

Wildcat Chronicle

Volume 34,
Issue 5

West Chicago Community High School
February 13, 2003

We-go budget cuts a reality for next few years

By Mary Beth Selby

Due to budget deficits and the recent No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) passed by President Bush in January, 2002, West Chicago Community High School Board of Education is creating options to change the school's operations within the next two years.

Supt. Dr. Lee Rieck said that although the school has investments due to low interest rates, the school's incoming money is quite low, so the budget has greatly decreased.

In addition to budget complications, NCLB requires that schools have annual testing scores increased 5 percent by race.

If a school fails to improve in two years, students have the choice to enroll in other schools.

If there is no improvement in three years, teachers are given the option to leave, and so on until the school shuts down.

Therefore, Community High School is looking to make improvements quickly.

"We are in the planning stages now," said Rieck. "No changes will be made next year, but definitely the following year."

The school board has brainstormed four instructional improvement options.

The first option calls for a staff reduction of about six to eight teachers, while providing program improvements focusing on NCLB, reading literacy, a Title 1 summer program, and staff development workshops for reading literacy and content.

Other options include modifications to the schedule, with some classes only meeting once a week.

The final option creates an interterm session between winter break and the end of first semester to focus instruction on NCLB initiatives.

Teachers were asked to vote on an option they felt was best, or present an alternate option to Rieck.

"We were not asked to pick one option and that would be it," said Teacher Association president Sue Junkroski. "These were four possible

options out of many."

Junkroski said the teachers were asked if they were willing to serve on a committee to plan goals to save \$500,000.

She said about five or six teachers immediately volunteered, but said she could not give their names without their consent.

Each department has different needs. Junkroski said each teacher can brainstorm ideas so each department is not left out.

"I'm not too afraid of this, because we are all in it together," said Junkrowski.

The one thing she does not want to see happening is the curriculum changed to "teaching to the test."

Junkroski described "teaching to the test" as having curriculum focus on the exact topics and subjects on the annual exams rather than the concepts.

By "teaching to the test," teachers are basically teaching students to cram and quickly memorize facts, only for them to forget (See Budget page 6)

Say good-bye to Lincoln School

By Sam West

Lincoln school is scheduled to become history at the end of this school year.

Principal John Highland said that the school board has approved seeking bids for the demolition of the building and when acceptable bids arrive, a time schedule will be laid out.

The area where Lincoln currently stands will be converted into green space for athletics, including softball fields, possibly soccer fields, and practice areas.

Highland said that more parking areas could be built there as well.

"We're in desperate need of all those things," he said.

Lincoln school is old and too costly to maintain, Highland said, because the boilers are old and expensive to keep up and there is no technology in the building.

Highland said, "The infrastructure is problematic."

It is cheaper to demolish the school than to keep it running.

According to Highland,

many teachers, students, and classrooms will have to move out of Lincoln into the main building.

He said that the biggest challenge was to bring all the Lincoln students into the main building.

"That created some interesting challenges," Highland said.

About eight foreign language teachers will move into the main building, with their classrooms on the third floor.

(See Lincoln School page 5)

Council promotes safe driving

By Mary Beth Selby

Complaints from West Chicago residents about student driving near Kerr McGee have caused Community High School student council to promote safe student driving to keep Kerr McGee open.

Student council president Nick Bernard said that residents have threatened to petition to close the Kerr McGee parking lot due to accidents and unsafe driving.

"The few one percent of students that are displaying poor driving are giving the students and the school a bad name," said officer Richard Theodore.

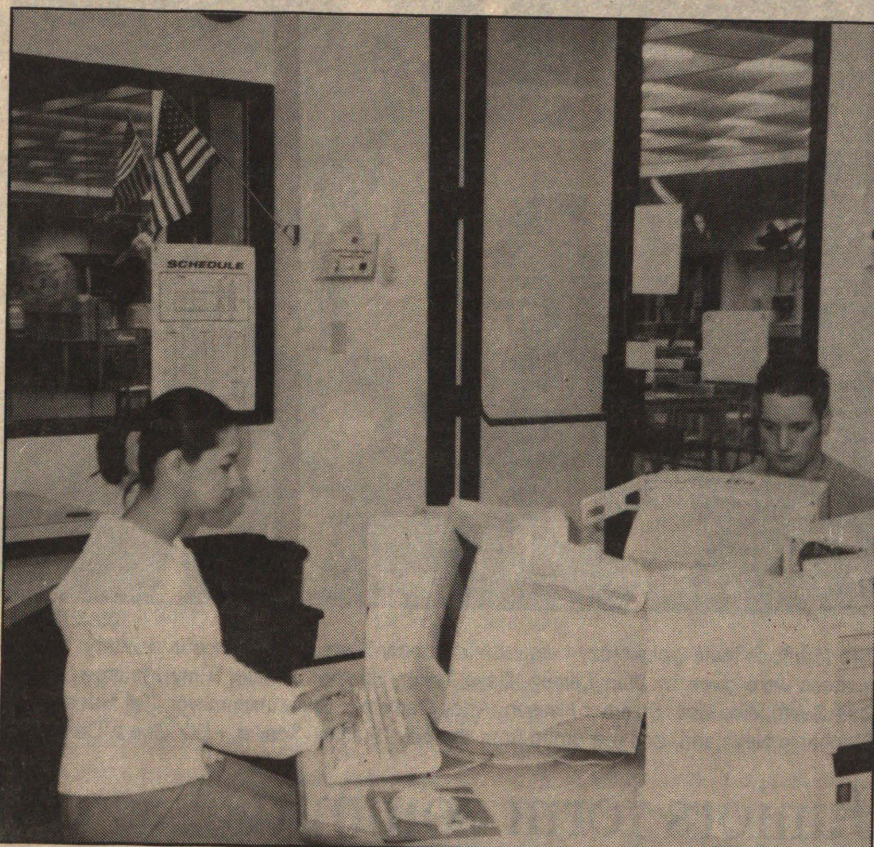
Bernard said some remedies include putting up signs at Kerr McGee to encourage safe driving and installing speed bumps in the parking lot.

Student council is also working on putting together a campaign within the school to promote safe driving, with

slogans like, "Got Parking? Abuse it and lose it," "Do your part to keep our parking," and, "How Would Grandma Drive (HWGD)."

Bernard said National Honor Society will be doing the actual "legwork" of talking with the residents, while student council promotes the campaign in the school.

NHS has already ordered metal signs that will be put up at Kerr McGee with the (See Parking page 6)



Staff Photo

Rachel Moguel and Jim Oroni work at computers that are due for replacement next year with faster computers.

Tech department receives grant

By Jessica Myers

Although District 94 is going under budget cuts, the technology department will continue to expand after receiving a \$42,500 state grant.

At the beginning of the school year, We-go submitted a technology plan to the state that a team worked on during the summer and fall.

According to Tom McCann, assistant principal of curriculum and instruction, the plan gave an inventory of all technology within the school.

"We had to have architectural drawings and certifications to show that the electrical power is available for the technology," said McCann.

The technology plan also included maintenance plans,

staff training plans, and how We-go uses the technology for educational programs.

In the fall, the plan was approved. This made We-go eligible for grants from the state and federal government.

"All schools have to have the plan to be eligible for other grants," said McCann.

We-go will receive the \$42,500 from the Illinois State Board of Education's Closing the Gap technology grant funds from the state.

"This money is expected to be received this semester," said Andy Glowaty, director of technology.

This grant will help to replace the LRCLab 2, the oldest lab in the building, with new Dell computers.

"The remaining portion will be used to get new digi-

tal camcorders for the broadcast communications class offered next year," said Glowaty.

This grant will also be used for teacher workshops offered through the DuPage Regional Office of Education.

We-go has also applied to the National Endowment for the Humanities, or NEH, a federal grant.

If received, the \$45,000 grant will be used for the global studies, world studies, and American studies classes.

"We asked for money to support efforts to link the three studies classes more closely," said McCann.

The money will be used to develop the curriculum of the three classes and for online websites that will be used in courses.

Other grants the school has (See Tech Grants page 3)

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Forensics displays its very best

By Michelle Loerzel
West Chicago forensics team placed fourth out of 16 teams in regionals at Hoffmann Estates High School Saturday.

"This was the best tournament the team has ever performed this year," said forensics adviser Steve Kellner. "This was also the most difficult tournament because other teams were really strong and sectionals will be really good performances."

Four members will perform Saturday in sectionals at Wheaton North.

Emy Krauspe was We-go's first ever regional champion, taking first place in prose reading.

Erin Linsenmeyer placed fourth in oratory speaking.

"Everyone there was really good and I was really shocked when I found out I made it," said Linsenmeyer.

Stan Lemon took third place in humorous interpretation and Dominique Scott won third place in impromptu speaking.

Other regional finalists included Stephanie Neumann and Jeff Hansen in humorous duet acting; Mike Giese in special occasions speaking and Heather Coakley in declamation.

Andy Dameron also made it into finals for original comedy, and Lemon for verse reading.

Verbally Yours also displayed forensics' best performances in January.

For verse reading, Lemon spoke about how students have ruined the English language.

"I think I have definitely improved on my own performance over the year," said Lemon.

Freshman Dave Taylor performed his original comedy skit about a boy's search for a favorite pastime.

Coakley demonstrated a declamation performance.

Krauspe performed a prose

reading and Scott demonstrated an impromptu speaking.

Dameron performed his original comedy about the dangers of playground equipment.

"I feel everyone did a good job and everyone was on the ball," said Dameron.

Also, Linsenmeyer performed her original oratory about the significance of discrimination toward handicapped students.

Jeff Hansen and Stephanie Neumann performed their humorous duet acting about a newlywed couple and the joys of marriage.

The performance in the round, "Frankly, Scarlet, I DO Give a Damn" was performed by Becky Bonarek, Caitlin Riermaier, Missi Sheme, Dennis Zavala, Taylor and Summer Hassan. This performance made regionals. The skit was a count down of the 10 greatest romance stories.

Throughout the evening Mike Doll and Hassan were the hosts and had a radio speaking break.



Staff Photo

The forensics team goes crazy before their Verbally Yours performance in January. Performances were given by Stan Lemon, Dave Taylor, Heather Coakley, Emy Krauspe, Dominique Scott, Mike Doll, Summer Hassan, Andy Dameron, Erin Linsenmeyer, Jeff Hansen and Stephanie Neumann, and the group from the play "Frankly, Scarlet, I DO Give a Damn."

Juniors form committee as prom nears

By Mary Beth Selby

Student council is putting together the first ever prom fashion show as a fundraiser on March 7.

Student council will choose various dress styles and model them at the show. Girls will model dresses from David's Bridal and Deb, and boys will model tuxedos from Modern Tuxedo and Desmond Tuxedo.

Creator Jaclyn Demes said, "(One reason for the show is) so kids can get ideas for what they want for prom."

Demes, a senior, works with junior student council member Becky Wilkening.

They chose 20 girls to model dresses and 20 boys for tuxes from both the junior and senior classes.

In addition, Booster Club will conduct a raffle for student council for prom prizes, such as free corsages, an after prom dinner, and possibly a limousine ride to the dance, from coupons given by busi-

nesses the student council contacted.

Booster club had to write verification letters to prove the show was a school function.

Also, Booster Club gave junior student council a \$99 start-up check to purchase necessary items, like raffle tickets or decorations.

"Hopefully we can raise about \$500, with at least 100 people coming to the show," Demes said.

Junior student council is beginning to feel the pressure to pull together a successful prom.

With four months left, student council executive president Nick Bernard is taking an upper hand to make sure the juniors are on top of organization.

"Mr. Highland personally came to me with concerns about how (student council) is doing," said Bernard at a January junior student council meeting.

He suggested creating a stable prom committee to cover all the different aspects of prom.

Secretary Emy Krauspe and president Jackie Vavrek were named chairpersons.

Junior student council recently chose five candidate songs for the prom theme song.

The five songs are "Your Song" by Ewan McGregor, "Never Had A Dream Come True" by S Club 7, "I'll Be" by Edwin McCain, "I've Had The Time of My Life" by Bill Medley and Jennifer Wames, and "Everything I Do" by Bryan Adams.

Students will vote for the song they like.

Prom is set to take place at the Marriott in Oak Brook on May 23.

The scheduled deejay is Show on the Road.

The seniors are now working on ideas for a senior class gift, and are making final decisions about the senior mu-

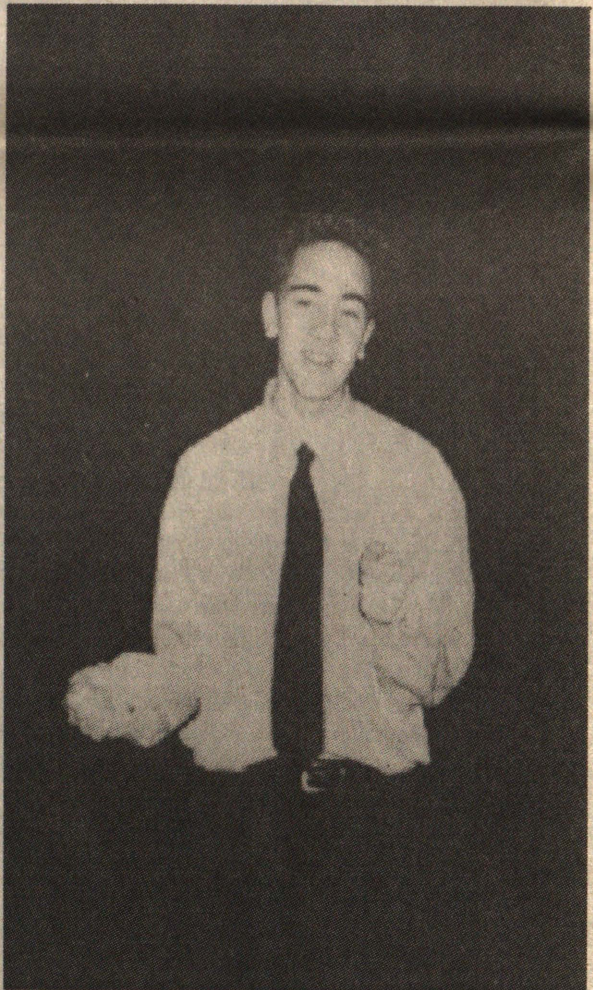
ral. One gift idea is to make additions to the Bishop gym scoreboard, such as foul counts and new nameplates.

The chosen mural design was from Brandi Ruiz, and can be seen on the commons bulletin board, said Maggie Wdowiarz.

While juniors continue to collect every spare penny for prom, sophomore student council is also trying to raise money for next year's prom.

"As a bulletin, the 2004 prom will not be held in the city," said sophomore president Jeff Cisowski. "It was an idea, but Mr. Highland told us that we would have to take buses, and we did a student survey, and nobody really liked that option. So it's being kept in the suburbs."

Sophomores hope to make prom something to be proud of. In the meantime, they have worked concessions and Market Day to raise money.



Staff Photo

Andy Dameron performs his original comedy at Verbally Yours in January.

Club says, "Hola" to foreigners

By Jessica Myers
Spanish Club welcomed the Costa Rican exchange students with an ice-skating outing at Millennium Park on Jan. 24.

"We invited the Costa Rican exchange students so they can experience the cold winter for a change," said adviser Sue Junkroski. "It was beautiful because you could look up and down Michigan Avenue."

Junkroski said this was the

first time ice skating for many of the exchange students.

This was also the exchange students' first time in snow.

The Costa Rican exchange students were also greeted by a mounted police officer.

"When I asked the exchange students what I should do differently for their next trip here they replied that they would like to go ice-skating twice," Junkroski said.

VICA breaks food drive record with 5,000 items

By Mary Beth Selby
The VICA food drive set a new record with 5,200 items in December.

The previous record was about 4,100 items, said president Christine Hendron.

VICA then donated the food to the food pantry at NorthWest DuPage Walk-In Ministry at St. Mary's in West Chicago.

VICA is now preparing for the qualification tests for All Conference on Saturday.

"If they qualify, they get to compete in Springfield around April 10," said

Hendron
Skills USA VICA stands for Vocational Industrial Clubs of America, and is a service, leadership, and skills competition club, said Hendron.

Skills promoted by VICA are commercial sewing, machine board (mechanical drawing), advertising design, speech, photography, essay, interior design, and action skills.

VICA runs an annual food drive in the winter as a community service, and hosts a social of bowling and pizza, which will be March 10.

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

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

Letters to the editor should be signed if they are meant to be printed. The newspaper has the right to edit letters for space.

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

Jazz combo top notch at fest

By Sam West

We-go jazz sounds better than ever, and they are showing it at their competitions.

Jazz combo scored straight ones, giving them a superior rating, at the Northshore Jazz Fest on Jan. 25.

The fest was an all-day competition at Glenbrook South High School in Glenview.

Bass trombonist Brian Steere said, "The combo played well and sounded good, and it's awesome they got a one (score)."

