

Wildcat Chronicle

Table of contents

Want to know what's up with the guidance department.

Read about the Guidance changes here at We-go...

Page 2

Want to voice your opinion for money?

Check out page 4 for the Voice of Democracy article.

A wee bit interested about We-go's newest teacher Mr. Marletta?...

Page 7

Find out about Sean McTighe's trip to the Czech Republic...

Page 8

Flip to page 10 to see homecoming pictures.

Find real-life scary place: top 10 scary places in Illinois...

Page 12



West Chicago Community High School

Volume 33, Issue 2
Thursday, October 25, 2001

Dr. Jones starts his last year at We-go

By Marc Berry

This year will mark Principal Alan Jones' last at Community High School.

This is Jones' seventeenth year working at We-go, and he said he is anxious concerning his retirement.

"I was reluctant at first, but the closer I get to retiring, the more I look forward to it," Jones said.

It will be somewhat bitter-sweet, however, as Jones said he will miss the students, teacher, and lively environment that are all a part of West Chicago.

"I'll especially miss seeing kids come into the school as freshmen and then seeing them graduate years later," he said.

There are also a few things Jones said he wishes he could continue to watch grow, such as the new bilingual program, the Student Support Center, and the 36 new teachers this

year.

He said he feels very connected to the programs and he likes what he sees.

However, Jones said his involvement in the school after he leaves is going to be virtually nothing. He said he may attend the occasional football game, but he won't be hanging around during school hours.

"The new principal will want to define his leadership style, and he will have a new approach to things, which is good. It's best if there isn't someone around reminding people of the old ways," Jones said.

After he retires, Jones said he will continue his summer teaching position in philosophy at North Central College. He also plans to travel, read more, and play tennis.

Most importantly, though, Jones said he wants to make



Photo by Mary Randle

Dr. Jones started his final year at We-go this fall. He will retire in July after 17 years.

up for lost time with his wife and the rest of his family. He has an engaged son and a married daughter.

"Working here, I've always had a very set schedule. The nice thing about retirement is that I have no schedule. I can

sleep in and then get up and read for an hour. I can do whatever I want," Jones said.

Jones said he wants to show his appreciation before leaving, though.

He said, "It's been a real honor to be a principal in this

district. There are very few in the country that have the opportunity to lead a school. I would just like to say thank you to the superintendents and school board for their support and for allowing me to be a part of this school."

Search for Dr. Jones replacement

By Marc Berry

The search for a replacement for Dr. Jones is still underway.

It is expected someone will be chosen by the end of January, according to assistant principal Kathleen Benton.

Ads for the position were placed in educational journals, magazines, and websites.

They started this month and will be run through December.

Applicants referred from the consultant firm, Hazard, Young, and Attea, will be screened, and will be reviewed in late December.

The process for finding Dr. Jones's replacement will be continued until January.

Benton said an announcement will be made to the student body after the new principal is selected.

(See Replacement page 4)

We-go seniors qualify

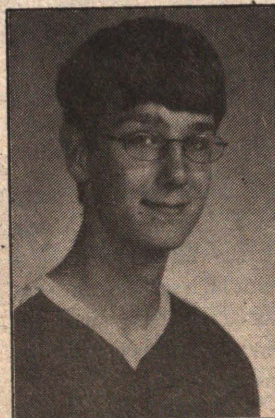
By Marc Berry

After receiving outstanding scores on their SAT/National Merit Qualifying Tests, three We-go seniors were eligible for the 2002 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Geoff Palka is now a semifinalist and will continue up, possibly receiving a scholarship. It will not be known how well he does until the spring.

Dan Godoy and Lauren

(See Qualify page 4)



Geoff Palka

Choir undecided about trip to Germany

By Michelle Loerzel

Choir is undecided about their trip to Germany in spring. It looks almost certain that the trip will be cancelled.

Without a scheduled date to go, Principal Dr. Alan Jones and Superintendent Lee Rieck do not recommend the trip.

The choir had planned to visit West Chicago's sister city, Tayfkirchen, in Germany during March.

"It's a wonderful idea, but I don't think a school should go with the scene being so unstable right now," Jones said.

Jones and the Board of Education stated their concerns about the trip to Germany at the September Committee-of-the-Whole meeting.

The board left the decision to administration, teachers and the students.

Rieck wrote a letter to parents about the concerns of

traveling at this time. He hopes the parents will decide not to let their children go.

"The board has to be concerned about the safety and welfare of the students," Rieck said.

Jones is concerned about students going to Germany because they have found terrorist cells in parts of Germany and France.

He is also worried because Americans appear to be easy targets.

Choir director Lisa Smith agrees.

"I don't want to jeopardize the safety of the students," said Smith.

West Chicago Mayor Michael Fortnar stills wants to continue with the trip.

The Mayor of Taufkirchen is still open with the opportunity, according to Smith.

Jones, Rieck and Smith are disappointed that the trip might not happen this year.

"Doing a cultural ex-

change as well as having the opportunity to perform for another culture would be a once in a lifetime opportunity for our students," said Smith.

However, all three understand the concerns the parents have regarding overseas travel.

Choir students are uncertain about the trip going yet or not, but some still want to go.

"It's confusing because first they were telling us we were going, then not going and now they don't know. I still want to go," said sophomore Jenny Veuilla.

Sophomore Becky Wilkening agreed it would be a fun trip.

If the choir does not go this March they will postpone it to a later date.

Choir will probably go next summer, or next year some time.

"We are hoping that it happens," said Smith.

Guidance counselors made available

By Mary Beth Selby

Students should notice seeing their guidance counselor is easier now after a major overhaul in the department.

"It has always been a goal of the guidance department to be readily available to our students to give guidance and advice on their education or anything else," said department head Maura Bridges.

Bridges was a counselor last year and has taken the position of department head from Nancy Douglas, who now works at Glenbard East, according to Bridges.

This position is not new for Bridges, however, because

she was department head for three years before Douglas took over while Bridges was on maternity leave.

"It seemed wrong to try and maintain being head while on maternity leave, so I needed to step down. But now I'm back and things are working out great with my new staff," said Bridges.

Bridges said that the new counselors are young and do need some training.

However they have the enthusiasm and energy that is wonderful for working with the students.

Including Bridges, there are eight total counselors on the staff this year. Seven counselors were replaced

from last year, and another was added to the staff so that accessibility to counselors was easier.

"The number of students per counselor is more reasonable this year. We only have, on average, about 311 students apiece, as opposed to about 364 students. It is much easier for kids to come to see us because we are more available," said Bridges.

Meeting with their students has proven to be easier now with the addition of another counselor and a clerical secretary.

The secretary handles most of the written work of the counselors in order to free them up.

So far, the counselors have met all their freshmen students and are in the process of meeting all the seniors, said Bridges.

"One of the things we wanted changed was the connection between the counselors and the students. Last year, we would often speak with them in very large groups, like in the auditorium, and we didn't get much interaction that we felt they and we needed," said Bridges. So what we are trying to do now is meet with them more individually and, when we need to speak with them in groups, actually come to their classrooms to do it," Bridges said.

Last year, freshmen took the Learning Preference Inventory to tell what their preference is for studying and they received their results in the spring by going to an assembly.

This year, the freshmen will take the exam and get their results in the fall of their sophomore year in their English class.

The guidance department feels this is a better way for the students to converse with the counselors about results like these from an important exam, said Bridges.

"One of the main goals of this year of the guidance department, along with changes in some of our pro-

grams, is to get into the classrooms more. When some of the students cannot come to see their counselor personally about an issue of a test grade from exams, such as the LPI, they can ask the counselor that visits their English class," said Bridges. "That makes us more interactive."

Bridges hopes that this new staff will stay for a while so that they can all develop and maintain the programs they wish to create or improve.

"The reasons that we are changing anything is because we feel that we are not as interactive with our students as we or they would like. Our main goal is to serve the students," said Bridges.

Dance Production welcomes freshmen

By Michelle Loerzel

Dance production opened up to freshmen for the first time, with two freshman joining.

"Freshmen were able to join this year because I knew of some talented freshmen coming, and asked Dan Johnson if it would be okay for freshmen to join, since freshmen were not allowed before," said Helen Zmhral, dance production teacher.

Freshmen are doing well this year, keeping up with the rest of the class just fine, according to Zmhral.

In August and September the girls worked on dance technique, and selling entertainment books. Entertainment books provide discounts to area stores. The books are available for \$25.

Dance Production has choreographed all their large group dances so far done for their main performance in January.

The girls went to Northern

Illinois University Theater Friday to see performances and attend a lesson from one of the instructors, said Zmhral.

Dance production was also invited to Waubonsie Valley High School in Fox Valley Nov. 10 and Nov. 11 to perform with other high schools. Anyone can go to the Fox Valley Dance Showcase 2001 for the cost of \$5. Performances start Nov. 10 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 11 at 3:00 p.m.

The showcase is featuring BPD Dance Force, Dance West Ballet, Espirt Dance, Ensemble, Love 2 Dance, MWAH, Neuqua Valley High School, Naperville Central High School, NPD Concert Dance Ensemble, and the School of Ballet Arts and Dance.

Also included one Shelly Mack's Dance Experience, Steps Dance Center, The Dance Beat, The School of Performing Arts, Waubonsie Valley High School, and West

Chicago High School.

West Chicago Dance Production will perform on Nov. 11.

A total of 30 girls are improving their dance technique, choreography, and creating the dances they will perform on Jan. 24 and 25. The name of the performance is "Got Dance? (Is Does A Body Good)."

Zmhral said they hope to attend Columbia College in April to see a performance.

Officers are not elected, but soon will be said Zmhral.

Auditions for next year will be Feb. 12, 13, 19 and 21. No

one can join dance production now unless they are transfer students with dance experience.

Zmhral said for tryouts the girls perform a required dance and are judged on their grand-jete and pirouettes turns.

If the student gets an A or B in the class, and wants to continue they can then join.

For now the girls will be stretching for flexibility, strengthening, and working on specific dance technique to prepare for their performance in January.

For more information see Zmhral in the dance studio room 165.

Jazz band starts new year

By Sam West

With over half of its members graduating last year, the jazz band is ready to start over.

Twenty musicians and one vocalist make up the band. Auditions were held in May with a tryout piece called, "On Green Dolphin Street." Auditions were open to all band members.

The jazz band plays many different types of jazz.

"We try to play a proficient level of music," said Jim Guter, director of bands.

Audiences will hear pop, rock, Latin, and classic jazz at jazz band performances.

Members are able to improvise during solos and throughout the performance pieces.

"They are in small units; there is usually one person to a part, and they have to play," said Guter.

The jazz band regularly goes to different places throughout the Chicago area to learn and perform. In the past, the band went to Hackney's Restaurant in Palos Hills, jazz festivals such as Jazz in the Meadows at Rolling Meadows High School, New Trier Jazz Fest at New Trier High School, and a festival at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb.

"And we play for students in commons," Guter said.

After concert band performs at its regular concerts given at school, the jazz band plays. Also, the band has its own jazz night at school once a year.

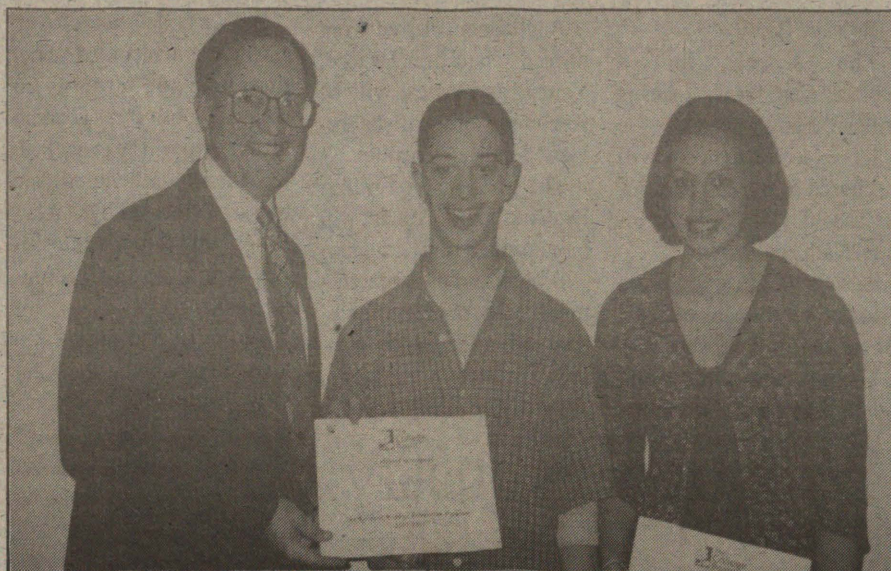
Artworks '02, a festival of a culmination of fine arts is held in March. The community is welcome to walk through the school experiencing the performing arts. All of the performing arts perform in different areas of the school.

"Hopefully, we will be able to get the community to see what the finer performing arts are doing in our school," said Guter.

Meanwhile, the jazz band is set to officially begin Nov. 1. Practices are held on Thursday nights from 6 to 8 p.m.

They will hold their first concert Dec. 13 after the concert band.

Godoy and Prochnow receive Hispanic Award



Dr. Jones presents Dan Godoy and Heather Prochnow with the National Hispanic Recognition Program award.

By Kyle Bullis
Seniors Heather Prochnow and Dan Godoy are now part of the 4,200 scholars in the 2001-2002 National Hispanic Recognition Program.

Principal Dr. Alan Jones presented the two with the awards recently.

The NNHRP is a College Board Program that recognizes the better academic Hispanic high school seniors and encourages recruitment and financial support by colleges and universities.

The College Board is an association that strives to con-

nect students to college opportunities by preparing and inspiring them.

To enter the program, students must take the PSAT and the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test as juniors, and they must identify themselves as Hispanic.

Wildcat Chronicle
326 Joliet Street
West Chicago, IL 60185

Editors: Marc Berry, Stephanie Bodane and Matt Neumann

Contributing Writers:
Adviser: Laura Kuehn

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.

Zimmerman finalist for award

By Dianne Keck

Gwen Zimmerman is an Illinois finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in teaching mathematics.

"All our math teachers are deserving of this award. I am no better. We are all outstanding teachers," said Zimmerman.

The teachers are nominated for the award and the application form is sent to them.

Each state selects 12 teachers. These 12 teachers include three teachers from the high school, and three teachers from the elementary school level in both mathematics and science. The White House appoints a committee to choose four winners, one from each category.

Zimmerman, along with a teacher from Palatine, and a teacher from Bloomington, are the three finalists from Illinois.

Candidates must have a minimum of five years teaching experience and are chosen based on teaching performance, educational background, and experience.

Candidates must provide an evaluation of their education, and continuing teaching experience.

The applicants must tell how their teaching enables students to learn the concepts of science and mathematics.

They must also provide letters of support from colleagues, current or former students, parents of current or former students, or their supervisors.

Zimmerman went to undergraduate school at Northwestern Illinois University. She received her masters at the University of Illinois Chicago.

She is working towards her doctorate at Illinois State University.

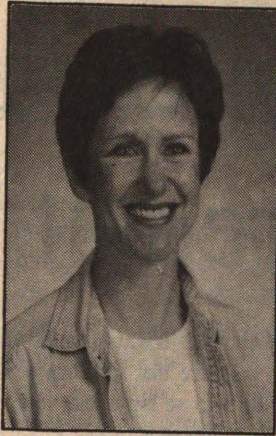
Zimmerman has taught for eight years, all at West Chicago High School. She is currently teaching geometry enriched, advanced algebra, and statistics.

Former department chair John Carter, Dr. Alan Jones, and former student Cindy Carmona wrote her letters of support when she applied for the award last spring.

Carter was also the person to nominate her for the award.

Zimmerman found out that she was a finalist last summer.

