

Wildcat Chronicle

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West Chicago Community High School
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Demolition of Lincoln School to begin in summer

By Kyle Bullis

As early as summer We-go will demolish Lincoln School to make room for new athletic fields or possibly parking.

"Lincoln is extremely expensive to maintain. Everything in the building is antiquated," said Principal John Highland.

The boilers in Lincoln are old and costly to maintain. Replacement parts are either hard to find or nonexistent due to the boiler's age, said Highland.

We-go is requesting bids from multiple construction companies to determine who provides the best prices for both the demolition and the refurbishing of the grounds.

In Lincoln's place will be athletic fields for both physi-

cal education and girls' softball.

Along with demolition comes the question of where to put all of the classes located in Lincoln.

Highland will be meeting with the foreign language teachers to discuss where their classes will go.

Currently, 35 percent of the classrooms in the main building are idle every day. The plan is to integrate the foreign language classes into those classrooms to minimize conflicts with other class schedules.

Any teachers or staff that will be affected by the changes will discuss the arrangements.

"We want to make this as painless as possible," said Highland.

We-go's classes aren't the only problem, though.

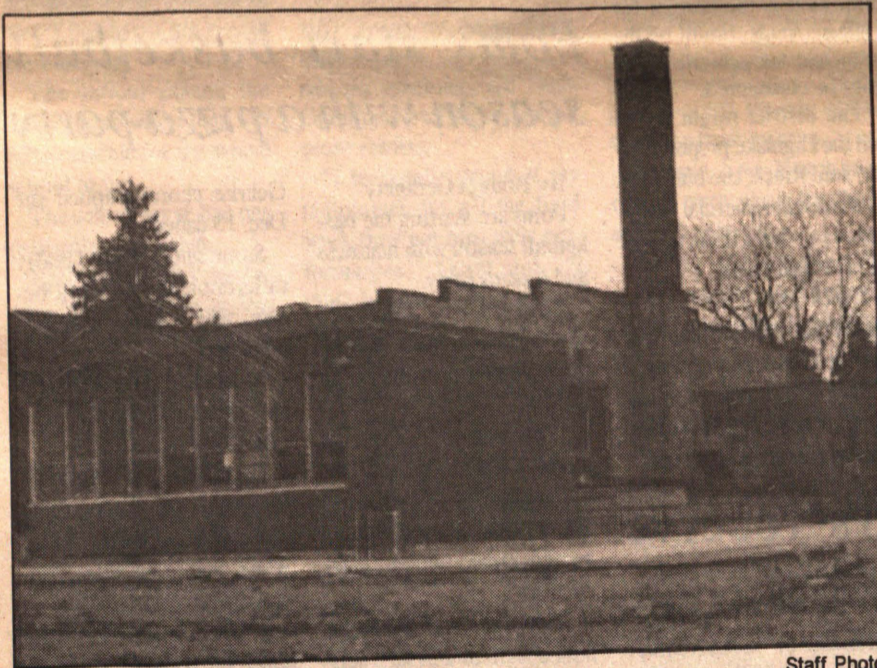
The Welcome Center also has to be moved. While the new location for it is still undecided, it may be moved over into what is currently the botany room.

Other programs, such as adult education and the preschool program, will also have to be moved into We-go, though there are no official plans for them yet.

The field house's old locker rooms will now be put into use.

The weight training and athletic training rooms housed in Lincoln will be moved over and used in the fieldhouse locker rooms.

STARS will also move into the fieldhouse, using the wrestling room.



Staff Photo

Lincoln School, built in 1921, may become history as We-go looks to expand their athletic fields and student parking areas.

Government initiative poses a few challenges to high schools

By Sam West

President Bush has enacted a new program called the "No Child Left Behind Act." This act allows the Pentagon to access students' names, phone numbers, and other information so that they can contact them easily for recruitment.

Principal John Highland said he would not go against the act, as some schools have.

"If I did that, then I'd be in violation of the No Child Left Behind Act and I would potentially lose school funding," Highland said.

The act allows high

schools across the country to receive federal funding. If schools do not comply with the act, they run the risk of losing funding, said Highland.

The original purpose of the act is to provide every student in the nation with the opportunity to have a quality education. Bush's goal is to have 100 percent of students passing every class.

"I think that's an unrealistic goal," Highland said. "It's a highly challenging task."

District 94 will comply with the act, as many other schools across the nation will.

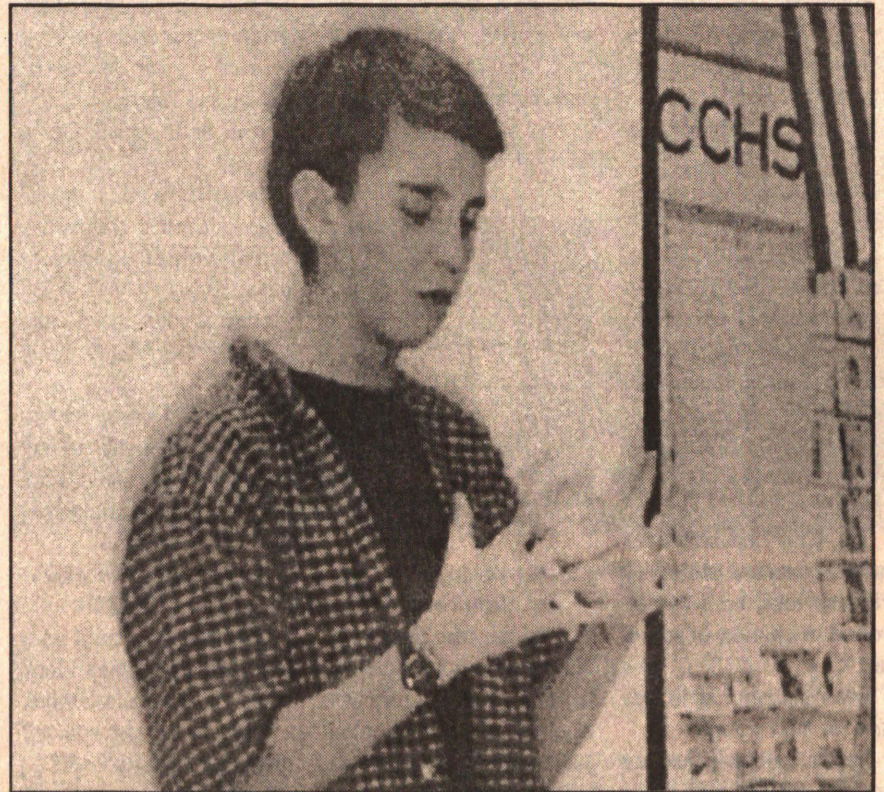
Highland said that District 94 had been reaching out to all students even before the act, so they were ahead of the game.

"Now that this is a reality, there is an intensified focus in this aspect in all districts," Highland said.

Highland said that even though it was unrealistic to want 100 percent of the student body passing, the act will give schools incentive to lessen the gap between students who meet expectations and those who don't.

But how that plan con-

(See Initiative page 3)



Staff Photo

Dave Taylor acts out his original comedy piece for the forensics team. Taylor and others won awards at a recent meet, where the whole team won first place.

Forensics team wins first tournament in over a decade

By Michelle Loerzel

We-go's forensics team won first place at a tournament for the first time in a decade.

Twenty schools participated in the tournament was Dec. 7 tournament at Crystal Lake.

"This is the best we have done as a team," said adviser Steven Kellner.

A total of five We-go competitors walked away with first place medals and 15 other students received awards for placing in different events.

In addition, five We-go participants won two awards for their performances.

Dominique Scott won first place in impromptu and

second place in extemporaneous speaking.

"I feel wonderful. It's my award for all my hard work and it's nice to know that hard work pays off," Scott said. "I think the team did an amazing job, but I also think that we as a team finally reached our team's potential."

Erin Linsenmeyer placed third in both declaration and original comedy.

Stan Lemon and Andy Dameron earned sixth place in humorous duet acting.

Lemon also earned fifth in verse reading and Dameron received sixth for original comedy.

"There was a lot of good competition at Crystal

Lake," said Lemon.

Jeff Hansen also earned two awards. One was a second place award for impromptu and first place for a humorous duet acting with Stephanie Neumann.

Dave Taylor earned first place for his performance in original comedy.

Emy Krauspe also won first place for her prose reading.

Becky Bonarek spoke in declaration and earned third place for her performance.

Bridget Geraghty won fifth place for humorous interpretation and Caitlin Riermarier placed fourth for her dramatic interpretation.

Mike Doll took third for

(See Forensics page 3)

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Hendron ends high school with achievements and rewards

By Michelle Loerzel

Christine Hendron, December's student of the month, has accomplished a lot in her four years at Community High School.

What did you accomplish during your time at We-go?

I have a 4.0 GPA, placed first at skills USA-VICA state competitions in advertising design and a national qualifier; and I am an Illinois State Scholar.

Were you satisfied with what you did over your high school years?

Yes, very. I maximized not only the amount and which classes I took, but I was involved in a variety of activities.

What activities have you done in high school?

I am a four year member and president of VICA and thespians. I have worked on every theater production and

have been involved in Scholastic Bowl, Art Club, yearbook, Junior State of America and Horticulture Club.

Who has been a big influence on you over the past



Christine Hendron

years at We-go?

Mr. Junkroski, Mrs. Kozlowski, Mr. Healy, Ms. Hafertepe and Mr. Exner have all greatly contributed to a lot of my motivation and success because of their passion for teaching.

What has been your favorite class?

Other than art, I would say government because I learned a great deal about myself and others.

What will you miss about We-go?

The good times on and off-stage in theater, the people, and Ms. Gilgallon's joke Fridays.

What types of activities do you participate in outside of school?

I'm a food pantry volunteer, (I participate) in my church youth group, I am a senior Girl Scout member and take COD art classes.

Was high school everything you expected?

Not when I started as a freshman, but now as I look back at it, it was much more.

What do you see yourself doing after high school?

I plan on going to an art college and majoring in graphic design.



Jessica York and Kim Peterik organized the giving tree located in commons.

Staff Photo

Toddle down to drop off Toys for Tots

By Kyle Bullis

'Tis the time for giving and We-go students have the chance to do just that.

Students who wish to support Toys for Tots have until Friday to bring a gift.

The giving tree located in commons is decorated with tags listing specific gifts. Students can pull the tags off the tree, buy the specific gift and return it to social studies teacher Barbara Laimins.

The gift should be unwrapped.

Laimins turns the toys into the Toys for Tots charity.

If you miss the school's giving tree, there is still an-

other chance to give.

Anyone who wishes to donate for the Toys for Tots program in West Chicago can drop off their unwrapped presents at the West Chicago Police Department, 325 Spencer St. or at the West Chicago Fire Department, 200 Fremont St.

All the collected toys will be distributed to children in and around West Chicago.

Highlake may be sold, Kerr McGee eyed

By Sam West

Plans for developing the Highlake Road property in Winfield for athletic fields have not come to fruition, and the school board is considering a few options for the site.

Originally, the property was supposed to be the site of a second high school for District 94.

However, that plan was not accomplished and about three and a half years ago, said superintendent Lee Rieck, the idea of developing it for athletic fields arose.

