

Sports

Check out how wrestling ended the season with victory as their cry on page 12.

Perspectives

Are the cheerleaders the only school spirit West Chicago High School has? Check out page 5.

Check this out!

Features

Did your sweetheart send you a Valentine's ad? Do you have a secret admirer? Check it out on page 6.

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What's the deal with FBLA, Mr. Wildcat, SADD, and more? Read about it on page 2.

Wildcat Chronicle



West Chicago Community
High School
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Friday, February 18, 2000

Construction coming to an end

By Alexandra Patin

Cold air, dark hallways, and cramped corridors are all part of the lifestyle at We-go for the past year now, but the problems should be over soon, according to a recent Board of Education Brief.

Principal Alan Jones said the construction is more than half done, and he said the construction would be finished at the end of August.

Lots of the action will take place over spring break. Hallways with rooms 131-118 and rooms 217-215 will be blocked off, said Jones.

He said that was when the main pipes were going to be threaded through the ceiling in those hallways.

During the summer, Jones said the main pipes will be branched off into classrooms in the halls.

This piping will bring venting

systems, cooling systems, and technology into classrooms.

When students come back from spring break, some will be moved up into the third floor for lockers and classroom reassignments.

He said the third floor will be half done, with the south half, which is the location of the old art rooms yet to be finished.

Even though many teachers will be displaced because of construction, "they have been wonderful," said Jones.

He said complete renovation will be replacing heating and cooling systems, air conditioning, and modifying electricity throughout the building.



photo by Manuel Robles

Construction continues in the 2nd floor math hall.

The cost of all the construction is covered by a referendum, which was set for \$30 million dollars.

The cost of construction companies is changing, because the construction company who is supervising all

the construction is Turner Construction, but that company has been outbid by 15-20 subcontractors, said Jones.

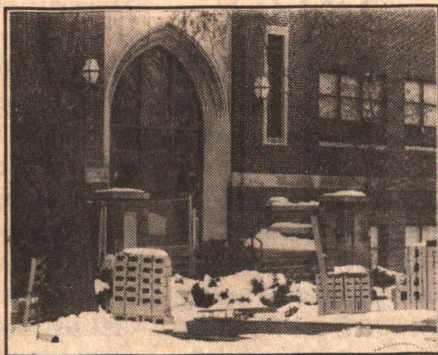


photo by Alex Corson

Construction outside the auditorium entrance.

Killjoy hits center stage

By Jamie Nadolny

February 17 marked the opening of West Chicago's Winter Play. The first performance of "Killjoy" was held in We-go's auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

The story is about a woman who weighs the pros and cons of murdering her ex-husband. The play was set in Chicago during the present day, and it was chosen because it was genuinely funny.

English teacher Ross Collin directed Killjoy this year. It was his first time directing a play at West Chicago, and the actors and actresses thought that he did an excellent job.

"Mr. Collin is a fun guy. He seemed like he knew what he was doing, but he's not Mrs. Hafertepe and I think that we took advantage of that. Overall, it's been a great experience," said sophomore Nicole Patel.

Collin also received help from Science teacher Melissa Cree. She thought of possible set designs, organized the ticket sales, and also gave pointers to the actors/actresses during practices.

Other actors in We-go's Winter Play included freshman Erin Henry; sophomores Tony Palombi and Patel; juniors Tim Axlerod, Brian Jones, and Justin Kallas; and senior Jenny Rugaard.

The cast put in a lot of hard work and effort before the opening performance on February 17. They practiced every day after school from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

Also, the cast practiced

a lot of fun." The same should be expected of the show, which takes place on March 2 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets will be sold for \$2.00 with an ID and \$3.00 without an ID. Last year, FBLA earned approximately \$1300 from the full audi-

ence of more than 600 people. Streicher said they hope to match that amount this year. All the money earned is donated to the March of Dimes, a charity for muscular dystrophy, which FBLA regularly sponsors.

from 3:30-6:00 p.m. closer to opening night. "Most of the cast members had a great time getting to know one another at practices. They were very supportive of each other, and I think that the play was a bonding experience for all of them.

"The cast was very easy-going, which helped to keep our frustrations to a minimum," said Collin.

The set was designed by a group of We-go students with the help of Lieutenant Burt Minor. "Killjoy" takes place in the main character's (Carol's) apartment building. Carol, played by Patel, is trying to get her apartment, and her life, together.

The "Killjoy" performance will last for around 2 hours, but Collin doesn't think the audience will get restless during the production. He also jokes that the cool climate in the auditorium will keep the students awake anyways.

"I think that the audience will stay interested in the play because it is very humorous. The cast appreciates the humor in the script, as well. The audience might be able to relate to a few of the characters in 'Killjoy,' but there are numerous messages that I hope they will be able to learn from," said Collin.

Collin also said he enjoyed directing the winter play and that he would do it again in an instant next year. He encourages anyone who did not see the opening performance "Killjoy" to attend the production tonight and tomorrow night. Tickets will be \$2.00 at the door.

Variety show turns *Late Night*

By Marc Berry

Another District 94 annual event is right around the corner. For the fifteenth year in a row, West Chicago will hold its Variety Show.

Auditions were held February 2 and 3; 16 different groups tried out for their moment in the spotlight.

Judges were seniors, Allison Brown, Leslie Shambo, Sherri Grin, and junior,

Jenny Skrzypczynski. According to Business Teacher Cass Streicher, who is acting as director of the event, has mentioned that the acts were judged on the quality of the performance, the reliance of

the performers, and whether or not the act contributes to the variety of the show.

The event, which is sponsored by the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), will carry a theme of "Late Night with FBLA."

Streicher said she would like to set it up like "The Late Show with David Letterman." "I think it will be interesting to try something different," she said, "rather than doing the same old thing... I think the show will be even better than last year's."

Some possible features related to this would include

the following: the jazz combo playing throughout the night, (similar to the band on the "The Late Show"), stupid pet tricks, and a "Top Ten Reasons to go to West Chicago."

However, with the busy schedules of the members of FBLA, they might not have time to write a script.

Most of the acts for the show will involve dancing or singing. Out of the 20 acts that were performed during auditions, 12 or 13 will be performed. All but two are group acts.

They will include the jazz combo, a freshman rock

band, a Christian rock band, a group of senior guys singing to the Backstreet Boys, a country-western duet, a romantic duet, a Spanish song, tap dancing, a dance to hip-hop, break-dancing, and more.

The Masters of Ceremonies for the night will all be FBLA members. They include Brown, Shambo, Pete Sorrato, John McPheters, Nicole Patel, and Jenny Skrzypczynski. They will act as stagehands, introduce the acts, and possibly tell jokes throughout the night.

Streicher, in her third year as director, said, "It has been

Student Activities

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Chess team Spirit Machine

Most students at WCCHS have no idea how to play chess. They don't understand "checkmate" or the basics of the game. However, the 12 members of We-go's chess team are expert players.

West Chicago's Chess Club meets on every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. in the school's cafeteria. The Chess Club sponsor is not a faculty member at West Chicago. At the team practices, the members play and challenge each other.

The Chess Team participates in matches at other schools, and they sometimes host meets at We-go. The players will compete against only one other person, and the game usually lasts for 2 hours. There are usually 8 matches at each competition, and the winners will increase their conference standings.

We-go's Chess Team does not organize fundraisers, but they did sell concessions after a recent tournament in late November. The group will be using the money to participate in the Illinois State Chess Tournament at the end of March.

Anyone that would like to learn how to play chess or increase their skill level is invited to join West Chicago's Chess Club. However, members said that learning how to play chess takes a lot of practice, concentration, and skill.

"I think that Chess Club gives students at We-go a chance to play against other people and increase their playing skills. Also, new people that want to learn how to play chess are given a good start through the club. Most of the members get along well, and a lot of us have become friends through Chess Team," said junior Ryan Begy. Begy has been playing chess since he was in second grade.

If anyone is interested in joining chess team, they can contact Begy or any other club member.

Clown team

The advisor of the Clown Team is Science teacher Pat Carrow. The student to contact is sophomore Jessica Loftus. Meetings are after school Mondays in room 224. The purpose of the group is to perform skits for elementary school students. There is an open membership. Types of responsibili-

The Wildcat Spirit Machine isn't up to much right now. They are always welcoming in new faces for the year, and elections for next year will be coming up soon.

The Spirit Machine is hosting the Senior Parent night for the boy's basketball team, cheerleaders, and pompons on Saturday, February 19, at the basketball game.

If you'd like to join this club talk to the Social Studies teacher Mrs. Laimins.

FBLA

FBLA returned from the Northern Area Conference with several outstanding performances. The competition, held on January 29 at Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, Illinois, required FBLA members from surrounding areas to compete in business related events.

In Business Calculations, senior Keith Halsall took first place. Other first place winners included junior Ken Yourek in Business Law, freshman Kelly Siekmann in Introduction to Impromptu Speaking and sophomore Geoff Palka in Economics. Senior Mike Kostal placed second in Business Procedures, while senior Allison Brown finished second in Impromptu Speaking. The team of seniors Toby Siefert and Matt Borschke placed second in Desktop Publishing. Senior Amy Fairbairn took third place in Job Interview.

Other award winners include seniors Michael Penaflor and Leslie Shambo, juniors Jim Demer, Dennis Janek, John McPheters, Jennifer Skrzypczynski and Tim Yormark, sophomore Kael Rewers and freshman Matt Shambo. These members will advance to State, which takes place in Springfield, March 24-25.

In late January, the club distributed Data Match questionnaires for students to complete. The surveys linked compatible students, who could then purchase their results for \$1.50 the week before Valentine's Day. The club raised over \$500 for the March of Dimes.

The club is now preparing for the Variety Show. Auditions took place after school on February 2 and 3. The show will take place on March 2 at 7 p.m.

ties include writing and practicing skits. There are no upcoming activities currently planned.

Mr. Wildcat

Mr. Wildcat is held on Thursday, February 24 at 7:30 pm. The contestants are seniors Sean Peterson, Jeff Tillson, Ryan Dorn, Chris Pagnozzi, Eddie Hernandez, Pete Serrato, Bryan Jones, and Dan O'Hara.



photo by Sandy Weiss

The annual Dance Production performance was held on January 14 and 15 in the Weyrauch Auditorium. Seniors Sam Szeszycki and Jacki Wood gracefully dance to "I Knew I loved You," by Savage Garden during their performance. Auditions for Dance Production will be held on Tuesday, February 22, and Thursday, February 24. If you would like to get more information contact Physical Education teacher Helen Zmrhal.

International Club

If you aren't aware about the cultural diversity in our school, I suggest you should join the International Club. They meet every other Wednesday at 7:20 in room 401 or speak to Spanish teacher, Sarah Bellis for more information.

Not only does it promote cultural awareness, but they also hold many fundraisers for charities. For instance, during the month of December, they raised money by working the concession stand for a wrestling meet. Another fundraiser coming up is an evening of lessons on Swing Dance and Salsa. If you are interested on learning the step of Swing or Salsa, keep your eyes open for further updates.

Scholastic Club

The Scholastic club is a club lead by Lara Trapp. The clubs officers are senior Varsity Captain Brian Miller and sophomore Junior Varsity Captain Anthony Delegge. The time and locations of the meeting are DVC meets are on Mondays, Tournaments are Saturdays (1 or 2 per month), practices are on Thursdays (and Tuesdays during the fall). The purpose of the club is to compete against other schools based on academic knowledge questions. To be a member of the club you must be recommended by a teacher and open membership for practices. The recent activities that have been going on are the Ultimate Scholar Competition on February 12. Some of the upcoming events are the Mac Arthur Winter Classic on February 19. Also the Masonic State Competition on April 8.