The National Science Foundation sponsors the award. In 1983, President Ronald Reagan established a program called the "Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching." The program is designed to manage the on-going award processes.



Gwen Zimmerman

Poms dance to the top

By Michelle Loerzel

Poms were full of spirit in their character costumes during the homecoming pep assembly Sept. 29.

"It went so much better than freshman year because I felt a part of the school. It was so much fun," said sophomore Molly Knaaka.

Sophomores dressed as oompa loompas complete with green hair and outfits seen in the movie "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory."

Juniors dressed as Maverick from the movie "Top Gun" with black jackets and sunglasses.

Tinman, the Cowardly Lion, Scarecrow, and Dorothy from the "Wizard of Oz" turned up as the seniors.

"It was so much fun be-

cause we didn't have to wear our uniforms, instead I got to dress as an oompa loompa," said sophomore Jill Novak.

Each poms class had a week to make up their own dance from their movies. Each class had a minute to perform a dance to music from the selected movie. Dances included axial turns, leaps, and technique that were based on

each theme.

"I think it went very well. It was really cute how the girls danced to their themes," said sponsor Cindy Stone.

Besides homecoming, poms are busy raising money. The poms raised about \$750 so far this year. At Railroad Days they raised \$346 selling popcorn, \$60 for selling Walk-a-Pet, \$158 for the dunk-a-

although interest earning is not heavily relied upon, it will be a factor in keeping a balanced budget.

Last year utility costs were higher at We-go. This year, Grizaffi said he has budgeted for increased utility, because of the bigger building, and the increase in computers, staff, and students.

Last year's expenses amounted to \$21,319,931. The worse case scenario would see an 8.2 percent increase in that number for this year.

Grizaffi said that hopefully everything will be held in check and the revenue is better than anticipated.

We-go's budget shortfall expected

By Marc Berry

This year, expenditures at Community High School are budgeted for \$23,075,024. However, revenues are only \$21,848,621. This gives the school an estimated \$1,226,403 shortfall.

Assistant Superintendent of Business Gary Grizaffi explained that the expenditures are only a road map and that figures change daily.

Although Grizaffi said the estimation is a worse case scenario, he said a close eye is still going to have to be kept on revenues.

Grizaffi said the education fund is large this year.

Also, the operations and maintenance fund is very high. This is largely because the construction projects done over the summer were paid out of the current budget.

These two funds combined account for roughly \$20 million of the \$23 million expenditures.

Some new expenses this year include those related to the 12 new teachers in the building and the health and dental insurance premium increase.

Grizaffi said that the investment market is not doing well, which doesn't help. He said

pom at Good Old Days, and \$180 selling baked goods at the pep assembly, according to Stone.

"Good Old Days was a bad weekend because it was so rainy," Stone said.

Kiddie Clinic is the poms next fundraiser on Jan. 4. At the clinic the poms will teach children how to dance from 9 a.m. to noon.

Concert choir goes to Northern

By Suzanne Smith

Concert choir had their first performance at Northern Illinois University.

All members of concert choir went to NIU to perform for other high school choirs such as Sycamore High School and Elgin Community high school on Oct. 17.

They began the day on a long bus ride to the university. They were singing and talking the whole way there.

They were surprised to hear other choirs sing some

of the same songs as they were going to sing.

NIU's choir, under the direction of Erik Johnson, also performed for all of the high school choirs.

The Northern Illinois University choir received a standing ovation at the end of their performance.

Senior Tom Wojcicki said his favorite part about the visit to Northern Illinois University was hearing the college's concert choir perform their last song "Make

Some Noise and Shout."

Concert choir had a chance to warm up in the auditorium. No other choir had this opportunity.

They performed "Whether Men Do Laugh or Weep," "You Are the New Day," and "Elijah Rock."

Various judges during and after their performance critiqued concert choir.

"I thought it was a very unique learning experience," said choir cabinet president, senior Aaron Troy.

Students to visit job sites

By Marc Berry

This year, through an Education-to-Careers grant, We-go is working with the West Chicago and Winfield Chambers of Commerce to provide students with chances to explore a variety of careers.

Business teacher Cass Streicher is in charge of organizing the programs.

First up was guest speaker, Michael Meehan, who visited We-go on Oct. 11 to share his knowledge on various computer careers first period.

Meehan works for Commonwealth Edison in Chicago's Loop.

According to Streicher, Meehan had a lot of relevance, because he is in a position where he oversees hiring of recruits. This gives him a lot of knowledge about job openings and qualifications in his area of work.

Streicher estimated that there were approximately 120 students in attendance, along with 22 mentors, 16 business chambers, and six teachers.

Anybody in a first period business or computer art class attended.

Before Meehan spoke, a special breakfast was held for Meehan and others. The mayor of West Chicago was even in attendance.

Dec. 5 is Youth in Business and Industry Day.

Before attending, participants will decide on a career they are interested in. The student will then "shadow" someone in that field, Streicher said.

The day will begin with a luncheon where students will meet their hosts. There will be a cut-off for the event at 60 students. If this number is filled or is close to it, then the lunch will cost a couple of dollars for each participant.

Streicher said if there are not a lot of students attending, then the lunch will be complimentary.

From the luncheon, both student and host will travel to the job site. Students will spend at least two and a half hours with their hosts, but they can lengthen their time together if both agree to do so.

Starting Oct. 6, permission slips for the event will be

available in the guidance department. Students attending are required to return the completed form and to set up their own transportation to both the luncheon and the job site, Streicher said.

Lastly, there will be several career mini tours throughout the year.

These mini tours include a visit to Ball Seed with Corrie Gilgallon to explore horticulture and botany careers; a trip to District 33 with Patti Kozlowski to discover more about preschool and primary school teacher and teacher assistant and aide careers; a day at the Board of Trade and Mercantile Exchange with Joe Crickard to learn about broker, banker and accounting careers; and an excursion to the DuPage County Courthouse to take a look at the field of legal careers.

If students are interested in any of the tours, they need to talk to the related teacher. Registration for each tour is separate. Students, again must have a permission slip signed, and transportation will be provided via bus.

Literary magazine hopes to raise rating higher than above average

By Mary Beth Selby

The literary magazine hopes to improve their content and receive better than an above average rating from the National Council of Teachers of English.

In order to improve the magazine, they need to raise more money to fund the magazine and the help, said club sponsor Andrea Cipcich.

In past years, the literary magazine has sold concessions to raise money. However, the magazine will try something different this year because Cipcich said concessions don't really show what the club is about.

"This year we are planning on asking a well-known au-

thor or poet to come to our school to read some of their work. There would be an entry fee so we could pay the person and fund the club," said Cipcich.

They also want to host an open 'poetry slam', Cipcich said.

In a poetry slam, poets read their poetry and try to slam competitors. The competition is just for fun but there is a small prize.

The literary magazine is looking for more people to join their group to make it more fun and produce a better Mind's Eye magazine, said Cipcich.

"More people contributing to the workload will make the

magazine more interesting and differently designed and the more money we raise, the better the magazine we can produce," said Cipcich.

"It isn't real cheap to create and publish a literary magazine."

Also, the magazine is looking for submissions for the Mind's Eye.

The more submissions they receive, the more interesting the magazine will be. Improving their rating depends on more submissions.

Submissions must be given to either Cipcich in room 182 or any of the officers Mary-Megan Kalvig, Margot Reges, or Beth Deutsch.

Key Club raises money for NYC tragedy

By Erica Fatigato

A motivated freshman and Key Club raised \$250 for the Sept. 11 attack victims.

Freshman Gabriela Garcia felt she had to help and started raising money. The club then adopted the fundraiser.

The money was sent to the Red Cross in New York.

"The relief fund was spontaneous, and I was glad that people responded and people here were doing something," said Ward Rau, Key Club sponsor.

Beside fundraising money, the clubs hopes to raise pints of blood.

The annual blood drive is scheduled for Nov. 6 in the field house wrestling

room from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

"People will need to make appointments if interested," said Rau.

Sign ups will be during lunch and study periods. Students must be 16 to donate and must have parent's permission unless eighteen-year-olds.

Students who have received any piercing, tattoos, surgery, or traveled to certain countries within the past year are ineligible to give blood.

The club wants to exceed last years blood drive of 100 units.

New officers were selected recently. Sophomore Melissa Presco is president and junior Melissa Heron is vice president, both were in Key Club last year.

Turnover rate concerns aired at meeting

By Mary Beth Selby

The turnover rate for the staff at West Chicago High School is a major concern for some people.

Ending the 2001 school year, 38 people left the West Chicago High School staff and only seven people were retirees.

This large turnover rate is a surprise and concern of board member Bob Lemon.

"West Chicago is a nice place to work. It is friendly, welcoming, and people are

well paid. It was just a bit of a surprise that the turnover rate was so large last year," said Lemon.

The turnover isn't too bad though, said assistant principal Kathy Benton. Only 23 teachers resigned, seven of which were retirees.

Twelve new positions were created for the 2001-02 staff, said Benton.

"We needed to make 12 new positions to help some people out. Other positions were cover-ups for when

teachers left the staff for their own personal reasons," said Benton.

Benton gave three main reasons why some teachers leave a district.

Benton said teachers seek higher pay in other districts or try getting a job closer to home. Women also take maternity leave.

"There might be other personal reasons that we had teachers leave, but I would not know those reasons," said Benton.

As a new board member, Lemon did not know these facts, but was just concerned about the final turnover rate because West Chicago is a suburban school.

"Urban schools, like Chicago, are likely to have large turnovers rates because people are always moving. But a suburban school shouldn't have a shocking turnover rate, and we should do everything possible to keep such from happening," said Lemon.

Art Club starting again

By Rachel Rivera

Art Club is up and running again after a shut down of two years.

This is Art Club's tenth year and, according to Jo Anna Rieger, it is a success.

Art Club gives students a chance to show and use their artistic talents, Rieger said.

Plans for Art Club include painting murals throughout the school, making banners and posters for school activities, and participating in Art Works 2002, a fine arts presentation.

Throughout the year Art Club has many fundraisers. The fundraisers sell the art

work of individuals from Art Club.

Twenty-five percent of the fundraising money goes to the club. The remaining 75 percent goes to the artist. These fundraisers help raise money for fieldtrips and other events.

Officers for Art Club were

recently elected. Officers include president Kim Chau; vice president Katie Melbourn; secretary Marlene Uy; assistant secretary Steph Smothers; treasurer Truc Pham; assistant treasurer Nisha Patel; historian Kendall Sharon; and assistant historian Dana Yormark.

Spanish Club elects new members

By Kyle Bullis

Spanish Club has elected new officers for the 2001-02 school year.

The president is senior Laura Wilken; vice president, junior Kim Peterik; secretary, junior Katie Taylor; and treasurer, junior Jennifer Mark.

Spanish Club joined with German and French clubs to visit the Art Institute Tuesday, said Spanish Club sponsor Susan Junkroski.

The Spanish Club will visit

the Mexican Fine Arts Center Nov. 10 to learn and witness how the Mexican culture mourns the dead, Junkroski said.

Spanish Club plans on grouping up with Glenbard North's Spanish Club for an activity.

They are also considering teaching salsa lessons this year.

Spanish Club meets every Wednesday morning at 7:15 in room 143.

Replacement... (Continued from page 1)

Some students may have the opportunity to meet Dr. Jones' successor.

Benton said it is desirable that the new principal spend several days with Jones and get a feel for the environment and position before beginning to work at District 94.

According to Benton, interviews were held last year for the position, and two men came back for second interviews.

However, no one was selected for the job.

Voice of democracy competition offered at We-go

By Anna Nubie

Students have the opportunity to participate in the Voice of Democracy audio essay competition.

The competition gives high school students the opportunity to speak their opinion and show responsibility to our country, according to Mary Rash.

Rash is in charge of organizing the competition.

The contest is also intended to help students understand the rights and responsibilities of being an American at new levels.

The deadline is Monday. Students can turn their entries into the guidance department,

to Patricia Arnold, or to Rash first hour.

All essays should be recorded on good-quality cassettes. Participants should try recording their essay with professional equipment, often available as a public service at local community radio stations. Rash will also help with recordings.

The entry must be between three and five minutes. All students will be judged on their interpretation of the theme "Reaching Out To America's Future."

The national judging takes place in Washington, D.C., and the winners are announced at a special recep-

tion in their honor.

The national scholarships are paid to the American university the winner is accepted and enrolled in.

The most students to ever participate at W.C.C.H.S were 11. Rash asks that more participate.

Students in high schools, public, private, or parochial or home schooled in the U.S. are eligible to compete.

The first-place national winner will receive a \$25,000 scholarship. The second-place national winner will receive a \$16,000 scholarship. Every national winner will receive a minimum of a \$1,000 scholarship.

We-go helps to get books to our heroes

By Matt Neumann

Eight-hundred books are on their way to U.S.S. Aircraft Carrier Teddy Roosevelt.

They are headed to the Persian Gulf to help in the Middle East because West Chicago teacher Aaron Hayes decided to do something for those on board.

With 5,000 soldiers on board and six months of no port calls because of the attack on the U.S.S. Cole last year, the soldiers are trying to keep high spirits, Hayes said.

Hayes' brother Andy, who is on board the Roosevelt, sparked the idea of a book drive when he said that in off hours shipmates read and trade paperbacks.

"As you can imagine with the recent events, tension on the ship is high. Any chance for a break is welcome," said Hayes.

Andy Spalo, a graduate of Community High in '99, is on board as a fireman.

With this information Hayes decided to start a book drive for the soldiers on board the Roosevelt, and is planning on sending more with the popular response so far.

"It is a good way to help and it makes me feel like I'm doing something to help," said Hayes.

If you have any books to donate bring them to Hayes room in 149 in the math wing.

Sophomores preparing for prom

By Dianne Keck

The sophomore student council is planning fundraisers for prom next year.

The council meets on Thursdays to discuss and brainstorm ideas for different fundraisers for the dance. They currently have no firm plans, but the council will tell

the sophomore class when they do, said sponsor Candace Kairys.

Plans are underway for Christmas-time community services project that the sophomore students can be involved in also. They are brainstorming right now, but one idea is to wrap presents for Toys for Tots, said Kairys.

Concert band starts a new year with a new sound

By Sam West

With marching season over, the band has begun to play different music. Yes, concert band has started.

Concert band began at the end of September with "playing through some tunes," Jim Guter, director of bands, said.

Currently, the band is playing marches and holiday tunes as practice for their next concert.

"We will play music that will span a great period of time," Guter said. "From baroque to a modern repertoire."

There are 116 students in concert band this year.

Head drum major is junior Melissa Lund and assistant drum majors are junior Katie Taylor and sophomore Sam West. Drum line captains are sophomores Lathie Norton and Aaron Becker.

Band officers include senior Billy Inch, president; Lund, vice-president; freshman Rebecca Bonarek, secretary; and senior Margot Reges, treasurer.

The historian is senior Kris Donovan, the senior representative is senior Geoff

Palka, junior representative is Taylor, sophomore representative is West, and freshman representative is Summer Hassan. The librarians are senior Catie Marcantonio, junior Pam Martin, freshman Erica Kane, and Taylor.

Color guard captains are senior Jamie Nadolny and junior Sarah Hammer. Heather Coakley, junior, is color guard manager.

Students who join the band program will join concert band, marching band, and pep band, according to

Guter.

Students audition for concert band on a select piece of music. Their chairs are determined by this audition, which takes place at the end of marching band.

"(In Concert Band) the kids can concentrate on playing with good balance, blend, and intonation," Guter said. "They get the opportunity to play quality music they don't normally get to play."

The band doesn't only perform at regular concerts for the holidays, for winter, and

spring.

In June, they will have the opportunity to play at Walt Disney World from June 10-16 along with the jazz and marching bands.

Following the concert in Disney World, there will be a two-day bus ride to Orlando. There the concert band will play in Disney's Featured Performer workshop.

