

# Wildcat Chronicle

## What's going on around you?

West Chicago High School graduate Brian King recently released a book about his battle with cancer. King was diagnosed with testicular cancer during his senior year of high school in 1988. The book *Everybody Has a Tumor: Cures for the Negative Thoughts that are Cancerous in our Lives* will be available at the West Chicago Public Library on Saturday. King will also sign books between 1:00 and 4:30 p.m. see story page 5

## "Guys and Dolls" a good bet

By Marc Berry

The spring musical, "Guys and Dolls" is coming to the Community High School Weyrauch Auditorium May 17, 18, and 19.

According to one of the play's directors, Mary Hafertepe, the choice of what musical to perform was a joint decision between herself and choir teacher Lisa Smith.

Hafertepe is the director in charge of the staging and technical parts, while Smith handles the musical aspects.

Smith is in charge of the music because she has a better knowledge of what kind of musical skills each of the performers has, said Hafertepe.

Math teacher Christina Mack and CDH support services liaison Kim Brafford are also assisting. The four of them were responsible for selecting the actors after auditions were held in March.

According to Hafertepe, practices have been going on for awhile, but there are still things that need to be worked on.

"Putting together a musical is a process. You do it in pieces and then put it together," said Hafertepe.

This year's cast includes juniors MiMi Moore, Sarah Brown; Aaron Troy, Benny Southstreet; Copper Tuma, Adelaide; and Colin York, Nathan Detroit; and seniors Eric Fries, Nicely-Nicely Johnson and Anders Walker, Sky Masterson.

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## West Chicago Community High School

Volume 32, Issue 6  
Wednesday, April 25, 2001

## Scholarship sends Patin to Germany for one year

By Amy Fenderson

This summer, senior Alexandra Patin of West Chicago Community High School will travel to Germany as a very special recipient of a scholarship awarded nationwide.

Patin was awarded a Congress-Bundestag Scholarship, and only 300 students are chosen nationally to be a part of it.

Accepted students live with German families and study at German schools for a year as guests of the German government.

"I'm really nervous about it," said Patin, a fourth year German student.

Patin also commented that being chosen made her very happy, but the experience will be new to her and she will miss her family and friends.

"I'll make new ones. And I know my friends will still be there when I return," said Patin.

Patin said her parents are excited because they love to travel, but her mother will miss her. Patin said she didn't

want her family to visit until late in the year.

"If they visited, I'd be homesick," she said.

Applying for the scholarship was not an easy task for Patin. She said she had to fill out a lot of paperwork.

The application included seven essays: ranging from one-half to two pages each.

Patin wanted to apply for the scholarship her sophomore and junior years but was unsure about filling out the large amounts of paperwork.

"This year was my last opportunity for it," she said.

Patin is the only student from West Chicago to apply for the scholarship this year, and one in thousands nationwide. She said she didn't want to get her hopes up.

Patin had to wait four months to hear if she had been accepted. Two weeks after spring break, she finally learned she had won.

"They even sent me a free T-shirt. That made it all worth while," said Patin.

## Welcome Center proposal gets green light

By Jamie Nadolny

Plans have been finalized for a first-year program aimed at helping non-English speaking students who are entering West Chicago school districts.

The program will benefit all families of students who plan to attend WCCHS or District 33 schools during the 2001/02 school year.

District 33 originally pro-

posed the program idea, which they have been trying to coordinate during the past few years, said bilingual coordinator Norman Kane.

We-go's bilingual department will also help with the program, which will be located at the Geneva Street area at the back section of Lincoln School.

The program is designed

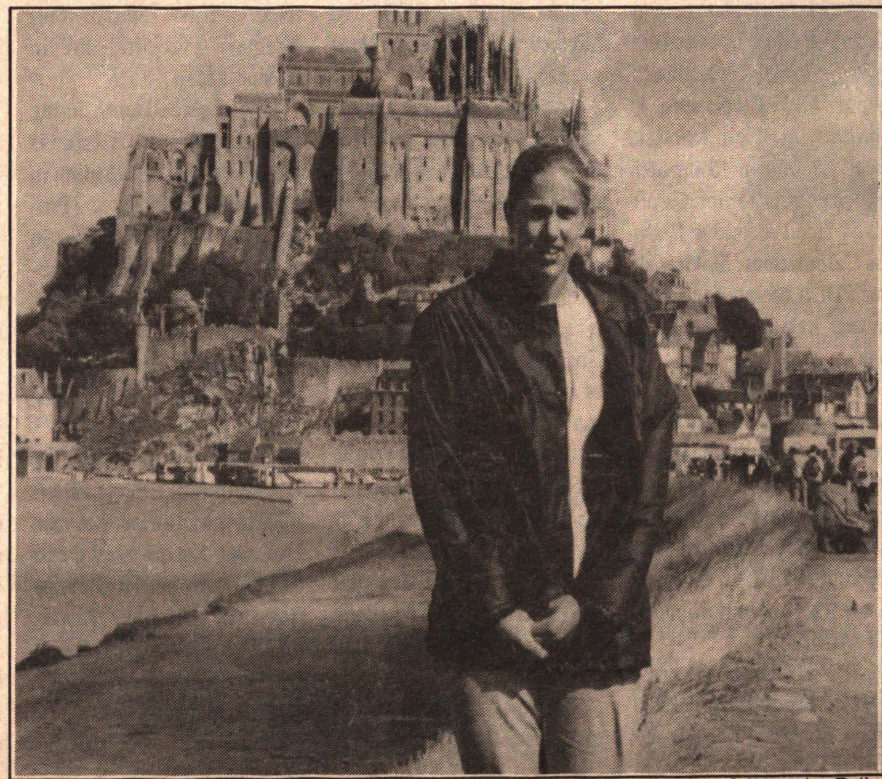


Photo courtesy of Alexandra Patin

Senior Alexandra Patin will return to Europe this year as a host of the German government. Patin was awarded a Congress-Bundestag Scholarship that only 300 students in the United States receive each year.

## More funds, more improvements

By Mary-Megan Kalvig  
West Chicago High School's operations and maintenance fund will see the largest boost in capital outlay, with a 360 percent increase, during the 2001/02 school year, according to assistant superintendent of

business Gary Grizaffi.

The operation and maintenance fund for this year was \$93,220, and next year it will be \$432,252.

The largest portion of the fund is capital projects, which is \$363,000, said Grizaffi.

Most of the money will go towards repairing areas of the high school. The Bishop gym and the field house will see the biggest changes, said Grizaffi.

"The fieldhouse will be painted and then the Bishop gym. The fieldhouse floor is going to be redone.

"They will also be building a soffit around the piping of the bishop gym on the east and south walls," said

Grizaffi.

The cost of all repairs to the fieldhouse and Bishop gym totals \$330,000. Redoing the fieldhouse tile is included in the cost.

Another project will be converting the special education rooms 190 and 192 into a darkroom and a photography classroom, which costs \$15,000.

Grizaffi hopes an auditorium renovation will be done during the summer of the 2003/04 or 2004/05 school year.

Lighting fixtures and ceilings will also be replaced in some areas of the high school. Some doors throughout the building will be replaced next year.

(See Budget page 2)

## Student input improves We-go

By Stephanie Bodane

Students voiced their opinions about how they would like to see the school improved during an after school meeting Friday.

Group discussions included student recognition, security and safety, shorter school days, curriculum, and student parking.

"A lot of good, honest input came out of the meeting," said counselor Julie Davis.

Teachers and counselors discussed plans and goals with students and talked about how they planned to

implement them.

The outcome of the meetings will be presented to the school board at a later time, after staff members meet again to discuss the plans.

"We've been planning this. I think that it really brings the students and the teachers closer," said bilingual aid Linda LaBouff.

Students also felt the experience was effective.

"I think that it was very productive, and we accomplished a lot by discussing things that we need to have occur in the school," said freshman Mary Beth Selby.



Photo courtesy of Alexandra Patin

We-go's bilingual students are currently part of an ESL program. A new Welcome Center program will be added in the fall of the 2001/02 school year, which is designed for students who are in the process of learning English.

(See Center page 3)

# Student Activities

## Four FBLA members head to Florida

By Jamie Nadolny

Four FBLA students will attend the National FBLA Conference in Orlando, Florida at the end of June.

In order to qualify for the trip, the students needed to place first or second in their events at the FBLA State Competition, which was held on April 6 and 7 in Decatur.

Senior Jon Jelinek placed first in Word Processing 1, sophomore Erich Musick placed second in Computer Concepts, and junior Geoff Palka placed second in Business Calculations, making all three FBLA members eligible for the national competitions.

"I'm really excited about attending the National Conference in Orlando. I was so surprised when I found out that I had placed second in my event because this is my first year in FBLA. Overall, it's been a good experience," said Musick.

Junior Hilary Blanchard's fifth place individual performance qualified her for the

Illinois State Parliamentary Procedure Team, also allowing her to attend the National FBLA Conference.

Blanchard was also a member of We-go's five-member parliamentary procedure team, which consisted of sophomore C.J. Wostratsky, juniors Jamie Nadolny and Nicole Patel, and senior Dennis Janek.

The team qualified for the final performances on Saturday, where they conducted a mock FBLA meeting and later placed third in the competition.

"Competing on Saturday was a lot of fun because we finally saw the results of all of our studying and preparing for the event.

"It was our chance to show off our skills, and we ended up placing third, which is awesome," said Janek.

This year was the first year the Parliamentary Procedure Team finished third at a state competition.

In the past, the parliamentary procedure teams have

not finished in top places.

Five other FBLA members placed at the state competition, but were not eligible for the national competition. Sophomores Greg Moore, Greg Hodge, Becca Duran, and Tatiana Podstavkova placed within the top 10 in their events. Senior Tim Yormark placed eighth in Business Law.

Moore placed tenth in the Introduction to Business exam, Hodge placed ninth in the FBLA Principles and Procedures exam and Duran placed sixth in the Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure exam.

Podstavkova placed fifth in the Computer Applications event.

The competition was the last conference most FBLA members will attend this year. However, the club still meets on every first and third Thursday of the month at 7:15 a.m. under the supervision of business teachers Nancy Blume and Maria Wirth.

FBLA members had the

opportunity to mingle with members of the West Chicago Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, April 18.

The businessmen and women answered questions the FBLA members had about entering the business world.

After breakfast, the FBLA members joined first hour business classes in the Weyrauch Auditorium to hear motivational speaker and alumni Brian King speak about goal setting.

King also encouraged the students to "lead their lives to a place where dreams and reality meet."

FBLA is also conducting a data match survey, which will fundraise for the March of Dimes.

Students filled out surveys during their third hour classes on Thursday, April 12. Results will be sold at the beginning of next week for \$2.

Students interested in other upcoming FBLA events should contact Blume or Wirth for more information.



Photo by Stephanie Bodane

Twenty-five students from Gernoble, France arrived at West Chicago High School on April 9. The French students will stay with host families during their entire 15 day stay in the U.S.

## Bonjour French students

By Stephanie Bodane

The French students have arrived at West Chicago Community High School.

After a nine-hour flight, the 25 students from Gernoble, France stepped foot in America on April 9.

The students are staying with host families that live in West Chicago, Winfield, and Carol Stream. The families will house the exchange students during their entire 15-day stay.

A welcoming for the French students was held April 10. Student council vice president Dan Schneider and Principal Alan Jones gave helpful hints to the students for their stay.

Dr. Jones said, "It is important for our students and [French] students to get to

know the different cultures."

The students have been traveling during school hours to see the greater scenes of West Chicago and the Chicago area.

They traveled to Navy Pier and Ferimlab. The exchange students also have gone bowling, attended baseball games, and walked around Chicago.

French foreign exchange student Isabelle said, "This is my first time here. I dreamed of coming here; it is such a dream come true."

But not only is it exciting for the French students, the hosts agreed that it's a great experience.

"It was a very interesting and exciting experience," said sophomore Daisy Correa.

## Student of the month: Corson takes top honor

By Mike Mroz

What were your accomplishments and activities throughout high school?

As a freshman, I played basketball and softball. I was the class treasurer, and I was also in German club. I was a part of the hand bell choir at my church, as well.

During the summer between freshmen and sophomore year I was part of Habitat for Humanity in Pensacola Beach, Florida.

As a sophomore, I was class treasurer, and I was in German club for a second year. I was accepted into German National Honor Society. I also

started a job at Jo Ann Fabrics. I continued with my youth group and the hand bell choir.

Junior year, I was an Honorary Class member, German club member, a National Honor Society member, and a VICA member. I was in the spring musical, "Fiddler on the Roof." I was the youth representative on my Youth Church Council. I continued my job at Jo Ann fabrics, and the summer afterwards I did an internship at Packer Engineering in the photo department. And I continued with my youth group and the hand bell choir.

Now, as a senior, I am an Honorary Class member, a member of German club, youth group and handbell choir. I was a member of all three performances: BOO! Thirteen Scenes for Halloween, the winter play, I was also involved in The Dining Room, and now, the spring musical "Guys and Dolls"

I have won the Presidential Half-Tuition Scholarship at Augustana. I also won the AAL (Aid Association Lutherans) scholarship, \$500 per year.

