

Wildcat Chronicle

West Chicago Community High School

Volume 35, Issue 3

December 2003



Band makes transition in sports
The marching band doesn't just play for football games. See what they're up to during the winter. PAGE 3



Teacher joins protesters in Georgia
Susan Junkroski spent a weekend in Georgia to protest the School of the Americas. PAGE 7

Simulation the focus of JSA trip to Washington

"Winter Congress" lets students mimic real life

By Kyle Bullis

JSA will be getting ready to head to Washington, D.C. in February for a jazzed up government simulation called the Winter Congress.

During these simulations, students sponsor proposed bills. The students are divided into committees and the purpose of the simulation is to mimic congress.

JSA adviser Shawn Healy took his JSA members to D.C. last year and along with participating in the mock congressional meetings, they toured the House of Representatives.

"It was cool because we sat in the seats and it was only a week after the State of the Union address," said Healy.

During the trip, JSA members also participated in "thought talks," which was an informal gathering of JSA members to discuss certain controversial issues.

The students will also be going to Madison, Wis. for a JSA competition.

During this competition, debates are held to discuss current controversial topics.

Each group presents their argument, either for the resolution or against it, and the two sides debate.

The audiences of the debates then vote on whose resolution is the best, and then there is a vote for the best speaker of the debate.

This means that the speaker who wins the debate doesn't necessarily mean that they win the best

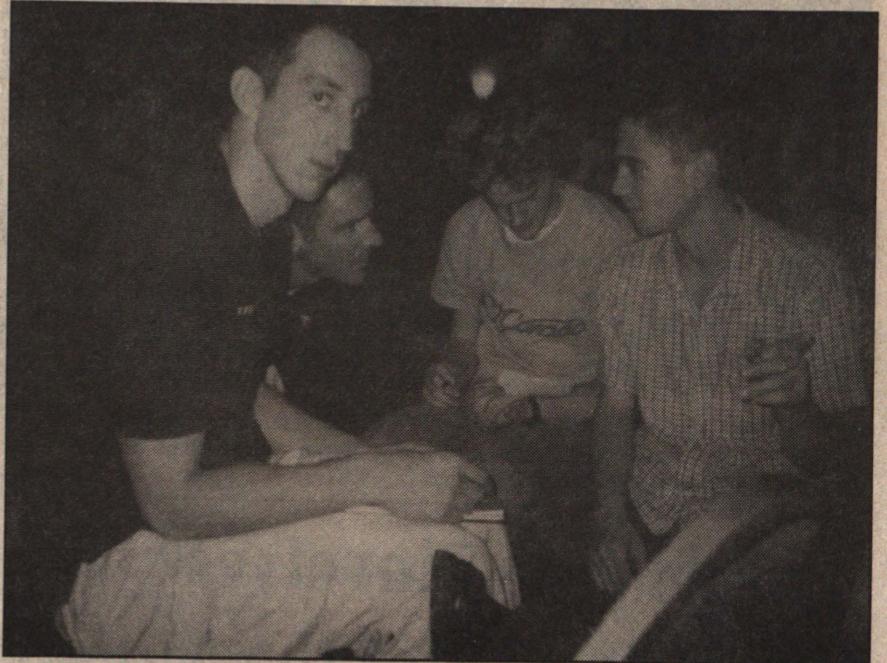
speaker honor because the votes are largely opinion based.

JSA also participates in "crossfire" debates, where each speaker is given a specific amount of time to prove an argument before the floor is handed over to the other speaker, who then proposes his/her argument and can in return rebut the other speaker.

Recently the competition added adviser debates to allow the JSA advisors to address resolutions themselves.

Healy said that he would love to have underclassmen take up JSA. "We have a strong organization because we've had carry-overs. We need more. Continuity is important," said Healy.

Healy also emphasized the importance of the class if students wanted to get into politics. "It's a unique class for people aspiring to work in politics," said Healy.



Staff Photo

Social Studies teacher Shawn Healy (center) talks to Phil Buksa, Rich Visser, and Pat Virnich about the events of JSA.

School plans what to do with Lincoln site

Board eyes nearby alley for more athletic space

By Mary Beth Selby

With Lincoln School gone, Community High School is trying to finalize what to do with the demolished school.

At the December Board of Education meeting, assistant superintendent of business Gary Grizaffi discussed the possibilities for owning the alleyway east of the Lincoln site.

The school board considered buying the property after Lincoln was torn down in order to extend green space for athletic practice areas.

However, this proposal faced enough problems that Grizaffi urged his fellow board members not to go through with it.

After the school was demolished, the city of West Chicago asked the high school if they wanted the property.

But the alley was in a dead trust, meaning that no one can determine the owner of the property.

But the city wrote up the papers to overcome this obstacle, and Grizaffi sent them to the school's attorney.

ney.

The attorney suggested not buying the property for multiple reasons.

The attorney pointed out that We-go did not own the alley for 20 years to apply for a quiet title to reclaim the area, Community High School would have to buy liability trusts for the alley, and the residents already need to use the alley to access their garages.

In addition, Grizaffi said that he decided against buying the alleyway because the school would also have to pay costs for the lawyers to settle legal matters plus the cost of the area's construction.

Grizaffi said he feels the current plans for Lincoln are enough, which will create green space and more parking.

The Board of Education is currently waiting to receive the engineering plans to know how to fit the fields, maximize the green space, and build a storm water detention area.

The board was given two ideas, the first of which provided a rectangular field

of minimum space and a retention pond at a cost-efficient price.

The second idea provided a maximum amount of field area, but cost about \$180,000 to remove the excess materials to level the space.