The clinician told combo that they were the best band he had heard all day and complimented each section on its ability to perform the three songs well.

"They really knew the music and they didn't even have to have the music in front of them," said baritone saxophonist Ricky Camp, who is not in combo.

The clinician felt that

drummer Hans Mosicke was instrumental in keeping combo performing strong.

"I don't think we played the best we could have, but I'm happy that we got the rating we did," said Mosicke.

Vibes player Nils Higdon agreed, "I'm happy with the rating we got considering we've played the tunes better."

At the fest, jazz band performed three selections: a swing tune, a Latin song, and a country-jazz mix called Hoe Down.

Hoe Down is a fast-paced song that has the feeling of a hoe down with many jazz elements incorporated.

"It's hard because we have 16th note runs the whole time and we all have to play together," said Camp.

The band received a superior rating overall, with a pair of one scores and a score of two from the three judges.

"I think we did well, es-

pecially since we started Hoe Down two weeks ago," said Steere. "And that's, by far, the hardest piece we have had to play."

Most everybody in the band thought that the clinic after their performance was fun.

The jazz band clinician jammed on a few bars of one of the tunes they played. Then he took turns soloing with each member of the band.

"He was one of the coolest guys ever," said Steere. "He spoke jazz; he played jazz."

This is the first time that any of the jazz bands have received a superior rating at a competition, according to director Jim Guter.

Overall, jazz band received sixth place out of 18 and jazz combo received fourth place of nine.

The jazz band will hold its annual Jazz Night on April 17 in the auditorium.



Photo courtesy of Mary Randle

Counselor Ward Rau, social worker Vivian Walsh, and officers Mike Zepeda and Rich Theodore discussed child abuse issues at the forum recently.

Students get a new perspective on child abuse from seminar

By Stephanie Bodane

Contemporary Life and English students learned about child abuse from a new perspective at a recent child abuse seminar.

The Child Abuse Forum took place at the American Legion in West Chicago on Jan. 8. At the forum students went through a presentation on signs of child abuse such as cuts, bruises, and dirty hair or skin. The forum took one step further by walking through the steps that need to be taken when a child is suspected of abuse.

In order to show students the real life process of getting help for child abuse, child development teacher Patti Kozlowski and English teacher Judy Minor brought in judges, doctors, attorneys, and child service workers to

walk through the steps of helping stop child abuse.

"The students were able to see the network of people that help if they were to encounter or view child abuse," said Minor.

Over 100 students attended the presentation, along with school staff.

"As a network they (presenters) were very helpful," said Kozlowski.

Both teachers feel the forum is important. Although the students knew the signs on child abuse before, now they would know what to do, said Kozlowski.

Along with students learning, there is also hope that they will spread what they have learned around the school. The students made their own group presentations during the seminar as

well. The groups competed by making posters, pamphlets and public service announcements. After their presentation staff members voted on the best presentation.

Next year the forum plans on making changes, which may include involving the Moms in School program as well as arranging guest speakers. As of right now they are working on attending a presentation by David Pelzer sometime this May in Aurora. Pelzer wrote "A Child Called It," an autobiography of his life as an abused child.

The idea for the child abuse forum began a three years ago when retired We-go English teacher Carol Wolf assigned "A Child Called It."

(See Abuse page 6)

Baur finishes high school with honor

By Jessica Myers

Pat Baur was awarded December Student of the Month.

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

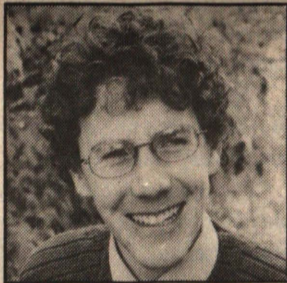
I have learned a lot about people, how they work, how they think, and how they interact. It's important to understand people as well as possible, though everyone can be unpredictable at times.

Who is your favorite teacher at We-go? Why?

I don't pick favorites. Each teacher has something to offer. I cannot say that one particular teacher is necessarily better than another because each one might

have a strong suit where another has a weak suit.

What is your favorite activity in high school? Why?



Pat Baur

I run and I'm a mathlete. Math team is fun and sociable, but running is more of an everyday challenge, and the runners all form close ties. It's like having another family, and that's pretty cool.

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

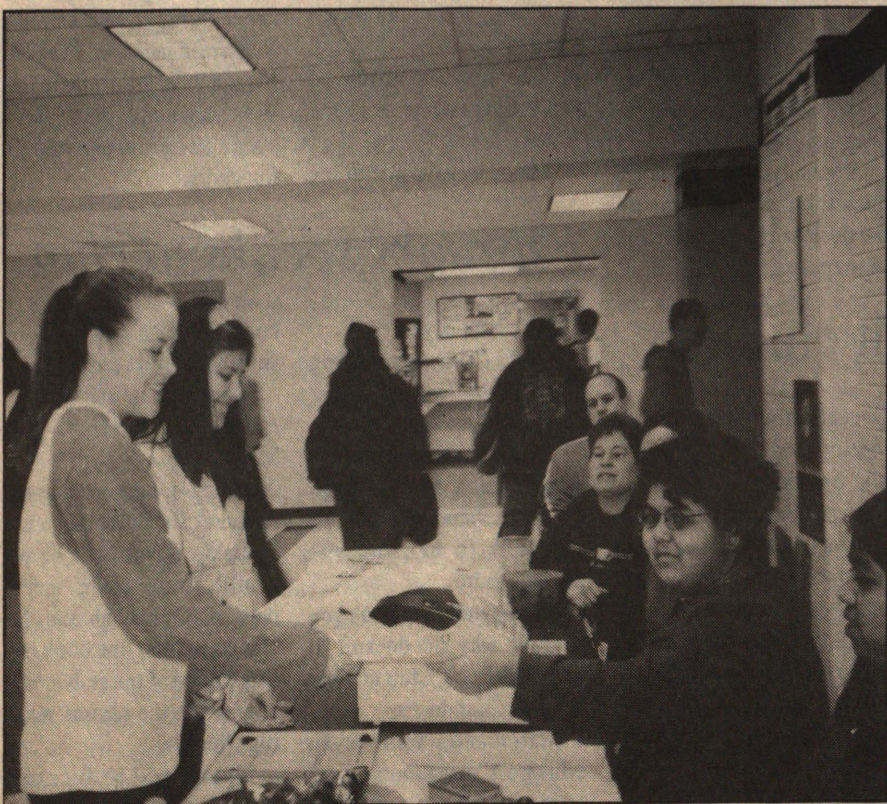
I'm still waiting to hear from most of the universities I applied to, and as for a major, I am as yet undecided, and plan to remain so for at least another year or two.

What influenced these decisions?

I'm good at school and I work hard, but I expect a lot from myself, definitely more than the norm. Average is fine, but it's not for me. I try to avoid it as much as possible.

What is your favorite pastime?

Reading. More people should do it; maybe they'd learn something.



Staff Photo

Jenny Wojcicki buys cookies from the special education department for Valentine's Day.

Artworks to showcase students' talent

By Anna Nubie

Artworks gives students the opportunity to show off their artwork to the community.

"Students are picked to either perform or put their artwork on display by the teacher in charge of that field," Jim Guter, director of bands, said.

Some of the performers from last year agreed that it was a success although there is room to improve.

Art teacher David Exner demonstrated caricature drawings while art teacher James Rumberger demonstrated ceramics along with a couple other students.

Past demonstrations in art included hand building,

comic book art demonstrations, interior design displays, music technology demonstrations, photography, computer demonstrations, as well as computer sewing.

Many different choir performances were held as well, including multiple solos and other performances. Five girls sang solos, ensembles, and chamber choir performed.

Three dances were performed and choreographed and by dance production.

Jazz band played selected music at the performances and the jazz quartet played as well.

The Forensics team performed also, the first includ-

ing a group of students and others with student soloists performing.

The string ensemble also had multiple performances.

This year will have a similar set up as last year. Artworks will occur on March 15.

Tech Grant...

(Continued from page 1)

applied to include a state grant, the EdTech grant. The \$2,500 will be used for technology workshops for staff.

Another grant is the federal E-Rate Grant, which could possibly bring in \$20,000 from this grant. In the past, this grant paid for telephones for every classroom.

Key Club to say moo for a third year

By Bridget Geraghty
Key Club is having a cow, or at least they hope to buy one.

Joining the Heifer Project for the third year in a row, Key Club is collecting spare change during all lunch hours through February.

Adviser Ward Rau said, "We're raising money to give to the (Heifer Project) organization that provides livestock to villages in developing and underdeveloped countries so they can learn how to raise livestock for food and profit."

One cow costs \$500, but if they don't raise enough money Key Club can buy other livestock, such as sheep, goats and chickens.

Anyone who wants to donate can find Key Club members asking for donations during lunch or drop their spare change in the buckets in the lunch lines.

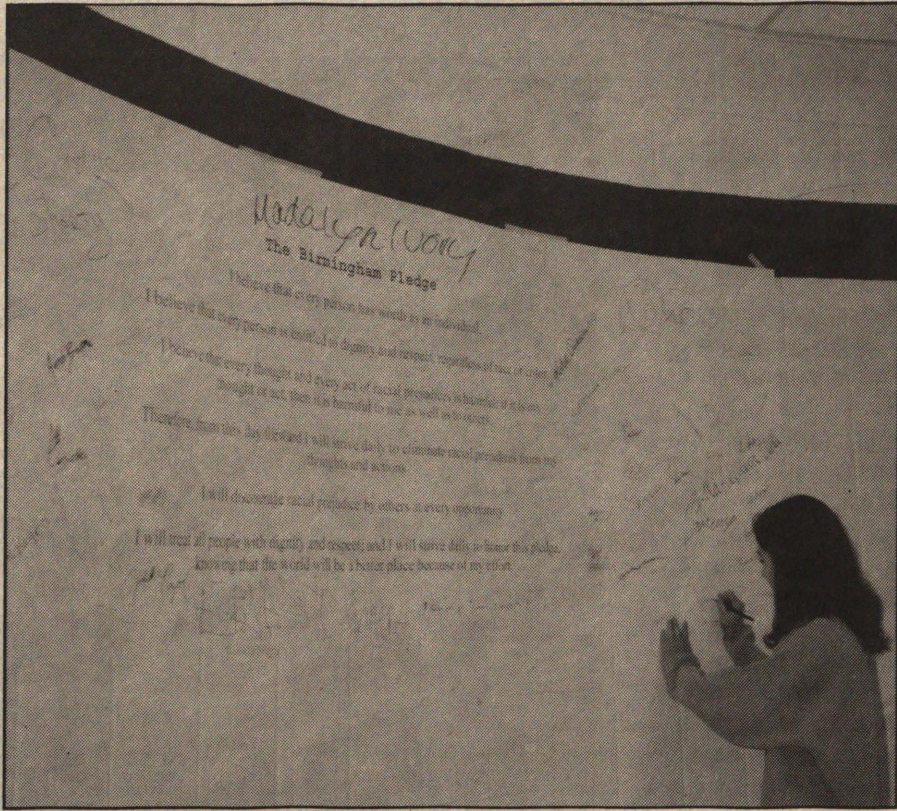
Key Club will also join with the adult volunteer group Kiwanis Club for ChiliFest on Saturday, Feb 22.

"It's a big festival and people from local fire departments come and cook their special chili," said Rau.

Then the attendees vote on the best chili and the winning recipe gets a trophy.

Key Club will have a bake sale at the festival, which is at the American Legion.

They also plan a Prairie Path clean up in the spring.



A student pledges to combat racism by signing the Birmingham Pledge.

Staff Photo

Students take pledge to combat racism

By Bridget Geraghty
Over 90 students registered for and signed the Birmingham Pledge in Commons Jan. 27-29 to help eliminate racist thoughts and actions in their daily lives.

Student council brought the pledge to the school with the intent of educating students about racist actions that occur everyday.

When a pledge is made, it is made for life.

The pledge started in 1998 and is sponsored by the Birmingham Pledge Foundation. They can be reached at www.birminghampledge.org.

Student council president Nick Bernard said, "The pledge was for students and teachers to become aware that other people in the school are

racist and have prejudice." Bernard said they chose that week because it was between Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday and February, which is Black History Month.

Bernard said 160 countries are already involved with the pledge, and it is a good thing for We-go to get involved with.

Bernard hopes that next year student council will bring it back so that more people can register or renew their pledge from the previous year.

He said, "This is not something we're getting money for or getting credit for. We just want people to realize that racism hurts themselves and people around them."

SADD discourages tobacco use

By Stephanie Bodane
SADD is teaching young kids the dangerous effects of tobacco use in a special presentation.

This month SADD is participating in TATU, Teens Against Tobacco Use. The program, established by the American Lung Association, was developed to teach young children about the effects of tobacco use.

Years ago, there were lawsuits filed against tobacco companies for the deadly effects tobacco was having on its users.

The money that was won in the lawsuits was distributed to states to use for anti-tobacco education.

However, because Illinois

has made tax cuts to the program, schools who wanted to participate in TATU would have to fund themselves.

"In Illinois, because of money being cut back, this program is in danger," said SADD adviser Robert Hein.

This year, SADD went through training that the American Lung Association provided, so that they would be able to visit elementary and middle schools and talk about tobacco use.

The training took place Jan. 8 from second through ninth hour.

In the training, students learned about how much money tobacco companies make, and how many deaths are caused by the products

they sell.

"The students are trying to give students the idea that smoking is not cool," said Hein.

Around 20 students participated in the training, the only restriction to participating, was participants had to be a non-smoker.

Now that the training is complete, SADD members will send letters to the elementary and middle schools to inform them about their training and set up dates to come and speak.

"It's a really nice program," said Hein.

Anyone interesting in getting involved with SADD can attend meetings every Tuesday at 7:20 in room 160.

Glimpse teenage life with help from the winter play

By Melissa Stevens
This year's winter play hopes to take a glimpse into teenage life.

"Glimpses" is a collection of teen written scenes and cast written monologues that provide glimpses into the hearts of teenagers.

The play is a combination of a few different works, director Mary Hafertepe said.

"I'm always looking for ways to expand the program," Hafertepe said.

She found casting hard, but she hopes that the cast will represent the variety of different backgrounds and opinions in the school.

She wanted the cast to represent the diverse population of the high school. Each member of the cast wrote a monologue for the play, so their ideas and opinions are a part of it.

"The play is going to rock," said cast member Sean Warren.

"I hope many come to see

it and that it gives them the opportunity to talk about who they are, what they've experienced, and maybe what other teens go through," said Hafertepe.

The cast is as follows:

Claire Beeks, Kristen Betts, Nathan Butters, Brad Bytof, Brenda Chavez, Elyse Damsch, Hulices Davalos, Tom DeLegge, Julie Evans, Bridget Geraghty, Maritza Gonzalez, Christine Hendron, Erin Henry, Aida Hernandez, Becki Hoffman, Justin Horwitz, David Kelsey, Tnarri Kilgore, Kaitlyn McAvoy, Jesse Lord, Steve Migliorato, Jessica Morrison, Tiffany Nitti, Harry Padschwit, Kevin Rolof, Brittany Rose, Mallory Russo, Adrienne Sanchez, Natasha Sansone, Jessica Stentz, Javier Tarrasas, and Warren.

Performances are Feb. 20, 21, and 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the Weyrauch auditorium. Tickets are \$2 for students and \$3 for adults.

Consumer Ed. students simulate stocks

By Bridget Geraghty

Five consumer education students from West Chicago recently won the regional stock market simulation by earning a fake \$26,000, also coming in eighth place for the state.

Sarah Altergott, Sarah Assian, Leann Bertram, Jessica Krueger, and Erin Madden made up the winning team, investing an imaginary

\$100,000 in the stock market and buying 8,500 shares of Bradley Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

They held the shares the entire length of the contest and won with a total of \$126,543.

Their reward was to split \$50, and each received a tee shirt and an award certificate.

"The school received \$75 for school related activities,

and we'll use it for next semester's entries," consumer education teacher Don Zabelin said.

The stock market simulation is sponsored by the Illinois Council of Economic Education and the Chicago Tribune Educational Services Department.

Zabelin said, "We keep (the competition) going because the students like it and learn

a lot from it. They learn risks, how the economy affects stock prices, and how the success of a company affects the price of their stock."

We-go has participated in the stock market simulations since 1980, when the program was introduced.

Originally, students mailed their transactions, but now, the program is available full time online.

National Honor Society drives to benefit children

By Bridget Geraghty

National Honor Society (NHS) is sponsoring their second semester pop tab drive to benefit the Ronald McDonald House near Loyola University Medical Center in Chicago.

Vice president Paul Majchrowski said, "The money supports a house for families with disabled children who spend most of their time at the hospital."

The Ronald McDonald House is a 39,000 square foot facility for families with children in the hospital.

The sum of money from collecting pop tabs helps support these families by providing them with food and family rooms to sleep and relax in.

All the money collected from the pop tabs goes to the Ronald McDonald House, Majchrowski said.

