

Wildcat Chronicle

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West Chicago Community High School
November 26, 2002

Madness ensues as school provides fun and rakes in cash

By Jessica Myers

Midnight Madness brought in about \$400 for the school, along with providing an evening of fun.

"We are going to discuss as a class how the money will go back to the school," said marketing teacher Dan McCarthy.

McCarthy's marketing class planned and ran the event that kicked off the basketball season.

McCarthy wants the money to benefit the whole school, not just one club or activity.

Midnight Madness didn't go exactly as planned. Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White made a surprise appearance.

White thanked the crowd for their votes at the November elections that gave him another term while the Jesse White Tumblers set up their mats.

He also talked about his work with the Jesse White

Tumblers, the organization he founded to help students who are having a difficult time have a new chance at life.

White added to the performance by holding up the Coca-Cola sign for the tumblers to jump over. He also held people on his shoulders to be obstacles for the tumblers.

As a finale, the tumblers jumped over each other with the aid of a trampoline. The last tumbler jumped over all but three tumblers with a running start from the hallway outside the Bishop Gym.

Poms and cheerleaders also performed. The cheerleaders wore matching black tops and red shorts with red and white polka dotted bows in their hair.

Maggie Wdowiarz dressed up as Mickey Mouse while the cheerleaders danced around her to the song "Hey Mickey" by Toni Basil.

Apart from performances, there were also contests in-

cluding the audience.

To choose contestants, blindfolded marketing students threw a ball into the audience.

The person who caught the ball was to participate in the next event.

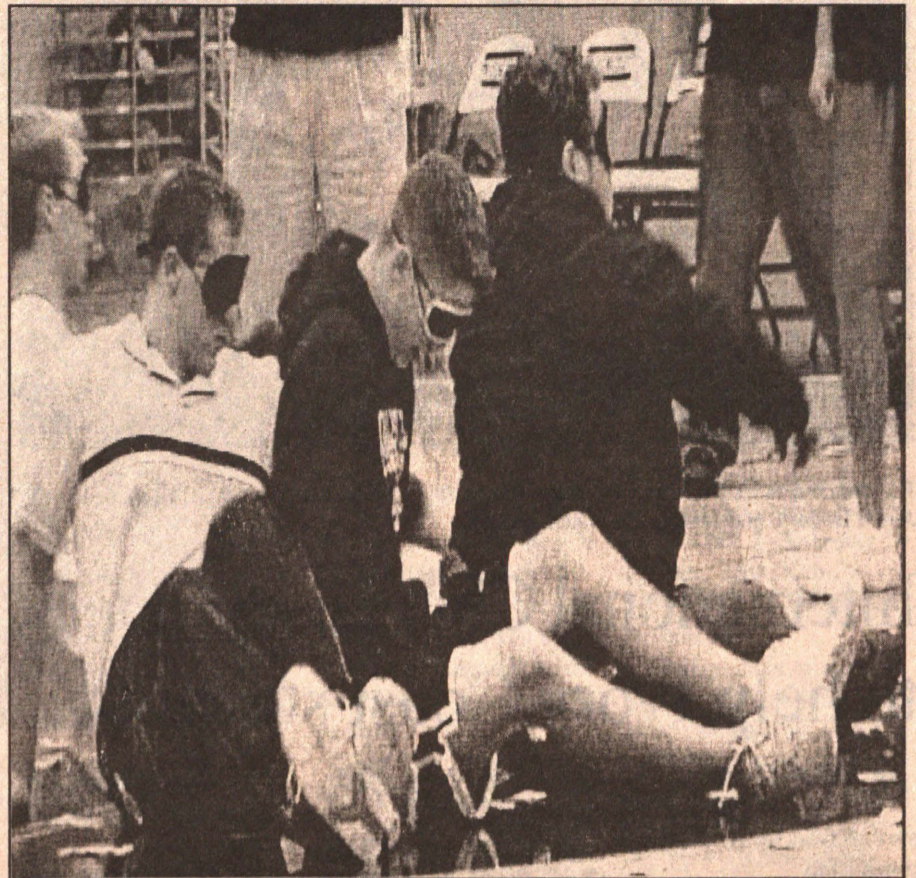
One special event for children in the audience had them on their stomachs on scooters and crawling across the basketball court and returning to slap the hand of the next person on their team.

McCarthy helped the last child across the finish line by carrying him.

There was also the teachers' event, where the teachers were to find a cherry hidden in a pie of whipped cream without using their hands. However, the contest was canceled.

"The student in charge of making the pies didn't bring enough whipped cream," said McCarthy.

(See Madness page 3)



Staff Photo

Matt Kuhn and Roger Strike were the butt of jokes at Midnight Madness as they worked to grab money in the game called "Sticky Buns."

Cable in the Classroom to feature government classes in upcoming issue

By Stephanie Bodane

When readers of Cable in the Classroom magazine pick up an upcoming issue, they will find We-go's government class a cover story.

C-SPAN, an affiliate of Cable in the Classroom, contacted government teacher Mary Ellen Daneels in October about the government class after the Dirksa Congressional Center (DCC) suggested her as a contact.

C-SPAN contacted the

center in hopes of finding teachers that use technology to teach a government course.

The DCC gave Daneels' name to C-SPAN's Cable in the Classroom because of her involvement with the high school's government classes and the use of computers and the Internet.

Daneels was also the state coordinator for the DCC in 2001.

The center is a nonprofit organization that promotes

civic education.

As the state coordinator Daneels helped to make web pages that featured assignments that teachers could use to teach the required course.

"I said the real story is basically how we teach government in this high school. With this 18-week simulation, they were very interested in that. They had never heard of that being done before," said Daneels.

(See Government page 3)

Report cards are not just for students

Highland after good grades

By Sam West

The 2002 Illinois District report cards have been released, revealing how well District 94 is meeting its goals of providing the best education possible.

Principal John Highland outlined his goals in the report card.

Highland's three main goals are to provide the highest level of instruction to students, maintain a safe environment in the school, and familiarize students with more activities.

In the report card, Highland wrote that a good high school experience includes being involved in activities and clubs.

"Everyone, collectively, is a part of this," Highland said.

Highland also said that completing these goals involves a lot of hard work. In order to make these goals work, focus is necessary, he

said.

"The key aspect is working with those in the areas (of the goals)," Highland said.

The challenges ahead are how to complete the goals, or how to apply them to the school, Highland said.

"It takes a clearly thought-out vision," he said.

In order to make the building safe, Highland added, there has to be cooperation with the staff, teachers, students, and everyone else in the school.

"They're the ones who make this work," Highland said.

Highland wants students to be involved in activities because they let students feel better about themselves.

"The more you can get them involved in activities, the better they feel about who they are," he said.

These are major chal-

lenges, said Highland, and the result is a good message about the school.

In addition to the goals, the report card showed that the school spent 10 percent more than the state in other expenditures for the 2000-01 school year.

Assistant superintendent of business Gary Grizaffi said that those other expenditures were costs that did not include teaching.

These include the renovation in the 2000-01 school year, which was the biggest factor as to why the other expenditures were higher than the state's, and transportation such as busing.

The school was not in a deficit for funding that year. However, Grizaffi said that this year the school is in a deficit situation and will be next year, as well.

Grizaffi also said that the (See Report Cards page 4)

Baur finalist in National Merit Scholarship after a perfect SAT score

By Elliott Tinnes

West Chicago's Pat Baur was recently named a semi-finalist for the National Merit Scholarship program.

Students taking the PSAT/NMSQT in high school qualify for the program based on high test scores. Of the 1.3 million students taking the test, 50,000 initially

qualify.

The following September, one third of the qualifying class are chosen as semi-finalists. SAT scores determine the crop of students becoming semi-finalists.

Baur's perfect scores on the SATs, and a well-done application helped him advance to the semi-final round. "It

was a pain to do the application. It took about a week," said Baur.

The National Merit Scholarship program opens up many opportunities for those chosen. For the 8,000 finalists chosen as winners, a \$2,500 scholarship will be presented from NMSP. (See Baur page 5)

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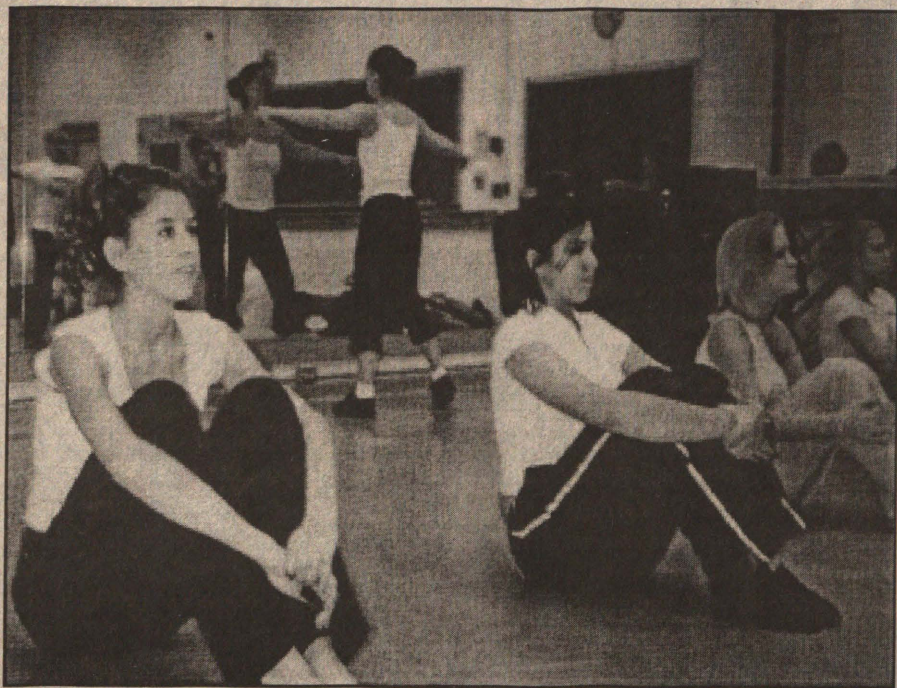
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Staff Photo

The dance classes learn how to dance jazz at NIU. While others practice, Lauren Buscemi, Jenna Bedard, and Mallory Ott watch and learn.

Dancers boogie on down to NIU

By Jaclyn Demes

West Chicago dance students were all jazzed up to go to the performance art workshop that took place recently at Northern Illinois University.

Before going on the field trip, the students picked dance and drama classes that they were interested in taking.

The morning of the field trip they received their schedules for what classes they would be attending throughout the day.

Once at NIU the students met with other schools in the Steven's building auditorium. The students were welcomed to the workshop and had guides to take them to their first class.

During the day there were salsa/latin, jazz, hip hop, tap,

advanced tap, modern, swing, and caribbean dance classes going on, just to name a few.

"The salsa class was really fun and different," said Becky Wilkening.

The classes were only 50 minutes long. In this time span, most the dance students were able to learn a short routine for that type of dance.

"We learned a lot in the jazz class," said Janice Sochacki.

Students are able to take ideas from the workshop and apply it to their own dances in class.

NIU students put on a performance of Congreve's "The Mourning Bride" which many students from the workshop attended.

The performance took a modern spin on the author to

make it more appealing. They still used the play's script but changed the background and outfits to give it a more gothic look.

"I didn't like their outfits," said Queri Perez.

All the girls who went had a great time.

"I recommend everyone that can go should. It's a great opportunity to learn dance," said Kellie Virnich.