What is your favorite activity or class in high school?

My favorite activity right now is being in the cast of the musical. It is hard work but a lot of fun.

Where are you planning to go to college and what are you majoring in?

Augustana College in Rock Island, IL. I am majoring in business administration.

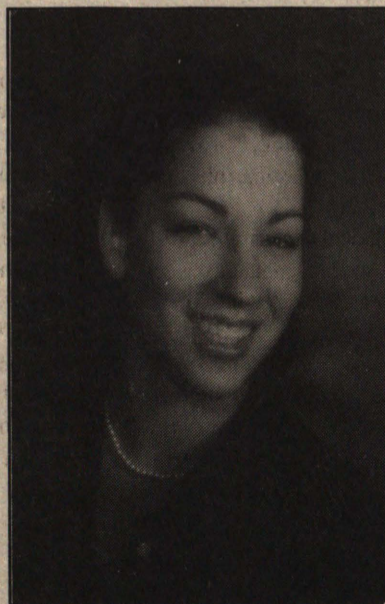
Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

I see myself working between here and Germany and Austria as part of my job, working my way up the cor-

porate ladder.

What is one aspect you bring to this school?

I believe the number one asset I promote to my fellow students is my overall posi-



tive attitude towards everyone.

Do you consider yourself a teacher's pet?

Not really. I give teachers the same respect that I expect in return, and as a result, I receive the most out of every lesson.

Why do you think you were chosen for student of the month?

Responsibility, reliability, hard work, and dedication to the class and its work, as well as being active in my influential extracurricular activities in and out of high school.

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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 adviser 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.

## Mathletes ready for state

By Katie Patnaude

Sophomores Mike Doll and Patrick Baur and junior Geoff Palka are off to state to represent Wego's mathematics team Saturday.

Baur and Doll will compete in the geometry and two-person competitions. Palka will compete in the algebra II competition.

Baur, Palka, and Doll qualified for state at the ICTM Regional Mathematics contest at Northern Illinois University.

In the North Suburban

Mathematics League, the senior and sophomore teams placed first in the division and the overall team placed second.

At the DVC Mathematics meet, the calculator team placed third, and Baur, Doll, Palka, and seniors Tom Barta, Sean Palmer, and Jessica Willes were named all conference in their individual events.

"Good luck to [Baur, Palka, and Doll] at the state competition," said math team sponsor Rick Cazzato.

## Budget (continued from page 1)

This project will hopefully be covered by the \$100,000 annual budget, said Grizaffi.

Then, technology throughout the school will be updated to stay in track with the newest technology. The library computer labs and rooms 212 and 212A will be receiving new computers over the summer. The new computers will cost approximately \$35,000, said Grizaffi.

In the 2004/2005 school year, the library will get new tables and chairs.

"The plan was for five years in order to help level out expenditures and help map out equipment and capital improvements," said Grizaffi.

In order to figure out what areas needed improvements, each department chair submitted requests for equipment furnishings, technology and capital improvements. The building and grounds keepers and janitors also added suggestions on what needed to be fixed, said Grizaffi.

## Jazz band finishes concert; prepares for St. Louis

By Steve Taylor

West Chicago High School's third annual Jazz Night took place on April 6 in the Weyrauch Auditorium.

"Everyone did well that night," said senior Sean Palmer.

The West Chicago Community High School jazz band performed a majority of the time, and was followed by the DePaul University jazz band during the second half of the concert. For a finale, both bands combined to play some blues.

"It went pretty well. We played jazz, heard jazz, and talked about jazz. There was a lot of jazz," said senior trumpet player Chris Buckles-Haley.

The jazz band practiced every Thursday night for two hours in order to prepare.

"It went real well, I think. All of our players were in their best form," said senior percussionist Frank Check.

Senior James Jaffe also agreed that the concert went well, and he also said the band made "a few mistakes, but the crowd seemed to like it, and that's all that matters."

"The West Chicago band did really well, they enjoy playing at Jazz Night. DePaul is one of the best college bands in the country," said director of bands James Guter.

Buckles-Haley agreed with Guter. "The trumpet player from DePaul was really

good," Buckles-Haley said.

Senior guitarist Matt Wdowiarz performed a great solo with the DePaul band, according to Guter.

The jazz band performed "Miss Fine," "My Romance," "It's only a Paper Moon," "Manteca," "Stormy Weather," "Los Matadores," "Time After Time," and "Sandunga."

Junior vocalist Amy Koltz accompanied musicians during "It's only a Paper Moon" and "Stormy Weather."

"Paper Moon" went really well, and we're going to take it to St. Louis," said Koltz.

Guter will be taking the jazz band to perform in St. Louis on Friday, accompanied by the symphonic and parade bands, and color guard.

Marching band will also perform their field show,

which was featured at home football games.

"[St. Louis] will be mind blowingly fun," said senior percussionist Tom Barta.

Wdowiarz, Check, and Barta received certificates from the "Jazz in the Meadows" concert at Rolling Meadows High School on Feb. 24.

"The awards are for Outstanding Solo Musicianship. Frank, Matt, and Tom did great that night," said Guter.

Upon the completion of this year, the jazz band will lose approximately three-fourths of its members, says Guter. The class of 2001 represents the class that Guter started with when he came to We-go three years ago.

"You always miss the seniors. This was an exceptional class. We are losing a lot of talent," said Guter.



Photo courtesy of Challenge

Senior saxophone player Carrie Carpenter practices for the third annual Jazz Night which featured We-go's jazz band and the DePaul University jazz band. The jazz band practiced every Thursday night for two hours in order to prepare for the event.

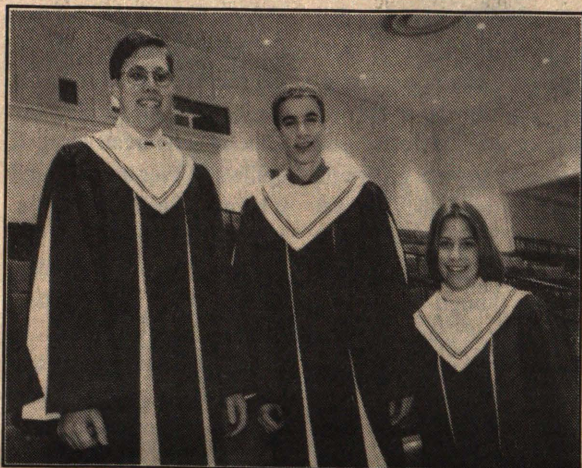


Photo courtesy of Challenge

Juniors Luke Taylor, Tony Palombi, and Melissa Fisher sang in a choir concert during the Toronto International Music Festival. The three choir members also participated in last night's concert.

## Choir solos a new success

By Mary-Megan Kalvig

Although the auditorium was barely half full, the first Vocal Solo and Ensemble recital was a great hit with those in attendance.

Choir director Lisa Smith said she held the recital because the choir could not participate in the solo festival during the Toronto trip. The choir participated in the Toronto International Music Festival recently.

Smith wanted the students to perform in front of an audience, and so the recital was planned.

The songs of the night were mostly solemn and emotional, but the last one was energetic and even got the performers dancing.

Some of the students picked out the songs they performed while the others Smith picked out from the *Chamber American Choral Directors Journals*.

The chamber choir started the night with two a cappella songs, "A Maiden is In a Ring" and "Love Walked In."

The freshmen trio of Tami Kuta, Jenny Buchman, and Brooke Bachelor took the stage with an a cappella performance of "Beauty From the World May Vanish (Le

Beau Du Monde s'efface)."

"I really liked when the singers did their solos. It gives them an opportunity to grow musically. You really have to be vulnerable to do it," said Smith.

The first solo act was junior Julie Volk who sang "Caro Mio Ben" and was accompanied by Ron Benner, who stayed for the next four performances.

Junior Aaron Troy followed with the Andrew Lloyd Weber song, "Close Every Door."

The only duet of the night was seniors Deanna Volk and Kim Fioroni who sang "Pie Jesu."

Freshman Jolene Whitlock was next with the song "On Eagle's Wings."

Senior Anders Walker was the final soloist and sang "Create In Me A Clean Heart Oh God."

Chamber choir returned to the stage for the last three songs. "Salmo 150 (Psalm 150)" and "Come Soon" were both sung a cappella. In the final song, "Boot Jack Jaw Harp", a Canadian folk song, Smith accompanied the choir, who all wore flannel shirts, on the piano.

## Summer class options expand

By Steve Taylor

Students will be able to take more than make-up classes this summer at We-go.

The class Chicago writers and their city deals with the city of Chicago and the literature born within. Successful completion of English 1 and 2 is a prerequisite.

The math enrichment course is designed to prepare those incoming freshmen enrolled in geometry enriched.

Summer sewing selections is for beginning sewers and for those who have sewed for years.

Exploratory science gives students a look at various subjects such as astronomy, earth science, biology, botany, and some physical science.

Students entering English as a second language classes may be interested in ESL enrichment and orientation.

European History Tour credit option gives students involved in the tour the chance to earn a quarter credit by submitting assign-

ments and documentation of their trip.

Community service credit option allows students involved in local community service to gain school credit.

Social studies fine arts seminar gives students the opportunity to deeply study and analyze music, architecture, and art.

Keyboarding/word processing allows students to type by touch with speed and accuracy.

Resident class fees are \$49 per quarter credit. Non-residents pay \$125 per half credit.

Courses offered for make-ups only are as follows: English 1, 2, or 3; general math; principals of algebra/geometry; algebra; geometry; health; world geography; American history; topics of modern history; government; consumer education; and physical education.

Registration deadline is June 11. For more information, contact your guidance counselor.

## New technology offering

By Mike Mroz

Students have the opportunity to receive college credit at We-go with the class digital microprocessor technology next year.

The semester-long course will be run by Cisco, one of the world's leaders in the manufacturing of routers and switches.

Routers and switches are the devices that send information from one part of the computer to the next, and from computer to computer in e-mails.

Through the class, students will obtain a background of networking skills.

West Chicago is offering the first course in a set of four. The other three classes can be taken at the College of DuPage.

Once a person completes all four classes and becomes "Cisco certified," the job openings will be plentiful, said teacher Paul Junkroski.

"If anyone has an interest in computers, this is a course that will interest them," said Junkroski.

## Center... (continued from page 1)

However, a staff would also help students adjust to a learning environment. The staff would be available before, during, and after school to help the families of students enrolled in the programs, also, Kane said.

A permanent teacher who currently works in We-go's bilingual department will teach at the center during the morning, but other positions are available, as well.

The department will hire a coordinator, secretary, social worker, health assistant, and program assistant by the beginning of next fall.

English classes for students of all grade levels will occur during the morning hours, and high school students will circulate to other areas of the building during the afternoon for basic math, science, and social studies classes.

Students in grades seven and eight will stay at the center after their lunch hours to finish the other classes.

Although West Chicago High School already has a bilingual program that is designed to help students continue their education while teaching them English, the

Welcome Center is designed to help new students adjust to a new school setting, Kane said.

As soon as the Welcome Center coordinators feel the students are comfortable with the junior high and high school facilities, they will be transferred to basic courses in either the bilingual department or in grade-level classes.

Kane estimates the first-year students will remain in the program for only a few months.

Students who are currently enrolled in the bilingual program and who are having trouble in English will not be admitted into the program.

One of the major goals of the Welcome Center will be to help the first-year students- not high school students- get acclimated to the District 33 and 94 schools, said Kane.

"We want the program to start students on the right track once they have registered for schooling in the West Chicago schools. Exposing them to our culture, our community, and to the programs we have to offer will ultimately help them adjust to life here," Kane said.

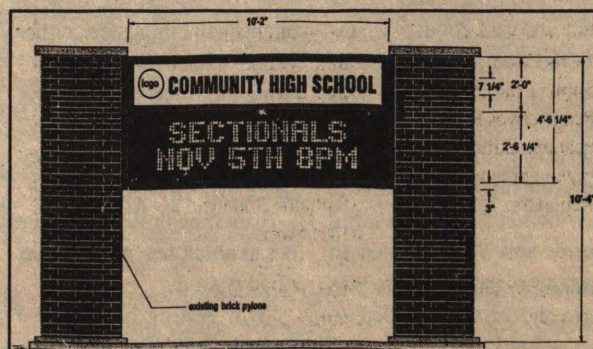


Photo courtesy of White Way Sign company

A new electronic message sign will broadcast messages at the southeast corner of the West Chicago Community High School campus in June. The Board of Education chose White Way Sign Company to install the sign at a total cost of \$24,408. A separate \$9,000 fee will be paid by the school for a new electrical service which will provide an underground cable channel from the sign to the school.

## The pretend joys of marriage

By Mary Beth Selby

Ah, the wondrous and profound virtue of love and marriage. But in a fixed marriage, not everyone is pleased, especially when "everyone" happens to be high school students.

On April 5, the Family and Consumer Science Department held a night of many yearlong-worked-on presentations, including the mock wedding.

The students in each family and consumer science class coordinated and carried out the night's events.