All lunch hours can participate in the drive, and whoever turns in the biggest amount of pop tabs earns a pizza party.

Last semester NHS turned in three boxes full. Helen Cortez's resource class won first place and Barb Laimins' American history class was the runner up.

This is the first year NHS has participated in this drive, Majchrowski said. "Ms.

Daneels brought it to our attention and I organized it all," he said.

To participate in the drive, students should fill out a form during their lunch hour and send it to Daneels in room 206 or contact Majchrowski.

Majchrowski said they haven't set a deadline for when they will stop accepting the pop tabs, but it will probably be sometime in May.

February speaks to club

By Jessica Myers

Book Club is reading "Speak" by Laurie Halse Anderson for February.

"Speak" is contemporary adult fiction about a high school freshman girl. No one will talk to her and she doesn't fit in.

"Throughout the book you find out why she doesn't fit in," said Book Club adviser Jill Marchiando.

Marchiando went to an educators' workshop where some teachers said that "Speak" was an excellent

book, and every high school student should read it.

"So I read it, and recommended it to the club," said Marchiando.

Some sophomore classes include "Speak" in their curriculum. There will be no conflict between the members of Book Club and the classes reading the book because none of the club members are in the classes reading "Speak."

"Speak" will be discussed Feb. 25 at 3:15 p.m. in room 305 at the next meeting.

With the lights and camera ready, dance production was ready to dance

By Michelle Loerzel

Dance production ended their year with lights and cameras.

Twelve group acts including the class dances, four duets, four solos and one quartet performance at "Lights, Camera, Dance" recently.

One dance that stemmed off the theme Lights, Camera, Dance was the director's cut performed at the end of the first half.

Music for the director's cut came out of music clips from movies and TV shows, while the dancers danced in a less serious manner. Dancers acted and dressed the parts to the "Blues Brother", "ER", "Friends", "Mission Impossible", "Austin Powers" and finally "Pretty Woman".

"This was for people just to have fun," said dancer Katy Kostal.

Solos included a performance by Monica Pecoraro, a dramatic dance to "Hands on the Bible" by Local H and Kostal who danced to "La Fleur" by Sting.

Mary Turnquist played violin while Caitlin

Riermaier danced a ballet solo.

Turnquist, who has played violin for five years, played "Love Story" for this performance.

Toward the end of the evening, Lindsay Nash wrapped up the solo dances to "It's about that Walk" by Prince before the finale.

"The girls this year really worked hard, were focused, and worked well together," said dance production adviser Helen Zmrhal.

Special guest dancers, Gerry General and Luis Perez danced a ballroom/Latin dance with Lourdes Tlathui and Luzmaria Tlathui.

For about a year, the girls have been taking ballroom dancing and General also goes to the dance studio with the girls. The girls asked Perez, a freshman, to dance with them.

"Latin and ballroom dancing are a little hard because you have to follow a certain pattern with your feet," said Lourdes Tlathui.

The performance also included an Irish dance from

the Riverdance choreographed by Tatiana Podstavkova.

"The Riverdance was totally different," said Luzmaria Tlathui.

Heather Goorley and Norah McAvoy danced to "Signs of Pride" by Lee Greenwood and brought patriotism into the show. Not only did Goorley and McAvoy dance to "Signs of Pride", but the girls also learned sign language to go with the song.

"I saw Sarah Starnes do this at my church and I thought it would be a good tribute to the September 11 tragedy," said Goorley.

The freshmen girls who joined dance production this year were Jenna Bedard, Michelle Heron and Claire Beeks.

"Being in dance production was a lot of fun, I made a lot of friends," said Beeks.

The girls choreographed their first dance "Like I Love You" by Justin Timberlake for the freshmen dance. They put a lot of effort into their class dance, said Bedard.



Staff Photo

Dance production adviser Helen Zmrhal addresses the dancers at a recent practice.

LifeSmarts waiting for its team

By Bridget Geraghty

The state LifeSmarts competition is drawing near and West Chicago still needs a team.

Don Zabelin is the We-go team coach and the state coordinator for the competition. He is responsible for forming a We-go team and hosting the state competition on March 10.

LifeSmarts is a competition that focuses on consumer related products and tests the teams in five categories: consumer's rights and responsibilities, the environment, technology, health and safety, and money management.

"Each match is two or three schools, depending on how many schools are present and how much time we have," said Zabelin.

In the first round each team member receives an individual question and has to answer without any help. The second round is for the

team to discuss among themselves, and the third round is a buzzer round. The first person to buzz in has to answer the question.

Zabelin is also in charge of getting judges for the competition.

"I need about eight total. Five are used to judge any controversy in the answers, two as scorekeepers and one to read the questions," said Zabelin.

The judges come from the Federal Trade Commission, the Food and Drug Administration, the Illinois Treasury Office, the Illinois Attorney General's Office, and the Better Business Bureau.

There is one competition a year, which is the state competition. There are usually six to eight teams that compete.

The winning team receives a plaque and individual plaques for members.

All the consumer education students were required to

take the Internet LifeSmarts test, from which the top 25 people will be chosen to compete.

Any other student who wants to can take the test at www.lifesmarts.org.

After the top 25 scores are found, Zabelin said, business teachers decide who would best represent We-go.

"Our actual team is five people," said Zabelin.

Zabelin said this is a huge learning experience.

"As they (students) take tests on the Internet they learn more. They also take practice LifeSmarts tests all year long," he said.

Last year We-go won first place, beating Naperville North, with a team made up of Hilary Blanchard, Alice Hultquist, Ben Keller, Geoff Palka, and Nicole Patel.

As to this year's team, Zabelin said, "We have the ability of putting out a very strong team. We just have to go in there and do our best."

New year gives Bernard honor

By Jessica Myers

Nick Bernard was awarded January Student of the Month.

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

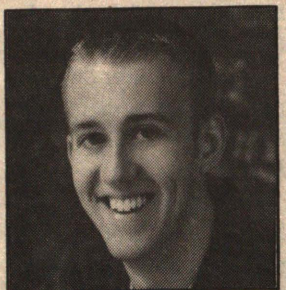
I am president of student council, and I've been tutoring students. I am also on the Daily Herald leadership team.

Who is your favorite teacher in high school? Why?

I have so many favorite teachers; this school has so many dedicated educators. Mrs. Parks was a good teacher with a positive attitude. Mr. Gimre was one of the teachers who made learning fun. Mrs. Laimans was one of those teachers you won't forget for her unique teaching style. The list could go on.

What is your favorite activity in high school? Why?

Track, because I feel good about seeing my hard work pay off by improving my times. Also, student council



Nick Bernard

because I feel like I can make a difference in our school.

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

I'm not sure yet, but I am looking at either Miami University of Ohio or DePauw

University to major in political science or sociology.

What influenced these decisions?

I love government and our simulation at school. I am also interested in our behavior as a society.

What career do you hope to do later in your life?

I hope to be a college professor or go to law school and work for the government in politics.

What is your favorite pastime?

I enjoy hanging out with my friends and going to the movies.

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

I think I was chosen Student of the Month because I care about our school and the students in it.

Lincoln School... (Continued from page 1)

English teachers currently on the third floor will have to double up classrooms so the foreign language teachers can move in.

Teachers will share classrooms only with other teachers in the same subject, said Highland.

Highland also said that this would be the first time that teachers will have to share classrooms.

"That will be a difference than what we've had in the past," he said.

Some English teachers will have to move down to the second floor and share with a few other teachers.

Other activities and classes currently in Lincoln will move as well.

The Welcome Center will have to move, with its 90 students, into the horticulture room.

Horticulture will then move into the science area of the school on the second floor.

The weight room and

STARS, with its two teachers and 79 students, will move to where the old field house locker rooms are.

Adult education, preschool, and ESL at night will also move.

In order to move all the classes and students, it will cost approximately \$1.8 million.

This money, Highland said, comes from the site and construction fund, which is independent of the education fund.

FBLA brings home the bacon

By Michelle Loerzel

FBLA recently took home 52 top awards including 25 trophies and eight regional champions at the Northern Area Conference.

"This year FBLA did great at regionals," adviser Nancy Blume said.

The eight regional champions were Chris Brown for banking and financial systems; Nick Kuras for computer applications; Jeff Cisowski for FBLA principles and procedures; and Dominique Scott for impromptu speaking.

Also, Jessica Boyd was a regional champion while

Alex Baker and Paul Majchrowski won in multimedia presentation and Heidi Colliander for parliamentary procedures.

This was Colliander's second year for placing first and she will represent the Northern Area at the state conference in March.

"There were twice as many participants this year than there were last year, and a total of 57 students," said Blume.

Eight people received second place trophies including Greg Moore, Jackie Batty, Jeff Cordina, Charlie Cloutier, Michelle Macrito and Matt

Shambo.

Mike Letts, Rebeca Duran, Lauren Kirby, Theresa McEvoy, Alyssa Giliberto, Christy Adduci, and Erich Musick all won third place trophies.

Katy Kostal, Tim Bolt, Megan Andracki, and Joe Klingberg placed fourth, while Mike Oleksiak and Brianne Nadolny won seventh place.

Jenny Tan, Nicole Puccetti, Tom Aguirre and Nikki Franz placed eighth.

Chris Jelen and Marybeth Stotz placed ninth and Amy Axelrod and Tyler Hempel won tenth place overall.

Scholastic Bowl starts off rough

By Bridget Geraghty
Scholastic Bowl has had a rough season so far, but they are still hopeful.

Erin Linsenmeyer, co-captain of the varsity team, said, "We've lost all of (our meets)."

So far they've competed against Wheaton-Warrenville South, West Aurora, Naperville Central Naperville North, and Wheaton North.

Linsenmeyer said the team's record is because "(the other teams) devote everything they have to scholastic bowl; they have study groups, and even specialty people."

Each meet consists of 30 toss-up questions that the first person to buzz in can answer. If the question is an-

swered correctly, then there are three to five bonus questions. The team that answered can then answer as many of bonus questions as possible. If they do not answer all of them, the opposing team gets a chance to answer, said Linsenmeyer.

The questions are on a wide variety of topics, from calculus to literature to home economics.

Each toss-up question is 10 points and the bonus questions are three to seven points, depending on how many questions are within a bonus question.

There are no penalties for answering a question wrong.

When someone buzzes they have to answer on their own, but during the bonus questions teams can discuss.

Linsenmeyer said each

team must have five players, with substitutions made at any time.

The team practices one or two times a week by competing against each other in a fake meet.

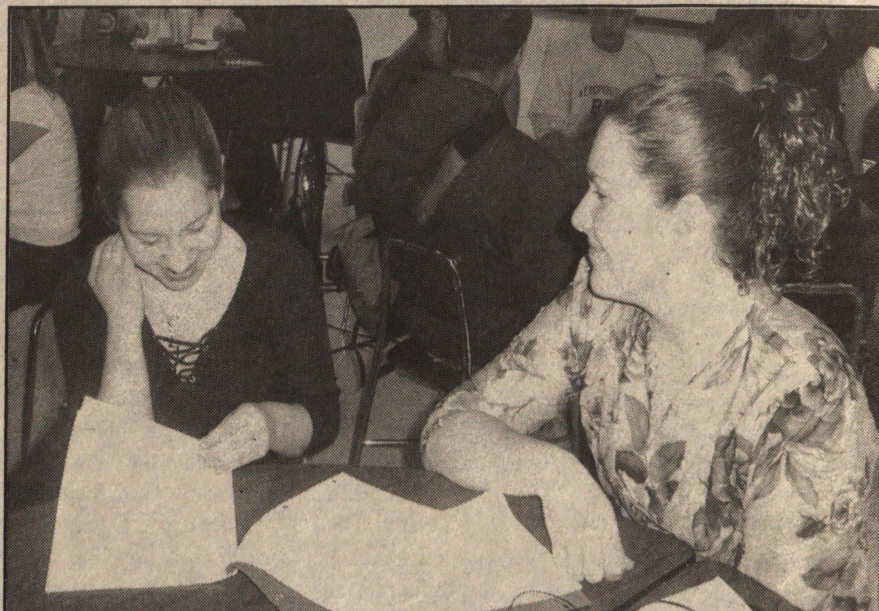
Despite their record, Linsenmeyer said, "It's still a lot of fun."

Abuse...

(Continued from page 3)

Since then the child development classes and English and communications 3 have attended the forum in order to discuss child abuse.

"This (the forum) was a valuable experience not only for the students, but also for us, because of what we learned," said Minor.



Staff Photo
Erin Linsenmeyer and Leigh Hellman look over Scholastic Bowl study guides to prepare for their upcoming match.

Museum seeks volunteers for project

By Jessica Myers

The West Chicago Museum needs student volunteers to help collect oral history.

Volunteers are asked to interview veterans about World War II and the Korean War for the Veterans History Project.

Their interviews will be recorded on cassette tape.

In addition, volunteers will conduct interviews with veterans, transcribe audio and videotapes, identify veterans for inclusion in the project, and assist with

record keeping related to the project.

The museum and the American Folklife Center are offering free training for conducting oral history interviews with veterans.

Erin McCarthy, oral history expert and history lecturer, will conduct the workshop.

The workshop is March 8 from 9 a.m. to noon at the museum located at 132 Main Street, West Chicago.

To reserve seats at the workshop and to become a part of the Veterans History Project, call (630) 231-3376.

The Veterans History Project is a nationwide effort to collect and preserve taped interviews and documents from the country's veterans, with the cooperation of local businesses.

Chris Gingrich, education coordinator at the West Chicago Museum, feels that Americans are losing a significant part of their history and that veterans take what they experienced in the wars to their graves, and are never shared, catalogued or preserved for the future generations.

Budget... (Continued from page 1)

immediately afterwards, said Junkroski.

But Junkroski admits there will be difficulty not to change the curriculum, since the classes will increase as staff reduces.

Referring to the budget deficit, Junkroski said, "Doing more with less is difficult. No carrots, just sticks. I haven't seen any carrots yet."

Rieck said there will be a staff shortage next year, where some teachers are actually let go, or just the retirees are not replaced.

The school board has the goal to save about \$500 to \$600 million by next year.

"I'm not so worried about the money as I am about No Child Left Behind," said Junkroski.

The staff reduction and demolition of Lincoln will add to the budget.

"We are tearing down Lincoln next summer, which saves about \$70 million," said Rieck. "That way we don't have to pay for renovation, gas, or heat."

He said that reconstruction costs greatly cut out revenue money, and important grants on the state and federal level are not coming in. But providing the bids to tear down Lincoln are good, school

board plans to build P.E. fields and a parking lot.

Demolition and reconstruction fees for the Lincoln area have been figured into the budget, said Rieck.

Only 65 percent of the necessary funding for schools has been provided since September 11, causing the revenue to fall short, said Rieck.

But District 94 is in better shape than most other districts. With about \$12-14 million left over in the budget each year, rather than little or none at all, the district still has some money to spend or invest, said Rieck.

But low interest rates keep the school from profiting.

Therefore, to keep receiving an income, the school board is looking for school improvement of a small staff.

"I think this is a decision we need to take time to think about and decide based on what is best for the students," said history and psychology teacher Barbara Laimins.

Once the teachers have given their input, the school board will meet to make a final decision, said Rieck.

JSA visits D.C. for simulation

By Melissa Stevens

Junior State of America members had the chance to experience what Congress is really like when they traveled to Washington DC to participate in JSA Winter Congress.

Winter Congress is a simulation based on the real Congress, which is much like Wego's own government simulation.

The Congress is for JSA members from the Midwest, Southeast, Southwest, and New England.

JSA members Jason Adams, Nick Bernard, Jake Delort, Beca Duran, Carrie Gallimore, Josh Hartmen, Christine Hendron, Justin Hoshaw, Kristin Koltz, Tyler Link, Paul Majchrowski, Rachel Moguel, Jim Oroni, Kim Palka, Jeremy Rose, Matt Timko and Sean Warren all participated in the convention.

"It had a lot of different schools and different people," Hendron said.

The group was able to

meet people from all different states with diverse backgrounds that formed their political beliefs.

All 1,100 participants were separated into two groups, the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Only a select few of the members were chosen for the Senate, others became representatives.

Hendron, Hoshaw, Machrowski, Rose, and Timko were all members of the Senate.

Before the Congress, each JSA chapter was asked to break into groups and write bills to be presented during the convention.

Bills could range everywhere from safer hunting regulations to defending Israel.

"We got to hear different opinions from incredibly knowledgeable people," said Rose.

He said that he especially liked the friendships participants were able to make during the convention and the

varying opinions everyone offered.

The simulation began on Saturday with committee hearings.

The committees debated every bill submitted by the delegates and then decided which will make it to full session.

"Around 10 to 15 bills made it through," said Hendron.

Full session took place in the conference rooms at the Hyatt Regency hotel, with groups splitting into the Senate and House. Democrats and Republicans were not distinct, said Hendron; they were all mixed together.

After the Congress finished, JSA members had time to explore Washington.