"This year the workshop was held on a full day of school. The past couple of years it has been on a half day and most students aren't able to attend because we don't get back until 4 p.m. I think that's why there was such a great turn out this year," said dance teacher Helen Zmrhal.

This is the fifth year that dance students were able to go to NIU for the workshop.

International Club raises money to help Ivory Coast students

By Jeanine Macrito

Fund-raisers and events are underway for the International Club.

The club just wrapped up a fund-raiser for a high school located in the African country of Ivory Coast.

The club wanted to give personal items to the students who were trapped in school during political unrest because their high school was under siege.

Members had third hour teachers ask students to donate money to help purchase general items for these students.

International Club raised over \$300 for this Ivory Coast school, and sent the donated money to the Ivory Coast Fund.

Adviser Sarah Bellis said students enjoyed this fundraiser.

"It was a good cause, and a

way to help students their own age," Bellis said.

The club is also working on a new way to help underprivileged children.

With the holidays coming, the club is participating in a project called Operation Christmas Child.

For the project, students will place donated gifts in a shoebox and wrap the box before sending the gifts to underprivileged children in 112 countries located in six continents.

The club is making one shoebox for a girl and one for a boy. Members will each bring in something small to contribute to the box, and then the club will send these gifts.

Other than fund-raisers, the club recently attended the Oktoberfest at the Schnitzel Platz restaurant in Glendale Heights.

Nine members enjoyed the German food along with the two-man band.

"We tried German pancakes and learned about the origin of Oktoberfest. Actually, it originated from a king," said Bellis.

Recently, the club went to the Arabic restaurant Mediterranean Café in Hoffman Estates. They went to learn about the Arabic and Muslim tradition Ramadan.

Ramadan is a sacred holiday, which takes place during the ninth month of the Islamic year, where Muslims fast during daylight hours.

The club tries to help people in other countries while also learning more about traditions and customs of the various ethnic backgrounds.

Meetings are held on Monday mornings at 7:20 in room 401.



Staff Photo

The dance class recently traveled to NIU for a day of dancing. The class is from left: Bottom row: Brittany Bohem, Jill Novak, Katy Kostal, Luzmaria Tlatehui. Middle: Molly Knaak, Zahara Nasir. Top: Julie Youngwith, Mallory Ott, Jenna Bedard, Lauren Buscemi.

Wdowiarz is October Student of the Month

By Jessica Myers

Maggie Wdowiarz was chosen Student of the Month for October.

What were your accomplishments during your time at We-go?

During the past four years, I have worked with a few other people to put together a successful prom and homecoming.

My own personal accomplishments, however, come in the respect I have earned from my peers and the staff at We-go and being able to make people smile everyday.

Who is your favorite teacher in high school?

It's hard to pick one! All of the teachers I have had at We-go have been awesome! My favorites are my foreign language teachers.

They have all encouraged

me in my studies and are always willing to help me out.

They love what they teach and you can tell it by walking into their classrooms. It's

really neat to see someone love their job so much.

What activities have you participated in throughout your high school career?

I ran track and cross country for one year. I also participated in band and was SADD secretary my sophomore year.

I also have been in cheerleading for three years. I cheer for football and bas-

ketball.

I served as prom committee chair last year and homecoming committee chair this past fall. I was class secretary

my sophomore and junior year and am currently serving as senior class president.

I also was on the committee that planned the DVC Lead-

ership conference and I participated as a student leader for the conference this fall.

I am also serving as the secretary of National Honor Society.

What is your favorite activity from high school?

I love going to sports events. They are a ton of fun.

It's cool to see everyone come out and support the players.

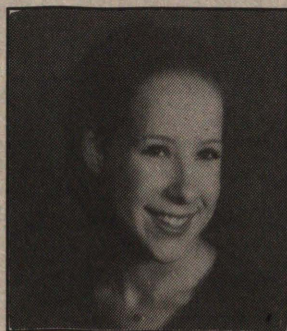
West Chicago has awesome fans and it makes me proud to be a student here.

Where do you plan to go to college and what do you want to major in?

I have been accepted at Carthage College in Wisconsin. I'm going to major in Spanish and Secondary Education and hopefully minor in German as well.

Why do you think you were chosen Student of the Month?

I feel I have been chosen as Student of the Month because I am very dedicated to my school work and to many other activities including student council and cheerleading.



Maggie Wdowiarz

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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 319.

Letters to the editor should be signed if they are meant to be printed. The newspaper 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.

Skulls and skeletons join Day of the Dead

By Nicole Klingberg
Melissa Johanson had the chance to be a bride for the day but there was a ghoulish twist.

Johanson was a part of the Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration in Spanish Club.

A skeleton holding yellow flowers on a gray coffin was created for Spanish Club adviser Sue Junkroski's room. Skulls made out of sugar were made for the Day of the Dead celebration and they perched on Junkroski's desk.

To celebrate, the students traveled to the Mexican Fine Arts Museum. The students spent one hour in the museum looking at the Day of the Dead exhibit and then at a history of Mexico exhibit. Afterwards, the stu-

dents spent 20 minutes in the store buying sugar skulls.

"The sugar skulls are made from ground up sugar and ground up almonds," Junkroski said.

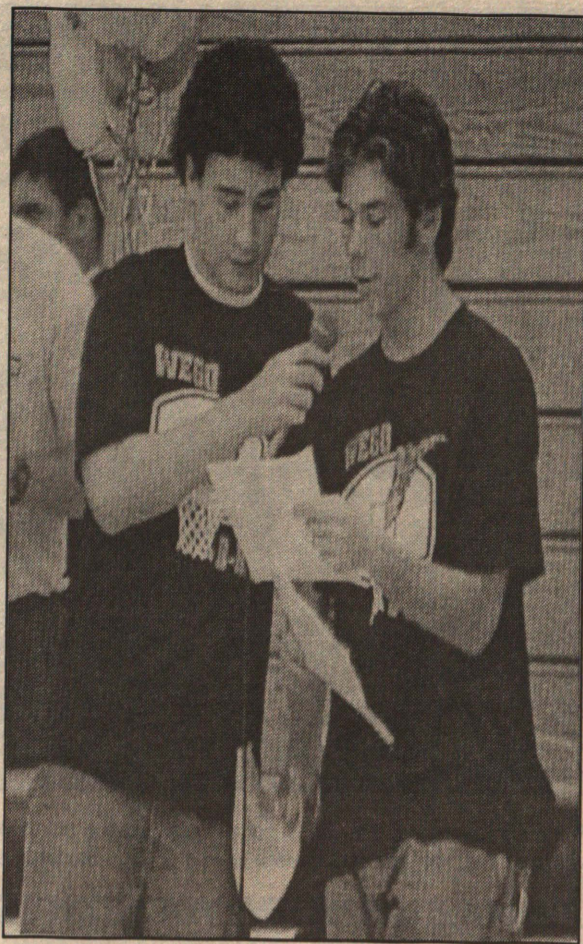
The students then went to the restaurant Nuevo Leon where each student received a plate with a tortilla and individual ingredients to create their own meal.

Next, the group of students went to the museum bookstore. Junkroski bought two Harry Potter books in Spanish.

Junkroski said, "I'm going to give the Harry Potter books to the school library for the Hispanic students."

The students also went to a record store and a bakery.

The Spanish Club is also looking forward to a holiday party on Dec. 10.



Midnight Madness earned \$400 for charity. Announcers Alex Baker and Matt Kallas helped announce the event.

Staff Photo

Madness... (Continued from page 1)

To determine winners, contestants chose numbers from a marketing student's hand.

Science teacher Corrie Gilgallon did not have to choose. She automatically won first place for the whipped cream contest because she volunteered for the event.

Even though one food contest was canceled, the hot dog eating contest went ahead as planned.

Because Daniel Ballines ate three hot dogs in three minutes he won a \$30 gift certificate to El Tesoro Restaurant.

McCarthy felt bad for Ballines because he thought the hot dogs were dry because they didn't have any ketchup or mustard on them.

Water was provided for the contestants to help the dogs go down.

Next year McCarthy is considering eliminating eating contests because they are not that entertaining for the crowd.

But if the crowd lost interest in food contests, there was plenty more for them to watch including the frozen tee-shirt contest.

Three contestants were given frozen tee-shirts in a ball with the idea of putting the tee-shirt on over their clothes contest.

Contestants tried to break

the ice on the shirts by throwing them on the ground. When McCarthy asked them to stop, contestants turned to other strategies.

Aimee Beutke had her winter coat on and used that to thaw her shirt.

After a few minutes passed, the event was stopped because the shirts wouldn't thaw and contestants were asked to pull numbers from someone's hand to determine the winner.

Then there was the sticky buns contest where blindfolded contestants with tape on their pants sat in a stack of single dollar bills, hoping to land the \$100 hiding in the pile. Matt Kuhn was a \$100 richer for his effort in the contest.

Finally, three contestants had a shot at a new car. They were asked to sink a shot in one basket on the court, turn around and shoot into the opposite basket from there. No one made the basket.

In honor of the girls' and boys' basketball season, the two teams played a short game against each other.

Towards the end of the game, the girls' basketball team had every player out on the court but they lost anyway.

After more than two hours, the madness ended. But only until next year.

Jazz band's cool cats heat up the school

By Sam West

The cooling of temperatures means that things are heating up in We-go's jazz band.

Only a few players graduated last year so jazz band's line up largely remains unchanged. Practices started Nov. 7 and the season lasts through May.

Many jazz band members are excited about the new season.

Bass trombonist Brian Steere said, "It would be nice to have Thursday nights off, but jazz band usually rocks."

Ricky Camp said he liked jazz band because, "The music's pretty good this year."

Tenor saxophonist Jason

Becker agreed.

"It's a real fun set of upbeat hits," Becker said.

But some think that different music should be played.

"I'm not impressed with the music," said flautist Katie Taylor, adding that she would like to play a little more funk and some John Coltrane songs.

Because of dissatisfaction with the old jazz uniforms, a white polo shirt and slacks, the jazz band members have chosen to wear new garb.

Girls will wear different colored dressy tank tops and black pants, said Taylor. Guys will wear a dark long-sleeved shirt with a tie and black slacks.

The change in attire will boost the morale of the band

many band members agree.

"In picking our own uniforms," Taylor said, "we were able to express ourselves and we have more fun."

Camp said, "We look spiffier than when we wore the polo shirts."

This season's songs will in-

clude Latin selections such as "Oye Como Va," a song called "Coconut Champagne," and a swing/groove mix called "Riley's Thang."

Jazz band's first concert is on Dec. 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium along with the chamber choir.

Government... (Continued from page 1)

Cable in the Classroom then decided that they wanted to make We-go's government classes a feature in one of their upcoming issues.

Cable in the Classroom also contacted all of the government teachers and conducted an interview, as well as visited the high school for a photo shoot.

The program asked how the course was taught, why the class was better than traditional government classes, how did students like the class, and how simulations worked.

Along with this, the Cable in the Classroom web page is planning on featuring the government web page, which is maintained by Jeremy Rose.

"If we are featured in their magazine, they're going to feature the simulation. I'd imagine part of the article would be to give the web site

to anyone who is interested in seeing what West Chicago is doing. They would then feature our website," said Daneels.

Cable in the Classroom came to We-go for a photo shoot on Nov. 6. Members of the elected Rules Committee as well as the government assistants were photographed.

The coverage from Cable in the Classroom will help to bring legitimacy to the government program, Daneels said.

