

Band returns from Boston

Rainy week couldn't even spoil plans for We-go's minstrels. PAGE 7

Aviation more than a just hobby for some



Two seniors plan on making a career out of their passion for planes. PAGE 14

Eltrain's got issues

Find out what Eltrain thinks about kids in the major leagues. PAGE 19

Positions changed to replace retirees

Budget cuts and teacher retirements have forced District 94 to combine the duties of administrators with those of teachers next year.

Instead of hiring replacements for the positions, staff and administration members tentatively will take over as department chairs.

Supt. Lee Rieck will replace Sarah Olsen as LRC chair, while Principal John Highland will take over the fine arts department following Jim Guter's retirement.

The business department, currently run by Joseph Crickard, will merge next year with family and consumer science department, under Paul Junkroski's direction.

As English department chair Jeffrey Kargol returns to teaching full-time, Assistant Principal Tom McCann will assume the department chair position. JoAnn Tunt is vacating the science department chair slot, but a replacement has not been named.

"We're trying to address filling the voids while staying sensitive to the school's budget," said Highland.

-- Kellie Virnich

Bagging to fight ovarian cancer

The We-Go vocational lab students put together 3,000 goodie bags for The National Ovarian Cancer Coalition Walk on Saturday in Niles and Naperville.

The bags will be given to the participants of the walk and contain energy food and information about the cause.

"Doing things like this prepares the students for the jobs that they will eventually have. Plus, they get paid for it so they get a sense of accomplishment and pride," said We-go teacher Michael Koulos, who helped organize the bagging event.

The students have been doing this project for three years and 19 participated this year.

-- Adrienne Mertes

Reading success leads to extension into next year

Students and staff put class on hold for 25 minutes of reading

By Kyle Bullis

Reading has always been a focal point of We-go's learning policy and this year Principal John Highland decided to build upon the school's policy.

The program was initially supposed to run through March, but the "pilot," as Highland put it, was received so well that the administration decided to run it throughout the rest of the school year.

"This will allow for a bigger time window to receive feedback," said Highland.

Highland established a program to set aside a half hour each Thursday during 9th period for students to read.

The program was in the planning stages since the beginning of the year and Highland decided that the program would be more of a benefit if it was started at the beginning of second semester.

Allowing students 30 minutes of reading time a week will emphasize the importance of reading, said Highland.

"Better readers also perform

well academically. We want to send a message of importance and encourage kids," said Highland.

The program isn't just for students, though. All staff members, including teachers, administration, and custodians participate during the reading time slot.

Students at We-go have mixed views about the program.

"I like it because it opens our minds to different forms of literature," said student Scott Campbell.

Student Michelle Loerzel described what she thinks is the most important aspect of the program.

"In order to encourage more readers, it would be a better idea to get kids reading at a younger age.

This program is a good idea and some day kids will grow up with more of a desire to read," said Loerzel.

Other students think that the reading time is impeding on what school is intended for.

"If you force us to read, it

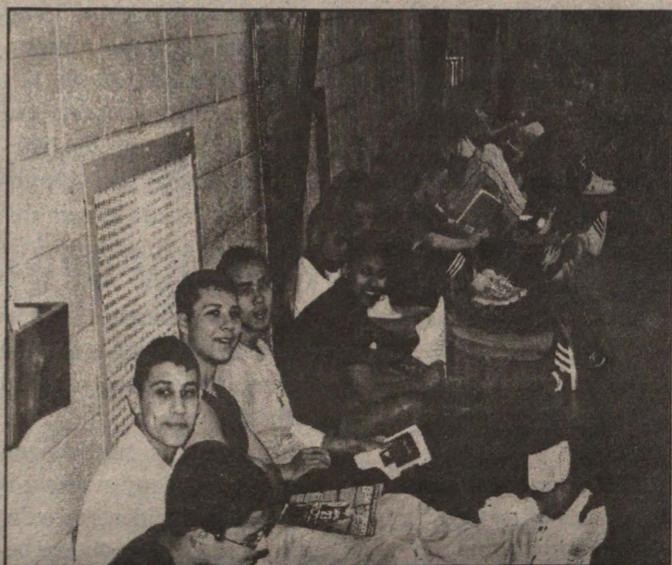


Photo by Maria Perez

Students in 9th hour P.E. take a break from physical activities and begin their mental activities by reading.

takes time away from learning," said student Rick Camp.

Others are glad that the new program allows for shorter class periods to allow for the allotted reading time.

The program is also likely to continue next year.

A committee, consisting of teachers Tim Courtney, Steve Kellner, Diane Mueller, Jodi Donovan, and Gwen Geiger was started to choose suggested reading material for students.

So far the committee has considered eight books, including

a book by Mawi Asgedom, a successful Ethiopian author, called "The Code," a book about teen success.

There has also been a school-wide competition to come up with a name for the new program.

Some entries include "GROWL" (Getting Reading On Our Wildcat's List) and "WART" (Wildcats Are Reading Together).

The winner gets tickets to a free dinner and a few other prizes.

Krauspe gets chance to live in Germany

Wins scholarship from government

By Elliott Tinnes

West Chicago senior Emy Krauspe has been recently chosen as a recipient of the Congress-Bundestag Scholarship.

After a marathon of applications, essays, and interviews, Krauspe was chosen among 300 other students in the US to live in Germany for a year at the expense of the German government. Only 14 scholarships are awarded to students in Illinois and Missouri.

The lengthy scholarship pro-

cedure began with an application that had to be accompanied by a nomination from a teacher, a recommendation from within the school, and a recommendation from someone outside the school.

Krauspe also had to write six separate essays, which covered topics such as a time she failed, essays about family and friends, and a letter to a German host family.

A few weeks after sending in (See Krauspe page 5)



Photo by Mary Beth Selby

When she goes to Germany, Emy Krauspe will be attending the last year of German high school, which goes for 13 years. She said the school will not be for credit, so it will be like she is taking a year off. While there, she plans to study Spanish as another language. After a year in Germany, she will return to Colorado College to study to become a teacher and she hopes to teach English overseas.

Exchange program connects students across the world

We-go hosts keep Germans busy with many trips to Chicago

By Kellie Virnich

Fourteen Community High School students opened their homes this April to students from Germany.

During their stay, the students were kept very busy, giving presentations to different classes, accompanying their hosts and other students through a normal day at school, and visiting Chicago several times, seeing Navy Pier, Michigan Avenue, Shedd Aquarium, and the Art Institute.

"Everything was just really big," said Julius Falk, Scott Lichtfuss' guest, comparing the Chicago skyscrapers to cities in Germany.

The German students also got a taste of teenage American culture by going mini-golfing and playing arcade games at Charlestowne Mall.

The hosts have nothing but good things to say about their hosting experiences. While they were expecting major differences between the Germans and themselves, they found that they were basically the same.

"They're just like us, just speaking a different language," said Brittany Vollmuth, who

hosted 16-year-old Lisa Kräher.

Some minor differences the German students saw were that many things, like cars, schools, and drinking glasses, are much bigger in the U.S. than in Germany, and that church and sports are much more important in America.

"Soccer is very important in Germany, but sports like baseball and football are very unimportant," said German student Lisa Lechner, hosted by Kelly Wdowiarz.

A major difference in their school in Germany is that the teachers switch classes instead of the students.

Language is emphasized more in Germany, where it is required that students take English, and that they choose between French and Latin for a third language.

Both West Chicago German teacher Terri Strohm and German exchange teacher Margit Fuchs agreed that the exchange program is an opportunity for students from both nations to broaden their horizons and become more accepting towards other cultures.

"The students really grow as people from the experience,"

said Strohm. "And it shows them that people really do use the language."

The exchange between the schools has gone on since 1981.

As well as hosting German students in their own homes, 11 students taking German will go overseas between June 11 and July 3 for their own abroad experience.



Photo by Brittany Rose

The German exchange students and We-go students get together one last time before the Germans headed back to Germany.

Students shy away from dealing with troublesome teachers

Complaining does not solve problems, confrontation does

By John Jennings

Students everywhere complain about their teachers. Everybody does it, and many do it more than three times a day. There is always that one teacher that gets under a student's skin during the course of their high school years.

Teachers can be considered bad for a number of reasons. Their teaching may be inadequate or they may treat their students badly. The way to deal with bad teachers, though, stays the same.

Most students agree that dealing with bad teachers is quite difficult.

The consensus seems to be that students tend to shy away from confronting the teachers that they do not like and generally don't do a thing except complain.

There are really only two things that students will complain about.

Either the student doesn't like the amount of homework, or they despise the test, or a

combination of both.

Angie Losacco agreed, "I am real nice to them (teachers) in class, but when I am out of class, I complain about them."

Other students have come up with their own methods of dealing with teachers that they have a problem with.

Mike Casey said, "I try to avoid eye contact with teachers that scare me."

Nick Lelito has his own way of dealing with teachers he doesn't like. He said, "With bad teachers I try to be extra, extra annoying."

But there is a rational solution to teacher troubles.

Although most students do not like to confront their teachers, administrators and teachers agree that confrontation is the best way to solve any problem between students and teachers.

Assistant Principal Tom McCann gave students with these types of problems his advice on how they should deal with a troublesome teacher.

"The first step for a student

with some concerns about a class would be to approach the teacher in a direct and courteous manner. Often some difficulty is a simple misunderstanding or miscommunication.

"If the student is still not satisfied, the next step would be to talk to the department chair who supervises the teacher and manages the curriculum," McCann said.

But some students never seem to have problems with their teachers and with other students it doesn't matter how good or bad the teacher may be.

Chris Carrington said that he takes matters into his own hands with disagreeable teachers.

"If a teacher is poor, it doesn't matter. I learn the material on my own. If a teacher is a real jerk, I drop the class," Carrington said.

Students generally agree that the majority of teachers in the school are understanding and try to teach the subject material.

"I think most teachers here are good. Many of them have a great sense of humor and there are few unreasonable ones," said Carrington.

ACT class tests student patience

By Doug Sieder

Juniors were given the opportunity to take an ACT preparation class, which gave them strategies and tips to help them get better scores on the test.

The "saltine cure" was one tip some juniors may have learned while taking an ACT class that was offered at We-go

by the company Excel Edges. They told students to eat 16 saltine crackers before they take the test in order to prevent nervousness.

Students were also given a booklet to fill out, while the teachers went through offensive and defensive strategies that students can use during the test. Another tool

students received was a note card they filled out which helped remind them of the strategies they learned during the class.

There are four subjects on the ACT: reading, math, English and science reasoning. Students spent two classes on each subject. The students who

(See ACT page 3)

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The Wildcat Chronicle is the student newspaper at West Chicago Community High School. It is a public forum for freedom of expression and encourages readers to express their views. The Chronicle publishes eight times a year, with the student editorial board making the decisions concerning the paper's contents. Unsigned editorials represent the views of the majority of the staff. Letters to the editor are welcomed and will be published as space allows. Letters must be signed, although the staff may withhold a name upon request. The paper reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and clarity, and may refuse to publish a letter.

Mind's Eye magazine allows students to express themselves through words

By Sam West

The newest Mind's Eye literary magazine is about to come out, and to improve on last year's magazine, Mind's Eye editors have decided to include more art work.

Adviser Andrea Cobbett said that art was lacking last year, so this time more black and white art will occupy the pages and color works will be interspersed.

Printing in color is more expensive than black and white, but Cobbett said, "We try to put in as much color as possible."

Mind's Eye's 13 editors decide on which stories to include based on a blind voting process, Cobbett said.

For instance, out of the six or seven submitted short stories, only the two best are picked. The process, as Cobbett described it, is democratic.

Cobbett said that Mind's Eye exists as an open forum for student expression. It gives the student body a glimpse of how a group of students expresses itself in a non-typical way.

"It's the best representation of student expression that we have in the school," said Cobbett.

Editors have been working for the past few months preparing the magazine for publication, Cobbett said.

The staff receives the potential stories in January, then the blind voting takes place in February, and during March and April, preparation of the magazine takes place.

Although each book costs over \$10 to produce, Mind's Eyes are only sold for \$2.

"My purpose is not to make a profit," Cobbett said.

Cobbett said that although she calls each issue the best yet, the staff exceeds her expectations of greatness.

We-go students may purchase Mind's Eye through the first two weeks of May during lunch hours in the cafeteria, or before and after school in room 180.

Giving from the heart



Photo by Doug Sieder

Tyler Hempel dressed up as a giant blood drop to help inspire students to donate blood. The blood drive started out slow, but the sign-up sheet was almost filled up by the drive on April 23. Since this was the year's second blood drive, Heartland Blood Center donated \$1,000 to the Key Club.

ACT... (Continued from page 2)

took the test also had the chance to take a practice test, where the students spent three and a half hours taking the test.

However, many students felt that the class was a waste of money and that it didn't help them that much. One of those people was Jeff Lesniak.

"I think if you are not a good test taker, the strategies they give you are a good thing. If you know what you are doing, then there is no need to waste a \$170," he said.

Nick Lelito agreed. "I think it was good that they offered it, but the class didn't help me with anything I didn't

already know. It would have been a lot easier just to give us test booklets," he said.

Lesniak felt that he would have been better off if he could have just practiced the test by himself.

Although some students thought the class was a waste of money, it may not be as much of a waste as students think.

Principal John Highland said that students have told him that their tests scores have improved up to two points, which may not seem like that much of an improvement, but can make a difference of what

college students get into.

Val Cirone took the class and thought it helped her prepare for the test.

"I thought it was good to take, because it tells you the directions and that's good to know before you take the test," she said.

Cirone also learned that you can guess on the test and not get penalized for it.

Counselor Jill Sims said that Excel Edge is received evaluations from the students who took the class, and will be sending them a report about what the students thought and how they did on the practice test.

Community discovers library with student help

By Brittany Rose

West Chicago High School students presented what they call "Discover Your Local Library" at the West Chicago Public Library on April 18 in an attempt to help teach local Spanish-speaking children how to use the library.

Flyers and bookmarks were given out during the presentations, and We-go's child development classes read books to the children.

There was also a puppet show, put on by the Spanish classes, helping to explain the concept of checking in and out

books as well as a tour of the different sections of the library to make everyone more comfortable enough to want to come back.

"We were targeting all the bilingual schools in the area," said child development teacher Patti Kozlowski.

Kozlowski said that she helped many of the children get library cards.