Nursery school singers opened with a welcome. The skit "One year ago today..." followed along with a fashion show, the mock wedding, and a cake raffle.

"In our class, we talk about feelings and experiences students go through in their lives," said Patricia Clifford, contemporary life teacher and director of the production.

"Towards the end of the year, we began to plan the mock wedding production by choosing parts that each student will play and allow everyone to coordinate this annual event," Clifford said.

A raffle decides which students will participate in which roles.

The students chosen this year were bride Lindsay Castiglia; groom Javier Contreras; best man Jorge Morales; maid of honor Meghan Burlinson, bridesmaids Stephanie Opel, Sarah Miller, Monica Aguirre, Lindsay Sewell, and Shelly Ballard; groomsmen Sam Mashal, Zach Pederson, Ricky Rodriguez, Esteban Mendoza, and Jose Guerrero; father of the bride Tim Carstensen; officiate Shannon Flowers; and wedding coordinators Jenny Gilbert, Sarah Donovan, and Lindsay Anders.

The class is only for juniors and seniors, said Clifford, and this event is important because the students receive a major grade for this.

Besides the contemporary

life class, foods 1, 2, clothing 1, 2, and horticulture contributed a great deal to the evening's events.

Foods 1, 2 made the wedding cake and those for the cake raffle; clothing 1, 2 produced the outfits for the fashion show; and horticulture supplied all the bouquets and flowers used for the wedding, said Clifford.

"The kids put everything together to make it a memorable event. And they are going to be making wedding albums so they can always remember it," said Clifford.

Castiglia said, "This mock wedding is a really great thing to do. Many people think it's negative, but it really isn't. The production makes the real thing something to look forward to."

Students who participated in the wedding said they were having mixed feelings about it.

"I am beyond nervous because here I am about to be married, even though it isn't real. But I am also really excited. This is a once in a lifetime experience and really valuable because you get a little practice to make mis-

takes here, but you can't very well make mistakes with the real thing later on," said Castiglia.

Sam Mashal agreed. "It was very exciting and a great experience. If you think about it, the real thing for this isn't very far away. It's kind of scary to think about."

Contreras said he was nervous as well as excited, like the whole thing was real. But he wished his girlfriend, Burlinson, was the bride instead. She felt the same way.

"I do not like the fact that my boyfriend is getting married," said Burlinson, laughing. But because of the fact that both Contreras and Castiglia have a girlfriend and boyfriend, they did not have an actual kiss for the "You may kiss the bride" part.

Even though the participants were serious about their roles, there were some lighthearted moments.

The first laugh came when Contreras repeated the wrong phrase during the "I dos."

When Flowers said the phrase "As long as you both shall live," Contreras accidentally repeated this back to Flowers instead of saying "I do." Everyone started laughing and it took a few moments for the laughter to stop so Flowers could continue.

The second incident was during the best man's toast. Morales got behind the table

where all the participants were and tried to get as

close to Contreras as possible, but found it difficult.

After checking to see that the microphone was on, he placed his hand on the table for balance and accidentally knocked over a full glass. It spilled all over the table and a bit onto Burlinson's dress, which was due back at the dress store the following day. This resulted in a minute's worth of hearty laughter.

"The students all did a terrific job doing this," said Clifford. "They made everything themselves and pulled it off nicely."

"This mock wedding is a really great thing to do."

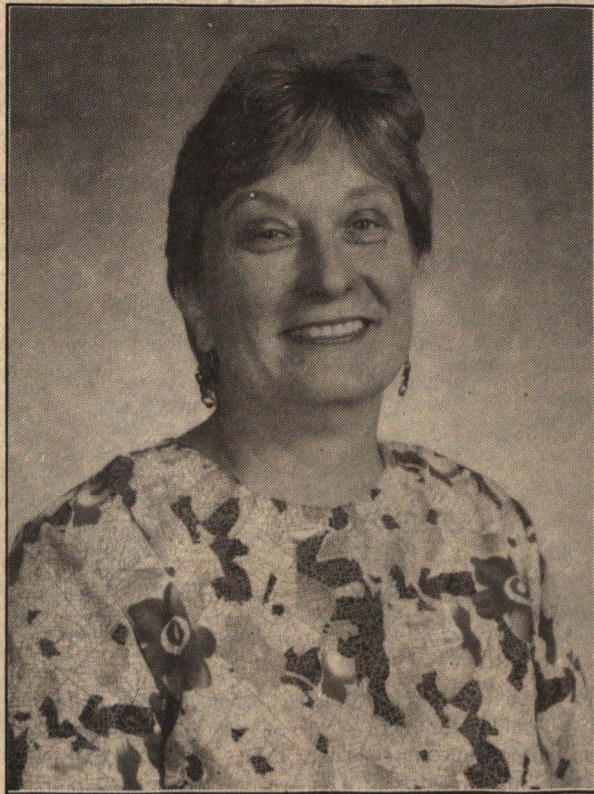


Photo courtesy of Challenge

Retiring English teacher Carol Wolf.

## Mrs. Wolf says farewell to We-go

By Mary-Megan Kalvig

Although English teacher Carol Wolf's 21 years at We-go are coming to an end, she will always remember the good experiences and the laughs.

"My years here don't seem like 21. It seems more like five," said Wolf.

Wolf has been teaching for 30 years with 21 at We-go.

When she first started to teach at We-go in 1980 she only thought she would be here for five years. Her husband expected a transfer out of state at the start of her We-go career. "I thought five years max. Then all of a sudden it was 21 years," Wolf said.

She has taught at both high school and at junior college levels. At one time or another she has taught freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors. At We-go she educates students in English while at other schools she taught both English and social studies.

Wolf said she knew she wanted to be a teacher ever since she was about 5-years-old and was sick with pneumatic fever. Since she was sick she missed kindergarten and first grade. Her mother therefore taught her at home. Her mother enjoyed reading stories and Wolf wanted to read stories too. When she was little she also pretended to play school.

When she first started, Wolf said she felt she could do anything. But reality sunk in and she realized she couldn't teach everything to everyone.

"It's a real eye-opener," Wolf said.

Wolf said one of the hard-

est things to do is to adjust your plans to meet the students' ways of learning or other problems they are experiencing.

"You have set goals and when students don't understand, it gets difficult," Wolf said.

Wolf said she picked high school to teach because she enjoys the atmosphere. She said the students are all excited and willing to learn new things.

"One of the most emotional experiences was when one of my students adopted me as his mother. He, Adan Morales, was here in the '80s and he still continues to write and keep in contact with me," said Wolf.

Wolf said one of the best experiences about teaching is when a student understands and the little light goes on. The best part is when you help them understand and then they succeed.

Another enjoyable aspect Wolf said about teaching is that you always are experiencing something new, either activities or students. Something is always happening and when there are days when nothing happens, something big will happen soon.

Even though Wolf said she is sad about leaving, she has good reasons.

"I'm getting older and I knew I would have to make a decision sooner or later. Also, my family can use my help," Wolf said.

In fact, Wolf said she is expecting another grandchild in May. She already has a 14-month-old grandson. Since her son and his wife bought a

(See Mrs. Wolf page 6)



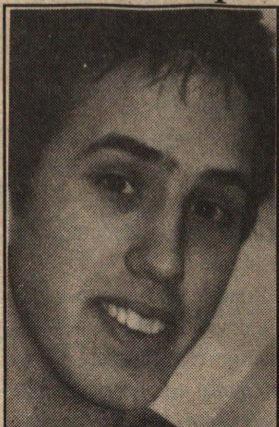
Photo by Adam Turner

The happy couple, Javier Contreras and Lindsay Castiglia beam in the joys of marriage in front of the officiate, Shannon Flowers.

## How could prom be improved? We-go students answer



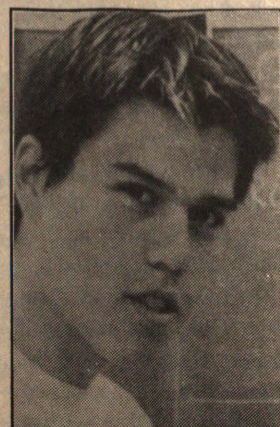
"Have a better DJ!" - Laura Schulze



"Have the prom at a carnival. Have everyone go naked!" - Ryan Begy



"It could be cheaper." - Ashley Link



"Have better food." - John Lim

## What advice do the stars have for you this month?

By Stephanie Bodane  
**Taurus (April 20 – May 20)**  
 After a refreshing spring break you finally are back on track and feeling good. School's winding down, but don't let that make you slip behind. Stay on top and summer will seem to come faster to you.

Your friends and you are having fun, because you spent a lot of time hanging out over spring break. Try and keep your relationships close and continue to have fun.

You are tenacious, gentle, honest, open, and impulsive. Your special feature is being a fitness freak.



ting your hopes up too high may bring you down in the end.

Get yourself ready for a turning point in your life. The way that you handle this change will determine whether it is good or bad.

You are considerate, loving, dependable and straightforward. Your special feature is you tend to roar with laughter in crowds.



**Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)**

Try not to react at the little things and you will feel better about a lot of things that are coming up within the next month. Keeping your cool will make everything seem a lot easier in the end.

Remember that your friends are very important people and that the true friends will always shine through and care about you. This will help during fights and disagreements.

You are devoted hard worker and you have strong leadership skills. Your special feature is you like to be in charge.

**Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)**

It is time to get up and do something. Go volunteer somewhere or get a job. Keeping yourself busy will help to make the school year go by faster.

When the school is over you will see how you achieved a lot of goals. It will become another successful year.

You are an exhibitionist, friendly, and larger-than-life personality. Your special feature is you are a perfectionist and eccentric.

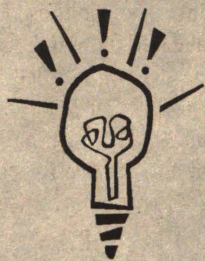
**Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)**

This month is going to be a great month for you. After a hard beginning of the year you finally are back on track and your luck seems to be very high this month. The grade that you wanted in that class is finally going to add up and you'll be happy that you finally achieved what you wanted.

Take time to help out around the house. You being helpful rather than being a mess will help loosen tension.

You are friendly, you en-

joy helping others, and you're attractive. Your special feature is you are intelligent and witty.



**Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)**

An important relationship will be coming to an end this month after you meet someone new. Have fun, but make sure not to hurt others in the process.

Students going off to college will have a new window of opportunity and people

will be coming your way soon. Make room for this, you will need it.

You are warm, kind-hearted, and you find good fortune. Your special features are you're fickle and a fly-by-night character.



**Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)**

This month you will start to think about your future in a new perspective. Although you've always had a certain goal, you will find something else that will catch your

eye.

Start to take school seriously, it is more important than you could imagine, and in the end you will be glad that you took your time and did well.

You are homely, happy, and content. Your special feature is you love life to the fullest.



**Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)**

Stop looking to fall in love and let it come to you; it will this month. After a slow start this year it will take a major jump when you meet some-

one new this month.

Don't be oversensitive to criticism, just let the things that people say pass you by or use them to make yourself better.

You are earthy, pleasant, and intelligent. Your special feature is you enjoy visiting health spas.

**Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20)**

Try something new this month, like a new haircut or clothing style. A change will help you feel like you just had a fresh start.

Make sure to keep your head high at all times; never fall to peer pressure. Life is easier when you use your conscience.

You are creative and jolly. Your special feature is you care about fish.

## We-go graduate shares his cancer struggles in a new book

By Jamie Nadolny  
 "Dealing with a life-threatening illness taught me a lot about my life perspectives. Before I had cancer, I was insecure and I constantly gave up.

"Since in remission, my life has completely changed. I'm now unstoppable," said alumni Brian King.

Being diagnosed with a serious illness didn't make King give up hope. The former West Chicago Community High School student would not let a deadly disease destroy his life.

Instead, he let his strong spirit and optimism destroy his cancer.

A senior in 1988, King was diagnosed with testicular cancer a few months before graduating high school.

Along with preparing for commencement and finishing college arrangements, King's life was immediately filled with fears that most high school students do not experience.

King's illness both frightened and discouraged him at first, but he later realized an important lesson. King's life-changing experience is the topic of his recently released, inspirational novel called *Everybody Has a Tumor: Cures for the negative thoughts that are cancerous to our lives*.

Written in 2000 and published by Writers Club Press, the novel tells the story of how King overcame his illness.

In the novel, King helps

people realize that dealing with a serious disease is similar to dealing with other problems that occur in their lives.

King recalls the moments when his life suddenly began to spiral downhill.

While trying to fall asleep one night, King experienced a severe pain that ran from his right testicle into his abdomen. Realizing the discomfort was abnormal, King felt he needed to visit a doctor.

At first, King didn't worry about what the doctor might diagnose.

"When you're 18-years-old you think that you are invincible. I didn't think that it was serious because I didn't think anything bad could happen to me.