But those plans have been put on hold, said Rieck. Part of the reason for the halt of development was that other

options for Highlake came about.

"We're entering an agreement with District 33 to build a baseball field," Rieck said.

Also, the costs of maintaining the Highlake property and the transportation of students and athletes to the site would cost too much money at \$4.5 million over 15 years.

"It was more money than we wanted to spend at this point," he said.

Rieck said that there are plans to tear down Lincoln School and develop athletic fields in its place.

The Kerr McGee area is also opening up to the district, so placing fields there is a possibility.

Although it will take time and money to clean up the Kerr McGee area, developing it in the future is a possibility.

"We do want to consider that option," said Rieck.

Rieck said that Kerr McGee will make a decision on when they will turn the land over.

He doesn't know what condition the property would be in or how much it would cost or how to pay it.

Expanding student parking at Kerr McGee is also a possibility, said Rieck.

The portion of the property

nearest the school building is good for parking, Rieck said, as it is too narrow for athletic fields. South of the proposed lot, athletic fields may be considered.

The district might try to sell the Highlake property. So far, said Rieck, the board has contacted commercial corporations to discuss the uses of the site and value.

Rieck also said that the board was considering leasing the Highlake property to a turf management company, but they haven't pursued that option further at this time.

We-go seniors receive award based on test scores

By Jessica Myers

Fifty-five We-go seniors were named Illinois State Scholars recently.

The students had an Illinois Weighted Selection Score of 48 or higher.

The score is based on adding Illinois Standard Test Score and the Illinois Standard Rank.

The Illinois Standard Test Score is based on the student's ACT Composite score or the SAT I V+M.

The Illinois Standard Rank is based on the student's percentile.

We-go's Illinois State Scholars include Jason Adams, Patrick Baur, Leann Bertram, Emily Biancalana, Nicholas Chillemi, Heather Cirone, Charlie Cloutier, Heather Coakley, Jeffrey Cordina, Luke Dean, Rebecca Dennis, Michael Doll, Sandra Edlund, Carrie

Gallimore, Christopher Gauldin, Katherine Gehrke, Sarah Hammer, Joshua Hartman, Christine Hendron, Justin Hoshaw, Christopher Jakubik, Lauren Kirby, Katy Kostal, Jessica Krueger, Susan Lincoln, Jesse Lord, Melissa Lund, Paul Majchrowski, Colleen Mathias, Ashley Mazzola, Theresa McEvoy, Ashlee McLeod, Karen Miller, Amanda Morrison, Lauren Mroz, Erich Musick, Brian Nelson, Michael Paschke, Ruchita Patel, Lindsay Paulsen, Kimberley Peterik, Michael Peters, Brian Romanelli, Jim Rylowicz, Nicole Schar, Brian Steere, Melissa Stevens, Kathryn Walker, Kristina Wanous, Sean Warren, Margaret Wdowiarz, John Weier, Lindsey Wonsowski, Craig Wostratzky, and Jody Yednock.

Poms start basketball season with a pizza party

By Bridget Geraghty

Poms are starting the basketball season with madness and a pizza party.

Adviser Cindy Stone said that the performance at Midnight Madness went really well.

"That was a lot of fun for them," Cindy Stone said.

They performed the routine the captains choreographed and competed with at Great America.

Poms also held their annual cookie dough sale, selling enough to earn a pizza party. Melanie Stone sold the most with 30 tubs of cookie dough.

The basketball games are also going well, said Cindy Stone. Jill Novak, Kim Mueller and Caitlin Riermarier choreographed the Dec. 6 game, and kept with a traditional pom dance.

Nicole Brown and Emily

Gehrke choreographed the Dec. 13 dance.

Stone said it looked really different from the week before, which was a constant problem.

"It's hard to find new ideas and different things," said Cindy Stone.

The Christmas routine is performed on Friday. The captains Lisa Martin, Sarah Wood, and Hope Vock choreographed this dance.

The costumes for this dance are old ones the team fixed up with bells and Santa hats.

Poms Kiddie Clinic will be held Jan. 28. Elementary and middle school students spend a day with Poms learning a routine that is then performed at halftime of a basketball game.

Until then, they are busy practicing new routines for each week.

Predictions come true for the math team as it takes third place

By John Jennings

Before the Dec. 12 meet, Wildcat math team coach Aaron Hayes said that third place was in reach. At the meet at Hoffmann Estates, the team came in third place and seniors placed first in their class. Mike Doll led the effort with a perfect paper.

The team came in fourth

out of five on Nov. 6, but they still had plenty of moral victories to brag about.

Their victories included beating Larkin where one of the team's coaches, Kristina Nuesser, went to high school.

Another victory was the sophomore win over IMSA, one of We-go's biggest rivals. (See Math team page 3)

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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.

We-go installs new safety features to ensure protection

By Jessica Myers

When a Glenbard South teacher who suffered a heart attack was saved because of a school defibrillator, We-go took notice.

We-go wanted the ability to save the life of anyone in the building, so they bought six automated external defibrillators (AED) for \$1,497 each.

When someone goes into cardiac arrest, the electrical current that keeps the heart pumping stops.

"You place the pads on the heart and chest to tell if there is a heartbeat or if it is defibrillating," said athletic director Dan Johnson.

Johnson was a member of the committee that decided to buy the defibrillators.

If the heart is fibrillating, the defibrillator will automatically send an electrical shock to the heart in order to put the heart back into rhythm.

"It's not like the ones you see on TV," said Johnson because the AEDs read the heartbeat for the user, where on TV the doctor has to read the heartbeat.

The school placed the defibrillators where they will be accessible for the whole school to use.

The school nurse has one defibrillator on hand.

Each sports trainer also has one during sporting events off campus such as away games and practices.

The other three are located around the school in wall-mounted boxes.

One is by entrance A, another by the fieldhouse, and the third on the second floor by the auditorium.

There are seven physical education and health teachers that are trained to use the defibrillators and they train people to use the defibrillators.

Ten administrators are also trained to use the defibrillators.

Johnson said that anytime a school event takes place, someone will be on hand who is trained in the use of a defibrillator.

"One of Principal John Highland's goals is to provide enough opportunities for the whole staff to be trained," said Johnson.

The physical education department will host a CPR and AED training session on Jan. 15 and 18 for teachers and staff.

"We want to make it available for students to become certified in using the

defibrillators," said Johnson.

Johnson feels that defibrillators are becoming a way of life in first aid and people need to be trained in their use.

Another new safety feature at We-go is the Emergency Evacuation Device (EED), also called the Evacuchair.

The EED is for handicapped students who are on the second or third floor during an evacuation of the school. It takes the student down the stairs.

Two EEDs have brakes on them for instances when stopping in the middle of the staircase is needed.

"All the dean assistants and special education staff have been trained to use the EED," said dean of students Miguel Arroyo.

Arroyo also said that when a student that needs to use the EED is on the second or third floor, someone who knows how to use the EED is with them.

Forensics... (Continued from page 1)

radio speaking, Mike Giese earned fourth for special occasions speaking, and Dana Grant received second in her prose reading.

"I feel really proud of my teammates for all the hard work they put into their performances," Grant said. "I think it gave everyone satisfaction to see their hard work pay off."

Four forensic members also made finals at a competition at Thornton High School.

At Thornton, Scott received fourth place for impromptu speaking. Doll placed sixth for his radio speaking performance.

Hansen and Neumann earned sixth place for their original comedy.

Kellner said that this was a very large tournament. There were 30 participating schools.

"This is always a popular tournament for schools," said Kellner.

Juniors packaging, preparing for prom

By Jaclyn Demes

The junior class is hoping the final exam care packages will help boost funding for prom.

Students will receive order forms to take home during third hour. In the past, the forms were mailed home.

The packages will include goodies and a pencil to get students through their finals. Parents must return the

order form along with \$5 to the school.

Recently the juniors formed a prom committee. Approximately 15 people are on the committee but the class is looking for more people to join second semester.

They are looking for input on music, theme ideas, and decorations. Meetings are held Thursday mornings in room 186.

The committee also tested the food and chose the dinner dishes. There will be a pasta dish, chicken dish, and a combination of the two for prom-goers to select from.

Class adviser Candice Kairys said five self-serve soda stations will remain open throughout dinner.

This way students won't have to wait in long lines and can get drinks during dinner.

Dance production lights up the floor

By Jaclyn Demes

The dance production show "Lights, Camera, Dance" is just around the corner.

The students have a variety of music for the dances.

Some of the songs the group picked are from movies that go along with their theme, and the other songs are recenter hits.

The dance production students will show off a variety of dance styles includ-

ing jazz, ballet, character, hip-hop, and salsa.

The girls practice everyday in gym class and meet after school once a week in the auditorium.

They will be meeting after school more frequently with the show coming up.

There are 23 routines, including solos and duets, for the show.

They have different costumes for each dance, said adviser Helen Zmrhal.

The dance production students had a fundraiser as well. They sold chocolate and bathroom accessories, such as bubble bath and shampoo, to raise money to purchase all of their costumes.

Zmrhal said people can expect to see small and large groups performing a variety of dances.

"Lights, Camera, Dance" is Jan. 23 and 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium.



Staff Photo
Cellists Michelle Del Valle and Brittany Boehm perform with the orchestra at the holiday music concert on Dec. 15. The jazz band, combo, and chamber choir concert is Thursday.

Combo recently formed to jazz up We-go's music department

By Sam West

We-go jazz is adding to its musical spectrum with the creation of the jazz combo.

The combo is smaller than the jazz band, which all members are also a part of.

Combo members include, Melissa Lund, bass; Peter Mantz, guitar; Brett Palmer, tenor sax; Joe Tumidalsky, alto sax; Nick Chillemi, trombone; Hans Mosicke, drums; and Sam West, piano.

The group will perform jazz pieces like "Blue Bossa," by Kenny Dorham as played by Joe Henderson, "Footprints," by Wayne Shorter, and John Coltrane's "Mr. P.C."

"Come to the concert because 'Mr. PC' and 'Footprints' rock my world," said Lund.

The combo is entered in various jazz competitions and festivals throughout the winter and spring.

They will attend Illinois

Book Club being mindful of novel

By Jessica Myers

Book Club is reading "Of Two Minds" for December.

"Of Two Minds" is a fantasy novel by Carol Matas and Perry Nodelman.

"It's about this girl and guy who fall in love. They come from two different societies and are both outcasts for different reasons," said adviser Jill Marchiano.

Princess Lenora and Prince Coren are about to be wed but Lenora does not want to marry.

Lenora is ordered to no longer use her powers that make her thoughts a reality so she runs away.

Book Club will discuss "Of Two Minds" Jan. 9 at 3:15 p.m. in room 305.

Wesleyan University Jazz Festival and North Shore Jazz Fest in January.

They will perform in New Trier's Jazz Fest and Jazz in the Meadows at Rolling Meadows High School in February.

Other performances at jazz festivals and restaurants will occur in the spring.

The combo will play in the pit of the auditorium, which is just in front of the stage.

Combo is scheduled to perform "Footprints" for the jazz band and chamber choir's holiday music concert Thursday at 7:30 p.m. This will be their first recital.

They are to play with Mike Vax, a professional trumpet player, in their songs.

An encore will also be performed after "Footprints" is finished.

