

# Wildcat Chronicle

Volume 34,  
Issue 6

West Chicago Community High School  
March 20, 2003

## We-go students replace troubled Internet program

By Mary Beth Selby

The Wildcat student technology team recently reproduced an Internet program to help teachers.

When the government message board program, Blackboard, was causing trouble for teachers, Stan Lemon, Erich Musick, and Jeremy Rose were asked to improve it.

"Erich is a program genius, and he suckered me into it, and Jeremy is our key to the administration," said Lemon, describing the team members.

When Lemon was in government, he was dissatisfied with Blackboard, finding problems with it as the semester rolled on.

He talked to Musick about trying to fix it, and they started looking at Blackboard intending to remedy the problems. According to the team, some of those problems include system shut downs, a bloated system, too many advertisements, slowness, confusion, and it's not worth the money.

"We were trying to come up with a Blackboard replacement because it costs a hefty sum," said Musick.

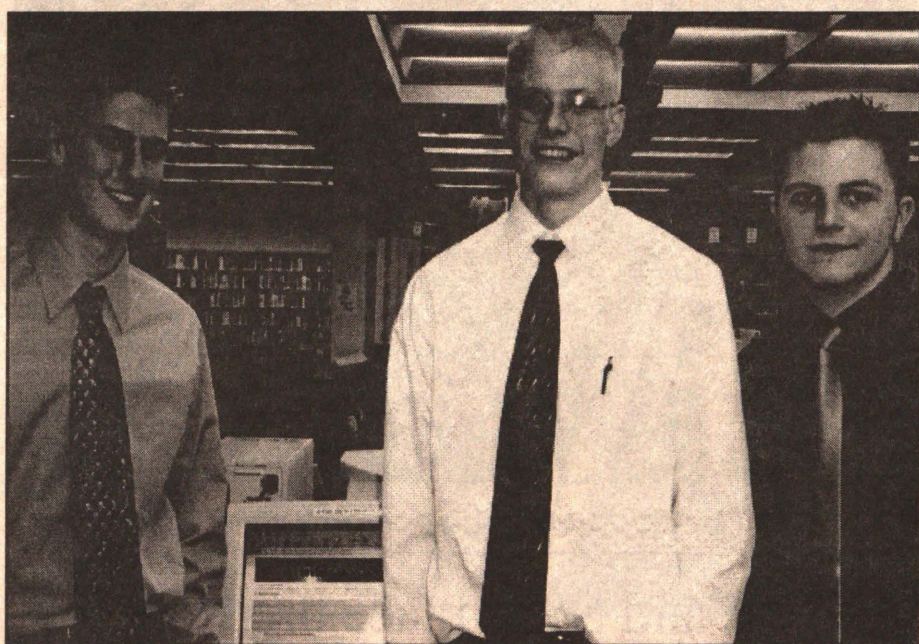
Lemon suggested the use of IkonBoard, which was already out on the market and free of charge. The system was installed under the guidance of We-go technology director Andy Glowaty.

Unfortunately, IkonBoard didn't offer quite as much as Blackboard, so the team modified it. They created a grade book, calendar and a web page design site from scratch.

When Principal John Highland heard what they were doing, and wanted to expand the program through the whole school.

In late February, the tech team was able to finalize most of the programming and they presented their work to teachers to show how easy the programs are to use.

Though the project set out to just fix Blackboard for the government classes, the (See Tech Team page 3)



Staff Photo

Jeremy Rose, Erich Musick, and Stan Lemon have changed government classes by replacing "Blackboard" and installing a new program, making the class more interactive. The three are members of the school's tech team.

## FBLA sets record of qualifiers

By Doug Sieder

FBLA is sending 41 participants to the state competition March 28-29 in Decatur.

The students will compete in different categories including: web site development, parliamentary procedures, business law, marketing, and word processing.

"This year is a record number of students we're bringing there. Since we had so many first and second place winners I am looking forward to bringing them to Dallas for nationals in June," said Mia Wirth, one of the leaders of FBLA.

Each chapter of FBLA needs to sell \$50 worth of raffle tickets for Monetary awards.

If a chapter doesn't sell that amount of raffle tickets, they can still compete but will be ineligible for any awards.

The students will have other activities to do than work.

March 28 there will be a dinner with speakers about the different areas of business.

The morning of March 29 is the actual state competition, and there will be speeches from competitors running for state office to represent Illinois in the national competition.

In the afternoon the award ceremonies take place. The students will get home at 7 p.m. March 29.

The students that are competing in state are Christy Adduci, Tom Aguirre, Amy

Axelrod, Alex Baker, Jackie Batty, Tim Bolt, Jessica Boyd, Chris Brown, Alex Carpenter, Rob Casey, Jeff Cisowski, Heidi Colliander, Geraldine Colorado, Jeff Cordina, Amy Demitropoulos, Nikki Franz, Mena Gentile, Tyler Hempel, Chris Jelen, Lauren Kirby, Jill Kufta, Rachel Kuna, Nick Kuras, and Mike Letts.

Competitors also include Stan Lemon, Michelle Macrito, Paul Majchrowski, Theresa McEvoy, Greg Moore, Aron Morris, Erich Musick, Brianna Nadolny, Brian Nelson, Mike Oleksiak, Kim Peterik, and Tatiana Postakova.

Sean Reynolds, Dominique Scott, Matt Shambo, Dale Szul, and Dan Visser.

By Brittany Rose

Students may be breaking school rules and not even know it.

But when YWCA prevention education specialist Melanie Morong spoke to freshmen English classes on sexual harassment, she made it clear how the rules are broken daily in relation to the book "Speak," where the main character experiences sexual harassment.

Most students have been

desensitized to sexual harassment and just let it slide thinking it is nothing, Morong said.

But it's not. All forms of sexual harassment are against the school rules, whether it's hostile or intending to be friendly.

About 85 percent of high school girls and 76 percent of high school guys report that they have experienced some unwelcome sexual behavior. And most harassment

is not friendly.

She added that most students agree that sexual harassment makes it hard to concentrate on classes.

Any incident of sexual harassment should be reported to a teacher, counselor, or human resources director Kim Brafford. Brafford's office is in the administration office, next to commons.

Sexual harassment should not be confused with flirting. (See Harassment page 5)

## Programs are not cut next year

By Sam West

With the budget crisis District 94 is experiencing, it would be logical to assume that programs are scheduled to be cut next year.

But this would be a false assumption, according to Supt. Dr. Lee Rieck. There is no plan to cut any program, in the school whether they are classes or extracurricular

activities.

"Most of the reductions will come through staff reductions," said Rieck. "We have asked that we reduce some coaches."

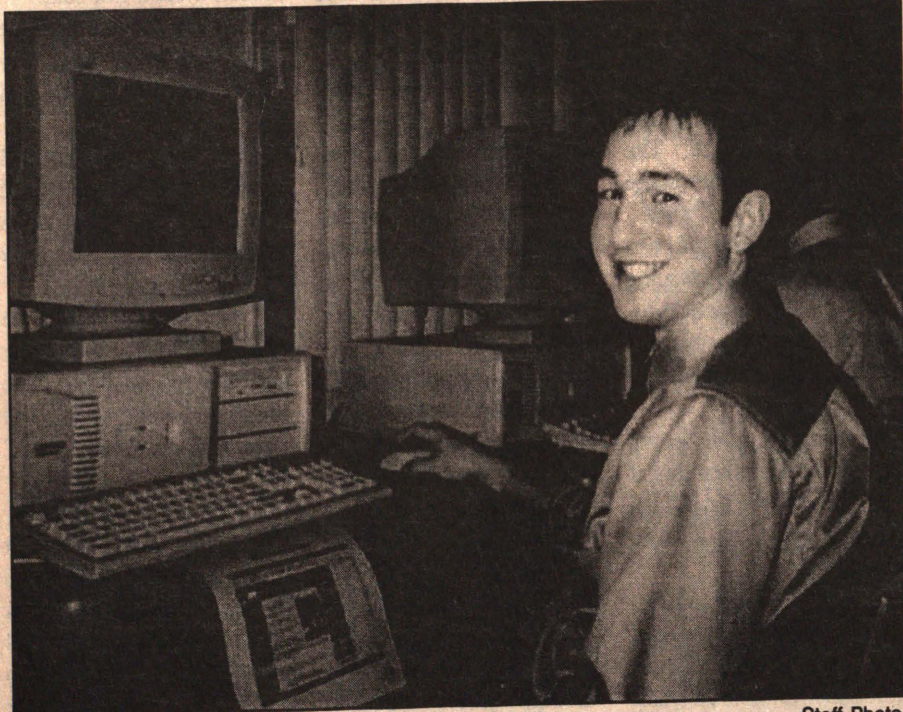
The athletic department will lose some coaches next year, and \$7,500 worth of sponsors will be taken away, Rieck said.

Athletic Director Robert

Stone said that \$20,000 worth of salaries need to be cut. That means that five or six coaches will be lost next year, Stone said.

"It's all tied in to the economy being bad in general," Stone said of the cuts.

He also said that while some athletic clubs will be cut, no team sports should be (See Programs page 4)



Staff Photo

Chris Brown works on his computer in FBLA, preparing for state competitions. Brown and 40 other FBLA members will participate in state later this month.

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### Today is the first day of our new Spanish section

This month, the Chronicle debuts the new Spanish page. The page, written by Maira Borjon and supervised by bilingual education teacher Janelle Stefancic, is aimed at the Hispanic population of our school.

We plan to run this page each month in the features section. See page 13.





Staff Photo

Simon Blanco and Emmanuel Vazquez strut their stuff after the fashion show last week.

## We-go struts its stuff down runway

By Mary Beth Selby

Students strutted down the catwalk to raise money for prom at the recent prom fashion show.

As of now, the price for prom tickets is \$45. The money raised at the show may help alleviate ticket prices or hire a better DJ.

The fashion show was early in March in the auditorium, featuring 40 models. The outfits were rented from local tuxedo and dress shops.

"It went well, being the first time. Everyone put in a lot of effort, it was a good show. It looked like they (the kids) had fun," said junior student council adviser Jaime Garcia.

When Jaelyn Demes presented the idea for a prom fashion show to the student council, the juniors decided to go through with the idea to raise money for prom.

"I was worried people wouldn't come, and we could have had a better turn out, but

it was good for the first time," said model Molly Knaak. "If we keep with it, it'll grow and get better. Other schools do it and it's a major deal."

Booster Club also agreed to help host the raffle.

Prom related prizes included tans and flowers. The main prizes were two tickets to All Night Long and two tickets to prom.

The fashion show opened with an introduction from junior student council adviser Candace Kairys and Garcia, and Demes explained the order of events and where the clothes came from. Government teacher Shawn Healy emceed with Emy Krauspe.

The show was programmed to show five sets of four model pairs throughout the night.

"I thought it was fun, really great. I want to do it again," said Marlene Uy, a model.

Entertainment skits and presentations were performed between each set.

The first piece featured Jeff Hansen and Peter Mantz performing a skit called "Meeting Dad," giving guys tips on what not to do when meeting the father of their prom date.

The next piece was a presentation of Dave Exner's "The Art of Hair," narrated by Nick Caltigirone.

It showed the right and wrong hairstyles for prom. After that there was a 10-minute intermission.

Opening the show after the intermission was Jeff Hansen and Bridget Geraghty acting out "The Top Five Worst Ways to Ask a Girl to Prom."

Proper ballroom dancing was then displayed, followed by the final set of models of the evening.

To end, Kairys, Garcia, Healy, and Krauspe drew (See Show page 6)

## Krauspe and Scott place high at state

By Michelle Loerzel

West Chicago Community High School students Emy Krauspe and Dominique Scott went to the state tournament for forensics in February and came home with awards.

Krauspe and Scott both placed high enough in the finals at sectionals to continue to state.

Krauspe placed ninth out of 20 participants in prose reading at state.

"This was the best performance I have ever seen her do," said forensics adviser

Steven Kellner.

Scott earned tenth place out of 21 participants for impromptu speaking.

"I believe I did great and loved being there," said Scott.

Judging is very subjective at state because everyone is good, Scott said.

Students there have beaten 200 other students at the same type of performance, said Kellner.

"I loved going to state, and the competition was not as bad as I thought it would be," said Krauspe.

Krauspe was champion at

regionals and soon became sectionals champion at Wheaton North early in February.

Not only did Krauspe make it into finals at sectionals, but so did Scott and Erin Linsenmeyer.

Linsenmeyer placed seventh in the finals round, but did not qualify for state.

"I tried and that's all that mattered," said Linsenmeyer.

Stan Lemon also went to sectionals for forensics but did place high enough to make into finals at the sectionals tournament.

## War hampers French exchange

By Becky Dennis

Politics and the impending threat of war with Iraq may prevent 25 French exchange students from visiting West Chicago in April.

Exchange coordinator Marjorie Appel hopes this is not the case.

According to Appel, the activities this year will look

much like those of years before. Although not confirmed, West Chicago students plan to introduce the French students to Navy Pier, Fermilab, bowling, and even an after school sporting event.

"Last year, we attended a baseball game," said Appel.

But these activities are

planned assuming the impending war doesn't happen.

If there is a war, the exchange will be called off, leaving many hosts and visitors disappointed.

Recently, French coordinator Wendy Mattera e-mailed Appel stating the French parents were becoming nervous due to the possibility of war.

It is too bad politics are coming in the way of experience, said Mattera.

While no one has officially backed out, each student has completely paid for their ticket. The airline has agreed to refund their flight tickets in case of war.

French parents are also concerned with the rising anti-French sentiment spreading across the United States.

With strong diplomatic opposition to war with Iraq, French President Jacques Chirac has recently made many U.S. citizens angry towards the French.

Many Americans feel France should support U.S. actions because of past loyalty.

"I don't think it's right to expect people to follow us blindly. I hope we don't have a war, and I hope this trip happens," said Appel.



Staff Photo

The junior girls get together after their catwalks at the prom fashion show.

## Girls should mark calendars

By Michelle Loerzel

Cheerleading and poms tryouts are coming in April and girls who are thinking of trying out should mark their calendars.

Clinic days are set for April 22-25 and the actual day to try out for cheerleading and poms is on April 26. The clinic and tryouts are in the small gym.

On the clinic days girls trying out for any cheerleading squad will have practices together to learn routines taught by senior cheerleaders.

People trying out do not have to come every day if they cannot make it or do not believe they need to practice any more.

Girls may request to be either a football/basketball cheerleader or a soccer/wrestling cheerleader in advance.

No experience is necessary. And girls who cheered the 2002-2003 season will have

to try out if they want to cheer for the 2003-2004 season.

People trying out will be judged as an all around cheerleader. They will need to be passing at least four classes, just like in a sport, and have teacher recommendations to make sure the student can be reliable, said Nora Silva soccer/wrestling coach.

"We will be looking for girls with deep, loud voices, not yelling. This will be taught at the practices," said Silva.

Once people are chosen they will have to attend camp during the summer, and participate in fundraisers such as car washes, the dunk tanks at Railroad Days, and concession stands.

For the 2003-2004 season, 11 girls were on the sophomore squad and nine juniors and eight seniors were on the varsity football/basketball squad.

Also, 30 girls were on the

soccer cheerleading squad and 15 girls continued on into the wrestling squad. Silva allows the girls to cheer either soccer, wrestling or both.

How many people make the squads depend on how many people try out and how well they cheer.

The football/basketball cheerleading squad cheers at home and away games, while soccer/wrestling will only cheer at home games.

"They only cheer at home because compared to football, who will only have one game during the week, soccer will have one three times a week," said Silva.

Judges will be looking for gymnastics skills, people that are good at bases and flyers for mounts, jumps, and arm movements. Competitors will also receive a set of words to make a cheer to demonstrate their creativity.

The squad still needs a (See Cheerleaders page 4)

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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.



## Artists present their Artworks

By Brittany Rose

Citizens from around the area came to the high school Saturday to discover We-go's performing artists at Artworks '03.

Art, drama, speech, and music related organizations have prepared since October for this event.

Demonstrations and works of art from Benjamin, West Chicago, and Winfield middle schools were shown in commons on March 15.

This event was supposed to be a community thing, said fine arts director Jim Guter.

Musical performances included the choirs, string ensembles, small instrument ensembles, jazz band, jazz combo, concert bands, percussion ensembles, dance ensembles, and even a music technology demonstration. Drama performed two scenes from the winter play "Glimpses".

The forensics team performed a humorous duet acting, prose reading, original comedy, and a special occasion speaking.

Art was displayed on the walls. Ceramics, computer art,

wood carving, drawing, calligraphy, face painting, portraits and caricatures were all demonstrated throughout the day.

Outside artists helping with this event were very impressed.

There was also hands on art demonstrations, lectures and classroom drama readings.

"Everything went very smoothly," said Guter. "I think all of the groups performed well."

Guter hopes "that it's going to be bigger and better each year."



It looks like Nick Chillemi is sucking out of a giant straw, but really he is playing the dijery doo at Artworks '03. Staff Photo

## Tech Team... (Continued from page 1)

programs have been put into the system and are available to all teachers to use for their classes.

More than 10 teachers are currently using the programs, said Musick.

