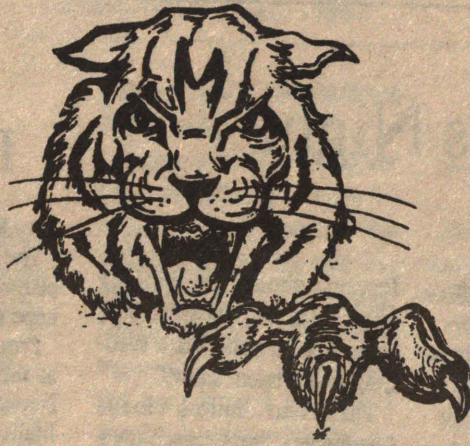


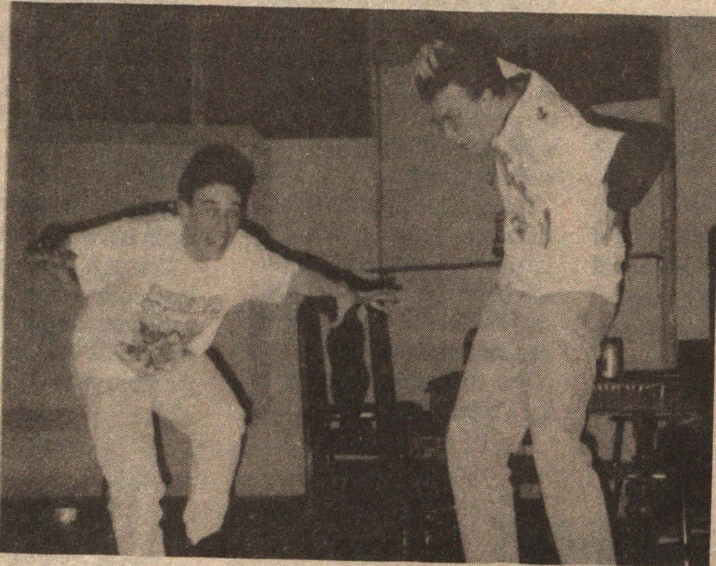
# Wildcat Chronicle

West Chicago  
Community High School  
West Chicago, IL



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Issue 4

## You Can't Take it With You



Mike Winterhalder and Chris Leck practice for the play.

By Blanca Rios

...And now the moment you have been waiting for!

February 24, 25, and 26, the winter play "You Can't Take it With You," written by George Kuafman and Moss Hart will be performed at 7:00 P.M. in the Weyrauch Auditorium.

The play is a comedy that takes place in the 1930s. Junior Sara Watson, who plays Alice, one of the lead characters said, "Since it takes place in the '30s the jokes are kind of out dated, but it is still funny."

Director of the play, Mary Hafertepe, finds the play difficult to direct. Hafertepe said, "A comedy is harder than a drama, you have the audience laughing at the play, you have to have them laughing at the jokes."

Joel Daniels "G Man" said, "It was difficult to stage because

there are so many people to stage at one time."

Actors and actresses in the play think it is a fun play to be in. Senior Chris Leck, who plays Grandpa said, "The play is pretty cool because there are so many people involved and it's the kind of play everyone will like."

Senior John Rakow said "I enjoy the opportunity of working with so many people and friends."

The play is supposed to be a "screwball comedy" in which senior Rob Scott, who plays Mr. Kirby said, "The play showcases a lot peoples' talents."

Due to all the snow days off, the play had to be rescheduled. The play was originally aimed to be performed the weekend of the Feb. 17, but had to be changed to the Feb. 24.

Because of this, progress was slower Daniels said, "It was fun and in general everyone did a great job."

A lot of the actors and actresses are new faces. For example Senior Erich Gernand who plays Henderson said, "This is my first big play, and I find it an enjoyable experience".

Senior Sarah MacNerland, who plays Gay Wellington said, "It's harder to act drunk than people think." Senior Tom Grob, who plays Kolenkhov said, "I regret not being in plays before."

This is senior Mike Winterhalder's first play and he said "It's like a rebirth for me, I feel as if I belong to something that matters."

## Math Team Update

By Blanca Rios

After struggling at the DuPage Valley Conference Competition, the Math Team is preparing for regionals.

February 9, was DVC Competition where they placed seventh out of eight. Junior Jeff Catalano was the top individual in the Algebra II section.

Their next big competition, regionals, will be March 19.

The Math Team consists of thirty-eight people and Math teacher Paul McCollum is the advisor.

Competitors are divided into groups of eight. Freshmen and sophomores solve problems in-

volving Algebra and Geometry, and juniors and seniors solve problems involving Algebra II / Trigonometry.

They compete against different schools by solving difficult math problems on written tests.

**It's fun to work with such bright students -**

**McCollum**

McCullum said, "Our progress is slow because the tests are written in a way where they don't reflect the changes happening in our math classes."

Students think being in the Math Team is fun. "I enjoy being on the Math Team because it is fun competing against other schools and Math is my favorite subject," said Ryan Tokarek.

"It is fun to work with such bright students," said McCollum.

## No Pass No Class

By Stacy Shannon

House Bill 418 will go into effect here at We-go next fall.

The bill is a grade policy for Drivers Education that states that if a student doesn't pass a total of eight courses in the previous two semesters before the class, they won't be allowed to enroll in Drivers Ed.

Drivers Ed teacher Helen Zmrhal said it will have mainly good effects on the school. "The policy will tend to be a good motivator towards students, because they want to get their license," Zmrhal said.

The bill probably will have the greatest effect on this year's freshmen, because they have had no warning about the requirements.

The requirements will affect all students taking Drivers Ed. In certain special cases, the

school superintendent is the only one who can waive the requirements.

This state-wide policy is seeing both negative and positive criticism, but once the bill goes into effect, state lawmakers will monitor the bill. They will adjust for any negative impacts.

"The policy is mild," Zmrhal said. Other states, such as West Virginia, have rougher policies that involve revoking the license if a student under eighteen years old drops out of school.

620 licenses have been revoked so far in West Virginia, but Zmrhal only expects good effects from the Illinois policy.

Geneva Community High School Principal Craig Collins said, "Anything that helps students do better in school is a bonus to their education."

## Black History Month

By Dan Ziman

Did you know that there was a Black History Month? The month of February is Black History Month, as former president George Bush announced during his presidency.

Black History Month is dedicated to all the black American men and women who help and shape American history.

Martin Luther King Jr. led the Civil Rights movement in the sixties, and Frederick Douglas fought for Civil Rights in the mid 1800's.

Black History Month was instituted in recognition of the incredible achievements of black Americans and the contributions they have made in carving the American Culture.

Black History Month was an improvement on "Negro History Week" which was enacted by historian Carter G. Woodson in 1926. "Negro History Week" was created to increase the public appreciation for the importance of black Americans in shaping our country.

This year the school's library is helping in celebrating Black History Month. They have a display box with famous work of black Americans and

pictures of famous black Americans.

The city of Chicago is celebrating Black History Month by running commercials commending famous black Americans in American history. Two channels are really making an effort in commending black Americans: WGN Channel 9 in Chicago and "The Family Channel" on cable.