Along with this the national exposure could possibly be used to spread the program to other schools, said Daneels.

"I think they are doing an excellent job in promoting civic education. By featuring innovative programs like the one at West Chicago, other schools might be inspired to try something like the legislative simulation at their school," said Daneels.

Forensics competitors speak their way to the top

By Michelle Loerzel

Mike Doll was the only student who made it as far as finals at a forensics tournament recently, but he was unable to place.

Shepard hosted the tournament that took place at Oak Lawn High School on Nov. 16.

In the recent We-go North biennial home tournament, Emy Krauspe won first place in prose reading. Doll earned third place for radio speaking and Andy Dameron won fourth place for original comedy.

Stan Lemon won fourth place in verse reading while Stephanie Neumann and Jeff Hansen placed fourth for their humorous acting duet.

"The students did great, al-

though I was unable to see them perform because I had to help run the tournament," said coach Steve Kellner.

The We-go North tournament is hosted by West Chicago Community High School and Downers Grove North High School.

Over 600 competitors from 25 suburban schools competed. Twenty-three We-go students participated.

Poms take a month off for preparation

By Bridget Geraghty

Poms are using their month off wisely, and getting ready for the basketball games.

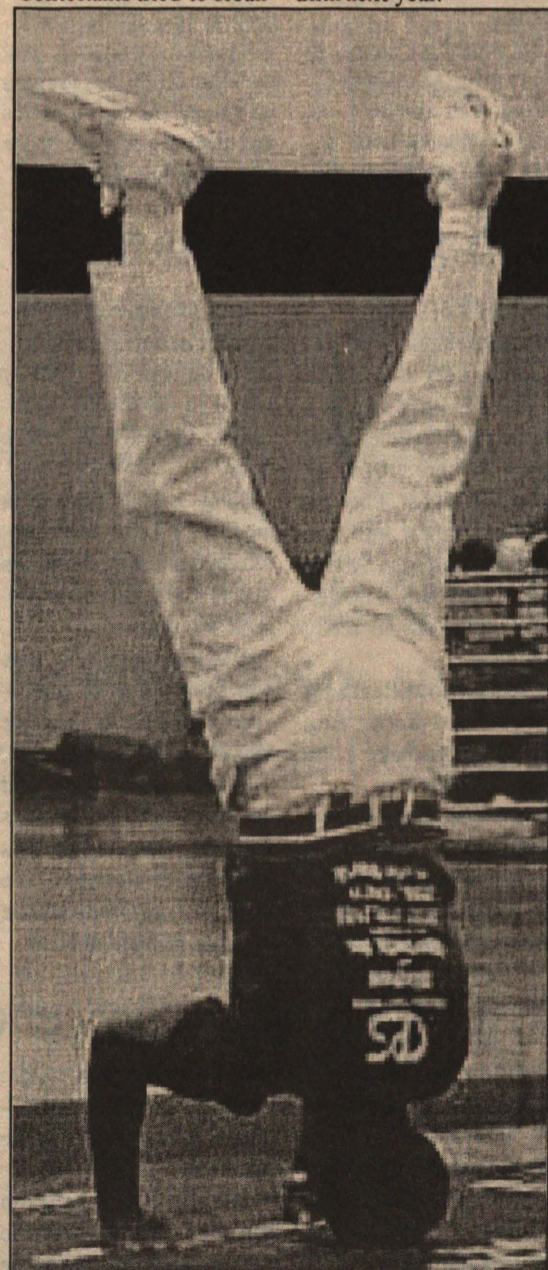
Adviser Cindy Stone said there are more basketball games than football games, so

they need more routines. To solve this problem, every three girls get to choreograph a routine.

"This way you can see diversity in the routines. They might do a funk or a dance

routine instead of a traditional pom routine," said Stone.

The girls are also responsible for music, teaching it, and designing a costume for their routine.



Staff Photo

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White made a surprise visit to Midnight Madness as a performer.

Baseball fields set to be built at middle school

By Kyle Bullis
In order to acquire more athletic fields for the use of students at Community High School, We-go will be building a baseball field behind the West Chicago Middle School.

The field would have cost We-go \$20,000 a year for 15 years, but the school opted to pay the full amount in two payments of \$150,000 each, with one payment during the 2002-2003 school year and the other one during the 2003-2004 school year.

District 33 is having severe budget problems, so paying off the field early will help the district, said superintendent Lee Reick.

There are still some issues and problems that need to be worked out, such as who should maintain the field and

whether or not the middle school students should be allowed to use the field.

The board also raised the question of who should be held responsible if a stray baseball were to hit a parked car.

"If someone parks their car next to a baseball field, they are putting themselves at risk," said Reick.

The baseball field was proposed as an alternative way to keep as many athletic fields open to We-go's students as possible.

Work that was being done at the High Lake property has been put on hold because of map survey delays, economic development and other concerns.

High Lake will most likely be sold because the land isn't needed, said Reick.

Report Cards... (Continued from page 1)

school may have to cut back on some programs due to the deficit and there could be a percentage decrease of resources in some departments.

"We are in a process of budget review with all programs. Right now, we are looking at everything," Grizaffi said, adding that educational programs are a priority.

"But something's going to have to give," said Grizaffi.

Along with district goals, school finances were reported. The average teacher

salary is \$58,350 in the school while only \$49,702 for the state average.

The school spends about 5 percent less than the state on instruction, 8 percent less than the state on supporting services, and 15 percent more than the state on other expenditures.

The school district has its own goals for the school. They plan to upgrade and develop facilities, such as upgrading the music rooms and making a decision on the fate of Lincoln School.

NHS gives toys to needy

By Melissa Stevens
National Honor Society is sponsoring a toy drive for the upcoming holiday season.

Members Kim Peterik and Jessica York are organizing the drive this year. They are collecting money and toys for the Humanitarian Service Project, who will then distribute the goods to needy children.

"We hope to collect a lot of toys," said York. "Any little thing can make a difference, though."

She hopes that the toys will help make Christmas happier for children who can not otherwise afford nice presents and toys.

York also believes that We-go is the perfect place to collect donations. "Many people in our school can afford to give a little," York said.

Many people showed an interest in the toy drive before it began, and NHS hopes that as many people as possible will donate.

They are looking for toys with a focus more on 8 to 12-year-olds, a list of ideas for toys is posted in commons. The toys must be new and unwrapped. NHS members will label and wrap the toys after the drive ends. The drive will continue until the beginning of winter break.

Writing notes in class encouraged for radio contest

By Michelle Loerzel
Students came together to write note cards to 94.7 The Zone to win a New Found Glory concert and money for the school.

The contest is run by The Zone, which wants students of high schools to write on

note cards or post cards: "Q101 is over and my 50-year old mom listens to the mix."

The school who sends in the most cards will win the concert and \$5,000 for the fine arts department.

West Chicago started writ-



Staff Photo

Marion Blumenthal Lazan (front center) survived the Holocaust and now recounts her experiences to students around the world. Here, she answers questions from We-go students after recalling her story.

Holocaust survivor shares experiences with We-go

By Stephanie Bodane
We-go took an emotional journey through the eyes of Marion Blumenthal Lazan, a Holocaust survivor, early last week.

Lazan's recollection of her life during WWII was not only disturbing, but also heartwarming. She explained about her life in Nazi Germany as a child.

Lazan's family lived in Germany during the 1930s. Her family lived above her father's small shoe business. When it became obvious the Nazis were targeting the Jews,

her family began the process of organizing their immigration papers to America.

When Lazan was 4-years-old, her family received the immigration papers and they prepared to move to Holland to await their departure date.

However, before they could move Lazan's father was taken from their home and placed in a concentration camp. But because he held papers to America, he was released.

The Lazans sold their home and their business in order to move to Holland

immediately upon his release.

"In Holland my parents took care of 129 children who were waiting to be sent to the U.S.," said Lazan.

In Holland, the family shared an apartment with two small bedrooms, and a small dining room.

"We did have enough food," said Lazan.

To earn money, her father worked in a small shoe repair shop, while her mother had a job in the kitchen.

Because of all of the family moving and Nazi persecution, Lazan and children like her, received little schooling and spent a great deal of time being bored since there was nothing they were allowed to do.

Finally in 1942, the date for moving to America was closing in, but the Nazis occupied Holland before the Lazan family could depart and deported Lazan and her family to the concentration camp, Bergen-Belsen.

"We brought one knapsack each. In the knapsack I had clothing, a sweater, and a rag doll that was more a rag than a doll," said Lazan.

The family was packed into cattle cars on their long

journey to their unknown destiny.

"I remember it was a bitter cold, pitch black, rainy night. And when we arrived we were pulled and dragged from the cars," said Lazan.

Nazis screaming instructions, holding rifles and restraining German Shepherds met the hundreds of Jewish prisoners.

To this day Lazan said German Shepherds upset her because of her encounter with them that night.

"The camp was surrounded by 12 feet of barbed wire. At night there were search lights everywhere," said Lazan.

The men and the women were separated in the camp, and each person was paired with someone to share a small, wooden bunk with. Lazan said she was lucky as she was assigned to share the bunk with her mother.

During the winter the prisoners were given one thin blanket to cover both people.

There was one small fireplace, meant to heat the barracks that held 600 people, instead of the 100 that it was intended to hold. But Lazan pointed out the fireplace was rarely, if ever, lit.

(See Holocaust page 5)

Dance class planning on kicking it up in January

By Sarah Kuna
Dance production is looking ahead to January and its annual dance show.

"This year will be a great year. We have a lot of talented enthusiastic dancers," said Helen Zmrhal the adviser for the group.

Twenty-nine girls meet daily third hour in the dance studio.

Tryouts are held in February for anyone interested in dance production. Anyone who makes the group is allowed to sign up for the dance production gym class.

For tryouts, dance production is looking for basic steps such as pirouettes, leaps, and three teacher recommenda-

tions, said Zmrhal.

Also dancers must make up their own dance and learn a required dance.

They are anticipating fundraisers in the future for their costumes.

Dance production is planning on selling various products made by Bath and Body Works, said Zmrhal. They will also be selling candy.

Besides focusing on the January show, the group is learning about dance. Recently the group attended the Northern Illinois University performance arts workshop.

The group attends the workshop every fall, but are also planning on attending the workshop in the spring.



Staff Photo

Katie Patnaude and Kilye Clark add to the pile of around 14,000 notecards for a 94.7 contest.

ing note cards on Nov. 13, a while after the contest started, said Katy Kostal.

"Becky Dennis brought the idea to me," said Kostal who helps coordinate We-go's part in the contest.

Hope Vock, Bob Nagel, Dan Deutsch, Dave Aguirre,

Katie Patnaude, Lauren Loek and others helped her get the note cards together, said Kostal.

Students rushed to write on the first day, resulting in about 14,000 note cards.

The final results will be announced on Wednesday.

How patriotic is the Patriot Act?

What is the definition of a patriot? How much are citizens willing to sacrifice in order to stop what may not even be happening?

Last year, President Bush signed a bill the government is calling the U.S. Patriot Act. The Patriot Act is a bill that will allow the government to widen their ability to use surveillance in order to prevent terrorist attacks.

With the act, the government is now able to obtain records from libraries, purchase records from bookstores, or purchase e-mail records from Internet service providers.