They visited the Smithsonian, went to an art museum and a midnight tour of all of the monuments.

The White House issued a high level of alert during their stay, so they were not able to visit the Holocaust Memorial like they had planned.

Student input changes the menu

By Mary Beth Selby

The food menu made changes as a result from the food service committee survey.

At the beginning of the year, a food committee, comprised of students from student council, peer helpers, and study hall, was created to help critique the menu.

Assistant Principal Gail Aronoff gave students a survey asking them what they wished to have more, less, and added to the menu.

"I was pleased that so many filled out the surveys. We wanted as much feedback as possible," said Aronoff.

Results showed the students wanted more: Chinese food, traditional Mexican food, cheese sticks, vegetar-

ian items, Italian beef, pizza puffs, chips and salsa, nacho boats, tortas, and Pepsi products, such as Mountain Dew and Code Red.

The students want to have less of: salads, smoothies, hamburgers, fries, greasy foods, meatloaf, and BBQ ribettes.

The following foods are being added to the menu: mashed potatoes, ice tea, tacos, burritos, Chinese food, Pepsi, Mountain Dew, Code Red, gum, brownies, milk shakes, coffee drinks, soup varieties, full breakfast meals, mini corn dogs, Boca burgers, and Nutri-Grain bars.

When results were collected, president of sales and operations at Quest Food Service Michael McTaggart

made the changes to the menu setup.

"McTaggart is really involved, he listens and goes right away and fixes it. He's in that kind of position that he can make those changes," said Aronoff.

Line one will serve subs in long French bread rather than French rolls, and will offer shaved green peppers, cucumbers, and submarine dressings for possible vegetarian subs.

Line one will also offer mini-corn dogs and popcorn chicken.

Aronoff said the prices often decreased. If the price would increase, McTaggart gave comparative prices to the committee to make their choice.

Parking... (Continued from page 1)

parking slogans.

"The effect will be that, hopefully, we won't hear any more complaints, and no fears of getting run over," said Bernard.

Student council will promote safe driving with signs, HWGD bracelets, and announcements.

Bernard and fellow student Maggie Wdowiarz

spoke with residents accompanied by Theodore.

"Most likely the parking will change next year. We almost changed it this year to assigned parking and a charge," said Bernard.

But if the parking situations are not alleviated, the city will close off Kerr McGee to students to lessen resident complaints, said Bernard.

Our View -

Arming employees a smoking gun

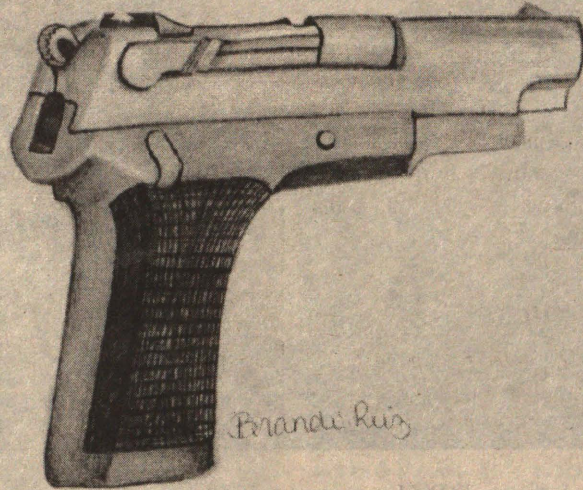
A Colorado County food stamp office is considering allowing over 1,300 employees to carry concealed weapons in the workplace as long as there is a permit present.

Although employees cannot wear flip-flops or shorts to work, the office will allow them to carry handguns under their clothes. The proposal will allow any employee, from a janitor to a county employee, to bring a weapon into the workplace.

Most workplaces in the United States automatically prohibit guns even with a permit. This makes the Colorado case a completely unsafe rarity. Not only will citizens feel unsafe walking down the street, now they have the fear of being shot while receiving the same government aid that is supposed to help them.

However, the Colorado food stamp office justifies this by allowing their workers to own guns as long as they have a permit. The only message that the office sends here is that a gun is okay to have as long as the person has a permit. Even if that gun makes customers uncomfortable, employees can still possess it.

The next thing Americans will know, employees at the neighborhood Jewel will be stocking their tomatoes with a gun holstered on their sides. Of course it will be excused;



they have a permit after all.

Colorado residents hope policy will mandate employees to undergo firearm training and have extensive background checks. Still, no amount of training or background checks will prevent the countless number of accidental gun deaths that could happen in the workplace.

It is frightening to think that the same weapons soldiers use in wars to kill America's enemies are they same type of devices that can be found in a dresser drawer next to someone's bed.

Have Americans learned nothing from recent school shootings and gun crimes in our country?

Permits allow people to own and use a gun; they don't stop other people from stealing them or children from playing with them.

Those permits won't save the life of a child who was playing with a handgun out of curiosity and pulled the trigger. In fact, it is that permit that allowed the gun to fall into innocent hands.

Many people argue that there is no problem with having guns in a household with a permit, as long as they are kept in a locked safe or where no child could find it.

Out of the 30 to 40 percent of households that do have guns, 20 percent of them keep the firearms in unlocked places with children in the home, says the Co/Motion gun control center.

Even when the gun owners have permits and have gone through extensive background checks, those guns can still shoot bullets, and no permit could stop them from that.

Road projects take a turn for the worse

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) recently announced their plan for a western beltway for Chicago. This beltway, dubbed the Prairie Parkway, is supposed to correct the problems of North-South traffic congestion in the Western Suburbs.

The main argument for building the parkway is that it will decongest other area routes, such as State Road 59 and Kirk Road. But since it lies west of State Road 47, the road is out of the way of the entire Chicago area.

There are more important transportation needs to be addressed. The Illinois State Toll Highway Authority first needs to construct the extension of Interstate Highway 355 from Bolingbrook to south of Joliet.

With the completion of this roadway, major arteries such as I-59 and State Road 53 will be unclogged.

I-59, which runs through West Chicago, is a major truck route that connects Wisconsin to the southern half of the country via I-55. This road is congested for most of its length.

For some people, it takes 20 minutes to travel from West Chicago to Naperville on I-59 on weekdays.

The extension of I-355 would take much of the truck traffic off I-59.

Recently, the Will County Board's chief executive officer said that if no improvements are made to the area's transportation problems, 50 percent of Chicago's roadways will be congested.

This creates multiple problems. Pollution would increase as more and more cars and trucks pile on the roadways sitting, pushing out their fumes. The increase in pollution hurts people in the long run. Health problems become more frequent and

severe due to high exposure to pollution.

In fact, a recent study done by professors at Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz School for Public Policy and Management reported that pollution from exhaust pipes increases the risk of asthma, heart disease, and lung disorders.

Traffic jams are also bad business. If trucks regularly get stuck in a jam and are late for a delivery, business suffers because people like their orders on time.

When employees are regularly late for work, not as much is done in the office. Low productivity corresponds directly to low business.

Moreover, the increase in time with the car or truck on is a waste of fuel. By sitting in traffic jams, you are wasting a lot of your gas money.

To repair these problems, IDOT needs to construct

more Chicago area roads.

The Elgin O'Hare Expressway needs to be extended, adding a western entrance to O'Hare airport. This link will lessen traffic on Interstate Highway 90 to the north and Interstate Highway 294 to the East of O'Hare.

An O'Hare bypass is currently in the works, with the planning stages still in progress. A new system of highways around O'Hare will facilitate traffic to minimize congestion and increase transportation of products.

The intent of our highway system is to move people and goods throughout the nation as efficiently as possible. There are many projects in the Chicago area that will improve the efficiency of transportation.

But other projects should take precedence over the Prairie Parkway. IDOT needs to set their priorities straight before moving ahead.

Snowmobiles drive pollution into parks

Oh give me a home, where the snowmobiles roam?

Much to the dismay of conservationists across the nation, the Bush administration recently lifted a ban on snowmobile traffic in the Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks.

Snowmobiles are known for their heavy air and noise pollutants. The Environmental Protection Agency estimated that snowmobiles and similar vehicles are responsible for 13 percent of the nation's hydrocarbon emissions, 6 percent of its carbon monoxide emissions, and 3 percent of its nitrogen oxide emissions.

Pollution in Yellowstone during the winter is so bad that park rangers have to wear respirators to protect their lungs from the snowmobile pollution.

The enormous levels of pollution affect the natural habitat as well.

Native animals like bison are forced to leave the park to escape the pollution, risking being shot by neighboring farmers. More than 200 bison were killed last year as they followed snowmobile trails out of the park. Only 3,000 bison exist in the park today, the largest free-roaming herd in North America.

Regardless of the detrimental effect on the environment, the Bush administration still lifted the ban, claiming that it was unnecessary and unfair to ban all snowmobiles from the parks.

In an attempt to appease environmentalists, Bush decreased the number of snowmobiles that could enter a specific gate into Yellowstone.

This environmental homicide will raise the number of snowmobilers from 850 to 950 a day. The number will increase by 8,000 entries yearly.

The Wilderness Society argues that the plan will simply redirect snowmobile traffic to other park entrances that are not currently in use. Extensive snowmobile traffic as well as the enormous amount of exhaust the vehicles release will spread pollution to other areas of Yellowstone that are currently free of snowmobiles.

Four environmental groups have already filed lawsuits against the changes.

Supporters of the snowmobiles claim that extra snowmobilers will bring more revenue for the park, but the extra maintenance of the park alone will cost up to \$1 million of taxpayer money. In fact, 5 percent of Yellowstone's budget will go to supporting the snowmobiles.

Compare that to the park spending only 6 percent of its budget on the education of visitors. Lack of money already forces the park to turn away 60 percent of school groups that want to participate in its educational programs.

This is just the most recent of the Bush administration's acts against the environment. Bush needs to show that he is responsible for environmental issues, before there is no longer an environment left to save.

Pop industry selling more than music

Famous singers throughout history: Ella Fitzgerald. Aretha Franklin...Britney Spears?

While the number of pop princesses seems ever-increasing, the level of professionalism in the industry seems to decrease more and more.

Look at the TV show "American Idol" for example. The judges often criticize contestants for not fitting the correct pop idol image, saying they are too fat or not beautiful enough for the public.

What does this say to the millions of young children with goals of some day be-

coming famous?

Will children turn to eating disorders at younger ages in hopes of having a chance with judges from this popular program?

Artists who have moved past such critics in their path to fame, such as Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera, do not neglect to show off their approved bodies.

Music videos such as "I'm A Slave 4 U" by Spears, scream the message that being sexual is the "in" way to act.

When an impressionable girl has an idol such as this, it is likely they will want to

look and act similarly. Girls start dressing more revealing and try to act more grown-up.

Girls at the age of nine should not want to be sexy. They should focus on their childhoods, not on maturity.

Not only are many pop singers demonstrating an unrealistic body image to some of their 8- and 9-year-old fans, but the message they send is that dressing this way and will make you beautiful and sexy.

But this is wrong. Being genuine to individuality, yet conservative when necessary should demonstrate beauty.

Girls are suddenly starting

to "grow up" at younger ages. Walk in a mall and you will see many younger girls wearing makeup. What happened to a carefree childhood?

Young women such as Aguilera, Spears, and the many other images of women nearly naked everywhere obviously do influence children.

People who have young fans should live in a way that leaves positive impressions on the children that look up to them.

Anyone who becomes famous is a potential role model, and needs to remember the younger generations admiring their every move.

Kyle's Kolumn

How doth thee annoy me? Let me count the ways...

I believe that it is my duty as a concerned citizen of our beloved country to inform America that, while we as a people are very lucky to be where we are today, our sense of good social behavior has long since been flushed down some kind of social toilet.

I say this only to further the hope that maybe someday we can embrace some sort of human decency, so that sometime, maybe, we can bring back what we had at one time: common courtesy.

Actually, what you just read was a pretty sugar-coated version of what the point actually is. *People need to stop bugging me.*

I know this sounds grossly egotistic on my part, and I won't argue with you. But the fact is that people stink (metaphorically).

Sure, a *person* can be nice, generous, courteous, and all that stuff, but people as a whole are really, really annoying.

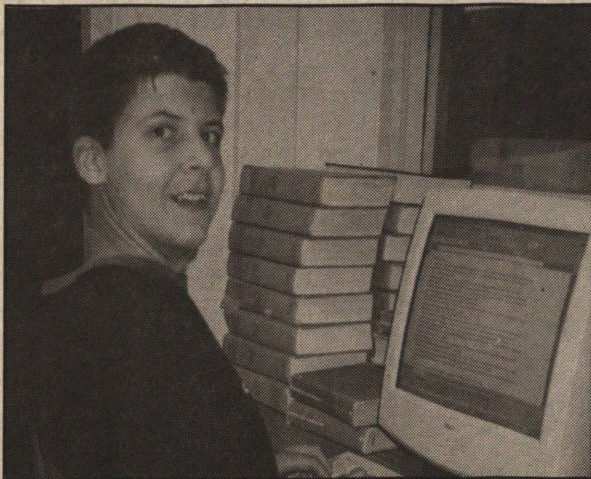
Example: Gum chewing.

Don't get me wrong. Gum chewing is fine. It helps calm people down, relieves tension, is addicting, and causes heart and lung disease. Or was that cigarettes?

No, *gum* is just fine to chew. It's a young person thing. Gum's flavor never lasts beyond a minute and after that it just tastes like you're chewing a big ol' wad of paper. I don't get it, but that's not the point.

What is so wrong with keeping your mouth closed when chewing gum?

What religion do you people practice that states that, in order to achieve happiness in the afterlife, you have to chew gum in that really snotty mouth-open, snapping manner that tempts me to throw you in a garbage can?



Is this cool? Did I miss some sort of "coolness" convention where a committee voted that "chewing gum with your mouth open in a desperate attempt to look cool" was, in fact, a popular thing to do?

Now, you may be wondering right now exactly why this happens to bother me. I can try to answer that, but it may take up the entire page. I don't really know.

I realize that I can simply look the other way and make no big deal about it, but it's that feeling that this pathetically ignorant person is right there, and has *no clue* how dumb they look.

I dare not actually approach the person because, try as I might, I'll probably snap and start screaming at them and sooner or later either I'll have a black eye or I'll be sitting in the back of a squad car for just "accidentally" tackling some-

one.

Of course, they *would* get the message...

But you see, I don't do this. I have a sense of self-control. If I expressed my feelings towards everything that aggravated me all the time, I would most likely be sporting a straight jacket and living at Bats in a Belfry Mental Institution.

Anyway, the thing that ties all of these things together is that the people who do these things don't think twice about them.

They don't care. They think they're acting perfectly normal, and hence don't realize that there is this little nervous wreck paying attention to them, and is just *itching* to start a raw egg ambush.

If only there was some other, less direct way of telling them how I really felt.

This is what I should do. I should invent a little pin, called the You Are Bugging Kyle Pin, and everyone in the United States would be required to wear this little sucker 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

If I am near you and you are doing something that falls within my You Are Bugging Kyle list, I will press a button and a comfortable 800 volts of electricity will shoot through your body as a friendly reminder that you are stepping outside the boundaries of what I perceive as being socially adequate.

Of course, this would totally void me of any harm should I do something that's not up to your standards. This is why, along with the decorative and highly stylish pin, you will receive free bubble gum.

Not that I'll be testing you or anything...

Would you like second hand smoke with that?

By Michelle Loerzel

Smoking in restaurants should be looked at as a health problem and not a business profit issue.

As many as 65,000 Americans die each year from second hand smoking. This should tell Americans that cigarettes are deadly whether you smoke them or not.

So why are Americans sitting in smoke-filled areas where, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the cigarette smoke contains six times the amount of air pollution generated on a highway?

Chicago mayor Richard M. Daley believes that restaurants should have fresh air but suggests there be "a workable compromise," according to the *Chicago Tribune*.

Health Committee Chairman Ald. Ed Smith believes restaurants and bars that sell more food than liquor should prohibit smoking in all areas.

Restaurant employees are especially at risk due to their smoke-filled environment. Workers are subjected to the equivalence of half a pack of cigarettes during their shift and are 20 to 30 percent more likely to have cancer than an

average American, according to Joel Africk, chief executive officer of the American Lung Association of Metropolitan Chicago.

President of the Illinois Restaurant Association Colleen McShane believes a smoking ban would kill businesses. She believes that res-

Game crosses line of respect

By Bridget Geraghty

Sony's Play Station 2 and Microsoft's X-Box recently released a new video game. This game has 20 levels, including D-Day where the player has to land on the Beaches of Normandy. The player then jumps out of the water with bullets whizzing by as they attempt to make it to a German bunker.

A child playing Electronic Arts' "Medal of Honor: Frontline" will see hundreds of people being killed all around them. If they die, they can restart the game and watch the soldiers die again.

This is a disrespectful excuse to make money. The soldiers that the children kill were real people. But more than that, they died to protect America's freedom, and

restaurants need to support the needs of all, even though 80 percent of restaurant patrons are non-smokers and 20 percent are smokers.

