

# Wildcat Chronicle

## What's going on around you?

**West Chicago**  
District 94 will begin its Winter Break today. School returns Jan. 3 with two weeks left until final exams, which start on Jan. 16 and run until Jan. 18.

**Winfield**  
Winfield Schools get out today for Holiday Break. This includes the middle school and grade schools.

**Carol Stream**  
On Jan. 6, 2001, the Carol Stream Park District will hold a snowball building day. The town will try and earn a place in the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest snowball ever built. All ages are invited. The event is a part of a week-long festival held by the park district featuring events for all ages and many family oriented activities, such as ice skating, sledding and drinking hot cocoa.

**Around the nation**  
"Solid evidence" has been found that an ethnically and racially diverse university helps students, said a federal court in a ruling upholding University of Michigan's affirmative action case, which was first brought up three years ago. Two students sued the university after they were denied admission. Said U.S. District Judge Patrick Duggan, "Hopefully, there may come a day when universities are able to achieve the desired diversity without resorting to racial preferences."

**Around the World**  
According to the Dec. 13 Chicago Tribune, a Palestinian man, Mazen Al-Najjar, will not be released after being jailed for three years, under a decision by Atty. Gen. Janet Reno. She said he was allegedly involved in Mideast terrorist organizations and was a threat to national security.

Winter break edition

West Chicago Community High School  
Volume 32, Issue 3  
Tuesday, December 19, 2000

## Jones stepping down in '02

By Marc Berry  
After 17 years as Community High School principal, Dr. Alan Jones will retire in June 2002. Jones said that he is eligible to retire and that staying any longer would not be logical. "Over the years, I have been able to see kids learning and teachers maturing. "I feel very fortunate that I have a job that I come into every day and enjoy," said Jones.

"They've always supplied the needed resources. I've never been denied once," Jones said. Jones said he appreciates what the school board has done, and he also said he believes the board has been very beneficial to Community High School. After he retires, Jones isn't sure exactly what he is going to do. However he said he said thinks he will "pursue other careers."

He first announced his decision in a letter to We-go staff members on Nov. 21, and he submitted his resignation at the Board of Education meeting the same day. According to Jones, he made the decision at the beginning of the year. He gave the large advance notice because he felt that the time would be needed to find a replacement. "There are not many people who want or are able to fill the position," Jones said. Jones said that he is thankful to the community for all of their support over the years.

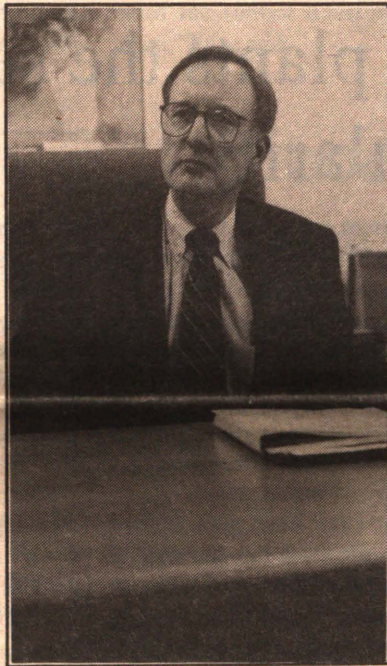


Photo by Sandy Weiss  
Dr. Alan Jones will retire in 2002.

Currently, he teaches a philosophy class at North Central College during the summer, and he said that he would like to do more teaching. Jones said he will probably stay in the area, but he has applied for jobs out of state. He also hopes to have more time to write.

### Student sends word from Hamburg

By Alexandra Patin  
This past summer, three We-go students made the trek from We-go to Germany under the Bundes-Tag Scholarship. Senior Ross Jeambey is in Hamburg, Germany. Jeambey corresponded with the Chronicle about some general observations of Hamburg and Germany, and his e-mail is printed in its entirety here. **What's the biggest difference between there and here?** (See Germany on page 3)



Photo courtesy of Challenge  
Sophomores Melissa Lund and Kim Pelletier along with Senior Sergio Jimenez practice their songs during class along with the rest of the band.

## We-go bands pack the house

By Jamie Nadolny  
The entire lower auditorium was filled during the Dec. 10 concert in Weyrauch Auditorium.

The West Chicago High School Music Department sponsored the concert and director of bands James L. Guter conducted the performances. This was the first year that the holiday concert took place on a Sunday afternoon. In the past, the performance has always been on a Thursday or Friday night.

"Usually the choir concert is on Sunday afternoon and the band plays earlier in the week. Due to conflicting schedules, the choir and band concerts were flip-flopped," said Guter.

Most audience members were family and friends of the musicians. There was also no charge to attend the concert. President Richard Walker of the Music Booster Club started the concert by welcoming everyone to the event.

## New report card shows We-go stats

By Marc Berry  
The Community High School report card was recently released, showing that student enrollment is on the rise. Community High School District 94 and the Illinois State Board of Education publish the card in order to give an idea of how the school is doing so far in the year.

According to Superintendent Dr. Lee Reick, it "will provide evidence of success, efforts to improve, and the need for even more work." It is required that high schools provide such a report if requested by parents and others. The report showed that for

the 2000-2001 school year, the overall enrollment has increased to 2,047 from last year's total of 1,880 with an increase in the size of each class. Also, there are 139.5 teachers this year, allowing for one teacher for every 13.5 students. The national ratio is one teacher for every 13.7 students. The number of students per class average is also lower, averaging 16.1, while the state's average is 18.4 per class. Currently, the student/computer ratio at We-go is considerably higher than the national average, with We-go having one computer for ev-

ery three students and the national average being seven students per computer. The number and location of computers are also given, stating that there are currently 12 computer labs throughout the high school. Among the goals of technology for the school stated in the card are "to provide collaborative, knowledge-building, empathetic learning environments." Another goal is "to facilitate classroom activities that inspire students to become critical thinkers." Highlights surrounding the bilingual education program were also listed, including "the employment of a

Ride." The song, which was written by Leroy Anderson, represented the strong, familiar sounds of the holiday season. The band's fourth song was "something different," according to Guter. Written by Alfred Reed and named, "Russian Christmas Music," the song depicted another culture's holiday traditions. "The 'Russian Christmas Music' piece was one of the hardest compositions the band had to learn this year. It's a very demanding Russian liturgy that is mostly played by professional bands, but the kids tried really hard to memorize and execute it," Guter said. The song opened with a single bell chime and slowly

After the song, Guter introduced the symphonic band's next piece called "Shenandoah," which was written by Frank Ticheli. The song's soft, moving notes were balanced with a strong note and was followed by a burst of applause from the audience.

The song opened with a single bell chime and slowly

(See Band on page 8)

(See Report on page 8)



## Dance Production keeps going

By Mike Mroz

The Dance Production is pumped for their winter showcase, "Dance the Night Away," on Jan. 11 and Jan. 13 at 7:30 p.m.

"The students are a hard working group and have been very creative, so it should be a good show," dance production teacher Helen Zmrhal said.

The show includes a variety of dancing types, from jazz to hip-hop. It also includes a Spanish dance and a pointe number. Other highlights of the show include a medley from Dirty Dancing, and an evolution of music from the 1950s to the 1980s, which can be found in the finale of the performance.

"The goals for the show are to have all the dancers be in precision, maintain proper spacing on stage, and of course, to show lots of energy in their dancing," said Zmrhal.

The cost for students with ID is \$2.00 and \$3.00 for adults.

## Cheerleaders lead the crowd in spirit

By Robert Whitman

The Cheerleading squad is preparing by practicing and learning new mounts. Upcoming events include the sponsorship of the Kiddie Clinic on Jan. 6.

The clinic will be for girls who want to learn more about cheerleading. The cheerleaders have recently helped escorting parents around for senior parent night.



French club members learning folkdancing at an outing. The outing was part of the French club's activities this year. Photo courtesy of French club

## Horticulture club plants the seeds of popularity

By Mary Beth Selby

The horticulture club planted the spring flowering bulbs of daffodils, tulips and scillia in the courtyard on Nov. 28.

They did this according to their planting design they had created.

"They did an excellent job on the whole project. Hopefully the squirrels will leave everything alone so the plants bloom in the spring.

"That's when the real work that the kids did will show

how well it was done," said supervisor Carol Walksler.

At the Dec. 5 meeting, the club worked on designing a floral topiary.

The horticulture club students will make coniferous trees by taking evergreens. They will use dried resources, like berries, seed pods, vines, and cones, to decorate their trees, Walksler said.

Students who aren't in the horticulture class can take pointers from the students who are as they create their

trees, she said.

The club also does personal projects within the club or service projects within the community on request.

In the past, the club has done the planting for the design outside the town hall that was designed by Walksler.

They have also worked with the blind and deaf at Phyll Rock plant flower gardens. Walksler said she does not know if they will be doing any community projects

## Poms stir up the crowd: the club isn't finished after homecoming

By Angela Rojas

Basketball has started and the Pom Pons are ready to dance! The Poms entertain everyone at all home football

and basketball games.

"To be a Pom you need to have love for dance and music," said Jill Marchiando, sponsor.

"I think the Poms show school spirit performing to the hottest dance music and dancing their hearts out," said cheerleader Sarah Assian.

Coming in February the

Poms will host Kiddie Clinic, where they will help younger kids learn how to become a Pom.

Tryouts for Poms this year are set for the beginning of March. Approximately 12 girls will make it onto the squad. The Poms practice after school in the dance studio.

## Strong spirit from Pep club

By Eric Macorkel

Pep club is planning for winter season.

The club plans to decorate lockers for varsity and sophomore girls and boys basketball, varsity wrestling, and boys swimming. They also held a winter pep assembly Dec. 15, when they introduced winter sport athletes and had a mini basketball game.

Band, poms, and cheerleaders all performed.

Pep club is happy to report that fall season was very successful.

They did homecoming activities and honored senior athletes in fall sports. The Pep club was able to decorate every fall sports athlete's locker.

The Pep club is still looking for new people to join. The meetings are at 7:15 in the morning in room 215.

## French club bonds with activities

By Angela Rojas

French club is active this year.

So far French club went to Art Institute of Chicago, made food for homecoming, had a pot luck dinner, watched French movies, and went folk dancing.

"French club is a club that provides cultural enrichment in French," said sponsor Marjorie Appel, who has

sponsored the French club for 25 years.

The officers are president Meghan Burlison, vice-president Carmen Saucedo, treasurer Sean Warren, and secretary Heather Coakley.

To be in French club you must be enrolled in French class and attend meetings.

French club meets every other Wednesday morning in room 408.

## Junior class starting to plan prom

By Steve Taylor

Prom, set for May 11, is the main focus for the junior class this year.

They are choosing a song, which will correspond with the theme. Students will vote on the prom song and theme before the end of this semester. Juniors are also in the process of picking prom favors. This year's prom will be held at Abbingdon Banquets in Glen Ellyn.

The class of 2002 is also responsible for the winter informal, which will be held on Feb. 23. The class is searching for a deejay, possibly a student deejay to conserve money for prom.

The junior class recently finished selling class T-shirts as a fund-raiser. They are still waiting for some students to pick up those T-shirts that they ordered in room 226. This was the class's major fund-raiser for the year.

For Teacher Appreciation Week, the junior class bought Danish for the teachers and staff to show their appreciation for all their hard work and dedication.

The juniors have information posted on the bulletin board located by the old guidance office, so be sure to check that.

The junior class is currently meeting every Wednesday at 7:15 a.m. in room 226. This year the sponsors are English teacher Patrick Clifford and social studies teacher Lisa Willuweit. Class meetings are open to anyone in the junior class, or anyone interested in helping plan prom.

If anyone has any questions or suggestions about prom or possible fund-raisers, contact Clifford or Willuweit.

## German club keeps getting together

By Steve Taylor

German club celebrated the holiday season with their annual get together Dec. 14.

They were joined by Spanish and French clubs while enjoying cookies and an all around fun night.

## Winter play

Community High School will present "The Dining Room," a comedy/drama written by A.R. Garney over the third weekend in February.

English teacher Mary Hafertepe is acting as director

(See Play on page 8)

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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 the majority of the staff or the 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 are meant to be printed. The newspaper has the right to exclude any letters that are inappropriate, and has the right to edit letters for space.

The Wildcat Chronicle is a forum for freedom of expression and encourages readers to express their views and thoughts.



## Welcome center may soon greet non-English speaking students

By Jamie Nadolny

The West Chicago High School bilingual education department is currently discussing the possibility of building a welcome center for non-English speaking students and families in the area. The center would benefit students planning to attend WCCHS or District 33 schools.

