

Wildcat Chronicle

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West Chicago Community
High School
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Thursday, March 21, 2002

Governor's proposed budget means program cuts at We-go

By Nicole Patel

Governor George Ryan's budget proposal for the next school year hurts District 94 by significantly decreasing the amount of money the district receives.

The proposal seeks to turn money that was generally given to schools in grant form into money given to the schools in the form of State Aid, based on a formula.

If the new formula is implemented, District 94's return will be approximately 10 percent of the lost funds.

If put into effect, the change would cause the high school to lose \$241,000.

According to Superintendent Lee Rieck, "The bilingual program would be most effected. It would lose \$151,000 in funding."

To combat the proposed legislation the school board has been talking to State Representative Tom Johnson.

Rieck said, "In current form, the legislation will not

pass."

The board also wrote a letter to the State expressing their concern against the new legislation.

Rieck said that District 94 currently has a sufficient fund reserve for a year if the legislation does go through.

As far as the immediate ramifications the budget would have, Rieck said, "It is too early to say."

Until legislation is passed, the board cannot be certain what programs, teachers, and departments will be effected and more importantly, by how much.

As far as other districts in the area, Rieck said that, "A number of districts in the area will lose money. District 33 will lose \$1 million."

District 33 is busily working to combat the new legislation, as well. They are members of a group called L.E.N.D. that is working to oppose the legislation.

If the State takes on this

action, there will be a loss of education programming for students, dramatic increases in local funding sources and heavy burdens on local school and government districts.

At the March 5 board of education meeting, the board was still looking at funding the upcoming year's school budget, with increased technology spending high on the list.

Assistant superintendent

of business Gary Grizaffi said the budget included "Spending \$108,000 on updating three of the four business labs, by replacing 75 computers. The business department currently has the oldest computers in the building, dating from 1996 and 1997."

He added that, "In computer terms, five to six years is old."

The business department's primary concern is that the

current computers are unable to adopt current business/office programs that are commonly used in the professional world.

Also discussed was the need to rebuild the dean's and assistant principal office areas.

Board members have received complaints that the office is just too small to deal with the large amounts of students and parents who visit that area on a daily basis.

Computer use fees added to next year's bills

By Mary Beth Selby

Students will be paying more money at registration next year because of new and increasing fees.

Assistant superintendent of business Gary Grizaffi said that students will pay \$80 for a book rental fee, an increase of \$10, and \$25 for a new computer lab usage fee.

"We have always been cutting edge here at Community High School," Grizaffi said when he first addressed the issue at the board of education's committee-of-

the-whole meeting March 5.

"We have a lot of technology that is available to the teachers and students," Grizaffi said.

As a result, a new fee for computer lab usage was also necessary to add. Grizaffi said the lab fee will go into a budget to cover lab maintenance, ink, paper, and any other lab necessities.

The purpose of the lab fee is to help offset the increasing cost of the technology. A warranty covers the technology usage but not the fee

of maintenance.

Courses that use the computers often will not be made to pay more than the flat \$25 fee at registration, said Grizaffi.

"We did a survey to find out what fees other schools charge, and most of the schools make their kids buy their own books, but we haven't done that yet," said Grizaffi.

However, prices of paper and buying the books from the companies are increasing, said Grizaffi.

Choir sings its way through Germany

By Suzanne Smith

Chamber choir sang their way over the rolling hills and countryside of Germany.

They participated in a cultural exchange Feb. 23 to March 4 on an invitation given by West Chicago Mayor Michael Fortner and the West Chicago Sister Cities Association.

Since the chamber choir was already known in the city Taufkerchen for their performances and were a part of the high school, they were chosen to go on the trip, said Fortner.

He said he contacted the choir boosters and Superintendent Lee Rieck for this trip, and it was approved.

"We really wanted it to happen, but we were afraid it would get called off if any acts of terrorism were to hap-

pen," sophomore Tami Kuta said.

The trip was conducted "under the umbrella of the Sister Cities," said president of the SCA Don Smith. The Sister Cities provided and organized the host families and agenda for the trip.

The group of 26 people, consisting of students, chaperones, a director, and members of the SCA, arrived in Munich to meet their own host families at Munich Airport. The chamber choir included seniors, Darcie Jones, Kael Rewers, Aaron Troy; juniors, Mike Treachler, Liz Valdez, Jim Oroni; and sophomores, Brooke Bachelor, Jenny Buchman, Dana Grant, Kuta, Jenny Veguilla, Jessica Warbiany, and Peggy Werle.

(See Choir page 3)



We-go's chamber choir visited its sister city in Germany. Photo courtesy of Brooke Bachelor

Students voice their opinions on diversity

By Stephanie Bodane

We-go addressed the issue of the diversity within the school by conducting interviews with the students and staff.

During the week of Feb. 25 students and staff volunteered to help We-go take their first major step in looking at diversity.

The idea for looking at the diversity issue began three years ago, but it wasn't until about two years ago that the school asked the staff to look into the issue.

The school developed a committee in which staff members were able to develop ideas on getting students' and staff's thoughts on diversity.

Assistant principal Gail Aronoff and Superintendent Lee Rieck run the committee and together they helped to recruit students and create questions.

"It was basically random (choosing students). What I did was recruit them. I went into study hall, commons and the ASC and asked for volunteers," said Aronoff.

Over 100 students had initially volunteered for the interviews, although after a slight set back with a change in dates, only 30-35 students were present.

The school also selected a number of Hispanic students who only spoke Spanish. An interpreter was present to help translate.

The Hispanic students were also volunteers from the ESL classes in the school.

"Parents were also interviewed. We pulled names from the computer. We also asked parents from a bilin-

gual group in the high school," said Aronoff.

With the interviews completed, the administration plans to look at the results and see if there are common themes.

The school will continue examining diversity into next year and plans to have more opportunities for students to voice their opinions.

They would also like to send a questionnaire out to all the students in hopes of receiving more personal opinions, said Aronoff.

"Diversity isn't just about the type of student, it's about all the differences in school. It is about the uniqueness of everyone on staff and in the school," said Aronoff.

Instead of only talking to a selected amount of staff members, Aronoff added that they would also like to include talking to deans, the police liaisons, and even more administrators.

The committee would like to get more specific and add more information to the results.

"We were pleased with the interviews. The people we interviewed were very insightful and useful as we move ahead," said Rieck.

Aronoff added, "Anytime students can give input, we hope they'll do that. We really value the student opinion."

She encouraged students to participate in future discussions.

"Please participate, exercise your student rights to voice your opinion. Students should embrace opportunity, no matter what it is," Aronoff said.

New career center can help you with career choices

By Sam West

A new center, specially designed to help students with their career choices, is open in the guidance department.

"It is a center for students to come down to the guidance center and they can get on various websites (for career and college information)," sponsor Scott Krebsbach said.

Students can go to the center any free hour or study period they have.

It is open to everyone, although most users are juniors and seniors.

Krebsbach said, "I've been the main force behind making (the career center) more student-friendly." But the career center has been a collective effort between all the guidance counselors, Krebsbach said.

According to Krebsbach, guidance counselors have been letting students know about the career center since early first semester, when it opened.

The career center is located next to counselor Ward Rau's office. It is located in the guidance office so that students are close to their guidance counselor if they have any questions.

Also, there will be plenty of help from the counselors who know how to use the center's resources.

According to guidance department chair Maura Bridges, a website has been built just for the career center.

It can be reached by going to the school's homepage, clicking on "Guidance and Counseling," then clicking on the blue word "careers."

Once on the career site, there is a choice of where you want to find a job. Just click on any link and you get to the daily news segment.

To search for careers, click on the search link at the top of the page.

The career center could also be used as a college search engine as well.

When the Guidance and Counseling page comes up,

there is also a blue link with the word "colleges."

There are many links to Illinois colleges, and college searches as well. Students are encouraged to use both the careers and college searches.

At home, students can get to the site by typing www.cx.bridges.com.

On Feb. 28, there was a career center open house for the teachers.

"(The open house was) for teachers to stop in and become more knowledgeable about it," Krebsbach said.

The open house was important because it gave teachers information about the center.

The teachers then could recommend that a student should go down there and explore the resources.

The idea of a career center was conceived last year.

"We determined that there was a need for a resource center for students to go to and look for careers," said Krebsbach.

Bridges said that there was an old career center that wasn't readily accessible to students.

"It didn't come about to be a useful place," Bridges said.

The new career center is more student-friendly. Bridges said, "We have worked at trying to make it

usable."

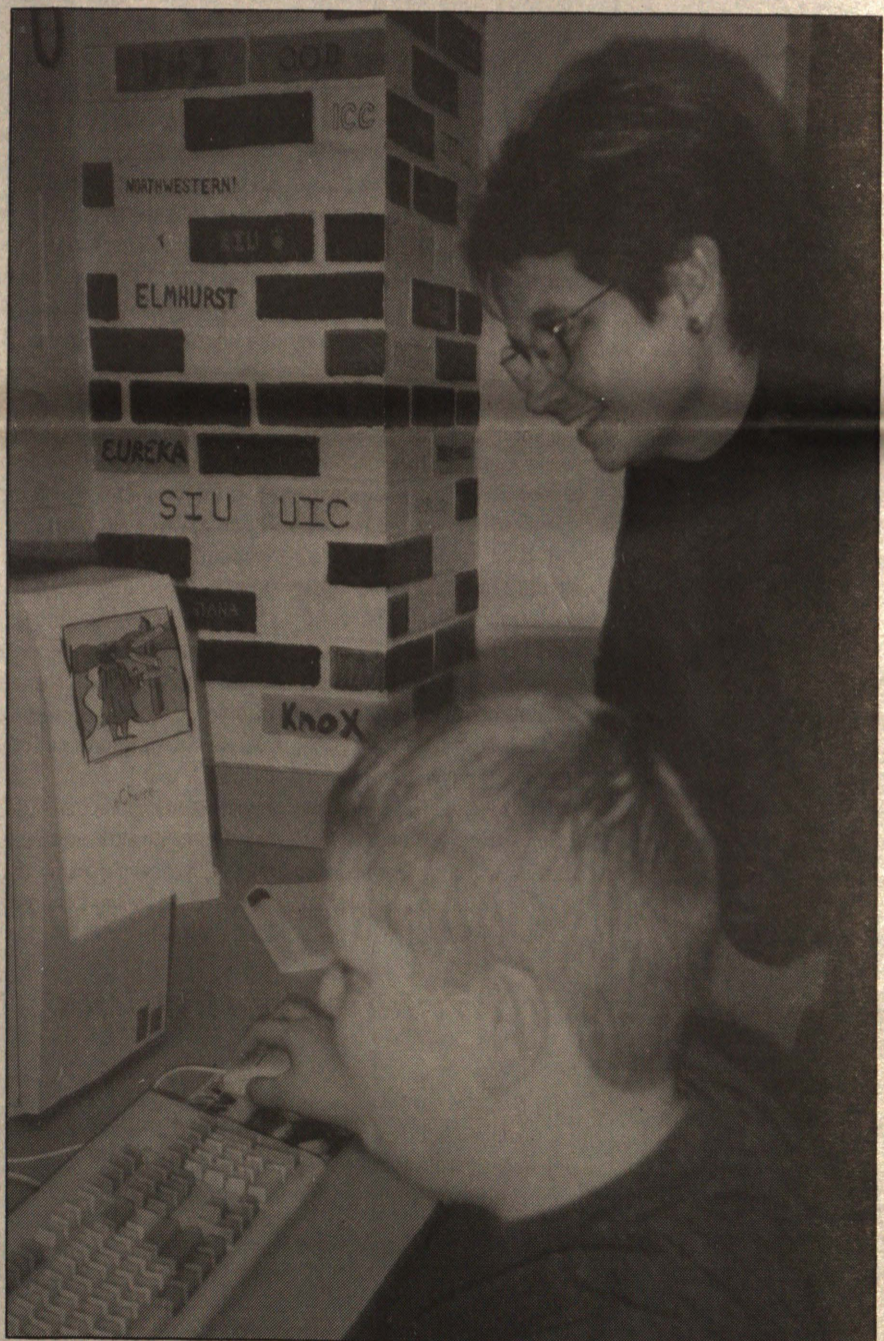
So far, the career center has been successful. At least one class has come to use the center, Bridges said.

"I think students are using it, but we want students to use it more," she said.

Bridges thinks it is important for freshmen and sophomores to use the career center, too.

It gives them a head start on learning what they want to do after high school.

By starting the career/college search earlier, "(Students) will have some career ideas and know effectively what they will do after high school," Bridges said.



Staff photo

Guidance counselor Peg Arnold coaches a student in We-go's new career center.

And the votes are in...

By Suzanne Smith

Leaders are in place after the government elections, which were held recently.

Democrats hold the majority with 98, the republican minority has 73, and one libertarian.

The elections committee held the elections March 6 during all lunch hours.

Speaker of the house candidates included Matt Neumann and Marc Berry. Seniors Harley Gardner and Jamie Nadolny ran for majority floor leader. Seniors Aaron Troy and Tyler Belding ran for minority floor leader.

These students came into school prior to elections for

interviews to show their classmates who they were and why they felt they would be a good candidate for the position.

The results of the election were Berry for speaker of the house, Gardner for majority floor leader, and Troy as minority floor leader.

The first session for com-

mittee hearings is scheduled for April 4 in the LRC. Government students will present their bill to a selected committee so the committee can decide if the bill should be further discussed.

Each committee will vote to decide if the bill should be presented during the full session on April 26.

Wildcat Chronicle
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The Wildcat Chronicle is the student newspaper at West Chicago Community High School. The views and opinions of the Wildcat Chronicle do not necessarily reflect the majority of the staff or the student body.

Any suggestions or comments for the newspaper can be delivered to the adviser Laura Kuehn in room 320.

Letters to the editor should be signed if they are meant to be printed. The newspaper has the right to exclude any letters that are inappropriate, and has the right to edit letters for space.

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

German plays schwimming to the top with fun

By Marc Berry

"Best use of 'Schwimringe'" isn't a category you'll find at most awards ceremonies.

It was one of the top honors, however, at this year's annual German plays.

"Schwimringe," by the way, is German for "love handles" or "swim floaties." It was the word of the year, and each play was required to use it in one form or another.

The award in question went to the mock commercial, "Kauf Schwimringe," with Josh Lundquist, Jeff Burgess, Rob Casey, and Bryan Loslo.

All first year German students put on short commercials, while fourth year students performed seven-minute skits.

Other award winners included "Lederhosen Mitgliedkarte" for "most surprising" and "Bring Es An" for "best choreography."

"Nur Sieben Minuten" won a slew of awards, including "best use of props," "best overall play" and "people's choice award." The German 4 play, starring Tyler Belding, Austen Fuchs, Mike Masschelin, Harold Visser, Ben Keller, Paul Elson, Mark Hopkins, and Mike Brown included characters such as Michael

Choir...

(Continued from page 1)

After rehearsing for a month and a half, chamber choir put on four formal performances and four informal performances.

They had to prepare eight new songs to perform in Germany.

They performed concerts at Freising Gymnasium and Dorfen Gymnasium after observing student life at their schools, said choir director Lisa Smith.

"They were so responsive to the songs we sang," Kuta said.

Kuta said the Germans would clap when they wanted an encore.

They had to sing "Praise His Holy Name" several times over.

Smith said, "The Germans in Taufkerchen/Vil were really proud of the West Chicago students and just fell in love with them."

The chamber choir performed for the Bavarian Minister of Arts and Sciences at the Taufkirchen Center.

On the final night, they performed in a grand concert in Taufkirchen.

Flatley, Bill Clinton, Pikachu, Bobby Hill, Mr. Clean (or "Herr Sauber"), Ross Perot, and Janet Reno, among others. It wasn't necessary to understand German to appreciate the brilliance behind the performance.

"We use alternate means of communication such as props and costumes," said Strohm.

The play's name was a result of some of the students' bitterness over the time limits set on the lengths of the plays.

According to Strohm, there weren't always time limits. However, the growing number of students in the German program made it necessary to allow time for everyone to perform.

In past years, students' grades have been lowered for going over the time limit.

Strohm said that the students had a shorter amount of time than usual to practice and go over their plays, causing Strohm to take away this penalty.

Judges this year were made up entirely of former students, with the exception of one parent.

Winners won ribbons with the name of the award attached. German Club was responsible for giving the ribbons, and the programs and awards committee was assigned the task of contacting the judges. Strohm said her involvement in the event was limited.

