

# Wildcat Chronicle



West Chicago Community High School  
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West Chicago, IL 60185  
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Check out your monthly horoscope on page 9.

Read about our volleyball team, who placed second in the DVC, in sports.

See how the ladycat swimmers have fared this season in sports.

## District 94 referendum on ballot for third time

By Dan Young

The referendum for the fixing and expansion of the high school will be voted on by the community on November 4, for the third time in the last 2 years.

The \$29.8 million referendum is a step down from last year's rejection of a \$32 million expansion plan.

The referendum is the board's answer to the incoming bombardment of students to the district. Dr. Griff Powell said, "The amount of class rooms added in the referendum will be able to house the students in the districts 94, 25, 33, and 34."

The referendum plans include additions to the building, upgrading the technology, fixing the plumbing, heating and electrical equipment, remodeling and furnishing of the cafeteria and abatement of asbestos.

The majority of the money the referendum pulls in will fall into the building additions and the plumbing, Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning, (HVAC), and electrical problems the schools have.

The school put \$18.8 million into these two areas, while the rest of the money is reserved for the other improvements.

"The HVAC, and the plumbing is really old. Some of the equipment has been here since the building was first built back in the 1920s. The equipment was well maintained, but when the heat will fluctuate from 50° to 90° on any given day, we need to up-date the infrastructure," said Dr. Powell.

"Majority of the money will go to fixing the infrastructure, and then to find the room for the kids who are coming in the near future," said Dr. Powell.

The infrastructure is the heating system and air conditioning system, and the plumbing. Some of the infrastructure has shut down, and the newest of the equipment is from the 1976 referendum.

Based on a \$100,000 home, the tax increase is up \$77.36 for the first year, and then it begins to decrease. After the jump in 2002, which the money will continue to decrease until it is lower than the tax rate of 1988, which was \$2.13. Look at the chart on the right for a \$100,000 house tax breakdown.

Currently, District 94 has got rid of its last debt from the 1976 referendum. The school paid off the last of its debt in 1991, and the tax rate has been dropping since then. Also, the school has had balanced budgets for the last seven years, and the school has a sound financial budget for the last 25 years.

Also, Dr. Powell said, "If the referendum doesn't pass, we will put up a new referendum on March 17. If this doesn't work, we will have to shift the money from different areas to fix the infrastructure, and go with other alternatives."

The alternatives Dr. Powell mentioned included mobile classrooms, year-around school, split shift, and possible sale of the Winfield property on Highlake road. The property is a corn field which the school rents out to farmers in the area.

"The students can help out a lot just by talking to their parents, and neighbors, and remind them to vote. The big problem is the lack of voters," said Dr. Powell. The other option the students have is to join We-go Cares, promotes the high school and its referendum.

My Steve Lakics and the town of West Chicago have attempted to help the school by forming a council, and giving property to the school, and saving the school \$12 million in property expenses.

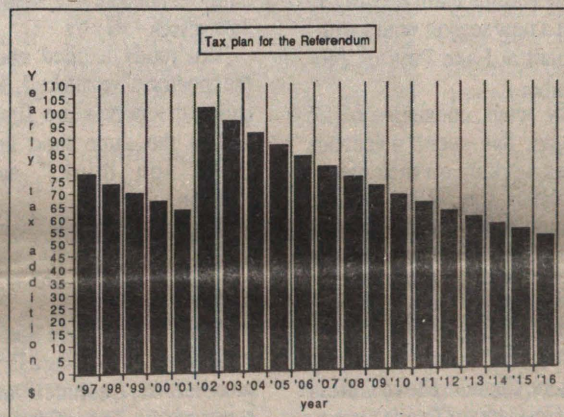
Lakics said, "They (the board) have removed all of the things that weren't necessary from the referendum. The areas were money

could be saved were taken.

"This is a no frills package. There is no more or no less [that they could change to lower the cost]. It is cut and dry," Lakics said.

The mayor also mentioned the referendum is a big worry to the city, and it is difficult to help it pass.

The referendum is a burden on tax payers, and the city is trying to bring in more housing to help the taxes stay down. "However, it is



## S.A.D.D. helps remember three girls

By Hannah Kenny

We-go has taken part in the good deeds in memory of the young lives lost two weeks ago, and Red Ribbon Week came at the right time to give a real life example of the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.

Students Against Driving Drunk (SADD) donated collected money to the Memorial Scholarship Fund JAJ scholarship established in memory of the three girls who lost their lives in a drunk driving accident.

The JAJ fund will be rewarded to a student chosen by peers each spring, according to Sandy Buehe, secretary for Waubonsie principal. We-go's chapter of SADD has collected \$75 dollars for the fund.

In return for their donation, students received red ribbons, bumper stickers, or key rings.

Diana Vasquez, social worker and SADD advisor said events like Red Ribbon Week are necessary in "realizing we do and can make a difference in cutting down the

number of impaired drivers," and hopefully these events are sinking in.

SADD sent sympathy letters to the families and to Waubonsie. Senior Tiffany Hanshaw, president of SADD said "SADD truly cares about the school and our intentions are not to be morbid but to do our best to protect the lives of the people associated with the school. If SADD only influences one person to not drink and drive, then all of our hard work is worth it."

The girls, who were on their way to decorate houses for homecoming, were killed in a two-car accident about 4 a.m. Friday, October 17. The three sixteen-year-olds collided with 28-year-old Randy Visor at Eola Road and New York Street in Aurora.

Visor's passenger, a widow and mother of three, 27-year-old Ana Pryor was also killed. Visor was released from Rush-Copley Medical Center in Aurora late Monday, October 20, and was in the Aurora

police lockup Monday night, charged with four counts of reckless homicide by the Aurora police.

This incident shocked the surrounding communities who were drawn into carrying on the girls' names. Television coverage was seen the entire weekend following the accident, containing numbers of many organizations for both the girls' and the parentless children of Pryor.

Monday, October 20, marked the day friends and family said goodbye to the three girls. They were buried side by side in Assumption Cemetery in Winfield.

The money for the JAJ fund is handled by the Indian Prairie Education Foundation, and donations can be sent to 25 Ogden Avenue, Aurora, IL, 60504.

Vasquez said "events like this solidify the importance of having a SADD chapter because it makes us more conscience that this could happen at any school, anytime, to anyone."

## Murder and mayhem come to We-go

By Jennifer Lasky

Leaves are changing, the weather is getting colder, and we all know what that means. Yes, time for the fall play again.

This year's fall play, "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940," by John Bishop, is to be held on November 13, 14, and 15, at 7:30 p.m. in the Weyrauch Auditorium.

This year's play features an ensemble cast, meaning most of the roles work together as a team, says one play advisor, Mary Hapertepe. Featured roles will be played by juniors Liam Doyle, Jon Fraser, and Mike Petrik, and seniors Tanya Austin, Liz Edwards, Steve Garcia, Jennie Grobe, Tiffany Hanshaw, Meg Runyan, and Justin Spurny.

This year's play has never been performed at We-go before. The performance was on Broadway in 1986 and 1987.

The stage manager this year is senior Laura Gilbert. The sets are being done by social studies teacher Steven Wroblewski, Gin Heflin, and a large crew of student volunteers.

The play is a mystery musical comedy. There is not a lot of music, but according to Hafertepe the play has "a lot of madcap mayhem, silliness, and surprises around every corner."

Grobe says the play "is hilarious and don't let yourself get confused."

Entrance fee is \$2 with a student ID, \$3 for adults.

## Sweder says goodbye to West Chicago

By Jeff Goluszka

Carol Sweder, known as a friend to the students, community, and faculty, resigned as West Chicago Community High School assistant principal.

The resignation of Sweder came as an enormous shock to the school. After only a few days into Sweder's 19th year in the We-go faculty, her seventh as assistant principal, she received a sudden job offer from St. Charles High School.

After considering the offer, Sweder decided she would resign on September 2.

She had no plans to leave West

Chicago, but she heard about the opening and the job just "fell into my lap," said Sweder.

Sweder's resignation was effective as of October 3.

Sweder is pleased about her new role at St. Charles. She is happy to have a new opportunity and she hopes to research new programs to aid learning, and help give support to students, she said.

As for her replacement, Assistant Superintendent for personnel Linda Kime said the vacated role will be filled cumulatively

by assistant principal John Highland, principal Dr. Alan Jones and Kime.

Maura Bridges will fill in as the Interim Director of Guidance, with Highland, Jones and Kime handling the administrative duties.

As for a full-time replacement, the Board has set a deadline of July 1 of 1998.

Sweder came to We-go in 1979. For her first six years, she was a Home Economics teacher, a dean for her next six, and finished out her career at We-go as an Assistant Principal.

Sweder was glad she spent 18 years at We-go. "I've really enjoyed teaching and working here," said Sweder. She has taught at four different schools, and "These students [at We-go] are the best in DuPage County," said Sweder.

On their four-year relationship, dean Miguel Arroyo said Sweder is a "person who works hard and takes pride in what she does." Also, Arroyo will remember "her willingness to accommodate the kids."

Yearbook advisor and English teacher Brad Larson said she was "very nice and wanted to be help-

ful, she had a real concern for the students."

John Highland said "she was a very classy lady, she generally cared about kids."

Sweder began her teaching career in Maryland, before moving out to Illinois. She began teaching in Wheaton, and then she was laid off because of declining enrollment.

Then called Wheaton Central, now Wheaton-Warrenville South, contacted Sweder, and she taught there for 2 years before departing again.

## Forensics ready for competition

By Allison Taylor

After months of preparation, the Forensics team is ready to start a new season with a tournament at Lake Park on November 8.

The team, consisting of 26 people, has spent numerous hours working on their pieces for the season. With the help of advisor Steve Kellner, they have practiced at least once a week and have participated in workshops to help them get ready for competition.

This year's team is lead by seniors Captain Steve Garcia and Co-Captain Tanya Austin. Senior Meg Runyan serves as secretary, junior Jessica Inch is treasurer, and junior Melissa Birch is the social coordinator.

Austin said the team is determined to do well this season and they hope to go downstate. Four members of last year's team went to state and placed sixth in both Theater in the Round and Humorous Interpretation.

Meg Runyan, who went to state last year, is one of nine returning members of the team. Runyan will be reciting poetry

and possibly competing in other events as the season progresses

"I'm really excited about the poetry I've picked, because the poems are funny and at the same time they make you think," said Runyan.

As a team, Forensics wants to "show We-go has a small, but strong team," said Austin.

Many people joined Forensics this year including a large number of freshmen and sophomores. These first year members compete at the novice level, whereas returning members compete at the varsity level. According to Austin, the new members are prepared and ready for the start of the season.

"I think forensics is the best activity in high school," said Austin. "Not only do you gain speaking skills, you make new friends from our school and from other schools. You also gain more confidence in yourself," she said.

## Chess looks to improve outstanding record

By Dan Young

The chess team is getting ready for another season, and attempts to take a state title after last year's seventh place finish at nationals.

After placing third in state last season, the chess team didn't take the summer off. They polished up their skills by entering tournaments and practicing against competitors in the area.

Finally, the season is at hand. This year, the team has two goals: state champions, and a top five national finish. Blair Machaj, team captain, said, "We are all ready for this season. We all want to finish this season with a state title, and a national team."

The team consists of seniors Justin Saduaskas, Blair Machaj, Alfredo Muhlburger, Dan Janek, Kevin Brewer, Eddie Patel, junior Scott McQueen, freshmen Dennis Janek, Ryan Beggy, and Janita Patel. The team has a lot of experienced, especially after returning all but one of

their top seven board members from last year's team.

Coach Joe Splinter said, "The team is a good mix of veterans and rookie players. We are picking up a lot of players from junior high, like Janita Patel, Beggy, and Dennis Janek, and most of them have experience. The junior high team from Benjamin won the state title for junior high, so we are looking forward to the growth."

The chess team is really looking forward to this season. Muhlburger said, "This is our year, and we are looking forward to this season as one of our bests." Assistant coach, and last year player Tim Martin said, "We are looking to do well this season, and to win our own invitational first. The player may be looking towards state, but we want to win our invite this year." The invite is on November 15, and it is the third West Chicago invite. The team has never won their own

invitational, so it is an admirable goal.

Splinter said, "The teams we will have to watch out for are Illinois Math and Science Academy, the state champions, along with Glenbard West, New Trier, and Wheaton Warrenville South."