Since hauling materials can become quite expensive, Grizaffi hopes they will be able to balance the area and level it for fields.

Grizaffi said that on the higher plateau of green space, the new fields will possibly be used for soccer and softball practices, while the lower section will be used as a retention ditch.

The west end of this ditch will be designed specifically for shot-put practice, with a steeper grade on the east side.

Grizaffi does recognize students' request for more parking areas, so the parking lot east of the pool just off Joliet Street will be expanded by another 36 spaces.

With all these plans in place, Grizaffi said that he hopes to start the bidding for a public contractor in the spring.

Ideally, Grizaffi said, the fields, retention pond, and parking will all be constructed for the fall season of 2004.

Stadium may get upgrade in the face of budget deficit

By Sam West

Despite a possible budget deficit for upcoming years, the Community High School Board of Education may give the go-ahead for the replacement of the turf in the school's stadium.

The board felt that the change from real grass to artificial turf would improve physical education programs and provide flexibility for extracurricular activities. Moreover, the replacement would reduce maintenance costs.

Supt. Dr. Lee Rieck said that artificial turf would help multiple organizations within the school.

"We have such limited green space and this would provide for better facilities for our athletic teams," said Rieck.

Plus, Rieck said, when inclement weather arises, the field would not get muddy and destruction issues would be solved.

The board currently is

lacking \$50,000 to \$100,000 in funds to reconstruct the field, which will cost approximately \$500,000.

In order to gain the needed money, the board is looking into selling their Highlake Road property, which has been vacant for years.

Some board members are opposed to selling the property, especially board president Maria Owens.

Owens contested that if the district sold the property for money now, it would not have a property to sell in the future if more pressing concerns arose.

But Rieck thinks that selling the Highlake property will be a good thing for the school.

"Taking the proceeds of that is the best approach," he said.

Board member Rich Nagel called for a public hearing, and said that the community must be involved in the sale of the

property, as residents may have differing ideas than the school board.

"This is a big step," said Nagel. "We need to be in synch with the community."

Rieck has tentatively scheduled the hearing for Feb. 10, but said that he does not expect many in the community to oppose the sale.

The money from the Highlake property's sale could also be used in upgrading the school's technology systems.

Rieck said that technology in the school is important and the board cannot let technology suffer.

Although some board members said that money for upgrades will be needed in the future, as well, Rieck said that the money made in the present should go to causes in the present.

"We need to do what we need to do," said Rieck, adding that future school boards need to worry about what happens in the future.



Staff Photo

Child development teacher Patti Kozlowski's students teach a preschool class, so that they will get a hands-on experience with children. Here, We-go students tell children the plans for preschool that day.

We-go students sent back to preschool for the month

By Kyle Bullis

Teacher Patti Kozlowski's child development class went back to preschool in December.

Kozlowski's students got a chance to teach a preschool program involving children between 3 1/2 to 5 years of age.

The purpose behind the program is to give Kozlowski's students hands-on experience with preschool children.

Parents can volunteer their children for the program (knowing that the kids will be supervised by We-go students) for a small fee, and in turn the students get valuable experience they can use when they have their own

children.

The emphasis of the program is "learn through play," and that philosophy is enforced throughout the preschool room.

Three days a week for three weeks, starting Dec. 2, Kozlowski's students divided into three groups.

One group taught the children, one group headed into an observatory room to record the children's behavior, and the third group stayed in the classroom and read "A Child Called It" while answering questions about the book.

The observing group of students watched the children through a one-way mirror and recorded the

children's behaviors, reactions, and activities of one child.

The students also wrote down a physical description of the child.

Kozlowski's "Clues on How to Observe" handout states that "through observation it is possible to discover causes of behavior and to increase acceptance of individual variations in growth."

The preschool sessions run from 4th hour to 8th hour, with students switching off each hour.

Kozlowski said that this system may confuse the children at first but they'd get used to it over time.

All of the preparation (See Preschool page 3)

Campagnoni involves self to be Student of the Month

By Bridget Geraghty

Alyssa Campagnoni is December's Student of the Month.

What are your accomplishments during your time at We-go? I've been on the high honor roll all four years, and I participated in several clubs and extracurricular activities and met so many people as a result. Perhaps my greatest accomplishment is making those friendships. I've also played varsity soccer all four years.

What is your favorite activity in high school? I have been teen director for Snow Flurry for the last three years. It's an amazing opportunity to interact with District 33's fourth, fifth and sixth graders and educate them about the alternatives to drugs.

Who is your favorite teacher in high school? My favorite teacher in high school is Señiorita Vrinios. She taught Spanish 3 while Profe Dellutri was on maternity leave. She was so considerate and always made sure we understood every

concept before moving on. She truly cared about her students.

What is your favorite activity in high school? My favorite activity is peer helping. The program has opened up so many oppor-



Alyssa Campagnoni

tunities for me: DARE, Character Counts, Snow Flurry, and the IDEA Conference. Through peer helping, I'm also able to interact with freshmen and try to make their high school experience easier.