Although not official, plans for the welcome center have already been presented to the board of education. The bilingual education department is looking for grants and funding to build the center, which would open in a few years. A definite date or location for the proposed center has not been decided as of yet.

The proposed welcome center wouldn't necessarily be located in the high school. Instead, a separate program would be used to help students familiarize themselves with a new environment before being placed in the school setting.

The idea was originally brought up by District 33 elementary and middle schools, which have been trying to open a center for the past few years. Centers have already opened in eighteen other states, including Illinois.

The welcome center, also known as a newcomer program, would be designed to help students from a variety of backgrounds who either have limited English profi-

ciency or who have just arrived in the United States.

Mostly aimed towards Spanish speaking families, the center would also help native speakers of many other languages, including Filipino, Russian, Polish, Vietnamese, and Hindu.

According to bilingual coordinator Norman Kane, the center would be an easy and comfortable way to orient students who come into the area from out of the country.

"The center would be a positive environment where non-English speakers or bilingual students could learn about the American culture, understand basic English, and become comfortable with the school environment," Kane said.

The program would also offer a range of activities for non-English speaking students and their families. English instruction would be the main focus of the center, but a staff would also help students adjust to a learning environment.

Many of the proposed welcome center programs are also aimed at familiarizing students with educational expectations, the community, and the United States. Topics ranging from English to government would be discussed in the center.

"The welcome center would offer a lot of enhanced support for our students. The center would address the differences between a non-English speaker's place of ori-

gin and our country, and it would allow for a more affectionate environment based on the needs of the students rather than the convenience of the system," said Kane.

West Chicago High School currently has a bilingual program that is designed towards helping students continue their education while trying to teach them English. Between 25-35 new students are registered in the bilingual program each summer.

Students can be enrolled in the current bilingual program during the school year, but there isn't any time for them to learn about We-go's education system. On average, students stay in the bilingual program for at least two or three years. Once they

feel comfortable with the English language, they are transferred into English-speaking classrooms.

Kane said that once central location would be a better way to help the non-English speaking students, however. Families with more than one student enrolled in school would be able to travel to the center instead of going to multiple schools, Kane said.

"The bilingual department is optimistic about the possibility of opening a welcome center for non-English speaking students. The center would be a great way to bring the entire community together, and it would suit the needs of all students planning to enter the high school," Kane said.

### Construction moving along on schedule: end in sight says administration

By Laura McQueen

Construction is wrapping up at West Chicago, according to Assistant Superintendent of Business Gary Grizaffi.

The remaining referendum work is down to finalizing minor items and checking that everything's in order.

The heating and cooling system is the last piece of the puzzle. It must be checked and balanced before the referendum construction can be complete.

The referendum project was scheduled to finish before the start of this school year.

"We were pretty on target with that. Now we're really wrapping things up, which is good for me, and good for the students," said Grizaffi.

The next construction project is the revamping of the greenhouses, probably over the summer. "Right now we're just in the planning stage, but we could be looking at a total rehab of one or both of the greenhouses," said Grizaffi.

The construction focus is also shifting to renovation projects such as doors, flooring and lighting, according to Grizaffi.

### Next year's calendar has changes in store

By Alexandra Patin

Next year's school calendar has some changes in store for students and staff.

The first day of school is Aug. 22, 2001, with the last day falling on June 5, 2002.

Students will no longer be dismissed at 10:45 a.m., but instead at 11 a.m. on early release days. The 12:45 p.m. dismissal time on early release days will remain the same.

It secures the school day, said Dr. Lee Rieck at the Board of Education meeting

Nov. 7.

He said for state funding purposes, it was better to add the 15 minutes and have the school day counted as a full day of attendance.

The winter break will also be delayed from past years and will start on Dec. 22. The last day of winter break will be on Jan. 6, 2002.

This totals the number of student attendance days to 181. The state requires 176 attendance days, two of which can be parent/teacher conference days, said Rieck.

## Blood drive goal almost reached: Key club misses 100 pints by slim number

By Alexandra Patin

The Key club Blood Drive ended Nov. 14 with a total of 97 pints of donated blood, said club secretary Melissa Garcia.

The Club hoped to collect 100 pints of blood from the 125 people who signed up to donate, said advisor Ward Rau.

Key club fell just short of their goal of 100 pints of blood in their first blood in three years.

Each donor gives a pint of

blood, but many people were turned away because of various reasons, said Rau.

The most common reason was that the person had travelled into and contaminated by disease, like malaria, going through the area at the time of travel.

President Jennie Eagles was not allowed to give blood because she had been in Cancun and surrounding areas, and had travelled by bus, said Rau.

The donated blood will go

to Heartland Blood Bank and then to 33 area hospitals.

The drive was stopped three years ago because of parents' complaints, said Rau.

"A couple years ago they had a blood drive and they had some problems. There were some complaints, and [John] Highland agreed to let us try it again," Rau said.

The problems were with students receiving parents' permission to participate, Rau said.

Under Illinois Law, 17-year-old students and older are allowed to sign themselves up to donate without permission.

However, parents of 17-year-olds complained because they didn't know about it, and some students were coming home with bruises on their arms, said Rau.

This year, Highland agreed to let the blood drive take place only with parental permission for 16- and 17-year-old students.

### Germany...

(continued from page 1)

In America, everything is very centralized. For example, we have shopping malls, huge grocery stores, AMC 30s, etc., etc. It's much more traditional here. We have local bakeries, butchers, small grocery stores, family owned restaurants, and local movie theaters. I could go weeks without every leaving my section of Hamburg. Everything I need is right around the corner. Another major difference is the German efficiency. My family has one small trash can in the kitchen, and we can actually go several days before it is full. The last major difference is the language. People speak German in Germany. In English we speak mostly with the front of the mouth. German consists of many noises which come from deep within the throat.

**What's the biggest similarity?**  
Both countries are very advanced. We've all got TVs and computers and nice cars and stuff here, too. Pretty much everything outside of the differences that I listed are the same.

**What was the first things you noticed?**  
My goodness, these people are short. However, that was when I was living in Southern Germany. Then I moved up here where the people are of Prussian descent. Now I look like a runt.

**Are the people nice?**  
It's a very different kind of nice. In the Midwest, we're usually very friendly, open people, and fairly warm to newcomers. It's much more of a New England atmosphere here. It's very hard to make friends, but when you do they are your friends for life.

**What do you miss the most and wish Germany had?**  
Subway. I think they're opening one in Hamburg in

a couple months. I'm there.

**What do you think you will miss the most when you come back?**  
German bread and coffee. I also like to drink beer with my meals. Can't do that back home. Of course I'll miss all of the people that I know, too.

**What's the food like?**  
Generally dry. They eat open faced sandwiches with little on it. I can't wait till Subway comes. A traditional German dinner is pretty darn good, though. It usually has cabbage or Sauer Kraut, some kind of meat (usually pork) and lots of potatoes. Of course you wash it all down with beer.

**What are the clothes like?**  
Mostly the same as ours. They tend to wear more sweaters than us, though.

**Are the cities large or do they really all live in the forest?**  
They have plenty of large cities. They don't really

compare to NYC, LA, or Chitown, but there's lots of them. No, very few actually live in a forest.

**Where have you been so far?**  
Hamburg, Munich, Passau, Hannover, Regensburg, pretty much all over the south, parts of Austria, and Spain. I'll be going to Bonn and Cologne soon, and shortly after Berlin.

**What are you looking forward to?**  
Being totally proficient in the language to the point that I can really let people have it in a class argument.

**What's your favorite thing you've done so far?**  
Probably a traditional festival I went to in Bavaria. One of those fests with the big beer mugs and lederhosen and everything.

**How do you like your host family?**  
Pretty nice people. I can't complain.



## Sean Palmer and Janita Patel are model students in action

By Mary Beth Selby  
October Student of the Month Sean Palmer shared a piece of his student lifestyle with the Chronicle.

**Activities:**

Symphonic and marching band: 1, 2, 3, 4.  
Jazz band: 3, 4.  
Math team: 1, 2, 3, 4.  
National Honor Society: 3, 4.

**What is your favorite activity?**

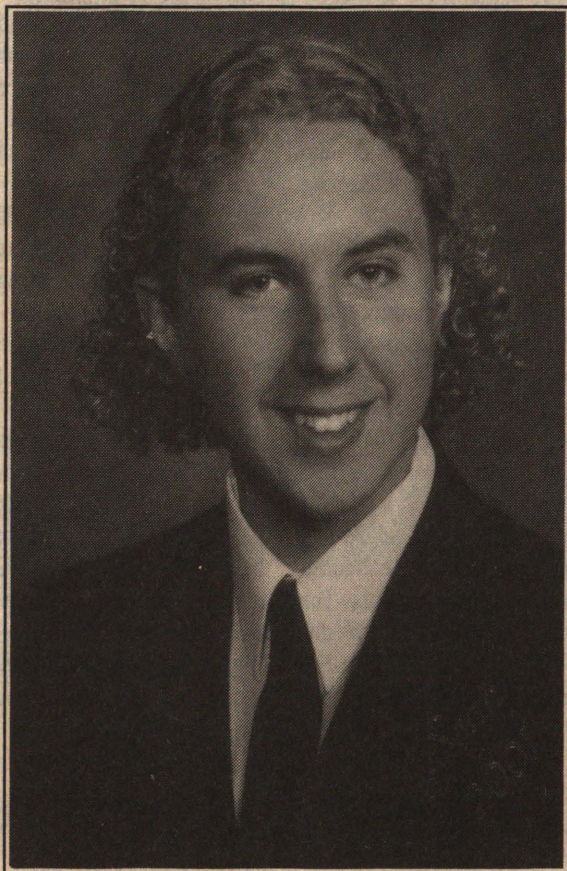
Marching band because of the social opportunities as well as the ability to play good pieces for a large audience. The drumline has always been fun.

**Were you surprised when you were told you were chosen Student of the Month?**

Yes because I wasn't really sure if I was qualified. Academically I was fine, but I'm not really a sports person.

**What are some of your accomplishments during high school that you are very proud of?**

Drumline Co-captain (4), National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist, National Honor Society, 4.0 GPA, go-



Sean Palmer

ing to the state meet for math team (3), and, of course, Student of the Month.

**What are your plans for after graduation? What college are you choosing?**

**What will be your major?**

I plan on going to a four-year art school. At this point, Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia is my first choice. I plan to double ma-

ior in film and computer art. I just want to try something different, requiring creativity and thought.

**What career would you like?**

I would like to be a special effects artist for movies, or another movie-related career.

**What have you learned most at WCHS?**

High school has a profound affect on a teenager's life. Through the academics, extra-curricular activities, and social opportunities, we are provided with challenges to meet and opportunities to excel.

November Student of the Month Janita Patel also talked about her success at We-go.

**Activities in High School:**

Soccer: 1.  
Volleyball: 1.  
Chess team: 1, 2, 3, 4.  
Peer helping: 2, 3, 4.  
Scholastic bowl: 2, 4.  
Math team: 2, 4.  
Key club: 4.

**How did you feel when you found out you were the Student of the Month?**

I was totally surprised! I had no clue whatsoever!

**To what do you attribute your success?**

To the fact that I've been

lucky enough to have teachers that I've liked most of the time.

**What do you recommend other students do to help them be successful in high school?**

Use an assignment notebook!

**What is the most important lesson you've learned**

**so far in H.S.?**

There is nothing more important than making sure you never compromise your morals.

**What motivates you to be successful in school?**

I have a picture of how I see myself in the future, and I'm going to do what I need to reach that goal.



Janita Patel

## Holiday flashback

Every Holiday season, there's a few new hot toys that every kid has to have. Remember when you were one of those little kids? Well here's a holiday flashback.