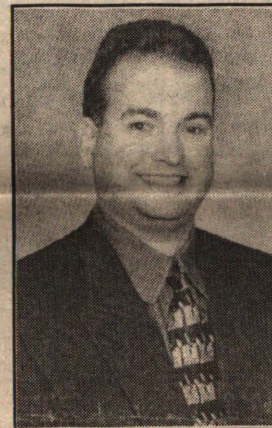
"I was focused on graduating and on my future. I wasn't prepared to live day-by-day," King said.

King's life perspective quickly changed, however, when his doctor told him that he had a severe case of testicular cancer.

King underwent chemotherapy treatments and started worrying about whether he could survive the illness.

During the course of the next year, King's life was filled with ups and downs. The cancer would go away and he would be in remission, but then it would come back again.

Thinking he could no longer control his life, King



Brian King

ate his life before and after being diagnosed with testicular cancer.

Not only does the book detail King's illness; it also shows the readers how to deal with their own psychological cancers.

King gives advice about how to overcome problems and ultimately reach success in life.

The book, which sells for \$13.95 and can be ordered on King's website:

[www.brianrking.com](http://www.brianrking.com), is a must-read for anyone who struggles with trying to reach a place where "dreams and reality meet."

Overall, King hopes the book will help others improve their own lives and encourage them to work hard to achieve their goals.

"I've come to terms with what happened to me, and I'm in some ways glad that I had to go through such a trying situation.

"Now I know that my life has value and that I can overcome anything. The experience helped me want to keep tackling obstacles and forming new goals.

"I hope that others can learn the same thing by hearing about what I had to go through," King said.

### Signing planned

Brian King returns home to discuss his book, "Everybody Has a Tumor," at the West Chicago Public Library, 118 Washington Ave., Saturday from 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. He will be signing copies and answering questions about his book.

"When you're 18-years-old you think that you are invincible."

**Cancer (June 2 – July 22)**

Make sure that you put yourself first this month after putting everyone before you. Don't be so vulnerable to people and what they say. Summer is coming fast, so get ready by ending the school year great.

A new crush seems to be in your view. Take your time and have fun making a new friend.

You are caring, sensitive, and vulnerable. Your special feature is you always devote your time to other people.

**Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22)**

Love is in the air this month, as you prepare yourself for prom and decide the perfect date for the perfect night. Be careful though, get-



## Prom is sure to be a night to remember

By Jamie Nadolny

The beginning of fourth quarter not only marks the start of new curriculum and different gym classes, but also prom jitters and pre and post-prom preparations.

Students at West Chicago High School are already anticipating this year's prom, which will be held May 11.

The dance will take place at the Abbington Banquets, located on the corner of Butterfield Road and Route 53 in Glen Ellyn. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7 p.m.

Prom tickets will be sold for \$40 per person during the week of April 30. When purchasing tickets, juniors and seniors will choose 10 students for their tables and will nominate five males and five females for prom court.

This year's prom song be

"Wonderful Tonight" by Eric Clapton. The dance has the corresponding theme "Wonderful Tonight." Students voted by placing change in milk jugs for each song during their lunch hours at the beginning of third quarter. The fundraiser raised over \$100 for the dance.

This year's prom colors will match the interior of the Abbington Banquets, which already has a formal atmosphere. Although there will be few decorations, colors are rose, peach and silver.

With less than two weeks to go, prom planning is at a high for the class of 2002. The class has been finalizing the event for the past few months.

The juniors raised more than \$2,000 for the dance, which will go towards the DJ and decorations.

# Prom Section

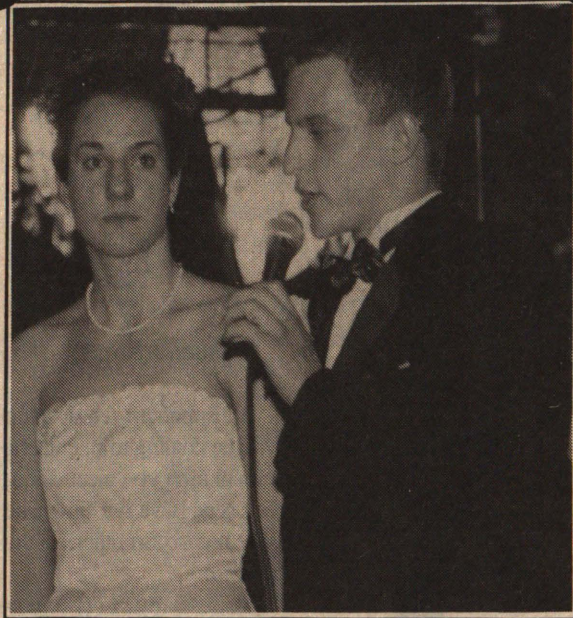
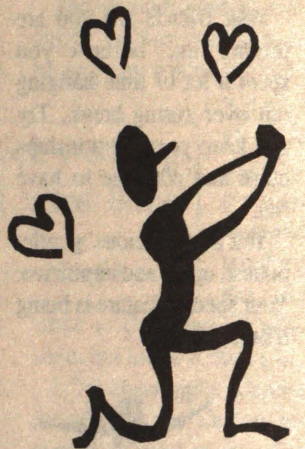


Photo courtesy of Challenge  
At last year's prom, Jenny Cwiak and Dan Schneider addressed the crowd.



## Thumbs up Thumbs down

By Laura McQueen

**Thumbs up to prom:**  
Dancing the night away at prom.

Having a great time with or without a date.

Not always having to have everything just perfect.

Low maintenance prom preparation.

Taking the initiative to ask someone to prom.

**Thumbs down to prom:**  
Drinking the night away after prom.

Having to play in a sport event the day after prom.

Prom expenses.

Overstressing.

Letting your fear of rejection keep you from asking the person you want to prom.

## Test your prom knowledge

Can you match the prom theme/theme songs to their decade?

1. "Heaven in Your Eyes"
2. "A Night to Remember, not to Forget"
3. "Wonderful Tonight"
4. "Enchanted Evening"
5. "Almost Paradise"
6. "Soiree a la Paris"
7. "The Twelfth of Never"
8. "Best of my Love"
9. "Time in a Bottle"

10. "Stairway to the Stars"
11. "Remembrances"

Possible choices

1. 1950's
2. 2000/01
3. 1960's
4. 1970's
5. 1980's
6. 1990's



(See Answers page 7)

## Mrs. Wolf...

(Continued from page 4)

house nearby, she plans on spending a lot of time with her grandchildren.

Besides spending time with her family, Wolf said she doesn't really have any plans. She might teach part-time at a junior college.

"I just need to get through the year and get settled," said Wolf. "I kind of would like to have nothing to do for a while."

Wolf said she would like to be able to just relax and not have to stress out about anything or have any responsibility.

She expects that at the end of the summer it will be a little odd not having to get ready for the school year. But she'll probably get together with other retired teachers to talk to, like Vera Sorenson, who has also been teaching for 30 years, Wolf said.

"(Teaching) must've been good because I would've changed careers a long time ago. I've had to change schools but I never wanted to change jobs," Wolf said.

## So you want to go to prom... here is how to ask

By Steve Taylor

Sometimes it is hard to find the right things to say when asking someone to prom. Sometimes people just forget about it because of the inability to think of a creative way to do it. Most people, sane people, don't. Here are some creative, funny, or incredibly disturbing ways to ask that special someone to dance the night away.

-Write out "Will you go to prom with me?" with gasoline in the person's backyard, light it, and stand next to it with a silly grin on your face. Try not to make the smile look too devious or psychotic. Also try not to stand too close to the fire.

-Come to her door naked (you can wear shoes) with the question written on your body with red marker. Note: Marker color can be changed according to your skin tone.

-Tell her that you got a new tattoo and show it to her. But instead of a real tattoo, have the question written on your

body with magic marker. If you have the money to spend, you could opt for a real tattoo, but I would advise against it... especially if you are not sure the girl will say yes.

-Record the question with a tape recorder and play it back to her... but play it backwards. You will most likely have to explain to her what it is, unless she is fluent in speaking backwards, which I highly doubt.

-Get on the ins with Anders Walker. Then slip him a little something that you want him to read off during the announcements, preferably asking your special someone to prom with you. But make sure that she understands what you were doing, and she doesn't end up going with Anders.

-If you are up for a little adventure, or looking to do something new with your hair, you could trim your hair down to a crew cut and the shave the question into the

top of your head. Before you do this, make sure you don't shave it in upside-down. You will probably have to shave the rest of it off soon after, especially if she says no.

-Have you and a couple of your friends write out the question on your cars. You can either tape signs on the sides or use magnets or something. Put one word on each car and drive by somewhere that you know she will be, maybe even her house. Make sure that the cars are in the right order and make sure that the drivers are paying attention to the driving at hand.

-If you don't like any of these ideas, or you don't have the mentality to do any of them, you can always just go up to her and ask her. If you want to take the lame way out.



## Perfect prom? Think again

By Steve Taylor

Have you ever wondered why prom is such a big deal in many people's lives? Well it isn't for all people. Some people take prom as an opportunity to make the best night of many people's lives their worst. As a recommendation, it might be more productive for you to make the best out of the night, instead of the worst. If you want to make this the best night ever, simply do the exact opposite of everything I put down. But

if you want to, here are 10 ways to make this prom the worst prom ever.

10) Make your own tuxedo from scrap.

9) Avoid personal hygiene at all costs for days on end.

8) Eat a large dinner beforehand.

7) Bring a pet.

6) Sit at the table with four other couples you have never spoken a word to in your high school career.

5) Find a way to set off the

sprinkler system.

4) Throughout the entire dance, talk to your date about who you really wanted to go to prom with.

3) Replace all of the DJ's CDs with recordings of spoken word poetry.

2) Drive her out to Drury Lane, where prom was held last year, and claim you thought it was the same place every year.

1) Go to prom with Steve Taylor.

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## Abortion: A cornerstone of many students' thoughts

By Mike Mroz

Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness: three fundamentals that this country was founded on. It is quite disappointing that the government denies thousands of humans the chance at life everyday- it's called abortion. Abortion is a product of the irresponsibility and laziness of the United States.

It is a genocide that kills one-third of all babies conceived. It is a way to fix careless, ignorant mistakes. If the United States no longer values life or the chance for life, what will we find important? What gives one person the right to deny another the chance to live? Nothing. Isn't this our society's definition of murder- denying another the chance to live?

Many pro-choicers argue that a baby is not living yet, therefore saying abortion is not murder. Many believe that the baby is not alive until it comes out of the mother. According to science and religion a human life is created when the male sperm fertilizes the female egg. It makes perfect sense, and is the only time when the creation of life can be pinpointed. Life is not suddenly created when the baby comes out of the mother.

Pro-choicers believe that as soon as a baby takes its first breath it is alive. What about people who need respirators to breathe, are they not living? Many pro-choicers believe a baby is not living because it depends on the mother's nutrients and warmth to survive, and without it, it would die. Let's take another scenario. If an abortionist delivered a baby, and immediately after delivery, he set it on a table and left it there, do you expect it to survive on its own? No, it needs nutrients and warmth from its mother, just as if it were inside the mother's womb.

Pro-choice people support a mother's right to decide the fate of her baby, live or die. Just because she has a human being growing inside her, she gets to make this decision? The mother gets to decide what will happen to herself, not another person.

Of course the age old question cannot be left out- what if the woman is raped? Rock For Life, a national pro-life organization, statistics show that women who are raped get pregnant less than one percent of the time. No, this does not mean that aborting one percent of the babies conceived is okay, it means it is very rare that women would have to make this decision.

In these very infrequent cases most pro-lifers would agree that a courageous woman should stick it out for nine months, have the baby, and give it up for adoption. These people have the satisfaction of knowing that part of themselves is living happily and not dead in a garbage bag outside some abortion clinic.

Life, or the opportunity to live, is the single most important aspect in our culture, or at least it should be. When a person's right for choice overcomes life itself, it is then that our country is faced with massive problems.

## Letters to the editor

### Cinco de Mayo has deep roots that need respect

As I cut into my corned beef and cabbage dinner last March 17, I was very grateful.

Not for the corned beef, which was very good, but rather for the joy of sharing in a celebration that is not my own.

With a name like Junkroski, I have no heritage-based reason to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Nonetheless, I have learned to love sharing in the heritage of others.

As a kid growing up in Chicago, my neighborhood was mostly Polish, but Chicago neighborhoods share their parties, so I learned about the Chinese New Year, the Italian St. Joseph's Day Table, bar mitzvahs, Oktoberfest and so many more.

In the city, everybody was Irish on St. Pat's, and wearing green was de rigueur. In each case, I felt privileged that someone wanted to share a

celebration with me.

As I got older I learned that many of these parties were different or even more important here in the States than in the country of origin.

St. Patrick's Day in Ireland isn't a party day, but rather a church celebration, and only among the Catholic Irish.

Just recently I met an Irish woman who told me that she had never had corned beef until she came here! And no self-respecting Irishman would ever put green dye in his beer.

The same is true of Cinco de Mayo. It was, and is, an important celebration the city of Puebla, where a famous battle against the French took place in 1862, but until fairly recently it wasn't a very important day anywhere else.