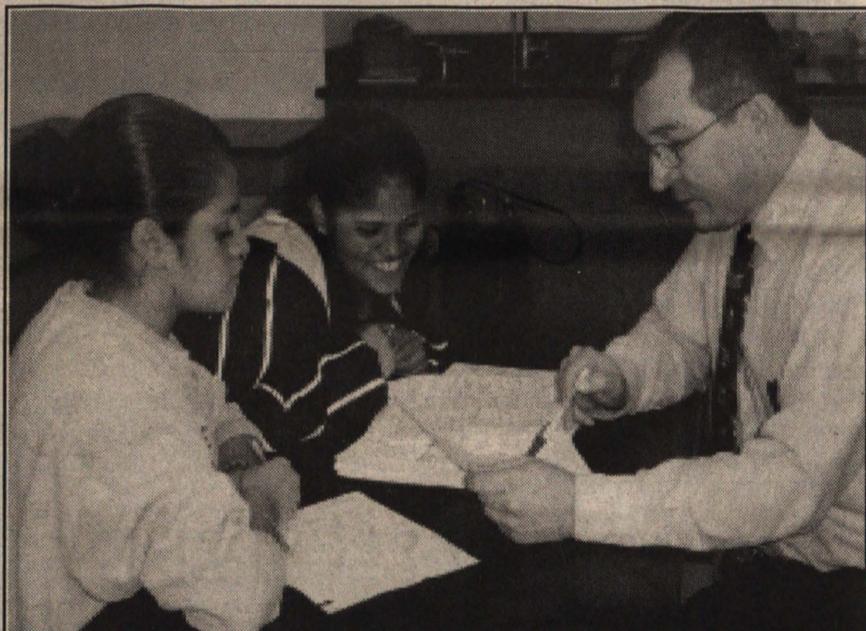
Where do you plan to go to college and what do you want to major in? I plan to attend University of Illinois or Western Illinois

University. I will most likely major in bilingual education if I go to Western, and go in undecided to the School of Liberal Arts if I go to U of I.

What do you want to do for a living? I wish I knew. Without a doubt, I want to continue studying Spanish, I just don't know how to apply it. Hopefully college will clear that up and point me in the right direction.

What is your favorite pastime? I love to play soccer. I have played competitively since fifth grade. Since high school, I have played defense and feel most comfortable there. It's a fast-paced sport with a very competitive conference.

Why do you think you were chosen as Student of the Month? I am honored and believe I was chosen Student of the Month because of my grades and involvement in school. I participate in several clubs: Student Council, International Club, NHS, Student Ambassadors, FBLA.



Staff Photo

"We-go en la Tele" adviser Eduardo Montoya goes over script with students. They are preparing for their first newscast, which will air either before winter break or in the new year.

Spanish version of school's newscast to debut this winter

By Maria Perez

A new Spanish show called "We-go en La Tele" is coming this winter.

"We-go en La Tele" started as a project from the video club and it is part of the bilingual mentor/literacy program.

Club sponsor Eduardo Montoya said that the director of the bilingual mentor/literacy program asked him to be the sponsor for the video club due to his background in visual production.

"We-go en La Tele" is a Spanish version of "We-go Through the Tube", but it's not necessarily a copy.

"We want it to be a method for the students in the bilingual program and Latinos in general to express

their pleasures, ideas, and opinions about the things in school, and to communicate with the student body," said Montoya.

The video club started last year when the bilingual/ESL programs saw a need for a program similar to "We-go Through the Tube" in Spanish for the students that were limited in English.

"We-go en la Tele" plans to run shows on certain Fridays during third hour when "We-go Through the Tube" is not on.

The club wants to reach the whole community and is planning to use subtitles in English to accomplish that, said Montoya.

"I am here because it's a way to express myself as a

Latin girl, and also to get involved with the school," said club member Guadalupe Correa.

Montoya hopes that through helping with "We-go en La Tele," students will advance their abilities to write and their reading skills will improve by working with the equipment and experimenting with different stages of production.

Many teachers said that "We-go en La Tele" is a good idea and a good opportunity for the Hispanic students to show their talent. The students that still don't speak English have the opportunity to demonstrate their likes and dislikes and how they view the school, said Montoya.

We-go gives holiday help to the area

By Rich Visser

As the holidays roll around, Student Council is working round the clock on a variety of projects.

Student Council president Emy Krauspe said, "A lot of the things we are working on right now are community service and things to better the school."

The community service includes participation in the Humanitarian Service Project, which distributes

Christmas gifts and food to families around DuPage County. The council will help sort and pack the food so it can be sent out.

Student Council already sponsors two children and two senior citizens through the project.

The sponsorship helps pay for food year round and Christmas gifts.

The Student Council is also working on activities that benefit the school, in-

cluding collecting box tops for education during third hour. The class with the most box tops each semester will win a pizza party.

The council also helped pay for a poster-making machine that clubs and organizations can use to advertise events.

The senior class is busy with fundraising efforts to pay for their senior gift. The class hopes to raise \$4,000 by the end of the year.

Preschool... (Continued from page 2)

and planning is done by the students.

The room is divided into sections intended for certain activities. There's a room for role playing, arts and crafts, and story telling.

The story telling section is made of a large foam mat that is assembled like a jigsaw puzzle, and there's a stereo in the corner for any background sound needed.

The role playing section has a collection of props to help the children act out their roles.

The children also participated in singing "Old

McDonald" and making piggy banks out of water bottles.

These sections of the room are intended to not only get the children to grips with their creativity, but also to learn the basics through a playful environment, Kozlowski said.

The room is filled with colorful toys and work stations that are all linked to educating the child.