Martin also said, "We are just looking to win every round we play, in any way possible. We know how to do it, and we need to follow through with it."

The Cats have one drawback this season. They have a new head coach in Splinter, and new assistant coach Martin. However, the players and the coaching crew react just fine to each other, and Martin just graduated last year, so the team knows their coaches.

Splinter came from Benjamin, where his team won the state title. He has taught Machaj, Saduaskas, Beggy, and he is happy with the way the team is shaping up.

## ...and they lived happily ever after at We-go

By Arlete Penaflo

We-go's fairytale homecoming week came to an end on Saturday, September 27 with the football game against Glenbard East, and the homecoming dance.

Homecoming week was kicked off on Saturday, September 21 with the window painting in downtown West Chicago, and float building. This year for window painting the sophomores came in first place, followed by the juniors in second, seniors in third, and freshmen in fourth place. For the float building the juniors came in first place, sophomores in second place, seniors in third, and the freshmen in fourth place.

Every morning starting at 7:25 a.m. there were games in commons, where the classes would compete against each other. On

Monday, September 22 the "meet the candidates" assembly was held, and the school met the 20 homecoming candidates.

The candidates were Andrea Beutjer, Danielle Christopher, Beth Evans, Liz Edwards, Kelly Kaylor, Kelsey Link, Danielle Murphy, Lexie Nussbaum, Meg Runyan, Trisha Tinnes, Jon Hall, Todd Yorkmark,

Jim Callahan, P.J. Leitherer, Jim Carstensen, Josh Xiong, Joe Kaczmarek, Mike Butkovich, Steve Garcia, and Ernesto Vargas.

This year's homecoming king and queen were P.J. Leitherer and Andrea Beutjer. Their coronation took place on Friday, September 26 at the pep assembly.

After the pep assembly the fairytale feast was held on the track and the mini olympics were

held on the football field. The class of 1998 won the tug-of-war competition for the fourth straight year,

beating the other three classes and the faculty. The pon pom squad beat the cheerleaders as well.

The homecoming dance took place on Saturday, September 27 from 7-10 p.m. Over 900 people showed up for the homecoming dance, which was decorated to fit the themes of fairytales, with fake plants, and green balloons as well as green streamers, and stars hanging from the ceiling. People started dancing as soon as the DJ started playing the music. There was a variety of music for everyone's taste.

"It's really hot, the DJ is alright but he shouldn't have put the Macarena," said sophomore Rachael Watson.

"Better than last years (D.J.), better music," said Junior Arnold

Ramirez.

Everyone had their own opinion of what they thought of the dance, but the chaperones all seemed to agree that everyone was well behaved, despite the amount of people there.

"Everybody behaved pretty well, especially considering how many people came over 900," said Kristen Isacson, math teacher.

"It was great, everybody was well behaved, people looked like they had fun," said Tony Quarto, police liaison.

The night finally came to an end with the last song of the evening, which was "2 become 1," by the Spice Girls.



Photo by Allison Taylor  
Captain Hook on senior window

## Press Release: Angels for Aliana

Senior Hannah Kenny has been spending recent weekends helping to publicize the First Annual Craft Show and Bake Sale of the Angels for Aliana Foundation to be held November 22, 1997 at St. James the Apostle Church, Glen Ellyn, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Angels for Aliana Foundation was started by Hannah's uncle, Mike Micheli, and his wife, Gina, in memory of their infant daughter, Aliana, who died on February 3, 1997 of a rare liver disorder, neonatal hemochromatosis. The Foundation is dedicated to education, information, and research into pediatric liver disorders. The November 22 Craft Show will benefit the foundation's work.

Hannah is calling for any interested students to volunteer for the craft show. "We're looking for people who would like to help us with setting up tables and running the bake sale," said Hannah. "We're also still signing up crafters who would like to take a table to sell their work. It's at a good time because it's just the start of the holidays."

If you are not interested yourself, you might like to tell your family and friends. For more information on the craft show, to volunteer, or to sign up as a crafter, call Gina Micheli at 630-985-8095, or give your name and phone number to Hannah.

## Press Release: Illinois Editors' Traffic Safety Seminar

Has *Zero Tolerance* affected you and your friends?

This question will be answered by Illinois high school seniors who enter the 32nd annual Illinois Editors' Traffic Safety Seminar Essay Contest.

"Younger drivers continue to be involved in an alarming number of accidents relative to their representation among all drivers," said Lionel Kramer, Seminar secretary and AAA-CMC's president. "This year's contest participants will evaluate Illinois' "Use it and Lose it" law and reflect on if, or how, it has affected themselves and their peers."

Joseph A. Spagnolo, state superintendent of education, is urging educators to support the contest and encourages high school seniors to participate.

Seminar directors make preliminary selections from nearly 2,000 entries. These are sent to a panel of health and safety educators from the University of Illinois, which chooses the 10 finalists. Writing skills and original thinking are important criteria considered by the judges. They also look for fresh, feasible, constructive and well-supported ideas, along with spelling, thought organization, punctuation and grammar.

Scholarships totaling \$7,000 will be awarded to the 10 students whose essays best respond to the topic. First and second prizes will be \$2,000 and \$1,000 scholarships. Each of the eight remaining winners will receive \$500. Since the contest originated, nearly 30,000 students have participated and more than \$169,000 in scholarship money has been awarded by the AAA-Chicago Motor Club.

Previous contests have addressed many traffic safety issues including drunk driving, speed limits, legal driving age, driver education

and new legislation. An official entry form must accompany each essay which should contain approximately 500 words and be postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 1997.

Contest rules and entry forms are available at most Illinois high schools, AAA-CMC branch offices or from Seminar Headquarters: AAA-Chicago Motor Club, P.O. Box 5027, Des Plaines, IL 60017-5027. The scholarship awards will be presented to the winners in early May, 1998, at the annual awards luncheon of the Illinois Editors' Traffic Safety Seminar.

## Two Cultures Combine

Teacher Patti Kozlowski travels to Japan

By Kelly Kaylor

A piece of West Chicago is going international tomorrow, as Community High School teacher Patti Kozlowski departs for Tokyo, Japan as part of an elite group of teachers selected for the Fulbright Memorial Teacher Fund.

The Fulbright Memorial Fund is a respected program which enables primary and secondary school teachers in the United States to travel to Japan for three weeks in order to promote greater intercultural understanding between both nations.

"I am so very excited and thrilled to be able to represent the school and the family/consumer science department with such an honor," Kozlowski said.

Kozlowski was selected from 2,000 applicants nationwide by a panel of educators, and is one of 502 teachers from around the country traveling to Japan this spring and fall. The Fulbright Teacher Program expects to bring 5,000 American teachers to Japan within the next five years.

This program is fully funded by the Japanese government, which began as a commemoration for the 50th anniversary of the U.S. government-initiated Fulbright Program, which enabled 6,000 Japanese citizens to come to America on scholarship for graduate education and research.

Selection for this grant began with a proposal Kozlowski sent in on January 6, 1997, on how to bring Japanese culture to the United States. She conducted a great amount research into the Japanese culture, extensively into their teaching methods. Recommendations were required from the principal and two other respectable sources stating the capa-

bility of the applicant to connect the two styles of teaching.

Response from her proposal came with the news of her selection nearly six months after initial inquiry into the program. "News of my selection came the day after my 50th birthday, what a treat that was!" said Kozlowski. She is one of six teachers from northern Illinois representing the state this fall in Japan.

Her trip will begin in Tokyo, where all teachers will receive an orientation on Japanese life and meet with government officials and educators. The group will then be broken up into five groups and for the following two weeks visit a particular state where they will be in direct interaction with schools, teachers, students, and teacher's colleges.

Kozlowski will be staying in the northern area of Iwate, where she will reside with a Japanese host family for the remainder of the trip. She has been working on her Japanese, but said, "I know the important phrases, but I will definitely use my English-Japanese Dictionary."

Her goal for the program is based around observation, she hopes to use this opportunity to learn different styles of Japanese teaching and bring such methods home to her West Chicago classroom.

One style in particular that she hopes to study abroad is the art of Japanese storytelling, which consists of many elaborate pictures and depends heavily on the skill of

the storyteller.

In addition to observing the Japanese techniques, she expects to bring her American style of teaching to her Japanese counterparts.

The only difference in Japanese teaching that Kozlowski feels will cause her discomfort is the gender inequality.

"Japanese educators are well-respected, but women are not treated as equals of the men, and for me that may take a little getting used to," Kozlowski said.

In preparation for her trip, Kozlowski has read an extensive amount of material on the Japanese and their lifestyle, she said, "They [Japanese] have a very strict etiquette, and are very polite, I did research in order to avoid embarrassing myself or my country."

Gift exchanges are prominent in Japan, visitors usually receive a gift from everyone they meet and are expected to have a gift in return.

Kozlowski has been working on accumulating a wide variety of novelties symbolizing American customs and our school, including Bulls paraphernalia, Wildcat Pride pins and WeGo sweatshirts.

Kozlowski who currently teaches courses in child development and contemporary life has been at West Chicago for over 20 years.

Kozlowski appreciates the support she has received from the school and the community, and hopes to correspond with the school by faxing throughout her stay.



Photo by Kelly Kaylor  
Patti Kozlowski demonstrates Japanese storytelling to senior Joe Kaczmarek

### November 1997

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Thespian Meeting 7:15a.m.	4 Booster Club 7:30 p.m.	5 S.A.D.D. Meeting 7:15a.m.	6 F.B.L.A. 7:15a.m.	7 Student Council Meeting 7:00a.m.	8
9	10 Fall Sports Awards 7:30p.m.	11 Veteran's Day no school	12 S.A.D.D. Meeting 7:15a.m.	13 F.B.L.A. 7:15a.m. Opening Night Fall Play 7:30	14 Student Council Meeting 7 a.m. Fall Play 7:30p.m.	15 Chess Tournament 8:00 a.m. Play 7:30 p.m.
16	17 Thespian Meeting 7:15a.m.	18 Board Meeting 7:15 p.m.	19 S.A.D.D. 7:15 Winter Athlete Meeting 7:30p.m.	20 F.B.L.A. 7:15a.m. Junior Large Group Meeting	21 Student Council Meeting 7:00a.m.	22
23/30	24	25 Soph. Parent Night 5 p.m. Conferences 5:30 p.m.	26 Delivery of Nov. Chronicle 12:45 p.m. dismissal	27 F.B.L.A. Meeting 7:15a.m.	28 Student Council Meeting 7:00p.m.	29

## Freedom of the press?

By Jennifer Lasky

Before this Wildcat Chronicle has reached your hands, every letter, every word, every page has been looked over by the principal, the superintendent, and the school board.

This doesn't happen here at We-go, but it could.

In 1983, the principal of Hazelwood East High School deleted two pages from the Hazelwood school paper because he felt an article on teen pregnancy and an article on divorce were not appropriate.

He said the pregnancy article did not hide the girl's identities well enough and was inappropriate for the high school audience. He felt the divorce article needed to include the views of the parents as well as the children.

The students sued, saying their First Amendment rights had been violated. The case made it to the Supreme Court, where, in 1988, the court ruled that school sponsored student publications are not public forums and the principal has the right to censor.

The Hazelwood decision states,

"...we hold that educators do not offend the First Amendment by exercising editorial control over the style and content of student speech in school-sponsored expressive activities so long as their actions are reasonably related to legitimate pedagogical concerns."

But in 1965, several students wore black armbands to school to protest the Vietnam War. After being suspended, they sued.

In 1969, in *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District*, the Supreme Court ruled for the students, with Justice Abe Fortas saying students do not "shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate."

Last spring, House Bill 154, was passed in the Illinois House of Representatives 109-4 and in the Senate 57-0, clearly defining what rights student journalists have. It was then vetoed by Governor Edgar on August 10.

This bill, the Illinois Student Publications Act, says that a high school student newspaper should have the right to exercise freedom of the press, but they also are liable

for what they print. This bill protects the schools from liability. A school that censors a student newspaper has greater liability for what is printed.

A bill similar to House Bill 154 has been passed in six other states. The Student Press Law Center has no evidence any of the states with student free expression laws have had lawsuits over actions taken by student editors.

The Illinois Journalism Education Association is trying to convince our Illinois senators and representatives to override Governor Edgar's veto. In order to override the veto, they must secure a 3/5 majority of the votes in the Illinois House and Senate.

