

Do you know what's in store for you? Check out your own future on page 3

What's it to you? Do you agree with all the hype over Homecoming? Look on page 5

Football starts a winning streak? Get the facts on page 12

Check out what's in this issue of the Chronicle and flip to the pages you like!

Now that school's started you may be looking for things to do. Check out page 7

See what some We-go students are doing in their spare time on page 2

Wildcat Chronicle

We need your help!

Check out page 2 for details

West Chicago Community High School
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Parking sparse at We-go

By Jamie Nadolny

Juniors and seniors who drove to school on Aug. 23 were surprised to find limited parking spaces around West Chicago High School. Since the first day of school, students have been forced to wake up at the crack of dawn just to find a parking space.

"I have to wake up at 5:30 a.m. just so I can be out of my house by 6 a.m. and park in the new lot," said junior Gus Detrick. "They need to open up more parking lots closer to the school."

The changes, which have restricted student parking in closer lots such as the tennis and pool areas, have forced more students to park at Kerr McGee and the north lot near Lincoln.

The tennis and pool lots, which used to be for students, now serve as parking lots for teachers, visitors, and guests.

"I am very sympathetic to the needs of teachers and visitors," Associate Principal John Highland said. "Teacher parking is our top priority, and visitors need to

have convenient parking locations, as well. Students have the opportunity to take the bus to school, so they are our last priority right now."

Students who cannot find a parking spot at Kerr McGee or the north lot and the new west lot may not park at any other area around the high school. Cars that are parked illegally will be towed without consent.

Students whose cars are towed should go to the office, call the re-location number provided by the office, and pay a fine between \$105-\$210.00. Additional storage will also cost \$25 per day.

New parking lots are not scheduled for development in the near future.

"There isn't any available land for more parking spaces," Highland said. "We have the same problem with most of our practice facilities. There just isn't any room to build."

In the past, WCHS has had a lottery for parking spaces, but the school's budget will not allow permit parking this year. Instead, parking will be on a first come, first served basis.

"There are too many problems associated with trying to establish junior/senior parking. Right now, we don't have enough security guards to activate a permit parking system. There's too much work involved with trying to make sure everyone parks in their assigned space, and we don't have time to deal with those issues right now," Highland said.

Highland also doesn't expect any assigned parking spaces in the future due to their potential for problems.

"We would have to hire an entirely new security staff, and we would have to spend a lot of money on security cameras just to ensure students are parking in their reserved spaces. Permit parking just is not an option at this time," Highland said.

Teachers, who have access to the southern parking lots, pool lot, and tennis lot, also follow a first come, first served format.

Although teachers don't need parts of the pool lot, visitors need the available spots, Highland said.

"Teachers don't need four parking lots if the ones they have now aren't full. Students have to walk two blocks in the rain and snow when all of the parking spots closer to the school aren't being used. It doesn't make sense for me to have to be out of the house 10 minutes earlier than normal to make up for the time that I spend walking to my first hour class," said junior Michelle Cosco.

"Students are going to have to learn to deal with the parking situation, or else take the bus. Right now, there really isn't a parking issue. I'm discouraging kids from driving, because it is an inconvenience for the school, as well. We don't want to have to tow cars or call students down to the office. However, we are willing to do what we have to in order to clear up the problem," said Highland.

Students get ready for Homecoming

By Jamie Nadolny

Students are making final preparations for this year's Homecoming events, which begin Friday. This year's theme will be "We Got Game," with all class activities related to board games.

The freshman class will correspond to the theme as "Clue," sophomores as "Candyland," juniors as "Battleship," and seniors as "Monopoly."

Window painting, which begins Saturday in downtown West Chicago, will also relate to the Homecoming theme. Painting will begin at 8:00 a.m., and the windows must be finished by 11:30 a.m. in order to qualify.

Saturday will also mark the start of float building at various locations. Float building will last through the weekend from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. and during the week from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. The floats will be judged based on relation to theme, creativity, originality, and school spirit.

Morning games will begin Monday at 7:20 a.m. in commons. The sophomore class will host "Candy Cane Bowling" on Monday; followed by the junior class, "Sink the Battleship"; freshman class, "Clue Races"; and senior class, "Monopoly Game."

The Meet-the-Candidate Assembly will also take place at 7:55 a.m. Monday in Bishop Gym. Students will get to see each candidate for king and queen. Nominations for candidates took place during the week of Sept. 11.

Wednesday will be "Theme Dress-up Day," and Friday will be "School Spirit/Class Pride Day." Hall decorating will also take place at 6:30 a.m. Friday. The freshmen have the old C-3 hall; sophomores, math office hallway; juniors, Bishop Gym ramp hall; and seniors, senior hall.

Students will also get out of school at 12:45 p.m. Friday, where they will immediately attend the Pep Assembly at Memorial Field. The Pep Assembly will include the king and queen coronation, food fest, tug-o-war competition, and powder-puff game.

All of the activities during the week of Sept. 23 will lead up to the Homecoming parade, game, and dance, which will take place on Saturday, Sept. 30.

The Homecoming dance will begin at 7 p.m. and last until 10 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 30. Tickets are \$7 during lunch and \$8 at the door.

"He was very understanding and fair. He wasn't the kind of guy who would go through all the trouble to write detention if it wasn't necessary."

"He would always work things out if he could to avoid problems," said his son, Bill Johns.

He described his father as "very student and community oriented."

He made many contributions to his community, and volunteered for many services.

After he retired from teaching Johns remained active in the community. His son said, "He was harder to find after he retired than while he was still teaching."

Johns held jobs and continued to make contributions to the school even when he retired.

Johns always went to class reunions, and stayed in contact with many of his former students.

ACT's score high at Wego

By Alexandra Patin

ACT scores are up from previous years.

Students from We-go scored the highest in mathematics, with an average of 23.6. Reading is close behind with an average of 23.5.

Science Reasoning was third in line having an average of 22.9, while English capped at 23.5.

Totaling the four scores made the We-go Composite score average 23.2, which is higher than both the national and the state averages.

The national average is 21.0, while the state average is 21.5.

We-go's composite average is also higher than in the past five years, after it wavered from 22.5 in 1995-96.

However, the composite score is not the only one higher than the previous five years. All of the subject areas, with the exception of science reasoning, have been raised.

A new dedication for an old friend

By Sean Reynolds

WCHS will dedicate a portion of the school by Entrance C to long time teacher and Dean of Students Vernon "Babe" Johns Sept. 30.

The mural, originally planned to be up before the class of 2000 graduated, was delayed until this school year.

Johns taught at WCHS for 40 years and retired in 1971. He grew up on a farm in Virgil, IL, and attended Northern Illinois University, where he majored

in Industrial Arts.

He became a teacher, first teaching middle school manual arts and shop before he moved on to the high school, where he again taught manual arts and shop.

Also, he taught mechanical drawing and drivers education before he became the Dean of Students.

In addition to teaching, Johns was involved in sports. He coached fresh-

man and sophomore football and basketball, in which his team won the championship one year.

He also played baseball on the West Chicago Indians, a semi-professional baseball team.

Johns helped found the West Chicago Athletic Association, which continues to sponsor We-go baseball and basketball teams.

Johns devoted a lot of his time to teaching.

Administration has some changes in the office

By Marc Berry

The 2000-01 sees several new administrators added to the staff of Community High School.

Kathleen Benton replaced Linda Kime as the new assistant principal in charge of staff services. She will help develop a public relations program, act as grant coordinator, work on the aesthetics of the school, serve as a mentor, and work with staff development.

"I'm really excited about this job," said Benton. "Especially about helping with P.R."

Although this is Benton's first job in this position, she has an extensive background in working with schools. She taught English and reading at Waubonsie Community College and Joliet Junior College.

She has experience working at various high schools and junior high schools. One thing she misses is the close interaction with the students at this job.

Benton is currently in-

involved with her family and five children. She is also building a house in Downers Grove.

"The one thing I would say I don't like as much about my new job is that there is less student interaction," Benton said.

"In my first four weeks working here I have been really impressed with everybody," she said. "I had the warmest welcome of anywhere I have ever worked."

"The staff is really friendly and the dedication is amaz-

ing. I really believe that West Chicago has the best high school in the state."

In guidance, Nancy Douglas is the new department chair. Douglas worked at We-go as a guidance counselor in the mid-nineties until she left for Glenbard East High School.

"Everything's different since I left, but I'm getting to know everybody, and I like the kids and the programs that are available here," Douglas said. "It's been busy, but I love the job!"

The Mind's Eye sharpens pencils:

New features added to literary magazine

By Sarah Assian

The Literary magazine, sponsored by English teacher Andrea Cipcich, is an annual magazine of students' works.

This includes all types of art work, poems, and short stories by We-Go students.

Members have the opportunity of learning publishing elements, and making layouts for the magazine.

Throughout the year the club prepares for their February deadline by having numerous fundraisers.

These include one at the upcoming pep rally, gathering works, and making the layout, said Cipcich.

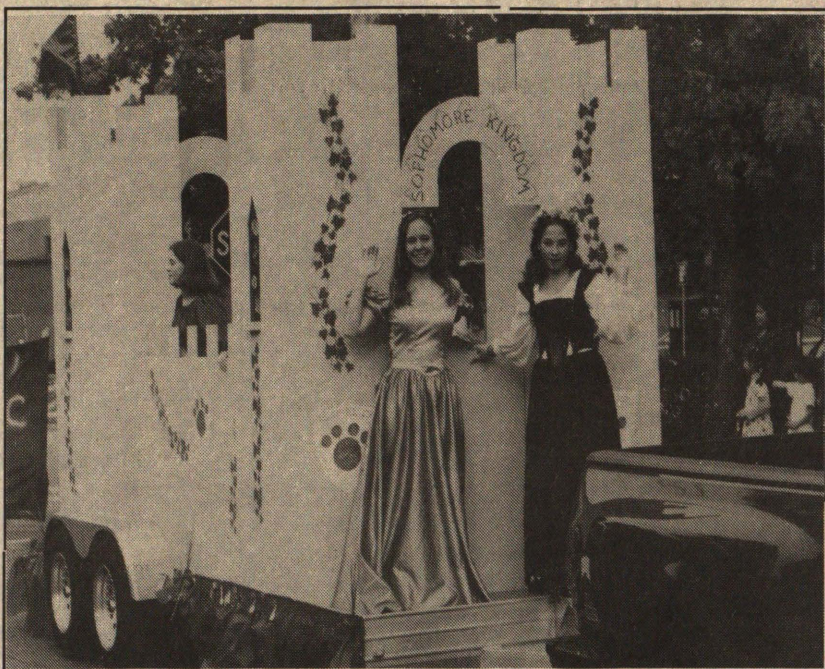
They also participate in the NCTE Literary Magazine Competition in which they won an honorable mention last year and are hoping for a superb this year, said Cipcich.

Another, unmandatory, extra of this club is the Dead Poets Society where poetry, art, etc. are discussed in a relaxed tone, Cipcich said.

If you are interested in the Literary Magazine, meetings are every other Wednesday at 7:15 a.m. in room 180.

Cipcich said everybody is welcome as long as they are responsible and bring some type of creativity to the club.

The Dead Poets Society meetings start October 4.



Last year's sophomore Homecoming float previews the fun to come.

Pep club sets up for Homecoming

The Pep Club is preparing for Homecoming at the end of September, said sponser Candace Pelletier.

Pelletier also said that the main purpose of Pep Club is to increase school spirit and to make students aware of activities and accomplishments of students.

They are also responsible for planning pep assemblies, Homecoming activities, senior nights, and locker decorations. The Pep Club meets once a week in room 215 until the end of Homecoming. After Homecoming, the club will meet at the start of each season to assign locker buddies and discuss pep assemblies or fundraisers.

Other club meetings will be held when necessary throughout the year.

There are no requirements for joining and the club is in need of more guys, said Pelletier.

The co-presidents are Amanda Campagnoni and Brianne Rehmus. The vice president is Jenny Sailor and the Homecoming chairperson is Tammy Ketelaar.

International club trying to start up

By Joe Kelly

Sponser Sandra Bellis said they will be voting for officers on September 18.

The club meets every Monday.

Belis said the purpose of the group is to promote awareness of other cultures, as well as learn about them.

The club has open membership.

Past activities include going around to ethnic neighborhoods and having a potluck dinner, said Belis.

There are currently no events planned except the potluck dinner, because of lack of officers.

Dance Production starts up

By Mike Mroz

The Dance Production has many upcoming events this year.

The group will be attending the Arts Dance Workshop at Northern Illinois University in October, and will also be preparing two dances for the Fox Valley Dance Festival, which will be held on November 5, at Waubonsie Valley High School, said instructor Helen Zmrhal.