WGN's tribute is partly funded by Chicagoland Chrysler-Dodge and "The Family Channel" is partly funded by Little Caesars Pizza.

Around school, only some people knew what Black History Month was about. One sophomore said, "I think that the Black Americans have really contributed greatly to our country, and deserve a national holiday."

One junior said "They worked hard to be recognized." Another junior said, "If they want it they should have it."

Last year President Clinton announced that Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was going to be on display for the first time to commemorate Black History Month.



## Home Economics Night

By Blanca Rios

Runways and models show what they are all about.

This year's Home Economics Night will be held Tuesday March 8, at 7:00 P.M.

The night will consist of two clothing's fashion shows, where students from first and second semester will show what they made.

There will be a Prom fashion show, showing the latest styles for prom. Juniors Trina Chulupa and Kelly Gleason are in charge of the Prom fashion show. Dresses will be from Gantos. Along with the Prom fashion show there will also be a presentation on the cost of prom.

The night will conclude with the traditional Mock Wedding. This years bride and groom will

be, Junior Sara Fear and Senior Donta Norwood. Instead of two weddings like last year there will only be one. There will also be two surprise side acts.

The cost of the show will be \$1.00 for students and adults, students must have an I.D. There will be no charge for students in eighth grade or under.

Classes responsible for the night are the Clothing and Contemporary Life.

Principal Alan Jones, disagreed with the side acts of the Mock Wedding, last year, and having another Mock Wedding was questionable. Jones said, "I do not see how the Mock Wedding relates to the classroom, there are more important things than a wedding that ado-

lescents should be thinking about. I am not opposed to anything, but I'd rather see a Wedding than a talent show."

Thanks to Juniors Noelle Giammanco and Gleason there will be a Mock wedding this year. Giammanco said, "We got it back by having meetings with Dr. Jones and agreeing with and appropriate skits to show." Jones said "I have been reading some of the scripts, some have been good and some I have sent back."

Overall teacher Patty Kozlowski said, "I am proud of the students, and when you want something, and you go about it the responsible way you reach your goals."

## Prom Committee Update

By Kristan Mulley

The prom committee has been planning this year's prom and hope to make it a success.

Prom will be held on May 20, at the Long Island Sound in Naperville, near Fox Valley Mall.

The Long Island Sound is an Italian restaurant with a black and white motif. The reception room being rented has two dance floors.

The colors this year will be purple and silver. The gifts are not yet definite, but some ideas are keychain frames, cups, and memory booklets.

The menu will consist of both chicken and steak, potato, Italian blended vegetables, salad, and bread. A vegetarian plate will be offered consisting of vegetable lasagne.

The committee is hoping to get a better disc jockey than the

ones in the past. "We hope to get a DJ that will play all types of music to satisfy everyone," commented committee member Candy Campbell.

The theme of prom has not yet been chosen. Prom committee members collected suggestions for songs during all lunches.

The suggestions have been narrowed down to the top six songs. The top six are, "Faithfully" by Journey, "With or Without you" by U2, "In Your Eyes" by Peter Gabriel, "Never Say Goodbye" by Bon Jovi, "Two Steps Behind" Def Leppard, and "Can't Help Falling in Love" by Elvis.

The songs will be voted on in lunches sometime soon. Jars will be set out and the song that receives the most money will be the prom theme.

## We-go's First Mr. Wildcat Contest

By Kristan Mulley

Student Council juniors are introducing the "Mr. Wildcat" contest to West Chicago High School. Juniors Candy Campbell, Tina Hansen, and Lisa Ellerbruch are in charge of organizing the contest.

The Mr. Wildcat contest is basically a male pageant fundraiser. It will be held during Spring Fling week, in the evening on Wednesday, March 23.

"I think the Student Council is doing it because they want to evoke more school spirit," commented senior Scott Everett.

Student Council borrowed the idea from Naperville Central when they had a school exchange. For Naperville Central it was a good fundraiser and was successful in promoting school spirit.

There are tryouts and an application to be in the Mr. Wildcat contest. However, only senior guys are eligible to enter.

Once in the pageant, the guys must answer questions and perform a talent in the show.

Judges will be professionals in modeling and hairstyling, and one winner will be chosen. Prizes are not definite yet but some of the ideas are gift certificates to music or clothing stores or free prom tickets.

Campbell commented, "We hope this will get the student body involved with activities that are fun."

By David Vingren

There is no need to worry about second semester being extended because of the three days of school that were cancelled.

According to Principal Dr. Alan C. Jones, five snow days are already installed into the school year so that the same number of days can be cancelled without school being extended. Any number of days over five that are cancelled will be added

on at the end of the year; but that situation has not arisen in recent years.

Even though three of Community High School's snow days have been used, Jones said he will not be conservative in using the other two and more.

"Safety is the main factor in cancelling school," Jones said.

School was cancelled on January 19 and 20 due to danger-

ously cold weather causing busing problems. Some were not functioning and there was danger to students who wait outside for the buses.

A power outage from the severe ice storm caused school to be called off on January 28.

Underclass students are dismissed for summer vacation on June 8; seniors on June 2.

## School Not Extended

## Enrollment in W.C.H.S

By Wendy Woodward

There are about 505 new freshman coming into the school next year. Which means the school population is going up and the halls are going to be crowded. But Dr. Jones has a plan.

He says they won't have to build on to the school this year because the school can hold up to 1900 students. When the school increases over the years they will first use Lincoln school as it is. Jones thinks the Foreign Language department will be moved over there. This will take about 500 students out of the hallways, through out the day.

The school will have to hire new teachers. Jones will not know how many until February. They usually have one teacher for every twenty-five students.

With so many kids in the hallways at once there is bound to be problems. So Jones is going to have to plan a new schedule so that all of the students are not in the halls at the same time. One plan could be changing the time of the passing period.

One idea is to have a new rule about when students can go to their lockers. One other idea is to split up the day. This would mean that half of the students would come in the morning and the other half would come in the afternoon. Jones thinks he won't have to do that for a while.

As far as lockers go there are enough lockers for a while. You can't see most of the lockers that students will be using in the future. They are behind walls which would have to be torn down. They were built in when the school was built.

The P.E. locker rooms will have to be renovated in a couple of years. There will be enough lockers for a couple of years.

## Blast From The Past

By Carrie Fleming

This years Winter Formal is Scheduled for Friday, March 11. Students around We-go seem to know of the Winter Formal but know nothing about it.

The dance will run from 7:30 to 10:00 and the theme is Blast From The Past.

No suits and ties necessary because this years Winter Formal is informal.

Tickets will be five dollars at lunch and six dollars at the door.

Several students are upset with Winter Formal and Turn-About only being weeks apart. That is not the case with Junior Aleia Anderson. "I think it is cool that they are so close together. The Winter Formal is a good idea because it will help raise money for Prom. I will probably go to both."

Money raised from the Winter Formal will go towards this years Prom. "I suggest to students that if they want a great Prom to come to the formal. The more money that is raised from this dance the better prom will be," one student said.

Come to this years Winter Formal and make Prom '94 a night to remember.





## The Nurse Knows Best

by Stacy Shannon

Many students complain about going to the nurse's office sick, only to be sent back to class.