The House of Representatives meets the week of October 28 and the Senate meets the week of November 11 to vote on the override.

To help override the veto, call or write to your Illinois senators and representatives and ask them to support House Bill 154. Remind them it passed in the House of Representatives and in the Illinois Senate last spring.

## Get out of my way

By Allison Taylor

Traffic jams, wall-to-wall traffic, screaming, frustration, tardiness. No, this isn't the Eisenhower expressway, it's the hallways here at We-go.

Since my freshmen year, the hallways have become more crowded with the growing number of students. The five minute passing periods don't seem as long as they used to. Everyone has to fight their way through the hall, up and down the jammed stairwells, and to their next class.

I'm not the only one who dislikes the hallways here at We-go. Many of my friends are upset about it, too. Many people in my classes are constantly tardy because they couldn't get down the hall. I feel I speak for the majority of the student body when I say the hallways need help.

The only way this problem will be solved is through the referendum. There would be more space and people would not be jammed into one area. However, in the meantime, all students could work together to improve our hallway system.

I think students should walk at a

normal walking pace, instead of traveling at a snail's pace or running around corners and smacking into someone. I hate it when people shuffle along as if they have all the time in the world. Maybe they have unscheduled or off-campus, but some people have actual classes. Another thing that bothers me is when people insist on standing in the middle of the hall with their large group of friends. Why can't they stand to the side, or move over so everyone can walk past them. I used to politely ask people to move over, but now the only way to get my point across is to yell "MOVE!" If people feel like dawdling or standing around, they should stay to the side of the hall, away from the rest of us.

Then there are people who insist on running down the hall. They always run into someone else, usually without apologizing. I don't want to sound like someone's mother, but someone could get hurt. People need to slow down, but not so much that everyone behind them is late for class.

People should not goof around and act like two-year-olds either. One day I was on my way to sec-

ond hour when I was smacked in the mouth. Two girls were standing in front of the music room and one of them was trying to drag the other by pulling her hand. When I went to walk past them, they brought their arms up and smacked me in the mouth. My lip started to bleed, and the two girls ran into the music room without apologizing.

This little incident was a perfect example of why people need to be courteous and respectful of others in the hallway. I was walking down the hall minding my own business, and these two girls felt it necessary to pull each other across. If they had walked down the hall, like normal people, everything would have been fine.

Let this be a wake up call for anyone who goofs around in the hall, runs down the hall, or stands in the middle of the hall. This is rude and inconsiderate. I know the hallways are crowded and it's hard to get to class, but it would be a lot easier if people could just learn to walk properly. Don't run, don't shuffle, and please don't do something dumb that might hurt someone else.

## Staff editorial

For the third time in two years, the \$29.8 million referendum for District 94 will appear on the ballots of the November 4 elections.

In five days, voters will decide the fate of our school.

Students walk into the building each morning to face a lack of heat, or too much heat. There is rarely a comfortable temperature in any area of the building anymore.

The halls are so crowded, making it hard to arrive on time to class. Everyone is pushing their way through the halls trying to make it to their locker and class in one peice.

The school needs new computers in MacLabs 227 and 228. These

computers are slow and keep breaking down. The number of times the Macs have eaten our disks or broken minutes before papers are due is endless. Each day, there is another computer missing from the room because it's being repaired.

Teachers are sharing classrooms. This is a problem because when students look for them, they can never find them, there is another teacher in the room.

All problems becoming worse with each passing year, and next year will bring a bigger freshmen class.

The passage of the referendum would put an end to these problems. Vote wisely.

Now this school could use money more wisely. Maybe we haven't been in debt since 1991, but the phrase "frivolous spending" comes to mind.

Some of the money spent on the CD Rom tower in the library could have been put towards necessary repairs. Warmth or the Internet?

But still it's a fact this school is hot, cramped and basically falling apart.

On November 4, voters should decide and hopefully our little brothers and sisters won't be crammed like sardines in winter and wearing jackets in the middle of the spring.

## Senior Column

### Don't let friendships die

By Beth Siwy

As I write this I think about my closest friends: Amanda, Brenda, and Lisa, to whom I guess this is dedicated.

It all began in junior high gym class; when the teacher picked the captains for dodge ball, the judging began. The four best athletes would take their places in front of the class; some would pick their friends, while others would pick the most popular or most talented. As I look back now I can't remember those who got picked or even those that did the picking.

And this, only four years ago.

When I first walked into West Chicago Community High School I was scared to death. What if I don't have any classes with my friends? What if I don't make any new friends? What if I end up not having any friends at all?

It's kind of funny how I can look back and say "what happened"? I mean really. I think I can safely say at least half of us have changed friends or groups of friends at some point, even if it was only last week. And even though in some cases, it may have been for the best, we lost a little bit of ourselves in every friend we lost in these four years of high school. But I also think that I have gained something from everyone who I have met.

Next year we'll all go our separate ways and make new friends, and sure many of us will keep, or in the very least stay in touch with the friends we have now. But I can't help but think about that one girl in my English class that I never really got to know, or even the fact that I probably never would have become friends with Hannah or Jeff had it not been for the *Wildcat Chronicle*.

It makes me think that maybe we haven't been fair.

In the beginning it was all segregated: in early childhood it was boys versus girls; and as time went on it became popular against unpopular. And finally we reached Benjamin vs. Winfield vs. West Chicago.

I guess what I am trying to say is that somewhere along the line, I thought that it would all fade and everyone would reach some kind of midpoint where we would all become equal. At least that is what I thought would have happened as we all grew up. I look at everyone in the halls and it makes me crazy to hear what some people say about others, people they don't even know. I know that it sounds cliché, but why can't we all just get along?

I value my friendships now-no matter how big or how small. People can and will complain about how boring school is, or how we can't wait to get out of here, but without it we wouldn't have anything... formal education, common sense, a feel for the future, or friendships.

You may be reading this thinking "who is this girl, I've never heard of her or seen her before in my life." But just know I could be the one who you didn't pick in junior high, or I could very well be that girl in your English class that you never really got to know.

In only a few short months the ever familiar sign will go up in our hallway counting down the days until we walk through the Bishop gym one last time as Wildcats.

It may sound corny but when I sit in that hot, crowded gym on June 7th, I want to look around at my friends and remember the good times: the long nights at Applebees, driving to Jewel to pick up salami at eleven thirty at night, or even climbing fences at one o'clock in the morning.

I want to remember everyone who I see on June 7th... even four years from now. And not only as my peers, but as my friends.

Go class of '98!!!

Wildcat Chronicle  
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The Wildcat Chronicle is the student newspaper at 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 the student body.

Any suggestions or comments for the newspaper can be delivered to the Chronicle

box in the main office. Letters to the editor must be signed to be printed. The newspaper 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.

## Letters to the editor Not so S.A.D.D. after all

Dear Editor,  
Once again in my high school career a group has acted idiotically enough to provoke criticism from me.

This time around, however, it isn't simply because the group has no cause. Unlike the pointless We-go Cares group, SADD, actually has a somewhat worthwhile cause - Keep teens from drinking and driving.

The problem now is that the group seems to have lost some of their realism. SADD seems to be focusing on the idea, as can be seen from the wide variety (cough, cough) of hand made posters decorating the hallways. SADD is here wasting their efforts. It is simply inevitable: many teens will drink. They aren't going to listen to a poster telling them what to do if they want to anyway. Those are the teenagers who are resolute in their decision not to drink. (Side note here: those who believe that their decision not to do something—never having tried before makes it based on a complete lack of personal experience/knowledge of the subject—makes you better than those who have tried and chosen, are imbeciles. "You cannot

judge yourself by that which others have done, only by that which you yourself have not.") I am not attempting to promote underage drinking, only to knock down the supercilious (look it up) from their pedestals.

The point I was going to attempt to make was, SADD shouldn't focus on keeping teens from drinking, because, its not going to happen. They should get a more realistic focus, like trying to convince teens not to drive while drunk, or to convince teens not to let any of their friends drive drunk. The older message seems to have been lost, the 'take the keys away from him' kind of thing, the one that made more sense.

As I was sidetracking before, I made a statement like 'those who have never tried will never know,' or something to that effect (effect, A noun). I forgot. SADD knows about alcohol. They have numbers. And we all know (cough, cough) numbers are a great indicator of knowledge. 3.8 million people, etc. etc., 76% blah blah blah, 20.3% etc. etc. etc. Anybody ever heard anything similar to this, maybe, around third hour time? My question is, how do they ex-

pect these numbers to have any meaning for us all, especially when read in the dull monotone of our beloved Lisa Mueller. Not to say Mr. Hein is any better, he's just straightforward, he has a point. Have you ever wondered what the point of your knowing that 7.6 million people are involved in something, 87% of whom are worse off because 20.6% of them drive Fords? And the funny thing is, you're never going to need to know unless you star on Jeopardy someday.

If there are five students in this school who can, off the top of their heads, tell me what any of those numbers were (SADD members excluded, as well as close friends and family of) I would be willing to eat my words in front of the group.

The point is, during the announcements, no one pays attention to those numbers. And because of that, SADD will not affect (yes We-go Cares, that's Affect, a verb!) anyone by reading off the numbers as an announcement. It will only be diverting time and effort away from what could be a worthwhile cause.

Another point to bring up is those

posters I referred to earlier. And not the posters released by national level organizations, no, I'm talking about the hand made ones by our own SADD group. In the past years, the posters have been original and have involved things that catch peoples' eyes, or make people think. The message on all of these is seemingly aimed towards five year olds. 'Don't do drugs,' and 'don't smoke' or 'don't drink' are about the extent of the variety. Maybe it's just me here, but people don't seem to enjoy being treated like incompetent fools or foolish children. "Yes, mommy" is just one of the reactions I have heard to them.

The point here is that, once again, this method just isn't going to cut it. You can refer to the second paragraph for that, in case you forgot. And the other point is that people simply don't like to be treated as children, so they won't pay attention if they are.

The last point I will bring up (for the sake of space and editing) is the bells on Friday. Was it just me of was that even more pointless than the announcements about 3.94 million people doing this or that? I personally lost some of my valu-

able time (would you believe it, in school) in at least three classes due to class discussion over how worthless it was. Only five people out of the maybe seventy in those classes were attempting to defend it. Surprisingly enough, all of them were, would you believe it, members of SADD themselves. Sorry to use numbers like that, that are basically meaningless to you. Just think the majority of the people don't care, the minority, most of which is the SADD members, actually claim to.

Another point, that had been suggested to me for criticism, which I will not address here for personal reasons, is the leadership of the group. Perhaps this could be something for the group its self to evaluate, the devotion of its leaders to the club, and the directions this group is being taken.

On a final note, a quote from someone I hold in high esteem. "Preach to those who want to be preached to, leave the rest of us alone. (And here's a hint for SADD. Most of the high school compromises 'the rest of us')."

Bill Crothers

## "Giving credit where credit is due"

Dear Sir or Madam,

I attended last Fridays Varsity football game at your stadium between my son's high school, Glenbard North, and your school's team. I want to congratulate your school's band on a wonderful performance during the entire game. Your team was being trounced by our players, and yet your band kept on playing, trying to lift the spirit of their players and their fans.

The band played in between the plays, never at inappropriate times. They played fun and modern songs, and got everyone into the act. During their playing of "La Bamba", they even had the fans in their section doing a little "dance routine" with their arms. Even us fans on the opposing side had our feet and hands tapping to the beat.

It was so refreshing to see such a great bunch of kids, staying to the end with their team, trying to spark some excitement into a losing game. It wasn't just myself of the adults I was sitting with that feel this way. My sons and his friends commented to me after the game that they too had noticed the band and had greatly enjoyed their spirit.

I wish our Glenbard North band would act the same as your band did last Friday. our band leaves

after their half time show and very seldom shows any excitement or cohesion when they are in the stands during the game. They never play fun music for their players of the fans. They could truly learn a few things from your band.

Again, please extend my congratulations to the band and their director. They are truly an example for others to copy.

Mrs. Maria A. Paradowski

*Editor's note: This note was received later and further explains Ms. Paradowski's impressions of our band.*

Dear Ms. Villarreal,

I must say that I can't believe my letter to your school has caused such a positive "commotion."

I am very pleased that my letter has given such a boost to your school and your band in particular. I only wrote it to congratulate the great performance in spirit and enthusiasm that the band portrayed that evening against the Glenbard North team. They really deserved it. The parents I sit with during our school's games are still talking about what fun we had listening to your group, and we are still comparing all the other school's bands to yours. Although we have seen

some really glitzy bands, your school still wins the spirit award hands down.