Also, the class will be performing their annual January dance show, said Zmrhal.

Thespians get ready for activities

By Nick Reardon

The Thespians will hold their first performance telling ghost stories to children on October 27-28.

They also hope to be involved with Homecoming again this year.

In January they will be attending the Illinois High School Theater, said spon-

sor Mary Hatertepe.

The Thespians have elected new officers for this year: President Katie Kammes, Vice President Copper Tuma, Anders Walker.

If you would like to be involved in Thespians, contact Hafertepe in room 217.

German club prepares for the year ahead

By Steve Taylor

German Club officially began its school year with the annual elections of officers.

Senior Brianne Rehmus was appointed to president, senior Matt Doll is the vice-president, senior Ashley Link

is the secretary, and senior Alexandra Patin is the official photographer.

No treasurer was chosen at this point in time. German teacher Terry Strohm is returning as advisor for another year.

Details about our Wildcat:

Because of summer construction, we have lost our dear Wildcat.

We need a new one and we need your help- yes you! If you like to draw or doodle, submit your drawing of the wildcat to the Wildcat Chronicle mailbox in the administration office and your drawing could be selected to replace our old cat.

Please get your submissions in by Friday, October 13, so the Chronicle staff can judge which cat we will use.

Freshmen come to We-go for their first week and live to tell

By Mary Beth Selby

The first week of high school can be a scary experience. "Can you survive four years in this strange place?" is exactly what's on the minds of this year's freshmen right now.

Most freshmen think the first week was a little chaotic, but still fun. It was a new and curious experience.

"The first day was kind of hard because the school 'seemed' so intimidating in the beginning. But as I got somewhat used to it, the only other problem was that it was so tiring," said Peggy Werle. Others also agree that the school day is too long.

Many kids initially had mixed feelings about this new experience. Freshmen felt scared or nervous because they didn't know what to expect, but excited about starting high school. "I was all of the above.

Nervous and scared because of the school being so big and not knowing many people, but excited to be going into high school," said Seana Swaback. A few students had no extra feelings about high school because they heard so much from older friends and siblings.

Some students say that for the first few days it was difficult getting around because the size of the building was larger than what they were used to. Others say they got around just fine right from the beginning, and it just got easier.

Almost everyone reports that the teachers are nice and helpful and the classes are fun. Feelings regarding the homework varied depending on the person. There's a mixture of people saying different things like: it's too hard; it's too easy; there's too much; there's hardly any;

there's just enough.

Overall, freshmen like the many choices in extra curricular activities, because you don't have to stick with just sports. "The activities are a lot of fun. Doing some is a great way to get to know people and make new friends who share your interests," said freshman soccer player Ryan Masschelin.

The students said that most of their fellow freshmen are nice. Seems like the freshmen are comfortable with meeting new people in their first experience of high school.

As for the upper classmen, they just aren't living up to their horrible and crude reputation. "They're actually pleasant. I thought they were going to pick on us all the time, but they don't," said Monica Maris.

"They don't push me into lockers or anything! They're

really nice," said Christine Harris. Could it all just be an act? Looks like the freshmen are going to have to wait until "Freshmen Hell Week" to find out what the older kids really are like!

To some people, high school is a lot different than what they imagined. "The classes are more fun than I thought they would be. I was expecting us to be taking notes and tests all the time," said Lindsay Nash. Other people agreed; they found high school easier than they expected.

In general, freshmen now have a better understanding of what high school is all about.

"It's a place to learn, mature and grow all at the same time," said Andy Kiger.

"It's about having fun while getting a better education," said Brian Means. In a survey of 40

freshmen, 80% of the surveyers said they now had a better understanding of high school.

In general, most of the freshmen said they feel GREAT about actually being in high school. "With everything being so exciting, it brings hope for new experiences into everyday," said Pat Matyseiwski.

Because most of the freshmen are coasting along, doing things as they come to them, not really knowing what to expect, here are some tips from the upper classmen on some things to attend to freshman year.

One thing you'll find out real fast in high school is that homework counts! "Make sure you take the time to ask questions if you don't understand. Homework is a big part of high school, so be sure it gets done," said

sophomore LuAnne Kozlowski.

Another important thing about high school is meeting people. You can't be too shy, otherwise you won't make that many new friends. You'll meet, at the very least, two new people in each class who might be your new friends. Just don't let your social life take you away from school and other responsibilities. Try to get involved in many different things, but not too many that it will keep you from getting your homework done.

Most importantly, "Don't be afraid to fail; give everything your best shot," said junior Mike Masschelin. Also, try not to be intimidated by the upper classmen.

Keep these few tips in mind, freshmen, and your first year should be GREAT!

Teacher of the Month: Carol Walksler

By Laura McQueen

This year will be the schools last one with Botany, Biology and Horticulture teacher Carol Walksler. Walksler has been teaching at We-go for 31 of her 34 total years as a teacher. West Chicago students and staff should all congratulate Carol Walksler on a career well done.

Q. What's your favorite part of your job?

A. "I really like teenagers. I try to get to know them as people, not just students," said Walksler, "Every one of them has something special to offer the class, I try to find that and bring it out. Sometimes I find it right away, and sometimes I won't see it until the last week of school."

Q. What do students learn in your class that's not written in the books?

A. "Everybody has something to share, don't ever judge by first appearances." She also wants students to learn, "To be patient, to get to know each other."

Q. What special memories will you be taking with you from We-go?

A. "All of my good memories involve the students," she said, but to her it's more important to know that she's made memories for her students.

Q. What makes your job worth while?

A. "Making a difference in just one student's life would make a career worth while. I have many former students that have made some field of medicine, botany, or horticulture their career. They have become nurses, doctors, landscape architects, biology teachers, plant propagators, floral designers, groundskeepers, foresters, veterinarians, even one is currently maintaining the remnants of the Illinois Prairie. I know they are helping spread the word that 'life' is precious. Some beautify the environment, some help with its conservation, all are helping mankind."

Q. What will you miss the most about teaching at We-go?

"Without a doubt, the day-to-day contact with the students will leave a huge void in my life. They keep me

young at heart. I will also miss close friends on the faculty, especially Mrs. Musgrave."

A few words to describe Mrs. Walksler:

"Understanding, always smiling, and too much coffee!" senior Mike Mroz.

"Intelligent, energetic, creative," senior Janita Patel.

"Patient, peppy, inspirational," senior John McPheters.

"Extremely creative, dedicated to excellence, and supportive," teacher Patti Kozlowski.

"Really helpful, pretty, she wears Tommy Hilfiger a lot. She's cool," sophomore Jenny Bieniasz.

"I look forward to her class every day," Junior Liz Brouwer.

Craziest or funniest thing you've seen her do:

"She has everything you can imagine, sharks, octopi, who knows, in her cabinet," senior McPheters.

"She gave me the frog with the mouse in its stomach!" senior Janita Patel.

"She'd just walk out in the middle of the class to get water," senior Lindsay Sewell.

No stress Homecoming plans

By Mary-Megan Kalvig

The Homecoming Dance is a great way to get together with your friends and hang out. Between the dancing and the music you are too worked up to go home and go to bed. However, due to curfew, some people might be limited as to activities to let out their energy. If you are not able to go out after homecoming, there are just as many things to do before the dance as after

Restaurants

Since the homecoming dance does not get out until close to 10 p.m., going out to a big dinner might not be a good idea. Going out for dessert is. Desserts are filling; they please your sweet tooth, and usually do not cost that much. There are also multiple restaurants that have a good dessert menu.

Colonial Café: Colonial Café is mostly known for its ice cream, especially the kitchen sink. People are surprised to be served a real kitchen sink filled to the top with ice cream. People who finish it receive a bumper sticker. Go there to see how many people it actually takes to eat a kitchen sink filled with ice cream. If you are not up for all of that ice cream, they have a unique selection of sundaes. **8 W. Gartner Road - 420-7722. Open until 12:00**

Oberweis: Oberweis is a well-known ice cream parlor. The ice cream is rich and delicious. If you are just going for some dessert, this is one of your best bets. **338 W. Army Trail Road - 924-3020; 651 Roosevelt Road - 858-0234. Both are open until 10:00**

Denny's: Although it might not sound as fancy as Colonial Café or Oberweis, the waiters usually leave you alone and do not mind if you

goof off a little. Colonial Café is a little stricter about loudness. Denny's also has a good ice cream and pie selection. Plus, if you do want munchies they have appetizers and meals at reasonable prices. **363 S Schmale Road - 653-8996. Open 24 hours**

Activities

After Homecoming, you are going to have a lot of energy so head to where the action is.

Bowling: Bowling is not a just a sport for leagues, it is a fun and easy game for teens. You can be creative with bowling. Try different throw styles, between the legs, backwards, left handed, and so on. The game also gets fun when there is cosmic bowl, where neon lights and loud music play as you bowl. Bowling is also cheap, at three to five dollars per game. **Brunswick Zone Carol Stream 170 W. North Ave - 682-0150 Open until 2:00 a.m. \$4.59 per cosmic bowl game. Brunswick Zone Glendale Heights 558 North Ave. - 858-1300 Open until midnight \$4.39 per person per game. \$2.99 for shoes; Wheaton Bowl 2031 Gary Ave - 668-4102 Open until midnight \$2.00 per game. \$1.75 for shoes.**

Miniature golfing: Miniature golfing is nothing like the golf you see on TV. You still have to get the ball in the hole, but you have to go through moving objects, curved rocks and over bridges. It is a fun for people of all ages. **Four Seasons Indoor Golf 1350 W. Lake Street - 980-8882 Open until 10:00. \$4.75 per person.** **Movie:** Movies are the ultimate teen attraction. You are

in a dark room watching a movie where nobody is paying attention to you. Be careful though, there is always that one person who is in a bad mood and wants it absolutely silent. There are also a lot of theaters that are open late.

Have a party: Just because you are leaving a dance, does not mean the party is over. Go over to someone's house, pop a pizza in the oven, a tape in the VCR, and have fun. This way you can during the movie and no one will yell at you. You can also pull out games or music and just goof off.

No matter what you decide to do, stay safe and don't do anything to endanger yourself or anyone else. Remember that just because the dance is over, it doesn't mean your fun has to stop. Get creative and have fun.



New teachers at We-go pose for the camera. Photo by Sandy Weiss

New teachers on the block are hangin' tough

Each year a new list of teachers is added to the staff of West Chicago High School to teach classes anywhere from special education to foreign language. No matter what the subject they're teaching, one thing is for sure: all of them have come prepared for a great school year in their new surroundings. Hopefully their students have just as high hopes for the class they have together as the new teachers do!

This year the new teachers are:	Janelle Stefancic
Math	Foreign Language
Michele Perzee- dept. chair	Jeanne Poe
Michael Assaf, III	Rachel Schoonmaker
Eric Lasky	Art/Ind. Art
Amanda Slobodecki	Joanne Rieger
English	Business Education
Katerina Boves	Maria Wirth
Michelle Lapeyre	Special Ed
Jill Marchiando	Sandra Chavez- director
Patricia Santella	Kelly Ann Keeney- dept. chair
Social Studies	
Jill Geocaris	
Candace Pelletier	

Top 10 symptoms of summer withdrawal

10. You spend hours in the bathtub playing luau music in the background, reminiscing about the summer.
9. You'll be the only one on the beach during the first snowstorm.
8. You refuse to wear anything but shorts and tank tops, despite the below zero temperatures.
7. You still can't wake up until the middle of your fourth hour class.
6. You use scented sunscreen as a perfume or cologne.
4. You can't get used to your blonde hair without its greenish chlorine tint.
4. The thermostat in your house is 105 degrees.
3. Every morning, you put on your bathing suit under your clothes—just in case there's a heat wave.
2. You cry when you hear the Grease song, "Summer Nights."
1. You've resorted to using brown magic marker to cover your fading tan.

Do you want your name in the paper?

Write a letter to the editor and give it to one of the Wildcat Chronicle's staff members or place it in Ms. Kuehn's Mailbox in the main office.

Horoscopes: what's in the stars for you?

By Laura McQueen

Libra

Sept. 23-Oct. 23

You had your share of fun this summer, but now may be the time to start focusing on school. Buckle down and stop procrastinating, and your work will become a lot easier for you.

You may just be getting over a relationship. Give yourself time to heal before jumping back into the dating pool. If you're now involved with someone special, keep it cool. There's no need to rush into a serious relationship so soon.

Your lucky color is periwinkle and your love match is Aries.

Scorpio

Oct. 24-Nov. 24

The beginning of the school year may be a painful time for you, because of being separated from a close friend or relative. Take advantage of all the activities the school offers to keep you active. You may meet some new people who will help you get over your blues.