**Christmas list 1990:**

- GI Joe
- Jem doll
- Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- Easy Bake Oven
- Lite Brite
- Glo Worms
- Rainbow Bright bed sheets
- Transformers
- Micro Machines
- Teddy Ruxpin

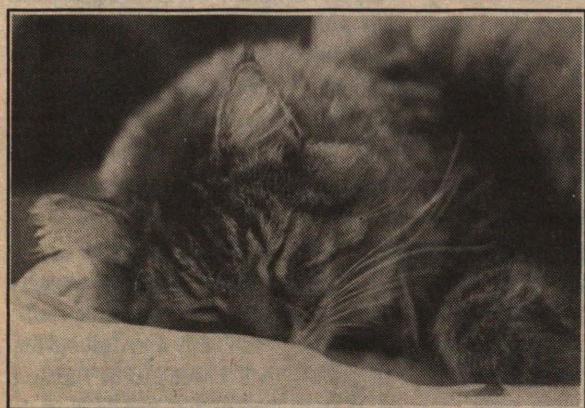
- He-man and She-ra action figures
- Ghost Busters sound track
- Nintendo
- Slap bracelets
- My Little Pony
- Etch-a-Sketch
- Popples
- Skip It
- Pogo Ball
- Cabbage Patch Kids
- Barbie's dreamhouse
- Roller skates
- Yo-Yo's
- Treasure Trolls
- Polly Pocket
- Slinkies
- Monopoly



## Top 10 New Year's resolutions

10. Today will be the last day I procrastinate.... well... maybe the last week.
9. I'm going to volunteer some time to help others. I'll do the dishes at least once a month.
8. I'll go to church every Sunday that I wake up on time to attend.
7. I won't waste money. I'll only buy the essentials... with a few exceptions here and there.
6. I promise to only beat on my little brother when he's really asking for it.
5. I'm going to get a job and start saving some money... umm, right.
4. From this day on, I'm absolutely forcing myself to take a shower every night.
3. I definitely need to keep in shape. From now on I'll jog to the kitchen during commercials.
2. I absolutely have to start doing my homework every day. Well, I'll do it more often than not... On second thought, I'll shoot for once a week.
1. I promise to never tell another lie... I swear...

## Put your pet in the spotlight



We want to hear about your lovable little guy (or girl). Nominate your crazy critter for the pet of the month. Write a note with you and your pet's names and

Photo by Alexandra Patin why your pet deserves to be in the paper, along with a picture of your fabulous friend. Put your letter in Ms. Kuehn's mailbox or give it to a Chronicle staff member.

## Parks pulls ahead of the rest as December's Teacher of the Month

By Mary Beth Selby  
**Teacher of the Month:** Carol Parks

**Classes she teaches:** I have taught bilingual physical science (five years) and chemistry. I now teach all chemistry.

**Number of years at We-go:** This is my eleventh year at We-go.

**What are some joys of your job?**

The joys of my job are many. It is great to be able to work with mostly highly-motivated students. Having been in several other schools (Livonia Stevenson HS in Michigan, Enrico Ferm HS in Connecticut, and Cathedral HS in Massachusetts), I can say that We-go is extraordinarily well supplied and equipped to teach a lab-oriented class such as chemistry. Also, the school administration supports continued teacher education. And finally, being chosen Teacher of the Month is a joyful feeling and a true honor.

**What are some frustrations of your job?**

The biggest frustrations of

my job are students who get too far behind in their daily work and have to struggle to get caught up. It is a hard lesson for some students to learn that chemistry is a vertical course where concepts accumulate and are interrelated.

**Why did you choose this job?**

I chose this job because I like working with high school-level students and enjoy teaching them the content of a comprehensive chemistry course and the methodology involved in understanding and using the knowledge.

**What have you learned from your students?**

From my students I have learned a lot about being more flexible and patient. Also, over the years, students have made useful, good contributions to class activities like current events, career investigations, and science applications. Every year and every class is different - there are new challenges to be met all the time.

**What do you hope your students learn from you be-**

**sides chemistry?**

I hope students will learn: One, How to get organized and work hard.

Two, How helping others can be worthwhile.

Three, How being honest and polite saves a lot of aggravation.

I also hope that students will acquire a continued interest in science in general and will be more educated, self-sufficient consumers in this very busy/always-changing world.

**Why is chemistry so important for kids to take as a class one of their years?**

It is important for kids to take chemistry, if their math skills permit, because chemistry is considered the central science. A wall sticker in my room says, "What in the world isn't chemistry?" Science literacy is a necessary educational component in today's world.

Who's your favorite teacher? Nominate next issue's Teacher of the Month. Put your letter in Ms. Kuehn's mailbox in the main office or give it to one of the Chronicle staff members.



*You really shouldn't have...*

## Gift gladness and madness

By Mary Beth Selby

The holidays are approaching fast and your brain is becoming present-logged on what you want to get this holiday season. We-go students let us know of some past holiday gift memories and what they want this year.

Six percent of all those surveyed said their best gift ever was the puppy they received way back and still have now. Senior Shelly Ballard said, "I had gotten a puppy for Christmas two years ago. My puppy is now eleven in dog years."

But besides a dog, there are many other gifts that make a holiday memorable. Freshman Nina Slater said, "The best gift I ever got for Christmas was a TV and VCR from my dad and grandma. I had been begging my dad for one for almost a year and I finally got it!"

Sophomore Kori Flagg said, "My best gift ever would probably be my nutcracker doll. I was little and obsessed with The Nutcracker. I just remember that Christmas morning I opened it up and screamed - I was so happy! To this day, I still can't get rid of the memory."

Senior Julietta Favela said, "My parents gave me a lime green snowsuit and matching jacket with a clown on the back when I was 8. I wore it everyday until spring that winter."

Other than getting great electronics and cute winter gear, there are great gifts some people give to make

Forty-seven We-go students shared their worst gift receiving and giving experiences:

- Certain clothes (that one yucky sweater from grandma; bright pink shoes; etc.) = 15%
- Underwear = 4%
- Socks = 6%
- Coal/rocks = 11%
- Not getting anything at all = 11%
- Other/No comment = 49%
- There is no such thing; all gifts coming from the heart is what's important = 4%

their holiday memorable. "The best gift I've ever given was participating in a fundraiser and giving all the money to help homeless or poor families have a Thanksgiving dinner. We raised enough money for 50 families," said freshman Jenny Veguilla.

All surveyed also seem to remember those gifts that caused them to say, "Uhhhhhh...thanks,....it's nice.....you know, you shouldn't have." Just what were some of those gifts?

Senior Malissa Kane said, "One time as a joke, we gave my cousin a bunch of coals and rocks for Christmas."

Senior Adam Fritz said, "I got a shirt that was four sizes too small."

The general breakdown for desired gifts this holiday is:

- Money = 12%
- Clothes = 16%
- Computer stuff = 10%
- Music stuff = 15%
- Other = 47%

Sophomore Stephanie Bodane said, "Once, I got a box of underwear. It was very embarrassing. I also got a pair of deer horns from my cousin."

Freshman Alex

Wemple said, "When I was 11, I got this one shirt. It was the ugliest thing I'd ever seen - green with light blue spots."

Sophomore Andrew Reindhardt said, "I got a CD case missing the CD!"

Junior Tiana Juarez said, "The worst gift I got was receiving one that I already knew what it was."

Junior Cody Melbourn said, "A gift is a gift - all that matters is that someone was nice enough to go out and get something for you."

We-go students also think about what they want this holiday season.

"I really want clothes and CDs. You can never have too many clothes. I also got a great new CD player for my birthday and I want all the new CDs I can get to play on it and hear the awesome new bass," said sophomore Jessica Day.

Freshman Josh Hahn said, "Playstation 2 and a Discman." Six percent of all the students surveyed said they wanted Playstation 2.

Freshman Kelly Karbach said, "CDs, a Cybiko for music club, and a wireless way to get online."

Freshman Andy Dameron said, "An electric guitar and everything that comes with it and a one fourth pipe ramp."

Sophomore Meagan Flood said, "I want to go skating on State Street in Chicago and also go shopping in Chicago for all my Christmas stuff with my boyfriend and best friends."

Freshman Leigh Hellman said, "It would be great to take my holiday and spend it with my family in the morning, then go out with my friends in the afternoon, and finally, in the evening, going out and doing something special with my boyfriend."

## Warm fuzzies: the true meaning of the holidays

by Mary Beth Selby

What do the holidays mean? Are they special in certain way? We asked for some We-go students for their feelings on the topic.

"The holidays mean family time. My brother and sister come home from college and relatives come over that I haven't seen in years. It also means sharing love between family and friends." - Senior Jennifer Skrzypczynski

"The holidays mean spending quality time with people you love, even if you don't always agree with them." - Senior Malissa Kane

"The holidays are special to me because all the family gets together and we put

all our differences aside and have a great time." Sophomore Jessica Day.

"They are really special because that's the only time I get to see my family all together. Normally everyone is in different states. We are never in the place at once except for the holiday season." - Freshman Lisa Borg

"They mean a lot - good food, family togetherness and the exchange of presents. What's better than that?" - Freshman Peggy Werle

"The holidays are very important to me. It's a time to be with my family. It isn't all about getting presents. That's just a good coating!" - Freshman Katie Knoll

## Band...

(Continued from page 1)

incorporated smooth woodwinds. Picking up during the middle and slowly fading at the end, the scattered piece ended with cheers from the crowd.

One audience member summed up the song by immediately whispering "wow" after the music ended.

"My favorite part of the concert was the 'Russian Christmas Carol.'" It was so different, and it had a great sound combination," said band parent June Lincoln. Her daughter, sophomore Susan Lincoln, plays the clarinet.

Afterwards, Guter acknowledged senior Carrie Carpenter as a soloist during the piece. Carpenter also qualified as the only person from West Chicago's symphonic band to make IMEA District 9 finals.

The symphonic band's last piece was a melody of Christmas carols called "Sounds of Christmas." The collection included the songs "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year," "Silver Bells," "The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire)," "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas," and "I'll Be Home for Christmas."

There was a 10-minute intermission before the WCCHS jazz band was ready on stage. Walker introduced the jazz band's first song, "Time After Time."

Senior guitarist Matt Wdowiarz and senior trumpet player Jesse Askin both played solos during the song, which was written by Don Schenberg.

Junior vocalist Amy Koltz accompanied the band during their second song, "Summertime." Arranged by Dave Wolpe, the song had a slow, swing flair. Koltz also accompanied the band during the

song "S Wonderful," which was also arranged by Wolpe.

During the third song, "Soft Lights," senior Adam Fritz played a solo on the alto saxophone.

The jazz band's last song of the night was "Sandunga," which was written by Arturo Sandoval. Soloists included sophomore Melissa Lund, piano; junior Brian Toms, baritone saxophone; seniors Chris Buckles-Haley, trumpet; Matt Wdowiarz, guitar; Frank Check, drums; Sean Palmer, Latin percussion; and sophomore Sam West, Latin Percussion.

"I am especially pleased with the kids this year. They've really risen to the occasion and done an excellent job in a very short time. I think they're doing well, and we're excited about the rest of the year," Guter said.

The next band concert will be Thursday, May 24.

"Band concerts are a part of band that I really look forward to. I learn a lot during the concerts, and as a whole we tend to play our best when we're on stage. The audience really enjoys watching us play, as well, so it makes it easier for us to want to execute well," said senior trombone player Bryan Jones.

## The modern 12 days

Twelve new cars running.  
Eleven customers griping.  
Ten pagers beeping.  
Nine reindeer prancing.  
Eight fruitcakes wilting.  
Seven scooters spinning.  
Six games for playing.  
Five phones that ring.  
Four computer nerds.  
Three Furby friends.  
Two faux fur gloves.  
A Britney Spears Doll under the tree.

## We-go students speak up

By Laura McQueen and Alexandra Patin

As time goes on, politically correct standards are more clear than ever. But where do we draw the line? What was once "Christmas Break," became "Holiday Break," which is now "Winter Break."

The Chronicle asked a few We-go students to share their opinions. Should teachers and students be allowed to celebrate their religious holidays openly in a public school?

"By celebrating your holiday, no one else has to be offended, but since there are a lot of people who want to celebrate it, there should be opportunity for it." -Senior Anders Walker.

"Yes-it's freedom of religion. I wouldn't have anything against it." -Junior Kari Schmidt.

"Yes because it's America. We should celebrate whatever we want. Accept it not like it's bad or good." Sophomore Kori Flagg.

"As long as they're not forcing it on us." -Sophomore Jes-

sica Krueger.

"As long as it's a voluntary celebration. You shouldn't get penalized." -Sophomore Hope Vock.

"I don't think religion should be in school, however I like the celebration. We should have some sort of holiday celebration where we learn about all the cultures." -Senior Joy Opal.

"Yeah, people have the right to believe in what they believe in. They have a right to express their religion." -Junior Andy Barton.

"Why is it a big deal?" -Senior Danielle Kogut.

"Yeah, freedom of expression, you're not saying everyone has to believe that, it's just what you believe." -Senior Nick Kreuger.

"Yes because it's a right we have. We celebrate our holidays." -Freshman Danielle Kuhn.

"Yes. It's a public school. I mean if we were a private school, then no." -Freshman Fabiola Leal.

"Yes. If that's what they believe then they should be able to do anything they want."

-Junior Bessie Czernik.