Then, restaurants and bars along the border in Texas recognized a good party when they saw one, and suddenly

By Alexandra Patin

The debate on whether or not abortion should be allowed is not just quietly ongoing; it is continuously hanging by a fragile thread, ready to snap at any minute and rip open the divide between the sides of pro-life and pro-choice.

And no matter how many times this argument snaps back into the news, the debate will never be quelled. However, there are important things to remember when dealing with the abortion issue. First is the fact that there are extremely sensitive and deep-rooted feelings in everyone who debates the issue. The second is the fact that people see things differently, whether it is a cultural difference or a personal difference. Finally, it is the fact that no matter which side you are debating, it is important to remember to listen to people's comments.

These ideas are so important to remember because abortion is an issue that is not a particularly debatable one; everyone will never switch to one side and instead of decisive facts and evidence, you are dealing with beliefs and interpretations of what little evidence there is for either side.

One of the most common arguments from the side of pro-life debaters is that the other side is made up of baby-killers. This is just one example of how interpretation can lead to problems: not everyone holds true the idea that life begins at conception. Many pro-choice people believe that life starts when the baby comes out of the mother. There is no hard evidence that shows that one side is right and the other wrong, it is a matter of personal interpretation of when life starts.

This can lead to the misconception that you can show people pictures of babies or pictures of abortions and they will change their minds. But no matter how many pictures or citing of facts you throw out to people, trying to change their minds, you must realize that everyone will never change his or her mind.

The number of pictures of facts that are thrown out will not make a difference to many people because, again, it is the interpretation of these pictures and facts that really matters. A pro-life person may look at a picture of an aborted baby and say that it was a murdered baby. However, a pro-choice person may look at it and say that it never was a separate life by itself. It was still a part of the mother, therefore it is not a separate being yet.

And why is it so wrong that people make up their own minds as to what their view is? The pro-life side wishes to force people to believe that it is a murder to abort a baby. They wish to say that everyone must believe what they believe.

If you take away a person's right to choose whether or not to have an abortion, you are taking away their right to think for themselves. The person is forced to believe that abortion is wrong, even though there are clearly two sides to the issue.

Instead of forcing people to believe what they may not want to believe, perhaps everyone should have a little more sensitivity and listen to both sides of the story a little more. A pro-choice person may or may not believe that abortion is right, but they believe that there is a fundamental right for a person to have a choice.

The freedom to make choices is one of the most valuable freedoms we have, because without it we are controlled and forced into doing things we would not do on our own and do not believe.

This is especially true with the issue of abortion, because it concerns the dearest and most important thing we own-ourselves. To let everyone choose what to do with their body and what to believe is to let everyone keep their freedom and not be afraid of being controlled by others.

Cinco de Mayo ads started to appear all over the U.S.

So, what's the point? Last year at We-go, there was a small group of students who complained about the Cinco de Mayo festivities that other students brought to school. It made me sad.

If I celebrate my birthday, can't other people be happy for me, even if it's not their birthday? Why should someone else's joy make me feel threatened?

Are my birthday balloons scary? Do I feel threatened when someone wears the green of St. Pat's? Do I mut-

ter under my breath that if they want to be Irish they should go back to the Auld Sod?

This year, as Cinco de Mayo approaches, I hope we all think about sharing the joy and learning a little about another culture. Wish everyone a happy Cinco de Mayo.

It really doesn't matter what one's heritage is because if everyone can be Irish on St. Pat's, everyone can be Mexican on Cinco de Mayo.

- Sue Junkroski (Spanish teacher)

## Do your own dirty work

By Stephanie Bodane

The bathrooms in our school are something that everyone seems to talk about. Whether it is the interesting odor, clogged toilets, or the debate to even touch the toilet handles. The garbage cans have a distinct smell, a certain amount of flies seem to have grown there, and the lids are almost unbearable to touch. These things are just the start of it. Let's not forget the dirty, door handles, lunch tables, locker rooms, school desks, computer keys and so many more that are touched by students each and every day.

Janitors work to clean around the school, they do their job as they are instructed. But it isn't the school's responsibility to make up for the students who throw their trash behind the toilets as if no one sees it lying there. The problem with the sanitation of the school is not the school's fault- students are much to blame.

Girls' bathroom toilets are clogged or not flushed in almost every stall. Janitors can't follow you around and clean or flush the toilet as you go. There are handles to flush the toilets and there are sanitary napkin disposal boxes in the stalls. They are there for your benefit and for you to actually use.

But bathrooms aren't the only problem. At lunch you can refrain from pouring your milk into your leftover food or sticking your gum on the bottom of the table because you don't want to get up. You might even have the guts to get up and place the wrappers from lunch into the garbage can. Then the next person who sits down to lunch doesn't have to pull gum off their pants or get up and throw your trash away.

However, you can do all of these things and still have germs on everything you touch in this school. You can stop this by washing your hands after using the washroom, or after you eat and even before you eat. There are many ways to stop the spread of germs. You cannot always blame it on the school. But just what can we do?

It is kind of hard to keep from touching everything. But if you have washed hands or if you try to keep your hands out of highly used places, then you shouldn't have any problems with touching the bacteria and germs on the school's supplies. You can also help to remind others to treat the school like they would their own home. Would you like your bathroom to look like the school's? Then help to keep it clean so we all can use it without being sick.

### Should you have to hold it?

Dear Editor,

Rules, it is said, are there to protect and maintain order. If this is so, then why is it that there are rules that prevent students from performing necessary daily routines that our bodies rely on to stay healthy?

The rule I speak of is the rule that states students are not allowed to leave the commons area to use the restrooms. There are several reasons why this should be changed. The main reason is that teachers do not usually allow students to leave class to use the restroom, which is reasonable because that student would be missing class time; however, on their free periods, if students have to use the washroom, they should be allowed.

The reason the rule exists may be that students smoke or fight in the bathrooms, but not all of them.

If they cannot go during off periods, when is there time? During a short passing period when a trip to the locker or across the entire building must occur? There is not enough time in those five few

minutes. Not to mention the fact that "holding it in" too long can cause medical complications.

If students were allowed to use the washroom while in commons, they would be able to pay more attention to what is going on in class. In the long run, this could improve the overall success of students throughout the school.

Not only does this make students look better, but the standards of the school will improve as well. The school could change drastically in a positive way, and all it takes is saying "yes" to someone who asks to use the washroom.

- Michael Peters

### Answers to decade quiz

1. 1980's ('87)
2. 2000
3. 1990's ('93) and 2001
4. 1990's ('96)
5. 1980's ('86)
6. 1950's ('58)
7. 1960's ('67)
8. 1970's ('77)
9. 1980's ('82)
10. 1950's ('56)
11. 1970's ('71)

## Is our language going down the tubes?

By Jamie Nadolny  
There was a time in our society when using profane language was inconceivable...  
Wait. Let me try that again.  
In our grandparents' generations, cursing was extremely uncommon...

Hold on. I have to re-word that sentence, also.  
Inappropriate words were not often spoken 100 years ago...  
Stop. There is no truth in any of the above statements.  
It would be pleasing to say negative slurs and swear words have never degraded the English language. It would be great to think that no one has ever said something inappropriate or immoral.

However, we're in the real world.  
It seems that members of the human population have no control over what comes out of their mouths. Since the beginning of time, people have succumbed to using foul language and incessant profanity. Generation after generation, people follow the footsteps of their predecessors and add swear words to their vocabulary.

Somewhere along the line, you'd think people would learn that profanity is uncalled for. Amidst hate crimes referring to race, sexual preference, and religion, you'd think people would realize that blasphemy is the stem of all problems.

Instead, it seems that there has been an exponential growth in the number of cuss words that come out of a toddler's mouth, in the amount of swear words found on television, and in the number of times a swear word has been used to stall time.

Everyone remembers the ABC's of childhood- not the ones learned in school, but the ones learned by listening to the fifth graders at the bus stop. We can all recall listing off swears to the tune of Big Bird's alphabet.

How ironic.  
Swears are heard everywhere: on MTV, R-rated movies, music, books and magazines- and worst of all- while listening to our role models, teachers, and parents. Students our age are engulfed in the world of inappropriate language.

In fact, it's hard to walk down the halls of We-go without hearing someone shout a swear. It's amazing how often students use words that are completely uncalled for.

Most teenagers my age don't realize that saying "that's gay" is unnecessary and offensive, because we have become habituated by bad language. Some students think the word has developed an all-new meaning: 'stupid', 'boring', 'dumb'... If you ask me, that's a distasteful association.

There's a hidden meaning behind words like 'fag.' Instead of depicting a cigarette, the word fag is used to describe a homosexual male. Also, saying "What a fag" is now used to describe someone who is generally disliked. No wonder Mathew Shepherd was a victim of a hate crime- his murderers were confused between Webster and society.

Words that describe a sexual preference aren't the only ones that cause problems. Using swear words to describe any human being based on their characteristics is not appropriate. There isn't a difference in the impact verbal abuse can make on a person versus that of physical abuse. Both are wrong and irresponsible.

I can't believe how lightly some people roll these words off of their tongues. They don't flinch or notice that their choice of words is repulsive. Swearing just comes naturally to some people. It seems that with every profane word someone uses, others follow with five more.

This is not to say that all people constantly swear. There are others who chose not to let these horrible words contaminate their vocabulary. I applaud the people who do not use swears, because they have greater self control.

But the fact remains that this is a case where a few people can, indeed, ruin it for everyone. It's important that *everybody* tries hard to watch their mouths and to be respectful and courteous to other people.

The problem continues to grow because each age group passes down profanity on to the next generation of gullible children. It's sad to think that we're the next to pass on our knowledge.

I'm not suggesting that we should wash our mouths with soap. However, it is time that we slowly try to cleanse ourselves of a pattern that constantly causes conflict.

## ACT unfair: Students should be better prepared

By Mary-Megan Kalvig  
Wednesday and Thursday all juniors are taking the Prairie State Exam and the ACT.  
With the ACT or the SAT comes a fear that if you do don't well on this, you will not get into college and you will never succeed in life. It is the unjust fact that a simple test determines what college you attend.

In order to enter most four-year colleges you need to take either the SAT or the ACT. But is it fair to let a test determine your future?

Now, to make matters worse, the state is requiring that all juniors take the Prairie State Exam, which is similar to the ACT. All it means is that juniors have to suffer through another day of testing.

However, the seniors never took the Prairie State, so is it fair that juniors must? Also, at this point colleges do not even look at the Prairie State since this is the first year it is given, so why do we have to take it at all?

Most students should remember the Iowa State Tests they took in middle school. They remember the long hours sitting in a room taking a test that required them to fill in little bubbles.

These tests are supposed to tell colleges how much you know. But how much can a multiple choice test really tell someone about your knowledge?

The ACT, SAT, Prairie State, and whatever other standardized test a college looks at makes the student a number or a grade.

Student A got a 28 on the

ACT while Student B got a 15. However, Student A took the prep class and had nothing better to do than study for the exam.

Student B on the other hand was working hard in all of his or her advanced placement classes and didn't get a chance to take the class or study. He or she also takes bad tests. Does that make Student B any less smart than Student A?

While colleges might look at the AP classes Student B took, they can't help but look at his ACT score and possibly throw his or her application out.

Besides the fact that the test makes a person a number, there are other parts of the ACT that are bothersome.

The ACT has sections based on science, social studies, reading, writing, and grammar.

While the topics seem like subjects everybody has learned, they really aren't.

Not every junior has taken calculus, physics, and trigonometry.

Different teachers have taught different items to their students. Some are in advanced classes. Other teachers don't teach every unit. It is not fair that the state expects everyone to have the same knowledge.

Another reason why this test is unfair is the fact that there is a time limit. Students read at different rates. People learn in different ways and take longer to do certain tasks like reading or comprehending math.

It is not fair to assume everyone accomplishes these

tasks in less than an hour.

Also, how do these test writers figure out how long to give each section? A student does not get a class period to accomplish the task.

Figure, you have 90 minutes to complete a test of a subject you recently learned, yet only 40 minutes to take a test of a subject you learned over the past three years.

For example, chemistry is a 90-minute test while the test that includes physics, chemistry, and biology is 40 minutes.

With the time limit, there is a pressure to finish. Some people "freak" when under pressure. How many students forget what they recently learned? Probably a lot. Pressure also hurts because students rush and miss easy

**The ACT is not a fair test and needs to be altered.**

questions.

Why can't there be an overall time in which to finish the entire test? Without the ever-present stress of a time limit, students would probably do better. They would focus better and take more time on certain sections when they need it.

Colleges should not focus on the ACT or SAT to determine how much a student knows.

Instead, they should focus more on the types of classes a student took and the grades they received. Some students just have trouble taking a test. That does not mean they are stupid or did not learn anything.

Some may argue that this grade doesn't tell anything

about the student either, but it says more about the person than one little test.

In a class, students have the opportunity to get the grade they want. He or she can go in for help and do extra credit. However, the student only gets to retake the ACT, there is not personal help or extra credit.

Another way to help students with this test is to have the prep classes; take a day or two out of school to go over the items on the test.