In his presentation, Lemon stated that the purpose for Blackboard was to show discussions, agendas, and grades, but IkonBoard offers almost the "essence of a virtual classroom."

"This takes the responsibility off our shoulders and onto the students, where it should be," said government teacher Shawn Healy at the tech team's faculty presentation.

The team wanted to have a program that had a messaging system and grade book for each class. This is what the team created by modifying IkonBoard.

Glowaty said these programs are interactive forums for teachers to access and use in easier web page creations.

IkonBoard is accessed by students and staff on the net by password, and separated by categories, forums, and topics.

Lemon said that word replacers were installed to clean up the students' language on the discussion boards and polls in IkonBoard.

Students can access grades as well. But when a person logs into the grade book, only his or her grades show.

A teacher's password opens the grade book to show grades of all the students, but teachers cannot access the grade book of another teacher.

If a parent calls to ask Healy about how their son or daughter is doing in his class, he just directs them to the Internet and says to ask the student for the password to check their grades, thus placing the responsibility of scores on the student.

However, Lemon, Musick, and Rose will all graduate in June, and will not be able to

keep the program running next year.

Computer programming teacher Frank Burzynski and Glowaty hope to expand the tech team into a club next year to take over the work of Lemon, Musick, and Rose.

Burzynski will be the supervisor for the tech club. The tech members and Burzynski have begun to interview and consider freshmen, sophomores, and juniors interested in working on the project next year.

Musick declined to reveal their names without their consent.

"Mr. Highland has also been very supportive of us as well," said Musick.

Glowaty gave the boys full credit for their work saying that they did everything when it came to writing the programs.

"They are working well together, and are showing that they are second to none, really excellent," said Glowaty.

## Student raises funds for Eagle Scout

By Sam West

The time has almost come for Brian Steere to receive his Eagle Scout rank, but before he receives the award, he has some goals to accomplish.

Steere decided to hold a book drive to achieve his Eagle Scout. Steere received 1,000 donated books for charity on March 7.

In order to receive his Eagle Scout, Steere has to complete service projects.

"Scouting is designed to turn scouts into leaders, so to get the highest rank, you have to organize and carry out a project to demonstrate leadership," Steere said.

The books will go to Cape Coast in Ghana, Africa. There are approximately 35,000 to 45,000 people living there, Steere said. The average annual income for a family is \$700.

"Since I know I made about four times as much as

that in six months, they definitely could use our help," Steere said.

He collected any novels (paperback or hardback) or educational magazines, which don't include Seventeen or Sports Illustrated, he said.

"Basically anything that's not a romance novel," Steere said.

To advertise his book drive, Steere sent e-mails to every staff member and notified the geography classes, where teachers may have given extra credit to students who donated books.

"A competition (was) forming between Mrs. Rash's classes and Mr. Lucas' classes," Steere said.

Steere said that he decided to start a book drive because he loves reading. His favorite book is "The Ultimate Hitchhiker's Guide."

"It makes fun of absolutely everything, and it's science

fiction, which I like, and it's hilarious," said Steere.

He has been involved in scouts since second grade.

"It's a lot of fun. We sometimes go camping and we play with knives and fire," Steere said. He said that camping was the best part of scouts.

## We-go student speakers win awards

By Michelle Loerzel

Jeff Cisowski captured first place in the recent Voice of Democracy contest.

"The students had to make a taped speech of the topic 'freedom's obligation,'" said the Voice of Democracy adviser Mary Rash.

Luke Dean won second place and Beth Kipp received third place.

Additional place winners were: Christiana Lundquist, 4th; Martha Kaczmarczyk, 5th; Amanda Campos, 6th;

Dominique Scott, 7th; Harrison Kuras, 8th.

Other place winners include Brian Calabrese, 9th; Jessica Krueger, 10th; Dana Yormark, 11th; Amy Azelrod, 12th; Natalie Chudoba, 13th; and Lauren Bertram, 14th.

Other students who participated in the Voice of Democracy were Leann Bertram, Nikki Franz, Christine Hendron, Danielle Hughes, Gwen Murphy, Bob Nagel, Naiya Panchal, Jamie Schmidt and Kristina

Wanous.

Commander Steven Bennier, from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6791 and Terry Adams, president of the Ladies' Auxiliary, judged the participants and gave awards to the Voice of Democracy students.

At a recent board meeting, the school board presented the awards.

The Wars Post 6791 awarded the students about \$6,000 among all of them, said Rash.

"Cablecom will need to find funding or they will be done. They have covered (school) games and concerts for years," said Mary Randle, public relations director.

Cablecom needs around \$20,000 per year to run the access channel, and as of right now they only have \$13,000, which was donated from the city.

"We're still about \$7,000 short. But the city gave us money, and we're planning some fundraisers as well as asking the Booster Club and Park District for donations," said Bob Martin, Cablecom president.

Martin and the other Cablecom volunteers found out about the funding problem in late December.

However, the final decision wasn't made until February.

"We were shocked, we hadn't planned for anything like that. Right at the time we were told we were putting together our budget for this year," said Martin.

Martin also wrote a letter to all Cablecom viewers ex-

plaining to them the situation and the dire need for them to help support Cablecom in order for them to have funding.

In the letter, Martin stated, "I believe losing Cablecom will be another tarnish mark on the image of West Chicago that we are in other ways trying to polish."

At the last city council meeting Randle and other Cablecom supporters spoke on behalf of the benefits that the local channel provides.

Supt. Dr. Lee Reick also participated by writing a letter to the mayor asking him to help in some way.

We-go Through the Tube participant Stan Lemon said programs like We-go Through the Tube benefited the school and students.

"We're hoping the city will amend the budget until they find something. The school may provide some funds, we're also going to talk to the Boosters," said Randle.

Although We-go Through the Tube is funded by Cablecom, next year the school will be adding a broadcast journalism class to the curriculum, so it is funded for next year.

But the concern right now is the funding for this year.

"What would stop (being televised) is the high school games, community events, city council meetings and other events," said Randle.

The transition from AT&T to ComCast will effect other communities with local public access channels.

"Most people don't want to see it go. Most cities have given it (public access channels) up, but they really do benefit the community," said Martin.

## With Cablecom gone, We-go Through the Tube will face financial trouble



## Teens take Y.A. to the next level

By Anna Nubie

Bored teenagers don't realize that fun is just around the corner.

Many may not know that a Young Adult Advisory Council (Y.A.) is held at the West Chicago Public Library.

The Y.A. is a group of teens ranging from the ages of 12 to 18. About 15 members are involved covering the entire range of ages. They are always looking for new members.

"We have a really good group but the more the merrier," said sponsor and librarian Chris White.

The Y.A. does multiple fundraisers to help the young adult section of the library.

They have held bake sales in the past. Nothing that they sell is store bought. The money that they have made in the past started the

Pokemon video collection, the young adult graphic novel section, and has been helpful to the CD collection.

At a bake sale, members knocked around the idea to have a multicultural dinner, White said. The first multicultural dinner was held last spring for the library board of trustees and the second for friends of the library. White said that the trustees enjoyed it so much that it has become an annual event. The next is occurring on April 29 from 6:30-8 p.m.

"This brings together a group of people who normally would not meet," White said.

At the multicultural dinner each person makes a dish having to do with his or her heritage. It must be homemade whether they make it themselves or a family member

makes it.

At the actual dinner seating is arranged so a teen always sits next to a trustee. To make sure that the conversation continues between many different people, halfway through the dinner the teens lead a form of musical chairs to switch the seating. Both groups said they had a very good time, White said.

Another thing that the Y.A. does for fun is murder mystery parties. They have had three of these in the past.

At murder mystery parties a mystery is set up that the Y.A. needs to solve. Each teen is a character and given many clues about the murder. It is very similar to the game Clue.

The last one was a murder mystery shop. Actors put on a murder mystery play.

A newsletter is also (See Council page 6)



Staff Photo

Kim Rovtar plays the flute at the band concert with Janine Lowe behind her.

## New sound featured at concert

By Sam West

The bands put out a variety of sound as they performed their Winter concert March 13.

The symphonic band, concert band, jazz band, and jazz combo performed. Director of bands Jim Guter said that the all the bands were playing more difficult music this time.

"(The songs), all have different difficulty levels," Guter said.

The pieces the symphonic band played were "Nessun Dorma," with a solo by Nick Chillemi, "Morceau de Concert," which featured Melissa Lund on the French horn, "Marriage of Figaro," by Mozart, and "Also Sprach Zarathustra," which is the fanfare made famous in the

movie "2001: A Space Odyssey."

Alto saxophone player Joe Tumidalsky performed a solo with a piano accompanist.

The concert band played three tunes, including "Flourish for Wind Band," "March of the Lost Battalion," and "St. Patrick's Day Parade."

Jazz band played "Blusineff," the Latin "Macumba," and "Hoe Down," a piece jazz band has performed in competition.

"I thought we played it really well. It's a difficult tune," Guter said of "Hoe Down."

The most difficult parts of "Hoe Down," Guter said, were the technical aspects and the tempo. The hardest section of the tune is when the band had to play eighth notes in

time with each other, and most of the band agreed.

Jazz combo debuted their arrangement of theme from "The World of Chemistry" videos, entitled, "The World of Kizemistry."

At first, the combo played the song by ear, and then they arranged it how they wanted.

Guitarist Pete Mantz said, "It rocks and I think it's a tribute to the chemistry teachers."

Tumidalsky said that the concert went well and everybody played to the best of their abilities.

"We played some really great pieces and it was fantasmagorical," Tumidalsky said. "I think a lot of people enjoyed hearing 'The World of Kizemistry.'"

## Cheerleaders... (Continued from page 2)

replacement coach for football/basketball cheerleading for next year since Patricia Clifford stepped down from the position.

"We should know who it will be before tryouts," said Silva.

Candace Kairys was the temporary football/basketball cheerleading coach for the 2002-2003 season and does not plan on continuing.

Although girls may want to do both cheerleading and poms, they need to decide because they cannot try out for both.

To try out for poms, girls must go to a mandatory meeting April 22 at 3:30 p.m. in the dance studio. Here girls will receive information about the squad, and how much it costs to see if they really want to join, said adviser Cindy Stone.

The girls will learn routines April 23 and 24. Actual tryouts are on April 25.

Two senior poms, Hope Vock and Sarah Wood, will make a dance for the girls to perform at tryouts. Girls will

try out in pairs. Vock and Wood will decide whom they will try out with, said Stone.

Judges will be the two senior poms, old poms from years before and teachers.

There were 16 poms this year, and with two leaving, the 14 left behind are not guaranteed a spot on the squad, so all girls must try out even if they made it last year. Freshmen girls this year can try out for the first time.

Girls are required to perform the dance they learned, and add an eight count to the end of the dance. The splits will be required also, said Stone.

Judges will see how well the girls can do a toe touch and their dance ability.

"The girls do not necessarily need to have experience but it can help. There have been girls who have come from a background of cheerleading or gymnastics and did just fine," said Stone.

The girls dress appropriately and wear gym shoes or jazz shoes, said Stone.

Since Stone has never had

a problem with girls failing and every girl has been on the honor roll, she is not worried about GPAs.

Once the girls make poms they will have to join Pep Club, go to six weeks of summer practice and poms camp.

The captains are chosen by the poms on the squad who were poms the year before. During the six weeks, captains will help teach the others dances and skills to master for camp.

If girls score high enough at camp they can participate in the Midwest Competition.

"Girls really need to come devote themselves to practice because they will not want it at camp. Girls can not just come one day a week and figure they will know what they are doing," said Stone.

Practices are after school and the girls will perform in competitions and help with the fundraisers.

Girls who try out should want to be a pom. They shouldn't want to be a pom only to wear the uniform, said Stone.

## April brings service projects for club

By Kristin Koltz

Key Club gives students the opportunity to help their community in April.

Their upcoming projects include a fish fry on April 18 and a prairie path clean up on April 5.

Key Club is a community service organization that promotes and helps others in need.

Any project they do has to in some way serve the community and will involve the community.

The club currently has

three student officers including president Tom Grove, vice president and secretary Melissa Prusko, and treasurer Tyler Hemple.

The members from the previous year determine the upcoming year's officers.

"The students that know the most about the club and who have helped the most will generally be picked for leadership," said sponsor Ward Rau.

The club meets meets on the second Friday of every month in room 186.

Past activities included what was known as the Heifer Project, in which they raised money to give a cow to a third world country.

Rau uses the proverb, "Give a man a fish, feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, feed him for a lifetime" to explain their reasoning behind raising the money for the country.

Key Club also worked at Chili Fest Feb. 22 to support the Fire Department. The club provided dessert, bused tables, and seated guests.

## Programs... (Continued from page 1)

eliminated.

"We don't want to get rid of a freshman sport," he said. "It doesn't help."

Cutting a freshman sport would hurt varsity sports in the long run, Stone said.

Teachers taking early retirement will also save the school a sum of money, Rieck said. After they retire, the district can hire new teachers for a smaller salary.

Currently, five teachers have applied for early retirement for the 2003 school year and others may join, said Rieck.

With this extra money, the school will be able to support their current programs and even add some, said Rieck.

Summer school will add a

program aimed at eighth graders that helps make the transition into high school easier.

Assistant Principal Dr. Thomas McCann said that Title One funding will pay for after school programs like these. Title One is a federal grant that gives money to school districts with high concentrations of low-income families for instructional programs.

McCann said that there is not a majority of low-income families in West Chicago, but there are enough for the grant.

The district plans to enact the program for eighth graders in the next few years, Rieck said.

High school students

would meet with the transition students and help them navigate the school, said McCann, while teachers would instruct reading, writing, and math classes.

Counselors would also be on hand to help with career choices.

The students enrolled in the summer transition program will be monitored throughout their freshman year, said McCann, and not ignored so that they can become successful.

"Middle school is different than what students will face in high school," said McCann.

McCann said that the district hasn't received Title One yet, but they anticipate that it will come.

## Club covets crepes on recent excursion

By Maria Perez

French Club sampled French cuisine on a recent visit to Suzette's Creperie in Wheaton.

The students enjoyed green crepes along with a variety of toppings for dessert.

An activity French Club is looking forward to is going bowling with the French exchange students if they come in mid-April.

"It's always interesting meeting people from other countries. Learning about their teenage life and com-

paring their life in France to here," said Marjorie Appel, club sponsor.

French Club has done a variety of activities this year. They have visited the Art Institute to see French art, gone French folk dancing, and had a French potluck dinner.



## Team scores new baseball field

By Michelle Loerzel

Plans for placing a baseball field at West Chicago Middle School for use by the We-go varsity baseball team are moving forward.

Before work can begin, a public hearing must be held so neighbors to the field can offer input. A meeting is scheduled within the next month.

Construction of the field will begin over the summer. We-go is leasing the land from District 33. The lease starts next school year, but We-go must pay District 33 soon, said Supt. Lee Rieck.

The high school is planning to pay District 33 \$200,000 each year for the next two years and will lease the land for 15 years.

Engineers have studied the topography of the land, which cost about \$2,400, said assistant superintendent of business Gary Grizaffi. The land has a difference of five feet from one end to the other so the site will need to be excavated to level the ground. The infield will need to be skimmed, sand, and an infield mix will need to be put down.

Excavating the land will cost between \$150,000 and \$200,000, said Grizaffi.

Also home and visiting dugouts, a score board, and a detention pond will be created.

To make sure the field will not flood during a storm, the field will slope downward towards the outfield and even-

tually water will drain into the detention pond.

Once this lease is up, the high school will have to make other arrangements for the land.

Now all baseball players at the high school have to use the fields at Pioneer Park. Lower levels of baseball will still continue to use the fields at Pioneer Park.

"We have only 30 acres here, including the football field and we are forced to work within that, unlike other schools, we are in a residential area," said Grizaffi.

The high school will take care of the field. Also, the middle school students will be allowed to use the field as long as they don't ruin it, said Rieck.

## Sisters do a little jig for charity

By Melissa Stevens

Put on your dancing shoes and get ready to help the needy.

Sisters Luz Maria and Lourdes Tlatehui will be teaching ballroom dancing to help the Habitat for Humanity charity.

"I believe that it is a very good organization that helps people," said Lourdes.

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization whose goal is to give an opportunity to families and individuals of limited income for home ownership, Lourdes said.

The charity makes money through donations, which is exactly why the girls decided to donate the proceeds of the dance classes to them.

The money they make

from the lessons will go to equipment and tools that volunteers use to build and renovate houses.

Everyone is invited to take lessons. They are asking for a minimum donation of \$2.50 for each class. Classes are an hour long beginning at 3:15 p.m. every Thursday outside the dance studio, starting today.

## Amateur bridge builders take part in constructive activities

By Jessica Myers

Seven We-go students took part in the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Bridge Building Competition held at the Illinois Institution of Technology in Feb-

ruary.

The length of the bridge had to be a minimum of eight inches and a maximum of 16 inches. The height had to be 2.8 inches. The weight of the bridge could be no more than .875 ounces.

The bridges had weights attached to them to find the maximum weight the bridges could hold. The two bridges with the highest weight-to-weight held ratio is invited to the International contest in April.

Dale Szul took 14<sup>th</sup> place while Adam Schumacher scored 16<sup>th</sup> place.