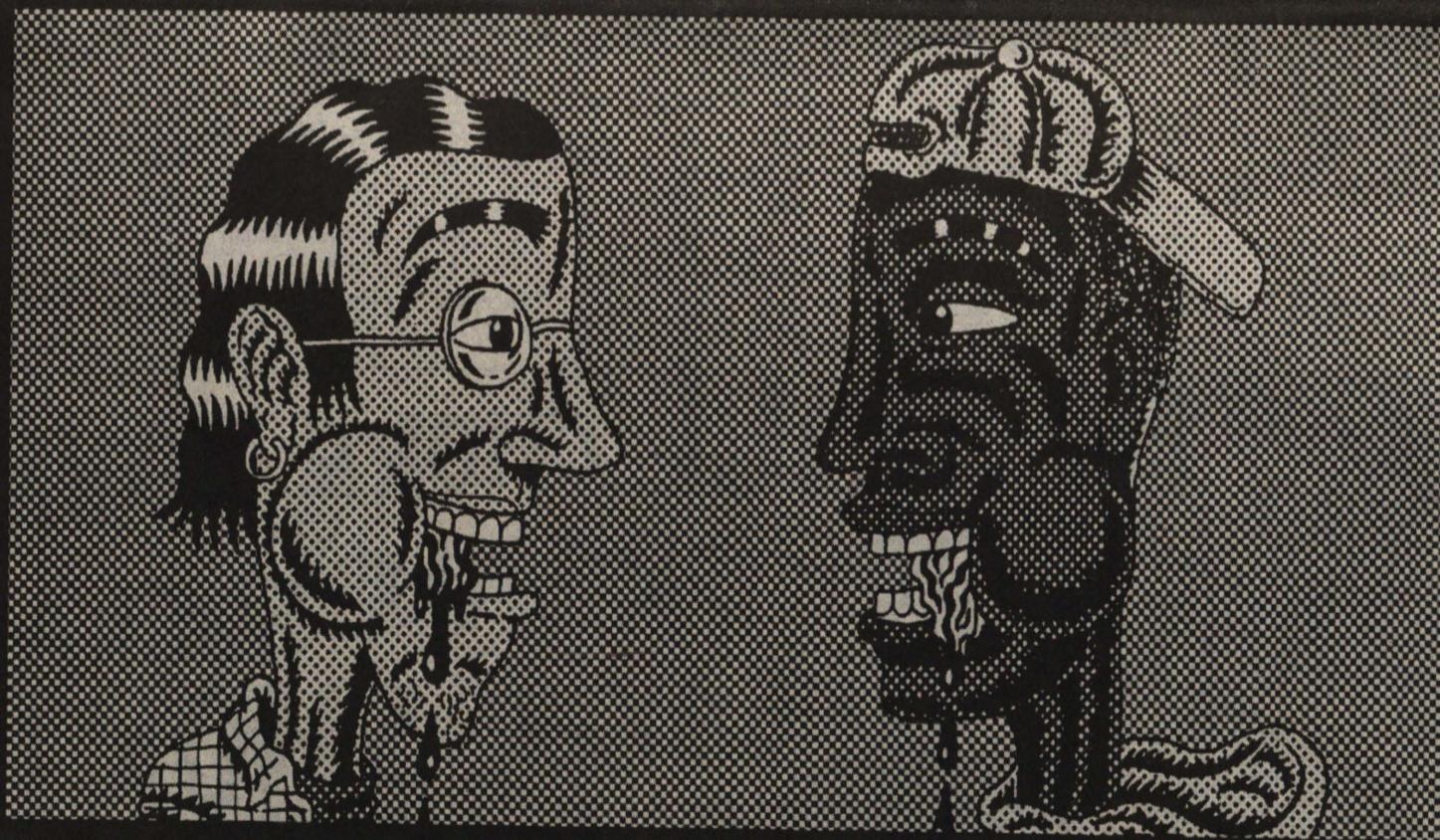
"We want to encourage the Hispanic community in West Chicago to use their local library as a place to obtain information, knowledge and assistance," Kozlowski said.

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Well-rounded curriculum lets Norton earn Student of the Month

By Bridget Geraghty

The many different faces of Lathie Norton are all April's Student of the Month.

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

I've been part of the varsity volleyball and basketball teams, basketball for three years. I've also been in the orchestra for four years, and I was a part of the drumline for freshman and sophomore years.

What are your accomplishments outside of school?

I play the cello outside of school as well as in the orchestra and I've been doing that since I was 5-years-old, so I guess that could be considered an "accomplishment."

Who is your favorite teacher in high school?

My favorite teacher was Anne Branch, former orchestra teacher here at We-go. She knew how to bring the best out of her students, no matter their ability, as well as being an

amazing teacher. She was also really fun and a great person to be around.



Lathie Norton

What is your favorite activity in high school?

Doing all the fun things that go along with being on sports teams, in music and in other activities. Mostly it's the people involved in all these activities that make them fun.

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

I plan to go to Taylor University after I live in Hondu-

ras for a year. When I get back I'll go to Taylor and probably study Spanish and something else—that is, if I come back!

What do you want to do for a living?

Something using Spanish, possibly in a teaching or social work area. I'm not really sure at this time.

What's your favorite pastime?

I really like art and anything like that is always fun and not stressful for me. I've loved my ceramics classes this year, so things like that are probably my favorite.

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

Well, I'm pretty well-rounded because I've been involved in sports and music things at our school. So I guess I represent a couple different sides of our school.

Krauspe... (Continued from page 1)

her application, Krauspe received a phone call from the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE), regarding their decision to meet with her to conduct several meetings.

"The day I was going to state (forensics competition) I got the call, so it was a pretty good day," said Krauspe.

After a phone interview with two CIEE employees, Krauspe, alongside 12 other finalists, traveled to Chicago for another interview. In the time between interviews, they were also asked to share their views on current events.

Only a few days later, during spring break, Krauspe received a phone call telling her that she would be receiving the scholarship.

"I was really surprised," said Krauspe, "I thought I would get it but it would be in a letter, not in a phone call a

couple days later."

According to Krauspe, she wasn't able to share the news with her family right away.

"They were in Florida and I could not get a hold of them," said Krauspe. "They were both happy for me but my mom was kind of upset when she found out she wouldn't be allowed to visit me while I was there."

On July 19, Krauspe leaves for Washington, to meet with the other students traveling to Germany. From there, they will fly to Germany, where they will spend a full year with several German host families.

"I think it (speaking German) will be really hard, but we have a month long intensive language camp," said Krauspe.

During the first month, the students will be enrolled in the camp to help them brush up on their German.

Park District and school slip on pool agreement

By Kellie Virnich

Community High School is changing its agreement with the West Chicago Park District concerning the use of the high school's swimming pool, and is bringing in a third party to regulate the use of the pool for both parties.

The pool, built in 1978, has been shared between the high school and the park district, but for a number of years, both the park district and the school have been unhappy with the pool's scheduling.

Both wanted the pool during the same hours, and, for most of the time, the pool wasn't being used by anyone. In addition, both parties believed that the other was abusing the facility and the agreement. When the park district did not acknowledge the swim team's request for more practice time, there were "numerous offensive and inaccurate e-mails" from the high school, said park district employees at the March Board of Education meeting.

Many parents of kids who attend park district classes misunderstood the cancellation of the agreement, thinking that the park district would not be

able to use the pool at all. They also felt that having the Board of Education hire an aquatic director would give it an advantage over the park district. Supt. Lee Rieck said that this is not the case.

"Our goal is to get more people in the pool. Period," said Rieck.

The Board of Education decided to hire an aquatic director to handle the schedule for the school's swim team practices and park district classes.

Dan Johnson, West Chicago Sharks coach, has said that the decision is geared towards making the pool more available to everyone, while park district members expressed their fear that the change would minimize or even eliminate non-school use.

"This will be better for the school, park district, and community," said Johnson.

The school and park district also share the field house, gyms, stadium, and fields, and have not had problems with any of these facilities.

As of now, the board is waiting for applications for the aquatic director, whose responsibilities will begin July 1.



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Marriage takes more than kiss

Wedding a showcase for family consumer science department

By Maria Perez

Spring is the season for love and that means preparing for the mock wedding in the family consumer science department.

Preparations for the mock wedding started months before the wedding itself.

Cara Blevins, foods teacher, said, "We baked cookies for two days in preparation for the wedding. The first day was a practice day and the second day they were perfect for people to taste."

The clothing construction students prepared the clothing as part of their final exam. Putting together the mock wedding takes cooperation of several classes.

The clothing construction students created a formal and casual wear fashion show, child development had a group of children sing and participate in activities, and the contemporary life students organized and participated in the mock wedding.

Clothing and child development teacher Patti Kozlowski said that the mock wedding was a showcase for students to see what activities the family consumer science department offered.

"I think the preschool children were very cute at the wedding, but you never know what is going to happen, like if they are going to listen or say something unexpectedly," said Kozlowski.

Patty Clifford, contemporary life and foods class teacher, said that aspects of the mock wedding were part of her

lesson plans.

She had guest speakers come into her foods class and help with cake decoration. In contemporary life the students studied a chapter in marriage and were keeping a wedding notebook on how to plan a wedding.

Food one classes learned about various cookies before baking some for the mock wedding.

The wedding cake was made by Clifford's foods class and contemporary life students Katie Desik and Jorge Valdez played the bride and groom at the wedding.

"It almost came out like we planned, but there were some surprises we didn't expect. Like giving the roses to our mothers, feeding each other cake, and the first dance by the bride and groom," said Valdez.

Clifford agreed there were surprises, like losing the music the day of the wedding and having to find other music and CDs to use.

Clifford said that the mock wedding is not difficult, but there were a lot of activities involved like decorations, selecting the wedding party, music, printing and delivering invitations.

Also students created the event programs for the evening.

In the videotape of the wedding Clifford said that they discovered that their speakers had not held the microphone close when speaking so it was hard for them to hear.

Also Clifford said that at a wedding when children are invited people have to expect that

they will not sit still. She said that these experiences should be used as a wedding experience of things that could go wrong and how to plan for them.

Department chair Paul Junkroski said, "It was outstanding. Plain and simple. It was very well done, the teachers did a lot of work, the students were very good, and all the students did what they had to do."



Photo by Maria Perez

Final preparations were underway as contemporary life students Jenny Rincon and Guadalupe Muñoz helped finished decorating commons for the mock wedding.



Photo by Maria Perez

Katie Desik and Jorge Valdez carry out wedding traditions during their wedding by cutting the cake.

All-night prom party freshened

By Andrea Bradley

The We-go After Prom Committee is getting ready to host All Night Long.

All juniors and seniors are invited, including their dates. Students who did not attend prom may also come.

If a student's date from outside of the school would like to attend, Principal John Highland must sign a permission slip.

The lock-in event follows prom on May 28. It will begin at 11:30 p.m. and go until 4:30 the next morning.

The committee rented out Bowling Green Sports Center in West Chicago for the party. Unlimited pizza, nachos, snacks, fruits, vegetables, and homemade snacks will be available along with breakfast foods such as donuts, bagels, and juice.

"The Booster Club and West Chicago Youth Commission have contributed significantly,

along with many businesses, parents, and community members to be sure this event continues from year to year," said coordinator Becky Koltz.

Other All Night Long events include prize bingo, ping pong, pool, cosmic bowling, arcade games, sand volleyball, Nerf dodge ball, and the video game Dance Dance Revolution. Participants can win a Playstation2 by playing DDR.

New this year will be a money machine. The machine resembles a phone booth and swirls money in the air.

Everyone who plays will have a chance to stand in the booth and catch as much play money as possible in a limited time. Students can use the play money to buy other prizes, said Koltz.

Another new event this year is sumo wrestling. Students will wear inflatable Sumo suits and will try to stay in the wrestling ring longer than their oppo-

nents.

Students have the opportunity to win many prizes during the night. DVD players, CD players, TVs, and game systems are just a few prizes offered.

In addition, a \$1,000 grand prize will be awarded at the party as well as a \$500 prize and two \$250 awards.

Cash prizes are not the only winnings students may take home. Multiple gift certificates, gas cards, and movie tickets will also be available, said Koltz.

The After Prom Committee raised almost \$10,000 for the event, which will help pay for the prizes, Koltz said.

A \$10 entrance fee will help pay for renting out Bowling Green for the night. It will also cover costs for unlimited food for the night.

Tickets for All Night Long will be on sale during lunch from May 24 through May 27.

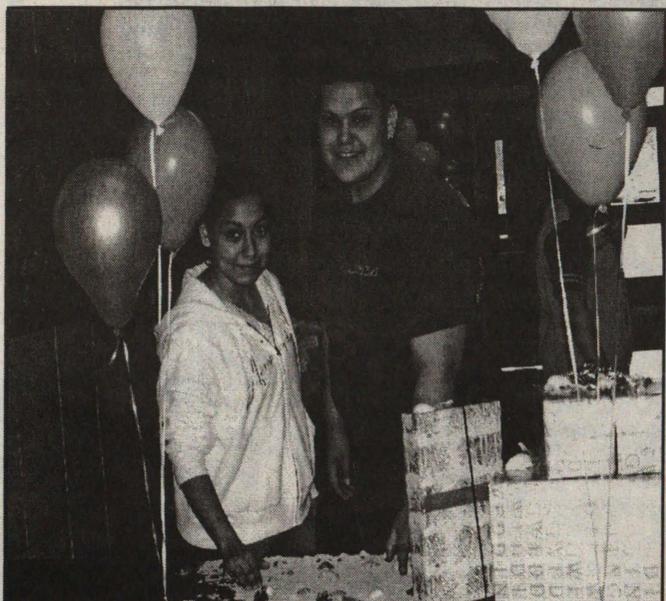


Photo by Maria Perez

"Love in Paradise" was the theme for the mock wedding and Angelica Blanco and Elizabeth Gonzales helped in preparing the Hawaiian display.

Boston offers band fish, witches, music

Band not only performs, but traverses Boston's rich history

By Sam West

With his retirement drawing near, director of bands Jim Guter staged a last hurrah with the band on a trip to Boston during spring break.

Guter, who lived near Boston in the 1970s and '80s, thought that he could plan a good trip to the area incorporating fun, musical, and educational experiences for the kids in band.

Although it rained almost the whole week, most of the band managed to have fun, with their visits to Gloucester, Salem, Rockport, and the historical sites of the Revolutionary War.

Gloucester, the oldest fishing village in the U.S., was considered the best stop for many band members.

Trumpeter Sara Earhart liked the variety of food choices and small-town shops that Gloucester offered. She

ate at a pizza parlor she called "The Greasy Eel," and spent hours in music and book stores.

"It was fun digging through the vinyl at Mystery Train, a unique music store," Earhart said.

The band also spent a day in Salem, where people were killed under suspicion of being witches.

In Salem, the band took a nighttime tour of the city, with guides explaining the recent weird and ghoulish happenings of Salem.

"It was amazing," said flautist Taylor Alperin. "It was a total different way of life and the people embraced the whole witch thing."

She added that she could see herself living in Salem in the future because of the atmosphere.

In addition, the band listened to the Boston Symphony Orchestra, which is ranked the



Photo courtesy of Jim Guter

Director of bands Jim Guter prepares the We-go drumline for their performance of "West Side Story" at Acton High School. The man who fired the first shot in the Revolutionary War was from Acton, and Guter taught there for a few years in the 1980s.

fifth best orchestra in the world and performs in the best music hall in the world.

"The variety of things (to do in Boston) I couldn't find anywhere else," said Guter. "I could go there every day and

see something new."

These historical places must be experienced in order to learn about them, Guter said.

"These are all things the kids should learn about, and not just out of a book," he said.

Guter also planned four performances, which include each of the bands and the colorguard. Symphonic, marching, and jazz bands all performed at Acton and Gloucester high schools.



Photo courtesy of Jim Guter

The 115-member ensemble (including the colorguard) gathers together at the Fisherman's Memorial in Gloucester, site of the novel and movie "The Perfect Storm."



Photo courtesy of Jim Guter

Matt Westrom, Dale Staton, Alex Rico, Josh Lundquist, and Gil Valenzuela get their hands on some "lobstah" fresh from the Atlantic Ocean.

Chronicle honored with NISPA Silver Certificate

By Doug Sieder

The Wildcat Chronicle has added five more awards to its list. Three awards were personal awards and two were received for the paper as a whole.

The Northern Illinois School Press Association (NISPA) gave three honorable mention awards to Maria Perez for sports writing, Doug Sieder for a news story, and Sam West for an editorial.

The American Scholastic Press Association gave the Chronicle first place with special merit, as the Chronicle

earned 955 points of 1000.