"I wanted to keep it as student run as possible," she said.

This was not a mistake, apparently, as Strohm said she

was happy with the plays this year.

"Things went fairly smoothly, and I'm already looking forward to next year's performance," she said.

Strohm said if there was one thing that she would change for next year, it would be having a discussion with the German classes beforehand on what is appropriate.

It wasn't all acting, though. Time was taken for a hula-hoop contest, in which Frau Strohm beat the competing parents. She was not so fortunate, however, when it came to challenging students. A ribbon was given out for this contest as well.

Although hula-hoop contests are new to We-go, the German plays themselves are not. This is the 26th year the

event has been held.

Strohm started it her first year at We-go. It went over well and when she asked her students if they wanted to do it the following year, they reacted positively.

"I didn't want to force them to do it. I only wanted to do them if the students did," said Strohm.

It has been tradition ever since.

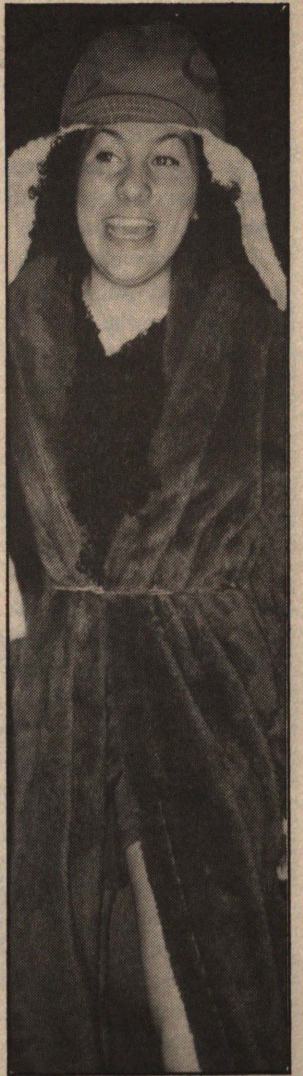
"I've always loved doing the plays. I get good feedback afterwards, every year" said Strohm.

However, the plays were quite different when they first started.

In the first years, the plays were already written and the students had no involvement in creating them - only performing them.

After a couple of years, though, the students decided it would be better if they wrote the plays on their own, said Strohm.

Those who missed the "Schwimringe" excitement can see something similar when the French plays are held on April 10.



Staff photo
Krystal Muhlberger tips her hat for German plays.

Sharks, park swimming for solution

By Suzanne Smith

The West Chicago Park District and the West Chicago Sharks swim teams are trying to compromise on a solution regarding pool hours at We-go.

When the pool was made, an intergovernmental agreement was made to allow both the Park District and Sharks to use the pool after school.

Problems including young kids swimming later at night and on weekends have occurred since the agreement began. The board of education was brought into the situation to reconcile this problem between the programs.

"To be good in swimming, or any sport, you need to start early with young kids in a club or organization," said West Chicago Sharks team coach,

Dan Johnson.

He said the kids need to practice a lot, but both programs until 5:30 p.m. can not use the pool. The two programs had to arrange practice times, but more practice slots are needed.

Johnson said he doesn't want to take away the Park District programs, but he also didn't want his younger swimmers swimming late at night.

The Sharks program is a nonprofit organization with a parent board. The parents are very active and involved in their child's swimming, Johnson said.

All of the sports combined at We-go don't compare to the 12 years of awards that the swim team has achieved, Johnson said

Many of the swimmers who compete at the high school level have also participated in Sharks when they were younger, Johnson said.

They have had four state champions, nine high school All-Americans, over 30 all-state competitors, one Wildcat state trophy, and the most top 10 state finishes of any Wildcat athletic team.

After many years of pool hour problems, the board of education is planning to make minor modifications to improve the situation between the two programs, said Johnson.

"I think we're on the right step now," Johnson said.

He said the school has been very supportive and willing to make the pool adjustments.

Art making a wildcat impression

By Ashley Griskell

The Art Club, also known as the Wildcat Impressions, recently participated in Artworks.

All of their creations were displayed in commons on

Saturday.

If you missed the show you can still see a display case of some of their work outside of room 192 by entrance A.

The Art Club's goal is to help anyone who likes to

paint, sketch, visit galleries and work with others that have the same interests in this particular art.

They mostly work on banners, t-shirt designs, posters and murals.

Other performers included Bavarian folk dancers, folk and contemporary singers, the Taufkirchen Middle School big band, Smith and pianist Karen Treachler, and the Dorfen's men's choir.

Along with their performances came touring cities of Germany including Taufkirchen, and Salzburg.

They toured Mozart's birth house in Salzburg and saw churches and cathedrals that were built in 747 AD.

They had an impromptu performance at a cathedral in

Salzburg, Smith said.

The students also spent time with their host families. The host parents had children that were also teenagers.

Grant said the Germans were embarrassed to talk English because they thought they weren't saying the words right.

Valdez said her host family made her feel like she was with her own family.

Grant said she taught her host sister a card game and they couldn't stop until the

host sister won.

Mayor Fortner said he thought the students were great ambassadors for the city and they put on wonderful performances. He said it was a great experience to learn so much about another country given the events of Sept. 11.

Smith said it's great to have so many countries find peace through the SCA, despite the recent and past events that the world has gone through.

Other countries involved are Russia, Poland, Hungary, and Japan.

Math team divides for state

By Mary Beth Selby

Math team is sending junior Pat Bauer to the State Math Competition at University of Illinois on April 27.

Supervisor Aaron Hayes said Bauer will compete in the individual competition for the advanced algebra division.

Bauer placed third highest against 66 other students at the regional competition on Feb. 23.

Bauer and Sean Warren were the only juniors to take part in the competition.

Hayes said they single-handedly took fourth place out of 11 teams.

"They were one point away from taking third place and going to state," said Hayes.

At the DVC competition on Feb. 20, Geoff Palka and Bauer placed in the top 10 for the junior tests.

Despite the continuous practice math team had two times a week to prepare for the final meet of the season on March 7, the team only scored 30 points out of a possible 300.

"We could only take about half the team to the meet," said Hayes.

Only one senior, three juniors, three sophomores, and

four freshmen attended the meet.

Because of the lack of team members, most of the kids took two tests, said Hayes.

The freshmen took the freshmen and sophomore tests, sophomores took the sophomore and junior tests, and the juniors and seniors took the junior and senior tests.

There were no individual awards won, but freshman Amanda Messiah scored 8 points on the sophomore test that greatly contributed to the cumulative score.

"She was very happy when she found out how well she had done," said Hayes.

Gaining a total of 30 points placed the West Chicago math team 50 out of 55 teams total at the meet.

Their total score for the season was 549 points of a total 1700, ranking them 41.

Due to their score for the 2001-02 season, the West Chicago team will be in the fourth division of the North Suburban Math League next year.

"I think all three of the coaches now have a better idea of how to practice and prepare the team next year for each of the meets," said Hayes.

LifeSmarts takes first in state, nationals next

By Marc Berry

The We-go LifeSmarts team came in first at the state competition on March 12.

They will travel to Washington D.C. April 13-16 to participate in the national LifeSmarts competition.

Team members are Hilary Blanchard, Alice Hultquist, Ben Keller, Geoff Palka, and Nicole Patel.

The five seniors will travel by plane with LifeSmarts coach and consumer education teacher Don Zabelin. Zabelin is also the state coordinator of the LifeSmarts competition.

In D.C., they will compete against schools from 35 states. Each state has only one school representing it at the competition.

"I hope we can be excellent representatives of Illinois," said Zabelin.

Zabelin said Wisconsin and Minnesota both have strong teams and will put up some tough competition for We-go's team.

Zabelin said he is looking for ways to fund the trip, as it is necessary for the team to come up with money for the air travel, hotel, and any other expenses.

Some money will be donated by agencies that support LifeSmarts, but that will not be enough, according to Zabelin.

Zabelin said that fundraisers have been considered, but nothing is definite yet.

Although the team will be in Washington D.C. for four days, they will only compete for three of them. Zabelin said that the extra time will be used to visit the various monuments and museums.

In order to qualify for the national competition, We-go had to beat out four other schools at state. These schools included Streator High School, West Aurora High School, Naperville North High School, and Naperville Central High School.

Although seven schools qualified for the competition, only five showed up.

We-go and Naperville Central each had two teams

that competed.

Members of teams were chosen after performing well in online LifeSmarts tests.

Both of We-go's teams played Naperville Central in the opening match and both teams came from behind to defeat the school.

The only time that West Chicago lost during the competition was when one of We-go's teams beat the second We-go team.

The two teams were forced to face each other to determine which one would go on to the finals. Members of the losing team included Lisa Calabrese, Dan Carncross, Jon Merrick, and Brad Spata.

The winning team then went on to face and defeat Naperville North for the privilege to attend the national competition. We-go won 105-50.

According to Zabelin, We-go already had the win with four or five questions still left in the match.

"The kids were really excited when they won," said Zabelin.

The state competition, now in its sixth year, was held at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

Judges and officials included representatives from Consumer Credit Counseling of Greater Chicago, the Federal Trade Commission, the Better Business Bureau, the Illinois Attorney General's

Office, the Illinois Treasurer's Office, the Illinois State Board of Education, and DeVry University.

There were three rounds to each face-off in the competition.

The first round was individual, where a member has to answer a question on his or her own with a time limit of 10 seconds. The second round is team, which is similar to individual, except the whole team has 10 seconds to discuss a question amongst themselves.

The final round is the challenge round, where it is necessary for contenders to buzz in when they know the answer to the question. The first person to buzz in gets five seconds to answer.

We-go's team spent a lot of time practicing and preparing for the competition beforehand. They did this by studying various consumer related materials, taking practice tests on the internet, and holding practice sessions before and after school.

The team also borrowed scholastic bowl's buzzer system to prepare for the challenge round.

According to Zabelin, being able to buzz in quicker than the other contenders is a very important aspect of the round.

Zabelin said that the team will continue to practice, now that they are going to nationals.

Key Club "moooving" money for charity project

By Erica Fatigato

The Key Club is looking for money to buy cows in March as a part of Project Heifer to send livestock to undeveloped countries.

"This project provides help to undeveloped countries and gives them economic development," said Key Club sponsor Ward Rau.

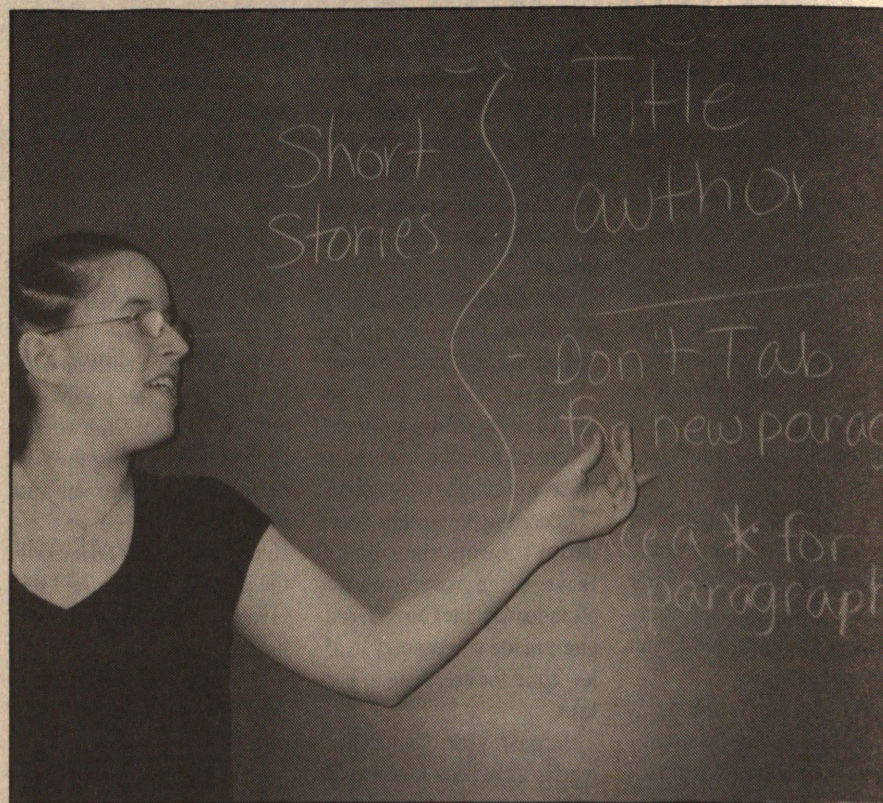
The people who receive the cow will breed it and then pass on the offspring to the people around them, Rau said.

This is called "passing on the gift." It is helping many people, not just one person, said Rau.

One cow costs \$500. To raise funds the club set up a table to collect money during lunch hours. Students also donated in money jars in the lunch check out lines.

In other business, the Key Club got a taste of the West Chicago Fire Department and Kiwanis chili festival recently.

The Key Club donated the



Jessica Myers reviews steps literary magazine members should follow.

Staff Photo

Literary magazine goes for the final read

By Mary Beth Selby

Literary magazine is looking forward to finishing the 2002 issue this month.

"The magazine is in its final production stages. We could possibly be done putting it together by the end of the month," said supervisor Andrea Cipcich.

The magazine is divided into six themes, intolerance, decisions; love and loss, etcetera, education, and war and peace.

Each theme consists of short stories, essays, poetry,

or art students submitted.

"We have two short stories, about two or three essays, and poetry," said Cipcich. "We also got a lot of colored and black and white photos from the photography classes."

The design will be a group contemplation of all important things to the magazine members from this year, said Cipcich.

"I think we have a good selection of writing. People will not be disappointed," said Cipcich.

Once the magazine is fin-

ished and sent to the company Quiccopy, Cipcich will send out messages to all the students that have some of their work published in the Mind's Eye.

The literary magazine is also waiting for news on what kind of rating they were awarded for the 2001 Mind's Eye from the NCTE.

The magazine will sell during lunch hours in late April or early May and will cost \$2.

The club will also have their end of the year party sometime in May.

Making prom affordable with resale

By Suzy Smith

The All Night Long After Prom committee will make prom more affordable by hosting a prom resale at Ge'Mar salon, April 15 to April 20.

The sale includes formal gowns, shoes, and purses for cash only.

Also, students can sell their own dresses at the sale if they register as a seller.

They need to pick up a flier in the attendance office or contact Becky Koltz at 231-0657.

Anyone who comes to the sale can enter a raffle for free hair and nail services.

The sale hours are April 15, noon to 8 p.m.; April 16 and 17, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; April 18, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; April 19, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and April 20, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Chocolate on Spanish Club's mind

By Heather Ballek

The Spanish Club is going to the Field Museum to see the "Chocolate" exhibit April 14.

Spanish Club sponsor Sue Junkroski said the exhibit relates to Spanish culture because chocolate comes from Central America where Spanish speakers live.

In other business, Spanish Club met for breakfast on Feb 1.

The club is also interested in finding someone to teach them traditional Salsa dancing.

Spanish Club meets two to three times a month on Wednesday morning in room 403.

Voices take first in democracy contest

By Sean McTighe

Jeff Cisowski and Rhian Randall tied for first place in the Voice of Democracy contest.

Cisowski also took first at the district level.

Twenty-nine West Chi-

cago students entered the competition. The students wrote and recorded a short speech. The topic of this year's contest was "Reaching out to America's Future."

The speeches were judged by a panel of judges from the

local Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Ladies Auxiliary, and a teacher.

The contest began after World War II and is held annually. For the past 10 years, Community High School has taken part in the contest. The

contest is also held at district, state, and national levels.

This year's contest was sponsored by the VFW and the Auxiliary. Teacher Mary Rash and guidance counselor Peg Arnold sponsored the students.

Cheerleading talent tapped for next year's squads

By Nina Slater

The West Chicago cheerleading program held tryouts Saturday, March 2 for the 2002-03 seasons.

The football/basketball squad welcomed 19 varsity cheerleaders and 14 sophomores for next year.

Norah McAvoy and Nikki Schar are the varsity captains. The sophomore captains will be determined at the end of the summer. This allows the coach, Patty Clifford, to get to know the girls and their abilities before deciding captain.

Soccer/wrestling accepted 11 varsity and 10 junior varsity members. Captains are Melissa Deutsch and Nina Slater.

Junior varsity captains will also be chosen after summer practices and camp.