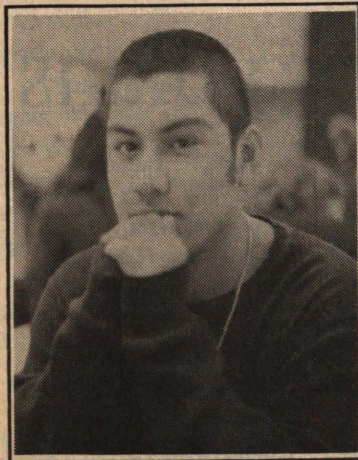


Photo by Alex Patin



Photo by Alex Patin

"No, it's a public school. We're in school for a reason, there are private schools that do that. Keep religion in the church." -Senior Gerardo



## What's in the stars for you

By Mary-Megan Kalvig

### Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

As the holidays approach, you begin stressing about what to buy for everyone. Just as you begin to relax, things turn worse with a shortage of money. Don't worry though, a job opportunity will present itself that will solve all of your problems. The new job will also introduce you to a new love, which will make your new year full of fun. Your lucky color is magenta. Numbers 9 and 15 will bring you luck.



### Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

With all of the excitement of your birthday and the holidays coming up, you tend to forget what the purpose of this time of year is. It is time for you to slow down and take a break. If you do not take

this break and do something for someone needy, you will have a break down. Avoid a break down by volunteering or giving to charity. Your lucky color is black. Numbers 11 and 2 will bring you luck.

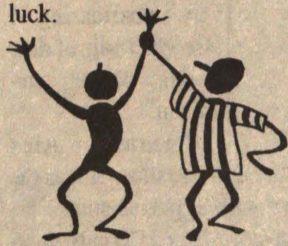
### Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

The next month is going to crawl by. Without a job and all of your friends away, you are stressing for things to do. In hopes of getting a job, nobody will hire you for unknown reasons. You have become so desperate for things to do, cleaning your room even sounds like fun. Have no fear though, once school starts, your time will fly by. Your lucky color is orange. Numbers 29 and 10 bring you luck.

### Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

During winter break, one of your friends will betray you. The act may seem innocent at first, but it will hurt your relationship. Don't worry though, they will quickly apologize because they know your friendship is

more important. It is now up to you to accept that apology. While your friendship will not be the same, you will not be alone for the holidays. Your lucky color is gray. Numbers 22 and 6 bring you luck.



### Arius (March 21-April 19)

Winter break is the most relaxing time for you. There is no job to worry about when your friends and you head up to the ski lodge for some r-and-r. However, the thought of school dampens your mood a bit, but new people in your life will quickly erase those thoughts from your mind. When school starts, don't overload yourself, just relax and have fun. Your lucky color is yellow. Numbers 20 and 7 bring you luck.

### Taurus (April 20-May 20)

The upcoming months will fly by with all of the activi-

ties you are involved in. However, life starts to pass you by. You begin to miss the real important activities that make this time of year special. Not all of life revolves around friends and experiencing everything. You need to remember what is really important, family. Take some time to tell your family how much they mean to you. Your lucky color is sea foam green. Numbers 16 and 5 will bring you luck.



### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Winter break is nothing spectacular this year. While you have no plans, you will make the best of what you have. You will have nice relaxing days spent at home without a care in the world. Family and friends will help the time go by. Take this time to catch up on the sleep you lost and time missed with friends. This is your reward for hard work. Your lucky color is aqua. Numbers 27 and 14 bring you luck.

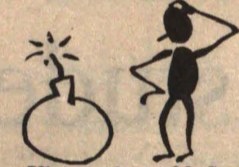
### Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Christmas is the best time of the year for you with great friends who give excellent gifts. However, don't let presents rule your holidays. This is a time of giving and before the new year, you will perform an act out of the kindness of your heart, instead of wallet. That act will bring respect from all, plus a new set of friends. Your lucky color is violet. Numbers 19 and 3 will bring you luck.



### Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

While the month of December is full of disappointments, January offers multiple promises. Your break was not very relaxing due to an overload at your new job and all of your friends gone. The return to school is the only highlight of the vacation. You will be reunited with friends and your job will loosen up. It is smooth sailing for the new year. Your lucky color is crimson. Numbers 17 and 4 bring you luck.



### Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

While you think winter break will let you escape the troubles of school, your teachers have another idea in mind. Don't let the overload of homework

dampen your time with friends. Before the new year, there will be a surprise for you that will lift your spirits. Get your work done right away so the rest of break can be spent with family and friends. Your lucky color is teal. Numbers 28 and 12 will bring you luck.



### Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

A new love in your life makes your holidays the sweetest yet. While he or she showers you with gifts, don't let your love affect your judgement. Beware, your love has different motives than you think. Just speak your mind and let him or her know how you feel. If it is true love they will be willing to accept your real feelings. Your lucky color is maroon. Numbers 18 and 23 bring you luck.



### Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

This is the best time of year for you. While the past months have been rocky with multiple let downs, your luck is about to change. Family and friends will start appearing when you need them the most with good advice and helping hands. A new year offers a new direction for you. This is going to be just the start of a better year. Your lucky color is turquoise. Numbers 13 and 1 will bring you luck.

## Bored? Have a little fun this break

By Jamie Nadolny

Picture this:

The bell rings after the last day of school before winter break, and you're excited about having an entire two weeks away from school. You grab your backpack and race to the bus, ready to go home.

Twenty minutes later, you're already bored.

There are many ways to prevent yourself from becoming a couch potato during winter break, however. Believe it or not, winter break can be a time of fun-filled entertainment.

Gather up your friends or family and head to these hot spots where you can enjoy entertaining holiday related activities:

or Lake Blackwell Forest Preserve will let you slide down the slopes at top speed.

-On the second day of winter break, visit downtown Chicago's Daily Center to see the famous Christmas tree! Then, take a tour down the Magnificent Mile (Michigan Avenue) in a horse drawn carriage. Make sure to see the windows at Marshall Field's, too.

-On the third day of winter break, drag your chauffeur and a thermos of hot cocoa around town to look at colored lights and fake icicles. Drive around the neighborhood and vote on the best-decked houses with your closest friends.

-On the fourth day of winter break, head to the theater! See an outstanding performance of the *Nutcracker Ballet* or watch the *Christmas Carol*, which will be sure to put you in the holiday spirit. Save up extra cash to treat your family to see the *Radio City Rockets Christmas Spectacular 2000*, as well.

-On the fifth day of winter break, be a kid again! Visit the "big guy" himself. It might sound childish, but you'll end up getting great holiday pictures of you and

your friends. If the idea sounds too drastic, take your younger sibling to sit on Santa's lap.

-On the sixth day of winter break, call it a baking day! Invite your friends, start a flour fight, and dig out old classic cookie recipes. Afterwards, take time to gobble up a few cookies as a sweet reward, and then give them to friends and family.

-On the seventh day of winter break, take a trip to the mall! Battle the crowds of people and search endlessly for the perfect presents to give your family and friends. Here's the catch: Don't buy anything for yourself while you are there.

-On the eighth day of winter break, spread the holiday spirit! Gather up the group and head to a retirement home, homeless shelter, or food pantry to help others during the holiday season. Give the gift of giving, and actually enjoy it.

-On the ninth day of winter break, lace up those old skates! Take a trip downtown to Skate on State for a day filled with laughter (or aches and pains). If you can't make it to Chicago, meet up with a bunch of friends at the Fox Valley Ice Arena and glide

around for a few hours.

-On the tenth day of winter break, gather up your closest friends for a night of caroling! Sing old holiday classics such as "Frosty the Snowman," "Silent Night," "and Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer." Go door-to-door and watch your neighbors' faces light up with holiday cheer!

-On the eleventh day of winter break, a rest is what you'll need! Gather up the gang and enjoy watching these: *A Christmas Story*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street*, *White Christmas*, *The Bells of St. Mary's*, and *Christmas Vacation*.

-On the twelfth day of winter break, spend time with your family. Take a trip down 'memory lane' and reminisce of past holidays. Get snowed in; drink hot chocolate; realize that your parents aren't so bad after all. You might end up making new best friends.

These are just a few of the activities that can keep you busy during your two weeks away from school. Spending time with your family and friends during winter break will make the holidays even merrier.

The bonus?  
Having lots of fun, too.

## Your big plans

By Laura McQueen

Vacations, holidays, presents, snow, and fun. Everybody's got winter break on their mind. Here's what a few of the students here at West Chicago will be doing over break. "Sleeping and playing with my presents." -junior Jon Hunt  
"Snowboarding." -junior Heather Lakics  
"Going to Florida." -freshman Mike Chronowski  
"On vacation somewhere." -sophomore Steve Wingstedt  
"Sleep all day and party." -junior Krissy Zeffield  
"I'm going to soak up the

rays in Porta Vallarta." -senior Jenny Skrzypczynski  
"I'm going to sniper camp." -senior Marie Hammond  
"I'm going to Minnesota." -senior Gerardo Garcia  
"I'm going to go sledding, and build a snow fort, and have a snowball fight!" -senior Julietta Favela  
"I hope to tour with Stryper to Australia and Africa." -senior Chris Buckles-Haley  
"I hope to be a roadie for the band Stryper." -senior Mike Zibera  
"I'm going to Dominican Republic." -senior James Nelson  
"I'm letting the flow take Me." -senior Alberto Chavez



## Spirit of giving should extend outside of family

By Mary-Megan Kalvig  
 "Deck the halls with boughs of holly, fa la la la. 'Tis the season to be giving." Stop the song. "Tis the season to be giving." Think about that for a minute.

What does the song mean by "giving"? Does it mean give your little sister a noogie?

Does it mean give all of your teachers a headache by not doing your homework?

Or does it mean giving out gifts to loved one? What about giving gifts to the less fortunate?

The holidays are a time for giving. 'Tis better to give than to receive, right?

There are two forms of giving. You can give to loved ones and then you can give to strangers.

During the holiday season the Salvation Army is stationed outside grocery stores, Wal-Marts, Targets, and other stores with bells and red buckets.

All they are asking for is a little bit of change for the needy. This is the type of giving the song is most about, giving to the needy.

The holidays are probably the most difficult for any homeless person. Seeing people walk out of stores with armfuls of presents and realizing you have nothing to give to your loved ones has got to be difficult to live with.

That is why it is up to us, who have the time and money, to help those people out. I am not talking about giving \$100 to charity. Yeah, it would be nice, but who has that money?

I am talking about giving a dollar to the Salvation Army when you see the man ringing the bell. If you are not willing to give a dollar, give your spare change. Every little bit helps.

During my sophomore year, my World Studies class did a year-long project

known as the Make A Difference project. Here we were taught that a single person can make a difference. We were told that we will not change the world, but every little bit helps.

This project is really important during the holidays. For my project I participated in an organization known as P.A.D.S.

Every Wednesday, the church Corpus Christi opened their rooms for the homeless.

The homeless came for a warm meal, some entertainment, a place to sleep, and then breakfast and a sack lunch.

Corpus Christi also provided some winter clothes and some toiletries.

While it may not seem like a lot, in the dead of winter, this has got to be heaven. For at least one night these families were out of the bitter cold and had a safe, warm night.

Even though I did not build

these people a home, or give them hundreds of dollars, I helped them have a "home" for at least one night.

I gave a little bit of my time to help someone else. It is a great feeling to help these people out in any way I can.

Everyone thinks of the holidays as a time of presents. All of the gifts under the Christmas tree make the holidays seem more real.

Think back to the homeless, what presents under the tree do they have? None.

What tree do they have decorated with their favorite ornaments? None.

Another holiday experience I had was with children in the hospital.

My church collected gifts for children in the hospital during the holidays. On Christmas these children were not given the opportunity to run down the stairs to

feast their eyes on stacks of presents with their names on them.

Instead, they were hooked up to an IV watching *A Christmas Carol* on TV.

The high school students of my church gathered up all of those wrapped presents and handed them out to the children at the hospital.

Children ranging from tiny babies in their cribs to young teens did not experience a real Christmas.

Our church collected so many presents that there was a large stack of toys for the playroom at the hospital.

It was a great feeling to see how generous people are. It was also heart warming to give a little bit of holiday cheer to people who really need it.

'Tis the season to be giving' does not mean giving gifts to your family alone. It means giving to the needy. J.C. Penney has a commercial about a family who has all of these gifts and drops them all off at a children's home.

That is what it means to give. It means to stop thinking about what you have and to think about what others do

not have. Not everyone is as fortunate as we are.

I do not think it is too much to ask for each person to stop all of his or her selfishness, just for one time a year, and to give to charity.

One time a year is all that I ask. Before you go out and buy new toys and clothes, go through all of the things you already have.



Instead of throwing out what you will never wear again or play with, make a pile and give it to Good Will.