One of the judges that reviewed the Chronicle said, "By attempting to follow professional guidelines, you have opened this window and succeeded in showcasing the best your students have to offer."

Adviser Laura Kuehn was pleased with the staff's success.

"The staff has worked hard this year to update the appearance of the paper and to include as many activities as possible. I am glad both organizations recognize the staff's efforts," she said.

Dancers set to join "Music Man" cast

By Bridget Geraghty

Though the setting is a town that thrives on tradition, We-go's spring musical is making quite a few changes for its production of Meredith Willson's "The Music Man."

For the first time in We-go's recent history, the directors' cast features dancers. This musical is challenging in all aspects, but the dancing is especially difficult.

Dana Grant, who plays Maude, said that casting dancers was a good idea because it drew "more diverse, new

people here that would not have normally tried out."

The dancers have a difficult task because there are many song and dance numbers throughout the show.

Dancing isn't the only challenging task in the play, said vocal director and orchestra pit director Brandon Fantozzi.

"As a cast, the hardest part is putting all three together, dancing, singing and acting, especially when they happen at the same time," he said.

Another new aspect to this musical is the casting of fifth

graders from the surrounding feeder schools. The directors advertised at the West Chicago, Benjamin, and Winfield middle schools. The kids are needed for the parts of the middle school band.

Fantozzi said the idea to bring in middle school children was a smart move. "Having that extra level and their energy they bring to the show is great," he said.

"The Music Man" is on May 14, 15, and 16, at 7:30 p.m. and it costs \$4 for students and children and \$6 for adults.

Our View

9/11 accusations don't hold water

Sept. 11, 2001. A day that will live in infamy. It's been almost three years since the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and most recently President Bush has been put in an uncomfortable spotlight trying to pin him down for not foreseeing the 9/11 attacks.

Only at this day and age will the very idea come to light that our own president might be at least partially responsible for a devastating attack on his own soil.

Former anti-terrorism chief for the Bush administration, Richard Clarke, has been hammering Bush for failing to recognize signs prior to the 9/11 attacks and also for failing to recognize terrorism as a priority target for the country.

The suspicious time gap between the attacks and the accusations aside, it certainly takes a lot of gall to accuse the president of not acting on an opportunity to stop a terrorist attack. Clarke is not saying that Bush knew anything specifically about the attacks (other than the fact that two of the 19 hijackers were in the country a week before the attacks), but that Bush didn't act on his advice to make terrorism a higher priority.

Seriously, nobody could have ever imagined that something such as what happened on 9/11 would take place, but trying to blame someone other than the hijackers and the al Qaeda terrorist network is none other than a ploy to target the president and defame his reputation.

That may explain why these accusations emerged during Election 2004. But whatever the reasoning is behind the accusations, they have not been taken lightly. A 9/11 committee was formed to further investigate why the Bush administration, and even the Clinton administration, couldn't foresee a devastating attack. Terrorism has always been an "issue" with this country. It's an issue with the world, but it just wasn't the absolute top priority at the time.

Sure, it's a priority now that the country has experienced a devastating attack that claimed 3000+



lives, but no terrorist attack before 9/11 was nearly on the same scale. 9/11 was a wake-up call. Any indication of an impending terrorist attack would have immediately alerted government and authorities.

There are already terrorism alert levels, aren't there? Bush knows that terrorism is a problem and would not have simply shrugged off a threat on the nation that he loves and fights to protect.

Just because Bush doesn't have all the answers doesn't mean that he's dodging the accusations.

How could you predict something of this magnitude? You can't.

It's as simple as that. People find it hard to believe that the U.S. could be infiltrated by a small group of terrorists but it really isn't that hard. A nation that so willfully accepts outsiders will find itself getting slammed with people it just doesn't want. Terrorism

is difficult and almost impossible to prevent.

Trying to blame somebody, and the President of the United States no less, is simply an exercise in futility. Bush isn't going to come out and admit that he had prior knowledge of the attacks because he *didn't*, nor did anybody else.

People just feel more comfortable if someone can be held responsible for it, because that gives them the feeling that future attacks can be prevented. When hijackers can get past airport security and take control of four massive airplanes and use them to kill thousands of people, it's only natural that the country would go into a panic and suddenly feel extremely insecure.

Nobody, including Bush during his re-election campaign, deserves blame for an unpreventable attack. Only bin Laden and al Qaeda do.

Mexicans don't deserve blame for country's problems

The U.S. is blaming the new generation of immigrants for all its problems again.

Immigrants have always been blamed when the U.S. economy turns bad.

It seems that people are saying that the Mexicans are taking away the jobs or that they are destroying American culture.

Recently in a political campaign Jim Oberweis aired a commercial that blamed undocumented immigrants for job losses in Illinois.

The 30-second commercial shows Oberweis sitting in a helicopter flying over Chicago claiming that the undocumented immigrants come to the U.S. to take away jobs from Americans, bring down work salaries, and take advantage of government benefits while the American citizens pay.

It seems apparent that it's aimed at the Mexican population because Chicago has a large Mexican popu-

lation.

History is repeating itself. In the 1930s the U.S. was dealing with the same issues. According to www.museumca.org, as the Great Depression damaged California's economy, Mexicans and Mexican-Americans were discriminated against and shipped out in busloads and boxcars to Mexico, because government officials said that the Mexicans were the majority of the unemployed, and union leaders complained that the Mexicans were taking jobs away that belonged to the American men.

However, the migrants from the Midwest seeking jobs poured into California and they were the majority of the unemployed.

Now discrimination toward Mexicans continues and it doesn't look like the U.S. learned anything from its past. According to Univision.com, Arizona's state legislature is discussing laws that would further com-

plicate the undocumented workers' lives.

One of the proposals is to not allow illegal aliens to receive a driver's license and to prohibit local and state governments from serving illegal aliens.

Also Arizona is discussing ruling out obligatory federal services, like emergency attention at hospitals, and other proposals that wouldn't allow immigrants to approach a government office without the threat of being arrested and deported.

A proposal that was already passed in Arizona demands that public facilities identify documents before providing services and prohibits agencies from accepting identity documents that come from foreign agencies.

These discriminating laws are not just happening in Arizona, now they are spreading to Congress.

The Association of Immigration Lawyers (AIL) is worried about anti-immigrant organizations that are better funded and better prepared to combat anything positive in immigration.

Some of the anti-immigrant associations, according to AIL, are Project USA for an Immigration Time-Out, Federation for American Immigration Reform, Numbers USA, The Coalition for the Future American Worker, American Patrol, and the Center for Immigration Studies.

If the U.S. is the land of the free and equal opportunities why are Mexicans still being blamed for the loss of jobs? It's been about 70 years since the Great Depression. It's about time that the U.S. loses its negative views of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans.

Do you have something to say? May is your last chance to get your word in. Write a letter to the editor, sign it, and send it to Ms. Kuehn's mailbox in the administrative office. Be heard!

Random Stuff

Who needs liberty? This is America!

By Kellie Virnich



I have a great idea about how to run our government. Forget democracy. What we should really do is run our entire country based on the beliefs of one religion.

We should just disregard the fact that our country is based on religion being separate from government. It would obviously be

beneficial to everyone if we all just had the same beliefs. That way, all the people currently following those heathen "religions" won't burn for eternity in hell. It will be great, just like the 1600s. We can even go back to arresting and torturing people for not going to church.

And abortion, well, women obviously can't be given a choice about their bodies, being, under the only true religion, not really people at all, but

Point/Counterpoint

property of their fathers and husbands. And there I was thinking I was equal to a man. It's a woman's job to get married and have lots of sons for their husbands, and since a woman's place should only be in the home, women obviously shouldn't work, get an education, or vote. Doing so would only fill our heads with crazy ideas that we're equal and can do just as much as men, which is not at all true, according to my new and improved government.

Speaking of marriage, since it's a sacred thing and all, men and women should never marry someone from their own gender, even if it makes them happy, because that's obviously not the important thing in a good, religious marriage. The important thing is commitment, but we really can't blame almost every politician who is for the Defense of Marriage Act, which prohibits gay marriage, for being divorced. Clearly their wives just weren't good religious women.

We really should force everyone into one religion, because control is what religion is really

about. I keep hearing people talk about faith, and actually believing in what they're worshipping, but that can't be true. We need to make people believe in what we believe in, because people being different from each other and having different opinions is just wrong and against God's will.

People have to force their opinions on others. It's certainly not enough to believe in something yourself. You have to have everyone the same. I realize that our country has always been a place where people could go to escape persecution for having a different opinion, but that really has been going on too long.

The Nazis were right in trying to make everyone the same and get rid of nonconformists. If we hadn't stopped them, and God only knows why we did, they would have made a proud and powerful empire, which we could all look up to.

I know it's a big jump from the self-actualized nation that we are now, but we have to stop being so unique and start really working on conforming.

Bush wants to finish what daddy started

By Kyle Bullis

The war, and now reconstruction, in Iraq has been going on for a year and the nation is getting closer and closer to establishing a solid democratic government in that country, much to the delight of the Iraqi people.

Saddam Hussein is no longer a threat and the U.S. is paving the way to a glorious lifestyle of these once oppressed and tortured people. All is good. I won't deny that going into Iraq was a good thing, but the problem is more in the timing.

When gas prices are skyrocketing and al Qaeda is attacking the nation, how come President Bush decides to invade Iraq? Sure, he sent troops into Afghanistan to plug some terrorists and that fight is slow and isn't producing what we might've expected.

Sure, the "War on Terrorism" will take years before we even get a whiff of the smell of victory, but why did Bush suddenly switch subjects and at least attempt to throw the country into a mass paranoia?

Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) were getting ready to set a crash course for the U.S. at any moment, posing an imminent threat to the country, or so Bush would've liked us to believe. Just this year, the head of the U.N. weapons inspectors, Scott Ritter, stepped down claiming he is certain that WMD do not exist in Iraq. Really, what proof does Bush have that Hussein had WMD? The public saw past the excuses made during the Vietnam War, but the public bought into the Iraq war. Why?



The government implemented strategic propaganda and White House paranoia both for national defense and the population's morale. We were getting nowhere with Afghanistan so Bush decided the only way to spike the public's attention on U.S. military action was to execute military action that the public could really get into.

Watching soldiers walk through the desert isn't nearly as fun as watching Baghdad get obliterated. Hussein has been a questionable threat to the U.S. for over a decade and when Bush couldn't take care of an immediate threat, he focused his attention on any other potential one to ease our minds, so he chose Iraq. Of course, his motives could've leaned more towards finishing off what the media calls "daddy's war," that is, finishing off what the first President Bush did in the early '90s. It has become clear to me now that Bush wanted to get his hands on Iraq ever since he became president, and 9/11 was the perfect excuse for getting his grip.

So instead of sending more troops into Afghanistan to tighten the search (which Bush has only recently begun doing), he blamed Hussein for the whole thing and bombed out his country.

I would like to make one thing clear: I am not a Hussein supporter. The Iraqi government deserved to get dismantled because it was a reign of terror. That is why most of the Iraqi people are glad to be getting a democracy installed in their country. What I am simply pointing out is that Bush picked an odd time to go after Iraq when he should've focused all of his power on taking down al Qaeda, no matter how long it takes.

War justified: Hussein posed legitimate threat

By John Jennings

To this day, I believe that the United States going into Iraq was a good decision. It had to be done in order to protect the people of the United States. Iraq was a danger and it was better to take the Iraqi regime out when we did rather than to sit back and let them attack us.

Although the U.S. has not found any nuclear weapons yet, that does not mean that Iraq did not have any. These weapons could still be in Iraq, even if the army cannot find them. Saddam Hussein and his army probably have vast areas in the desert where they hide weapons and other supplies. However, the U.S. did know that Iraq had dangerous chemical weapons and they knew that Iraq would use them.

Hussein has used them before on people in his own country and on Iran. After his capture, Hussein was asked in an interview, "Why did you use chemical weapons against your people?" Hussein responded, "Ask the relatives of the dead. They were thieves. These people ran from war against Iran and Kuwait." Hussein murdered thousands of his own people because they wouldn't fight for him, so why would he do any less to the American people?

It has been proven by many sources that Hussein not only used chemical weapons on the Iranian army, but used them against people living in his own country. In the 1980s he used mustard gas against the Kurds, killing everyone in the village. America did the right thing by going into Iraq because Hussein presented a direct threat to the United States. The fact is, Hussein had weapons, and if anyone was going to be the target of an attack, it was going to be America. Another thing that should be noted is that the United States did not just throw itself into war with Iraq because they wanted to oust Hussein. A bonus was that the United States destroyed or captured many terrorists on the watch list that had been hiding in the country.

The army was able to take down many of the terrorist camps. So although Bush might not have been directly attacking al Qaeda, he took down many of the most dangerous terrorists, was able to gather intelligence preventing future attacks, and the attack gave the terrorists one less place to hide. People look back and say, "well he didn't have any weapons of mass destruction," how was the government able to know this?

Their best intelligence said that Iraq had nuclear weapons, or at the very least, nuclear capabilities. The U.S. was just protecting itself against a future attack. It was only a matter of time before a war between the U.S. and Iraq occurred and I think that it was better for us to strike first than to wait for an attack by the Iraqis. What if a nuclear bomb had been set off in a major city? Or, what if Iraqis fired chemical weapons at the United States? We could have been looking at another 9/11. It was better for us to go in and take charge rather than sit back and wait for another September 11 to happen. The fact is, the war benefited the American people and it benefited the Iraqi citizens, who no longer have to live in fear from a tyrant.





Are you cut out to be a shining star?

By Kellie Virnich

As many girls have surely seen in stores and magazines for about three months now, prom, with all its unspoken expenses, is coming up soon. And while the dress is unquestionably the most important purchase for the event, several other buys must be considered in the budget. Luckily, the boys are the ones who pay for the actual night.

Jewelry- There is an endless array of jewelry choices for girls to choose from for prom. Whether your style is delicate chains, bangles, or earrings down to your shoulders, you can find something you like in almost any store that sells jewelry. Rhinestones are more practical than real gems for high school price range, and stores like DEB and David's Bridal sell sets of necklaces, bracelets, and earrings so you don't have find accessories that match on your own. These are priced between \$10 and \$20 for rhinestone sets. Most individual pieces cost from \$4 to \$10 at department stores, Express, Charlotte Russe, and Claire's.

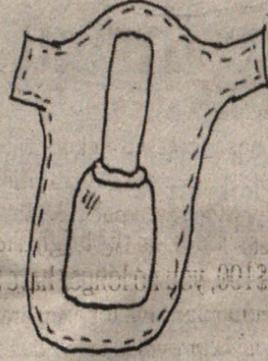
Facials- Once you have bought everything you need, relaxing while someone makes your face glow is a nice way to spend a bit more money. Day spas like Mario Tricocci's, Elizabeth Arden, or the Backdoor Salon in Winfield offer facials for between \$60 and \$90.

Hairstyling/accessories- Through highlights, fresh tricos, your prom expression can go a long way. Professionals can create a polished, sophisticated hairstyle for prom. Like Great Clips, Hair Cuttery, and the Backdoor Salon offer \$15 to \$40 for updos, and most also offer a free consultation to style you like. Elizabeth Arden and Mario Tricocci's up to \$60.

There is always the option of asking a friend to fix your hair as well. You can offer the person a small payment for your services.