Football/basketball varsity members include Sarah Assian, Stephanie Geissman, Kirsten Goronson, Stephanie Hicks, Beth Kipp, Mandi Kvasnicka, Lauren Mroz, Lindsay Nash, Christina Orda, Bridgette Sanzeri.

Potential poms point and smile

By Nina Slater

Poms held tryouts for next year's squad Thursday, Feb. 28.

The poms welcomed 16 members this year. Their three captains are Lisa Martin, Sarah Wood, and Hope Vock. Last year's squad voted on the captains, the seniors making the final decision.

The hardest part of tryouts was the speed routine, but also the fear that you wouldn't make it, said sophomore Molly Knaak.

"Even though I was somewhat afraid, it didn't matter because I knew that I would try my best," she said.

The members of the new poms squad are Brittany Boehm, Kelly Williams, Courtney Mathias, Nicole Brown, Molly Knaak, Jill Novak, Emily Doll, Jamie Hall, Caitlin Riermaier, Emily Gehrke, Mandi Fischer, Kim Mueller and Melanie Stone.

Martin had a little advice for anyone who wants to try out next year.

"You have to make sure that you have the commitment to the sport. There are a lot of practices, and the outfits and camp are a little costly. Most of all, just try your hardest, point your toes and smile," Martin said.

Shaila Shallcross, Megan Shane, Kelly Siekmann, Jorie Vlach, Maggie Wdowiarz, Laura Wheeland and Kelley Whitman.

Their sophomore squad welcomes Jessica Boyd, Lilli Cassidy, Alyssa Giliberto, Denise Gonzalez, Jamie Klingberg, Vicki Lawn, Paula Mazzola, Christina Mazzone, Lindsay Pater, Lana Paulsen, Marisa Pavone, Katie Rehbock, Cassidy Schyler and Vanessa Vergara.

The soccer/wrestling squad also includes Missy Boorsma, Lindsey Doerr, Becky Eagles, Jenny Kammes, Jenna Pelej, Linsey Perez, Julie Polz, Arianna Robles and Jenn Zimmerman.

The members of their junior varsity squad are Jenny Baker, Katie Desik, Leny Escobedo, Lena Gomez, Becca Kimber, Sam Kleczewski, Kristen Redden, Lindsey Stern, Kristy Skogsberg and Danielle Zirbes.

Operation Snowball is gearing up and ready to roll

By Kyle Bullis

Operation Snowball is gearing up and ready to roll in April, and applications are ready to go out for students to register.

Operation Snowball is "not another 'Don't Do Drugs' program," said program sponsor Cathy Thielberg.

It's a discussion group run for teens, by teens, and a few adults to supervise.

It's a discussion group where teens can sit down and talk to one another about all kinds of issues.

Typical issues will include drugs, alcohol, but the program is open to any kind of problem that might be brought up, Thielberg said.

Violence, not having a date, pressure, as well as family issues will be among the few topics the groups will discuss.

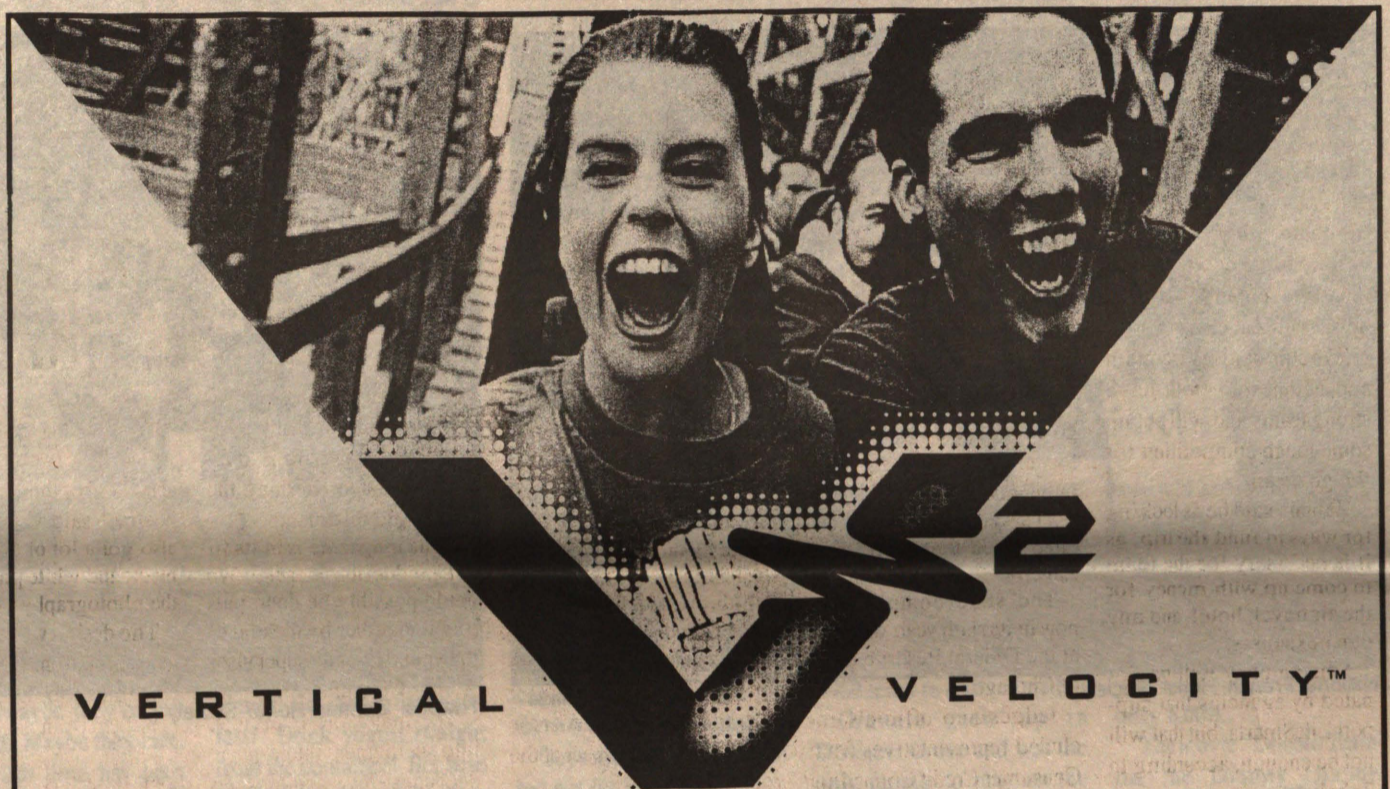
The session will be

held from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on April 12, which is a shortened day.

Students will get locked in the school and talk about any problems or issues that are brought up.

During the session, groups will be divided into general sessions, mini workshops, and small groups.

Each one will be doing different activities that revolve around all the discussions.



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Members inducted into foreign language national honor society

By Nina Slater
The National French, German and Spanish Honor Societies inducted 60 students March 5.

New members in the French National Honor Society (Societe Honoraire de Francais) are Ellen Briggs, Jennifer Buchman, Kirsten Chase, Tim Dupree, Mena Gentile, Sarah Hasse, Leigh Hellman, Erin Linsenmeyer, Melissa Prusko, Judith Reza, Ruben Valenzuela, Adriana Vargas and Daliana Vargas.

The German National Honor Society (Delta Epsilon Phi) welcomed Sarah Altergott, Jason Becker, Phil Buksa, Stephen Butt, Leanna Czernik, Luke Dean, Thomas Grove, Daniel Harms, Emy Krauspe, Amy Lichtfuss, Jesse Lord, Lisa Martin, Ryan Masschelin, Brian Means, Erik Nelson, Ernesto Romo, Carrie Savaglio, Roger Strike and Jackie Vavrek.

Spanish National Honor Society (Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica) also includes

Brooke Bachelor, Alyssa Campagnoni, Sandy Edlund, Heather Goorley, Dana Grant, Christine Harris, Krista Johnson, Andrew Kiger, Hillary Lim, Michael Liszka, Janine Loewe, Courtney Mathias, Rachael McKenney, Alethea Norton, Brett Palmer, Jenna Pelej, Kristen Rocha, Kim Rovtar, Carl Sauter, Nina Slater, Shaina Sullivan, Justin Taylor, Marlene Uy, Jorie Vlach, Kathryn Walker, Jessica Warbiany, Amanda Weier and Sam West.



National Spanish Honor Society

Photo by Mary Randle



National French Honor Society

Photo by Mary Randle



National German Honor Society

Photo by Mary Randle

Students exceed standards for Prairie State Achievement

By Stephanie Bodane
Nearly 100 Community High School students have received award certificates for excellence on the 2001 Prairie State Achievement Exam.

The awards were issued for students who exceeded the Illinois Learning Standards on one or more of the academic tests from that exam.

These tests included five subject areas: reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies.

In addition to the award certificates, their scores have been entered on their transcripts with an indication that they have exceeded the standards in their given areas.

Their names will also be included in the Honors Night Program as recipients of the award.

Principal Alan Jones sent letters of congratulations to the following students and their parents: Edward Abante, Carly Anderson, Joshua Aramburu, Christine Austin, Daniel Bajor, John

Baker, Brandon Becker, Tyler Belding, Marc Berry, Hilary Blanchard, Bradley Bolton, Jennifer Boyd, Zack Brantley, Matthew Bridges, Lisa Calabrese, Joseph Caniano, Daniel Carncross, and Nicholas Carter.

Also, Anthony Ciolino, John Contreras, Michelle Cosco, Anthony Delege,



Sean Dieter, Courtner Dorn, Kurt Fenner, Christopher Gerber, Dan Godoy, Margaret Grossmayer, Sarah Gwynne, Andrew Hein, Matthew Hofer, Mark Hopkins and Alice Hultquist.

Also, William Inch, Darcie Jones, Mary-Megan Kalvig, Erin Kirby, Maggie Knaak, Brittany Kozlowski, Brian Lanners, Brian Leazenby, Tiffany Lillie, Jonathan Lim, Thomas Macauley, Michael Masschelin, Patrick McCluskey, Brian Mehrman,

Cody Melbourn, Kevin Mestek, and Sarah Meyerholz.

Also, Amanda Mieborg, Lauren Migliorato, Sarah Miller, Martha Mueller, Daniel Murphy, Jamie Nadolny, Matthew Neumann, Christopher Norman, Patrick Norton, Michael Olson, Geoffrey Palka, Nicole Patel, John Pollman, Jaclyn Prena, Heather Prochnow and Jeffrey Raun.

Also, Kael Rewers, William Rocha, Peter Salinas, Kristina Shilling, Michael Slusar, James Smolucha, Arlene Smothers, Bradley Spata, Sean Suwalski, Dariusz Szyszko, Brian Toms, Aaron Troy, Copper Tuma, Theresa Uy, and Steven VanderNaalt.

And Ryan Virnich, Julie Volk, Douglas Walker, Matthew Waterman, Matthew Weber, Julie Wiechert, Christina Wilbur, Nathan Williams, Matthew Wilson, Tom Wojcicki, Jill Wolter, Jason Woodbury, Jason York and Meghan Young.

Students say "Oui" to France

By Kyle Bullis
Twelve students from French 2 and French 3 flew off to Paris, France Tuesday for the annual French trip.

When they arrived in Paris, they headed to Grenoble, a town in the middle of the French Alps.

Marjorie Appel, a French 2 teacher, is leading the group.

In Grenoble, the students will experience life in France.

They will attend the local school and attend class field trips with their French schoolmates, as well as living with French families.

"The students will be able to use their knowledge in real life situations," said Appel.

After ten days in Grenoble, they will head back to Paris, where they will stay in a hotel, and do some sightseeing.

They plan to visit the Eiffel Tower and other Paris land-

marks. The students will then fly back April 1.

The participating students are juniors Daisy Correa, Rebecca Dennis, Jose de Jesus Farelas, Vicente Fernandez, William Inch, Beth Kipp, Kate Kostal, Noemi Rodriguez, Kirsten Stockhoff, Kristina Wanous and Sean Warren; and sophomore Stephanie Neumann.

Prom is sure to take your breath away

By Mary Beth Selby
Junior student council is planning to "Take My Breath Away" at prom.

The prom theme is "Take my Breath Away" the love song from Top Gun.

"It's going to be a very big deal and very formal," said junior student council president Nick Bernard.

Currently, the juniors are

trying to line up the DJ, party favors, and teacher invitations, said Bernard.

The \$3,000 the juniors have collected will pay for the event.

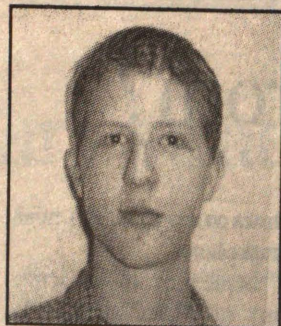
The student council collected money for prom through fundraisers, Krispy Kremes, the Valentine's Day dance, and \$500 VFW donated to them for prom.

Junior student council supervisor Eric Lasky said there will be a 3 vs. 3 basketball tournament for any students and faculty of West Chicago Community High School sometime in April.

"We are also trying to save some money for a senior class gift next year," said Bernard.

Prom will be at The Carlisle in Lombard on May 24.

Berry's Stuff Put off the fake persona



By Marc Berry

So, I'm still working on changing the world. I think I'm getting pretty good at it too. I mean, I'm not planning on going pro or anything — I haven't made an impact equal to that of, say, any of the Welch's grape juice kids or the creators of Chex party mix, but I'd say I'm at least around Gary Coleman status by now.

For instance, since my last article was published, thievery has disappeared completely. Nothing has been stolen from *anyone, anywhere*. It's a small step, but with practice, I think I can make even larger changes. Lying will be a thing of the past, hatred of one's fellow man will disappear, and Waffle Crisp will no longer cut the roof of your mouth.

To get there though, I'm going to have to keep complaining about stuff, and you're going to have to keep reading about it. With this in mind, there is something else that has been bothering me lately, and it rhymes with "stealing." I am, of course, talking about "putting on a fake persona in order to further yourself in life."

This is most common in applications and interviews. For example, a job application may say something like, "Why did you apply for this

position?" The typical response goes something like this: "I desperately want to be part of the fine organization that is (generic fast food restaurant name). I feel I can bring further precedence and vigor to the establishment, even though I don't know what either of those words mean."

Instead of writing what you think they want to hear, write how you really feel. Something like, "I really don't want to work here at all. I just need some quick cash, so I can buy one of those new giant PEZ dispensers"... or, you know, whatever you're into these days. I'm sure they'll appreciate your honesty. And besides, you'll feel better about yourself... Those giant PEZ dispensers have been known to really raise self-esteem.

Too many times, we try to pretend that we are whatever an employer or recruiter wants us to be. But I've decided maybe they don't want us to be anything. Maybe applications have nothing to do with being accepted or rejected. Maybe they're just interested. Maybe they care. And all this time has been spent making up words that no one even stopped to consider the true intentions behind the questions. How are our employers supposed to

help us grow if they don't even know our true motivations?

Next week, I'm going to march right up to my manager — or maybe walk or possibly even stride — and I'm going to tell him that I don't really want to be there. I'm not excited to be a part of the team. And if I didn't work there, I'd never set foot in the place again. Because *that* is where true growth begins.

And as long as we're (I'm) talking about changing things in order to please someone else, I might as well mention all the other things in life that are similar to this. Does it really matter if you eat salad with a special fork? No! Is it really important that the tag of the shirt goes in the back and on the inside? Or that you put certain socks on certain feet? Or that you pour in the cereal and *then* the milk. No! No! and No! Well... maybe yes for that last one... milk first and *then* the cereal. Yeah, that's just weird.

But I stand by everything else I said, and I hope you're with me. Eat breakfast for dinner! Eat dinner for breakfast! Drink yogurt straight from the container! Because it's time for change! It's time for rebellion! It's time for a... for a revolution!... I think. I honestly have no idea what that word means.

Television, America's babysitter

By Sean McTighe

As we look back at all of the atrocities that have occurred in the last decade, we can clearly see that there is something wrong with the moral status of this country.

We look at things like Columbine and the Oklahoma City bombing and think to ourselves what was going through these people's heads that made them think they could commit these heinous crimes?

I think the answer is simple, American families have completely broken down. It is very rare today to see a family sit down and have dinner together.

The modern parent is content if their children are not brought home by the police every night.

It all roots to when these children were young. Instead of sitting down and playing with kids, now parents just sit them in front of the TV. TV has become America's

babysitter.

