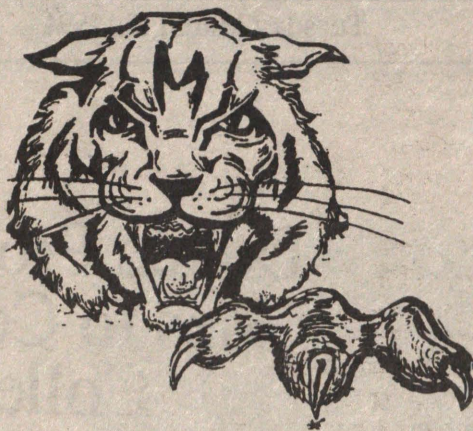


Wildcat Chronicle

West Chicago
Community High School
West Chicago, IL



March 15, 1994
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Issue 5

Parlez-vous Francais?

By Blanca Rios

In about one week some of West Chicago's french students will be in Paris!

Twenty students were chosen and each have had at least two years of French. The chaperones for the trip will be French teacher Marjorie Appel and substitute French teacher Stephanie Baker.

The cost of the trip including air fare and hotel is \$1300 per person. Students are responsible for the fee.

Students will be going over Spring Break for two weeks.

When students arrive in Paris, they will take the Train a Grande Vitesse (TGV), to Grenoble another city of France. TGV is translated to "Train at greatest speed."

There they will stay with a family, attend school, and go on field trips.

"I think it will be fun to find out what French families customarily do," said junior Amy Sparkman.

"Hopefully the families will speak English," said Lindsay Eichman.

After their stay with their host family, they will return to Paris and go sight seeing while staying in hotel.

"The first thing I want to do in Paris is go to a cafe and sit and drink Coke and watch the people go by," said junior Jennifer Kammes.

"I want to go shopping," said Sparkman. "I want to walk down the street listening to "Aria," said Eichman.

Two years ago was the last year students went to France and the trip was a success. "We had Easter Mass in the Notre Dame Cathedral," said Appel.

She continued saying, "A favorite of students two years ago was to go see where Jim Morrison was buried."

Appel concluded, "The only problem that can face us for this year is that in Paris it rains a lot."

The 1994 FBLA Variety Show/Celebrity Auction

by Rob Burwell

This year, the FBLA planned their annual Variety Show where kids in the school come out and show their talent.

This year was a bit different. Before the Variety Show began, and half way through the show, a Celebrity Auction was held.

The Celebrity auction (headed by Don Zabelin) raised approximately fifteen hundred dollars.

One thing auctioned was a "Home Improvement" script signed by Tim Allen and the cast with a group photograph. It was the highest bid item. Chris Bopp bid higher than Dan Gurerro, and recieved it for one hundred and thirty dollars.

Other things offered was a banner from the Miami Dolphins signed by Don Shula, many autographed photos of people ranging from Bob Hope to Robin Ventura to Jimmy Carter.

Some things started out high and went down in price, some things started out low and went for more than expected. Some even started out high and went even higher.

The Variety Show started with senior Rachel Owens singing a song called "Everything's Coming Up



Cheri Winkler, one of the stars from "Hair".

Roses" and ended in a skit of the rock musical "Hair" starring Jen Johnson, Meg Breiseth, Heather Hlavaty, Cheri Winkler, and Caroline Yong.

In between there were a few dance routines. Ones that seemed to get the most attention, were the ones with Monique Cleminson and Tiina Martin. They did a dance/lip-sync as Michael (Tiina) and Janet (Monique) Jackson, and another dance routine with no specific characters.

About midway throughout the Variety Show, an acoustic per-

formance of the Def Leppard song "Two Steps Behind" was performed by Grant Barkley (vocals), Ed Abonte (guitar) and Brad Dujmovic (guitar).

A skit that was in a bit of a different direction than the rest of the performance was a reenactment of a scene from the musical "Rocky Horror Picture Show" by Erin Carey, Steve Elliot, Jeff Cattallano, Anthony Nudo, Marie Pierce, Jenny Hayes, Kevin Keith, and Sara Allred.

Spring Fling

By Wendy Woodward

Spring Fling is the week of March 21-25, this week will have events similar to that of Homecoming.

To start the morning of every day that week there will be a contest between all the classes.

Some of the events will be a hall decorating contest in which each class will decorate their own hall. Later they will be judged by a teacher.

Another event will be a limbo contest. Your class president will be in charge of who is in the events.

There will be a pineapple bobbing contest. Student Council is trying to liven things up.

Also there will be a Cadbury bunny contest. Who ever can do the best imitation of the Cadbury Bunny wins a Cadbury egg.

They would also like to play a little Ragae music over the intercom in the halls before school. This will only happen if Student Council can get permission.

The Mr. Wildcat contest will be taking place on March 23, at 7:00 that evening. This is a contest between senior guys; Dont'a Norwood, Nick Kerimi, Rich

Geroulis, Fonzie Medina, Jeff Mummert, Jim Smiley, Tom Grobe, Chris Perez, Mike Winterhalder, and Scott Weber.

They will be interviewed, judged on their formal and casual wear, and a talent.

Spring Fling week is being sponsored by Student Council. They have put together a week of fun and games, to try and make school a little more fun.

Talk to one of your class representatives or your class presi-

Teacher Appreciation

Raven Moore

In honor of National Teacher Appreciation Day on May 3, 1994, the West Chicago Teachers Association is sponsoring a letter/essay writing contest.

The purpose of the contest is to recognize or honor a teacher or group of teachers from this school.

The piece of writing can either be in essay or letter format and should be no longer than 300 words.

Prizes will be given to the top finishers in the contest by the local Teachers Association. Gift certificates to Stratford Square Mall will be awarded.

Letters/essays should be put in Carrie Kostro's mailbox in the main office before 3:30 p.m. on Monday, April 11, 1994.



This contest provides students with the opportunity to recognize teacher(s) they feel have made a difference in their lives or merely made their day a little more bearable.

Letters/essays may remain anonymous if the writer chooses. In order to claim the money prizes the author's name must remain on the back of the letter/essay.

Contest Information

Purpose: to recognize teacher(s) at West Chicago
Prizes: gift certificates to Stratford Square Mall to top finisher

Due Date: Monday April 11, 1994 no later than 3:30 p.m.

Specifics: no longer than 300 words, can be written in letter or essay form

FBLA Going Strong



By Blanca Rios

They're Future, they're Business, their Leaders of America!

On February 12, FBLA finished second at the Northern Area Conference, held here at West Chicago High School. Thirty-six students from West Chicago along with students from the Northern Illinois area competed.

Top individuals from West Chicago who competed were Sean Murray in Computer Applications, Jason Francis in Business Calculations, Skye Studabaker in Parliamentary Procedures, Joe Progar in Business Procedures and Jim Holloway in Mr. Future Business Leader, all placing first for the area and West Chicago.

Last November FBLA had their Fall Leadership Conference, held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The conference helps students to learn how to build self confidence and to be leader.

West Chicago, at the Northern Area Conference.