Hair accessories add pizzaz to your prom style. Pins and tiaras are the simplest way to emphasize your hair, and sell between \$5 and \$15. Claire's and Afterthoughts. Tiaras express a more royal look. Claire's sells at about \$15. For an even fancier look, David's Bridal offers tiaras for \$50. If you want a sparkle without a high price tag, hairspray can add just the right amount of glamour. Great Clips and other hair and beauty-care stores sells for about \$10.

Manicure/Pedicure- Between the jewelry, high heels, and dancing, people will be seeing a lot of your hands and feet. A French manicure is an easy way of getting pretty nails, and the \$7 French manicure at Mario Tricocci's is a great deal. Manicures and pedicures at most salons cost from \$15 to \$25 and nail extensions are about \$30.



Purses- For most girls, the purse is an important aspect of the prom ensemble. Some are merely ornamental, but they pull the outfit together, but the compulsive packers use handbags as security, jamming them with makeup, tissues, and who knows what else. Expect prom purses to be more expensive than the casual kind, ranging from \$8 to \$25. David's Bridal, Claire's, Afterthoughts, and DEB.

Wraps- Though a shawl really isn't a necessary purchase, it serves several purposes. Most of them will keep your arms a little bit warmer than they would be bare, they can make a plain dress seem more elegant, and they'll give you something to do with your hands. Also, it gives you an excuse to do more shopping. Wraps are sold mainly at Claire's and DEB for between \$12 and \$15.

Shoes- Though many times unseen during the dance, shoes are an important purchase in prom attire. Many girls opt for shoes they already have, if they match the dress. Basic black is a favorite, though silver and white are also popular. Make sure that your shoes are comfortable to wear for the whole night, and that they're tall enough that you can walk and dance without stepping on your dress. David's Bridal and Charlotte Russe, as well as most department and shoe stores, sell the high heels usually preferred for prom, for between \$15 and \$55. Most shoe stores will also dye your shoes to match your dress for an additional cost.

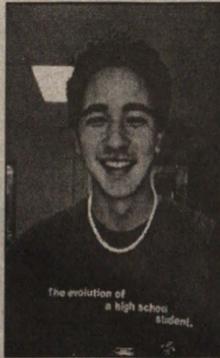
Dresses- Unlike guys' tuxedos, which all seem essentially the same, there are an infinite amount of styles, fabrics, and colors for prom dresses. Dresses are sold in almost any department store, as well as DEB and Charlotte Russe. The prices differ among the length and type of dress, with three main types. The short dresses, more common for homecoming than prom, range from \$20 to \$50. The long, straight dresses that have become the most popular are usually between \$40 to \$100, and the poufy, Cinderella-type dresses can be anywhere from \$70 to \$300, depending on where you shop. David's Bridal carries the last type, but are out of most girls' price ranges. When you shop for a dress, make sure not only that you like how it looks, but how it feels too. Though highly unlikely that your prom dress will be as comfortable as your pajamas, you should be able to stand wearing it for the whole night. You should be able to dance and enjoy yourself without having to keep pulling your dress up or hold the bottom so you don't step on it.



A night at the...
Prom is set to...
Date: May 28
Where: Abbin...
Banquets in C...
Cost: \$50 pe...

"What advice would you give to prom-goers?"

"What was the best way you were asked to..."



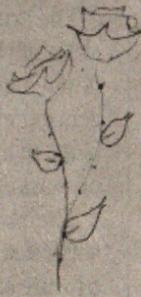
Andy Dameron
Senior

Don't be afraid to ask someone, guys or girls. If you are, and you miss your opportunity, you will always regret it.



Jenna Pelej
Senior

When deciding on who you want to go to prom with, remember to pick someone you can stand for the whole weekend. Prom isn't just a one night thing anymore. But most importantly, just try to have fun and enjoy prom.



Peggy Werle
Senior

Last year my boyfriend decorated my room with candles that spelled out "PROM" and rose petals on my floor while I was at work. Usually I suspect something, but he caught me totally by surprise.



Brooke Bachelor
Senior

Last year Mr. Garcia was at the end of his class and said we needed to take more notes. All of a sudden my boyfriend ran in with a transparency for the overhead that said, "Brooke, will you go to prom with me?"



Tyler Hempel
Senior

I tricked the girl into coming to school early, and when she walked by where I sit, I had my friends each hold up signs that said "would," "you," "go," "to," "prom," "with," and then I jumped out and said "me."





How to put a twinkle in her eye

By Elliott Tinnes

April showers bring May flowers and May flowers bring... a great way to ask that certain someone to prom. Girls already know what the not too distant future brings, as they might have been planning for months. To the guys out there: be warned, prom is approaching fast.

Traditionally, it is the responsibility of the guy to pay for the large expenses surrounding prom. For those lucky enough to have a long-term girlfriend willing to help pay, be thankful. For the rest, expect to find nothing more than lint in your pockets come May 29.

Here are the guys' essentials for an enjoyable prom night.

fresh trims, and cute Professional salons prom. Local salons r Salon charge from onsultation to find a occi's updos begin at

fix your hair for you at for your gratitude. e. Pins are the sim-ween \$5 and \$10 at re royal look, which ook, David's Bridal at a high price, glitter our. Glitter at Ulta out \$10.

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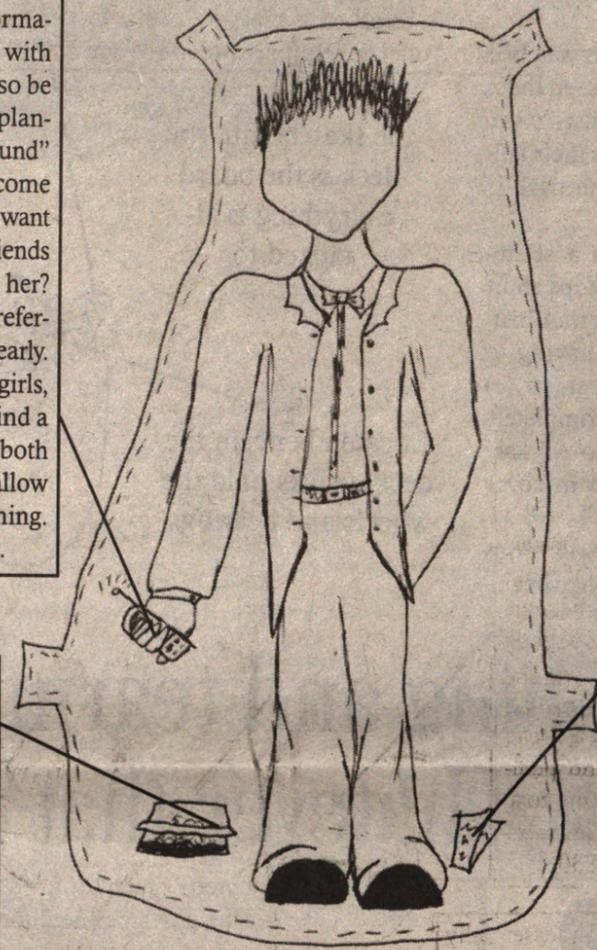


Kristen Rocha Senior

They told me to go to the volleyball game and threw a volleyball at me that said "will you go to prom with me" on it before the game and gave me balloons.

A date- More important than all else, you have to have a date. If you do not have a date, you may forget all the other information, as it will no longer matter. Along with being the most important, this will also be the most difficult part of your prom planning. Again, you will need to "shop around" when it comes to a date. Many factors come into play when choosing a date. Do you want to take a girl you like or a girl you are friends with? How and when should you ask her? All of these questions are a matter of preference, but be sure to make your decision early. There is nothing worse, for guys or girls, than waiting until the last minute to find a date. The important thing is that you both have a good time. Find a girl who will allow both of you to have an enjoyable evening. After all, that's what prom is all about.

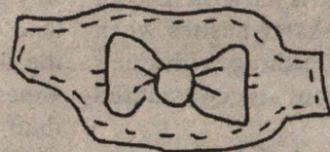
Corsage- Another prom must-have, guys are expected to have a corsage for their date when they arrive. Again, it is important to shop ahead of time. By finding out what your date will be wearing, you can better decide what style and color flower will best match your date. Corsages come in two types. The first type can be pinned on, the second type is worn around the wrist. If your date is wearing a strapless gown, you will have to buy a wrist corsage. Expect to pay anywhere from \$25-\$50.



The tuxedo- Numerous retailers offer tuxedos for rent. Modern Tuxedo, Gingiss Formalwear, and Men's Warehouse are all popular options. Expect to pay anywhere from \$80 to \$130 for a complete package including jacket, pants, vest, tie, and shoes. Prices will vary depending on the store as well as the style of tux you choose, so it is important to shop early. Not only will shopping early allow you to comparison shop for prices, but it will also give you many more styles to choose from. Forget cummerbunds and the penguin suits, today's tuxes offer many more options. Different colored vests, different styles of jackets, cuff links and shoes will all factor into the tux that best suits you. It's also important to know what your date is wearing. A variety of ties and vests will usually allow you to match your date's dress. If you don't know what your date will be wearing, choose a more neutral color, such as black, white, or platinum.

Limousine- Although a limo is entirely optional, it is a very popular choice for teens looking to make a fashionable entrance to prom. However, it is best to split the cost among as many people as possible. Costs, especially for the popular H2 and Navigator limos, can cost you \$400 or more. The more people in your group, the easier it is to split up costs, so if you plan on renting a limo, find a good group to go with.

Should you opt to drive yourself, you still want to arrive in style. Washing the car before heading out is always a good idea.



Tickets- The prom committee for this year's dance has increased ticket prices from \$45 to \$50 a person. As tradition would have it, you can expect to spend \$100 for tickets. Look on the bright side though. For \$100, you no longer have to be worried about planning for a separate dinner, as it will be provided at the dance. Also, the banquet halls accommodating the dance are a few steps up from a dance in commons. It may be steep, but the junior class will be doing their best to see that it is a memorable experience.

Just because the dance is over, doesn't mean the fun is

By Doug Sieder

Prom is a night to have fun with your friends and to dance the night away, but it also leads up to a whole weekend of fun. And here are some activities you can do to make that weekend special.

Great America- After a rush on the dance floor, why not get a rush on a rollercoaster? This is the perfect place for you and your date to seek excitement, and just have a great day.

Chicago- The city would be a great place to spend the day. There are many activities in the city such as shopping, going to the beach, walking down Michigan Avenue, exploring famous buildings, museums, and restaurants. The activities of Chicago never end.

A friend's lake house- If you or one of your friends have a lake house it would be the perfect place to get away for the weekend and relax. Some activities are fishing, swimming, jet skiing, and boating.

Michigan and Indiana sand dunes- The dunes are a perfect place to spend a day on the beach. You can go on a romantic walk to the beach or even go into Lake Michigan, if it's not too cold. Also, there are activities such as beach volleyball, sand football, and ultimate frisbee.

Baseball game- If you and your date are sports fans, why not enjoy America's pastime? We in Chicagoland are lucky enough to have two major league baseball teams (Cubs and Sox). The White Sox play at home all throughout prom weekend. They play the Texas Rangers and the Anaheim Angels, the Cubs are also home throughout the weekend and they play the Houston Astros. If you like minor league ball, the Kane County Cougars are home against South Bend.

Zoo- The zoo would be a great place to get in touch with your inner monkey. Or any other animals you would love to see such as dolphins, tigers, and bears. Once again Chicagoland has two major zoos: Lincoln Park Zoo and the Brookfield Zoo.

Water Park- If it's a warm weekend why not cool off at a water park? Most water parks don't just offer a pool, but also slides and beach volleyball.

There are other great activities that you and your date can enjoy, but these are just some of the more popular ideas that have been done in the past.

Getting your "ollies" out skateboarding

By Isaiah Ly Buado

Mongo? Kickflip? And can I read this *manual* to learn how to skateboard?

When beginning this extreme sport, one must learn not only how to actually skateboard, but what in the world everything means. Here are a few terms that everyone should know:

First I have to stand on it

Strangely enough, there are several names used for how people ride the board.

A skater riding with their right foot by the nose of the board is considered *regular*, while a skater riding left foot by the nose is considered *goofy*.

Mongo is the term used on how a skater pushes when riding. Pushing with one's front foot is considered *mongo*.

Switch and *fakie* involves both types of skaters. If a regular skater rides *goofy* or vice versa, then he/she is riding

switch for that moment. Moving backwards is riding *fakie*.

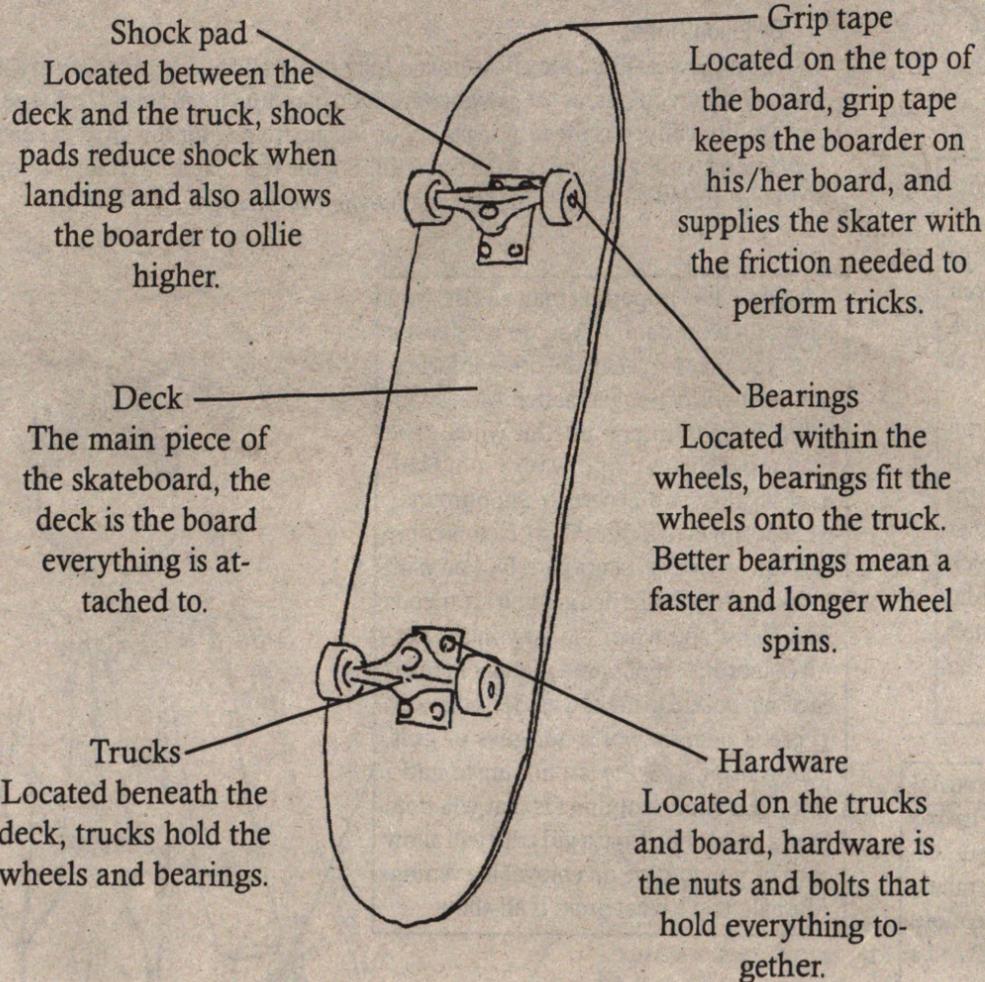
The reason for riding *switch* or *fakie* is to add difficulty to one's ability to pull off tricks. And the more difficult and complicated the trick, the better the skater. Also, when entering a competition, a skater will get a better score for landing harder tricks.