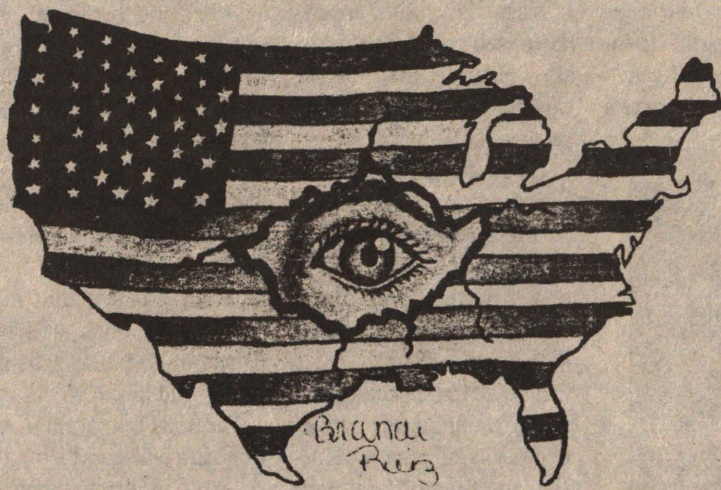
They can also expand their tracing of phone calls, and capture phone numbers dialed on outgoing calls as well as incoming calls. The government is using the act to ensure that, if there is a suspected terrorist, they can track them down and find probable cause afterward.

Isn't this in violation of the American peoples' rights?

Recently, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) sued the government, demanding that they reveal information about the Patriot Act to the American people. The organization wants to know how the government plans to use the act and what the guidelines are for what a suspected terrorist is.

The group wants to make sure that: wiretapping is subjected to meaningful judicial review, law enforcement officers must still obtain a search warrant, and non-citizens who

are not a terrorist are not subject to search. Like most Americans, the group wants to make sure that no privacy rights



are violated.

Concerned citizens are asking who would have access to this information, how would the information be used, and would they be notified of the surveillance?

Most Americans will do just about anything to ensure that terrorists are not being trained or harbored in the United States.

However, those same Americans who support the "war on terrorism" do not support the idea that their privacy may be taken away in order to catch suspects.

The idea that people will no longer be able to even check out a book or make a phone call, without the F.B.I. tracing them and watching their every move makes some say that the U.S. Patriot Act should be called the "Big Brother Act" instead.

To many, giving the government the power to search every telephone call or e-mail, or every purchase made at bookstores and other places seems to be the ultimate invasion of privacy.

We should question the authority of the government because we are allowing them to label anyone a terrorist. Even innocent Americans

will be questioned and watched without reasonable cause.

It's the new way of America, if we allow the Patriot Act to continue.

Democrats bring fairness to Illinois

For the first time in over a quarter century, the Democrats have power in Illinois government.

Rod Blagojevich is our next governor, Lisa Madigan our next attorney general, and Jesse White will serve a second term as secretary of state.

Blagojevich triumphed over opponent Jim Ryan, because Blagojevich was the better candidate.

Jim Ryan was tied directly to the Rolando Cruz case. Even though Cruz was innocent, as proven by evidence, Jim Ryan prosecuted and Cruz was sentenced to death row.

This happened three times. All three trials had conflicting evidence against Jim Ryan's case, but he used his power to get Cruz convicted

because he didn't want to admit he was wrong.

This has been the case in the governor's race, too. Whenever Blagojevich questioned his actions, Jim Ryan's only response was "You don't know what you're talking about!"

That is not the sign of a good leader, and voters saw that.

Blagojevich has good ideas in mind and hopefully will restore Illinoisans' trust in state politics.

Contrary to what Jim Ryan's campaign ads said about him, Blagojevich has a good record, and hopefully he will do his job as well as he said he would.

Although she doesn't have as much experience as her opponent Joe Birkett, Madigan is smart and com-

petent enough to do what her job requires.

Madigan has worked with the community, has law experience, and knows what she is talking about. This is evidenced by her goals.

Madigan plans to create a Division of Public Integrity, which will combat political corruption by having experienced lawyers prosecute any corrupt case.

All state employees will have to take a course on political ethics. She will bring together the political world of Illinois, and corruption will cease.

White has already started the process of cleaning up the scandal messes.

As secretary of state, White has chosen an inspector general who will oversee all state employees and monitor their

actions, thereby hopefully reducing corruption.

His legislative initiative to reduce the fraudulent use of disability placards and license plates was approved unanimously by the Illinois House.

Both the House and Senate have passed White's other propositions.

Since the George Ryan scandal broke out, White has targeted drunk and illegally licensed drivers and has reduced fraud by investigating all alleged corruption.

Now Democrats have the chance to show Illinois what they are all about.

Democrats will change the way things are done politically and will finally bring an end to the Republican regime that has graced Illinois for 25 years.

Fire drills go up in flames during passing periods

Students at West Chicago are well trained to respond to fire drills in a controlled classroom situation.

But fires can happen at any time and, as evidenced by Wednesday's fire alarm, students have absolutely no practice for fires during passing periods.

This is a dangerous situation because students and staff would not be as ready for a fire during passing periods if one occurred.

Planned fires and compliant students are not the reality of a school fire.

Students are not in a scheduled class with a teacher for over 17 percent of the day. Some students arrive before school starts and don't leave right away at the end of the day. During the free time they are in commons or the hallways.

How would staff deal with students at 6:30 a.m. if a fire alarm went off? Or if the alarm went off during passing periods?

Principal John Highland agrees that it would be total chaos, but the number one priority would be to get the students out as soon as possible.

Evacuating the building wouldn't be so bad, but counting the students outside would be the difficult part, said Highland.

He also said that, while an evacuation may be chaotic during passing periods, staff would react on their feet to make sure the students exit the building safely.

To test this theory, there should be a practice during a passing period with the fire department on campus to see how well the students react to a drill without nearly as much teacher assistance.

The fire department should also observe if the teachers take the safest procedures and react well with the students.

Teachers should discuss with students the exit routes from different areas in the building to make sure they know what to do. Also, students should have special places to report to outside for a head count.

Then if the fire alarm went off during the passing periods, students would know exactly what areas outside to wait at and which exit is the quickest to leave the building from.

The most important thing is to evacuate the students as quickly and efficiently as possible. But do all students know the safest and quickest route to exit their school?

Although the event would be chaotic, a practice fire drill during a passing period would show the reality of how a fire evacuation could be. Then the students would really be prepared.

Music downloading strikes a chord

The era of music downloading is about to end, if record companies have their way.

The Recording Industry Association of America is demanding that Verizon Communications give them the names of subscribers accused of downloading and distributing music online.

Verizon refuses to turn over the names, citing that the subscribers are using a file sharing program to distribute the music, so the company is not responsible for their actions. Since the files are on personal computers, Verizon would be invading customer privacy.

This case is only the latest in a wave of lawsuits the RIAA has brought against

companies after the shut down of the now infamous file sharing program Napster.

Since Napster's demise, the RIAA has shut down countless other programs, yet music piracy is still rampant.

The RIAA refuses to acknowledge a correlation between CD burning and the increase in CD prices.

At most chain retailers, a CD can cost anywhere between \$14 and \$20. If the artist is old or unknown, the price may drop by a few dollars.

Why pay that much for a CD when you can go online and download the same songs for free?

Teenagers and people in their 20s make up the bulk of CD purchasers. Most high

school and college students just can't afford to pay high prices for CDs, so they turn to the only other available alternative for music: the Internet.

File sharing programs like Kazaa and Morpheus offer virtually any song or movie quickly and affordably. Users can download songs that are out of print or unreleased as well as current hits cheaply and efficiently.

About 1.8 billion unauthorized songs are downloaded a month via file sharing programs.

If record companies were to offer the same songs on their own programs for 5 cents a download, they would still make a considerable amount of money.

Yes, they would make less than they would if it were a CD. But they would still make enough to pay artists, songwriters, and publishers with money to spare, considering the fact that the average song writer only makes 2 percent off CDs, and then only if the CD goes platinum.

If making songs available online takes too much money out of the RIAA's pockets, they could always drop CD prices. It costs companies less than 25 cents to mass produce a CD, yet consumers are paying over 98 percent more than the cost of making the CD.

No wonder consumers are turning to music piracy, it's the only thing they can afford.

Kyle's Kolumn

Idiots make sports more entertaining

Sometimes sports can turn even the sanest of people into idiots.

Citing specific examples is a tough job, because there are so many different occurrences. There are a few that stand out in my mind though.

Over in Europe, they take soccer very seriously, and apparently the sport is so important that a war started over it.

This half-month war, creatively titled the Soccer War, lasted from July 14 to July 30 of 1969.

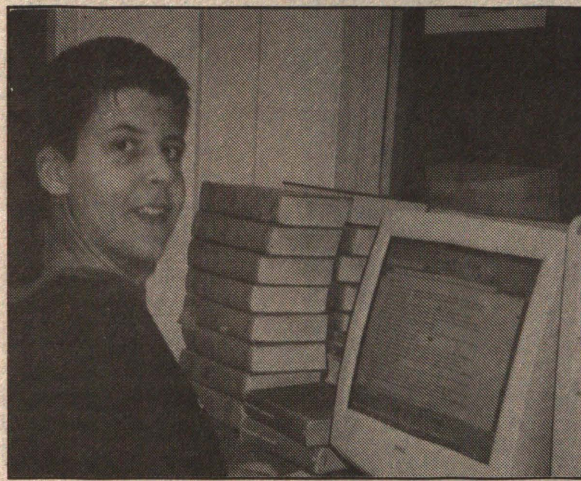
The war started when Honduras and El Salvador were playing in a heated soccer match. Besides being soccer rivals, they were also political rivals, which tensed up the exhibition even further.

I don't think that anyone could have guessed what would happen. Yep. They went to war.

Within the span of 16 days, over 2,000 people died in the Soccer War.

I would have died laughing on the frontlines, enemy soldiers facing each other in cold, dark stares, hate in their eyes, anger running through their veins. Then, out of sheer rage, they charge forward waving their guns in the air shouting their battle cry.

"We're better than you at soccer!" And then, of course, the opposing soldiers would, in a desperate attempt to retaliate, cry back "No! We're better than you!"



Even if I was the most patriotic person on the planet, I would rather chase a squirrel in the forest than go to war if the country lost, say, a game of Chinese Checkers.

At least these idiots are entertaining.

If you watch football, you've probably seen the runner going towards the end zone and sticking his arms in front of him in triumph. I saw on SportsCenter a football player running the ball down the field for a touchdown. He demonstrated a premature arm sticking out-age. As he stuck his arm out, a

member of the other team proceeded to casually swat the ball out of his hands a good 20 feet short of the end zone.

The coach probably yelled at the guy so badly that he couldn't show his face in public for about 60 years.

I have yet another example, this one being baseball related. Many people, particularly Little Leaguers, like to imitate Babe Ruth's famous move where he pointed towards the outfield and, on the next pitch, hit a screaming home run exactly where he pointed.

I saw, again on SportsCenter, a Little Leaguer attempting this same feat. Now I have come to learn that the ball doesn't follow the rules when it comes to Little League. Erratic bounces have hit me in the face so many times that I'm surprised I haven't suffered any serious brain damage.

This Little Leaguer learned this the hard way. On the next pitch, he made a huge swing and leaned so far into the swing that he foul-tipped the ball and it nailed him right in the center of his forehead.

I was impressed. Okay, I felt sorry for him too. But it was impressive. He may just be the first person in baseball history to get hit in the face with his own batted ball.

