

Wildcat Chronicle

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West Chicago, IL



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Hello, Dolly! Last Production for Several Seniors



Jim Smith, Robert Hernandez, Rachel Owens & John Rakow perform in "Hello Dolly!"

by Raven Moore

It seems that with the completion of *Hello, Dolly!* almost the entire cast will be leaving due to graduation.

Theater standouts Skye Studabaker, Chris Leck, Rob Scott, and Rachel Owens will no longer dominate leading roles. Between the four of them, they have combined to perform in nearly every production done at West Chicago in the last four years.

Other seniors who have spent endless hours perfecting roles to entertain their audience are Jessica Shinofield, Jenny Johnson, John Rakow, Joe Guetler, and Nichole Cordin.

All of the nine seniors listed above played a major role in the success of the *Hello, Dolly!* production. Owens starred the leading role as Mrs. Dolly Gallagher Levi with her eventual beau cast by Chris Leck.

The singing talents of Melissa Pagnozzi and Sarah Arthur were displayed when both sang numbers including "Ribbons Down My Back" and "Elegance."

"It is a lot more work completing a musical. You must work on your singing and dancing as well as acting. It requires much more energy," Rakow said.

Scott, who has starred in nine productions throughout his high school years, felt that plays gave him the opportunity to express himself.

Although many of the theater regulars will be gone next year, there are still several who will dominate the stage in the future. Juniors Chris LaCour, Heather Hlavaty, and Melissa Pagnozzi along with underclassmen standouts Anne D'Aversa and Sarah Arthur, the productions will continue to shine.

by David Vingren

The removal of thorium at Kerr Mcgee will effect some of West Chicago Community High School's interests, but removal on school campus will have a bigger impact.

Testing is still being done, but thorium deposits have been discovered on school property. Since the levels of radioactivity are not extremely hazardous, its removal may not take place this fall, like the Kerr Mcgee removal, since cleaning up residences with higher levels of radioactivity are a higher priority.

Removal of deposits will eventually take place on the west side of the stadium and the south tennis courts. Testing is still being done on other areas of the campus and at the newly purchased Lincoln School.

"Based on what we saw from the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (IDNS) back in 1990, there doesn't appear to be a lot of thorium on the school site," Superintendent Dr. Joel Morris said, "and it's pretty much concentrated west of the school where there's not a lot of student traffic and so I'm hopeful that indeed is what occurs is that there isn't very much; in which case it won't have a big impact on us in terms of removal."

So far, the IDNS has taken dirt samples for testing and calibrated instruments for future testing. There has not been any problems with testing procedures interfering with school activities such as Physical Education classes.

"Testers have been cooperative so far in communicating

with school when they will do testing so the school can adjust accordingly," Morris said.

The school will be monitoring the removal procedures to make sure they are not interfering with activities or posing possible hazards. Assistant Superintendent Jim Mast will head the monitoring duties. Morris and the school's grounds staff will do monitoring as well.

"We have grounds staff, who are the people that mow the lawns, and if a truck shows up and they start to do some things then they'll alert us to that," Morris said. "So far they (the testers) have been pretty good."

"I think we need to monitor the kind of removal activities that are occurring and try to make sure that whenever they occur that who ever is doing the removal takes the maximum possible safety in order to protect the students as well as the employees."

Morris said he has stressed to the Environmental Protection Agency that he would prefer the removal on campus to take place when school is not in session for safety.

"They assured us that whatever procedure they would use would be one that would capture any kind of dust or residue that would be involved in the removal operation so that it would be safe," Morris said. "We'd try to do it when there weren't any students around."

If radioactive dirt being released into the air during removal is a possibility, there maybe a large air bubble placed around the removal sight to prevent the hazard.

Thorium Removal

The school will also be monitoring removal at Kerr Mcgee that is scheduled to begin this fall, but will only be concerned with the time table.

"For example, if they were to say 'do you want to remove this during homecoming weekend or during a big football weekend'," Morris said, "we might be able to say 'no that's not an appropriate time because were using this space and were going to have a lot of people around.' What we try to do is monitor everything that's going on and maybe come out and say 'this isn't good or that isn't good or we see some problems here' and try to deal with that."

One of the bigger concerns with this fall's removal at the factory sight is the issue of school parking. Since the school does not have the space to accommodate all student drivers and most streets surrounding the school prohibit parking until 10 AM, many are forced to use Factory Road, which is next to the factory, as a place to park.

City officials will have to make a decision on how to open up new parking spaces. The school and the city will explore possibilities at future meetings. The city wants to receive a final time table from Kerr Mcgee before it approaches the parking issue.

Factory Road will close sometime during next school year, so students will still have parking access at the beginning of the year. There will also be an additional 15 to 20 spaces opening up next year on the newly purchased Lincoln School property, but that will not satisfy all the parking needs.

Upcoming Events

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| May 30, 1994 | Memorial Day No School |
| May 31, 1994 | Choir Concert 7:30 PM |
| June 1, 1994 | Spring Sports Awards Night 7:30 PM |
| June 2, 1994 | Honors Night 8:00 PM |
| June 4, 1994 | Senior Class Breakfast 7:30 AM |
| | Graduation Practice 8:00 AM |
| June 5, 1994 | Commencement |
| June 11, 1994 | ACT testing 7:45 AM |
| June 15, 1994 | Grades mailed |

Exam Schedule

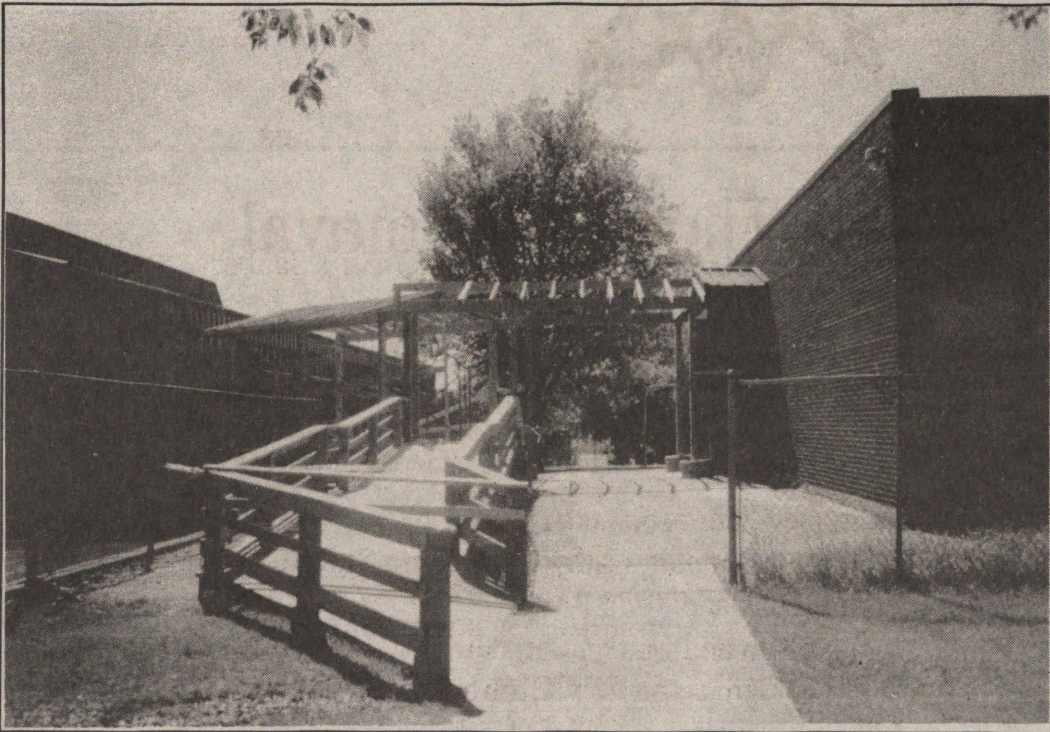
Seniors:

June 1, 1994 periods 1-3
June 2, 1994 periods 4-10 (last day)

Underclassmen:

June 6, 1994 periods 1-3
12:55 Dismissal
June 7, 1994 periods 4-9
12:55 Dismissal
June 8, 1994 period 10
9:25 Dismissal (last day)

Summer Construction Underway FBLA Hosts End of Year Banquet



Construction is under way, connecting the high school to Lincoln School.

By Blanca Rios

Over the summer, there will be construction and renovating going on at the high school.

A new project, which was passed May 17, is the painting of the gym. What color or exactly when, has not been specified at this point.

Sun Dean Contractors have started constructing a walk way in between Lincoln and the high school.

Ten of Lincoln school's classrooms are high school sized and will be used next year. New desks and other equipment will be bought for the new high school students.

The department that will be moved to Lincoln is the Foreign Language department. Two classrooms may be set aside for P.E. offices.

Assistant Superintendent of Business James Mast, said, "Our budget including furnishings and construction is \$260,000." He added, "The construction alone will cost about \$210,000."

The project is planned to be finished sometime in August. "There is a sequencing problem in the time it will take because of the construction of the new elementary schools being built and finished in time for Lincoln students to move," said Mast.

With Lincoln school, the high school will have new parking space, although how much space and how it will be used is not yet verified.

"Even with the increase in students, Mast said, "there are more than adequate lockers for two more years."

Along with construction in between the schools in the high school, there will be the renovating of washrooms on the main floor. In Lincoln there will be painting relamping, and washrooms will be renovated from child to adult size and handicapped accessible.

National Honor Society

By Blanca Rios

The National Honor Society (NHS) will induct its members on Tuesday, May 24, at 7:30 P.M.

About 200 students who had at least a 3.0 grade point average were mailed NHS applications. From there students filled out applications. The applications requested activities students participated in and awards received. Teachers who evaluated the students, had about sixty reference cards each. Each reference card had a number in place of the student. The reference cards were divided by categories of character, leadership, and service. Teachers then rated each card, acknowledging the students extracurricular activities,

leadership qualities, and community service.

After a process of rating the students, approximately 102 students were chosen for the NHS. From the 102 students, 20 new seniors and 82 juniors made it. Seniors who made it last year are automatically in this year.

English teacher Greg Leitner, who is a member of the NHS faculty committee, said "The NHS is an organization that seeks to recognize students who maintained excellence in academics, extracurricular activities, leadership, and service."

A future privilege is that it looks good on your college application. For some students,

that is all they really care about. Senior Mary Limburger said, "I guess it would look good on my college application, but I didn't make it last year and I have already been accepted to a college, so it doesn't matter." Junior Chuck Ashcraft said, "It doesn't make me feel special, but I know it will look good on my college application. Also it's not me who cares, it's my parents."