AHHH! *CRASH*

Everyone who has watched a skateboarder has seen them screw up and fall at least once. The proper term for their failure to finish off the trick is called a *bail*.

Bailing is when a skateboarder either (a) stops short of a trick, (b) stops a trick halfway and ends up having to land on his/her feet, or (c) the skateboarder completely wipes out and, more likely than not, ends up in some amount of pain.

These are some basic terms one should know when beginning to skate.



A guide to thrashing and tearing up your neighborhood... whatever that means

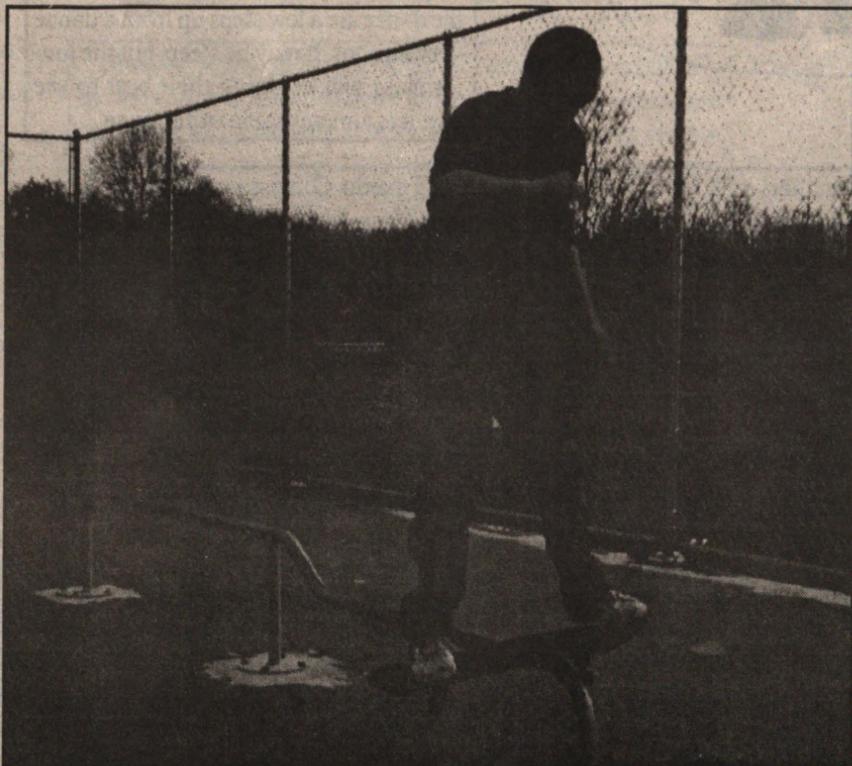


Photo by Isaiah Ly Buado

Kyle Bullis shows off his skateboarding skills at the West Chicago skate park, nailing this frontside boardslide with ease.

By Kyle Bullis

Almost every single person that I meet I ask, "Do you skateboard?" And many, many people give this response: "I used to."

I am one of those people, and it is my duty to inform wannabe skaters how to get into one of the hardest current sports.

Why is skateboarding so difficult? For one thing, most sports involve actions that most people can do naturally.

Most people can dribble, kick, throw, or hit a ball with a stick, etc. Skateboarding, however, involves only two objects. The skateboard, and the world.

Skateboarding is one of the most creative, open-ended sports because there are no limits. If you see a place you want to skate, you skate it. It's as simple as that.

But unfortunately an inexperienced skater's boundaries are very confined. Professional skateboarders can grind rails, jump stairs, ride up walls, and do all sorts of crazy stuff without having to worry about limitations. Beginners, though,

are pretty much confined to curbs.

This is where the difficulty of skating unfolds for most beginning skaters. Skateboarding is a royal pain when you're first starting out because you have absolutely no idea how to do anything, so there's not much fun involved.

But the better you get at skateboarding, the more fun it becomes.

As soon as you learn a new trick or ollie that 5-stair gap that's been eating away at you for months, your sense of accomplishment and overall love of the sport will increase.

Most skaters cannot get to this point. If you plan on skating seriously, you had better plan on devoting some serious time to it.

Going out for a half-hour every other day will get you nowhere. Skating for a few hours a day will do wonders though.

Devotion and determination is everything. Even if you do skate for a few hours a day, you have to skate *hard*.

Once many skaters learn to do the kickflip (a very important trick and one that took me over a year to completely nail down), they seem to be content in doing just that.

So while they may skate for hours a day, they never try anything new and don't get a whole lot better. Always try to do something new, even if you aren't even close to landing it. Trust me, you will get closer and closer with each try.

Also learn to try slightly more and more insane things as you go along. Even if somebody is terrific at getting high ollies, they don't just go out and jump an 8-stair. It takes time. I started out jumping over curbs, then 2-stairs, then 3-stairs, and ended shortly after nailing my first 4-stair.

Skating isn't only physically taxing, but it's also draining psychologically. It took me a lot of time and nerve before I could commit to dropping in on a half-pipe.

For those of you who don't know what a half-pipe is, it's a ramp that curves straight up on both sides and flattens out on the bottom. It looks like half of a cross-section of a pipe. Half-pipe. Simple.

Commitment is a big problem with beginning skaters because they either can't handle it psychologically or simply aren't good enough.

Dropping in on a half-pipe is a classic example of people not being able to commit. Dropping in means standing over the edge of the pipe (the "lip") and placing the tail of the board on the lip.

Then you take your front foot and press down and nose and swoop down into the pipe. You've probably seen many pros do this effortlessly.

The problem many people have with this is that they're uncomfortable about rolling down an almost completely vertical slope, even if it is only for a split second.

(See Guide page 13)

Paw Prints

Wildcat Chronicle

April 2004

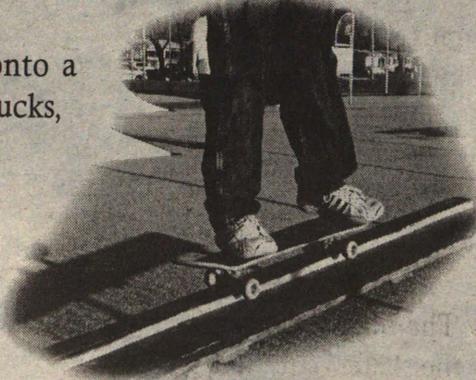
13

Tricks of the trade: A few moves to start out with

Grinding is what happens when a skateboarder rides along an edge, rail, or any other area that isn't a flat surface like a sidewalk, a top of a table, etc.

50-50 grind Perform an ollie onto a handrail, edge, or pipe with both trucks, "grinding" along it.

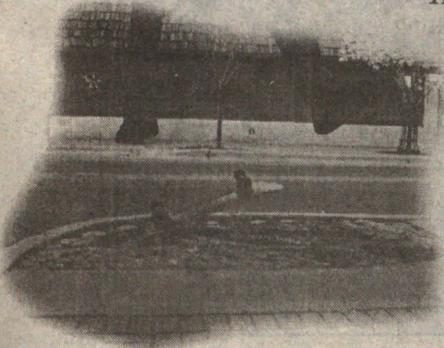
Boardslide Perform a 90 degree ollie onto a handrail, edge, or pipe so that you're perpendicular to it.



Shove-its are similar to flip tricks, except that the board spins instead of twists, keeping the grip tape facing upwards.

Pop Shove-it Perform an ollie, and kick your front foot forward and your back foot the other way so that the board spins 180 degrees below you.

Flip tricks are used everywhere and can link to everything. Kickflip over a set of stairs? Heelflip into a boardslide? Why not?



Heelflip While riding your board, slide your front foot (the one near the nose) halfway off the edge of the board that was originally near your toes, so that mainly your heel is on the board. Perform an ollie and kick away so that the board twists away from you.

Kickflip While riding your board, slide your front foot (the one near the nose) halfway off the edge of the board that was originally near your heel, so that mainly your toes are on the board. Perform an ollie and kick down so that the board twists toward you.

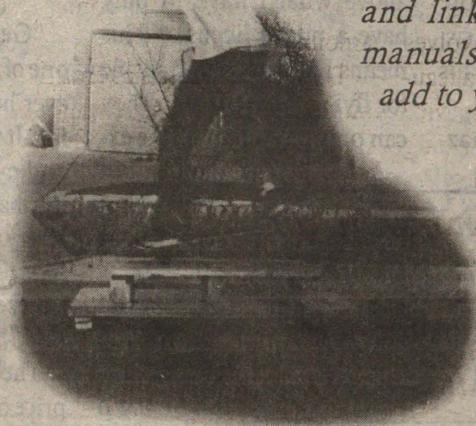


Ollying is required for almost every move in a skateboarders arsenal, whether it be getting air for tricks, getting into or out of a grind, or just jumping over something.

Ollie While riding the board, quickly push down or kick on the tail end of the board causing the nose to jump up. Then, using your other foot, either slide up towards the nose or kick towards the nose causing the tail to jump up of the ground.



Manuels are all about balance and linking tricks. Throw manuels between tricks to add to your combo.



Manual While riding the board, lean back on the tail slightly to cause the nose to raise so that you're riding on only your back two wheels. The nose manual is the same thing only reversed so that the tail is up.

Guide... (Continued from page 12)

Most people don't press down hard enough and end up falling on their backs, while a few other people simply "fall" into the drop, where they just press down and see what happens. This is an equally bad idea because you end up falling too far and land on your face.

This brings me to my next point: Plan on getting hurt. A lot. While, statistically, skateboarding causes less serious injuries than any other sport, I would guess the number of small injuries is through

the roof.

Plan on scraped knees, bruised shins, and rolled ankles on an almost daily basis. If you aren't getting hurt, you aren't skating hard enough, and that's the truth.

It's seriously a good idea to wear pads and a helmet.

However, if you can stand the initial frustration, the constant injuries, the high costs, the devotion, and the physical and psychological strain, then go for it.

Skate well, skate hard, and have fun.

Photographs by Isaiah Ly Buado. Tricks performed by Kyle Bullis, Dan Sala, and skaters from a local skate crew, The Lonely Dogtoys. Chad Demas and Andy Morozink.

Skateboarding despite the pain and the risk

By Brittany Rose

Ask parents about what they think about skateboarding, and they'll probably say something about kids breaking their bones in some way, hundreds of stitches, and a lovely trip to the emergency room.

Ask actual skateboarders and they'll tell you very few of these injuries actually occur.

Sophomore skateboarders Ben Gutierrez and Saul Reyes are a testament to that.

Gutierrez has been skating for four years now and Reyes for 10 months, and so far neither of them has ever broken a bone, though they have been hit below the belt every once in a while when bailing after a trick.

When asked why they continue to skate even though they know the amount of risk for injury, they both had the similar reaction.

"It's fun," Gutierrez said. "It's rewarding when you (finally) get a trick."

The two of them skate just about every day, all day, especially when the weather is

warm. Sometimes they even skate during the weekends in winter.

"It occupies my free time and it interests me," said Reyes.

Neither have entered any competitions as of yet.

"We just skate for fun," they both agreed.

Though Gutierrez and Reyes

share the similar concept of skating for fun, both got started skating in different ways.

Gutierrez first became interested when watching a skateboarding video, while Reyes got interested through a Tony Hawk video game.

"It's like 'oh man, I want to do that!'" said Reyes.

Paw Prints

Airplanes capture boys' devoted hearts

We-go seniors obtain private pilot's licenses, not considered a common teenage achievement

By Mary Beth Selby

While many people enjoy the luxury of flying, few have the privilege of actually piloting the plane.

We-go seniors Roger Maritote and Andy Kiger, who earned their private pilot's licenses in the summer of 2003, are two of those few.

According to these teens, a pilot's license is the equivalent of a driver's license, allowing them to fly a plane unsupervised.

This desire to fly did not come from out of the blue, though.

In sixth grade, Maritote flew to Atlanta with his sister, marking the trip as his first plane experience.

"The take-off was amazing, and ever since then I have always wanted to be a pilot. I think it is remarkable how one

"I can't wait for the day I fly those commercial jets," said Andy Kiger.

person can operate a massive machine such as an airplane and get hundreds of people to their destination while they read magazines or watch TV," he said.

Kiger says to anyone that asks him that he was born to fly.

"I've always loved airplanes and want to travel all over the world. The career

seemed like a natural choice," he said.

Both pilots will be attending the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, which has a well-respected and accredited aviation program. Then, using their further acquired aviation knowledge, they hope to become commercial pilots.

"I can't wait for the day I fly those commercial jets all over the world," said Kiger.

A pilot's license, however, is one of the smaller steps towards flying high.

"There are multiple steps above what I have. I only have a pilot's license. This means I cannot charge people for flying them places. They can only pay a part of the expenses, but they cannot pay for it all. It is against the law for me to fly through clouds. I

still need my instrument, multiengine, certified flight instructor, commercial, and airline transfer ratings," said Maritote.

Kiger explains the most advanced license is an airline transport pilot's license.

For both Kiger and Maritote, acquiring their licenses was really a dream come true.

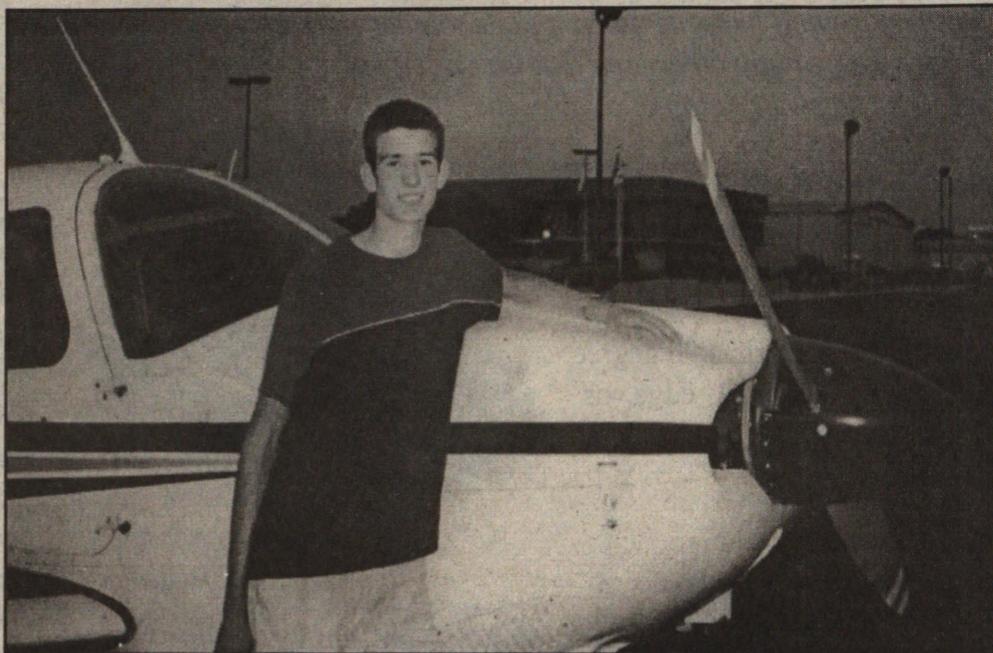


Photo courtesy of Roger Maritote

Of the Piper models, Roger Maritote prefers the Archer for its features, which include a Global Positioning Satellite, auto-pilot, and flying speeds up to 10 knots faster than the Warriors he has flown.