Math Team

We-Go's Math Team has been preparing to compete in the regional competition this February 26. "We're hoping some individuals are going to qualify for state," said advisor Christine Mack

Anyone can participate in math team just by attending the practices, which are every Tuesday and Friday from 7:00-7:30 a.m. in room 149. Practices are open, but a limited number of students can compete in the meets. For more information, students can talk to the advisors, Robert Gammelgaard, Rick Cazzato, Jeremy Babel, and Mack.

VICA

VICA continues to prepare for the State qualifying test on February 19. The test will determine which members are eligible to compete at the State competition in Springfield, April 13-15. Competitions include: Cosmetology, Job Interview, Job Skill Demonstration, Firefighting, Mechanical and Architectural Drawing, Commercial Sewing, Interior Design, Pre-school Teaching, Photography, Commercial Baking, Culinary Arts, Floral Design, Automotive Skills, and Heating and Air Conditioning Skills. To prepare, members are studying sample tests, meeting with advisors, and discussing strategies and situations.

VICA is also preparing for Family and Consumer Science Night, which is April 6. The event includes a mock wedding, nursery school performance and fashion show. The food classes will bake a wedding cake and other goodies for the event. Money raised that evening will contribute to the VICA scholarship awarded to students each year.

SADD

SADD is planning to have speakers in for the Alcohol Awareness Month in April. Alcala said they hope to have speakers from the theatre group called Mwah. They also hope to get a Victim Impact Panel to speak as well. This panel would include one of the sisters of the woman who was killed in the Waubanzie drunk driving crash in 1998.

The panel's main messages are that crashes are preventable, and that teenage years should be fun, not filled with drunk driving.

The assembly will be for any teacher who wants to bring his or her class.

Another activity Alcala would like to start is the Chain of Life, which was developed to represent students' commitment to not drinking and driving.

In order to make a chain, each person who writes his or her name on a link must pledge not to get in the car with someone under the influence, or drink and drive.

Alcala said if SADD is going to activate the chain, it would take place during February or early March.

Over the holidays, SADD gave fliers to pizza places to

Sophomore Class

Members of the Sophomore Class are currently meeting on every Wednesday of the month. They are holding meetings at 7:15 am in room 220 under the direction of English teacher and advisor Patrick Clifford. Other representatives of the Sophomore Class include Jamie Nadolny, President; Bill Rocha, Vice-president; Lauren Migliorato, Secretary; Jill Wolter, Treasurer.

The sophomores recently distributed Market Day forms to their classmates in order to help raise money for prom. A portion of the Market Day profits was given to the sophomores, but they also had to split the money with We-go's volleyball teams. Members said that the Market Day sale didn't bring in as much money as they had hoped for but that overall the fundraiser was successful.

The Class of 2002 is looking into selling class T-shirts to promote school spirit. The sophomores are also looking into selling ID necklaces that say Class of 2002 or West Chicago Wildcats. They plan to sell the T-shirts during lunch hours by the end of this year.

They are trying to brainstorm other fundraising ideas to help prepare for the costs of prom. They sold candy during classes last year, but they are looking for more creative themes.

The sophomores are also already trying to plan next year's prom, as well. "We have a list of possible place ideas, but they are top-secret. Everyone wants next year's prom to be something different, but we don't want to give anything away," said Christina Wilbur, a Class Representative.

The Class of 2002 already has a DJ in mind for prom, as well. They are trying to get the dance organized early so that everything runs smoothly next year.

If anyone in the Sophomore Class has any fundraising or prom ideas, they can contact any Sophomore Student Council member.

inform the public that they should not drink or drive.

SADD has about 15 members, said Alcala, and the club is open to anyone. It usually is in session Wednesday mornings.

Forensics presents Verbally Yours

By Alexandra Patin

Although the sixth annual Verbally Yours performance by Forensics started off on a somber mood, it finished with a bang on January 26 in the auditorium.

Junior Anders Walker brought down the house when he received a standing ovation for his Declamation speech entitled, "A Reasor for Joy." The piece touched many audience members, on many levels. Although the speech was very religious and made reference to God many times the main message was mostly to love yourself.

"You want a reason for joy? It's sitting right in your chair," was the main summation of Walker's speech because he said that no matter what you are like on the outside, you are wonderful on the inside.

The team's Performance in the Round was also done for the audience at the end of the night. This was a performance that, instead of using the stage as a front facing stage, has the performers stand in a circle with the audience all around them, each speaking to the audience on their side.

The selected piece for this performance was about me-

dia and how far is too far when covering an event, and about how responsible journalism was almost non-existent. In the act, an agent influenced a young man to kill random people, all so he could be famous and on the news. In the end, the man gets the death penalty and the agent leaves to find herself another person to make her money.

The alternating style of dramatic and humorous performances held the audience's interest throughout the night.

Senior Chris Thomas opened the evening with an act about two friends who had to make the choice whether or not to go to jail in order for their friend to escape death because of drug trafficking, followed by a humorous speech by sophomore Copper Tuma on unnecessary communication.

Many of the speeches centered on teenage or young people and their lives.

Both the Dramatic Duet by senior Meredith Moore and Tuma and a speech by sophomore Sarah Edwards dealt with tough issues facing teens.

In Moore and Tuma's duet, a teen mother who could not afford an abortion had to live with her decision to put her baby up for adoption. However, the adoption was not a happy event for either her or the couple who adopts her baby when both the teen mother and the adoptive mother felt disillusioned with their situations.

Edwards did a Verse reading about a girl who is harassed during her teen years, and lives with the emotional scars for the rest of her life; eventually wishing for a brain tumor so she could receive sympathy.

The mood in the auditorium did lighten up slightly, however throughout the evening, with the performances of seniors Kendra Norton and Moore.

Although not a humorous piece through and through, Norton's Prose reading did have some laughs in between the seriousness of the strained relationship between a woman and her ex-husband's new wife.

Moore brought many cheers for her Original Comedy about a family forced to go on a vacation, switching back and forth between the viewpoint of the upright and proper family dog, and the family themselves.

ACT introduces 'ACTive Prep' the official test-prep software for the ACT assessment

Quick! Which college entrance exam is accepted by the most four-year colleges and universities?

Did you say ACT? You are right. ACT scores are accepted or preferred by more four-year colleges than any other exam. ACT scores are also accepted by all Ivy League schools.

If you plan to take ACT, and you should, you can now get high-tech help from the experts with ACTive Prep, a new interactive CD-ROM produced by ACT.

"ACTive Prep uses state-of-the-art technology to let students know what to expect when they take the exam," said ACT Vice President for Development Cyndie Schmeiser.

The CD-ROM takes students on a tour of "InterACTIVE Universities," a virtual college that offers real ACT tests in the four subject areas of the ACT Assessment - English, reading, mathematics and science reasoning. Four virtual college students, called StudyBuddies, accompany users on a guided tour through Interactive University and the exam. Colorful graphics, video, background music and animation help keep users interested and focused.

"We tested ACTive Prep on real students," said Schmeiser, "and they gave it great reviews for being both interesting and effective."

Points of interest on ACTive Prep include:

Orientation - When users visit InterACTIVE University for the first time, they go through the Orientation, where StudyBuddy Micheal Matthews provides and overview of the campus, describe the Placement Test, and explain how to use the SmarTrak Personal Digital Assistant, which helps take notes, bookmark sections of software, save test score, keep track of their study path and navigate through the program.

Placement Test - Users have an opportunity to take a short Placement Test, which will be used to develop a customized Study Path through the software. If users have taken the ACT and have their scores available, they can enter the scores instead of taking the Placement Test.

Online Registration - Users can tour a virtual campus building to learn how to register for the ACT Assessment. Anyone connected to a modem can register for the exam online through

ACTive Prep.

The Testing Center - Besides registering for the test, users who visit this part of InterACTIVE University can learn what to expect the day of the test, general test-taking strategies, how to interpret you scores, and you can take a Practice Test.

The Student Union - Provides a link to ACT's website and the game "Testing 1,2,3," plus the Orientation and a place to go to meet the StudyBuddies.

"The best way to prepare for the ACT Assessment is to take challenging courses in high school," said Schmeiser. "Test preparation cannot replace years of hard study in high-level courses. ACTive Prep can help students prepare by helping them grow comfortable with the test format so they will be more confident and suffer less anxiety on the day of the test. It is the only place students can take real, timed ACT tests and get their results instantly."

ACTive Prep can be ordered online at www.act.org, through regular registration for the ACT Assessment or by calling ACT at (319) 337-1429. The cost for a home user is \$32.

Wellness hits We-go

Over the past several years, We-go has sponsored a variety of events to improve the health and overall wellness of its students. Speakers, flyers, and health fairs have been just a few of the offerings. Starting with a "Wellness Day," then moving to a "Wellness Week," and a "Wellness Month," this year, Wellness is the theme for all of the second semester.

The Wellness Committee is comprised of administrations, teachers, the hospital liaison, parents, community members, and most importantly, students. This year, the Committee plans to have morning announcements regarding wellness facts and issues, flyers, articles, in the Chronicle, and booths in commons. In addition, main stage speakers are coming to We-go.

Ben Glenn- "the chalk guy" will be coming to We-go in April. You may remember his brother, Sam, who presented at our school two years ago. Ben and Sam do high-energy, fun, and meaningful presentations.

Many students have requested that the Wellness Committee bring Sam or Ben back to We-go. Ben will speak about good decision making, peer pressure, and other issues and will then create one of his magnificent chalk drawings.

In May, Tom House, an internationally known speaker and major league baseball pitching coach, will come to speak about physical health and wellness. Dr. House is an energetic and interesting speaker, but he may be more well known for his work with Nolan Ryan, 1999 Baseball Hall of Fame Inductee and record holder for most career strikeouts. Ryan credits Dr. House with adding an additional five years to his career with the Texas Rangers, from which he recently retired.

The Wellness Committee is looking forward to having both of these speakers join us this year. Watch the Chronicle for more wellness information as well as the schedules for upcoming speakers!

HBA Greater Fox Valley offers scholarship fund

BATAVIA - The Home Builders Association of Greater Fox Valley is made up of builders, remodelors, contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and service providers - all dedicated to improving the professional stature of our industry.

The Association has developed a "President's Scholarship". The funds are available to students who will be enrolling full-time and pursuing a Associates Degree in construction related courses at John A. Logan College in Carterville, Illinois.

The Association is offering scholarships to students to assist and encourage qualified students to further or continue their interest in the construction industry. The number of scholarships and the dollar amount for each will be determined by the Association, but each scholarship will not be less than \$500 and not more than \$2,000. The scholarship can be renewable up to one year, if the applicant meets criteria. All students must be a

resident of the Fox Valley area.

For more information and to receive a copy of the application, please contact Sandy Kelne at the Association Office 630-879-8003.

Winter dance a big hit

Dance price: \$5.00 until 9, when price went down to \$2. Students had the option of going in between the boy's varsity basketball game and the dance. The price for the game was \$3. Mostly lower classmen were at the dance until towards the end.

The Profit was \$1,000 "It was the most successful winter dance the juniors ever had," said sophomore student council member Jamie Nadolny.

For those who attended the dance, the response was a positive one. "It was fun," said junior Meghan Burlison. Students who did not attend the dance said that the idea of a student DJ was a turn-off to attending.

A chance to leave a few of your own pawprints!

The yearbook staff is now taking applications for the 2000-2001 school year! All students are welcome to apply. Simply cut out and fill in the application request on this page and put it in Mr. Larson's mailbox to get your application today!

Students on yearbook staff earn 1/2 an elective credit and have great opportunities to learn about journalism, publishing, and photography.

We want you to join us, so... Take the Challenge!

Help Wanted!

The Yearbook Staff is looking for photographers who are interested in joining the team for next year.

Yearbook photographers will get a chance to help document the year and gain valuable experience as they shoot assignments in all kinds of school related activities and events.