Try to find a new outlet for your emotions, like artwork or music. It will help clear your thoughts and help you to have a better outlook on your life.

Your lucky color is burgundy, and your love match is Virgo.

Sagittarius

Nov. 25-Dec. 21

Keep your eyes open for new opportu-

nities, and don't be afraid to take some risks. The outcome is sure to please you.

Don't get so swamped in your activities that you're just going through the motions. You should be thoroughly taking advantage of each situation that you partake. If you're not, you may need to decide if your busy schedule is worth all the stress. You might find that it's best to cut back on some activities.

Your lucky color is teal, and your love match is Cancer.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Your bad attitude is pushing away people who want to get to know you better. Open up and show people that you really are a caring person, despite your grumpy mood lately. New friendships will grow if you give them a chance.

You're a good person, but you need to be a little more trusting. Other people understand you more than you think they do.

Your lucky color is puce, and your love match is Sagittarius.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb 18

It will be a lot easier to find something that pleases you if you are a little less picky. Not everything is as perfect as you want it to be. As much as you loath to lower your standards, accepting a few faults in your environment

could bring you a little less stress with the search.

You'll be asked to take on some important new responsibilities. Don't be afraid to ask for help in your decisions and actions.

Your lucky color is tangerine, and your love match is Aquarius.

Pisces

Feb. 19-March 20

Lately you're friends haven't been very accepting of people who are different. Remember that everyone is an individual. Putting people down isn't the way to go, and neither is standing by silently for him or her.

This school year is has great things in store for you, so stay positive, and be ready to accept your success.

Your lucky color is lavender and your love match is Gemini.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

You've been let down by someone who you really care about. Don't hide your pain, let this person know that they hurt you, and you deserve better. The person does care about you, and will improve his or her behavior if only you bring it to his or her attention. Your relationship will grow stronger through this setback.

You are a strong person, so don't be afraid to express your opinion. People

while your friends pick on other people. It may be hard to do, but stand up to your friends when they're bullying someone.

You'll find that you have more of an influence on them than you think.

Your lucky color is aqua and your love match is Taurus.

Aries

March 21-April 19

Congratulations! You've been keeping on top of things very well so far this school year. Just don't get so into your good work that you neglect your friends. If you look around you'll see that someone close really needs you right now. You may need to put aside more time to be there

will respect you even more for it.

Your lucky color is beige, and your love match is Leo.

Cancer

June 22-July 22

Feeling a little insecure lately? There's no reason to be, so stand up tall and be proud of yourself for the spectacular person you are. Every one has their downfalls, so don't dwell on yours—or other peoples' for that matter. Focus on your positive qualities and you will have much more confidence.

Treat yourself to something that you haven't had a lot of lately, and don't you dare feel guilty about it afterward. You deserve a special some-

thing just for being you!

Your lucky color is lime green, and your love match is Pisces.

Leo

July 23-August 21

Its been hard for you to fit in this year so far, but don't worry, you're about to meet a person who will light up your life. You should return the favor and do your best to open up and share your best qualities with everyone you meet.

This year may seem like a major bummer now, but you have some good things to look forward to in the near future.

Your lucky color is gold, and your love match is Capricorn.

We-go: 'Central' place for information

By Jamie Nadolny

Do you want to find out what's happening at West Chicago High School? Are you curious about upcoming student council activities, sports events, and academics? Do you want to meet and communicate with other students at We-go? www.WegoCentral.com, WCHS's newest website, comprises student-related activities and ideas with technological developments.

Sophomore Jeremy Rose and senior Cathy Wilken originally created the website, which has been accessible for around three months now. However, the site is still under slight construction. "I usually work on the website for at least a half hour every night, maybe even more on weekends," said Rose. "I have to frequently update and add information to the site, and it takes a while to put finishing touches on everything." The site contains student

opinions and information about upcoming student council related activities. We-go Central also has a chat room and message board where students from West Chicago can interact with peers. Anyone with a computer can access WegoCentral.com, and those who are interested in helping design the website

can send an email to the either Rose or Wilken. "I think the website is helping school spirit in a small way by letting people know what's going at West Chicago. It's a great way for students to get involved with school related activities, and it's an accurate source of information," said Wilken.

Correspondence with Germany through one of We-go's own

Every year, students from We-go apply to the Congress-Bundestag Scholarship.

Recipients of the scholarships are given one full year in Germany to live and study, with all expenses paid except spending money.

Thousands of students in high schools across the country apply, however, very few receive the award.

Students who do win scholarships are sent to a city in Germany and live with a host family, while they receive school credit.

This year We-go sent three students to Germany, including senior Ross Jaymbe.

Throughout the year, the Wildcat Chronicle will print emails from Jaymbe about life in Germany.

Look out for his correspondence in next issue.

Highs and lows of Homecoming

By Mary-Megan Kalvig

Homecoming is a time when students show their school spirit not long after school has started. They decorate floats for the parade, windows on Main Street, and the football team's lockers.

Even though Homecoming Week is full of fun and excitement, it should not be taken too seriously. Students should just go with the flow and avoid getting overly estatic.

One Homecoming factor that people get too worked up about is the most publicized game of the season, the Homecoming game.

Everyone goes to the Homecoming game and expects the football team to win this game out of all the others.

Why is this game more important than all of the others? Is it because it's called the Homecoming game?

When comparing this home game with all of the other home games, there is little difference. Depending on the team, you either win or lose. The concept is the same: throw the ball, catch the ball, run, and make a touchdown.

What does the team do differently in this game compared to the other games?

So much more effort in school spirit and expectation is put into this one game. Then, if there is a downfall in this game, there is more disappointment. Why is this game so much more emotional than the other games?

The only solution to this over exaggeration of a football game is to go and enjoy it. You can't put all of your hopes and energy into this one game. You can't start swearing at the team with every little fumble.

Give the team a break and let them have fun at the Homecoming game. If you do not become overly expectant, you will not be disappointed.

The Homecoming dance might also let students down. Students constantly wonder about who they will go to the dance with.

What makes this dance so much more exciting than the other dances at the school? Dances involve music, dancing, food, and people. Is this dance more exciting because it is titled the Homecoming dance?

Expecting to have a great time is not a bad thing when it comes to the dance. You really can not be let down on the fun level.

Sure, you may not get asked to the dance, and it might be too loud, but you can still have fun. Do not worry about getting asked out by someone, because if all else fails, you can always ask someone else instead.

All you have to do is go to the dance and have fun. Do not put too much expectation into a dance, it really is not worth all the worrying; if it happens it happens, if not, oh well.

Homecoming week is a week when people put all their hopes into something that is not a sure thing. If the football team loses or people do not get asked to the dance, their hopes are shattered. What people have to learn to do is go with the flow. Whatever happens was bound to happen, so do not fuss over every little detail.

Enjoy the game and have fun. That is all you have to do to enjoy Homecoming week.

Racist remarks rule the halls of We-go

By Jamie Nadolny

There is one word that dominates the hallways of West Chicago High School. Racism.

Its meaning is more than just a three-syllable word. We use it carelessly in conversations, and we simply ignore its impact on those around us. However, its affect on adolescence and adults is more profound than we think it is.

Everyone in high school has been labeled before. We've all been called a jock or a geek or maybe a skater. Everyone has been named a prep or a nerd or a freak. When those one word slurs become more about culture and racial background, however, students take offense.

Being named by physical appearance is insulting and labels are abusive, but racist remarks are irrational and uncalled for.

Joking around about someone's clothes or shoes isn't as degrading as judging someone by their race or culture. A person can always change their clothes. They can't, however, change their ethnic background or the color of their skin.

During the second week of school, students were let out of their classes to participate in a routine fire drill. As my classmates and I made our way back into the building, I watched the other students around me.

In front of me was a group of racially diverse students. They all came from different ethnic backgrounds, and they all entered the school calmly, joking and laughing about their weekend plans.

It didn't bother me to see the students talking to each other, and I applauded them for breaking old traditions about culture and demolishing myths about multi-racial relationships. However, as the students walked in the building, I noticed that a faculty member disapproved.

The teacher showed no respect for the group of students in front of me. "What's happening to this school?" the teacher said. "Where are all of these damn students coming from? They need to go back to their own country," the teacher continued.

Out loud, this faculty member went on with numerous racial remarks, which are too repulsive to repeat. The teacher humiliated the students entirely, and made it clear to the surrounding students that certain cultures and ethnic backgrounds are less equal than others are.

It shocked me to think that the teacher would have a racist attitude toward the students. There's a difference between an ethnocentric perspective and a prejudiced mind, and the faculty member walked a fine line between the two.

I am absolutely positive that I did not misunderstand the teacher. Still, even if the faculty member was joking, there's no excuse for putting another human being down. Surprisingly, most people don't realize that.

I constantly notice racism in the hallways of West Chicago High School. Racial slurs and hard glances surround students as they get books out of their lockers and walk to their classes. Students generally have a biased attitude towards each other, and hearing racism from adult role models doesn't seem to solve the problem.

There are larger racism issues surrounding the school, as well. The bilingual classrooms at We-go are shoved to one corner of the school. How are students with different cultural backgrounds supposed to learn America's customs and traditions if they are deprived of learning in an American environment?

The bilingual students hardly have a chance to interact with English speaking teenagers, and they hardly have a chance to get to know the school and its purpose.

It's funny that I thought one of the purposes of We-go was to make everyone feel comfortable in a safe, fair, learning environment. I'm not quite sure how separating ourselves from other races is different from segregation,

and I'm not quite sure how segregation makes students feel comfortable.

If America really is supposed to be one big "melting pot," then why do we continue to promote racism and prejudice at school? Why do teachers continue to degrade students who have diverse ethnic backgrounds, and why

do students continue to comment on background or give each other prejudiced glances in the hallway?

The color of your skin will not change who you are. It does not change the way you act or behave. It doesn't make you change your morals or values.

It might, however, make you feel inferior and ashamed. It can lower your self-esteem and make you feel less important.

Being called a jock or a nerd or a freak is wrong, but it's not necessarily undeviating. All of those characteristics are things that you might be able to grow out of in the future.

There isn't, however, a way to grow out of culture or ethnic background. Ethnicity is permanent, and so are the effects that racist remarks make on teenagers and adults.

The next time you start to say something racist, think again. Prejudice leaves an impact on others around us. What do we really want to be teaching them?

Sarcasam: Yeah right, that's a good topic

By Marc Berry

The other day a friend told me of a recent experience which I believe represents the attitudes of a large amount of people today. He was in a store walking towards the elevator in order to get to the next floor. Some customers had just stepped into the elevator, and the doors were beginning to close.

My friend was in no big hurry, and he figured that he would just catch the next one. All of a sudden, a woman rushed passed him trying to get between the doors before the elevator closed or she would be forced to wait another 30 seconds for a second elevator to arrive.

The woman yelled for the people in the elevator to hold the doors, but apparently they were not paying attention or simply did not care. She reached the elevators just as the doors slid closed and she quickly pushed the button.

The doors reopened before the elevator began its ascent, and the woman and my friend got on. As she stepped inside, the woman muttered, "Thanks a lot for holding the doors." Right here lies a perfect example of the role sarcasm plays in everyday lives.

But it gets worse.

After the woman made her comment, one of the men in the elevator angrily replied, "Sarcasm really helps." At first my friend thought that the man was being ironic on purpose, mocking her by being sarcastic himself. However, when he turned to look at the man, he saw that he was very serious.

Sarcasm is used so often and so carelessly that people often don't even realize that they are using it.

Don't get me wrong, sarcasm can be hilarious if used taste-

fully, but dry, rude sarcasm is just plain irritating.

Often it is just a cheap way to put someone down, in which it shows that person's intolerance, not to mention a lack of cleverness and originality (Not that I condone putting people down, but if you *are* going to do it, at least do it with style).

Further, when sarcasm is used repeatedly by an individual, it becomes very old and tiresome. Instead of just saying what they want to say, people, for some reason, feel it is more appropriate to say the exact opposite.

Eventually, a person begins to appear completely sarcastic in nature — angry and disturbed about everything around him or her. This is why sarcasm can become a dangerous tool. After repeated use, it becomes second nature, and the user is looked upon as snooty and bitter.

It is used at every available opportunity. People, soon aren't even aware of what is coming out of their mouths, as many fall into the trap of sarcasm. The listeners are aware, however, and they usually don't find it amusing.

I am not saying never to be sarcastic again. Just be careful of when you voice your sarcasm and the frequency of which you do so. Like egg nog, it *can* be a delight but becomes dangerous after multiple uses. I believe that if we could all just think about how we word our thoughts, matters would appear much lighter.