There are canvases for painting and drawing, an area in the corner of the room with a CD player used for telling stories, and a tub

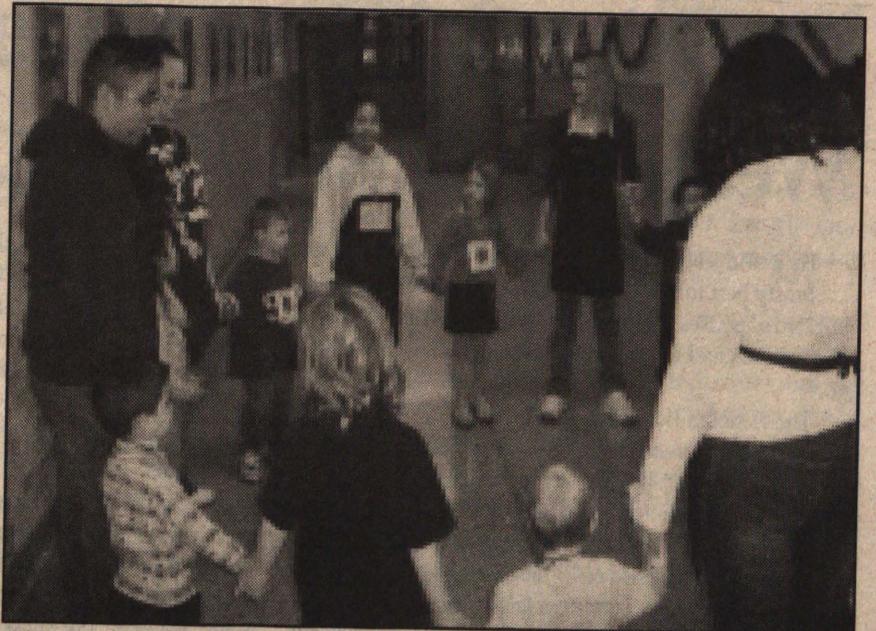
that can be filled with sand, dirt, or water depending on what the children wanted to play with.

Senior Cesar Cabral enjoys working with the children.

"I'm curious to see how kids act," said Cabral. Working with preschool children has been a bit of a challenge though.

Cabral noted that it's difficult to get the children's attention.

"It's also frustrating when they don't follow directions," said Cabral.



Staff Photo
Kozlowski's students interact with preschoolers by singing "Old McDonald" with them in a circle.

What's left of Lincoln?

The look of the corner of Wood and Geneva Streets has changed dramatically in the past few months.

This open plot of mud is all that is left of Lincoln School, which was dismantled in October. This view is of where the historic part of the building sat for around 80 years.

Current plans are to construct new athletic fields for the physical education department and build new parking spaces for students.



Varsity basketball games enhanced with sounds and songs of pep band

By Doug Sieder

As the basketball season starts the pep band will join, while playing at some of the varsity boys and girls games this year.

Pep band started in fall, performing their "West Side Story" show at football half-times.

During the basketball season the band will not perform any halftime shows, but will help pump up the basketball team and entertain the crowd.

"When the band is playing at the game it is the greatest atmosphere and gets me excited for the game,"

said varsity basketball player Nick Lelito.

Not only does the basketball team appreciate the band, but the band also enjoys watching the basketball team. Almost the entire band enjoys watching the team do well, said director of bands Jim Guter.

"When playing at the basketball games you can always expect a good time," said pep band member Mike Smeraglia.

The band has been practicing since August to play at the basketball games as well as the football games. Now they are expected to

know all of the songs played at the games. The band spends about one class period a week on rehearsal.

The band plays many different songs during the game to either give the team a boost or just to entertain the crowd and to help get them into the game.

Lelito said that during timeouts when the team isn't doing too well and the band starts to play, it helps him get an extra boost of energy.

Guter said that the band definitely gives the crowd a boost and gets them more into the game.

Many people have

complimented on how well the band performs. Guter added to the comments saying that the reasons for the success of the band is because of the amount of hard work, high standards, and the demand of a certain playing level the band is at.

Guter said the band students get more self-assurance and self-steam through their hard work and high standards.

Other reasons they can play at this high level is because they are like a family, and that they hang out, party, and enjoy each other, which all adds to the mix.

Sarah Hasse in RS.

The team has also competed at "the most difficult competition all year," Wheaton North, according to asst. coach Jason Kling.

The team performed well, with Geraghty advancing to finals and winning fifth place in SOS.

Team laughs its way to successful competitions

By Matthew Hancock

We-go forensics team took home a third place trophy from the Crystal Lake South tournament on Dec. 6.

Tournament champions were Andy Dameron and Bridget Geraghty in dramatic duet acting and Erin Linsenmeyer in original ora-

tory. Geraghty also won second place in special occasion speaking.

Third place went to Becky Bonarek in prose reading, Jeff Hansen in impromptu speaking, Summer Hassan in radio speaking (RS), Linsenmeyer in declamation speaking (DEC), and

Davy Taylor in original ocmedy (OC), Fourth place winners were Bonarek in DEC, Mike Giese and Taylor in humorous duet acting (HDA), and Emy Krauspe in verse reading.

Fifth place winners were Lisa Daniels in OC, Hansen and Krauspe in HDA, and

We-go fall play heads to state fest

By Doug Sieder

We-go's fall play "Arsenic and Old Lace" will perform at Illinois State University during Theater Fest, on Jan. 8, 9, and 10. Theater Fest is a convention for actors and actresses throughout Illinois, for 3,500 students and 500 teachers.

"I'm nervous about Theater Fest because we have to perform in front of a lot of people, but it will be fun to go down there and see all the other plays," said Jon Hall

Hall had performed as Mortimer, the lead character, in "Arsenic and Old Lace."

"Arsenic and Old Lace" was one of 12 plays chosen out of 40 that entered the contest where judges critique each play.

Three judges critiqued We-go's play. One was a retired teacher from Lake Park, while another teacher was a present day teacher from Lake Park, and the other was a teacher from Rolling Meadows.

The Theater Fest critics complimented the play. They really liked the setting,

lighting and the costumes, said play director Mary Hafertepe.

