with B.R. Ryall. Her coach from Ryall is Bill Lavine.

The high school girls' team is the only other competitive training Hildebrand has had. She hopes to swim with the girls' team next season, and go to state again. "To place in the top six."

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P.E. credit for after school sports?

by Marco Aviles, and Jeff Hrubec

Should after school sports be counted as a P.E. credit?

Among 100 students surveyed, sixteen students were in favor of having P.E. credit given to them for participating in after school sports. Eighty-four students were against the idea.

Out of the students talked to, Dave Kendrick said, "They do it on their own will, and they do it for their own reward and satisfaction." This was the general

opinion of most students talked to. Different views were expressed by P.E. teacher LaVora Singleton — "You get to miss a lot of other activities such as dancing, volleyball, tennis, etc. that you normally would not participate in unless you're in the sport." Also, "You learn to work with the opposite sex in regular P.E. classes" because of non-coed sports available.

High Schools such as Glenbard West go by the policy of giving P.E. credit to their

junior and senior athletes and also managers. "As freshmen and sophomores, P.E. classes are required," according to a student at Glenbard West. "This policy has always worked with students," comments Tammy Hunter. Elgin High School follows the same policy as West Chicago — all students are required to participate in P.E. classes. Lisle High School has a different point of view of this policy. All after school activities such as band, cheerleading, pom-poms, managers, and athletes receive

P.E. credit for their participation. This policy is carried throughout their four years of high school.

Parents' comments on this question were as follows: Mr. and Mrs. R. Hrubec said "You should still be in P.E. classes even if you're in a sport." Mr. and Mrs. W. Fairbanks commented, "You're more involved in different things in P.E. classes than you are in an after school sport. Therefore you should be required to be in a P.E. class."

One - hundred - and - sixteen Sharks

by Jennifer Sheriff

The third season for the West Chicago Winter Sharks Swim Team began on Tuesday, October 30.

The Sharks are coached by Dan Johnson who also coaches the high school boy's swim team, and Robin Block who is a developmental coach for the Sharks during the summer season.

Sharks practice at the high school pool four times a week; Tuesday from 6:30 to

8 p.m. or 8 to 9 p.m., Wednesday from 7:30 to 9 p.m., Friday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. or 8 to 9 p.m., and Saturday practices are held at 8 a.m. for one hour.

Skill development and speed are emphasized during the winter practice sessions. There is not enough pool time available to allow rigorous endurance training practices during the winter season.

One hundred and sixteen youths between

the ages of six and 18 registered to swim on Sharks this year, compared to the 96 registered last year. Swimmers with no previous competitive training are encouraged to wait to register until the summer season.

The West Chicago Sharks Parent Association sponsors the team. During the winter season 70 percent of the money needed to provide transportation and buy pool equipment is raised through registra-

tion fees. The Parent Association raises the remainder through fund-raisers.

Johnson tries to keep the training program low key. "We're covering pretty close to nine months already." He wants swimmers to have a chance to participate in other activities.

The quality of swimming skills improves each year. Johnson attributes this to age groups filling up, and a high level of interest on the swimmers part.

Jock Shorts

Football

"I was happy with how well the kids worked this season," said Varsity Coach Jeff Ainsworth.

Despite West Chicago's two wins and seven losses this season, Ainsworth believes his team has improved. Offense and defense were two areas where improvement took place.

Ainsworth stated some of his key players for this season were Dave Anderson, Marc Armbrust, Jaime Cantu, Sean Gallagher, Rick Nickelson, Zack Snowden and Dan Zarndt.

Swimming and Diving

Boys swimming starts December 6. The first meet is away at Benet Academy at 6:30 p.m.

Practice started November 19. There are 45 boys signed up, but only 35 are expected to be on the team, five of which are divers.

There are 11 events included, such as relays, diving, backstroke, freestyle, and butterfly. Different distances are swum for each event. They are 50, 100, 200, and 500 meters.

Awards

This year's We-go volleyball team came in fourth for conference, with a record of 6-8.

At the awards ceremony Stacey Anderson was voted Most Valuable Player by her teammates. Anderson was voted All-Conference for We-go.