Hopefully we can all cut back on our use of sarcasm, and eventually the world will be an even better, happier place to live.

Yeah. That'll happen.

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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 Laura Kuehn in room 320.

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.

Fenix TX re-releases punk pleasure in new CD

By Jamie Nadolny

For alternative music lovers wanting to abandon the sounds of monotonous acts that look and sound the same, there comes a group that evades ordinary excitement and false hope.

The fresh and lively group is dubbed Fenix TX, and they're out to dominate the music industry.

The group consists of four insanely provocative musicians who devote themselves to mixing quirky lyrics with punk inspired backgrounds.

Now, vocalist/guitarist Willie Salazar, guitarist Damon Delapaz, bassist Adam Lewis, and drummer Donnie Reyes are touring across the United States in hopes of promoting the re-release of their self-titled CD, *Fenix TX*.

The band originated during the summer of 1995 in Houston, Texas. Previously named Riverfenix, they immediately began writing music with hopes of escaping a life of endless day jobs and intolerable boredom.

A few years after starting the band, Salazar, Delapaz, Lewis, and Reyes traveled to San Diego, where they were introduced to indie label Drive Thru Records. After

Fenix TX played at a few small venues in California, Blink 182's Mark Hoppus noticed them and later became their manager.

"Speechless," Fenix TX's first single off of their debut 1997 album, received significant airplay, making the group known by alternative/punk music fans around the country. Due to the success of the single, the band caught the attention of MCA Records.

After signing the group, MCA Records re-released Fenix TX's original 1997 CD and added two new sarcastically written songs, "Flight 601 (All I've Got is Time)," and "Surf Song."

The self-titled CD, *Fenix TX*, blends erratic lyrics and profoundly designed punk music arrangements. The group sounds like a musical equivalent of the Texas Chainsaw Massacre, but their themes don't originate from other groups. Most of Fenix TX's songs reflect personal experiences.

The group's newest addition to *Fenix TX*, "Flight 601 (All I've got is Time)" relates the struggles between learning to change and identifying yourself. Salazar sings, "This life it teaches me of

many things/like disbelief/ And trusting in dishonesty/ And love/it keeps me dragging on and on/But something's wrong/I just can't seem to figure out the scheme.../And if I make it to the otherside/I'll be satisfied/ I'm never coming back for anything."

Individuality and relationship themes also surface in songs like "Speechless," "Philosophy," and "No Lie." The songs deal with finding and verbalizing yourself, and they also teach about love and break-ups in relationships.

In the song "Speechless," Salazar belts, "I'll dream another dream today/I'll dream my life away/I'll close my eyes/so I don't have to see you leave/tell another lie/ anything to keep you here.../ I'll close my eyes/tell another lie/think of yesterday/think of everything you said/ There's nothing left to say."

The band opened for Blink 182 at a concert on June 18 at the New World Music Theater in Tinley Park. Opening with the song "Ben," Fenix TX ran around the stage as Salazar yelled, "He gave you confidence as you yearned for your own praise/ then took your soul away/

Take a different road/Take a chance to know/There's so much more than winning/ Take a different way/wait another day/now it seems that it's too late and..."

Later in the show, the familiar sounds of Fenix TX's latest hit, "All My Fault," wound up everyone in the audience. Salazar sang, "Here we go again/unsuccesful to make amends/and it's all right, it's all right/Try as hard as I can/but I can't seem to understand/that it's all right, it's all right/Tell me something that's sure to break my heart/everything's my fault/and I know I deserve to be alone/because everything's my fault..."

The high-energy performance caught the attention of almost everyone at the venue. After the concert, the band also signed autographs and answered questions from their fans. Overall, the concert was undoubtedly amazing.

The group's real punk lyrics are absorbing and exciting, and the record comprises energetic guitars and gripping hooks. The 13 songs on Fenix TX's re-released album make the band exceptionally, but positively, different.

Frenzy side project tackles darker issues

By Marc Berry

Sometimes bands completely change their style, causing them to gain new fans but to lose long-time followers in the process. Reese Roper, Dennis Culp and Keith Hoerig decided to do something different. While remaining in their eight member, five-year-old band, *Five Iron Frenzy*, they decided to form a side project to cover "gloomier issues."

This project is *Brave Saint Saturn*.

Their debut album, *So Far From Home*, is a big change from *Frenzy*'s upbeat, horn-blasting music. In fact, the horns are gone. All that remains are Roper doing vocals and guitar, Culp also on guitar, and Hoerig on bass, along with various friends who lend their individual talents to the project.

What remains are the smart lyrics, although as a whole they are a lot more serious than Roper's usual style.

Roper started the band to tackle issues which he thought would be considered dark, but the album is not just a collection of sorrowful whining. He also sings of working your way through tragedy and loss. According to the official website of the band's publisher, Five Minute Walk, Roper states, "I think the overall lyrics are about...hope."

"Space Robot 5" sends out a message of dealing with earthly struggles and how they can cause one to feel

alone, and "Independence Day" speaks of Roper's recent split-up with his fiancé.

A clever twist that the band gave the CD was a theme. References dealing with space are scattered throughout the album. For instance, before the song "Two-Twenty-Nine," which deals with the unexpected loss of loved ones, a sound-clip of the doomed *Challenger* shuttle is played.

The disc is not all down-cast, however. "The Shadow of Def" is a funny parody of songs that contain meaningless lyrics. It is a nice break from the slower, serious music and is also very catchy.

"Gloria" closes out the album, a cry to God to take away the pains mentioned throughout the album. It is a quiet song and rounds things up nicely.

Overall, the album is a great find. With all the sad, "woe is me" bands out there, *Saturn* manages to be fresh and original, offering a message of hope to go along with life's problems. Roper's unique vocal and lyrical styles make it stand apart. The music is slow but evenly paced, and far from dull. Every song on the CD deserves attention, which is rare in today's music market.

The remarkable effort that went into this project is clear from the first track. Thirteen dollars is a small price to pay for such an outstanding listening experience.

A second dose of Eve 6 spells success

By Jamie Nadolny

For students yearning to hear Eve 6's alternative-inspired music, you're in luck. Their new release, *Horrorscope*, is exactly what you might expect. Eve 6's new CD contains another dose of intensity and irony, and it also deals with issues of acceptance and the struggle between heart and mind.

To sum it up, *Horrorscope* is exactly like Eve 6's first CD.

The band is made up of three songwriters and musicians, all of whom got their break after their first self-titled CD produced three top hits. Now, bassist/lead singer Max Collins, guitarist Jon Siebels, and drummer Tony Fagenson are trying their luck one more time.

The group originated in La Crescenta, California before they had even graduated high school. Initially meeting as freshmen in a high school gym class, Collins and Siebels were signed under their former name, Eleventeen, by RCA Records.

Eleventeen was later changed to Eve 6 after the trio graduated high school and recorded their first CD. Their initial single, "Inside Out," became a top 10 mod-

ern rock hit. The song, which was named "Top Hit '98" by local alternative radio station Q101, is about wanting people to understand you.

All of their songs, including "Inside Out," support the theme of Eve 6's debut album: Understanding distance between outside appearances and internal reality.

"The songs come from our own experiences, from relationships, heartbreak, and the idea of wanting to break out and be understood," said Collins in an interview with *Rolling Stone Magazine*.

The gradual construction of "Jesus Nightlight," the punk arrogance of "Superhero Girl," and the aspiration of "Small Town Trap" on Eve 6's first CD are other examples of craving diversity. Other top tracks from their album included "Leech," and "Tongue Tied."

Eve 6's new release is currently only two months old, but it has already sold thousands of copies in the US. However, *Horrorscope* is a similar reproduction of Eve 6's first CD. The sophomore album also includes a loud punk sound with sarcastic lyrics.

Many songs on Eve 6's album, *Horrorscope*, include loud instrumental backgrounds that collide with

mocking lyrics. In their first hit, "Promise," Collins cynically shouts, "I run away with you/if things don't go as planned/planning big could be a gamble/I've already rolled the dice/I spit and stutter/stuff and clutter/worries

cism on Eve 6's first CD, and ideas of self-discovery and the battle of acceptance and happiness also tend to surface on *Horrorscope*'s tracks. In "Nightmare," Collins sings, "It's a lonely time for yours truly/I know I

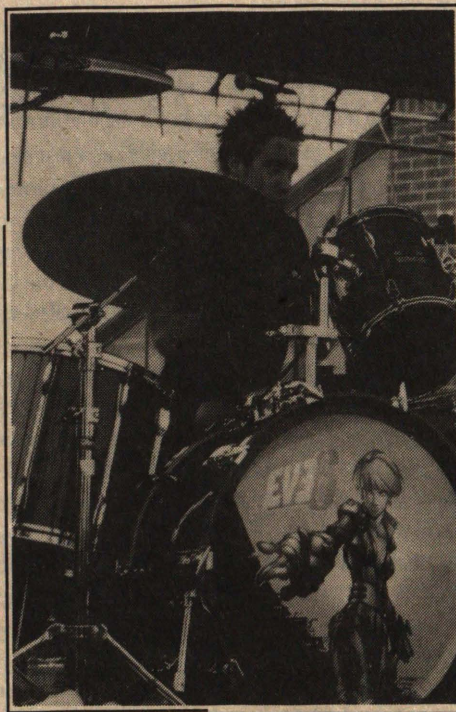


Photo by: Jamie Nadolny
Eve 6 drummer Tony Fagenson plays at Tower Records in Bloomingdale.

in my worried corner/Maladjusted/just untrusted/rusted/sometimes brilliant/busted/thoughts."

Collins' play on words is similar to his attempt at criti-

don't need to stay awake/In my nightmare/I feel so alive/ In my dreamscape escapes/I make the grade/I save the day."

Self doubt is also intro-

duced in Eve 6's "Nocturnal," where Collins also yells, "What the hell are you talking about/is that what you would say/if I were to wonder out loud/would it make you turn away/Just a curious question/if it was you and me and nobody else/would you want me to be..."

More mature subject matter is the only difference between Eve 6's last CD and this year's *Horrorscope*. The group's song "Enemy" is about getting tested for HIV and the lessons and responsibilities that go along with sex. Collins belts, "Parallel park and pay the meter/if I die before I leave/tell her I'll never leave her/I am fine/just a little broken up/OK my nerves have never been so shot."

Although Eve 6's sophomore album can be clearly related to their first, the trio's infectious talent still makes *Horrorscope* a success. The group is currently on a US tour, and they stopped at Tower Records in Bloomingdale to promote the album release in August.

Eve 6 performed for a half hour, where at least 500 fans crowded around the tiny

stage in the Tower parking lot.

The group performed five songs, three from *Horrorscope*, including the break-up song "Amphetamines." Collins bounced around stage as he yelled the lyrics, Siebels concentrated on the guitar as he shyly smiled at the audience, and Fagenson jokingly made faces at various fans.

The group's flawless performance ended with a CD signing inside of the store, where each of the group members answered questions from all of the fans. Although they are famous rock stars, Collins, Siebels, and Fagenson were clever and down to earth. They truly appreciated their Chicago fan base, while fans appreciated their amiability.

Despite the familiar sounds of Eve 6's first album, *Horrorscope* is an ingenious CD that continues to combine infectious lyrics with a punk-alternative background. *Horrorscope* is a seductive album that will undoubtedly make Eve 6's name famous for a second time.

Ophelia Speaks reveals the truth about teens

By Jamie Nadolny

There is a novel that gives the blatant facts about what it is like to grow up. A harsh, but honest, collection of teenage perspectives, this book tells the truth about high school experiences and adolescence. *Ophelia Speaks* makes an outrageous debut in provocative nonfiction, and it also relates to everyday life.

College graduate Sara Shandler, who creates a self-help masterpiece that will

haunt you with its veracious attitude, compiled the book in 1999. Shandler formats the novel in a series of original pieces selected from more than 800 contributions.

Ophelia Speaks brings together opinions and writings by girls nationwide. The novel collects convictions from all over the world, from various races, religions, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

With stories and personal accounts from girls (or Ophelias) ranging in ages 12 to 18, *Ophelia Speaks* gives the real view on personal and

public issues that most teenagers are afraid of admitting and most adults are afraid of talking about.

The novel is organized into five parts: "The Body Under Assault," "Family Matters," "The Worst and Best of Friends," "Touched by Desire," and "Overcoming Obstacles and Coming into Our Own."

Based on accounts of body image, boys, politics, parents, school, and sex, Shandler

helps teenagers realize that their experiences are not uncommon. Readers realize that they are not alone in their conflicts and challenges.

"How did every girl I grew up with learn to measure their merit by the size of their skirt?" one girl writes in the pages of *Ophelia Speaks*.