Idiots have filled sports since the beginning of time, and unfortunately I doubt they'll ever leave. When we're all driving in flying cars, there will still be Little Leaguers hitting themselves in the face with their own baseballs.

Test incentives create competition

The state of Illinois is offering \$10,000 to 60 Chicago public schools that show the most improvement on their standardized test scores.

This can feed competition between schools. Now schools aren't only competing with their sports teams, they are competing to improve their standardized test scores. This will lead to teachers keeping useful teaching strategies within the school instead of sharing.

When it comes to education, teaching strategies and ideas should be shared between schools to improve the schools and help the students make something of themselves in the future.

The new incentive program will add unnecessary pressure on the students. The faculty will apply more pressure on the students to improve their test scores. School curriculum will be filled with tests and scores, not actual learning experiences for the students.

The schools want money for their better scores, so they will remind the students how important it is to do well on the tests. The students will spend more time worrying about the importance of the test than the test itself.

Why should schools that don't improve their test scores be punished?

They shouldn't. Low test

scores are not entirely the school's fault. The schools that are unable to improve their scores need the money for better teachers, textbooks, computers, and other teaching aids to teach the students more and boost their test scores. With a majority of the state's money going to the other schools, it will only harm that school even more.

The state needs to look at the root of the problem and fix it from there, not just throw money at the problem.

Parental involvement in student's work could be lack-

ing, and without the parent's involvement the students don't care about their performance in school.

Schools should set up programs to get the parents involved in their children's schoolwork.

If the parents get involved, the students will care more about their performance in school. With the students working harder at school, it will improve their test scores.

Other students are unable to perform at their best on tests.

The state should look into

alternative ways to measure the amount the students are learning.

The fact of the matter is, giving money to the schools that don't need it will hurt the schools that do. The state needs to look closer at the schools with lower test scores and see why this problem is occurring.

Afterwards, the state can distribute the money accordingly to help solve the problem and hopefully help the schools raise their test scores.

Jessica Myers
Reporter

Are we pushing kids too far?

Some kindergarten classes are pushing kids past a reasonable level of learning.

Kindergarten is supposed to be a time of easy learning, finger-painting, building blocks, and stories. In some places, many of these things no longer occur.

In some classes, recess and most toys are taken away because they aren't productive enough. This isn't good because children need the opportunity to relax their mind and have a break from work.

The pressure to learn and learn quickly is pushed harder on young children.

According to the Chicago Tribune, a common goal in schools is to have the kinder-

gartners reading by the end of the year. At the age of 5 not all children are mentally ready to begin reading.

Kids become frustrated to tears because they are not at the same reading level as their friends. It is not necessarily that they do not want to read, but that they are not mentally prepared to read.

Teachers who work in these schools said that kindergartners in these programs take standardized achievement tests, which often result in children crying, wetting their pants and acting out in frustration.

Many teachers are also recognizing that this tactic of teaching is not as successful

as many had hoped. The children are not able to learn as quickly as intended. There is no research that indicates learning to read at younger ages will impact academic achievements later in life, according to the Chicago Tribune. What it does show is more kids are getting frustrated with themselves and are beginning to hate school.

Kindergarten should be a stepping stone from preschool to regular school. It should have academic aspects, but to take away the child's opportunity to play and learn through playful activities seems a bit ridiculous.

Anna Nubie
Special Sections Editor

We-go teams are proud of their fans

West Chicago's fan base is second to none. Week after week during the fall sports season, students can be seen outside tailgating and preparing for Friday night games hours in advance. For players, there is nothing more rewarding than this. Part of what makes a team is the support that they gather from their fans. It is exhilarating for a player to run onto the field or the gym floor and see hundreds, if not thousands, of fans cheering them on. On most occasions, West Chicago's fans have outnumbered those of other teams, even at away games.

For years, sports at West Chicago have gained reputations as bad teams. West Chicago has never seemed to pose a threat to other schools.

At least that's what everyone else believed. We-go fans, though, know what their team is capable of. Regardless of the sport, we are able to compete. The Squad, West Chicago's source of student fans, has been notorious for its loud, crazy antics at games.

After West Chicago football upset Naperville Central for a spot in the playoffs, students stormed the field in celebration. Not one person who was at that game will be able to forget that night. It was not just the team's win, instead, it was the school's win. We-go fans contributed to that game, as they never let up, never stopped believing that West Chicago would beat Naperville. It never crossed their minds that West Chicago would not make the playoffs. The unforgettable feeling of that night was just as much a result of the fans, as it was of the players.

Even after the football season came to an end, the Squad never stopped their support. From the stands came cheers of encouragement as fans reminded the players that, win or lose, they would still be there.

We-go fans waited for hours in the freezing cold before the game. Even as Lake Park's stands began to clear, when it was obvious that Lake Park had won, We-go fans held strong in the standing-room-only away section.

As the game came to a close, the team could have been met with boos from the crowd for a less than par performance. Instead, a chant of "awesome season" filled the air amidst a 28-0 loss.

Football is not the only sport turning out a number of fans. As the girls' volleyball team headed into their regional championship against Geneva, students and adults alike filled the stands to cheer the team on.

Some fans even followed We-go's golfers all the way to Rockford during regionals just to support them.

Without We-go fans, sports would not be the same. They have contributed so much to the successes of our teams, as well as the fun, exciting atmosphere that surrounds each game.

Elliott Tinnes
Sports Editor

Want your opinion heard?

Write a letter to the editor!

Letters can be written or typed. All letters must be signed.

Please submit letters to Ms. Kuehn in room 319

or the Chronicle mailbox in the administrative office.

Watson switches lines to teaching

By Michelle Loerzel
James Watson arrived at West Chicago Community High School for his first year of teaching math after working in data and telecommunications for 18 years.

Before deciding to make the switch Watson was in charge of product management and development for SBC-Ameritech.

"I thought a change would be interesting," said Watson. He wanted to get away from the daily procedures in the business environment.

He received his teaching credentials from National Louis University so he could begin his new career.

Having to wake each day and go work for a company was not rewarding or challenging anymore, said Watson. "Teaching is a challenge," said Watson.

Watson wanted to work where he would see the rewards from his daily efforts.

Now instead of facing a daily routine, he is challenged with a heavy workload and responsibilities that are more personally rewarding.

When you work for a company you work to make them money, but when you are a teacher you can see the progress and the outcome with the students, said Watson.

"There are some really great students at West Chicago and some students will like you and some will not, but it is much more rewarding than business," said Watson.

Watson grew up in Colorado but came to Illinois to attend Northwestern University where he earned his un-



Staff Photo

Former telecommunications worker James Watson is now an algebra teacher at We-go.

dergraduate degree in economics.

In addition, he received his masters in business administration from the J. L. Kellogg Graduate School of Manage-

ment, which is a part of Northwestern.

Now teaching algebra and geometry, he feels confident with where he is and is settling into We-go.

Students get hip with Chicago style

By Jaclyn Demes and Amanda Tollas

West Chicago clothing students left on a cold October morning for the train that would take them to Chicago for a behind-the-scenes glimpse of Chicago's clothing industry.

Upon their arrival in Chicago, students along with their clothing teachers Constance Scandora and Patti Kozlowski eagerly awaited the presentation in the studio of Chicago fashion designer, Lauren Lein.

Students walked into the studio filled with exotic clothing and fabrics in all shades of colors and in all types of patterns.

Scandora was the one responsible for arranging the meeting between the students and Lein.

"Lauren Lein was referred to me from the fashion office at the Chicago Apparel Center. She wants to reach out to young people to tell them about fashion design and how to get into the business," said Scandora.

Lein has lines in Marshall Fields, Nordstrom and other fine department stores. Lein also is involved in many different organizations in the Chicago area such as Fashion Group International, Network of Women Entre- (See Chicago page 10)

Clothing students rock on at Q101

By Jaclyn Demes and Amanda Tollas

Tap, tap, tap. The West Chicago clothing students anxiously tried to get the attention of someone inside the Q101 studio and it worked.

While on a field trip to the Merchandise Mart, the clothing students stopped at Q101's radio station hub during a lunch break.

When they noticed the station's host for 90's nooner, Nikki, they quickly scrambled for paper and pen.

On it they wrote "Shout out to West Chicago High School from the clothing classes." Then they put it up on the window for Nikki to

read. She told the students to wait there for a second. The students were waiting in the hall when suddenly the door opened and another Q101 employee invited the students in their studio.

They all dashed in and gathered around the studio microphones. Nikki asked the students to be quiet until she gave them the signal and when she did they were to say, "do the nooner." After Nikki started the next song she thanked the students for stopping by.

"The best part of the field trip was going to Q101. They signed my soccer ball," said Javier Cruz.

We-go football coach turns teacher

By Michelle Loerzel
Not only is William Bicker a coach at We-go, he is now a teacher.

Bicker came to West Chicago because he wanted to be in the building and because he likes the learning atmosphere and the education philosophy at We-go.

He is also closer to his coaching career. Bicker coached sophomore football for three years and freshman baseball for two years at West Chicago Community High School.

After taking a teaching methods class over the summer to be certified to work with high school students, Bicker was hired to help students in the Academic Skills

Center. Prior to the class Bicker was only certified to teach elementary school.

Bicker has taught in DuPage County his entire career.

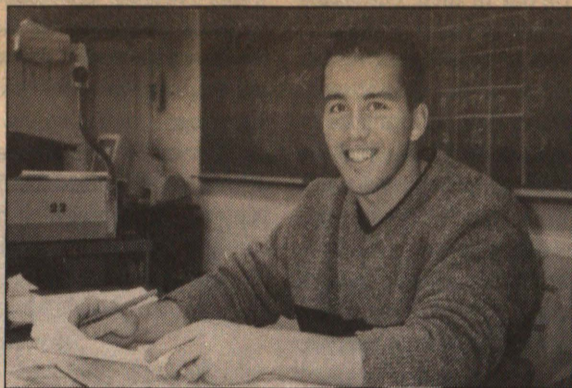
Bicker student taught at Turner Grade School to get his feet wet before working as an aide at Franklin Middle School in Wheaton.

After working a year as an aide, he became a teacher at Franklin. Bicker also taught sixth graders at Gary School for a year.

"I might want to get back into teaching elementary school again," said Bicker.

He enjoyed seeing the grade school children grow up mentally and physically.

However, Bicker enjoys



Staff Photo

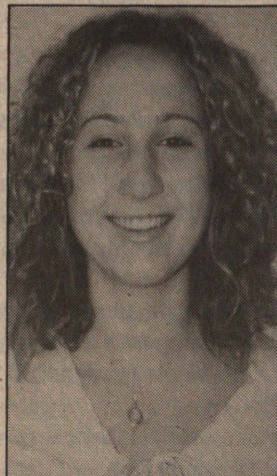
After working as We-go's football and softball coach, William Bicker decided to give teaching a shot. He now helps students in the Academic Skills Center.

high school students too.

"I enjoy working with high school students especially because of the diverse groups

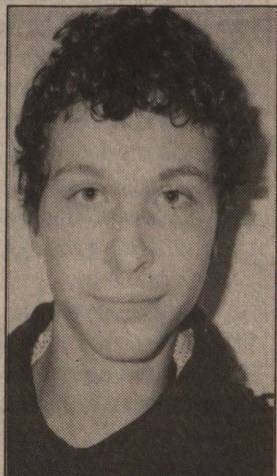
of personalities, interaction with the kids and helping them achieve their goals," said Bicker.