West Chicago High School's FBLA not only has school officers, but area and future state officers. Junior Chris Altman is currently president of FBLA at West Chicago and Northern Area President. Altman is now running for State Secretary. Altman responded "I'm scared." Amy Langemack is the schools FBLA secretary and was appointed Northern Area Parliamentarian. Langemack said, "I was so surprised, being Parliamentarian made my day."

FBLA has successfully led fundraisers for the March of Dimes like the Chain of Hope and the Celebrity Auction/Variety Show.

FBLA also helps with community service like the "Adopt a Grandparent" program where members write to residents at the West Chicago Terrace.

FBLA Advisor, Nancy Blume has been the head of the activities done in FBLA. "Of the fifty-eight members in FBLA Miss Blume makes everyone feel like you're the most important," said junior Matt Johnson, FBLA Historian. Altman said, "Miss Blume sacrifices so much for us, and we don't even realize it."

Dance Production Goes to Columbia College

Remember the "All Together Now" Dance Production show? Some of the students from Dance Production are getting the opportunity to perform in another show.

The show is the "Young Artist's Showcase" and it will be held at Columbia College in Chicago.

There are three different nights the show will go on and each night different schools perform.

The show West Chicago will perform in will be Friday, April 8, at 8:00 in the evening.

The night they will be performing, eight other schools will perform as well. Among some of the schools going are Curie High School from Chicago, Deerfield High School from Highland Park, and others from Winnetka, Villa Park, and Evanston.

"Each school asked to attend is asked to bring two or three dance routines," explained Dance Production teacher, Helen Zmrhal.

Zmrhal chose two dances for Dance Production to perform. She chose them according to how well the dancers knew the routine and how interesting the choreography was. The "Work it Girlz" routine performed to the song "Supermodel" and the "Oh No" senior dance routine performed to the song "Oh Yeah" were the dances chosen. Senior Brittany Winquist commented, "I think it will be a fun experience to perform with other schools."

After the show, there is a reception in which the dancers from the different schools will get to talk to each other.

This is the third year the "Young Artist's Showcase" has been in existence. This is the second year West Chicago's Dance Production will perform in it. Zmrhal said, "The students that went last year performed well and really enjoyed it."

Zmrhal also said, "I'm excited about the show this year. It'll be a good experience to talk with the other schools."

The Dance Production students have been practicing before school to prepare.

Tickets are available to the public for \$5 each. You can call and reserve them with a credit card.

Call the Dance Center Box Office located on the Columbia College campus. The number is (312) 271-7928. Tickets can be picked up the

night of the performance.

Dances are cancelled Left and right

By Laura Torrey

Homecoming was on October 2, the Victory Dance was going to be on January 28th, so what other dances are coming up?

These past few months, Student Council has been plotting a bunch of dances, changing, canceling, and rescheduling them.

The Victory Dance, sponsored by the Freshman class, was cancelled on January 28th due to the power outage, and the cancelation of school.

"No one really knew there was a basketball game that night, so it was cancelled because no kids would have been there," says Chris Hauger, Freshman Student Council President. "We would really like it to be rescheduled. It was the biggest fundraiser of the year."

Winter Formal, which is really an informal dance, was scheduled for March 11. "The theme for it was going to be 'Blast From the Past,'" says Sapna Patel, Junior Student Council President.

The next dance is going to be Turnabout, which is scheduled for April 15, and will cost \$10 per couple. It is going to be a formal dance, where the girls treat the boys. "We weren't really sure if we were going to have a turnabout because Prom is May 20. It's so close together," says Patel.

The final dance of the year is Prom, which is scheduled for May 20 and will cost \$50 per couple. It is to be held at the

Hello Dolly

By Stacy Shannon

This years spring musical is "Hello Dolly," based on a story about a Jewish matchmaker in New York (Dolly). There was a movie with the same name starring Barbara Streisand, although the role of Dolly will be nothing like the way Streisand presented the character.

Dolly is in love with a man she meets, Horace, and wants to marry him. Horace is interested in a different woman, Irene, and she fits all of his personal characteristics of a "perfect" woman. Irene is also interested in Horace, but only because of his money.

There was a meeting March 2nd for anyone interested in trying out. They discussed important things like what is being looked for, what music is going to be done, and how many parts there will be.

Try-outs are March 8th, and March 9th. There are only 32 parts available; sixteen male, and sixteen female parts. Twelve of each will be chorus roles, with the remaining four as lead roles. A big female turn-out is expected, but not as many of males.

New Teachers

By Stacy Shannon

As expected, the amount of new students enrolling at West Chicago will dramatically increase every year, for years to come. The administration recognizes the need for new teachers to keep the average number of students per class down to around twenty-four.

The need for teachers will result in more teachers being hired. Other po-

sitions will need to be filled, as few of our veteran teachers will be retiring, like Mr. Coyner and Mr. Lincoln.

Dr. Alan C. Jones feels that their main concern is keeping the class size down, and the enrollment figures. It is unknown how many new teachers will be hired, or if there will be more teachers hired than in the past few years.

The Value of K-Mart

By Nichole Cordin

Setting out for a big shopping trip lately may seem like a setting out for trouble if you don't know where to find a good deal. While there are plenty of cheap clothing and accessory stores around, K-Mart is the best place to find every thing you need. K-Mart offers more discount clothing, jewelry, and shoes than any place around.

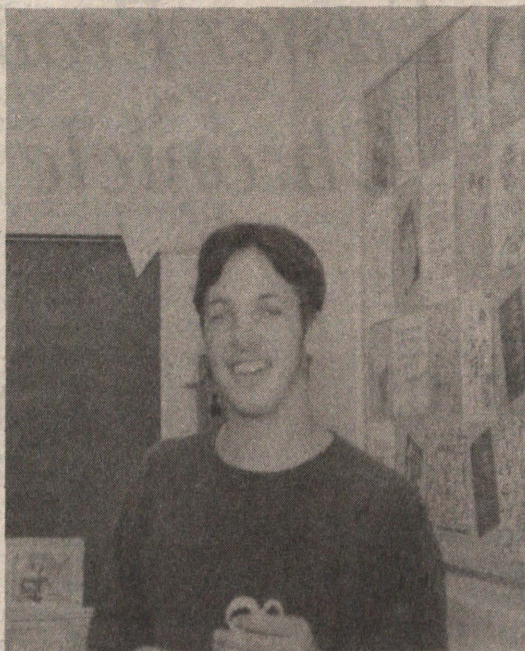
To begin with, one should recognize the distinct style of K-Mart's fashions. Your best bet is to shop in the men's section. There you can find better quality jeans and t-shirts that are large and colorful. The t-shirts you find in the women's section are often too short and not 100%

cotton. What a rip. One of the more recognized brand-names that K-Mart stocks is Dickie Brander's. You can see the famous Dickie name peering out of various shirts and really cool corduroys.

During the summer, you can find great striped t-shirts that don't have stupid things written all over them. Those, paired with some cool shorts or jeans, make a great outfit.

The quality of K-Mart's clothes is pretty good. Although the items last as long as any other thing you might own, washing things from K-Mart is more tricky. Things usually aren't pre-washed and pre-shrunk. This means that things will turn colors in you washer, and shrink in your dryer. Be careful.