What you may think of as trash may be a treasure to some little child. Children who have nothing are not very picky.

Make your 2000 holiday one to remember by doing a little bit of charity work. After all, the holidays are a time of caring and sharing. In the end, you will feel better than when you started.



## Ditch the holiday hype

By Mary-Megan Kalvig and Laura McQueen  
 "Christmas in July!" "Holiday sale!" "Seasonal savings!" All year round we can find Christmas sales.

The day before Halloween, instead of a wide selection of Halloween decorations, there was entire display of Christmas lights, trees, and ornaments.

Quite frankly, it's disgusting.

The holidays are a special time for family, friends, and for many, there's also an important religious aspect as well. When people can walk into a store two months before Christmas and find a display of holiday sales, it feels like the holidays are being exploited.

The holiday season is not like any other time of the year. It's not just some Hallmark holiday that serves more as a business promotion than a real celebration. But every year it becomes more and more of a commercial holiday.

With all the holiday hype, people seem to forget what the holidays really mean. The true meaning of the holiday season is different for everyone, but it is always a very special personal time.

For us, Christmas is celebrating the birth of Christ with those we love. For others it may mean something else.

Whatever it means to you, its probably not just about the best Holiday sales and what you're going to get out of it.

Christmas is not all about Santa Claus. If it was, it would be called Clausmas or Santa Day. It is called Christmas for a reason. It is celebrating something religious and yet everyone seems to forget that.

It seems to most people that the holidays are about presents. Who gets the most, what is the most expensive, so on and so forth. Whatever happened to it's the thought that counts. How many times have you thought: What am I going to do with this? Why did she get this tacky color? Is this returnable?

Have you ever gone shopping for presents on one of the busiest nights? Mobs break out and you can barely move an inch through a store. There have been stories of fights over Tickle Me Elmo or the latest hit toy.

People take the commercial part of Christmas way too seriously. Christmas becomes a time of greed to most people. Think about people in the early 1800's, they only got an apple or a doll and some candy. That was heaven for them. Now if we don't get everything on our mile long Christmas list we throw a fit.

People need to remember that Christmas is not about gifts and food. It is about religion and family. Always remember why you are celebrating the holiday and whom you are celebrating it with, which is different for all.

Whatever it means to you, don't let the true meaning of the holidays get lost in all the gimmicks, cheap promotions, and greed.

## Find new ways to celebrate new year

By Jamie Nadolny  
 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1  
 Happy New Year!

The hype surrounding 2001 is as exciting as this past year's millennium: streamers, confetti, a midnight make-out, and "Auld Lang Syne."

This year does have its differences, however. There might not be pandemonium at local hardware stores on Dec. 31, and flashlights or battery-operated radios won't be in popular demand on New Year's Eve. Bottled water won't be a top seller before the clock strikes 12 this year.

Instead, don't be surprised if bottled beer is the price-less substitute.

This past year's millennium panic was the start of a New Years Eve trend. This year, instead of staying locked inside of the house waiting for the world to end, alcohol might be the main focus.

Watching the ball drop in Times Square will no longer be a way to spend the last few minutes of the year. Some We-go students won't ring in the new year indulged in *I Love Lucy* reruns or watching the *MTV New Year's Eve Bash* on television. Spending the night throwing up in the backyard may be the

alternative activity of choice.

Students at West Chicago High School have been planning their New Year's Eve events for weeks now, and the big night is just around the corner. However, some students at our school will be starting off the new year by breaking the law.

In fact, some We-go students are already discussing their illegal New Year's Eve plans.

Shouts of "Count me in for a six-pack," "I'll put in \$20," and "Let's just buy a keg," ring through the halls of We-go. It looks like that's how students want to ring in the new year, as well.

Flyers for parties and word-of-mouth invites are passed around school, the word is out about the hot spots and hangouts where parents will be out and alcoholic beverages will be served. Some students can already taste the strong sting of tequila in their mouths.

If students chose to spend Dec. 31 at a party with a burning throat and bloodshot eyes, it's their choice. I just don't want a toilet bowl to be the first thing that I see in the year 2001.

There aren't very many places for teens to go on New Year's Eve, and there aren't many activities that people

under the age of 18 or 21 can participate in.

But getting drunk and forgetting the biggest bash of the year doesn't sound all that exciting, either.

Chugging beer and sipping wine coolers on New Year's Eve seems to be the start of a new trend. New year's resolutions are bound to become the ode of drinking *once* a week instead of the current *four* parties in one night.



Last year, some extremists thought midnight would mark the end of the world. It seems to me that getting wasted as a teenager might be worse than the fear of millennium mayhem.

Get with it. Walking around sloppy drunk in the wee hours of the morning doesn't sound very exciting.

In the past, I've spent New Year's Eve with my parents and my friends. I can remember trying to stay up until midnight with my younger

sister, but falling asleep before 10:00 at night after going bowling or out for pizza.

Today, it's not "cool" to ring in the new year at home with parents. Now, students want to celebrate the new year with a bottle of Bacardi instead of with their families. Going out and having a safe holiday isn't "uncool," just harmless.

There are lots of other ways to have a fun New Year's Eve without resorting to Sam Adams to spruce up the spirit: ice skating with friends, old movies with the family, staying in and making a list of all of the things that you want to accomplish next year.

Instead of going to a party and getting drunk, go to a party and become the designated driver. Spend the new year doing something good for others instead of getting drunk.

New Year's Eve doesn't have to be a night with a case of Coors.

Yes, students have a choice.

However, going to a party on New Year's Eve and getting wasted is just a waste of time.





## Sexual assault: Know the facts, know your rights

By Stephanie Bodane

Imagine that you are in a car on a date. You and your date are having a fun time but you decide that it's time to go home because it is late.

Now imagine that your date won't let you out of the car.

According to the Ms. Magazine and the National Institutes of Health Studies, one fifth of all college women experience forced sex by someone that they know.

Let's talk about this. One of the most common myths about sexual assault is that the victims are to blame in some way. Some may say you're to blame for poor decisions, or not resisting, but the rapist is always responsible for committing the

crime of rape. No person asks to be raped, regardless of how a person is dressed or their behavior, or even his or her poor judgment. When someone says "no" that means no.

Now place yourself in the position that was described. You are locked in the car and your date won't let you out. The offender begins to touch you in unwanted ways. You continue to say "no" but the unwanted gestures continue.

This is sexual assault. According to the studies, as long as you feel uncomfortable and you say no, the other person is committing a crime.

But what is the difference between rape, assault, and harassment? Rape is a type of assault that is forced sexual intercourse. Sexual assault be forced touching or oral sex.

Sexual harassment is unwanted comments, gestures, or jokes. Anything about your body or your sexuality is sexual harassment.

Now back to this situation. What can you do? This person is offending your body, and making you feel violated. How can you take control? Here is how you can.

Be assertive, you have to open your mouth and say if you do or don't want something. You can't be shy, it's okay to be scared, but let the person know your limits. If you are outside or in public, get someone's attention by shouting, "fire!". Never just scream.

Ms. Magazine says before you get into this situation, think of ways to avoid it. Trust your instincts, your first

responsibility is to yourself. You also may want to see where you are, be sure people are in sight, even better if a friend is near by or even with you.

In our school, we have cases of sexual abuses. Although the school cannot give out the number of cases, they do acknowledge that it does happen within the walls of our school. Your school

counselors, deans, teachers, and even officers on duty are here to talk; everything that you say will be kept confidential. The school will not press charges or do anything you aren't prepared to do. The counselors will however, encourage you to talk to your parents, no matter how hard it may seem your parents should be know what you have been put through, they

should be on your side no matter what.

Sexual assault, rape and harassment happen all over the world, in your town, in your school, to your friends, and it could happen to you. Know where to draw the line, know where to get help, know that the word no is the most powerful statement you can make, and people should respect that, and respect you.

## To: Front Row Punks

### Re:Let's try a tad harder, eh?

By Marc Berry

Going to the movies, for most people, is a time to unwind — a time to hang out with friends, load up on liquid butter with popcorn thrown in, and kill a few brain cells (Don't worry about it. We got millions to spare, dontcha know?). But there always seems to be one group that goes to the movies for a particularly special reason.

To entertain me.

I don't know who they are or where they're from, but they always sound the same, and I'm pretty sure that it's the same people every time, bugging my phone calls so they can know in advance what movie I'm going to. They are always there before I arrive and they make sure to get a front row seat.

You see, they believe the movie isn't enough for me or the audience. They feel they have to perform some additional material in order to make my experience as enjoyable as possible.

And for this, I thank them. If by some incredible chance, this newspaper ends up in their hands, I want them to know that I am grateful for their efforts. Lately, though, their "performances" seem to be getting a little... dull. It's not that I don't appreciate the hard work — I do — it's just that the whole routine gets a tad monotonous after the first time or 10.

So, if you people are reading this, I just thought I'd offer a little advice on how to improve your act.

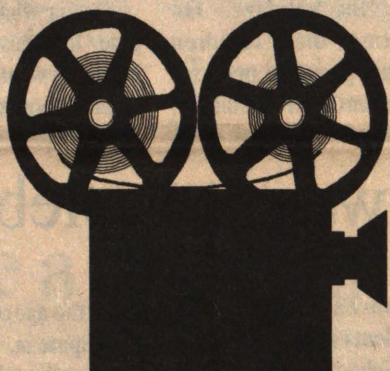
First of all, before the movie starts, don't laugh sarcastically when the little cartoon film guy falls just before the words "We appreci-

ate your cooperation in creating a quiet movie-going experience" appear. I know that the animation plays before each and every movie shown... and

I know that it's not particularly funny anymore (It's a roll of film that walks! Genius, I tells ya!). This rule applies throughout the movie, as well. Don't falsely crack up at bad jokes. I can generally pick up on cheesy dialogue, and you do not need to let me know when it occurs. However, I thank you for thinking to point it out in your oh-so-clever manner.

Also, don't yell out long comments on the movie, especially during noisy scenes. I'm sure they're very funny, but nobody can understand them. All we hear is the sound of your voice. This is largely due to the fact that the theater is very large, and, oh yeah, that movie thing is playing up front, drowning you out. I would love to hear your remarks, but unfortunately I can't. I'm just trying to save you some breath. After all, it's the least I can do in return for all the trouble you've gone through on my behalf.

Lastly, try to come up with some new material. I'm sure there's loads of potential in those witty heads of yours that you have yet to discover. Practice short comical lines for those dull moments during movies (Try it in front of



a mirror. It's supposed to make you better or something). Once you move beyond the fake laughing, new ideas will constantly flow to you.

With my advice, you'll be liked by everyone at the theatre (even more!) and your self-esteem will skyrocket (Yay!). So, next time you track me at the movies, remember my few simple tips and everyone will be gobs happier.

Or you could just shut up. Either one. Thanks again!

### Play...

(continued from page 2) She described it as "a series of scenes and experiences in a formal dining room."

The play, which was chosen by Hafertepe, will have one set for the entire performance. Originally, the script called for three men and three women, even though there are more than six characters in the play. Throughout the night, the stars would change roles, making costumes a large part of the performance. "It should be a real challenge," said Hafertepe.

However, at press time it had not yet been decided if

Dear Publisher,

I am 23238! A number in a system of repression. I feel like a prisoner behind these brick walls. A cow in a stampede of people.

Sure, people may know my name but to them we are all just numbers. We are made to wear bar codes and numbers and to conform to society.

We are taught to be different but yet expected to be the same. First, we lost freedom of speech. We can say what we want but only if we don't offend them. Then we lost our freedom of expression. We can wear what we want as long as they like it. Now we lose our freedom of choice. In commons where we are allowed to be free, we are herded into certain areas.

"As numbers we become problems, not part of the solution. We help to make variable things, but in doing so, we become valueless," said 25589.

When three misbehave, 20 get punished. Why do the innocent have to deal with faults that are not theirs. When they think of school, it should not be how best to use the budget but how best to teach the students.

From, 23238

more than six cast members will be used, so as to lighten the load for each individual.

Auditions were held last week, but the names of the cast were not yet available when the paper went to print.

For those auditioning, the script was available to read in the LRC, so they could become familiar with the play. According to Hafertepe, she did not want an incident similar to the one that occurred in Niqua Valley, where several cast members quit because they thought the script was inappropriate.

## Letter to the Editor: System too systematic

If you would like to write a letter to the editor to be printed in the next issue of *The Wildcat Chronicle*, leave it in *The Wildcat Chronicle* mailbox in the administrative office or deliver it to advisor Laura Kuehn in room 320. Letters must be signed if you want them published. However, the *Chronicle*

may consider requests for anonymity when the letter is printed. *The Wildcat Chronicle* has the right to exclude any letter due to inappropriateness or lack of space. *The Wildcat Chronicle* is a forum for freedom of expression and encourages readers to write.