Physical Education teacher Dan Johnson, who is the chair of the NHS faculty committee, feels, "NHS is a chance for students to be honored and recognized."

By Nichole Cordin

FBLA members bid their final good-byes on Thursday, May 5. Their annual end of the year banquet was held at the Wilton Manor in Carol Stream at seven o'clock.

FBLA members and their parents gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of the chapter and the individuals and to distribute awards. Several speakers and administrators joined business people from town to help recognize achievements.

After dinner was served, FBLA adviser Nancy Blume handed out awards. Seniors were given special attention for their work throughout the years while underclassmen were encouraged and supported to return again in the next year.

The speaker for the evening was Albert Wiggin who gave an inspirational speech. Through poetry and humor, Wiggin gave students a chance to reflect upon their accomplishments and take pride in themselves. Wiggin recited a poem called, "The Road Not Taken", by Robert Frost.

For a brief moment, it was unsure whether or not the slide show was going to be pulled off, but sure enough, it happened. Senior Skye Studabaker said, "The slide show was my favorite part of the whole night. I liked how there were pictures from past years and this year. It helped me to remember every thing that we had done, and how great the people involved were. It was also very funny."

FBLA State President, Sarah Cosby from Salem Illinois, said that West Chicago's banquet was one of the best she had ever been to. Cosby went on to say that the atmosphere was perfect and the students and teachers really came together to make a great year come to a close.

Also in attendance was Principal Alan Jones, Superintendent Joel Morris, and Mary

Weck. Junior Jason Bucher said, "Having administration members attend was really nice. It made the students feel like they really cared about our organization and the people involved."

A special treat for banquet goers was a FBLA song written and performed by Donald Zabelin. With a little help from his son, Zabelin had the audience clapping their hands and stomping their feet. His song was about the good times and the benefits of being an FBLA member.

FBLA brought in several Professional Division members this year who were recognized at the banquet. The Professional Division is a part of FBLA which invited local business people to advise and become members of FBLA. The members do several odd jobs for FBLA throughout the year including judging for the Area and State conferences.

Toward the end of the banquet, the installation of the 1994-95 FBLA officers took place. Next years officers will be Amy Langemack as President, Chris Altman and Jason Francis as Co-Vice Presidents, Jason Bucher as Treasure, Blanca Rios, as Secretary, Matt Johnson as Historian, and Tracy Churan as Reporter. Every new officer is a junior, except Churan, who is a sophomore.

Altman, who is now serving as the first male FBLA State Secretary, said he hoped the evening was enjoyable by everyone. He commented, "I couldn't have gone this far with out Miss Blume and the other advisers. They were wonderful to all of us."

Tracy Churan added, "We are all really excited about next year. FBLA really needs the excitement and the drive that the new officer team has. Next year should be a blast."

Hispanic Dance

By Stacy Shannon

The day of graduation, June 5th, a hispanic dance will take place. It is at Argyle's Cafe at Wheaton Bowl, located at the corner of Gary Avenue and Geneva Road in Wheaton.

The International Club is planning the dance, as an incentive for hispanic students to graduate. Not only hispanics but all seniors are welcome to the dance.

Although, the dance is geared to families. The whole family of each student is encouraged to attend.

In the past hispanic students at West Chicago have had a lower graduation. By having the dance each year, the faculty and administration hopes to raise the graduation rate.

Features

Senior Superlatives of the Class of 1994

| | |
|---|--|
| Best Smile: | Angie Lowell and Jim Smiley |
| Biggest Flirt: | Heather Adams and Nick Kerimi |
| Best Athlete: | Raven Moore and Donta Norwood, Tom Seuss |
| Best Hair: | Brooke Logan and Rick Swanson |
| Best Body: | Dana Smith and Fonzie Medina |
| Best Lips: | Kristan Mulley, Wanessa Vovola and Chris Sauber |
| Nicest Legs: | Stacy Ciombor and Fonzie Medina |
| Biggest Airhead: | Amy Mertz, Nichole Cordin and John Jovanovich |
| Most Creative: | Monique Cleminson and Dustin Perry, Chris Leck, Rolando Chavez |
| Sexiest: | Mandy Lobraico, Dana Smith and Fonzie Medina |
| Most Talented: | Monique Cleminson and Tom Grob |
| Best Eyes: | Courtney Burandt, Cathy Carroll and Steve Chytry |
| Most Spirited: | Zora Slapak and Todd Reffett |
| Biggest Mouth: | Tara Nelson and Mark Centanni |
| Best Musician: | Catalina Garcia and Tom Grob |
| Best Actor: | Skye Studabaker and Chris Leck |
| Most Obnoxious: | Erin Gilgallon and Mark Centanni |
| Best Parties: | Heather Adams and Grant Speros "Club House" |
| Couple Most Likely to Get Married: | Julie Kramer and Dan Ventrelle |
| Best Couple: | Katie Mitchell and Pat Flanagan |
| Biggest Brown Noser: | Heather Adams and Todd Reffett |
| Best Dresser: | Sheri Daleiden and Jose Munoz |
| Funniest: | Mia Fox and Mike Winterhalder |
| Best Dancer: | Monique Cleminson and Rich Geroulis |
| Best Singer: | Rachel Owens and Rob Scott |
| Most Artistic: | Monique Cleminson and Rolando Chavez, Peter Malave |
| Best Laugh: | Jenny Ray and Mark Centanni |
| Most Gullible: | Monique Cleminson and Rick Swanson, Dan Schoenenberger |
| Strangest: | Addie Panveno and Jay "Chip" Gould |
| Best All-Around: | Betsy Co and Chris Leck |
| Biggest Con-Artist: | Mia Fox and Mark Centanni |
| Most Likely to Become President: | Raven Moore and Dan Ventrelle |
| Most Likely to Become A Talk Show Host: | Raven Moore and Chris Leck |
| Most Likely to Stay Single: | Heather Adams, Dana McKenzie and Scott Weiss, Dave Cox, Grant Speros, Donta Norwood, Nick Kerimi |
| Most Likely to Become Famous: | Raven Moore and Chris Leck |
| Most Likely to Be Late: | Heather Adams and John Jovanovich |

Seniors Say Good-Bye to Their Favorite Teachers

By Nichole Cordin

At graduation, seniors say good-bye to the familiar people that helped make their high school years possible -- their teachers. While seniors almost always see their friends during the summer and on holidays, graduation can be the last time they see their teachers.

Sarah McNerland said, "Mr. Arnold is my favorite teacher. He reminds me of Willy Wonka. But seriously, he is one of the best teachers in the school. He really has a grasp on the needs of the students. I don't think that enough people recognize the talent that Mr. Arnold has to reach students and teach them more than just a lesson."

McNerland went on to say that she is not certain if she will see Mr. Arnold again after graduation, but that she is sure that he will continue on the path of great teaching.

"Mr. McCann is my favorite teacher," said Scott Weber. "At first, English was a subject that I saw as a requirement and as something that I had to get out of the way. Mr. McCann helped me to love reading and learning about how to express my thoughts. I don't think that I

"Mr. McCann helped me to love reading and learning about how to express my thoughts."

-Scott Weber

could ever thank someone for that kind of gift. How could you?"

Weber's motivational words about Mr. McCann are only the tip of the ice berg when it comes to how students feel about their teachers.

Dana McKenzie said, "Mr. Wiggen is my favorite teacher. He is

funny and nice in and out of the classroom. He gives me big carmel apples." McKenzie also said that Mr. Wiggen made

learning more interesting than the ordinary teacher.

"Mr. Leitner is really down to earth. Every thing he teaches seems so interesting," said Bob O' Donnel about his favorite teacher.

One senior showed special interest in the musical talents of Mr. Zabelin. Rick Swanson said, "Mr. Zabelin is my favorite teacher. He can really rap. His class was really exciting and seemed to take away from the drab setting of the normal classroom."

Rachel Owens found a special teacher to say good-bye to when she graduates. She said, "My dad, Mr. Owens, is my favorite teacher. I am really going to miss him next year!"



Dora Vargas spends time with her baby girl, Cassandra.

Teenage Mothers Find Help

By Wendy Woodward

One of the hardest things anyone in high school can imagine is having to go to school, have a job and raise a child all at the same time. It happens in every high school. And if you don't have support from your parents then who do you go to?

Counselors at your school will usually be more than happy to help you. But they can only do so much.

Many times parents won't talk to you when they first find out about the pregnancy of their teenager. Some will start to come around to accept the fact that it has happened and there is nothing to do to change it. Other times they will suggest that the baby be put up for adoption or that an abortion be performed.

Dora Vargas has a story very similar to that. Her parents had a hard time accepting to the fact that she was pregnant. Then as time went on they began to accept it. Now her mother babysits Dora's daughter. Her daughter was born on June 27, 1993. Dora said, "I wasn't comfortable with any of the other choices than to have the baby."

There is another story of a girl having a baby, she wishes to remain anonymous so we will call her Jane Doe.

When Doe told her parents they she was pregnant her choices were to either get an abortion or move out. When you have to make a choice like that what do you do. Well you choose what you believe in and don't change your standards for anyone. That is exactly what Doe did.

Doe is due in the beginning of August and is living with her boyfriend, the father of the baby. The fathers family is being very supportive and is helping the two in any way they can.

Friends can be very important in these situations because that is were the support usually is. Are you going to go to your counselor that you only talk to once a year about personal problems?

Girls stuck in this situation shouldn't be afraid to talk to their friends because more than likely they can help you. Girls who are afraid to tell their parents can sometimes seek help from their teachers or a counselor.

Summer School Update

By Kristan Mulley

West Chicago's summer school program will run from June 17-July 29. (There will be no classes on July 4.) Students can register for classes until June 10.

Each class is \$80 and students will receive one semester of credit for each course taken. Applications must be mailed or brought directly to the Guidance Office.

Students should not plan on enrolling if they will be absent two or more periods. Since summer school classes are for semester credit and the time is considerably shorter, missing two or more classes would put a student way behind.

Summer school consists of three periods. First period lasts from 8-10 AM, second period lasts from 10:10 AM-12:10 PM, and third period lasts from 4-6 PM.

Refunds will be available until June 17 and no later.

Academic courses are offered in Business Education, Social Studies, English, and Math. Make-up classes for Physical Education are also offered.

"The English make-up classes seem to fill up the most," said Assistant Principal Carol Sweder. This is probably because each student needs three English credits in order to graduate.