If your lucky you can find some cool beaded earrings and necklaces. They always have some



Brian Adamo sports his K-Mart

silver or cold hoops. Sometimes there are some big plastic earrings in the shapes of stars and hearts, but only the really lucky can find a pair of those.

Shoes, shoes, shoes. Everywhere there are shoes to fit your style at K-Mart. You may be thinking that the shoes at K-Mart are of poor quality, but the truth is they are of

pretty good quality. From hiking boots to athletic shoes and platforms, K-Mart holds the key to finishing off the perfect ensemble. And they are cheap, too.

There is nothing more satisfying to the uncertain shopper than finding a good deal. By shopping at K-Mart, one can find a good deal and accessibility to everything they need.

Drugs in We-Go

By Wendy Woodward

In the past year smoking among teenagers has risen two percent, after it dropped a large percent among everyone. Marijuana has also risen amongst teenagers.

When students at this school were asked, how many students they thought used drugs the average was 85%. The most popular drug they think is used is alcohol. Most students think that pot is on the rise. Alcohol is still easier to get. They say you can get anyone to buy it for you.

Most students use drugs at partys. Because when parents go out of town the kids have a party and kids can stay at that house.

I look for smell, actions, coordination. Also if they act silly.

-Ainsworth

Movie Reviews of 1994

SCHINDLER'S LIST

By Laura Torrey

"Schindler's List," based on a true story, is a tale about a Nazi hero during World War Two, Oskar Schindler (Liam Neeson-nominated for Best Actor), who started out hiring Jews as cheap labor in his factories, then ends up saving more than eleven hundred Jews from Concentration Camps.

The film also stars Ben Kingsley as Itzhak Stern, and Ralph Fiennes as Amon Goeth (nominated for best supporting actor). Itzhak Stern was a Jew who was Schindler's accountant and close personal friend. Amon Goeth was a Nazi soldier who took Schindler's Jews and put them into labor camps. Basically, he was the villain in this movie.

This film was very inspirational, and educational. It is directed by Steven Spielberg ("E.T." "The Color Purple"), is 195 minutes long, and is shown in black and white to bring the Holocaust effect onto the screen.

I feel everyone should see this movie because it made me think about the reality of World War Two. I didn't actually think they treated the Jews this bad, but reality says they really did. It's a very sad story, but sometimes the truth hurts. A sure Oscar winner!!!

PHILADELPHIA

By Nichole Cordin

The movie "Philadelphia" opened this winter with much exposure from the media. "Philadelphia" was supposed to be a hard core look at the AIDS tragedy. While it supported this claim, it also surprised me a little. The movie wasn't supposed to cater to the Gay Rights Association, the AIDS awareness groups, or people who don't agree with homosexuality. Instead, the audience was made to feel intelligent, not homophobic. It was for people who aren't protesting anything, for people who aren't afraid or angry at homosexuality and AIDS.

Watching this movie was not at all like sitting through health class. Besides having AIDS, the main character, played by Tom Hanks, was homosexual. He worked at a large law firm and was just promoted. Soon after his employers discovered his condition, they fired him, on the grounds that he almost blew a case. The rest of the movie is about Tom Hanks trying to find a lawyer, going through the trial, and dealing with his supportive family.

This movie was not for everyone, as I said before. I recommend it for people who are open minded, and in the mood for great entertainment. The acting is overwhelmingly fresh and intense, somewhat theatrical. The movie has the solemnity of a play along with the movement of a movie. See it.

BLUE CHIPS

By John Javonovich

"Blue Chips" is a new movie that is out at the theaters. It stars Nick Nolte and a host of famous college basketball players.

"Blue Chips" is a must see and even if you don't like basketball you will find it enjoyable.

The movie is about winning and what college coaches will do to win. Nolte plays coach Pete Bell a clean coach with a respectable program. He has won three national championships and has always had winning seasons. However his program has been down and he starts to realize that he is not getting the talent he used to.

In order to keep the program on the up and up he has to go out and get some raw talent that will bring his program to what it used to be. Nolte finds himself going after three "Blue Chip" athletes.

"Blue Chips" gives you a realistic view of college basketball and what coaches go through to win. There are a couple of things I did not like about the movie. The fact that Nolte's team played only two games during the movie.

ACE VENTURA

by Rob Burwell

He doesn't do humans! He is Ace Ventura: Pet Detective. The idea is pretty ridiculous, the plot is a little fishy, but it is worth seeing.

I went to see this movie expecting to be let down. Maybe it wasn't going to be funny, or just plain stupid. But the truth is, I never laughed so hard at a movie before. Right from the beginning, it was non-stop laughs.

For those of you who haven't heard much about this movie, the story is like this: the Miami Dolphins mascot "Snowflake" is kidnapped and they bring Ace in to solve the case.

Jim Carrey (also from In Living Color) plays Ace Ventura. Ace Ventura is a police officer in Miami, the only pet detective around.

The opening scene tells you this will be a great film. He goes to rescue a lady's dog that was "dog-napped." He dresses up like an HDS delivery man. He delivers the package to the dog-napper's apartment and snags the dog right from under his nose.

Those of you who have been debating whether or not to see

Jeff Ainsworth thinks that this school, like any other school, is very party oriented, and it is important for kids to be involved in the crowd.

There are some students daring enough to come to school under the influence of drugs. Most students say that they can notice it right away and the teacher has to be stupid not to notice that they are drunk or high. Counselor's Bob Hein, Ralph Zaffino don't think students come to school under the influence. And it's not a problem.

Ainsworth said, "I look for smell, actions, coordination. Also if they act silly."

Ainsworth has had students in his class drunk that admitted to it. He said all he can really do is tell him not to come to his class like that again. If Ainsworth told a dean then the student could just deny everything.

Students in sports say that the contract that they sign, saying that they will not do any drugs or alcohol, it means different things to different people. Hein said think that most athletes take it seriously

Do we have a problem that only students see?

Happy Easter From the Wildcat Chronicle Staff

Easter Memories

By Laura Torrey

Is the Easter Bunny coming to your house this year? Do you remember when the Easter Bunny came and gave you your Easter Basket, filled with luscious candies?

"My favorite memory on Easter was when my mom would buy my sister and I big frilly dresses and hats for Easter Sunday," says Ami Sparkman.

Easter is a religious holiday celebrated on a day between March 22 and April 25, depending on the full moon, which we base the date on.

Most children see Easter as, 'a time that the Easter Bunny comes,' rather than the religious aspect of the season. Although many don't know this, the Easter Bunny, and many other animals as well, have religious meaning to them.