"Not every treatment is the same, I treat the individual, not the just the problem. The students' goal is to get an education, so I don't let everyone who comes into my office go home," Nurse Carolyn Pinney stated.

The school has no set requirements as to why a student is set home, and except for state laws, the decision is

up to the nurse. For example, for a broken bone she puts ice on it and sends the student for an x-ray.

Before coming to West Chicago in 1987, Pinney worked in home care nursing. She also worked in a hospital with long-term illnesses. "Some people think I'm strict," Pinney said, "but my job is to make people feel better, and to keep kids in school."

Some students are bitter because of their experiences, and some have funny stories.

"I had a major dizzy spell, and she sent me back to class because my blood pressure

was normal," Sophomore Erin Schullo said.

"Tonce went in and told her (the nurse) that I had just regurgitated my lunch. She yelled and told me that she couldn't believe me, because I didn't use her bathroom to regurgitate in. I told her that the next time I got sick I would run down the hall to her office just to make her happy," a Sophomore said.

"One time last year I noticed my hands were blue. I showed the nurse my hands and she took my blood pressure-everything was normal. She called my mother and demanded that she take me home and take me to Central Dupage Hospital. While we were in the emergency room the nurse washed my hands and it turns out that my blue

## Highway To Hell

By Jeff Hadzima

Road trips are something that many of us hate, few love, but most find a total bore. Being in a car for ten plus hours is not fun, but many strange things can occur.

Before a trip can start, every car must be carefully checked, so that later accidents do not occur. Car expert Jim at All Tube and Lube knows what to do before going on a long road trip, and he told me many things to have checked.

"Check all fluids and anti-freeze before you go on your trip. Brakes should also be checked, along with belts and hoses. This should all be done two weeks prior to your trip, so that if there is a problem, we can fix it in time. And always make sure your tire pressure is set, because if there not, this could lead to a larger accident that could cost you a lot of money," Jim said.

So if you do all these things to your car, nothing can go wrong, right? Wrong, many other accidents can occur on a road trip. Jim may be able to fix your car, but he can not fix the roads in bad weather.

Junior Jerry Planek said, "Right before we left for Hous-

ton, Texas, there was an earthquake, so all the windows were taped up. All the roads were coated with ice and we almost got hit by a jeep," Planek said.

While on his way to Wisconsin, Junior Dan Dibble, witnessed a weather related accident that involved a truck and a car. "It was real bad, and I think someone died. The car didn't look to nice after the accident," Dibble said.

Nothing was stranger than what happened on Senior Dana Smith's, trip to Canada. "A buffalo acted like it was going to charge our car!" Smith said. Smith played cards with her cousin when she wasn't being chased by buffalo. Junior Jenny Cavaliere said, "On a trip to Alabama, my brother wet his pants."

What to do on a road trip varied from person to person. A Walkman seemed to be what everyone brought on a road trip. Game Boy was also a favorite. Travel games and Parchese were Junior Terry Nelson's favorite things to play. Junior Lisa DeSalvo wouldn't go on any road trip without her Cosmo. As for Cavaliere, she would probably bring a diaper for her brother.

## Denny's Vs. Sandpiper: The End to a Great Controversy

By Nichole Cordin

Okay, it's after ten on a Friday night, and you and your friends are hungry. What to do? The two most popular restaurants that serve more than a burger after ten are Denny's and Sandpiper. Both of them have great after ten features that make them fine places to dine late at night.

The first thing you should know about Denny's is the location. While there are many Denny's throughout the Midwest, the closest is on Schmale Road in Carol Stream. This location is perfect for the Wheaton Theater goer. To go there after school events or a local party doesn't make much sense if there is somewhere else closer.

The food at Denny's is varies. The soups change daily, but Vegetable is offered everyday. Soups are cheap, but taste like moosh. Denny's also offers the

best side Caesar salad around, and it only costs \$1.69. Refills on coffee and other beverages are unlimited, which is a big bonus for the spendthrift. Breakfast is also served all night with such "slams" as the French Slam, Scram Slam, or the International Slam.

While dining at Denny's you have to be careful of the waitresses. Although you might not be ordering a ten course meal, you should expect good service, right? Wrong. The majority of Denny's waitresses don't seem to like kids very much. A lot of the time, a waitress will add gratuity to your bill, just because she doesn't think that your going to tip her well. "It is usually standard to add gratuity when eight or more people are seated at a table," said a Denny's waitress. She went on to say that sometimes waitresses will add gratuity when there are more than five people seated, but that this practice is not standard Denny's procedure.

The atmosphere of Denny's is much like that of a high school cafeteria late at night. There is usually a long wait before you are seated, and there are a lot of people running around talking to each other. It is a while before your order is taken, and even longer before it gets there.

It seems that there are a lot of reasons not to go to Denny's. So why don't you try something different? Located in the heart

of West Chicago, the Sandpiper is the best place to go at night without having to shove your way to a table. The place is always open and is never crowded late at night.

The food at Sandpiper is the best. You can get Mashed Potatoes any time of day or night, and the Chicken Soup is the best around. You can get free refills on anything, and they make a Croissant Sandwich like nobody's business. If you have a sweet tooth, the Peppermint Ice Cream is wonderful.

The waitresses are also the best. They are nice, even if you only order ice water. When they bring you your dessert, they will put a bunch of whipped stuff atop your order, just because they like you. The waitresses only add gratuity if there are at over nine people, and they give you mints before you leave.

Sandpiper is never crowded at night. The tables are large, and the staff will gladly push a few together for larger groups. The Sandpiper is the best place to hang out. The ceiling is painted with a cloud and sky theme, and the chairs are really comfortable.

It's time to make a change and stay away from Denny's. The Sandpiper is the best place to go, and it is in our very own town. You don't have to drive 15 minutes to get there, and someone is always nice to you.

## Decisions, Decisions

By Raven Moore

The decisions high school seniors make for themselves after graduation will affect the rest of their lives. For many seniors, deciding what to pursue as a career is like calculating the circumference of Mars.

Seniors must realize that there are several different options to decide on after graduation.

"There are four or five different choices high school seniors can make after graduation. A percentage will go to a four year college or university. The most common option for the last couple of years (at West Chicago) has been the two-year college. Technical school or apprenticeship is the third option. A few seniors will enter the military. Finally, several students will enter the work force," counselor Eugene Peterson said.

College is obviously not the answer for everyone. Although this is true, in order to be successful in the job market some type of specialized training is necessary.

"Graduates who do not pursue any type of educational training will be limited in their job options," Peterson said.

Specialized and technical training is a good idea for graduates who hope to work with machinery or computers. Specialty schools like DeVry and

Catherine College focus on these types of training.

According to Peterson, students who decide to attend a four-year college tend to have many decisions to focus on:

The first is to check if the college has the major of field of interest they are considering.

Next is to find out what the size of the school is. Many students succeed better in smaller environments.

Geographic location is also very important. The difference between rural and urban tends to be a big factor.

Cost is a factor that tends to influence the final decision in choosing a college.

Finally the profile of the school is very important. Students must research the school and see if they will fit in academically.

Before a final decision is made about college, a visit is a necessity. The trip could change the way a student feels about the school.

Many often wonder whether the success achieved in high school will have any bearing on the success one will have in college.