"Getting my license was one of the best things that has ever happened in my life so far. It was worth all the work and money to have the ability that so few people have. Every flight I go on is rewarding. I am glad I earned my license at such a young age," said Maritote.

The experience came at a price of time commitments as well as high expenses. Some plane prices can range between \$75 and \$100 per hour, and the boys had to obtain 75 flying hours to earn their licenses.

"I went around the airports and talked to the businesses. I found Cougar Aviation. It appealed to me because the prices were tied for the lowest and the airplanes were (See Pilots page 15)



Photo courtesy of Andy Kiger

Andy Kiger flies in order to practice and to "build time," which he said means to gain more hours necessary for more licenses.

Q&A: Do you feel drug testing is necessary for all activities?



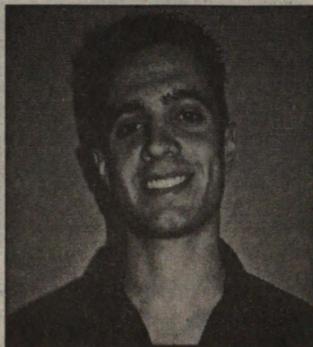
Amanda Neal
Sophomore

No because I think people should be able to do what they want. The school shouldn't be able to tell them what they can and cannot do. If they want to do drugs, they can.



Becky Bonarek
Junior

I can see the motivation for testing in sports and I agree with that. But drug testing for math team, book club, and key club? That's going a little too far. If you're going to do that, they might as well test the whole school at random.



Pat Virnich
Senior

I don't think it is necessary, but I do think there should be drug testing. If people sign up for activities, they take the responsibility of being drug free, and having drug testing would help enforce that.



Linsey Perez
Senior

I think so if you are in a club or activity because you are a role model for the entire school.



Christy Adduci
Senior

Drug testing should be for everyone, not just people in athletics and activities. Although it is true that people in athletics and activities could use drugs, so do people who aren't in anything.

Crickard retires from teaching, and has plans to teach instead

Current retirement plans are part-time teaching or banking

By Andrea Bradley

After 35 years, business teacher Joe Crickard is hanging up his teaching certificate at We-go, but he's not storing it away permanently.

While Crickard looks forward to relaxing, reading, and traveling in his retirement, he's also planning on teaching.

He is thinking about working a part-time job at a high school or a college. He also thinks he would like to work at a bank.

Crickard started teaching business at We-go right out of college. He saw an opening at the high school so he applied for it and got the job.

He was ready for the responsibility after majoring in business and receiving a minor in education from Illinois State University.

He decided that he wanted to become a teacher while he was still in high school. He had some great high school teachers, who heavily influenced him, and he wanted to have the same effect on students of his own.

Crickard also liked the idea of not having a regular nine to five job. With teaching came variety, and he would be doing something different

every day.

"You are never bored as a teacher. There are so many different people to get to know," said Crickard.

Other than the chance to meet new people, Crickard also likes the changes he has been able to see during his time at We-go.

When he first started teaching, Crickard had to use typewriters to teach his business and typing classes. When the first computers came in, not only did he get to teach his students how to use them, but he had to teach himself too.

He was never tired of his job because he was able to experience new things. Seeing these changes was part of Crickard's motivation to remain a teacher. His other motivation was the ability to see the change in his students.

"It's nice to see the students you taught use the knowledge you gave them to go onto college," said Crickard.

Crickard enjoys when students come back and say hello.

"It's nice to see where they have gone, and how successful they have become," said Crickard.

He is proud to see his old students major in business.

He also likes to receive e-mails and letters from past students.

Skills across the (key)board

Crickard teaches accounting and keyboarding classes, but his favorite is accounting.

The job appealed to him, because he would have a chance to teach an accounting class. He likes to teach accounting because he sees the students apply their math skills.

"I like the challenge of teaching students who will probably be business majors in college. It is fun to see students who start with no knowledge of accounting and see how much they know by the end of the year," said Crickard.

His favorite part about his (See Crickard page 16)

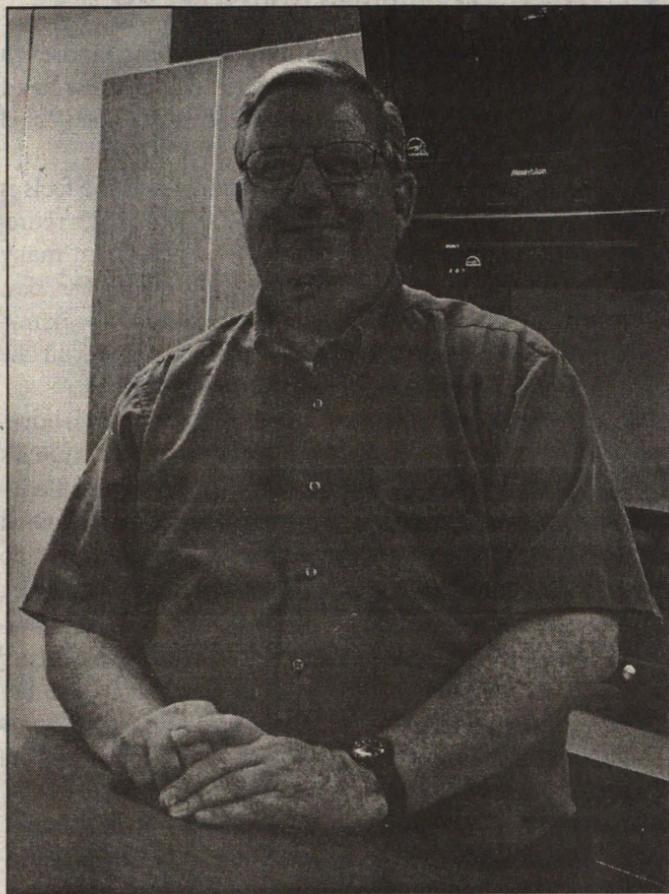


Photo by Kellie Virnich

Business department chair Joe Crickard began teaching at We-go straight out of college. Crickard's high school teachers impacted him so much that he aspired to impact his students in the same way.

School nurse ends rewarding career after 17 years of helping students

Pinney plans involvement in community services

By Mary Beth Selby

From hospital beds to ill students, Caroline Pinney has spent much of her life nursing other people.

Pinney has spent the last 17 years as the head school nurse of We-go, but has now decided it is time to retire.

"It's (been) hard to have a bad day at work, because five

minutes in the day is anything but boring, there is so much to do, so much fun," said Pinney when reflecting back on her We-go years.

Since an early age Pinney imagined she would be a school nurse. She fulfilled her dream when she attended University of Illinois Chicago and earned her college degree

in nursing.

Shortly after, she worked at the Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, which she described as a teaching hospital.

"I really learned a lot working there, and that is what they intend to do. It is best to gain experience in a teaching (See Pinney page 16)

Pilots... (Continued from page 14)

maintained properly. I wanted to fly out of DuPage because it is the third busiest airport in Illinois and the traffic would be a good experience for me," said Maritote.

Besides the prices and experience hours, the boys had to pass a written test. Maritote found the amount of required information to know a bit intimidating.

In the beginning, Kiger felt the actual maneuver requirements were tough, but he said persistent practice helped him learn all the necessary skills.

"My dad had his pilot's license at one time, so this provided some motivation. I got it just to start the process of becoming a commercial pilot. I love airplanes in general, but I also love being in the air and flying above everything," said

Kiger.

Their practice, however, never ends. Kiger and Maritote, though both busy, try to fit in practice flying when possible to gain experience and hours.

"I like to fly farther than 50 nautical miles so I can earn cross-country time. I research good restaurants and airports that have courtesy cars available. It is really cool because the airport gives you a car to use free of charge for up to two hours," said Maritote.

The brand of plane these pilots fly is the Piper, which has Warrior and Archer models. These planes are single-engines that seat four people and have wings on the bottom of the body, Maritote explained.

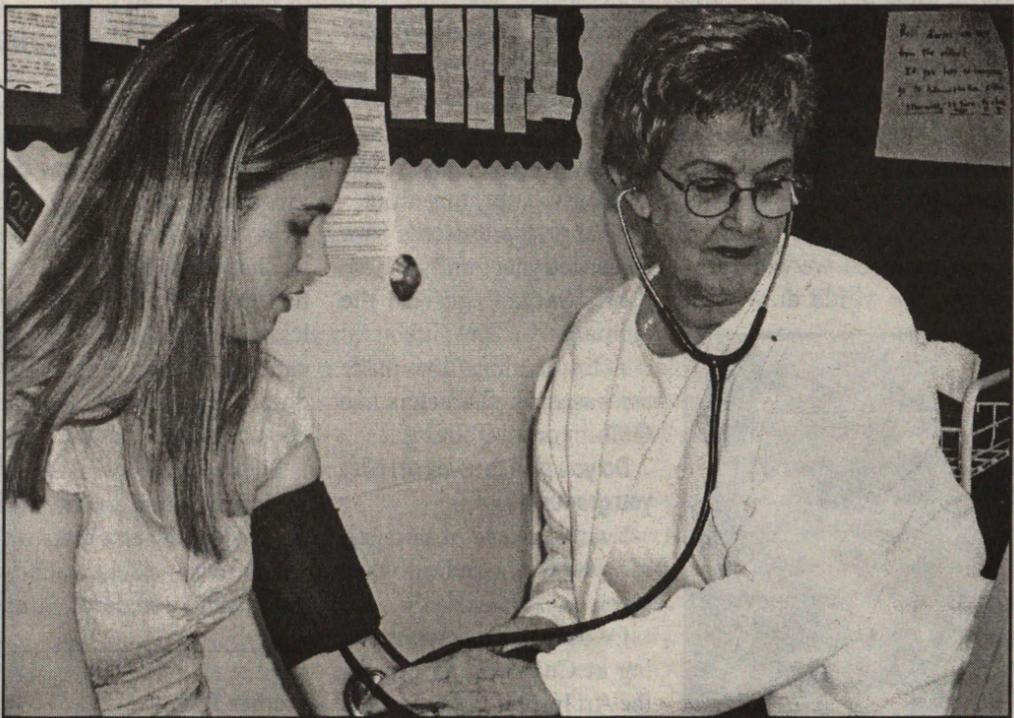


Photo by Mary Beth Selby

Caroline Pinney has been both a school nurse and a hospital nurse. She demonstrates her blood pressure taking techniques on Angie Losacco.

Pinney... (Continued from page 15)

hospital like Lutheran because they work with you, trust you, and help you learn through lots of experience," said Pinney.

After earning her degree, she worked in a hospital for eight years, collecting experience in the coronary care unit and intensive care unit. She also worked in home health care and spent a summer in a special education program working as the nurse.

"I do miss the hospital. It was fulfilling, all different types of cases and situations. It was neat because I have a feel for many things, and I felt I could experience a lot there," Pinney recalled.

Though she enjoyed the hospital, Pinney returned to University of Illinois in Chicago for her education and certificate in school nursing. Shortly after, a friend referred her to fill a job at We-go.

"At first my position was only temporary as I filled in for someone, but it eventually became permanent," Pinney said.

She really liked the school, attitude, and people. Pinney continued staying year after year, despite the difficulties she went through to get to work.

"I live 45 minutes away, and I often times wondered why I drove so far every day to work. I had thought many

times of leaving, and even interviewed for jobs, but I never followed through," said Pinney.

Now, however, she feels is the time to leave. Her retirement leaves her with many options of ways to fill her day.

"I plan to slowly work myself into involvement in the community," she said.

Her first activity will hopefully be to join her church's service program. People involved help those in need with something they can't do themselves, such as driving them to and from appointments, or cooking for them.

Pinney wants to use her nursing skills to service home health care through the church. Otherwise Pinney might help out her second daughter at her mortgage office in Arlington Heights, close to her home.

She plans to travel more, which she and her husband love to do. With a son in Montreal and one daughter in California, she has options for travel.

Though she has already made retirement plans, Pinney will not forget We-go.

"I really enjoyed my work when someone would come in hurt or upset or in pain and I could help, and seeing their face smile with appreciation really made it all worth it," she said.

College Column

Seniors may be finishing their work, but juniors should be starting theirs

By Mary Beth Selby

Seniors ought to mark "relief" on their calendar for May 1. Once seniors sign away to the college of their choice they can relax in the joy that choosing a school for next year is over.

We-go counselor Maura Bridges advises students not to worry about the possibility of not liking the school.

"College is a new experience, both exciting and overwhelming. Just try to have fun with it," she said.

May 1 does not signify your alliance with boot camp. Bridges said any student can leave college and transfer any time they want.

It is only fair, however, that the student allows ample time to adjust to the new environment and experience. She suggests that a full college semester should allow the chance to fit in comfortably.

In fact, that semester of learning about the campus also requires the student to learn academically, so he or she can meet some general education requirements necessary almost anywhere.

After declaring a school, seniors can finally relax from college pressures, focusing their efforts on clearing up any last details. Now is the time to finish sorting out finances. Consider any schol-

arships and pre-paid tuition expenses and calculate the final cost.

A smart step to covering the rest of the cost is to take out student loans in the name of the student, said counselor Ward Rau.

Student loans have smaller

"College is a new experience, both exciting and overwhelming. Just try to have fun with it," said Bridges.

interest rates than other loan types and have different options of loan payment schedules to choose from.

With the allotted time and low interest rate, students can stretch their payments out over time without falling too far into debt.

For something to look forward to, the summer will provide plenty of time for students to plan how to arrange their dorms.

Their very own home-away-from-home needs to feel comfortable and allow ample pleasures for living. Students can express their creativity, and preparing a list of necessary dorm items will make shopping much easier.

For juniors, however, summer ought not to be taken lightly. As ACT and Prairie State Exams have already passed, the test anxiety should too, but if any student is less than satisfied with their exam results, they should sign-up to retake the test, said Bridges.

The first time taking the standardized tests is always difficult, and re-taking the test can't do much less than improve the precious score. An increased ACT exam score may provide greater scholarship opportunities or more college acceptances.

While waiting for test scores, juniors should consider what their interests are so they will know what kind of school to look for. Summer is a prime time to tour with colleges, so if a vacation is planned, try to plan a quick stop at a college along the way.

As the student, take into consideration what the campus and school offers and what is being sought out. Try to keep an open mind when searching for colleges so the decision is not hurried senior year.

Juniors need to more seriously consider their college future now while time is still on their side. Ask counselors, teachers, or seniors for any advice they have.

Moreno molds position for Artist of the Month

By Bridget Geraghty

April's Artist of the Month, Judy Moreno, considers her love of art her "precious."

How did you first become interested in art?

My brother and I started drawing when we were very little. We would draw a lot

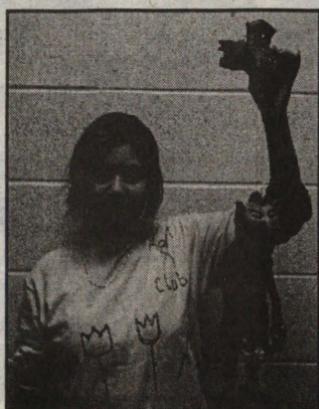


Photo by Brittany Rose
Much of Moreno's inspiration is from Lord of the Rings.

of our favorite cartoon characters like Bilbo Baggins.

What is your preferred medium?

Clay, because it gives me a chance to let my anger out.

What artists or works have influenced your own?

Ms. Samaniego and the animator of "The Hobbit."

A lot of things I've made are based on characters like Gollum or the goblins.

Do you plan to study art after you graduate?

I would like to, if possible. If I won the Little Lotto then seven days a week!

I would like to keep studying at Columbia College or the Art Institute, but we'll see.