What's your favorite Thanksgiving memory?



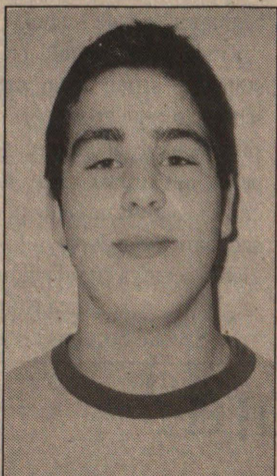
Ashley Rodgers junior

Eating three kinds of pies at my aunt's house and being so stuffed I can't move.



Jamon Siefert sophomore

When my cousin and I were in California and we took the turkey.



Justus Taylor senior

My brother took the turkey out of the oven and the popper thing didn't pop out yet, then it popped up and hit him in the eye.



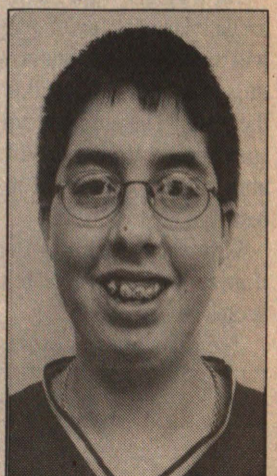
Brianne Nadolny sophomore

I went to the Opryland Hotel in Tennessee and had Thanksgiving dinner.



Lilli Cassidy sophomore

When my cousins tried to eat as many platefuls of food as their age.



Robert Marschall sophomore

When I went to Iowa to visit my aunt.

Box office hit gives We-go big, fat laughs

By Melissa Stevens

"My Big Fat Greek Wedding" has Greeks at We-go saying "Opa!"

The movie stars Nia Vardalos as Toula Portokalos, a 30-year-old Greek woman who falls in love with a non-Greek played by John Corbett. Toula's rather large family reacts to their union in different ways.

"My Big Fat Greek Wedding" opened in limited release in April. The movie slowly began to pick up steam in the box office. By the beginning of November the movie was nearing \$200 million.

Among the overwhelming amount of moviegoers who have attended "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" is the Greek population of We-go.

"It's incredibly funny," said special education teacher Michael Koulos, who comes from a Greek family that is exactly like the movie. Many of the characters reminded Koulos of his own relatives. The parents in the

movie reminded him of his own parents, especially their accents.

Koulos enjoyed how much the movie resembles real Greek families. He admits that the movie did exaggerate a little, but only in order to make it comedic to those who don't understand Greek culture.

English teacher Katarina Boves, whose father is Greek, has similar family experiences.

The father in the movie reminded her of her own father, specifically when he tries to find the Greek meaning of every word.

"He was very proud of his heritage," Boves said about the father in the movie and her own father.

Greek pride is a common theme in the movie. The Portokalos family shows their heritage by the Greek flag on their garage, their Parthenon like house, and even the Greek flag on Toula's wedding invitations.

We-go student Bridgette

Sanzeri liked that the movie gave non-Greeks the chance to see a little bit about how Greek families work. She too thought that the movie was very much like her own family, and that the parts exaggerated for laughs were based on accurate stories.

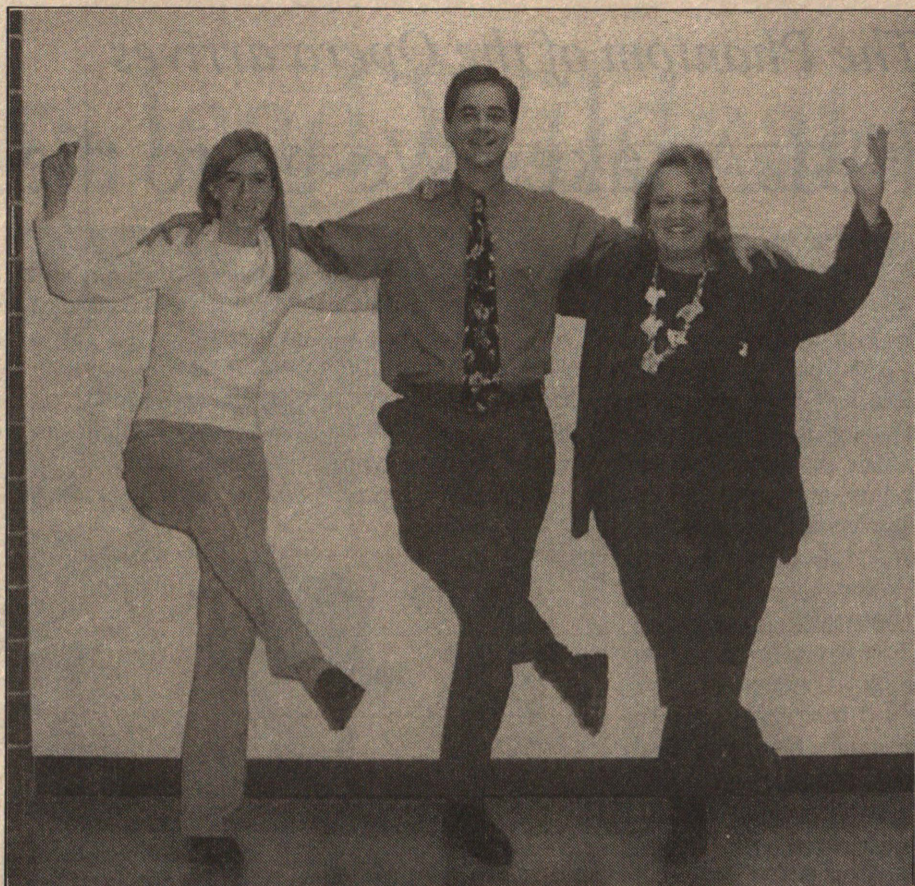
For instance, the mother in the movie asks if Corbett is hungry. When he answers that he isn't, she replies "Okay, I make you something to eat."

Sanzeri said that the scene hit close to home with her mother and her own boyfriend. Whenever her boyfriend comes to her house, her mother makes him meals whether he is hungry or not.

Even non-Greeks can relate to the movie.

Clothing teacher Patti Kozlowski saw the movie six times and will probably go back to see it a few more times before it leaves the theaters.

Kozlowski appreciates the lack of violence or sex scenes in the movie and that



Staff Photo

"My Big Fat Greek Wedding" was a hit with both Greek and non-Greek teachers. Kicking up their heels in Greek style are from left, Mike Koulos, Katerina Boves, and Patti Kozlowski.

it was family oriented.

"Everybody can find something they can relate to in it," she said.

The movie reminded her of her own wedding. Even though her husband is Polish, Kozlowski had similar experiences marrying into a family of a completely different culture.

Each time she went to see

the movie, she brought a new group of people with her.

"It was wonderful to see what they laughed at and liked," said Kozlowski.

She also liked how moviegoers tended to talk to the screen and give the characters advice. Not just women either, Kozlowski remembered one showing when a man in the audience started

talking to the screen as well.

One of Kozlowski's favorite things about the movie is its positive message about how inner beauty is more important than outer beauty.

All of the actors in the movie look like real people, not Hollywood stereotypes.

"We all look funny to somebody else," she said. "It depends on who's looking."

Close to Home practicing for shot at fame

By Jaclyn Demes

The floors are vibrating and your eardrums are busting but for the band Close to Home it's just another day of practice.

Adam Kalkman (guitar), Hans Moscicke (drums), Matt Timko (bass), and Tom Bianchi (guitar and vocals), make up Close to Home.

Bianchi and Moscicke started to jam together in sixth grade. In seventh grade they added Kalkman and Josh Frederick, who is no longer with the band.

Freshman year Kalkman left the band for personal reasons but then came back.

The band was a trio for a while.

Bianchi was filling in playing drums while performing vocals with Moscicke playing bass.

They told Timko to learn bass to take Fredericks' spot in the band.

Once Timko learned bass Moscicke switched to

drums. Bianchi now plays guitar while performing vocals.

They practice every Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday at 4 p.m. in Kalkman's basement. If you want to hear the band play just talk to them about going to a practice.

During this time of band members coming and going, Close to Home went through many name changes too.

Previous names they adopted were Raid, Epicenter, Scary Mary, and SMS Development Project before they finally decided on Close to Home.

"We wanted something that meant something to us and hit 'close to home'," jokes Kalkman.

Close to Home has played at Good Old Days in Winfield for the past four years.

They've also played with Blind Fate at Synergy twice.

One thing that makes this band unique is that they write all of their songs.



Staff Photo

Close to Home is hoping all their practice will lead to fame one day. They are planning to release an album in December. The band members, from left, are: Tom Bianchi, Hans Moscicke, Adam Kalkman, and Matt Timko.

"My favorite songs are 'Machine Gun' and 'Momentarily' because I get into them more than the other songs," reports Timko.

Bands such as 311, No Doubt (their old stuff), Blink 182, and The Foo Fighters have inspired the members of Close to Home.

All the guys agreed that the best part about being in a band is putting on live shows.

Five years from now they

would all like to be on stage touring the world.

"We're just doing it for fun now and hoping something will come out of it," says Bianchi. If they ever got big they would stay underground.

They don't like the idea of being on MTV's TRL.

Kalkman, Moscicke, and Timko are all seniors at West Chicago and Bianchi is a senior at Wheaton Warrenville South.

All the guys are planning

on attending college but they don't think that going off to college will affect the band.

Since the guys have all known each other for so long it has allowed them to really lock in together when they perform.

"I love being in Close to Home because I'm surrounded by three of my best friends that all contribute with personality, originality, and confidence in me and themselves," said Bianchi.

"They never bring anything down that I write, and they will always be by my side."

Close to Home plans on coming out with an album in December.

Right now the only name they are thinking of is "The 18 Timers" but are open to suggestions.

If you have any ideas or would like to find out more on the band check out their web site at www.closehome1freerservers.com

The Phantom of the Opera arrives

FBLA takes We-go to the Emmys

By Jessica Myers

The Future Business Leaders of America presented We-go to the Emmys recently for its annual variety show fundraiser for March of Dimes.

Male announcers dressed in tuxedos and female announcers dressed in formal gowns helped emcee the Nov. 15 event.

The males escorted the females across the stage before every act, accompanied with music from Blink 182, the Simpsons, Hoobastank, and Mozart.

The show started off with a salute to America. Jeff Linsenmeyer sang the "Star Spangled Banner" while the audience stood up and saluted the American flag.

Nicole Chudoba and Gil Valenzuela sang "Only Hope" a song from the "A Walk to Remember" soundtrack. Valenzuela presented flowers to Chudoba after the performance and kissed her on the cheek.

Valenzuela also appeared in two other acts. He sang lead for White Rice and Bean, which is made up of Valenzuela, Dave Aguirre, Brian Calabrese, Tim Murrey, and Brian Romanelli. They performed "My Friends Over You" by New Found Glory after performing an original song.

"We hoped the choice of song would motivate people to fill out the note cards," Aguirre said.

Valenzuela also performed with the Breakin' Buds, which consisted of Alberto Allende, Fabian Cruz, DJ Henning, Ricki Jimenez, and Tony Perham. Breakin' Buds break danced while Jake Walters deejayed for the group.

The act started out with three break dancers, who performed a few moves for the audience.

The three other members came out onto the stage to pick a fight with the first three.

Instead of fighting, the two groups break danced to show up the others.

Handless back flips, head

spins, and tabletop moves were performed throughout the act. At the end of the act, all six guys performed together as one group.