Parents need to start teaching their kids right from wrong at a very young age. As soon as children are old enough to do wrong, they are old enough to be punished for their wrong.

When we see a mother yelling at her kid in a grocery store we give her a dirty look, while our own kids get away with murder. We need to applaud that mother for teaching her children right from wrong.

Families need to sit down and spend time together. That is why so many teenagers are depressed because they do not feel love coming from anywhere, even their own families.

Whatever happened to the American family? Dad would come home from work and go play catch with his son in the back yard.

Then they would go inside and sit down to the delicious dinner mom spent so much

time on. They would all thank mom for dinner and the kids would even help her out with the dishes afterwards.

The modern day American family is dad comes home, gets a beer out of the fridge, while mom pops in a TV dinner.

No one knows where the kids are, until they come home at all hours of the night. Where have our morals gone?

Our decline in moral value is not to be blamed on TV, movies, or video games, it is to be blamed on the parents that let their kids watch those shows, go see those movies, and let them play those games.

Don't blame things like Columbine on video games and movies, blame it on the parents that had no idea their kids were building pipe bombs in their garage.

The break down of the American family is the single reason our country is in the sad moral shape it is in.

Women impacting the sports world

By Erica Fatigato

Girls today are getting more involved with sports, and not just one sport but a variety of sports.

The commercial is true girls can do anything guys can do, and women are out there trying to prove that.

Guys may dominate sports but not for long.

Girls look up to Mia Hamm as the most recognized female soccer player, who breaks both the men and

women all-time international scoring records.

Then there's Cammi Granato.

She led the 1998 USA women's ice hockey team to the gold, and brought the 2002 team to a silver medal.

Granato grew up in Downers Grove and was the only female to play on the Downers Grove Huskies.

She was criticized for being a girl and playing hockey, and at a tournament

was told girls couldn't play.

So she signed up with a guy's name, Carl, and hid her hair underneath her helmet.

Today over 40,000 registered female hockey players compete compared to 10 years ago when there were only 6,000.

The movie "Double Team" on the Disney channel reaches out to girls and promotes the excitement of basketball.

(See Women page 9)

Terrorism: an excuse to kill innocent people

By Kyle Bullis

Reporter Daniel Pearl was confirmed dead on February 21 when he was killed by his abductors a month after his kidnapping.

He was killed for a religious cause, according to reports. What does this accom-

plish?

If you guessed nothing, you are correct.

For whatever point these Pakistani militants were trying to get across to people, they didn't succeed.

In fact, the only thing they could possibly have done is

make people hate them even more than they already do.

This isn't the first time things like this have happened.

People want to show what they will do for their beliefs, but it amounts to absolutely nothing except a terrified

person, sad families, and dead bodies, not to mention being sought after by an entire nation.

What sort of terror are these people trying to induce on us?

We go to their country and they kidnap one of us, and

then kill him.

Okay, you jerks, we are going to hunt you down and cut off your... get the point?

It only gets people mad. There is no sense of terror sweeping the nation, only an unspeakable hatred and sadness.

But the violence continues, because these people are idiots. They seem to act within their own hate, but it only fuels the fire.

They only want to believe they are "terrorizing" for a good cause to make an excuse to kill innocent people.

How to avoid nasty collisions in the hallway

By Suzanne Smith

Hallways have become roadblocks during passing periods, and precautions need to be taken to fix this problem.

Many students are just trying to get from one class to another, but several things are keeping them from being on time: students who stop in the middle of the hallway, those who walk extremely slow, walking on the wrong side of the hallway, or even racing down the stairs through people who are making their way up the stairs.

One could compare walking in the hallway to driving a car on the road. Like the road, hallways have two lanes with lines down the middle (only they are invisible) where the hall divides.

The American motto is "Walk on the right side." Therefore, when a student walks in the hallway, they are supposed to walk on the right side to prevent potential pushing and shoving. It's really a safety issue. Who wants to be knocked down by their fellow students at We-go? Walking on the right

side could only help the situation.

Now, imagine a crowded hallway, perhaps walking out of commons after a nice filling lunch. Sure, people are tired from eating so much, but that does not mean that they have to walk incredibly slow.

Since the hallway is so crowded with students, it is difficult to pass up the person who is walking in front of them. If the person is walking slowly, it holds up everyone in back of them. Much of the time, the slow walkers don't even realize they are

walking so slowly until somebody shoves through them, causing them to get mad because they just got shoved. The only solution would be to walk FASTER.

The only case where students should be able to walk at their own casual pace would be if the hallway had very few people in it.

Recently, two girls were walking, minding their own business, while someone in front of them just randomly stopped in the middle of the hallway. Maybe the kid was lost. However, stopping in

the middle of the hallway obstructs people from getting to their destination.

Furthermore, hallways have structures called walls. They are meant to lean on, sit against, keep the building standing, and even keep students from standing in the middle of the hallways.

Also, at We-go there are three levels to the school. Stairways are needed to get from one floor to the next. When the stairwells get busy, there is no time for students to be going into the wrong doorway. Again, the right

side of the hallway still attributes to this activity as well.

Many students leave the right side door closed and go through the left doorway. Then, it is to their surprise that they bump into the person in front of them who has followed the right side of the hallway procedure. If they had gone into the right side, the collision would have never happened.

If students walked the halls in a more fashionable manner, they could get to class on time and safely.

Where is Mr. Larson from?

By Brad Larson
(Larson is teaching English in Scotland as a Fulbright Scholar for a year. He writes a column for the Chronicle each issue. Teaching in Larson's place at We-go is Oscar Marletta.)

Everywhere I go, people ask me where I'm from. They hear my American accent and ask me because they're American too and want to make a connection with someone from home, or because they're not American and are curious about how and why I came to be wherever we are when they ask. The trouble is, the answer isn't as simple as it once was.

Once upon a time, I grew up in Michigan. When anybody in the Chicago area asked me from whence I'd come, I'd say Michigan. Even after living in Illinois for eleven years, I still had a hard time considering myself an Illinoisan. When I went "home" after school each day I went to Batavia. When I went home I went to Michigan.

If I was somewhere else in the United States and somebody inquired, I'd say I was from Chicago, though that wasn't exactly true—it was just a handy approximation which saved me the trouble of having to explain where Batavia is.

Furthermore, because I've taught in West Chicago I have many more personal and professional connec-

tions there than in Batavia. I didn't exactly live in West Chicago, but some days it felt like I did. Now I live in Glasgow. Am I a Glaswegian? Are you confused yet?

I never dreamed I'd have a residence in both the United States and Europe simultaneously, though I now do. I even own cars on both continents. In my case, the sound of this is much more romantic than the reality of the situation, though it is true all the same.

I can even vote in both the United States and the United Kingdom—seriously.

I answered a knock at my door one September evening. The council registrar was stopping by to make sure the residents of the flat were signed up to vote. He asked me if I wanted to register. I told him I was not a U.K. citizen.

He said it didn't matter. I registered to vote, though I forgot to ask where the nearest polling place would be.

So, I visit a castle, a church, or a friend and am asked to sign a guest book. As yet I have no problem with filling in the slot for my name (thankfully), but when I come to the part where I'm supposed to write down my address I'm not quite sure what to do. I live in Glasgow. I'm most recently from Batavia, but if that is a relatively unknown place in the United States, for most Europeans it

might as well be on the bottom side of a rock in Saturn's third ring.

I even run into people who ask me where, exactly, Chicago is. So, I'm still trying to figure out what to put down as my address...

O.K. I have to admit it: I've taken to putting down "Glasgow and Chicago," both because it most conveniently approaches the truth, and (mostly) because I like being able to do it. Those three words, though, do not settle the matter. Indeed, the problem spills over into other parts of my life.

I'm still employed and paid by Community High School District 94, but I teach at Penilee Secondary School in Glasgow.

I will not even try to explain the intricacies of the financial arrangements and handsprings this involves, but a couple of samples might give you some idea of the situation. I get paid in U.S. dollars, but I spend British pounds. When I do extracurricular work at Penilee I cannot be paid for it because, though I teach there and have an I.D. card identifying me as a Glasgow City Council employee, I am really only sort-of an employee of the Glasgow Council, and no mechanism exists for paying people who are "sort-of" employees.

I don't even want to contemplate trying to figure out to whom I would pay income

taxes on any earnings I might make here.

Some bills still get sent to my residence in Batavia, some to a friend in Winfield, and some to me in Glasgow. In fact, I have the best proof possible that I really do now reside in Glasgow: I get junk mail, even credit card offers, in my mail here.

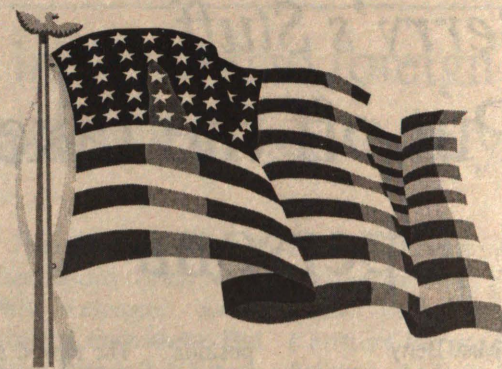
Of course, I haven't seen any of the mail arriving in Batavia for a while, but I strongly suspect similar junk mail addressed to me continues to show up there fairly regularly.

Don't get me wrong. I wouldn't have things any other way. In fact, trying to keep track of it all is rather a challenge, not to mention occasionally amusing.

For example, whenever someone asks me where I'm from I'm deliciously torn between the simple answer "Chicago," the often perplexing response "Glasgow," and the more attractively intimidating option of "Let me explain..."

Just for the record, I could live in Glasgow for the rest of my life and never come close to sounding like a native. I might be a Glaswegian in spirit, but I'll never live up to the requisite outward appearances.

To be honest, though, the more difficult it has become to answer the question in question, the more I'm convinced the answer doesn't really matter all that much.



Bush needs to follow the golden rule

By Sam West
Our dearly beloved president seems to think that he doesn't need to practice what he preaches.

He calls Iraq, Iran, and North Korea an "axis of evil" for building and storing nuclear weapons, and then turns around and unveils his new plan to build and store new nuclear weapons.

It seems a little hypocritical, no?

According to the *Washington Post*, Bush's plan calls for the development of nuclear tipped, earth-penetrating weapons, and teams to build them at the country's three nuclear weapons labs.

Even though Bush plans to cut down on the number of missiles, he will not destroy the leftovers; rather, he will store them.

That way, he can reactivate them whenever he wants or when any other war-monger president wants.

Yet Iraq, Iran, and North Korea, if they continue to act just like the USA does, will be in the midst of a war with us if they continue building.

The U.S. threatens war against countries that do the same things as it does.

No wonder the USA is disliked by so many people.

Bush keeps reiterating that the Cold War is over, and that there is no need for an arms race.

Even though this is not really an arms race, it seems that he isn't truly confident that the Cold War is over.

The point is, if we are to maintain peace, we should not be preparing to kill thousands or even millions of people with nuclear weapons.

This is just the latest in a string of U.S. conflicts that are hypocritical.

Take the prisoners at

Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. The Bush administration did not treat them as according to the Geneva Convention.

In article two of the convention, it states: "In addition to the provisions which shall be implemented in peacetime, the present Convention shall apply to all cases of declared war or of any other armed conflict which may arise between two or more of the High Contracting Parties, even if the state of war is not recognized by one of them."

Bush hasn't followed the Geneva Convention.

Because he wants revenge, Bush treats the prisoners in Cuba according to his own regulations.

Apparently, he thinks that he is too good for the Geneva Convention.

What makes Bush think that he can get away with doing whatever he feels like? There are international rules and/or regulations that he needs to follow!

If Bush wants to keep peace in the world, why not follow the guidelines that make peace possible?

The Geneva Convention was meant to keep peace, and by not following it, Bush stops the peace.

How would you react if American prisoners were held under conditions not according to the Geneva Convention?

Better yet, how would the U.S. government react? The truth is, there would be all-out war against those who detained the American prisoners.

The Bush administration needs to wake up and think about what they do and say.

It will be beneficial to the world if Bush practices what he preaches.

Civility still has a long way to go

By Nicole Patel
For too long a problem with roots heavily engrained in societal stereotypes has gone unresolved and silenced in our own school.

In the dawn of a freethinking and more liberal country, one would assume tolerance would be contagious.

One would hope that segregation is an old idea that exists in textbooks documenting the past.

Yet when I walk into commons, fight my way through the hallway, or gaze at fans in We-go's stands, I see a strikingly different picture.

Personally, I admire the diversity West Chicago offers, but some students just don't seem to get it.

"Go back to your country if you're gonna have that flag on your car," some taunt.

And my favorite, "Why don't you shut up or speak in

English?" Why would anyone want to speak English when the only English words directed towards them are rude and hurtful?

Overall, I must congratulate my peers: After 14 to 18 years of studying the English language, students can produce such eloquent cut-downs.

To some, laughing at these comments, contributing to these comments, or simply not speaking up against these comments, is their way of staying safe from being the next victim of the treacherous, self-centered folk who think "it's just a joke."

Insulting an entire group of people for a stale laugh is unintelligent humor.

The world Superpower should be able to come up with better joke topics.

The scary part though is that the people who take part

in this ridicule aren't usually unintelligent, they're just unable to see the ramification of their words.

As Mom always said, it's all fun and games until someone gets hurt.

Well, it's high time we realize people have been hurt. So hurt in fact that imaginary walls have been put up.

Walk into commons and note that one half of the room fosters a majority of the school's racial make-up and note that the other half fosters our school's growing minority population.

Peek into the lunch lines and notice how some students feel it's their right to cut in front of certain minority groups.

Our "words" represent the depths of our moral shortcomings.

Deep down, many people still oppose large-scale inte-

gration and cannot fathom the effect of labeling others.

Separate but equal—only not everyone is equal.

Half of the students in commons have been unfairly laden with stereotypes, reflective of societal misguidance.

What's scary is that psychologically children brought up hearing reoccurring messages about themselves begin to believe those things about themselves.

We ought to be embarrassed that 200 years' worth of social reform can so easily be devalued by simple everyday, hurtful words heard even in a place as common as the school.

Let your opinions be heard!
Write a letter to the editor and drop it off in Ms. Kuehn's mailbox in the office.

Revolutionary strategy on writing essays

By Kyle Bullis

If you are reading this, then you are one of the lucky people who will be the first to learn about my patented Simple Essay Preparing And Writing Program, or SEPAWP.

With this program, you will never worry about essay writing ever again! This set of rules and regulations will help you make your essay not only much longer, but also more informative, even providing information that is totally irrelevant to whatever you may be writing about!

This will be achieved through careful preparation and execution (cheating). Picture this: you are sitting in your classroom on a Friday afternoon and the bell is a mere 15 minutes away from signaling your freedom.

You are glancing everywhere like a nervous freak, when all of a sudden your teacher, with no prior warning, springs the ever horrifying essay from Hell on you. You know what I'm talking about, right?

The essay from Hell is that surprise essay where you have to write a detailed 400 page report on ducks.

You look around at the rest of your classmates who are equally horrified.

Your teacher laughs in that

horrible, you-have-to-and-I-don't kind of laugh. Oh sure, your teacher *tells* you that this is in fact for the best, but how much do we *really* need to know about ducks?

The only thing I know about ducks that might remotely interest someone is that a duck's quack doesn't echo, and nobody knows why.

If you ever happen to be holding a duck for some reason, try taking it to your nearby echo place and see what happens.

Anyway, before we drift any further, let's get back to SEPAWP. SEPAWP involves a few steps, the first one being Realization.

There is no way you are going to get out of this unless you spontaneously burst into flames and die. You could move to Africa and live amongst the tribals, but then you wouldn't have Nintendo.

You must also realize that this essay is worth your entire grade, hence all the work leading up to it was pointless. The second step is Depression.

This follows Realization pretty quickly. Expect five to six days for recovery. Once you are finally over stressing the essay, you realize you only have two days to *write* the essay, which of course

will take you three days. Step three is Preparation.

Buy as much paper as you need, all the information you need (*Ducks of America*), a pillow to rest your arm on, or to punch. It would probably be a good idea to have a pencil, unless you plan on writing the essay with your thoughts.

Once you are settled, you will be able to begin actually doing something productive—namely—going to the bathroom.