While there is a prep class for the ACT, not everyone takes it. If everyone is forced to take the test, everyone should take the class because it is not fair that some people are prepared while others are not.

Even if it is one day, that is enough time to give a student a good idea of on what they will be tested.

Otherwise, the prep class should be a requirement. Take one day or a week, however long the class takes, and have juniors go through it. While it will disturb a teacher's schedule, it is for their students' best interests.

Another way to help would be for the students to take a practice test, very similar to the real one, so they can figure out what areas they need help on.

While this may not help the student who panics at the test, at least they don't have the fear of walking into the test clueless. Students sometimes just need that confidence that they know what is needed.

The ACT is not a fair test and needs to be altered in one way or the other to help the students out. Either help the students succeed at it or get rid of it.

## Is it really worth rebelling against?

By Marc Berry  
These IDs are becoming a pain.

They get in the way of everything and they're extremely uncomfortable. You have to remember to wear them everyday, and they don't even have a point to them. Anybody could still walk in to the building and start shooting, whether or not students are wearing them. And if that's not bad enough, they don't go with anything I have to wear.

But you, most likely, already know this.

You realize everything that's wrong with them. Every legitimate argument was repeated at least a zillion times in the first week that the procedure was enforced. It's now a year and a half later, though, and the same arguments are still being used.

I am beginning to think that many people are no longer protesting because the rule is ridiculous, pointless, and a hassle, but because they just want something to rebel against.

If we didn't have to wear IDs many people would find something else to protest. Anything from the length of the passing periods to the design of the desks, to the poor quality of some of the food that makes it even worse when you wake up late and have to eat breakfast at school and see some pancakes that look *really* good and you think to yourself, "Wow! Those look really good."

So you decide to buy some for over two bucks because you think it will definitely be worth it, but it turns out that they're really cold and that there's barely enough

strawberries on top to talk about (not that you'd talk about strawberries). The bacon is dry, too, but you eat it all anyway, and it just really isn't satisfying and you think maybe you could have spent that money on something else instead, like some of those new yogurt flavors that just came out and that you've been looking forward to tasting. But then it's too late and the whole day is ruined.

But I digress...

It seems like some people always find something to go up against and that the only way to make school life exciting is to rebel against it.

I'm not saying that nobody should try to make any kind of difference. If there's a worthwhile cause, then knock yourself out. Go you!

In fact, as soon as there's something worth fighting for,

I'll lead the rebellion. I'll bust out my magic markers and make protest signs for everyone, and stickers, too.

But as of now, there's nothing that even comes close to justifying extreme measures. Most issues at We-go are trivial, and there's no system worth fighting.

It would be nice to not have to wear IDs. I'm not defending the policy at all, but it doesn't greatly effect even those who do follow it. The arguments against it have been made for two years, and it's pretty obvious that no amount of complaining is going to change the rule.

For now, just let the little things go. Think of peace.

Of course, maybe I don't really believe any of this.

I just needed something to complain about...



## Mikaila continues the teenie bopper tradition

By Stephanie Bodane

A new female artist has hit the charts, another teenage pop singer with flair.

Mikaila's hit song "So In Love With Two" sold over 150,000 copies and was an instant hit. Her music shows vocal range, from high to low.

The 14-year-old has already performed with hit stars like Britney Spears, and sang the national anthem for the Dallas Cowboys.

Her style is unique and fresh, she has a new synthesized sound and it's a great start. Songs like "So In Love With Two," "It's All Up To You," "Perfect World," and

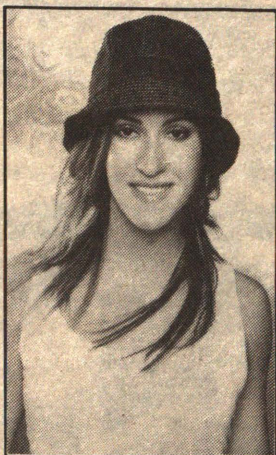


photo courtesy of Island records Mikaila

"My Heaven" show that this girl is not afraid to show her view on fantasy and love.

Each song has creative vo-

cal with a sexy edge.

Although she is a new star to the music business she has found the type of music that teenagers are drawn to. She combines different varieties of music and vocal styles to create each song.

"So In Love With Two," describes the feelings of a girl who has two men to choose from. She picks her number one choice. The song doesn't quite show Mikaila's vocal talent but definitely shows her ambition and that she is very serious about her music.

Mikaila's song, "Perfect World," however, takes her singing to a new level. With a great beat and a real-world meaning that explains that in a perfect world, not only would you treat your girl right but also you wouldn't lie to her. The song takes you through different vocal styles and tunes and leaves you dancing and replaying it for one last time.

The Dallas born singer said in an interview with Shagg Entertainment, "I told them about myself and what I wanted- hard drums and hip words that people can relate to."

With lyrics talking about boyfriends, friends, how life really is, and love. Mikaila can relate to the typical teen. She is sure to be big one day.

Although she is another diva to the Britney Spears/Christina Aguilera age, she brings a new style with great lyrics and a powerful voice. She is sure to top high on the charts. She has it all.

## Punk rock lives on

By Gerardo Garcia

Lars Fredrickson has come a long way since his days in Cambell, California.

After five successful albums with his band Rancid, Lars, with the help of lead singer Tim Armstrong, have put together a side project album, Lars Fredrickson and The Bastards.

The album was released on Armstrong's record label Hellcat.

Besides Fredrickson the band includes, Scott Abels on drums, Big Jay Bastard on bass, and The Unknown Bastard doing backup vocals.

In an age when kids are listening to sub par acts such as Limp Bizkit, Korn, and Papa Roach, Lars Fredrickson and The Bastards manages to spit in their faces by delivering a raw record that is far more re-

alistic and appealing to blue-collar kids than anything the other bands have put out.

Written and recorded in five days, Lars Fredrickson And The Bastards delivers 12 punk rock songs, including "Vietnam," a true story about an expatriate soldier Fredrickson met in Birmingham, England who felt he didn't belong anymore after the war.

"That was to pay homage to the blue-collar kids like me who were drafted whether they wanted to or not," said Fredrickson in the L.A Times.

The band also covers a couple songs. One of which is named "To Have And To Have Not," which is a song originally performed by Billy Bragg.

"Tim always thought that (See Punk page 10)

## Don't refuse to "diffuse"

By Mike Mroz

Many bands in the music industry today endeavor to craft a unique groundbreaking sound.

Diffuser is not part of this movement; however, this does not prevent their music from being extremely pleasing to the ears.

Diffuser's mainstream melodic pop rock composition *Injury Loves Melody* is a collection of three-minute energetic pop tunes with brilliant vocal melodies.

The quartet of Tomas Costanza (guitar/vocals), Anthony Cangelosi (guitar), Lawrence Sullivan (bass), and Billy Alemaghides

(drums), have been testing out the music scene waters since March 1994, as Flu 13, up until last year.

Producer Don Gilmore is responsible for recording the beautiful pop arrangement *Injury Loves Melody*.

The clarity flows boundlessly between each melodi-

ous component as Costanza's voice over compensates for lack of complicated guitar riffs.

Although simple, this album is definitely refined. Conversely, this album has a "corny factor" in a couple songs.

A corny feeling is kind of

expected for an indie pop band on a mainstream label. They go effects crazy, and lose some of their raw edge. Still, it is sophisticated in its own right, as well as that of the indie pop scene.

The lyrical content of their debut album is altogether confusing. Some songs are passionate anthems about growing up and finding a niche.

The opening, explosive track "I am" displays the band's emotional lyrical content of life lessons learned. Other songs can simply be concluded as nothing deeper than nonsense.

Diffuser's music is influenced by such well known acts as Sonic Youth and Sunny Day Real Estate.

Next time you're looking for fun, energetic, rock, pick up Diffuser. You won't be disappointed...or maybe you will...

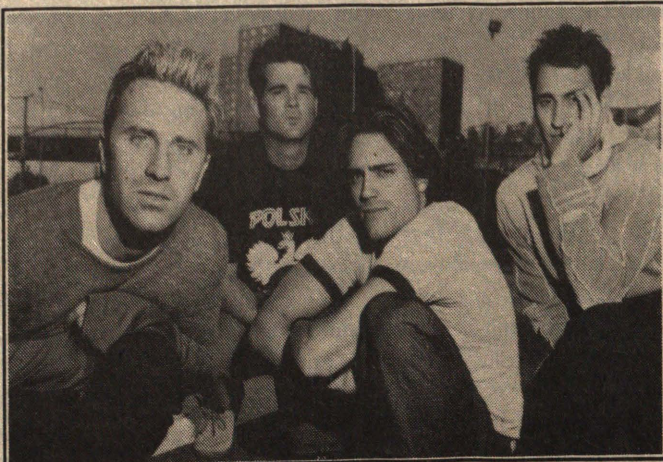


Photo by Alison Dyer

Diffuser is made up of Tomas Costanza, Lawrence Sullivan, Billy Alemaghides, Anthony Cangelosi.

## Prom word search

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

- |                |           |                   |            |
|----------------|-----------|-------------------|------------|
| All night long | Date      | Flowers           | Perfume    |
| Boutonnieres   | Deodorant | Fun               | Pictures   |
| Bow ties       | Dessert   | Formal            | Prom court |
| Carnation      | Dinner    | Hair appointments | Queen      |
| Cologne        | Dress     | King              | Romance    |
| Corsages       | Exciting  | Limousines        | Tickets    |
| Dancing        | Expensive | Manicures         | Tuxedo     |

## Cartoon cats, a jousting knight, and killer mummies all coming soon

By Mary-Megan Kalvig  
*Cats and Dogs*

For thousands of years dogs have been fighting with cats in order to save mankind from the cats' rule. Mr. Tinkles, a rogue cat, makes a plan to disable the dog, leav-

ing the humans defenseless. It is then up to a team of dog agents and the loyal puppy Lou to stop the evil plan. Starring the voices of Alec Baldwin, Susan Sarandon, and Toby Maguire. May 25, 2001.

*A Knight's Tale*

William is a young squire who is very good at jousting. He soon goes on a road trip with his cohorts Roland and Wat, after his master died. On their trip they meet Chaucer, a writer. William convinces Chaucer to make up genealogy documents to make people believe he is a knight. William then sets off to prove himself a worthy knight at a jousting competition and finds himself romance. Inspired by "The Canterbury Tales." Starring Heath Ledger. Rated PG-13. May 11, 2001.

*The Mummy Returns*

Imhotep and Anck-su-Mumam, two 3,000-year-old mummies, are being returned to a London museum. This is 10 years after Rick O'Connell first adventured in Egypt. Now, Anck-su-Mumam is keeping an eye on Rick's 9-year-old son, who she thinks is the key to reincarnating the Isis, the Egyptian Goddess. Starring

Brendan Fraser and The Rock. May 4, 2001.

*Pearl Harbor*

The movie is set during the time of the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor. At the time, two friends are caught up in the intensity of the events that bring the United States into World War II. One joins the U.S. Army Air Corps while the other flies with the British Royal Air Force. Both men find love on their journey; however, it is the same woman. Starring Ben Affleck, Josh Hartnett, and Cuba Gooding Jr. May 25, 2001.

*Shrek*

Once upon a time in a swamp, there lived an ogre named Shrek. One day a bunch of annoying fairy tale characters that were all banished from their homes by Lord Fraguad enter Shrek's life. Shrek then makes a deal with Farquaad to rescue Princess Fiona, his bride. Shrek and a wisecracking donkey set off to rescue the princess from a fire-breathing dragon. Their big problem, however, comes from the deep secret she is hiding. Starring the voices of Cameron Diaz, Eddie Murphy, John Lithgow, and Mike Myers. Rated PG. May 18, 2001.

# Swantek reflects on success as gymnast

By Laura McQueen

Falling and busting your chin open doesn't seem like a very encouraging start for a gymnastics career. But that's just how sophomore Brittany Swantek got her start.

Swantek was walking along the back of her couch and fell, slicing her chin. That's when her mom decided to introduce her to the world of gymnastics. Ten years later all her hard work has paid off.

Swantek took sixth place all around in state, and placed in the top 10 in all events she competed in. Her gymnastics team of 20 at Aerial Gymnastics in Joliet took first in state.

Now she's on her way to the regional competition Saturday.

"I want to go to nationals, and finish in the top seven at regionals," said Swantek. There are seven regions in

the country, and to qualify for state a gymnast must place in the top 14 at regionals.

Swantek competes in all four gymnastic events; floor, beam, bars, and vaults, and excels at all of them.

"Floor is my favorite event, and beam is the scariest," she said.

Scared as she was, Swantek took third place in beam, seventh in floor and vault, and tenth in bars at the state meet.

There are two judges for each event who judge performance based on a scale of 1-10, 10 being the highest score.

"This state meet was the best meet of my life," said Swantek.

The practice schedule for Swantek is a demanding one. She practices five days a week for four hours a day at a gym about an hour away from home.

"The hardest thing about it is sticking it out. A lot of girls quit because of the hours and the pain. There's not a day in practice that I'm not hurting somewhere, and it does kind of cut in on my social life," Swantek said.