I am not [a band mom]. My children have always been too busy with athletics to join band, but we all appreciate and like all sorts of music, especially music played with feeling.

I sent copies of my letter to your school, to our principal, and our band director to hopefully inspire them to in turn inspire our band to do better. Unfortunately, no improvement has occurred in our school. Our band still leaves at half time and shows a real lack of interest in what is going on during the short time they are at the game. Our GBN band can surely take lessons from yours.

Of course, you may publish my letter to your principal (and this one as well if you'd like). I am all for giving credit where credit is due and am a firm believer in the power of positive reinforcement.

Thanks for all the kind thoughts about me to all of you. I'm glad my comments made a difference. I wish good luck to the band in the future. To them I say: keep on having fun, entertain your fans, and continue with your great school spirit.

Maria A. Paradowski

## "Hoping for a better year"

Dear Editor,

This is in response to the letter printed about the 96-97 yearbook. Yes, last year's yearbook was not as good as previous years' yearbooks had been, however, it was not completely our fault. Last year, the staff for yearbook was not a complete one. When we asked for people to join, no one replied. You cannot expect there to be a good yearbook when there is work designed for at least fifteen people, and only a staff of twelve to do the work. In regard to errors in the yearbook, such as the uneven columns for the text and the switching of pictures on the boys volleyball page, these were errors made by the plant that manufactured the yearbook, and believe me, they heard about it when the yearbook came out.

One thing I do agree about is that it was a yearbook staff's yearbook—but only part of the staff's. Some members of the staff felt that it was more important than anything else that they put themselves in there more. Those members of

the staff are no longer with us.

Not all the blame for last year's book goes to the staff, though. Some of the responsibility goes on the students of the school. When going to take pictures at events, people would hide their faces from the camera, thus making pictures unusable for the yearbook. Also, when we handed out questionnaires for certain parts of the yearbook, we only received one out of ten back from the student body. It seemed that very few were interested in giving us information that would help us.

We ask that this year, when we ask for a quotation on something, or when we request pictures from your summer, or other events, that you do get them to us so we can make the yearbook the best that we can. We, in return, promise to make the yearbook everyone's, and work to make sure there are fewer errors next year. We also send out a sincere apology to those who were unfortunately left out from last year's yearbook.

Hoping for a better year,  
Returning Yearbook Staff

## Security guards, friends or foes?

By Tom Walton

Instead of the same old familiar faces around the hallways students at West Chicago Community High School were greeted by faces which were unfamiliar ones.

Gone are most of the para-pros the students have come to love over the years, replaced by inexpensive, efficient campus supervisors.

The addition of the security guards cuts the school budget sufficiently, allowing more of the funds to go directly to the students' learning benefits.

More efficient? Perhaps. Inexpensive? Definitely. The question is, do they have the same connection with the students as the para-pros did?

You can be sure that many of the upperclassmen recall a few kind gestured ribbings made by a kind-hearted gentleman on the way into lunch.

You can also be sure that many people miss the smiling face of Mr. Dye and other para-pros around the school.

The students' skepticism about the security guards has passed, and now many of the students know the security guards are not cold-blooded maniacs. For the most part, they have all turned out to be kind-hearted gentlemen.

James Malone, the supervisor of the security guards, says that most of them like the kids the most out of all the things they do at their job.

"The kids are the best, man," says Malone with a grin on his face, "that's the reason I am here."

Their love of kids is definitely very apparent through the hallways and the lunchroom. A lot of the times, students will come in from lunch and have a few minutes to kill, so they'll talk to some of the guards for a little bit.

The school's transition to more inexpensive help, has actually turned out to be for the better. I'm sure we all miss our para-pros, but the security guards are a welcome addition to our family here at We-go.

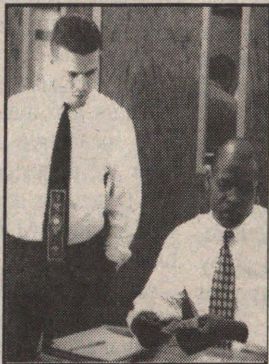


Photo by Diana Chavez

Dean's assistant Maro Godinho and security guard James Malone check over some student ID's.

## Drunk students at We-go

By Julie Hodge

There were quite a few drunk students in Commons last Thursday.

During their unscheduled and study hall classes, students participated in "drunk driving skills tests."

As part of Red Ribbon Week, this event was held in hopes to teach kids not to drink and drive, and also about the consequences of someone who does.

West Chicago Police Officer Chris Woodill and Dona Smith from the Youth Commission

brought in "Fatal Vision" goggles, a new addition to the Police Department's Safety Education tools, purchased only two weeks ago. Wearing the goggles, they give the impression of being extremely drunk.

Woodill and Smith then asked students to walk a straight line, such as a suspected drunk driver would be asked to do. This was all a part of West Chicago Police Department and the Youth Commission's doing to educate

and make the public aware of the harm that drunk driving causes.

Many activities took place in West Chicago during last week. To kick off Red Ribbon Week, the Police Department held an Open House two Sundays ago, October 19. Synergy Dance Club, next to Bowling Green hosted a dance for all teenagers Friday night. Members of Students Against Driving Drug (SADD) and Bob Stone, WCCHS' Athletics Director will be speaking at the Middle School.

## Confused about college?

Press Release

You've seen brochures galore...had more advice than you ever wanted...and you still don't know where you want to go to college. So...how do you decide?

It's tough! You're not sure about a lot of things. How can you know what you want to major in when you haven't even been on campus? But people keep saying this is a VERY IMPORTANT decision...and then there's the money...Whoa!

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## A matter of life and death

By Allison Taylor

Someone dies in an alcohol related accident every 26 minutes in this country.

People die everyday after taking illegal drugs. These deaths could be prevented if people throughout the world were educated in the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

Red Ribbon Week, which was held October 18-26, was a week of awareness. Communities, including West Chicago, promoted the fight against drugs to residents and students.

Students Against Driving Drunk (S.A.D.D.) was active in supporting Red Ribbon Week.

On Monday, October 20, S.A.D.D. members tied red ribbons around car antennas in teacher lots, student lots, Kerr McGee, and cars parked on Joliet St. and Wood St.

Red ribbons were also tied around trees in the community to spread awareness of drug and alcohol problems.

"It makes people aware that there are lots of problems out there," said S.A.D.D. treasurer, Lisa Mueller.

S.A.D.D. members passed out

red ribbons to all students who made a small donation during lunches throughout the week.

This money was donated to the scholarship fund for three Waubonsie Valley High School students who were killed by a drunk driver on Friday, October 17.

In addition to the distribution of red ribbons, S.A.D.D. made posters for elementary schools in district #33. The students in the elementary schools made posters for the high school, as well. Each school then hung the posters in their hallways to show each others' support for the cause.

Red Ribbon week began in 1985 after Enrique Camarena, an agent in the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration was killed by drug traffickers in Mexico. Citizens decided to fight back after this attack, and take a stand against drugs. People used a red ribbon to show their support for the cause.

Since 1985, drug awareness has spread throughout the country and red ribbon week has grown into a national event honored by many schools and groups.

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## Are you ready for a scare?

By Kelley Betts

Scary sights are everywhere. Halloween is a time when people love to be scared. Many haunted houses open up for this reason.

Hades Haunted House, located at the Odeum in Villa Park has been a main attraction for those wanting to go to a haunted house for years. This year, Hades has added an interesting twist. Another house has been added to double the fright of thrill seekers. In addition to "Ancient Evil," the newest house, entitled "War of The Worlds," is filled with aliens attempting to take over the planet.

The narrow, winding walkways for people to speed through are filled with ghouls and goblins

wanting nothing more than to scare the spectator.

In order to experience the spectacle, an admission cost of \$16 covers your tour though both haunted houses. They will be open on Thursday, October 30 through Saturday November 1 from 7 p.m. until 10:30 p.m.

Six Flags Great America theme park joins in on the Halloween madness by turning the traditional theme park into "Frightfest." This is done by decorating the entire park with cobwebs and mechanical creatures, not to mention the 200 actors hired to scare the guests of the park. Music from the movie *Halloween* fills every area of the

park. Bugs Bunny and all his friends also join in on the festivities by dressing in costume.

The Mausoleum of Terror and Sades' Hotel, two haunted houses, are also a part of the frightful fun. Both are filled with mind boggling rooms and special affects to add to the scare.

An additional charge required for admission to both houses (\$3 before 5 p.m. and \$5 after 5 p.m.). Surrounding the Mausoleum of Terror is the Necropolis, the haunted town where the living dead roam. In Southwest Territory, where Sades' is located, more frightening characters wander, trying to scare the public.

Six Flags Great America decorates the park to the point where the entire atmosphere is a creepy one.

Another exciting haunted house is Silo X, located at the DuPage County Fairgrounds, features an army base overrun by aliens. After paying the \$12 admission fee, visitors enter the opening doors to soon be surrounded by green tinted smoke that is so thick walls cannot be seen right in front of them.

Silo X will be open tonight, Halloween night and Saturday, November 1 until 10:30 pm.

Jaycees haunted houses are scattered throughout the area. Each one has a different feature.

Jaycees in Lombard features a haunted carnival entitled "The Carnivale of Lost Souls." Admission is \$6 and it will be open until 10:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 30 and from 7:30 until 11:30 p.m. on Friday, October 31 and Saturday, November 1.

Jaycees in Naperville features the "It's a Scream, Baby" haunted house at Centennial Beach. Admission to the house is \$5 per person. It will be open from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, October 30 and Friday, October 31.

Haunted houses are everywhere, making this Halloween mostly inexpensive, easily accessible and scary.

## Freshmen sent to China

By Christopher Gehrke

Freshmen participating in the C3 program at West Chicago Community High School were sent to Chinatown on two separate days to study Chinese life.

The purpose of this trip was to study communities and the quality of life. Central DuPage Hospital (CDH) and the C3 students have an ongoing project to better the communities around us.

Quality of life is a very important aspect of communities.

The C3 students went to Chinatown, a distinct Chinese community in Chicago, to see their quality of life.

First off, they took the train downtown. On the train, they did a worksheet that covered the cities that they went through, such as West Chicago, Winfield, Wheaton, Glen Ellyn, Lombard, Villa Park, Elmhurst, Berkley, Bellwood, Melrose Park, Maywood, River Forest, Oak Park, Kedzie and Chicago.

During the study, the students were asked to rate the downtown area of these cities. They rated them by answering questions on the condition of businesses, occupation of buildings, and the condition of roads, sidewalks and train stations.

They also rated the homes in the area by their landscaping, the size of the yard and how safe the neighborhood appeared.

Lastly, they rated the recreational facilities, if there were any.

Upon arrival in Chicago, they took the el train to Chinatown where they visited some shops and businesses. Most of the stores sold things like statues, Chinese swords and other little trinkets.

Other places of business included traditional Chinese restaurants and

stores that were like grocery stores, but they sold ethnic foods like "spicy chicken feet" and frog legs.

Most of the buildings had intricate designs and colorful art. There were also many "No Peddling" signs, which means selling merchandise on the street was prohibited. All of the signs were printed in English and Chinese.

Most of the citizens spoke some English, but there were a few who did not speak or understand English at all.

Also, many of the store owners appeared suspicious of the students, as if they were going to steal something. Other store owners were very friendly and welcomed questions about their life in this community. The common answer was that they liked Chinatown because it's the kind of place were everyone knows everyone, like a big family.

Soon they were done visiting stores and shops and it was time to eat. Everyone ate at the Three-Happiness Restaurant. Most of the group was served fried rice, sweet and sour chicken, an eggroll and the traditional fortune cookie.

Next everyone boarded back onto the el, eventually back to the train. On the train, people finished their worksheets, slept, or talked about their trip to Chinatown.

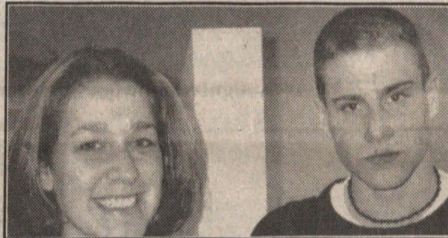
The students' ideas conflicted on how they liked the trip. "I enjoyed it," said Malissa Kane and "the food was really good, too."