They also rated everyone's acting a 4 or a 5 out of a best of 5, said Hafertepe.

They only thing that the critics said wasn't perfect was the pace of the play needed to be more even, said Hafertepe.

This is the fourth play or showcase Hafertepe has brought to Theater Fest with Community High School.

She has entered two showcases which are about 45 minutes long and are shorter than plays. In addition, she entered two full length plays including this year's play.

The convention is two and a half days long where students will participate in workshops, games and production.

"It's non-stop theater for two and a half days," said Hafertepe.

Theater Fest starts off with a professional company performing "Arabian Nights."

Orchestra celebrates holidays with concert

By Cristina Sarnelli

Orchestra put in their holiday effort with the Holiday Concert that took place on Dec. 16.

They performed the songs "March of the Nutcracker," "A Christmas Garland," and the students' favorite song "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

Orchestra put in a lot of effort for the concert as they were "getting down to the wire" in class according to

orchestra director Brandon Fantozzi.

The Madrigal dinner was the most recent event in which orchestra performed.

Fantozzi said the dinner was very enjoyable for the students, and that it was nice to have appreciation for the hard work.

Jill Musick, who recently attended the IMEA District 9 Festival, is moving on to the Allstate Competition in January.

Blizzard of praise hits We-go at Frosty Fest

By Maria Perez

Frosty Fest turned into a blizzard of praises as parents and children had fun at We-go.

The National Honor Society (NHS) sponsored the fundraiser on Dec. 6. The West Chicago Historical Society and West Chicago Chamber of Commerce organized Frosty Fest.

Over 500 people poured into the cafeteria and the consumer science hallway to celebrate the festival.

"Frosty Fest went great. It was fun to see the little kids talking to Santa. They looked so happy. It was nice to see the parents and the kids together having a nice afternoon and it was wonderful to see the students of the high school helping others," said NHS sponsor Barbara Laimins.

The clubs that were part of the fundraiser were VICA Skills USA, FBLA, Art Club, Photography Club, and JSA. FBLA helped kids write letters to Santa while Art Club had games and made ornaments. Photography Club took photos of the children with Santa, NHS had Santa's Secret Shop, and JSA had a straw poll. The

freshmen class and senior class were also part of the fundraiser. The freshmen had a limbo for the kids and the senior class had a cakewalk.

"I thought that Frosty Fest was a great community service and it put me in the Christmas spirit. Decorating the cafeteria put everyone in a festive mood. I liked working with the different students and I got happy watching others get happy," said Laimins.

Child development had Santa's Play Zone where children bought a ticket and they got to do three activities. Children could choose from several activities: a leaf project, pin the nose on Santa, candy cane necklaces, writing Christmas cards to relatives, making a Christmas tree, making gramcracker sandwiches, and creating pine cone bird feeders.

The clothing classes made scrunches and advance clothing student Michelle Blanco took orders for homemade personalized stockings.

VICA Skills USA collected food for the pantry and a ticket for a golf game

was given for every food item. If they got the golf ball in the hole they would get their name in a drawing to win a Wildcat pillow, a water bottle, or wrestlemania doll, said teacher Patti Kozlowski.

"Frosty Fest is the most successful event I have seen in the 30 years I have been here. It was a successful event between the school and the community. There was good publicity and I like the fact that a good mix of population came," said Kozlowski.

Next year Kozlowski plans to have games from different cultures for the children.

Laimins said that she would do Frosty Fest next year. Laimins said she received positive feedback from the community. Another positive outcome from Frosty Fest was that NHS raised over \$1,600 for charity.

"We had as three times as many people they had last year, and the parents said it was wonderful and they would definitely come back next year," said Laimins.

Laimins plans to get more clubs involved with



Staff Photo

Second grader Lizett Perez makes the most of Frosty Fest by making candy cane necklaces.

Frosty Fest so that the children could have more things to do and everyone could have fun with Frosty Fest.

"I understand that it was a Saturday and people had things to do, but hopefully they (clubs) will get involved next year," said Laimins.

The West Chicago Library joined in on the fun with Frosty Fest. The library's mini theater held a puppet show at noon. The mini theater group performed the plays "If You Take a Mouse to the Movies", "What Could be Keeping Santa", "A Houseful Of

Christmas", and "Arthur's Christmas" and between the plays the mini theater group did little rhymes. The mini theatre group made the prompts and some of the puppets for the play, said librarian Renee Tracy.

"It went really well. The kids did a good job. We had probably 15 to 20 kids and parents attend and the kids had a great time," said Tracy.

The mini theater group has eight members that are between fourth and twelfth grades. Four of the members are new members and this was their first performance, said Tracy.

Key Club keeps busy with donations

By Jennifer Kamphaus

Key Club has had a busy month. Not only did the club sell lunch at Frosty Fest recently, it also collected donations for Benjamin Hayes and ran a toy drive for the holidays.

Key Club earned \$230 from selling hot dogs, chips, and pop at Frosty Fest.

They are going to use the profits to buy toys for about 20 children for the toy drive, said sponsor Ward Rau.

Kiwanis, an adult community service organization, gave Key Club the food and cooked it for them as part of their community service. Key Club served the food.

"I thought Frosty Fest was great. The group of kids that ran it did a good job,"

said Rau.

Key Club is also holding a toy drive. It is new to the high school this year.

Rau said since the toy drive is new, people might not know about it and not donate.

"We have kids with lists but someone has to really want to donate. It's a big multi-step process," said Rau.

There are wish lists in commons. When someone wants to donate they can look at the list and pick out a gift.

They can then buy the gift, bring it back to the Key Club table in commons, and Key Club will deliver the toys. The toy drive ends Friday.