If you're interested, request an application by filling out the form on this page and placing it in Mr. Larson's mailbox in the administrative office.

Artists Wanted!

The Yearbook Staff is looking for talented students with skills in drawing, painting, and computer graphics skills to join our team as staff artists for the 2000-2001 school year.

Staff members earn 1/2 elective credit, learn many journalistic and publishing skills, and get to work with a great group of highly motivated and creative peers.

Cut out the application request on this page and put it in Mr. Larson's mailbox to get your Challenge application today!

Challenge

Staff Application Request

Name: _____

Grade: 9 10 11

I'd like an application to:

join the Challenge Staff

become a staff artist

become a staff photographer

Return this to Mr. Larson's mailbox in the administrative office to get your application!

West Chicago High School speaks loud and clear on the DVC issue

By Laura McQueen

The Board of Education gave citizens a chance to speak their minds about West Chicago High School leaving the Dupage Valley Conference (DVC) on Tuesday, January 25.

Thirty-one people made their voices heard at the public hearing in the Weyrauch auditorium. More than twice that amount showed up just to listen or show their support for the speakers.

While there were arguments both for and against leaving the DVC, the vast majority of those who spoke were in support of staying in the conference.

An important point made in support of staying in the DVC was that "It would send the wrong message to the students, athletes, and coaches here that when the going gets tough, its better to just give up instead of fighting to improve," said sophomore basketball player Meghan Young.

Sophomore Lisa Thomas brought up the point that pride is a very important aspect of the athletic program at West Chicago High School. "Would we be showing our pride by lowering our standards to win

more games?" Thomas asked.

On the issue of pride, sophomore athlete Linnea Caputi asked her own questions, "Is a winner the person who ends up with the most points or the person who stands proud at the end of the game? Is a team's record the only thing that really matters in a sport?"

Other athletes took the stand to say that changing conferences would be a disappointment to them. "A change to a conference with less competition would express doubt in what we can do as athletes. It would be like the community was giving up on us," said sophomore athlete Mark Hopkins.

Many students believe that the future of the athletic program is looking much brighter, and pointed out success in sports at the lower levels. For example, the sophomore football team placed second in conference this year, and the wrestling and boys swimming teams are also having more success on the lower levels. Sophomore Moses Garcia said, "You're judging us by athletes of the past, isn't fair."

Senior Brian Kelsey argued that the football team was competitive in conference this year, despite their

Athletic Conference Survey Results
Earlier this year Dr. Alan Jones issued a survey to 320 students, 39 coaches, and 12 clubs and sponsors about the possible effects of leaving the DVC could have on our school and in our community. Here are some selected results:

	More likely	Less likely	About the same
Students would participate in school-sponsored activity and athletic programs	27%	18%	55%
More students would attend activity and athletic events at home	29%	11%	60%
More students would attend activity and athletic events away	16%	42%	42%
School pride would be...	38%	17%	45%
Activity and athletic programs would win more events and contests	70%	6%	24%
Timely completion of homework assignments would be compromised	24%	17%	59%
Activity and athletic program participation would be prestigious	23%	30%	46%
Teachers and other staff would sponsor activities and coach	13%	17%	70%

losing record.

Other speakers agreed that looking to the past to help decide is not the answer. The suggestion was made by many parents who spoke that the district must instead look at what we can do to improve the program in the future, not just avoid the problem by changing

conferences.

One suggested way to improve the program is to look into getting better feeder programs for students who are to come to the high school in the future. While board president Rich Nagel did report that a committee has been formed to study feeder programs for the

school, later in the meeting a member of the committee revealed that the group had not yet discussed anything about the DVC.

Parent involvement was another suggestion to help get more successful teams. Teams need more coaches to help give each player the help he/she needs. Parent Mr. Raymond pointed out there was not even enough money in the program to afford a Freshman B baseball coach. Volunteer softball coach Fred Ruiz said the solution was to, "Push them a little harder instead of pushing them out."

West Chicago has a much smaller enrollment than other schools in the conference and fewer athletes to compete with. Sophomore Paul Ellson said, "Who cares about enrollment as long as there's players in the DVC to compete. We deserve to play in it just like anyone else." Others argued that moving to a conference with smaller schools would give We-Go a fighting chance in athletics.

Many speakers pointed out that the tough competition in the DVC was an advantage to athletes. Since the DVC is such a prestigious conference, many college scouts come to the games and notice our players. Debbie Saul is unsure that her son Ryan Saul would have been scouted out if he were in any other conference.

Athletes Christina Payton and Tim Keller both said that playing against hard to beat teams gets the athletes ready

for college and for state competition, which they said is more important than conference.

Only a few speakers came to show support for leaving the conference. Former football player Stan Kramer said that if we dominated a different conference, it would draw more scouts who would come just to see We-Go, instead of just looking at the teams we played against.

If a decision is made to change conferences, the switch will not take effect for another two years.

One Glenbard South parent present at the meeting said that she was against GBS leaving the DVC when the issue was first raised at that school, but now the teams are winning more and there is more school spirit. "There is life after the DVC," she said.

A Glenbard South student got up to speak about the experience his school had after leaving the DVC. He reported that it gave the teams a chance to improve and now their teams have come back and beat some of the DVC's top teams.

Football and head wrestling coach Josh Chambers agrees that We-Go should leave the conference. "The numbers speak for themselves. 71% of all games, all levels, all sports we've lost. Glenbard South had a similar success rate, and now they're conference champs. The kids don't remember the DVC," said Chambers.

Should We-Go leave the DVC?

"Yes. If we change to another DVC all other sports will still do well, and the football team will win a little more. Why are we crying about making it easier for ourselves?" Amy Allison, junior

"Yes. It's high school, there's too much pressure on teams to win already, so make it a little easier." Ruth Kueker, junior

"No. Just because the guys teams are not the best doesn't mean the girls aren't." Jessica Gutierrez, junior

"I don't really care, we're not going to die if we change." Jennifer Skrzypczynski, junior

"No. We're going to seem like quitters if we don't stay." Zoe Churan, sophomore

"Yes. It would help out our teams' confidence to win more often." Dzintra Osis, junior

"No, just because we're going to lose no matter what. It's tradition." Chris Reed, senior

"No, because even if we don't win at least we'll be trying." Mary Megan Kalvig, sophomore

"Yes, because I think it'll be more fun for the teams that get pounded in the DVC to win a little more." Lauren Belding, senior

"Definitely not! We owe it to ourselves to stay with it. We stand for so much more than many people give us credit for. To back down now would be a big mistake." Lauren Nickelson, junior

"No, because that's basically saying we don't have the potential to improve. It's showing our school gives up easily." Jennifer Briggs, senior

"No, because it's one of the hardest conferences in the state. To leave would be cowardly. We can handle the DVC." Matt Wdowiarz, junior

"I don't want to leave the conference because the long distance between schools. And although the competition is tougher, it encourages athletes to work harder. Athletes should never learn to accept defeat!" Michelle Grove, senior

"No. They want us to switch conferences when our sophomore class is doing so good in all the sports." Kari Schmidt, sophomore

"No. All the other teams do fine except for football." Danny Garcia, freshman

Cheer on the cheerleaders

By Sarah Kochniarczyk

The moment your feet hit the shiny basketball court, the feeling hits your spine; that somewhat nervous feeling. Words and phrases jumble up over and over in your mind. As you turn your head to the crowd, your eyes are filled with the sight of the familiar faces you walked past that Friday during school.

The uneasy feeling. The sweaty palms. Then questioning if you remember the words to the halftime you'll be performing soon.

A cheerleader's nightmare: messing up and looking bad in front of her peers at a high school game.

Worse than a cheerleader's nightmare: the fans laughing and putting you down.

It's bad enough the school won't support the cheerleading squad with uniforms, areas to practice, professional mounters, or a professional tumbler. However, the cheerleaders still hear all of the yacking from the crowd.

It's tough to perform when half the squad is missing, but it's harder when your fans don't support you.

Game after game, cheerleaders walk on to the court and cheer on their team-win or lose.

Game after game, each We-go cheerleader brings their school spirit and remains spirited throughout the entire game, whether winning by a

ton or losing by a ton.

Game after game, the cheerleaders set goals to be better than the last game in hopes of impressing the crowd.

Yet game after game, the crowd must criticize the cheers, and point out every mistake.

Where does the "well-done" or "good job" go? How hard is it to appreciate the girls who wear the school spirit all year? Without them, school spirit would be little less than a speck of dust.

Instead of shouting with angry words and complaining about their performances, you should show a little gratitude or appreciation to their hard work and willingness to go to each game, even though the cheerleaders know the crowd will ridicule them.

Even if on Friday night, February 4, against Glenbard North the crowd was excited and responding to the cheers and chants that's one game out of how many? Why can't the Wildcat fans be like this more often?

Stop putting down the girls who have the heart to set foot each game in front of this cruel crowd. Show more thanks to the girls who try their hardest to be the cheerleaders you keep complaining about!



Photo by Sandy Weiss

The cheerleaders work hard to rile up the crowd at the game on February 11 against Naperville North.

Don't single out being single

By Jamie Nadolny

It's the time of year that most couples wait for with anticipation. Suddenly, you find yourself surrounded by flowers, heart shaped chocolates, and stuffed animals, all waiting to be given to "that special someone."

It's February 14, and it's supposed to be the most romantic day of the year.

For those who don't have dates on Valentine's Day, it's a different story. In fact, being single on Valentine's Day is something that people dread throughout the entire year. For some, what is supposed to be the most romantic day of the year, soon turns out to be the most depressing.

Let's face it. Our society pressures teenagers into thinking that having a boyfriend or a girlfriend is a necessity. We see relationships in movies and music videos, we hear about relationships on the radio, and we read about relationships in books and magazines. Basically, they're glamorized.

High school relationships have more to them than flowers and candy.

Students in West Chicago actually fall for the media's attempt to make money off of steamy movies, books, and magazines. Students are interesting in exploring the opposite sex (or same sex in certain circumstances) because of articles in teen magazines like "YM" and "Seventeen."

Sure I like them, but who wants to read about the "10 Ways to Find a Boyfriend in the Next 10 Days?" You can't force a relationship, so articles like those are completely ridiculous.

We have this idea that becoming romantically involved with another person is a requirement. Students think they need to have a constant companion by their side. They don't want to spend their Friday nights at home with their

families. They'd rather be with their latest "crush."

When Valentine's Day rolls around, the problem tends to increase. Teenagers tend to stress out about whether or not they're going to be solo on February 14. They watch those movies, they listen to the radio, and they read those books and magazines to try and change their status. Students want to learn how to increase their chances at getting into a relationship.

But what exactly is wrong with being single?

I don't have a boyfriend, and I'm not desperate to get into a relationship. I spent Valentine's Day alone this year and I didn't spend the entire day pouting about it. There's just no need to. Cupid's arrow didn't strike me, and I didn't receive flowers or chocolates on February 14, but I did have fun.

I gathered up a group of my female friends, and I went to see a movie. I took a break from the stresses of school and I had a great time, without a boyfriend.

I realized that most people think they have to be in a relationship on Valentine's Day, or on any day of the year, to fit in with the movies and the music and the magazines. They think that being in a relationship is popular and that it's a lot of fun.

I don't understand how constantly worrying about emotions, trust, friendship, love, respect, responsibility, and sex makes people jump for joy.

We're only in high school. We range in ages from 14-18 years old, and most of us aren't legally considered adults. Some of us can't drive or vote, yet we think that we're mature enough to handle a serious relationship. There might be some of us who can, but for the most part, we're not ready.

Most people use the expression; "You only live once!" That might be true, but why spend your time constantly worrying about dating? I might be single, but I don't understand how it's such a big deal. I can live without a boyfriend because I don't really need one.

I think it's time we stop listening to the trends and start paying attention to our priorities. There are a lot of other things that are more important than a relationship, including school, families, friends, and jobs.