Director of bands Jim Guter said that Vax is "probably the best trumpet player in the Chicago area."

The holiday music concerts were not just jazz, though. The choir, orchestra, symphonic band, and concert band also performed on Sunday.

Each group performed two to three pieces throughout the concert.

"The symphonic band played pretty well," baritone player Brian Steere said.

The finale was "Sleigh Ride," with the choir singing, and orchestra and combined bands playing at the same time.

Initiative... (Continued from page 1)

nects with the military's new power to access the private information of students is unclear.

"They are really two different concepts," said Highland.

Some schools feel that it isn't fair to have the military take advantage of the act.

"I don't know that I'd categorize it as fair," he said.

Highland said that he supports the armed services, but doesn't enthusiastically sup-

port the act. He said he recognizes the importance of the armed services, and he doesn't agree or disagree with the act.

Since Sept. 11, most universities have allowed the military to access student files. Not all high schools have allowed them access, however, including Lisle High School.

Lisle then runs the risk of losing federal funding, said Highland.

Math team... (Continued from page 2)

Other than their loss to West Chicago on the sophomore level, IMSA was at its best with perfect scores in each of the other three grade levels.

We-go had high scores from both the freshmen and sophomore teams.

"The freshmen and sophomores are becoming a good

backbone for the team," said Hayes.

The seniors did not do as well because they were missing a few members, Hayes said.

Nathan Butters, Summer Hassan, Bryan Youngberg, Phil Buksa, and Mike Doll had the top scores for their respective class teams.

Our View -

Tiger poachers should wear stripes

Score one for the endangered species in the world.

The Endangered Species Act prohibits the killing of rare animals or selling them across state lines.

Regardless of the act, many black market dealers find loopholes that prove to be lethal to endangered creatures.

One of the most popular targets is the tiger. To most poachers, tigers are considered prized because of their beautiful hides and rarity.

Expert research has shown that only 5,000 to 7,500 tigers exist in the wild today. Another 1,000 tigers live in zoos across the globe.

Yet, the same experts estimate that 5,000 to 13,000 tigers are privately owned, either as pets or by dealers planning to slaughter the animals.

Much to the dismay of tiger lovers, the cat is worth more dead than alive. Which means that most dealers would rather kill the tigers than sell them as pets.

One of the most gruesome cases of tiger slaughtering occurred in Illinois in 1998. Todd Lantz, Bill Kapp, and Kevin Ramsey were responsible for the gruesome massacre of eight tigers.

The tigers were shipped to the men in a crate, and once received, they proceeded to fire at least 30 shots into the crate, killing all eight of the tigers inside.

Lantz, Kipp, Ramsey and 13 other defendants were charged with buying, selling, or slaughtering of endangered species in various states across the U.S.

Trophy hunters make up a large portion of the dealer's customers. These so-called "sportsmen" pass the tiger hides off as their own kills, usually having them stuffed and putting them on display in their homes or other areas.

Since it is less expensive to slaughter the tiger for its hide and meat than to board the tiger while waiting for it to be sold as a pet, people like Lantz prefer to kill the animals.

Kapp justified the slaughters by claiming that since the tigers he killed were mixed breeds, they don't fall under the Endangered Species Act.

The government does not agree, however. The "generic" tigers still fall under the jurisdiction of the act, and Kapp and his associates were all convicted of illegally transporting endangered animals and participating in the animal killing ring.

All of the 16 defendants were ordered to pay fines ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000 depending on the magnitude of their offenses. The money will go to the Save the Tigers Fund, which preserves species in the wild.

Hopefully, these cases are a sign of harsher punishments to come. These horrendous acts absolutely have to stop.



Taking Christ out of Christmas

The American Civil Liberties Union has really done it this time. In their quest for "freedom," they are ironically incorporating fascism into our society.

A church in St. Martin Parish, Louisiana, displayed nativity scenes in the spirit of Christmas.

Many churches and homes across the nation do this, including those in Billings, Mont.

Most rational people have no problem with a church or private property displaying signs of their faith; in fact, it is their right to display signs of their faith on their own property.

But the ACLU disagrees. They want the Louisiana church and all other churches in that parish to take down the nativity scenes for the

good of the public.

They are calling for Billings to ban the scenes altogether.

As Bill O'Reilly pointed out on his Fox News Channel show, the ACLU also has succeeded in removing the word "Christmas" from school calendars and has objected to a city-organized parking area for citizens who wish to view a nativity scene in Pittsburgh, Penn.

None of these actions make any sense.

Churches of any religion have the right to display any scene they want to on their own property.

Displaying these scenes is not pushing religion on all people. It is expression of their faith.

Nobody's rights are violated by showing a nativity

scene. Most people are not offended by seeing other people's faith.

The word "Christmas" is not an offensive word, although some people may not celebrate it. Christmas is everywhere during December. Marshall Fields in Chicago displays Christmas windows every year.

Gigantic Christmas trees with thousands of lights are publicly lit in many cities and towns across the country.

The ACLU has no problem with this, so why does it have a problem when Jesus' name is mentioned? Christmas is celebrated in many ways so why are they offended by its true meaning: Jesus?

Christmas is all about celebrating Jesus' birth, and when Jesus is taken out of

Christmas, it leaves 'mas.

It is impossible to take the religion out of a religious holiday. A religious holiday no longer has significance.

Furthermore, how is it wrong to publicly celebrate Christmas, which is an official public holiday?

Christians who celebrate Christmas are not violating any laws or anybody's rights, and have the right to celebrate it.

But the ACLU seems to think that religions and their holidays are not to be celebrated and celebrating them is unconstitutional.

This is a ridiculous notion. Religion can be public, although it can not be forced upon someone.

The ACLU is misinterpreting the Constitution in their crusade for religious freedom.

Give some love for the holidays

Traditionally, Christmas is a time of giving and spending time with loved ones.

When did it turn into spending a lot of money on presents or wasting money on the hip new toys that children will never play with?

For children, spending time with family will be much more appreciated in the long run than the GI Joe someone gave them when they were 3-years-old.

When people go out and buy gifts for others, is it really necessary for them to spend so much money?

People are getting lost in the business of gift buying and how much they're spending rather than the love and time that can be shared around the holidays.

One radio commercial this season actually said: "No one loves me because I haven't gotten a CD yet."

Even the media decides to control our wallet on what to buy this season.

It is hard to miss advertising. Just sitting down watching the 5 p.m. news, one can see so many commercials advertising a certain product over the million other ones just like it.

Anyone who watched TV on Thanksgiving saw commercials advertising the beginning of the holiday shopping season with sales all weekend. The commercials played during every break and almost every commercial was an advertisement for something.

They did this on Thanksgiving of all holidays. The one day of the year that people should be giving thanks for everything they have.

Instead, they get to see all the items they do not own and should, at least according to the spokespeople on TV.

Hopefully when children grow up they will forget about the need for dozens of presents on Christmas morning, but parents need to realize that giving the brand name dolls and action figures does not necessarily give children their loving holiday memories.

Christmas is supposed to be a time to gather friends and relatives from near and far together to eat too much and spend time catching up on what is happening in their lives.

For some, Christmas is a religious holiday meant to celebrate their personal beliefs, but even for those who are not religious, the holiday is still a time for love and peace.

It is a time to know and appreciate what you already have, said Whoopi Goldberg in the last Muppet Christmas story on NBC.

Knowing and appreciating the possessions you already have makes the extra presents less necessary to give and receive.

Ailing schools need state remedies

Hazel Crest school district will receive a little bit of holiday cheer from the state this winter, in order to keep the school open.

Everyone has had some kind of debate about whether or not the state should give more money to school districts instead of taking money in budget cuts. In a country where education is the only way to further yourself in life, the government sometimes doesn't seem to realize that helping pay for schools is helping the future of this country.

The problem that may arise in the future, however is if one school receives aid, they all should. Last week Hazel Crest school district 152 1/2 declared bankruptcy.

schools will be receiving any.

It should be the state's job to bail out schools who can no longer afford to pay for their student's education. Every state should sufficiently be able to provide an education for every one of their children. If a low-income town cannot afford to keep their school district running, the state should be right there helping them out. Schools such as Hazel Crest with low-income families and a slow growth rate would obviously be lacking the taxes needed, but how can they be denied schooling?

Legislators for the Hazel Crest crisis argued that the school should have been watching their own budget,

The school decided to close down at the end of this school year as a last resort. The school claims that because of lack of growth in their community they have not received enough money to run the school efficiently for the 1,100 students that attend.

The legislative board passed two separate bills in order to help bail out district 152 1/2, one which would give the district 4.4 million dollars to put towards salary and the pupils. The bill also gives the state the right to impose a real-estate tax on the district if they are unable to pay off their loans. Some people however, argue that the state shouldn't have given the school the money, claiming that no other

claiming that they had passed a tax increase but the school never put it into effect. Senate president James Philip said, "If we do it for that district, I mean, you're going to have a lawsuit saying, 'Well, you did it for them, why don't you do it for us?'"

Maybe this is a good example of why the state should be helping schools in debt and who are filing for bankruptcy. To these people and schools it is almost as if the state is saying, "So what? Not my problem." It is the state's problem; the children that attend these schools represent America. How can we not help the schools they attend? If the state won't do it for the community, at least do it for the children.

Kyle's Kolumn

Fashion trends are a major faux pas

Fashion is hip. Fashion is trendy. But it can get pretty ridiculous. I have just about had it with people who walk around with their baggy pants and have to *constantly*, almost instinctively, pull them up before they wrap around their ankles.

This is due mostly because they deliberately buy pants that are 1,328 sizes too large. Sizes are there for a reason. So you can choose pants that fit.

At the very least, wear a belt. Let me enlighten some of you. A belt is a long, usually leather strap that weaves into these hooks on the hips of your pants (even though some of you wear the hips of your pants at around knee level). Yes, *that* is why those hooks are there. See? You're learning.

You put the belt around your waist, making sure it passes through all of the hooks.

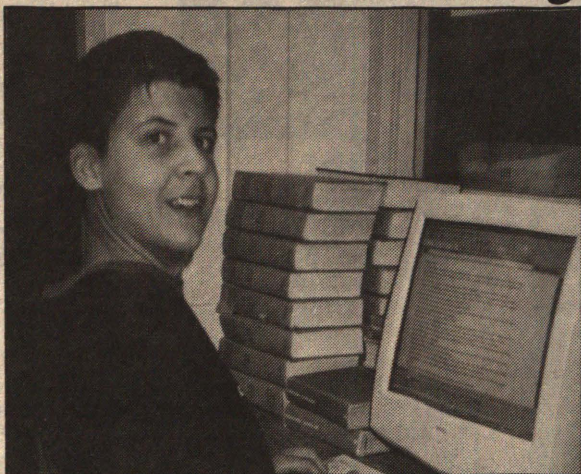
Here's the tricky part that beginners have a hard time learning. You put the end of the belt *under* the brass buckle at the beginning of the belt. Once it is under the buckle, yank the end of the belt up until it has a nice grip on your waist.

See those holes? That's where the little metal hook is supposed to go. It keeps the belt in place.

Good job! I am glad I could teach you something.

And for the rest of you who refuse to wear these new fangled doohickies, I hope I see you walk down the halls and trip over your pants and fall on your face.