Club sees changes, but good times

By Kyle Wiersbe

Because of budget constraints, this year marked the first time in Community High School history that all the foreign languages are combined under one club.

International Club has been up and about all year, going to Spanish, French and German oriented places and taking part in activities that will allow kids to greater experience other cultures.

The year started off with a potluck dinner for all members. Today the club has over 40 regular members.

So far the club has gone to the Art Institute in Chicago, been Folk dancing and learned French, Mexican, German, and Irish dances. Plus, the club attended October Fest.

The club is going to visit the Kris Kindle mart in Chi-

Longtime food drive ends soon

By Mark Tonchick

The annual VICA food drive started Dec. 1 and ends Friday.

The food drive is a tradition of nearly 40 years, said adviser Paul Junkroski.

"I have run it for the last 28 years and it went on for at least 10 before I came in," said Junkroski.

Junkroski said that he was not here when the food drive first started but he would like to keep it going as long as possible.

For every three cans a student brought in, he or she received a raffle ticket.

The raffle prizes are \$25, \$15, and \$10 gift certificates for Stratford Square Mall. The club paid for the gift certificates.

V.I.C.A. donated the food to a different church every year until all the churches got together to form one main pantry, said Junkroski.

Last year V.I.C.A. took in a record setting 5,000 items. They hope to break their record again this year.

Key Club also hopes to raise \$500 in donations for Benjamin Hayes. Benjamin is the son of We-go math teacher Aaron Hayes.

Benjamin was born with quadriplegic cerebral palsy, and his family is trying to raise money to buy a van to help transport Benjamin in comfort.

The donation bin for Benjamin is in Commons during lunch hours.

Whenever a student donates, Key Club will match the amount. Rau said the club is using the club budget from fundraisers to match the donations.

Rau said it's a good cause and he is happy the Key Club members made that decision.

cago for the holidays.

"The club is new and we are trying our best to make sure that the members experience the most of cultures," said sponsor Sarah Bellis.

The club plans around the member's schedules when they can, and tries to have field trips when the most members can come.

International Club meets most Monday mornings in room 303 at 7:20 a.m.

Active life lets Harms grab Student of the Month

By Bridget Geraghty

November's Student of the Month was pitched to Dan Harms.

What are your accomplishments during your time at We-go? I placed first in the Bottom Line accounting contest held at COD annually. I was also a captain of the football team.

What are your accomplishments outside of school? I was an honorable mention for the Daily Herald leadership team. I also attended the DVC leadership conference.

Who is your favorite teacher in high school? My favorite teacher is Mr. Crickard. He is able to relate with me really well. He

encourages me to become a better student.



Dan Harms

What is your favorite activity in high school?

My favorite activity in high school is playing baseball. I love the game and I like being around all teammates having a good time.

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

I want to go to the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign to major in electrical engineering.

What do you want to do for a living? I would like to work with some type of technology.

What is your favorite pastime? My favorite pastime was when our baseball team won its first regional title in over 30 years.

Why do you think you were chosen as Student of the Month? I work hard in my classes, I am active in and out of school, and I make a good example for other students.

Does something we say infuriate you? Interest you? Then write a letter to the editor!
(Submit letters to room 319)

Our View

Arkansas students receive "F" for "Fat"

A new law in Arkansas mandates that all elementary schools will need to issue grades for students' obesity rating along with their regular school grades.

Repeat: Arkansas is issuing "fat grades" to all of its elementary school students. The new law, which is supposed to enforce better health, is acting more like a self-esteem crusher.

It's bad enough that kids this age have to worry about getting along with their peers, but worrying so much about how fat they are is only adding to the stress.

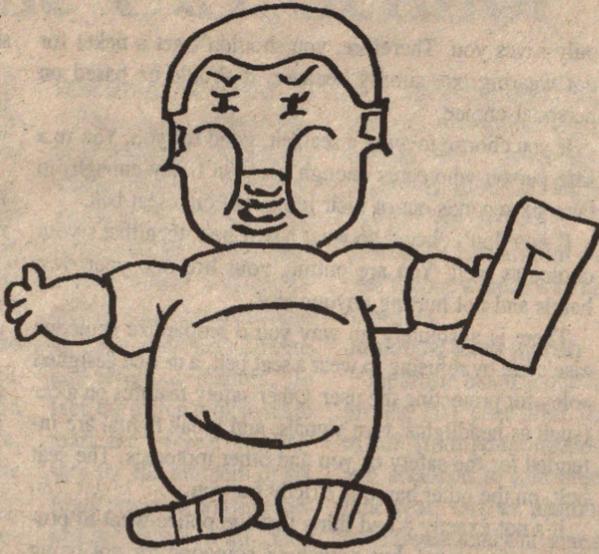
These kids worry about their image every day, but now when they take their report card home, they'll have a big letter glaring at them telling them they're fat.

In what way will this help students? Shouldn't they be worrying more about what's important, like math, science, history and English?

Seriously, it's not like these kids don't have enough to worry about. Getting a "fat grade" shouldn't be their biggest problem.

On the opposite side of the spectrum, what happens when a child receives a good grade for their obesity?

They'll consider themselves to be better than those who are overweight, because having their school govern kids'



health will give them the impression that eating healthy is a goal to a successful life.

Obviously, if you weigh 1,000 lbs., it'll be hard to do

much.

However, just being slightly overweight is no big deal, and a lot of obese people have learned to accept who they are, while the Arkansas government is clearly telling them that they shouldn't.

Where do the parents fit into this equation? Nowhere, apparently. It should be the parents' responsibility to monitor their child and determine what is right for them, and not be forced to abide by some ridiculous standard that a controlling government forces them into.