It might be the most romantic time of the year, but I think that I'm going to be single for awhile. I'm not going to try to fall for the media's attempt to start a trend.

And for those of you who think that not being in a relationship is the end of the world, think again. Remember... "You only live once."



Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The majority of the athletics at West Chicago have been unfortunately unsuccessful as of lately. With the exception of an incredible girl's softball team, many of the programs have suffered in DVC competition. One athlete, however, has surpassed the standards of not only the DVC and the state of Illinois, but is among the best in the entire nation. Our town newspaper does not seem to realize the magnitude of this incredible accomplish-

ment. Tim Keller, the most humble superstar many of us will ever meet, did not receive any recognition for his tremendous success. After his All-American status was achieved, the only identification by our town was a lousy paragraph in the West Chicago Press.

This enraged me. The editors at the Press write off our athletes week after week. Is there any reason for this? Has Las Vegas opened a new market of high school sports? If the

writers do not cheer for the teams that give them jobs, they definitely don't deserve those jobs. One week in my recent memory, the authors of the great Press wrote a one-page article about an opposing athlete. If the All-American Tim Keller even received their wonderful Athlete Profile, it has slipped my mind.

Also, who cares about the Freeze? Does any person actually read the mind-numbing articles about that

team? I forced myself to attempt to read the last article, but the sheer monotony of the article put me to sleep time and time again. I now use the paper as my nightly antihistamine.

The paper sold out to a cause I cannot grasp. The Press is trying to battle The Daily Herald and other newspapers for all around reading, while it should not have abandoned what made it loved-news about West Chicago.

David Boyle

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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 student body.

Any suggestions or comments for the newspaper can be delivered to the advisor Carrie Mocarski in room 230.

Letters to the editor should be signed if they would like 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.

Lobe notes from the heart

Dear Steve Slattery,
Your smile makes my day,
I love you.
- Kassi Jedlicka

Dear Angela Skaggs,
Happy Valentines Day.
Where's the letter for me?
- Anonymous

Dear Megan B,
Too many things to say but not enough money. You are my sunshine. Happy Valentine's Day.



- Alex Vergara

Dear Dan B.,
Will you be my Valentine?
-Whoababy Wilken

Dear Lauren Migliorato,
Hey beautiful! Just wanted to say Happy Valentine's Day! I love being with you!
-Sergio Martinez

Dear Ashley Link,
Everyday, all the time,
I will always be yours.
Will you always be mine?
-Mitch Strohm

Dear Heidi,
I've had a great two and a half years with you.
Happy Valentines Day.
- Steve

Dear Snoops,
Happy Valentines Day!
- Jillian Wojcik

Dear Students of West Chicago,
Are you looking for a journey of a lifetime or a free scholarship to a college or university? Give yourself a great Valentines gift, see your NAVY recruiter today in Glendale Heights (630) 653-5277. Have a great West Chicago Valentine.
- Brian Doty

Dear Davey,
I love you with all of my heart.
Love,
Franny.



What should I get her for Valentine's Day?

By Sarah Kochniarczyk

Something nice, something sweet
Could it be candy or a good thing to eat?

Something that will surprise, and open her eyes.
Could it be a love note, or a big bouquet of roses.

Someone please help me, for I don't know what to get her!
Should it be Hershey kisses, for everyone knows those are the best kind of kisses.

Help me, help me, I don't know what to get her.
I don't want to spend too much, I don't want to spend too little, so it's got to be something in the middle.

Today's Valentine's Day, I still don't know what to get her, but then I remember, that it doesn't matter what I get her, just that I'm with her to spend this day together.

She says that getting and giving doesn't matter, but receiving my love and affection is good enough to brighten her day.

-Anonymous-

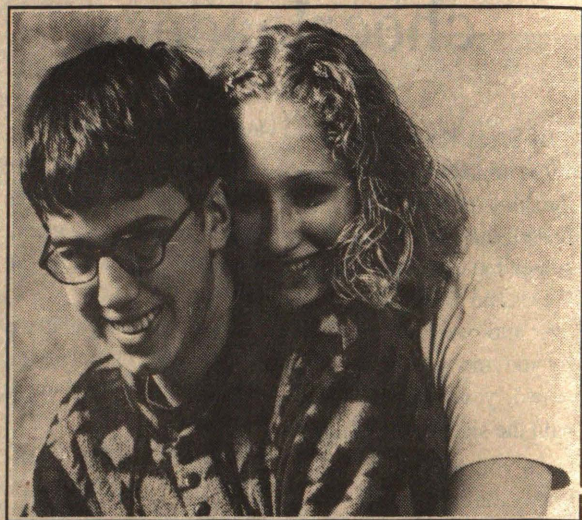


Photo by Heidi Carballo

To Ryan Begy and Bessie Czernik:
The rise and shine of every morning is filled with thoughts of seeing one another in school that day. While many of us struggle to get through the harsh and bold day that is placed before us, you two have the answer to get through the day: each other. Time passes by and all of a sudden what used to be a nightmare is now a living dream, and you can't possibly miss the chance of running into your crush that day. When the bell rings, your heart starts to pump at a faster rate than normal and your palms start to shower and you daze about how to coincidentally run into your crush.

What was your most romantic moment?

By Laura McQueen

"My boyfriend knows I like happy meals, so after a fight he rang my doorbell and left a rose, a teddy bear and a happy meal on my doorstep." -junior Susana Ballines

"I put flowers in her locker." -juniors Joey Lureau and Jenny Cwiak

"At work my boyfriend brought me flowers and gave them to me in front of everyone." -junior Danielle Kogut

"I'm still waiting for mine." -junior Ruth Kueker

"I went to Chicago with a girl and won her a giant bunny rabbit." -junior Todd Smith

"I took a date to Houlihan's, then went bowling and shot some pool. It might not sound all that romantic, but I went with the most beautiful girl in school." -senior Jesus Favela

"He waited for me outside the bathroom while I was in the shower and when I came out he was waiting outside the door with a rose." senior Linda Xiong

"The night of homecoming he made me my favorite meal." -senior Jessi Oliver

"Dancing for the first time in World Studies." -juniors Josh Rogers and Brianne Rehmus

"It was so cute when my boyfriend came to my house with roses and got on his knees and said, 'Will you marry me?' But he didn't have a ring yet!" -sophomore Jennifer Gilbert

"I was in the hospital with meningitis, and they wouldn't let anyone come in without gloves and a mask. My boyfriend came and visited me anyway, even though he had to dress like a ninja turtle to see me." -junior Vanessa Rodriguez

"For our first anniversary, he filled my entire room with balloons and flowers." -junior Amy Fenderson

"On my porch one warm summer night he asked me, 'What do you think the chances are of a guy like me and a girl like you getting together?' I thought that was so sweet." -junior Nicole Albrecht

Plans for Valentine's Day

by Leslie Shambo

"I don't really know. It's going to be small, like cards and flowers." -senior Keith Halsall

"I don't know. I'll have to 'check my schedule'." -senior Ami Pirela

"Work, what else is there to do on a Monday night?" -senior Helen Walsh

"My boyfriend has a surprise." -senior Fran Smith

"I haven't decided if I want to boycott and wear all black, or if I'll be cute about it and give out little Valentines." -senior Amy Aiello

"I'm making my boyfriend a really nice romantic dinner." -junior Danielle Kogut

"It's Monday, I'll probably be working. I'm a boring person." -junior Jennifer Skrzypczynski

"I'm just doing dinner and a movie with my girlfriend." -senior Nesim Kerimi

"I'll be sleeping." -senior Christine Weisse

"I'm going out with my friends." -sophomore Heather Goranson

"Well, it's a Monday night so... I'm going out to dinner with my wife." -math teacher Matthew Doll

"My plan is to work out everything between my boyfriend and I, because I love him so much." -sophomore Shannon Mims

"I'm going to make sure that all of my friends know that I love them dearly." -junior Christina Droho

"I don't know what I'm doing for Valentine's Day." -freshman Brian Calabrese

"Celebrating my mom's birthday." -senior Amanda Hallock

"I don't have any plans." -freshman Kelly Siekmann

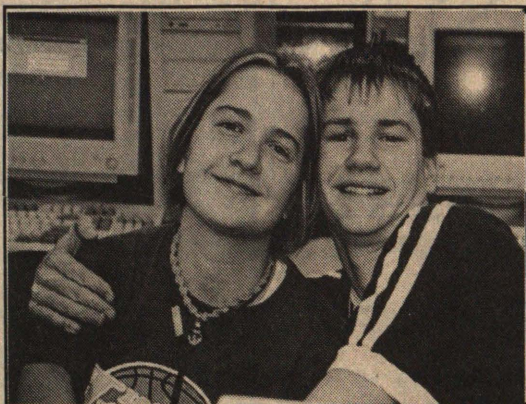
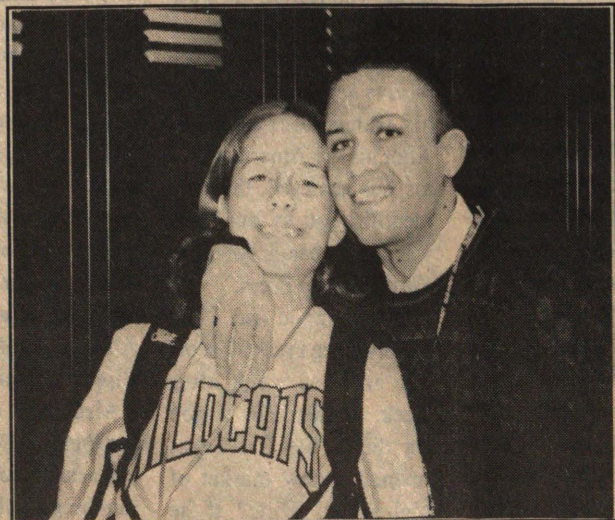


Photo by Eddie Hernandez

Senior Abby Grant and junior Joe Hamlin embrace in the computer lab.



Juniors Shannon Koehring and Phil Legorreta hug in the hallway.

Photo by Eddie Hernandez

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

By Sarah Kochniarczyk

Stop staying out till loony hours in the morning; what are you doing? Take a break from the clique-they'll survive and you will too!

Set aside some time for the family you barely see during the week and never see on the weekends. Your parents will be overjoyed and it's about time you start treating your siblings like human beings. Go out shopping, watch a movie, or even pretend to be Betty Crocker and make some homemade cookies with your family.

Family bonding time is precious and you need to start to value who your family is, for more than five minutes a day.

Lucky color is lime-wear it around the 20.

Aries (March 21-April 19)

These past few months the dough hasn't been rolling in, but look out now, here it comes. You've been working hard and someone above is watching you and knows you could use the cash.

However, spend wisely. You tend to go crazy at the sight of Washington and Lincoln. Don't be so selfish; buy something for your friend who has been down in the dumps lately. Even a card could cheer them up and you'll feel good inside too.

Or think about setting aside the money for a better use. You could use it for a shopping spree in the spring, or maybe there's some spring break trip you'd like to go on. Save, save, save!

Just remember that times like these don't happen often, so be a smart consumer! Lucky color is cranberry-wear this color around the 27.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Spending too much time with that valentine candy and not enough time exer-

Horoscopes: what's in your stars this month?

cising? Wake up call!

Get your butt in gear and start to shape up. Give your best friend a call and make it a bonding experience. You two have some catching up to do. Ever since the boy/girlfriend walked into their life you've been kicked to the curb.

Your friend will be happy to hear from you and hopefully, you'll be back in tune once those feet hit the pavement.

Plus you'll get a chance to capture one of those best friend moments that we all cherish.

Lucky color is lavender-sport it around the 25.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Study, study, study! It's ringing your ears. The stress is overpowering; that is a big sign.