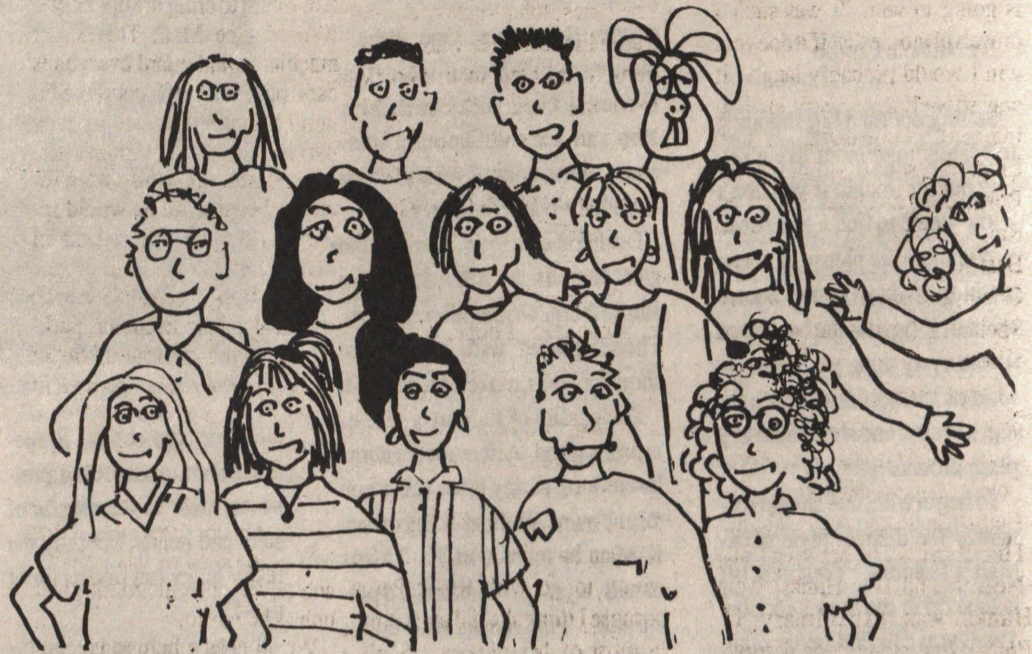
The Easter Bunny, which is really symbolized as a hare, is the symbol of the moon, according to Egyptians. The moon calculates what day Easter comes so there is a connection. The stories of the eggs and candies all come from stories

brought about throughout the years. Eggs, on the otherhand, do have religious meaning to them. "Eggs symbolize the re-birth of Christ because their was a new life inside," says Chuck Ashcraft.

A lot of people dye eggs every year and the Easter Bunny hides them and you have to look for them in the morning. "One year the Easter Bunny hid the eggs and three weeks later we found one of the eggs hidden under the couch. We finally found out what was smelling up our living room," says Vern Bloniarz.

The Easter Bunny was a secret to many of us throughout our childhood years. But, there was one moment when we found out there was no Easter Bunny. "I found out last month when Keith Brooks told me. I cried my eyes out," says Dan Dibble.

"When I found out that there was no Santa Claus, I figured there was no Easter Bunny," says Krista Oleksiak.



Can you guess the people on the Chronicle Staff.

Most everyone gets Easter baskets and candies when they were young, such as Cadbury Eggs, chocolate bunnies, etc. Many people still get baskets. "I love jelly beans," says Dan Dibble.

"I like the Hallow Chocolate Bunnies," says Ami Sparkman.

Easter this year is celebrated on April 3. Most people can't wait for the Easter Bunny to reach their house this year. But every-

Top 5 Easter Candies

1. Cadbury Eggs
2. Reeses Eggs
3. Chocolate Eggs
4. Marshmellow Eggs, Bunnies, Etc.
5. Jelly Beans

Kiss Me I'm Irish

By Blanca Rios

Have you been thinking green lately? There is a sign that St. Patrick's Day is coming up.

On St. Patrick's Day people think of leprechauns, shamrocks, and a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow.

People of Irish descent usually celebrate St. Patrick's Day in their home. Most people eat corned beef, cabbage, Irish soda bread, and Irish potatoes. At Kim Scullion's (junior) house her mother dies the apple sauce green and makes green jello.

Not all families celebrate it this way; but St. Patrick's Day is supposed to be a religious holiday.

Scullion said, "My family is not Irish, but my dad says a little prayer with a few Irish words in it." Junior Declan Walsh's family doesn't go to church on the holiday, but they do pray at home.

"St. Patrick's Day is a day we can recognize and celebrate our Irish heritage," said Lindsay Eichman (junior) who is half Irish. The Scullions talk about

their first Irish ancestors and when they came to America.

Rachel Powers (Junior), who is also Irish, believes that St. Patrick's day is Americanized. "The Irish don't really celebrate the holiday as much as Americans. It's more of an American holiday than anything," said Powers.

Other than the traditions at home, students come to school wearing green or paint four leaf clovers on their faces.

"I wear green, and different Irish buttons like the 'Kiss me I'm Irish' buttons," said Candy Gallagher (sophomore).

Despite the fact that people think St. Patrick's Day is Americanized, it doesn't seem to stop the Walsh's. Walsh said, "My parents go and party with their friends, while I have to stay home and babysit!"

This leprechaun found his pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.



Here's a recipe for all of the St. Patrick's Day Fans to try:

Irish Soda Bread

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 3 Cups sifted flour | 1-1/2 cups raisins |
| 2/3 cup sugar | 2 eggs, beaten |
| 3 tsp. baking powder | 1-3/4 cups buttermilk |
| 1 tsp. baking soda | 1 tsp. salt |
| 2 tbls. melted shortening | |

Resift flour with sugar, baking powder, soda, salt. Stir in raisins. Combine beaten eggs, buttermilk, melted shortening. Stir in dry ingredients, mixing just until flour is moistened. Bake in 9x5" loaf pan in 350 degree oven for one hour.

And the Oscar goes to...

By Laura Torrey

Who's going to win this year? It's hard to say, but the Oscars are just around the corner, so choose your favorites now.

The Best Picture category has five movies nominated: *Schindler's List*, *The Piano*, *The Remains of the Day*, *In the Name of the Father*, and *The Fugitive*.

Although I have not seen three of the movies nominated, I feel that *Schindler's List* definitively is going to win. It was such a powerful movie that if it does not win I would probably laugh. It was so well done, very intriguing, and very realistic. It stars Liam Neeson (nominated for Best Actor) as Oskar Schindler, Ralph Fiennes (nominated for Best Supporting Actor), as Amon Goeth, and is directed by Steven Spielberg (nominated for Best Director).

I have a hard time saying my pick for Best Actor. They include: Tom Hanks, Daniel Day-Lewis, Anthony Hopkins, Liam Neeson, and Laurence Fishburne. I feel that it's a tie between Liam Neeson, and Tom Hanks. Tom Hanks was extraordinary in *Philadelphia* and does deserve to win, but Liam Neeson did a wonderful job acting as Oskar Schindler. I think the academy will take to consider that Liam Neeson is in a movie that is nominated for Best Picture, so he may win, but I don't know.

For the Best Actress category, the nominees are: Holly Hunter, Stockard Channing, Angela Bassett, Emma Thompson, and Debra Winger. I absolutely, positively have no idea who will win this because I honestly have to say that I've never heard of half

the movies they've been in. I'll probably go with Emma Thompson though, because she did win Best Actress last year. She does act extremely well...so I've heard.