Parents should tell their children what to eat, how much to eat, what's good and bad for you, and all the basic nutrition facts needed.

It's surprising that in a country where people are fighting to dampen the notion that all super models are thin, beautiful, and look like toothpicks, we suddenly get a law that blows that idea up in their face.

There should not be a standard for how people should look, act, or feel ("I'm here to talk about your child, Marvin, who isn't doing very well in 'self security'").

This new law is a weak attempt at getting more control over our nation's children while backing it up with a lame excuse.

Fairfax County offers new solution to insanity pleas

Would it be right for wrong-doers to escape punishment by pleading insanity? Fairfax County officials of Virginia think so.

They have outlined a plan to send mentally ill people who commit nonviolent crimes to treatment programs rather than jail.

The justification behind this plan is to break a cycle where offenders return repeatedly to jail for relatively minor transgressions.

The problem therein lies with two questions: how are they considered mentally ill, and what is the degree of their crime?

Sure, if a doctor has tested someone and verified them as mentally ill, one can claim insanity. County Board of Supervisors Chairman Katherine Hanley said about 15 to 20 percent of the county's inmates suffer from some form of mental illness and tend to crowd jails.

In fact, part of the justification behind the death penalty is overcrowded jails.

However, can we loosen the expectations across the board that people must serve time for their crime just because only 20 percent might have a lapse in brain activity?

Advocates claim that the mentally ill tend to commit small crimes as a result of their illness, such as trespassing, disturbing the peace, or other such misdemeanors.

Sure, if the person was mentally ill and not sure of where they were going, causing them to trespass, there is no reason to send them to jail where they could encounter an even more dangerous community.

And indeed if the person was already scheduled for treatment then therapy is necessary rather than jail.

However, with a plan like this in place, can any criminal plead insanity and escape jail time, if in fact they robbed someone, or broke in somewhere, or caused another person physical damage?

These are crimes of "disrupting the peace," but that doesn't mean that the criminal should be able to get off from facing the consequences of their actions.

Fairfax County Police Chief J. Thomas Manger stated that this plan makes perfect sense that someone in need of mental health treatment doesn't need to go to jail.

True, if the person needs mental health treatment, and wasn't not truly in control of their actions during their crime, they can't necessarily be charged just like anyone else.

However, in order to be referred for treatment instead of jail, the person should have a file already that indicates mental illness.

In addition to escaping punishment, this sort of plan puts a burden on the uses of tax dollars, and threatens the

lives in the community.

How will the mentally-ill criminal pay for their treatment, or will someone else take care of the bill?

A Washington Post staff member writes that many of the mentally ill lack family or community support.

If this is true, who will take care of the mentally ill criminal since they are too sick to know right from wrong?

The tax dollars would have to support their treatment, which could also be put into the funding of jail upkeep.

Also, if the criminal claimed a mental illness, survived

treatment, and was then released back into the community, how safe would the community be with a criminal smart enough to escape punishment and who had survived mental treatment running around town? Not too safe.

All in all, if a plan like this were too spread across the nation, it ought to hold stipulations that criminals can only plead insanity, or a mental illness, if their illness can be verified by a doctor before the crime took place.

Otherwise, the nation will be overrun by very smart criminals.

Strict visa laws mean bad news for nation's economy

Due to new unnecessary tougher visa rules, more and more foreigners may decide to stay away from the U. S., which will cause education systems, businesses, and hospitals to suffer.

The FBI is currently doing background checks on foreigners, and the visa applicants have to have a face-to-face interview before they can get their visa.

As of Jan. 5, the government will fingerprint all the foreigners that have visas. The requirements include already making foreigners wait for weeks on end to get their visas. Critics of the visa regulations warn that Washington is giving the U.S. a bad image when the U.S. is trying to portray a welcoming image.

The critics think that the U.S. is sending a hostile message to the world with all its new visa restrictions.

It's no wonder that not as many foreigners are coming to the U.S. like previous years. That leaves the education systems, businesses, and medicine at a rather large disadvantage especially since they count on foreigners. Colleges are losing international students to Britain, Canada, and Australia.

There has been a 46 percent decline of foreign students at U.S. colleges between 2002 and 2003.

Meanwhile in Britain, the number of Chinese students attending the colleges rose by 36 percent, and students from India rose by 16 percent. Australia has a 31 percent increase in Indian students and a 25 percent increase in Chinese students. These statistics show that colleges in the U.S. are losing the money that foreign students would have

brought. However, not only is money an issue, but so is the loss of talent and intelligence.

About 40 percent of students in technology colleges were foreign born along with a third of American Nobel Prize winners.

Even businesses are feeling the heat as they complain that the visa regulations are making it difficult to conduct foreign business because of the visa delays.

The nonprofit Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. is being affected by visa delays because they are losing foreign patients that chose to go to clinics in Britain instead.

It's true that the U.S. needs to be careful about who is allowed into the country, but the number of requirements for visa applicants is way too unnecessary.

It's a good idea to have foreigners be fingerprinted and to have a background check by the FBI, but a face-to-face interview is too far.

There are thousands of foreigners who are trying to get into the U.S. each day and it seems that there are not enough government staff members to interview the people.

Besides, how would people know who is a terrorist just by looking at them and talking to them? No one can judge a person's character just by talking to them for a few minutes or even an hour.

FBI officials agree that the face-to-face interview is the reason for the visas delays, so let's just have the FBI doing the background checks and fingerprinting foreigners and stop requiring the face-to-face interview. The U.S. should welcome foreigners, not turn them away.