Take a break. Ask your friends for help; they'd be honored. Talk to some teachers and explain your stress problem. You still have time before college appears; don't cram it all into your brain at once.

Take a day off from schoolwork, perhaps a Saturday. Get outside and enjoy the weather. Maybe take a trip to the city or just relax. Stress is your weakness and right now you're letting it get the best of you.

Lucky color is aqua-wear around the 22.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Okay, so maybe he/she was not the one of your dreams but don't give up looking. He/she is out there somewhere. However, don't get lost looking for that person in high school. You've still got college and who knows; maybe you'll meet them through a friend later on in life.

Instead of feeling like you

must be with someone or you must find him or her, just try dating. Don't get so caught up or stuck on one person. Get to know others; don't get put on the spot with one person, especially since you're young and just figuring out how you want to run your life.

Live it single baby, it's the way to go. Stop trying to pick the ace; they'll show up when the time is right.

Lucky color is silver-shine bright around the 23.

Leo (July 23-August 21)

"Don't let the man get you down!"

Your biggest fear is what the whole world thinks of you but only your opinion should matter.

Take risks in life and try new things. Feel confident in yourself and the rest of the world will too.

Try out for the lead role in the school play, go out for that sport with confidence, or join that club with no doubt in mind. Leave your mark. Start now; don't wait for the chance to pass by.

Who cares what everyone else thinks? Stop thinking that way! Build your confidence and stay strong! You'll start to feel like there's hope in life.

Soon you'll learn to walk the walk and within days you'll be talking the talk, but you have to get a move on now! Go out and gain that confidence that you've been missing out on!

Lucky color is midnight blue-shine with this color around the 21.

Virgo (August 22-September 22)

We know you're happy, they know you're happy, even you know you're happy, but sometimes spreading the happiness

isn't quite the right idea.

Just because you feel like you're floating on cloud nine with your boy/girlfriend don't try to play matchmaker with your friends. You're acting like you're in junior high. No one needs other people to provide him or her with a date; if they want to go out with someone they'll decide.

Don't pressure your friends into things they don't want to do.

As for your happiness, that'll sink away slowly if you keep bothering their love lives.

It's okay to be spirited and happy, but let your friends find their own key to happiness. You can cheer them on and even build up their self-esteem, but back off from trying to run their lives.

Lucky color is forest green-sport it around the 20.

Libra (September 23-October 23)

Love is lingering in the air and you're bound to wind up in the cycle. Don't get too caught up with all the mushy stuff. Stay calm and realistic; just because it's that time of the year doesn't mean you and your girl/man have to be all lovey-dovey.

You two have more going in this relationship than mush. You have to set goals for your relationship. The bond is tight and going slow is the key.

Just be sure to keep your eyes open. A friend may be upset with you from out of the blue. With all the time you spend with "you know who" your friend is getting jealous. Try to keep your priorities straight.

Boyfriends/girlfriends

come and go but friends will always be there.

Lucky color is baby blue-break it out around the 22.

Scorpio (October 24-November 24)

It's time to clear your throat and be heard. You've been in the shadows long enough; make some changes and start with being bold!

Don't shy away from the problems you face each day; speak your mind. You know what you're talking about and you have tons of good ideas. Stop backing away and start letting people know how you feel.

It's not good to bottle things up inside; sooner or later you'll start to go nuts.

Wipe away those tears you cry every night and make a list of how to turn things around in your life. Don't let people take advantage of you anymore; you are a strong person who just needs to find that emotion. Next time, share your thoughts aloud.

After you try it once sharing your thoughts will come easy and people will start to look at you differently.

Lucky color is plum-wear it around the 21.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Lately it seems as though your friends keep turning the other way in the hall, or when you call their house they're never home. Why is that you ask?

Besides the fact your grades are slipping, so is your grip on life.

Your mood swings have gotten worse, your attitude has gone rotten and your mouth hasn't had good things to say in a long while.

Snap out of it before your friends completely drift away. Share your problems with them; that's what

they're there for.

Get out and do something with your spare time. Give your friends a call.

Maybe after a good pow wow with the gang your bad attitude will disappear and your grades will improve.

Lucky color is yellow-wear it around 26.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-January 19)

This is your month to shine, to steal the stage. Your time to be in the spotlight of the show is here.

You've been wasting your time on hiding your talent, it's time to let it out. You've been wanting to display your ability but the confidence is lacking; don't fret! Your pals are with you all the way.

If needed, start out small and let a few people in on how talented you are. Sooner or later the whole world will want to be in on your secret.

Let it shine! Don't sit back and watch others rise to the top. Broadway is calling you, so get moving and do something for yourself!

Lucky color is hot pink-shine with this color around the 23.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

It may seem as though your friends will be asking you where you get your style, or how you do your hair in the morning. Don't think something's wrong; they're just into your new style. Take it as a compliment.

Although it may seem like they are starting to dress like you and act like you, try not to get to bothered by their actions.

Your friends are just trying to find a way to express themselves and you've hit high in their mind. Keep strutting your stuff and be yourself, because that's what it's all about.

Maybe you can lend a hand and let your friends in on that secret, that your style is just who you are. They'll understand and soon your look will be back to just you.

Lucky color is white-strut it around the 24.

Get "caught" in a good book

Book Corner

By Alexandra Patin

An old favorite is sometimes the best reading when you don't know what to read.

One of my favorite books would have to be *Catch-22* by Joseph Heller, which was written in 1961. The book

is about the ironies and madness of war.

The whole book is about little "catch-22s," which are paradoxes, or vicious circles.

The closest way I can describe theme is saying that in order to do something, you need to have something. But in order to have that something, you need to do that something.

Each new chapter introduces a new twist for

the reader to be totally and helplessly confused about.

One of the best and most ironic scenes in the book is of Milo, an entrepreneur, and Yossarian, a soldier. Yossarian had just seen a man, Snowden, die in his squadron, and so he refused to wear his uniform because, in his words, the man had "gotten" on it. So, he went naked around the

base for a few days.

While the pastor gave a speech at the funeral of the man, he saw Yossarian sitting in a tree and was struck by this "vision from God," as he thought it was.

Catch-22 was an internationally acclaimed book of Joseph Heller, though he wrote many short stories, many of which were about trying to survive in a world of business people and

politicians.

I recommend *Catch 22* to all ages. Throughout the entire book, I was struck with laughter one minute, and sadness the next. This style held my interest the entire way and it brought a very shocking ending.

This book is definitely one to read not just once but many times because it is a book that always has new meaning with every read.

Feature Teacher

The history of Terry Zimmerman

By Sarah Kochniarczyk

How do you feel knowing that the students chose you as their favorite teacher? Surprised and flattered.

Have you always wanted to be a teacher, even when you were young? If not, what did you want to be? As far as I can recall, the idea of teaching as a career never crossed my mind until I was about 19 or 20. Like a lot of little kids, my first choice for a career would have been professional baseball, having been hooked by my first visit to County Stadium with my dad to see the Milwaukee Braves (Aaron, Adcock, Mathews, Crandel, Spahn, Burdette etc.)

But then, as I grew up in the 60's, and as the .450 batting averages of Pony League became the .330 averages of high school, it seemed that maybe saving the world would be a better use of my time. While in high school, music had developed as a second great passion, but I was quite aware that I would not make it as a professional musician, so when I went off to college, it was to focus on the third great passion of my life...environmental issues. So, I entered WSU-SP as a natural resources major, though unable to decide among an emphasis in forestry, wildlife, or water.

That decision was made

when my advisor, the chairman of the Natural Resources Department, looked at my proposed "plan of study" and declared...." history,... philosophy,... MUSIC???" What is all this?? Either you follow MY program or you're OUT of the program!"

So my major became officially "Undecided" until forced to choose as a junior. Fortunately, by that time, I was in the "study abroad" program and added one more passion to my interests, namely European History.

However, graduating with a B.A. in European History (Not in Education), I was still technically qualified to do absolutely nothing, so I managed to get a Master's in European History (Not in Education), and I was still legally qualified to do nothing. So I was forced to talk my way into a greatly overcrowded teacher certification program, intending to save the world by challenging the minds of zillions of high school students. After two years of (real) odd jobs and unemployment, I found a job here, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Three words to describe you? Sincere. Awe-struck {I find the earth a really fascinating place (and the

rest of the universe isn't bad, either); I'm virtually never bored} For the sake of my own security, I reserve the right to not disclose the third.

What is your goal for your students every year? First a preface. There are relatively few things that I REALLY believe in, but one of those things is PUBLIC education. My overall objective, and I believe the basic objective of public education, is to provide OPPORTUNITY for students, whatever their personal backgrounds. Learning is ultimately an active process, and therefore ultimately the student's responsibility, but the school and the individual teachers try our best to afford students the opportunity to make the most of their preparation for adulthood.

Assuming that this opportunity is provided, another goal would be to help students make connections among the many threads of history and geography that come together to form the context of their lives. Beyond the basic practical side of education (get into college, get a job, make money, die with more stuff than the next guy..), I hope to enable students to come away with a greater appreciation of the world around them and to feel a greater understanding of how things work and how

we got to be where we are. Ultimately, I hope students will have a better feel for where they stand in the world and be confident in their ability to contribute to where we're going.

If you could pick one place to travel where would you go and why? Travel has always been another one of those great passions in my life, and in recent years, that has been sorely lacking. At this point, I'd love to go just about anywhere...just get me out of Chicago suburbs.

Actually, I really hope to get to some new places someday. I'd love to see the Himalayas; I would be interested in traveling across Siberia, maybe to go hike around the Kamchatka Peninsula. Australia and New Zealand are attractive. I wouldn't mind checking out Antarctica some day.

Where did you go to college? Wisconsin State University [now, University of Wisconsin]- Stevens Point (B.A.)- University of Connecticut (M.A.) [yes, that is the home of the Huskies, NCAA basketball defending champs; my basketball career there consisted of a stint with the "Garbonzo Bombers" in the campus intramural league].

Favorite memory from West Chicago High School so far? Not to sound un-

sentimental, but my favorite memory of We-go so far is definitely our recent move out of (take your pick) the "Catacombs" or "The Dungeon" (depending on your historical orientation.) Seriously, I feel immeasurably better, physically and mentally, now that "I have seen the LIGHT" [hallelujah!], and I hope to never have to return to the "Dark Ages" of room 143.

On a more profound note though, the most significant

memories tend to come from contacts with former students who drop in and provide updates on their lives. It's always reinforcing to have someone let you know that there were positive results from what went on in your classes, however many years ago. After all, (and I'm sure that it's safe to speak for everyone here) all we really want is to make a positive difference in students' lives.

Talking about Mr. Zimmerman

Three words to describe Mr. Zimmerman:

"Smartest teacher in school [four words]," Social Studies teacher Barbara Laimins.

"Intelligent, kind and dedicated," Laimins.

"He's very nice," Social Studies teacher Tracy Jackway

"Competent, dedicated and hardworking," Social Studies teacher Larry Stark.

"Quiet, thoughtful and intelligent," English teacher Carol Wolf.

Craziest or funniest thing you've seen Mr. Zimmerman do:

"Hang posters on the wall," Laimins.

"Move his "museum of artifacts" from room 143 to room 177," Stark.

Best quality of Mr. Zimmerman:

"The ability to make the complex easy to understand," Laimins.

"I have learned a lot this year," sophomore Brad Bolton.

"At a time when many educators are "dumbing-down" the curriculum, Mr. Zimmerman provides his students with a meaningful, quality education," Stark.

"Mr. Zimmerman is a great teacher. He uses enthusiasm and excitement in the classroom and he has taught me a lot this year," sophomore Mike Olson.

"[He is] dedicated," Wolf.

Sony declares war on the gaming world

By David Conaway

The next war between home video game systems has just started. As usual, Sega has entered the battle early with the release of Dreamcast last fall. Nintendo plans to release the new Dolphin system by the end of the year 2000.