This is very common in the traumatized-essay-writing-student world because this buys us an excuse for not doing anything. Go ahead, I'll wait outside the door and whistle. You done yet?

Okay, here we go! C'mon! Start writing something there... c'mon... You have just stumbled upon another obstacle, which is commonly referred to as "Writer's Block" or "Staring At A Blank Sheet Of Paper."

To cure this condition, you should constantly re-read the source material, or continue staring. Either one is pretty much equal in effectiveness. The only real way to help is to wait. Usually, a little BB of an idea will pop into your head, and before you know it you are writing like Mark Twain on speed.

You can even see smoke coming off the tip of your pencil as you furiously jot down your wildly vivid thoughts.

Once the smoke has cleared, you look down at your paper and notice that you have completed a full sentence! Didn't see that coming did ya'?

No one does, but hey, you aren't staring at that evil blank page anymore right? Yeah (Cough, cough).

Due to your valiant effort, you can take some time out to bang your head against a brick wall, or any other hard surface of your choice (solid concrete is also a favorite).

Once you are done lowering your I.Q., the magic begins. Okay, you have ducks.

Your introduction should have information that just screams "OBVIOUS!" on it. Say stuff like "The duck is a bird. The duck has wings like any other bird.

The duck migrates south. The duck does not migrate north. The duck does not migrate east or west. The duck quacks. The duck does not meow, bark, moo..... etc."

Spitting out random info that any moron could think of on their own is a great way to start any essay, and I personally would love to see a duck bark.

It would probably sound something like "KEEARK!" followed by the duck choking on its own spittle.

You try quacking and barking at the same time and I guarantee it will happen to you too.

Anyway, continue filling out the pages with random information until everything obvious about ducks is written. This should take you about 20 pages, at least.

The problem is if you know your math, you will realize that there are still 380 pages to write.

This is where things start to get interesting. You can now

go to your local novelty store and pick up my Monkey Pounding On A Keyboard.

Your very own monkey will pound on a typewriter for you and not stop until the rest of the required amount of pages is filled.

Your essay won't make any logical sense, but the essay will be technically completed, so you can then turn it in with a certain sense of pride.

The world cannot go on without the knowledge of ducks and, of course, "ofjohneifbcebwepbqlhfs."

What is Jackson teaching students?

By Stephanie Bodane

In a country where we pride ourselves on the land of the free and our opportunities, why is that our education system still seems to be showing our vast inequality?

Or at least that is what Rev. Jesse Jackson wants us to focus on. He's starting with Naperville.

Naperville welcomed a new school in 1997. The new school, Neuqua Valley, can hold up to 3,000 students. It provides new resources and luxuries, the type of things a brand new school should have. It is, however, no different than any other school, in which an education is provided and students can learn in a healthy environment.

One person feels that there is one big difference, the real question he poses is, what is equality in education?

Jesse Jackson feels that schools in the inner city are being cheated, especially when he views a school like Neuqua Valley. He plans to remove students from an inner city school and hold a protest, or sit in, outside of Neuqua

Valley High School in order to prove his point about the inequality of schools. The question is, is this the right thing to do?

Although it may appear, and generally it is true, that inner city schools are less fortunate than some suburban schools, students at these particular "better off" schools are not to blame. If Jesse Jackson is complaining about education then he should be leaving these schools alone, because they are with no doubt, providing an education for students.

And if he is so worried about inner city children receiving a good education, why would he pull students out of class to hold a protest? Isn't that taking away valuable time that those students could be learning?

Equality in schools should always be considered, everyone should always be given the opportunity to learn and develop. Is that what Jackson is trying to prove, or is this just the perfect publicity for him?

As article 26 in the Declaration of Human Rights states: education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the *strengthening of respect* for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Then why isn't someone pointing out to Jackson that he's teaching students to take the easy way out and complain, instead of working hard and proving that no matter what they will succeed?

Jackson should consider what he's really teaching.

Learn how to take your criticism

By Mary Beth Selby

Criticism can be good or bad depending on how it comes out, but it ought to be used in a wise, kindly fashion.

Two obvious types of criticism are: critical criticism and direct criticism. Critical is often times meant in a good way.

However, it can come across as direct criticism depending on how it is given and to whom.

According to the website of award-winning speaker and author Patricia Fripp, the ability to take in criticism, both good and bad, is important for success in life.

She outlines her points in her article, "Criticism: Bash or Boost?"

Critical criticism, in fact, is a good thing in life.

People can give you their own opinions to help you improve yourself or keep you from embarrassment.

Even going out to seek critical criticism is very beneficial.

However, not all critical

criticism given may be what you want to hear.

When asking and receiving critical criticism, you must take the good with the bad, otherwise there won't be any improvement.

Though there is a bad side to critical criticism, direct criticism is an even worse option.

Direct criticism is aimed to hurt, and it does just that. Granted, some people may just say that they are "merely stating their opinion," but stating your opinion and criticizing someone are two very different things.

Saying "I prefer ice cream to frozen yogurt. I think it tastes sweeter," is stating your opinion.

Saying "What kind of freak likes frozen yogurt? Ice cream is much sweeter and tastier," is direct criticism. Direct criticism stabs at another person's personal opinion and slams them down.

It can even strike at a whole group of people.

Criticism must be thought out before being spoken.

Direct and critical criticisms are two different things. Direct criticism and stating one's opinions are also very different things.

Some people often take critical criticism the wrong way and think that if anything is wrong, that it is the end of the world.

Fripp says that the best ways to handle criticism is to assume criticism is in the best intention, to use the "Olympic scoring rule," to consider the source, and to seek out criticism yourself.

Try to use the criticism for your own benefit by assuming the person is being critical in a good way.

Fripp says the "Olympic scoring rule" means that even though there will always be someone to judge you very high, one to judge you very low, and one to judge you in the middle, you should only consider those who judge you in the middle range.

By considering the source, you base the criticism depending on how much background or knowledge

the person has to criticize you.

Finally, you should ask for criticism. Doing so will help you to stand up to the judgment others make about you.

Criticism is necessary for improvement, but not for deliberately insulting.

Before people decide to offer criticism, they need to think about what they are saying and how they are saying it.

Women... (Continued from page 7)

The movie shows the true story of WNBA players Heather and Heidi Burge.

Heidi Burge has retired due to a bad back problem, but Heather Burge continues to play on the Sacramento Monarchs.

Sixteen teams play in the WNBA with eight teams both in the Western and the Eastern conferences.

No doubt about it, everyone is seeing how women's basketball is growing, with the WNBA, college, and high school teams.

It took commitment and

hard work for these female athletes to get where they are today.

Girls are coming out to play sports to not only prove themselves, but to be the best.

Today sports for women are more popular than ever and should continue being so.

This is the opportunity that girls have been waiting for, and girls have female athletes to look up to.

Hopefully females will continue to participate in sports and make such sports as lacrosse, wrestling, and football more popular to females.

Reporters taste "Chocolate's" sweetness

By Marc Berry

The Field Museum in Chicago has decided that "chocolate" is a language that everyone can understand.

That is why, on Feb. 14, the museum opened an exhibition titled, appropriately enough, "Chocolate."

According to Shelley Ulrich, one of the exhibit developers, the museum wanted to present information about the ancient Mayan world, but at the same time they wanted it to appeal to everyone.

By opening this exhibit, they were able to present an exhibit concerning something that many people enjoy, while at the same time introducing facts about the Mayans, as the two topics are more closely related than people might think.

The exhibit is very visual, with many pictures, movies, diagrams, and artifacts. Each of these usually has an accompanying written explanation. As one journeys through the exhibit, he or she will discover the roots of choco-

late, dating back to Mayan times, how it has evolved since then, and the process that is involved in creating, packaging, and shipping chocolate bars.

Also, while exploring the exhibition, there is a noticeable chocolate aroma. Ulrich explained that this is due to industrial cartridges placed throughout the area.

All this prepares guests of the exhibit for the chocolate store at the end. There, shoppers will find a variety of chocolate delights to revel in.

"Before we opened the exhibit, we estimated how much we would profit from the store.

We made one tenth of that amount in the first weekend. We're having a hard time keeping things stocked," said Ulrich.

If that trend continues, the museum will come out far ahead, as the exhibit will be open through December, while currently about 2,000 people go through the exhibit daily.

The museum originally planned to run "Chocolate" until Sept. 8. However, it was decided to extend the period in order to keep the exhibit

open during the holiday season.

Also, the museum originally planned to open the exhibit earlier, around October. The museum saw it fitting to open it on Valentine's Day, however, due to the theme, according to Ulrich.

Many people were involved in creating and bringing together the exhibition, including developers, curators, 3D designers, and graphic designers.

According to Ulrich, there were seven people on the actual team but over 100 people involved in some way.

E-mails were sent out to architects that deal in Mayan research, and artifacts were brought over from the archaeology department.

Overall, over a million dollars was spent on the effort.

The exhibit is starting at the Field Museum but will move on to 10 other museum venues on a U. S. -wide tour.

It will stay for approximately three months at each location, over a course of six years, spreading the language of chocolate.



Staff Photo

Having a sweet time at the Field Museum's press conference on the "Chocolate" exhibit are Chronicle reporters, from left, Stephanie Bodane, Suzanne Smith, and Marc Berry.

Jazz band goes pro with Hackney's gig

By Sam West

On Wednesday the We-go jazz band went to Hackney's restaurant in Palos Park.

"Hackney's is probably the most fun place we play," said director of bands Jim Guter. "The people are there to listen to jazz."

Students dress up for the performance and play in the bar.

According to Guter, playing at Hackney's is just like getting a professional job. Members don't dress in their jazz band uniform, they "get duded", or dress sharply, just like pros.

While playing, students are also treated like and act just like professionals.

The jazz band played for around half an hour to 45 minutes. They played about 10 pieces of music.

There were Latin pieces like "Mr. Papi," classic Jazz numbers like "Don't Get Around Much Anymore," and funky songs, such as

"Song For My Father."

After We-go's jazz band played, a professional jazz big band performed.

"Kids react to Hackney's," Guter said. "Jazz festivals are fun in a different way."

Junior, alto sax player Joe Tumidalsky said, "You kind of feel like you're in the 50's atmosphere and it's great to hear the other band while you eat. You feel cool—like old 50's cool."

At festivals, not only do students learn how to play their instrument better, they learn how to improvise, build confidence in themselves and their playing, and cooperate with each other.

"You need to work together to achieve something," Guter said.

But at Hackney's, students relax and just play.

"It seems like a nice enough place," said senior and bass trombone player Carly Anderson. "It's very cozy and taverny in the res-

taurant and very bar-like in the bar."

Next month the jazz band will host its own Jazz Night, held in the Weyrauch Auditorium, Friday, April 12.

"We open the show," Guter said.

Guter said that We-go will play for about 45 minutes, and "then a really fine band from Roosevelt University comes in."

The college jazz band will perform for about an hour. After they play, We-go will join Roosevelt for one last selection.

"To play the same piece of music as them is a really good experience," said Guter.

Junior Hans Moscieke, a drums player, thinks Jazz Night will be fun. He said, "I'd like to watch the other drummers and see what they do and see if I can mimic them."

Tickets for Jazz Night are \$7 for adults and \$5 for kids. The show starts at 7 p.m.

"Factory" doesn't produce support

By Nicole Patel

This year's winter play production *The Fabulous Fable Factory* produced "disappointing" student support, said assistant director Mary Hafertepe.

Even though the cast consisted of 29 students, tickets did not sell well for all four shows in comparison to past winter performances.

Senior cast member Katie

Kammes said that the show lacked necessary advertisement and some students said they did not want to see the show because the title sounded "boring".

The play was an hour-long musical that had audience interaction and a cast of many first-time actors.

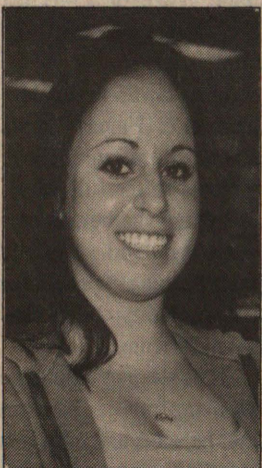
Hafertepe said that the script itself was "diverse but particularly strong because of the audience interaction."

The play was a 180-degree turn around from the fall production of *The Children's Hour* said Hafertepe.

Though Hafertepe traditionally directs all three productions of the school year, she was grateful that Anna Ahonen was able to direct the winter play this year.

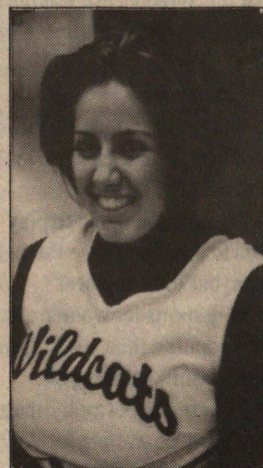
Sophomore cast member Mike Giese said that Ahonen was a "very determined and (See Play page 11)

So what are you doing for your Spring Break?



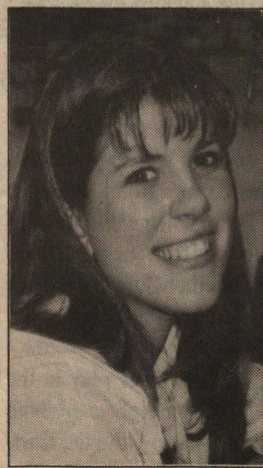
Kristin Rocha
sophomore

"I'm going to Florida on a skiing and snowboarding trip."



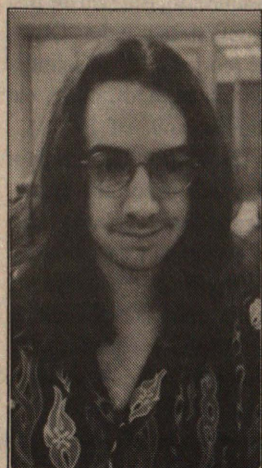
Christina Wilbur
senior

"Since I consider myself an extremist, I'm going to elope with John Pollman in Las Vegas."



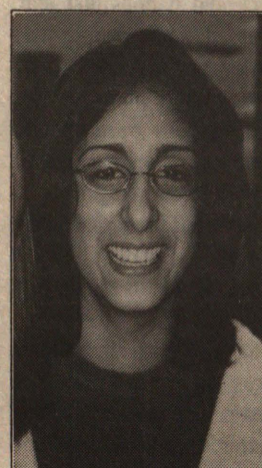
Kim Mueller
sophomore

"I'm going to go see my brother in Florida."



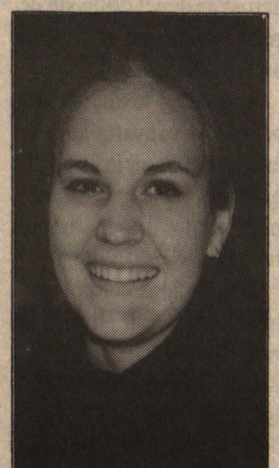
John Pollman
senior

"I'm getting my hair put into dread-locks."



Jessica Soto
junior

"Me and my friends are going on a road trip."



Betsy Drzal
junior

"Sleep, maybe go to Florida."

Adjusting to high school takes on new meaning for immigrants

By Nicole Patel

Every student at one point faces the challenge of adjusting to high school, but not every student must learn to deal with coming to a new country and going to school there.

For freshmen Oscar Santos, Brenda Vargas, and Angel Soto, coming to America meant leaving behind family and friends in Mexico, but gaining opportunities native to America.

To aid in their transition into American life, Community High School created a special department called the Welcome Center.

The Welcome Center began the year with around 24 students who were attending school in America for the first time. English as a second language (ESL) teacher Mark Poulterer evaluates the students and when he feels they are ready, he sends them off to ESL 1 classes. The newcomers also take a writing class focusing on drugs and gangs.

Poulterer is amazed at how positive the immigrant students' attitudes are towards learning. "These students have the biggest desire to learn and negative attitudes are just not seen in the newcomer class," Poulterer said.

Poulterer explained that each of his students has a unique story. According to Poulterer, many of the students have not been enrolled in school for four years or more.

Some students do not live with their parents or have parents who don't care about education.

Some of the students like 16-year-old Santos live alone, go to school, work over 40 hours a week, stay up until 2 a.m. to finish homework, all while trying to better understand the English language and while being op-

timistic.

One of Poulterer's favorite parts about teaching newcomers is on a day-to-day basis seeing the strength of the human character in students like Santos.