Eric Lasky, geometry enriched teacher, said that there were architects at the competition that pointed out the weaknesses in the bridges and gave the students ideas to im-

prove their designs.

The bridges were built at home, and everyone in Lasky's geometry enriched class held their own bridge competition.

The top four bridges in the class got to go to the main competition.

"We let each of them bring a friend that they wanted to come with," said Lasky.

Lasky used this experience to show students the relationship between geometry and architecture.

"We tried to find the best design that held the most weight but weighed the less," said Szul.

Annette Rubino, science teacher, told Lasky about the contest. Rubino also had one student join Lasky's students in the competition.

## Harassment... (Continued from page 1)

Morong said.

Flirting is a positive action, sexual harassment is negative. Flirting is flattering to the receiver and boosts self esteem, sexual harassment brings the opposite results.

The moment someone feels uncomfortable in his or her environment due to an individual's action, it is classified as sexual harassment, Morong said.

Catcalls, starting sexual rumors, and giving sexual gestures are all considered assaults.

When students experience sexual harassment, extreme changes often occur.

Students may often wear baggy clothing instead of

wearing form fitting clothes.

"Often these kids want to change schools," said Morong.

However, changing schools does not solve the problem.

Low self esteem and question of identity will still follow.

These symptoms tend to mostly follow the most extreme form of sexual harassment.

Rape victims are generally between the age of 14 and 24.

"Youth makes you vulnerable," says Morong. Going to and from work, school and parties gives this age group a higher risk.

"Often the victims of

sexual assault blame themselves," said Morong. 80 percent of victims know the assailant and think they did something to provoke it.

Morong also informed the students on how to take precautions.

Stay away from drugs and alcohol and beware of where you place your drink.

"If it doesn't feel right," said Morong, "It's not."

When someone says no, they mean no. By the age of

18, one in three students will know someone who was a victim of sexual violence.

There is a rape crisis center in DuPage that is only 15 minutes away from West Chicago, there is also rape hotlines that can be reached at any time.

"Anytime you call that number, you will have someone to talk too," said Morong.

It can be reached at (630)-971-3927.

## Early retirement is an option for We-go teachers

By Michelle Loerzel

Teachers this year have a choice to participate in an early retirement option.

The plan includes three types of routes to choose from.

Teachers will have to tell the district by May 1 if they want to be a part of the early retirement option.

Anyone after this date may not be a part of the plan.

The first plan calls for retirement this year, the second plan is for retirement in 2004 and the third is to retire in 2005.

Supt. Lee Rieck decided to use the option after hearing teachers suggest the idea.

Rieck presented the plan to the Board of Education in February.

The early retirement option will help curb the budget deficit District 94 is experiencing, Rieck said.

In order to lower the bud-

get deficit, the school will have to hire inexperienced teachers who make less than experienced teachers do.

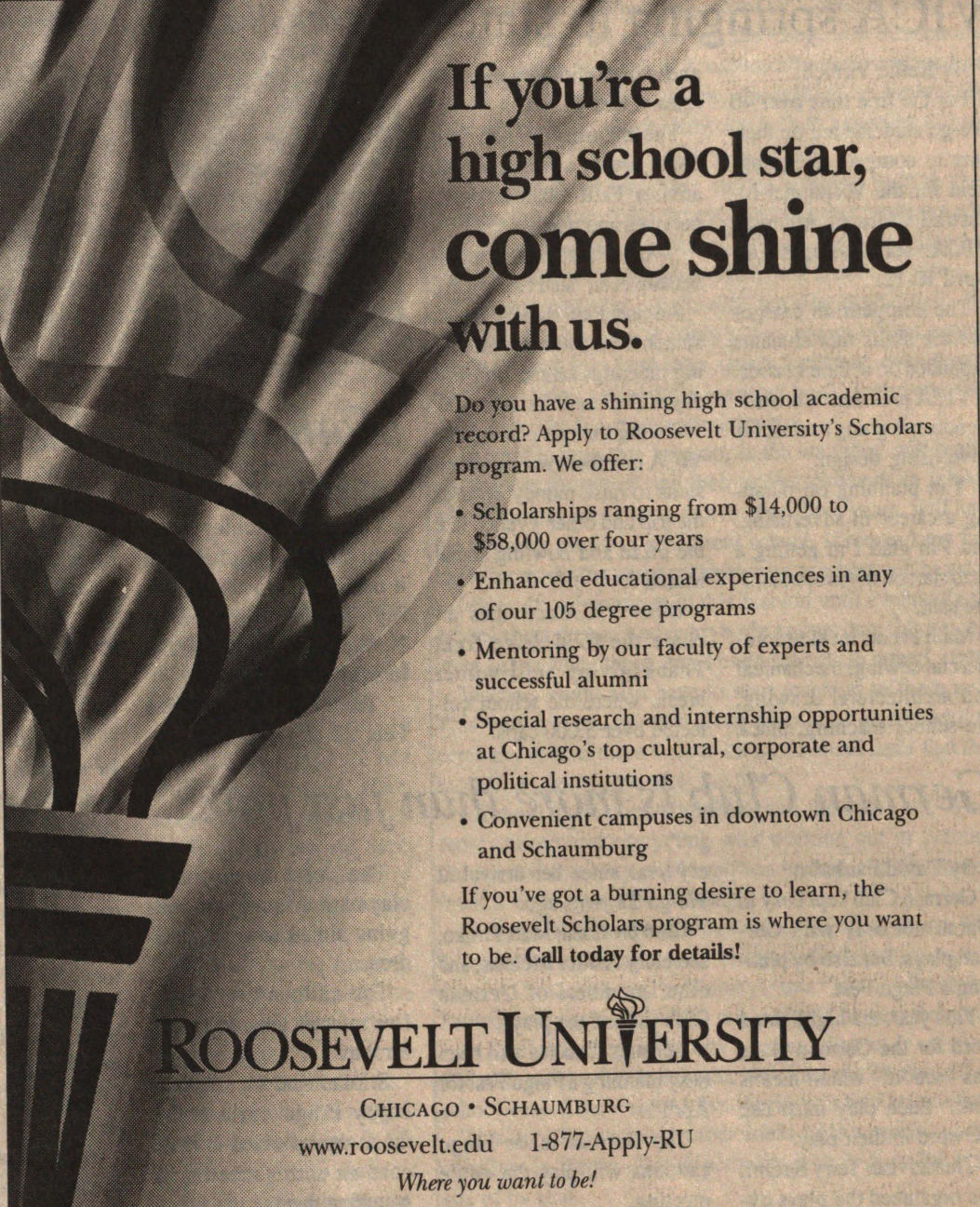
"This way it allows the veteran teachers to leave if they would like," said Rieck. "And allow the newer teachers to continue to teach."

The early retirement option is open to teachers who have been teaching in the district for 15 years or who had been employed for at least five years by the district and is on at least step 17 on the salary schedule.

Teacher salaries are paid according to education level, or steps.

Teachers who decided to retire this year before the early retirement option was presented will receive some extra money for their credible earnings, said Rieck.

Rieck believes the teachers are responding to the plan very well.



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## Renovations begin early

By Jessica Myers

Preparation for the demolition of Lincoln school begins in the field house locker rooms Monday.

The training room will be relocated, and the boys' and girls' locker rooms will be demolished.

Over spring break in the locker rooms, workers will demolish locker bases, HVAC, and plumbing and clear debris from the area.

"We are trying to have all the demolition done during spring break to get the debris out of the building before students return on March 31," said Gary Grizaffi, assistant superintendent of business.

The area will be used for a new weight room, a training room, and the STARS classroom that will move into the main building after the demolition of Lincoln school.

Grizaffi noted that a majority of the work will happen after July 4.

The music area will also be reorganized over the summer.

Grizaffi said that there will be one big room for the band and chorus and orchestra will move to room 220.

Other construction includes moving the Welcome Center to where the horticulture room is located, replacement of the carpet in the ASC, remodeling the sewing room in room 106, and miscellaneous tile replacement in the hallway.

"Northwest Contractors was awarded the contract with the lowest bid," said Gary Grizaffi, assistant superintendent of business.

The summer construction will cost \$504,388.

Northwest Contractors built the dark room and expanded the guidance offices in the past.

## Police make offer for info

By Mary Beth Selby

Carol Stream Police are offering up to \$1,000 as a reward for information regarding local vandalism.

For the past couple months, vandals have moved through the central and west part of town, knocking down street posts and stealing signs.

BB guns and paintball

guns have been used to damage cars and homes, said Sgt. Bryan Pece. It seems random, but there are no leads.

Damage of village property is a class four felony, punishable by at least one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

If anyone has information regarding the vandalism, call DuPage Crime Stoppers at 1-800-424-9119.

## VICA springing to state

By Kellie Virnich

For the first time over 40 We-go students are on their way to compete in Springfield for the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America, VICA, state competition April 10-12.

The competition categories are skills that students expanded on in their classes.

VICA president Christine Hendron is going to state for advertising design.

"I'm planning on pursuing a career in advertising, and I'm glad I'm getting a head start on my profession," she said.

Main events include commercial sewing, mechanical and architectural drawing, pre-school teaching, black

and white photography, and interior design.

The majority of new students are in sewing, which adviser Patti Kozlowski supervises and teaches.

"We have the largest membership ever," said Kozlowski.

Adviser Paul Junkroski said students can join by attending meetings on the first Friday of the month in room 106.

During the rest of the year, VICA members work concessions to raise money towards the trip and other events, like the pizza and bowling social March 7.

Other VICA activities include the food drive from Thanksgiving until winter break, where the school collected over 5,000 cans.

## German Club is more than just junk

By David Fairbairn

German Club kept busy in March not only with German plays, but also by planning a Pingu Fest.

This year, the highlighted word for the German plays was "schott," which means junk. Each play must use the word in their play.

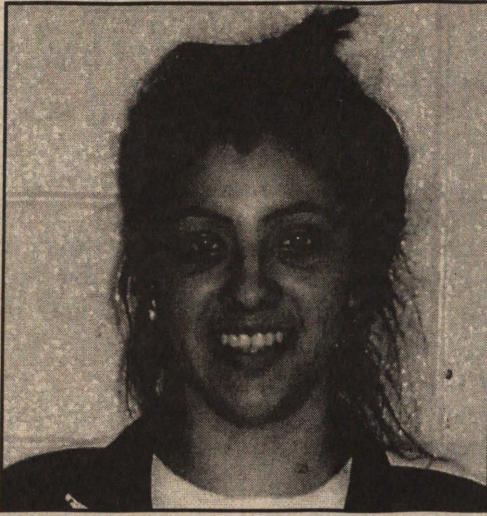
Club adviser Terry Strohm has organized the plays ev-

ery year since her arrival at We-go 27 years ago.

Club president Matt Timko, secretary Ashlee Mcleod, and other members of German Club judged the plays.

German Club has also been busy planning a Pingu Fest for April 1.

The German-made Pingu cartoons will play the entire meeting.



Beca Duran

## Beca Duran becomes Student of the Month

By Jessica Myers

Beca Duran is February's Student of the Month.

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

The fact that I actually might graduate is an accomplishment.

*Who is your favorite teacher in high school?*

I've always had exceptional teachers who have been willing to go out of their way to help me. I love Ms. Daneels, Ms. Kairys, Mr. Healy, Mrs. Laimins, Mr. Doll, and all my Spanish teachers.

*What is your favorite activity in high school?*

I love Junior State of America and Bible studies.

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

I think I want to go to Luther College in Decorah, Iowa but I'm not sure what I'll major in. I love every subject so that makes it hard to decide.

*What influenced these decisions?*

God is the biggest influence in all my decisions.

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

I want to be the President of the United States of America.

*What is your favorite pastime?*

I like to read and hang out with my friends.

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

It's probably because even though I mess up a million times a day, I still come to school with a good attitude.

## Council... (Continued from page 5)

produced four times a year about the Y.A. called "Read Me". The Y.A. writes movie reviews, computer game reviews, book reviews, poems, short stories, and a section called "About Me".

This section is where a teen writes a section about

him/herself.

White said she would like to see more people join the Y.A. Meetings are held on Tuesdays from 7 to 8 p.m. at the public library. If students are interested in joining they can call White at 231-1552 ext. 3.

## Math team heads to state competition

By Nic Tynczuk

The junior-senior math team has proven it has what it takes to go to the Illinois regional competition at Northern Illinois University in April.

Team members qualified Feb. 22 at the ICTM's re-

gional, and senior Mike Doll made the individual competition as well as the group.

Doll will join team members Pat Baur, Kim Peterik, Phil Buksa, Roger Maritote, and Andy Kiger April 26 at regionals.

They will tackle problems in algebra, geometry, advanced algebra, and pre-calculus.

As a group they will receive 20 problems and have 20 minutes to solve them without the use of a calculator.

Doll will receive 20 problems in his individual competition, but will have only 50 minutes to solve all of them.

And it was a long day for the freshmen team at the recent regional championship

## Club learns about Ireland

By Andria Bernard

The International Club embraced a piece of Ireland by listening to authentic Irish music to celebrate the ethnicity of St. Patrick's Day.

The purpose of the club is to explore different cultures and ethnic groups by visiting museums, celebrating holidays, and other activities, said Sarah Bellis, adviser of the club.

International Club's last event was at group member Jeff Raymond's house where they ate Chinese food, read their fortunes and looked at their zodiac signs to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

"In what other club can you eat cow tongue?" said Raymond.

A memorable moment for group member Alyssa Campagnoni was at the Shnitzel Platz where

## Show... (Continued from page 2)

winner of the raffle, which had been selling tickets all night.

Michelle Loerzel won All Night Long tickets and Katy Kostal won the prom tickets.

"The reason for the show is obviously to raise money for prom, but also so the students can get a chance to see different dress and tux styles for prom," said Kairys.

In total, the student council raised \$699.05 for prom. The junior student council now has \$3,000 to spend on prom.

With this increase, the council is trying to decide whether to upgrade the DJ or get more decorations.

## Club goes to the market

By Andrea Huntzicker

Spanish Club is running the Market Day for April to raise money for the Spanish

Campagnoni and friends went to the front of the restaurant and played with the band. Each person had solos, including Campagnoni. The club visited the restaurant earlier in the year.

"It was definitely embarrassing because I got stuck playing with these sticks, and there wasn't much I could do," said Campagnoni. "But I won't forget it...or the 'foot long' hot dog that flopped around on my plate."

Meetings for the club are held every Monday at 7:20 a.m. in room 401. To join, you can show up to meetings and help plan the upcoming activities.

Activities are once a month, usually trips include a visit to a museum, a gathering at a group member's house, or a restaurant to celebrate a holiday.

"If we upgrade the DJ then we have to cut back on decorations," junior student council president Jackie Vavrek said to the council on Thursday.

Garcia said that they council needs to save \$1,000 for homecoming and the senior gift.

"I enjoyed the prom fashion show. It was tiring, but it was well worth it when we saw the kids' faces after it was done," said Garcia.

Garcia also said that the show wasn't perfect.

"If I could change something, I would change the date so that more people would attend," he said.

exchange students.

Exchange students are scheduled to arrive in the fall from Spain, but in order to raise money for the guests, the Spanish Club participates in Market Day while continuing their normal activities.

The club studies the Spanish culture and takes an up-close look at the history of the country. On March 9 the club visited the Mexican Fine Arts Museum in Chicago.

The Spanish Club members study the material they learn in class in depth.

"It makes stuff you learn in class more personal," said Spanish Club adviser Sue Junkroski.

The students in the club come up with and plan the events they would like to participate in, which often include club outings.

Any students who would like more information about the club should meet the first Wednesday of every month in room 403.



Our View -

## War in Iraq is a blast from the past

War with Iraq? What is this, 1991?

Sadly, the year is 2003, and the world is about to see yet another pointless war with Iraq by none other than the highly applauded President George Bush, baby Bush this time.

George W. Bush accused Iraq of hiding nuclear and biological weapons and that Saddam Hussein eventually plans to use them in his fight against the democratic nations of the world.

But Hussein hasn't hidden the weapons, they've been in clear view for the past 20 years. Who gave Hussein the same weapons the U.S. has now vowed to eradicate? The United States itself.

During the eight-year war between Iraq and neighboring Iran, the U.S. provided billions of dollars to Iraq for weapons. Donald Rumsfeld, President Ronald Reagan's Special Envoy to the Middle East, even met with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz the same day the UN released information that Iraq had been using the money for chemical weapons. The Iraqi military would eventually go on to use the same chemical weapons to slaughter hundreds of thousands of Kurdish people.

Now the Secretary of Defense for George W. Bush, Rumsfeld is one of the most vocal advocates for the war with Iraq. He has even gone as far as condemning the use of the same



chemical weapons he knew about when he visited the country.

The George W. Bush administration claims that overthrowing the current Iraq regime would unite the nation and stabi-

lize the region. They even claim that a new regime would help ease Israeli-Palestinian conflicts.

In the past, the United States has overthrown governments in hopes of spreading democracy. Unfortunately, more often than not, these same leaders became corrupt and used their power for heinous acts.