But one of the biggest upcoming systems comes from the current king of the

video game industry and the last system wars newcomer: Sony. Playstation 2, due out later this year, is one of, if not the, most powerful gaming systems ever created. But to call it just a game system would be misleading, because it can also play DVD movies right out of the box (thanks to its DVD drive), play regular CDs (no surprise there) and it even

has backward capability with original Playstation games, so no need to keep that old system if you get the new one. Playstation 2 can even be used standing vertically or laying horizontally, so it's easier to find a space for the system to be stored in.

What else makes Playstation 2 so noteworthy? Start with the main

CPU. It has a 128-bit chip called the "Emotion Engine" and a system clock frequency (how fast it can perform instructions per second) of 294.912 MHz. The "Emotion Engine" chip, on top of this system clock frequency, can perform multiple instructions at once. The system also has 32 MB of Direct RDRAM (a new kind of memory that can run 3.2 GB a second) for its main memory (Sega Dreamcast has 16 MB).

But what everyone is talking about is the graphics. Playstation 2 has a "Graphics Synthesizer" chip in it, which can make 75 million small polygons per second on screen (Dreamcast can do 3-4 million). This makes it easy for the system to create special effects and translucency with almost no slowdown in the game.

Sony also has plans to

eventually create an online game network for Playstation 2 owners, much like Sega's plans with Dreamcast. Eventually, you may be able to download game soundtracks, game demos, play against other PS2 owners online, get addons for games (like patches for PC games) and much more.

Yet, with all this great stuff in the works, critics question whether or not Sony's focus will remain on video games or if they will try to make this more of a "multi-purpose" entertainment unit. Phil Harrison, Sony Computer Entertainment Vice President of Research and Development said in the December 1999 issue of the Official U.S. Playstation Magazine, "Initially our focus is games. This is a game system, it will be the best game system the world has

ever seen and is going to deliver some unbelievable game content." Sony no doubt has their priorities straight. Playstation 2 will be dedicated to video games.

So you've heard the great specs, but how much will all this cost? Playstation 2 is being released March 4 in Japan, and is being retailed at about \$370. Before your heart skips a beat, remember that's about the price the original Playstation retailed for at its release. That price includes a demo disk, a memory card, a Dual Shock 2 controller and the AV and power cables.

The war is about to erupt into a full-scale confrontation. Sega is in the lead so far and Nintendo is joining in later, but Playstation 2 just might blow them both away.

One on One

Playstation 2

Sega Dreamcast

Graphics:	75 million small polygons	3-4 million
Speed:	294.912 MHz	200 MHz
Online capability:	Yes	Yes
Main Memory:	32 MB	16 MB
Drive Speed:	24x CD drive; 4x DVD drive	12x CD drive
Controllers:	2 ports	4 ports

The final 'Scream'

By Leslie Shambo

The first movie set the rules, the second bent them. In the third, forget all the rules.

Scream 3 was released on February 4, introducing a new kind of terror for movie viewers. The movie stayed at number one in the box office for two weekends in a row, grossing \$16.4 million.

After losing her mother and friends to four serial killers, Sidney Prescott (Neve Campbell, *Scream*, *Scream 2*, "Party of Five") isolates herself from the world and goes into hiding. Yet, when a new rash of murders happen around the movie set of *Stab 3: Return to Woodsboro*, Sidney forces herself back into the game. She is reunited with reporter Gale Weathers (Courtney Cox Arquette, *Scream*, *Scream 2*, "Friends"), former policeman Dewey Riley (David Arquette, *Scream*, *Scream 2*), and framed murderer Cotton Weary (Liev Schreiber, *Scream 2*). Together, they must find the killer before he finds them.

According to ScreamTrilogy.com, director Wes Craven said, "Sidney has not gone to Hollywood to become an actress and star in a B-grade horror movie. But there is a picture being made as part of our story, which is one of the sequels to *Stab*, the movie within the movie. Sidney does get involved in it, but not as an actress."

Scream 3 was not produced because of the success of the first two movies in the trilogy. When Miramax purchased the script for *Scream* from Kevin Williamson, a five page outline for the follow-

ing two was included in the deal. Williamson said that he envisioned the *Scream* trilogy as the *Star Wars* of the horror genre. In fact, Carrie Fisher (*Star Wars*) makes a cameo appearance.

Several talented actors were brought together as suspects and victims, including Parker Posey (*You've Got Mail*), Scott Foley ("Felicity"), Patrick Dempsey (*Can't Buy Me Love*), Matt Keeslar (*The Last Days of Disco*), Jenny McCarthy ("Singed Out"), Lance Henrickson, Kelly Rutherford ("Melrose Place"), Heather Matarazzo (*Welcome to the Dollhouse*) and Emily Mortimer (*Notting Hill*).

As movie buff Randy Meeks (Jamie Kennedy, *Scream*, *Scream 2*) says in *Scream 3*, in the third movie of a trilogy, the characters must look to the past. On that note, there are several scenes in *Scream 3* that are similar to the original movie. For instance, Sidney sees a pair of black boots in a stall at the restrooms at Sunrise Studios. In *Scream*, she is attacked after seeing a similar pair of boots at the bathroom at her high school. In both the first and third movies, Sidney must jump from a window in order to save herself. In all three movies, the killer targets a couple first. Lastly, in the first and third movies, the murderer "dies" before his/her identity is revealed.

Yet the movie is very different from the previous two. The viewer must throw away all his/her preconceived notions and expect the unexpected. Anyone could die. Anyone could be the killer.

Scream 3 does not carry the same element of terror

found in the first two. The murders are brief and not as gory as those in the first two. There are no long chase scenes in which the murderer torments his/her victims before killing them.

When *Scream 2* was released, reality forced the viewer to question the logic behind it. How long could one shy, quiet girl be threatened by murderers? Perhaps one person would desire to kill her, but four? Yet, *Scream 3* presents the idea that someone was watching her from the beginning. Someone had planned it all.

In *Scream 3*, Sidney has matured considerably. She thinks before she acts, unlike in previous movies. She wears bullet-proof vests and carries multiple weapons. Rather than a victim, she is a survivor.

Of course, the other characters have not developed as well. They wander by themselves, knowing that the murderer is somewhere nearby. Have they ever heard of safety in numbers? More importantly, why would they search for a murderer rather than run?

Realistic or not, *Scream 3* is still thrilling. According to ScreamTrilogy.com, Miramax cochairman Bob Weinstein said, "*Scream* crosses every boundary. It's not just scary, it's not just fun, it's not just clever, it's not just a whodunit. It's all that and it's something more. Like *The Crying Game* or *Pulp Fiction*, the *Scream* saga is a whole new approach to movies. It kills off all the old formulas."

Though not as scary as the first two, *Scream 3* still leaves the viewer on edge. The plot was better than that of one second, but neither of the latter can compare artistically to the first.

The Beach runs dry

By Alexandra Patin

Apparently this *Beach* is empty of bugs, mosquitoes, and other pesky parasites such as leeches or water snakes, as well as a plot.

In *The Beach*, Leonardo DiCaprio (*Titanic*) plays Richard, a daring and unsettled traveler around the world. He arrives in Bangkok, Thailand, and gives a short narration about what to do and what not to do when travelling. This scene might be good if it actually had something to do with the movie, but instead is used simply as a shocking beginning to get your attention.

In his hotel room, Richard meets a man who tells him about a paradise beach. The man kills himself the next morning, and for some odd reason leaves an ominous looking map on Richard's door.

For some reason Richard decides to ask Francoise, a girl who stays down the hall in his hotel, played by Virginie Ledoyen (*A Soldier's Daughter Never Cries*), and her boyfriend, Etienne, played by Guillaume Canet (*Baracuda*), to come with him to find the beach, and for some reason, they accept.

After dodging protective marijuana farmers, the three find the perfect beach, but not before Richard gives a copy of the map to some people he meets.

Richard, Francoise,

and Etienne are taken in by the people who live on the island in a Utopian commune, which is not as Utopian as it seems.

As the movie progresses, more and more secrets are formed between the characters and the obsession with privacy and protection from outsiders of the island by the group's leader, Sal, played by Tilda Swinton (*The War Zone*), becomes greater and greater.

In the movie, Richard slowly becomes more wrapped up in his illusions of the man who gave him the map. Eventually, Richard becomes so protective of "his" island that he has visions of shooting tourists who come to the island.

Considering the farmers to be his army of defense against the invading tourists he watches some friends who received his copy of the map get shot by the farmers. After having his face splattered with blood by a girl being shot a foot away from him, he jolts out of his own world and into reality.

Finally, Richard discovers just how far Sal and the farmers will go to protect the island and it's privacy when he tries to leave the island.

As some movies progress they get more and more exciting, but this one just kept getting more unbelievable. The simple fact that no one

else happens to know about this island (maybe the local tourist bureau if it's such a perfect place, or maybe the police seeing as on this island there's a field of marijuana stretching as far as the eye can see) is farfetched. However, the entire movie is based on wide stretches of the imagination.

Perhaps the film makers thought their audience would become enthralled in the way Richard came to get the map, so they felt they needed to dedicate a substantial part of the movie on how it happened. This looked even more ridiculous, as none of it made sense, and frankly I didn't care- I just wanted to get to the action.

Another thing I wondered about was how the whole community had survived for so long. They celebrated their sixth year anniversary, which seemed incredible seeing as they were always under such threat of being discovered.

This movie was definitely a miss, not only because of the lack of substance but also because when the movie show signs of a plot, it turned out to be something ridiculous and seemingly pointless, such as the first half hour in Bangkok. This movie was, as far as I could see, just a showcase for Leonardo close-ups and a contest to see how much weed one person could smoke in the length of a movie.

By David Conaway

One of the newest editions to the Final Fantasy family of games is "Chocobo Dungeon 2" for Sony Playstation. This game can most easily be described as a clone of another RPG for Playstation called "Azure Dreams." But it's more than just a clone. The general game play is the same, but strategy is very different.

In "Chocobo Dungeon 2," you take the role of a chocobo named (appropriately enough) Chocobo. Chocobos, for those of our readers unfamiliar with the Final Fantasy world, are

large birds (built a little like an ostrich) used for riding like a horse, and have a reputation for being one of the "cuter" aspects of the game series. Chocobo and his friend Mog search dungeons looking for treasure that will satisfy Mog's lust for riches. During a trip in one of the dungeons, the two friends are separated and Chocobo makes it out, not knowing if his friend managed to escape as well. The story line evolves from there and actually gets deeper than I

thought it would, though it is not quite an epic.

One of the neatest features in the game is the ability to mix items to create new ones, adding a unique strategy to the game. Items can cause status changes to monsters in the form of classic Final Fantasy spells, such as "sleep" and "silence," or can be used to heal yourself in the form of "potions" and "hi-potions."

The magic system is also unlike any other. You can find and use spell books

(such as fire, ice, quake, etc.) to cast spells, and as you advance through the game, you will learn new techniques to make the spells more powerful, like casting a "blizzard" instead of "ice" from a spell book. These two new features make up a unique strategy that you have to use in order to advance in the game. It's a combination of powering up both your character and your items.

The game play is pretty basic and can be easily

picked up. It merely involves walking around dungeons, but instead of entering a "combat screen" when fighting monsters like a traditional RPG, you fight by taking turns on the regular screen, giving it the feel of an "adventure" game.

The graphics and sound are both average, but they get the job done. The graphics are all in 3D, but were not meant to impress anyone, like the game's big brother, "Final Fantasy 8." The sounds are so-so, but

Chocobo's little squeaks and chirps are cute enough to get a chuckle out of most people.