"Why does Gap make a size zero? How can their mothers look into the pale, sunken eye sockets and see daughters instead of dying victims...? The ultimate question: What designed Barbie? I am furious with the world today."

In the novel, girls write about their beliefs, their problems, their happiness, and their fury. All of their emotions are interlocked, however, when Shandler gives her own opinion in *Ophelia Speaks*. The topics of each chapter are introduced by Shandler's views, which offer the comfort and advice similar to that of a trusted and dependable friend.

Although derived from the adolescent girl, *Ophelia*

Speaks is a must for anyone experiencing the whirlwind of emotions known as puberty. Males who want to learn more about the opposite sex, or even learn to understand themselves, should read Shandler's brilliantly designed compilation of advice.

Shandler has created an ingenious masterpiece that all teenagers can relate to. Her truthful rendition of high school and home will help you better understand life. In the pages of her novel, girls, Ophelias, speak.

Homecoming Word Search

By Mary Beth Selby

ADBPEPASSEMBLYGKLOJJIYM
 FHWSTORAGEQWFBVCGELHERX
 CTLINMOHSCHOOLSPIRITLKH
 AFFELSFGUZOUQTJVKTIEEJ
 YEGDYDJRUTYRFHPPARADEHUD
 DEUETDUCWBEGNUFYDLKEIPHE
 SETELHTADANCEMVNKIOUHO
 YJFYUSLTMXCZOTRTNEJKDH
 TSTSRLWSHMMORNINGGAMESS
 FLWRAEGJSFHSLOITHMDGSYE
 DGUHTGYBFBFAKPRENWTJFM
 UNBBIQDGLLOYFOKDROMANCE
 EIVOCKCWRDOYELOHGPDIJNH
 RMDAARLKDJDATYSFODXEGGT
 YOWRGDUHEFRFJTJXJQFHTHF
 DCGDZIEFDTELEBATTLESHIP
 GEHGHDSCTOSWVRUYFRHLDHG
 FMGARNHKUGTHGMDISGNVDR
 GOGMEATHNWGQUEENLGSQDOG
 CHEERLEADINGGFYDHDCCBDF
 FESFYFXDSBJGMPEPRINTGK
 NVPGBBHIDLUFAYVZEQXNBFY
 GHGDRNLAFVAMASCOTSCGKTJ
 ODXBHAVQNSZGTGDYTSHFQQF
 AHEYOCGRDRDGVGZGNXPTRAHDT

Word bank

Wildcats
 Football
 King
 Queen
 Food Fest
 Pep assembly
 Float Building
 Dance
 Dress
 Athletes
 Themes
 Cheerleading
 Band
 Mascot
 Morning Games
 Board games
 Battleship
 Clue
 Monopoly
 Candyland
 Homecoming
 DJ
 Romance
 School Spirit
 Poms
 Parade
 Tickets

Boys verses girls: Who will come out on top of this war?

By Alexandra Patin

Stirring controversy is what Christina Hoff Sommers has resorted to in her latest book *The War Against Boys: How Misguided Feminism is Harming our Young Men*.

She starts off with a good idea: boys are falling behind in almost all aspects of life, especially school, and need special attention. But as the book progresses so does her irrationality concerning boys and girls relating to society and adults in the world.

Perhaps one of the most telling chapters is the first, where she introduces herself as an advocate of boys and as

a leader against girls.

"How do boys fit into the 'tragedy' of America's 'short-changed' girls? Inevitably, boys are resented, being seen both as the unfairly privileged gender and as obstacles on the path to gender justice for girls. There is an understandable dialectic: the more girls are portrayed as diminished, the more boys are regarded as needing to be taken down a notch and reduced in importance."

Perhaps Sommers should give some evidence of that claim, which comes in during the first chapter, "Where the Boys Are"; certainly it is lofty enough to cause the

reader to do a double take.

Surely she cannot mean that because attention (however unjust) is given to girls in society, everyone is starting to hate boys.

However, that is one basic premise of her argument against what she calls "misguided feminism."

Misguided feminism, she writes, is what is responsible for the nation's decline of the status and of the attention given to boys, not just in adult society, but in schools.

Sommers presents many facts and statistics pertaining to schools around the United States, and the differences between girls and boys in cer-

tain areas of education.

For example, more girls sat for AP exams between the years of 1984-1996, and more girls participated in extracurricular activities in school than boys, with the exception of sports. Girls also receive better grades.

Sommers struggles to use these facts as proof of her earlier claim that boys are resented and are undeservingly given the shaft many times.

Later on in the novel, she paints the picture of the poor and innocent schoolboy, being punished for what many people would think minor offenses.

She brings up the cases of several male students, ages six to 17-years-old. The most serious punishment was expulsion for the 17-year-old, after repeated sexual innuendo directed towards and concerning female students.

Of course, as she points out, the severity of the punishment is debatable, however that is where her logic ends.

She decides to take the punishment as a case of sex discrimination instead of what it really is- a problem with behavior.

She states that the "schools rightly fear lawsuits," and therefore teenage boys are

held to a zero tolerance policy.

Sommers goes on to say that the boys are just doing what's natural, and that this zero tolerance policy is suppressing instinct. Maybe so, but does that mean that boys should be able to make anyone repeatedly feel uncomfortable just because they feel like it?

Perhaps Sommers has some good ideas, but they are badly backed and her expectations of the reader to automatically agree with her off hand comments thrown in here and there are unreasonable. At a little over \$20, this book is a good read.

Harry Potter is more than a child's fantasy story

By Mary-Megan Kalvig

Harry Potter Mania swept through the world with the release of the fourth book last summer and the new mention of a movie. The craze could not have happened though, without the first book, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, by J.K. Rowling.

Harry Potter's aunt, uncle and spoiled cousin never treated him like a decent human. They lock him in the closet and neglect his needs. His world soon is turned around when he finds out he is not a normal human. In fact, he is a wizard.

Harry is soon enrolled into Hogwarts, a school of sorcery, spells, potions, and

magic. The wizards' sports are something he never heard of. Quidditch, the only sport the school plays, is a mix of basketball, dodge ball, and capture the flag on broomsticks.

Harry's world is turned upside down yet again, when a villain from his past appears. Voldemort already killed his parents and is now trying to take the Sorcerer's stone, which gives eternal life. Harry and his friends combine their skills to fight all that is evil in the world of magic.

This book is labeled as children's book. However, at 309 pages, the book seems more suitable for adults. It is,

in fact enjoyable for people of all ages to read. It is an easy vocabulary because it's for children. You will not have trouble with the vocabulary except when you find odd names like Mimsy-Porpington or Gryffindors.

What makes the story so enjoyable is the reader is not forced to look for deeper meanings even though they are there. The book does not go too deep into the situations. It does not explain the reason why every situation occurred. This is also not an assignment for school where you have to remember every little detail. This is a pleasure book. It is not over-tailed or over exaggerated.

When you are done with the book, you will realize the impact the people Harry meet on his life. Harry's friends show him how important friendship is and that friends stick together even when lives are at stake. Harry's bravery shows how you have to put your fears to the side for the lives of others. The book is also about how not everyone is what he or she seems. Your worst enemy could be trying to protect you.

This book may seem far-fetched since it is about wizards and magic, but readers can apply the lessons to their own lives. You obviously will not be putting the Body-Bind

spell on the boy next to you, or making potions for forgetfulness. You will be looking at how much your friends really mean to you.

The book may not go deep into each situation, but it is descriptive. It explains all of the characters, so you know who you are reading about. You know Ron is Harry's best friend, Hermione is the teacher's pet, and Malfoy is the troublemaker. The story also paints a picture in your head of the situations. You can see Harry flying over head on his broomstick or the three-headed dog Fluffy.

One of the best parts about the book is that once you think you have solved the

problem, the whole situation is turned upside down. There was a real surprising ending, but if you really think about it, all of the facts are there.

High schoolers may not consider reading a children's book, but this is one book you should not miss.

Harry Potter is one book that lets your imagination flow and allows you to leave your troubles behind. Read it for the pure fun of it. You will have it read in a few days because it is so easy to understand. Who knows, you might even learn a lesson about friendship.

Students at WCCHS rate summer's top movies

During the summer, movies were a major form of entertainment. As a reminder of the summer movie fun, the staff made up a summary of the summer hits and asked students to rate them. The score are from one to four. One is the worst movie, while four is the best.

The Patriot

The Patriot tells the story of the Revolutionary War in a personal light. Mel Gibson plays Benjamin Martin a widower with seven children. When the war approaches, he is forced to decide what is most important to him, freedom or family. When his oldest son, Gabriel (Heath Ledger) joins the war and his children are thrown into the fighting, he gets personal. His son and he join together with a band of townspeople to outsmart the enemy (Jason Isaacs). The movie is similar to *Braveheart* during the Revolutionary War. It is bloody and three hours but the time goes by with all of the action.

Student Rating:

"Four," freshman Zachary Flagg

"Probably a three," junior Margot Reges

What Lies Beneath

This movie is a scary ghost/mystery tale, which may have started out a little slow, but really pulled out all the stops at the end. The movie stars Michelle Pfeifer and Harrison Ford, who play a happily married couple who just sent their only daughter to college. Their perfect marriage is revealed to be more than meets the eye with the appearance of a ghost in the house.

Student rating:

"Three and a half," junior Coleen Mitchell.

"Three," senior Mike Mroz.

"Definitely four," sophomore Heather Koslow.

X-Men

The characters from the *X-Men* comic books come to the big scene. The story focuses on the goal of Professor Charles Xavier (Patrick Stewart) who is trying to prove that mutants are not evil. However, Magneto (Ian McKellen) wants to eliminate the human race because of their feelings. When he kidnaps Rouge (Anna Paquin) in hope of using her powers, the two sides collide in a battle of intense special effects. The movie is neatly done and non-stop entertainment.

Student Rating:

"Two point eight" junior Carly Anderson

"Three," sophomore Lisa Svoboda

Highlander: Endgame leaves new viewers asking questions

By Mary-Megan Kalvig
Highlander: Endgame is one sequel that will confuse you unless you've seen the original. It was however, quick and to the point, seeing it was only 88 minutes long, but save your money for when it comes to TV or video.

In the final *Highlander* movie, immortal Connor MacLeod, played by Christopher Lambert, of the original movie series joins forces with the television star Duncan MacLeod, played by Adrian Paul. Together they duel the evil Jacob Kell, played by Bruce Payne, the most powerful immortal and a face from Connor's past.

Connor, Duncan, and Kell are not ordinary men. They are immortals who have been alive for over 400 years. They became immortal by the stabbing of a sword through the chest. The only way to kill an immortal is to behead them with a sword. They can drop from a twenty-story building, land on a spike, and still live.

The story line is confusing for someone who has never heard of the *Highlander* movies. The director did incorporate the use of flashbacks to explain the characters and how they work. The flashbacks did leave a lot of questions, like why are they here and what do they want?

This movie is incredibly short. It is only 88 minutes long, the length of a television movie, which did not leave a lot of time to explain what was going on. Since it was so short, it would have been better for a television show and everyone would have saved \$10. The shortness only helped to make the movie quick and to the point. The only point it really showed though, was that the Kell had to die.

The special effects were some of the better parts of the movie. The special effects added to the fact that when one immortal kills another, he absorbs his power. The lighting bolts and explosions

added a sense of power.

The fighting was probably the best part of the movie. *Highlander* is known for its sword swinging fights, seeing a sword is the only weapon that will kill and immortal. This movie also introduced the use of guns and knives, which were pretty useless. They also introduced some more high-powered karate with one character. It was so intense that you feared blinking because you would miss an important part.

One major turn off of the movie was certain characters. Three new characters were introduced, and then killed halfway through the movie.

They never really had a name, except one called Jin, and were only in the movie three times. The point where they were killed was also pointless. They seemed to be willing to die, even though they did not say so. They just sat there, smiled, and were beheaded. Only Jin tried to but up a fight. His fight also seemed pathetic. In the earlier scenes he was so fast; he could have easily defended himself. There were also characters from previous episodes who were not explained.

There was about five minutes of the movie that could have been completely taken

out. It was five minutes of sex and nudity. It was over done and slightly pointless. It did help show feelings between two characters, but it was a little too exposed.

The movie was not bad for someone who knew the *Highlander* story line. It was however, incredibly confusing for someone who has never heard of *Highlander*. There were characters that were under developed or unexplained. The movie did have great special effects and fight scenes, but left a lot of questions at the end. In other words, *Highlander: Endgame* is one sequel you can miss.

Plaid singers are angelic

By Alexandra Patin
So it's not like going to see the new action packed flick at the movie theatres, but Forever Plaid is definitely worth a trip to the city.