They will also perform at the Future World West Stage at Epcot Center. The marching band will perform in the Share a Dream Come True parade.

Along with the performances, members of all three bands will have fun.

Activities include a dance party, a trip to Disney-MGM Studios, and a day at Blizzard Beach Water Park and Epcot Center.

An excursion to Animal Kingdom Theme Park is also planned and a day in the Magic Kingdom Park is included in the trip.

The band usually has three concerts per year. The concert band will perform its first concert Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

SADD changes name, but not meaning

By: Lisa Borg

The SADD students have changed their name.

Students Against Drunk Driving became Students Against Destructive Decisions recently.

"We want to inform students about drunk driving along with other laws," said Robert Hein, sponsor.

One new idea SADD is eyeing this year is talking about tobacco prevention and promoting the Great American Smoke Out Day Nov. 15.

The day is designated a

non-smoking day.

SADD wants to inform students and teachers about obeying the laws, the dangers of drunk driving, and zero tolerance laws.

Students come out of SADD with a great experience because they are more informed about drugs.

They also learn about the law and think about consequences before they act, Hein said.

The meetings are held on every Wednesday at 7:50 a.m. in room 173.

"Children's Hour" coming to We-go

By, Matt Neumann

Rumors and lies are the focus of this year's fall production "The Children's Hour."

"The play focuses on controversial issues and is a play that should make audiences think" said Mary Hafertepe, who is in charge of the production.

Actresses Erin Henry, Nicole Patel, Katie Kammes, Copper Tuma, and actor Jeff Raun play main characters in the play.

Eighteen actresses and actors are in the show and many more students behind the

scenes, involved in this year's fall production.

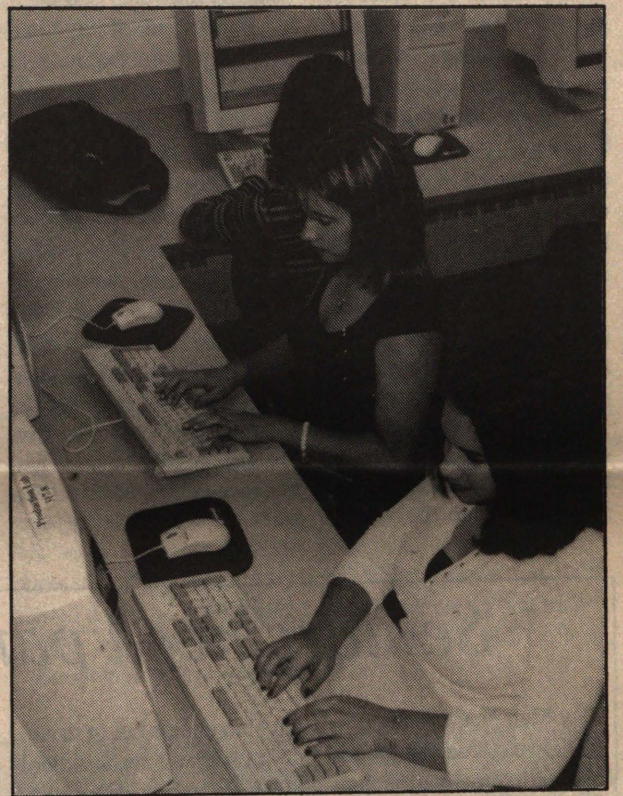
"Children's Hour" is a real life interpretation about the problems spreading rumors and lies.

This is something that very well may apply to situations here at the school, said Hafertepe.

The play will be presented Nov. 8-10 with shows at 7:30 p.m.

Cost to get into the show will be \$3 at the door at the door.

Tickets may also be sold before the opening night, said Hafertepe.



Wildcat Chronicle staff members hard at work.

Freshmen student council starting strong

By Erica Fatigato

The campaigning is over and the officers were elected for freshman student council.

Elected were president Jeff Cisowski, vice president Tito Correa, secretary Brienne Nadolny, and treasurer Bruce Janek. Jill Marchiando is the sponsor.

Following elections the class focused on homecoming in September.

Student council was proud of the homecoming results.

"We were pleased about how the window painting turn out. The float building was very hectic with making finishing touches the night before," said Cisowski.

The council plans to focus on fundraisers for the freshmen class and making school days shorter.

West Chicago has the longest school day and school year in the DuPage Valley Conference.

"I know the student council will work together to benefit the Class of 2005 and the community during our high school years," said Cisowski.

The freshman student council meets once a week including representatives. The elected officers of all grades meet Friday mornings. Once a month all the elective officers have an in-school meeting.

Qualify... (continued from page 1)

Migliorato were named commended students in the program. They received recognition but are not able to move on in the program.

Palka is one of the highest scoring entrants in the state and is in the top one percent of the state's seniors.

Godoy and Migliorato are in the top five percent of over one million participants in the contest.

In order to move on to the finalist standing, Palka will have to fulfill several require-

ments.

It is necessary that Palka have an outstanding academic record, be endorsed by the school's principal, Alan Jones, and submit SAT scores that confirm their outstanding performance on the previous test.

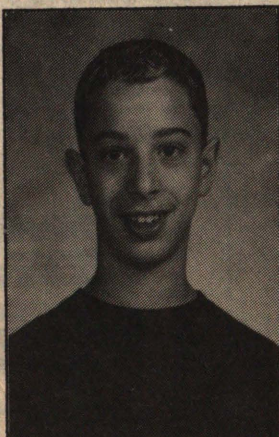
Also, Palka and a school official must send in a scholarship application, including a self-descriptive essay and detailing Palka's participation and leadership around the community and Community High School.

Pep Club

By Lisa Borg

Pep Club has a lot of fun things going on like senior nights for fall sports, also fall sports award night.

The type of things pep club does is all the pep assembly and decorates the athletic lockers. The purpose of pep club is to get more school spirit said Candace Kairys sponsor. The pep club meetings are held some Wednesdays at 7:15 a.m.



Dan Godoy

Seniors come out on top for homecoming week

By Suzanne Smith

The senior class of student council won homecoming's spirit week.

Their homecoming theme was "Wizard of Oz."

"We worked hard and it paid off," said Lauren Migliorato.

Senior Ed Abante designed the senior window on Main Street. All "Wizard of Oz" characters had footballs as heads.

The West Chicago football player was Dorothy. Her football was Toto. The flying monkeys wore West Aurora jerseys.

Senior Tyler Belding won the senior morning game, "The Munchkin Eating Con-

test." He started eating other contestants' donuts when he finished his own, Migliorato said.

Senior Hall was decorated with a yellow brick road and rainbow colored streamers for the hall decorating contest, which they won, Migliorato said.

Seniors Heather Prochnow and Jon Lim said homecoming was very successful.

Senior officers include Jamie Nadolny, president; Mike Masschelin, vice president; Lim, treasurer; and Migliorato, secretary.

The senior class meets every Wednesday at 7:15 a.m. in room 181. All seniors are invited to attend.

Berry's Stuff

Random randomness

By Marc Berry

So, this really wasn't my idea.

The whole column thing. I decided to go along with it though, because if nothing else, I figured I could share all the stuff I know. That's what people in all those other columns seem to do.

They always have some kind of crazy story, and then they relate it to something important or, even if it's not important, they make it sound like it is.

They'll write something like, "And just like that guy in the crazy story, we all need to appreciate the value of yogurt in American society, because without it, the state of our well-being is nothing."

Except they'll use more big words, and throw in a cheesy joke here and there to make it sound like they know what they're talking about.

Then, when you get done reading it, you feel like you learned something and became a better person.

So, I thought I could spread my thoughts - enlighten society, shake the system, change the world,

man.

But then I realized I don't really know anything, and that sort of kills it all.

So now I got my name, a big ol' picture of my face (I was trying to go for a cool laid-back look, but I think I just kind of look confused. I need to work on that...), and a bunch of space to fill up with nothing to say.

I've been trying to figure out how to fill up this space, but no ideas have come to me.

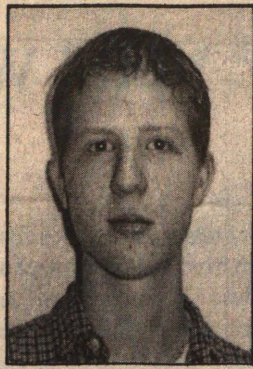
I just keep thinking and thinking and thinking of something that I can write to take up room, but I can't.

Can't think of anything to take up room, that is...

So, I guess I'll try this out. I'll start off with a story of something interesting that happened to me and go on from there.

The other day, I was walking through my town when I noticed a tricycle lying to the side of the road.

I thought it was strange to see this, because a tricycle is something you don't see every day. I walked over to get a closer look, when a koala bear jumped out of the



bushes, got on the tricycle and rode off.

So, this incident really got me thinking about an important problem in society today. It got me thinking about....

Hmm, I'm not really sure where I was going with that story, actually. But koalas on tricycles are pretty funny. I think. You see, koalas don't normally ride tricycles, but *this* one did.

Okay, I should probably quit while I'm ahead. I don't think I was ahead to begin with, but I'm still gonna quit.

Hopefully by next month, I'll be involved in something that will deeply move my mind.

This will allow me to spread my incredible adventures and lessons learned around the world, broadening the minds of everyone who reads them. Or maybe it'll just help me meet girls or something.

They dig koalas.

Americans diagnosed with new fear: Anthrax

By Stephanie Bodane

Anthrax is all everyone seems to talk about. The disease has struck at a time when Americans are most vulnerable, it's more than a fear; it's a killer.

Over a month after the terrorist attacks on America, we are seeing more killing.

It is Anthrax, an incurable disease, unless treated immediately. The disease, which has taken 80 percent of its victims, is a hard to catch natural sickness.

You can get the disease four ways. One way is cutaneous. This is a skin lesion that evolves over a time period of two to six days. It is a reddish brown sore.

The second type is inhalation. This is when the victim develops pneumonia or meningitis.

The third type is intestinal which causes severe abdominal pain followed by a high fever.

The last type is oropharyngeal, which is a lesion in the oral cavity of the body.

Anthrax is by far one of the most known diseases for bio-

logical warfare. But should we be scared?

Although many people say that it may be the work of copycats, and some say it could be the work of terrorists, the question still remains.

It's sad to see television show a toddler with the devastating disease. It's a feeling of anger when the disease begins to attack our workers, our families.

But most of all, it's scary when we see how in a few weeks so many people have been in contact with the dis-



ease, and how now two of them are dead.

Just last week in Chicago there was a reported case of anthrax. Someone claimed to have seen the physical

form of the virus in the street. Biohazard teams were called out and the area was cleared. The so-called anthrax virus was someone's spilled guacamole. That's overreacting.

But people everywhere are scared, and how can you blame them?

It is extremely scary when a deadly disease is being spread by the worst type of people, terrorists. But there are things we forget.

Anthrax, along with being extremely hard to contract, and even harder to get a hold of, also can be prevented.

We've heard about the vaccines that are suddenly coming out, and how if you catch the disease in the early stages you can be cured.

We saw the miracle baby, who went through the worst stages of the disease and lived.

There still is that question, are we safe, should we be scared?

If we have lived this long, and survived through worse situations, we will survive again.

Seniors need parking

By Matt Neumann

This year students got hit hard with a realization they had to come to Community High at 6 a.m. to park in the main parking lot, 7:15 if they want to drive at all.

This is a bad situation, and it is only going to get worse as class sizes increase.

As the 2001 school year here at West Chicago Community High is reaching full swing many students are be-

have no choice but to drive.

As students reach school at the early time of 7 a.m. after perhaps a half hour drive, they may have to park in undesignated areas because of the lack of designated parking.

This angers many students who have already been forced to drive for a half-hour to the school.

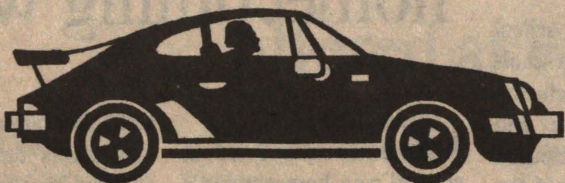
The problem becomes

Even the teachers' lots can be inconvenient for them.

For example, if teachers could park their vehicles in the student parking lots, they could be closer to their classrooms.

A good idea to help the students would be to sell reserved spots in the new edition lot.

All the proceeds could



coming frustrated by Community High's parking problems

Lack of parking has become a strain and drain on students, faculty, and even law enforcement in the immediate area of the high school.

Many students have no option but to drive, and this is something much of the administration has yet to understand.

Many students have to work for college tuition and are participating in varsity athletics or programs and

worse on shortened days when students who normally do not drive take their parents' cars.

When that happens students have to park three blocks away at the Kerr-Mcgee lot. This happens even when there are not shortened days.

Without designated senior parking or upperclassmen permits, students are forced to park illegally or park at the public library.

This means students are always walking to school after driving.

go to the families of the terrorist attacks.

Senior parking is utilized at many schools as a graduation motivator.

Some schools offer the privilege for three years of hard work.

Other schools realize that more seniors work and tend to be involved in after school activities so they have reserved senior parking.

Yet here there is no talk to fix the parking problem.

Someone needs to address the problem now.

Individual effort deserves individual credit

By Matt Neumann

Too much emphasis is placed on team sports lately. Baseball, football, basketball, hockey, are all the dominating sports in today's American society.

Individual sports are neglected even though no matter which way you slice it, there is more demand on an individual than any member a team.

Why is this? Simply put, games such as golf are much more fun to play than they are to watch.

Even individual sports that require some kind of physical dominance such as running or tennis can put Americans into

a dreary trance.

Only those who truly love the sports will watch them.

The problem is that individuals such as Tim Keller, class of '00, or unbelievable performances by Joe Larue are ignored.

Isn't the ability to declare one person one of the best athletes in the nation more significant than a person who can say he was a member of a team?

Granted Tim Keller received a fair amount of credit for his accomplishments, but anyone can see he deserved a ticker-tape parade.

Not many athletes have

the satisfaction of knowing that only they can be credited with their victories.

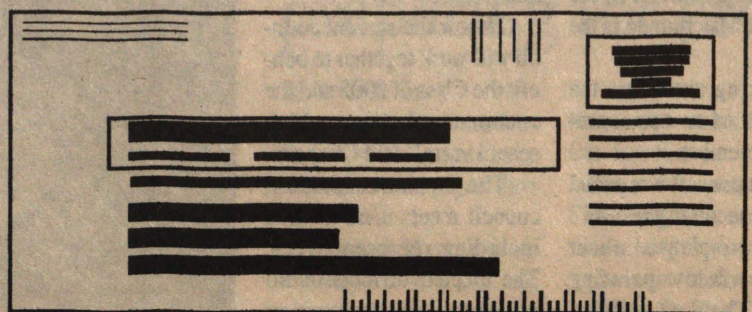
If this was the case then boys cross-country would have more tryouts and boys tennis would have a decent turnout.

Individual sports throughout the world are feeling losses as people turn to the more socially popular team sports. But at the least, individual sports deserve respect.

Teams are fun to watch and are easier to play the majority of the time, but maybe it's time individuals received respect.

People need to pay attention to individual sports.

Be heard by your peers... write a letter to the editor today!



Drop the letter off in room 320 or to a Chronicle reporter

Zepeda joins school police

By Kyle Bullis

At the beginning of the school year, West Chicago High School received a new police officer, making the High School the only school in Dupage County with two police liaisons.

Officer Mike Zepeda has worked for the West Chicago Police Department for seven years as a full time police officer. Before working for the High School, he was the middle school's only police liaison.

"We have two police liaisons so we can be less reactive and more proactive, to stop problems from happening rather than having to arrest someone after something already happened," said Zepeda.

He now works with officer Rich Theodore.

A school is supposed to have two police officers per thousand students, said Zepeda.