Whatever happened to the good old days when people's clothes were designed to fit them? Is there some law in the fashion world that denies clothing companies to allow people to wear clothes that fit?



It sounds ridiculous, because it *is* ridiculous. Like platform shoes.

I have, for the sake of research, tried on a pair of platform shoes. My conclusion is that anyone who can keep their balance walking with these should just as easily be able to balance themselves on their toes standing on a wobbly rotating tower 5,000 feet in the air.

I am pretty sure, somewhere in the world, there were platform shoe related deaths, and although it's very sad, it's also laughable at how easily the mishap could have been avoided.

Try wearing normal shoes. You'll live longer.

Fashion should be fun in my opinion. Like those shoes that have wheels attached at the bottom that you could flip up if

you wanted to do some roller skating.

I came up with that idea around four years before they actually were invented!

The reason is quite obvious. Those evil marketing executives read my thought via telepathy.

So I suggest that we make clothes made—this is the best idea in the history of the world—entirely out of grease.

It's perfect! Think about it. You're walking along the hall wearing your new, hip, greased outfit and you're late for class. So you run and run and run and slliiiiide along the hall. Weeeeeeeeee!

Those marketing executives may be reading this and getting jealous right now. Or they may be thinking, "This kid wants to make clothes out of grease" in that tone that conveys the message of "what an idiot."

I would settle for anything other than the current trend. I am not exactly opposed to baggy pants, but if it hinders anything that you do in your daily life, then you shouldn't be wearing them. Pants shouldn't handicap your ability to walk.

Soon, we may even see handicap signs that have a little picture of a guy wearing absurdly baggy pants.

Revolt! I am going to start an organization devoted to the destruction of absurd fashions, and it will be called TODTDOAF, or The Organization Devoted To The Destruction Of Absurd Fashions.

I encourage you to come to a meeting so you can express your concern for this very sensitive topic.

Plus we'll be ordering pizza.

College discrimination must stop

Colleges across the nation have outlawed affirmative action. Yet, most schools have found ways to bend the rules and recruit minorities without acting illegally.

Affirmative action is best defined as active effort to improve the employment or educational opportunities of members of minority groups.

Some colleges used racial quotas to improve diversity. The Supreme Court declared these quotas unconstitutional in the case of Bakke vs. California.

The University of California Medical School at Davis denied Allan Bakke, a 35-year-old caucasian, twice in 1977 because the school was holding 16 spots for qualified minorities.

He was more qualified than any minority attending the university at that time. Bakke brought his case to the Supreme Court and eventually won the case on the basis that it violated the 14th amendment, making racial quotas illegal in colleges.

California then passed Proposition 209 in 1996, which prohibits the use of racial preferences in college admissions. Yet, these schools find ways to get around these laws.

California's public univer-

sities have recently put a lot of weight on the SAT II. The SAT II is said to be less culturally biased and it tests students in topics such as history, biology and foreign language.

A predominantly Hispanic school in California that was rated one of the worst in the state had a 50 percent increase of students going to UC public universities. Why is that?

These students took the Spanish language SAT II. Therefore the students aced the test because Spanish is their native language. And this is getting them admitted to public, so called non-biased universities.

The University of Michigan recently rejected two white students who applied there. These students had very strong credentials. After being rejected they both sued the school for using affirmative action.

The school's acceptance chart shows that a white or Asian applicant with a 3.2 to 3.3 GPA and a 1090 to 1190 SAT score would be automatically rejected. While other minorities with the same credentials would automatically be accepted.

Private universities have more of a right to use their

own standards for admission at their school because they are privately owned.

When a public university uses racial preferences it is completely wrong. People in states like California pay taxes for public universities. Parents pay for these schools just to have their children rejected because of racially biased standards and tests like the SAT II.

When students aren't accepted to a university because they're not a minority even though they are more than qualified, they are experiencing reverse discrimination.

Furthermore, students are not going to fair well at a competitive university where most students are admitted based on grades and real test scores.

Statistics show that African American students who attend the University of Michigan are two and a half times more likely to not graduate in six years.

Regardless of race, a student needs to be ready academically and emotionally before they attend college if they want to succeed.

Colleges should be concentrating on who can graduate from their school, not drastically improving diver-

sity.

It's hard to believe that a student who knows they're not fully qualified would accept admission to a university knowing they are only admitted because of their race.

It's like cheating your way into school. No one should be attending a prestigious college unless they are qualified and have worked to get there.

Some students need real help getting into college. There is nothing wrong with helping out a student who has worked hard and grew up in a lower income area with a bad school system.

Along with this, some students also need help based on their financial need.

Yet, students of color are getting merit-based scholarships over white students who have the same types of grades. When something is merit based, it should be based on grades, test scores and school activities, not the color of your skin.

Diversity is important in a community, and people from different backgrounds can learn from each other.

Yet, to improve diversity by cheating out others who are more or just as qualified is, and always will be, wrong.

Greg Moore
Contributing Writer

Athletes cashing in on their talent

In past years Michael Jordan has made up to \$78.3 million. At one point he made \$300,000 every time he stepped on the court and \$173,000 a day. This is not even counting the \$40 million in endorsements he makes a year.

Nothing against Jordan, he is one of the best basketball players ever and has racked up numerous awards and accomplishments, but making that kind of money is absurd. An average person that makes \$30,000 a year would have to save his entire salary for 10 years to have the same amount of money Jordan makes every time he plays a game. But it's not just Jordan, it is happening in all of the major sports.

Two seasons ago, Alex Rodriguez, arguably the best baseball player this decade, signed the biggest contract of any sport to date with a deal worth over \$200 million over 10 years. That averages out to be more than \$20 million a year.

Some people argue that athletes deserve that kind of cash because they have trained for years, they act as our role models, and they create a lot of jobs. As for being role models, how *good* are they?

Dennis Rodman and Allen Iverson are not exactly what a child should be looking up to. Rodman is a cross-dresser who headbutted a referee and kicked a cameraman in the crotch. Iverson has been in the news for allegedly threatening persons with a handgun, and other stars such as Patrick Ewing testified that they have visited the infamous Gold Club, where some illegal dealings went on.

If athletes were paid a maximum of \$1 million a year, would any fewer jobs be created? Would coaches and general managers disappear? The answer is no.

Granted, these players have spent a lot of their life training, but hasn't everyone? If you're a straight A student, aren't you training for a good career in the future? Don't forget, these guys are playing a game and get quite a lot of money for doing it. It would be awesome just to play alongside the best of the best, but getting paid would be even better. Pay day is secondary compared to being able to do something you love.

These players are the best at what they do, but a couple million is enough to live off of for the rest of your life, yet these players are whining for more and more and it is getting old.

So shut-up already and go live in your mansions, because it is better to see people that do it for the game rather than watch a bunch of egotistical players hog the ball, and the money.

John Jennings
Contributing Writer

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.

Happy Holidays

And the winner is...

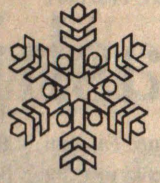
By Stephanie Bodane
The holidays are a time for families to come together, friends to enjoy the break from school, and enjoy giving gifts.
No matter what you celebrate, Kwanza, Hanukkah, or Christmas, presents are one of the highlights of the season.
That is until you tear off the shiny wrapping paper and there in the box is that same pair of pink bunny pajamas you swore you threw away the last time you got them.
It's the return of the worst

- gift ever. To help you identify those awful gifts, here's a list for you.
10. Socks.
 9. Underwear.
 8. Donny and Marie Christmas CD.
 7. Musical underwear.
 6. A collection of hotel soaps and shampoos.
 5. Odor eaters.
 4. A felt Santa toilet seat cover.
 3. A used bathrobe.
 2. A \$10 gift certificate to McDonald's.
 1. The gift of a membership to a weight loss program.



"I want to improve my writing, craft it down to perfection. I also want to get working on the novel I've been writing" - Kyle Bullis, Features Editor.

"My resolution is to get in gear with college applications, I've been procrastinating like mad. I also want to volunteer more and become more active with political issues and actually do something for the world instead of just talking about it" - Melissa Stevens, Perspectives Editor.



"My New Year's resolution is to stay healthy and to not be sick as often as I usually am" - Michelle Loerzel, Reporter.

My New Year's resolution is...

"My New Year's resolution is to become the richest man in America by the end of this fiscal year" - Elliott Timmes, Sports Editor.

"My New Year's resolution is to make more time for a lot of things that I have been meaning to do" - Anna Nubie, Special Sections Editor.

"My New Year's resolution is to think of a new year's resolution for next year" - Sam West, News Editor.



"My New Year's resolution is to be more patient with other people" - Jessica Myers, Photo Editor.



"My New Year's resolution is to be a better daughter, sister, student, and friend. I want my last year at home and in high school, to be positive" - Stephanie Bodane, Editor in Chief.

Unwrapping Christmas presents over the years

By Melissa Stevens
Every year has its favorite holiday toy. Let's take a look at what the number one toys were since you were born.

- 1984 - Cabbage Patch Kids Dolls
- 1985 - Transformers
- 1986 - Teddy Ruxpin
- 1987 - Nintendo
- 1988 - Care Bears
- 1989 - GameBoy
- 1990 - Teenage Mutant

- Ninja Turtles
- 1991 - Polly Pocket
- 1992 - Sega Genesis
- 1993 - Beanie Babies
- 1994 - Power Rangers
- 1995 - Tamagotchi
- 1996 - Toy Story Toys
- 1997 - Teletubbies
- 1998 - Furby
- 1999 - Tickle-Me-Elmo
- 2000 - Teckno the Robotic Puppy
- 2001 - PlayStation 2



Gifts worth giving this season

By Jessica Myers
Buying original gifts that show you care during the Holiday season can be a pain and expensive. Here are a few tips to help you stay inside your budget.

When you start searching for inexpensive presents, you can begin by going to a dollar store. Dollar stores have a lot of cute knick-knacks such as Christmas decorations and little toys.

Never be shy about checking out a sale, you never know what you can find to give one of your friends.

If you don't want to give presents, you can plan an outing. You can set up a time with your friends to see a movie, go to the zoo, or go out to dinner.

You could also take your parents to see a movie that they've wanted to see.

When thinking of ideas for your parents, the thought behind the gift is always most important. Instead of purchasing something from the store, make them breakfast in bed. They will appreciate the gesture.

Homemade cookies, gingerbread men, or brownies will be a delicious present to give anyone.

If you are not into cooking for your parents you could always do things such as straightening up the house or doing the dishes after Christmas dinner.

For your father you can get a gel picture frame shaped like a person with a picture of you in it for his desk.

Your mother would appreciate a framed picture of you and your siblings.

Another idea for your mother would be a picture frame with a cute, motherly saying.

For your girl friends, your girlfriend, or your sister, you can get them a make-up case full of make-up, jewelry, or nail polish. You can find the cases in different colors or shaped like cartoon characters, pick one that is special to that person.

You could also get them a stuffed animal, if you shop around, there are stuffed animals for as cheap as \$5.

Jewelry, socks, shoelaces, scented body spray, soaps, or other bath accessories will go over well.

For anyone on your shopping list, you can go to the Painted Penguin at Stratford Square Mall and buy a ceramic figure and paint it

there.
You can also buy an ornament to paint. You can get ornaments shaped into something that describes your friend or family member.