Peterson feels, "Students, by and large, who prepare themselves academically in high school and take the proper CORE courses will find success at college."

Which is Better?	D	S
Food	X	X
Atmosphere		X
Decor		X
Comfort		X
Service		X



## Big Hair In the 90's

By Nicole Cordin

Look out! Big hair is back in full effect! Thanks to the fashion industry, this spring you can be expecting pretty flowers sprouting out of a huge pile of HAIR.

The cover of Mademoiselle's February issue looked like a wonderland of pink cotton candy and curly big hair. Across the model's shoulders the words, "THE NEW BIG HAIR", were staring up at the audience like the seventh sigh.

But big hair is not only an era of the eighties that some want to forget, it is a part of history. Back in the fifties, the large bouffant was happening. Ladies achieved this look by blow-drying, curling, teasing, and spraying the very life out of their hair. They finished it off with a big bow. Cute. Later on, a more geometrical shape took way during the sixties and seventies with the beehive. The beehive was a relatively long trend, and most likely the most famous. Last but not least, the feathered, layered, and poofed out do was a side effect of "Charlie's Angels". Not only did Charlie's Angels teach us how to be a fashionable woman of the eighties, but also how to be a spy. Bonus.

Okay, so you don't want to be reduced to go-go boots and a beehive. But do guys dig big hair? "I like it when a girl's hair is natural and soft. I think girls with big hair look kind of phony," said sophomore Jeff Adams. Classmate Marissa Filippo takes on a similar view. She said, "I don't care if guys like big hair. It looks like a helmet."

Now, to make the issue clear, big hair must be defined. Just having curly hair doesn't necessarily mean that it is big. Senior Debby Perno said, "My hair is long and curly, but I don't tease it up and fluff it, I just leave it natural. I don't have big hair, just full." Big hair means hair that is unnatural and molded. To have big hair, one must use a lot of hairspray and tease it until it does what it's "supposed to", Perno continued to explain.

Unless your heart belongs to Charlie's Angels or any other decade of big hair, try something new this spring, be a rebel and fight for your right to natural hair. After all, the nineties could be the first decade to let it flow.



## Early Prom Ideas

By Laura Torrey

"I think Prom will cost about \$200 - \$250, for both boys and girls," says Jennifer Hauger.

How much does Prom cost, really? Well, it all depends on what you need for Prom. Girls need the dress, the shoes, the hair; guys need the tux, the limo, and the money. But in reality, there's much, much, more for both girls and guys.

First, girls need a dress, but where do you go? "I recommend either Bridal Suite or Gantos to find a dress," says Sarah Macnerland.

Dresses can all range from \$100 - \$250, depending on where you go. This alone would cost you two months work pay, but girls also need much more to go with the dress.

Many girls buy shoes, a purse, hair accessories, garder, jewelry, etc. to match their dress. This can add up.

Shoes can range from \$20 on up. A purse may end up being between \$15 - \$25 if you want it to match your dress perfectly. Hair accessories can cost between \$8 - \$10, a garder is around \$8, and jewelry can be between \$15 - \$35 depending on where you purchase it.

There are other things many girls consider when they plan on going to Prom. Most girls need to buy hosiery, which is around \$8, makeup to match your dress is around \$10, and some like to get a manicure, which can be between \$16 - \$20, depending on what style of manicure you would like.

Here's a big question girls ask themselves, "Should I get my hair done?" If you decide to do it, it will cost anywhere between \$25 - \$45. "I recommend main attractions," says Sarah Macnerland. "They have great prices."

Last, but not least, girls like to buy their date a boutonniere, which is around \$4 - \$5. Finally, they're ready to go.

Now, guys have to start to get ready. First, they're going to need to rent a tuxedo. Renting a tux can range from \$65 - \$95.

Next, guys may have to buy shoes, or the shoes may come with the rental of the tuxedo. But, if you buy shoes, they cost around \$60.

If the guy is going to bring a date, he needs to buy tickets. Tickets cost about \$50 which includes the cost of dinner and dance admission.

Once the tickets are taken care of, guys usually buy their dates corsages to match their dresses. This can cost between \$7 - \$20.

Here's the big question for guys, "Should I get a limo?" Well, if your thinking about it, limo's have a very large range of prices.

The highest priced limo company charged \$130 for the first two hours, and \$50 each additional hour. This is for up to six people.

Others cost around \$60 and hour, with a minimum of three hours. The lowest cost was around \$45, for six people. Plus, it's a stretch limo.

Everyone has a lot to think about before Prom. The girls price will cost around \$325, if you buy everything on this list. It may cost more or less. The guys price will be about \$220, not including a limo.

Start saving up!

## The Teen Driving Problem

By Rob Burwell

Do you know how many teenagers were killed last year in an automobile related accidents? Many teens are killed every year in drunk driving accidents and other automobile related accidents.

A lot of people blame teens as being the worst drivers on the road. Tina Hansen (junior) feels "It's the older people's fault. They become senile and forget things. It's fresh in teenagers minds and not in the adults."

Some other factors with car accidents is one that most people don't take into consideration when they blame teens and that is weather.

Weather is a big part of the problem with teens driving.

I was in a car accident this summer right after school let out. My friend and I were driving down Prince Crossing. It was raining hard and we hydroplaned into a telephone pole at 35 mph. Luckily, neither of us were injured. I was wearing my seatbelt, but he was not. He was lucky he was not injured. In most car accidents the people that didn't wear seatbelts usually end in serious injury.

Some of teens don't even know what hit them most of the time because it happens so fast. Some of teens driving accidents happen when they hit inanimate objects

such as poles, trees, and other things. But most happen when they hit other vehicles on the road.

Joel Daniel (junior) said, "They (teens) don't use good judgement. Carelessness." Dan Guerrero (junior) said, "There's no regard for safety." Officer Evland of the West Chicago Police Department said, "They should pay attention to what they're doing and slow down."

Some may say that the problem with injuries, is that the seatbelt law isn't enforced well enough. Rachel Anderson (junior) says they should not drink, wear seatbelts and slow down.

Daniel also said that something that would help with straightening out teens driving is "To pay attention in Driver's Ed." Guerreo said, "Teens are always in a big hurry. They should slow down and not be in such a rush."

According to statistics taken in 1987, the number of fatalities for 15-24 year olds is 14,071 overall, 3,579 for females and 10,492 for males. The number of accidents that involved people in the age group 24 and below is 31,000,000 which makes up 19.2% of all drivers. The number of those that are fatal is 18,500 which makes up 31.4% of the total.

### Do's of safe driving-

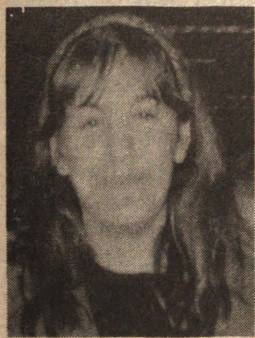
1. Wear your seatbelt whenever you are in a vehicle.
2. Stay on the road (No gallivanting through someone's yard)
3. Make sure you use your turn signal when turning.
4. Drive defensively.
5. Take your car for check-ups on a regular basis.
6. Make sure your car is running smoothly.
7. Make sure your car is in reverse when pulling out of your garage.