Putting the school's 2,400 students in one man's hands is a big responsibility, so the



Photo by Mary Randle

Officer Mike Zepeda

school acquired another officer to take some off the other's shoulders.

A police liaison is a police officer that works for the W.C.P.D, but is part of the school and works with the school to stop any problems that may arise.

Zepeda handles everything gang related in the school, though no specific cases were mentioned.

"The most difficult thing to handle is rumor control, because you have to ensure that rumors people hear are just that," said Zepeda.

One rumor case was a bomb threat two years ago at the middle school during the anniversary of the Columbine shooting, said Zepeda.

Officers did not find a bomb, but they did take a suspect into custody.

Most things are a wee bit smaller in Scotland

By Brad Larson

(This is the second in a series of columns from Larson who is teaching in Glasgow, Scotland this year as a Fulbright Scholar.)

One of the obvious differences between the United Kingdom and the United States is their contrasting scales.

One can drive from the southernmost part of England to the most northerly point of Scotland in about the time it takes to drive from downtown Chicago to St. Louis and back again.

As a result, one finds a whole lot more packed into a whole lot less space in the United Kingdom.

One notable difference is the size of automobiles. While I have seen the occasional Jeep Grand Cherokee tooling the streets here (with the steering wheel on the right side), most cars on the streets fall into what we Americans would call the sub-compact category.

There is even a car called the "Cooper Mini," which, I kid you not, isn't much bigger than a carnival bumper car. Its roof comes up to just a little higher than my waist.

Very curious looking three-wheeled cars can also be seen, though usually in the slow (left) lane.

There are good reasons for cars being so small.

For instance, one liter of "petrol" costs 75 pence, or something like \$4 a gallon. Fuel economy is a way of life here.

Beyond this, driving a large car can be quite a challenge on British roads and streets.

Many two-way streets are really only one lane wide. When two cars meet, one must dodge into the nearest open (and often small) parking space to let the other pass.

Compactness is not limited to the roads.

In the "grocery stores" down the street from my apartment, practically every square inch of floor, wall, and ceiling is covered with goods, and there is only room for one person to move through the "aisles."

Three of these grocery stores could be housed in a 7-11.

The local hardware stores are even more jam-packed. These street-front shops have

about the same dimensions as an American two-car garage.

If one meets a fellow customer in the aisle, somebody has to go back the way she or he came in order for the other to get to the cashier.

Amazingly, though, just about anything one might want is available in these stores, plus a few more things one wouldn't expect to find there.

There are some grocery stores about the same size as the typical Jewel, and the downtown department stores are comparable to J. C. Penney or Marshall Field's.

Some American-brand companies are building "super-store" outlets on the fringes of the cities (notably, Wal-Mart).

The vast majority of stores and businesses, though, operate out of what Americans might describe as large walk-in closets.

The tire shop down the street from me repairs and changes tires with the cars parked on the street. This difference isn't bad, though.

Just about everything I need to happily live my life is located within a ten-minute

Marletta enjoying new culture

By Sam West

When asked where he would like to teach, Oscar Marletta chose Chicago or New York City as choices one and two, respectively.

Now he is definitely glad he received his first choice.

"It's a tragic story," said Marletta, with a smile. "Why am I in West Chicago? Do you realize that this question has been pondered and given up by some of the finest minds in Western Civilization?"

Actually, Marletta is a Fulbright Scholar and is part of a program that sends teachers to different areas of the world to promote cultural education and the cultural exchange of ideas. He is from Glasgow, Scotland and will live in West Chicago for one year.

Marletta said he likes the high school we have and that it is a very good school.

"If I was to change one thing, I'd say [it would be] the fact that some of the kids are here only for grades and some teachers feel they have to teach for that grade." He said, adding that teachers should incorporate more fun into their lessons.

But he said the school has a positive atmosphere overall.

Some students have found it a little hard to understand

some of the things Marletta is saying. According to Marletta, it is not hard for him to understand our accents.

In fact, it is easy for him to understand. He said that in Scotland they get a lot of American television programs so he is fairly used to the accents.

"But it shows I am in a foreign country, which is kind of cool," he added. "I have instant popularity because I am somebody different. But I guess that has to come to an end sometime."

His popularity has not died down to most, though. Sophomore Brett Palmer had words to say about Marletta.

"Mr. Marletta is so awesome because he's Scottish. And really not just that he's Scottish, but that he can actually teach. His ability to make absolute hilarity, including the "Simpsons" with book burning and a new unintelligible world described in "Fahrenheit 451" is what makes Mr. Marletta so awesome," Palmer said. "This, of course, does not include the accent."

According to Marletta, English teacher Brad Larson, who switched places with Marletta, is also enjoying popularity, along with shorter school days and a weeklong holiday in October.

Marletta said, "He is some-

body new to students and he'll get benefits."

So far, Marletta has liked being in the United States. However, it is very different from Scotland.

"For such a huge country, I'm amazed at how small the towns are," he said, including West Chicago as one of those small cities. "It is like a Western (movie); I feel like I'll have to do a quick draw with someone on the street."

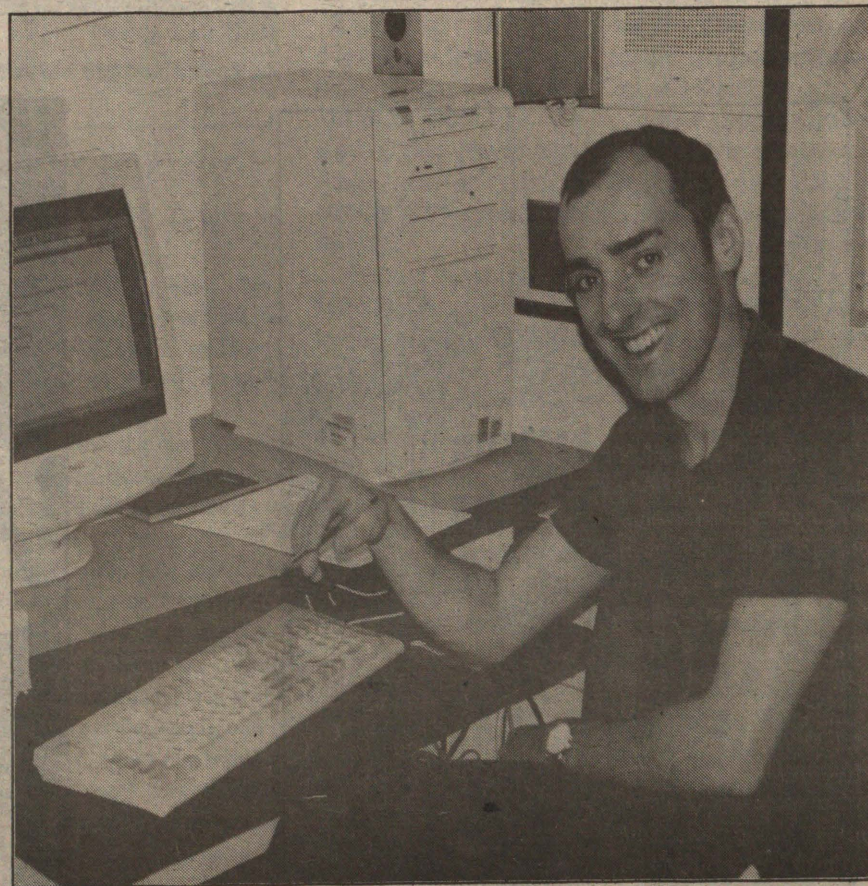
According to Marletta, Glasgow is about one quarter the size of Chicago, which is a big city in Scotland. But even though he is not used to it, he likes the small town atmosphere.

Marletta could have chosen anywhere in the world he would like to teach, but he chose America for one reason and one reason alone.

"I came to America because the "Simpsons" were good," Marletta said. "Culturally, many things about America appeal to me. But if I could pick one thing, it would be those guys."

So how does it feel to be Oscar Marletta right now?

"All my friends and students in Scotland are incredibly jealous and that alone makes it good to be me," Marletta said with a grin.



Staff Photo

Oscar Marletta relaxes at his desk at the end of the day.

walk of my flat.

While there is some of the anonymity of big-city life here in Glasgow, I've come to know some of the local merchants on a nodding basis, and, at least for now, the merchants seem to be mak-

ing a living from their shops.

My washing machine may only hold about half the clothes of the American equivalent, I may only get five channels on my television, and my oven may not be wide enough to bake an

extra-large pizza, but after being here for two months I'm not missing anything about "living large" in the American sense.

The trip from my front door to Edinburgh Castle (See Scotland page 9)

McTighe speaks the Word in Czech Republic

By Stephanie Bodane
We-go senior, Sean McTighe, traveled to the Czech Republic as a missionary student last summer.

McTighe's church, Grace Church of DuPage, traveled to the Czech Republic to help teach conversational English to students, and discuss Christianity.

He and his church group stayed in the Czech Republic for 15 days, while traveling around a little.

After landing in Prague, McTighe spent his trip in the half-Polish and half-Czech town of Chesky Tesin, helping in the English camps.

The English camps are held 30 times a summer in the Czech Republic.

"Most Czechs actually speak English because they take seven years of schooling for the language," said McTighe.

The classes had students ranging in age from 13- to 19-years old, with 10 students per class.

At night, however, the group would discuss Christianity.

Although, 95 percent of Czechs are atheist due to communism, and believe in evolution, McTighe claimed by the end of their visit some views had changed.

"By the end of the week they didn't believe in evolution anymore, but they weren't fully Christian," said McTighe.

While staying in Chesky Tesin, McTighe said he also had a real culture shock.

"It helped me to appreciate the United States. Like when we went to Prague, it was supposed to be their biggest city. I expected to see skyscrapers, but it was nothing at all like that," said McTighe.

Along with the cities being different, McTighe says the food and the value of money were other big differences.

"They eat a lot of cheeses, breads, and salami. One day they said that we were going to have pizza, when we got it, it had corn on it," said McTighe.

Products in the Czech Republic are considerably cheaper compared to the



United States. The money system, known as crowns is worth, 40 crowns to \$1. A McDonald's value meal was around \$2.50, while in America it is about 4 dollars.

"One time my friends and I bought lunch for like 10 girls and it cost us \$15," said McTighe.

McTighe explained that the lifestyles of teenagers are similar to here. Entertainment is all set up in an American style.

"We went bowling twice, the lanes were very narrow, and it was a cramped. The balls didn't even have holes," said McTighe.

After spending a week in Czech, McTighe says one of the best parts of the trip was making all the friends that he did. It also gave him perspective on America.

"It was good getting to see another country. It made me realize how much we have here," said McTighe.

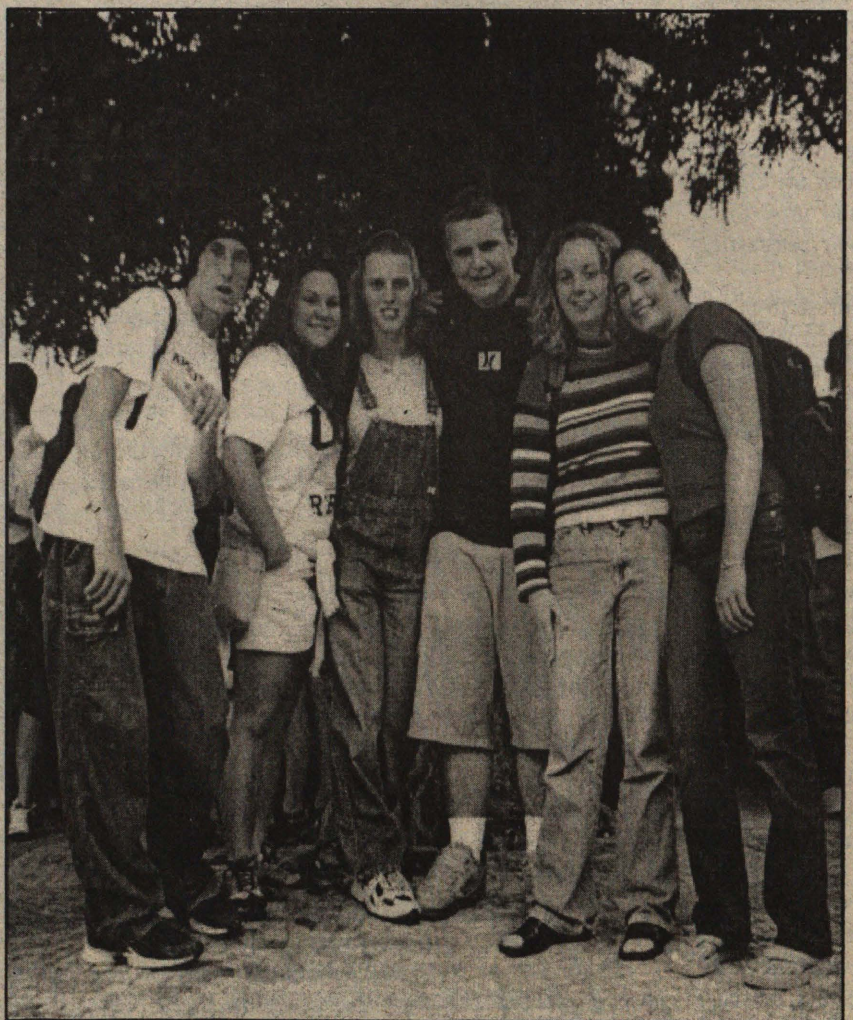
Clockwise from top:

The Grace Church of Winfield's Czech Team in Prague.

Sean McTighe skipping in downtown Prague.

The Czech Team takes a moment to relax.

Photos courtesy of Sean McTighe



Spanish exchange students see U.S. life

By Stephanie Bodane
After staying in America for three weeks, and getting a glimpse of the American culture, the Spanish exchange students have gone home.

Sixteen Spanish exchange students from Valencia, Spain attended We-go from Sept. 6 to Sept. 27. The students stayed with 16 We-go students.

While here the exchange students went to Navy Pier, the Science and Art Museum, Gino's East, and other places downtown.

Some of the students also attended Medieval Times with their host families.

Along with this they attended a drive-in movie, and We-go's soccer games.

Although Junior Jeff Leazenby, who hosted Chema Gomez, admitted that the Spanish students weren't very impressed with the soccer here.

"They weren't really impressed because in Spain it is much bigger of a deal," said Leazenby.

However, Leazenby did ex-

plain that they were impressed with the Mall of America.

"In Spain, Tommy Hilfiger is twice the cost of here, so Chema was big on buying Tommy clothes," said Leazenby.

The students participated in a normal school day following their host, while also experiencing the American culture.

"Almost everyone cried when they had to leave, they really didn't want to go home," said Leazenby.

Spanish teacher Tara Dellutri said that overall the stay went well.

We-go hosts were: Zoe Churan, Heather Mosteller, Katy Taylor, Allison Rovtar, Jeff Leazenby, John Merrick, Christina Wilbur, Vicki Daru, Sarah Bass, C.J. Wostratzky, Jodi Yednock, Aimee Beutke, Danny Garcia, Carla Marlo, and Esmeralda Robles.

The Spanish exchange program takes place every other year.

This year since students came here, We-go students will go to Spain next year.