For instance, in 1973 the U.S. staged a military coup in Chile. Democratically elected president Salvador Allende was assassinated by U.S. troops and replaced with Augusto Pinochet. Pinochet went on to declare himself dictator of Chile and ordered the murder of over 5,000 Chilean citizens.

Even current attempts to "reinstall" democracy into the Middle East have failed or undergone tremendous hardships. Since the overthrow of the Taliban in 2001, Afghanistan's new government has faced assassinations and disagreements within the party, all of this while they fought against the Taliban army. To this day, Afghanistan does not have a stable enough government to help it rebuild into a real democracy, and the United States has left them behind to focus on Iraq.

The George W. Bush administration is sadly mistaken if it honestly believes that a war in Iraq is justified. At a time of economic recession, George W. Bush needs to focus more on aiding the ailing U.S. than trying to ensure himself another term in office.

## Gas stations receive more than their fill

With the threat of war in Iraq and the loss of fuel production in Venezuela looming overhead, the prices on gas stations across the country have jumped.

The national average for a regular tank of gas is \$1.61, which is about 50 cents more than last year at this time, according to the Associated Press. In some locations around the nation, the price of premium fuel has topped \$2.

Venezuela's political unrest has resulted in the loss of oil for the U.S. The loss of Venezuela's contribution to our oil has forced oil producers to boost their production, but they still haven't made up for the loss yet.

The great demand for a smaller amount of fuel has also caused gas and oil prices to rise. The Northeastern U.S. has been experiencing a cold, snowy winter. Thus, oil prices for heating are much

higher than normal because gas is not as easily obtainable as it used to be.

The Associated Press said that the chief executive of the New England Fuel Institute warned of a "supply and pricing crisis" in the Northeast if conditions continue.

In fact, heating oil stocks are down 35 percent, according to the Associated Press.

If conditions stay as they are now, refineries will have to produce more oil than gasoline and there will be a minor shortage of gasoline for a time. But that minor shortage could keep gas prices up throughout the summer.

A way to fix this aggravating problem is for the U.S. to avoid war with Iraq. If war occurs, it will only further destabilize the region and gas prices will continue to inflate.

The threat of war alone has boosted prices already; imagine how high they would be

during a war.

Crude oil prices have gone up. This forces the petroleum industry to pay more for oil and gas. Americans pay more at the pump as a result.

In addition, some have seen evidence of price gouging, according to an ABC news report. Gas stations or their suppliers may raise their prices by a little bit in order to squeeze every last penny they can out of their customers.

Price gouging is illegal and there should be no reason for it to happen. Those who gouge prices at the expense of their paying customers should be punished accordingly. The elimination of price gouging would definitely lower pump prices.

Other than the political and judicial solutions, is there anything you could do to minimize your personal

gas costs? The answer, surprisingly, is yes.

First of all, you can avoid traffic. Congestion wastes gas, which is a waste of money. Rush hour is killer on your car. Plan alternate routes or use bypasses (such as using an interstate instead of a surface street around towns or in the suburbs).

That goes along with using cruise control. If you are able to, put on the cruise control for long distances. A constant speed decreases the amount of cash spent at the pump.

Going the speed limit will not only decrease your chances of paying a \$75 fine, but it might just save a few more dollars on your fuel purchase. The faster you go, or the harder you accelerate, the more gas you waste.

Following these tips will help reduce your fuel expenses in these times of inflated gas prices.

## Americans taping themselves into a corner

The threat of terrorism in the United States has developed into more of a reality since Sept. 11. To make things worse, the anthrax scare and the government's recent series of alerts have elevated Americans fear of biological warfare.

After the terrorist attacks, President George W. Bush advised Americans to go out and spend money in order to keep the economy up.

Now Americans are shopping more than ever, but this time they are venturing to hardware and grocery stores to purchase duct tape and shrinkwrap.

Americans are using their

duct tape and shrinkwrap to cover their car and house windows, along with any cracks or small openings in their homes. The fear has turned into an obsession.

Because of the recent Code Orange alert, some Americans are building their own safe houses and stocking up on every necessity they can.

Online companies' sales are up with the purchases of HazMat (Hazardous Materials) suits and gas masks.

Even telemarketers are offering free gas masks with a purchase of whatever product they are selling.

Living in this fear is becoming a normal lifestyle for

some.

Not only are Americans locking themselves in their homes because of the fear of war, now they have stopped breathing because of the panic of chemical warfare.

It seems that Americans are succeeding at the one and only thing that terrorists are trying to achieve, they are packing their survival bags and showing their fear.

By reacting this way, we are allowing the terrorists to win. To have Americans living in fear is exactly what terrorists want.

Is the panic of chemical warfare taking over many people's lives?

Anyone who feels the need to shrinkwrap their car in order to drive to work is letting this theory run their life.

People should keep in mind that this type of war could happen at any time, when they least expect it. After all, did anyone see Sept. 11th coming? No amount of shrinkwrap could have prevented that tragedy.

Just because the future is uncertain doesn't mean we have to live in fear and expect the worse, it means we must live life to the fullest.

Americans need to learn to breathe normally again; life in a HazMat suit doesn't sound like a life of happiness.

## "No Child" leaves children far behind

President George W. Bush's No Child Left Behind Act will do just the opposite if it continues.

The act was initiated to better America's schools but instead forces schools to shut down or go bankrupt.

First, look at the act itself. According to the act's website, it is based on four principals to try and better America's youth: stronger accountability for results, increased flexibility and local control, expanded options for parents, and an emphasis on teaching methods that have been proven to work.

Starting in 2005 the schools will have yearly tests to measure how well these guidelines work: one in elementary, one in junior high, and one in high school.

At first glance, this sounds like a great idea. Every school is expected to raise their test scores by 5 percent every year, and to help keep the system fair the results will be separated out into categories such as economically disadvantaged, racial or ethnic minority groups, disabilities, or limited English proficiency. Each category is then expected to raise their scores by 5 percent each year as well.

So, all students who have started learning English their freshman year must take the same test as other freshmen with English as their first language. By the next year they had better be caught up enough to raise their scores, or else.

The same goes for people with learning disabilities. If a student has a learning disability, they have to learn enough by the next year to raise their scores 5 percent, even though they may have a hard time learning basic arithmetic they were first introduced to in kindergarten.

Another hole in this program is the way they will punish the schools for not raising their scores. Students in schools who do not improve their scores after three years will have the option to enroll in a different school. If scores keep failing to increase after another three years, teachers will be asked to leave. It will continue in this fashion until eventually the school shuts down. And everybody knows that children can learn better when there aren't even schools to attend, right?

Teachers might also have to start teaching to these tests. This will prevent students from absorbing ideas and concepts and instead force them to memorize hard facts that they most likely will forget after the test.

A school in Oakland complied with the entire act. Their scores raised and everything was working out as planned. Except that now they're \$98 million in debt, and the government is making no effort to help.

Governors from all states met with the president at a Feb. 24 conference to ask for more money to initiate the programs required in the act, and as Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell of Pennsylvania said, "(Bush's) not going to be very helpful."

In Portland, Oregon the city's school district is receiving \$28 million less than it thought, and must cut 24 days off the school year. That's almost five weeks worth of school days.

This act, like so many other ideas in this world, sounds excellent in theory. But in actuality it truly does the opposite of its goal.



*Kyle's Kolumn*

## The verdict: video killed the radio star

Remember music? You know, trumpets, saxophones, flutes, and a general orchestra. People enjoyed that music. It was uplifting, powerful, and spiritual.

In the early 1900s, jazzy little numbers started springing up everywhere. There were dances and everybody had a jolly ol' time. The '50s brought Elvis and the emergence of rock 'n' roll. Then the Beatles and The Monkees took over the '60s pop charts. In the '70s, music went into full swing. That's right, it was time for real rock 'n' roll. Led Zeppelin. Pink Floyd. Stevie Ray Vaughn. Guitars. Drums. *Music.*

When the '80s rolled around, synthesizers became a key instrument (and I use "instrument" loosely) in processing much of the music of that era. Need a cool drum beat? Wait, I think I saw a button on here that did something like that.... Ah! Here it is, right next to the weird buzz-noise button.

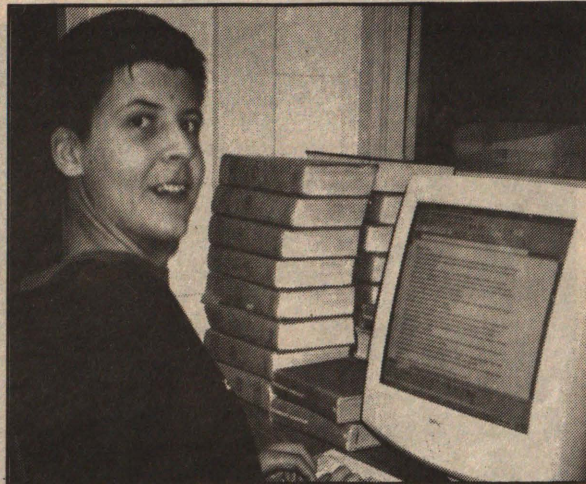
So you pressed a few buttons and looped them for three minutes, put some sort of lyrics and voice into the mix, and that's all you needed to make a number one single.

But what else did we have in the '80s? Think back. The year was 1981, and the very first *music video* premiered. It sparked the beginning of the end of what was originally music. It was the Buggie's "Video Killed the Radio Star," and what more of an appropriate tune to be the first played on MTV?

Suddenly, everyone could put a face to their songs. Namely, their face. It was all downhill from there. Aspiring musicians realized that they didn't need to have talent as long as they had a pretty face, nice body, and a mediocre voice because their singing could just be filtered over to make it sound better.

This was all the work of MTV and music videos. I can hear you asking right now, "You mean to tell me that MTV *destroyed music*?" Short answer: yes. Long answer: definitely.

What has music evolved into these days? Back in the '70s



most of the major musicians weren't exactly good looking people. They weren't ugly by any means, but they weren't the 20-year-old muscle-bound, silicon-packed, heartthrobs of today either. Their music attracted people to their concerts and sold them their albums.

Today, ask a guy if he likes Britney Spears, and chances are you'll hear, "She's hot." Okay, but how is her music? This is when the guy walks away whistling. You never hear somebody give that same explanation for Robert Plant. However, ask anyone who actually remembers the '70s and you can bet that Zeppelin would receive much praise for their music.

I'll admit that one reason music today has become less instrumental is because it is turning into a much more lyrical art form. While the quality of music diminishes, the perplexity of the lyrics can become more powerful. That isn't to say all music has followed this path.

Take rap music, for instance. I don't want to stereotype

here, because all rap isn't like this, but I don't think I'm exaggerating when I say that rap consists of a lot of fast cars, beautiful women, and gun violence instead of insight and thought provocation.

I wholeheartedly believe that rap wouldn't be nearly as popular today had it not been for music videos. I don't even think rap would *exist*. Rock 'n' roll today is probably the only music that has a foundation on talent. Modern rock, I'll admit, is not that bad.

However, I've noticed a lot of it is either becoming punk-like or depressing. What we need now is some powerful, awesome kind of rock. The kind of rock 'n' roll where if you don't get up and play the air guitar while listening to it, you're either deaf or a robot.

We need to abolish music videos. There, I said it. Get rid of them once and for all, and we'll begin to see the talent emerge from the shadows again, waiting to breathe some new life into this stale period of music degradation.

After having said all this, I don't want to sound like I'm a music hating freak. I do, to a limited extent, enjoy listening to things like techno (but not that trancy thump-thump-thump club music), and as I've mentioned earlier, modern rock is not half bad.

I am also glad that groups like the Backstreet Boys and N'Sync have faded out of existence and the members who tried to hit off a successful solo career are failing. I don't wish for these people to suddenly roll over and die, but I'm happy that they are pretty much at the end of their careers.

I think that banning music videos will have a surprisingly positive effect on the music industry, and good music just may be reborn.

Who knows? In the near future, the Grammys may even mean something...

## Cafeteria food is lightening its load

By Mary Beth Selby

As more studies reveal childhood obesity as a continuing problem, it's good to see We-go students are aware of unhealthy cuisine and are making changes in the school menu.

When Quest Food Services, the food provider for We-go, asked students to respond to a lunch menu survey, they replied with a multitude of suggestions for menu changes. Some of these changes included adding Chinese food, soups, Boca burgers, full breakfast menus, vegetarian subs, more vegetable choices, and a better variety of fruits.

Teens are showing a more active interest in their health. Quest advocated healthy eating by immediately changing their menu based on student requests, thus aiding students in their constant battle for healthier living.

This is good news since, in the past 10 years, the number of overweight children and teens has doubled. A recent issue of *Newsweek* said 15 percent of children 6-years of age or older are considered

too heavy.

Autopsies of teens and young adults have shown researchers that their early deaths were caused by heart attacks and strokes triggered by clogged arteries.

An active effort to wash out the fat-laden fast food and super-size portions, Henry McGill, M.D. of Southwest

### *America must learn from Columbia disaster*

By Michelle Loerzel

All jobs have risks. Taking off into space is one that has a high risk, and NASA knows this. The Columbia astronauts knew this and were willing to take it.

NASA should not postpone their program into space because of the Columbia tragedy. Yes it is a tragedy, but America needs to move on and learn from the recent space shuttle disaster.

If there is a problem, then solve it, but do not hold back other space missions. Going into space is always going to be risky and the men and women aboard the shuttle understand this, as do their families.

Even President George W.

Foundation for Biomedical Research said, would make the battle for heart disease prevention easier.

To counter the problem, McGill and Peter O. Kwitrovich, M.D. suggest that children eat foods low in cholesterol and saturated fats; emphasizing fruits, vegetables, and whole grains;

Bush does not want the disaster to delay other missions.

Navy Capt. Frederick Hauck, who was the space shuttle Discovery's mission commander in 1988, said the risk they were taking was clear to him and his fellow astronauts, but it was a risk they chose to take.

Shuttle Discovery was the first mission back into space after the Challenger disaster occurred Jan. 28, 1986, when it exploded 73 seconds after takeoff. The seven astronauts who died on the Challenger were the last fatalities before Columbia.

This did not stop NASA from exploring space, and neither should the Columbia

don't add salt to their food; don't smoke; exercise and participate in sports or physical activities; and be involved in community activities that sponsor heart-healthy programs in order to work out healthy life plans.

Luckily, We-go is moving towards the healthy eating direction.

disaster.

Soon investigators will find out what went wrong with Columbia. Then debates will begin again about whether or not to terminate future shuttle missions.

Space travel has resulted in many great discoveries and there is still more to find. Postponing the program will only hold humans back from making these discoveries.

It is important to ask questions and understand the cost astronauts pay for scientific advancement.

These dangers should be considered but should not delay the program. Let people willing to risk their lives in the name of discovery take the chance.

## *Interview puts Jackson and public on thriller of a ride*

By Anna Nubie

Michael Jackson: insane, normal, bad father, good father? It seems impossible to keep up with how the media portrays him.

The media has held Jackson under a microscope for years and it needs to stop now.

Recently TV interviewer Martin Bashir stayed with Jackson and interviewed him in hopes of creating a TV program. The intent was to clear up questions that fans and the media always had about Jackson's life and children. It seemed as though Bashir's intentions were good, in the beginning.

After the show aired, Jackson was outraged by Bashir's editing job, but Jackson was a step ahead of him. He had his own cameras filming the exact same interview, but Bashir was acting a little differently on Jackson's tape.

On Jackson's tape, Bashir continually gave the impression that Jackson was a good father, yet misunderstood after a hard life in the media.

At one point Bashir applauded Jackson for his parenting techniques. He said that not only does Jackson have spectacular relationships with children, "nothing short of spiritual," and that he almost weeps from happiness every time he sees them together.

Bashir told Jackson he is disgusted with how the media edits out events that happen in interviews. Bashir flat out said that he would not edit out anything of the conversation they had, yet he went ahead and did it. He even completely edited out himself and everything he said to Jackson. Seems funny how that works.

No matter what Jackson does, he will be in the media as long as the public remains curious. He may do something questionable, but doesn't everybody? Yet because he's famous the world watches to catch his slightest mistake.

Jackson's mysteries cannot be cleared up. People will continue to have doubts while others will always remain loyal fans. It seems impossible to know one way or another what to believe. Some say no publicity is bad publicity, but either way any publicity will only grow into more and more of it.

Instead of continuing the madness of Jackson being on every channel, the media should leave him alone. If he harms someone or does something drastic, then focus on him.

Jackson is well past his 15 minutes of fame and this needs to be a chapter that the world of gossip closes.

### 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.*



## Behind the scenes: Shadowy figures set the stage for productions

By Sam West

Students are all familiar with the plays, musicals, and productions that take place in the auditorium, but not many know the people who pull the show together behind the scenes.

But hidden in the dark, the seldom-seen light operators, sound people, and backstage workers all help put together the school's stage productions.

Technical director Margot Reges directs the volunteers as to what they do.

She gives light and sound cues to their respective operators and programs the lights and sounds.

Reges makes sure that backstage operations are set up, such as strobe lights, sirens, mikes, curtains, and other various items.

The lights are controlled from a light board, where the operator can manually brighten and dim lights or program lights to go on at the push of a button.

Reges said that lights were her favorite job because she gets to do fun and interesting things with them. She can make the lights look how she wants.