Sixteen-year-old Soto and 15-year-old Vargas, though they don't have jobs like Santos, still work hard trying to learn the English language.

Vargas said the reason she came to America was because of "the opportunity to get ahead in education and life so someday I can work with computers."

Soto wants to learn English and to become an architect. Poulterer said that he is amazed at how brilliant Soto is. "Soto hasn't been in school since sixth grade and he is still so brilliant," Poulterer said.

Although all three students agree life in America is extremely fast-paced, Santos said, "I prefer the slower life style experienced in Mexico, and things aren't as strict in Mexico."

Both Santos and Soto want to eventually go back and live in Mexico, but Vargas admits that she doesn't necessarily want to leave America. "We'll just see where I go after high school."

Among the difference between life in America and life in Mexico, the students agree that actually having school security was shocking but a wonderful privilege.

"In Mexico," Santos said, "it's easy to ditch school. (School) is better here for learning."

Vargas said, "I like having so many cops around. It's a good feeling." She said that having active and ever-present policemen is among one of the greatest differences between Mexico and America.

The students also said that the graffiti problem in

America is really bad, and that the stores (especially clothing stores) are awesome. "I love shopping here. The clothes are great," said Vargas.

The students overwhelmingly believe that things may be just a little too strict for young people here, but can't really complain because there are so many perks to living in America.

All three students love gym class, seeing snow, and going to Chicago, especially to Lake Michigan. None of the students are too fond of American food, but all three have become very drawn to American music.

Poulterer, as well as the students, said that the newcomers' biggest complaint is that once students learn English, they have the attitude that they're better than those who still can't speak English, thus abandoning their old friends.

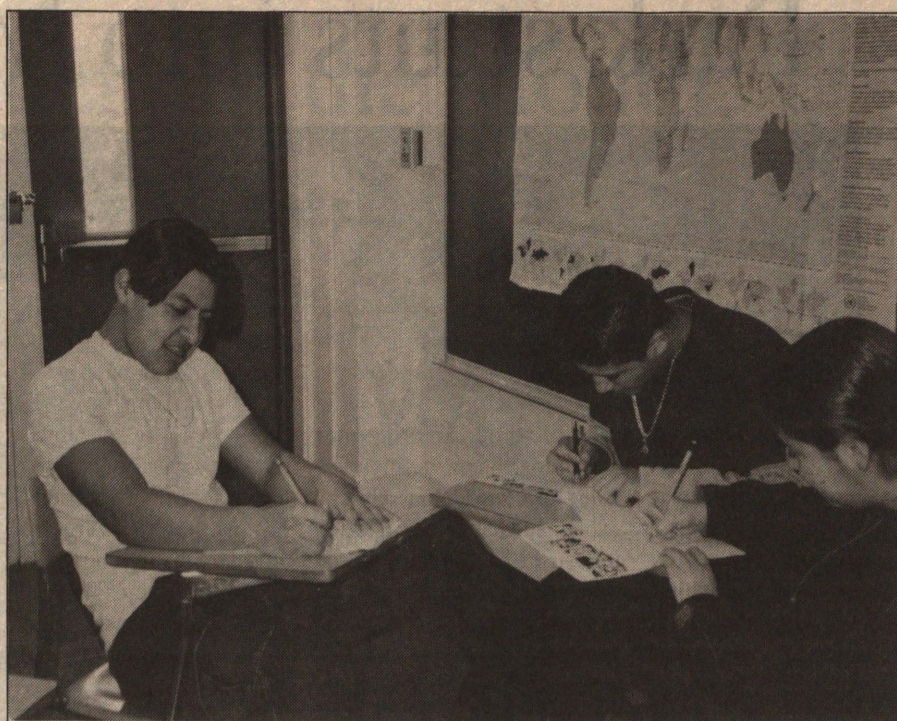
Vargas said, "Nobody should feel better than anyone else because they speak English and no one should ignore us because we can't speak English yet."

Santos also wishes that they had more American friends and that the newcomers were more integrated in the school building. Currently, the Welcome Center is located in the far end of Lincoln School.

Santos said that it's not that they don't want to have American friends, it's just he knows that no one will talk to them because their English isn't very good.

As for the future, Poulterer would like to see more encouragement for students who wouldn't otherwise have had an opportunity to learn.

Poulterer would also like the school to be able to do more for the students "who are slipping through the cracks" and for those who think school isn't an option.



Staff Photo

Oscar Santos, Angel Soto, and Brenda Vargas work on an English assignment.

Jazz springs into season with festivals, competitions

By Sam West

Spring is the season for We-go jazz.

But February was the big month for members of the jazz band, who attended three jazz festivals.

Their trips were to Northern Illinois University and New Trier and Rolling Meadows high schools.

Director of Bands Jim Guter said that these festivals are important for jazz students.

"We hear other high school bands and see where we fall in that area (at the festivals)," Guter said.

The areas Guter looks for are the high end, the low end, and right in the middle. Then the band improves their playing according to where they compare.

At the festivals, students can play for other people, attend clinics specifically designed for an instrument, and

hear professional or college bands perform.

At New Trier and Rolling Meadows, there was also a jam session where students could walk in and improvise with complete strangers.

Not only do students learn how to play their instrument better, they learn how to improvise, build confidence in themselves, and cooperate with each other.

"To me, it's a learning experience with clinics and hearing other groups perform and playing for people in the public," said Guter.

Guter also said that the band doesn't go to the festivals and competitions to win, rather to perform at the highest level it can and get feedback so it can improve.

At NIU, Guter said the band played fine, but at New Trier, the band was "far superior" to the performance at NIU.

"The band was starting to

feel each other and starting to play," Guter said.

Guter attributes the good playing to weekly sectionals.

Guter doesn't run sectionals, but a section leader for the instrument group does. Saxophones have a section leader, as do trumpets, trombones, and the rhythm section.

Guter said that the band improves as a whole because of sectionals.

He stops in once occasionally to see what is going on, but he leaves the section leader in charge.

The festivals have a lot of bands from around the region learning, playing, and just listening to jazz. Guter brings his students because he wants the band to go to as many events as possible and absorb what they hear.

And in the end, Guter just wants the band to have fun.

Oui, oui, the French plays are arriving soon

By Mary Beth Selby

We-go students will show their European style in the French plays April 10.

"The students have a lot of fun with the plays," said French teacher Marjorie Appel. "At first some of the students are reluctant to participate, but in the end they really get into it."

The French students have been planning their plays since mid-February.

While there isn't a specific theme for the French plays, students still have some re-

quirements.

"The first year students do short commercials, second years do five minute skits, and third and fourth year students produce 10 to 15 minute plays," said Appel.

Students get to choose their own groups, then brainstorm ideas about what they will perform. For example, second year French students Andy Dameron, Jorge Martinez, Josh Foster, Sarah Hasse and Steve Hernandez are doing a skit of "Toy Story."

Each day the students discuss with their groups what they will do and then practice.

"The kids like doing the plays because it is an opportunity to do something else in class and be creative," said Appel.

The French plays have been performed annually for about 15 years.

"They get to be creative and are learning to speak French. It's just something different for them to do," said Appel.

Play... (Continued from page 10)

energetic director."

The show was a children's story about a young child, Monroe, played by Michelle Giblin and Kevin Roloff.

Monroe ventures off into the world of fables, led by Mr. Aesop, played by Andy Dameron.

Monroe finds him/herself very interested in Mr. Aesop's fairy tales and wants to remain in the land of fables and morals. Eventually, he/she

concludes that he/she needs to return home and experience new things.

But he/she will forever remember the valuable lessons that Mr. Aesop and his fairy tale machine, which is made up by the other cast members, told.

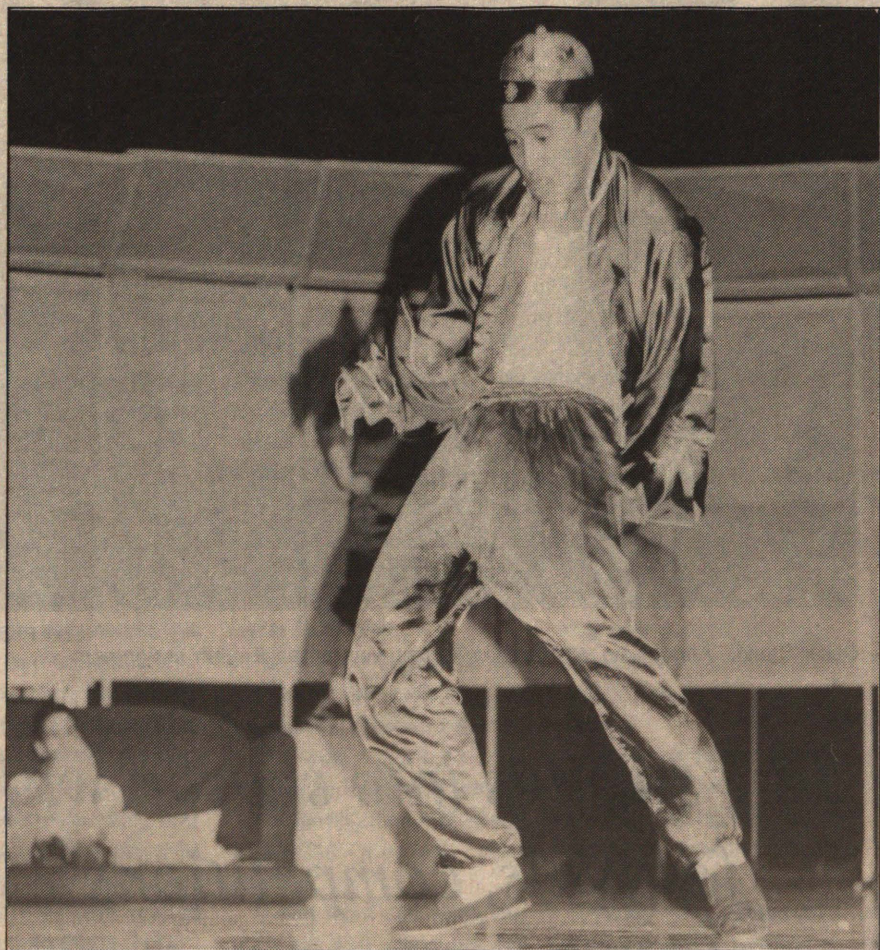
Hafertepe said that although the show had its weaknesses, the involvement of the audience helped the crowd to overlook the flaws.

Despite the small audience turn-outs, Hafertepe thought the show was a good way to get underclassmen involved and introduced to the basic principles of acting on stage.

"A lot of students had the opportunity to learn what goes into theater and what an extensive commitment it is bodily, physically, and emotionally," said Hafertepe.

Hafertepe is currently working on the spring show.

Park struts into Mr. Wildcat honors



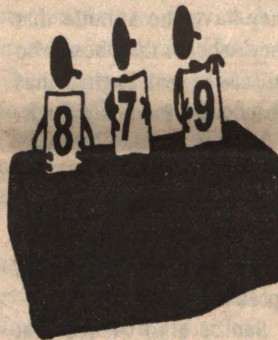
Mr. Wildcat Joey Park gets funky in the competition.

Staff Photo



Matt Infelise takes a spin on his mini-bike on stage.

Staff Photo



By Sean McTighe

Joey Park was winner of the 9th annual Mr. Wildcat Contest that took place in Weyrauch Auditorium March 8.

Second place was Justin LaPrall, and third place went to Joe Caniano.

Other contestants included Tyler Belding, Matt Boes, Matt Infelise, Jimmy Smolucha, Josh Wilde, and Matt Weber.

"Mr. Wildcat was the most memorable part of high school for me," said Park.

The competition was emceed by seniors Kristy Shilling and Ed Abante.

The contest began with introduction of each of the candidates.

Each candidate added his own flare to his introduction. Infelise rode out on a miniture bicycle.

Park dressed as a china man and danced to the song "Kung Fu Fighting."

Adding to the night was a special dance performance by Rice, Beans, n'Curry, which consisted of seniors Kimpha Chau, Nisha Patel, Truc Pham, and Zayra Pedraza.

The talent portion of the contest followed. First, Belding sang "Soul Man" dressed as one of the Blues Brothers.

Boes then rapped "California" by Tu Pac. Caniano sang and danced to a number of Italian songs.

Infelise rapped "Midwest

Swing" by Nelly.

LaPrall, along with Park, Infelise, Boes, Weber, Caniano, and senior Ed Abante did a dance routine to the N'sync song "It's Gonna Be Me." Park sang and danced to Michael Jackson's "Billy Jean."

Smolucha, after playing his fiddle for everyone, rapped his own rap song.

Weber sang and acted out a scene from Aladdin, with Boes as Abu the monkey.

Wilde finished up the talent portion of the competition by playing his guitar.

The sophomore and junior cheerleaders then did their own dance number.

The third part of the competition was the formal wear competition.

A senior cheerleader escorted the contestants, who were wearing tuxedos, onto the stage.

After that was the question and answer competition. Each of the guys was asked a question by senior cheerleader Kael Rewers.

The competition was over and the judges made their final decisions.

Last year's Mr. Wildcat winner Tim Yormark came out to crown Park as the new Mr. Wildcat.

Overall, the competition got a really good response from the audience.

"It was the best Mr. Wildcat in my four years here at community high," said senior cheerleader Kim Burkes.



Joe Caniano does a dance for the crowd.

Staff Photo

Cunningham wrapped up in students' gift

By Erica Fatigato
Linda Cunningham is now wrapped in warmth after a long winter.

In January, Cunningham was diagnosed with leukemia and has been on a medical leave from Community High School where she is a special education teacher while she undergoes treatment.

Even though she's been away from school, she has not been forgotten by her students or fellow teachers.

The usual gifts of cards, letters, and flowers were sent, but in addition to these gifts, Community High School teachers collected money for a cleaning service to take care of her house during her recovery.

A friend and fellow teacher of Cunningham, Jacqueline Wood, also came up with the idea of a love quilt. Fourteen of Cunningham's students came together and custom made and designed the quilt.

They filled the squares of the quilt with love and cheer, said Wood.

The quilt squares were also filled with panda bears, which is Cunningham's favorite animal.

Some of the students wrote poems and songs for Cunningham.

In addition to the gifts and quilt, teachers videotaped the students sending their wishes to Cunningham.

Students simply spoke and others read their poems and sang their songs.

All these gifts were delivered to Cunningham on Feb. 14.

Her students have been encouraged by the news that their teacher has been responding to medication well, said Wood.

"Things are looking good for Linda. We hope to have her back before the end of the school year. She is a dynamic teacher, and her kids really miss her," said Wood.

Student of the Month: Ed Abante

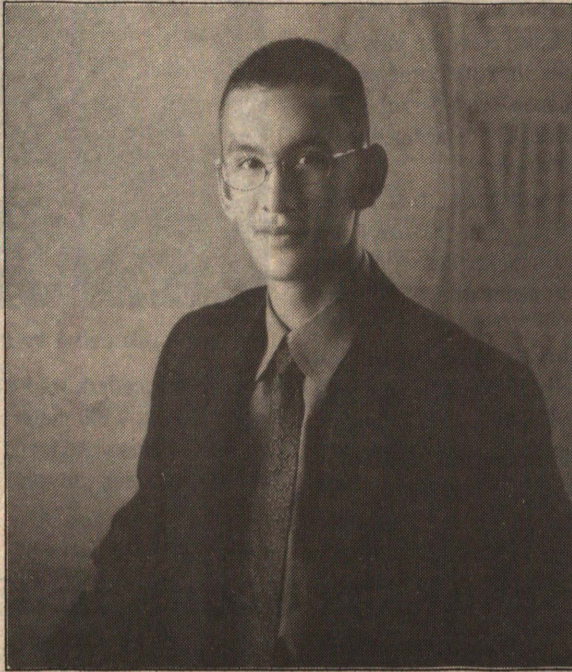


Photo courtesy of Ed Abante

Student of the Month Ed Abante.

By Stephanie Bodane

What were your accomplishments and activities throughout your high school career?

VICA member- 2,3,4; representative-3,4; State winner, sophomore, Machine Board drawing IDEA (Illinois Drafting Educators Association); regional winner 1st place, state competition 3rd place, Machine board drafting; homecoming court finalist; prom court; National Honor Society- 3,4; High Honor Roll- 1,2,3,4; Spanish National Honor Society- 1,2,3,4; cross country- 1,2,3,4; volleyball- 2; track- 1,3; basketball- 1,2; Mr. Wildcat host.