### Report...

(continued from page 1) bilingual coordinator for the 2000-01 school year" and "Discussion of how to better coordinate services with District 33."

As of now, the school has of 66.4% whites, 1% blacks, 30.1% Hispanics, 2.1% Asian/ Pacific Islanders, and

0.3% Native Americans. We-go's drop out rate is slightly smaller than the state average with a rate of 5.3% and a state average of 5.8%. Attendance is lower than the state average, with 91.1% attendance compared to the state's 93.9%.

## Thumbs up, thumbs down

<p>Thumbs up to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Standing under the mistletoe with your sweetie.</li> <li>-Finding that special perfect gift.</li> <li>-Eating lots of holiday cookies.</li> <li>-Stuffing yourself at dinner with Grandma's 20-course meal.</li> <li>-Playing in the snow.</li> </ul>	<p>Thumbs down to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Standing under the mistletoe with old Aunt Edna.</li> <li>-Waiting in line for hours to return that not-so-perfect gift.</li> <li>-Burning holiday cookies.</li> <li>-Gaining 15 pounds from stuffing yourself at Grandma's.</li> <li>-Shoveling snow.</li> </ul>
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## Backstreet Boys' new groove

By Mary-Megan Kalvig  
Backstreet Boys' newest album, *Black & Blue*, has something new and something old. It's a little bit hip and a little bit slow.

"I think *Black & Blue* is a lot different. It's a lot more diverse, I think, than the Millennium album," BSB singer Brian Littrell said in an article on the LAUNCH website.

The Boys, Nick Carter, Howie Dorough, Littrell, AJ Mclean, and Kevin Richardson, definitely achieved something different, without steering too far from what they are known best for.

The new music can be divided into two categories. The first category is the typical slow, heartfelt music. This category includes such songs as "Shape of My Heart" and "What Makes You Different (Makes you Beautiful)." Then there is the more upbeat, fast music, with songs like "The Call" and "Shining Star."



A true BSB fan might be a little surprised with the new image of the band, but the music is a nice change. The new music has a nice beat and really gets your feet tapping. Fans of their original music do not have to worry, they still have the slow songs like they had in the last two albums.

One interesting fact about this CD is BSB did some of the writing. On their last CD, *Millennium*, Littrell helped write two songs and Richardson worked on one.

This time, the Boys helped write half of the songs. "The Answer to Our Life" and "Time" were fully written by BSB. Max Martin, who helped write some of their former songs, also contributed to the CD.

### Riddles for your brain

The beginning of eternity,  
The end of time and space,  
The beginning of every end,  
And the end of every place.  
Hint: It's in front of you right now.  
Answer: The letter e  
????????  
Squeeze it and it cries tears  
as red as its flesh, but its heart  
is made of stone.  
Answer: A cherry  
????????  
I am both Mother and Father.  
I am seldom still,  
Yet I never wander.

The first song on the CD, "The Call," has the best rhythm. When listening to it, you just want to get up and dance. The drums in the background really add the umph the music needs.

The beat is unique and hard to explain because each person who hears it might consider it something different. It definitely is a song that will stick in your head.

The best slow song is "What Makes You Different (Makes you Beautiful)." The title of the song explains what the song is about.

The chorus says, "What makes you different makes you beautiful. What's there inside you shines through to me. In your eyes I see all the love I'll ever need. What makes you different makes you beautiful to me." It is a true love song. It shows that sometimes what someone sees as different or strange is heaven to someone else.

"Shining Star" might not have the best content, but it has a really touching chorus: "You're my shining star, that is what you are, there is no one like you. Angels everywhere, every time you're there. You will always be my baby." Along with a foot-tapping beat, the chorus makes up for a somewhat sexual theme.

One new name on the insert is Babyface, who helped with the song "Time." Besides producing the song, Babyface also added background vocals and some instrumentals. The song is pretty and soothing with some sweet harmonizing in the chorus.

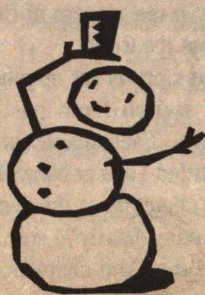
*Black & Blue* is an exciting change in the typical boy band hype. True fans of BSB need not worry because this is not such a drastic change that they have lost their heritage. The new music satisfies the fast, upbeat music seekers and the slow music loving fans. The new CD adds a hip touch to their already popular status.

I never birth nor nurse.  
Don Hotch  
Answer: A tree  
????????  
Born Motherless and Fatherless,  
Into this world without a sin.  
Made a loud roar as I entered  
And never spoke again.  
Warren Stevens  
Answer: Thunder  
????????  
The more you take the more  
you leave behind.  
Answer: Footsteps  
????????

### Find these words in the holiday word search

S	Q	D	A	E	R	B	R	E	G	N	I	G	I	A	V	R
E	O	O	U	W	R	T	R	N	A	M	W	O	N	S	R	M
R	E	T	N	I	W	G	Y	K	E	U	K	K	D	A	E	K
T	V	I	C	I	C	L	E	S	B	T	R	X	S	N	A	G
Y	N	N	R	D	L	V	T	A	V	N	U	S	O	T	H	L
F	F	S	T	O	C	K	I	N	G	S	E	R	A	A	C	U
R	E	E	D	N	I	E	R	G	N	K	A	B	A	A	S	Q
U	L	L	U	K	U	D	G	E	A	H	A	E	R	R	L	Y
I	V	P	H	H	D	Y	B	L	D	O	L	O	H	U	L	R
T	E	R	G	L	E	L	F	S	W	E	L	A	F	A	E	O
C	S	Q	P	K	T	W	R	A	O	S	L	S	F	H	B	P
A	Z	N	R	N	O	Z	C	A	N	D	Y	C	A	N	E	S
K	G	U	E	N	U	B	O	I	S	H	K	R	M	V	L	T
E	T	P	S	G	L	S	W	A	C	W	N	O	I	B	G	H
Q	N	E	E	R	G	D	E	N	H	H	V	O	L	E	N	G
Y	U	H	N	S	H	N	R	T	R	E	E	G	Y	L	I	I
G	E	F	T	H	P	E	O	L	Y	S	U	E	L	O	J	L
J	M	L	S	N	B	D	V	G	T	G	A	F	R	P	L	U
K	I	K	W	M	O	F	Z	A	S	A	W	G	R	H	U	S
J	T	E	E	H	O	T	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	E
M	T	C	E	W	C	K	V	T	R	W	T	O	P	R	Y	I
O	E	G	T	E	N	N	F	U	F	O	G	P	R	O	H	K
D	N	W	A	G	Q	J	I	C	T	N	E	M	A	N	R	O
F	S	H	P	L	O	D	U	R	U	S	F	H	T	R	I	O
S	O	L	T	U	L	O	T	B	G	P	C	J	S	Y	R	C

- Tinsel
- Snow
- Lights
- Presents
- Family
- Tree
- Santa
- Elves
- Reindeer
- Cheer
- Eggnog
- Candy Canes
- Gingerbread
- Grinch
- Scrooge
- Stockings
- Ornament
- Jingle Bells
- North Pole
- Star
- Angels
- Turkey
- Hot Chocolate
- December
- Rudolph
- Snowman
- Red
- Green
- Snowflakes
- Fruitcake
- Carols
- Winter
- Icicles
- Mittens
- Menorah
- Cookies



## Innovative new works of Nine Days

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 fronts.

Although widely recognized as a top new-wave group, the band's sounds and ideas are positively incomparable and innovative.

The vivacious and energetic group is called Nine Days, and their music combines pop lyrics with technologically altered background music.

The group consists of five song writers and musicians, all of whom started performing in local bands for years. The musicians devote themselves to mixing quirky lyrics with '80's inspired rock.

Vocalists/guitarists John Hampson and Brian Desveaux, bassist Nick Dimichino, drummer/percussionist Vincent Tattenelli, and pianist/keyboardist Jeremy Dean are promoting their latest release, *The Maddening Crowd*.

The band originated in 1995 in Deer Park, Long Island when Hampson and Desveaux wrote demos to get the band started. They released their first CD, with a limited edition of 1,000 copies, and performed live shows at local clubs to gain atten-

tion from major record labels.

Nine Days caught the attention of Epic and Sony Music after winning WBAB Radio Station's "Homegrown Talent Search," and WLIR Radio Station's "Best Unsigned Band" competition.

The newfound fame inspired the band to write music for *The Maddening Crowd*.



The band's CD comprises erratic lyrics and unpredictable instrumentals. Inspired by musicians Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, and Neil Young, Nine Days sounds like a mix between '80's pop and '90's new wave alternative.

"We decided to name the CD *The Maddening Crowd*, because I read *Far From the Maddening Crowd* at the time when I was in need of inspiration. The line 'Love is a possible strength, in an actual weakness' was the most profound and brilliant line I had ever read," said Hampson in an interview with Sony Music.

Hits like "Absolutely (Story of a Girl)" and "If I Am" have already gained Nine Days radio attention across the country. The ten other tracks on *The Maddening Crowd* blend percussionist-

generated background music with upbeat lyrics.

"I felt that the songs [like "If I Am"] on the CD are the little episodes about the problems that make relationships hard to establish and keep alive. They are the stories of being in the madding crowd, not away from it," said Hampson.

During "If I Am," Hampson and Desveaux belt, "Have in me a little patience/have in me a little faith/I want to be with you forever/tomorrow's not to late.../and it's always to late when you've got nothing/so you say/you should never let the sun set on tomorrow/before the sun rises today."

Songs like "So Far Away," "End up Alone," and "Bitter" correlate relationships in *The Maddening Crowd*. The common theme seems to interweave the musicians' own ideas about love and life with common myths regarding relationships, as well.

In "So Far Away," Hampson and Desveaux sing, "If you leave/where will you go/before the regret you hold in your heart will start to show/If you leave/how will you know/if our ever after ever had a chance to grow."

Both vocalists also stress the struggles of a broken relationship in the song "Bitter" when they sing, "I don't ask for your forgiveness/I

don't care much for your actress/that's just you though/shallow and selfish/so I go now/oh my hollow one today."

Later in the song, they emphasize regret in a relationship by singing, "If I could change/anything/I would change/everything/these bitter days/shall remain."

"Realness applies to our lyrical content," Hampson said during the interview with Sony. "We're conscientious about our lyrics without being extreme. There are a lot of things on the record that deal with the difficulties of relationships, what everyone goes through in one form or another."

Besides showing obvious talent in their CD, Nine Days also thrives on their live performance. The group especially shines while playing live and unrehearsed. Although their current tour will not stop in Illinois, the group hopes to make a stop near Chicago some time within the next year.

Nine Days' '80's pop/new wave alternative lyrics are absorbing and exciting, and the record comprises energetic lyrics and powerful messages with an ingenious percussion background. The twelve songs on *The Maddening Crowd* make the band extraordinarily different.

This band deserves a five.



## The Grinch gives a new definition for bad

By Nick Reardon

The Grinch has a reason for being evil and cold hearted if he's seen the highly anticipated movie, *The Grinch*.

The movie is about the Grinch growing up and being made fun of as a child. He runs away from all the laughter to the top of a lonely mountain, never to be seen again.

The book is different from the movie. In the book, the Grinch, whose heart is two sizes too small, sneaks into Whoville disguised as Santa Claus and steals all of their toys and decorations.

He's a mean one, or at least, that's what the book and TV special are about. This movie puts that story in the last 40 minutes, with a full hour of new, bad material before it. Here we meet the ugly Who and Grinch.

Instead of that mildly entertaining 20-minute TV special I used to watch as child, they made a two-hour waste of film. I realize Hollywood had to make it longer, but they could have stuck with Dr. Seuss' original story.



This isn't the type of movie where you really need to go in-depth with the characters. Was Cindy Lou Who actually a big role in the book? No. Did they need to have her in this movie as a plot device? No. Did they really have to tell us why the Grinch was bad or mean? No.

Who cares why he shows that anger. Apparently Hollywood does. They tried going too in-depth. They always need a love story and a past. They don't need that, just tell us the story. They wrecked one of the best-known childhood stories ever.

All they wanted to do was make money. They didn't care how they made the story look.

So they hired a very famous funny man, Jim Carrey, to play the Grinch. They did this when they could have hired anyone to be the part. Any shmuck can wear some green makeup

and some fuzz, make weird voices, and act like an idiot. They only hired Jim Carrey because it would capture people's attention. When people see the ads, they will say, "Hey that's Jim Carrey. It has to be good."