She's competed through several injuries, including a recent ankle injury that happened when she was doing vault.

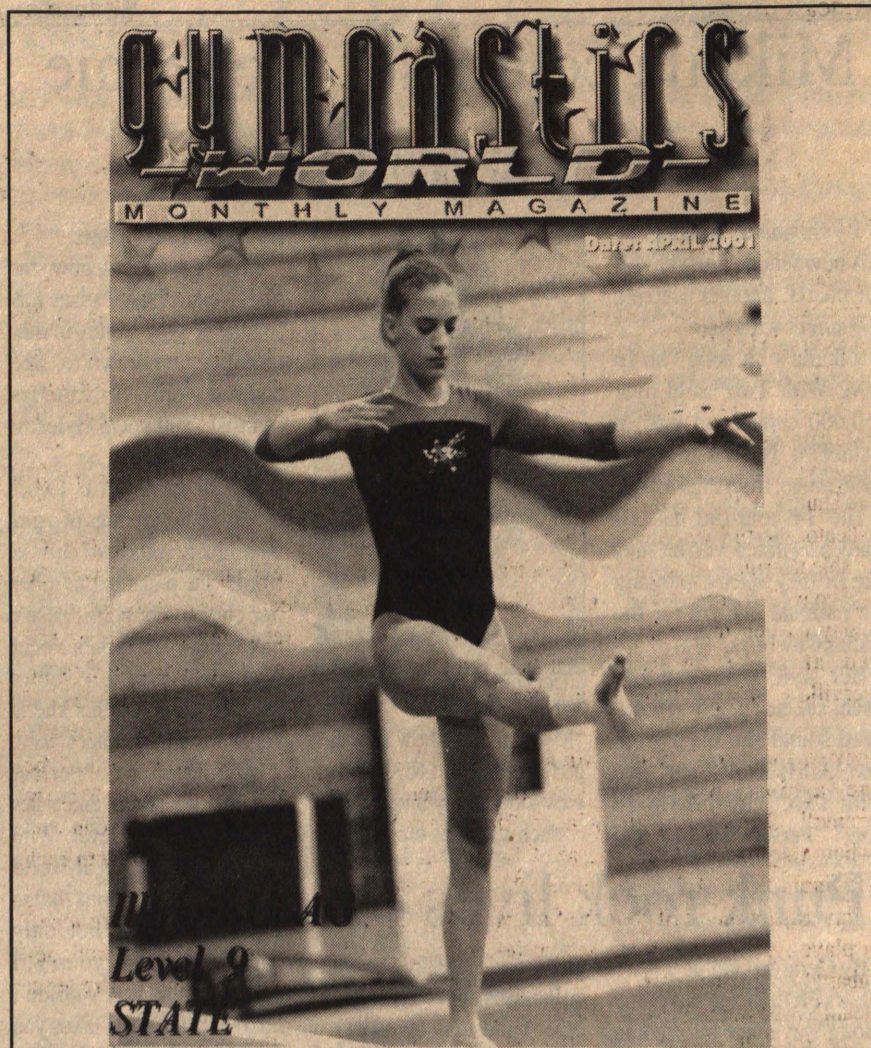
But according to Swantek, there are a lot of perks to the sport as well. She's developed great camaraderie with her teammates.

"We feed off each other. Practice is the most fun when we are all working hard," she said.

Swantek also accredited her coach Dan Miller for her success.

"He doesn't only coach, we're also like best friends," she said.

For Swantek, the best



Brittany Swantek performs at the state competition. Photo courtesy of Brittany Swantek

thing about gymnastics is meeting all the people she has through the sport, and the satisfaction she gets from knowing she's accomplished

something.

"My long term goal is to get a full ride to college, hopefully to Alabama State, because they have a great

gymnastics program there," said Swantek.

For now, she's just got to keep her chin up as she heads to regionals.

# Softball works hard and shows results

By Laura McQueen and Mary Beth Selby

Girls softball is only three games into the conference season and is already breaking records and turning heads.

The team is undefeated in conference with a winning record of 9-3-1 in non-conference games and 2-0 in conference.

Conference play began April 18 with a win against Wheaton Warrenville South. The game also marked senior pitcher Megan Leston's first no-hitter of the season.

The Wildcats pulled together to win 5-0 against Wheaton North their second conference game.

Although last year they didn't come out with the con-

ference title, they're shooting for number one this year. Their goals for this year include competing in the championship and winning regionals.

"We have as good a team, so we hope to do better this year in conference," said softball coach Jim Schaudt.

Schaudt lost a total of four seniors from last year, includ-

ing Missy Kruger and Kelly Bolton. He was able to make up for this loss, however, by gaining eight more seniors and sophomore Kristi Nickelson.

"The team's ability is as good as ever, but we need to work on playing as a team and staying together. We're all going for the same thing," said Schaudt.

The team has played tough so far this season, all the way down to the extra innings. The first game of their recent double header against Momence lasted four hours

and 15 minutes and was 24 innings, the third longest softball game in IHSA history.

Leston pitched all 24 innings and she and the opposing pitcher had a combined number of strikeouts that was in the top 10 amount of combined strike outs for a single softball game.

"Megan Leston pitched really well that game, and she can do it every time. But for the whole game in general, I think we showed our opponents just how tough we are. We just need to play that hard

all the time," said Schaudt.

Although the cats lost the first game against Momence 1-0, they picked it up for the second game in the double header, beating Momence 4-0 in just 65 minutes.

In addition, the Wildcats had a tough extra-inning game left unfinished tied 0-0 against Plainfield. Both teams played tough until the eleventh inning when the game was called because of darkness.

The team's next challenge is on Wednesday at Glenbard East.

## Girls soccer off to a good start

By Steve Taylor

The inexperienced girls soccer team is starting off on the right side of the scoreboard.

The Wildcats record stands at 5-4-2 with a 1-2 record in conference.

This year's team is very young, said coach Julio DelReal. Eighteen players are on the varsity squad including six freshmen, seven sophomores, three juniors, and two seniors.

"We have inconsistent play due to our youth," said coach Del Real.

This year the team is led by captains senior Amanda Campagnoni, junior Jackie Prena, and sophomore Amy Lichtfuss.

"We're doing real well so far," said Lichtfuss. "We're very successful and very aggressive. We're real young so we'll have a good future."

Along with the players, Del Real has high expectations

as well. "We expect to grow and improve our play ability each game to enter the state tournament ready to compete against anyone."

The girls' passing skills have been very well thus far, according to Del Real and Lichtfuss, and both have high hopes for their conference play this year.

"Conference games are always tough," said Del Real. "But when we play well, we win and usually compete against anyone."

## Badminton wrapping season up

By Stephanie Bodane

Badminton season is coming to an end, with upcoming DVC conference finals Thursday and Saturday.

The team has a record of 4-2 non-conference, and 0-5 conference.

The team, which consists of 26 players within a JV and a varsity team, had their last home game on Friday.

Coach Lavora Singleton is expecting two seniors, five juniors, and one sophomore to return to the team next

year, after losing seniors Amanda Millard and Melissa Garcia.

"The players worked really hard this year, there was a lot to learn and it showed all of the potential for the following years," said Singleton.

## Punk...

(Continued from page 7)

song was written about us," said Fredrickson on RancidRancid.com. The song belts out lyrics like, "Just because I dress like this doesn't make me a communist."

The band also covers the Motorhead song, "Leaving Here." Motorhead happens to be Fredrickson's personal favorite band. The album depicts the anger that Fredrickson has developed throughout his lifetime. The album runs at 34 minutes and 15 seconds and delivers successfully towards fans of Rancid, Sick Of It All, and Agnostic Front.

"I'm not a role model. I'm

not Michael Jordan, and we're not flag carriers for anyone. We're only doing this because it's the only thing we know how to do," said Fredrickson in the L.A. Times.

The inspiration for the album came while Rancid was on tour, and Armstrong thought that it would be a good idea to put Fredrickson's Cambell stories on an album.

"I love your stories about Cambell, and I think we need to put them on wax," Armstrong said on the album sleeve.

Fredrickson's stories range from getting into fights, steal-

ing cars, and causing a ruckus with his friend Ben.

"If you did something like steal a bike, he stole two, if you drank a 12 pack, he drank a case. I mean he was crazy but so charismatic. He could talk you into anything, but at the same time look out for your best interests, kind of like Loki from Norse mythology," explained Fredrickson during an interview with the website Epiaph.com.

You can check out Lars Fredrickson with his other band Rancid, this year on the Vans Warped Tour set to hit Tinley Parks World Music Theater July 15.

## Baseball comes out swinging hard

By Marc Berry

The boys varsity baseball team competed at Glenbard East on Tuesday.

They faced off against West Aurora Tuesday at home, and took the win, 8-0.

On Thursday, they played at Wheaton North where they were able to bring back a win to We-go with a score of 4-3.

A day earlier, they competed at home against Naperville Central and lost 6-2.

They played another home game against Wheaton Warrenville South on April 10 where they lost the game with a final score of 4-2.

A day earlier on April 9, they played a game against Glenbard South at the opposing team's field where We-go took the win with a score of 11-4.

On April 7, the team participated in a double header at Fenton where they were victorious in both games with scores of 15-1 and 23-5.

April 4 saw the team at home facing off against Plainfield. The game was tied at the end of the seventh and went into an extra eighth

inning, but We-go lost it at the end with a final score of 4-3 in favor of Plainfield.

Batavia was We-go's opponent on April 2 and We-go outmatched them, grabbing the win with a score of 11-4.

A doubleheader was held at home on March 31 against St. Francis. We-go won both games with scores of 13-4 and 15-13.

Another home game took place March 30 at Downer's Grove North. We-go took the win with a score of 4-3.

An earlier doubleheader on March 28 pitted We-go against Geneva in an away game. We-go was defeated the first game 4-2 but came back in the second game taking the win with a score of 10-9.

The first game of the season was at Bartlett on March 22 where they lost 6-1 in a game that was called after only five innings due to darkness.

Overall, the team is 9-5, with a 1-1 conference record.

Head coach John Walters said there are a couple of things that he believes the team could improve on in

upcoming games.

"We just need to be more consistent. We need to really be in the games. Everyone has to be ready to make the big play. They can't expect the other guy to do it," he said.

For the most part, however, he is happy with the way the team is playing and they have been improving over the course of the season, he said.

"We're starting to concentrate better. We're starting to play the entire game," he said, "We just have to carry over our concentration and bring the same focus to each game."

On the sophomore level, the team is doing well, according to Sophomore team Coach Eric Lasky.

Earlier in the season, the team had a six game winning streak, but it was broken when they lost to Wheaton Warrenville South by one point. The game went into a ninth inning before We-go was defeated. Of those nine innings, Mike Lombardo pitched eight, giving up only two runs.

(See Baseball page 12)

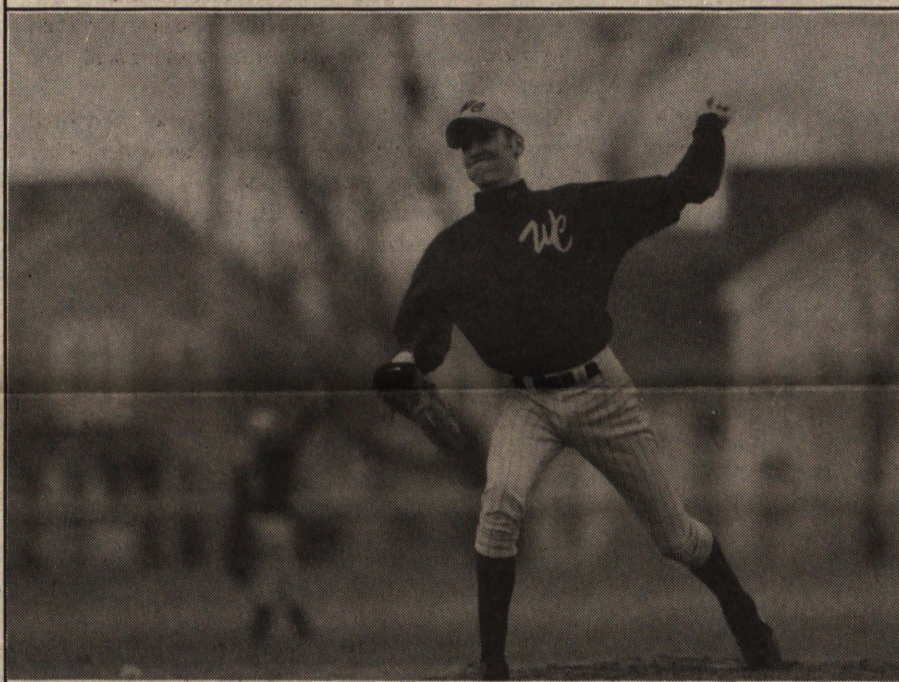
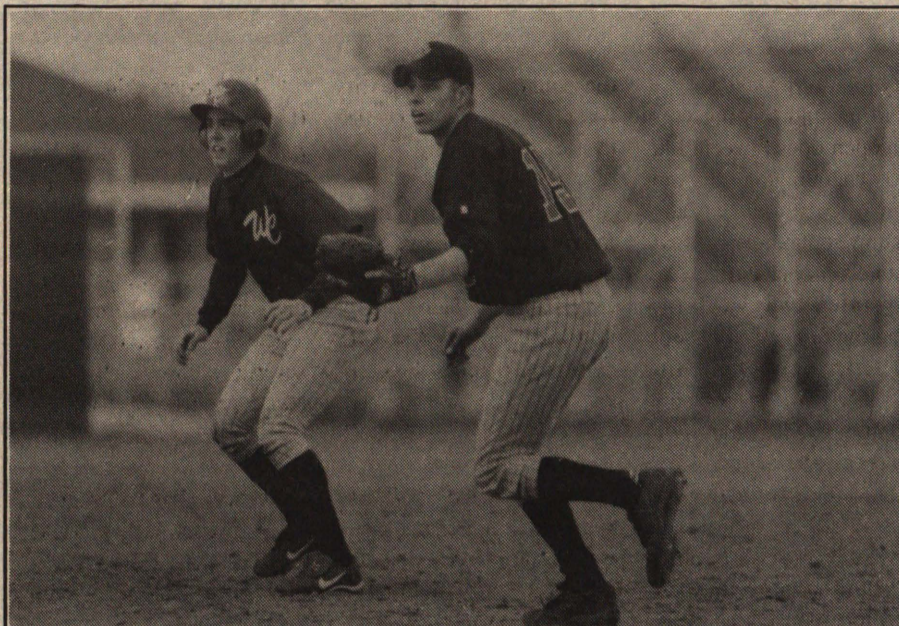


Photo courtesy of Challenge

Top: Senior Adam Zimmerman strains to get the ball to his teammate. Bottom: Senior Tim Warren (left) and Wheaton Warrenville South opponent look alive.