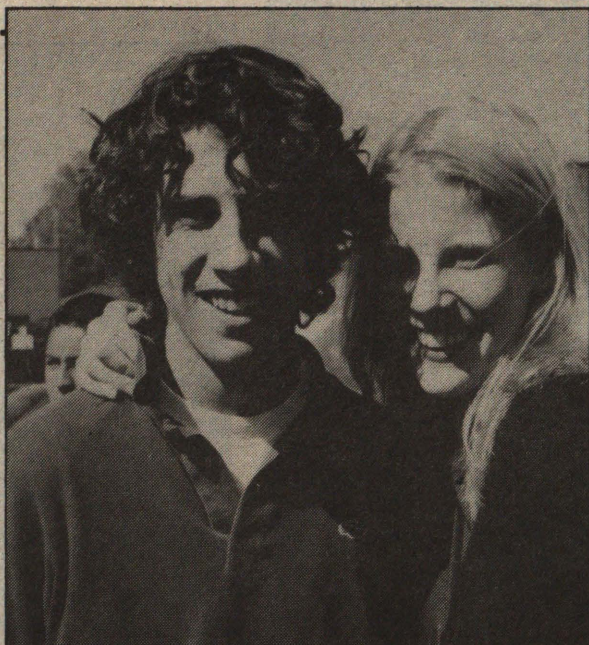


Photo by Mary Randle

Joanna Szeszycki and a Spanish student say goodbye before the exchange students leave.

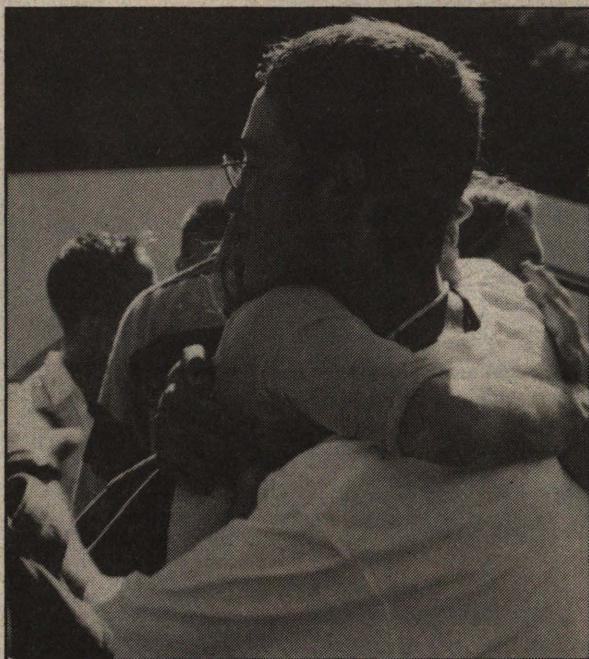


Photo by Mary Randle

Students exchange a hug when the Spaniards leave for home.

Cultures Clash Between U.S. and Germany

(Alex Patin, Class of '01 continues observing from Germany where she is attending school as a Bundestag scholar for the year.)

The more time I spend in Germany, the more I see complete differences between the U.S. and Germany.

First, the humor in Germany is completely different. They don't use sarcasm nearly so much, and I have received several extremely confused looks from my host family when I try to explain the use of sarcasm in certain situations.

They use sarcasm, but sparingly, and I have come to realize just how much we use it as humor in the U.S. The hu-

mor they do use tends to be good-humored pokes at each other. For example, if someone says something strange or does something wrong, they tend to good-naturedly joke around about that with the person.

Secondly, the food is incredibly good, but it is based a lot on bread and carbohydrates and meat. A typical breakfast in my family is bread rolls with butter or jelly or Nutella (a really good spreadable chocolate), and the typical dinner is bread rolls with deli meat on them.

It's not too complex, but it is incredibly good because the bread rolls come from the bakery and they are all baked fresh that day.

Thirdly, I have noticed that in Germany there is more technology threaded into their every day lives. For example, to buy tickets for the bus or streetcar, they use a touch-screen computer. Car radios (most of them) show the name of the song, the singer, and the name of the radio station where in the U.S. we just have the frequency number.

There's much more that I will share later...

Bachelor witnesses terrorist attack site in New York City

By Dianne Keck

Brooke Bachelor, traveled to New York City on Oct. 14 to get a glimpse of the still-smoking ruins of the World Trade Center towers.

Bachelor, a sophomore, went to New York City because she had tickets to attend a charity benefit that sponsored the Sept. 11 relief funds.

"I felt apprehensive about going," said Bachelor.

Bachelor described the site of the now gone towers as a scene from a family wake. About 10 or so people were standing by the barricades to observe the scene, like they would in front of a casket. Bachelor said someone put a dozen roses by the barricades.

Over a month after the attacks, smoke was still erupting from where the two buildings once stood. All the buildings around were charred and their windows

were cracked, Bachelor said.

"The images are not at all like what you see on TV," said Bachelor. "Being there is a totally different feeling."

Not allowed to move past the barricades, Bachelor bought a police officer in the area a cup of coffee while he was on a break. In return he offered to take her up close to the ruins.

On her way to the ruins she questioned the police officer. He told her that he was at the site when it happened, and it was really scary. He hopes to see a new 50-story building built there next to a memorial, similar to the Oklahoma City bombing memorial.

Bachelor took pictures from the closest distance she could, which was several blocks away. Because of the FBI's restrictions, Bachelor was not allowed to take pictures while she was up close.

The smell of thousands of bodies that were burned or are now decomposing combined with jet fuel and burning offices (See Attacks page 11)

Hollywood "stars" arrive for We-go homecoming

By Lisa Borg

Hollywood arrived in We-go to celebrate homecoming in September.

"Jaws" was the theme of the freshmen who showed their spirit as newcomers.

"Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" was a sweet pick for the sophomores during the pep rally.

Juniors felt like "Top Gun" from their theme after winning the tug-a-war contest at the pep assembly.

Senior poms showed up at the pep assembly in costumes from their theme, "The Wizard of Oz".

Leading homecoming were king Ed Abante and queen Jessica Strock.

2001 homecoming candidates for king included Ed Abante, Jon Lim, Alex Ortiz,

Joey Park, Brad Shelly, Craig Shuda, Jim Smolucha, Aaron Troy, Ryan Virnich and Matt Weber. Girl candidates were Vianet Acosta, Crystal Kirshke, Jamie Nadolny, Gianna Pigoni, Angie Rojas, Allison Rovtar and Jessica Strock.

Students selected the court finalists. The five boys were Ed Abante, Alex Ortiz, Joey Park and Matt Weber. Girls included in homecoming court were Vianet Acosta, Crystal Kirshke, Jamie Nadolny, Angie Royas, and Jessica Strock.

Activities that occurred at the pep assembly were the tug-a-war, egg toss, float presentations, dancing contests, and the coaches of the fall sports spoke to all students (See We-go page 11)

Choirs start year with a song

By Mary Beth Selby

After only two month's practice, the choirs presented a successful fall concert Oct. 18.

"All the kids did a great job pulling together in the last two months with very little practice," said choir director Lisa Smith. "This was a great concert."

Despite the difference that a concert was held in the fall, this concert was run a bit differently because the West Chicago String Orchestra also performed that night.

Consisting of 18 students divided into four sections, the string orchestra performed after the girls ensemble. They played three songs written by Bach, Stamitz and Norman Dello Joio.

Freshmen Jill Musick and Mary Turnquist were section leaders of the violins and performed a solo during Stamitz's Sinfonia in D.

"They are both really good, but it was a test grade that decided which chair the students would have and that with the first chair would have the solo. It ended up a tie," said orchestra director Anne Branch.

This is Branch's first year working at West Chicago, and she said the orchestra has wonderful focus to have brought it all together in two months.

"Even though they pulled off a successful performance, some details didn't come through with all the excitement. They were a bit messy around the edges from all the adrenaline," said Branch.

Smith is also working with a new group of students in her mixed chorus.

"These kids are very respectful, and they've grown a lot, but they are just get-

ting used to working together," said Smith. "It's been little-by-little work, but they were really on it tonight."

The women's chorale is an exceptional group of ladies with lots of talent and presented a very strong performance, said Smith.

Consisting mostly of sophomores, three juniors, and one senior, this group is taught songs at a wider variety than the mixed chorus after only their second year, usually.

This is the way it has always been because chorale is the next step from mixed chorus, said Smith.

"These girls are fabulous, and not inhibited in any way. They have great facial expressions and reactions when they sing," said Smith.

Before chamber choir performed, Smith acknowledged sophomores Brooke Bachelor, Jenny Buchman, juniors Michael Treachler, Liz Valdez, Susan Lincoln, and seniors Hilary Blanchard and Aaron Troy for being part of the All District Chorus. The chorus is the equivalent of being an All-Conference Athlete for the DVC, Smith said.

Chamber choir gave an independent performance of three songs by 16th century composer Thomas Weelkes and classical composers Mozart and Beethoven.

They also sang the Cornish Folksong "I Love My Love."

"These kids are great musicians. They listen and follow each other. I just give them the music to learn and then teach them to sing independently without a conductor, and then they practice on their own. They work wonderfully together," said Smith

(See Choir page 11)

Scotland...

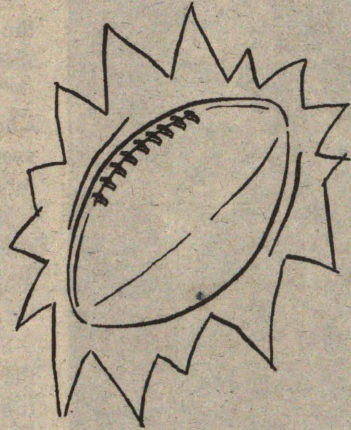
(Continued from page 7)

can be made in under two hours, and a \$35 flight can have me in London in an hour.

When I'm going down one of those two-way, one-lane streets and a double-decker bus turns in my direction, though, I know which one of us is going looking for an open parking spot!

Features

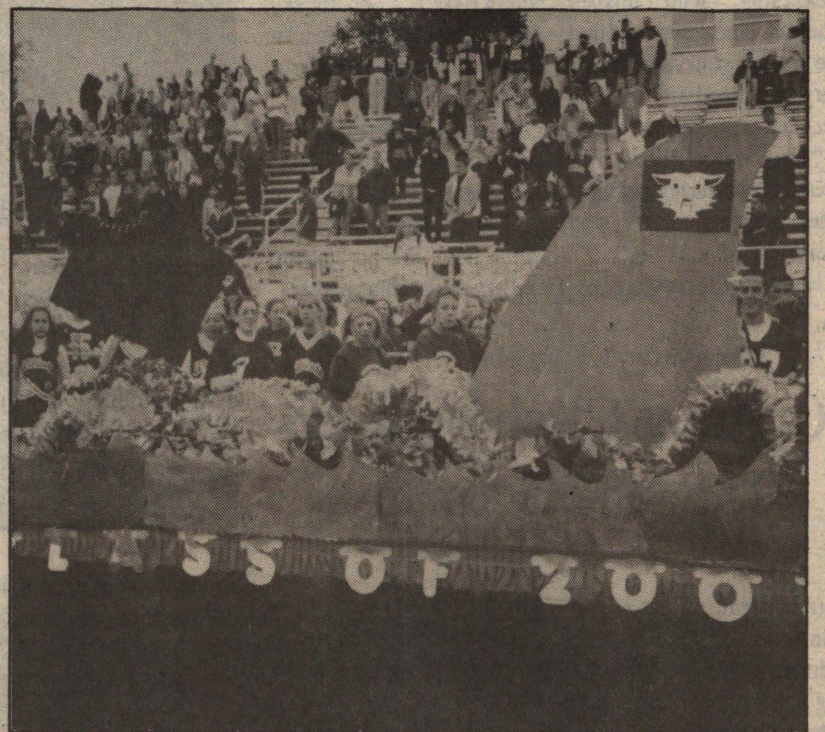
Homecoming '01



A look at the powder-puff group during the homecoming Pep-Rally.



The senior class won the float contest. The senior class movie theme was "The Wizard of Oz."



The freshmen class theme for homecoming was "Jaws" and they ran with it.

We-go goes to Hollywood



The freshmen class shows their school spirit during the float parade.



Photo by Denise Flagg

Beth Kipp, Kori Flagg, Stephanie Bodane, and Brian Lanners getting ready for the homecoming dance.

Attacks... (Continued from page 9)

was disgusting, Bachelor said. But as close as she got, it was enough.

"The entire shock effect that I first had when I heard about the incident, came over me again," said Bachelor.

Bachelor also saw a wall of pictures where over 5,000 missing people are hung. This is where victims' families placed pictures on a wall. "It was so sad," said Bachelor.

Everyone Bachelor talked to said the word "missing" when referring to anyone who died on September 11. It's never dead or deceased. People are missing, said Bachelor.

"It's almost as if the families think they'll come home. They are hanging onto their

last hope."

On the second day of her trip, Bachelor, her mom, and her aunt attended a relief benefit at a banquet hall. Carson Daley, Harrison Ford, Julianne Moore and the "Sopranos" were some of the other guests at the benefit.

Bachelor took pictures with all of them but Harrison Ford.

During the benefit there were auctions for charity.

One of the men from the Sopranos was the auctioneer. One person paid \$2,000 for a T-shirt. A date with a firefighter went for \$5,000. Bachelor's aunt bought a picture for \$150 drawn by 9-year-old Emily Quinn. Quinn's father was a

firefighter who died on the scene trying to rescue victims from the World Trade Centers. Quinn's picture was of a sky and at the top of the sky were tears falling from two eyes.

Other auctioned items included gift certificates to spas, a snow board, signed baseball and hockey memorabilia, designer clothing, and back stage passes to a taping of the "Sopranos."

All of the celebrities spoke about the incidents during the banquet.

"Everyone in New York is really supportive and seems tight knit. There are so many people willing to help, and that's so great to see," said Bachelor.



Photo by Brooke Bachelor

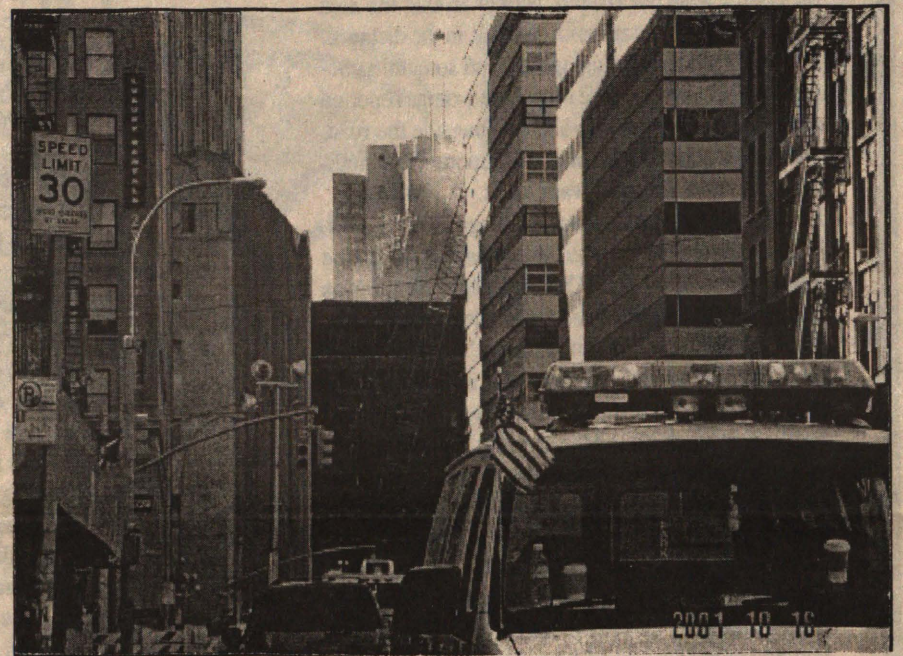


Photo by Brooke Bachelor

Brooke was not allowed to get too close to the site where the World Trade Center once stood. A police officer did take her behind the barricade where she got as close as the FBI would let her. The smell of decaying bodies, fuel and smoke still hung in the air.

Variety Show gearing up

By Elliott Tinnes

The Future Business Leaders of America will once again be sponsoring the school's Variety Show this year.

The show, which is being directed by senior and F.B.L.A. officer Nicole Patel, will be held Nov. 16.

The 12 acts will be showcased twice that night, once at 4 p.m. and then a second show at 7 p.m.