Sweder also said that American Government and American History classes fill up quickly also. "Most students take these courses to get ahead," Sweder continued.

Juniors Melissa Pagnozzi and Candy Campbell are both taking American Government over the summer to make their schedules lighter next year. Campbell said, "I heard taking Government in summer school was easier."

There are no major changes to the school's summer school program this year. Many of the same teachers will be returning.

There are Summer Seminar classes offered this year. They were offered last year, but not enough students signed up so they did not run.

The Summer Seminar classes being offered are Film Studies, Creative Drama, College/Career Decision Making, Drawing Cartoons, Calligraphy, T-shirt printing, and Watercolor Painting.

These classes are not worth any credits and are only a week long each. These classes are \$20 each, except for the College/Career Decision Making class costs \$100.

Sweder explained that every class will run as long as there are enough students enrolled to pay a teacher.

Summer in the Sun

By Laura Torrey

What is everyone going to be doing this summer? Working, swimming, but most of all, suntanning.

Many girls and boys suntan almost everyday in the summer. It makes them look good and feel good. But, tanning can sometimes be bad, even though we don't want to face it.

Everyone knows that tanning causes skin cancer. There are three types of skin cancer: basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, and malignant melanomas.

The most dangerous type of skin cancer is malignant melanomas. It kills up to 6,300 people every year. Many scientists say that this was caused by the destruction of the ozone layer, and suntanning. The people that are prone to getting this are blondes, redheads, or people who are outside a lot.

To avoid cancer, people should use sunscreen. It provides protection against the rays of the sun, but also gives you some color without frying your skin.

"I usually use sunblock with 15% protection," says Becky Manning.

"I usually don't use suntan lotion unless I'm already burnt," says Beth Lemke.

Over the past few months, many girls have been going to tanning salons to look good for prom. They might make you look good, but in the end, it may give you damage to your skin.

If you were to lay in a tanning bed for about 30 minutes, this would be equivalent to three hours in the sun. This is not good for you because of the ultraviolet rays that you are exposed to. This makes people most prone to skin cancer.

The American Cancer Society says that people should not use sunlamps, tanning parlors or tanning pills. They're just as harmful as the sun.

If people were to tan over a long period of time, this could lead to premature aging of the skin, eye damage, and, of course, skin cancer.

"I use a tanning salons because I hate looking like a ghost. I feel better about myself if I have some color," says Jackie Robie.

So, what is this world coming to? No sun - or else skin cancer? But, if it is absolutely necessary to go out in the sun this summer - be careful, - use sun protection (and not just 2%, 10% block at the least).

NEED A HIGH PAYING SUMMER JOB?

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The job is handing out free newspapers to customers at nearby supermarkets and gas stations

WARNING:
By Wendy Woodward

This article is regarding the Hispanic Graduation Dance and if you have any prejudices against Hispanics don't even waste your time reading this.

The dance is being held for any graduate at the high school and their families. Yes it is for any graduate at the school. It is not just for Hispanics or bilingual students. In the past there have been non Hispanic students that have gone.

The dance is geared toward Hispanics as an incentive to graduate from High School. It is very rare for a Hispanic to graduate since jobs are more important to them. The dance gets the whole family, along with the students, involved in graduation.

The Hispanics have a celebration with their whole family. They also stay with the family throughout out the party. With an American party the student has family and friends, and then the friends go from house to house with each other to each others parties. Also the American parties are usually at the families house, with the Hispanics they go to a restaurant to celebrate.

The dance is being held at Argyles on the day of graduation. They will have dinner and a dance which anyone may go to the dance if you are invited by a graduate. The parents and students are paying for it all them selves. Dinner is about \$10.00 or \$15.00

a plate. They will also open up the dance floor for anyone, with a charge of about \$5.00.

That is how the average American family and an immigrated Hispanic family are different. In an American family graduation from college would be like an Hispanic high school graduation.

This is not because the Hispanics are ignorant, it is because of the cultural difference. Hispanics get jobs at very early ages compared to Americans. School is not as important to them as it is to Americans.

The reason the Hispanic Dance was started was because of the high percentage of drop outs in the Hispanic race. Mrs. Dominguez was the first to plan the graduation dance.

She started it in 1987 it was an incentive for the students to graduate. Alan

Jones is one to disagree that the dance is not the reason the drop out rate has gotten better. He thinks that if the kids know that the school has something to offer them, that will also interests them, they will stay. The teachers also have a lot to do with it. The teachers we have now are very caring and get the parents involved in what the students are doing.

Also the counselor's help a lot being able to speak to the parents that don't know English they are able to get the parents to understand what is going on. They also encourage the parents to take night classes to learn things that will interest them.

This dance may not be enough to make a student stay and graduate but the teachers have done a good job of making the drop out rate go down.

Lack of School Spirit?

by Tammy Pawlak

Are you an athlete who always wonders why people ask "Why do you do that?" Well, I am.

I am sick of hearing people complain about how they hate going to pep assemblies. Do you ever wonder why we have teams that aren't as good as the ones in our DVC? It's because no one gets involved with our school activities or sports.

Do you know what I wish some people would do when they ask me "why?" I wish they would go and find out for themselves.

Being an athlete in high school or at least having school spirit is the best. Sure, I've seen some school spirit this year, but our spring pep assembly was ridiculous. Why didn't they make that

pep assembly mandatory? It is so much more fun when the whole school goes to the assemblies.

Why is that when time comes for Homecoming everyone has school spirit for the football team, but all of a sudden when the winter and spring sports come around, no one really cares?

The only sign of school spirit I have seen this spring has been at the home Volleyball games. It's always the same crowd of people cheering for our school and singing the school song. When the athletes get that kind of encouragement from their classmates, it makes them feel more positive about what they are doing. Sports and activities give people more personality and background.

Go to their game or meet and find out about the sport. High school only comes around once in our lives, so make the best of it and get involved!

by Wendy Woodward
"All Night Long" at Bowling Green turned out to be more fun than I had anticipated. I didn't have a doubt that it was going to be fun, but the activities made it a blast.

When we walked in the door we were given a T-Shirt and \$5.00 worth of tokens. We were also told to look around and see what was there.

We had no rules to go by besides not to drink and smoke. The chaperones that were there didn't talk to you unless you talked to them. They were too busy trying to keep up with all the food that was being consumed.

The food was not bad at all; there was pizza, chips, fruit,

vegetables, pop, soft pretzels, nachos, and more. When you ordered a pizza I was expecting one piece but they gave me a whole pizza. Then at about four in the morning two people came in with boxes and boxes of doughnuts and juice.

The prizes that were given away were as simple as Mc Donald's free food to stereos and, of course, the cars. Julie Kolodick won a stereo with a C.D. player. The D.J. who was from the dance was constantly giving away smaller prizes.

The bands that showed up were surprisingly very good. They had a crowd that stayed by them all night long, like Dennis Koriath who was enjoying their presence. They played requests and also their

own songs. They performed for about an hour and a half each. The two bands knew each other so the friendly atmosphere made it easier to relax and be your self..

They had games like volleyball and bowling and the ever so popular sumo wrestling. Corey Johnson and Ray Kaelin were the top contenders of the wrestling match, but Johnson came off with the big win.

After you played volleyball you were given another T-Shirt from Coca-Cola. There were games going all night long, some with more people involved.

A West Chicago Victory!

By Jeff Hadzima

A long battle has been fought, a factory has occurred for West Chicago. Not only will this victory bring celebration, but it will bring new life. The Thorium will be removed from our town!

After a heated debate since it began in 1974, when Kerr-McGee buried the dangerous radioactive at their plant, only hundreds of feet away from homes. Why in our town, and why for so long? These are questions we will ask to this day. Could the thorium have been removed many years ago? We may never know.

We do know that it will be removed by train, and possibly as soon as September or Octo-

ber It will then be shipped to a place in Utah, where the closest populated area is forty miles away, with a population of only five thousand. There it will be buried partially in ground in a storage facility that is designed to last ten thousand years. It doesn't sound too much like the place it was buried here. We could have only wished. There it will stay, without anyone having to worry whether it will get into the drinking water, or give us cancer.

Why wasn't this resolved years ago? Has the damage been done?

Contaminated dirt has been brought around West Chicago for years now. How much will be left in our town. If there is large amounts left, what harm can it do to us.

So with the Thorium being removed, we have a happy town. I am sorry, but the damage may have already been done. People may have symptoms. After all, the Thorium had been here for twenty years. The damage may have already been done.

Senior Superlatives Taken Too Seriously?

by Kristan Mulley

For years West Chicago has had it's traditional senior superlatives.

One question that sparks curiosity is where do the categories come from?

Carol Sweder, Assistant Principal and the senior class advisor, explained that most of the categories are taken from previous years.

Senior superlatives are intended to be a fun activity. However, one concern is if they truly are fun for all.

"Senior superlatives are supposed to be fun and the intent is not to hurt anyone," Sweder explained.

This is true, but there have been instances in the years past that the superlatives chosen for people were obviously not realistic and the intent was to make fun of someone.

Another concern is the degree to which students take these superlatives seriously. A student should be chosen for a category

that fits them. Campaigning and telling people to vote for you for "biggest flirt" or "biggest partier" is ridiculous.

"I thought that some people took them too seriously," commented senior Becky Suerth.

Senior Carrie Dedic said, "I think if everyone were included, it would have been more interesting to the whole class."

Could this be true? Was the whole senior class equally represented? Or did it seem to only represent a select group of students?

Suerth pointed out, "It's not a good judge of character. Not everyone knows each other."

On the other hand, it was pretty exciting to see who won for each category.

Senior Carrie Mielke said, "I think Senior Superlatives are a tradition and they are funny."

Senior Becky Garza said, "Everyone seems to enjoy them, I don't think they are meant to offend anyone."

Mielke and Garza's view seem to represent the general consensus of the senior class, they are just for fun.

Yet, there is still the possibility that there are students that were offended by superlatives they received. Or they could be hurt that they did not receive one..

Either is understandable. It is possible to become offended by a nomination. Going home and telling my parents that I got "most likely to get in trouble with the law" or "best body" would make them wonder a little.

However, if someone truly does get offended it's their choice to show up for the picture. It's your call what you want to be remembered or not remembered for. But, when you think about it, who cares what you are remembered for. In a few days we'll never have to see these people again.

Senior

by John Jovanovich

Well, graduation is a couple weeks away and I can't believe it.