Alberto Chavez decided that the trip was "ok" while Eric Hernandez said "it was really boring."

Even though some people didn't like the trip, everyone learned something about different communities and how other types of cultures live.

## Picture Poll

This week's question:  
What are you dressing as for Halloween?



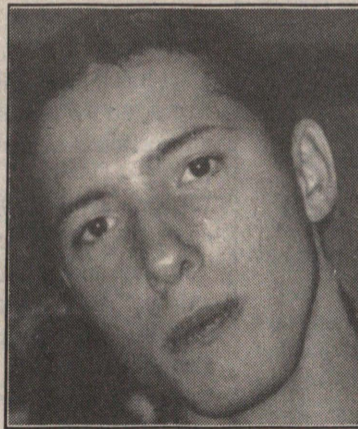
Senior Jenny Mullaney - "Winnie the Pooh."  
Senior Dom Cavaliere - "The Chiquita banana lady."



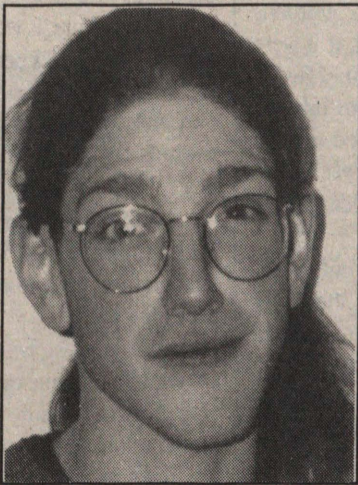
Sophomores Diane Caruso, Katie Lundgren and Nicole Wigder - "Three serial killers, Ted Bundy, Jeffrey Dahmer and Charles Manson."



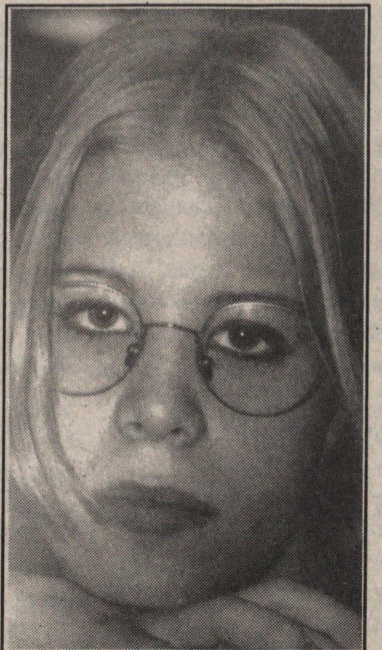
Junior Alex White - "A fairy."



Junior Joe Rohr - "The Grim Reaper."



All photos by Hannah Kenny  
Senior Hamid Assian - "A guy from Clock Work Orange."



Sophomore Carrie Douglas - "A vampire."

## Thinking about buying Green Days new album? Don't be a *Nimrod*.

By Tom Walton

*Nimrod* is Green Day's fifth full length album, and it shows us all that certain bands stick to a certain style and never change.

In this day and age of selling out, it's usually a refreshing treat to find that a particular band sticks to its roots. Unfortunately, sticking to their roots doesn't particularly work in Green Day's favor this time.

*Nimrod* is filled with the same slacker-punk tunes that the previous 4 CD's contained. Most of the songs sounded way too comparable to past songs of the band. "Scattered" bears a large resemblance to "Welcome to Paradise," and "She," both off of *Dookie*, Green Day's third release.

One of the songs that really doesn't sound like a song at all to me was their first single off of *Nimrod*, "Hitchin' a Ride." The whole song is filled with pointless drum banging, and the very forgettable whines of Billy Joe Armstrong, the band's seemingly strung out singer.

"All of the Time," the CD's sixth track, repeats the same guitar riff until it's drilled into your mind like a horrible memory of a friend or relative dying.

"Platypus (I Hate You)" is sure to produce a migraine headache for all listeners. Once again, Billy Joe's whiny voice loses all control and goes way too fast for any substantial understanding. The only

way to fully comprehend the annoyance that this track produces is for you to listen to it yourself.

Perhaps the punch line to this twisted joke of an album is found at track number ten. The instrumental "Last Ride In," is quite out of place in the middle of the CD. Imagine, if you will, a cheesy bassline being played repeatedly as many synthesized instruments come in over the bassline. At one point, the song's tropical feel goes way overboard with the extraneous addition of a vibraphone and many fake waves.

"Redundant," the CD's only half-way decent track, is a catchy, slower song that kind of grows on you. Reassuringly, the song gets old just as quick. After about five listenings, though, I'd be content never hearing the song ever again in my life.

To sum up the newest Green Day album, if you like Green Day, chances are that you'll dig this album. You might even go so far to say that its groovy. On the other hand, if you despise this band, their new CD will give you 18 more reasons not to like

Green Day. I'd say you'd be better off spending your hard earned 15 dollars on the newest Yanni CD, at least *that* would be more melodic and understandable.

By Kelley Betts

West Chicago's own Poo Bears are starting off on the right foot with the release of their CD *Vedem* and playing two shows to kick it off.

Sunday, October 5, the Poo Bears performed at Riley's Rockhouse in Aurora for a CD release party. Although only two songs from *Vedem* were performed, their show reflected the talent and style the band members each contribute.

Band members are senior Chris Shern (vocals), sophomores Jacob Briggs (guitar), Ryan Hammer (bass), and Jason Mack (drums). Poo Bears opened up with "Off My Chest," part of the new material they are working on. They conveyed their alternative punk style in this song with their fast beat and screaming vocals. Briggs showed off his talent for the guitar by adding distortion to the song. They then performed a song off *Vedem* called "Bean Dip." The style remained consistent with that of the first song.

"Peanut Butter," the third song, the unbelievable talent of Mack. The focus of the song was on the unexpected four minute drum solo. The skill that was portrayed then was excellent. He hit every beat with such clarity and style, and among everything, he had his eyes closed. That takes talent.

The song "Hellavin" was Shern's chance to show off his voice. The song started off slow and the vocals were soft and mellow. This was a change from the screaming vocals. This was the only mellow

## Talented bears

song performed, and even this turned into a fast paced song. Hammer, plays with a unique, psychedellic sound that is evident in the song "Silent Tones."

A few of the band's friends jumped up on stage and started moshing to the music along with Shern in the middle of this song.

The Poo Bears performed an excellent show without flaws. Shern just lets himself go when he is performing, making the show even more interesting.

Their debut CD, *Vedem*, kept up with the same flavor. The CD consists of eight tracks.

The first track, "*Vedem*," features Shern screaming. It raised questions about the rest of the CD and what types of music would be on it.

The second track "Formation 69" introduces Briggs on the guitar with a guitar introduction. The third song, "A Tall Tale of my Inner Mystery" adds a different style for the Poo Bears. They introduce jazz. The song starts off heavy and stops in the middle when the band picks up a jazz tone. This was an incredible addition to the CD. This jazz music not only adds to the wide range of talent the band has, but it also portrays the band's attitude towards music. It also lets the listener know they're going to take a chance in trying something different. The Poo Bears pulled it off with sweet success.

Track 6 was another impressive track. "A Stranger in a Familiar Place," takes a break from the

screaming vocals and fast paced music to bring in a slow ballad. Briggs' talent for the guitar really shows in this track along with the mellow sound of the acoustic guitar rather than the fast paced electric guitar. By softening his vocals, his ability to sing with power and carry a note is evident.

*Vedem* was a great album for their first one. The live concerts are more of a chance to get the crowd pumping, but when listening to the CD, it sounds like a different band. Not only is the style of the live shows included, but they add jazz in "A Tall Tale of my Inner Mystery" and slower paced music in "A Stranger in a Familiar Place." *Vedem* was a successful combination of the style and talent the Poo Bears have.

Performing is nothing new for the Poo Bears. The October 5th show was their second performance at Riley's Rockhouse, the first in May. They've also played at All Night Long at Bowling Green in May of 1997 and at the Gateway in Chicago which was their first show. They have always used their own music.

"We feel we've reached a point where we can play our own songs rather than use cover songs," says Shern.

The Poo Bears have been together for about a year, and are definitely making an impact. Within the year, they have released one CD and played four shows. They are covering a lot of ground for being fairly new.

## Farm Aid shines through

By Tom Walton

Boasting loads of talent and great gobs of good old country fun, Farm Aid '97 looked to be worse on paper than it actually was.

The bill included acts such as Billy Ray Cyrus, Willie Nelson, Neil Young, Beck, The Allman Brothers Band, etc.

The first band to take the stage was Billy Ray Cyrus. To my surprise, Billy Ray wasn't too bad. It wasn't too county, but it was pretty long.

One of the only dissapointments was the next performer, Beck. I went all the way to the New World Music Theater to see Beck play, "Where It's at," and he comes out and says "They asked me to do a country set tonight" It was still a good set, don't get me wrong, but it wasn't typical Beck. In one way, I got the most out of a show, but I didn't get what I was expecting. The high point was at the end of the set when he played "Jackass" with country boy Willie Nelson.

The next band on stage was the Allman Brothers Band. To me, any band that needs two drummers is a pretty darn good band. Their stage was filled with black lights, bright green lights, and tons of mushrooms. It was definitely very cool-lookin' especially as it got darker out. The first song they

played was one of my favorite Allman Bros. songs, "Statesboro Blues." Three more extended of lesser-known tunes followed. Absent from their set was "Ramblin' Man," "Jessica," "Melissa," and "In Memory of Elizabeth Reed." All in all, it was a super performance, though.

John Fogerty hopped on stage next, and was the high point of the entire concert. Most of the time he did old Creedence songs, as he opened the set with "Born on the Bayou," my favorite CCR song. The crowd exploded as he played "Fortunate Son" with tons of emotion, almost as if it were his first time playing it. Most of the crowd didn't seem into the two new songs he played, though. When "Proud Mary's" first chords rung out, the older people really blew up.

Neil Young was the only other dissapointment at the show. He came out and talked to us for a long time about factory farming (which is bad), then played THREE songs on his organ. Only Three. That made me pretty angry.

To close the set, Willie Nelson was a good choice. Everyone in the crowd was worn out, and the laid-back songs of Willie's graced us with their presence. A perfect end to a perfect show.

## Gattaca a thrill ride into 21st century

By Jeff Goluszka

Imagine a world where all of the babies that are born are pre-programed to be perfect. They can be made boys or girls, be tall, be good-looking, be athletic, and be free of all the diseases and syndromes found in many newborns today.

Welcome to the world of *Gattaca*. *Gattaca* reunites co-star Uma Thurman and producer Danny DeVito. The tandem worked on their second film together, *DeVito* also produces *Pulp Fiction*, in which Thurman played a starring role. Jerome Eugene Morrow (Ethen Hawke), who is a computer navigator at *Gattaca*, the space program. He is excellent at his job, has no errors, is very clean and always does things perfectly. He receives the opportunity of going on a launch deep into space, headed towards Saturn, to be gone for a year.

At that moment, Morrow flashes back in time, to his childhood, to explain how he achieved his forever long goal.

He shows how he was a mistake, an unplanned, unexpected child conceived out of pure spontaneity by his unthinking parents who were too much in love to realize what they did. Instead of altering his DNA, like most couples did, they just had him. When he was born, referred to as a "godchild," was given a very grim outlook that included an 99% chance of heart disease and a life expectancy of

about 30 years. He was named Vincent Freeman.

Later, his parents had another child, this time making him as perfect as possible. Anton, was two years younger than Vincent, but always excelled at everything he competed at. Vincent always lived his life in Anton's shadow.

Throughout his life, Vincent works hard, but this new world holds a whole new type of discrimination, blood. His DNA revealed his heart condition and life expectancy left him with a job as a janitor, at *Gattaca*.

Vincent had told his boss, Caesar (Ernest Borgnine) that one day Caesar would see him inside *Gattaca*. Vincent would prove to be right.

So, knowing that he could never get anywhere as Vincent Freeman, he hired an underground identity broker (Elias Koteas) to change him into someone else. Vincent would completely take over the identity of a man named Jerome Eugene Morrow, a perfectly-able, athletic and skilled man turned cripple in a car accident. Vincent became Jerome.

So, Vincent/Jerome was hired at *Gattaca*, and used Morrow's blood and urine samples to pass frequent tests administered by the space agency. Also, Vincent has to fit Morrow's profile of six feet, one inch, but he's only about five feet eleven inches.