Don't get me wrong, Jim Carrey is good, he pulls it off, but face the facts, the movie industry picked him as the Grinch so they could make more money.

Then, to make people want to see it even more, they got one of the greatest directors to do the movie, Ron Howard. People will see this and decide to go because of him.

Then the studio would have a big budget and show some spectacular shots in the movie trailers.

However, what I saw in the movie was a mean old Grinch and some ugly Whos. In the book, Dr. Seuss shows the Whos as cheerful little elf-type creatures that almost look human. In the movie, they are shown as big nosed, bucked toothed things I just want to hit.

I think little children will come out of the movie scared because of how everything looks. It's all such a dreary version of Dr. Seuss' original book.

The colors are darker and the people look scary. In the book, the town is filled with bright Christmas colors. In the movie, the reds are more of a dark brown and the greens are more puke green than Christmas green.

I heard children crying a couple times when the townspeople came on the screen.

The humor is even dark. The Grinch discusses certain topics that are not suitable for children. One example is when he gives a child a hacksaw and tells him to run with it. Certain topics might be funny for adults, but over the heads of children.

The bottom line is the mean, green ball of fur might have to go back into hiding again. The movie was not made for children like expected. I give this movie only a point five out of five.

## Death: result of a broken pact

By Mary-Megan Kalvig

Have you ever made a pact with someone close to you? What happened when someone broke that pact? Jodi Picoult's book, *The Pact*, is an enjoyable, but long book dealing with the devastating consequences when someone's pact is broken.

*The Pact* is a love story about two teens that are torn apart when one dies. Chris Harte and Emily Gold have known each other since the day they were born and their friendship soon turns into love. One day Emily dies and Chris is the prime suspect. However, he claims it was a suicide pact.

After the autopsy report is revealed, Chris is charged with murder. Suddenly the close knit families are torn apart in the process of finding out the truth.

The story is set up where they switch from past to present. Each chapter is either titled Then or Now. The Now chapters are the events following Emily's murder, while the Then chapters are

reflections of the relationship between the families as the children grow up.

Unlike most stories when a switch between the time periods could become overdone and confusing, they are neatly incorporated into the story. They help set the mood between the characters.

While they do set the mood, the book can be just as good without all of the flashbacks. This book can be a good detective or court book instead of a love story.

*The Pact* can be made into two books. The Then chapters can be a love story, while the Now chapters can make a detective's book. I do not feel a lot of the past chapters are really important in developing the story.

Taking out some of the past reflections will make the book a lot shorter. As a high schooler I do not have enough time to read 386 pages just for the fun of it. However, this book is for teenagers seeing it is about two teens and their families.

What Picoult needs to do

is become more focused and cut out the unnecessary chapters.

One interesting part of the book is Emily's death is never exactly described. The reader never receives a visual picture of what happened when the killing does occur.

All the reader knows is that they kiss, say "I love you," and then a shot is fired. The reader does not know until later that Emily is killed.

However, the questions still remain. Who fired the gun? Was there a struggle? What was the reason for the suicide? All of the missing links are determined during the trial. The reader does not read the actual murder scene until the last 100 pages.

This is an interesting approach to the situation. It allows the reader to pull his/her own judgment based on what the detectives find and what Chris says.

The mystery lets the reader feel a part of the trial. The reader will feel like the jury trying to figure out what is the truth.

Multiple sections of the book that can be taken out are the sex scenes. I did not see why it is important to read about their parents having sex. It is in no way significant to the story.

The only people it is important to know are having sex are Chris and Emily. Sex between them is important in the murder trial.

Their parent's sex is not important in the trial so I do not think it is needed in the book. Plus, it is not just one or two scenes; it occurs multiple times.

*The Pact* is a good book with a good story line. However, it is a long book with unnecessary parts. It can be shortened without taking away from the plot. This is a good book to read if you are looking for a romance and detective story in one.



## What is the reason for movie sequels?

By Alexandra Patin

It seems as if every movie has its sequel. Some even have four or five.

But is it worth it?

Is every movie worth a sequel, and is every sequel worthy of its movie? Sequels consistently are worse than their originals. To see this trend, just take a look at a few significant sequels in the recent past.

*Scream*

The first movie was suspenseful, scary, and filled with twists and turns. At the start of the movie, a girl is killed at home by someone in a mask. In order to feel better, a party is held where another

girl is killed. Suddenly the killer goes on a killing spree. We find out that there are actually two killers, and they are the main character Sydney's boyfriend and his best friend. She fends them off and lives, but is one of the few survivors.

The second movie could hardly be called a movie, one killing after another. The plot just grew crowded and jumbled as the viewer fought to discover who the killer was in this movie. This time, Sydney is in college and she has another boyfriend. This time the boyfriend isn't the killer, but a sudden appearance by the previous

boyfriend's mother reveals who is. This sequel was definitely not one to see.

*I Know What You Did Last Summer*

Again, the first movie was pretty good. Based on the book *I Know What You Did Last Summer*, by Lois Duncan, it was filled with scary plot lines.

As a group of friends tries to ward off a killer who has come back to haunt them, they slowly realize why he is coming after them. Last summer, the group was in a drunk driving accident and pushed a boy over a guardrail into the ocean, thinking he was dead. They didn't check,

however. One by one, they receive notes in the mail saying, "I know what you did last summer."

In the sequel, Francene, the main character played by Jennifer Love Hewitt, is at college. She is not doing well, however, because she is still living with the guilt of what she did the summer before last summer. She goes back home for the summer break only to meet her last remaining friend from the group. She happens to win a contest to a tropical resort and a new group of friends get stuck in a tropical hell with a maniacal killer.

Sequels - you decide.

## New movies for the holiday season

By Mary-Megan Kalvig  
*All the Pretty Horses*

John Grady Cole is forced to leave his old life behind when his mother sells their ranch. He and his friend Lacey Rawlins then head off to Mexico to live the cowboy life. When they finally arrive in Mexico, John Grady falls in love with the daughter of a ranch owner. Suddenly, he is tested in manhood and maturity when he is arrested for murder. Starring Matt Damon and Penelope Cruz. Rated PG-13. December 25, 2000.

*Antitrust*

When Milo decided to work

for a multi-billion dollar corporation instead of starting a business with his friend, he didn't know what he was getting into. His hero will do anything to win. Suddenly it is a story of David and Goliath. Starring Rachael Leigh Cook, and Ryan Phillippe. Rated PG-13. January 12, 2001.

*Cast Away*

Chuck Noland, a FedEx worker, crashes near the South Pacific and is the sole survivor. Since his friends think he is dead, he begins to struggle with survival in both physical and emotional ways. Starring Tom Hanks

and Helen Hunt. Rated PG-13. December 22, 2000.

*Miss Congeniality*

When the Miss United States pageant receives a bomb threat, FBI agent Gracie Hart goes undercover as a contestant. She is transformed from a tomboy to a beauty queen to stop the terrorists. Starring Sandra Bullock, Benjamin Bratt, Michael Caine, and William Shatner. Rated PG-13. December 22, 2000.

*Save the Last Dance*

A teenage girl's dreams are put on hold with the death of her mother and a move in

with her father. For refuge, she goes to clubs where she meets a black man who also loves dancing. The two are then forced to deal with peer pressure due to race and class. Starring Julia Stiles. January 12, 2001.

*Wes Craven Presents: Dracula 2000*

This is an updated tale of Bram Stoker's "Dracula," which ended in 1897. Dracula now haunts 21st century America where he continues his thirst for blood. He meets high-tech forms of defense. Starring Christopher Plummer. Rated R. December 22, 2000.



## Winter sports schedule: We-go teams in competition

Boys Basketball		
Wednesday, Dec. 20 through Saturday, Dec. 23	V	Waubonsie Valley
Wednesday, Dec. 27	JV	Marmion
Thursday, Dec. 28 through Saturday, Dec. 30	S	Minooka Tournament
Friday, Jan. 5	S, V	Naperville North
Saturday, Jan. 6	S, V	Glenbard North
	FA, SB	Naperville North
Monday, Jan. 8	FB, JV	Glenbard East
Friday, Jan. 12	S, V	Wheaton North
Saturday, Jan. 13	FA, SB	Wheaton North
Monday, Jan. 15	SB, JV	Geneva
Friday, Jan. 19	S, V	Wheaton Warr South
Saturday, Jan. 20	FA, SB	Wheaton Warr South
Monday, Jan. 22	FA, FB	Larkin
Tuesday, Jan. 23	S, V	Larkin
Friday, Jan. 26	S, V	Naperville Central
Saturday, Jan. 27	FA, SB	Naperville Central
Monday, Jan. 29	FA, FB	East Aurora
Tuesday, Jan. 30	S, V	West Aurora
Friday, Feb. 2	S, V	Glenbard North
Saturday, Feb. 3	FA, SB	West Aurora
Monday, Feb. 5	FA, SB	Glenbard North
Thursday, Feb. 8	FA, FB	St. Charles East
Friday, Feb. 9	S, V	Naperville North
Saturday, Feb. 10	FA, SB	Naperville North

Girls Basketball		
Wednesday, Dec. 20 through Thursday, Dec. 28	F, JV	Benet-Naperville at Naperville North Invite
Thursday, Jan. 4	FB, FA	Naperville North
Saturday, Jan. 6	FB, FA	Glenbard East
Thursday, Jan. 11	FB, FA	Wheaton North
Saturday, Jan. 13	FB, FA	Wheaton Warr South

Thursday, Jan. 18	S, JV	A	3:00, 1:45 p.m.
	V	A	3:00 p.m.
	FB, FA	Naperville Central	A 5:00, 6:15 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 20	S, JV	A	7:30, 6:00 p.m.
	V	A	7:30 p.m.
	FB, FA	West Aurora Sr. Parent	H 12:30, 1:45 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 25	S, JV	H	3:00, 1:30 p.m.
	V	H	3:00 p.m.
	FB, FA	Glenbard North	A 5:00, 6:15 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 27	S, JV	A	7:30, 6:00 p.m.
	V	A	7:30 p.m.
	FB, FA	Naperville North	A 12:30, 1:45 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 1	S, JV	A	3:00, 1:30 p.m.
	V	A	3:00 p.m.
	FB, FA	Glenbard East	H 5:00, 6:15 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 3	S, JV	H	7:30, 6:00 p.m.
	V	H	7:30 p.m.
	FB, FA	Wheaton North	H 12:30, 1:45 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 8	S, JV	H	3:00, 1:30 p.m.
	V	H	3:00 p.m.
	FB, FA	Wheaton Warr South	H 5:00, 6:15 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 12	S, JV	H	7:30, 6:00 p.m.
	V	H	7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 13	V	Regional Quarterfinals	A TBA
	V	Regional Semifinals	A TBA

Boys Swimming		
Tuesday, Jan. 9	JV, V	York
Thursday, Jan. 11	JV, V	Naperville Central
Tuesday, Jan. 23	JV, V	Elgin
Saturday, Jan. 27	V	Lyons North Campus
Tuesday, Jan. 30	JV, V	Bartlett
Thursday, Feb. 1	JV, V	IMSA
Saturday, Feb. 3	JV, V	DVC Tournament at Wheaton College
Thursday, Feb. 8	JV, V	Neuqua Valley Senior Parent Night

Boys Wrestling		
Wednesday, Dec. 20	F	St. Laurence
Thursday, Dec. 21	JV	Sycamore Tournament
Friday, Dec. 29	V	Downers Grove South
Friday, Jan. 5	F, JV	Naperville North
Saturday, Jan. 6	V	Hinsdale South Invite
Wednesday, Jan. 10	F, JV	Glenbard East
Friday, Jan. 12	V	H 6:00 p.m.
	F, JV	H 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 13	V	A 9:00 a.m.
Friday, Jan. 19	F, JV	Wheaton North
Saturday, Jan. 20	V	A 6:00 p.m.
	S	A 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 19	F, JV	Wheaton Warr South Senior Parent Night
Saturday, Jan. 20	V	H 6:30 p.m.
	V	H 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 20	JV 1	Bartlett w/Batavia
	JV 1	DVC Tournament at Wheaton North

Saturday, Jan. 27	V	A	10:00 a.m.
	V	DVC Tournament	H 10:00 a.m.
Saturday, Feb. 3	V	A	Individual Regionals
Friday, Feb. 9	V	A	TBA
Saturday, Feb. 10	V	A	Individual Sectionals
	V	A	TBA

### Lady Wildcats above the world: record shows no let-up

By Laura McQueen

The West Chicago girl's basketball team lost their first game of the season, ending the longest winning streak in We-go girl's basketball history.