Now entering the Best Supporting Actor category, the nominees are: Tommy Lee Jones, John Malkovich, Ralph Fiennes, Leonardo DiCaprio, and Pete Postlethwaite. It's definitively a three way tie between Tommy Lee Jones, John Malkovich, and Ralph Fiennes. They are all extremely talented men who deserve the Oscar. I'm probably going to go with Tommy Lee Jones, though. He did a wonderful job as the cop in *The Fugitive*. He portrayed it extraordinarily well. I don't think that he's won an Oscar before, but this year he's going to...I hope.

Last, but not least, the Best Supporting Actress Nominees are: Winona Ryder, Rosie Perez, Anna Paquin, Emma Thompson, and Holly Hunter. Again, I've never seen half the movies these women have been in. But, I'm going to go with Rosie Perez because I think she did awesome in most of her movies. She's very talented and talks real cute. I hope she wins.

"I think that either *The Fugitive* or *Schindler's List* will win," says Kim Levine.

"Probably Tom Hanks will win Best Actor," says Lisa Lavander. "Definitively *Schindler's List*," says Jennifer Hauger.

Well, there's my Academy Awards poll. You may agree, you may disagree, but we'll just wait and see. We'll see who's going to be laughing when Oscar Night comes. See you then.

The Whitney Awards?

By Carrie Fleming

"Now I feel valuable advertising time going by.....dollars, dollars, dollars." Billy Joel's performance and answer to Frank Sinatra's speech being cut off for a commercial, was possibly the only high point of the Grammy Awards.

The night was expected to be for no one but Whitney Houston. Houston did not disappoint anyone and neither did a certain genie.

"Bodyguard," the \$10 million selling album, won album of the year. The song written 22 years ago by Dolly Parton, "I Will Always Love You," won album of the year, and brought Houston a Grammy for best pop vocal.

The soundtrack from "Aladdin" won five awards. The awards included an honor for song of the year and best pop performance for the song, "A Whole New World," by Peabo Bryson and Regina Belle.

Happenings outside Radio City Music Hall were possibly more exciting than what was happening inside. A few dozen people gathered outside to protest the

elimination of the category for best female rock video. The academy merged the categories of men and women's rock vocals. There was only one problem. No females were nominated in the category.

The only other high point of the show, in my opinion, was the performance of country great Garth Brooks. Brooks performed his hit single, "Standing Outside the Fire," and brought energy and class to an otherwise dull production.

Other winners included Aerosmith for "Livin' on the Edge." Best performance by group or duo rap honors went to the Digable Planets. Sting's "If I Ever Lose My Faith In You," won the award for best pop vocal performer male. Brooks and Dunn won country performance by a duo or group with vocal and Dwight Yokum won for best country vocal performance. Yokum was a surprise winner by all means, beating such artists as Alan Jackson, George Jones, and Garth Brooks.

By Jeff Hadzima

Watch out, there is a tire slasher roaming the friendly confines of Kerr-McGee.

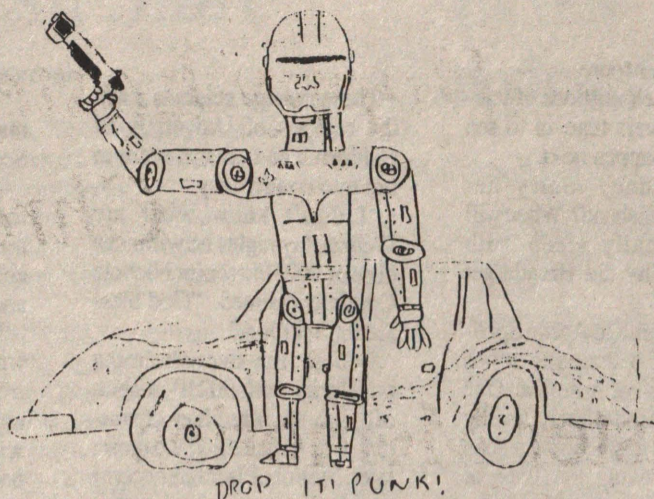
Who this person is is not known, but there seems to be no clue if it is a student here, or someone who just has nothing better to do than slash tires. Who is this mysterious person who struck again on Tuesday, March 8th by slashing two tires of one car?

The only way to solve this problem would be to bring in Super Robo Kerr-McGee Man. This super machine could guard everyone's cars, plus scare off people who don't belong on our nicely paved parking lot. Super Robo Kerr-McGee man would also work for cheap, because all he would require is a little oil, instead of donuts and coffee.

Super Robo Kerr-McGee Man would also help keep our parking lot neat and clean. If Super Robo Kerr-McGee Man caught anyone littering, he would bring them directly to the deans office, ending all the hassle of the students going to their office themselves. And the great thing is that he would do all of this politely, and never raise his robot voice unless he has to.

We all need a hero today, and Super Robo Kerr-McGee Man would be the perfect thing to

Super Robo Protector



admire. I mean, who else would guard cars, keep an eye on the property, and help old ladies cross the street. Super Robo Kerr-McGee Man would be the do-all man. You need someone to help you start your car, ask Super Robo Kerr-McGee man. You need your windows cleaned, ask Super Robo Kerr-McGee Man. Your going to be late to school and you need a quick ride, ask Super Robo Kerr-McGee Man.

The days are approaching when we may see this wonder machine. Hey, maybe he will even give you a warning first before he

tows your car because your car is sticking out two feet too much. What a great robot this would be.

We need a reality check here. This will not happen at our school. While our tires are being slashed, nothing is really being done about it. We do need someone to stay near Kerr-McGee and protect our cars. If there is no one guarding our cars, this will continue to happen. We need a protector, a guardian, we need Super Robo Kerr-McGee Para-Pro to keep an eye on our cars.

Spring Break

By Dan Ziman

Well it is Spring Break time again and people are waiting patiently for the week off. Spring Break officially starts March 25 at 3:25 P.M. What are people going to do that whole week?

Well the question, "What are you going over Spring Break?" got a wide variety of answers. Junior Robert Hernandez said, "Work, see one of my ex-girlfriends and go to L.A. and check out women."

Junior George Witkowski said, "Going to Mobile, Alabama for one week, going deep sea fishing in the Gulf of Mexico."

Junior Dave Sabatino said, "go to Memphis, Tennessee to visit my brother in the Marines and visit the Gibson Guitar factory to buy a guitar."

It seems a lot of people are going on trips for Spring Break, but not everyone. Sophomore Jeff Rodenkirk said, "Go to the track and most likely sleep in."

Junior Andy Grotto said, "Watch C-Span and discuss politics with my friends while enjoying a relaxing game of bridge."

Still others are going to do things that they wanted to do

since they were little. Sophomore Karina Villa said, "Learn how to drive because I just got my permit, but my parents said I couldn't drive till the snow melts (hopefully it won't snow again)."

Junior Katie Leuze said, "Well, hopefully see my friend in Iowa but I will probably go to work with mom once or twice. I also want to get my license so I don't have to take the bus."

As you can see everybody doing something a little different this Spring Break.

POM PONS

come and support them. Can you blame them?