I still remember the first day freshman year. I was actually worried about freshman hell week. I was worried if I would get picked on, if I would get lost, and if I would not be able to handle the work.

I remember my worries and my expectations. My future was waiting for me.

Looking at the freshmen now, I wonder what they are thinking. The only thing on my mind was playing basketball and baseball. I couldn't believe some of the things the other freshman were doing. Drugs, sex, gangbanging, stealing, and ditching. Now that I am four years older, it is not so hard to believe, it is all over this high school. As it is in probably every high school.

There are a lot of things that bother me at this high school. For example the lack of school spirit, pride, and tradition. The reason I say the school has no school spirit is for the simple fact that everyone is too worried about somebody or something being better than them. Everybody is an individual at this school. You look at the Naperville schools and you see nothing but school spirit.

The only time I saw a glimpse of school spirit was when the football team had a good season last year. The school was excited and the players were excited that the school was behind them. Last year we had more fans at the away games than the home team did. Why doesn't that happen every year or are we at West Chicago only behind winners? Does this school not support teams who are not doing well?

I also have to say, and I think many of you will agree with me, the seniors are the worst class and have been since I been at this school. No school spirit, hardly any good athletes, a lot of druggies. Not speaking about everyone and I will say that not all the senior class fits these molds. It just seems to me that last year's class was so much better than ours and that they had a little of everything.

Our class has a little of nothing. The junior class isn't much better and I think they might take over the crown next year. I hope the freshmen and sophomores do not follow in the juniors' and seniors' footsteps.

It also seems like everyone I know has changed so much since their freshman year. It amazes me the changes people

make during high school. I think it all depends on what route they take. Some people choose to be actors and that means you hang out with actors. Some people choose to be poms and cheerleaders, or jocks, or burnouts, or gangbangers.

When you enter high school, those are the choices you have to make. I think it is a very big one.

Also, I'd like to address the coaches at this school. I don't know how the other schools are, but I have never seen coaches talk about their players behind their back as much as this school does. Especially one coach who knows who he is. Coaches are supposed to give their athletes confidence and that's something coaches take away at this high school. I'm glad there was a change made.

This school needs new coaches in some areas. Football and girls basketball not being one of them. I feel Kim Wallner and Bruce Donash are the best coaches in this school and a firing in either position would do nothing but hurt our sports program.

I have a couple more thoughts as I leave you. I think the administration should take some money and fix this place up. Some things don't make sense to me. Last time I checked the school colors were blue and white, why is our gym yellow?

Why do our trophy cases look like they were put in 1904? Why is there not one picture of former Wego football player, Scott Dierking. He was only a football All-American at Purdue and a starter with the New York Jets. Why is there only pictures of former soccer player in this school on the walls? Were they the only good athletes?

Why is it so easy to ditch, when we have these great paraprofessionals? Why are they spend so much time reading the newspaper? Do they get tested on it at the end of the day? Why do you have to park in BFE to get to school? Why in the winter, does the school throw sand on the ground outside and not salt?

As I leave West Chicago I have no regrets. If I had to do it over again, I wouldn't do anything different. I had some good times at this school. See ya!

Seniors-What was your memor



"When we teeped the high school..."
Mia Fox and Courtney Burandt

by Nichole Cordin

Okay, so it's finally over. And as the senior class leaves, so does the Thorium that has been such a big part of our lives. As I bid the school a farewell, there are several things that need to be said.

I love Kerr Mc Gee for always supplying us with about 800,000 tons of good stories for the Chronicle. I think I am growing a sixth big toe.

Okay, besides the Thorium jokes, what else can I rip on? After all, this school won a blue bow. Alright, enough of that.

Auntie Em! Auntie Em! Oh, Dorothy you always had the power to go back to Kansas!

I am glad that I am leaving. I have had a good time, and it's time for me to move on.

I want to thank the following people for making me happy the past four years: Skye Studabaker for sharing wacky adventures with me, Rachel Owens for showing me how to have a good time at be a good person, Deidre Kellens for coming home from Holland, Marissa Filippo for putting her dog away when I came over and for always listening to my guy problems.

I also want to thank Miss Blume and Ms. Hafertape for being the best teachers at this school ever. Both of you have helped me grow up. I think that each of you have affected more people than you realize.

As I leave this toxic waste land behind me, this place seems so different that it was when I came here. Things

that used to seem strange and huge, now seem small and familiar.

The things that are important, though, are the experiences that my friends and I have shared. I have learned so much about myself and about life in the past four years. Thank you. I will never forget the times we all shared in the past four years.

I think that I have already said good bye to several things at Wego, even though the year isn't over. I have made this year all that it could have possibly been and more.

Some advice to the next few classes: the town of Wasco makes a great place to hang out in. Stepping on frogs could be hazardous to your health. Don't worry about the glowing light from Kerr McGee, it's only Thorium. If you meet someone named Rusty, it's best to invite him into your home. Toledo is really in Iowa, I swear. Yikes Rachel! No one that graduates really goes away forever, they all come back.

I have had a great time in the last four years. Try to make the most of it. In some strange way, these really are some of the best years of your life, no matter what any one tells you. I don't think I would change anything if I could. High school is what you make of it. Use it to help you grow and learn how to be a good person. Be free here, because you can.

Thanks for everything. I'll miss you all.

by Raven Moore

As I look back on the three years, one hundred and sixty-eight days, four hours, and sixteen minutes I have spent at this high school I realize I have learned more than I ever intended.

Ironically, most of the knowledge I have gained has occurred outside of the classroom.

Throughout high school I have witnessed the absurdity of popularity. I have seen how something so senseless and meaningless can destroy friendships and create false senses of security.

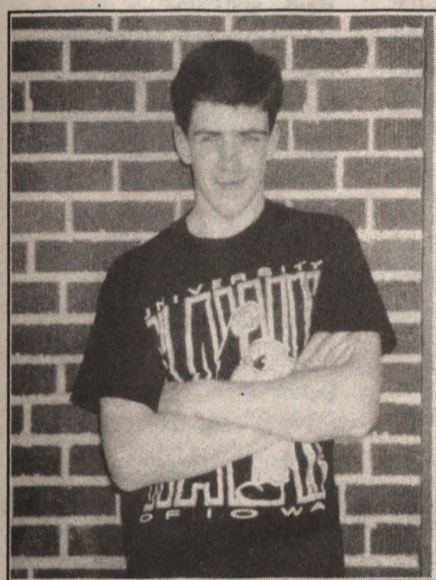
In five years, what will be the significance of Homecoming Queen or Prom Court? These are superficial honors which signify absolutely nothing.

When I fill out a job resume upon my graduation from college will my boss want to know that I was on the Prom and Homecoming Courts? More importantly, will she care?

Too many students get brainwashed (by their peers) into believing that being cool in high school is the most important thing in life. Students should care more about who

Reflections

u favorite high school
ory?



When I would do my baseball slide into English in my red sweater (compliments of Brooke Logan)," Scott Weiss

by Kristan Mulley

My four years of high school have, with out a doubt, flown by. I can remember my first day of my freshman year so clearly. I had a world of expectations in mind.

I came to West Chicago with high hopes. Everyone had always told me to enjoy these years because they will be your best.

I'll admit I have had some really fun times during my years at Wego. One time that sticks out in my mind was teepeeing the school during Homecoming this year.

I also have met a lot of people. I haven't liked them all, but with some I have built some really strong friendships. Honestly, it has been my friends that have helped me get through the years. I'd be lost with out you guys!

However, when I reflect back through the years all my experiences haven't been positive, to say the least. I've learned that you can't trust very many people. I've also learned that a lot of people who say they are your friends really aren't. They back stab you and only care about themselves.

Senior year I have realized who my real friends are. I have memories with them that will last a lifetime. I've

realized they will listen to me, and most importantly I can TRUST them.

I can truly say that I've matured a lot since I've entered this school as a little "rhiney". It's to the point now that I don't feel that I belong here any longer. I'm really tired of all the high school games. I don't care about all the gossip about who's with who and who did what with who and where.

I guess being here is what helped me to mature, as much as I hate to admit it. I have learned so much both in and out of class, and everything I have learned will help me in my future.

It's time for me to leave West Chicago (yeah) and move on into the big world of college. I believe I am really ready to move on.

I'll admit, I'm very curious to see what will happen to my classmates. I've watched us all change over the years, some for the good and others for the not so good. But, we shall see what happens to us all in about ten years.

Until then, I wish everyone lots of luck, and as for WCCHS (a winner of the Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award) farewell.....

by David Vingren

A smorgasbord of thoughts.....

Now that I have gotten your attention, you should be aware that before you can read this article, I need to see your I.D.

I'm never coming back. Never!

OK. I might come back for the chicken parmesan.

There have been four shootings at the Spencer Apartments so far this year. Maybe the West Chicago police department should move across the street. Oops, wait a minute, they all ready did.

The half life of a thorium molecule is fourteen billion years. All this town needs is a little patience.

We here at the *Wildcat Chronicle* hope you enjoyed our cliffhanging articles that cut off in the middle of a sentence. We just want to make sure your are reading our publication, and by the responses to these special articles, we know you are. We thank you.

Would it be legal to build a massive wall between West Chicago and Aurora?

Better yet, how about a massive thorium wall?

I still sit up at nights wondering where those poms really were.

Although the West Chicago baseball team has struggled recently, they should have no problem getting past the first round of regionals since they are playing the Cubs.

Speaking of the baseball team, they are a great example of the West Chicago town motto "where history and progress meet." The history is that the team has been wearing the same uniforms since 1920. The progress is the new water fountain they got by the field.

Here is my senior reflection. I spent my freshman year here. I had a sophomore year here. I swung by for my junior year and now I am a senior. Wow! I spent four years here.

Aren't all those bells around lunch time annoying?

I heard that if you rub your face on the dirt at Kerr-Mcgee, thorium molecules will enlarge the

by Carrie Fleming

Whether I was falling over men named Todd or planning Mrs. Kostro's death (just kidding Mrs. Kostro), I guess my four years here at West Chicago weren't all that bad.

I never really ever adapted to this school very well. The moment I walked in at 7:40 I wanted to go right back home. I guess it was because I could never put thoughts of my problems out of my head long enough to concentrate here. The teachers never really helped me much in that aspect.

Most of the teachers I have had in the four years I've been here, think the world revolves around the subject they teach. I think more teachers need to realize that the students have a life outside of this school.

Some problems are just too difficult to leave outside the classroom door at 7:55. It is even more difficult when the person you have the problem with is in this school and sits right across from you in your History class.