## Athlete Profile: Senior Mitch Strohm talks on life, tennis, and favorite color

By Marc Berry

**Name:** Mitch Strohm

**Current Sport:** Tennis - third singles

**Years playing sport:**

It is my fourth year playing tennis in high school. It is my fifth year overall.

**What first drew you to the sport?**

Have you ever seen Star Wars? Coach Moeaki just used the force to pull me in.

**What do you like best about the sport?** Smashing overheads.

**Is there anything you wish could be changed about the sport?**

Nothing really. Instead of green courts, I'd like to have off-blue colored courts with off-blue lines.

**What's your favorite color?**

Off-blue

**What has been your best experience while on the team?**

I don't actually have a specific tennis memory that is my favorite. But all of the experiences on the team have been great... especially the long practices day after day...

**How do you believe being on the team has improved you athletically?**

It keeps me in shape and all trim and fit.

**Has it changed you in any non-athletic ways? If so, how?**

It's made me a better thinker in terms of strategy... like thinking of ways to beat my opponent without crippling him.

**What's your favorite food?**

The soup de jour.

**What have you learned from playing the sport?**

Don't mess with Coach Moeaki.

**What advice would you give to younger athletes wishing to excel in the sport?**

Start playing when you're born. It all starts with the mother. Playing tennis while their pregnant helps. Once you are born, don't sleep or eat. Do nothing but play tennis. Seriously, though, determination and a love for the sport will push you forward. If you really want to succeed, you will.

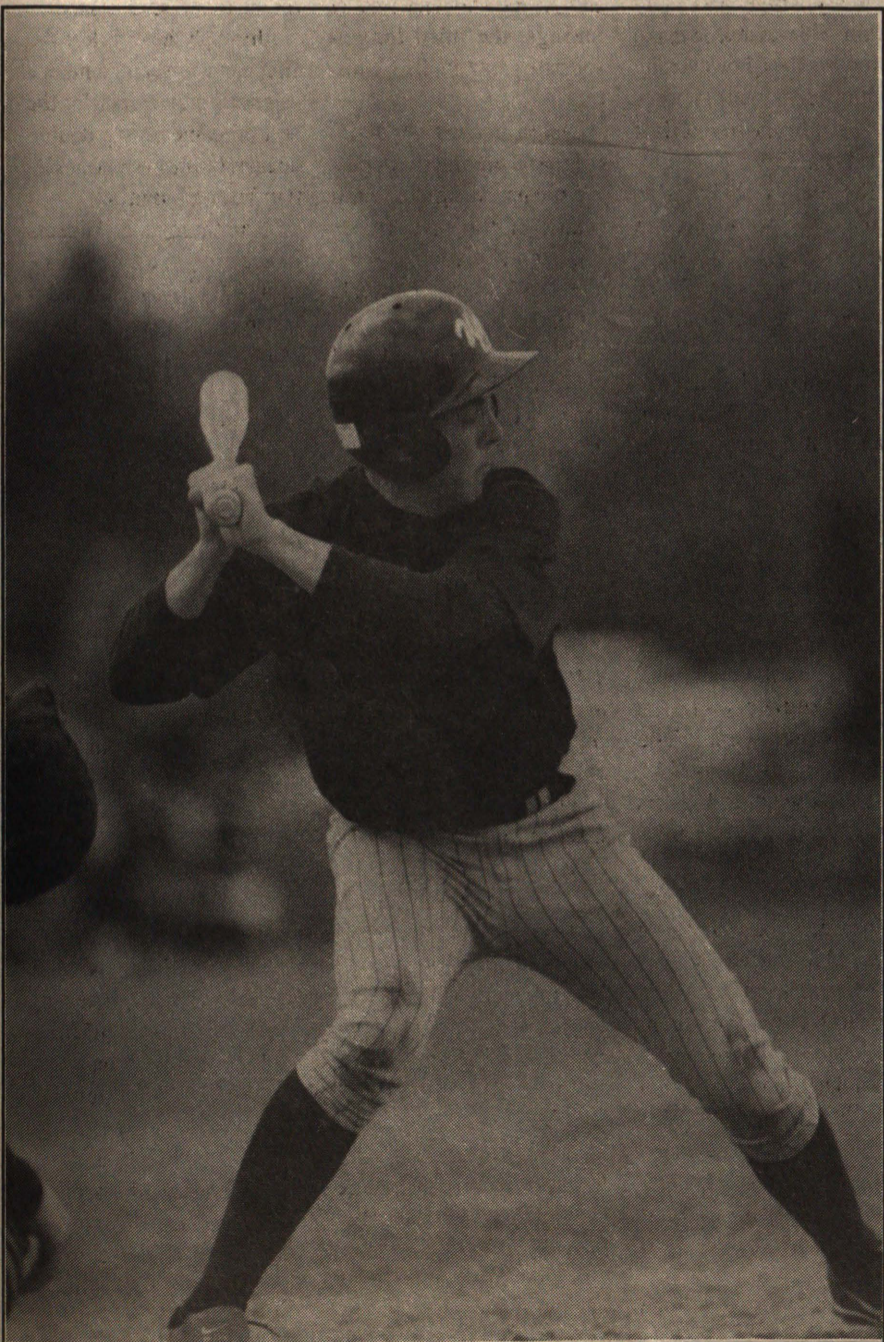


Photo courtesy of Challenge

Senior Tim Warren prepares to swing through the ball.

## Boys volleyball set for success

By Laura McQueen

The Wildcat boy's volleyball team is bringing home an encouraging record, the varsity team with just three losses so far this conference season and the JV team yet to be defeated.

The varsity boys recently were awarded as consolation champs in the tournament held at Downers Grove North on Saturday, while the JV team took first in the tournament.

The boys lost the first and second games, which put them in the consolation bracket, but they picked it up to win the next three games.

"We were all tired, we weren't into the first games. We lost to two teams we

should have beaten. We eventually pulled together and did some good things," said senior Brian Kerr.

The team lost their last conference match against Wheaton Warrenville South in three games. They had a slow start in the first game, South staying ahead the whole game. The Wildcats did put up a fight when South was at game point and the Cats held them at 14 points and scored three points, but the first game ended with a call that We-go was out of rotation.

The second game the Wildcats came back, senior Brian Kerr serving up the first points. We-go held South at one point until the Cats had

six points. South did not go down without a struggle, and the game was tied up at 8-8 at one point and then 13-13. But the Cats held their ground and won game two 15-13.

Unfortunately the Cats lost the third game 15-7. The Cats were behind the whole game, although they did put up a struggle with a few kills by seniors Brad Olson and Jesse Salazar.

Throughout the match the Wildcats lost multiple serves and side-outs due to net and rotation calls, along with a total of 16 missed serves. The boys did not respond well to a few questionable calls by the referees. In the third game, with We-go down 6-1,

senior Mark Lasky received a red card and could no longer play in the match, and he was suspended for the first game of the Downers Grove North tournament.

"It was a very exciting

game," said senior John McPheters who was the Wildcat's setter in the 5-1 offense in the match played against Wheaton Warrenville South.

So far in the conference

season, the Wildcats have lost to Wheaton Warrenville South, Naperville North, and Naperville Central. They have beaten Glenbard East, Glenbard North, and West Aurora.

## Girls track running away with records

By Marc Berry

The We-go girls track team is well into their outdoor season, taking records as they go.

Their next meet is the Tiger Invitational at Wheaton Warrenville South on Friday.

On Saturday, the team competed at the Ram Invitational at Glenbard East. They placed eighth out of 15 teams.

"We were competing against the best teams in state. It was kind of a test to see how our relays stacked up, and they did really well," said head coach Katerina Boves.

Seniors Kathy Brinn and Jenny Cwiak, sophomore Aimee Beutke, and freshman Laura Baumrucker came in second in the medley and 4 x 200 meter relays and third in

the 4 x 100 meter relay.

"We're getting very close to state qualifying times," said Boves.

On April 14, the team headed to Glenbard East for the Second Annual Raider Invitational. They placed fourth out of eight teams. Baumrucker broke the school and meet record for the 100 meter with a time of 12.52 seconds. Brinn, Cwiak, Beutke, and Baumrucker also broke a school and meet record for their time in 4 x 200 meter relay. They ran it in 1.50.47.

Also, Brinn was champion in the 400 meter.

According to Boves, Brinn ran the event right after the 4 x 200 relay, and she was still tired from the previous race.

"She surprised all of us.

She won two events in a row, which is very rare," said Boves.

Further, sophomore Katy Kostal took first in the 3200 meter.

On the JV level, Lauren Anders took the JV meet record for the 100 meter.

Also, Amy Infager took the school record in the pole vault competition with 7-foot-3 inches.

The DVC Invitational will be May 4 and Sectionals are on May 11.

Sectionals fall on the same day as prom, which is "a downer," said Boves. She said that some people are opting not to attend sectionals, because of this fact, while others are choosing to still participate in some of the earlier events.

## Baseball...

(Continued from page 11)

Lasky said he is hoping to get another streak going.

"We're improving as we go along," he said.

He noted that two players who are hitting well are Rich Miller and Scott Sieder. They both hit a home run last week in games against Wheaton North and West Aurora, respectively.

A setback that the team has faced was the injury of third baseman freshman Tom Grove. He was hit in the eye when a ball popped off of his bat.

## Soccer summer camp looking at uncertain future

By Alexandra Patin

The girls soccer summer camp has an uncertain future this summer, because of the IHSA regulations regarding off season coaching.

P.E. teacher and soccer coach Bob Owens said the IHSA only allows around 20 days for players on a team to have contact with coaches.

"They're really specific about how many days we can spend with the kids," said Owens.

This causes a problem, he said, because some of the

coaches can not coach the summer sports camps of their sport, because they would rack up too many contact days, Owens said.

Coach Caesar Gomez was going to coach the camp, but he was hired as the assistant girls varsity soccer coach, which would not allow him enough time for contact days off-season, said Owens.

"A lot of kids might not know about this," said Owens.

Owens said it is unclear who will coach the soccer camp this summer.

### Corrections

Last issue *The Wildcat Chronicle* incorrectly credited a girls track photo. The photo was taken by Jon Brown. Also, Mike Doll tied the fieldhouse record for high hurdles with a time of 8.4 seconds. The event was misreported. The *Chronicle* regrets the errors.

Be heard!!! Write a letter to the editor!!!

## Schuyler takes discus record, as boys track season continues

By Mike Mroz

Sophomore Wyatt Schuyler broke the discus record at the Geneva Invitational with a throw of 110-foot-11-inches. The record stood since 1963.

Schuyler also placed first in the shot put and discus.

Also, freshman Jeff Raymond took the invitational record in the pole vault.

"For a freshman that's re-

ally good," said coach Paul Mcleland

Tuesday, the team competed at Wheaton North against that school's home team and Glenbard North. However, results were not available at press time.

On Friday, the team competed at Willowbrook High School, where they finished second out of the eight teams in attendance.

Senior Adam Mrugacz

took first place in the 110 high hurdles with a time of 15.4 seconds.

Already having broken the discus record at Geneva, Schulyer went on to earn the shot put record as well during the Willowbrook meet.

Schulyer also took first in the discus.

"The guys have been working hard and it has been paying off at all the meets," said Mcleland.

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