Some of the poms that were not there gave reasons for their absence. Junior Tracy Haugh explained why some were not there. "Jessica Bartch, Noelle Giammaco, and I didn't have a ride." Trina Chalupa had to work. "I told Mrs. Woodson ahead of time that I had to work and the captains forgot to tell her so I got lectured for an hour," said Chalupa. "I would have gone if I didn't have to work." Not all of the poms were absent. A couple were there and the seniors were thankful to those who came.

Rumors were flying around saying that some of the poms that

weren't there were at a party. One person I asked was Slapak and she commented by saying, "Yes, they were at a party and they are all lying to cover up."

The truth will never come out, but it sounds like other things were more important to those who did not show up. For years of hard work and dedication, I think the seniors deserved more than they got.

The Wednesday Night Phenom

by Raven Moore

Every week millions of television viewers tune in to see what will happen next.

Will Sydney marry her sister's ex-husband? When will Donna finally sleep with David? Why did Brenda get arrested?

Three years ago Aaron Spelling started a dramatic series for the youth of America. One hundred episodes later, Beverly Hills 90210 has become a soap opera following the lives of several fictional college students who week after week never cease to amaze viewers.

These college students roam the campus of University of California and always seem to run into controversy.

"I don't know what my Wednesday nights be without a dose of 90210!" senior Nichole Cordin exclaimed. "God bless Aaron Spelling."

Due to the overwhelming popularity with 90210, a spin-off with slightly older characters was created. Two years later, Melrose Place has become drastically more popular than its parent show.

"The plot in Melrose Place is much more intriguing," senior Scott Everett expressed.

On Melrose Place several tenants reside in a posh apartment complex and have become heavily involved in one another's lives.

There is really no answer to why these shows have intrigued young adults across the country. The plots are never without sex, violence, and back-stabbing.

"These shows have become so popular because teenagers can relate to the characters they watch," senior Sheri Daleiden said.

Drug Night is About School Representation Also

by David Vingren

Athletes are more important than band members, play casts, choir, FBLA, etc.

That statement will send members of these other groups' nose hairs aflame.

Well, they're right though, athletes are not more important than members of these groups. So why do athletes have to attend a drug awareness night and sign a drug pledge while members of other groups do not?

For each of the three seasons there is a drug awareness night held a few weeks before their games begin. During these evenings, the athletes for the in-season sports and their parents attend a presentation by a paid speaker who informs the audience about drugs and their effects.

The athletes also have to sign a pledge that states they "understand that the use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs is forbidden at all times, including summers."

So what's this? Does the administration think athletes are very probable to doing drugs and alcohol or do they see athletes as more important than any other group? Well neither, of course.

Then why aren't members of these groups subjected to a drug policy?

According to Principal Dr. Alan C. Jones, the school has the drug awareness program for athletes due to the pressure the Illinois High School Association places on schools to do so.

Another reason is there is a difference between athletics and other groups. Band, the play, choir, and FBLA, are curricular activities. In other words, these activities are linked to actual classes during the school day and therefore they are covered by the school policy. Since there is no specific class for sports, athletics is considered an extra-curricular activity (Physical Education and after school sports have no links while other groups' classes and after school activities have very strong ones).

But, there is more to a drug awareness evening than just reading a policy and giving drug education, it is relaying to the athletes their responsibilities in representing the school; and one of the most important aspects of good school representation is staying away from drugs and alcohol.

Band members, the play cast, choir, FBLA, etc. represent the school just as much as athletes do and there currently is no drug awareness night they have to attend and no pledge they have to sign that makes them aware they greatly represent the school and should represent it in a positive way.

Of the students at West Chicago surveyed:

80% prefer Melrose Place
20% prefer Beverly Hills 90210

90% feel the shows are not realistic
10% feel the shows are realistic

40% feel they are addicted to the shows
60% feel they are not addicted to the shows

If you feel you know everything about Beverly Hills 90210 and Melrose Place, here is your chance to test your knowledge. After the description, name the character described:

- 1) My sister just married my ex-husband in my wedding dress, but not before I threw her in my pool: _____
- 2) My boyfriend is in the Marine Corps. and I made him come out of the closet: _____
- 3) My wife drives our daughter to college: _____
- 4) My lover just put moves on my best friend while I was on a weekend retreat: _____
- 5) My step-brother is a recovering drug addict who is a jammin' d.j.: _____
- 6) My boyfriend was a drug dealer and I shot him when he held me captive in his boat: _____
- 7) My fiance never wanted to see me again if I decided on getting an abortion: _____

Answers to the quiz will be in next month's issue....

Quote of the Month

"I'm not perfect. I'm not a Disney character."

-Nancy Kerrigan on the heat she has received from the media recently

Computer Crisis

By Kristan Mulley

Does this sound familiar to you?

You have a paper to type and you don't have a computer at home or your teacher requires you to type it on a Macintosh. So, you go to type before school, but the library doesn't open until 7:30. You go to type during your unscheduled, but the computers are filled in the library. Finally, you decide to type after school, but you only have until 4:00.

I'm sure cases similar to this one have happened to many of you.

Senior Carie Mielke had a similar experience. She said, "I was busy typing an essay that had a deadline after school one day. The librarians had no sympathy and made me leave."

The problem is the growing demand for the Mac computers.

Sarah Olsen, the head librarian said she's noticed the demand for the computers in the library. "Before school, there are many times we have to turn

people away," she continued. This is because there are only about eight Macs available to students in the library.

Olsen said sometimes the computers are filled during unscheduled hours. However, this occurs mostly before the time big papers are due she explained.

Another problem Olsen pointed out was, "Students don't realize that typing takes longer than they think it will."

A good solution to this problem would be to perhaps open the Mac lab before or after school to students. There are about 52 computers in the Mac lab.

Senior Becky Suerth suggested, "They should open the Mac lab before school because many of us don't have computers at home."

Sophomore Katie Leitherer had a similar idea. She said, "I think they should have one night a week that the computers should be open later. That way

students can get their work done."

However, "Personnel is needed to supervise," explained dean John Highland. He said that he has noticed the Mac lab has really increased in use.

Although this seems to be a big problem now, there is hope for next year.

Superintendent Dr. Joel Morris commented, "I understand the problem and we are really trying to work on it."

Morris plans to open the library at 7:00 in the morning next year. He also wants to make the librarians hours more flexible so that the library can stay open until 5:00 or 5:30.

Morris would also like to open the Mac lab after school when teachers assign term papers.

In addition to this, he'd also like to put some computers in the West Chicago Public Library. He believes this could help students work on papers on weekends and after school.

Wildcat Chronicle

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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.

Drugs and Athletes

By Jeff Hadzima

Drugs and athletes have long been associated together. Drugs may help athletes perform, but they hurt the users body. Even if it is just for fun, or it is to help you look and feel better, drugs are something that just seem to never go away.

Early athletes wanted a way to improve their game, and that is how steroids came in. Athletes wanted bigger muscles, and that is what they got, only they did not know the damage they were doing to their bodies in the long run. Although it is not certain, steroids have been linked to many diseases, one of which is a brain tumor which killed former football star Lyle Alzado. Alzado said he never did steroids, but after finding out he had a brain tumor, he admitted to being a frequent user of steroids.