Kathy Dulson was voted "Most Improved Player." Last year's We-go volleyball team came in last in conference. This year We-go did a good job making itself a respected team again.

Bike racing makes it big

by Kelly Fox

An old sport that has recently become popular in America is bike racing.

You may have seen bike racing in the Olympics. It has become a worldwide sport and is most popular in Europe.

Several students from West Chicago are involved in this racing sport. Chris Haverly, Brian Kristofek, Eric Berka, and Paul Possinger are a few.

There are two types of racers. One is a citizens racer and the other is a licensed racer.

A citizens racer is more for a beginner, and races in events such as the Annual Winfield Race. Last year this race paid \$200 for first place. Entry fees are about \$8 per race.

To be a licensed racer it costs \$26. They usually belong to a club, and travel for their races. There are big races in Wisconsin and one big race, and Junior National Tour, that was held in Colorado last year. These are week long tours and pay up to \$300 per race.

If you'd like to get involved in bike racing it's not hard. Get a bike, a pair of shorts, gym shoes, and practice. Kristofek said, "You should also join a club if you really want to get into racing." One club is the West Suburban Wheelman. The club costs \$10 to join and will send out newsletters and information on races. Bike shops also have notices on when and where races will be held.

One requirement for racing is a helmet

and once you become pretty good you may also want to get a few other things. Equipment like special shoes with cleats on the bottoms to grip the pedals, a pair of black skin shorts, and ankle socks would help. If you belong to a club they'll give you a jersey to wear also. A good bike can run from \$600 up and it should have sewn up tires. Any bike shop sells these things. You also get sponsors after you get noticed as being good. Sponsors pay for your racing then, so that the expenses aren't too bad. Two sponsors are Fox Valley Schwinn and Kane and Dale.

For practice, there are club rides every morning from 5:10 to 6:30 and again after school until dark.

There are different kinds of racing. There is road racing, point to point, and track racing. Track racing is a whole different style of racing. It's on an oval bank circuit and the bikes have no brakes.

Kristofek said that "cycling has become a much more popular sport in the past few years." The United States cycling team did very well in the summer Olympics and we're finally starting to get respect in Europe. In 1983 Greg Lemond a United States cyclist was world champ. He was profiled last summer in Sports Illustrated.

Coming out in the next year or two are two cycling movies. One is **Yellow Jersey** and the other is **American Flyer**. If you are interested in cycling or would just like to understand the sport better you might like to see these movies.



Thorsten Belicka prepares for the first boys swim meet at IBC on December 4 against Marmion. (Photo by Carrie Wroblewski)

Soccer

"The team was really good," said Varsity Soccer Coach, Steve Kimery.

Kimery was pleased to see his team develop at such a quick rate. Kimery believes that the team developed so well that they finished fourth in Conference with seven wins, six losses, and one tie.

The West Chicago soccer team played their third regional game at St. Charles on October 25. The team was defeated 1-0.

Tennis

Awards night was recently held for the tennis team. Elizabeth Hach received the "Most Valuable Player" award. Tanya Duda received "Most Improved Player" award.

This year's tennis team went to sectionals but lost. One of We-go's doubles teams, consisting of Molly Turner and Elizabeth Lach, played three sets, but lost the second and third set to the number one rated doubles team from Wheaton North.

We-go's other doubles team consisting of Duda and Lisa Swanson, lost to the second Wheaton North doubles team.

Getting around

by Cassie Storey

Naperville, Lombard, and Aurora are cities in our area in which a drivers license can be obtained.

In Naperville the Secretary of State Drivers License Service is located at 1023 West 75 Street.

Secretary of State Drivers License Examiner is located in Lombard at 837 Westminster Avenue.

Aurora Secretary of State Drivers License Service is located at 110 Church Road.

These places are open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Three forms of identification are needed when you apply. The cost of the license is included in the permit fee.

Dance

This year's poms consist of 17 girls ranging from sophomores through seniors.

These girls practice three days a week, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 3:45 to 5:30 p.m.

To show their school spirit they're sponsoring a dance after the first home basketball game, December 7.