Is anyone else in your family interested in art?

My sister Lupe and my

Crickard... (Continued from page 15)

classes is that they are always different. The students that he has give each class a new environment to work in. Crickard's first experience in teaching showed him that he had to be flexible and plan lessons that fit the students in each class. The same lesson doesn't always work for every class, he said.

But there are downsides to the job. His least favorite part of the job is catching up. Crickard considers teachers to be just like students. Some

days you don't have a lot of homework, but the next day you're extremely busy.

Since the beginning of Crickard's teaching career, his teaching styles have changed.

He now does more teaching by doing hands-on activities instead of just lecturing to his students.

Along with teaching, Crickard is also the business education department chair. He has been the business department chair for 26 years

and enjoys it just as much as teaching.

"Being a department chair means that you are working with other teachers most of the time. Being a teacher means you are working with students. Doing both gives you a balance and provides variety in your day," said Crickard.

Throughout Crickard's teaching career, he has learned as much from his students as they have learned from him. He has learned to be patient and to not give up on people.

"Give them a second chance if needed but make them as responsible as you can," he said.

brother José.

What advice do you have for students interested in art?

Take art because it's some-

thing that every student should take and it's a class where you can relieve your stress.

ñ Noticias

El futuro empieza para dos hispanos en el College of DuPage

Por Maria Perez

Dos estudiantes hispanos siguen el mismo camino mientras que planean su futuro en el College Of DuPage.

Senior Guillermo Pantoja planea asistir COD para hacerse un mecánico automotor y Senior Antonia Gonzales planea a ir a COD para hacerse una enfermera.

Ambos estudiantes Hispanos llegaron a la misma conclusión, que COD era mejor porque era más barato que una universidad y más cerca a ellos. También COD tiene las facilidades para dejarlos estudiar en la carera que buscan.

Pantoja dijo que económicamente él tiene que trabajar para pagar el colegio solo y su familia nada mas lo puede ayudar un poquito.

"Yo tengo que trabajar para estudiar," dijo Pantoja.

Gonzales también tiene que trabajar para asistir COD y estudiar para su carrera. Gonzales dijo que no puede contar en su madre por dinero porque su madre es una madre

soltera y tiene que trabajar para mantener la familia.

Los padres de Pantoja lo ayudaron a hacer sus decisiones y le dan su apoyo. Sus maestros también lo animaron a seguir estudiando.

"Me dicen que puedo estudiar lo que quiero," dijo Pantoja.

Gonzales no recibió el apoyo de su madre cuando hizo su decisión a ir a colegio, porque su madre tenía un dificultades en encontrar trabajo y prefería que Gonzales la ayudara la mayoría del tiempo. Su novio era comprensivo porque es un ingeniero y le dice a Gonzales hay que estar preparada para el futuro.

Finalmente Gonzales dijo que su madre se recuperó y la está apoyando. También Gonzales recibió consejos de su consejera a continuar estudiando.

Todavía Gonzales dijo que su decisión a ir a COD era su propia decisión. Ella no tenía apoyo en su decisión hasta que la hizo.

"Yo pensé acerca de eso y lo hice yo misma. No había nadie allí para apoyarme hasta hora," dijo Gonzales.

Pantoja no tuvo dificultad consiguiendo ayuda y apoyo en su decisión par ir al colegio. Pantoja dijo lo único que encontró difícil en continuando sus estudios era de escoger qué estudiar. La consejera de Pantoja lo ayudó mucho en correr una búsqueda en la Internet, buscando otra información, y les hablo a sus maestros por ayuda y consejos. Pantoja planea a visitar el campus colegial el 18 de mayo durante un paseo escolar.

Pantoja espera que estudiando en COD puede empezar su carrera para tener una buena vida en el futuro. El piensa estudiar mecanismo en COD para conseguir su associate degree.

Gonzales sabe de las oportunidades que hispanos tienen. Ella entiende que hispanos como una minoría tienen muchas oportunidades, porque los colegios están

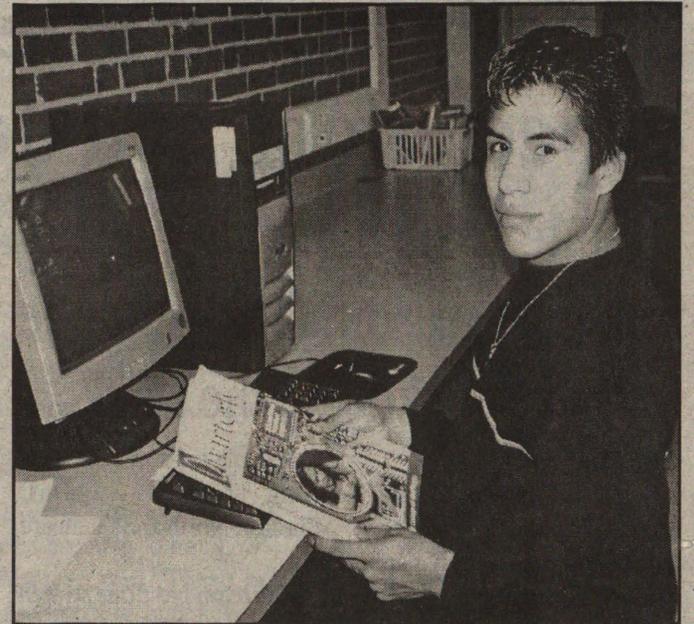


Foto por Maria Perez

Guillermo Pantoja busca un buen futuro estudianto en COD.

activamente contratando estudiantes hispanos. Les conseja que sigan estudiando, que vayan al colegio, buscan una carrera, y planear para el futuro.

"Yo no pienso que es justo, porque nosotros debemos tener las mismas oportunidades. Algunos estudiantes tienen mas oportunidades que otros, pero no son buenos estudiantes y los estudiantes buenos no reciben las mismas oportunidades," dijo Gonzales.

Todavía Gonzales piensa que aunque no sea justo los estudiantes hispanos deben de tomar la ventaja de las oportunidades que tienen. En esa manera puedan tener éxito

y tendrán una educación mejor.

Pantoja piensa que desde que los hispanos se están haciendo una mayoría, se deben hacer educados. En esa manera tienen buena representación entre los hispanos y enseñen que no son inmigrantes nada mas viniendo por trabajos. El no cree que los hispanos deben conformarse a trabajos que pagan \$6 por hora y cree que por estudiando hispanos pueden conseguir mejores trabajos y un futuro mejor para su familia.

Ambos Pantoja y Gonzales están trabajando para su futuro asistiendo COD en espera de una buena carrera y una vida mejor.

Hispanics take their first steps to their future at COD

By Maria Perez

Two Hispanic students are following the same path as they plan their futures at College of DuPage.

Senior Gillermo Pantoja plans to attend COD to become an automotive mechanic and senior Antonia Gonzales plans to attend COD to become a nurse.

Both Hispanic students came to the same conclusion that COD was better because it was cheaper than a university and closer to home. Also, COD has the facilities that allow them to study for the careers they are seeking.

Pantoja said that financially, he has to work his way through college and his family can only

help him a little.

"I have to work in order to study," said Patoja.

Gonzales has to work to be able to attend COD and study her career. Gonzales said that she can't count on her mom for money because she is a single parent and has to work to maintain the family.

Pantoja's parents helped him make decisions and give him their support. His teachers also encouraged him to keep studying.

"They tell me that I can study whatever I want," said Pantoja.

Gonzales didn't receive support from her mother when she made the decision to go to college because her mother was having a hard time finding work and preferred that Gonzales help her most of the time. Her boyfriend was supportive because he is an engineer and tells Gonzales to be prepared for the future.

Eventually Gonzales said that her mother came around and is supporting her now. Also Gonzales received advice from her counselor to continue studying. Yet Gonzales said that her decision to go to COD

was her own. She had no support on her decision until she made it.

"I thought about it and made it myself. There was no one there to support me until now," said Gonzales.

Pantoja had no trouble getting help and support in his decision to go on to college. Pantoja said that the only hard thing he found in continuing his education was deciding what to study.

Pantoja's counselor helped him a lot by helping him run an Internet search, searching for other information, and he talked to his teachers for help and advice. Pantoja plans to visit the college campus on May 18 during a school field trip.

Pantoja hopes that by studying at COD, he can start his career in order to have a good life. Pantoja plans to work for his associate's degree at COD, work full-time, and then return to college.

Gonzales feels the same. She wants to study at COD in order to start her career and work toward her future.

Gonzales' advice to Hispanic students is that they

should keep studying and go to school.

She understands that Hispanics as a minority have a lot of opportunities because colleges are actively recruiting them. She encourages the students to keep studying, go to college, look for a career, and plan for the future.

Still, Gonzales thinks that even though it may not be fair, Hispanic students should take advantage of the opportunities they have. So they can succeed and have a better education than their parents.

Pantoja agrees saying that since the Hispanics are growing in numbers they should be educated. That way they are good representatives for Hispanics and show that they aren't just immigrants coming for jobs.

He doesn't believe that Hispanics should conform to jobs where they get paid \$6 per hour and believes that by studying, Hispanics can get better jobs and a better future for their families.

Both Pantoja and Gonzales are working for their future as they attend COD in hope of a good career and a better life.



Photo by Maria Perez

Antonia Gonzales continues her studies with the support of her counselor Jill Holubetz in reaserching COD.

Badminton team exceeding expectations and doing well

Despite losing quality players from last season, the rest of the team has picked up the slack.

By Maria Perez

Even with the loss of key players from last season, the girls badminton team has surpassed expectations.

"The girls had to step up their game because we lost so many seniors and had to work hard to condition themselves to be ready to compete," said coach Jessica Inch.

One of the players that has stepped up is sophomore Kelsey Lesniak. Last year she was on JV and this year she holds the number one spot on the badminton team.

Inch said that the number one spot in the team is a huge responsibility, and she thinks that Lesniak has done very well in that position.

Another player that is doing well this season is junior Ashley Egert. Inch said that

she has played some very exciting matches against Wheaton North and Glenbard East.

"The team has done so well compared to the expectations we had, because we haven't expected a lot from them but they have proved me wrong," said captain Sarah Swatsworth.

Inch agreed that she has noticed the team's ability to be competitive. Another goal the badminton team has accomplished is improving their skill level.

Inch said that the team has been able to get more out of a swing through technique. Still Inch expects the team to keep getting better for the rest of the season.

Overall, Inch has gained a better understanding of a coach as an authority figure and edu-

cator.

"I learned that to be a good coach you can't be everyone's friend. As a coach you are never going to make everyone happy and that's something you have to live with," said Inch.

Lesniak said that this season she has learned a lot more about foot work, new strategies, and the game. From that Lesniak has gained more confidence in her game.

"I think we'll pull off the season pretty well. We are better than I hoped, because I thought it was going to be a rebuild year and the girls have potential and a good attitude," said Swatsworth.

Inch would rather not predict how the season will end. Still, she has noticed that the badminton girls are feeling good about how hard they have played. Inch hopes that the team walks away with a genuine love for the sport and with a feeling that they were part of something great at the end of this season.

The badminton team is planning to hold a student badminton challenge in the middle of May. The team wants to prove that badminton is a competitive sport.

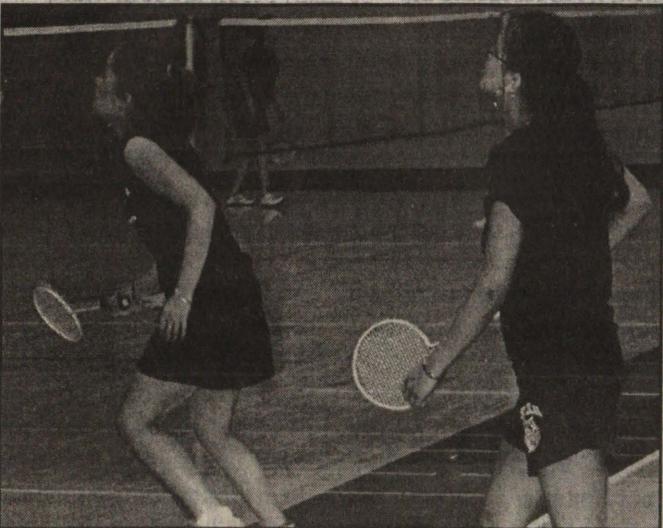


Photo by Brittany Rose

The badminton team has shown improvement over the course of the season as they have exceeded all of their expectations.

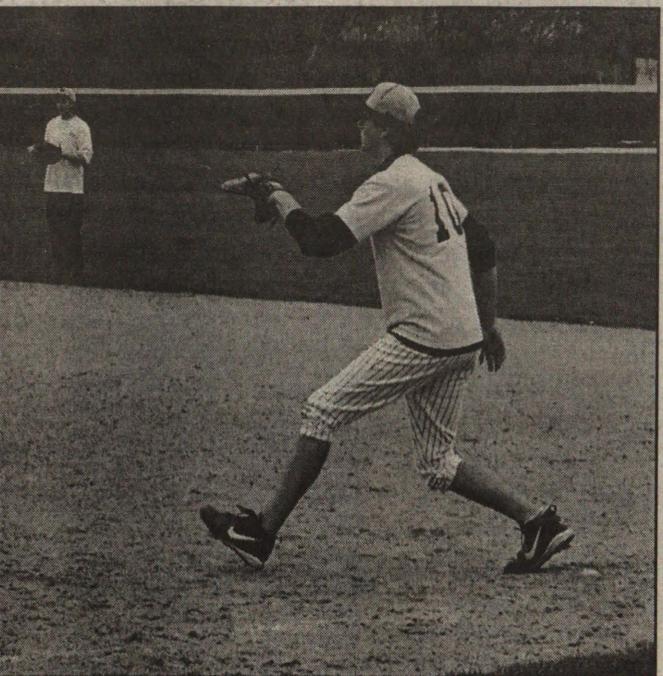


Photo by John Jennings

The baseball team has started off with a bang winning nine out of their first 14 games thanks in part to their terrific pitching staff.

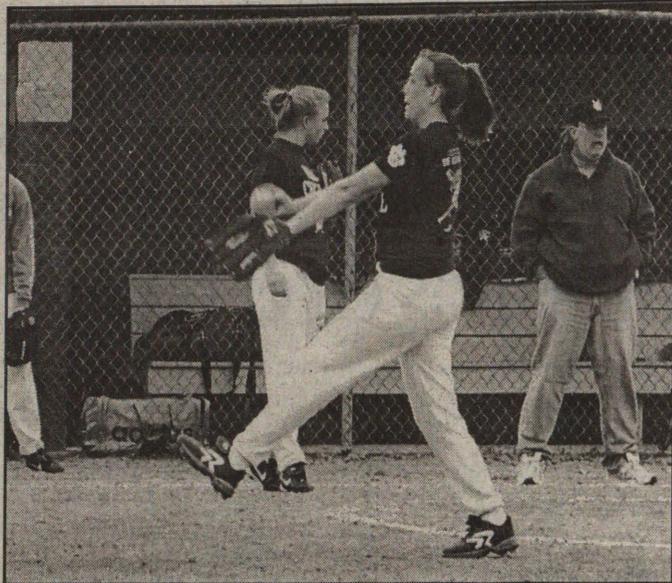


Photo by John Jennings

Even with all the new players, the softball team has come together and played well.

Softball team wants to end season with championship

By Kellie Virnich

With so many new players on We-go varsity softball, the team is working together and helping each other towards their goal of winning the conference title.