Vincent Freeman had vanished,

become and "in-valid" as said in the government files.

Vincent/Jerome eventually rises through the ranks at *Gattaca*, despite the murder of his boss, and his increasing love for Irene (Uma Thurman).

Two investigators (Alan Arkin and Loren Dean) come in to investigate the murder, at first implicating Vincent/Jerome, but eventually involving *Gattaca* director Josef (Gore Vidal).

After this a whole series of events sends this movie on an exciting, spiraling, twisting adventure keeping you on the edge of your seat. It is set in the future, but has an emotional mindset of people in today's society.

Thurman and Hawke both do an excellent job.

Not to be forgotten is Jude Law, who plays the real Jerome Eugene Morrow. He is paralyzed below the waist, and has many great scenes, including one in which he climbed up two stories of spiraling stairs in order to save Vincent/Jerome from being exposed.

In all, this is definitely a must-see movie. It won't win any Oscars, but will play with your mind for two hours.

In other words, go and see this movie, not for the actors, not because it's produced by Danny DeVito, but because it's a good movie.

Out of four stars: \*\*\*



## New thrillers need classic appeal

By Kelly Kaylor

The month of October brings new releases of frightening movies to theaters across the country, aimed at leaving audiences on the edge of their seats and hesitant to walk alone in the dark. People like to be scared, and Halloween seems to be the opportune time for movie studios to release their thrillers. Video stores are also busy during the month, and the horror section is often searched for a good, old Halloween scare.

In the past decade, a trend seems to have developed in the business of horror films. No longer is a good scare based on suspense, but rather how much blood is shed. Scary movies have developed into slasher films, where the monster tends to be wielding anything from a knife to an ice pick.

The old fashioned scare tactics seem to have been replaced with monsters who murder, mutilate, and massacre. Such movies are so predictable that the audience knows what lurks around every corner, the antagonist with a weapon who will inevitably graphically kill one of the "good guys".

Movies with this basic theme have been surprisingly successful in the past years, with directors turning out sequel after sequel of ax-toting madmen ready to go on a murderous rampage. The "Nightmare on Elm Street" saga, which has produced more than seven different adaptations of the killing sprees of Freddy Krueger, has been one of the more successful examples.

Krueger, a character with razor blade fingernails and a knack for slaughtering teenagers grew increasingly predictable and violent in each production, always leaving behind a group of dead kids with a single survivor almost always appears in the following se-

quel.

Another well-known slasher series that fared extremely well at the box-office was "Friday the 13th" featuring Jason, a vengeful teenager who is resurrected from the bottom of a summer camp lake. Wearing a hockey mask and always carrying a sharp object, Jason's murders become more gory and repetitive in each movie.

The plot is unbelievably predictable in movies of this "quality", a raving psycho stalking teenagers in the night, systematically killing them violently and frequently. Yet, the murderer always manages to miss one lucky antagonist, one must survive in order for the door to be left open for another round of hacking.

Slasher movies leave nothing to the viewers' imagination, everyone knows who will live and who will die. The scare factor is almost completely absent in slashers, a dim-witted girl always ventures out in the dark alone, despite the coincidence that three of her friends have been viciously murdered in the past hour. Slashers are not based on suspense, but rather shock value, directors try to concoct as many creative ways to murder a person within the 120 minute movie.

This Halloween if you are looking for a true scare check out one of the many horror films of past decades, movies based around suspense and anticipation rather than blood and gore. Classic horror does not consist of slicing and dicing, but rather fear.

Perhaps one of the most famous Halloween thrillers is John Carpenter's 1978 release "Halloween" with Jamie Lee Curtis. The psychotic madman, Michael Myers, escaped from a mental institution and stalks Curtis on Hal-

loween night. The director, Carpenter, makes this movie suspenseful, by using superb camera work to give the killer's point-of-view and adding spine-chilling music to indicate a character's impending doom.

Another feature which can deliver a Halloween scare without the blood and guts, is the 1968 release "Night of the Living Dead", a low budget flick which has become one of the most popular independent films ever made. Zombies rise up out of their graves and terrorize whomever crosses their path, this picture proves that money and high tech special effects are not necessary to deliver a worthwhile scare.

Finally, the 1973 film "The Exorcist" directed by William Friedkin is perhaps one of the most recognized horror films of all time, receiving six Academy Award nominations and based on Walter Peter Blatty's bestseller. The film, based on the possession of a little girl's by Satan and the means the characters use to exhume the beast, is brought to life by powerful performances by the film's solid cast.

The movie was controversial for its rough language and the sensitive aspect of religion, but still is a first rate suspense thriller. The film features Ellen Burstyn, Max von Sydow, and an excellent portrayal of the possessed by Linda Blair.

My advice for a movie goer this Halloween season is save your \$8 and avoid the theater. Discover the classic horror films in your local video store. Old films may not have the big budget special effects, but they leave out the unnecessary gore and are worthy of a classic scare.

## Comic



## Horoscopes

Aries (March. 22- April. 19)

This month put away the books and hit the parties, you've been studying really hard and it's finally payed off so treat yourself with some fun. Who knows you'll probably meet a real hottie at one of these parties. One of your friends feels like your ignoring him/her so pay attention to all your friends, or you might end up losing a good friend. Your lucky day this month is the 12th, your perfect match is a Pisces.

Taurus (April. 20- May. 20)

You might be feeling a little blue this month because of so many problems that your having right now that make your life feel complicated. Don't let all of these problems bring you down. If you stop stressing out so much and think clearly for a while you'll see that your problems are not as bad as you thought they were. Your lucky day this month is the 25th, your perfect match is a Gemini.

Gemini (May. 21-June. 21)

You'll be spending a lot of time with your family this month, not because you have to, but because you actually wan't too. That certain someone that you've been wanting to notice you finally does, so if this person comes up to you in the hallways or gives you a call don't be so surprised. Your lucky day this month is the 7th, your perfect match is a Taurus.

Cancer (June. 22- July. 22)

This month you'll be feeling rushed by peers to find that certain someone. Be patient if it's meant to happen it'll happen. You have older friends who do older things but that does not mean they are wiser. Just because they've done something you haven't, doesn't mean they are experts on that. Your lucky day this month is the 4th, and your perfect match is a Libra.

Leo (Jul. 23- Aug. 22)

This month you'll feel stressed out by so many things you have to do. But don't let all that pressure overwhelm you, just take everything day by day. Don't spend too much time on one thing, organize your time better. Your lucky day this month is the 14th, your perfect match would be a Virgo.

Virgo (Aug. 23- Sept. 22)

This month you'll be confused about your true feelings for that certain someone. Take time to think things through and if you realize that what you felt for this person isn't true, then just end it before someone gets hurt. Now if you really do feel something for this person then tell him or her what you feel before it's too late. Your lucky day is the 6th, your match is a Leo.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

All of that hard work in school finally paid off, so take a break and do something that you've been dying to do for months. You'll meet someone new this month who will be introduced to you by a friend, so keep your eyes open this person might be the one you've been awaiting. This month you'll run into a lot of luck it might not be in a big

way, but it'll be in little ways that will take you by surprise. Your lucky day is the 18, your perfect match is a Scorpio.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

You might have a few problems with some close friends this month. Try to do some things on your own instead of having to do everything together, a bit of individual space will really make a difference. You might want to try something new this month like a new haircut, some new clothes just to pep you up this month. Your lucky day is the 24th, your perfect match is a Libra.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22- Dec. 21)

You might be in a new relationship or just talking to someone. You really like this person but the only problem is that you don't know how to show this person how you really feel. This is the perfect time to do it before you lose this person. Try to be more affectionate towards this person, a little hug now and then, or even a simple hello, can really make a difference. You might want to go to the mall and have a little shopping spree, you deserve it. Your lucky day is the 20th, your perfect match is an Aquarius.

Capricorn (Dec. 22- Jan. 19)

This month you'll run into some spare cash use it on yourself, you've been wanting to buy some things for a while now so go ahead and do it. You feel really good about yourself since you've been working really hard in school and it's paid off. Just keep doing what your doing and all of your hard work will pay off at the end. A good friend from the past comes back into your life, be smart and don't let this person get away from you again. Your lucky day is the 26th, your perfect match is a Taurus.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

This month you'll meet a lot of new people that will be interested in you, but your just not ready to start a relationship, so just have a simple friendship with the person. Right now your feeling very independent and loving it. A good friend will be in some problems this month so it will be very important that you're there for this person it will really mean a lot to them. You might want to study a little bit harder in school, just to improve a lot. Your lucky day this month is the 13, your perfect match is a Sagittarius.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 21)

Stay away from people who are trying to make you do decisions that your not really sure of, it's for the best. Don't be so affected about what people say about you, try to ignore things because if you pay attention your giving these rumors importance. Not everything this month will be bad, you'll be hitting the parties big this month too, so be on the look out for good parties coming up. Try to pay a little bit more attention to your health, don't take it for granted. Your lucky day this month is the 8th, and your perfect match is a Gemini.

## Football team closes out season

By Jeff Goluszka **Looks to improve next year**

Although the West Chicago varsity football team finished with only one win and did not accomplish head coach Bob Stone's goal of being competitive, they made progress and gave the We-go fans some thrills this season.

In the opening game of the season, the Wildcats defeated Glenbard South 15-14 in a great game for the players, the football program and the We-go fans.

Also, the Wildcats overcame a 28-0 halftime deficit and came back and took a four point lead over West Aurora in the second-to-last game of the year. Even though the Cats lost 35-32, it was one of the most exciting games of the season where the crowd gave the football team a standing ovation saluting their efforts.

On the downside, We-go's season ended on a dismal note, as they lost at Wheaton North in the season finale 42-0, finishing with a record of 1-8 (0-7 in the DuPage Valley Conference).

These scores typify some of the season's bad outcomes, like defeats of 53-0 against Naperville Central, 56-8 versus Naperville North and 52-8 hurt put on by Wheaton-Warrenville South.

Those were low points of the season, but the season was not all negative. The team made a lot of progress in comparison to last years season.

Overall, the Cats did make progress. New head coach Bob Stone cannot be expected to turn them around in one year, but he did his best.

the odds were stacked against them all season long.

One problem was that coach Stone had instituted an entirely new system on offense and defense, requiring the team to learn a whole new scheme over the summer.

Also, We-go only had about 30 people try out for the varsity team, compared with numbers over 70 for schools in Naperville and Wheaton.

One of the problems Stone hopes to solve in the years to come is lack of participation. Stone is expecting 30 to 35 now-sophomores to join the varsity team next season, to go along with about 15 now-juniors leaving the talent pool around 50.

Next year, Stone will look to current juniors like center Mike Chapin, linebacker/fullback Mike Schneider, halfback/defensive back Adam Morrissey and quarterback/safety Brian Raymond to be leaders on this team.

As for the long term, in the year 2000 there will be about 30 current sophomores on the varsity team with two years' experience in Stone's system.

Another plus is We-go finally has a stable head coach, unlike the coaching carousel in years past, so more students are likely to join the program.

Stone is optimistic about the future. "We'll definitely be better next year," said Stone about the upcoming varsity team.

Some seniors that will be missed

Defensive standouts included Marvin Boorsma who had 29 tackles with 13 being unassisted and Cesar Pena with 29, 12 unassisted tackles during the regular season.

Some bright spots for next season include Schneider who finished 1997 with 25 tackles on defense to go along with 225 yards rushing on offense through eight games.

Junior Brian Raymond also looks to step up next season. Upon return from the broken collarbone he suffered in the opening game against Glenbard South, he hopes to "step up and be a leader on next year's varsity team along with Schneider, Chapin, Chris Grin and Morrissey," said Raymond.

Raymond is also optimistic about the incoming juniors of next year. "[This years'] sophomores work really hard in the weight room and they have a good work ethic," said Raymond.

Senior John Jensen filled in the quarterback role the best he could after the injury to Raymond. Jensen threw for 479 yards passing, two touchdown passes, while throwing four interceptions in eight games.

Overall, it comes down to the fact that the current We-go team doesn't have the numbers or the talent to compete in the DVC, "at least not right now," said Stone.

As for the sophomore team, they showed some bright spots in finishing with a 3-5 (2-4 in DVC) record.