During play practices or rehearsals, Reges is in the school building for at least 25 hours per week.

She also attends college every day at North Central College in Naperville.

"When I'm here during school, I'm constantly running around trying to find people and talk to them to get information about shows that are going on," she said.

Reges talks with instructors mainly about scheduling or choreography of a production.

She also burns CDs, writes and plans around schedules, and recruits people to work. "We need to have this all prepared before the practices," said Reges.

Erika Kane has been in tech crew for two years.

She has done lights, spot-light, and backstage work. Backstage, Kane sets up mikes and makes sure performers are ready to begin their presentation.

"It's pretty challenging," Kane said.

The challenge comes because the job requires multi-tasking, with dimming and bumping lights, and making music and sound work.

The hardest part of the tech crew, Reges said, was making sure things fall into place quickly.

"Sometimes things come up really quickly," Reges said. "You have to be on top of things, otherwise they fall apart."

Josh Foster, who has been with tech crew for three years, said, "When you don't get the job you like, it's really hard to put forth the effort."

His favorite job depends on the event.

For plays and the musical, Foster said he prefers spot-light, but for musical concerts, he likes to do sound, where he records the concert onto a tape.

Kane said that sometimes, working on the tech crew can be frustrating.

"The fact that they (performers) don't understand that we're programming lights or music and they yell at us is frustrating," Kane said.

Katy Kostal, who dances with the dance production group, agreed.

"If they don't kill themselves from frustration, I'd be surprised. We do appreciate all the hard work they've done," said Kostal.

Reges, however, said that the most frustrating part of being technical director is when her volunteers don't show up to work when they said they would.

"If people don't show up after committing, that makes me pretty angry," she said.

But despite all of this, Reges said that she likes doing her job.

"Throughout all the frustrations, it's fun," she said.

Both Kane and Foster had one complaint, though.

They wish they would get paid for working the plays, which require the most amount of time.



Staff Photo

Ian Rewers takes charge of managing sound tech during the German plays.

## Bulut remixes life and spins teaching into a new career

By Melissa Stevens

French teacher Zerrin Bulut hopes to put a new spin on teaching.

Students of Bulut, one of We-go's newest French teachers, were shocked when they found out that she used to be a DJ.

Bulut worked in radio before her career change to teaching.

She worked as a DJ and as musical director for such popular stations as Q101 and The Mix as well as other local stations.

Most of her jobs involved music programming. Through her job she met bands like No Doubt, Bush, and Eve 6.

"I met them before they were big," Bulut said.

When she was the director of programming, bands would come to her for air time.

Her interest in radio started in high school, where she worked on the school's radio station.

When she attended the

University of Wisconsin Madison, she interned at the local radio station there.

She knew that radio was the place she wanted to be and received a degree in

knew that she didn't want to work in radio anymore, but she also did not want to work in an office either.

"I needed an unconventional job," she said. "I'm not



Staff Photo

Bulut used pictures of her student's pets to help them learn animal names in French.

broadcast communications.

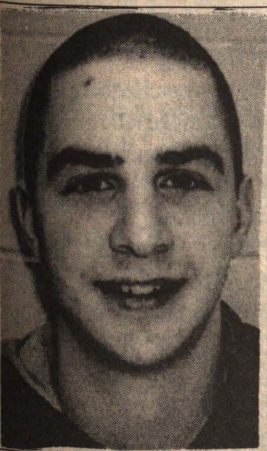
When Bulut became bored with being a DJ, she knew it was time for a job change.

"It just kind of ran its course," Bulut said. She

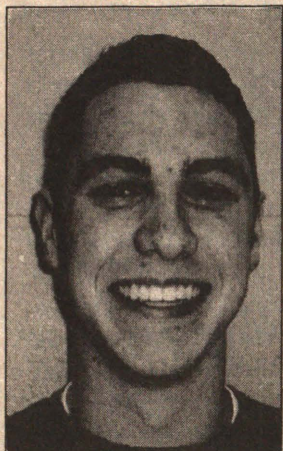
a 9 to 5, work-in-the-office type of person." Instead, Bulut decided to become a teacher.

Her mother taught English (See Bulut page 12)

## What is the most embarrassing thing you've ever done?



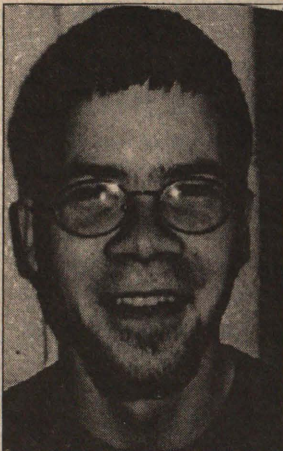
Erik Nelson junior



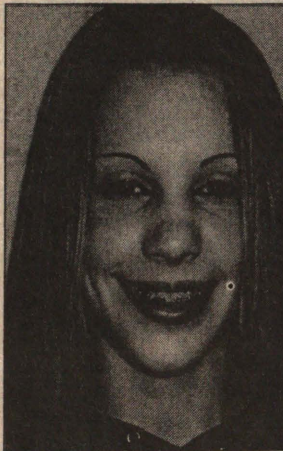
Sean Warren senior



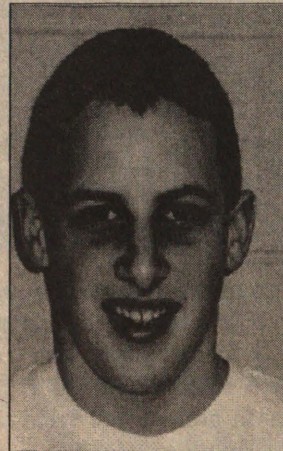
Cari Brown junior



Stephen "Q" Butt senior



Kayla Kramer freshman



Adam Schumacher freshman

When I was sent to the dean for saying Mr. Rogers is a creepy old man and I'm glad he's dead.

In last year's musical when I was Snoopy I fell off the doghouse and cut my knee. I let out a yelp that was caught on tape.

I went to the bus stop freshman year and waited for the bus and it never came. Then I realized there was no school.

In gym class I was skating backwards and crashed into the stereo and knocked the speaker off.

On the first day of school this kid jumped in front of me and almost picked me up because he thought I was someone else.

I asked a senior where the fourth floor is.



## One teen mom's story:

### What happens when children have children?

By Stephanie Bodane  
Imagine it's a Saturday night, a time you normally would be out with friends. It's 1 a.m., and instead of being out having fun, you're taking care of your newborn, and you're only 17.

Welcome to Rebecca Hedberg's life. She was 17 and a senior at We-go when she found out she was three months pregnant.

Hedberg and her boyfriend had talked about having kids eventually.

"I wasn't ready to have kids yet, I told him yes, but when we were older," said Hedberg.

Hedberg had just made it through a drug problem and was finally looking forward to starting over. But then she began experiencing morning sickness, and her body felt different. She knew something wasn't right.

"On May 23, I went to the doctor with my mom for an ultrasound. They told me I was pregnant, I didn't know how to tell my mom, so I just walked into the lobby and told her I needed to schedule my first pre-natal appointment," said Hedberg.

Hedberg said that her mom was upset, but telling the rest of her family was the hard part. She didn't know the best way to tell them, so one day she just blurted it out in front of her brother and dad.

Both were extremely disappointed, especially because she had been working so hard to get her life back together after a rough time in her life.

Her life became worse than she could have expected. Her boyfriend, and father of her unborn child, broke up with her and didn't know yet that she was pregnant.

"When I told him he started saying that I must have cheated on him, and that he would never take me back," said Hedberg.

Hedberg said that she had considered all of the options she had, even though she was too far in her pregnancy to terminate.

"I considered abortion and adoption, but when I started to feel my son kick, I decided I couldn't give that up," said Hedberg.

Hedberg and her family decided to meet with her boyfriend's family and figure

out what they were going to do. The two families decided to split the costs of medical bills and helping out with the baby.

But regardless of the plans, the baby's father never contributed during the pregnancy, which included not showing up for Hedberg's first ultrasound.

On Nov. 6, 2002, Hedberg was walking to her third hour class when she went into labor. She was brought down to the nurse and the school tried contacting her parents and her current boyfriend. Nobody was close enough to get her to the hospital, so an ambulance was called.

Joseph William Scott Hedberg was born at 12:03 a.m., 15 hours after Hedberg went into labor.

"Labor was really hard, it was the most painful thing I have ever gone through," said Hedberg.

After her son was born Hedberg said she didn't know where to begin or how to take care of him.

"I didn't know how to do anything. They don't tell you what to do; I had no idea how to change a diaper. I

didn't know how to take care of my baby," said Hedberg.

Life has changed for Hedberg; her teenage years have faded away. In just three months of being a parent Hedberg has had to grow up and become a responsible adult.

That includes waking up about three times a night to comfort her crying child, sometimes not knowing what he wants.

"He goes to bed around 7 and then he wakes up at 10 p.m., 1 a.m., and then 3 a.m. When he wakes up again at 5:30 I've had enough, so I just stay up and get ready for school," said Hedberg.

Hedberg drops Joseph off at Moms in School, which is a nursery at a nearby Methodist church, every morning before she starts her school day.

"I have a short schedule but it's hard to keep up. I am

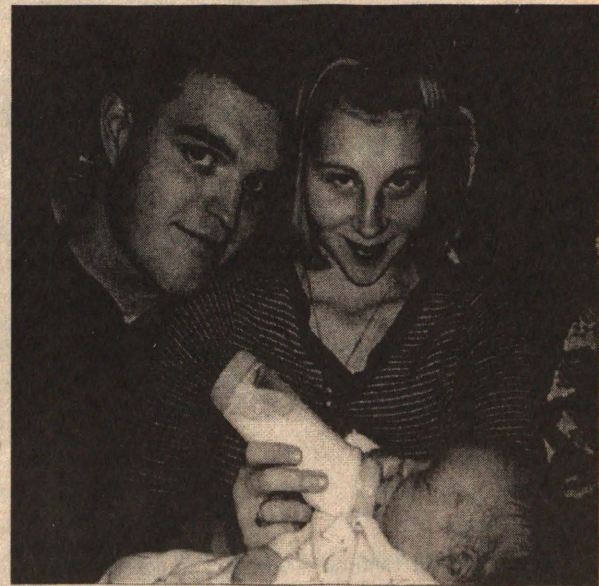


Photo courtesy of Rebecca Hedberg

Hedberg is still managing to get by with her new son Joseph with the help of her fiancé.

so exhausted," said Hedberg. It doesn't end there for her. It only begins again after school is over. Hedberg feeds Joseph and plays with him until 7 p.m. when she puts him to bed.

She can't recall the last time she has had time to herself. But along with the stress of taking care of her baby, Hedberg, like most teenage mothers, has financial problems.

"I have a child, I have no

money. Every penny goes to him. I have no money for myself. You just feel like you can't do anything," said Hedberg.

Along with the expensive hospital bills, Joseph has medical bills for ear infections and other medical emergencies. Joseph costs Hedberg about \$43 a day for necessities such as diapers and formula.

"I cry everyday because I am frustrated and disappointed in myself," said Hedberg.

She also explained how she reaches the point where she has to put Joseph in his crib and walk away, just to get a break.

"I just can't sit there with him when I am angry and upset. I just need 10 minutes to myself," said Hedberg.

One of the hardest things is losing all your friends, said Hedberg.

"I lost a lot of friends. Every time we talk it's about my son, they all want to know if it is getting easier," said Hedberg.

Hedberg does have plans for her future. She plans on going back to school to become a nurse. She doesn't know how long that is going to take her. She also plans to have more children in the future.

"I want to have more kids later in life. I've always wanted to be a mom, but not now. Maybe when I am 25," said Hedberg.

As for now, Hedberg is just trying to make it through being a teenage mom and dealing with the everyday reality of her choices.

"In the movies they make it look so easy, they don't show you how expensive it is. I'm losing weight, I am tired, they don't show that," said Hedberg.

The only advice she gives now to teens is to wait to have sex.

"If I would have known, I never would have had sex. My son is a blessing, but I was young and stupid. I would have waited until I was married," said Hedberg.

## Agencies offer help for both pregnant teen girls, partners

By Melissa Stevens  
Pregnant teens at We-go have a wide array of different resources they can depend on in their time of need. Any pregnant teen unsure of what she should do should first contact her counselor or her social worker.

Social worker Diana Alcalá works with many pregnant girls in the school.

"I make certain they know what they'll do," said Alcalá. She also makes sure teen moms are aware of the resources available to them.

The DuPage County Health Department offers pregnancy tests and prenatal care for those who cannot afford it.

They also offer Teen Parent Services (TPS), a free program to aid mothers during the pregnancy and after.

TPS provides a tutoring service for moms after their baby is born. They send a tutor to provide the teen mom with the lessons she missed for six to eight weeks after the child is born to help keep the mom up-to-date on work so that she can keep up with school.

TPS will also help teen moms find and pay for reli-

able child care. They also may help pay for required school supplies and textbooks and any other additional fees. There is also a chance to earn valuable gifts for staying in school.

The program is designed to help young parents stay in school and earn a diploma so that they become self-sufficient adults.

Another resource teen moms can turn to is the program designed after the MELD (Minnesota Early Learning Design) program and is called The Greater DuPage MYM (MELD for Young Moms).

The program provides parent education, home visits, and nursing during the pregnancy and after.

"(MYM) makes sure the parents have the necessary information to parent their child," Alcalá said.

According to their website, MYM focuses on health, child development, child guidance, family management, and parental development. It also stresses the importance of education and career development for young moms to increase their self-esteem and self-suffi-

ciency. "The meetings) give mothers an idea of what the baby is going to do," said Alcalá.

The group is available for moms 13 to 22 and meets weekly to discuss issues important to mothers.

Materials, sites, child care, and transportation are free to participants.

In addition to MYM, young fathers can become involved with their babies by participating in the MYD (MELD for Young Dads) program.

MYD is available to young fathers 15 to 25 and meets weekly to discuss fathering, child care, growth and development, health and safety, legal issues, school and work, and personal well-being. Child care and meals are provided free of charge to MYD participants.

Scholarships are also available to parents who participate in both groups so that they continue with their education beyond high school.

Volunteer parent facilitators that offer personal experience and guidance through

### Teen Pregnancy Facts and Statistics

- Every 26 seconds, an American teenager becomes pregnant.
- About 1 million teens in the nation become pregnant each year. About one half decide to give birth.
- Of teens who chose to give birth, less than 4 percent chose adoption.
- More than 590 babies were born to DuPage adolescents in 1998.
- More than 80 percent of unmarried teen mothers become impoverished and dependent on welfare.
- 78 percent of teen pregnancies are unplanned, accounting for about 1/4 of all accidental pregnancies annually.
- Nearly 4 in 10 teen pregnancies end in abortion (not including miscarriages).
- 7 in 10 teen mothers complete high school, but are less likely to go on to college.
- Among sexually experienced teens, approximately 8 percent of 14-year-olds, 18 percent of 15-17-year-olds, and 22 percent of 18-19-year-olds become pregnant each year.

Statistics gathered from the Greater DuPage MYM and the Alan Guttmacher Institute

the tough stages of pregnancy and childbirth run both groups.

Another program available to young mothers is the Moms in School program. Moms in School is a state licensed child care program designed to keep mothers in school.

The program provides affordable child care for parents and a safe, comfortable place for their children to be. They also believe that education and the desire to learn "trickles down" to the entire family.

"(Moms) have a better chance for themselves and their baby if they can stay in

school," said counselor Maura Bridges, who works with young moms in the school to make sure they have all their academic needs met.

Moms in School can take up to 12 children at a time, ranging from 6 weeks to 3-years-old. The program used to be located in the school, but is now in the United Methodist Church on Church and Wood streets, right across from the high school.

Though full at the moment, it is available to young mothers from any high school in the area. The parent must be able to provide their own transportation.



## Singing cop croons upbeat message to help students

By Melissa Stevens

Everyone needs a singing cop to lift them up.

Russ Wolf, the cop that sings, came to We-go March 6 to emphasize the importance of setting goals and putting yourself out on the line to achieve them. Students from the Operation Snowball program and those who were unable to become involved were welcome to attend Wolf's presentation.

Wolf started the night out with a group activity. Every member of the audience received a notecard. Wolf then gave everyone three sets of choices. The first choice was between chocolate and vanilla ice cream, the second was between hip-hop and classic rock 'n' roll music, and the third was between California and Florida.

After the audience finished writing their choices, Wolf asked everyone to find another person with the exact same selections as their own. Not everyone could find a

match. Only some found people with their choices, the rest were alone.

The same thing happens in life, Wolf pointed out. Some people are in groups, and some are loners.

"We're all looking for somebody or something where we belong," said Wolf.

He then spoke about his own challenges in high school, where some children lived in housing projects and some were extremely rich. The school was full of labels, and it could be difficult to cross those lines, just like in schools today.

Wolf even admitted to feeling alone in high school.

"I was never the star of the team, never even the starter most of the time," Wolf said. But he did do his best to contribute to his community.

He continued the contribution after high school. Wolf became a police officer, starting as a campus officer at COD and then working for the Naperville Police Depart-

ment. Wolf has spent the past 20 years with the department. He has worked as a crime prevention officer, a DARE officer, and has served on different Naperville committees, such as service marketing.