Although there are only 12 acts performing, 25 acts auditioned. Over half of the acts were cut in order to fit the two hour time slot for the show.

Although the show has a country theme to it, a variety of acts will be performed.

Julie Volk, Javier Cruz, and Becky Wilkening will all go solo for the night.

The ever-popular Rootin' Tootin' Temptations of Joe

Caniano, Craig Shuda, Jon Lim, Joe Park, and Tom Wojicki will return for an encore of last year's performance.

A tribute to the late singer/songwriter Aaliyah from Kim Chau, Darahlee DeLeon, Nisha Patel, Truc Pham, Stephani Smothers, Marlene Uy, and Teresa Uy will also be performed.

For those who have been waiting for a new break dancing group to emerge from West Chicago, get ready for Enemy Squad.

A foursome of Alberto Allende, Gil Valenzuela, Tony Perham, and Peter Espinoza will perform an original break dancing number.

Other acts preparing for Nov. 16 include "Right Kind of Wrong" by Leanne Bartram, Natalie Chudoba, Jessica Crockett, Meredith

Koch, Merium Koch, Susan Lincoln, Erin Madden, Theresa McEvoy, and Kim Peterik.

Carl Sauter accompanied by Refe Tuma will perform "One More Scar."

Denise Gonzalez, Alyssa Santiago, and Stephanie Vasquez will collaborate for an act called "Magalenas."

Paloma, an act featuring Hilda Garcia, Jessica Garcia, Ruth Gonzalez, Zayra Pedraza, Gladys Proa, Carmen Saucedo, Javier Saucedo, and Hugo Saucedo will fill in the middle of the show.

F.B.L.A. members will host the show.

Choir... (Continued from page 9)

The Concert Choir followed the Chamber and sang three songs, including the spiritually traditional song Elijah Rock.

"Even with such a large group, they really came together just the way we needed them to in the last four rehearsals we could have," said Smith.

Smith announcing the leave of Amanda Clercq and all the choirs singing America, the

Beautiful, finished the concert. Clercq had taught and rehearsed with the choirs since the start of school, but is going back to school to finish her student teaching. Smith was real happy with the outcome of the whole performance, though she wished she could change the intermission.

There will be a winter concert in Weyrauch Auditorium on Dec. 16.

We-go... (continued from page 9)

about how their year went.

Pep club sold about 250 homecoming shakers for each class. The colors were gray was freshmen, white for sophomores, blue for juniors and blue/white for seniors.

They also decorated all fall athletes' lockers and the stands for the pep rally.

"We planned a successful and well attended pep rally

and homecoming," said Pep Club sponsor Candace Kairys.

A large portion of the school was wearing blue/white on Sept. 28, which was also a Pep Club promotion. Gold fish eating, paper airplane contest, hall decorating and other activities were also during homecoming week.



Photo Courtesy of Brooke Bachelor

Brooke shares a moment with two of New York's firefighters at the banquet she attended in New York City to help raise money for the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. Her aunt purchased one of the auctioned drawings a girl drew showing a crying sky. The girl lost her father in the attacks.

Top 10 scary places in Illinois

By Stephanie Bodane

Halloween is here and that means trick or treating, candy, great costumes and scary stories. This year, instead of reading Halloween stories such as "Sleepy Hollow" how about trying real scary stories. Stories that you can relate to, stories that occurred right here.

- Location:** German Church Road, Willow Springs. **Who:** 15-year-old Patricia Grimes, and 13-year-old Barbara Grimes. **What happened:** The girls went to a late night Elvis Presley film, Love me Tender. They were seen after the show catching an 11 p.m. bus, this is the last time they were seen alive. Twenty Five horrific days later, their frozen naked bodies were found along the banks of Devil's Creek. The cause of death was unknown, however it was later concluded that they might have died from exposure and shock. **The haunting:** More then 40 years later, the mystery of who killed the sisters still remains unsolved. Since the bodies were discovered, people around the area reported hearing a car motor running in the distance, followed by a door being opened and something being dumped alongside the road. One woman reported seeing naked bodies of two girls alongside the road, after a police investigation, it was reported that nothing was found. The case was closed.
- Location:** Michigan Avenue, Chicago Water Tower. **Who:** An unknown worker. **What happened:** In the Great Fire of 1871, the Chicago Water Tower was burned to the ground. Inside was one of its workers who continued to maintain the tower's pumps. When the fire came close, and there was no hope for the man, he hung himself. **The haunting:** Tourists and local residents claim to have seen the shadowy figure of a man hanging himself in one of the towers windows. They found a local police man, who claimed to see the same thing.
- Location:** Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Worth. **Who:** Mary Alice Quinn. **What happened:** Mary reportedly healed a number of people, and she became known around the neighborhood for helping and curing the sick. Mary, a quiet child, died suddenly at the age of 14. She was buried under a secret grave belonging to the Reilly family. The family thought that this would help to keep the grave a secret and the sick away from her grave. **The haunting:** In the 1930s and early 1940s Mary's figure was said to have appeared to many people in the Chicago area, and other parts of the world. Later it was discovered that she was buried in a secret grave, and it was replaced with a tombstone bearing her name. Many people have visited her grave seeking cures, and it has been said that many have been cured from coming to her grave. The smell of roses is said to fill the air around her burial place, although there are no roses around the grave.
- Location:** Halsted and Polk Street, Chicago. **Who:** Charles J. Hull **What happened:** The Hull House was built in 1889 to educate and improve the life of immigrants. The house also was known to many of the city's homeless and many others. **The haunting:** The house is best known for the devil baby. A child was born in the house who reportedly had pointed ears, horns, scale covered skin, and a tail. Here the baby was allegedly baptized, however during the ceremony the baby reportedly escaped from the priest and began dancing and laughing. With nothing else left to do with the child, they locked him in the attic of the house, where it later died. Local legends claim that, a ghostly disfigured boy lives in the attic of the Hull House now, and that sometimes on certain nights you are able to see the face peering out of the attic window.
- Location:** Clarendon Hills. **Who:** An unknown woman and her child. **What happened:** The woman entered a bar with her child and asked the bartender to watch her child for a minute. Fearing that the woman was going to abandon the child, he refused. She was very upset and she stormed out of the bar. Later that night a woman and her child were found dead in a car accident, it was unknown whether the death was intentional or not. **The haunting:** Many people (mainly employees) are said to have seen ghosts around the bar since the accident. They say that she haunts the upstairs of the bar in the storage area. Here she has



reportedly locked people inside, flickered lights on and off, and broke dishes and glass.

- Location:** Shawneetown, The Old Slave House. **Who:** Mrs. Crenshaw **What happened:** Ghosts are said to haunt the upstairs of the house. It is said that they are bound there because of the terrible suffering they had to endure from the hands of their cruel owner. **The haunting:** The ghost of the owners wife Mrs. Crenshaw who haunts the second floor. Her husband abused her as well, in suspicion she may had have an affair with one of the male slaves.
- Location:** Elgin-Elgin Psychiatric Hospital Cemetery. **Who:** Patients of the hospital. **What happened:** Patients were reportedly tortured here at the turn of the century when trying to understand insanity. **What happened:** The patients were burned five in a grave with the name of the body on top marking the grave. All kinds of supernatural activity here ranging from orbs, to apparitions.
- Location:** Pemberton Hall at Eastern Illinois University. **Who:** A College girl **What happened:** A girl was murdered by a janitor in the early 1900's. **The haunting:** It said that the host lives on the abandoned fourth floor of Pemberton Hall.
- Location:** Lake Forest, Schweppe. **Who:** Mr. Schweppe **What happened:** The mansion was unoccupied for 50 years after the owner committed suicide. **The haunting:** The ghost's of the family's servants haunts the mansion's hallways and corridors, while the ghosts of the owner's haunt the bedroom. One of the windows of the master's bedroom has never needed to be cleaned, while all the others collect dust over the years.
- Location:** Mendon, Payton's Place. **Who:** A farmer and his family. **What happened:** Many years ago, a farmer went insane and killed his wife and his kids with an ax, he then went to the barn to hang himself. **The haunting:** It is said that anyone that ventures to the spot where the killings took place, sees strange things. The way the farmer walked to the barn sometimes is said to glow, and sometimes it is said that the building where the bodies are disappears. There is also said to be a sound of someone running through the forest, and then seen moving around in the barn.



Favorite candy picks of We-go students

By Mary Beth Selby

Halloween Traditions

- "Trick-or-treating, because you never get too old for that," sophomore Jackie Vavrek.
 "Trick-or-treating... especially the tricks... and the treats," sophomore Ryan McQueen.
 "Going trick-or-treating," freshman Laura Hahn.
 "Trick-or-treating and handing out candy," freshman Sinead Walsh.
 "Trick-or-treating, DUH," sophomore Christine Harris.
 "I love dressing up and hitting the town with all of my friends, singing and just goofing off. Also, we try to get all the candy possible," sophomore Lindsey Perez.
 "Watching scary movies," sophomores John and Nick Grue.
 "Carving pumpkins," freshman Jill Musick.
 "Egging houses or trick-or-treaters," sophomore Nick Fairbanks.
 "Trick-or-treating, pranking, and egging," sophomore Jacob Keeley.
 "Trick-or-treating, but scaring people is fun too," freshman Kelly Wdowiarz.
 "Playing poker with candy as money," sophomore Mark Tonchik.
 "Staying up till 3:00 in the morning eating candy," sophomore Jackie Bicek.
 "Counting my candy afterwards," freshman Alexa Kipp.

Favorite Halloween Candy

- "Snickers," sophomore Tito Pedraza.
 "Snickers, Reeses, and Baby Ruth," sophomore Mike Smolucha.
 "Snickers and Milky Way," junior Alex Baker.
 "Snickers or some other chocolate bar," sophomore Dan Harms.
 "Candy corn," sophomore Alex Wemple.
 "What can be better than Reeses Peanut Butter cups anytime of the year?" sophomore Molly Knaak.
 "Skittles... for life," sophomore Sean Reynolds.
 "Skittles/Reeses," freshman Valerie Cirone.
 "Anything with chocolate," sophomore Cori Koeppen.
 "It's all good - candy is candy," sophomore Josh Foster.
- Favorite candy: Snickers-14.4%, Skittles-10.6%, "anything chocolate"-9.6%, Reeses-9.6%, Milky Ways-6.7%, Twix-4.8%, Butterfingers-4.8%, and (18) others-27.8%

Least Favorite Candy

- "Those stupid little candy corns," junior Erin Henry.
 "Candy corn," sophomore Adriana Vargas.
 "Black and orange nougat," sophomore Rob Rhodes.
 "Those black and orange wrapped things," sophomore Krista Johnson.
 "Black and orange taffy that no one likes," sophomore Roger Maritote.
 "York Peppermint Patties/gum," freshman Peggy Saul.
 "Good&Plenty," sophomore Brandon Deam.
 "Black licorice and Good&Plenty," sophomore Jamie Hall.
 "Black licorice and old people candy," sophomore Marissa Mendoza.
 "Smarties," sophomore Shaila Shallcross.
 "Nothing. Candy rocks," sophomore Lindsey Nash.
- Least favorite: candy corn-22%, black and orange salt-water taffies-16%, gum-10%, Good&Plenty-7%, Almond Joy-7%, Smarties-6%, and "any kind of licorice"-4%, other-29%. Only two people total said that Snickers were their least favorite candies. So Snickers supposedly rule as the ultimate Halloween candy and trick-or-treating is still considered cool, though most kids like to follow that tradition with some partying afterwards.

Halloween

What's your favorite scary movie?

Suzy Q's Top 10

1. Halloween
2. The Exorcist
3. Psycho
4. Cujo
5. Friday the 13th
6. Candy Man
7. The Sixth Sense
8. Child's Play
9. Carrie
10. The Bone Collector



Matt's Top 10

1. The Exorcist
2. The Shining
3. Silence of The Lambs
4. Poltergeist
5. Halloween
6. Friday the 13th
7. Nightmare on Elm Street
8. Hellraiser
9. Texas Chainsaw Massacre
10. Sixth Sense

Do you want to watch a scary movie?

Suzy's Picks

By Suzanne Smith
Halloween

Anyone who has not seen this movie should rent it tonight. It definitely tops any scary movie out there. When Michael Myers was 6-years-old, he murdered his 17-year-old sister, Judith, on a cold Halloween night. He was sentenced to the Smith Grove Warren County Sanitarium for the brutal crime he committed.

Fifteen years later, Myers returns to his hometown of Haddonfield, Illinois after escaping Smith Grove.

Dr. Loomis, Michael's childhood psychiatrist, follows the killer's steps back to Haddonfield. He figures out that Michael is out to kill more teenagers. He gains the help of the town sheriff, Leigh Brackett to stop this killer on the loose.

On Halloween night, Myers follows three teenage girls. After killing Annie, Lynda, and Lynda's boyfriend, Laurie Strode becomes his final target. Dr. Loomis and the sheriff become her only hope to be saved.

Michael Myers provides a horrific finale that will keep you on your toes. Will Dr. Loomis and the sheriff rescue Laurie or will Michael get her first?

The Sixth Sense

If you don't believe in ghosts then you obviously have not seen this movie. Actors Haley Joel Osment and Bruce Willis make this a psychological thriller that America will not forget.

Dr. Malcolm Crowe (Willis), a psychologist, won an award by the mayor for his help with children.

Upon coming home with his wife to celebrate, he finds an intruder, named Vincent Gray, in his bathroom who happens to be one of his few failures.

After conversing with him, the intruder takes out a gun and shoots himself and

Crowe. Crowe never emotionally recovers, and his marriage soon disintegrates.

Meanwhile, Crowe begins working with a 9-year-old, Cole Sear (Osment). He seems to have the same problems Vincent had when he was at that age. Crowe wants to do anything in his own power for Cole so he will not turn out like his former patient.

Cole reveals to Crowe that he can see and hear things that other people cannot. He is afraid to tell his mother for fear that she may not believe him.

The end of the movie has a clever twist that will turn your whole perspective of the film around. It is definitely unpredictable.

The Others

A perfect date movie. Some viewers may be disappointed, but it will keep you interested in the ending. Nicole Kidman acts as you have never seen her before.

The movie takes place in a spooky, European mansion where Grace (Kidman) and her two children, Anne and Nicholas, live.

Anne and Nicholas are two of a kind. They cannot be subjected to any sort of sunlight, only candlelight. If they do they will die.

In order to keep her children healthy, Grace insists on entering every room by locking the previous door and closing all curtains.

After their old servants disappeared one day, new servants arrive, claiming they had seen an advertisement for new ones. It is easy to observe that they are up to something.

As the days go on, Anne claims to have seen ghostly evidence of a boy and his mother. She soon learns that a whole family of ghosts is living there.

Anne tries to explain to her mother about these ghosts, but Grace fails to take her seriously until she hears voices too and sees an old photo album of the family that lived there before them.

This movie gives an unexpected ending, but it takes awhile to get there. It will definitely make your date jump a few times!

Matt's Picks

By Matt Neumann
The Exorcist

"The Exorcist" tops my list, and I don't think that should be terribly surprising. "The Exorcist" is about exactly that, an Exorcist. He is called in to investigate the possible possession of a young, seemingly healthy girl.

The movie develops around a mother and her daughter trying to figure out what is wrong before it's too late. After a man is thrown out the window mysteriously and the girl begins speaking tongues she never knew, we start to wonder just how real her possession might be.

Silence of the Lambs

In a match between "Silence of the Lambs" and "Hannibal" for best movie, they would eat each other alive. But "Silence of the Lambs" would come out as the winner.

It is the classic of two movies about Hannibal Lector, a cannibal terror.

Jodie Foster plays Clarise Starling, a FBI agent sent to an institution to talk to the now famous Hannibal Lector (Anthony Hopkins) in hopes of getting help on a case involving Buffalo Bill, a current serial killer.