Altogether, I thought this game was very enjoyable. It's easy enough for beginning gamers to grasp, but has enough options (like mixing items) to keep veteran gamers challenged. Not everyone would enjoy this game though, so I would recommend renting it before dishing out the big bucks to buy it. If you have been looking for a light-hearted RPG though, look no further than Chocobo Dungeon 2.

Final Fantasy's newest little brother

Four outstanding players shine on and off the field

Fran Smith, poms

By Sarah Kochniarczyk

Favorite moment from Poms? My favorite moment was when I finally was able to do the splits because in the beginning I was not very flexible.

What do you enjoy most about Poms? I most enjoy how proud I feel after a performance which I feel, I did really well in. I am proud because I remember how hard I worked to get to that point and how I accomplished my goal.

How long have you been a Pom? How long have you



whole squad this year? Our biggest improvement, in my opinion, is everyone's dancing skills.

What do you hate most about Poms? When I get frustrated because something isn't going right in the dance.

Three words to describe your squad? Hardworking, enthusiastic, and determined.

been dancing? This is my first year on Poms. I've been dancing for six years.

Biggest improvement as a

Amy Arroyo, cheerleading

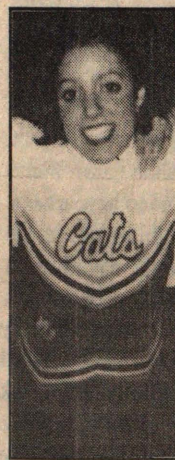
By Sarah Kochniarczyk

What do you like most about cheerleading? I like how we bond together and have tons of laughs!

Three words to describe cheerleading to you? Fun, funny, and hard work!

How do you feel the cheerleading squad has improved since last season? We became more dedicated. Our mounts have improved (our skill.)

Do you feel our school has school spirit? Why or



why not? I wish I could say we did! We do have school spirit when things look good but when we're

doing bad our school spirit stinks.

How long have you been cheering? I cheered sophomore year and this year.

Favorite memory in cheerleading so far? When Jenny B. and Lindsay S. dressed up as call girls at camp! [It was a dare to give the varsity girls some laughs.]

Best thing about your squad? I love how we can joke around and have fun but we can get things done too.

Katie Saul, basketball

By Sarah Kochniarczyk

How long have Any superstitions before the game? I wear my hair the same way for every game, our team wears black tape on our jersey.

What is the best thing about basketball? The closeness of the team.

What is the worst thing about basketball? Losing in over-court shot at the buzzer, also w-drill one-on-one.

Funniest moment/best moment in basketball? When we beat Warrenville South, and my "allergic," reaction to West Aurora.

Do you think our school has school spirit? Yes- the DVC



you been playing basketball? 8 years.

tions before the game? I wear my hair the same way for every game, our team wears black tape on our jersey.

What is the best thing about basketball? The closeness of the team.

What is the worst thing about basketball? Losing in over-court shot at the buzzer, also w-drill one-on-one.

Funniest moment/best moment in basketball? When we beat Warrenville South, and my "allergic," reaction to West Aurora.

Do you think our school has school spirit? Yes- the DVC

Phil Legorreta, basketball

By Sarah Kochniarczyk

Worst thing about basketball? All the practices, especially the morning ones.

Best thing about basketball? Friday nights when people are cheering for you.

How long have you been

playing basketball? Since about 4th grade.

Three words to describe yourself? Outgoing, pre-judged, and short (height wise)

Any game superstitions? I always make eye contact

with my girlfriend right before the game. It makes me more comfortable.

What is your goal for the season? To win Regionals!

Any game superstitions? I always make eye contact

Millenium starts with a bang for many Sports:

Boys Basketball

Friday, Feb. 18	S/V	at Glenbard East	
6:00/ 7:30			
Saturday, Feb. 19	S/V	vs. Wheaton North- Senior Parent Night	
6:00/ 7:30			
Saturday, Feb. 19	FA, SB/FB, JV	at Glenbard East	9:30,
9:30/11:00, 11:00			
Monday Feb. 21	FA, SB/FB, JV	at Wheaton North	6:00,
6:00/ 7:30, 7:30			
Wednesday, Feb. 23	FA, FB	at Wheaton Warrenville South	6:00,
7:30			
Friday, Feb. 25	S/V	at Wheaton Warrenville South	6:00/
7:30			
Saturday, Feb. 26	FA	at Wheaton North-Falcon Frosh tourn.	
11:00-3:00			
Monday, Feb. 28	V	Regional Quarterfinals	TBA
Tuesday, Feb. 29	V	Regional Semifinals	TBA
Wednesday, March 1	V	Regional Semifinals	TBA
Friday, March 3	V	Regional Finals	TBA
Tuesday, March 7	V	Sectional Semifinals	TBA
Wednesday, March 8	V	Sectional Semifinals	TBA
Thursday, March 9		Winter Sports Awards Night	7:30
Friday, March 10	V	Sectional Finals	TBA
Tuesday, March 14	V	Super-sectionals	TBA
Friday, March 17	V	State Finals and Sat. March 18	TBA

Girls Basketball

Monday, Feb. 21	V	Sectional Semifinals	TBA
Thursday, Feb. 24	V	Sectional Finals	TBA
Monday, Feb. 28	V	Super-sectionals	TBA
Thursday, March 9		Winter Sports Awards Night	7:30

Boys Swimming

Saturday, Feb. 19	V	Sectionals at St. Charles High School	TBA
Friday, Feb. 25	V	State Finals and Sat. Feb. 26	TBA
Thursday, March 9		Winter Sports Awards Night	7:30

Boys Track

Monday, Feb. 21	F-S/V	vs. Elgin	4:30,
4:30			
Saturday, Feb. 26	F-S/V	at Fenton	10:00,
10:00			
Friday, March 3	V	at Glenbard North	4:30
Tuesday, March 7	F-S/V	vs. Larkin; St. Francis	4:30,
4:30			
Tuesday, March 14		Spring Sports meeting	7:30
Thursday, March 16	F	at Glenbard North	5:00
Friday, March 17	S/V	at Glenbard North	4:30/
4:30			
Tuesday, March 21	F-S	at Fenton	4:30
Saturday, March 25		Indoor Season ends	

Girls Track

Thursday, Feb. 24	JV/V	vs. Rosary; Streamwood	4:30/
4:30			
Tuesday, Feb. 29	JV/V	vs. West Aurora; Wheaton North	4:30/
4:30			
Saturday, March 4	V	at Rolling Meadows w/ Lake Forest	9:00
Saturday, March 11	JV/V	at Fenton	10:00/
10:00			
Tuesday, March 14		Spring Sports meeting	7:30
Thursday, March 16	JV/V	at Lewis University	4:30/
4:30			
Thursday, March 23	JV/V	vs. Plainfield	4:30/
4:30			
Saturday, March 25		Indoor Season ends	

Wrestling

Friday, Feb. 18	V	Individual State Finals and Sat., Feb. 19	TBA
Tuesday, Feb. 22	V	Team Sectionals	TBA
Saturday Feb. 26	V	Team State Final	TBA
Thursday, March 9		Winter Sports Awards Night	7:30

Lady Wildcats shoot to win

By Leslie Shambo

The Lady Wildcats won by 51 points against Addison Trail on February 12. At half-time, the score was 49-13 in favor of We-go, with 14 of the points attributed to junior Beth Brinn. In the third quarter, senior Kim Olson hit a three-pointer, and Brinn shot two points in the last four seconds. The fourth quarter brought a victory of 67-16, with senior Katie Saul shooting a three-pointer. Brinn led the game in points with 20, followed by Olson who had 11. The game left West Chicago at 6 out of 18 in the sectional seed.

Coach Kim Wallner said, "This was a good game because we were able to play everybody and we got into a positive mood in executing defense and offense. It was a nice team victory. Everyone was looking to contribute. Hopefully, it served as a tune-up to get ready for regionals."

Brinn stated, "I think we played pretty well. We came together and we accomplished things we needed to [in order] to prepare us for our upcoming game."

Saul added, "I feel that we're ready for regionals. We're back to where we need to be."

We-go lost at Wheaton Warrenville South on February 10. With starters jun-

ior Jaymie Shmidt, Olson, junior Alissa Mildebrath, senior Kelly Bolton and Brinn, the team led 9-7 at the end of the first quarter. By the end of the second quarter, the Wheaton Warrenville

Coach Wallner added, "I thought we competed a lot better tonight than before. It was a game for a while, until Charliss Ridley took over. Then we got a little banged up in the second half with injuries. We tried to go man

short time with a win at Glenbard East on February 3. However, the Wildcats suffered another loss on January 29; against Naperville North, We-go lost 50-36, with Brinn leading in points (10).

On January 27, the Lady Wildcats ended the fourth quarter of their game against Glenbard North with a tie of 38-38. Yet, in the last seconds of overtime, Glenbard North scored the winning three points. Saul stated, "I think it is a shame the game had to end that way. That game should have been ours." Manager Lexie Feller added, "We played very, very well."

On January 22, We-go lost 57-40 at West Aurora. Two days before, on January 20, We-go lost 55-27 to Naperville Central, a game which led coach Andy Nussbaum of Naperville Central to say, "I would have never in my wildest dreams thought that we would beat them like this."

The Lady Wildcats won by two points against Wheaton Warrenville South on January 15. Mildebrath made the winning shot, after scoring a total of ten points and nine assists. The game left West Chicago six times undefeated at home. Feller said, "It seemed like we were unstoppable. Like a loss was inconceivable. Then We-go took a turn for the worse."

Although the team has suffered through a series of disappointments, Krueger says, "I am confident that we have an opportunity to win all of our upcoming games, but we can't take any team lightly. If we come out with fire and intensity for every game we can beat anybody."



photo by Lexie Feller
We-go girls basketball hold hands during the National Anthem at a basketball game.

South Tigers led 30-17.

The third quarter proved disastrous when senior Michelle Lasky injured her wrist, followed seconds later by senior Missy Krueger, who hurt her ankle. The quarter ended 48-27 in favor of Wheaton Warrenville South. The final score was 64-38, with the Tigers scoring in the last second of the game. For the Tigers, Charliss Ridley scored 22 points, clinching a share of the DVC championship for her team. For West Chicago, Brinn and Mildebrath tied in points with nine. Brinn also made 5 out of 6 free throw attempts.

Coach Tom Rivian said, "They [Wheaton Warrenville South] are a very good team. We played hard, but they're the conference champions. We beat them once so they wanted revenge."

to man; change our defenses. We played hard."

The team also lost the Senior Parent Night game on February 5 against the Wheaton North Falcons (52-33). At half time, the Falcons led by 10 points, and by the end of the third quarter, the lead was increased to 14 points. Falcon Ashley Frasier scored 15 points in the game, making her the highest scorer. She made five out of six free throws before she was fouled out in the fourth quarter. For the Wildcats, Olson scored 11 points, six of which were scored in the final frame. Olson also hit a three-pointer in the third quarter. Mildebrath scored 12 points in the game, with an eight-point streak in the second quarter. The loss put the Wildcats at 14-12 overall and 6-7 in the conference.

The team was lifted for a

Boys swimming goes confidently into sectionals

By Alexandra Patin

The (almost) undefeated boys swimming team just finished their last duel meet against Neuqua Valley High School on Saturday, February 12.

In this meet, the final score was 60-120, making it only the second dual meet they lost in the season.

"We didn't even think about winning," said Coach Chris Hall, and said that they were just working on the basics for the meet.

Freshman Hans Colliander on JV scored a run of 11 points for the team, making him one of the high scorers for the meet. He competed in the 200 free and the 500 free.

On the Varsity team, sophomore Kurt Fenner scored six points, for his 200 independent medley and 100 breast stroke.