### Don'ts of safe driving-

1. Do not exceed the speed limit.
2. DO NOT drink and drive.
3. Don't fall asleep at the wheel.
4. Don't aim your car at joggers or bicyclists for 10 points.
5. Never drive with your brights on.
6. Do not drive on the wrong side of the road.
7. Make sure to stop at RED lights and not green.
8. Be careful about who you yell at or make obscene gestures to.



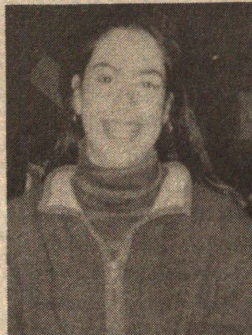
## What is the sweetest thing someone did for you on Valentine's Day?



Jen Johnson: "We'll see what happens this year."



Amy Langemack: "When my grandma died, on Valentine's Day, my boyfriend gave me flowers. It cheered me up."



Sharron Yule: "My dad bought me *Abs of Steel* and *Buns of Steel* for Valentine's Day."



Ed Gomez: "Some secret admirer sent me a teddy bear, holding a heart. I never found out who it was."

## EVERYDAY IS VALENTINESDAY

by Laura Torrey

Valentine's Day is a day of love for anyone who has found it. Why is this only once a year? Why not everyday?

Every year on Valentine's Day husbands, wives, boyfriends, and girlfriends show their special someone how they feel for them. They give and receive gifts, and may tell them they love them over and over.

People need to understand that Valentine's Day is a day to show someone you care for them, but everyday should be Valentine's Day.

Why do we need a Valentine's Day? We shouldn't need a day to show we love or care for someone. If you truly have feelings for someone, Valentine's Day is not the day to show it. You should show it every chance you have with that certain someone. Don't go by the calendar.

Almost every year, guys think that they need to give their wives, girlfriends, etc. something to show their love and then they'll be satisfied. WRONG! What would satisfy me more is to think that someone, one day out of the

blue, showed me how much they cared. That's what love is all about. Showing someone you care for them, unexpectedly.

Many people take their loved ones for granted. Sure, they'll be there day after day. They think their suppose to show their thoughtfulness for them on Valentine's Day. Well, what if for some unfortunate reason something happens to them, unexpectedly. It's too late. You always need to show someone you care for them, no matter

what, because you may not get a second chance.

People really need to think about what Valentine's day means to them.

"Valentine's Day is a day to show someone that you really care for them," says Amy Langemack.

"It's a day for getting together with the people you love," says Ed Gomez.

They're both right. It is a day for love. But love should be there everyday of your life, not just on Valentine's Day.

## THE FUTURE OF SPORTS AT WE-GO

By Ted Fijalkowski

Last year a proposal was made to create a mega-conference comprised of the teams from the D.V.C., upstate eight, Little seven, and southwest suburban conference. These teams would then compete against teams of comparable student populations within this mega-conference.

In this manner, West Chicago would not have to compete against the larger Naperville and Glenbard north. We would probably be playing against the likes of Streamwood and Oswego. That sounds like fun, but would it really be fun? Would it be challenging? Would it make us better athletes?

I feel that playing in the D.V.C., one of the toughest conferences in the state, gives our athletic program integrity.

Sure its hard for us to be competitive because we are a smaller school, but nothing feels better to me than beating Naperville Central and Naperville North. I look forward to playing them.

This is what being an athlete is all about; trying to be the best by competing against the best. I have heard athletes, coaches, and parents all complaining about how we do not belong in the D.V.C. because of the tough competition.

We should all stop whining and work at becoming better athletes, better coaches, and a better athletic department with more support from our administration. Don't change conferences, change our program..

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A COUNSELOR

Anthony Mennella

"Counselors don't do anything, they never help me out, they just sit there."

This may or may not be the case with the counselors here.

Some students, according to who you talk to, will agree that the counselors don't do anything. Others will disagree.

Even though some counselors were too busy to answer a couple of my questions, they try to help out students to the best of their ability.

The job of counselors is to guide and assist students in choosing courses which will lead to graduation and beyond.

Counselors help freshman get familiar with the school. They also teach a conflict resolution class in study hall. This class consists of six, one hour classes. They also administer career testing programs to all freshman. All this work with the freshman takes about two weeks.

As for sophomores, counselors will administer the P-ACT test, talk to them about their plans after high school, and show them some colleges to think about. This work really helps out the sophomores and again takes about two weeks of work.

The juniors along with seniors probably get the most help from counselors. They provide the P-SAT, SAT, and ACT tests, along with college administration, college visits, financial aid, scholarships, recommendations, etc. The average number of recommendations a week is about one, depending on how busy it.

Probably the hardest part of the year, for the counselors, is the two or three weeks at the end of January and beginning of February when the counselors have to register hundreds of students for the following school year.

They spend many long nights registering the many incoming freshman also.

This year there was about 500 eighth-graders registering for next year. Counselors work 3:00 pm until 9:00 pm registering them, allowing 15 minutes for each student.

The average day begins at 7:40 am and last until 4:00 pm. Counselors spend about 80 percent working one-on-one with students a day and spend 5 percent of their time in meetings.

Counselors seem very busy, seeing that it takes two or three days to get an appointment to see your counselor.

Well I'm not completely convinced that counselors are always busy, but I know they work as hard as they can. If there are any other questions you have about counselors, I'm sure they will be more than happy to answer them for you, but make sure you make an appointment.

## Teaching at its Finest

By John Jovanovich

This month the Chronicle is having a feature article on teacher extraordinaire Paul McLeland. McLeland is in his second year of teaching here at West Chicago and he is in his fourth as an athletic coach.

He takes his work with the same dedication he teaches his athletes and students. McLeland is a graduate from Greenville College in Illinois and while he was a student he was also on the cross country, track, and basketball team.

McLeland's favorite part teaching is when the kids grasp the concept he is teaching and then use it. His least favorite part of teaching is when the students do not participate in class.

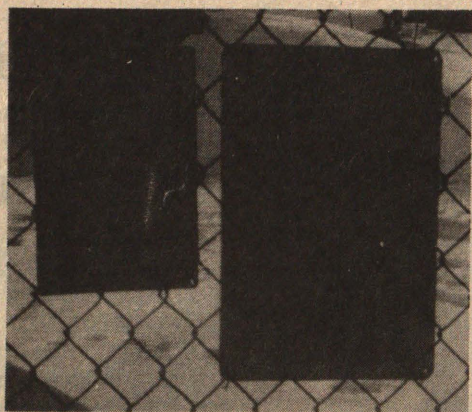
He decided he wanted to become a teacher when he was a senior at Glenbard North high

school. He also wanted to become a coach and he has coached cross country, track, and basketball here at West Chicago. His favorite sport to play is basketball, but he loves to run as well. Being in shape is very important to Paul and he thinks everybody should be physically fit.

He tells his athletes, "winners are ordinary people, with extraordinary dedication." His goals for the future are to build a cross country team good enough to go down state.

If you have never had McLeland as a teacher you may have seen him announcing at the varsity basketball games, "I love announcing, it be great to do it for a living." Paul McLeland is a true asset to West Chicago high school.