Hopkins gives a chilling performance as he escapes the law while helping with the case. Hannibal becomes obsessed with Clarise and tries to mess with her mind. Will Clarise be able to solve the crime and escape Hannibal's constant attempts to control her?

The Shining

"The Shining" is such a great movie that even the Simpsons used it as a take off. This is a true mark of greatness. In this film, Jack Nicholson has one of the greatest moments in movie history. Who can forget "Here's... Johnny..."? The movie takes place around the strange hotel that Johnny and his family are staying in during a rough winter. Johnny descends into insanity and tries to kill his family. With a haunted house and the head of the family losing his mind, it makes for a great scary movie experience. The movie reaches an intense climax as Jack's son runs to escape from his disturbed father.

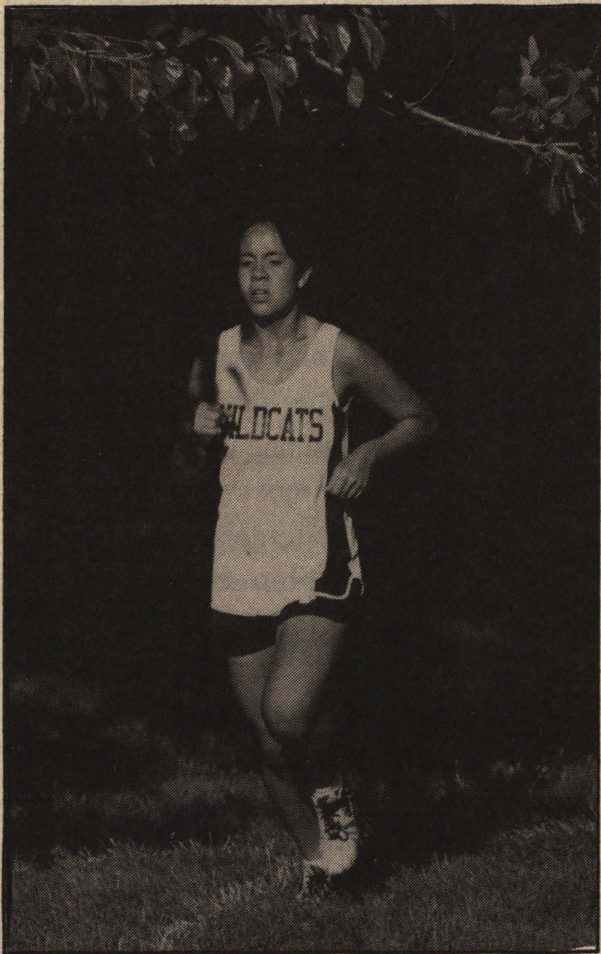


Photo courtesy of Challenge

Senior Erin Kirby presses on.

Former teachers inducted into the IGA Hall of Fame

By Suzanne Smith
Two retired teachers were inducted into the Illinois Girls Association Hall of Fame.

LaVora Singleton and Gail George received recognition for promoting girls' sports at a luncheon on Sept. 23. Principal Dr. Alan Jones and other colleagues also attended, said Dan Johnson, department chair of physical education.

Singleton and George "completed a lifetime of achievements," Johnson said.

Girls' sports did not exist when they began teaching physical education. Singleton and George promoted and advocated women's athletics at West Chicago, Johnson said.

George taught and coached girls' sports for 36 years. She coached a variety of sports including, but not limited to,

basketball, softball, track, tennis, archery, and volleyball.

Singleton was a teacher and coach for many girls' sports for 32 years including badminton, softball, tennis, basketball, track, and field hockey. She even became a volleyball official.

Singleton was the assistant athletic director. Later, George took over her position. They both continued promoting girls' sports in the school, Johnson said.

The pair organized sports for the Little Seven Conference. Singleton was president of the Girls' Sports Coordinators and George was secretary.

Johnson said George and Singleton were both honored to receive this award and to have contributed to girls' sports.

Girls cross country has spirit

By Anna Nubie
The girls' cross-country team took second place at regionals in Glen Ellyn.

This is the 1st time to qualify for sectionals as a team since 1995. Sophomore Christy Adduci took 2nd place, missing 1st by one second. Junior Katy Kostal followed in 3rd place, both being all-region runners.

Top runners who placed were freshman Megan Andracki, 14th; senior Erin Kirby, 15th; senior Jenni

Boyd, 31st; and freshman Kelly Wdowiarz, 35th. Boyd and Wdowiarz stepped up when the teams number 3 runner fell ill. The team is hoping to finish in the top 5 this weekend at Northside Park in Wheaton. That would qualify the team for the state meet.

"This is an extremely dedicated team, and working together they can accomplish anything. They have had this goal of going to state for a long time, and we're hoping

to make it reality," said Coach Katerina Boves.

The team placed a frustrating seventh place at the DVC invite at West Aurora on Oct. 12.

It was very frustrating for the team, Boves said, because the team came in seventh place but only 12 points behind fourth place. Adduci came in 11th, and Kostal in 12th, they were two all conference runners:

Also placing in the varsity meet were sophomore Kim

Palka, 30th; Kirby, 36th; and Andracki, 39th.

At the Benet Academy Invitational at Lisle Community Park on Oct. 6, the team placed third. Boves said that it was a very good meet.

"The two teams that beat us were ranked top 15 in the state so that's been our best performance yet," Boves said.

Runners who placed were Kostal, 4th; Adduci, 8th; Palka, 7th; Andracki, 22nd; and Kirby came in 25th.

Rewers gets more out of bet than expected

By Josh Winquist
What started as a bet ended in a position as the only male on We-Go's cheerleading squad.

"I hang out with girls all day, what's bad about that?" said senior Kael Rewers.

Rewers said he tried out as the result of a bet between himself and senior Peter Salinas.

Salinas backed out and never showed up to a Wednesday tryout.

"I only went to one tryout and I went away for the week-

end. When I came back on Monday I found out I made the team," Rewers said.

Rewers stuck with it, and now he has almost finished the football season as a cheerleader.

He is having a lot of fun and does not regret joining the squad.

My purpose on the squad is mainly about muscle, Rewers said.

He is the support or bottom man when the cheerleaders go up in the air.

He also joins in some of the

cheers, and he said he even starts most of them off.

The best time he has had so far was in the summer at cheerleader camp where he was "stuck" with 40 girls but only eight guys.

"Some people don't agree with what I'm doing, but it doesn't matter," said Rewers.

Senior Mike Olson said, "I gave him props because he did what he wanted to do, and didn't care what others thought."

Rewers said more guys should join the cheerleading

squad next year because it is fun, and there are many benefits.

As a result of his cheerleading some schools have offered Rewers full-ride scholarships, but he will not take them because they are too far away.

When football is over Rewers will be cheering for the wildcats at the basketball games.

Good thing Rewers stuck with the bet because he made many new friends and had a great time.

There's hope for next year's girls tennis team

By Matt Neumann
Although gathering a losing record in the DVC this year, there is hope for the girls' tennis team.

Both varsity and freshmen/sophomore levels have gained players this year and after each match, all of the players improve.

"Many of the players need to play more in their free time in order to give themselves much better chances for a

successful season here at the school," said coach Sione Moeaki.

The youth of the team is a great advantage, because in upcoming years there will be many more experienced players here than in the past, Moeaki said.

We will only lose two seniors from this year to next which is great, Moeaki added.

"I'm pleased with all of the

players strong effort and ability to work as a team," Moeaki said, "and I think if we continue to work hard we will do okay."

Assistant coaches on hand are also a great asset with Brian Toms and Tim Martin on hand to help.

Also, two individuals that Mr. Moeaki thought needed to be recognized were Emily Ekstrom and Venessa Guillen because they are showing

"great effort" at the number one and three spots on varsity respectively.

"Open gym is one of the most important things for our all of our tennis players to do because it's free, tennis brings along with it the commitments of money, parents and discipline, without any of them, both our guys and girls will struggle, but open gym is a way to improve without such things" Moeaki said.

Girls volleyball puts up fight

By Stan Lemon
The girls varsity volleyball team took a tumble after their game against West Aurora on Sept. 18.

The team lost the match in three games with scores of 15-8, 15-5, 18-16.

Coach Kristi Hasty said that this was the downfall point for the team.

The team lost to both of the Naperville schools.

They lost against North 15-9, 15-5, and against Central 15-4, 15-5.

Hasty said that the team "Just did not rise to the occasion."

The team played Glenbard

North, and lost in two games.

This was Glenbard North's first win for the season.

The game was a slow moving match, Hasty said.

Hasty also said that the team could not get out of the tempo.

Hasty said that it was the teams worst match of the season.

The game against West Aurora was a tough fight, Hasty said that the team never gave up, and they never died. The team lost the match, which started their losing spell.

Hasty said that since the West Aurora match the team

has not played well.

Since the game against West Aurora the team has lost five consecutive games.

Hasty said individuals on the team were not playing together, and that a change needs to happen before the team can be successful.

Hasty said that the girls need to find it within themselves in order to pull it together.

She said when they do that the games will become more enjoyable, and hopefully turn this losing streak.

Then the team can get on track to play the teams from the conference Hasty said.

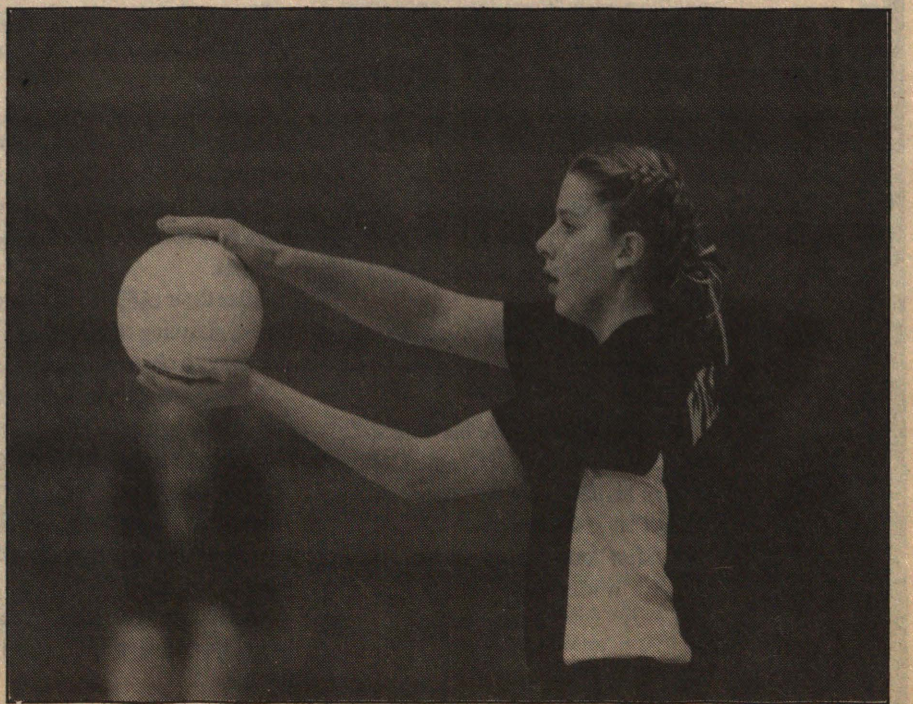


Photo courtesy of Challenge

Megan Michalek prepares to serve to the other team.

Boys soccer wraps up season taking fourth

By Mary Beth Selby
Freshmen soccer ends their first season ever playing for West Chicago victorious in the conference.

With a conference record of 6-0-1, and an overall record of 12-2-1, the freshmen boys soccer team became conference champions for the 2001 season.

"We did very well; had an outstanding season," said freshmen coach Julio Del Real.

A loss to the team was goalie Bruce Janek, younger brother of graduated Dennis Janek, who was out halfway through the season.

However, Steve Bicek took his place and was a great surprise and ended up even playing for the sophomores, said Del Real.

This would be Janek's ninth year playing soccer and seventh year playing goalie.

"Janek was a loss, but we were glad to have Bicek. He

was a real surprise," said Del Real.

Despite the success of the freshmen, the varsity, JV, and sophomore teams weren't quite as victorious in conference.

The overall record for varsity was 10-8-2, JV was 1-7, and the sophomore record was 13-5-2.

The conference records were 3-4 for varsity and 9-2-3 for the sophomores, making them third in conference.

"We could have had a better season, but it's over now," said sophomore coach Antonio Del Real.

DelReal said that the team is still going to have to put forth a lot of effort.

"They played hard, but some guys need to really work hard if they want to make varsity."

However, varsity didn't do so well either.

They came fourth in conference because of their

Wheaton-Warrenville South loss, which pushed them further back in the conference, said coach Steve Brugmann.

"I think the DVC had more parity this season. The teams were more equal as far as skill. We had worked hard, but we had a shorthand for starting players, then we also had red cards and suspensions," said soccer director Bruno Owens. "I think our team was very good this year, but we need all eleven play-

ers/starters to be there to play in order for us to be stronger."

"We were working hard to be first or second in conference, but some of the players were having little aches and pains that were really holding them back, so now we are focusing on keeping them playable for sectionals," said Brugmann

Varsity played quarterfinal sectionals Tuesday against St Charles East and play semifinals Thursday.

Boys golf finishes this year's season with high expectations for next

By Marc Berry
The boys varsity golf team finished up their season, placing fourth in the DuPage Valley Conference out of the eight competing teams.

Last year the team placed third.

We-go hosted the conference meet, which took place on Sept. 26 at the home course of St. Andrews.

Senior Matt Baumrucker tied for lowest score at the meet, but he lost on the play-off hole.

A week later on October 2, the team attended regionals, but they did not advance.

Baumrucker was one stroke away from qualifying to advance, however.

On their way to finishing the season, the Wildcats challenged many teams.

On Sept. 25, they competed at home against Glenbard North, taking the victory.

On Sept. 21, the team played St. Francis at Arrowhead Golf Course, but were not able to pull out a win.

West Aurora visited on

Sept. 20 to attempt to defeat the Cats, but they were unsuccessful.

Sept. 19 saw We-go traveling to Wheaton North, where they lost by one stroke.

The Wildcats also lost on Sept. 14 when they played against Naperville Central.

Naperville North also bested the team, when We-go played them on Sept. 13.

The season was especially good for two individuals. Baumrucker was DVC player of the year, and junior Greg Hodge made All-Conference.

The varsity team had a new head coach this year. Joe Schrom took the place of last year's coach who started working at a different school this year.

Fresh/soph coach Eric Lasky said it was good for the team to learn from someone with Shrom's experience.

Lasky said that the team has the ability to finish first going into a tournament.

"We have potential but we need to be more consistent," said Lasky.

Lasky also said that We-go's top four golfers could take on any other school's top four, but other schools often have many other very skilled golfers backing the four up.

The other problem, he said, was that, although everyone had their days, it was rare for everyone on the team to score extremely low on the same day.

Lasky said that, although fourth place is not a bad ranking, the team was somewhat let down because of their high expectations for this year.

He said they will have high expectations for next year

too, noting that returning golfers juniors Hodge, Dan Pazar, and Jeff Beeks had a really good year and will continue to help the team.

Juniors Mike Paschke and Jason Forbrook will also be strong players on varsity next year, Lasky said.

Two players Lasky said will be missed next year are Baumrucker and senior Zack Deaton.

"We could always count on Baumrucker to shoot low scores. Deaton brought par once in awhile, sometimes turning up the best score," Lasky said.

Overall, Lasky believes

varsity had a pretty good season.

"We had fun competing and playing when the pressure was on," he said.

The fresh/soph level did not do quite as well this year. They placed last in conference but took seventh in the DVC tournament, beating Glenbard North.

"It was a rebuilding year for them," said Lasky.

Lasky said sophomores Tom Grove, Josh Hahn, and Dan Polacek led the team in the beginning of the season.