Although this season may not



Photo by Sandy Weiss

Adam Morrissey (24) takes a hand-off from John Jensen (26) against West Aurora. Morrissey and Jensen helped the Cats comeback from a 28-0 score. The Cats took the lead 32-0, before West Aurora score the last touchdown in the game. The final score was 35-32. The courage shown by the Wildcats gave them a standing ovation from the fans of West Chicago. The Wildcats finished the year 1-8, with their win versus Glenbard South. They were shut out in conference play, going 0-7.

## Volleyball spikes its way into the top of the DVC

By Beth Siwy

With the strengths being seen by the lady cats volleyball team, the girls have developed into a team that had a hard time being beaten.

Finishing second in conference, the girls strive to win regionals. The results from last night's game were unavailable at press time.

How can the Cats lose with a team and a coach who have all grown through-out the season.

With senior Kelly Kaylor at right side and averaging twelve kills per game, the girls have pulled up their ranking and have overcome teams in the DuPage Valley Conference such as Naperville North (15-13, 15-9), West Aurora (15-7, 15-12), and Wheaton

Volleyball flexes a little of its spiking power.

Since the '96-'97 season, the lady cats have yet to prove that this years season has not been one of their best.

With Coach Kris Hasty watching and coaching them to victory, the girls obtained an overall record

of 23-8. They won tough games, and came through in the clutch. This record was accomplished by the ladies beating other non-conference schools such as York, Benet, and Streamwood.

Senior Nicole Stuart believes that the team accomplished what it was set out to accomplish this season, and "it took a lot of team work."

Seniors leaving this year are Darcy Wostratzky, three year varsity player Nicole Stuart, and four year varsity players Danielle Murphy, and Kaylor.

The Cats finished first in the DVC invite on September 20, beating conference rivals like Naperville North. They also played well at the Benet Academy tournament, finishing third overall, and winning their bracket. They lost in the first championship round, but came back to win the consolation game.

Come and see the cats do their stuff at regionals on October 31st at St. Charles High School in St. Charles.

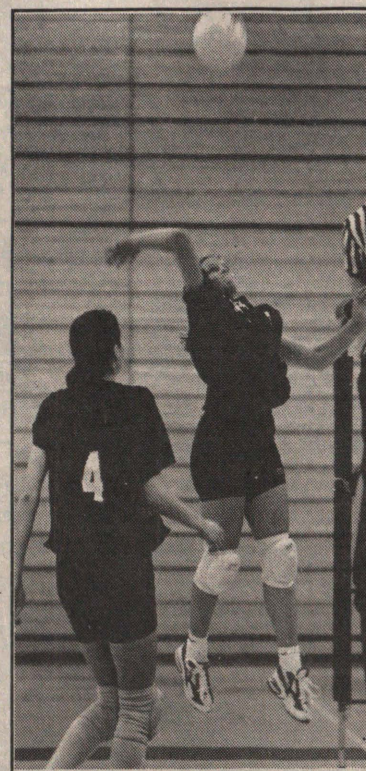


Photo by Sandy Weiss

## Fitness center gets We-go in shape

By Kelly Kaylor

Community High School recently updated their fitness center with an addition of over \$11,000 of new equipment, consisting of six exercise bikes, six steppers, and a treadmill. The center is found in the small gym which was formerly the location of the school's weight room.

This equipment is available to all faculty and students after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but the number of days will be extended beginning in November.

The facility is also open to students who need to make up physical education classes, due to the presence of fall strength training coach, Dan Fors.

Fors has been on-hand to observe the facility after school, but after the fall sports season Tony Cuarto, the intramural director will be assuming the position.

The center is primarily used by the cross country teams, but is also effective for the teams who are currently in off-season training. Usage of the center is not available before school or during an unscheduled period for students, an observer needs to be present.

A survey of exercise and the teachers of West Chicago showed nearly 78% of West Chicago teach-

ers exercise on a regular basis, the majority three to four times a week or more. The main types of activities performed (in order of majority); walking, weight lifting, running, bike riding, playing a recreational sport, swimming, aerobics, and the Nordic Track. Over half of those surveyed said they walked for exercise on a regular basis.

All felt that when they exercise regularly it increases their productivity at work from reducing stress to creating more energy throughout the day.

One teacher said, "[When I exercise] I have more energy. I find I can get more done in a day especially in regards to planning activities and grading papers."

Other positive effects of exercising regularly were improving mood and mental concentration, creating a positive attitude towards themselves, and keeping more alert. These are all benefits in addition to staying healthy and in good physical condition.

"Exercising makes me more alert. I feel more positive about myself if I am physically fit. This tends to make the class a more positive place," said one teacher.

Teachers were also surveyed on the importance of basic health, all

those who answered said they were concerned with maintaining a healthy and nutritional diet. Only 8% of those responding to the survey said that they smoked and half of the school's teachers consider themselves overweight.

When asked about the new fitness center, most teachers were aware of its existence, but only 71% said they were planning on using the facility. Only 57% said they are currently using the center, but those who are utilizing the equipment say they are frequently in there during the month.

Physical Education Department Chairman, Dan Johnson, said, "They have expressed initial interest in it, and more teachers will use it more when the weather turns colder. It has also been tough for the fall sport coaches to make time to get in there due to the season."

Johnson also commented on the school's administrators being 100% behind the opportunity for teachers to take advantage of the new equipment.

Johnson said, "It is unusual for a school to allow their teachers to workout during the school day, like during their preparation hours, but it shows that [administrators] are concerned with their health."

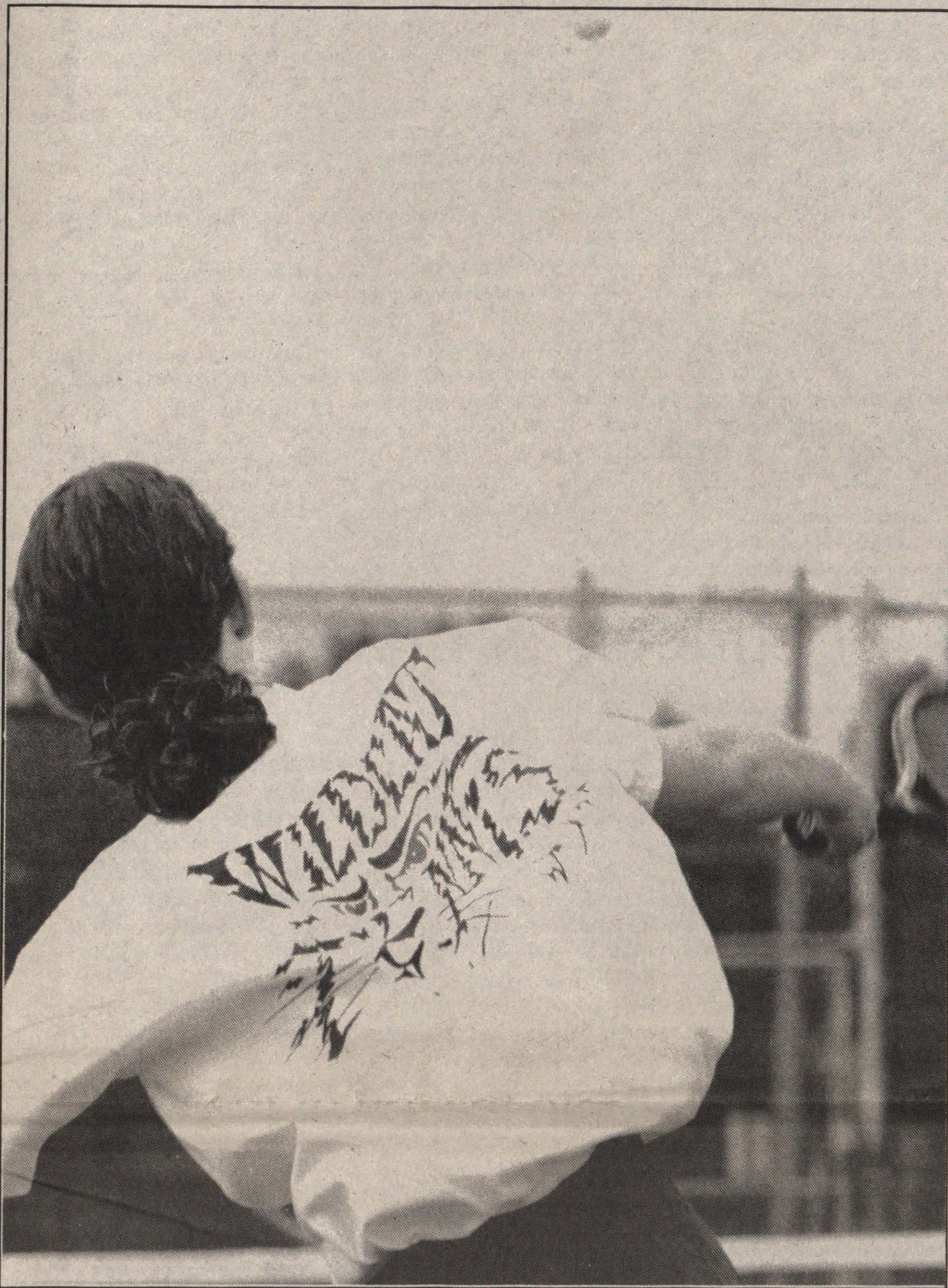


Photo by Sandy Weiss

Girls tennis swung into sectional action, playing well against tough opponents. Tiffany Hanshaw played well this year, and the team won against Bartlett and Oswego. The doubles played well, thanks to players like Marla D'Aversa, Neha Soneji, Liz Brieseth, Kelly Yednock, Nicole Wigder, Liz Murphy, and Leigh Soneji, Sheetal Rami, and Christine Cleveland. The girls had a pretty good season despite low turnout.

## Girls cross country finishes the season with a good outlook towards next year

by Kelly Kaylor

The Wildcat girls cross country season has come to a close, after finishing a mediocre season there is optimism for the future of the program.

Their 1997 season ended at regionals held on October 25 in St. Charles, with the team finishing 11th, and not meeting coach Kelly Kolasa's expectations for the meet. The top We-Go runners were sopomores Crystal Adams (58th, 14:40), Michelle Lasky (66th, 15:09), and Jenny Wiechert (68th, 15:10). The girls lost to first place finisher St. Charles, although they ran the 2.4 mile course with intensity.

The DuPage Valley Conference meet was held on October 17 at Sunset Knolls, where the squad placed seventh. The Wildcats, who

scored 210 points, inched out the Glenbard East with a total of 233 points. The sixth place finisher was West Aurora with 184.

Leading the Ladycats were sophomores; Lasky (40th, 13:34), Wiechert (41st, 13:35), Adams (44th, 13:54), Rachel Altergott (47th, 15:14), and Tracy Erickson (48th, 15:24) on the 2.3 mile course.

Kolasa said, "I was very pleased with our finish considering we did not even have a varsity team last year. All our sophomores ran very well, and we were only twenty points away from beating West Aurora."

The future appears promising for the team which continues gaining confidence and experience, with all their top finishers being a solid group of underclassmen. They

will be returning all but one of their regional team, which gives them loads of experience.

At the start of the season, Kolasa had hoped the team would reach their goal of a fifth place finish in conference on the varsity level, which is in its first year of existence separate from the boys program.

As a new program, there is a stable base of runners with potential and talent who are developing into competitors in the conference.

Other meet results from earlier in the season was their 30th place finish in the Peoria Notre Dame Invitational on September 20, and the October 11 Benet Academy Invitational held at Benedictine University where the team placed 12th out of 16 teams.

## Swimming heading towards state meet

By Dan Young

As the state meet looms closer, the girls swim team is really rocking.

The 7-4 Cats are "swimming well," said coach Dan Johnson.

The Cats have beaten teams from York, Benet, and West Aurora, and

just recently added Lake Park, Morris and Crystal Lake South to their list of victims. The team crushed Lake Park by thirty-three points at Naperville Central, and swamped both Morris and Crystal Lake South by 25 and 68 points, respectively.

The Wildcats swam against Rosary on Tuesday, October 28 (results were unavailable at press time). "They have been improving a lot, and they are in good shape to get down state if they don't get sick," said Johnson.

The Wildcats swam at home on October 21 vs Morris and Crystal Lake South, and won the meet with ease and by a large margin. Johnson said, "The team didn't swim their normal events." The team may have swan off events, but (the team) was good enough to defeat their opponents.

Monica Acker, Mary Fenner, Anna Marcia, and Stephanie Shalek all swam well in different events than they normally swim. Marcia had the current meet of her season, and the relay teams swam well. In almost all of the meets this year, the swim team has had strong support from their relays, which normally swim well.