The team is very confident, said Hall, and he said that gives the team a good attitude going into state. The medley relay is their strongest aspect, and he thinks the team needs to work on racing and getting faster.



photo by Sandy Weiss

At the Senior Parent Night on Friday, February 11, senior Bryan Kelsey received an award from the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) for being an outstanding student athlete, said the VFW. Kelsey received a plaque which is awarded to the one senior football player who best demonstrates the qualities of a Wildcat athlete. Considered are the student's schoolwork, community involvement, leadership, and athleticism.

Boys track gets off on the right foot

By Marc Berry

Boys indoor track got their season off to a good start on February 11, at their first meet in Rolling Meadows.

Varsity finished in second place, while the Freshman-Sophomore team took first place. Tim Keller broke the indoor record for the mile (1600) with a time of 4:24:1.

Their next meet will take place on February 21, against Elgin. Coach Paul McLeland expects the team to do well, especially with the changes this year. He said the team has more people than before, with about 55 members. Also, the coaching arrangement

has changed.

Rather than assigning a coach to either Varsity or Freshman-Sophomore only, the coaches are more spread out, allowing them to work with either team. "It's been working well so far," said McLeland.

McLeland said the teams greatest weakness is field events in general, and he encourages anyone who excels in this area to join the team.

The team still has a long season ahead of them. McLeland said their biggest challenges will be Naperville Central and the defending conference

champs, Wheaton-Warrenville South. He noted the strong football season fitness training programs that these schools carry. He said West Chicago is starting to get stronger in this area and that We-go will provide a strong challenge this season.

McLeland says some of their top sprinters this year include seniors Dave Boyle, Ed Hernandez, Pat Reynold, and Nick Chapman. He also said Rich Belcher is one of the team's top distance runners. "And of course," said McLeland, "Tim Keller will run just about anything."

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21

Boys basketball looking to rebound from rocky start

By Sarah Kochniarczyk
The Wildcats play their first sectional game against

other loss to their record in conference.

The Wildcats played

have gone into overtime with the Panthers, but with 12.9 seconds left on the clock senior Robbie Rohrback was called for traveling. Two free throws by the Panthers gave them a bigger lead.

Then Gilbert hit a lay-up leaving the Cats down by two with 3.9 seconds left in the game.

However, the Cats lost the intensity after a time out was called, and the Panthers hit two more free throws. By then end of the fourth quarter the Panthers had won.

However, the Cats played a great defensive first quarter leading 8-6.

Gilbert led the Wildcats with 12 points, Rohrback with 11, and junior Brian Howard with 8 points. Also junior Brad Olsen had five rebounds.

We-go played Naperville Central Friday, January 28. The Cats lost by nine points, but played one of their toughest games. Naperville had won 11 out of their last 12 games, and the Cats put up a good fight.

Olsen had an awesome game, scoring 13 points.

Also contributing to the score, Rohrback had an outstanding, game scoring 14 points. Also bringing in the points was Gilbert with 11 points.

We-go and Wheaton Warrenville South faced off on Friday night, January 21. This game was an important win for it would be the first conference victory for each team. Yet the Tigers won 48-32 leaving the Cats winless.

Leading the score with 11 points was Gilbert, while Howard and Olsen 10 and eight points.

Though the Cats didn't win this game the next time they meet the Cats will be pumped and on fire for a win.

The Wildcats inch closer and closer each game but in this case the win belonged to the Wheaton North Falcons on Friday January 14. The Falcons won 48-39, but that was not a given. Going into halftime, the Cats had a 19-18 lead.

Olsen played a good game with nine rebounds. Also hitting his free throws, which is needed in a game this close.

The Cats play at Glenbard East Friday, February 18, and on Saturday, February 19, We-go plays Wheaton North.

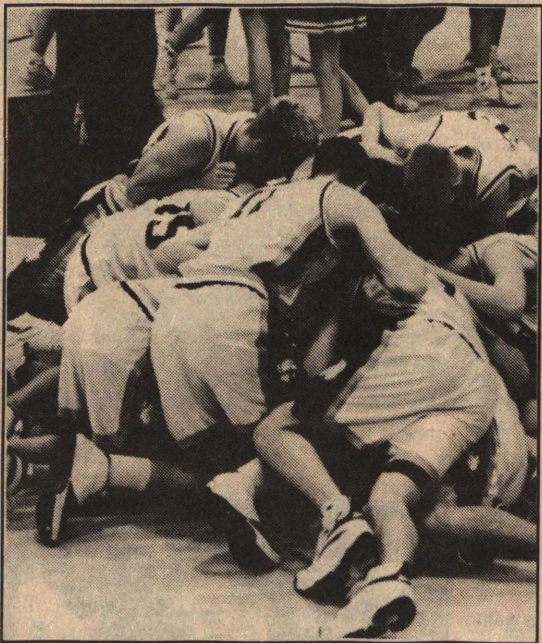


photo by Sandy Weiss

Getting all psyched up before a game is the boys' basketball team.

With seconds left

on the clock junior Steve Gilbert took a three point shot to tie the score. The shot bounced off the rim and junior Phil Legorreta got the rebound, passed it to junior Josh Rogers, who shot a split second after the buzzer went off and made it, with an amazing end to the game.

Senior Justin Hall was in earlier in the game hitting his three point shots, which helped keep the score close. However, it was not close enough as We-go adds an-

Glenbard North Friday, February 4. The game had tension on the court and in between the Panther fans and We-go fans, who held signs, chanted, and cheered on their team throughout every extreme second.

The game started out a close game and ended a close game, but the Panthers took home the win 50-46. This loss leaves the Cats winless still in conference.

The Cats, down by two in the fourth quarter, could

Wrestling season ends at regionals

By Becky Guerrero

Although (112lbs.) freshman Noah Fitzenreider won and (160lbs.) senior Ben Stevens finished third in sectionals no one made it to regionals.

We-go's wrestling team has not done their best this year from previous years.

Since the last issue the wrestlers have been involved in nine meets,

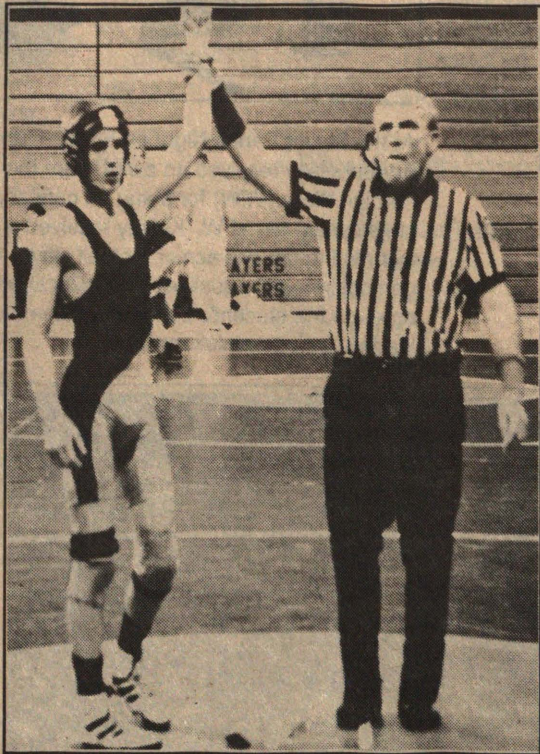


photo by Matt Shane

Noah Fitzenreider took third place at the 25 Annual DVC tournament on January 29 at West Aurora High School

Some of the highlights include; the JV beating Wheaton Warrenville South

27-24. The following day the Cats hosted the JV DVC tournament, on January 22, and took fifth place out of

The same day Varsity beat the Batavia Bulldogs in the quad.

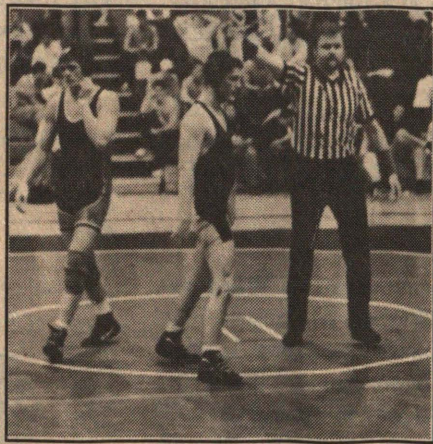


photo by Matt Shane

Ben Stevens took first at the the 25 Annual DVC wrestling championship on January 29 at West Aurora High School.

eight teams. Sophomores Bob Dieter (215lbs.) took first place, and Derek B o o r s m a (171lbs.) took first place.

Saturday, February 5, the Wildcats went to regionals which was hosted by Lake Park. Wheaton North went home winning the tournament, and We-go took sixth.

Sixth place doesn't sound very well, but We-go took seven boys instead of 14 and still placed well.

Girls track starts eighteen week season

By Jamie Nadolny

West Chicago High School's girls track team competed in their first meet on Wednesday, February 9 at 4:30 p.m. The team competed against Bartlett High School, but the events were held in We-go's field house.

The girls track team did exceptionally well considering nineteen of its athletes did not compete because of injuries or academics. Also, the team lost a few athletes because some of its members are involved with girls basketball. The JV and Varsity meets were very close, but Bartlett won the competition because of scoring confusion.

This meet was only the beginning of an eighteen-week season, and many track team athletes set personal bests at the meet.

Freshman Amanda Morrison competed in the 55m Low Hurdles for the JV team. Morrison's time was 10.9 seconds, placing her first in the event. She also participated in the High Jump and the 6-Lap Medley Relay.

Sophomores Erin Kirby, Lauren Openshaw, and Christina Wilbur did a great job at the meet, as well. Kirby placed first in the 3000m Relay with a time of 2:38.0 in her part of the leg. Openshaw placed first in the High Jump and Triple Jump for the JV team with jumps of 4'8" for the High Jump and 27'7½" for the Triple Jump. Also, Wilbur placed first in the Long Jump with a jump of 12'3½" for the We-go JV team, but second against the other team.

Seniors Terri Jensen and Jocelyn Schneller competed in Varsity. Jensen placed first in the Triple Jump with a jump of 30'1½." Her potential might ultimately make her a conference champion. Schneller placed first in the Shot Put competition with a throw of 37'1½." The throw was only two inches short of her personal record.

The final Varsity score was 52-49, Bartlett, and the JV meet ended at 48-36, Bartlett. "The track team did not focus on their final scores, but instead on achieving personal records," Coach Aaron Carper said. "We wanted everyone to compete in events that they enjoyed, not just events that they

were exceptionally good at. It's too early in the season to concentrate on points."

Carper will be in charge of the girls track team, which consists of about 45 girls. This is not Carper's first year participating in Track and Field, however. He was We-go's assistant coach during the past two seasons.

"I started assistant coaching the track teams because I liked the sport. I didn't really expect to be coaching the girls track team, but I think that there are lots of advantages to coaching girls. They are a little less aggressive in competition, which leaves more room for improvement and promotes better technique and long term goals," said Carper.

The girls did not have to tryout for the track team, and everyone participates and competes regardless of skill. Most of the team members will not compete all of the time, though, because We-go is only allowed to enter 2 athletes per event during invitionals.

The girls track team spends a lot of time preparing for their upcoming meets, however. They practice on Monday through Saturday for around 2 ½ hours. The season starts with a lot of running, learning the correct stretching techniques, and enough specific event training to get them through their first meet.

The girls compete in all of the track and field events except for pole vault. The events include everything from the 55-meter dash to the 2-mile run to hurdles. Girls long jump, triple jump, high jump, and throw the discus and shot put too.

Usually, there are around 1-2 girl's track meets per week. The girls are encouraged to participate in more track events then just their strongest event.

Results from the February 17 Track Meet can be seen on Carper's website: <http://biosfear.org/track/2000>. The site contains a girl's track team roster, and it shows the stats for all of the girl's track meets. The website will give directions to away meets, and it has a list of great track and field websites, too.

The next girls track meet will be on February 24 against Streamwood/Rosary. It will be a home meet in the field house, and competitions will start at 4:30 p.m.