Steroids are not the only thing athletes are doing. When joining a sport here at West Chicago, you must sign a pledge that says you will not use any illegal drugs, tobacco, or alcohol at all times, which even includes the summer, when you are not in a sport.

Is this followed or is it being ignored? Mostly it is being ignored. According to the American Drug and Alcohol Survey for District 94 Students, which was taken

in March of 1992, 93% of the 12th graders had tried alcohol. The national level was 88%. Of the percentage of students that had tried alcohol in the last month, the number dropped to 50%. This would mean that some athletes had drunken during the season. The pledge should have stopped this, but it didn't.

Now with the rise of marijuana, many athletes are turning to this because you do not get the after effects that you do with alcohol.

"If you smoke marijuana, you have enough time to recover before a game or practice, and with alcohol you can't do this," an unidentified student said.

A recent, unofficial Wildcat Chronicle survey shows that 25% percent of the students surveyed have tried marijuana during the season. 35% students have done drugs during the season.

45% of students have drunken alcohol before, and have done during the season.

These facts may not be all true, but they still are something that should not be ignored. Drugs are something a lot of high school students face. Many are athletes, and many pledges are broken. Some athletes feel they can drink, as long as they stay away from drugs. This is very wrong, and it abuses the pledge. In this day and age, a pledge just isn't enough.

Boys Volleyball Fresh Start

By Stacy Shannon

A new berth for We-go is happening this year. 1994 marks the first season for the new guys volleyball team.

For the first time, guys will have the chance to show their volleyball skills somewhere besides gym class, beach, and backyard games.

Try-outs were March 7th, and the team's first game of the season will be here, against Fenton on Tuesday, April 5th.

A good turn-out was expected at try-outs, and there was. An estimation between sixty and seventy guys showed up, and the majority that showed up were freshmen and sophomores.

Team cuts start next week, following a week of practices. The coaches are keeping thirty people; fifteen on varsity, and fifteen for junior varsity.

This year there will only be two squads; varsity and junior varsity. The two coaches are: Wayne Chadwick for varsity, and Stacey Anderson for junior varsity.

This season, a top competitor from the Dupage Valley Conference will be Wheaton-Warrenville South. Wheaton-Warrenville South has done very well in past years, and they should be tough competition for those teams just starting out.

Track Goes to the Outdoors

By Wendy Woodward

Both the girls and boys teams are small in size but big in heart and desire, for the kids and the coaches.

The boys team lost a couple of their great runners because of graduation. They also gained some good freshman this year. Dan Horyn for one is an excellent 1600 and 800 meter runner.

The team also has a new sprint coach, Coach Klotz. The boys say he is a very hard worker and is tough but that is what it takes to be good.

As for the girls, who have a quite smaller team, but Coach Walters thinks it's the best team this school has had for awhile. The team is still as strong as the other teams, but one thing is that they don't have as many relays and jumpers as the other schools in the conference. So they make up for that in individual events.

Outdoor season is just around the corner for the runners which is the favorite of almost everyone. That means better times, less injuries, and more fun.

Soccer Kicks Off

By Jeff Hadzima

It's that time of year when girls soccer goes in full swing once again, and this year looks like it will be their best in our school's young girls soccer program.

Having fifteen returning varsity players and playing year round can only improve your program. Playing indoor can really help your game, and this is what many of the girls did. By playing in the off season and dedicating yourself to a long, rough soccer season molds a player into a good one. With all the players returning, the players speak with determination.

"We have a lot of returning varsity players, so our goal is to do better than we did last year," Junior Kim Hack said.

Doing better than last year seems to be every soccer player's goal. Last year may have looked like an unsuccessful year on paper, but it surely wasn't. It

prepared them for this season. Now that the season is here, the time has come to put all that was learned from last season, and use it to become a better team.

"Most of our top players are returning, so basically we have the same team as last year. This year as a team we will strive to become more of a contender in the DVC," Junior Ehrin Arimura said.

Becoming more of a contender in the DVC is something that will not be easy. Being one of the most difficult conferences in most sports, it is surely a difficult season ahead for girls soccer also. With the large turnout of girls each year, the girls soccer team has a bright future. Each year seems to be a more successful one, and soon, after much hard work that is done, our girls soccer team may soon bring home their first DVC title.

Their first game is on April 7th at home against Glenbard North.

By John Jovanovich

Winterhalder, Sterling, Leck, Madden, yes it's tennis time. The season has started and the team is pumped.

With the loss of last years downstate players, Jon Martin, JJ Schaun, and Kurt Hesterman, the Wildcats will have to rely on senior Mike Winterhalder and juniors Jeff Sterling and Joel Madden.

Mr. Mo has had the team prepared by giving them time to practice in open gym and the players have practiced on their own in the off season.

"We're going to work hard and try to finish in the middle of the conference," Moeki said.

Sterling is hoping for a third place finish and he knows the Cats will have to play good to beat the Wheatons and the Naperville's.

"The conference is very tough and we will just play hard and see what happens," said Winterhalder.

The team will also get some help from underclassmen Matt Bowen and Mike Leck. Bowen is a freshman and Leck is a sopho-

more. However, the only returning lettermen from last year's team are Winterhalder, Sterling, and Joel Madden. They will have to lead the younger players in the right direction if the Cats want a successful season.

One of the team's other bright spots Andy Dvorak is hurt and he is not sure when he will return.

The first meet is April 5th when the Wildcats visit Larkin. Some predict that the Wildcats will only go as far as Winterhalder can take them.

"I'm the best player on the team," said Winterhalder.

Hopefully he and the rest of the Wildcats are that confident when they hit the nets.

This just in, former Wildcat quarter-back star and starting guard for the varsity basketball team Tom Suess may be reporting to camp and joining the tennis team. He may just be trying to pull a Michael Jordan. We will keep you informed on the Suess watch.

Boys Sophomore Hoops Shine

Varsity Ends Season in Regional Loss

By Raven Moore

"Our goal at the beginning of the season was to win the DuPage Valley Conference (on the sophomore level)," Jeremy Logan said.

Although success was hard to come by for the Varsity boys basketball team this season, this was not the case for the boys sophomore team this season.

The sophomores clinched the DVC title with a 53-52 win against Wheaton North on February 25.

The boys ended the season with a 17-3 record overall and a 12-2 record in the conference.

Although most teams would be more than happy to do as well as the sopho-

mores did this season, they felt they could have easily gone undefeated.

"We were hoping to be more successful than our record reflected," guard Ryan Saul said. The sophomore team lost by a combined total of five points in their three losses this season.

"Our success was due to the fact that Coach Recchia worked us harder than any other team he has coached," Logan said. "He expected no less than a DVC title because he knew what we were capable of."

The players hope that this DVC championship will help West Chicago athletics

get the recognition it deserves in the conference.

"The entire boys basketball program at West Chicago has never won a DVC title so this should help us gain respect," Logan said.

The boys felt another factor in their success was the fact that all the players got along well together and many of the players spent time together off the court.