There are many things I could have done better in the four years that have gone by-studying for one thing. My senior year has not been easy.

It really should have been a breeze. I tend to spend more time day-dreaming then working.

There are some people I will miss, but more that I am happy to leave behind. You know who you are!

Good-bye West Chicago!

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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 and typed. The paper has the right to exclude any letters that are inappropriate or will not fit in a particular issue.

they are going to become in the future than how they are viewed socially in high school.

I've seen classmates drop their friends like flies in order to be a part of the "in" crowd and I don't get it.

To say I have been innocent or unaware of popularity would be a lie. I do care if I am well liked by my peers, but I will not become suicidal if someone doesn't like me or if a certain group of people don't care for me.

I've always tried to be considerate to everyone because my grandma Meinert has always told me, "Be nice to everyone, honey, because you can never have too many friends."

Life is too short too short to worry about such an unimportant status. It is a shame that the high school experience is tarnished by something so petty.

I've enjoyed myself in high school, but I know that better things lay ahead for me in the future. Honestly, I wouldn't trade anything for the lessons I have learned.

In a couple of weeks I will leave here knowing one of the hardest experiences of my life is finally over and a new one will soon begin.

Have a Safe and Happy Summer - From the Wildcat Chronicle Staff

Your Favorite Colleges - What Are Your Chances?

by Laura Torrey

Within the next few months many of us will be making the biggest decisions of our lives - where to go to college. But, what exactly are the chance of you getting into the college of your choice?

There are many different colleges in Illinois that offer a variety of different majors that would suit anyone. Some cost less than \$1,000, others can cost over \$14,000 per year.

Northern Illinois University, located in DeKalb, Illinois, 45 minutes away, has a tuition of \$2,641 per year, and \$2,871 for room and board. The average A.C.T. acceptance is 22. They offer a preprofessional programs in law, medicine, veterinary science, pharmacy, dentistry and optometry.

Southern Illinois University has a tuition of \$2,250 and a room and board of \$3,038. It's location is at Carbondale, Illinois, only 100 miles away from St. Louis, Missouri. The average A.C.T. acceptance is 21. The preprofessional programs include: law, medicine, veterinary science, pharmacy, dentistry and optometry.

Illinois State University offers preprofessional programs in medicine, and dentistry. The

tuition is \$2,178 and the room and board is \$2,910. It's located in Normal, Illinois; only three miles from Bloomington.

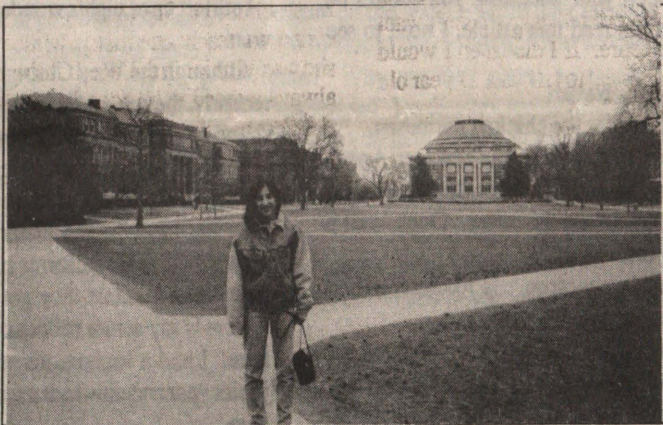
University of Illinois, at Urbana - Champaign, is only 130 miles from Chicago. To get in you need a S.A.T. of 470/585 and an A.C.T. of 24 - 29. The tuition is \$2,746 per year and the room and board is \$4,058. It also offers preprofessional programs in law, medicine, veterinary science, pharmacy, and dentistry.

Loyola University is in Chicago. It's tuition is \$9,840 per year and the room and board is \$5,154. To get in you need an A.C.T. of 20 - 27, and an S.A.T. of 430/540. They offer

preprofessional programs in medicine, veterinary science, pharmacy, dentistry, and optometry.

The University of Chicago is located in Chicago and it's tuition is \$2,520 and the room and board is \$4,846. You need an A.C.T. of 17 - 29, and an S.A.T. of 377/470. It offers preprofessional programs in law, medicine, veterinary science, pharmacy and optometry.

All of the colleges mentioned are just a few of the many colleges in Illinois. Whatever your choices are, or whatever are your chances - good luck - stive high - and never give up!



Diane Yonan visits University of Illinois campus.

Summer of Uncertainty

by Jeff Hadzima

This years summer movies are like a horse race; there is one favorite, and the rest of the field is a toss up to take control of your seven dollars, and win this summers box-office race.

The only sure summer hit is "The Lion King," Disney's latest animated feature film. With the voices of Whoopi Goldberg, Matthew Broderick, and Jeremy Irons, this looks like it will be the biggest money maker this summer. Also, the songs are done by Elton John, so the soundtrack will most likely also be a big seller.

All other movies this summer are a toss up. "The Flintstones," starring John Goodman has definite hit potential, but rumors of no plot have been spreading, and it could bomb this summer. Special effects may save this movie, but it may just brake even because this movie cost a great deal to make.

Then there is "True Lies," starring the former reigning summer movie king Arnold Schwarzenegger. Coming off

last summer's flop, Schwarzenegger has premiere action director James Cameron (Aliens, Terminator I and II, Abyss) to back him up. Also starring Tom Arnold and Jamie Lee Curtis. This movie has definate potential to become the summer action hit. It is also rumored have cost \$110 million.

"Wolf," starring Jack Nicholson and Michelle Pfeiffer looks very promising. A mystical tale of a man becoming a werewolf seems to be like all other werewolf movies, but this one is promised to be different. Look for a strong performance by Nicholson, and we may see him at Oscar night.

The thriller this summer is "The Shadow," starring Alec Baldwin and Penelope Ann Miller. This movie is suppose to keep you at the edge of your seat from start to finish. This movie has a chance to become the sleeper hit of the summer.

If you like horses, you will see plenty of them in these next movies. "The Cowboy Way," is the "Crocodile Dundee" of the summer. "Wyatt Earp," which stars Kevin Costner, is a take-off of the 50's TV show. "Black Beauty," is a remake of a horse story.

"Speed," starring Keanu Reeves has a great preview, but who knows? Jim Carrey stars in "The Mask," which brings an ordinary Joe super powers when he wears a special mask. Sounds dumb, but so did "Pet Detective," and look at that hit. "Forrest Gump," returns Tom Hanks to a romantic comedy. Do we really need another?

The movies this summer just lack the power of years past. There is no "Jurassic Park" or "The Fugitive" this summer to brighten the already hot summer days. I suggest renting movies this summer. Go to a house with air-conditioning, and pop air popped popcorn. It better for you than that greasy, fatty theater popcorn.

NIN at the Riviera

by Rob Burwell

The first Nine Inch Nails tour, since Lollapalooza 1991, made its way to the Riv in Chicago on Saturday, May 7th. It was well worth the three year wait. With the help of the mainstream radio station, Q101, promoting the show, it only took a mere three minutes to sell-out.

NIN hit the stage at around 8:00 after the two decent opening bands, Fem 2 Fem and Marilyn Manson. The stage had a large dirty cream-colored curtain across it hiding the stage set-up. After about fifteen minutes of screaming and watching, a fog machine spew enough fog to fill the Riviera twice, the 1994 Nine Inch Nails' show was under way.

They opened with a little guitar intro called "Pinion," while white lights shined from behind the curtain showing a silhouette of NIN frontman Trent Reznor. Reznor was wearing leather shorts with fishnet stockings under them, a dirty charcoal grey T-shirt, and black gloves. Completing the ensemble was guitarist Robin Finck wearing a leather mini-skirt.

The curtain opened and they tore into "Terrible Lie" from their debut album Pretty Hate Machine. They played several other songs from the 1989 release like "Down In It," "The

Only Time," "Head Like A Hole," "Something I Can Never Have," and "Sin."

As the show went on, many were expecting to hear several songs from their newest album, The Downward Spiral. But, they stuck mostly to earlier songs. They only played "March of the Pigs," "Reptile," "Closer" and "Big Man With A Gun."

They also played the MTV hit "Wish" from their 1992 EP Broken as well as "Happiness In Slavery," and the remake of Pigface's "Suck" from the same EP.

They played two songs I didn't think they would: "Dead Souls" from The Crow soundtrack and the Queen song "Get Down Make Love" from the Sin single.

Throughout the course of the show, there was a lot of groping among audience members along with moshing and body surfing. One of the highlights of the show was when Finck laid on the floor and played a guitar solo as Reznor sat on his face.

There is no word on a new NIN album underway yet or a possible new video. We'll just have to wait and see what this (contrary to popular belief) not-so-mainstream band will do next. I just hope it doesn't take three years for them to come back.

Top Five Movies to Rent This Summer

1. One Crazy Summer
2. Dazed and Confused
3. Summer School
4. Breakfast Club
5. Goodfellas

Teacher Profiles

Mr. Wiggin - Master of Physics

by Laura Torrey

"Mr. Wiggin makes class fun by his personality quirks as well as labs. He also makes a boring subject very interesting," says Erik Cappadora, junior.

Alan Wiggin, West Chicago Community High School's physics teacher, has been teaching here for nine years. Overall, he has been teaching for 33 years at three schools which include: Genoa-Kingston, Dekalb High School, and West Chicago.

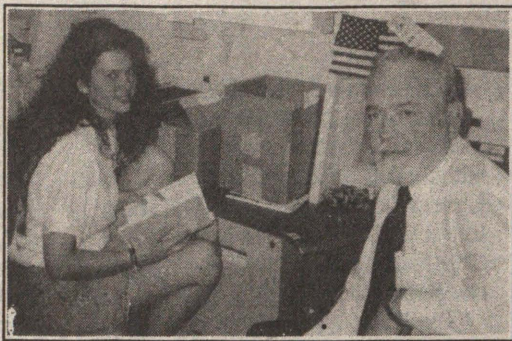
He went to college at Northern Illinois University and got a graduate degree in math. He has been married for 38 years and has two kids - a son and a daughter.

He said he wanted to be a teacher, "somewhere around my junior year in college. I thought about engineering. But, what I always enjoyed was school."

Wiggin has taught every course offering in high school. He has also taught physical science, chemistry, and his all-time favorite, physics.

He has taught two famous stars in his career as a teacher. They are Super Model Cindy Crawford and Mel Owens (football player for the Los Angeles Rams).