## Th Solution

By Jeff Hadzima

Extra extra, read all about it, thorium still in West Chicago. This may be old news, but it has also been forgotten. Many people have forgotten that there is still dangerous radioactive materials at Kerr-McGee.

Sure, the topic has been overblown, but nothing has been done about it. The debate whether the chemicals should stay in West Chicago has been going on since the early 70's, and still there has been no solution.

Sure, we know our solution; get it out! It's tougher than this

unfortunately. Why else do you think it taken this long to decided such a simple thing?

In 1992, the Senate approved a 40 million deal to clean up at Kerr McGee. This was nearly two years ago, and still, nothing. How long does it take to remove something that has left a town in such rage? Money is the main reason. Our state does not want to pay the price of 40 million dollars to save a community. They value money over life.

We do not know the long term effects of having the Thorium here in West Chicago, but in the

next few years, we may. The water can't be great for you. The air may be dangerous to breathe. We just don't know what can hurt us these days.

Back in 1984, Kerr-McGee tried to keep the data a secret. This got the public upset, and it even got them informed in the problem. Many people noticed that they could be at risk with the radioactive material being stored nearby. Six years past, and TAG was formed. This got the entire community involved in the removal process. The only problem was that it wasn't removed.

After all things TAG did to get the Thorium removed, they faced a losing cause. 500 people marched on the site in protest of the Thorium in 1990, yet all they received was attention. Governor Edgar even spoke to the public on the site, yet, it all was for a losing cause.

When will we win, and get our way? The time is now! Eventually we will win, but when? It hopefully will not be too late. We may be saved, if we can win the debate. The debate is life. Is money or life more important? You make the choice. Before we turn into Nuke'm High, let the Thorium be removed. When this is done, we will know victory, but until then, we taste defeat.

## Snow Pile Up

By Kristan Mulley

We have definitely had a real Chicago winter this year. We've had the below zero temperatures, the freezing rain, and of course lots of snow.

If you haven't noticed the snow and ice has piled up nicely in the school parking lots.

Why haven't the parking lots been plowed? They are very hazardous to both walk and drive on.

Many students have had problems with their cars because of the weather conditions in the lot. "My car skids all over the place because of the snow and ice, it could cause an accident," commented Amy Mertz.

Mertz was also asked to repark her car one day because she wasn't in the lines. She said, "You can't even see the lines, how am I supposed to park in them?"

Courtney Burandt's car got stuck in the pool lot. "I had to call my dad to push my car out of the ice," she said.

Walking in the lots is a real challenge also. Teacher Kelly Kolasa commented, "I'm surprised I haven't hurt myself yet."

Unfortunately, paraprofessional Mirna Woodsen hasn't been as lucky. Woodsen fell on the ice in the parking lot hurting her knee, hip, and shoulder.

Steve Kimery said that the weather conditions really couldn't be helped in the lots.

Why does our school throw sand on the lots and sidewalks? Kimery said, "It's too cold for the salt to melt the ice and the sand provides more traction."

This is true that we can't control the weather conditions now because the ice has already formed. But, as Mertz put it, "If the snow had been plowed originally the snow wouldn't have turned to ice."

Why aren't the lots plowed with the twenty dollars that each student has payed to park in the lots?

Kimery said that the twenty dollars goes into the general school fund which could go toward any operations of the school.

The twenty dollars should be used towards plowing our lots. But our school doesn't have a contract with a company, the custodians are supposed to do all the shoveling and plowing.

It looks like the lots aren't going to become any safer and no one knows if the weather will get any better.

My advice to you is to simply to keep driving carefully, walking with some caution, and hope that you don't fall down or get into an accident.

## America the Illiterate?

By Raven Moore

Reading and writing are necessities in everyday life. Whether visiting the supermarket or going to a job, without these capabilities it would seem almost impossible to survive.

No matter how unbelievable it seems, nearly 16% of the people in DuPage County alone are functionally illiterate. This means they read and write at or below ninth-grade levels.

130,000 people in our county live everyday without the ability to functionally read and write. This is somewhat ironic because the average person's

salary in our county is \$55,000 a year which is relatively high for such a large number of illiterate persons.

Illiteracy is not an ethnic or economic problem. A homemaker, a senior citizen, or even a highly paid executive could be illiterate without ever letting on.

This is a serious problem that not only DuPage County, but all of America must deal with. In order for the United States, as a nation, to fully function and compete with other "educated" countries, this problem should somehow be resolved.

In DuPage County, the College of DuPage was granted \$100,000 by the United States Department of Education in order to attempt to get the high percentage of illiterate people in our area to decline.

COD will be setting up a program called Student Literacy Corps. This program will train volunteers in order to prepare them to aid functionally illiterate people who want help learning to read.

Although this is a positive step to combat illiteracy, more must be done by the nation as a

whole if something is to seriously change.

Teachers must work hard not to let students slip through the cracks and move on in the educational system without gaining basic reading and writing skills.

The U.S. government needs to provide more funds in order to guarantee children across the country a decent education that provides them with the knowledge to function in today's society.

The fact that this problem hits so close to home should scare us all into the realities of illiteracy.

*For information concerning volunteer literacy programs contact the Illinois Literacy Hotline referral service toll-free for the greater Chicagoland area at 312-939-8600. For local volunteer literacy programs County call 415-6699.*

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The Wildcat Chronicle is the student newspaper at the West Chicago Community High School. The views and opinions of the Wildcat Chronicle do not necessarily reflect or represent the majority of the staff or student body.

Any suggestions or comments for the newspaper can be delivered to Advisor Carrie Kostro in room 319 or to Perspectives editor Raven Moore. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 200 words. The paper has the right to exclude any letters that are inappropriate or will not fit in a particular issue.

The Wildcat Chronicle is a forum for freedom of expression and encourages readers to express their views and thoughts.



## West Chicago May Join Mega-Conference

By John Jovanovich

Will West Chicago be in the new Mega-Conference? Well, don't count on it, at least with in the next few years.

There has been talk that the schools in the DuPage area are forming a Mega-Conference which would combine about thirty schools divided up into four divisions according to the size of enrollment.

There, however, has been no times or dates set up to discuss forming this conference.

Athletic director Tom Hancock said, "I don't see this happening for quite a while, if it happens at all. Forming a conference is a lot of work and a lot of time. We're very happy being a part of

the DVC. I feel that as far as athletics go, the DVC is as competitive as any conference in the state."

Forming a new conference would mean new competition. Here are some comments by some West Chicago students regarding this issue. One Senior said, "maybe we can win a game now." Senior golfer Steve Chytry said, "Now we can play against schools with the same enrollment as us."

West Chicago would lose the Wheatons and Naperville schools and gain schools like Aurora and Streamwood.

Hancock said, "I don't see it happening for quite awhile."

## DVC May Eliminate Girls JV Games

By David Vingren

The DuPage Valley Conference may eliminate junior varsity basketball games from its girls basketball schedule beginning in 1995.

Although the DVC girls head varsity coaches have already voted against the proposal, school athletic directors and principals can still work to pass it.

Currently, the system's four levels are freshman, sophomore, junior varsity, and varsity. The proposal would replace the junior varsity level with a freshman B level.