This delightful storyline starts out before the musical begins: four hopeful teenagers start their own quartet, *Forever Plaid*. On their way to pick up some new plaid dinner jackets, however, their car is plowed into by a bus full of Catholic teenagers on their way to the first live televised showing of the Beatles on the Ed Sullivan Show.

Even though the busload escaped unharmed, the four boys were all killed instantly. And here the musical starts. Through not-completely-identified powers, they are able to return to earth to play the concert they were never able to play while here.

First there is the peppy and asthmatic Frankie, played by Erik J. Boyd, and Sparky, the retainer wearing ham, played

by Paul Pement. Next there are Jinx and Smudge. Jinx, played by Elic Ryan Bramlett, who constantly suffers nosebleeds when things get tense, and has to have time to clot up, steals some of his own moments when he sheds his shy exterior and lets his incredible tenor voice shine through.

Smudge, played by Ross Wheeler, is another shy one. This guy, however, has one amazing bass voice and a talent for drawing the audience in with his reminiscent speeches and tendency to mix things up (such as wearing a sash over the wrong shoulder, or holding up the wrong hand in a finishing pose).

Much of the play's humor stems from the way the group performs. About one third slapstick in the beginning and about two-thirds irony and dry humor make up the musical.

For example, one extremely funny scene mixes all

three ingredients, as the boys try to recreate the Ed Sullivan Show with all its regular characters and acts. Though this scene may be slightly more slapstick than most, it still guarantees a sidesplitting laugh.

Amidst all the laughter, though, there always emerges the incredible singing talent of the actors. Tuned to perfection, these four are in perfect harmony. With such a wide range, it's hard to believe that each singer can pull off each octave after octave, yet they do, and do with understatedness and flourish at the same time.

This musical is most definitely a must see for anyone, whether with friends or by themselves. Your face will hurt from smiling too much, your sides will ache from laughing too much, and your ears will never want to leave the theatre and the melodious voices. Catch it at the Royal George Theater

Forever in a Day rocks at We-go

By Laura McQueen
Did you know that We-go students have their very own local band, right under our noses? Well, wake up and check out Forever in a Day. This band has its very own style and sound that totally rocks.

Forever in a Day writes its own songs, so are all original. This band's game plan is to be individual.

"We aren't trying to fit into any genre. We play what we like to hear, and hopefully others will like it too," said drummer, senior Mike Mroz. Mroz has been playing the drums for seven years, and he's been with Forever in a Day since its beginning in January 2000.

The other two members of the trio are senior Joe Mandrino, who jams at vocals and guitar, and senior Mitch Strohm who's also at vocals and bass.

"Forever in a Day is awesome! They take time after each concert to talk to every-

one who came to see them. Their lyrics are well thought out and meaningful, and the melodies are sweet!" said fan senior Cathy Wilken.

Most of the songs are written by Mandrino, and Strohm works with the vocal arrangements. Mroz updates the website and arranges most of the shows.

"I've been to almost every show. There's no other band around like them that I've heard," said fan and senior We-go student, Erich Fries, "They have a lot of talent."

The future is looking very bright for Forever in a Day, and they're looking at a possible record deal with Water Dog records very soon. "I can see them getting a record deal and becoming popular in the Chicagoland area and even later on, famous," said hard-core fan, junior Laura Wilken.

"We'll see what happens," said Mroz.

"Check their shows out," advised Cathy, "you might

just find an awesome band to follow."

"They're a great band," said fan, senior James Jaffe.

Want to check them out? Here's a schedule of upcoming shows for Forever in a Day:

Oct 14. 7:00 p.m. at the Annex in Algonquin, with Sleeping at Last and Soul Harvest. Admission is \$5.

Oct 20. 7:30 p.m. at Fish-bowl Coffee House in Roselle, with Every Person's Dream. Admission is \$1.

Nov 4. Battle of the Bands at the Annex in Algonquin, with a variety of other bands. Admission is \$7.

Dec 8. Rock for Life benefit concert at Trinity Evangelical Church in West Chicago with a variety of other bands.

You can find more information on the band on their website at www.geocities.com/foreverinaday77 or their page on the school website, www.wegocentral.com.

Sports

We-go Sports

Boys Cross Country

Sat. 9/23	F-S/V	@ Belvidere Invite	10:00 a.m.
Tue. 9/26	F-S/V	Wheaton North, West Aurora	4:30 p.m.
Sat. 9/30	V	@ Lisle - Main Event Invite	9:30 a.m.
Tue. 10/3	F-S/V	@ Glenbard North w/ Wheaton Warrenville South	4:30 p.m.
Sat. 10/7	F-S/V	Benet Academy Invite @ Lisle Community Park	8:00 a.m.
Fri. 10/13	F-S/V	DVC Invite @ Naperville North	4:30 p.m.

Girls Cross Country

Sat. 9/23	JV/V	@ Glenbard West - DuPage County Meet	8:45 a.m.
Tue. 9/26	JV/V	@ Wheaton North w/ West Aurora	4:30 p.m.
Sat. 9/30	JV/V	@ Wheaton North Classic @ Northside Park	9:00 a.m.
Tue. 10/3	JV/V	Glenbard North, Wheaton Warrenville South	4:30 p.m.
Sat. 10/7	F-S/V	Benet Academy Invite @ Lisle Community Park	8:00 a.m.
Fri. 10/13	JV/V	DVC Invite @ Naperville North	4:30 p.m.

Football

Fri. 9/22	S/V	Naperville North	5:15/ 7:30 p.m.
Sat. 9/30	S/V	Wheaton Warrenville South - Homecoming	11 a.m./ 1:30 p.m.
Fri. 10/6	S/V	@ West Aurora	5:15/ 7:30 p.m.
Fri. 10/13	S/V	Wheaton North	5:15/ 7:30 p.m.
Fri. 10/20	S/V	@ Glenbard North	5:15/ 7:30 p.m.

Boys Golf

Fri. 9/22	F-S/V	St. Francis @ St. Andrews Golf Course	3:30 p.m.
Sat. 9/23	F-S	Wheaton Warr South Invite @ Old Wayne GC	3:30 p.m.
Tue. 9/26	F-S/V	West Aurora @ TBA	3:30 p.m.
Thu. 9/28	F-S/V	DVC @ TBA	8:00 a.m.

Girls Golf

Tue. 9/26	V	Naperville Central @ St. Andrews Golf Course	3:30 p.m.
Wed. 9/27	V	Batavia @ Valley green Golf Course	4:00 p.m.
Thu. 9/28	V	DVC @ St. Andrews GC; WC host	8:00 a.m.

Boys Soccer

Fri. 9/22	F	Lake Park @ Pioneer Park	4:30 p.m.
Sat. 9/23	F, S/V	@ Glenbard South	Noon
Tue. 9/26	S/V	Wheaton North	6:30 p.m.
Wed. 9/27	F/JV	@ Glenbard East	4:30 p.m.
Thu. 9/28	F	East Aurora @ Pioneer Park	4:30 p.m.
Thu. 9/28	S/V	@ IMSA	4:30 p.m.
Fri. 9/29	JV	Marmion	4:30 p.m.
Sat. 9/30	F	Prairie Ridge @ Pioneer Park	11:00a.m.
Sat. 9/30	S/V	@ Prairie Ridge	1:00 p.m.
Mon. 10/2	F	@ Plainfield	4:45 p.m.
Tue. 10/3	S/V	Wheaton Warr. South	6:30 p.m.
Wed. 10/4	F/JV	@ Wheaton North	4:30 p.m.
Tue. 10/10	S/V	@ West Aurora	6:30 p.m.
Wed. 10/11	F/JV	@ Wheaton Warr. South	4:30 p.m.
Sat. 10/14	F, S/V	@ Elgin	10:00a.m.
Tue. 10/17	S/V	Glenbard North	6:30 p.m.
Wed. 10/18	F/ JV	West Aurora; F @ Pioneer Park	4:30 p.m.

Girls Swimming

Tue. 10/24	JV/V	Rosary	5:00 p.m.
Fri. 10/27	JV/V	DVC Invite @ Naperville North - Diving	5:00 p.m.
Sat. 10/28	JV/V	DVC Invite @ Naperville North - Swim	1:00 p.m.

Girls Tennis

Sat. 9/23	JV	@ Streamwood - Sabre Invite	9:00 a.m.
Tue. 9/26	JV	West Aurora	4:00 p.m.
Tue. 9/26	V	@ West Aurora	4:00 p.m.
Thu. 9/28	JV	Glenbard North	4:00 p.m.
Thu. 9/28	V	@ Glenbard North	4:00 p.m.
Sat. 9/30	V	Montini @ Oak Brook Park District	8:00 a.m.
Tue. 10/3	JV	@ Glenbard East	4:00 p.m.
Tue. 10/3	V	Glenbard East	4:00 p.m.
Fri. 10/6	JV	DVC JV Tourn - WN host @ TBA	TBA
Fri. 10/6	V	DVC Varsity Tourn @ NN/NC (WeGo host)	TBA
Sat. 10/7	JV	DVC JV Tourn - WN host @ TBA	TBA
Sat 10/7	V	DVC Varsity Tourn @ NN/NC (WeGo host)	TBA

Girls Volley Ball

Tue. 9/26	F, JV/V	West Aurora	6:00 p.m.
Thu. 9/28	F, JV/V	Glenbard North	6:00 p.m.
Tue. 10/3	F, JV/V	Wheaton Warr South	6:00 p.m.
Thu. 10/5	F, JV/V	@ Wheaton North	6:00 p.m.
Fri. 10/6	V	Benet Academy @ BA & Benedictine U	4:30 p.m.
Sat. 10/7	V	Benet Academy Invite	9:00 a.m.
Tue. 10/10	F, JV/V	Naperville	6:00 p.m.
Thu. 10/12	F, JV/V	@ Glenbard East	6:00 p.m.
Fri. 10/13	V	@ Glenbard East - Autumn Fest Classic	6:00 p.m.
Sat. 10/14	FA, FB	WeGo Frosh Tourn @ Great Lakes Cntr	8:00 a.m.
Sat. 10/14	JV	@ Lake Park East - Invite	8:30 a.m.
Sat. 10/14	V	@ Glenbard East - Autumn Fest Classic	8:00 a.m.
Tue. 10/17	F, JV/V	Naperville Central	6:00 p.m.
Thu. 10/19	F, JV/V	@ West Aurora	6:00 p.m.
Sat. 10/21	S	@ St Charles East - Invite	8:30 a.m.
Sat. 10/21	V	@ Lyons Township South - Invite Finals	10:00 a.m.

Boys cross-country looking for win

By Marc Berry

Boys Cross Country is looking for a win Sept. 26 when they compete against Wheaton North and West Aurora.

On Sept. 23, they competed at the Belvidere Invitational. Results were not available at press time.

The team headed to Glenbard East on Sept. 19, but were unable to defeat them.

The Notre Dame Invitational was held at Detweiller Park on Sept. 16. Despite their efforts, varsity could not score any points.

Earlier, they went to Naperville Central where they competed against Central and Naperville North on Sept. 12. The team was unable to pull out a win.

On Sept. 9, they attended an invitational in Wauconda at the Lakewood Forest Preserve where they placed in the lower half.

Sept. 2 saw the team at the Crystal Lake South Invitational at Veteran Acres Park, placing ninth out of the fifteen competing teams.

The first meet of the season took place at Kaneland, where We-go's efforts paid off, coming in second out of four teams.

According to Coach Paul McLeland, the team has been practicing every day after school. "They did a lot of running over the summer, as well," he said. "They have really been working hard."

Of the 19 total members, only seven were on the team last year. "I'm looking at this as a rebuilding season," said McLeland. "I can already see the guys from last year improving," said McLeland. "The new members will continue to improve, as well."

Returning junior Ed Abante is acting as varsity captain this year, and Pat Bauer is the sophomore captain.

McLeland notes that the four seniors on the team have been doing a great job as well. They include Matt Wdowiarz, Chris Buckles, Evan Mosley, and Tom Boward.

Girls cross-country off to a rocky start

By Mary-Megan Kalvig

Girls cross-country is off to a good start but face a rocky road due to the small inexperienced team.

At Larry Eddington Invitational Sept. 16, the JV team ran most of the meet and came in fourth out of 16 teams. Junior Jenni Boyd ran the best time for the 2.4 miles at 16:15.

"It was so hard to decide who the runners of the meet were. So many of them ran excellent races," said Coach Katerina Boves.

On Sept. 12 they beat Naperville Central 28-29, after a re-tally. Naperville North won the same day 18 to 45.

At the Wauconda Invitational Sept. 9, they placed ninth out of 31 teams. Sophomore Katy Kostal came in fourteenth place out of 175 runners in the 2.5 miles run.