This means the 20 percent of smoking Americans have to make the majority of Americans inhale their carcinogens in restaurants.

now it's a game.

This game helps children sink lower and lower into disillusionment about WWII. Most of the main characters with names in the game are fictional, and the other "extras" remain nameless.

These American heroes that died or risked their lives for their country have lost even their identity. Children with easily molded minds won't realize who these characters are or what they represent to the country.

These soldiers sacrificed themselves for us and now the game has reduced them to nameless, faceless video game characters.

The *Salt Lake Tribune* reports that Bedford, Vir. lost 20 men on D-day, the most men per capita in the nation.

Public health should come before the economy and whatever effect on restaurant profits the ban might have.

Many businesses will try to protect their profits, but all Chicagoans should do their best to protect their right to a smoke-free environment in restaurants.

Bedford resident Lucille Boggess lost both her brothers on that one day. One brother was only injured at first, but when the tide came in it washed his body into the ocean. His body was never found, and all she has left of him is the Bible another soldier found and a few newspaper clippings.

Roy Stevens lost his twin brother Ray that day, and he forever regrets not shaking his hand before they landed. Ray was killed within the first 15 minutes of fighting.

Now, with the release of this video game, Ray has turned into a fictional character, along with 5,500 to 12,000 others. These men are heroes, and should be honored as such, not something for a child's entertainment.

Death penalty reform headed the right way

By Melissa Stevens

The death penalty has long since been an efficient and appropriate way of punishing criminals convicted of heinous crimes in Illinois. Or has it?

Governor George Ryan recently issued a blanket clemency for all 167 inmates on death row, stating that the process is unnecessary and unreliable, therefore immoral.

The facts support Ryan's statement. Illinois' death penalty system has proven repeatedly that it is in dire need of rehabilitation.

Sentencing the death penalty is far too unregulated to be useful.

The decision to seek the death penalty varies from county to county within the state, with cases tried in rural courts being five times more likely to seek the death penalty than those tried in urban areas.

Since the death penalty's reinstatement in 1977, thirteen men have been exonerated when courts found that they were wrongly convicted. During that same period, twelve death row inmates were executed.

Racial inequality was also a large factor in Ryan's decision to grant blanket clemency.

Studies have shown that 67 percent of death row inmates are people of color. This is the highest percentage in the country of any major state. A study done by the *Chicago Tribune* of 285 death penalty cases from 1977 to 1999 found that 35 African Americans were sentenced to death by all-white juries.

Those in support of the death penalty argue that it is not only more efficient, but cheaper to kill convicts than to keep them in prisons.

In reality, the state has spent over \$800 million more on death penalty cases than they would have spent on prisons sentenced to life in prison without parole. This money could have been spent on crime prevention, victims' services, and rehabilitation for the justice system.

The death penalty is becoming increasingly less of a deterrent for violent crimes. The homicide rate in Illinois in 1998, 22 years after the death penalty was reinstated, was 8.3 per 100,000, 2 percent higher than the national homicide rate. Nearby states that do not use the death penalty, including Wisconsin and Michigan, were significantly lower.

The death penalty is far too unreliable for Illinois to use anymore.

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.

Briones receives degree in Mexico, takes skills to U.S.

By Michelle Loerzel

While teaching in Mexico, Rosemary Briones received her degree in education from and came back to the United States to teach special education, landing at We-go this year.

After growing up in Bloomingdale, Briones received her bachelor's in special education from Northeastern Illinois University.

In order to earn her degree in international education from Framingham State College in Massachusetts, she went to Queretaro, Mexico, to teach English at J.F. Kennedy School.

"I wanted to go to Mexico to try something different and to experience the education system of an other country," said Briones.

Having a background in Spanish really helps a lot, she said.

Briones taught elementary students all day and then had classes from 3 to 8 p.m. in the evening, which was difficult, said Briones.

Finishing her masters took about one and a half years with breaks in between. Briones taught second grade at Kennedy School in Queretaro for two years. In the afternoons she taught English. "Having to take classes at night was an advantage because I was able to use what I learned in class the next day at J.F.K.," said Briones.

The school was bilingual and had a lot of cultural diversity, said Briones.

During this time, JFK



Staff Photo

Briones taught American students in Mexico, and is now teaching American students in America.

helped pay for her rent and moving expenses.

"I highly recommend going through the same process because you get knowledge of how other countries' education systems work," said Briones.

She has also received her bilingual special education certification from the University of Chicago.

When Briones came back from Mexico, she taught at an elementary school in Villa Park in the special education department.

Briones soon made the change to West Chicago Community High School because of the diverse community and because she likes how high school students become more independent here. Having a background of Spanish helps teaching at West Chicago Community High School.

Briones now helps students in the special education department and plans on staying for a while. "For right now my future is here," said Briones.

Nuesser's dream of teaching finally true

By Kyle Bullis

Math teacher Kristina Nuesser is enjoying her first year of teaching at We-go after college.

Nuesser came to We-go from Northern Illinois University, where she majored in math education.

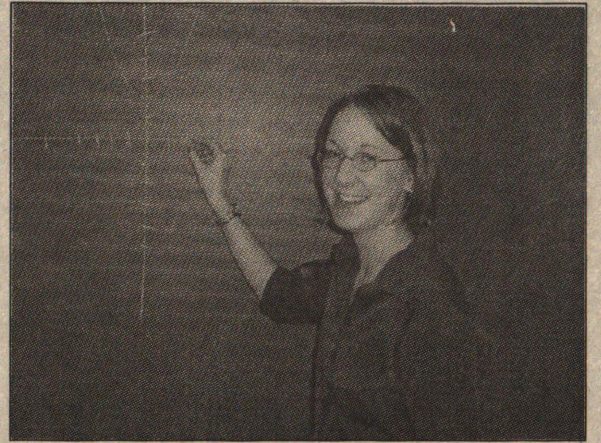
Teaching has been on Nuesser's mind ever since she was in second grade.

Nuesser has already worked on We-go's math team as an assistant coach.

Nuesser said she decided to teach for We-go because she liked the area, and the mix of students at Community High School.

"I would also like to be a chemistry teacher, hopefully," said Nuesser.

She enjoys the people she works with here, as well as



Staff Photo

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

math teacher Matt Doll's Snackster Machine, which all staff and students are welcome to use in the math office.

Teaching has taken its toll on Nuesser to an extent,

though. It has left her with little free time.

"If I had any free time, I would probably want to travel out of state to go visit friends or go see a movie," said Nuesser.

Past principals revisited

By Jessica Myers

A group of students watch Saturday night's basketball game in Bishop gym, but who is Mr. Bishop?

You attend the winter play in the Weyrauch auditorium, but who is Mr. Weyrauch?

Bishop gym was named after We-go principal and educator Sam Bishop.

According to the *West Chicago Press*, printed July 21, 1960, Bishop came to Community High School in 1926 to teach physics and be assistant principal.

In 1942 Bishop was promoted to principal.

Bishop continued to teach physics until 1954 when he decided to devote all of his time to being principal.

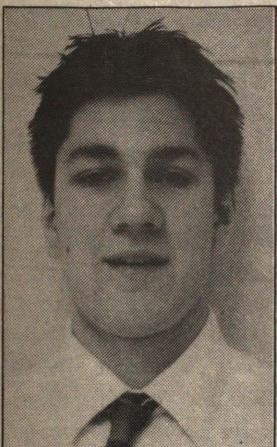
(See *Principal* page 10)



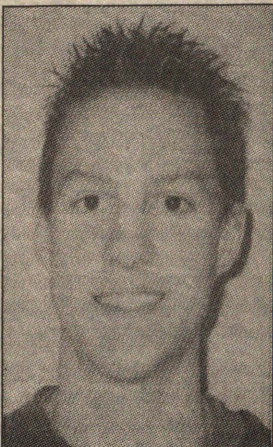
Staff Photo

Sam Bishop was principal of We-go in the 1940s.

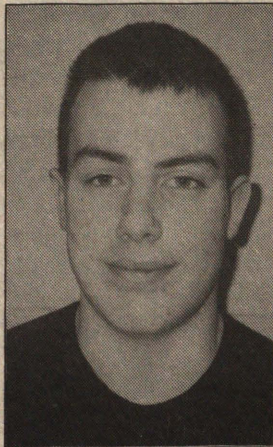
Should the U.S. military start another draft?



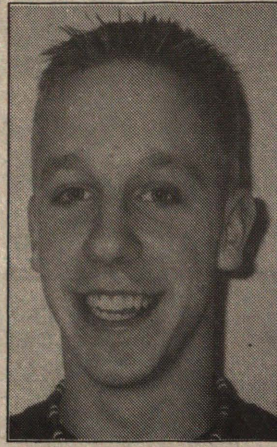
Jason Shreeram junior



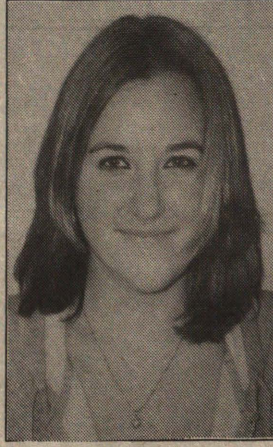
Doug Boyd junior



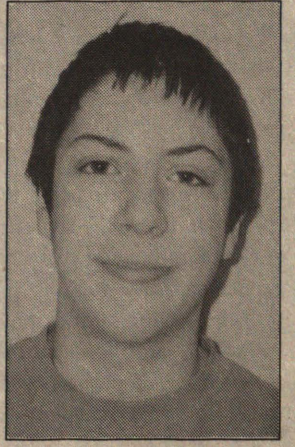
Charlie Blanchard freshman



Dustin Saville sophomore



Mandi Wessman sophomore



Nathan Butters freshman

No way, because people we know would go fight and that won't be cool.

I don't think we need to. I think we have enough forces supporting our country so we don't need to reinstate the draft unless soldiers are dying because we started a war.

No, because we have enough soldiers as it is. If it comes to it we should reinstate the draft.

No, I think people should have the right to say if they want to go in the army or not.

Yes, because that's how it's always been and I think boys should want to serve their country.

I think they should reinstate it because we're the ones living free and we should fight for that freedom.

World traveler Skertich winds up teaching at We-go

By Sam West
Chicago native George Skertich has lived in three different countries, traveled the world, and has two master's degrees.

Now, he is a French and Spanish teacher at Community High School. Growing up in Crete, a Chicago suburb, Skertich had a traditional high school education.

"It's an excellent education, but here I think students see more relevance in their everyday lives," said Skertich.

He explained that his traditional high school was just a foundation for college, but We-go gives students an opportunity to see a practical application of their subjects in life.

Skertich moved on from Crete and earned his bachelor's degree at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa.

After that, he received a master's in French from Northern Illinois University and another in education

Principal... (Continued from page 9)

Bishop wasn't only involved in the high school, he was also a member of Rotary Club and other clubs throughout the community.

Bishop passed away in June 1960 at the age of 61 from cancer.

The *West Chicago Press* said at the time of his death that his former and present students loved Bishop.

In August of that same year, the Board of Education of District 94 made plans to dedicate the new school gymnasium to Bishop.

A plaque presented by the American Legion Post #300 states, "Samuel D. Bishop: A man who devoted his energies selflessly in service to the youth of this community and who served his nation honorably in time of need."

In June 1960, John Weyrauch was appointed assistant principal to help Bishop with the increasing enrollment at We-go. When Bishop passed away, Weyrauch was promoted to principal. In 1964, Weyrauch was again promoted to superintendent of We-go.

"The school hired him as principal with the intention to make him superintendent later on," said Weyrauch's youngest daughter, Mary Weyrauch.

Mary said that before her father came to West Chicago he fought in World War II, he was a coach and a teacher.

According to the *West Chicago Press* printed on April

from St. Xavier in Chicago.

He has lived in France as a student, spending six months on one trip and a summer on a second.

For one year, he lived and studied in Caracas, Venezuela.

"You get to learn a lot of Spanish that way," said Skertich of living in South America.

All the Spanish he learned in Venezuela has paid off.

This year is his first year as a Spanish teacher. Previously, he taught French and English.

He had also taught bilingual classes in the summer, which focused on math and reading in various subjects.

Skertich said that there was not a lot of teacher cooperation at his former school, and students did not respond to their education well.

But things are quite the opposite here, said Skertich.

"(Teachers here) are excellent teachers, and students work very well with them,"

Skertich said. "Consequently, they've been able to make a strong program."

A strong educational experience is important to Skertich, and he feels that he can give a strong education at We-go. That, Skertich said, is why he loves teaching.

Skertich has traveled to many countries all over the world, as well.

So far, he has visited Colombia, Venezuela, Argentina, Mexico, Canada, most western European countries, all over the US, and even Malaysia.

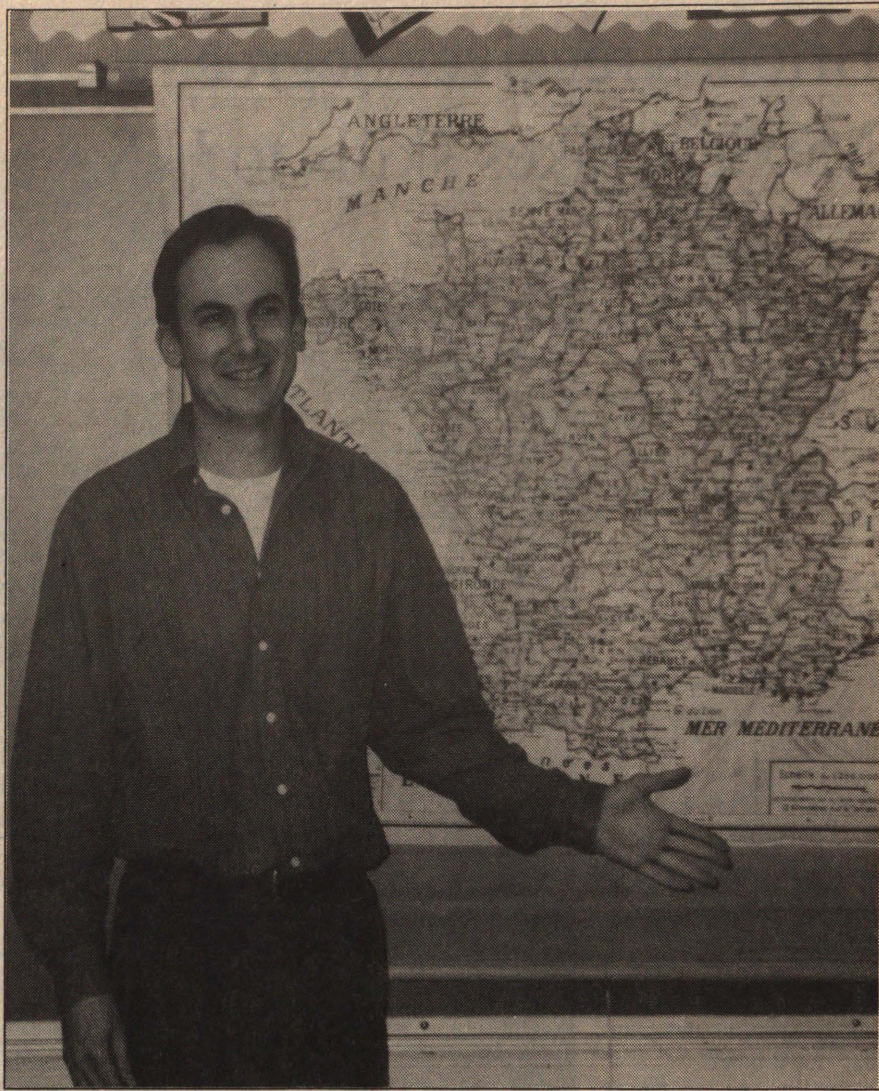
In his spare time, Skertich enjoys watching movies, mostly comedies and dramas.

"Old movies, too," he said.

"I really like old movies, especially on DVD because you can watch them in French and Spanish."

And although he loves teaching at We-go, he has one complaint.

"The grade program is the only non user-friendly thing," he said smiling.



Skertich shares world travels with We-go students.

Staff photo

"The Simpsons" create more than just laughs

By Bridget Geraghty
"The Simpsons" inspires many to laugh during the week and it also inspired Joe Tumidalsky to become a musician.

When Tumidalsky was in fourth grade he witnessed the alto saxophone in action and decided he wanted to play it.

"It looked like a really cool instrument and then they played 'The Simpsons' theme on it," said Tumidalsky.

Eight television seasons later, Tumidalsky still plays.

He plays so well he was nominated and invited to perform with the Northshore concert band, considered by some to be the best concert band in the Midwest.

"(Director of bands Jim Guter) sent in nomination forms of people in band who he thought should be in it," explained Tumidalsky.

When Tumidalsky found out he was invited to play, he was ecstatic.

"Basically I was on a high for a week," he said.