What is your favorite class/

activity in high school?

Advanced drawing.

Where do you plan to go to college, and what are you going to major in?

U of I (Urbana/Champaign) Mechanical drawing.

What do you see yourself doing 10 years from now?

Raising a family somewhere on the West Coast.

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

I'm passionate about what I do.

What advice do you have for students who want to achieve student of the month?

Do what makes you happy and do it well. Eventually someone will notice.

Seniors! Hey! Did you forget about your senior surveys?!

Please help the Wildcat Chronicle put together a special senior section by taking time to completely fill out THIS survey. When you have filled out this survey, please return it to Ms. Kuehn in Room 320 or Chronicle reporters Sean McTighe, Marc Berry, Suzy Smith, Stephanie Bodane, Mary Beth Selby, Sam West, Nicole Patel, Kyle Bullis, or Erica Fatigato. You can cut this survey out and return it to those people. We need the surveys back by Friday, March 22.



1) What college or university will you attend?

2) What city and state is the school located in?

3) What will you major in?

4) Did you get a scholarship?

5) Will you be playing a sport?

6) If you are enlisting in the military, where will you be stationed and what branch of the military will you join?

7) If you are not attending college or joining the military, what are your future plans?

8) What are your favorite memories of We-go?

Girls track tramples competition

By Stephanie Bodane

The girls track team is running to the top this season after a successful three months.

With 45 girls on the team, the team has been winning non-stop.

The track team has had six meets so far, including four meets that were at home.

We-go won each home meet beating Bartlett, Larkin, East Aurora, Rosary, Streamwood, Wheaton North and West Aurora.

In a recent meet at Rolling Meadows, the following individuals and relay teams took first and second place:

Katy Kostal, first 3200-second 1600; Christy Adduci, second 800; Jessica Cwiak,

Krystal Muhlberger, Aimee Beutke, Laura Baumrucker, second in the four lap relay; Kim Palka, Yola Szyszko, Erin Kirby, Christy Adduci, second in the 4 x 800 relay.

The track team took second place at the Kurtz Klassic tournament at Fenton High School out of eight teams running.

"It was a really good meet, we scored the most points we have scored in two years," said Katarina Boves, girls track coach.

The following individuals and relay teams took first place in the meet:

Aimee Beutke- long jump (15'4"); Lauren Anders- 50 yard hurdles (8.1); Katy Kostal- two mile (12:07);

Christy Adduci- one mile (5:27.7); Jessica Cwiak, Krystal Muhlberger, Aimee Beutke, Laura Baumrucker- four lap relay, Jessica Cwiak, Krystal Muhlberger, Laura Baumrucker and Emilie Biancalana- 12 lap relay.

Last Friday the girls team took fifth at a conference at Fenton High School. The places of the athletes are as followed:

Medley relay, first- Jessica Cwiak, Aimee Beutke, Laura Baumrucker, Christy Adduci; 200 meter dash, 3200 relay, fifth- Erin Kirby, Rachel Horvath, Yola Szyszko, Kim Palka; 3200 meter run, second- Katy Kostal; 55 hurdles, fourth- Lauren Anders; 800 meter run, second- Kim



The girls hustle during track practice.

Staff Photo

Palka; 400 meter dash, sixth- Jessica Cwiak; 1600 meter run, third- Christy Adduci; four x 400 meter relay, fourth-

Cwiak, Beutke, Baumrucker, Adduci.

A conference record was beat by Laura Baumrucker in

the 200 meter dash, with a time of 26.2 seconds.

The track team's next meet is scheduled for April 2.

Boys track is modestly confident as they head outdoors

By Marc Berry

The boys track team competed in the DVC Indoor Invitational on March 15.

West Chicago tied for third place with Napperville Central.

Only Wheaton North in second place and Wheaton Warrenville South in first bested the Wildcats.

Corey Coleman grabbed first place in the triple jump with a distance of 43 feet and one and 3/4 inches.

Wyatt Schuyler took first place in shot put, throwing 49 feet, four inches.

Also, Joe Caniano was first in the 55 dash, with a time of 6.5 seconds.

Other We-go competitors performed strongly, as well,

taking second and third place in various events.

The first outdoor meet will be at Geneva on April 13.

"I'm proud of my teammates performance, and I can't wait to take it outdoors. I expect great things," said senior varsity runner Joe Park.

Boys track will continue to practice in preparation for the outdoor season.

According to Coach Paul McLeland, the indoor season is practice for the outdoor season.

"Indoor season is about getting technique down," he said.

McLeland said that so far, he thinks things are looking pretty good for the outdoor

season. "[In the indoor season,] we beat most of the teams we were supposed to and won our home meets," he said.

McLeland said that they came in sixth at the Glenbard North Invitational, when usually they come in around second.

He said that he believes this is due to stronger competition, however, and not a weaker team.

Everybody is working hard, said McLeland.

"We've been improving... I like the progress that has been made," he said.

McLeland said that the team is doing well all around, but they still need some improvement in distance run-

ning. This is because many of the team's distance runners are young though, according to McLeland, and he has faith that they will continue to improve.

McLeland said goals for the season include placing in the top half at DVC and qualifying as many guys as possible for state.

One member of the team, in particular, that McLeland believes has a very good chance of making it to state is Schuyler for the shot put event.

Right now, he is only three inches away from the qualifying mark.

McLeland said Coleman is also likely to make it to state

for the triple jump event.

"I think Joe Caniano, Corey Coleman, and Wyatt Schuyler have been doing very well and will probably make it to state," said varsity track team member Ben Keller.

Others that are a vital part to the team include four sophomores who received varsity letters as freshmen. These sophomores include Mike Sovegnago, Jeff Raymond, Elliott Tinnis, and Mike Smolucha.

"We have a lot of good underclassmen," said McLeland.

Captains this year are Caniano, Joey Park, Mike Nubie, Tom Wojcicki, and Pat Baur.

McLeland said, "They are doing a great job."

Coaches this year include McLeland for distance, Matt Doll for sprints, Randy Zeitler for throwing, Paul Omi for pole vault and jumps, and Jerry Gozum for hurdles.

Gozum and Omi are both coaches from outside the school.

Omi teaches physical education at Naperville North but has decided to coach at We-go.

The outdoor season leads up to the big conference meet on May 10.

May 17 is sectionals, and state will be held on May 24.

May 24 is also prom night for We-go, creating potential conflict.

Girls softball getting prepped for season

By Nicole Patel

The girls softball team is gearing up for another strong season.

This year's varsity team consists of five seniors and 13 juniors.

According to Coach Jim Schaudt no juniors or seniors were cut from the teams.

Senior Martha Mueller said, "We're a diverse group. This is the first time we've all come together to play on the same team. We're starting to form a routine together and therefore getting to know each other better."

Schaudt said that the team's primary focus this year is doing conditioning drills to get back into shape and to work on the fundamentals again.

He said, "It's tough not being able to practice outside. We try to get in the batting cage whenever possible."

As far as goals, Schaudt would like the team to win regionals.

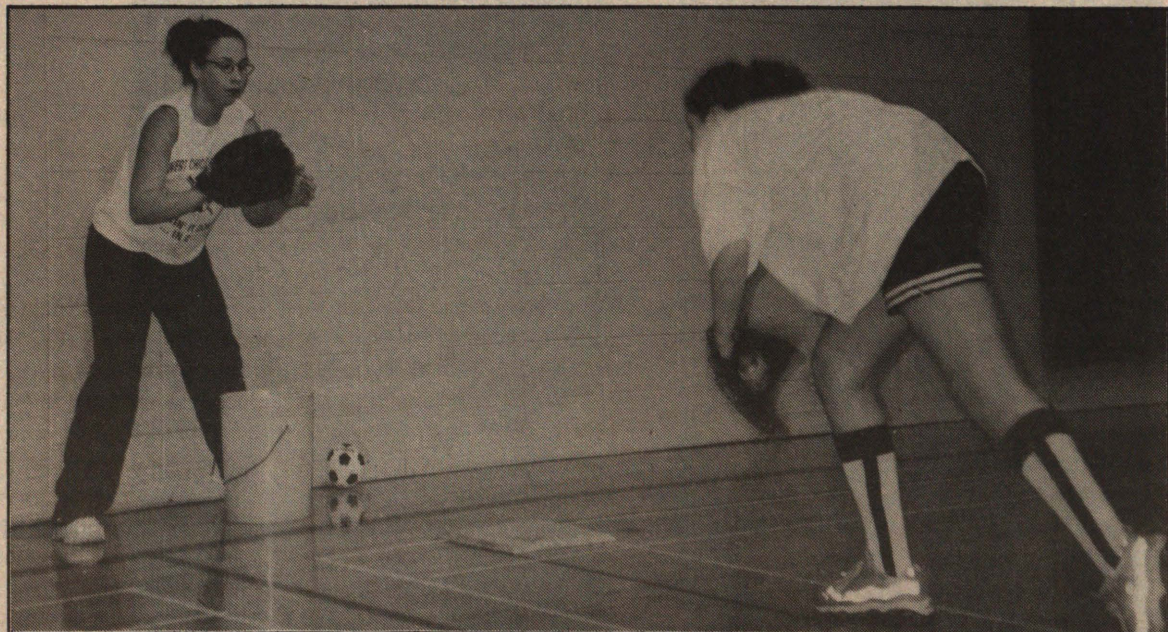
She said she would also like to see how far they can make it at state.

Schaudt said, "Every level won conference last year, we'd like to see that happen again."

Mueller echoed Schaudt's words, "We're at least going to win DVC," she said.

Schaudt identified several varsity players as strong parts of the team.

Among these players are senior Casey Connelly who will be playing third base again this year. Mueller is



Suzy Smith gets her mitt ready.

Staff Photo

the catcher.

Senior Suzy Smith returns to play in the outfield.

Juniors Kelly McCarthy and Becky Hoffman will be

the two new pitchers.

Junior Kristy Nickelson will be the starting shortstop.

As far as competition, Schaudt said that Glenbard

North and Naperville North will be tough teams again this year.

She said that the two schools have the best pitch-

ers in the DuPage Valley Conference.

The team's first game is scheduled against Glenbard South today.

We-go badminton team has "potential"

By Sam West

Badminton has started, and this year freshmen get their own team.

Coach Corrie Gilgallon said that as far as she could tell, a freshman team has never before been created.

The team officially started working out on Feb. 25. According to Gilgallon, there are mostly juniors on the team. The season spans two months.

"I think we have a potential. A majority of our players are returning," said

Gilgallon.

Three seniors graduated last year, and Gilgallon said the team has a lot of experience. She also said that the returning players need to teach the freshman and even the new players things to keep in mind before a match.

On the varsity team there are 10 players, on JV there are also 10, and the freshman team has 13 players.

Both Gilgallon and coach Jodie Donovan coach all three teams.

For practices, the team

usually runs aerobics for 15 to 20 minutes.

Doubles are then held in the small gym, singles are housed in the Bishop gym.

According to Gilgallon, nobody sits around during practices. Everybody is ready to get into a match.

Gilgallon said that the mental attitude of the players is important this season.

"We need to believe that we can do it with our record," she said.

The team is coming off a record of 0-7 in their last con-

ference play.

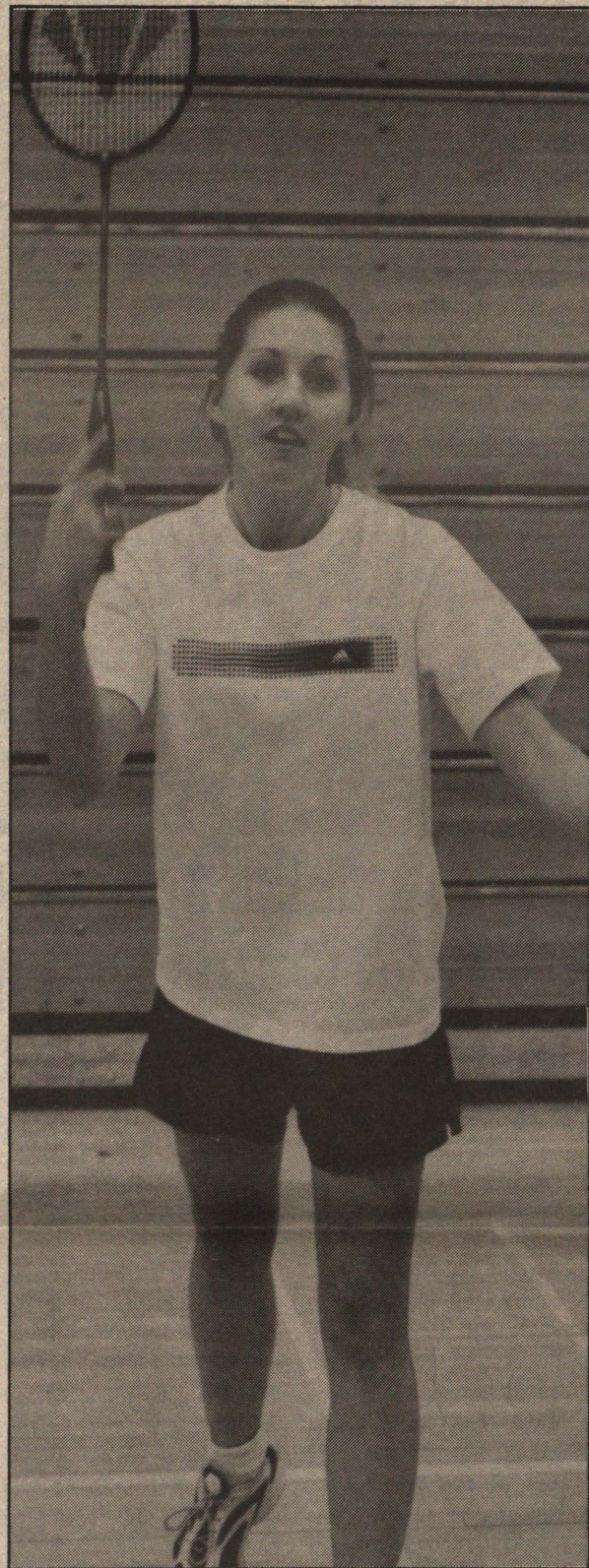
"We are a contention in the DVC," she said.

Gilgallon wants to see as many conference wins as possible, and she said that going to state would be very good.

However, Gilgallon said, the team's weakness is their mental attitude.

"Badminton is pretty much half mental attitude and half physical skill," said Gilgallon.

The main goal and purpose of the badminton team is to have fun, Gilgallon said.



Staff Photo

A badminton player gets ready to return the shuttlecock.

Upcoming We-go spring sports competitions

Baseball

Wednesday, March 27 V
@Geneva (doubleheader)
11 a.m., 1 p.m.
Saturday, March 30 V
@St. Francis (doubleheader)
11 a.m., 1 p.m.
Monday, April 1 V
Batavia
4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 3 V
Benet
4:15 p.m.
Saturday, April 6 V
Fenton (doubleheader)
1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m.
Monday, April 8 V
@Glenbard South
4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 9 V
@Glenbard North
4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 10 JV
Glenbard North
4:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 11
Naperville Central
4:30 p.m.
Friday, April 12 V
@Plainfield
4:30 p.m.
Monday, April 15 V
@Wheaton North
4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 16 JV
Wheaton North
4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 17 V
Naperville North
4:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 18 JV
Glenbard East
4:30 p.m.
Friday, April 19 V

Glenbard East
4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 23 V
@Wheaton Warr South
4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 24 JV
Wheaton Warr South
4:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 25 V
@West Aurora
4:30 p.m.