The idea is similar to the new system girls volleyball will have this fall. They are also adding a freshman B level which will replace the sophomore level in 1994 and the junior varsity level in 1995 and beyond.

Those who like the idea want to make the DVC system like the conferences they compete against in non-conference

games. Most of those conferences do not have junior varsity teams, which causes scheduling difficulties.

Another argument for the proposal is that more freshman deserve an opportunity to play and improve themselves over three years to make the varsity level their senior year. Also, as the levels go lower, more people try out and, therefore, are cut. The new system lowers the number of cut players.

Those against the proposal dislike the idea of several juniors not having the opportunity to compete in games because seniors are playing at the varsity level. They feel that juniors need a level to prepare for varsity the next season.

West Chicago varsity head coach Kim Wallner voted against the idea for that reason.

## Boys Swim to Sectionals

By Stacy Shannon

Things have been going well this year for the boy's swim team. There have been many improvements this year.

The freshmen have also given good performances, and a total of six records have been broken by freshmen. All of the freshmen were Sharks Coach Mary Beth Eaton says there is a possibility to break six or seven records at sectionals.

Three freshman relay records, and the hundred meter butterfly have been broken. The five hundred meter freestyle has been broken twice, twice by Jeff Cain, and once by Peter Grant.

The Wildcats have swam well at their past meets, but the most impressive victory was at Crystal Lake on the 1st, when

they won every event except for the 50-yard freestyle.

Sectionals start February 19th. The Wildcats play host for the first post-season meet, which is also the final meet before the state finals the 25th and 26th.

Last year they only had one state qualifier, sophomore Dan Tracey, but this year they are looking forward to the possibility of more qualifiers.

"We're looking for strong individual performances," Eaton said, "we are not putting any pressure on them, we just want them to do their best."

## Board Denies Rumor on Coaches

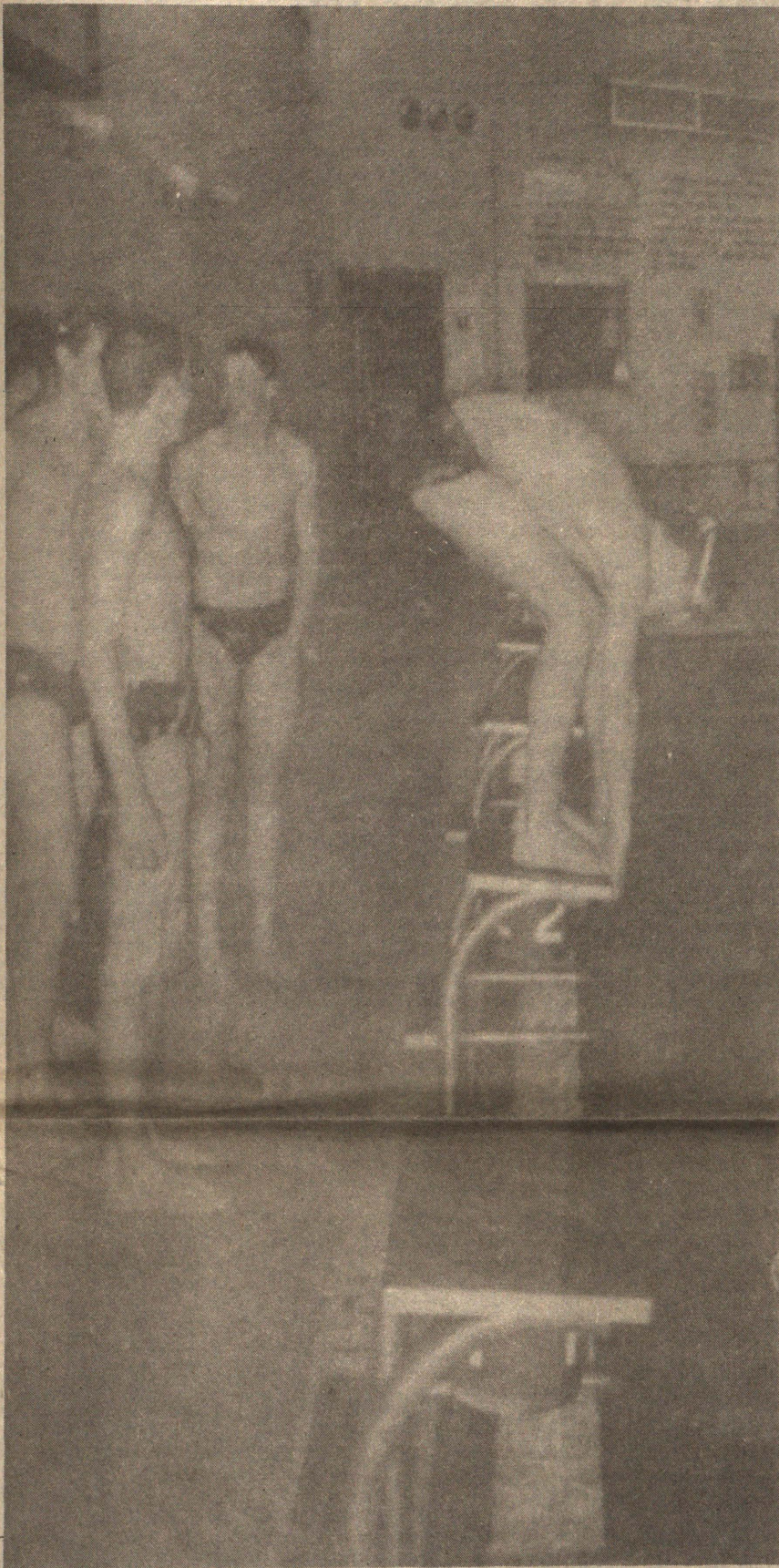
By David Vingren

The Board of Education shot down a rumor that they will install a requirement for West Chicago head coaches, at any level, to be a teacher within the school.

Due to this rumor, many believe head coaches such as Kim Wallner (girls varsity basketball and volleyball) and Lee Maciejewski (boys varsity basketball and girls softball) will not be coaching next season.

Superintendent Dr. Joel Morris addressed the rumor at the Board meeting on February 15 saying, "the rumor is false." But he did say he told all coaches that the board does feel strongly about having coaches who teach within the school.

The board was also scheduled to discuss the issue of athletic personal in the





## Girls Basketball

# Season Comes to Crashing Halt

Wallner named DVC Coach of Year

By David Vingren

Ouch!

That pain was applied by West Aurora, who knocked down a tie-breaking three pointer with eight seconds remaining in the first round of the regional that would cause a shockingly abrupt end to West Chicago's season.

"I was disappointed because the season ended a little earlier than a lot of people thought. I wanted it to go on a while," head coach Kim Wallner said, whose team lost 50-47 on February 15.

West Aurora was the eleventh seed in the tournament while the Wildcats were seeded sixth.

"We were the team that was suppose to win; but that's what's great about the

state tournament, [although] it wasn't great for us; anything can happen on any given night and the state tournament gives everyone the opportunity to start over again," Wallner said.

West Chicago (17-8) would have played rival Naperville Central in the second round had they won. The Red Hawks had won both conference games this season and the Wildcats were looking for revenge.