"In the '90s, it was always between Glenbard North and us," said coach Jim Schaudt. "We'd like to win again this year, and play as far as we can in regionals."

Schaudt, who coached high school baseball for several years before switching to softball, feels that that the team, with only four returning varsity players, has a solid defense,

but needs to work on batting consistently.

"The team seniors are very important," said Schaudt. "They help the younger players to improve their techniques and give pep talks before games."

Brandi Bodie, the team's starting centerfielder, hopes to have one of the best batting averages in the DVC and be an all-conference player, but said that as long as the team is playing hard and having fun, it doesn't matter what happens.

Senior Emily Ekstrom, returning team captain, emphasizes (See Softball page 19)

Baseball team aims for conference title after strong start to the season

With a great pitching staff and teamwork, this year's team could win the conference

By John Jennings

The baseball team this year has played extremely well so far. With a record of nine wins and five losses, they were recently ranked atop the DuPage Valley Conference, and the Daily Herald ranks them 15th in the Chicagoland area.

Some of the biggest strengths that this year's team has displayed is its pitching. The rotation boasts three or four pitchers that can throw consistently in the 80 mph range, and Brett Rosin who is throwing in the 90 mph range.

The team has a lot of returning players, and so far this year, the starting pitching has been superb. In most of the games the team has received quality starts out of their pitchers.

Ted Gernand and Tom Grove have played very well throughout the season.

Gernand's offensive output and Grove's consistent pitching have really surprised the coaches.

As for the team's shortcomings, fielding and hitting are the two things the team really needs to improve upon. The team can be very streaky at the plate.

Sometimes they will hit the ball extremely well, and other times they struggle. Errors have also hurt the team this season.

Consistency is the biggest thing the team needs to improve upon. Some days they will play exceptionally well, and in other games they don't.

To prepare for their games, the team will practice the skills that they need to improve upon for the next game.

The team will work on their fielding if that is what they have been struggling with, or

they will conduct batting practice if that's what they need to work on.

Head coach John Walters said, "We practice and work hard to correct our deficiencies."

Regionals is where the team wants to go this year. They have set their sights on winning the DVC outright, and winning the conference championship.

First baseman Evan Skarin said, "I always look forward to facing the good teams. It's a lot of fun being able to beat them and to see the expressions of shock and defeat on their faces."

In addition to looking forward to facing good teams, the baseball team is definitely not short on rivals. Skarin said, "I love to play Naperville Central because my dad went there, so I like to say that I beat his school."

Walters agrees that the Naperville schools are the most fun to play, especially Naperville Central.

Eltrain's View

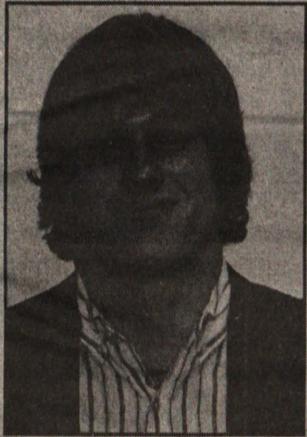
Going professional or living a normal life?

Athletes are starting to enter many professional sports at suprisingly young ages, but at what cost?

By Elliott Tinnes

When LeBron James became the number one NBA draft pick last year, he rekindled the fire in a growing debate of whether or not teenagers should be allowed in professional sports. In the case of James, he is more than qualified to compete in the big leagues. James has not only the physical attributes needed to make it; he has the mental aspect as well.

It takes something more than a well-built frame to make it in the pros. An athlete has to be mentally capable of handling the amount of



pressure that comes with being a star. James has charisma, he has poise, and he has the maturity of an athlete well beyond his years, which is why he will thrive in the pros. James could make the transition from high school to the NBA without the college hiatus.

However, not every young athlete can cover all the bases as James has. There are many young people with exceptional athletic ability, but that does not mean they should head straight for the pros.

For instance, Freddy Adu, the sports world's latest phenomenon, signed a 6-year deal with D.C. United, the major league soccer team out of Washington. The contract, worth \$500,000 a year, makes Adu not only MLS' highest paid player, but also the youngest professional athlete in American sports history. On the physical end of the spectrum, Adu is ready to play with the best.

While some MLS players worry that older, stronger play-

ers will physically crush him, Adu believes he is ready. In an interview with Sports Illustrated, Adu described himself as a 10-year-old in Ghana, playing against grown men. "They'd put me in games, and they would foul me. It was almost like they were teaching me to be tough."

On the mental playing field, Adu is not quite there. A life in the limelight certainly has its rewards. Fame, a lucrative contract with Nike, and the chance to do what you love as your job all come with being a professional athlete. Along with fame and fortune, though, comes an exaggerated pressure to perform. Adu will be held under a microscope and be dissected by the game and the media alike. The ability to handle that aspect of the game is something that comes with age and experience.

Adu was born with a gift. He is an incredible athlete at age 14 and will most likely become one of the best of all time. But, as possibly the best ath-

lete of the era, shouldn't he take time out to be a kid? He will have much of his life to play soccer, but only so long to be a teenager.

Basketball and soccer are considered "contact sports", as players are able to bump one another around. These are physical sports, but they are not punishing sports. An 18-year-old, or even a 14-year-old can still play against larger people. Sports such as football, though, are physically punishing sports. If an 18-year-old were to play in the NFL, he would probably severely injure himself. Physically underdeveloped, teenage players can not match up to their older, and stronger counterparts.

Fortunately, this has never been a problem, as the NFL has always maintained that any draftee must be more than two years out of high school. This allowed athletes to leave college early for the pros, but it kept them from foregoing the NCAA entirely. Then came Maurice Clarett.

After being suspended from Ohio State University, Clarett prepared to enter the upcoming NFL draft, only to find that, due to his age, he was not

allowed to enter the draft. With no more college football to play because his team suspended him, and no draft to enter, Clarett was stuck with nowhere to go. With the help of his lawyers, though, Clarett sued the NFL under anti-trust laws, stating that they could not keep teams from drafting him. Clarett won the case, thus enabling a person of any age to be drafted into the NFL.

While there are probably few people crazy enough to enter the NFL straight from high school, the idea that they can is absurd. For the protection of the athlete, as well as the integrity of the game, young athletes should stick to college ball until they are physically ready.

Should an athlete be talented enough to make it into professional sports, they should take every opportunity to make the best of it. Only so many people are born with a gift such as that.

A career in professional sports does not need to be forged during what are arguably the best years of one's life. Young athletes have their whole lives to play sports.

Boys track team wants to keep streak alive and win invitational at Crystal Lake

By Mary Beth Selby

As boys track focuses on improvements, field events hail praises.

Varsity won their first invitational of the year at Geneva while JV placed fourth out of 10 teams.

"We've won this invitational two years in a row, so it wasn't a big surprise. It wasn't a great meet, in my opinion," said head coach Paul McLeland.

The team used their first Tuesday meet against

Wheaton-Warrenville South and Wheaton North as a practice for Saturday. McLeland made note that they won first place in various events in order to win, but they weren't against conference teams, which McLeland didn't hold in too high of priority.

"We have good depth. We didn't have too many first places, but there were many strong finishes. We did good," said distance runner Jason Becker.

Both McLeland and Becker said the field events did very well. First places included Erik Hernandez for shot put, Jeff Raymond in pole vault, and Mike Savagnago in high jump.

Sprint coach Matt Doll said the 4x100 team did better, but still need improvements.

"The handoff to the anchor needed improvements. It lost about a second. But our field events have been strong all

year," said Doll.

At this point the goal for track is to focus efforts towards qualifying the strongest events for state, he said. For example, Doll looks towards Savagnago in high jump and pole vault for field events, and he is trying to work out the fourth runner for his 4x100 relay.

"I have three guys set, I just need to figure out the fourth because it always changes," he said.

Distance keeps focusing their efforts on stronger endurance, despite some painful setbacks. Mike Smolucha said he and Steve Ramirez are trying to recover from injuries.

Smolucha also said that some of the guys on the team are not always showing up for practice, which leaves the team a little short handed and unpredictable.

Their next meet is the Crystal Lake Central Invitational in Crystal Lake.



Photo by Doug Sieder

The boys track team, behind strong performances in the field events and distance running, won the Geneva Invitational.

Softball... (Continued from page 18)

sizes the importance of perfecting technique.

Ekstrom said, "Every play counts; every play makes a difference."

She hopes to help the team execute more precise batting and work on bunts before she leaves.

The team won in an upset earlier this month by defeating Geneva, whose softball team was named one of the top 20 in

the Chicago Sun-Times.

The team considered this victory their biggest win so far this season, and it encouraged them to work even harder in their upcoming games.

Schaudt believes in routine, and each practice consists of fundamentals and repetitions for each aspect of the game.

Though she hopes to go to conference and regionals, Kim Rovtar also wants to concen-

trate her last year on building closeness in her relationships with her teammates.

"After it's all over, it's more about the relationships and friendships you make than the number of wins and losses," she said.

The team is optimistic about the rest of the season, knowing that they are going to play their best and represent West Chicago well.

Today in Sports

The baseball team is ranked 15th in the Chicagoland area according to the Daily Herald.



Photo by Mary Beth Selby

Danielle Ramano (above) and Drew Krecek (below) were named Athletes of the Meet for their performances at the Raider Invite.



Photo by Mary Beth Selby

The girls track team won the the Raider Invitational recently.

Erik Hernandez (below) took first place in the shot-put at the Geneva Invitational.



Photo by Mary Beth Selby

The boys track team took first at the Geneva Invitational.

Emily Ekstrom was named Athlete of the Month for April.

John's Jive

Players value money much more than winning

Now players go to the team with the most money, not best record

By John Jennings

"I just want to go somewhere where I can win." Those are the famous last words of many great athletes who have just become free agents.

However, what these athletes really mean to say is, "I want to go somewhere for a lot of money, and I hope I win." I hate it when these great stars complain about being on a team with no chance, but when they get the chance to go to another team, they often forget about winning, and just go for the money.

About four years ago, those

were the words spoken by Alex Rodriguez. He became a free agent and at that time was considered one of the best players in baseball. After getting offers from many teams who had a chance at winning, Rodriguez bolted for the Texas Rangers.

They offered him a contract worth over \$20 million a year, which was more than double what anyone else offered and he took it. Texas managed to finish dead last in their conference in each of the past three years. Because of Rodriguez's huge contract, the biggest ever paid to any one player in any sport, the team could not sign any other quality players.

Many other stars have done the same thing. Rarely does one see an athlete take less money for a shot at winning. This is understandable, because greed is understood, but to do this after harping on going to a winning team is just angering.

If a player goes somewhere for the money, he should say it, instead of complaining about winning and losing. This is why I respect Karl Malone, Gary Payton, and Terrell Owens. Both Malone and Payton spent their careers playing for one team, Utah Jazz and Seattle SuperSonics respectively, but they had never won a championship.

When they became free agents last summer, instead of going to a mediocre or losing

team for a lot of money, they both decided to take a lot less money and join the Los Angeles Lakers, who had a very good chance of winning a championship.

In addition, I even have respect for Terrell Owens. While he acts immature, he stayed true to his word. He left the San Francisco '49ers wallowing in mediocrity to go play for the Philadelphia Eagles who have made it to the NFC championship game in each of the last three years.

While he has done some of the most ludicrous stunts on the field, and while he is always overly critical of his coaches and teammates, he actually defied athlete logic, and he went for the championship and not the cash.

Athlete of the Month

Emily Ekstrom honored because of softball skills

By Doug Sieder

April's Athlete of the Month is senior softball player Emily Ekstrom for her outstanding accomplishments in softball.

Who inspired you the most during the year?

Coach Maloney has inspired me the most this year. She reminded me of what the sport is all about and she made me much stronger.

What sport do you enjoy the most?

I really enjoy playing tennis. I grew up around the sport. But my favorite sport is softball.

What plans do you have after high school?

I would like to go to school for business management and I want to get a minor in Spanish. After that, I would like to go back to school and get my cosmetology license to open up my own salon.

Do you plan on playing any sports after high school?

I do plan on playing softball after high school. I got a full ride to Elgin Community College, so then hopefully I will play at a division 2 school for softball.

What is your best sports memory?

Hitting a double to win the Kansas City, Missouri tournament was probably my favorite sports memory.

What are your hopes for your senior year of softball?

Play as a team, have fun, and

I would like to win the conference championship.

What coaches have helped you achieve your goals throughout high school and how did they help you?

My dad, he was the best coach for me. He saw immediately what I was doing wrong and he knew exactly how to correct it. He never gave up on me.

How many years have you been involved in softball?

I have been involved in softball for about 10 years now.

Have you achieved any award in sports?

I was DuPage Valley Conference honorable mention last year.

Do you do anything special before each game?

No, I just try to focus on softball and block everything else out.



Photo courtesy of Emily Ekstrom
Elgin Community College is the next stop for Emily Ekstrom, who hopes to continue playing softball.

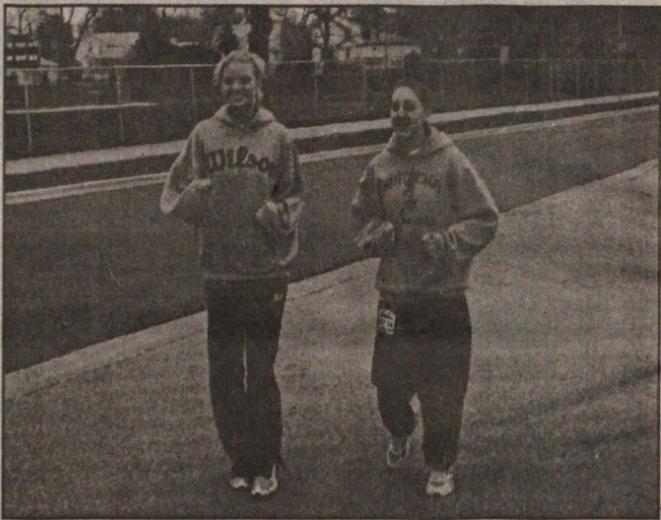


Photo by Doug Sieder

Karen Sweas (left), DeAnne Fitzenreider (right), and the rest of the girls track team are preparing hard for the upcoming state meet.

Girls track team tears up the field at Raider Invite

By Elliott Tinnis

April has been a month of firsts for the girls varsity track team. This month marked their first outdoor invitational as a team. By scoring at least one girl in every event except two, the Wildcats took the gold in the Raider Invite April 17.

Scoring in 17 out of 19 events is a respectable feat for any team to pull off. In doing so, the girls were able to score 116 points to beat out Lincoln-Way East, host Glenbard South, Bartlett, Vernon Hills, Hersey, Streamwood, Fenton, and Addison Trail.

"I thought it was a really good meet for us," said Laura Baumrucker. "The girls on varsity and JV all did well."

In order to win the invite many runners had to step up. Lauren Anders led the team with 20 points in three events. Baumrucker also placed well, scoring 14 points in three events.

It was Drew Krecek and

Danielle Ramano, though, who were awarded Athletes of the Meet because of their outstanding performances.

The victory at Glenbard South came after facing tough conference competition throughout the beginning of the outdoor season. At a triangular meet April 13, the Wildcats faced off against Wheaton North and Wheaton South, only to come in second.

Before that, the girls ran against the ever-powerful team from Glenbard North. There are a number of good teams throughout the state, but it is no secret that several continually strong teams reside in the DuPage Valley Conference.

With only two weeks left to prepare for the DVC championship, and three weeks left before the state sectional meet, the girls are in the prime of their season, working to reach their peak times in preparation for the state meet which takes place May 21.