The team was previously 10-0 overall with a 2-0 conference record, until they faced Glenbard North Dec. 14.

The Wildcats played a close first half, but they were still down at halftime 18-16. Coming back to the game, they struggled to score until the last three minutes of the third quarter, when senior Beth Brinn broke the ice and scored a lay-up, making the score 23-18.

out of all the players. "We got really pumped for this game. It felt great," said Brinn.

The 55-37 win also marked Walner's birthday.

The team is taking advantage of their experience this year, according to Walner.

The team has six seniors, four who played extensive varsity time in previous years: Beth Brinn, Kathy Brinn, Jaymie Shmidt, Mildebrath, Shannon Masschelin and Sarah Coiley.

The team also has returning junior and sophomore varsity players, Juniors Meghan Young and Sarah Bass.

The team seemed to pick up the pace, and immediately after Brinn scored, senior Alissa Mildebrath forced a turnover with a steal.

The Cats pulled back into the game, but they didn't come out with the win. The team lost their first game this season to the Panthers 32-30.

Head coach Kim Walner attributed some of the loss to lack of composure under pressure and not enough practice time that week.

Two players are returning from serious injuries that occurred last year. Masschelin had a knee injury and Young broke her ankle last year.

"We have some high expectations this year. We feel we can be competitive with every team in conference. This year they have a lot more confidence, and are showing more poise on the court. We're looking to use their experience to be able to play at a consistent level every game," said Walner.

"We haven't been in too many close games. We did not play our best, and they executed better. (Dagmara Bartula [the Panther's center]) played a pretty nice game," she said.

"I knew we'd have to play tough. We worked well together, and played tough-D," said Bartula.

The Wildcats are still looking positive about the rest of the season.

The team continues to work hard every day in practice, according to Walner, "We continue to work on believing in ourselves, and coming out with intensity every day."

The team added another win to their undefeated season against Schaumburg Nov. 28. They had a strong start, with a half-time score of 30-16.

"This loss gives us more motivation to win the next games," said senior Kathy Brinn, who played through Thursday's game despite a recent ankle injury.

The Cats came out fired up against West Aurora on Dec. 9. While at one point they were leading by 25 points, their final victory was 57-46.

"It was not a good game," said team center Beth Brinn.

The Wildcats opened their conference season with a win against Naperville Central. Beth Brinn dominated in the paint, scoring the most points

The team continued to win the game 54-37. The top scorers of the night were Beth Brinn with 12 points, and Kathy Brinn and Young who scored 10 each.

The Wildcats had a strong start this season, opening with a win in the first game of the Willowbrook Thanksgiving tournament.

The team continued undefeated in the tournament and won first place.

The first win also marked the 200th career win for Walner, who's been coaching for 15 years.



## Boys team swims steadily

By Sean Reynolds

The West Chicago boys swimming team continues to do well with a record of 3-1. On Dec. 14, the team defeated York by 80 points with a score of 130-50.

The team's Dec. 12 meet against Hinsdale South was cancelled due to the weather.

The team had their best finish in school history at the We-go relay meet on Dec. 9. The team ranked second of 11 teams.

Boys swimming also broke the 400-meter individual medley relay record and the 200-meter breaststroke relay record at the Dec. 9 meet.

"The team is looking good and everyone is working hard," said Coach Bryan Artel.

At a Dec. 7 meet against Benet, the team lost 92-91. However, senior Joe Hamlin had his personal best in the 200-meter freestyle with a time of 1:53, said Artel.

Boys swimming beat Oswego with a score of 126-64 on Dec. 5.

The team's first meet of the season on Dec. 1 against Larkin was a victory. The final score was 126-45.

Senior Joe Lureau won the 200-meter freestyle and the 100-meter breaststroke. The team also finished first in the medley relay, and they were less than one second away from the state cut.

Artel said that the relays are doing well, and they are having good times for the start of the season. He said that the team is performing solidly.

"As long as everyone keeps doing the same, we should do really well," said Artel.

## Boys basketball shoots to score at home and away

By Jamie Nadolny

The West Chicago High School boys basketball team's record is currently (2-4, 0-2).

The boys varsity game scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 12 was canceled due to the weather. The team was supposed to play against Ottawa Marquette in a home game. We-go played State Champions West Aurora in an away game on Dec. 8. West Chicago stayed in the single digits until the second quarter but gained points after the half.

West Chicago's main conflict was the large amount of turn-overs, resulting in points for Aurora.

Junior Andy Heinand seniors Brad Olsen and Steve Gilbert played during the second half, scoring eight points each.

The final score was West Aurora 55, West Chicago 37.

Junior Jim O'Hara fouled out during the game despite attempts to gain points. Hein was the lead scorer of the game with nine points.

We-go also played Naperville Central in an away game on Dec. 1.

Although the score was tight throughout the game, Central pulled ahead at the end of the fourth quarter, making the final score 57-48.

The varsity team pulled the game to a tight 48-44 in Central's favor during the fourth quarter.

However, We-go trailed behind after fouling

Naperville. Central scored nine of 10 free throw points during the last two minutes of the game.

Gilbert scored 19 points in lay-ups and jump shots during the game. Olsen was also a lead scorer during the game with eight points.

West Chicago also placed second with a final record 2-1 at the Oswego Thanksgiving Tournament Nov. 21-25.

The boys varsity team finished in top place during the first game against Oswego with a score of 62-57. The away game was the first win of the season for the Wildcats.

During the second game, We-go lost to Yorkville, 66-56.

Senior Brian Howard and Olsen each scored 11 points during the game, and seniors Josh Rogers and Mike Nutall each scored 10. Olsen had nine rebounds and Howard nabbed eight.

West Chicago pulled through during the final game against Marmion, however, finalizing the 44-26 score and securing the second place title at the tournament.

Olsen led the team with 10 points, and Howard scored nine. Nutall and junior Matt Weber each had six rebounds.

Olsen and Rogers were included in the five-man All-Tournament team. Senior Nick Romanelli and O'Hara also scored points at the tournament.

## Vavrek places first: freshman swimmer shows skill

By Mary Beth Selby

What does it take to win a state swimming championship?

Freshman Jackie Vavrek would know.

Vavrek recently became the girls state champion for the 50-yard freestyle. Her time was 23.84 seconds.

This brought her all the way to getting the state title, which hasn't been accomplished at We-go since 1994.

"I had a bit of an expectation to win at state," said Vavrek. "It wasn't a really big deal to me at first, but later it sunk in as a very big deal."

The after effects of winning a state title may have settled in later, but Vavrek was prepared for the meet.

Vavrek worked and trained hard to reach the top.

"I trained for about four hours each day, but not all at

once. I swam during my gym class, I had a couple hours of swim practice after school during the season, and then I also had to do some dry land exercises.

"It was strenuous work that cut into my social life sched-

and has competed for almost as long. Starting with swimming lessons, Vavrek moved up to club swimming and then to Jr. Olympics and Jr. Nationals.

Vavrek placed 21st at the Jr. Nationals (up to age 18),

winning state.

"Sometimes I do get tired of swimming, but then the season finally ends and you get a bit of a rest.

"As for state, I am glad that I won, but now I have a lot of expectation upon me to win next year or the next. I don't know how much further I can go, but I guess I can always try to exceed in other sports," said Vavrek.

Even though Vavrek has some doubts about her future in swimming, she does have a personal goal.

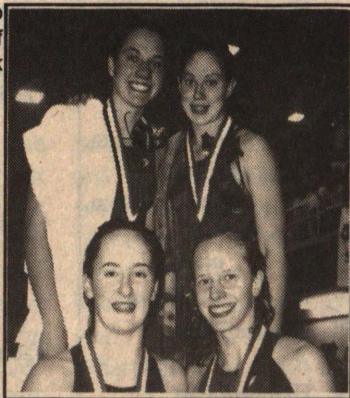
"I want to be state champion again next year, be in the top three for the 100-freestyle, and possibly go onto the Olympics at some point in my swimming career. The possibility of even going to the Olympics is a big motivation that keeps me swimming," said Vavrek.

Besides swimming, Vavrek also participates in track and she is the freshman class president in student council. She also enjoys playing other sports, including soccer.



Photo courtesy of Jackie Vavrek

Freshman Jackie Vavrek wears her 1st place medal (right). With senior Jenny Cwiak, junior Heather Prochnau, and sophomore Emily Biancalana



ule. I would see my friends from swimming, but I hardly ever saw my other friends not in swimming outside of school. And I still had homework on top of that," said Vavrek.

Vavrek has been swimming since she was five years old

5<sup>th</sup> at the senior state (all ages), and won at Jr. Olympics (up to age 14). Her best times were 23.70 seconds for the 50-freestyle and 52.89 seconds for the 100-freestyle.

Vavrek said that these are some of her greatest personal accomplishments besides

## Hockey hits hard with skill

By Sean Reynolds

Playing on the West Chicago hockey team takes more than just skill.

Players must have discipline and must accept many rules, including the zero-tolerance rule. The team had a problem earlier in the season with the zero-tolerance rule.

Fans who came to watch the team were very loud and distracting to the players. Although the team did not officially get penalized, the referees warned the team about the distractions.

Now the team has monitors to keep an eye on the crowd during the game, said manager Nancy Baumracker.

The team faces another problem. Most games are on Sunday, and some players cannot make the games. Baumracker said the team would win more games if they had more players show up to games.

Some players miss games due to family or religious conflicts and commitments, said Baumracker.

Normally, the team has around 10 skaters per game, and after a while the players get tired and don't perform as well, Baumracker said.

She would like to see at least 13 skaters per game. The team has a lot of strength, though. Most of the players on the team have played for several years, so they all have experience.

The top West Chicago players are senior Eric Mederich and junior Matt Baumracker. Wheaton Academy's student Jonathon Shaver is the league's top scorer.

Baumracker also pointed out the great coaching staff the team has. Jeff Mederich and Jim Shaver coach the team.

"Both were offered a salary to coach the team, but denied it just for love of the game. They are very good coaches," Baumracker said.

The West Chicago hockey team plays in the West Suburban Junior Varsity Hockey League, which consists of 3 divisions (red, white, and blue) for a total of 25 teams.

Teams in the red division have one junior varsity team. In the white division there are two teams, a junior varsity team and a varsity team. Teams in the blue division have three teams, two junior varsity teams and one varsity team.

This is West Chicago's first year with a hockey team, and they are combined with Wheaton Academy. The team is ranked third in their division. They play in the West Suburban Junior Varsity Hockey group.

The team plays home games at several locations. The team usually plays home games at Center Ice in Glen Ellyn.

The team practices at an ice rink in Addison. The West Chicago Wildcat Hockey Team continues to do well with a record of 6-4-0.

## Varsity wrestles for the top

By Marc Berry

The West Chicago wrestling team began their season Nov. 6.

The varsity team recently took a trip to Hinsdale Central for the two-day Rex Whitlach Invitational on Dec. 15 and 16. However, results were not available at press time.

Earlier in the week, on Dec. 14, they visited Glenbard North in an attempt to take down their team. They failed in their efforts, though, as Glenbard North took the win.

"If we had gotten a full week of practice, I think that we would have done a lot better in the meet. We gave it all that we had, and we did well overall, but there are still a few things that we need to work on," said senior Robert Whitman.

Dec. 9 saw the team at Oak Park River Forest, where they competed against Oak Park, Marshall, and Crystal Lake Central. We-go defeated all three schools.

On Dec. 5, they competed against Aurora East and walked away with their first victory of the season.

They traveled to Woodstock on December 2, attempting to take down the home team, Hersey, and Glenbard West.

We-go did not have a full line up for the meet, and they were defeated by all teams.

On Dec. 1, they competed at Naperville Central and lost to the home team, 43-21.

Their first meet took place Nov. 25 at home for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wildcat Invitational, where they took sixth place out of eight competing teams.

Bob Guererro is head coach again this year, assisted by Ed Valdez. Rich Berendson acts as freshman coach for the team.

According to Guererro, the biggest thing holding the team back this year is experience.

"We have a young team. Our freshmen are inexperienced, but they're tough," he said.

He also said he believes that by the end of the year, the freshmen will have improved a lot.

Junior Nate Williams agreed. "The guys with experience are doing well, and the younger players just need more experience. As a team we are very well conditioned. We just need to work on our technique."

The team's next scheduled meet is on Dec. 29 at Downers Grove South with Prospect and Argo High Schools.

"I think that we need to improve the confidence level in the freshmen, junior varsity, and varsity teams.

"By having a good attitude, we'll be able to motivate ourselves to do well, which is one of our goals for the season," said senior Steve Taylor about the upcoming meet.