"Get out there and make a contribution," Wolf said. Such contributions could eventually change your life.

Setting goals and accomplishing them were also a large portion of Wolf's message, which he related to his own life.

Wolf told the story of one New Year's Eve when he had to work a 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. shift. His brother-in-law had just received divorce papers from his wife, and Wolf was supposed to visit him after the shift.

While on duty, Wolf received a call about a man who ended his life because his wife had just served him with divorce papers. Wolf automatically thought that it was his brother-in-law and (See Wolf page 12)

## Hein wrestles with leaving We-go

By Bridget Geraghty

After 34 years of doing his dream job, Robert Hein has decided to coach himself into retirement.

He has spent a long time teaching, but his desire to be a wrestling coach began when he was a wrestler in high school. From that he knew he wanted to coach the sport.

"I decided to coach wrestling and the avenue for that was a physical education teacher," said Hein.

He grew up in Iowa and attended Iowa State University to earn his bachelor's degree in physical education and social studies, and nine years later he earned his master's in guidance at Western Illinois University.

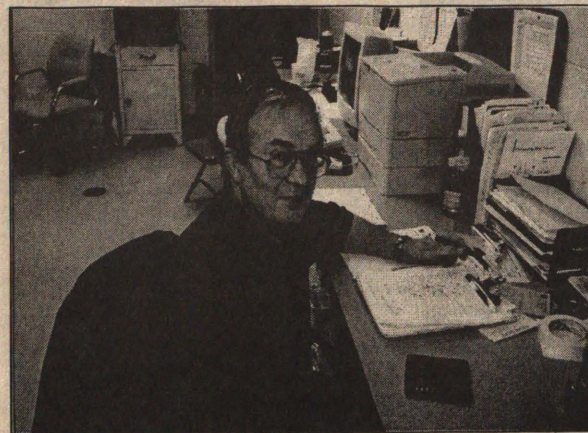
He has had quite a journey so far, starting out at Davenport West High School in Iowa as a driver's education teacher and the head wrestling coach.

Next he taught American History in DeWitt and again was the head wrestling coach for seven years.

After moving around multiple times and teaching various subjects, including junior high science, Hein decided to quit the teaching profession and sell insurance.

In the fall of 1978, Hein heard about an opening in We-go. He realized he didn't like what he was doing, so he decided to apply.

"I applied, was inter-



Staff Photo

Physical education teacher Robert Hein calculates grades for the quarter.

viewed, and offered the job of head wrestling coach and a physical education teacher," said Hein.

During his 25 years of teaching at We-go, Hein also taught health education, driver's education, and was a counselor for 14 years.

He has done more than just teaching, however. He sponsored student council, pep club and SADD over the years. SADD is the only club he currently sponsors.

In fact, Hein helped start the chapter of SADD at We-go. He brought one health education class to a SADD meeting at Glenbard West, and when they returned the students wanted to start their own chapter.

Hein loves his experience at We-go, and even made sure both his children graduated from here.

"I wouldn't send (my chil-

dren) to a school I didn't approve of highly. Quality instruction goes on here, and it is an outstanding school," said Hein.

He laughed as he said it was an extra bonus to keep on eye on his kids and keep them out of trouble.

Throughout it all, Hein said while teaching is a very rewarding career, the most rewarding part is coaching, because you become close with students and their families. He also had the opportunity to coach his own son and become closer to him.

Hein has led a very productive life so far, and said he wants to retire to have time for traveling, his three grandchildren, reading, and yard work.

Reflecting back on his time here, Hein said, "If I could do it all over again, I would do it the same."

## Bruno looks back on years at We-go before he bids farewell

By Bridget Geraghty

When Robert Owens started teaching at We-go in 1970, he was also the sophomore wrestling coach. The captains decided to give everybody nicknames and they thought Owens looked a like a professional wrestler of the time.

Thirty-three years later he is still known as "Bruno."

During his time at We-go, Owens has taught health education, biology, physical education, home maintenance, and Cisco networking class. He is currently teaching physical education and Cisco.

Owens never intended to be a teacher, however. In fact, he never intended to go to college.

"My football coach (Dick Kerner) knew I loved to play football, so he took me to Northern Illinois University and introduced me to the football coach," said Owens.

Between his coach and his parents, Owens said, he had strong support to attend college, and after a little more persuading, he decided to go.

It still took him six years to graduate, though, because the Vietnam War started and he was drafted.

Owens was unable to complete basic training because he became sick with pneumonia. While everyone he

knew went overseas, he was sent to the hospital.

The day before he was supposed to be recycled through basic training again, a sergeant entered the hospital.

The sergeant needed men who could type, and whoever could would be sent to Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland, where the army tests the new weapons.

"I took typing in high school, so I raised my hand. That's why I always say my typing teacher saved my life," said Owens with a laugh.

He ended up at We-go because Kerner, his old coach, wanted him as an assistant coach for football. He later became a sophomore and assistant varsity coach.

In his 33 years here, Owens has also coached wrestling at the freshman, sophomore and JV levels; tennis at the sophomore and varsity levels; and boys and girls soccer at all levels.

Owens loves We-go so much he even moved into the school district so his children could attend here.

"We were in Elgin, and my wife and I wanted a diversified school district to better prepare (my children) for the world," said Owens.

Not that doesn't have regrets. He said if he could do it all over again he would want to get more involved

with leadership, such as peer counseling and the student support center.

(See Bruno page 13)

## Hunt joins We-go to assist special education

By Michelle Loerzel

After sampling We-go during her teacher training days, Jeanne Hunt decided to come back to We-go for her career.

"Teaching here was my best teaching experience," said Hunt.

She now teaches in the special education department.

"I teach all different subjects like math, health and community living," said Hunt.

For community living, Hunt takes students into the community to places such as at Walgreen's and McDonald's to help them learn how to function as an individual.

During her free time, Hunt helps with the Best Buddies program that started up this year. Hunt and teachers Jacqueline Wood and Constance Stadler, are the advisers for the club.

The program is working out really well, and both best buddies are benefiting from the club, said Hunt.

"Best Buddies is doing great, and I would like it to continue on into next year," said Hunt.

Hunt grew up in a family full of teachers. Her mom went back to college to become a teacher of fifth grade when Hunt was in fifth grade. Hunt's aunt and cousins are also teachers.

"I have always wanted to be a teacher," said Hunt.

After talking with her aunt and observing her special education class, Hunt decided she would like to teach special education as well.

Before student teaching, Hunt came to We-go for part of her field base teaching and continued on to Turner Grade School and others.

Hunt earned her teaching degree from Illinois State with a minor in Spanish. Right now Hunt is earning her masters through Aurora University and will finish in 2004.

Before she came to We-go, she taught sixth grade special education at Algonquin



Staff Photo

Hunt established a learning program to help special education students function better in society.

middle school for two years, but when she moved she needed to find another school to teach at.

"I loved working with sixth graders," said Hunt.

Some people like to teach only a certain age group, but she enjoys working with all types, said Hunt, and might

consider teaching grade school again.

When she's not teaching, Hunt spends time with her husband and 14-month-old son, Ryan.

"Every night I read to him," said Hunt.

Perhaps she'll pass on her love of teaching to him.



## Wolf... (Continued from page 11)

raced to his house.

His brother-in-law was still alive, even happy that the divorce was finally over. That night, Wolf's brother-in-law showed Wolf his guitar. With a little encouragement, Wolf said, he decided to try to learn it.

He started practicing for 20 minutes a day whenever he could, then it became 30 minutes. He was 30 at the time, and wasn't sure if he would be able to learn an instrument that late in life.

"I put my mind on something that I wanted to do, I didn't need to spend every waking minute doing it," said Wolf. "Sure enough, a couple of months went by, and I could play it."

After he learned to play the guitar, his next goal was to sing in tune with the guitar. He kept practicing, and eventually he could do it. His next goal was to sing and play in public.

It wasn't until he attended the drug prevention and self motivation program called Operation Snowball in Naperville that he played and sang in public. Snowball's "No Talent Talent Show" gave Wolf the opportunity to perform in public without worrying about being judged.

"Standing up in front of people and playing was a little bit scary," said Wolf.

He received a standing ovation for his performance, which encouraged him to keep playing.

"It really helped me open up and go down a new path," Wolf said. He then began performing at different Snowball events around the area. The first song he ever played for an audience was Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young's "Teach Your Children."

Now Snowball event directors from all different places ask Wolf to play. Wolf said, "I'm kind of their soundtrack."

He attributes his success with performing to the goals that he set for himself. Without the work he put into it, he wouldn't be able to play as well as he does today.

Setting goals for improving yourself or improving on a skill of yours is a good way to start, Wolf said. If a person starts small, then keeps setting the bar higher, they'll eventually achieve their goals.

"If you've got a goal, don't just talk about it. Get out there and do it," said Wolf.

He then played and sang John Hyatt's "Through Your Hands." At the end of the song, Wolf said, "All you need is a place to belong and your talents come right out."

Wolf stressed the importance of people putting themselves out there, or else they'd never realize their true potential.

"Everybody has to put something in," said Wolf. "Because if we don't, we're lost."

He then had some members of the audience stand up on

the stage in a large circle. He asked each person to name a positive attribute about themselves, whether it be a personality trait or talent.

Once the person told him their attribute, he handed them a piece of rope. Each person received a piece of the same rope, which they were told to hold onto with both hands.

Almost every person was given a strand, forming a web of rope to hold until one person was left. Wolf then asked the person to sit down in the middle of the web.

Once the person sat in the middle of the web, Wolf had everyone holding a strand of rope stand. The web rose, lifting the person sitting in the middle up.

Afterward, Wolf informed everyone that the rope was only supposed to be able to hold 75 pounds but with the web that was formed, it could lift much more. In fact, each person who held a strand of rope was only lifting about 15 to 20 pounds.

Wolf said that it is very important to put yourself out, or else you'll lose potential accomplishments. If everyone hadn't put themselves out there when they received a strand of rope, then the person in the middle never would've risen.

If people worry about putting themselves out for everyone, then they will most likely fall. Wolf said, "If you put it out there, it does get back to you."



Staff Photo

Russ Wolf is a motivational singer who performed at We-go March 6.

## Foreign plays offer great way to shape up vocabulary

By Jessica Myers  
The foreign language department is continuing a tradition of teaching students a language in a new way with the French and German plays.

French plays are April 10. German plays were March 7.

Seniors Jessica Kruger and Sarah Altergott volunteered for the German program and awards committee while Keri Sagen and Carri Gallimore are on the French program committee.

The program committee announces the plays, sets up judges, makes sure the judges have everything they need during the plays, and makes the programs.

During the plays students have the chance to win awards for their performance.

Categories are best actor, best actress, best costumes, best supporting actor, best supporting actress, best music, best props, best choreography, and best pronunciation.

Each category has five awards. One award for each level of the language and the fifth award is for all levels.

"Each student who wins an award gets extra credit points. They also get a prize that is picked out by the program committee," said French teacher Marjorie Appel.

Overall winners from the German plays were best play, "Der Letzte Stand" (The Last Stand); best actor, Tom Grove; best actress, Alyssa Claude; best supporting actor, Jim Campbell; best supporting actress, Lindsay Pater; best costume, "Der Letzte Stand" (The Last Stand); best props, "??"; best sound effects, "Bring den Funk Zurück" (Bring the Funk Back); best choreography, "Ein Spaziergang Des Mimen" (The Mime Goes Walking); best use of the work "Schrott", "power rangers"; best portal of the opposite sex, Tom Harwood; and best comedic performance, "??".

Judges are former students, teachers, or parents who speak the language. The judges critique the students' performances and give the awards.

The German plays, according to German teacher Terry Strohm, allow students to use the language that they are learning in a creative way. German plays are also for students to work on an alternative way of communications, such as body language, and gestures.

"French plays are to give students the opportunity to be creative in a language, to do something different in French class, and to have fun," added Appel.

Students in French and German class choose their groups. In their groups they brainstorm ideas for their play. Once they have an idea they write a script.

Each year the German play has a word that everyone uses in their plays. This year's word was schrott, which means junk.

Afterwards students rehearse their play, add props, costumes, and music, and get ready for their stage debut.

Students' grades reflect the play's originality, meeting deadlines, pronunciation and expressions.

## Lund's love for music wins her Artist of the Month

This new feature in the Wildcat Chronicle is to recognize an outstanding musician or artist. Fine arts teachers select a student for the honor. This month's honor goes to a musician.



Melissa Lund.

When did you start playing?

I started piano when I was 4.

In which musical organizations do you perform in school? How long?

Band and orchestra, jazz band and combo; four years.

Do you perform or have you performed in any musical organization outside of school? Which ones?

Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra and Brass Choir.

Which music group(s) do you like performing in the best?

Jazz combo, Elgin Youth Brass Choir.

What kind of music do you like best?

Funk/fusion and reggae.

In what other activities have you been involved with in school? Out of school?

Out of school-dance, ice hockey, horseback riding.

Do you plan on continuing to play your

instrument(s) after high school? For college, for fun, or both?

I'm majoring in French horn performance, so I have to keep playing.

Which musicians have influenced you the most and what instrument(s) did they play?

Jaco Pastorius-bass-funkiest white man ever; Mark Colby-tenor sax; Bootsy Collins-bass; Bob Marley

Who has influenced you the most in your musical career?

Mr. Guter made me begin playing French horn, and now I'm going into a career playing it, so he's definitely influenced me a lot.

Does anyone in your family play a musical instrument or sing?

My sister plays violin, my brother is a drummer, and my uncle plays professionally (bass and tenor sax) in California.

March's Artist of the Month is senior Melissa Lund.

Which instrument(s) do you play?

Piano, bass, and French horn.

## Bulut... (Continued from page 9)

and music, so she knew how interesting teaching could be. Deciding which field of teaching she wanted to pursue was not hard either. Bulut had always enjoyed French in high school and had taken it for fun in college, so teaching the language came naturally to her.

She studied French at Elmhurst College and received her teaching certification there.

Bulut was student teaching at Hinsdale South when she heard the news that We-go was looking for a new French teacher to replace Rachel Schoonmaker, who left after first semester of last year for

maternity leave.

When Schoonmaker left, Bulut filled in and taught her French 2 classes. This year she teaches both French 1 and 2 classes.

Working full time as a teacher forced Bulut to give up her day job.

The odd hours she had on the radio made it difficult for her to be a DJ and a teacher at the same time.

Bulut's favorite aspect of We-go is the welcoming atmosphere and how open her department is to new ideas.

She enjoys having the opportunity to try new ideas and new ways of teaching her students.

"This is the easiest group of people to work with that I could ever imagine," Bulut said. She believes that the diversity We-go offers is also a positive of the school.

She loves the diversity of the student body and thinks that it gives teachers a much-needed lesson as well. "I learn a lot from the students in class who speak another language," said Bulut.

She learns at least one new word in a different language a day.

It's all part of her plan to remix her teaching techniques.



## ñ Noticias

# Sergio García se hace famoso con las banda "El Tigre"

por Maira Borjón

*Este es nuestro pagina en español para estudiantes hispanicas. ( This is a new page for our Hispanic readers.)*

Hace cuatro años Sergio primero empezó a tocar el saxofón y el clarinete en Lobatos Valparaíso, Zacatecas. Con la ayuda de su hermano Ricardo, quien le había mandado videos y fotografías de su grupo musical, Sergio empezó a motivarse a explorar más el mundo musical. Su hermano le ayudó mucho desde que estaba en México, lo animaba y le apoyó mandándole instrumentos para que se metiera en la banda al llegar en los Estados Unidos. Empezó a ensayar en México con una esperanza que él también estuviera algún día en la banda al lado de su hermano.

En México tocaba a veces con sus amigos en un tamborazo, mientras estudiaba con el mae-

stro. En todo, lo ha apoyado la familia. Una vez no quería ir a practicar y le dijo su mama que tenía que ir a tocar porque su hermano lo estaba apoyando en los Estados Unidos.

Cuando llegó a los Estados Unidos ya tenía un año estudiando música en México. Llegó aquí en mayo del 2000 y empezó a tocar en la banda ese mismo mes. Los de la banda Tigre le pidieron que tocara algunas notas y así entró no más. Desde que ha empezado en la banda ha tenido la oportunidad de tocar con varios artistas conocidos como Los Huracanes Del Norte, Conjunto Primavera, Brindis, Recorditos, La Túnera, y La Autentica de Jerez.

La banda famosa la Autentica le ofreció un puesto, pero él prefirió seguir estudiando para tener otra carrera además de ser músico. Siente que es importante tener y

seguir mas opciones en el mundo y enriquecer la vida con la música.

A veces se le hace difícil estudiar, sacar buenas notas y asistir siempre a la escuela. A menudo toca con la banda los viernes, sábados y domingos y para este día está bien cansado. Pero, siempre trata de acabar la tarea antes de irse a tocar. Dice Sergio, "Así tan ocupado no hay tiempo para meterme en problemas como los que afrontan los compañeros. La música me ha ayudado a acostumbrarme a la cultura americana." Tiene la meta de graduarse de Community High School este año.