Tumidalsky played first chair alto saxophone and We-go senior Melissa Lund played second chair French horn.

They played "First Suite in E Flat" and "Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral" with Northshore on Sunday.

Out of the 150-200 schools

that applied, only 32 students were invited.

This is the first year that Northshore invited high school students to play with them. It went so well they will probably do it again in future years.

The final 32 were invited based on what the teachers said and what the musicians have done in other bands.

And Tumidalsky has done a lot. He has been involved in marching, pep, and concert bands since freshman year; jazz band since sophomore year; jazz combo since junior year; and was in the community band his sophomore and junior years.

In addition, he started to "jam" on the tenor and baritone saxophones sophomore year.

Tumidalsky and seven other We-go students also played in the 2002 Fox Valley Music Festival.

The festival had a 150-piece band, 400-piece choir, and 150-piece orchestra.

Tumidalsky and the band played four songs and then joined with everyone for the finale, which was "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

"It was amazing because it was the first band like that I'd played in for awhile," he said.

Awhile means since junior high. In sixth and seventh

grades he played in honors band, which consisted of about 100 elementary students from over 250 schools.

Tumidalsky accredits these two performances as what started him off in the exclusive performances in high school.

After high school, he plans to attend the College of DuPage for two years majoring in music and photography.

"I love to travel, and it would really allow me to do that," said Tumidalsky.

This is apparent judging from his past experiences. He has already skydived, cliff jumped, flown a plane, surfed, and climbed Mt. Rainier, the most dangerous volcano in the U.S.

While his experiences seem quite extravagant, he isn't done yet.

He still wants to take one hot air balloon lesson, go white water rafting, and attempt to eat a 72 oz. steak, a baked potato, and a salad under one hour at "The Big Texan" in Amarillo, Texas.

He also plans to go to Hell, Mich., Egypt, Stonehenge, the Louvre and the Amazon, among other places.

If "The Simpsons" gave Tumidalsky inspiration to become a musician, who knows what will come out of his travels.

11, 1968, Weyrauch went to the University of Illinois for a year and then joined the Army and went to Europe to fight in World War II for two years. When Weyrauch returned, he continued his education at Beloit College in Wisconsin and received his bachelor's degree in 1949.

Afterwards, he received his masters degree at the University of Illinois in 1952.

In 1959, U of I awarded him an advanced certificate in education. Weyrauch taught in Greybull, Wyoming and Mattoon, Illinois. He taught in Mattoon for 10 years, then came to West Chicago.

In April of 1968, at 43, Weyrauch was trying to control a grass fire in his backyard when he suffered from a

heart attack and died.

Weyrauch had suffered from heart problems since 1961.

At the dedication of Weyrauch auditorium in 1972, the Board of Education presented an oil painting of Weyrauch that is still hanging outside Weyrauch auditorium.

"I've always been proud of my father, there isn't a day that goes by when I don't think about what he did and what he stood for," Mary said.

When you go to see the basketball game in Bishop Gymnasium or see the winter play in Weyrauch auditorium remember the names these places stand for, and what Mr. Weyrauch and Mr. Bishop did for the school.



Staff Photo

Weyrauch was appointed principal after Bishop's death.

Speaker presents story of survival during 9/11 tragedy

By Kyle Bullis

For Joe Dittmar and the rest of the attendants at a meeting on the 105th floor of the 2 WTC Sept. 11, 2001, there was a 2 ½ minute margin between getting out alive and becoming one of the 3,000 plus victims who died that day.

In a heart-felt presentation at Weyrauch auditorium recently, Dittmar explained how that incredibly small margin of life versus death made all the difference on whether you lived or died.

Those in the second tower who chose to take the stairs after the first plane hit lived. Those who chose to take the elevator died after the second plane hit their tower, disabling the tower's electricity.

Out of the 54 people at the meeting Dittmar attended, 47 perished that day because of choices.

Dittmar even recalled a man who opted to take a bathroom break before beginning the escape, and he didn't make it out alive.

From beginning to end, the students in the auditorium were silent as Dittmar gave his emotional presentation.

His talk recalled the course of his entire day, beginning with his meeting on the 105th floor of 2WTC. The meeting was scheduled to take place at 8:30 a.m., but there were delays. After the meeting

began, the lights flickered in the room and presumably throughout the building. The attendees thought nothing of it. Dittmar noted it was 8:48 a.m.

Soon, the fire marshal of the building appeared and told everyone in the room to evacuate the building. There had been an explosion at 1 WTC. At first, everyone was reluctant to leave. They were businessmen, and hence they had business to do, explosion or no explosion, Dittmar said.

"I can't go until you go. I want to go. So let's go," Dittmar recalled the fire marshal saying.

At that point, Dittmar's decisions would decide whether or not he escaped the building alive.

Luckily, Dittmar made two good choices: he didn't stall, and he didn't use the elevator. He slipped on his 20-pound backpack and headed down the fire escape.

At the 90th floor people began leaving the fire exit, and even though he thought it was a bad idea, Dittmar followed. When Dittmar paused to look out the window, he finally realized the true horror of the situation.

"I can't watch a horror movie, so I turned to go," said Dittmar. "It was the worst 30 to 40 seconds of my life," said Dittmar.

Along with the burning plane wreckage, there was furniture and debris falling out of the gaping hole in the first tower.

And there were people.

The victims who happened to be on the upper section of the north tower, exactly where the first plane hit, were forced to jump from the building after the searing heat of the explosion. Others were literally sucked out of the building by the intense G-forces created by the impact.

As Dittmar continued down the fire escape he noticed an engineer who had been walking with the rest of Dittmar's group. All of a sudden, his radio intercepted a call for help on the 84th floor.

"This guy stopped and walked back without even hesitating. He said 'I have to go back and save my buddies'," said Dittmar. Dittmar regrets never looking at the nametag so he could know what the brave man's name was.

"I hope he got out that day. If he didn't, he's in a great place now," said Dittmar.

When Dittmar reached the lobby, he got his first chance to see the true carnage of the situation. The firemen and rescuers insisted that none of

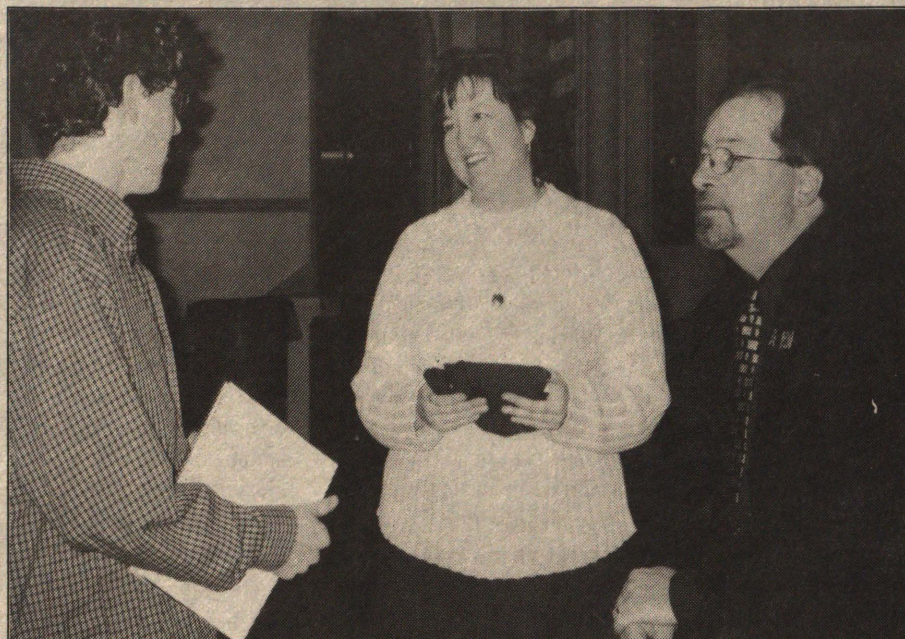


Photo courtesy of Mary Randle

Pat Baur and Mary Ellen Daneels chat with Dittmar after his presentation. Dittmar currently resides in Aurora and is sharing his 9/11 experience with schools.

the people look out the window, or look back, so naturally they did.

They saw blood, clothes, debris, and insanity in New York. Yet among all the chaos, Dittmar commended the New York spirit. While there was definite grieving and mourning, there was also a strong sense of anger, hatred, and rising of spirits, said Dittmar.

"This was an unbelievably spirit-lifting event for our country. Spirit was awoken in all of us," said Dittmar.

Dittmar was able to leave New York on an Amtrack train that evening and stay with his parents in Philadelphia. From there he headed back to his home in Aurora, a

14 ½ hour drive, which Dittmar accomplished in 11 hours.

"I probably broke a few laws in there," said Dittmar.

Dittmar does not believe that New York City should build a "new" WTC over ground zero.

"They should let those 3,000 souls rest. That is their final resting place," Dittmar said, his voice breaking. "They should be left in peace."

He does, however, support a memorial on ground zero.

Since 9/11, Dittmar still slightly fears that he could be caught in another act of terror, although he hasn't let it interfere with his daily life.

As a businessman, Dittmar

travels a lot and still rides planes just as much as he used to.

However, he refuses to go within three blocks of the Sears Tower.

Dittmar does not believe in revenge. He believes that there should be justice, and peace.

"I am interested in justice and whatever face justice takes," said Dittmar.

Dittmar believes that the reason his audience gets so involved with his stories is because they feel like they want to connect with his experience and be a part of it.

"I want everyone to experience it, even if I have to do it a million times. If that's what it will take," he said.

What contributes to the video game addiction?

By Melissa Stevens

From Atari to Gamecube, video game systems have long been a form of entertainment for children of all ages. But why?

"You can lead your monotonous life and adventure as basically anyone you want to be," said video gameplayer Kristina Wanous. Wanous entered the world of gaming relatively late.

She began playing video games regularly three or four years ago.

Most experienced gamers begin playing when they are younger, usually in elementary school.

Younger players usually have the advantage over older players.

"The learning curve is pretty high," said fellow gamer Jeff Leazenby.

He believes that young players learn faster on the different types of controllers and have more time to devote to learning than people who jump into games later in life. It is also easier for younger

players to adjust to the ever changing world of video game systems.

The video game craze began in the early '80s; players became enthralled with the technically superior graphics in games like Pong, Ultra Pong, and Video Pinball.

The enhancement of computers and widespread use of the CD made video games evolve into a graphically oriented complex world of fantasies that rival most movies.

In fact, they even use the same technology as movies. Most of the newer games use the same Computer Generated Image (CGI) graphics that movies use.

Leazenby believes that video game graphics are only a couple of steps down from the professional movies.

Graphics are both a major draw and a deterrent for some games, depending on the gamer's taste.

"Good graphics on video games are mostly 3D," Wanous said. "The more realistic, the better."



Photo courtesy of Kristina Wanous

Kristina Wanous is a video gamer, and plays her Gamecube on a regular basis.

Like most gamers, she prefers the realistic feel of 3D fantasy games to the old 2D "smash and crash" games of the past.

Not every gamer likes 3D graphics, however.

"The evolution to 3D graphics has taken away from what's really important: gameplay and entertainment," Matt Hofer, a We-go graduate said.

He thinks that the more graphically oriented games become, the more confusing and unplayable they will be.

Unfortunately for Hofer, video games seem to be heading in the direction of completely 3D graphics. Leazenby believes that games will continue the graphic trend, becoming more and more graphics (See Games page 12)

Costa Ricans get taste of cold north

By Jessica Myers

Costa Ricans, meet snow. Snow, meet Costa Ricans.

Shortly after 10 Costa Rican exchange students arrived in We-go from San José, Costa Rica, for a three-week stay, it snowed.

This was the first time they had ever seen snow.

The hosts and the Costa Ricans also took a trip to Jami Murphy's grandma's house. Murphy was a host.

"One weekend we went to Wisconsin to go skiing since there is never snow in Costa Rica,"

We also went snowboarding and had snowball fights outside," said senior Katie Gehrke.

Hosts and Costa Ricans also had snowball fights and made snowmen.

Playing in the snow wasn't the only way the We-go host students got to know their new friends from Costa Rica.

One thing that linked the Costa Ricans with their host students was the music they listen to.

Gehrke found it interesting that the Costa Ricans listen to Nelly and Kelly, Jennifer Lopez, Justin Timberlake, Avril Lavigne, Eminem, and other popular American artists.

"We were always with each other and we would stay up late talking to each other and asking questions," said Murphy.

Gehrke met her Costa Rican exchange student when she went to Costa Rica over the summer.

"I got to know Rebeca by living with her and her family in their home and experiencing their culture," said Gehrke.

Other host students, such as Aimee Beutke, went shopping with their Costa Rican exchange student.

While the Costa Ricans were here, many activities were planned.

"We had a welcoming party the second night they were there," said Beutke.

The Costa Ricans went to (See Costa Ricans page 12)

Costa Ricans... (Continued from page 11)

basketball games, Navy Pier, and ice skating with the Spanish Club.

"We went to downtown Chicago to see the Sears Tower and to eat some good Chicago-style pizza one day," said Gehrke.

Another activity was a birthday party. "We had a surprise birthday party for Karla," said Beutke.

Karla was Beutke's exchange student and turned 19 while she was visiting We-go.

All host students and Costa Ricans came to Karla's birthday party.

"They made us some traditional Costa Rican

empanadas one night too," said Gehrke.

Murphy said she learned that Costa Rica is so much different, that everything is small and beautiful. Costa Rica has different landscapes than the US; it has many rainforests and volcanoes.

"It was, overall, an awesome experience because I learned about a different culture," said Murphy.

For many, the Costa Rican's stay wasn't long enough.

"I'm only disappointed that they couldn't stay longer," said Beutke.

For other hosts, such as Gehrke, the stay went by too

fast.

Other host students include Pat Baur, Emily Ekstrom, Melissa Johansen, Amanda Morrison, Elizabeth Valdez, Maggie Wdowiarz, and Jessica York.

Spanish teacher Sue Junkroski hosted Costa Rican chaperone Ana Isabel Lobo Cruz.

Even though the Costa Ricans have left the cold snowy weather of We-go, they have not left the lives of their host families.

The host students plan to write e-mails and letters to each other, call each other, or even go vacation with each other over the summer.



Staff Photo

Ten Costa Ricans exchange students are welcomed by their hosts at an after school party. The Costa Ricans stayed for three weeks visiting the school and other sites in Chicago.



Staff Photo

The Costa Ricans depart after a visit to America, where they saw snow for the first time.

Games... (Continued from page 11)

based as long as the world of computers keeps evolving.

As the complexity of graphics increases, so will the price. When it first hit the market, the Nintendo Gamecube sold for \$200. Most games for the system cost \$50.

"Stores have too much of a markup," Leazenby said.

The systems themselves might not be as expensive if they were sold at cost.

However, stores are out to make a profit so they make the systems much more expensive than they have to be.

Wanous believes that gamers get what they pay for.

"Months - sometimes years-of planning and working go into them," Wanous

said. "The complexity is just crazy."

It isn't just the graphics that draw people, though.

Text-based online games like Gemstone don't utilize any graphics, yet still make a lot of money.

Gamers pay \$20 a month to type in actions in the fantasy world online.

Instead of controllers, gamers type in commands.

Whether or not the games are graphically oriented, the world of gaming continues to be a wildly popular and addictive hobby. Leazenby

spends an average of nine hours a week playing games online and with game systems. He spends most of his time playing the computer

game Diablo 2.

Most students find it hard to find time to play during the week. Wanous, for example, usually does not play video games on weekdays because she has school work.

However, she does play Diablo online with Hofer for a few hours every day after school.

"It's a way to bond socially," Hofer said.

The chats and game play give Hofer and Wanous a way to keep up with each other while Hofer is away at college.

For many gamers, video games are more than just simply fun.

Hofer concluded, "Video games are a way of life."

Teens act as judge and jury in local Peer Jury program

By Melissa Stevens

The Peer Jury program is looking for a few good men and women to help give teens a second chance.

"It's a first timers second chance program," said officer Mike Zepeda, who helps the program by referring children to the program.

Peer Jury targets teens 17 and under that have committed minor offenses but have never been in trouble with the law before.

It is an alternative to the regular trial process that costs less and does not go on the defendant's permanent record.

Meetings are usually conducted at West Chicago's City Hall whenever there is space for the program to proceed.

When they can not meet at City Hall, they hold hearings at the Police Department.

The hearings are run in a

matter similar to a regular courtroom. Police officers read the police reports to the jury, then defendants are brought in one by one and are given time to present their case.

Their peers then decide what the consequences will be, depending on the severity of the offense and how remorseful the offender is.

Zepeda believes one of the best aspects of the program is that it puts responsibility in the hands of the offender instead of the parent.

Usually when a minor goes to court they are fined, which means that the parents must pay for their child's offense.

With the Peer Jury program, the teen has to carry out their own sentence.

"I like the program," Zepeda said. "It really does teach kids a lesson."

If the teen chooses not to

follow through with their sentence, however, they will be arrested.