The Wildcats of the water just recently faced off with Naperville Central. Although the Cats were second out of the three teams competing, they were very close to conference rival Naperville Central, losing by just eight points. The final score was Naperville Central 124, We-go 116.

Johnson said, "This was a very good team effort. Overall, I think the team swam well, and they are definitely are getting towards those state qualifying times."

The girls have been swimming very well lately. "Abby Grant and Danielle Lureau are already at state qualifying times in the 100 meter breast," said Johnson. "The team has been really consistent. They have come up with a bunch of excellent performances recently,

and they have really performing well."

Lureau agreed, saying, "It is going really well this year."

The Wildcats have been relatively injury free, and health has been very important this season. Johnson said, "It is great that they (the girls)

have been able to keep us healthy. We haven't had a major sickness or any major injuries this year, and it has really helped us keep up the training."

The swim team is heading for sectionals, which is November 15, and preparing for the State meet, which is November 21. The section has only individual qualifiers, and team score in the sectional meet doesn't qualify you to make it to the state finals. However, the team score at the state meet counts only for the state title.

Johnson also commented on team unity, saying, "They have been really together this season. There is a lot of team unity. The girls do things for the community, like a fund raiser, and they do a lot of things together."

"Team unity has definitely improve this season. They (the team members) are very diverse, yet they manage to stick together."

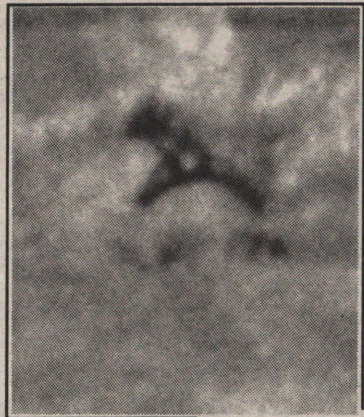


Photo by Katie Hensey



Photo by Katie Hensey

Hard work and dedication Wildcat swimming. This has been especially difficult this season because Jessica Bina had to stop swimming due to an ACT class. Johnson said, "She is really dedicated to her future, but it really hurts to lose a personality like that. She was a good leader, and she left a void in our team after she left. We have just had to cope without her, and everyone else has had to step up."

# Soccer team jumps at a good opportunity in state

By Arlete Penafior

The soccer season finally came to an end with the freshmen placing in place first in their conference, the sophomores placing in third overall, while the varsity team still have regional games.

The freshmen soccer team finished off with an overall record of 12-2-1, and a conference record of 6-1.

Their last conference game was against Glenbard North on Wednesday, October 22 which they won 3 to 1.

The freshmen soccer team coached by Julio Del Real had a very successful season by finishing first in their conference. This is the first time one of Del Real's

team has ever finished first in the DVC.

The sophomore team got an overall record of 10-4-4, and a conference record of 2-2-3 they placed third overall, although they weren't very happy about this since they wanted to place first overall.

One of the games that the team was really confident about was the one against Glenbard North.

"We tied them last year, besides I feel that we have a better team this year, so well have a better chance of beating them," said sophomore captain Kenny Schuda.

One of the things that they felt they needed to work on was to score more goals.

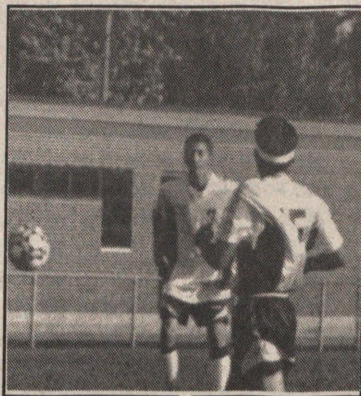


Photo by Diana Chavez  
Joe Leli awaits a perfect pass through the defence of from a teammate vs Naperville North.

"In order to win and become first in DVC we need more goal score," said Schuda.

The junior varsity team has an overall record of 2-4, with a conference record of 1-3. Their last game was against Bartlett which they won 3 to 0. This game was not a conference one, but the victory was sweet anyways.

The varsity team has an overall record of 12-4-2, with a conference record of 2-4-1. The varsity team feels very confident of themselves and know they will do good in their upcoming games.

"We feel confident in our sectional, we are seeded #2 behind

Wheaton North and we think we have a good chance of winning sectionals," said junior Alberto Perez, who is the varsity captain.

The varsity soccer team has been a very competitive team this year.

"The DVC is a tough conference and we just have to give it all we got and try our best. We can't win conference this year, but next year we'll have another chance," said Perez.

Their next regional games are on Tuesday, October 28, at home, and on Thursday, October 30th. Results for these games were not available at press time.

## Cross Country shoots for state

By Jennifer Lasky

After running fairly well for the past month, the boys cross country team is looking to finish the season in a big way.

The team ran in regionals on Saturday, October 25, placing fourth out of twelve teams. Junior Tim Keller placed fourteenth, junior Dan Young was twenty second, junior Bart Visser finished twenty sixth, junior Wes Skidgel placed thirty first, sophomore Rich Belcher finished thirty fourth, junior Efren Contreras was thirty fifth, and junior Jeff Stogis placed fiftieth. The team qualified for sectionals, which will be on Saturday, November 1, in Phillips Park in Aurora.

One of the team's biggest ac-

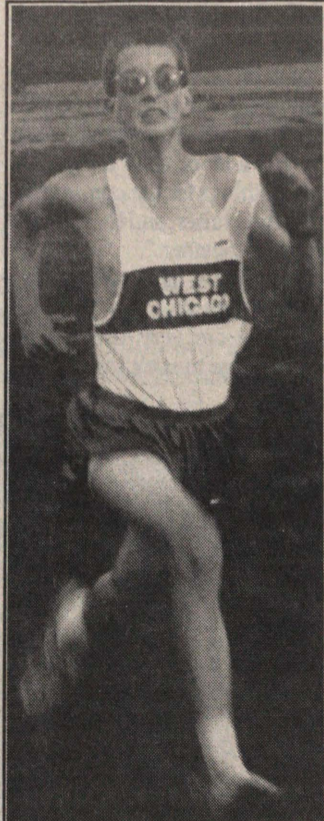


Photo by Sandy Weiss  
Rich Belcher finishes a race hard accomplishments this season was placing in the top four in the conference at the DVC meet on October 17. This has only happened four times in the past 22 years.

The top five We-go runners finished only 19 seconds apart, with Young, Skidgel, Belcher, Contreras, and Stogis all earning personal bests. According to Coach Paul McLeland, if the top five runners average 16 minutes, the team will be able to run in the state meet.

The We-go top five are averaging 16:05.

At the DVC meet, Young was All Conference, and Skidgel was honorable mention All Conference. All conference is earned by placing in the top 15, while placing 16 through 20 earns an honorable mention.

The Lisle Mane Event Invitational was held on October 4. McLeland was impressed with the second place standing, despite the team ran without fourth man Visser, who was out with an injury. Also, it was second man Keller's first race back from a foot injury, and fifth man Belcher ran at the frosh/soph level, instead of varsity.

McLeland was also surprised by how well the team ran early on in the season, despite injuries. Keller was out because of his foot, Visser was out because of his back, and senior Alfred Muhlburger was just hurt in general.

However, when all of the runners are healthy, the team finished in first place finish at the Benet Invitational. At the Benet meet, Keller finished in fourth place finish, with a personal best of 15:52. Young, (eighth) Skidgel, (thirteenth) Visser, (fourteenth) and Belcher (fifteenth).

The team ran at the Peoria Notre Dame Invitational on September 20. McLeland says the positive part of the meet was all the guys who ran got the experience of running at the place where the state meet will be held later in the season.

McLeland says his biggest surprise this season has been Belcher. He says Belcher has shown himself to be the most improved. Last season, out of 20 runners, Belcher was the number 15 runner. This season, he is the team's number five runner, improving his time by 5 minutes.

The team has been aiming since last year to go to state. McLeland feels that if the team runs as he believes they are capable, they will qualify for state.

McLeland would like his team to go to state to gain the experience. He says going to state, "would be outstanding," and "the guys would never forget it."

The experience of going to state would benefit the team because the top seven runners will be back for the 1998 season.

## Fall athletes get recognition

By Dan Young and Beth Siwy

In about two week, the fall season is going to be finished, and the Wildcat Chronicle has decided to congratulate the achievements of the athletes who worked hard and played well this year. For each sport, there will be a couple of athletes we congratulate for having a great season. For each team, there will be an Most Valuable Player, a Most Improved Player award, and another other awards the coach for that team would like to hand out. The Athlete of the Season is another award we will hand out to all of the coaches athlete of the fall sports season. And now, on to the awards.

For the volleyball team, the MVP award goes to Kelly Kaylor. Kaylor lead the team to a second place finish in the conference race, and prepares the team for tough regional action. The MIP award went to Chrissy Dabbert for excellent play all season long.

For the football team, the MVP award came down to a tough choice between Jim Carstensen, John Jensen, and Mike Schneider. The winner was Carstensen, and the reason being his outstanding leadership and great season running the football. We would also like to

congratulate Jensen for stepping up in the absence of Brian Raymond, and Schneider for playing both ways this year. The MIP award went to Rich DiVito for improving the most over the summer and starting this season.

For the boys cross country team, the MIP award was an easy choice. Sophomore Rich Belcher came out of no where from last year, and ran more than a 5 minute personal best this season, and he became the 5th man on the varsity squad when he didn't make the top 7 on the fresh/soph squad last season. There were no nominees for the MVP award. With all of the injuries, it was difficult to pick out the MVP.

For boys golf, we acknowledge Justin Saduaskas for the MVP of the team. Saduaskas cut his game by three strokes, and consistently placed in the top scores in major meets. The MIP of the season are Jeff Powell, Chris Howell, Rick Williams and Kevin Brewer. They all improved their games this year, and the team was a lot better for it.

For the girls cross country team, the MIP award went Michelle Lasky because she came on to be one of the top three runners this season. Lasky helped the team to

a 7th place finish at Conference, finishing first. The MVP award went to Jenny Wiechert. Wiechert lead the team in most of the major meets, and was chosen the Athlete of the Week for the West Chicago Press. We would also like to acknowledge Crystal Adams for a great season.

For girls swimming, Coach Dan Johnson declined to offer any candidates for the MVP and MIP award, saying, "The girls pick their own MVP. They all have improved a lot this season, and the season isn't over yet. There isn't a universal event in which we could compare all of the athletes because everyone swims different styles, and different lengths. There is no way to decide until after the State meet, which is November 21. The girls all have been great this season."

The last award the paper will give out is the senior award. This award goes to the senior athlete who preformed the best over the season. However, the award was to difficult to hand to one single athlete, so the award is given to all of the seniors who competed this year. Congratulations, and thanks to installing spirit into the Wildcat program.

## Boys golf drives into 5th in the DVC

By Beth Siwy

The golf team fought tooth and claw to defeat some of their opponent this year. The team finished well in conference, ending in fifth place. The men's golf team met some of their expectations for the season.

With the top scorers on the team being senior Justin Sadauskas with 40.3, junior Jeff Powell with 40.8, and senior John Brigowatz and junior Jeff Belokin both with 42.0, the team enjoyed their season.

Coach Tim Courtney wanted to finish in the top half of the conference and only missed it by one. Because of this the Cats didn't meet their expectations for state.

The final scores for the regionals was 9 out of 15 teams.

The team which competed was

the six top competitors for the varsity team.

Courtney was impressed with many of the guys performances this year.

Captain Brigowatz was noted as a good leader and one who cared more about the team than himself.

Junior Belokin was said to be tough mentally, while Sadauskas was noted on his consistency, and Powell with his competitiveness.

Courtney was very positive about his team in general. He inquired that junior Rick Williams is a very smart golfer, who is always trying to learn how to improve.

Senior Jason Sewell came out of a slump this year and did a very nice job in the end.

Kevin Brewer (senior) seems to

enjoy every minute of the competition and doesn't allow anything to bother him.

Junior Chris Howell played his very best when the team needed it most.

The golf team looks very strong for next season, with Belokin, Powell, Williams and Howell returning.

However, they must compete with the losses of Sadauskas, Brigowatz, Brewer, and Sewell. This will be difficult, and the seniors will be missed.

The team, which didn't achieve all of their goals for this season, but they enjoyed small successes. The team got great play out of all of the team, and they have a good shot at next year.