Le gustaría seguir una carrera en la música y algún día ser un miembro de unas de las bandas más grandes de México, o si no, un maestro de música.

Le ha gustado la música desde que era niño y miraba a su

hermano que le iba bien en la música. Aparte de la música también cuando no esta tocando le gusta jugar béisbol, baloncesto y claro, salir con los amigos. Aparte de la banda El Tigre, también ha tocado con La Autentica, la banda más conocida de Zacatecas. "Es emocionante poder verle tocar al lado de grandes bandas como la Autentica y saber que es un compañero en Community High School" dice María Enríquez.

"¡Increíble! Tocan, bailan, todo en sincrónico" dijo Sr. Poulterer al escuchar "el Tigre" la primera vez en West Chicago.

Unas de sus memorias más favoritas fue cuando fueron a San Luis, Missouri. Tenían una cita tocando donde estaban Los Huracanes del Norte y a la gente le gustó como tocaba la banda El Tigre más que Los Huracanes, son grandes estrellas mexicanas.



Foto de El Tigre

Sergio y su hermano Ricardo tocan el clarinete y la trompeta.

Se le hizo muy importante eso porque se dio cuenta que él también podría lograr la misma fama y ser igual de importantes.

En el tiempo de verano es cuando tocan más, siempre del viernes a lunes. Además han estrellado en Des Moines, Iowa, Indiana, Wisconsin, Waukegan, Chicago y por los suburbios.

La idea de incluir un artículo en español en el Chronicle le encanta,

para que los latinos no sientan que los abandonaron o que no los toman en cuenta.

Su imaginación lo presentó a la música. Le gustaría alcanzar hacer un músico reconocido por la gente. "Es una materia que te ayuda conocer a sí mismo, saber todo lo que puedes hacer y lo que no puedes hacer."

En los momentos más difíciles en la vida te ayuda mucho la música."

# Maxson gets a head start at We-go

By Logan Schrage

Social worker Bob Maxson begins his first year here at We-go feeling like he's making a difference at We-go.

Maxson moved from Benjamin Middle School after 13 years of helping students with their problems.

Working with teens since he was 21, Maxson knows that teens are comfortable to come up to him in the halls to talk about anything because he listens.

I am laid back, and students can trust me to be open, said Maxson.

Maxson works in the Student Support Center with suspended students helping them figure out why they were suspended and how to avoid it from happening again.

Maxson said he helps students who have been placed in the Student Support Center by checking their homework, making sure they go to class, and making sure they stay out of trouble so they

don't end up in the Student Support Center again.

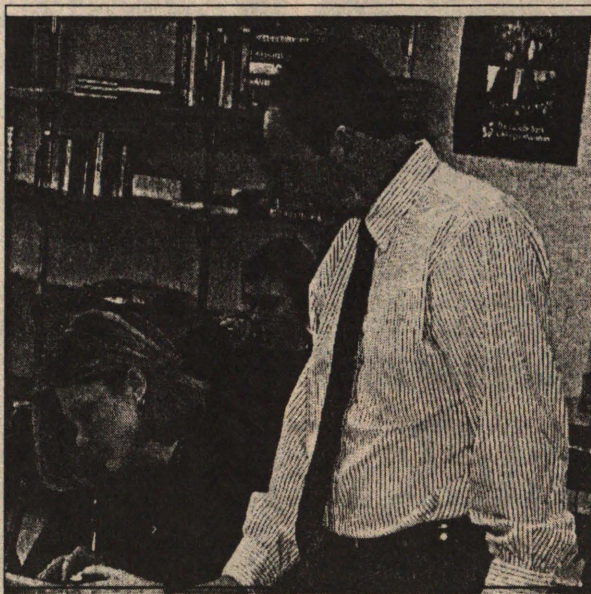
At Benjamin Middle School, Maxson worked with all students, and the school had a great deal of freedom for him to work with students but recently the school has cut off extra student programs like peer helping.

Now Maxson said "working in a school like We-go with its many student programs such as the Student Support Center, is perfect," and feels it's a good partnership between him and the school.

Since he's a peer mediator and heads up peer mediation at We-go, Maxson wants students to know that peer mediation is a kind of referee for students who are having a conflict with another student.

Maxson supervises peer helpers who help fellow students before any skirmish breaks out.

Maxson also said that there will be more programs for freshmen, when students



Staff Photo

Bob Maxson lends a helping hand to students in the Student Support Center.

feel overwhelmed with their first year of high school, can talk to Maxson.

Maxson has coached basketball for his seventh year and has coached five years of volleyball as well. "I would like to coach something at this school," said Maxson.

In his spare time, Maxson runs about 30 to 75 miles a week and has been running for eight years.

Maxson has also run the Chicago Marathon for six years.

One day this past year, Maxson decided to run after school around the football field nonstop for an hour and half.

"The football coaches were yelling at the players because I was running better than they were," said Maxson, who turns 50 on April Fool's Day.

If a student needs to talk about anything, or feels like challenging Maxson to a quick run around the football field, his office and the Student Support Center are located in room 187.

## Bruno... (Continued from page 11)

As a member of the community, he said he wanted to get more involved with political issues.

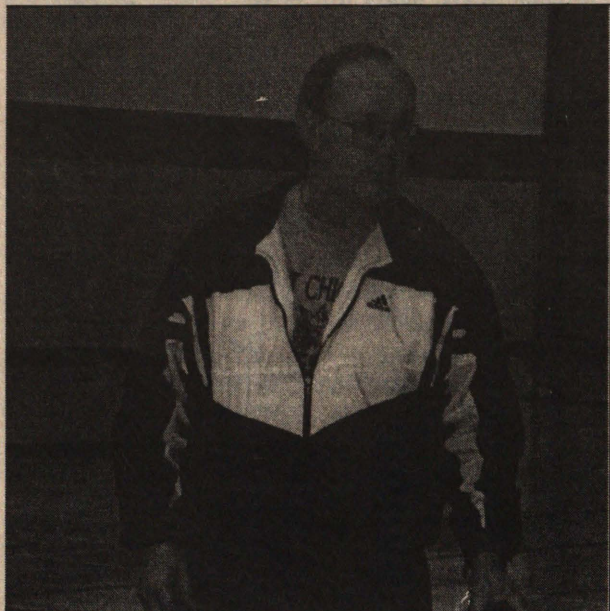
Owens encourages students to get involved in other activities besides sports, especially in activities involving international events.

"Young people need to be much more acquainted with what's happening all over the

globe and realize how it affects them," Owens said.

He also said that the American dream was to earn as much money as possible, but the goal of Americans should now be to preserve that dream.

Owens ended with, "Thanks to all the students over the years for making my tenure an enjoyable one."



Staff Photo

Owens sets up cones for a roller skating test. He will be leaving We-go at the end of the year carrying the nickname "Bruno."



## Eltrain's view: For LBJ, being a teen isn't so easy

By Elliott Tinnes

Close your eyes. Imagine for a moment that you are no longer you. Instead, imagine this: You are a high school senior from Akron, Ohio.

Not only do you play for the country's top-ranked high school basketball team, but you are going to be the



number one draft pick in this summer's NBA draft.

Not "you might be" or "you could be", but you will be the number one draft pick. Your name is LeBron James, high school superstar.

For James, this is an everyday reality. I often wonder how it must feel to be in that position. What is it like waking up every morning knowing that, in less than a year, you will be making millions of dollars playing a game you love. I spend my high school days wondering how I will pass the next physics test. James probably wonders where he will spend his first shoe contract check.

Yep, that's right.

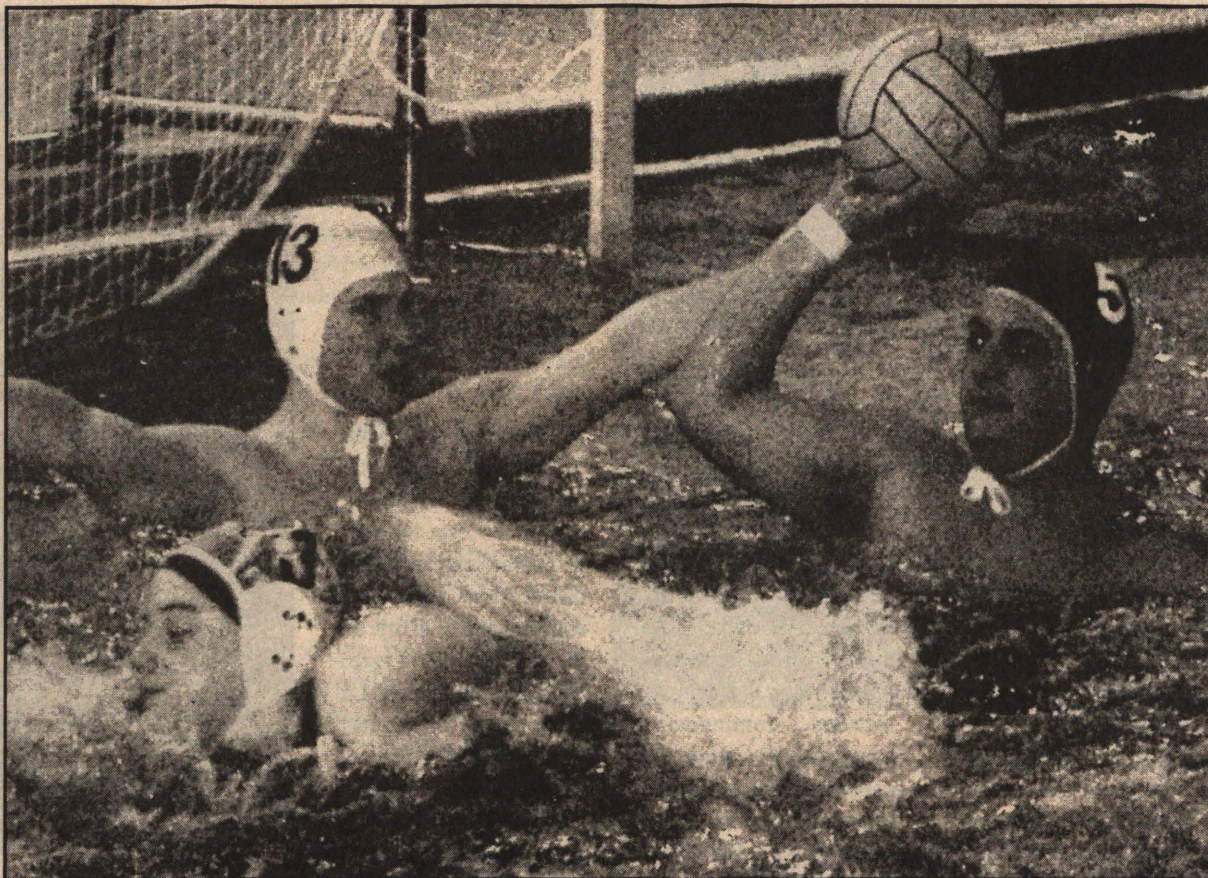
Not only will James be paid millions by the franchise that drafts him, but also Nike and Adidas are already in a bidding war over who will sign him to a contract. These contracts are reportedly in the region of \$20-25 million. \$20 million. 18-years-old. Somehow it does not seem to add up.

I cannot even begin to comprehend what it must feel like to know that a wildly extravagant future has already been set for you.

James has been called the next Kobe or Michael Jordan by some. Maybe he will be, maybe he won't. Time will tell. Regardless, he already is a national phenomenon.

His team, St. Vincent-St. Mary, travels around the country playing in front of sold out crowds, just looking for a challenge. Daring high school athletics to find someone who can stop LBJ.

Unfortunately for James, as with most superstars of his caliber, he, along with the media, have managed to tarnish his image. (See *Eltrain* page 16)



West Chicago's first water polo team takes to the water in preparation for their upcoming season, which began Tuesday. Staff photo

## Water polo makes debut at We-go

By Michelle Loerzel

West Chicago's first ever boys' water polo game was played Tuesday against St. Charles North.

The first game of water polo was definitely a learning experience, said captain C.J. Wostratzky.

The team lost 19-1. Joel Sommers scored the only goal in the second quarter.

"The first quarter was kind of slow, St. Charles North was able to make some quick goals until we settled into playing defensive," said Wostratzky.

Sommers, Wostratzky, and Matt Simon played the entire game without subbing out. This was very tiring because you swam a lot of laps, said Wostratzky.

Boys' and girls' water polo played against Naperville Central Wednesday.

"All I really want this year is to start up the program for

others to become interested in. I don't expect to be a winning team, but just try to get people aware of the sport," said Wostratzky.

Sommers and Wostratzky are the captains for boys' water polo. They were chosen by the team.

"The boys' swim team have been asking for water polo for the last couple of year," said Wostratzky.

Swim coach Bryan Artel is the coach for the We-go water polo team.

Artel started coaching swimming at Community High School in 2000 and asked for water polo as a sport for school.

"I am teaching them the basic skills of water polo this year and hope to see the skills improve over the years," said Artel, "They are learning quickly."

We-go will play a total of

six games this year because it is such a new sport for the school.

Water polo started in the 1860s and was played in lakes and rivers until it moved indoors in America indoors in 1880s. Its rules are derived from rugby. The object of the game is to score in the opponent's goal within the four seven-minute periods. Each team is allowed 13 players with seven players playing at one time in the pool.

We-go has nine boys and seven girls. Although they practice together, boys and girls have their own teams.

The boys' and girls' teams follow the same rules but the girls use smaller balls.

Only a few schools have water polo. St. Charles East, St. Charles North, Waubonsie, Naperville North, Naperville Central

and York are other schools in the area that have water polo.

West Chicago will not have any home games because the pool is not equipped for polo. For water polo, the majority of the pool has to be deep because players are not allowed to touch the bottom and but not raise their shoulders. Also, half the pool needs to be deep and the other end, shallow.

The athletic department helped support the team by funding the team to purchase equipment. Nets, balls, and head gear are needed to play the game.

Any girl or boy, freshmen through senior, may play in this sport, and there are no tryouts for the team.

Practices started March 2 and are after school from 3:30 until 5:30 p.m.

## Boys' track finding wins all over

By Mary Beth Selby

Boys' track is fulfilling their coach's hopes of success.

In their first meet of the season, We-go lapped the competition, scoring 92 points over Elgin (24), Maine West (66) and Rolling Meadows (51).

"They did a great job, I'm real happy with them. We scored more points and pulled more first places than ever with Rolling Meadows," said head coach Paul McClelland.

He said everyone really stepped up to the competition, especially the junior sprinters. Senior Mike Doll won both hurdle races, and junior Manny Escobedo took first in the triple and long jump.

Junior Mike Savenago re-

ally overcame the competition when he took first place for the high jump, gaining a personal best record.

"Mike jumped two inches short of the qualifying for state, which is four months away," said McClelland.

Also Wyatt Schuyler took first in the shot put.

At the meet against West Aurora and Elgin, they scored 80 points, securing first place.

In their meet at Fenton on the first of the month, We-go scored 131 points to take second place, winning five first place events. The 4x270 relay team of Joe Klingberg, Brad Bytof, Zack Hedger, and Mike Savenago ran 8 laps, each in 2:12.6 minutes. The 12-lap (4x405) relay was run

in 3:33.2 minutes.

Other first places include Savenago with 5-feet, 10-inches in the high jump and 12-feet, 6-inches for the pole vault, and Schuyler throwing the shot put 52 feet, 8.5 inches.

The boys continue to train hard and improve with each successive meet.

McClelland thinks that the team members only need personal improvement, such as the sprinters getting quicker and the distance runners working on strength endurance.

At the Glenbard North Invite, the Wildcats took third place with 91 points. Host Glenbard North scored 129 for first, Glenbard South was

second with 111, Mt. Carmel was fourth (80), fifth Willowbrook (59), sixth Geneva (51), seventh DeKalb (44), eighth Streamwood (40), and ninth Addison Trail (15).

Savegnago took first again in pole vault with 12-feet, 6-inches, and teammate Mitch Coler placed sixth with a 10-foot, 6-inch vault. Savegnago also placed second in high jump at 6-feet even.

Doll captured first with 7.79 seconds in the 55 high hurdle dash, while Derek Jensen took first in the 800 with 2:06.7.

Other top places were: second places Schuyler for shot put (51-feet, 3.75-

## Sole Cat makes it to sectionals

By Stephanie Bodane

Tyler Hempel is March's athlete of the month. He accomplished the feat of being the only West Chicago wrestler who qualified for the sectional tournament.

How long have you been wrestling?

Since freshman year.

What is your favorite part about wrestling?

My teammates and winning.

When and why did you start wrestling?

Freshman year because I wanted to keep in shape.

Why is wrestling a good sport for you?

I have a compact build, and wrestling is one of the few sports where being short can come in handy.

Do you do anything special to prepare for meets?

I usually don't eat or drink the whole day before so I can make weight.

What type of strategies do you use when wrestling?

I start strong and quick, and I keep focus throughout the match.

Do you plan on continuing with wrestling?

Yes, I think I will next year, and after that we'll see.

How far did you make it this year?

To sectionals.

What did you accomplish this year?

I wanted to improve from last year, which I did, and I also wanted to have a record over .500.

What was your record this season?

18-14.

In your opinion how did the season go?