They will then go through the court system just like every other offender.

Any student interested in becoming a peer juror must be between the ages of 13 and 17, attend a school in West Chicago, and have had no personal involvement with law enforcement within the past six months.

Confidentiality is also a big factor in being a peer juror. Since the jurors will be working with students from their own school, they must be able to keep the cases they hear confidential.

"I definitely hope the program gets bigger and bigger," said Zepeda.

Anyone interested in becoming a peer juror can contact Zepeda or Commander Laz Perez of the West Chicago Police Department.

We-go in the past...



Photo courtesy of 1974 Challenge

1974: Wildcat Chronicle news editor Robin Lavictoire tries to beat deadline.

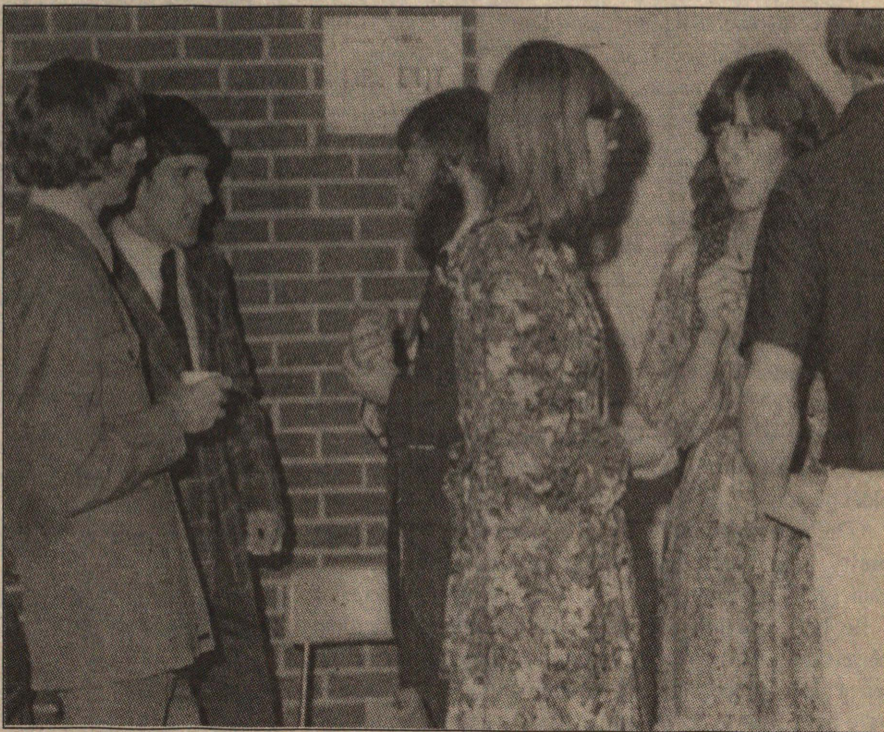


Photo courtesy of 1974 Challenge

Can you spot someone familiar? Hint, he has a beard, just like he does almost 30 years later.

A shot through Cupid's history

By Logan Schrage

Price of a box of chocolates: \$30. Price of flowers: \$70. Price of just using wings and an arrow for those who found love: Priceless.

Cupid has been one of the most widely used symbols of Valentine's Day since February 14, 270. His mother was Venus and she was the first one to use Cupid for his talent to make another god fall in love with her.

The mischievous boy, who is known for making gods fall in love, with a pair of white-feathered wings, a naughty yet satisfied look on his face, short golden hair, and a bow and heart tipped arrows to cast at his victims of love.

In Spanish, Cupid means desire. In Greek mythology, Cupid was initially named Eros. The Romans named him Cupid after using the Greek's symbol for love.

Whatever you call him, don't forget Cupid this Valentine's Day. Try dressing up like Cupid and see if your gift is considered priceless.



Is love in the air for you this Valentine's Day?

By Stephanie Bodane

Take the Love Test to find out what type of love you and your crush share this Valentine's Day.

How long have you and your crush been dating?

- A. More than a year.
- B. 2-6 months.
- C. 6-12 months.

Are you happy in your relationship?

- A. I am totally in love, and happier than I have been my whole life!
- B. When my partner isn't around!
- C. Most of the time.

What do your friends think of your relationship?

- A. They think that we are the cutest couple and that we'll be together forever.
- B. They think my crush is a jerk.
- C. They think my crush is cute.

How well do you really know your crush?

- A. I know about the first day at kindergarten

and how he or she tie his or her shoes.

B. I know his or her class schedule.

C. I know where he or she vacationed and where he or she grew up.

Do you and your crush say, "I love you?"

- A. All the time, no matter what.
- B. Love?
- C. Sometimes.

Do you and your crush talk about the future?

- A. We're going to college together, and we've planned out our wedding!
- B. Does the weekend count?
- C. Next year, being together.

How often do you spend time together?

- A. Whenever we get the chance (all the time).
- B. Once a week or something like that.
- C. On weekends.

Do you 100 percent trust each other?

A. We tell each other everything.

B. Come to think of it...

C. Hopefully.

What's your idea of being in love?

- A. Having a spiritual connection and feeling it every inch of your body.
- B. Receiving a gift on Valentine's Day.
- C. Cuddling and talking.

What's your idea of romance?

- A. Moonlight conversations and candle-lit dinners.
- B. Romance?
- C. Sitting on the couch, laughing and talking.

Tally up your scores and see what you find.

Mostly "A's":
Talk about being in love! You and your partner make Romeo and Juliet look like a simple crush. This Valentine's Day is not just another holiday; it's the day

you count down for on your calendar. You have the type of relationship that creates a great movie theme. Just be careful not to empty out your whole bank account on this special day, but you can expect something big.

Mostly "B's":

Is your relationship more of a friendship? You and your crush don't seem to be in love, and might not even be aware of Valentine's Day. Chances are you will be going nowhere fast in the love lane, but you may strike up a great friendship. Good luck this Valentine's Day getting any type of sentimental gift.

Mostly "C's":

You're the couple that everyone thinks is cute. You are in between the love and like stage, and it seems to be going well. Chances are you have moments of romance and shy giggles, which makes Valentine's Day special but not the most important day of your life. Valentine's Day promises a heartfelt gift and a memorable evening.

How to make your ex pay this Valentine's Day

By Jessica Myers

Another Valentine's Day is just around the corner and you find yourself without a date: instead of moping around and feeling sorry for yourself, why not try to get revenge from your latest heartbreak.

For instance, you could find a stick and glue leaves to the top of it and call it a flower. And who needs live red roses when you can send dead ones?

There are businesses that will send your "loved one" a dead rotting fish or other stinky product. You could also do this yourself, but it can get smelly.

Instead of giving the nice cuddly teddy bear, you can give your significant other a decapitated teddy bear. (When they ask about it, tell them that in some native cultures a head is a sacred gift.)

You could also give them a teddy bear with a jagged cut where its heart would be if it had one. While you are at it, pick up a statue of the Tin Man from the "Wizard of Oz" and blacken his little heart that hangs from around his neck. (There are no native culture explanations for this.)

Other horrible gifts include sardines, dog food, or cat food.

But why stop at animal food when you can treat them like animals? Stop by a vet's office and ask for rabies shot application or a dog/cat registration and fill it out for them using their name. And don't forget to stick it in their mailbox.

You could also drop a hint by getting them soap, body spray, packs of gum, or gallons of mouth wash. Or you can get them dental floss and toothpaste. Attach a sweet note that suggests they've never seen these items before.

If this don't float your boat, you could always get a Britney Spears poster for your ex-girlfriend or an Abercrombie half-naked male poster for your ex-boyfriend. Explain to them that you wish they looked like the people in the posters and if they had, maybe you would have had less problems.

You could attach a Weight Watchers or Jenny Craig membership to the posters to encourage them to reach the models' body images.

But don't get caught up on what they could look like, use their real body image to make a voodoo doll. Send them the voodoo doll with needles sticking in every square inch.

Valentine's may be for lovers, but revenge can also be sweet for those trying to mend a broken heart.

What color rose is right for you?

By Anna Nubie

Are you thinking about buying flowers for your special someone this Valentine's Day? If you are, there are a few things you should consider.

Roses have commonly been known as the typical Valentine's Day flower. Depending on how you feel you should purchase different colors.

For those of you who feel absolutely in love, red stands for love, respect, courage and pure passion. Dark red stands for unconscious beauty.

What a great way to tell someone how you feel. Just pick up some red roses and include your own little description of the flower.

Or you could give them a single red rose, which means "I love you". That or a lavender rose which shows love at first sight.

White roses stand for purity, heavenly and innocence.

Mix white and red together to stand for unity.

If you don't want to send such a strong message consider other colors.

Pink stands for being happy, gracefulness and gentleness. A deep pink is used for a thank you. Light pink shows admiration and joy.

To let someone know that you have a secret crush on them give them a bright orange rose, which shows enthusiasm, desire and fascination or a coral rose which also means desire. Don't forget to let them know what it means.

Give a good friend a yellow rose to show you care.

Before you head out to buy flowers, you should know a dozen red roses will set you back about \$70 at local florists. A single red rose runs about \$5.

Love notes to share

What would Valentine's Day be without the perfect love song? Dig out your romantic CDs and share one or more of these songs with your special someone Friday.

- "For the Longest Time" - Billy Joel
- "All My Life" - Kci and Jojo
- "A Moment Like This" - Kelly Clarkson
- "I Have A Date" - The Vandals
- "Amazed" - LoneStar
- "I Knew I Loved You" - Savage Garden
- "In Your Eyes" - Peter Gabriel
- "I'll Be" - Edwin McCain
- "Volare" - Dean Martin
- "Because you loved me" - Celine Dion
- "They all Laughed" - Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald
- "Comfortable" - John Mayer
- "Everything I do" - Bryan Adams
- "Wind Beneath my Wings" - Bette Midler
- "I Do" - 98 degrees
- "How Could An Angel Break My Heart?" - Toni Braxton
- "Honest for You" - Tony Lucca
- "I Don't Wanna Live Without Your Love" - Chicago
- "How Deep is Your Love" - Bee Gees
- "I Will Always Love You" - Whitney Houston



The many languages of love

By Melissa Stevens

Impress your sweetheart this Valentine's Day by saying "I love you," in another language. Here's an alphabetical list on how to say those special words in different way.

- Albanian - Te dua
- Arabic - Nhebuk
- Bulgarian - Obicham te
- Chinese - Wo ie ni
- Chickasaw - chiholloli
- Creole - Mi aime jou
- Dutch - Ik hou van jou
- Esperanto - Mi amas vin
- French - Je t'aime
- Greek - S' agapo
- Hopi - Nu' umi unangwa'ta
- Italian - Ti amo
- Japanese - Kimi o ai shiteru
- Korean - Zaran ha yo
- Lithuanian - As tave myliu
- Malaysian - Saya cintamu
- Norwegian - Eg elskar deg
- Osetian - Aez dae warzyn
- Polish - Kocham ciebie
- Quechua - Canda Munani
- Russian - Ya vas liubliu
- Spanish - Te amo
- Turkish - Seni seviyorum
- Ukrainian - Ja tebe kokhaju
- Vietnamese - Toi yeu em
- Wolof - Da ma la nope
- Xhosa - Ndiyakuthanda
- Yoruba - Mo ne fi
- Zulu - Ngiyakuthanda

Special Section

Love Notes



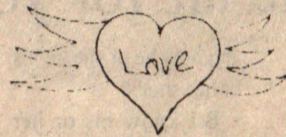
We don't have moments we live in a moment! I love you, Serj, yes I called you Serj.



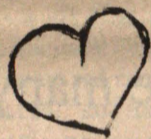
Dear Kristy,
I hope we stay together because you always make me feel better.
Love,
Mike

I will always love and be with you, Julie! I promise.

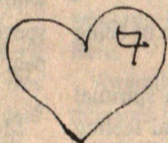
Baby Doll,
Happy Valentine's Day,
ma'am. Watch out for those otters!
Love,
Buddy



Happy Anniversary,
Norah!
Love,
Brian



Mr. Watson,
You're my favorite!
See you soon.
LYVM,
Me



Kiko, estas mi oso! I love you very much and one of these days I am going to marry you! I love you bebe, Francisco.
Love,
Your white angel, Krysta

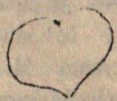
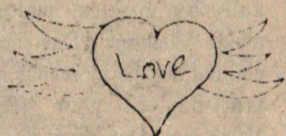
Whenever I'm with you, it's tummy flies.



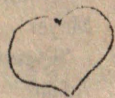
Dearest Aaron Becker,
It has been many winters since our eyes last met. My heart pangs with the thought of our long overdue meeting. I guess the only positive thought is my fruitful garden. It blooms in splendor; being nourished by my tears. Dearest Aaron, you are the wind beneath my wings.
Love,
The Drumline

Hunny,
Thanks for being there for me.
Love,
Shmookums

Becky loves Anders.



Princess-
Meep Click Meep Pop.



Dear 42,
Thanks for all those memo
Happy Valentine's Day!
Love,
24

Aaron,
Even though you are not here, I'll find a way to hold you near.
I'll ignore the miles that we're apart,
and hold you close inside my heart.
In my heart, in my eyes.
All my love, all the time.
Kristin

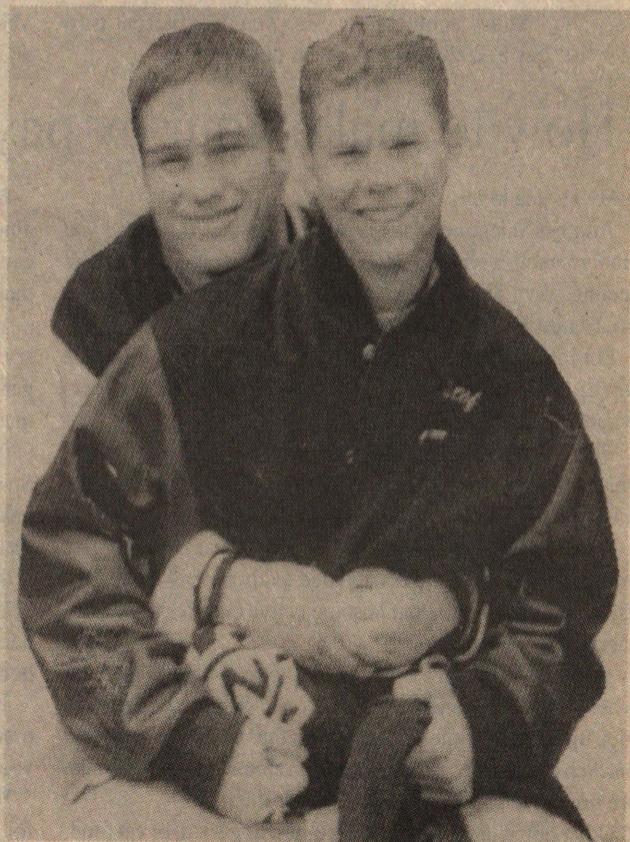
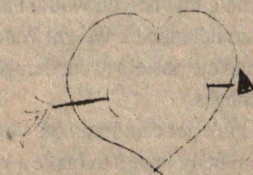


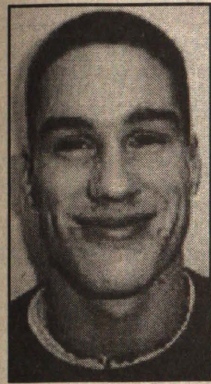
Photo courtesy of Mike Martinez

Eltrain's View

Stop making excuses, we are in need of real sports

By Elliott Tinnes

The city of Chicago has hit rock bottom in the world of sports. Not that we've ever really been that great to begin with. With the exception



of a long-gone Bulls dynasty, one Super Bowl victory, and a few

decent teams here and there, Chicago sports have not been much to root for.

It has become even more evident and desperate lately, as Chicagoans try to take pride in athletes that no longer belong to them.

For instance, during the playoff run of the past football season, Chicago newspapers published how many pro players, including Donovan McNabb, Simeon Rice and Mike Alstott are related to Chicago.

Granted, these players used to play in the Chicago area, but it's about time we let go.

Taking pride in past athletes' past performances is understandable, but Chicago has been on such an athlete withdrawal that we hold on to any recognition we can. McNabb is leading the Eagles through a dominant season because he's from Chicago? Not likely.

No one wants this city to be the doormat of the NBA, NFL, NHL, and MLB (twice!) any longer. How, you might ask, is it possible that in a city with major football, basket-

(See Eltrain page 16)

What's happening in the world of sports?

By Elliott Tinnes
This article is a new monthly installment in the sports section of the Wildcat Chronicle.

As opposed to the section's other stories, which will deal mainly with Wildcat athletics and athletes, this section will exclusively cover the other realms of sports in brief summaries.

From professional sports, to athlete updates, to coverage of local teams on a roll, this section will offer a new,

broader view to sports outside of West Chicago.