The Sept. 2 Crystal Lake South Invitational ended with West Chicago in seventh place out of 15 teams. Kostal lead the team again by coming in third out of 113 runners with 14:06 minutes for 2.25 mile race.

The team started the season strong Aug. 29. Kostal came in first out of 78 runners. Junior Erin Kirby came in fifth place. The final score for the meet was Wheaton Academy 33, Oregon 63, West Chicago 73, West Aurora 85 and Kaneland 125.

"The weakness of the team is that it consists of only 12 girls and seven of them are on varsity. Besides the lack of runners, the team lacks experience because there are no seniors," said Boves.

Despite the runner weakness, the team is made up of hard workers.

"They are hard workers dedicated to working and becoming better help for the others," said Boves.

Athlete Profiles: The start of the sports season brings talented players

By Jamie Nadolny

Tennis- Junior Nelly Guerrero

What type of responsibilities do you have in tennis this year, and how have you handled your responsibilities?

I'm on the varsity team this year, and in order to stay on this level, I have to be at practice every day and I have to work really hard.

What has been your greatest motivator in tennis? How did you decide to join tennis, and for how long have you been playing?

I decided to join tennis because of my friend, junior Vanessa Guillen. I had nothing to do last summer, and she asked me to join with her. I said "why not?" because I wanted to try something new. So I did, and I loved it! This is my second year playing, and now I'm trying to improve as much as I can, because I really enjoy the sport.

What is your favorite/worst memory of the tennis season?

*Favorite: Every day I'm with my teammates. They're so hilarious, and we're always playing pranks on each other
Worst: Spraining my ankle last year during practice*

What is one thing about the tennis team that you wish you could change?

I wish that our tennis team would get as much recognition as all of the other sports teams in school. It really is a fun sport, and we work just as hard.

What advice would you give to underclassmen tennis players who are just beginning the sport?

I would tell them to try and have a positive attitude and to play their hardest. The beginning is always difficult, but if you continue, you'll get better and won't regret anything.

What is the most important thing that you have learned from playing tennis?

Tennis has actually made me a better person. I've learned to work as a team with others who have different backgrounds. I've learned that if I try really hard, I can achieve great things. I've also learned to be more responsible.

What are 3 goals/ambitions that you have for this season?

1. Become, at least, co-captain of my team
2. Improve my back-hand shots
3. Try to win the DVC Varsity tournament in October

Girls Volleyball- Senior Lindsay Michael

What has been your greatest motivator in volleyball?

I'm trying to work toward a scholarship for college. Also, starting volleyball late in my life has forced me to work harder to catch up to the level I want to play at. I also have to say that my parents have played a great role in keeping me motivated when I was having hard times.

What type of responsibilities do you have this year, and how have you handled your responsibilities?

I'm the varsity volleyball captain this year, along with senior Megan Leston. Being a captain has caused me to be a positive role model, and it also takes leadership qualities

Are there any new improvements to the team that make it different from previous years?

This year I feel we have more competitive girls. They are unwilling to give up until the game is over.

What is your favorite/worst memory of the volleyball season?

Favorite: September 5, 2000! We played Glenbard North and won in three games. We not only made a good competition by coming back in the third game 2-12, but we broke a two year curse in the DVC.

What advice would you give underclassmen volleyball players who are just beginning the sport?

All I can say to that is to play hard and never give up, because the game isn't over until the fat lady sings.

What is the most important thing that you have learned from playing volleyball?

I've learned it takes lots of dedication, discipline, and a great attitude to succeed.

What are 3 goals/ambitions that you have for this season?

1. Become a more consistent passer
2. Being competitive in DVC games
3. Continue to be a positive influence on the team

Boys Golf-Senior Tim Yormark

What type of responsibilities do you have in golf this year, and how have you handled your responsibilities?

As a senior on the West Chicago golf team, I hope my hard work and dedication rubs off on the other younger golfers. I work hard, try my best, and have fun along the way.

What has been your greatest motivator?

I have a continual drive for excellence, and I can't accept not giving 100% all of the time. Lately, the recent death of Payne Stewart has motivated me to play like a true champion.

How long have you been playing golf?

My first memory of swinging a golf club was when I was in second grade.

Do you predict that the golf team will do exceptionally well this year? Are there any new improvements to the team that will make this year different from others?

The We-go golf team will be competitive in the conference this year. We have several younger additions to the team who can really put up some good numbers.

What advice would you give to golfers who are just beginning the sport?

Be persistent, dedicated, and don't go a single day without thinking about or practicing golf.

What is the most important thing that you have learned from playing golf?

Golf is a sport that teaches the player a lot about himself. In golf, you are playing nobody but the course. Golf is 10% talent and 90% mental toughness.

What goes through your mind right before you swing?

Before I swing, I picture the ball exactly where I want to hit it.

What are 3 goals/ambitions that you have for this season?

1. Be competitive
2. Get better
3. Have fun

Why do you play golf?

I play golf because I am in love with the game. The passion I have for the game is ble. You know you are a true golfer when you have this passion.

Boys soccer-Senior Jesse Salazar

What type of responsibilities do you have in soccer this year, and how have you handled your responsibilities?

This year I should be playing more like a leader. In the past, I've led the wrong example, but I'm working on it.

What has been your greatest motivator in soccer?

Looking ahead towards the playoffs has been a great motivation. We have the potential to go far this year.

How do you prepare for the soccer season? Does your preparation begin long before the season, and do you play soccer outside of school?

I play soccer all year round. I weight-lift with the school in the winter. Also, I play club soccer in the winter, spring, and summer.

Give three descriptions/adjectives of how you feel after the team has won a game.

1. Relief
2. Prepared to work on what we did wrong in the game
3. Anxious to play the next game

What advice would you give to underclassmen soccer players who are just beginning the sport?

If you can join a club team and take advantage of the off-season opportunities, then you can improve your game. Mr. Brugman and Mr. Lesar run great weight-lifting camps.

What is the most important thing that you have learned from playing soccer?

I've learned that there's always someone out there who is better than you are.

Boys Football-Senior Steve Taylor

What type of responsibilities do you have in football this year, and how have you handled your responsibilities?

I need to be a leader, and I need to be there when people need me, on the field and off. I need to be a good role model. I think I've done a pretty good job so far.

What has been your greatest motivator in football? How did you decide to join football, and for how long have you been playing?

Trying to change people's opinions of our football team. I decided to play because I loved watching football, but my parents wouldn't let me until I was in high school.

How and when did you decide to start playing football?

I decided to go out the fall that I was in eighth grade. Football is addictive. It becomes a way of life. I can't live without it.

What is your favorite/worst memory of the football season?

Worst: Losing to Wheaton Warrenville South sophomore year or breaking senior Tim Carstensen's collarbone sophomore year

Best: Beating West Aurora last year during Homecoming

What is one thing about the football team that you wish you could change?

The mindset of a lot of our players. Most of our guys don't really know what it feels like to win. We haven't gotten in that groove yet.

What advice would you give to underclassmen football players who are just beginning the sport?

Stick with it. If it's your first year playing, it takes time to learn the game. Give yourself three years.

What is the most important thing that you have learned from playing football?

Football creates a family. All of those guys on the team are my brothers. I would do anything for them, and it's the same for everyone on the team. I've learned who my real friends are.

What are 3 goals/ambitions that you have for this season?

1. Improve our record from last year
2. Not allow any more sacks
3. I want to score a touch down

What are you looking forward to most about this season? How do you feel the team is doing as a whole?

I'm looking forward to our homecoming game. Our team is doing well, but we still have a few things to work on. We need to build up our confidence and know that we can win games in the DVC.

Girls volleyball drops ball at home game

By Jamie Nadolny

The West Chicago High School girls volleyball team lost their home game against Glenbard East Tuesday. Glenbard East won both consecutive matches with final scores of 15-13 during both games. We-go's record currently stands 3-11.

We-go began the game by failing to return two serves, but a recovery by junior Julie Weichert put the ball back in home court. Continuous sets and spikes earned the Wildcats five points, changing the score to 5-2.

A combination of senior Megan Leston's passes, Weichert's sets, and junior Megan Michalek's spikes killed Glenbard East at the beginning of the game. We-go's stamina quickly diminished by the end of the first match, however. The final score, which was in Glenbard

East's favor.

During the second match, We-go started out strong by scoring eight consecutive points. Glenbard East finally earned a side-out and challenged We-go to the end of the match. The final score for the second match was also 15-13, with Glenbard East winning the game in two matches.

"The final call wasn't really accurate, because a Glenbard East player had a double hit," said Michalek. "Still, we lost the game because we weren't focusing on playing the game. Making mistakes is the only way to improve, and we're working on improving right now."

The girls volleyball teams also played Glenbard North on Tuesday, Sept. 9, where all West Chicago teams beat North.

Boys golf tries to recapture winning streak

By Marc Berry

The West Chicago boys golf team will be heading to St. Francis on Sept. 22 at St. Andrews Golf Course to see if they can begin another winning streak.

Their most recent meet was against St. Francis at We-go's home course of St. Andrews, but results were not available at press time.

The team golfed against Naperville North on Sept. 19 at the Springbrook Golf Course. However, We-go was unable to defeat the team.

They competed at the Dundee Crown Invitational at Randall Oaks Golf Course on Sept. 16. We-go placed fifteenth out of 20 teams. However, junior Matt Baumrucker placed fifth individually out of 125 golfers.

The team played at St. Andrews on Sept. 14 where they were unable to pull out a win against Naperville Central.

Their five-win streak ended on September 12 when they were defeated by Wheaton Warrenville South at Old Wayne Golf Course. "[WWS] had a really good game, and we just had to tip our hats to them," said assistant coach Eric Lasky.

Their last win occurred against Glenbard South on September 8. Sophomore Dan Pazar shot three over par with a score of 39.

They also beat Glenbard East at Prairie Landing Golf Course on September 7. Baumrucker led the team, shooting three under par with a score of 33.

Glenbard North was defeated by the team, as well, at the Glendale Lakes Golf Course on September 5.

The week before, We-go took home a victory against Streamwood at the Streamwood Oaks Golf Course on August 28. Pazar competed on Varsity level and shot one over par with a score of 37. Senior Tim Warren helped the team out, as well, with a score of 38.

The team's streak began on August 24 when they beat out St. Edward's at St. Olivia Country Club in Bartlett. Baumrucker shot a 37, giving him par for that course.

August 23 saw the team unable to pull out a win against Fenton and Waub Vly at White Pines Golf Course.

The first meet of the season was the Conant Early

Bird Invitational, which took place at Arrowhead Golf Course. We-go placed seventh out of the ten teams competing. Junior Jon Merrick shot a 39 on the 36-par course.

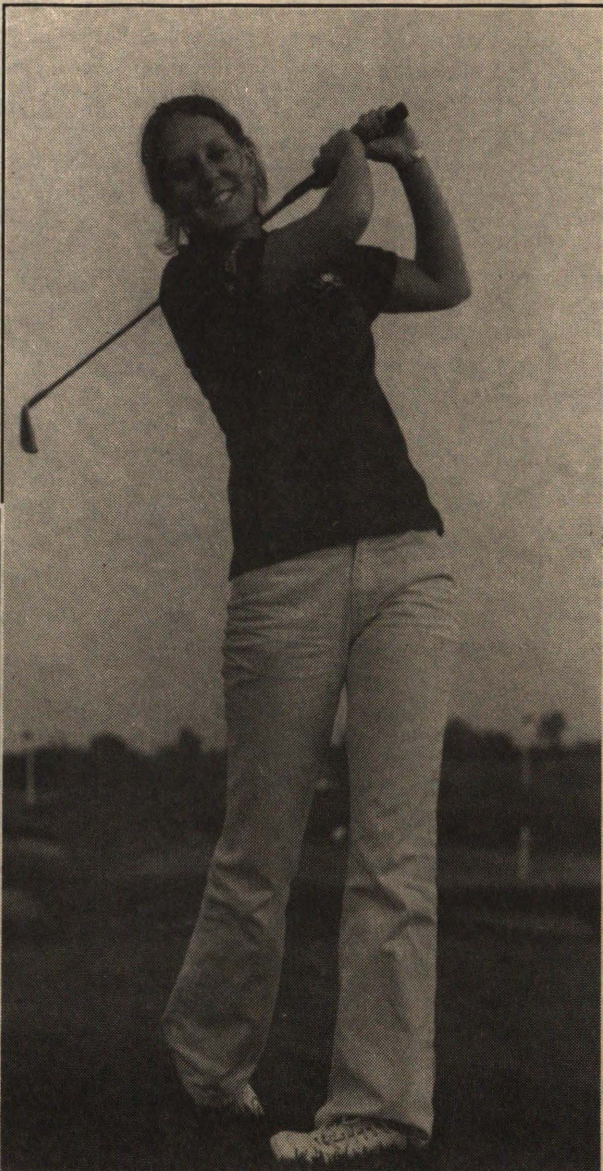
Each meet usually consists of six to eight golfers competing; however, only the top four scores are kept.