"I think we were all ready to play Naperville Central and we forgot to beat West Aurora along the way," senior Darcy McLeod said. "I don't think anybody was expecting it to be a close game. We took them for granted."

The Wildcats will have a quality regular season to remember, though, including a third place 10-4 finish in the DuPage Valley Conference behind Naperville North (13-1) and Naperville Central (13-1).

Wallner will remember this season as being the first time she was named DVC coach of the year.

"It meant a lot to me," Wallner said of receiving the award. "Usually the coach that wins the conference wins the award. I was very surprised and very honored.

"I don't think anyone expected us to be 10-4. I think [the award is] a reflection of my kids this year. They look to give me the credit, but I think a lot of the credit

goes to my team. Without them I wouldn't be getting this kind of award."

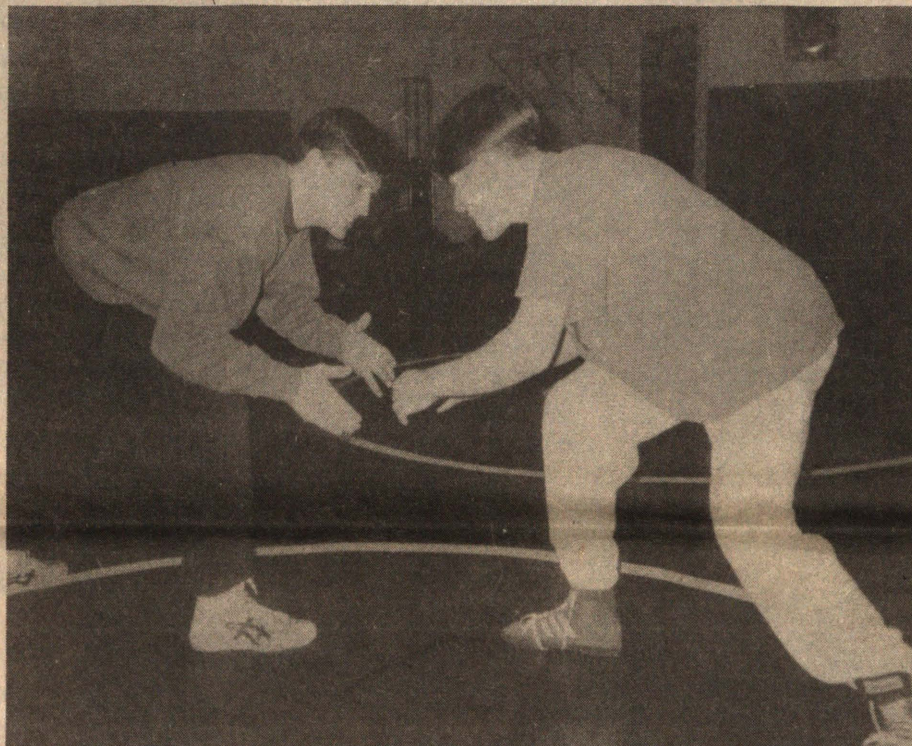
Receiving the honor is also a reflection of the fact that West Chicago was so successful even though all five starters from last season's team graduated and, therefore, inexperience was a potential problem.

Seniors McLeod, Sheri Daleiden, Raven Moore, Carie Mielke, Betsy Co, and juniors Robin Westrom and Christina Nimmo were all playing at the junior varsity level last season.

Seniors Julie Kramer, Carey Netzel, and Jen Ault were varsity reserves their junior years.



Dan Dibble goes up for a jumper.



## Wildcats Look to Regional for Compensation

By Raven Moore

"Our goal this season has been to win as many games as possible and play as hard as we can," Varsity coach Lee Maciejewski said.

The boys' Varsity basketball team has struggled to get wins in the DuPage Valley Conference this season.

"We didn't connect this season—we didn't play well as a team," senior guard Tom Suess said.

With their final conference game on Friday against Wheaton North, the Cats have a 3-9 record in the DVC (not including Saturday's game at Wheaton-Warrenville South).

A seventh place finish will likely be the Cats record unless an upset win against North occurs. A win at West Chicago could put the boys in sixth place.

At the beginning of the season the players were hoping to finish in the top two or three in conference.

"The boys didn't take into account how strong the conference would be this year. They also didn't realize that although we had three starters and a sixth man returning on the Varsity level, we lost two all-conference performers in Kevin Baldus and Dave Valenti," Maciejewski said.

Much of the scoring that has been missed from Valenti and Baldus has been picked up by senior forward Donta Norwood.

"I'm not surprised with the way Donta has stepped up at all. He has turned out to

be one of the top players in the DVC. He has been demanding on the boards, has been more assertive offensively, and has shown strong leadership and a great attitude," Maciejewski said.

Norwood will need help offensively for West Chicago to win regionals next week.

"Someone will have to step up offensively to take the pressure off of Donta, especially if we get the chance to play Naperville North," Suess said.

The Cats will have to beat East Aurora next Tuesday before getting the chance to play Naperville North next Thursday.

"For us to beat Naperville North in the regional final we have to play solid basketball for the whole thirty-two minutes," Maciejewski said.

For the Cats, that means they will have to focus on shooting shots they practice and being patient enough to run the offense.

Their defense will not be a concern because it has been the constant for them all year long.

"When we are faced with a tough opponent, our defense steps up to the occasion," reserve guard Derek Porter said.

"I hope we finish the season up hard and end on a good note," Suess said. A conference win against Wheaton North and a regional final upset win over Naperville North would definitely be a good end to a somewhat disappointing season.

## Berendson Highlight to New Start

By Jeff Hadzima

After a long a grueling season, Rich Berendson has done what he has been wanting to do all year long, and that is make it to the state finals in Champaign.

"Our goal is to get as many people down to the state meet as possible," Coach Dan Knight said before the Sectional meet. Freshman Eddie Valdez (103 lbs.), Sophomore Jamie Phillips (125), Junior Rich Berendson (135), Senior Todd Reffet (145), and Senior Felipe Hernandez (152) all went to the sectional meet at Conant High school in Hoffman Estates. Only Berendson came out with a chance to prove himself again by advancing to the state meet by placing second at the sectional.

"Our record wouldn't indicate it [that it was a successful season], but all of our kids are accomplishing their personal goals. We gave up a lot of forfeits in the year, so that hurt our dual meet record," Knight said.

Even with one going to state, Coach Knight's season has been a success. Wres-

tlers now are more dedicated, and are beginning to work for next season.

Having a new coach can greatly improve a team according to Senior Rich Clark. "Coach Knight set a tone and a higher standard. He also taught more in a way that we can learn and improve. He helped me improve more because of his style of coaching."

Knight brought his All American style to the wrestling program. This is noticeable by watching and listening to the wrestlers. They want to work hard in the off season, and they want to improve to their absolute best, with nothing less.

Even though the season is over for all but Berendson, the wrestlers still practice after school. This is a sign of dedication and change. Enthusiasm and glory is in the wrestlers faces. The days of Coach French are over, and a new era of Coach Knight is here. We-Go wrestlers will be a force to be reckoned with now, and the glory of We-Go wrestlers going down to state will be something common. Dedication becomes victory.