Inexperience may be the only problem that could hinder the Varsity program in the future. With seven seniors graduating, lack of experience will be a big concern.

Juniors Dan Dibble and Derek Porter will have to share their knowledge and experience on the Varsity level with key sopho-

more players Brian Bowen, Jeremy Logan, and Jose Munoz if the Cats expect to succeed next year on the Varsity level.

The Varsity boys basketball team ended their season with a loss against East Aurora in their first game of the Regionals. The Cats were led by senior forward Donta Norwood who scored a game-high 36 points.

The Varsity ended up with a 13-12 record overall and finished 5-9 in the conference. Norwood was a Unanimous All-Conference selection and senior Tom Suess was named Honorable Mention All-Conference.

Wallner Replaced as Head Volleyball Coach

Move raises questions about West Chicago coaching futures

By David Vingren

After two years as girls varsity head volleyball coach, Kim Wallner is being replaced, the administration announced.

The Board of Education is expected to hire her replacement at its March 22 meeting. The replacement will be hired as a Physical Education teacher who has great experience in volleyball.

The transaction comes in the midst of a suddenly publicized interest the board and administration hold in having coaches who teach within the school.

But, the athletic department claims there are other reasons for the move, which pertain to the circumstances Wallner was hired under.

Two years ago, West Chicago was expected to have a new head volleyball coach; but the summer prior to the start of season, this person decided to take a position elsewhere. In an urgent need for a head coach, the school asked Wallner, who was coaching at a lower level, if she would assume the position. Wallner agreed and became head coach.

But, according to Assistant Athletic Director Gail George, it was understood between Wallner and the administration that the move could be temporary due to the unexpected circumstances she was hired under.

"At the time it was talked about that this was something I might not do forever," Wallner said.

"My greatest strength overall was not volleyball at the beginning because I had never played volleyball in high school or college; but after going to a number of clinics and coaching it over the years I feel I did a pretty good job.

"At the time I took the job I had told the AD that it may not be something I wanted to do forever."

But, the administration now feels that they have found someone more qualified to fill the coaching position, who will teach within the school as well.

"We prefer to have coaches that are in the building," Athletic Director Tom Hancock said. "What we're looking for is excellent teachers who have an expertise in a particular sport. That's logic.



"We'd like it if all our coaches worked in the school. We see coaches as role models. It's good to have it so that the students can see their coaches when they're walking down the hall or when they're in the classroom, or when there's an emergency that they always can find their coach. Anyone would say that is the excellent way to go."

Wallner did file a job application with the school to become a Physical Education teacher; but the new coach will fill the only current opening available.

"I had heard they were looking to get coaches [who teach] in the building and I was hoping they'd look to me," said Wallner who is currently a PE teacher at Benjamin Junior High School.

Wallner was unsure when attempting to find the words to describe the school's move.

"Do I feel I was fired?" Wallner said, repeating an asked question. "I don't know what the right word is to be honest with you. I was replaced. I was replaced by another person. I don't know."

"[The administration] put it where they wanted to get their head coaches in the building."

Some feel that this is the first of several moves to come by the administration and

school board where they try to fulfill their preference of having coaches who teach within the building.

Wallner said she believes the replacement is a result of a combination of things — the administration and board's preference, and the circumstances she was hired under.

Wallner said her two years as head volleyball coach meant a lot to her.

"As far as coaching at the high school, I've done a lot and put in a lot of years and what volleyball coaching meant to me was a lot," she said. "I think in every sport I coach I put in lot of myself into it and I tried to do the best I could to help the program whether I was a varsity coach or a lower level coach."

"I liked her," said senior Sherri Daleiden who played under Wallner in volleyball and varsity basketball. "I enjoyed being coached by her. She gives you the opportunity to prove yourself. She believes in all her players."

"What other person could give as much effort and dedication as Miss Wallner does?"

Although it is one of the reasons she will not be the volleyball head coach next year, Wallner does not see the coaches in

the building preference as a negative idea.

"I feel it's a good thing," she said. "My feeling overall is it helps your program. It makes your athletic program stronger overall to have coaches in the building. I think you can relate to staff members about your program and I think you can get more support sometimes if you're around the building. You can communicate with parents and athletes much easier. I think there are a lot of advantages to it."

"I'm not saying that it's the only way that it should be run; but there are some advantages to being in the building."

This preference by the administration and board could mean Wallner's head varsity girls basketball coaching job is in jeopardy, as well as Lee Maciejewski's head varsity coaching jobs in boys basketball and girls softball.

When asked about the status of her basketball coaching career, Wallner said, "I have no idea." She said that she has fear in regards to her future. She said, "I think that's a natural reaction."

"I am still the head basketball coach as of this time and as far as what's going to happen in the future, nothing is really decided yet."

Superintendent Dr. Joel Morris said replacing Wallner or Maciejewski would be considered "if somebody comes along with an outstanding background [for coaching] who is hired as a teacher."

"We've only hired for teaching. If the person hired has the ability to be a coach here, that's great."

Morris said the board and administration has always preferred coaches who teach within the building and said he has "no idea" to why this issue has all of a sudden arisen in a controversial manner.

"I'm certainly not the one raising the issue," he said. "These circumstances aren't anything new. The board has always preferred to have coaches in the building."

"I can't imagine students would not want to have their coach in the building so they can see them on a regular basis."

Good Things to Come on Mounds

By David Vingren

There is the of saying "pitching is ninety percent of the game." It has been used for years by baseball coaches, and Head Varsity Baseball Coach Tim Courtney is no different.

"You've got to pitch to win," he says.

If Courtney stands strong by his statement, he should be optimistic about this season.

Three starting pitchers from last year have returned—Seniors Ted Fijalkowski, John Miller, and Tim Murphy.

Fijalkowski is coming off a 2-1 record during the summer league with an impressive 0.91 ERA.

Even more impressive was his finish of last season in the regional championship game against the eventual state champion York, where he pitched a complete game and gave up only one run.

"[That game] gives me confidence that I can pitch against the best in the state," Fijalkowski said.

Courtney said he thinks Fijalkowski and Miller (3-3, 2.81 during summer) are capable of setting the school record for most wins in a season (seven).

"If I pitch to my full potential, it's very possible," Fijalkowski said. "[I'll have to]

pitch smart, stay ahead of the hitters, and establish my inside fastball."

"I've got to pitch smart," Miller said, "and not get psyched out by Naperville Central and teams like that. I think I can [break the record]."

For West Chicago's pitching is to be fully effective, it will need improvement behind it as last year's team struggled defensively.

"We're going to hit a million ground balls and a million fly balls," said Courtney of how he will use his practice time to improve that area.

Although most of the pitching staff is back, a bulk of the offense is gone, mainly Scott Westman (5 HR's) and .300 plus hitter Richie Fikis, who both have gone on to play in college.

Courtney said his team will have to focus on executing well in order to score runs.

"We're going to have to do the little things like walk, steel bases, bunt; just the little stuff," he said.

West Chicago (14-17 last season) opens the season March 29 with a double header at St. Charles.



Ted Fijalkowski plays toss before practice. He is the ace of the West Chicago pitching staff.