"Hahn was consistent. We could always count on him shooting under 46," said

Lasky.

As the season progressed, however, freshmen Austin Curran, Josef Staiton, and Evan Skarin started playing really well also, said Lasky.

A highlight of the season was when the team played Naperville Central. Grove shot an eagle from about 80 yards away, and he went on to shoot a birdie from around fifty yards out.

"This year's freshmen look like they have potential for the future, and hopefully the sophomores will play a lot over the summer and continue to gain experience," said Lasky.

Wildcat swim team's season a success

Boys cross country team takes fourth in DVC

By Matt Neumann
This year the boys cross-country team has been worked hard, and it's shown in both times and personal bests:

With 16 runners across all levels, the team took fourth place in the DuPage Valley Conference.

This is four spots better than they placed last year.

Perhaps an even better accomplishment was each runner on the team receiving a personal best at the Bennet Invite, the team's third invitational win for this year.

McLeland said that he was impressed by the team's smallest split for the top five in conference of 17 seconds. That means that there are only 17 seconds between the

team's first and fifth fastest runners.

Ed Abante, Harold Visser, and newcomer Ben Keller all received athlete of the week nominations for their performances throughout the season.

The team gained the smallest split in Peoria, where the state meet is scheduled.

The performance at conference was significant to the team because Wildcat cross-country has finished in the top half of the DVC only six times in the past 27 years.

The team has given themselves a quality chance to qualify for the state meet, and all of the runners look to improve on themselves for both personal bests and for the team, McLeland said.

By Rachel Rivera
With only one week left in the season the Wildcat girls swim team has had a great season so far and hopefully will wrap up the season with a great conference meet, said coach Bryan Artel.

"This year's conference should be a close and exciting meet," said Artel.

Sectionals are in one week "We hope to qualify at least six of our swimmers for state this year if not more," Artel said.

Senior parent night was on Oct. 16.

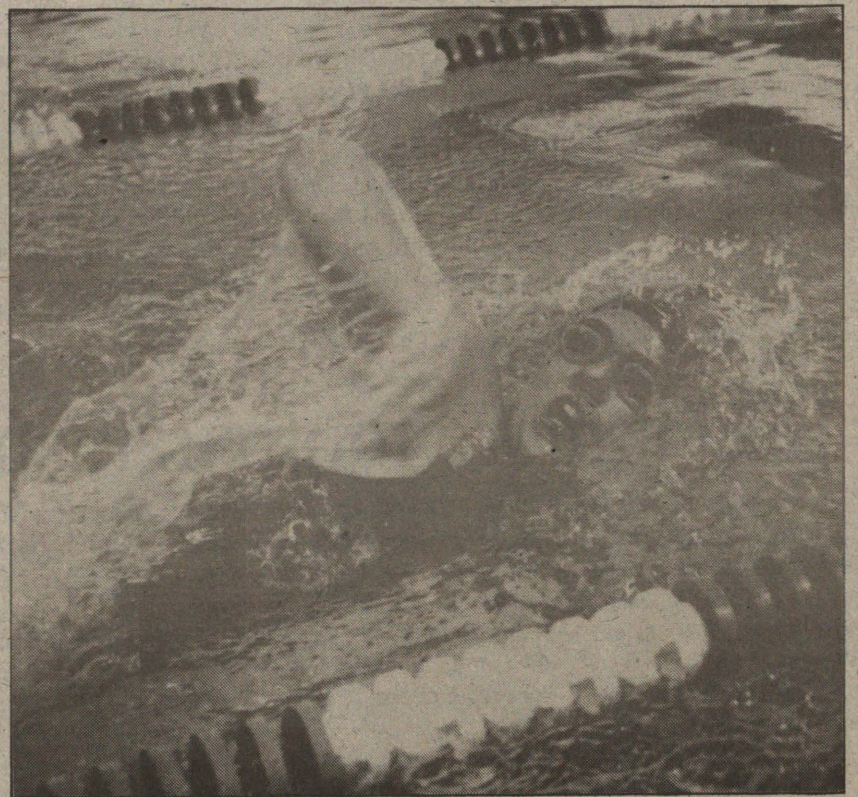
This was the last home meet for seniors Laura Martin, Heather Prochnow, Alice Hultquist, Casey Connoly, and Laura Wilken.

Both varsity and junior varsity placed second in this meet against West Aurora and District 200.

At the Naperville Central meet with Lake Park on Oct. 13, We-go had many top finishers.

In junior varsity sophomore Danielle Zirbes placed third in the 200-yard freestyle and second in the 500-yard freestyle.

Sophomore Amanda Weier placed second in the



Leigh Hellman swims with all of her might.

Photo by Missi Sheme

100-yard butterfly and sophomore Rachael Mckenny placed third in the 100-yard breaststroke.

Freshman Shelley Koch placed second in the 100-yard backstroke, and senior Laura Wilken placed third in the 100-yard freestyle.

In varsity freshman

Rachael Slattery placed third in the 200-yard freestyle and in the 100-yard backstroke. Sophomore Jackie Vavrek placed first in the 50-yard and the 100-yard freestyle, and junior Rachel Horvath placed third in the 100-yard breaststroke.

In the 400-yard freestyle

relay, freshman Christina Sedjo, Slattery, Vavrek, and junior Missi Sheme placed second Leaving We-go with a third place finish in the meet.

The team's conference meet is Saturday at Naperville Central. It begins at 1 p.m.

Football season ends

By Derek Koelsch

The West Chicago varsity football team played Naperville Central in what was an emotional game on Friday.

It was emotional, not only because they played DVC rivals Naperville Central, but because it was the last game for the seniors, losing to Naperville 42-9.

The varsity traveled to face the Wheaton North Falcons on Oct. 4. Not a lot went right for the team, as the final score was 39-14 with the Falcons on top.

Coach Josh Chambers said

that this game was "The opposite of the West Aurora game. We didn't play well on both sides."

Chambers did not blame penalties for the team losing.

"The penalties went against us, but that's not why we lost the game," he said.

The West Chicago homecoming game was against the West Aurora Blackhawks. The Cats played hard and won, 42-14.

"West Aurora has a lot a decent players. They are similar to us," said Chambers. West Aurora have also struggled in the DVC.

Chambers said the team should have beaten them and they did.

"Both our offensive and defensive line did pretty good," Chambers said.

He added that homecoming didn't play that much of a role because the Cats were already pumped up.

Chambers said that next year's varsity team could learn a few things from this year's varsity.

One example would be to work as a team, create a family environment, and discipline, said senior Brandon Baermann.

Junior varsity team goes through ups and downs

By Michelle Loerzel

Muddy would be an understatement about JV's game against Glenbard North on Oct. 13, coach Josh Chambers said.

JV lost the game, 8-0 with a halftime score of 0-0.

"It was next to impossible to throw the ball," Chambers said.

Glenbard scored with a screen pass close to the end zone.

It turned out to be a big play for them, Chambers said.

JV had a couple of opportunities to score, but did just not follow through.

Rain also made it difficult for offense to do their job, according to Chambers.

"Senior Mike Nubie played well. Senior Matt Trygar did well, he also injured his neck," said Chambers.

Junior middle linebacker Eric Loosi did an especially good job, Chambers added.

Wheaton North won their homecoming game on Oct. 6 against West Chicago's JV team, 18-8.

Even the "black knight" couldn't help.

Chamber's said the team's only touchdown came from the trick play.

In the beginning of the second quarter, with 37 yards for a first down, senior Cris Holguin passed to junior Scott Sieder who threw it deep to junior Joey Klingberg who scored the touchdown.

Senior James Thrasher hit to make a fumble and Loosi recovered the fumble.

Junior Matt Wasielewski had seven tackles on Oct. 6.

JV had six turnovers, four fumbles and two interceptions that kept them behind. Trygar, Nubie, and Sieder moved the ball, but then fumbled and that hurt, Chambers said.

All of West Chicago's foot-

ball teams won their homecoming game, including JV.

The score was 14-8 against West Aurora Sept. 29.

Junior Brian Calabrese and Trygar both scored touchdowns.

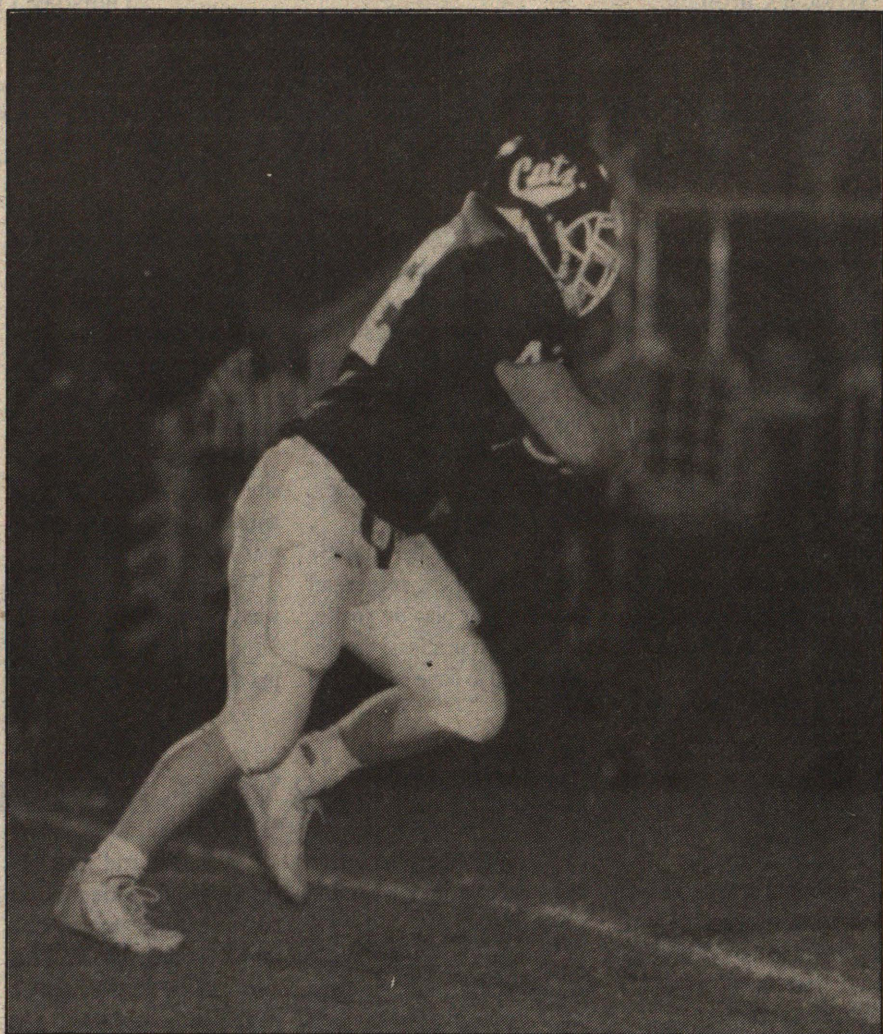
The first touchdown was a short 8-yard pass thrown by Holguin to Calabrese. Trygar ran the ball to score the two-point conversion.

"We had no major mistakes, dense and offense played well," said Chambers.

Trygar scored the other touchdown on a screen pass about 14-yards, a two-point conversion failed after the second touchdown.

Trygar ran over 100 yards, also Nubie and Sieder played well Sept. 29, said Chambers.

Junior Buddy Wilkovicit recovered two fumbles and senior Mike Brown had one interception. Junior Danny Kaylor led the team in tackles Sept. 29.



Wyatt Schuyler runs his hardest looking to gain some yards.

Photo courtesy of Challenge

Freshmen lack experience

By Elliott Tinnes

The West Chicago freshman football team suffered a devastating loss to conference rival Glenbard North Oct. 11.

Freshman head coach Ward Rau factors the team's lack of experience into the loss.

"They really weren't overall better athletes, it was just a matter of experience and experience as a team," said Rau.

Rau credited Glenbard North's performance to the fact that many of their players had much more experience and had played together as a team longer than West Chicago's players had.

The team made a few per-

sonnel changes in preparation for their game. A new offensive formation called "Rhino" was thrown into the playbook. In this offense the team's bigger players are used as backs. Freshman Jeff Gilbert was used as both a running and blocking back and did very well, according to Rau. It was used several times with success and it also spread the Glenbard defense, opening up the passing game for West Chicago.

Although risky plays are not something that the freshman coaching staff likes to resort to, the team felt it necessary to be risky if they were to stay in the game, said Rau.

Risky decisions started

from the beginning of the second half when the Wildcats unsuccessfully attempted an onside kick. The team then tried new trick plays like pitch passes and reverse.

All was attempted in vain, though, with the game ending in a Wildcat loss 33-0.

Although it was Wheaton North's homecoming Oct. 4, the Falcons traveled to West Chicago to duke it out in the mud with We-go's freshmen football team. Cold, rainy weather reflected the mood of the game as both teams battled the elements as well as each other.

The game ended in an unfortunate 28-0 loss to Wheaton North.

Sophomore football team honing talent on the field

By Josh Winquist

Sophomore T.J. Shanahan's 40-yard touchdown pass to sophomore Dan Harms wasn't enough to defeat Wheaton North on Oct. 5.

These were the only points put on the scoreboard for the Cats.

Coach Randy Zeitler said, "Our offense played very inconsistently."

The defense gave up three big plays that allowed Wheaton North to score 23 points.

On Oct. 6 the Cats B-team lost a close game 20-16 losing in the last minute.

"We still played well," said Zeitler.

West Aurora was no match

for the Wildcats on Sept. 28.

In We-Go's homecoming game offense gained a total of 409 yards.

Sophomore Brad Bytof and sophomore Elliott Tinnes both rushed for over 100 yards.

Tinnes had a 93-yard run for a touchdown, and Bytof ran back a punt to the 5 yard line.

Defense only let one touchdown slip through. Harms' tackle stopped a West Aurora touchdown attempt.

Wheaton-Warrenville South took advantage of two hurt starters during the game on Sept. 21 ending the game with a score of 21-0.

Offense lost two good

players that made it hard for the sophomores to get a drive going.

Sophomore Andy Denniger sprained a ligament in his leg, and sophomore Eric Oglanian ripped some ligaments in his groin.

Wheaton-Warrenville South then took to throwing fades over the defensive backs heads, and scoring three touchdowns.

Naperville North was able to squeeze an 8-7 victory over the Wildcats on Sept. 14.

We-Go was in control of the game all the way until the end when Naperville North took advantage of a missed field goal.

They drove the ball down

the field and scored a touchdown and a two-point conversion.

Tinnes scored for the Wildcats on a 10-yard run in the second quarter, but that was all they managed to score.

It was a tough loss for the sophomores against Glenbard East Sept. 7.

In the first quarter the offense was able to move the ball and the defense also made some stops including a goal line standoff, but it wasn't enough. The final score of the game was 26-0, dropping the sophomore record to 1-2.

In the second week of the season the sophomores improve their record to 1-1. The

final score of the game was 20-12.

Batavia scored on two breakaway runs, but failed to make any extra points. Tinnes said, "Our defense played strong the whole game, Batavia just broke for two touchdowns."

Offensively Denniger broke a 99-yard touchdown run which broke IHSA and DVC records for the longest sophomore run for a touchdown.

The last two seasons have been very promising for the sophomore football team. In the 1999 season the team managed a record of 6-2-1. Last year's team record was 5-4.

"Our defense looks strong, and our offensive play depends on how the line blocks, and there is a battle for the quarter back spot between T.J. Shanahan and Zack Hedger," said Zeitler

There is talent existent at the wingback position as well.

Brad Bytof and Elliott Tinnes look solid, Zeitler said.

Zeitler also said some talents on the defensive side of the field include sophomore Hulices Davalos at defensive-end, sophomore Nick Fairbanks at nose guard, and sophomore Ryan Stuhr at the strong safety spot.