The Breakin' Buds also did a few moves for the encore of 32 Blind Homes' 7 p.m. per-

Brooke Bachelor and Yuko Otsuca slowed down the show with "The Past is Now Present," a song from an upcoming musical. Bachelor sang while Otsuca played the piano.

Last year's prom queen

mission. The 7 p.m. intermission included Alex Baker and Greg Hodge winging jokes. When Baker didn't know what to do, audience members came on stage to tell jokes of their own.

After the 7 p.m. show intermission, a surprise act came onstage to perform the "Phantom of the Opera." Dressed in a cape and phantom mask, Principal John Highland sang accompanied by a choir, organ player, and violinists. Highland stood in a gondola and smog blew about the stage as Highland sang.

"He was really good. I never thought he would do that," an audience member said.

The Caramelatinas wore matching red tank tops, and white sweat pants with the word "Caramelatinas" across one leg. Leticia Acosta, Maricela Ballines, Denise Gonzalez, Monica Haros, and Alyssa Santiago danced to a medley of remixes.

Another dancing group was Hilda Garcia, Jessica Garcia, Ruth Gonzalez, Angelica Moreno, Diana Moreno, and Milagros Proa. They danced to "El Son De La Negra." The group wore pink dresses which made designs as they performed a traditional Mexican dance.



Staff Photo

formance.

32 Blind Homes consisted of three different bands, 32 Over, Blind Fate, and Close to Home. Mark Foote represented 32 Over, Tom Aguirre and Brad Sabathne represented Blind Fate, and Adam Kalkman represented Close to Home. Aguirre also surprised the audience with free copies of Blind Fate's album "Today Class..."

This variety show was Sabathne and Aguirre's fourth year performing.

However, they are not the only ones to perform four years in a row in the variety show. Javier Cruz has also done that.

Cruz performs a Mexican love song every year. Cruz's 7 p.m. performance was completed with an individual delivering red carnations to him.

Rebecca Wilkening sang for her second year at the variety show. Wilkening sang a cappella version of the 1941 classic "At Last."

For the audience members that are into hard rock, Quin Barclay played electric guitar riffs from "Fade to Black," by Metallica. A light show against the curtains added to his performance.

Aimee Beutke paired up with Alex Serrato to do a Nelly medley. Serrato performed "Hot in Here," and other Nelly hits. Beutke aided his performance with dancing, and accompanying him in "Dilemma," and had a picture of Nelly on the back of her tank top.

The variety show was divided in half with an inter-

Thirteen acts performed at FBLA's variety show. Some of the acts were, from left going clockwise: Principal John Highland as the Phantom of the Opera, Nicole Chudoba performing "Only Hope", and the performance of "El Son De La Negra," a traditional Mexican dance.



Photo courtesy of John Pence



Photo courtesy of John Pence

Chicago... (Continued from page 7)

preneurs, among other professional groups.

Students were encouraged to look around the studio at some of Lein's pieces. The prices were shocking to most students, but then understood when Lein told of her famous clients who include the governor's wife Lura

Ryan and actress Whoopi Goldberg.

Later students met Scandora's former boss, George Antoon, on the accessories floor of the Merchandise Mart. Antoon said a few words about his business, Emeritus, which he sold a few years ago. Antoon went

over the steps it took him to get his business up and running. Antoon went into detail about importing and manufacturing women's and men's fashion accessories. He said it is not an easy business to get into, but with time and effort, it can be done.

After Antoon finished speaking, the students were invited to shop around Emeritus and look at the other shops on the floor. The floor was organized like an office building, only what would be offices were shops. Some students bought cosmetics while others bought discounted jewelry. All items

were at wholesale prices. "At the apparel center we learned about how big the industry is. We learned how they get the prices that we pay for at the store," said student Yola Szyszko.

"My favorite part was shopping. I thought it was fun and I'm dying to go back

to Chicago and shop at the Mart. The presentations were also very informative," said Misti Katte.

Soon it was time to head back to the train station, and the students shared with each other the great bargains they found. Then they boarded the train exhausted from the day.

Season preview: boys' basketball

Returning starters lead Wildcats

By Elliott Tinnes

With the loss of only one starting player from last season's roster, the West Chicago boys' basketball team hopes to head into this season with a strong lineup.

Jim O'Hara, who graduated in 2002, is the only lost starter that has to be replaced.

Fortunately for the Wildcats, a strong senior class will be leading the team this season.

Returning starter Nick Michael, who averaged nearly 15 points and eight rebounds a game, will be a key factor in the team's future, according to coach Kevin Gimre.

This is Gimre's second season as the varsity team's head coach.

John Weier started half the season last season, and will be returning to a starting position.

Matt Coiley and junior Lee Coming will also contribute

to the starting lineup, according to Gimre.

Last year's team ended the season with a 3-13 record after being knocked out of regionals by Wheaton North.

This season may differ from those of the past, with a team that has had a lot of experience together on the court.

"We have good chemistry. Hopefully we can improve as a team and keep getting better throughout the season," said varsity player Tom Grove.

"I think the opportunity (for a winning team) is there. We have a good nucleus of players who have played together for a long time and are used to each other as teammates," said Gimre.

It is not only the players who are excited about the season. West Chicago's students are anticipating an exciting season, already preparing their superfan antics.

"I think the best part of our

season is the fans. They supported us all football season so I'm going to cheer for them just as hard. I love the basketball team," said student and fan Brad Bytof.

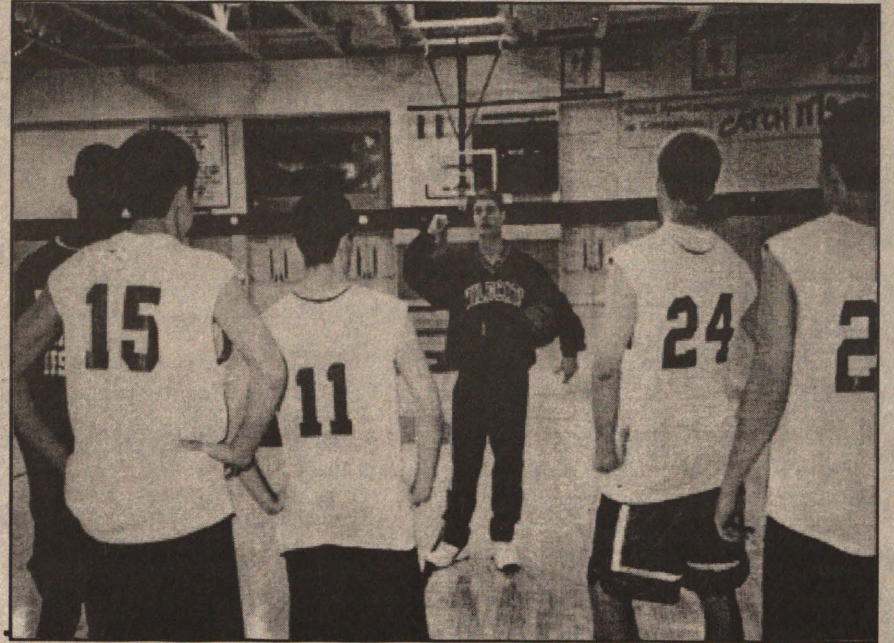
It is not to say that competition will be easy, though. "It's always hard playing in the DVC," said Gimre. DVC rival West Aurora will head the list of tough matches for West Chicago.

West Aurora has always been known for its strong basketball program.

According to Gimre, they have several division one athletes playing for them this season.

"I'm looking forward to Wheaton North," said Coming. "They got us last year but we're going to beat them this time. There's nothing they can do about it."

The team made their first appearance for West Chicago on Nov. 14 at Midnight Madness.



Staff Photo

Varsity Coach Kevin Gimre instructs his team for the next drill in their first week of practice.

Season preview: girls' basketball

Lady Wildcats kick off season

By Jessica Myers

The girls' basketball season has jumped to a start.

The season started Nov. 19 when We-go beat Nazareth 55-43.

Shaina Sullivan scored 18 points for We-go.

"After Shaina's 18, we had five kids that scored eight, seven, and six points," said head coach Kim Wallner.

The scoring was spread out because everyone who played scored points for We-go.

Wallner feels that the pressure defense worked well. The pressure was changed to full court.

With the full court pressure defense, We-go was able to get Nazareth to turn over

the ball.

Wallner feels that the girls need to work on their ball handling skills.

"We were nervous with the ball and had a few turnovers ourselves," Wallner said.

According to Wallner, the first games are used in preparation for conference and to see where the girls are.

The girls' basketball team began an annual Thanksgiving tournament Friday, hosted by Willowbrook.

We-go will also play in the Thanksgiving tournament Tuesday and Wednesday, both games start at 7:30 p.m.

We-go kicks off their conference games Dec. 12 at Glenbard North at 7:30 p.m.

The first home conference game is Dec. 14 against

Wheaton- Warrenville South. Varsity plays at 3p.m.

Wallner feels that a good goal for the girls would be to get into the top half of the conference. Eight teams are in conference.

Wallner said that Naperville Central is expected to top the conference this season. Naperville Central has their star player returning as well.

There are four players returning to varsity for We-go this season, senior Nicole Skala, and juniors Sullivan, Lathie Norton, and Lauren Johnston.

"I'm excited about the returning varsity players, they have experience from last year that they will bring to (See Preview page 12)

Volleyball finishes strong

By Elliott Tinnes

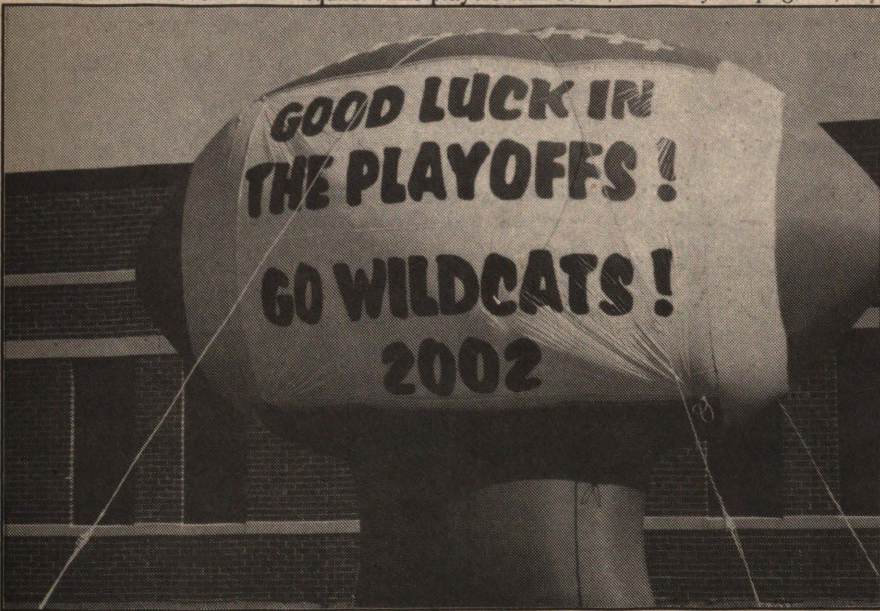
For the first time in the team's history, West Chicago's girls' volleyball team finished their season with not only a tournament win, but their first regional win as well.

The team has never in its

history accomplished that feat. All-conference player Joanna Szeszycki and all conference special mention Lindsay Paulsen led the team through the season.