You can hand out candy canes to classmates, or those friends that you don't want to spend a lot of money on.

For your boyfriend or male friends that are interested in cars you can get them a gift set of little tools or car-related items.

You can buy for your little brother action figures of cartoons.

For your friend that complains of boredom, you can get them puzzles, board games, a Rubik's cube, playing cards, stressballs, and other entertaining toys.

You can also burn or purchase a CD for the music-loving friend. While they listen to the new CD you can get them a good book for them to enjoy as well.

You can also get a movie that you all love, or the first movie you and your friends saw together.

There are also more sentimental gifts you can get your friends.

You can make all of your friends friendship bracelets.

You can make them all the same design, only have each bracelet a different color that reminds you of that particular friend.

If you have a lot of pictures of you and a friend, you can make a scrapbook filled with pictures, poems, song lyrics, inside jokes, movie stubs, or anything else that contributes to your relationship.

If you have a picture of all your friends together, get copies of that picture and put them in frames and give them to your friends.

You can also make someone a basket with marshmallows and hot chocolate. You can make one based on any one thing for your friend.

For example, if your female friend enjoys bathing you can get her a fluffy towel, bath salts, body soaps or other bath related gifts and put them in a basket for her.

To bring in the new year, you can get your friend a calendar with hunks, beach babes or anything else related to your friend.

Christmas is a time to show your friends that you care, but you don't need to go into debt for it.

Look around, and think of something original.



Bring in the sound of the season this holiday

By Melissa Stevens
From "Silver Bells" to the "Little Drummer Boy" music defines the holiday season.

- Here are the top 10 songs that should be on your play list for this holiday season.
10. "White Christmas" - Bing Crosby
 9. "Jingle Bell Rock" - Bobby Helms
 8. "Little Saint Nick" - The Beach Boys

7. "Grinch 2000" - Busta Rhymes/Jim Carrey
6. "Sleigh Ride" - TLC
5. "Little Drummer Boy" - Jars of Clay
4. "Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!" - Dean Martin
3. "Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays" - N'sync
2. "Rudolph, The Red-Nosed Reindeer" - Gene Autry
1. "Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer" - Elmo & Patsy

Happy Holidays

Santa: more than just makeup

By Anna Nubie

If you are pondering taking a younger brother or sister to see a Santa, or maybe you're interested yourself, head over to Charlestown Mall.

Wayne Hill, manager of the mall's Santa's, speaks only the highest of Bernie, Santa's real name. Not only is Bernie's white beard real, he enjoys the kids and dresses as Santa only because of the children.

Hill said that sometimes you get Santas who are unemployed, alcoholics or even as young as 16.

He said that not only does Bernie not fall into any of these categories but he also loves his job and that he is great at it.

He's very verbal with the children, and he's able to ask the right questions to get the children excited, while many other Santa Clauses just want to get the picture over with and the kid off their lap, Hill said.

Bernie makes Santa real for

them. Both Bernie and Hill know kids leave happy and eager for Christmas.

Bernie hasn't been a Santa forever though.

He was retired and looking for something to do to fill some of his free time when the Santa gig came up.

At the time, he was working with Hill who always had told him that he would make a great Santa.

"At first I resented the idea (of being Santa) but now I love it, it's the best job that I've ever had," Bernie said. "Once I started I realized it was an awful lot of fun. I grew this beard for it."

Hill said that not only is Bernie recognized around wintertime as Santa Claus but even in summer with his beard.

Children ask him if he's really Santa and he usually plays along and tells them that they better behave until Christmas.

He said that the looks on the children's faces make everything he does worth it.

"They're all so different and some get so excited that they can't stand it. You can see it on their faces, they're so antsy and they'll just jump up on my lap with a hug and a kiss," Bernie said.

Santa gets the occasional kid who never wants to stop talking. Keeping in consideration of the line, Bernie said he handles it by cutting them off politely with a treat and telling them that he'll see them very soon.

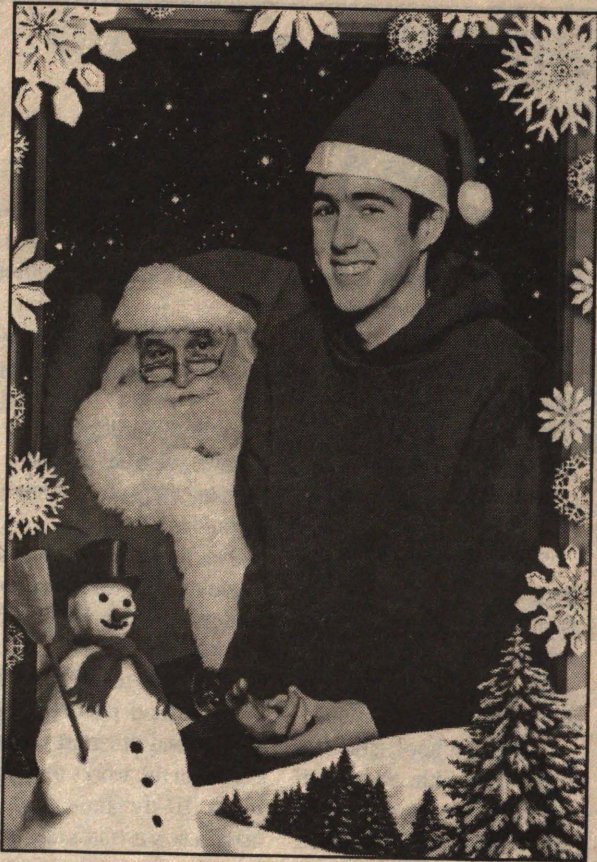
Hill has helped to make Bernie as authentic of a Santa that he can be.

After researching the history of Santa Claus, Hill trained Bernie with all that he knew.

Hill taught him how to react to different questions that kids ask him. He also taught him about the way he was supposed to look.

For example, the long part of Santa's hat is supposed to be on the left side of him to cover Santa's heart.

Hill said that this is something many Santa imperson-



Chase Stearn tells Santa his Christmas wishes.

ators do not consider.

Fake beards are another common thing that you see on a Santa, which Bernie does not have. No Santa Claus should be thin either.

Whatever the requirement, Bernie is sure to do it so he can bring a merry Christmas to kids in the area.

Bernie will be at the mall through Dec. 24.

Holiday laughs

What do elves learn in school?
The elf-abet

What is the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet?
The Christmas alphabet has noel

Why does Santa have three gardens?
So he can Hoe, Hoe, Hoe

What does a cat on the beach have in common with Christmas?
Sandy Claws

Why was Santa's little helper depressed?
He had low elf-esteem

What kind of bird can write?
A pen-guin

All jokes were found on www.kidsdomain.com

Happy Holidays from the Wildcat Chronicle



Kyle Bullis
maison
Stephanie

Michelle Loenzel
Anna

Elkath
Kara West
Jessica



There is snow reason for not having fun over break

By Kyle Bullis

People tend to get really bored over the winter, and it's understandable.

There's snow covering everything, it's generally 20 degrees outside, and everything is dull and monotonous except for the occasional holiday festivities portrayed with lights and stuff lining everyone's house.

Luckily with your friends, and a little imagination, you can turn winter into time of fun and joy, provided that you have a good sense of humor. Here are a few ideas to help get you started.

Look outside. When you see anyone walking past your house, yell at everyone to begin turning all of the lights on and off.

It helps if you do this at night. When the people walk past, they'll be certain that they are walking past a haunted house (or a rave), and will likely never take that

route ever again.

If you really want to mess with a fellow neighbor or someone in your neighborhood, you could drive around their house at about two minute intervals, just long enough to where they'll get suspicious.

Go in different directions too, so that you come from the left and the right.

You could go outside and make snow angels. With about 15 of your friends, all at the same time, for an uncomfortably long amount of time.

Just 15 people in your lawn doing snow angels for, like, a half-hour. And don't say anything. This will either draw an audience or clear the block, but it effects people all the same.

Take your vacuum outside and try to vacuum the snow.

On an even better note, you could mow your lawn when

there's tons of the snow on your lawn, but it has to be fresh snow so it flies everywhere and doesn't destroy your lawn mower.

Snowmen can be a lot of fun. If you have a big enough lawn, you could make the Snowball of Death. You role a little clump of snow around in your lawn, and eventually you will end up having a nice giant snowball that has the potential to crush someone. This is also a good way to shovel your driveway. Make a big snowball out of the snow in your driveway. You know you have made a good snowball when your entire lawn or driveway is completely void of any snow.

How you plan to use this snowball is totally up to you. Snowball fights, on the other hand, are great fun in themselves. To really spark your opponent's attention, bust out a squirt gun

in the middle of a fight.

Squirt gun fights can get pretty brutal when it's freezing outside. And don't wear any winter clothing either.

If you want to have more fun with the ignorant masses, you could walk around outside in a bathing suit.

In fact, and I am really hoping you have a high tolerance for cold, you could walk outside in summer clothes and try setting up a kiddie pool.

You could turn sledding into an original experience by tweaking it a little bit.

Stand on your sled, for instance. Turn it into a skill.

Sled racing is fun. Backward sled racing is hilarious.

Even better, backward sled snowball fighting is a blast. Blindfolded standing sled snowball fighting is ridiculous. Be creative.

You could use a skateboard as a snowboard if you simply remove the trucks (for those not in the lingo, just unscrew the metal things attached to the bottom of the board).

There's a new pastime beginning to take shape in the winter time, and it's called Ice Ball.

Think of baseball being played with a monstrous icicle and lots of clumps of ice. No gloves permitted.

Once night has fallen and you're stuck inside, you'll have to whip up some extra brain power to keep yourself entertained.

If you want to have fun with your family (more fun for you), when everyone is asleep, take a rope and tie their doorknobs together.

This is provided that you have at least two family members that have rooms across

the hall from each other. If you have those, then you're set. You could also go around and unscrew every light bulb in the house.

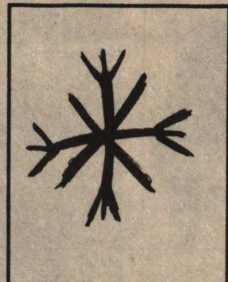
If you want your parents to totally freak out, you could always turn on every single thing in the house while they are gone.

Put something in the microwave and turn it on, turn on the stereo, the television, every light, the VCR, the stove, the computer, the washing machine, the dryer, and whatever else you have in your house that's electronic.

The list goes on, but for the sake of leaving something for you to think up yourself, it ends here.

It's now up to you to think of something on your own. You'll figure something out.

Try to drive people nuts, get under their skin, or just make them wonder what in the world you're doing. Happy holidays!



Art teacher snubs college to enhance West Chicago

By Michelle Loerzel

Christopher Bardey decided to become a high school art teacher instead of a college professor.

He originally went to the University of Wisconsin in Madison to earn his masters in fine arts.

With his masters, he could teach college level art or become an independent artist.

Instead, he received his K-12 art education certification.

Bardey said that he could not see himself teaching college students.

"College students are less open-minded, where you can open up high school students' eyes to something new," said Bardey.

Bardey taught art for two years in Atlanta, Georgia.

He also received his fine arts degree from the University of Georgia.