The NBA all-star game, which was held Feb. 9 in Atlanta, Georgia, paid tribute to the retiring Michael Jordan. Jordan, at nearly 40 years old, will finally call it quits, after finishing the season with the Washington Wizards.

The game, which went into double overtime, ended with a 155-145 score, as the east prevailed over the west.

Jordan contributed 20 points to the game, including

a near game winning fade-away, reminiscent his old days.

High school basketball phenomenon LeBron James has been cleared to finish the season with his team at St. Vincent-St. Mary in Akron, Ohio.

James, who was suspended by the OHSAA for receiving free merchandise, is expected to be the number one pick in the upcoming NBA draft.

It is reported that Nike and Adidas are both vying for a shoe contract with James, which is currently at a re-

ported \$25 million.

West Aurora's top-ranked basketball team will face another tough hurdle Saturday against Proviso East. Proviso handed the Blackhawks one of two losses this entire season.

The game, which will be held at Northwestern University is expected to draw heavy crowds.

The Chicago Bears have decided not to immediately resign linebacker Roosevelt Colvin. Colvin, now a free-agent is now free to roam the NFL for offers.

Boys' swim team treading rough water

By Kyle Bullis

The boys swimming team headed into rough waters last January, when it capped off the month with a record of 0-4.

The team has, however, been dropping times significantly, said team captain Hans Colliander.

Eric Nelson completed the 50 in under 27 seconds while finishing the 100 in a minute flat.

The third place finishers for ATVC 200 freestyle relay are Colliander, Jeff Lesniak, Chris Nelson and C.J. Wostrazkyi.

Lesniak, Nelson, Colliander and Matt Simon also performed well in the 200 medley relay.

Colliander also broke his personal best time in both the 200 and 500 freestyle.

Alex Wemple also achieved a personal best time of one minute in the 100 freestyle.

Simon finished the 100 yard backstroke in 101.20 seconds.

The team will be working harder throughout the rest of the season to ensure that they can get better times and win more meets. Hopefully, they will raise by regionals.

New coaches keep boys' track running

By Mary Beth Selby

Boys' track is off to a strong start, with many returning long distance runners, said Jason Becker.

They also have new coaches including sprint coach Jeff Ford, who will replace coach Matt Doll.

The distance portion of the team is in good shape, having run through the winter. The runners include Tom Harwood, Pat Baur and Rich Visser.

In agreement with Becker, coach Paul McClelland is

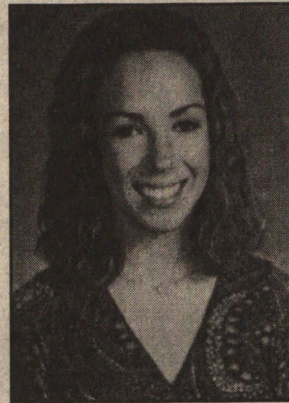
glad to see strong returning runners for the distance team.

He said they should also have a strong team for field events, with many returning team members.

"The hardest area to fill, we lost graduate runners, is in sprints," said McClelland. Joe Park, Joe Caniano, Mike Nubie, and Lon Beutke graduated last year.

McClelland hopes that West Chicago will place in the top half of the DVC, and have at least two runners qualify for state, as well as in relays.

Athlete of the month: Crawford proving to be varsity material



Courtesy of Jessica Crawford

By Stephanie Bodane

Any freshman who has ever played at the varsity level knows that it has its perks.

At the same time, the athlete holds a great deal of responsibility. It is up to them to prove that they are worthy of their varsity promotion. For freshman Jessica Crawford, this proof could not have come in a sweeter way.

Crawford became a Wildcat hero after she sunk a three point buzzer shot Nov. 23, topping off a stunning win over St. Benedict's.

Crawford has played a strong role in the varsity girls' basketball team, helping the team claim third place in the DVC.

Crawford is the first freshman this year to be named Athlete of the Month.

How long have you played basketball for?

Since I was 8.

How did you become involved in basketball?

My parents put me in some league.

What were your expectations for this season?

I was looking forward to competing, learning, and having fun. I didn't expect to make varsity.

What is your favorite part of basketball?

Winning is a big part, but also just playing and doing my best.

What is the best part of being a part of the varsity team?

Playing at a high level.

Do you plan on continuing to play basketball?

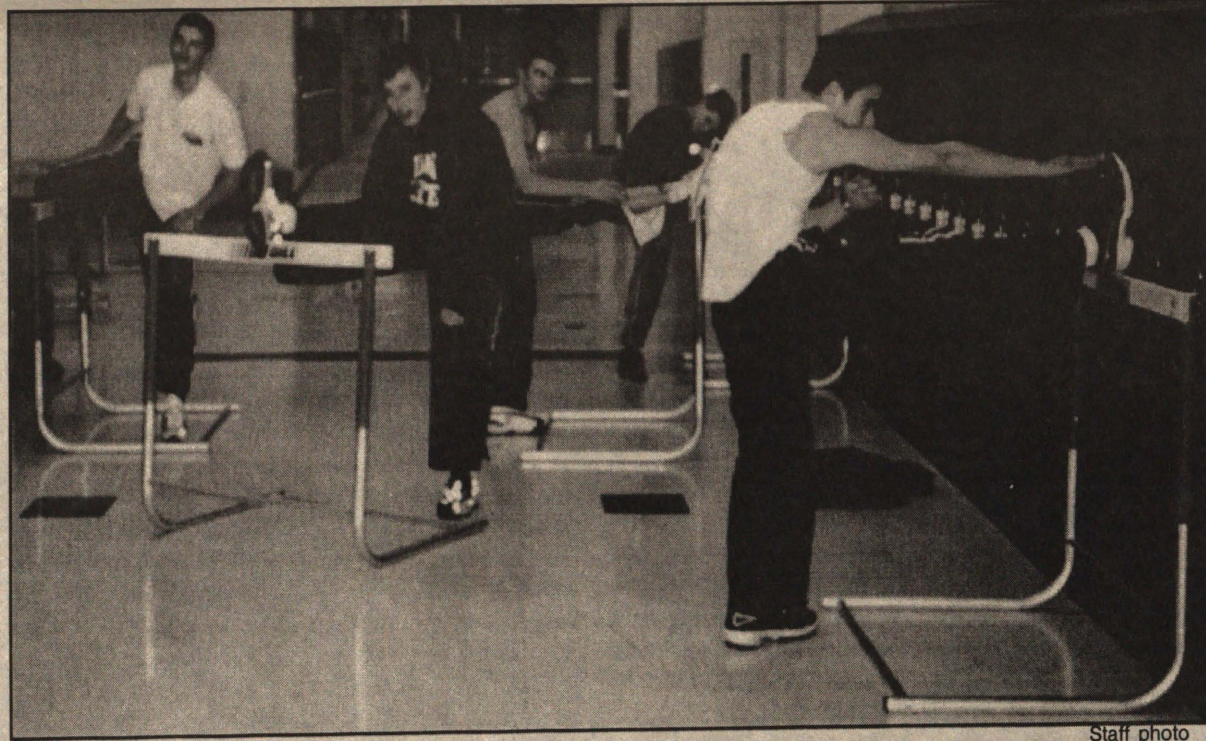
Yes, in high school and possibly college.

How is it being a freshman on a varsity team, are you treated with the same respect?

It's been a lot of fun. All the girls have been so nice, I've really been enjoying it.

How do you feel you have done so far this season?

There's great room for improvement. Improving is my goal for the rest of the season.



Staff photo

Cold weather keeps the boys' track indoors. Mike Doll, Scott Campbell, Anthony McNerny, Ken Klein, and Jake Bermudez stretch for hurdles in the hall way.

Wrestlers stick it out through tough season

By Melissa Stevens

The We-go wrestling team is down, but not out.

Lack of wrestlers forced the team to forfeit many of its matches this season.

"It's been a bit difficult," said varsity coach Marty Molina. Wrestling teams usually have 42 starters total for all levels with 14 starting at each level. The We-go team has 30 wrestlers total with usually five or six starting on varsity.

"You'll never overcome

the deficit you get from forfeiting," he said. The team is trying, but the forfeits have placed a heavy burden on their wrestling.

While the team itself has not won many matches, individual wrestlers Fabian Cruz, Tyler Hemple, and Mike McNerney all have good winning records this season. All three wrestlers are usually in the lineup.

Molina has high hopes that at least one of the three will make it to state. He be-

lieves that all three are quality wrestlers and have a chance at making it.

"They're our best chance," said Molina. Their dedication to the sport has made them stand out. All of the wrestlers have been injured during the season and still wrestled despite their injuries.

Whoever places in the top three after sectionals is guaranteed a trip down to state. "Just making it to state is good," said Molina.

As a team overall, Molina believes their biggest problem is that most wrestlers have little to no wrestling experience.

Many wrestlers on other teams have wrestled since junior high, while most on the We-go team began their wrestling careers in high school.

"We need to become more fundamentally sound wrestlers," he said. Molina plans to work on educating the wrestlers on the basics of

wrestling and give them more time and experience on the mats.

The stellar performance through We-go's otherwise bleak season, though, was a second-place medal from Cruz.

Cruz took second in the DVC on the varsity level.

In the 118 pound division, Cruz claimed the highest scoring day of all Wildcats.

The Wildcats finished their regular season schedule in the regional tournament.

Wildcats avenge loss to Glenbard North

By Elliot Tinnes

With a win against conference rival Glenbard North, the Wildcats boys' basketball team has been on its way to a strong comeback season. Earlier in the season the Wildcats endured a 55-66 loss to the Glenbard North Panthers. The Wildcats, eager to avenge the loss of their first meeting, stormed through everything the Panthers could dish them.

The Wildcats played a stellar game, coming off a tough

loss to West Aurora, highlighted by Matt Coiley's breakaway dunk. The game was even through the first eight minutes until the Wildcats finally pulled away with an 18-15 lead. From that point on, the game was completely dominated by the Wildcats. The Wildcats controlled the boards and picked off several Panther passes.

They managed to hold their lead throughout the game, consistently outscoring and outpacing the

Panthers. The bench kept the team strong even after Nick Michael and Leo Baylor fouled out of the game.

West Chicago walked away with a 77-55 win. The win put the Wildcats at 12-7 (3-5 in the DuPage Valley Conference).

Jan. 30 the Wildcats faced a dominant West Aurora team. Led by seniors Dameon Mason and Jaeh Thomas, as well as junior Justin Cerasoli.

The game, hosted by West

Chicago, packed the bleachers from floor to ceiling, as fans from both teams came to see the top-ranking Blackhawks play.

"West Aurora is an excellent team. They are number one in state," said head coach Kevin Gimre.

Mike Paschke and Michael, each pitching in seven points, led the Wildcats. Other top scorers included John Weier and Lee Corning with five and four points, respectively.

"The kids didn't give up," said Gimre, "they just played until the buzzer."

Although the Wildcats suffered a 70-32 loss to the Blackhawks, the house remained full for the entirety of the game.

The Blackhawks wowed the crowd with several gravity-defying dunks, including an allie-oop from Cerasoli to Mason.

The loss left the Wildcats at a 10-7 record, while the Blackhawks maintained a flawless

record in conference.

"At this point we're 10 and seven, two and seven in conference. I think before the season I would have liked to have been two games better," said Gimre.

The Wildcats were able to pull off a strong conference win against the Glenbard East Rams by keeping their intensity throughout both halves. Led by Michael, who had a game high 33 points, the Wildcats took a 67-49 win away with them.



Staff photo

The varsity basketball team hangs out before practice in front of Bishop Gym.

Claiborne excited for new track season

By Logan Schrage

Girls' track at We-go has started this season with 55 members, many of whom are returning from last season.

According to coach Katerina Claiborne this season's team is looking excellent and excited after their first practice.

"If someone wants to join, but needs to work on her skills can join," said Claiborne. This is in thanks to the policy of no try-outs.

The events include sprints, jumps, pole vault, shot put, hurdles and relays. With all the different events the team can easily be divided up.

Leaders of the team include seniors distance runners; Katy Kostal and Carmen Saucedo,

sprinters Jessica Cwiak, Aimee Beutke, who is also a jumper and went to state last year.

Juniors Kristi Aducci and Laura Baumrucker, both returning runners, will also be strong pillars for the team.

Claiborne said the only weakness on the team could be field events, but said with a large number of members on the team the outlook is good.

Practices began in January, and are everyday except Sundays.

The team will meet indoors and anyone who still wants to join can, until the team starts outdoors in April.

Girls track had the first of four meets Feb. 11.

Girls' basketball holding third in DVC

By Jessica Myers

The Lady Wildcats are 7-6 in the conference, tying them with Glenbard North and Wheaton Warrenville South for third place with one game left against West Aurora tonight.

We-go played Glenbard East Feb. 8 and won 74-51, breaking the conference record, number of points scored in a conference game.

Senior night was also that night, the Wildcats honored Kori Flagg, Lynn Mielke,

Nicole Skala, and Magen Rogers.

But We-go lost 60-30 Naperville Central Feb. 6.

West Chicago faced Wheaton North Feb. 1.

"We were down 21-27 at the end of the first half," said head coach Kim Wallner.

We-go was able to outscore Wheaton North 28-10 through out the second half, giving We-go a 45-31 win.

Shaina Sullivan scored 10 points through out the game, snagging leading scorer. Jes-

sica Crawford scored seven points and Lauren Johnston scored six points, also helping the team to victory.

Sullivan and Dana Hernan had five rebounds and Rogers stole the ball from Wheaton North five times.

We-go had a duplicate win Jan. 30 against Naperville North.

We-go was down 19-13 at the end of the first half. The wildcats came back out scoring Naperville North 31-14 to win 44-33.

Rogers lead the team to victory with 14 points and four steals through out the game. Sullivan lead the team in rebounds with seven steals.

We-go lost to Wheaton Warrenville South 41-37 on Jan. 25.

We-go lost 47-40 to Glenbard North Jan. 23.

We-go faced West Aurora Jan. 18. In the first half defense gave up a lot of points getting We-go down 31-44.

"We were able to cut the

lead to two at the end of the third quarter," Wallner said.

Twice in the fourth quarter We-go was able to cut the lead to two.

"We couldn't get any closer than that," said Wallner.

Flagg scored 16 points while Sullivan had 15 points.

We-go beat Glenbard East 52-46 during their Jan. 16 game.

The wildcats were down two points at the end of the second half.

Sullivan lead the team's of-

fense in the third quarter by scoring seven of her total nine points.

Lathie Norton, however, was leading scorer with 14 points.

We-go lost 70-35 Naperville North Jan. 11.

Although, We-go beat Wheaton North 61-47 during their Jan. 9 game.

We-go lost 51-34 to Maine West Jan. 7.

We-go won third place in a tournament hosted by Naperville North.

Eltrain... (Continued from page 15)

ball and hockey teams, as well as two baseball teams? The answer is management. Not a single team has been successfully managed or coached for years.

The Bears have drafted and dropped numerous rookies, unable to harness or develop the strengths of the players.

Does Cade McNown ring a bell? It is not as if bad players are being drafted, decent players have been drafted, but no one knows what to do with them. This flaw on the coaching staffs make Chicago look

amateurish.

Even the standout, seasoned athletes in this city cannot be managed. Chicago holds two great sluggers, Sammy Sosa and Frank Thomas.

Both players bring plenty of attention to Chicago. Both are great individual players, but team players they are not. Sosa can tear the cover off a ball, he's a great addition to the Cubs.

However, being a great athlete does not make an all around great player. Sosa and Thomas both have problems

playing for the team.

Which brings us back to the coaching staff. The job of professional coaches and managers is to manage their players, something that is not often done well in Chicago.

Chicago needs to step back a moment to assess its situation in professional sports.

It's time coaching staffs in Chicago, as well as players, take things more seriously. An athlete's sport is their job. They should be expected to play to their full potential

as individuals and as teams, and lately in Chicago, that just isn't happening.

Some like to blame other factors. For instance, it has been suggested that Wrigley Field is responsible for the terrible records of the Cubs. Wrigley is known nationwide for its old fashioned ivy walls and intimate seating.

Wrigley is a relic of the past compared to new, state-of-the-art stadiums.

Nonetheless, Wrigley is just as, if not more, appealing. Games consistently sell out, as people of all ages

come to party. Therein lies the problem.

Critics believe that it is impossible for the Cubs to play in a stadium where the games' outcomes really do not matter. Win or lose, the fans will still have a good time. This is ridiculous.

Regardless of whether or not the fans are having fun, the players should still play hard.

By the same logic, the players would play well if the fans scrutinized every second of game time. And that is obviously not true.

Chicago fans are notorious

for their hard-nosed, constant criticism of players. No amount of criticism seems to make the players any better either.

I ask you, what do we have to do to find a decent team in this city? Chicago is one of the nation's largest, most diverse, and cultured cities. One can find anything their heart desires in a city of Chicago's magnitude.

Anything there is to be offered by a city, Chicago has. So I ask once more: What must we do to find someone that can give us sports again?