The Wildcats will suffer a heavy loss for next season's squad. Nine players will be

graduating after this season, including Szeszycki and Paulsen. A number as large as this is almost unheard of in the sport. Next season's squad will see a large number of upcoming sophomores and juniors, all vying for the many (See Volleyball page 12)



Staff Photo

West Chicago Community High School's Booster Club shows support for the football team.

Excitement surrounds We-go athletics

With playoff-bound football and volleyball teams, as well as a dominant swim team, West Chicago finds its athletics on the rise

By Elliott Tinnes

The West Chicago Wildcats can no longer be called the doormats of the DVC.

In recent weeks, it seems that We-go's athletic program has taken a turn for the better.

For the first time in 24 years, the varsity football team found itself in the playoffs.

Jason Forbrook and Greg Hodge, two of West Chicago's varsity golfers, qualified for sectionals. Both Hodge and Forbrook made strong performances in the regional tournament, placing in the top eight. In sectionals, Hodge only missed the state cut by one stroke.

The girls' volleyball team thrilled West Chicago, mak-

ing it to the finals of the regional tournament only to be knocked out by Geneva. Nonetheless, they made a strong showing throughout their season.

Six members of the girls swim team have qualified for state, led by junior Jackie Vavrek, who will be making her third down state appearance (See Athletics page 12)

We-go athletes receive honors
All-conference recognition awarded to fall athletes

By Sam West

Fall athletes recently gathered to collect their all-conference awards to mark the close of fall sports.

The coaches in the DVC decide what players will receive the all-conference honors.

Scott Sieder was the MVP for football. He was the captain, a team leader, and he led by example, said coach Bob Stone.

"Scott has a great work ethic. He is a very coachable athlete," said Stone.

The most improved player in football was Brian Calabrese, who according to Stone, practiced hard all the time.

"He was never down or discouraged," Stone said.

All-conference players were Scott Sieder (running back), Chris Sanzeri (offensive tackle), Tony Zumpano (wide receiver), and Wyatt Schuyler (linebacker).

Stone said, "They worked hard all year. They were chosen by their peers or in the case of all-conference, by opposing coaches. All of them were great team players."

For cross country, Tom Harwood was the MVP, Jason Becker was most improved runner, and Harwood and Pat Baur were all-conference runners. Cross country coach Paul McLeland said that the reason Harwood and

Baur were in all-conference was that both placed in the top 15 in the conference championship, with Harwood placing 6th and Baur placing 11th.

The most improved girls' volleyball player was Dana Hernan and the all-conference player was Joanna Szeszycki. Lindsay Paulsen received a special mention.

Greg Hodge was the boys' golf MVP and Jason Forbrook was the most improved. Hodge, a medalist in four of seven conference meets, as well as a sectional qualifier, was an all-conference player and Dan Pazar received an honorable mention.

Athletics... (Continued from page 11)

ance.

The students of West Chicago, as well as the residents of the surrounding area, experienced a week of excitement surrounding West Chicago athletics that have not been seen in decades. Signs littered the town, as restaurants, companies, and families showed their support for the Wildcat football team.

The football team in particular reaped the benefits of

a winning season. Pizzas and thunder sticks were donated to the team, as well as a huge inflatable football compliments of the Booster Club.

The entire school was fortunate enough to receive a pep rally in honor of the school's athletic achievements. US 99's Ramblin' Ray conducted the rally, with appearances from West Chicago's alumni, namely, players from the last Wild-

cat team to see the playoffs.

In a conference that is notorious for its plethora of good teams, West Chicago has always found itself at the bottom of the pile.

The Naperville and Wheaton schools, all of whom are known statewide for consistently good programs, have always run the show. West Chicago has seen good teams.

For the last several years, boys' volleyball has been conquering its opponents.

Every so often a surprise basketball team or wrestling team pops up for a season, disappearing just as fast.

There is a difference between a strong team and a strong program. A program exists when a school consistently makes strong showings, rather than forming a great team that expires over a season. It seems, though, that after a fall season such as this, West Chicago might just be finding its place in sports.

Athlete of the Month



Photo courtesy of Jackie Vavrek
Jacki Vavrek

Vavrek swims to state... again

By Elliott Tinnes

For the second time in her high school career, Jackie Vavrek placed 1st in state. Vavrek is no stranger to the state swim meet. As a junior on West Chicago's varsity swim team, she competed in state for the third straight season.

Vavrek competed in four events, the 50 free and 100 free, as well as two relays. She was accompanied by five teammates, which is quite a feat for the team, which has not in recent years seen this many girls qualify for state.

This year's team is seeded 10th in the state meet. Vavrek hopes to place within that range, which will be much more possible this year with six girls competing. According to Vavrek, the Naperville schools as well as Lyons Township will all be tough competition.

Her experience at state proved to be an advantage over many girls this season. As a freshman, Vavrek took the gold medal in the 50 free as well as 6th place in the 100 free.

In her sophomore season Vavrek returned to state to defend her title. An upset in the 50 free placed her in second, and she once again took 6th in the 100. Going into this season's meet, Vavrek hoped to avenge that loss.

A meet as large as state is enough to make anyone nervous, but, as a veteran, things may be a little easier for Vavrek. "I'm nervous, but I've been there twice, which makes things better. This will be my third year going," said Vavrek.

To say that Vavrek did not earn her success would be an insult. Vavrek has been swimming competitively for nine years. She has put in hours of practice each season, including practices at 5:15 every day before school.

"It (early morning practice) was tough at first, but after a while we got used to it and it was just like getting up for any normal day," said Vavrek.

Vavrek also spent much of her summer training. She not only swim, but she weight lifted as well. Vavrek, who never weight lifted before this season, said that it made a huge difference.

Several people contributed to Vavrek's success as well. According to Vavrek, Coach Dan Johnson was a big factor. The two have been training together for several years.

The rest of the swim team has also helped Vavrek. The entire team has worked together well. They all have good team spirit and are always cheering each other on, according to Vavrek.

Season preview: Wrestling

We-go grapples with new season

By Elliott Tinnes

The West Chicago wrestling program is looking to turn itself around.

Last season yielded a disappointing number of wrestlers. The freshman level was the only level able to fill its roster. Of 13 openings, the JV squad had only three wrestlers, whereas the Varsity level had six. Returning varsity wrestlers include Tyler

Hempel, Fabian Cruz, and Mike McInerney.

Marty Molina will coach the team in his second year at West Chicago.

Also coaching is Bob Hein. Hein, a veteran of the Wildcat wrestling program, stopped coaching for several years, before coming back.

Mike Zepeda and Mike Assaf will coach the lower levels.

Volleyball... (Continued from page 11)

open spots.

After winning first place in the Bronze division of the Autumn-fest tournament, the Wildcats went on to regionals.

In regionals they took their first game and just missed winning the regional championship after a loss to Geneva High School, ending their season.

Cross country falls just short

By Anna Nubie

The girls' cross country team missed going to state by one place, coming in sixth at sectionals.

Only the top five of the 20 teams were sent to state from the sectional meet at Northside Park.

Although it was disappointing for the girls, it was also an accomplishment.

"This was the best finish at sectionals in history (for We-go girls' cross country)," said coach Katerina Boves.

Seven girls from varsity ran at sectionals.

Boves said they ran how

they had all season. Katy Kostal placed 14th and Christy Adduci came in 20th out of about 200 others.

According to Boves the rest of the team also ran well, including Megan Andracki who had a 104-degree fever the Monday before the meet.

For the season awards MVP award went out to Kostal and Adduci because Boves said that they both had been consistent throughout the season. Freshman Amy Ackerman took the rookie award, and the most improved award went to sophomore Kelly Wdowiarz.



Staff Photo

Emilie Biancalana and Jackie Vavrek practice before state.

We-go takes 9th in state

By Stephanie Bodane

The We-go girls' swim team had their best state meet ever Saturday.

The team placed 9th overall out of 35 in state. The team was lead by a first place from Jackie Vavrek, who captured the gold medal in the 50 free. The medal was Vavrek's second at state.

The results from state were as follows: 100 freestyle, 7th, Vavrek; 200 medley relay, 7th, Vavrek, Rachel Slattery, Heather Crabbe, Kristina Sedjo; 200 freestyle relay, 4th place, Slattery, Emilie

Biancalana, Missi SHEME, Vavrek.

At sectionals, Nov. 16th, six of the team's swimmers qualified for state. The following swimmers qualified in these events: 200 medley relay, Slattery, Crabbe, Sedjoy, Vavrek; 100 free-Vavrek; 200 medley relay, Crabbe; 50 free, Slattery, Vavrek. 100 backstroke, Slattery.

In the 200 free relay, Slattery, Biancalana, SHEME, and Vavrek set a new meet record and beat the West Chicago School record.

Wildcats close on tough season

By Stephanie Bodane

We-go's football team ended in a rush, after a hard season.

The football team played Naperville Central for their last home game. The game determined whether the team would be playing in state, or playing their last game.

"Every player on the team gave the whole week of practice their best. We felt that we deserved it (winning) more than they (Naperville Central) did," said senior Jake

Delort.

The Wildcats ended up .500 in their season.

The West Chicago Community came together to watch the football team battle Lake Park.

"It was awesome. It was cool to see that we were able to get the whole town supporting us," said Delort.

The team lost 28-0 against Lake Park.

"We were in unfamiliar territory against an unfamiliar team," said Delort.

the team this year and be the core of the team," said Wallner.

Other players to look for

are Magen Rogers, Kori Flagg, and Lynn Mielke.

Flagg and Mielke will help inside the paint.

Preview... (Continued from page 11)

Wildcats ready for winter

Boys' Basketball

Nov. 26	V	Tournament@ Marmion
Nov. 27	V	Tournament@ Marmion
Dec. 2	F	Joliet Catholic
Dec. 6	S/V	@ Glenbard North
Dec. 7	JV	@ Glenbard North
Dec. 7	S/V	Joliet Catholic
Dec. 9	F-JV	@ West Aurora
Dec. 13	S/V	Wheaton Warrenville South
Dec. 14	F-JV	Wheaton Warrenville South
Dec. 18	S/V	Geneva
Dec. 20	S/V	Naperville North
Dec. 21	F-JV	Naperville North

Girls' Basketball

Nov. 26	S/V	Tournament@ Willowbrook
Nov. 27	S/V	Tournament@ Willowbrook
Nov. 29	S/V	Tournament@ Willowbrook
Dec. 3	S/V	@ St. Viator
Dec. 5	JV	Naperville Central
Dec. 17	S/V	Schaumburg
Dec. 19	F-S	Naperville North
Dec. 19	JV/V	Naperville North

Boys' Swimming

Dec. 6	JV/V	Oswego
Dec. 14	V	Wildcat Relays- Diving
Dec. 14	V	Wildcat Relays- Swimming
Dec. 19	JV/V	@ St. Charles East

Boys' Wrestling

Nov. 30	V	24th Annual Wildcat Invite
Nov. 30	F-S	Wauconda Tournament
Dec. 6	F, JV/V	Glenbard North
Dec. 7	F	@ Woodstock
Dec. 7	JV/V	@ Glenbard West
Dec. 9	F	@ Oswego
Dec. 10	F, JV/V	@ East Aurora
Dec. 13	F, JV/V	@ Wheaton Warrenville South
Dec. 14	V	@ Oak Park River Forest
Dec. 19	F, JV/V	@ Naperville North
Dec. 20	V	@ Hinsdale Central
Dec. 21	V	@ Hinsdale Central