Growing up in Indiana and having family in Chicago drew Bardey to the Chicago area.

His fiancé is also going to school in Chicago.

Although he has to make the commute out from Chicago daily, he finds it beneficial.

"The administration is supportive of teachers and the faculty are very friendly," said Bardey.

He also likes the different skill levels in high school.

In high school, students come with little art experience or just painting and drawing throughout their childhood, said Bardey.

Bardey himself was an artist throughout his school career.

In second grade, Bardey presented his art work of the A,B,Cs made out of monsters to a kindergarten class.

Although he enjoys teaching, it too has its difficulties also.

"It's hard to teach. I need to be more organized to keep the classes running smoothly," Bardey said.

Bardey also has experience from teaching art in summer school for a few years.

Over the last two summers Bardey taught advanced art students in the governors honors program.

He is now teaching computer art and photography. Bardey and other art teachers are in the works of making a 3D-dynamic design class; a new art class that will be offered to students next year.

This class involves manipulating and changing 3D objects, said Bardey. Bardey would like to teach this class next year and sees himself teaching at We-go for a while.

Comic hero arrives

By Jessica Myers

Introducing the adventures of Sir Render!

Or, actually, the art adventures of senior John French.

Sir Render is a character in a comic strip French drew for his English class two years ago.

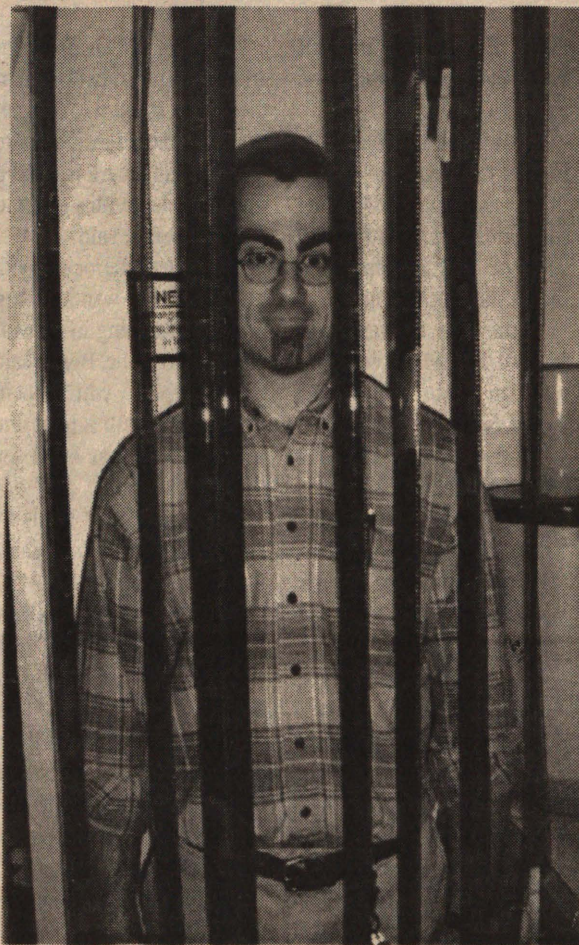
"I've improved my skills since then," said French.

For English class, French had to write a story that dealt with medieval times. Instead, he drew a comic.

Sir Render is a knight who is full of himself, and yet, he is also a coward. And no matter what happens, he comes out on top.

French has been drawing since he could remember.

"I've always drawn," he said. (See French page 9)



Staff Photo

Art teacher Christopher Bardey looks for kiss marks on students newly processed film.

Design class lends a helping hand

By Stephanie Bodane

When history teacher Barbara Laimins needed someone to decorate her newly renovated house, she didn't have to look any further than right here at We-go.

"There was a moment of panic when I realized I had to decorate," said Laimins.

Interior design classes were asked to participate in the decorating of Laimins' home, while at the same time learning about home design.

The classes put together ideas for the new home after visiting the house, going to stores and reviewing magazines.

"She (Laimins) and I were

discussing interior design class. I mentioned our talent and she said she would love some suggestions for her new room additions," said interior design teacher Patty Clifford.

Laimins had four rooms for the interior design students to critique and design. The classes were divided into groups, four students per group, and each group was then assigned to a room. Students then visited Laimins' house to see the structure of each room.

"We asked her questions about the rooms, furniture, preference, color schemes, and likes and dislikes," said

Clifford.

The class then took a field trip to several stores in order to pick out their ideas for each room. After the students picked out their designs, they made material boards which would represent the room and the proposed ideas.

"We went to Ikea, The Great Indoors, and the Woodfield Mall to find ideas," said interior design student, senior Kori Flagg.

There was no budget for the class, however, no group went crazy with high cost items, said Clifford.

"They (students) were really creative, they are really talented. I hired a decorator

and I didn't even use any of her ideas, I used the students'," said Laimins.

Not only was the task fun for the students, but they were also able to learn how much goes into decorating a room and the expenses that come along with it.

"The trip itself was fun, I like going to look at stuff to see different styles and ideas," said Flagg.

Some of the designs have already been purchased by Laimins, and she is planning to use some of the color schemes as well.

"They are really talented, I hope they follow up with this," said Laimins.



Staff Photo

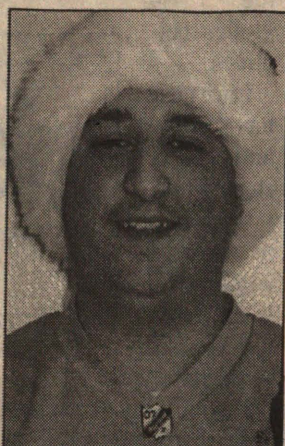
Interior design students show their color ideas for Barbara Laimins' home. From left: Angel Chiarito, Laimins, and Kadi Flagg.

What are you hoping to get for the holidays?



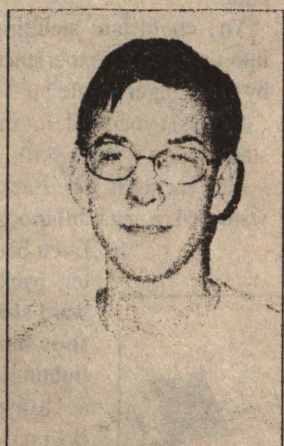
Matt Mikes
Junior

Money, video games, and my girlfriend to hug me.



Mike Burger
Senior

I am hoping to get a new chess clock.



Eric Thomas
Freshman

Some game system.



Tom Wingstedt
Sophomore

Money, dollar bills ya'll.



Jolene Whitlock
Junior

I want my family to get together and get along.



Justin Doyle
Junior

A new car stereo.

Jones digs up fun new hobbies

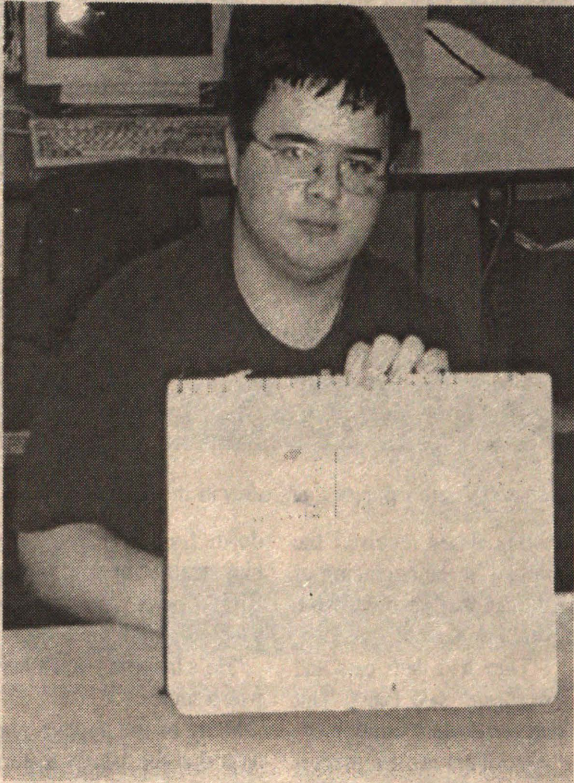
By Melissa Stevens
If the coffin doesn't fit, build a new one.

Adam Jones did exactly that when the coffin given to him for this year's Spooky Trail was too small and cramped for his liking.

Along with friends Martin Pollman and Cory Aita, the We-go sophomore set to work building a new, more comfortable coffin. It took around one and a half to two months to complete the task.

"It turned out better than I thought," said Jones.

Jones' fascination with building things began in middle school. He entered a contest in which the participants built catapults and used them. Two kiddie pools filled with sand were set up over 30 feet away from the catapults, and whoever made two shots into the pools would



Staff Photo

Drawing is one of Adam Jones' talents. He also builds coffins, among other things.

win. Jones' catapult was the only one to make both shots.

Jones said that what he builds depends on the mood he's in.

Building isn't the only thing he does, however. Jones also writes, draws, and even acted at one point in time.

Currently, Jones is working on a fantasy book. It is the

first of three books about wizards and demons.

"I believe that it's all possible in some way," Jones said about the fantasy world. "It all had to come from somewhere."

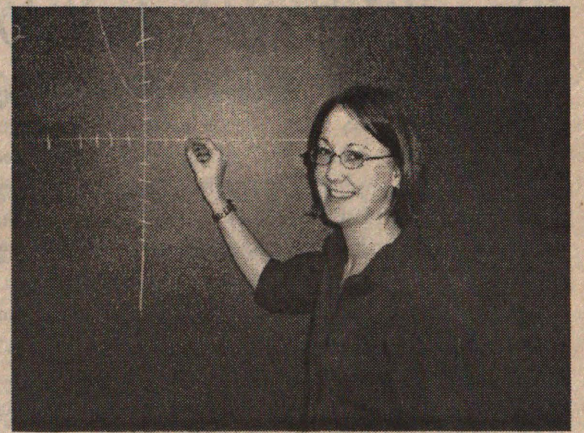
He sent copies of the story out to various publishers. One publisher is already interested in the book, which (See Jones page 10)

Nuesser's teaching dream is a reality

By Kyle Bullis
Math teacher Kristina Nuesser is enjoying her first year of teaching at We-go after waiting since grade school to become a teacher.

Nuesser came here from Northern Illinois University, where she majored in math education.

Teaching has been on



Staff Photo

Since second grade Kristina Nuesser dreamed of becoming a teacher. She is now a math teacher at We-go.

Nuesser's mind ever since she was a child, around second grade.

Nuesser has eagerly joined We-go's activities including the math team as an assistant

coach. She never joined any activities in college, though.

Nuesser decided to teach for We-go because she likes (See Nuesser page 10)

French... (Continued from page 8)

said. When French first started he drew Batman. However, the first time French took art classes was when he entered high school.

French has learned to be observant and watch for details.

"Details can make for a great picture," he said.

French practices a lot to improve his technique.

"I doodle more during class then I do actual class work," said French.

French doesn't only doodle during class, he also spends approximately two hours drawing per day.

French draws a variety of people, superheroes, and action figures.

"I'm inspired by life," French said.

He doesn't only draw. He

said that he enjoys playing music, watching movies, or painting.

French isn't sure what he wants to do for a living in his later years. He definitely wants to do something with art.

"I might draw comic books," French said.

He is working on a comic book now about Black Cross, a superhero.