In his career as a teacher he says the students have changed in their attention span. "They expect to be entertained," he said. "They also have quite a difference in language then they did when I was in school." For



Mr. Lugging helping Zora Slapah with Homework

an example, he said that if a student were to use "damn" back then, the student would get into trouble. Now, if you hear the student use the "F" word, the teachers don't really say anything.

One thing that is very interesting about Wiggin is that he does not own a television. "It's a waste of time. There is very little on that is worth the time. It teaches people that immorality is perfect acceptable. There's not much we can do!"

During his spare time, mainly on the weekends, he says that, "I usually do the laundry and yardwork even though I hate yardwork." He also likes to read books, and poetry. Sometimes he memorizes the poetry. He does enjoy stamp collecting, and he likes hand guns. Becky Manning, junior, says that Wiggin makes class fun with "Snickers." For those of you who do not have Wiggin, he gives you Snickers if you do an experiment that is daring. "My

favorite memory that Mr. Wiggin did is when he shocked me. It was funny, but I will be permanently scarred for life," said Manning.

Wiggins most memorable moment was when a student was talking to someone and he called on her three times. Then, she turned around, on his third call, and yelled "What!" really loud. "I laugh every time I think about it," he said.

When asked if he would suggest teaching as a career, he replied, "I wouldn't recommend any career. It's up to the student. If they like it, then they should go for it. Do what you like. It's your life."

Although Wiggin has been teaching for 33 years, he has no desire of retiring. "I don't want to retire. If I did, then I would never get to talk to a 17 year old again.."

Chemistry = Miss Parks

By Dan Ziman

Attention future chemistry students if you do not have Carol Parks next year, I feel you are out of luck. (No offense to the other chemistry teachers)

Parks is one the many Chemistry teachers here at West Chicago. Chemistry class is usually small; about 25 students per class, for laboratory safety reasons. The small class is a bonus for the student, because it gives more time for Parks to help individual students who are having trouble. Almost every day you take notes and homework but you usually get plenty of time to do your homework in class. Former student Ajit Dadlani said, "She's a pretty cool teacher and you can see her any time to help with your work."

Parks has worked at West Chicago for four years, teaching chemistry and she also taught at five other schools. She attended Central Michigan University and got her masters from American International College in Springfield, Massachusetts. She made the decision to teach chemistry while she was a Junior in college, but she always wanted to be a teacher.

Parks has also taught other subjects besides chemistry, such as algebra, geometry, and bilingual



Mrs. Parks experimenting in her classroom.

Science. She is married and has two daughters. Her and her husband are from Michigan.

When asked "Who is your most memorable student?", she stated, "There are so many. It would be hard to name just one." Also when asked "What was your most memorable teaching moment?", she said "When one of my best students got his arm caught in the chain on lab shower and it turned on." She suggest teaching as a career.

Be Prepared!

by Laura Torrey

The biggest test of your life is coming up soon. It may be the S.A.T., A.C.T., or both. They determine your job, your future, your life! But, how do you prepare for it?

The Scholastic Aptitude Test (S.A.T.) consists of two main sections: Math, and English. It's a three hour multiple-choice test, which is very hard to comprehend. One advantage is that you can use your calculator.

Going to the library, and checking out S.A.T./A.C.T. books is a good way to study. They give you strategy, helpful hints, and a lot of example problems.

Certain strategies for the S.A.T. include: avoiding the non-answers (none of the above) (cannot be determined), estimating the answer, and plugging in numbers at random, says Michael Donner, author of *How to Beat the S.A.T.*

Here are two sample problems from *Cracking the System: the S.A.T.* by Adam Robinson and John Katzman:

Find the opposite of: 1. Meander: (A) Travel directly (B)

insinuate (C) unfaithful (D) unblock (E) immerse

Math problem: 2. Which of the following numbers can be written in the form $6K + 1$, when K is a positive integer? (A) 70 (B) 71 (C) 72 (D) 73 (E) 74

Now, do you think you need to study? The answer to #1 is D. The answer to #2 is A.

Another way of preparing for the S.A.T./A.C.T. is to go to some special classes. Although it may be too late this year, some classes are offered in the summer and fall. Some classes say that they will boost your score up 200 points, but in reality it depends on how well you study on your own. It's not a guarantee.

"The classes that I took were not helpful to me at all. It can help some people, but it didn't help me. It wasn't worth it. Your better off with using your own knowledge," says Diane Yonari, junior.

The American College Testing Program (A.C.T.) is a four part test which includes: English, Math, Reading, and Science Reasoning. The downside

to this is that you cannot use your calculator.

The same strategy applies to the A.C.T. as the S.A.T., but some say that the A.C.T. is a lot easier. Others say that the S.A.T. is. But whatever you choose, you need to study for both.

Here are two example problems for the A.C.T. from *Arco's A.C.T.* by Joan U. Levy Ph.D Norman Levy Ph.D.:

Science Reasoning Problem: 1. In which phase (state) do most Earth materials have their greatest density?

(A) Solid (B) Liquid (C) Gas (D) Molten

Math Problem: 2. A booklet contains 30 pages. If 9 pages in the booklet have drawings, what percent of the pages in the booklet have drawings? (F) 30% (G) 9% (H) 3% (I) 1% (K) 3/10 %

Give up? The answer to #1 is A, and the answer to #2 is F.

Preparing for the S.A.T./A.C.T. is not that hard if you do it wisely. Check out a couple of books at your local library and do some problems in each section. By the time your testing comes, you'll be prepared.

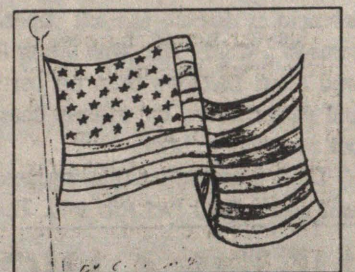
Good Luck on both tests!

Memorial Day - Our Final Day Off

By Dan Ziman

Memorial Day, comes once a year usually towards the end of May. This year Memorial Day is May 30th. Another well wanted day off by most. This Federal Holiday was originally declared to honor the dead of The Great War (World War I), but over the years more wars happened and the holiday expanded to honor all the casualties of United States wars. Some ways people celebrate Memorial Day is to visit memorials, put the American Flag up, and spend time with their family.

People are doing many different things this year. As always Memorial Day falls on Monday which means three-day weekend, it is also that last day off of the 1993-1994 school year. Tony Mickle, sophomore, said, "I going to sit and watch T.V." Others like Tony are just stay-



The American Flag flying on Memorial Day

ing around the house. Shawn Kedroski, freshman, said he was going to, "fool around and play some basketball." Colleen Lasky, junior, plans on staying home and "listen to classical music while swinging in a hammock sipping HiCecto Cooler." Still, others are unsure on what they were going to do. Rachel Power, junior, said, "I'm going treasure hunting in Australia." Lindsay Eichman, junior, said "I'm swimming the English Channel.."

Whatever you plan to do, enjoy the day while you can, but remember why we have the day off.

NFL Retiree Played at Wego

by John Jovanovich

How many of you have heard of former West Chicago football player, Scott Dierking? Dierking played varsity football during the 1971-1973 seasons, here at West Chicago.

While at West Chicago, Dierking was incredible. He rushed for 2,725 yards and scored 42 TD's. He was a 1972 All Chicago Area team captain and a 1973 state wrestling champion.

"Scott was a great athlete and a very nice kid," said his former coach Bruno Owens. "The class of 1973 gave Bruno his nickname. "Bruno was a positive influence on us and he is a great guy," said Dierking.

Dierking led his West Chicago team to a first place title his senior year and caught the eye of many recruiters. He chose Purdue University over Norte Dame and a host of other schools. One reason being he liked their management program. Everything took off from there as he went on to star at Purdue, where he was an All-American. He single handily beat Michigan one year and he was catching the eye of pro scouts. He played for Purdue during the 1973-1977 seasons. Dierking played with former NFL players Mike Pruitt and Keena Turner while at Purdue.

Then came the NFL and Dierking was selected in the fourth round by the New York Jets. He started nearly four seasons with the Jets. The Jets came within one game of the Super Bowl in 1984, but they lost to the Dolphins. His career in New York lasted six years and then he played one season with Tampa Bay.

"The Bears 1984 defense is probably the best I ever went against. They had Singletary, Hampton, Wilson, and Dave Duerson and a lot of other great players," said Dierking. When asked about the changes he has seen since his days in the NFL he said the conditioning is the only big change he has seen. He played when in the league when steroids were legal.

He said he is amazed of the salaries in the NFL these days. "They have probably tripled since I have been in the league, I think the talent is the same," Dierking said. When asked who the biggest jerk in the NFL was and he said Mark Gastinuea. "He was such a creep that one player wouldn't even talk to him to call out blocking calls during practice.

Dierking still goes to Purdue to see some games and also enjoys watching the Purdue basketball games. Right now Scott lives in Wheaton where he has a wife and three kids. He runs a heating and plumbing industrial company, which he started one year after his retirement.

Soccer Team in Hunt for Respect

by Jeff Hadzima

This whole season, the West Chicago girls soccer team has been out to prove that they can compete with every team in the Dupage Valley Conference. With four wins in a row, and three shutouts in a row, they seem to have proved themselves. Both these accomplishments are Wildcat girls soccer records.

Anything is possible, as the team has shown. Against St. Charles, the #1 ranked team in the state according to *The Chicago Tribune*, the girls lost 4-0.

But wait, there's a catch. The girls held them to only one goal in the second half. This is due to strong defensive efforts including a great play by Kim Hack in goal. Quite an accomplishment when you see that St. Charles has beaten teams that are more respected than West Chicago's girls team, but by greater margins of victory.

Defense has been the key this season for the girls. Peaking play by seniors Betsy Co, Dana McKenzie, and Mandy Lobraccio at defense has left opposing teams in a whirl. And with senior forward Sheri Daleiden fresh off her six goal performance, the offense doesn't look too shabby either.

"The defense has been playing great," head coach Julio Del Rio said. Those

who have been watching the games recently would have to agree with him.

What just happened to the soccer team, that wasn't expected to go anywhere? As of May 20th, their record is 7-8-1, and a .500 season is entirely possible.

A 2-2 tie to Streamwood hurt. Just when it looked as if the girls were going to wrap up another victory, Streamwood scored two unanswerable goals to end the game in a tie.

"Yes, it is a goal we set for a long time. We decided a .500 season is possible." Del Rio said.

The team is peaking just in time for sectionals. This is when confidence is up, and teams feel as if they are not afraid to take on anyone.