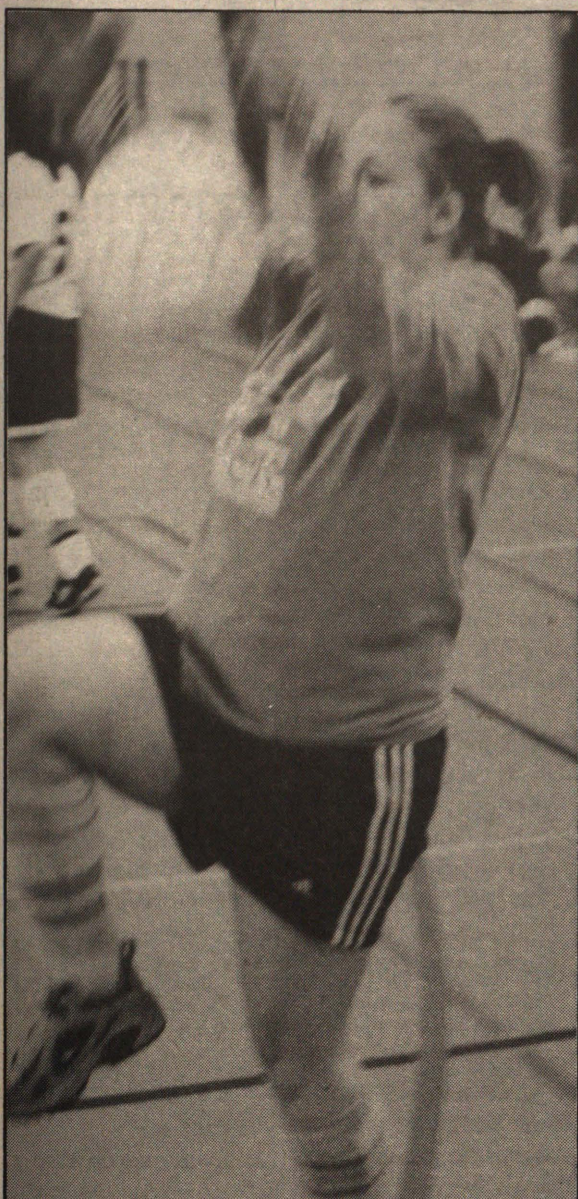
Badminton

Tuesday, April 2 JV/V
West Aurora
4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 3 JV/V
Larkin
4:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 4 JV/V
@Glenbard East
4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 9 JV/V
Wheaton North
4:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 11 JV/V
@Wheaton Warr South
4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 16 JV/V
Naperville North
4:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 18 JV/V
@Glenbard North
4:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 20 V
@DeKalb Invitational
8:30 a.m.
Monday, April 22 JV/V
@Naperville Central
4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 24 JV/V
Glenbard South
4:30 p.m.

Girls Soccer

Wednesday, April 3 JV
Naperville North
4:30 p.m.
Thursday April 4 V
Wheaton Warr South
6:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 6 V
St. Francis
1 p.m.
Wednesday, April 10 JV
@Wheaton Warr South
4:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 11 V
@Glenbard North
6:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 13 JV/V
@Bartlett - 10 a.m., noon



Staff Photo

Jessie Banwart shows off her juggling skills.

Girls soccer starts off season working hard

By Mary Beth Selby

The girls soccer team has four levels for the 2002 spring season.

This year, there is a sophomore team. New sophomore coach Robert Owens said the reason there wasn't a sophomore team last year is because there weren't enough girls to make a team.

Because Owens dropped down to coach the sophomores, a new coach, Katie Madden, will take his place coaching junior varsity.

"Our concern for having a sophomore team was that there are only three other schools, the two Napervilles and Wheaton Warrenville South, have sophomore teams," said Owens. "We think that one of the Glenbards, possibly North, will also have a sophomore team."

The problem was that the West Chicago sophomore team would have a legible amount of games to play in the conference since there were so few.

However, Owens said that to take care of the issue, West Chicago could schedule more games with those schools and any other schools with sophomore levels. Then, the sophomores and the junior varsity to play the sophomore games already scheduled for the season with the schools that don't have a sophomore level.

Junior varsity and sophomore could combine easily with good playing time for everyone because the junior varsity is so small.

"We are going to try putting some of the lower sophomores on junior varsity and

bringing some of the better freshmen up to play at the sophomore level," said Owens.

The only team with definite players chosen is varsity. New girls added to varsity are freshmen Mary Harms, Mandi Westman, and Sammi Kufta, and returning player from freshman year, junior Marybeth Stotz.

Varsity coach Julio Del Real hopes for a better outcome than last year's 13-6 overall record and 3 for conference.

"We've got more experienced people, so I definitely think we can do better," said Del Real.

Varsity's main competition comes from both Naperville schools and Wheaton Warrenville South, but all seven conference schools are hard. Competition is really

tough, said Del Real.

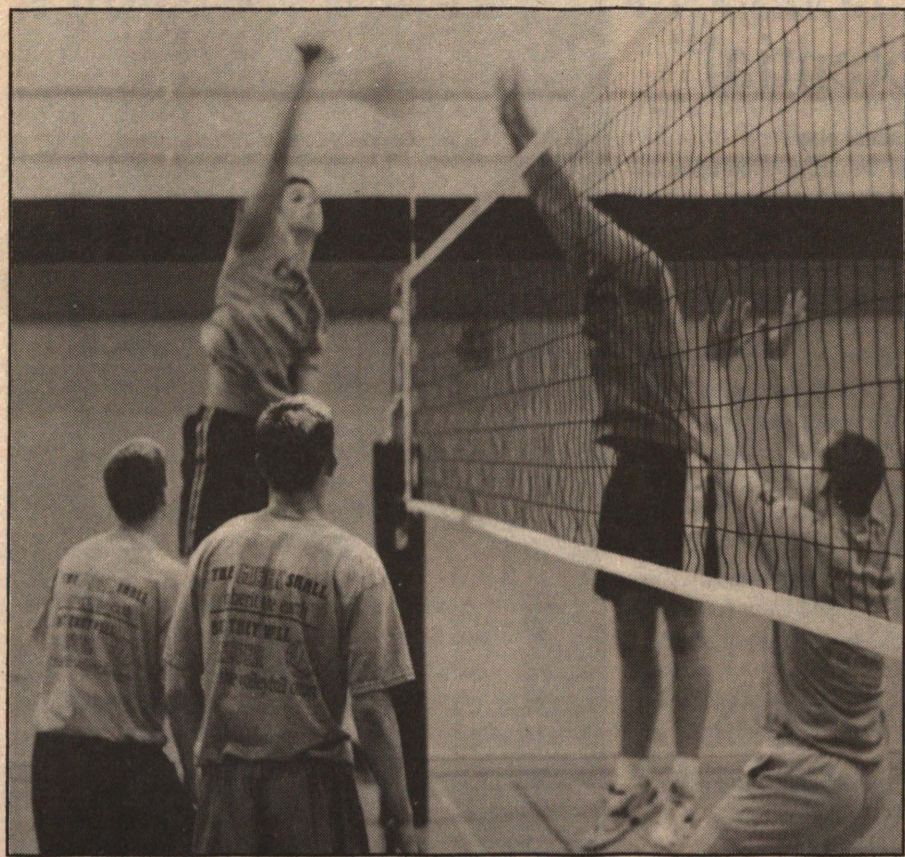
"We need to work on preparing the ball for whatever options. We lost the ball a lot last year because we didn't know what to do," said Del Real. "We also need to work on trapping, and getting the defense to work together."

Though varsity has things to work on, they are quite confident with what they have in store for the season.

"We should be able to finish better, as far as scoring. We have a lot more fire power," said Del Real. "We hope that leads to more victories."

Del Real is pleased with how the team has come together, working hard with a strong attitude.

"I am particularly pleased with how they are approaching the season," said Del Real.



Staff Photo

The boys volleyball team hones their talents.

Boys volleyball eager to compete

By Erica Fatigato
Boys volleyball starts off the season competitive.

The first game of the season for all levels was on Wednesday at Larkin High School. On Friday and Saturday the varsity team is playing in a Hoffman Estates Tournament.

"I think we will be very competitive although we only have one returning starter," said varsity coach Kris Hasty.

The varsity team has one of 13 starters returning from last year. The varsity team consists of Matt Boes, Andy Hein, Jon Lim, Robby Mildebrath, Bob Nagel, Tom Newman, Pat Norton, Shane Olson, Brian Romanelli, and Tysyn Wyman.

The team lost 10 top players from last year, said Hasty.

Those players are Tom Boward, Brian Campbell,

Steve Gilbert, Brian Kerr, Mark Lasky, John McPhetters, Brad Olsen, Nick Romanelli, Jesse Salazar, and Brian Wakefield.

Some top players to look out for this season are Andy Hein, Tom Newman, Pat Norton, and Shane Olson, said Hasty.

Last year's JV team won the DVC conference, but most of those players were bumped up to varsity this year.

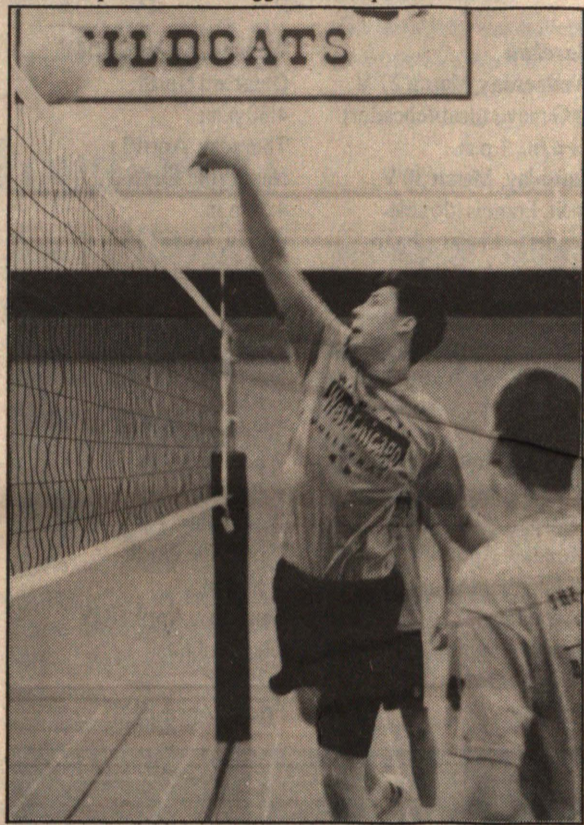
"We'll have to see how the JV plays. Most of the returning JV players went up to varsity," said Hasty.

The JV players are Tom Aguirre, David Aguirre, Doug Boyd, Brian Calabrese, Jim Campbell, Zack Flag,

Pablo Herra, Derek Jensen, Brian Means, Nikesh Patel, Guillermo Perez, Justin Pineda, Steve Thomas, Chris Vlasvich, and CJ Wostratsky. The JV coach is Rebecca Talavera.

"We basically had to recruit freshmen to come out and play. Most of them are inexperienced when it comes to playing games," said Hasty.

The freshmen coach is Joe Schrom. The freshmen team is Jake Bein, Jon Crotty, Justin Horwitz, Jon Curtz, Adam Mosley, Adam Pineda, Jesmar Rangel, Dieter Rudolph, Carlos Santillan, Matt VonGorkom, Julio Velazquez, and Tom Walsh.



Staff Photo

Shane Olson returns a serve during a scrimmage.

Boys tennis serving up new season

By Sean McTighe

The first match for the boys tennis team was Tuesday against Dundee Crown.

They have been preparing for the season for two weeks now.

Coach Sione Moeaki expects his team to improve from last year.

"We need to win a couple more matches and more individual matches," said Moeaki.

They placed 8th in the DuPage Valley Conference last year, but they expect to

do better this year, said Moeaki.

Moeaki expects returning players Geoff Palka, Matt Neumann, Jason Woodbury, Brian Holt, Jason Forbrook, and Mike Marvan to have good seasons.

"I expect all of my returning players to have a good season," said Moeaki.

Fourth year varsity player Matt Neumann said, "Now that we have a few athletes with three years experience, we have a better opportunity of winning some big matches."

Moeaki is also excited about a few new varsity players this year including Mike Masschelin and Austin Fuchs.

First year player junior Chris Jakubik said, "I think we're well prepared for what lies ahead, but we still have a long way to go until we are an excellent team."

One change We-go tennis will experience this year is the re-addition of a fresh-soph team.

Last year's season, not enough people went out for

tennis to allow for a fresh-soph team.

The number of players on the tennis team started to decrease in the 1999 season, and they decreased the two following years as well.

The numbers are starting to rise again, however.

Moeaki will be head coach of the varsity team, while Terry Lemberg-Finn will coach the fresh-soph team as she used to.

Tim Martin will return to act as an assistant coach for the team.

We-go boys baseball team comes out swinging

By Marc Berry

The varsity baseball season has begun.

The Wildcats played their first game against Bartlett Tuesday at home.

Practices so far have usually been held before school at 5:00 a.m.

Coaching this year are John Walters, Greg Hansen, Dan McCarthy, and coach Stott.

Things look all right so far, according to Walters.

According to Walters, the infielders on the team are young and inexperienced, but he thinks they will grow as the season continues.

"It's a big jump from the

sophomore team to the varsity team. Sophomore success does not equal varsity success," said Walter.

Right now, he said he believes the team needs to just work on getting a solid handling of the "little things".

"We need to start from ground zero... We need to work on our throwing and catching, defensively. Offensively, we need to be putting the ball in play... We need to build a foundation and work from there," he said.

Walters said one of the team's strong points right now is pitching the ball.

Last year, the team came in fourth place in the DuPage

Valley Conference.

"We want to make the program better every year," said Walters.

But as far as specific goals, Walters said he doesn't want to look too far ahead.

"Every team wants to end up in the same spot... Our goal will just be to win the next game. We'll take things day by day, and eventually that will turn into week by week. You don't want to be looking too far down the tracks or you're going to get hit by the train," said Walters.

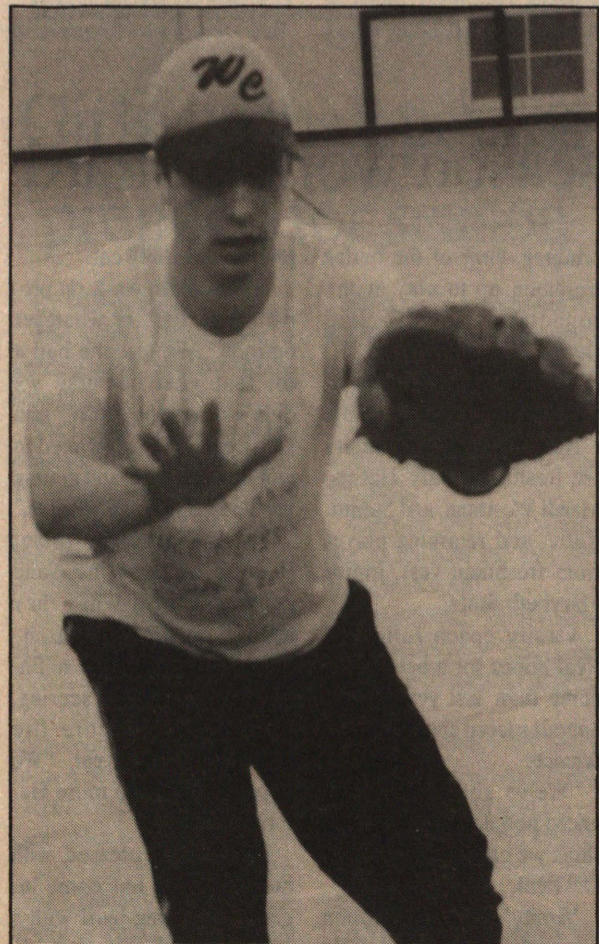
Although things look pretty good, Walters said that it's hard to tell exactly how the team will do until the sea-

son goes on.

Walters said, "Everybody needs to fill their role and do it to the best of their ability."

Senior varsity player Kevin Franckowiak said, "The team has come a long way since tryouts. The juniors have been getting used to coach Walter's style of the game and the seniors have been fine tuning their knowledge from last year's season."

"We have quite possibly the best pitching staff in the conference, a very powerful line-up, and a strong family oriented team. We are going to have a great season with a lot of 'W's," said senior varsity players Nick Carter and Jimmy Smolucha.



Staff Photo

Jimmy Smolucha gets ready to make the catch during practice.

We-go/Wheaton Academy hockey team finishes third

By Erica Fatigato

The We-go/Wheaton Academy Ice Hockey Club ended the season in third place in the Illinois Suburban Hockey League.

They battled Glenbard East/West and lost in over

time on March 9 with the score 3-2.

Freshman Matt Mahoney scored the first goal for the team.

Ryan Tomassoni scored the second goal to tie the game.

Sophomore Ronald

Michalek played goalie during the game.

"We could have done better we should have won our semi-final game," said player Ryan Tomassoni.

To get to the semi-final game they beat Plainfield

High School in sudden death overtime with the score of 4-3.

"I think that Senior Matt Baumrucker was the MVP of the team. He led our team to many victories," said Tomassoni.