The team practices three times a week at We-go's home course of St. Andrews, and they compete twice a week. Lasky believes they are having "an above average season and doing a lot better than last year." According to Lasky a lot of the members worked at golf courses the past summer, allowing them more playing time and the opportunity to gain additional skill and experience. He mentions four particular sophomores who he believes have been doing exceptional, including Pazar, Jeff Beeks, Greg Hodge, and Mike Paschke. He also believes Baumrucker, Warren, senior Mike Wenz, and senior Tim Yorkmark have been leading the varsity team.

"Head Coach [Jeremy] Babel is doing a great job leading the team," said Lasky.



The varsity swim team displays their fifth place plaque from the Hinsdale South Invitational. The team will compete next at Naperville North with Fenwick on Sept. 26. Photo taken by Jenny Cwiak



Senior Angela Skaggs tees off for the West Chicago girls golf team. Photo taken by Lauren Nickelson

Girls swim team breaking records

By Mary-Megan Kalvig

The girls swim team came in fourth place out of six teams at the Home Invitational Sept. 16.

They took the 200 freestyle, but came in fourth place in the 400 freestyle. Swimmers in the freestyle events were freshman Jackie Vavrek, sophomore Emily Biancalana, junior Heather Prochnow, and senior Jenny Cwiak. In the medley, they made seventh place out of 48.

Vavrek broke the freshman and varsity records in the 50 and 100 freestyle events with times of 24:33 and 53:69 respectively. The varsity record was 24:37 and 24:54 for freshman in the 50 free style. The 100 freestyle records were varsity 54:10 and 54:16 for freshman.

"We did better than we expected. The teams we competed against were faster and quicker. We did not know how we would stack up against them," said Coach Chris Hall.

When the team went up against West Aurora Sept. 12, both teams won. JV scored 98-84 while varsity won 101-74.

At the Sept. 9 Hinsdale South Invitational, the team came in fifth place out of 12 teams.

Both Vavrek and senior Cwiak's combined times beat the meet's record in the 50 freestyle event. The original record was 55:10, which they broke with the time of 54:76. Vavrek also broke the meet record in the 50 and 100 freestyle event. The 50 freestyle record was 25:11, beat with a time of 24:68. The 100 freestyle record was 55:30, beat by 54:51.

Both JV and varsity lost Sept. 1 against Barrington and Evanston. Their scores were identical: Evanston 137, Barrington 125, and West Chicago 66.

On Aug. 30 the teams went up against the York Dukes and were both successful. JV scored 88-79 while Varsity won 101-84.

Vavrek broke two records at the York meet. She broke the freshmen records in the 50 and 100 freestyle events. The 50 freestyle was originally 25:17, she set the record at 24:54. The 100 freestyle was 54:78, which she swam in at 54:10.

Swimming outlook

By Mary-Megan Kalvig

The girls' swim team size and experience makes for a strong team this year.

Coach Chris Hall said to keep an eye on freshmen Jackie Vavrek and Emily Biancalana; sophomore Betsy Drzal; junior Heather Prochnow; and seniors Jenny Cwiak and Shannon Sterne. "Their experience is what makes them stand out above the other swimmers. They have traveled to high level pressure meets and are hard workers who will help the team go far," Hall said.

This team is also preparing for state. First there is Vavrek who has surpassed the 50 and 100 freestyle state standards. There is also the 200 free relay which they are only 5 tenths of a second away from qualifying.

Hall said, "My hope for this season is to have a very productive season. One in which we see a lot of time drops and sectional and state performances."

We-go turns tide with Glenbard win

By Jamie Nadolny

The West Chicago High School Varsity football team won their first game Friday, Sept. 15. The team took on Glenbard East High School, and the game ended 13-12. The away game also marked the first time that West Chicago beat Glenbard East since 1992.

During the first quarter, We-go tried for a field goal, which was blocked by Glenbard East. Despite multiple penalties against We-go during the first two quarters, junior Morris Barber finally scored a touchdown before the half. Barber also scored the team's second touchdown in the last quarter of the game.

"Offense made mistakes at times," said junior Paul Elson. "Still, we made plays when we needed to and blocked who we needed to. When it was over, we came out winners in a hard fought football game."

West Chicago also blocked Glenbard East's two-point conversion attempt during the second quarter. We-go continued to play defensively throughout the game, and senior captain Tim Carstensen unceasingly sacked Glenbard East's quarterback. Carstensen also recovered an onside kick during the game.

"I felt really great for my teammates, because everyone stepped up and played the game well. It was really a team win," said Carstensen, who is one of this year's starters.

Senior Tommy Heun intercepted Glenbard East's last

pass of the game, and senior Nick Richardson secured We-go's win at the end of the fourth quarter when he stopped Glenbard East's quarterback on the one yard line during a two-point conversion for the game.

"I think offense played when they needed to, and defense played a heck of a football game, too. I knew in my mind that in the end we'd end up all right, because I have confidence in each and every one of my teammates," said senior Sam Mashal. "This game is the beginning of a great run for us. It gives us confidence, and we are just going to keep getting better."

Senior captain Steve Taylor also felt that the win was necessary. "Having a 0-3 record at the beginning of the season really affected us," Taylor said. "We desperately needed this win to boost our confidence and morale. This is the first away conference game we have won in a long time, and it's the first time that we've beat Glenbard East in eight years. The game was a huge deal for the team."

Junior Ric Minor (defensive tackle) and seniors Javier Contreras (linebacker), Brian Wakefield (wide receiver), and Sam Marshal (offensive tackle) also played well at the game last Friday.

To start off the second half of the game against Glenbard East, junior Corey Coleman ran back a kickoff all the way for a touchdown. Referees called a holding penalty, and the play did not count, costing the Wildcats a touchdown.



The We-go junior varsity football team prepares for their play against Glenbard East on Sept. 15. Photo by Alberto Chavez

"When we watched the tape of the game in practice, you could tell that the refs called a lame penalty. There's nothing that we can really do after the fact. Right now we're just focusing on Sept. 22's game against Naperville North. If we concentrate, continue to have confidence, and work on decreasing our off-sides and other penalties, we'll play well and we'll win," Taylor said.

With last week's win, the Wildcats now have a 1-3 record and stand 1-1 in the conference.

West Chicago lost to Naperville Central 43-0 on

Sept. 8. Naperville Central is ranked first in the state and third in the nation.

"In many ways, we played our best quarter of football during the 1st quarter against Naperville Central. There were a few real highlights, including a play made by Huen," said Line-Coach Josh Chambers. "The team had nothing to lose going out on the field, and they played their best."

Chambers was disappointed about the games against Plainfield and Batavia, but he said the team has improved considerably since then.

We-go lost both games 19-15 and 29-0 re-

spectively.

"We didn't play well on offense against Plainfield, but defense played hard and managed to hold the team together. The Batavia game was a disappointment, too. There were a few key injuries and big plays for the other team that contributed to a let down for our kids," Chambers said. "I also think our football players work very hard week in and week out. Their record is not indicative of their level of commitment. The team is showing a lot of improvement."

There are four other boys football coaches this year, including Bob Stone, head

coach/offense coordinator; John Walters, defensive coordinator; Greg Hanson, special team coordinator; and Dick Howard ends coach.

There are also 60 athletes playing varsity football this year, including senior offensive captains Taylor and Matt Raymond and senior defensive captains Carstensen and Zach Pederson. The follow-

Offense (double wing)

Juniors: Corey Coleman, Morris Barber, and Paul Elson. Seniors: Brett Dieter, Matt Raymond, Dan Schneider, John Kolodick, Erich Fries, Steve Taylor, Berto Chavez, and Sam Mashal

Defense (5-2)

Juniors: Brad Shelly, Mark Hopkins, Pete Milauskas, and Ric Minor. Seniors: Zach Pederson, Jaime Merlo, Tim Carstensen, Javier Contreras, Paul Novak, Nick Richardson, and Tom Heun

New trainer at We-go

By Laura McQueen

This year's more observant athletes may have noticed that in addition to the new training room, and new whirlpool, We-go also has a new athletic trainer, Cori Welch.

Welch is a graduate of Bethel College in St. Paul MN. This year is her second year as a trainer, last year she was working at Hindsdale South High School.

"It's been a good year so far," she said. "The faculty and staff here are very helpful with anything we need."

Welch now has two assistants, We-go junior Laura Wilken, and We-go graduate Janet Drenth, but she stresses

that she needs more help, and anyone who's interested should let her know.

"Cori's very relaxed about stuff. She likes to have a lot of fun," said Wilken.

"It's fun to come back to someone that is laid back and likes to have a good time," says Drenth.

Welch is in the training room every weekday during the fall sport season from 2 to 4 p.m., and she's on call until 7 p.m. She's also at the school on Saturdays if there's athletic events at school.

Welch will also be attending North Central College as a student, to become a health physical education teacher.

As a high school student, Welch played volleyball and was a swimmer.

Boys' soccer looking to improve

By Alexandra Patin

Boys' soccer started its season with a loss Sept. 7 against Naperville Central, with a score of 1-0.

Head Coach Owens said that the most important things to work on are communication between the teammates,

and gaining experience.

The latter is important because there is only one returning letterman this season out of the 33 players on junior varsity and varsity.

Their next game is today at Pioneer Park against Lake Park.

Inexperience taints tennis

By Alexandra Patin

Inexperience is still the girls' tennis team's greatest adversity, said Coach Sione Moeaki.

Their first meet against IMSA, Sept. 5, scored a 7-0 loss.

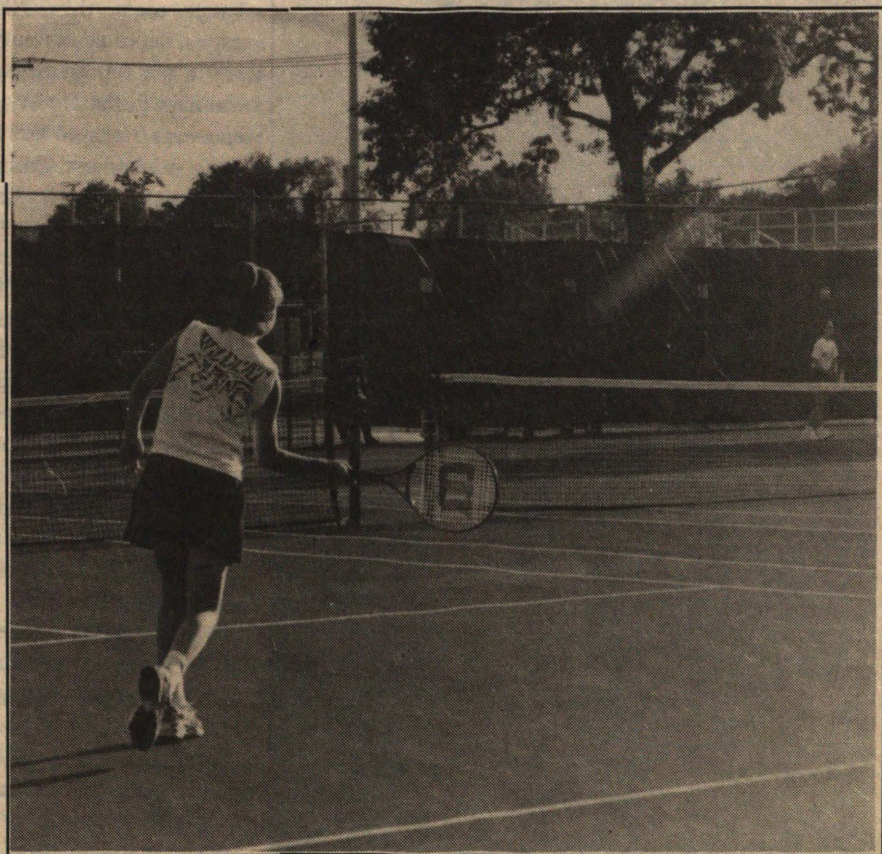
The inexperience comes mainly from the fact that the team is mostly made up of

younger players, he said.

Of the 25 junior varsity and varsity members, just two are returning members.

Junior Vanessa Guillen and sophomore Christine Mederich are the two returners this year.

The team's next meet is the Sabre Invitational at Streamwood held tomorrow.



The girls tennis team shows off their forehands during practice. Their next meet will be on Sept. 21 against Wheaton North. Taken by Heidi Carballo.