The team faced Glenbard West on Monday. The two teams met on April 11th, and it resulted in a Glenbard 3-1 victory. This was only the second game of the season for West Chicago, and times have changed since then. Glenbard West saw a different, more confident We-Go team.

"We have improved ever since that game. We are hoping to play well, and catch them on a downside. We can beat them." Del Rio said before Monday's game.

More Support for Track

by Blanca Rios

After much controversy, the junior varsity girls track team officially placed second, instead of the original first placing at the DuPage Valley Conference competition.

The freshman-sophomore girls track team placed third at the Glenbard North Weber Invitational on Friday, April 29.

Coach Wilbert Walters said, "I am very impressed with the freshman-sophomore team." Top freshman-sophomore individuals are freshman Nicole Winkler, who is their number one sprinter, sophomore Tammy Pawlak, who runs the mile, sophomore Sara Toney in the quarter mile, sophomore Lyndsy Paver, who competes in the 100 hurdles and 300 hurdles, sophomore Marisol Garcia, who competes in the long jump and high jump, sophomore Gloria Estrada, who throws discus and broke the junior varsity record, and sophomore Michelle Toms.

Top varsity competitors are seniors Carrie Netzel, Catalina Garcia, and Monique Clemenson. Junior Dee Dee Judson, who competes in shot put, is the number one shot putter for in the DVC. Judson is the only girls track member competing in state from West Chicago as well.

The coaches for the girls track team are Kelly Kolasa, Walters and Debbie James. Overall Walters feels, "Definitely, there is always the need for improvement, for everyone."

Regularly at meets there is not enough support for the girls track team. Sophomore Michelle Rapinchuk who runs the 1600 meter relay and the 400 meter said, "I know we don't get enough support because at the Weber Invitational Leslie Kurzawa, Tawney Larm, Toney, and myself broke the meet and school records for the 1600 meter relay."

"We don't get enough support because not enough individuals know about track and field," Walters said.

The boys track team consists of 30 athletes. Senior Anthony Albecker is the only upper classman on the team. Albecker is showing a positive future for Wildcat track.

The teams' coaches are, head coach, Paul McLeland, sprint coach, Jamie Klotz and shot discus coach Bob Lee.

Top individuals are sophomore, Dan Horyn, who competes in distance events, sophomore Adam Owens, who is the teams top sprinter, sophomore Tony Mickle, who competes in a wide range of events but excels in hurdles and high jump, freshman, Jake Meyers who is a long jumper and sprinter, and Sophomore Bryan Lasky, a hurdler and runs middle distance.

This year's shot putters and discus throwers are sophomore Matt Powell, freshman Jeff Svast, Phil Landriult and sophomore Aaron Willenbring. Future events for the boys track team are the conference and sectional meet.

"The conference and sectional meet, in which all under class man will compete in, will give them experience for the future," Albecker said.

McLeland feels, "The team has improved, and it's hard for the team to win because there is a larger amount of freshmen and sophomores who have to compete against juniors and seniors."

Otherwise, McLeland feels the need for off season practice, so competitors can improve.

Like the girls track team, boys track feels they are not recognized. Meyers feels, "We need more support because with more support we do better."

Albecker said, "All the guys worked really hard and it will be fun to watch them do really well in the future."

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Maciejewski Loss of Coach Inspires Ladycats

Not Returning

by Raven Moore

"In my mind I never wanted to leave West Chicago. I was perfectly willing to stay here the rest of my career," varsity softball coach and varsity boys basketball coach Lee Maciejewski said about his leaving West Chicago after this year.

Maciejewski has coached at Community High School for over twelve years and has spent thousands of hours trying to improve the reputation and quality of the girls softball and boys basketball programs.

At the beginning of this school year the Board of Education began to discuss the enforcement of the policy which hopes to give coaching jobs to teachers at our school. This policy allows teachers from Community High School, who are qualified, to receive coaching positions over coaches who currently work outside of District 94.

"Coaching means so much to my life. In my mind, I was forced to find security in coaching at a different school," Maciejewski said.

He said he felt his job was in jeopardy and his only way to feel secure with his and his family's well-being was to find a coaching job elsewhere.

"I'm getting a higher paying job in a good district with a tough conference for boys basketball and girls softball."

Next year Maciejewski will begin teaching Physical Education at Glenbard West High School, as well as coaching both varsity boys basketball and varsity girls softball for the Hilltoppers.

"The same policy that jeopardized my job here at West Chicago has given me a job at Glenbard West," Maciejewski said.

He will also continue to coach the Glenbard West boys sophomore football program. In 18 years he has coached the sophomore football team to a 102-3 record. At one time his team went on a 60 game winning streak.

"I have plenty of regrets about leaving. In my mind, though, I was put in a position, where I had no choice but to leave, by the administration and school board."

Although he has several regrets about leaving West Chicago, he feels his new job brings a fresh start.

"I hope to get the basketball and softball teams to gain respect from their opponents and have fear of Glenbard West. I want to teach the kids that fun comes from winning and success."

Several student athletes have fought to keep Maciejewski from leaving West Chicago. Letters have been written and many parents and athletes have attended board meetings supporting him.

Senior softball standout Stacy Ciombor said, "The West Chicago softball program will never be the same with Coach (Maciejewski) leaving...an era is ending."

by Raven Moore

The girls softball team has been on a mission this season. The fact that varsity softball coach Lee Maciejewski is concluding his final year at West Chicago has prompted the team to a second place finish in the DuPage Valley Conference.

Although many would say a first place finish would be more fitting, their placing in the conference is more than most expected. The loss of ten varsity players from last year left the Wildcats with inexperience at several positions this season.

"The young kids came around real well and gave the team solid contributions," Maciejewski said.

Nearly every position was filled this season by underclassmen new to the varsity level. Newcomers Ellen Gernand and Candy Gallagher have been solid defensive additions at the shortstop and second base positions, respectively.

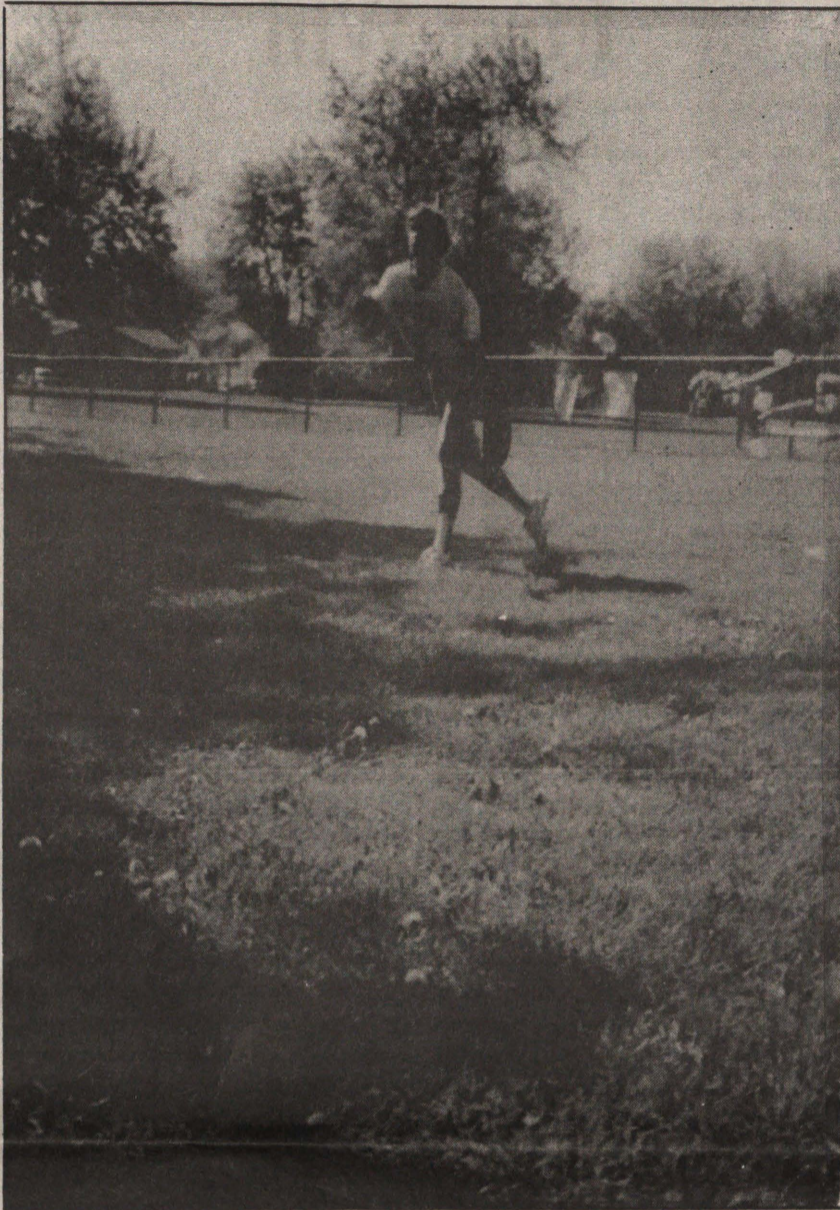
Consistent hitting has come from junior shortstop Karissa Saville, senior first basemen Darcy McLeod, and senior centerfielder Stacy Ciombor throughout the entire season. Recently, Gernand has found her hitting groove, coming out of a mid-season slump.

"The seniors (McLeod, Ciombor, Mertz, and pitcher Bridget Shockey) are really leading the team this season and exceeding all of my expectations," Maciejewski said.

"We were expected to be a weak team this year, but we proved everyone wrong. We've been a strong force this season in the DVC," Mertz said.

With a 10-4 DVC finish and a 19-6 record overall, this season has gone quite well for what some would say was a rebuilding year.

The entire team has been relatively happy with their play, except for the loss to Wheaton North on May 6. The Cats were up 7-2 throughout most of the game, but then allowed 8 runs in the 7th inning



Senior Bridget Shockey Warms up before taking the pitcher's mound.

and let the Falcons run away with an undeserved win.

"The loss to WN was the biggest disappointment of the season because we are a much better team than they are. We just lost our focus," Mertz said.

The Ladycats (seeded 2nd in the regional) will play Streamwood (seeded 7th) on Thursday.

"Winning regionals is still in our grasp and is very possible," Mertz said.

Wildcats Search for Wands

by David Vingren



Sophomore Kevin Griffey is in bunting position in a home game versus Glenbard East.