Tuma house goes to the dogs

By Melissa Stevens

Carly Tuma knows the meaning of the phrase "puppy love."

Her family started fostering stray and needy puppies last summer.

They foster the puppies from shelters in Indiana that gasses unwanted or sick dogs and cats.

The shelters cannot afford euthanasia, so they put the puppies in gas chambers instead.

"It's basically what the Nazis did," Tuma said. "And that's what they're doing to dogs."

Tuma's mother has worked closely with the group Animals Deserving Of Proper Treatment (ADOPT), to

transport the puppies from the shelters to West Chicago.

ADOPT takes dogs and cats from shelters or from owners that don't want the animals anymore and spay neuter the animals, and inject microchips so the animals can be traced to ADOPT then back to their new owners.

The non-profit group uses the \$150 to \$200 adoption fee to pay for spaying and neutering the animals along with paying for the cost of food and supplies.

Tuma's mother devotes her Sundays to working with ADOPT in a local animal shelter.

Her mother also brings the animals home to foster while waiting for homes.

As many as seven dogs have called the Tuma household home at one time. The first group of puppies they fostered consisted of one border collie mix, three lab mixes, two cattle dog mixes and one mutt, all around 8-weeks-old.

Handling that many puppies at once was overwhelming, especially since it was the Tumas' first time.

"We had seven puppies running around our breakfast room," said Tuma.

But the experience definitely did not turn the family off. They've continued to foster puppies since then, including five beagles.

The beagles were the family's most recent puppy



Photo courtesy of Carly Tuma

Some of Tuma's puppies get rowdy in the yard.



Photo courtesy of Carly Tuma

The puppies take a break and chow down on kibble.

fosters. They received the puppies in the beginning of fall, before the dogs were even 8-weeks-old.

"They had their ears and eyes open," said Tuma. "But they were really small."

One of her favorite memories of the beagles was when they tried to get down the stairs. They were too small to actually make it down them, but they would stand at the top and whine until someone would take them down.

All of the beagles were adopted by families within the same weeks of each other.

Tuma also remembers one puppy named Elvis, who everyone thought was going to die. They thought that Elvis would starve to death because he wasn't eating.

Once at the Tuma home, they found out that Elvis really had megaesophagus, where the esophagus is larger than normal and makes it hard to swallow.

The Tumas had Elvis for nine weeks, during which time they fed him watered

down food while holding him straight up and down. Elvis was eventually adopted.

"He's fat now," said Tuma with a smile.

Many of the puppies and dogs that the family fosters stay only for a little while.

Most of the time, the dogs that the Indiana shelter plans on gassing are still adoptable.

For example, Tuma's mother recently moved a pregnant dog from a shelter to a friend's house. When the shelter cleaned the cages, they would just spray each run down without taking the animals out.

If the expectant mother had stayed in the shelter, she and her 10 puppies would have been wet and cold all day long.

Instead, the dog now resides in her mother's friend's home.

Ironically, dogs aren't even Tuma's favorite animals.

"I prefer cats and horses," said Tuma. But she does like big dogs, and plans on own-

ing them some day.

She admits that each dog that they foster grows on her eventually.

"Almost every foster that comes through you want to keep," Tuma said.

She likes that all of the puppies wind up in good homes and are taken care of.

Tuma is proud of the fact that her family is helping to save these dogs.

"Just the thought of them gassing litters of adorable puppies is horrible," said Tuma.

Although she can understand why the shelters choose such a method, she believes that there are homes out there for almost every animal.

Her mother has planned her next trip to Indiana for next spring or summer.

She and a few others will travel down to Indiana and transport puppies and dogs back here.

The trip will bring a whole new bunch of puppies for Tuma and her family to love.

Jones...

(Continued from page 9)
is not even half done yet.

He has also written many poems. Two of the poems he wrote were about 9/11. He sent those poems to President Bush. Though he has not received a response yet, Jones is still hopeful.

Along with building and writing, Jones is also involved with the West Chicago Library, the open gyms at the middle school, and National Night Out.

"I also like to help out teachers whenever I can," Jones said.

Jones also used to be a member of the technology crew for plays at We-go. From this experience, Jones realized that he wants to be a production designer.

"I like to do mainly behind the scenes," said Jones. He hopes to combine his love for building and for the acting world by designing and building sets for movies.

He plans to keep on building things right now, too. He's currently planning on building a tomb for next year's Spooky Trail. The tomb is still being designed, but he promises that it will be creepier than the coffin.

We-go in the past...



Photo courtesy of Challenge

If basketball ever gets boring, you could always liven things up by scoring some donkeys and playing a nice, friendly game of Donkey Ball, like We-go did in the 60s. This picture was taken in the Bishop gym.

Team looks for consistency

By Jessica Myers

The girls' basketball team's season bounces along with a conference record of 1-1.

We-go faced Wheaton Warrenville South (WWS) on Dec. 14.

The final score had WWS with 43 points and We-go with 37.

We-go was able to out score WWS 16-1 in the second quarter.

The first half ended with We-go in the lead 26-18.

During the second half We-go was out scored 25-11.

"We kind of faded a little bit in the second half," said head coach Kim Wallner.

Junior Shaina Sullivan lead the team with 11 points.

On Dec. 12 We-go beat Glenbard North 46-36 to open the conference season.

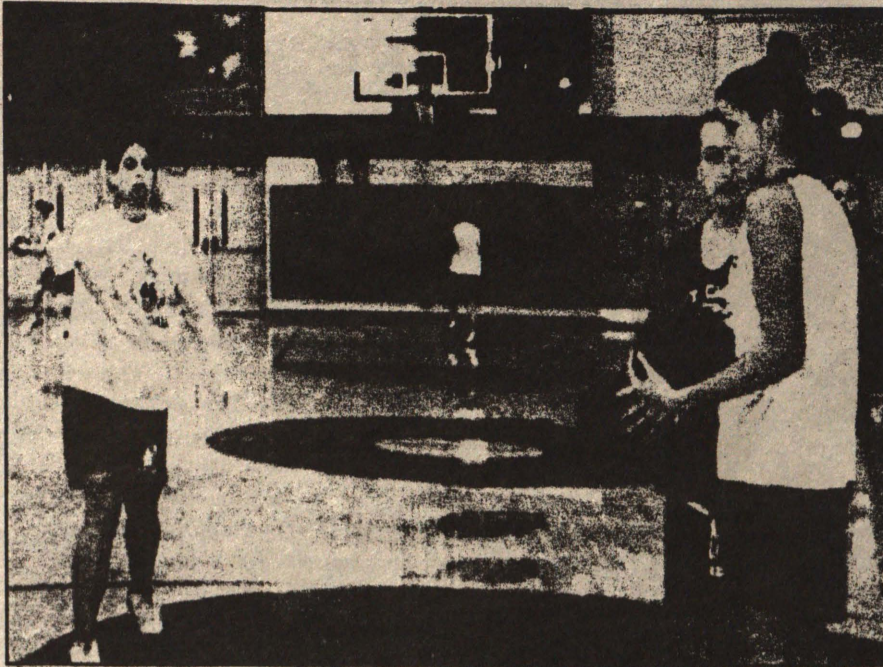
"Nicole Skala had a good all around game," said Wallner.

Skala and Sullivan had nine points this game.

Skala also had six assists, seven rebounds, and four steals.

"Defense was pretty sound throughout the game," said Wallner.

The team played St.



Staff Photo

The varsity girls' basketball team prepares for the week's game.

Viators on Dec. 3.

"We didn't have a good first half," said Wallner. "The girls didn't shoot well."

The first half ended with We-go down 27-15. The girls picked up their game in the second half out scoring St. Viators 27-22.

The final score was 49-42 in St. Viator's favor.

"We just didn't play well enough throughout the whole game," said Wallner.

Before the loss the team ranked third place in a tournament with a record of 3-2.

The last game was a 67-30 win against Walter Payton High School on Nov. 29.

Skala had 18 points. The team's shooting accuracy was

on all night. The team made about 60 percent of their shots.

We-go dropped the ball against Oak Park 59-42 on Nov. 26.

"The girls handled the ball well," said Wallner.

Oak Park went on to win the Willowbrook tournament.

When We-go played the hosts of the tournament, Willowbrook, on Nov. 26, Wallner felt the girls struggled to score.

"They did good with defense," said Wallner.

The final score of the game was 47-32.

We-go beat Marist 49-33 on Nov. 22.

Magen Rogers and Lathie Norton scored 11 points. Norton also had three assists and four steals. Kori Flagg led the team in rebounds with nine rebounds.

The Willowbrook tournament began on Nov. 23 against St. Benedicts.

We-go won 51-50.

Sullivan had 22 points, five assists, and three steals.

"We ended up not playing well in the first half, we were down nine points," said Wallner.

The girls caught up to St. Benedict's. Jessie Crawford hit the winning basket at the end of the game. The three pointer in the final seconds put the Wildcats on top.

Youth wrestling crawls into We-go

Spiders wrestling hopes to improve program at We-go

By Michelle Loerzel

For the first time ever, West Chicago has their own kid's wrestling club.

The Spiders is a club for kids in the community, ranging from first through eighth grade, who want an opportunity to wrestle.

Miguel Silva, head coach for the club, was a wrestler and a recent graduate of West Chicago. Silva agreed to coach the club after West Chicago wrestling coach Marty Molina asked him to help with the Spiders club.

"This will help with the quality of the wrestlers in the town and create quality wrestlers to compete in high school and the junior high level," said Molina.

Some high schools have already had this wrestling program in their community.

"A lot of the other schools that have solidly produced nicely qualified teams have had programs like this," said Molina.

The Spiders are affiliated with the Illinois Kids Wrestling Foundation.

The club started in November and will continue until the state tournament in March. The top qualifiers in the club from each age and weight will have a chance to showcase their quality.

Right now the kids are going to other schools' tournaments, but will not host one this year.

So far the club has about 30 participants. They are divided in different grades and weight groups. New wrestlers are joining each week, said Molina.

"This is a good size for a new club," said Molina "I would like to see this really grow to be 60, even 70 kids in the program."

Practices are run at the high school on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 until 8 p.m. They practice after the high school wrestlers are done.

"The school is being very helpful for letting us the building and the parents are very supportive to bringing teams to the competitions," said Molina.



Staff Photo

We-go's basketball team heads into the pep rally before their conference opener.

Boys' basketball rebounds with win over Hilltoppers

By Elliott Tinnes

The West Chicago Wildcats faced Wheaton Warrenville South on Dec. 13. The team pulled off a 56-55 victory over the Tigers, upping their record to 4-2.

The Wildcats led for nearly the entire game. After immediately putting a cushion in the score, West Chicago continued to dominate for the entire first half.

The Wildcats not only outscored the Tigers for the first half, but they dominated the boards as well, consistently grabbing rebound after rebound.

Almost the entire Wildcat team got in on the action, spreading the wealth with scoring from a host of players. This evident teamwork and seamless execution kept the Wildcats up for much of the game.

It was in the fourth quarter, though, that the Wildcats were hit with their curse. Just as their game with Marmion during Thanksgiving seemed to go downhill during the final quarter, this game seemed to take a turn for the worst.