It had its positive parts, such as sectionals, but I also had a long losing streak.



## What's happening in the sports world?

By Elliott Tinnes

The Chicago Bears acquired a new quarterback in Kordell Stewart last Thursday. Stewart, who has played with the Pittsburgh Steelers since 1995, signed a two-year, \$5 million contract. The contract also came with a \$1.75 million signing bonus. The Bears will be only the second team Stewart has played for in his career.

Stewart, who will start for the bears next season, is the

fourth new starting quarterback in as many years. He was not, however, the Bears' first choice. Jake Plummer, who was dropped by the Arizona Cardinal, was the man the Bears first hoped to sign.

Naperville Central's girls' basketball team finished its run at a perfect season, accomplishing everything it had set out to do. Led by all-American Candace Parker, the Redhawks finished with a 35-0 record after beating

out Fenwick in the state final.

West Aurora and Crane, two of Illinois' previously top-ranked boys' basketball teams, bid an early farewell to the state playoffs. In two stunning upsets, Downers Grove South knocked out West Aurora and St. Ignatius knocked out Crane.

On March 31 the country's top-ranked high school basketball players will converge at the United Cen-

ter for the 39<sup>th</sup> annual Roundball Classic, hosted by EA sports. West Aurora's Dameron Mason will team up with the likes of LeBron James and Demitris Nichols, as east is pitted against west. Famous players such as Shaquille O'Neal and Kevin Garnett have taken part in this game.

Now that the signing deadline has passed, some of the areas best football players have made their decisions

on where they will be heading after this year. Buffalo Grove's QB/DB Tommy Zbikowski has signed with Notre Dame. Naperville North RB/DB Corey McKeon will be heading to Nebraska, and Wheaton North's mountain, Akin Millington, will play for Oklahoma.

Steve Belcher, a pitcher for the Baltimore Orioles who died during spring training, was believed to have been taking the drug Ephedra dur-

ing the time of his death. Ephedra is a stimulant that may be purchased over-the-counter.

Although the drug is legal, it has been known to have serious side effects, leading to its banishment in the NFL.

Its use has triggered several cases of severe heat stroke and problems with the heart. The National Basketball Players' Association, has warned its members of the drug's danger.

### Girls' track chronicles success on web

By Logan Schrage

The girls' We-go track team has made their strong season common knowledge.

The team has had six meets so far and another meet coming Saturday. With new members able to join the team when outdoor meets start, the team can only get stronger.

Members who have shown great initiative so far have helped the team to victories, with the varsity record at 11-3 and the junior varsity with 7-0 and the four teams at 3-0.

Lauren Anders is a hurdler who has learned three stepping, something most professional hurdlers have mastered, timing at :09.2 in the

55 hurdles.

Katy Kostal, team captain, has clocked 11:57.6 in the 3200 and could make it to state if she lowered her time by 10 to 15 seconds.

Christy Adduci is putting forth her own effort running the 1600 in 5:40.

Laura Baumrucker is one of the top runners in the state, losing to one other girl so far and has run the 400 in 1:01.4 seconds.

The team has done so well that they have their own web site on the We-go home page: <http://www.d94.org/sports/claiborneweb/track/index.htm>.

The site includes sched-

ules, meets, records, roster, and coaches.

If students feel like joining during the outdoor season, they can contact coach Katerina Claiborne on the site.

People who want to find site from the school's home page can click on departments and curriculum web pages, and then select sports.

The team meets for practice after school for two hours. Outdoor track meets will start during spring break.

Claiborne says the most difficult teams are from conference schools including Naperville Central and Glenbard South.



Staff photo

Cold winter days keep girls' track indoors. Here they work on flexibility over the hurdles.

### Badminton sweeps competition



Staff photo

This player prepares for a kill during a singles match.

By Bridget Geraghty

We-go badminton dominated their first meet against Streamwood High School Thursday.

The girls won every match in singles and doubles on the varsity and junior varsity levels.

Corrie Gilgallon, the head coach, said, "We were awesome."

Gilgallon was very happy with how Tuesday's meet went and said the girls will be ready for Thursday's meet against Oswego.

"I think we're ready. Oswego's level of play, from what I noticed last year, is the level I want to start with to give them (We-go's team) some confidence," she said.

Right now, the positions on the team are tentative, with Challenge Days every Saturday held for girls to advance. Gilgallon said these challenges would stop in the middle of the season because a player has to play four matches of their position in order to play in DVC.

Jodi Donovan is an assis-

tant coach for the second year, Nick Caltagirone also became an assistant coach this year.

Altogether there are 30 new players this year, which is something Gilgallon is happy about.

She said that right now they are trying to build up the program and encourage more people to join, which is why they did not have cuts this year.

Overall Gilgallon is excited with how the new season looks.

### Hempel makes sectionals

By Melissa Stevens

Boys' wrestling ended the season on a high note, with wrestler Tyler Hempel traveling all the way to sectionals.

Hempel able to salvage a third place finish in the regional tournament, qualifying him for the move to sectionals. He was the only We-go wrestler to make to sectionals this season.

Varsity wrestler Mike McInerney wrestled with Hempel often.

"We became best buddies during the season," McInerney said. "We have both helped each other with our technique."

The level of teamwork between the wrestlers helped

the team through a slightly disappointing season. Much of their misfortune in matches was due to the lack of varsity wrestlers. According to McInerney, only about five people wrestled for varsity. He was always cutting weight to make up for the lack of other wrestlers, which added to the already demanding wrestling schedule.

"The season this year was very demanding," McInerney said. "I had a lot of tough matches."

The low turn out for wrestlers definitely effected their performance during the season. McInerney said that the team could never win a dual meet because there simply weren't enough wrestlers

from We-go on the mats.

Regardless of the number of wrestlers, McInerney believes that the wrestlers did the best they could.

"I was really proud with the effort put forth by myself and my fellow teammates," said McInerney.

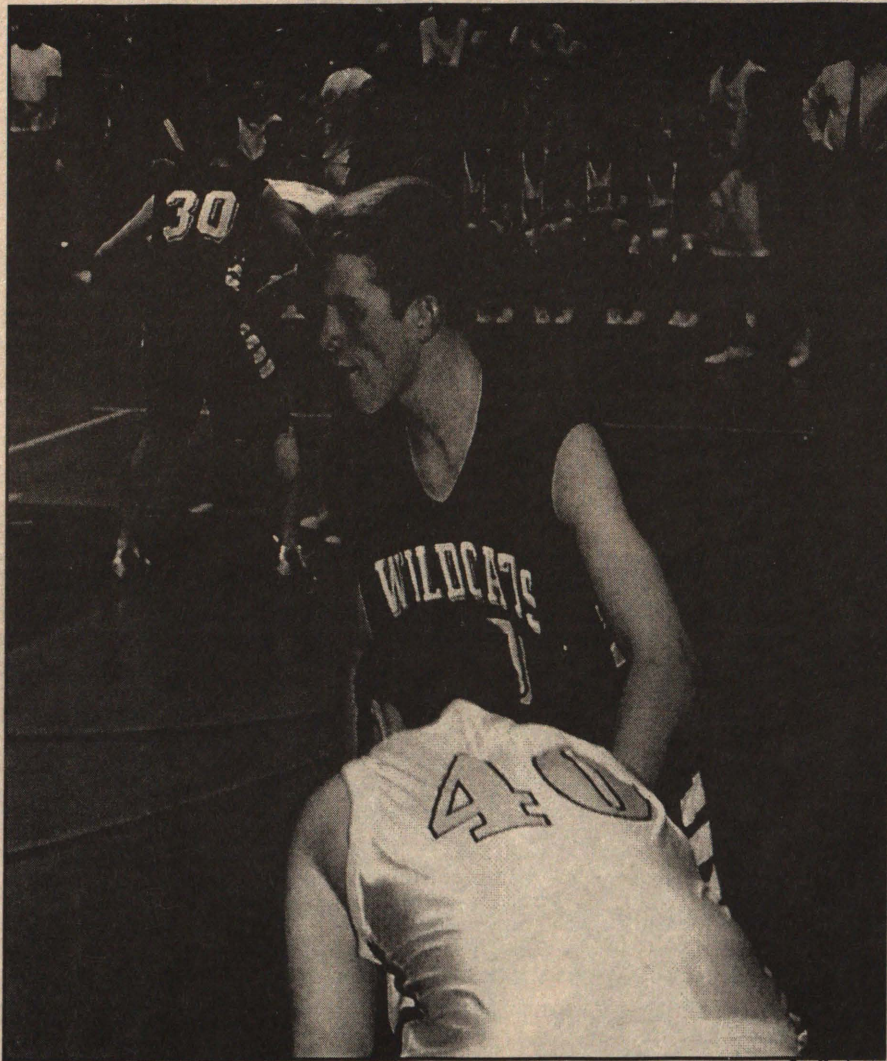
McInerney has big goals for wrestling next season, including ones for self-improvement.

"My main goal for the next season is to go undefeated," McInerney said. "And become state champion."

He hopes to achieve these goals by working hard over the summer. He plans to attend several wrestling camps over to help him hone his skills.



# Sectional loss ends We-go's playoff run



Junior Tom Grove defends a Hilltopper en route to a 71-67 win over Glenbard West

## DVC swinging for charity

By Anna Nubie

West Chicago's marketing class is trying to help the NASA Columbia Shuttle Children's Fund to benefit the children of the killed astronauts.

The first baseball DVC/ESCC challenge.

We-go, Naperville Central, Joliet Catholic, and Benet Academy are participating.

The idea came about after marketing classes doubled to two semesters.

In first semester, marketing students put together Midnight Madness. Supervisor Dan McCarthy said that he wanted second semester to have something special to do as well.

McCarthy said that it is modeled after the Big Ten in basketball but in baseball form.

It will be held at Silver Cross Field, home of the minor league team the Joliet Jackhammers.

In order to rent the field, marketing students and baseball players will be fundraising. Everyone in the

class needs to sell 10 tickets to students at \$1, create a program, get \$60 worth of ads for the program, sell two tickets to a Jackhammer game held on June 21 for \$9 (\$2 will be given back to the school), write a press release, and create fliers, tee shirts, posters and actually work the event. Tee shirts will sell for \$10.

The varsity baseball team has to sell four Jackhammer tickets, and sophomore and freshmen baseball teams have to sell two.

"All the money that we make goes to the Columbia Shuttle Children's fund," McCarthy said.

The varsity baseball team actually plays in the games.

The game is on April 9, and will be moved to April 10 in inclement weather. Adults can buy tickets in advance or at the door for \$2. Student tickets are \$1. Elementary and under are admitted free.

During the game marketing classes will sell concessions, hand out free pro-

grams, games and prizes will be offered.

The games will include Sumo wrestling, Trike Bikes, and sing for your Supper. The volunteers of each game will not leave empty handed. Each person that wins will receive a prize in the range of \$35-\$50 and second place will receive a prize in the range of \$20-\$25.

In order for a school to actually win the overall competition they need to acquire the most points.

Schools receive points for different things. For each mini game (played by volunteers) the side that wins will get 10 points. For actually winning the baseball game they receive 30 points.

We-go Through the Tubes is covering the event. Radio station WJOL, Joliet radio also indicated that they would broadcast, McCarthy said.

According to McCarthy even if a student does not go to the game they can buy a ticket to support a good charity.

worth almost \$900. James accepted the jerseys from a local storeowner in return for a few photographs.

James may be only an 18-year-old kid, but now that he has become so well known, it is his job to start being a responsible, mature person.

He now longer has the option of being a naive young teenager. He probably does

not want it, but that is what goes with a \$20+ million contract and being the number one draft pick.

He may be the envy of many, but he no longer has the freedoms of a normal high school senior.

Now I have to ask myself. Which would I rather have?

Honestly, I just don't know.

By Elliott Tinnes

Above Bishop Gym, two small plaques hang, commemorating boys' basketball victories from years past. For 43 years, there has not been a single change to those plaques. Now, after many seasons of disappointment, coach Kevin Gimre and his team have made it their prerogative to change that.

Already, the team has accomplished more than any other Wildcat team in history. With a regional title under the belt, the Wildcats worked their way through the Elgin Sectional tournament.

The Wildcats valiant season ended Friday with a loss to Batavia. After beating Glenbard West only two days earlier, the third seeded Wildcats had to face the top-seeded Bulldogs on the road to state.

The Wildcats jumped to an early lead, led by strong play under the basket by Nick Michaela and Mike Paschke, deadeye shooting from John Weier and Matt Coiley, and on target dishes from Jared Hall.

The first few minutes, though, proved to be the only time that both teams were not dominated by fouls.

The Bulldogs quickly closed the gap in the score, then proceeded to build a strong lead. The lead held its grip over the Wildcats for the remainder of the game. At times the Bulldogs pulled 15 points ahead of the Wildcats. Rarely did the Wildcats hold less than a 10-point deficit.

The first time the Wildcats looked ready to make a comeback, in the beginning of the second half, the Bulldogs stifled it with back-to-back three pointers. The threes twisted the knife in the Wildcats' back, cutting off another chance to come back.

The officials also played a very strong role in the game, calling an astounding number of fouls on both teams.

Calls were even between the teams, but still seemed to hinder the game's play.

"The refs called a tight game, but it didn't allow either team to play their game," said Tom Grove.

The fouls resulted in several opportunities for both teams to score. The difference, though, was that the Bulldogs were able to capitalize on the opportunity, whereas, the Wildcats had many missed opportunities.

The Wildcats faced off against Glenbard West in West Chicago's first sectional game March 12.

Although the Wildcats grabbed possession first, after a Nick Michael tip to begin the game, it was the Hilltoppers that scored first.

For the duration of the first quarter both teams scored one after another. The score remained even, as neither team accumulated more than a four-point lead.

By the second quarter, though, The Wildcats managed to put the Hilltoppers at a seven-point deficit. In the second quarter, the Wildcats played a fast-paced offense, coupled with a dominating defense.

The Wildcat defense pulled down rebounds, made steals, and kept the Hilltopper offense at bay.

Almost as soon as it came though, the Wildcat lead was diminished. Led by Shea Moroni, Glenbard West's offense erased its deficit as time in the first half expired.

Just as the first half began, Glenbard West pulled up to a two-point lead over the Wildcats. The second half proved to be just as fast and as furious as the first half. Leads seesawed back and forth between the two teams.

In the games' waning moments, with less than 40 seconds to play and an even scoreboard, the Hilltoppers brought the ball in bounds and tried to run the clock

down. With less than 10 seconds remaining Matt Coiley stole the ball and called time out, giving the Wildcats one last chance. With the few remaining seconds, Weier drove the ball down court for a lay-up. The attempt missed as time wound down, putting the teams into overtime.

For the four minutes of overtime, the game was all West Chicago. Leo Baylor led the team with five points, two steals and a rebound as he subbed in for a fouled out Michael.

A foul against Weier late in the period sealed the victory, putting the Wildcats ahead, 71-67.

For the first time in 43 years, the West Chicago boys' basketball team captured a regional title.

In the regional tournament, which was hosted by Dundee-crown, We-go faced off against the host chargers for the title March 7.

The Wildcats eventually came out victorious in a 68-58 decision.

By the second quarter, the Chargers were overwhelming West Chicago with a 16-3 lead. But West Chicago was able to come back with an unanswered 14 points to take the lead by the end of the first half.

Michael and Lee Corning led the team in scoring with 17 and 23 points, respectively.

Corning's deadly accuracy from beyond the arc in the first half helped stretch the Wildcats into a lead.

Corning drained four three-pointers in the second quarter, stunting any opportunity by the Chargers to take back the lead.

After a brief 33-32 lead to begin the second half, the Chargers were unable to gain any foothold against the Wildcat offense.

A barrage of back to back points kept the Wildcats ahead for the rest of the game.

## Girls' basketball wraps season

*Lady Wildcats never lose hope, end even season*

By Jessica Myers

The We-go girls' basketball team ended their season 15-15.

"Our team never gave up. We kept trying and we stuck together," said senior basketball player Kori Flagg.

Flagg said that her most memorable part of the season was everything she learned about the game and the fact that she went a whole season

without being hurt.

Flagg was disappointed with the fact that the team failed to put in all their effort all four quarters of every game.

"There were games that we didn't and we could have won more games if we had," Flagg said.

We-go ended their season in the regional finals against Naperville Central and lost 61-29. Flagg was leading scorer with 10 points.

Flagg also scored 10 points in the first round of the tournament against Batavia.

We-go beat Batavia 48-33.

Two other people had points in the double digits, Lathie Norton, 12, and Shaina Sullivan, 10.

Before the regional, We-go was in fourth place with a 7-7 conference record.

On Feb. 13 We-go played West Aurora, and lost 57-42. Laura Johnston was the leading scorer with 11 points. Flagg had six rebounds. Sullivan had five assists and two steals.

Two of the team's girls finished the season being honored as all-area. Shaina Sullivan and Kori Flagg were among athletes from the area.

## Eltrain... (continued from page 14)

After allegations arose that he received outside funds from a team or agent to fund his purchase of a new H2 Hummer (something illegal in the OHSAA rulebook) James began garnering negative attention.

Then, after it was proved that his mother obtained a loan to pay for the vehicle, James accepted two jerseys