Pro basketball and now pro baseball observers will often say that the regular season does not mean anything, that only the post season matters. Last year, West Chicago made a case that that view could be applied to high school baseball as well, and they are hoping to do it again during this year's playoffs.

Last year's squad was a Cinderella story. While many thought they would not even get past the first round, they ended up in the regional final game against the eventual state champion York. The Wildcats lost the contest 1-0 in a game that featured an outstanding pitching performance from Ted Fijalkowski and a controversial call at the plate that kept West Chicago scoreless.

"I'm excited about the post season. Hopefully we can bring back some of last year's magic," Fijalkowski said. "Hopefully we can pitch well. That will be the key. Fielding will be a pretty big key as well."

"(Regionals) is a whole new season," head coach Tim Courtney, "anything can happen."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Wilcats Starving for First Win

There almost there, to getting their first win that is.

The Wildcat boys volleyball team lost a heartbreaker to Aurora Christian 14-16, 15-12, 14-16 on May 10. Turns out West Chicago is just happy to win a game of the Aurora match.

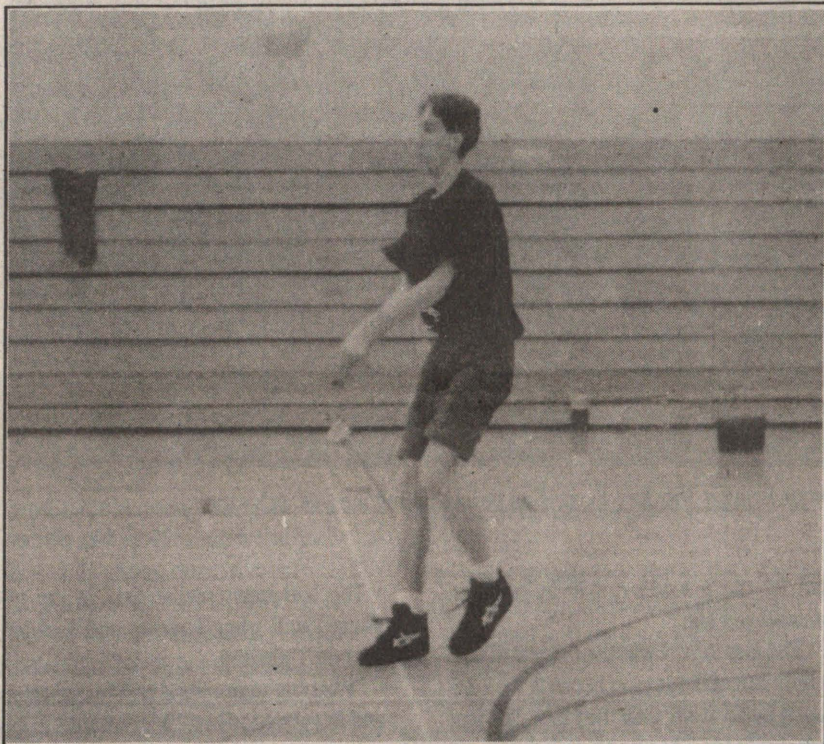
The game win is a sign of improvement for the team that is the first ever at West Chicago. The Wildcats hoped that their improvement carried them into yesterday's sectional at Naperville Central which featured a pep bus for fans.

The heart of the improvement has been Donta Norwood. His play at the net been outstanding. His great jumping ability has put fear into players on the other side of the net as his blocks and kills has highlighted the Wildcats season.

Norwood, who was a standout at the varsity basketball level during the winter, Dan Scheonenburger, a solid contributor to the varsity soccer squad over the fall, and Jason Remus are all seniors and would like to post the school's first boys volleyball victor before they graduate.

Also hoping to get the first win under his belt is head coach Wayne Chadwick, who has been patient with his club because he understands their is a great dead of inexperience.

The squad has been working hard in practice to get their first victory. Their chance to do it may have been yesterday as they faced a very low seeded team. If West Chicago won, they will play one of the highest seeded teams next.



Boys volleyball practices to obtain their first win

Tennis Looking to Excel in Sectionals

Four wins to eight losses is not a good record, but there is still time for the Wildcat boys tennis team to do some damage.

Head coach Sione Moeaki is very impressed with the hard work and effort the team is giving. The team is 4-10 overall and finished 1-7 in the DuPage Valley Conference, their lone win coming against Glenbard South.

West Chicago has really struggled against the Naperville squads, getting beat 5-0 against Central and North two weeks ago. The Wildcats struggled against Wheaton North and Wheaton Warrenville South as well.

"The Wheatons and Napervilles are tough to beat," Moeaki said.

Certain players have stepped up and played very well though. Third doubles combination Matt Bowne and Mike Leck have looked good.

"They have a winning record and I want to keep them together because

they can be very good in the future," Moeaki said.

First doubles duo Mike Winterhalder and Jeff Sterling have just been paired together and are looking sharp in practice, although they did lose their first match together.

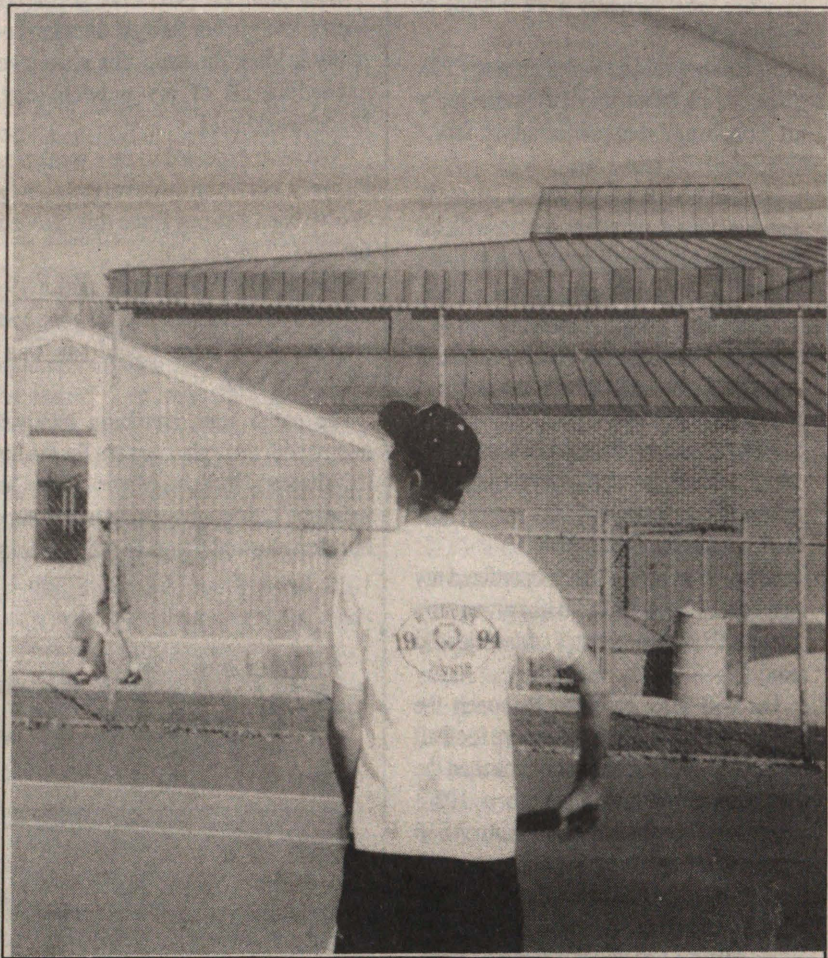
"I think as a team we have a great chance of coming out of our sectional," Winterhalder said. "We were rough in the beginning, but now things are running smooth.

"Mr. Mo is teaching us about life after tennis. He is like a second father to us."

Other players are also seeing time on the varsity, such as senior Rick Shah, and juniors Chris Brown, Joel Madden, and Mike Garceau, who are all involved in doubles play.

"We can mix things around in second doubles," Moeaki said. "I am looking for some good combinations."

Those players must play well for the Wildcats to win.



Sophomore Mike Leck works on his serve during practice.

Badminton Season Has Come To An End

by Laura Torrey

Well, its over! Put those birdies away. Badminton season is over, but it ended on a good note!

Alicia Cox, junior, and Heather Adams, senior, are the only two to make it to state. They both won on their first rounds and Adams made it to the top sixteen.

Cox, who was seventh varsity last year and is now second, made in the top 32. "It was a dream come true for her," Coach Singleton said.

"It was awesome going there. It was a great experience for me. It was good to play with the big girls," Cox said.

During the conference season, the Ladycats were 5-2 and at the DVC tournament, they were 2-1.

"I think we did extremely well this year," Singleton said. "They improved more than I had expected this year."

On April 23, varsity had a tournament in DeKalb. Adams took first at varsity singles and Cox took first at second varsity singles.

DVC's were on April 30 and April 29. Adams and Cox both got second place together at first varsity doubles. Adams received second place at first varsity singles when she lost to the state returning champion. Cox also received second place at second varstiy singles. Everyone else on the team got out on the first round.

"I'm really looking forward to next year -personally and for the team," Cox said. "I think I should do pretty well next year, and I think the team will mature a lot more."

"This year was desire. I have high expectations for next year," Singleton said.

Next year they are losing only one player- Heather Adams. "I'll miss the little queenie (nickname)," says Cox. "Practice won't be the same without her. She makes me laugh on the court, I don't think anyone can take her place. She really helped improve my game and I'll miss her a lot."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

This year's squad will have a tougher time getting to that point since they are a lower seed which places them against Addison Trail today and against York, who is solid again this year, if they win.

But, one thing is the same as last year, Fijalkowski has not left. The senior has shown a trend of pitching well in big games.

Fijalkowski is heating up at the right moment. He pitched a one hitter against one of the top ranked teams in the area, Glenbard East last Tuesday.

The only hit was the result of a controversial call. A fly ball was hit to Billy Tuma in leftfield in the fourth inning. Tuma misjudged it and ran too far in. The never touched him and fell for a hit. The

controversy came on whether it should be ruled a hit or an error.

The initial ruling was a hit, but when Fijalkowski kept sailing along with the one hitter the next few innings, Courtney attempted to convince the opposing coach to change the hit to an error. The coach of the home team, which was Glenbard East, gives the final ruling. Courtney was unable to change the other coach's mind as Fijalkowski wound up with a one hitter and the Wildcats picked up a 3-0 win.

Fijalkowski wasn't upset about the ruling. "All I wanted to do was win the game," Fijalkowski said.

The Wildcats lost their last two DuPage Valley games two finish 6-15 in conference and 11-18-1 overall.