From the opening of the final quarter the Tigers be-

gan their rally back into the game. In a matter of minutes it seemed that the comfortable lead the Wildcats had accumulated was erased. The Tigers managed to take the lead by a point in the remaining minutes of the game. A foul on John Weier put the Wildcats up by one, as Weier sank both free throws.

With less than a minute remaining, the Tigers took possession of the ball, only to call a timeout with 20 seconds left. As gameplay resumed the Tigers missed shot after shot in a frantic battle for ball control. A fi-

nal Tiger attempt fell short as time wound down, giving West Chicago the victory. An ecstatic group of student fans rushed the court in excitement after the game.

After a tough conference loss to Glenbard North, the Wildcat's boys' basketball team faced Joliet Catholic on Dec. 7. The Wildcats, in their first home game of the season, pulled off a 76-47 victory against the Hilltoppers.

Joliet Catholic opened the game with four unanswered points. By the end of the first quarter, though, the Wildcats led 16-13. In the second quar-

ter the Wildcats shot .500 from the field, while holding Joliet Catholic to 2-of-11.

Nick Michael led the team in scoring with 19 points. After piling on a healthy lead, the Wildcat's bench also made their contribution. Sophomore Doug Seider made his underclass presence felt, scoring 11 points.

West Chicago opened conference with a loss against Glenbard North on Dec. 6 with a final score of 55-66. The Panthers jumped into a strong lead from the get-go. They dominated West Chicago's offense, keeping a

lot of fun for the kids," said Chambers.

The fundraiser is set up so that students receive pledges for each pin they hit, and then forward the money to the football program at the school.

"The money is used to buy new equipment, the weight room, uniforms, bringing in speakers, and having off-season training," said Chambers.

The team is hoping to replace the weight room in Lincoln School.

About 70 percent of the players participated. There were certain goals that the players were urged to meet, but in general, each player was expected to try and make at least \$200. The final count won't be available until January.

The bowl-a-thon was not mandatory, however it is benefiting the West Chicago football team next season.

Sturdy lead throughout the entire game. The Wildcats suffered after a string of fouls took out Michael for much of the game.

The Wildcat's boys' basketball team started off the season taking second place at Marmion's Thanksgiving Tournament.

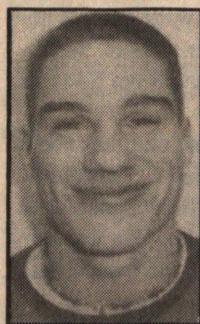
In the tournament's first round the Wildcats beat Walther Lutheran 86-39. Michael and Weier led the team in scoring with 25 and 15 points respectively.

The second round yielded (See Basketball page 12)

Eltrain's View: Cheating or supplementing?

For years professional athletes have taken supplements to enhance their athletic performance.

Some leagues have occasionally taken action against athletes who use "performance enhancers." Yet, a majority of the time, leagues turn a blind eye to the practice. Many athletes feel it is



-Elliott Tinnes-

necessary to take supplements in order to keep up with the

pace of the game. However, these athletes are adults. They are free to make decisions about what they take to enhance their performance, that is, their job.

The problem with supplements today is that their use has trickled down to high school sports. In recent years, high school athletes have taken supplements more and more often to increase their athleticism.

Is this really worth the risk? At a time when one's body is not even fully developed, taking supplements to build muscle mass is anything but healthy.

For many supplements, such as Creatine, there has been little research done saying that it is safe. Then again, there is about the same amount of information saying that Creatine is not healthy. But shouldn't that be reason enough? Why would anyone want to put something in their body that they know nothing about?

Supplements such as Creatine are available almost anywhere. Its use has pushed high school sports to new lengths as more and more athletes feel that they have to keep up by taking supplements.

And for what? That small gain in strength or speed. It is definitely not worth the risk.

One risks not only their physical health, but their dignity as well. A person who uses supplements has not earned anything. They have no right bragging in strength, speed, or athleticism; they have only the fact that they were not willing to work for what they wanted.

Instead of putting time and work into making themselves physically better, they have opted to cheat, spending \$50 on Athleticism in a Bottle. Where is the dignity in that?

Lawn skating through life



Photo courtesy of Vicki Lawn
Vicki Lawn

By Elliott Tinnes
Every so often a standout athlete will emerge from West Chicago. Most of these athletes are immediately recognized for their skill.

Whether to be on the basketball court or the football field, it is obvious that they stand out in their sport.

But what about those who don't perform in front of the entire school? Those who put just as much time and effort into their sport, but have no recognition.

Sophomore Vicki Lawn is one of those athletes. Lawn

has been figure skating since she was 4-years-old.

"I saw it on T.V. and I thought it was cool," said Lawn.

Since then, skating has been a large part of Lawn's life. Although she began skating at 4, it wasn't until 6 that she began competitively skating.

To this day Lawn spends much of her time on the ice. She misses the end of the school day to train for two hours at the Fox Valley ice rink.

During the season, Lawn

participates in about one competition per month. Even during the off-season, though, she is practicing daily.

She is working towards more than just her performance during competition.

One of her biggest goals for the future is to pass her senior test. This will enable her to move up a level for competition. Currently Lawn is in the novice division.

One of Lawn's greatest skating accomplishments came during eighth grade.

That year Lawn was the regional champion for juvenile ice-skating.

The competition included skaters from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and nearly all the other Midwestern states.

Lawn credits her coach as one of the biggest influences on her career.

She has helped Lawn through her own experiences.

Many of Lawn's songs and routines came from her coach, who was also a figure skater.

Lawn hopes to keep skating all the way through college. Afterwards, she would also like to become a coach.

Basketball... (Continued from page 11)

a similar deficit in opponent points, as the Wildcats outscored Plainfield South 90-55.

The tournament came as a testament to the team's defensive strength. Before the season opener, the team's defense was a concern, said varsity head coach Kevin Gimre.

Contradictory to those beliefs, though, the defense came out solid right from the start of the tournament.

The Wildcat's two tournament wins placed them in the final round against tournament host Marmion. The

Wildcats fell to Marmion with a final score of 62-60.

West Chicago led Marmion for nearly the entire game until the fourth quarter when Michael fouled out of the game. Marmion stormed back into the lead, narrowly beating the Cats.

"We played well for three quarters. After that we struggled on both offense and defense," said Gimre.

Several Wildcat fouls near the end of the game led to a lot of points for Marmion, which helped their fourth quarter rally, Gimre said.

Swim team hard at work

Both in and out of the water, We-go putting in the time

By Kyle Bullis
The boys' swim team has only been in one meet so far, and hopefully they can improve their performance for future meets.

They lost their first meet against Oswego 107-76, which is a substantial loss.

"We had a couple false starts, but the refs let it slide because it was the first meet," said swimmer Joel Sommers.

The team has improved since the meet, overall in speed and endurance, said Sommers.

The top performers for the team were Jeff Lesniak, who placed first in the 100 breaststroke and the 200 IM. Chris Nelson placed second in 100

fly and the 50 freestyle.

The team had their second meet Saturday. The team placed seventh place out of twelve teams.

Their best event was the 200 meter backstroke, which they placed fourth.

The team's top performers for the meet were Sommers, Matt Simon, Nelson, and CJ Wostrazky.

Although it is still the beginning of the season, the Wildcats have been hard at work.

Not only does the team arrive at school by 5 every morning for conditioning, they practice in the pool for several hours after school as well.

Michael leading team with experience Athlete of the Month



Photo courtesy of Nick Michael
Nick Michael

By Sam West
He started playing basketball in the third grade in the park district Hot-Shot team, and now Nick Michael is Athlete of the Month.

Michael says his contributions to the team and his leadership skills helped him receive Athlete of the month. "I help the team) by work-

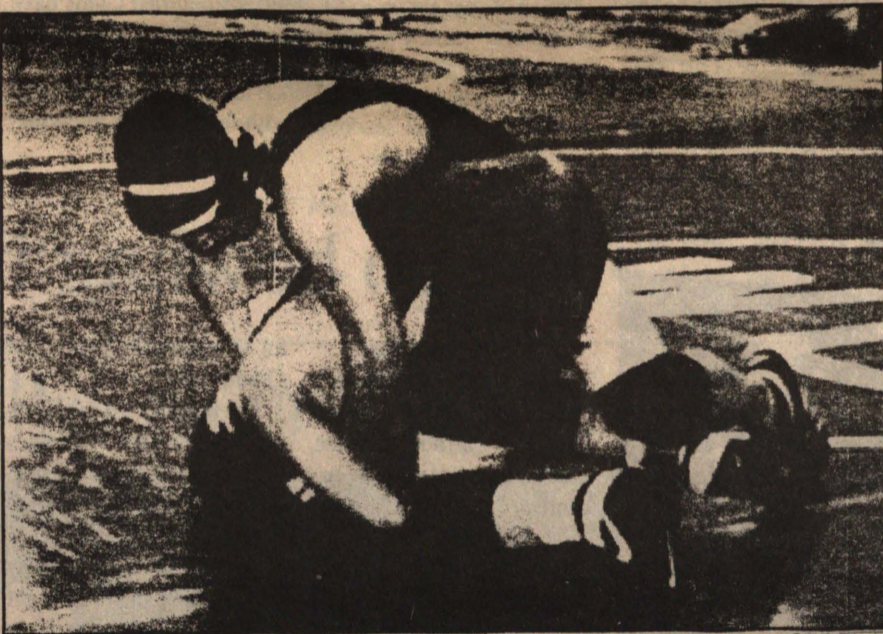
ing hard to make people around me better and by complementing and criticizing my teammates," said Michael.

He wants to become a great basketball player and play in college. Practicing every day and working hard off season will help him accomplish that goal. He has not yet decided what college he wants to go to.

Michael has some team goals, too: "To have a winning season, get the regional title, and possibly a sectional title."

Although his favorite athlete is Dirk Nowitski, he has no influences, except his want to become a great basketball player.

"No one person ever really influenced me to work to get to the point where I am today, except myself," Michael said. "I will work as hard as I have to, to be the best player I can play," he said.



Varsity wrestler Tyler Hempel works a half-nelson on his opponent.

Staff Photo

We-go wrestlers down for the count

Wrestlers
compete for title at 24th
annual Wildcat Invitational

By Melissa Stevens
One. Two. Three.
The Wildcat Wrestling team heard the count many times during the first tournament of the season Nov. 30.

The team participated in many of the day's matching, unfortunately losing most of them.

Wrestler Mike McInerney wrestled many times in the tournament, working his way up to the finals at the end of the day.

Before the match, McInerney jumped up and down and from foot to foot to circulate his blood flow

and work up adrenaline.

"I just want to see if I can beat this guy," said McInerney about what ran through his mind before the match.

He attributed the losses of the day to many injuries the Wildcats had during the day.

McInerney was injured during his last match. He has seen his share of bloody noses throughout his career. His nose began bleeding from being hit too hard in the face. He continued to wrestle, though, stuffing his nose to keep it from bleeding. Officials had to stop the

match frequently in order to clean up the blood.

This is just one example of how the Wildcats have held strong.

Fabian Cruz wrestled for first place during the tournament, eventually losing but fighting a hard match.

In third place for the 135 lb division, Tyler Hempel came extremely close to winning. He too eventually lost, but gave the other wrestler a run for his money.

The season has had its ups and downs so far, but the Wildcats are holding on strong.