Point/Counterpoint

Illinois seat belt laws are destined to lose

By Kyle Bullis



In the past months, police departments throughout Illinois have been enforcing seat belt laws through a statewide campaign called "Click it or Ticket."

Certainly, every motorist on the road should wear their seat belt, but is it really necessary to make a law to enforce it?

The one aspect of the law that separates it from any other one is that the only person you can hurt by

breaking this law is yourself.

People are allowed to do dangerous things all of the time, and so far there aren't any laws prohibiting that. Cliff diving, base jumping, and those kinds of insane, fun things all involve serious risks that could be potentially fatal.

Not wearing a seat belt kind of falls into that category. It

only saves you. Therefore, you shouldn't get a ticket for not wearing one simply because, it should be based on personal choice.

If you choose to wear a seatbelt, good for you. You're a safe person who cares enough (and isn't lazy enough) to take six seconds out of their life to put on a seat belt.

If you don't choose to wear a seat belt, then that's your choice as well. You are putting your life into your own hands and not hurting anyone else.

There is absolutely no way you'd jeopardize someone else's life by refusing to wear a seat belt, a device designed solely for protecting the user. Other safety features on a car (such as headlights, turn signals, and break lights) are intended for the safety of you and other motorists. The seat belt, on the other hand, is strictly for you.

It's not exactly a bad thing that the police want to promote safer travel, but punishing someone for not being safe shouldn't happen.

This isn't the only law to enforce self safety. You have to wear a helmet when riding a motorcycle and in California you're required by law to wear a helmet while riding a

skateboard.

The difference between those laws and the seat belt laws is that the cops are *extremely* strict, enforcing a no-excuses-whatsoever policy.

The laws should linger more towards an award system than a punishment system. For instance, they could have random pullovers and award drivers \$100.

If I had a chance at a 100 bucks every time I got into the car, I'd be far more inclined to wear my seatbelt (and even drive around aimlessly attempting to score \$100).

What I find really strange is that there is a certain other product (cigarettes, of course) that is promoted that can ruin a person's health, but there won't be any laws stopping that in the near future.

Am I saying that motorists shouldn't wear their seatbelts? Of course not. It's a great habit to get into and everyone should be *encouraged* to wear them, but not punished for refusing to wear them.

I'll be interested to see how far this law gets before it gets zapped or cops stop caring. We all know how that goes with speed limit signs.

The point is obvious: Seat belts save lives!

By Isaiah Ly Buado



Helping people stay alive? Why should we do that? **heavy sarcasm**

"Click-it or Ticket" was devised to save lives. And if that means making people take "six seconds out of their life" or else fork over some cash, so be it. And this program is highly beneficial for everyone, not just the person behind the wheel.

In a car accident, costs can or do, include emergency services, uninsured medical care, tax-supported rehabilitation programs, higher insurance costs, and survivor payments, most or all funded by taxpayers, the general public.

If one is wondering what that has to do with seatbelts, according to the Illinois State Police's official website, costs in accidents involving people not wearing seatbelts are 50 percent higher than accidents involving people who do.

That means more of our (and by our, I mean people with jobs) tax dollars are going to help the non-seat belted than going to better things, like bettering our schools.

Drivers not wearing their seatbelts are also unable to control the car during an accident, spin, or slide nearly as well as drivers wearing their seatbelts, thus creating a larger risk to the surrounding public.

According to statistics from another survey performed by the Illinois Department of Transportation, if the amount of drivers who wear their seatbelts were to go up by a measly 10 percent, 73 lives will be saved and 2,465 injuries will be prevented.

Those statistics in itself should be reason enough to make people buckle their seatbelts, no matter how much the fine's

cost is.

Passengers also need to be wearing their seatbelts, whether they accept that fact or not. They are the driver's responsibility, and I don't think they want to talk to their loved ones, explaining why that passenger is no road kill.

But I'm not saying that I have always buckled and have never been effected by this program. There was a certain instance where an officer found me in the back bay of a moving SUV. Specific details on why I was there won't be disclosed, but I ended up having to pay \$50 *plus* go to traffic court. But I'm not angry or feel my rights have been violated. I am, in a strange way, happy the vehicle was pulled over because, had there been an accident, I could have been seriously injured.

That event makes me more inclined to wear my seatbelt than ever before. Now I buckle every time I enter a vehicle, whether it's moving or not. I do that so, if I'm in an accident, I won't be sitting next to the other driver.

Too much or too little? The homework debate rages on...

By Doug Sieder

People say that students don't get enough homework in the United States, but others say they do get enough homework. Who is right?

The Brookings Institution analyzed a broad range of homework research and reported that an average student gets less than an hour of homework a day, and they think that students should be getting more homework than that.

They say that a freshman should get 90 minutes of homework a night and the amount should increase as students go up in school. That is plenty of homework for students and many teachers agree, and there is really no need for anymore homework than that.

June Shoemaker, a teacher in Twin Lakes, Wisconsin, said that she tries not to give homework to her students.

Shoemaker would rather keep her math lessons in the classroom where she can teach the students and make sure they think about math.

Shoemaker also said it should be up to the parents to do memorization drills with their child.

Shoemaker also said, many of our families have two people working and the kids go home to empty homes or to a day care, so there is just not a lot of support for homework.

Other teachers believe that important exams have placed too many demands on them for their classes. As a result, this forces them to give more homework.

If parents aren't going to help and motivate their children to do their homework, then the children are on their own, dealing with hours of homework.

High school students aren't supposed to be on their own until they graduate and are in college and have proven to others that they will do their homework. College is when students should receive four to five hours of homework a night, not in high school.

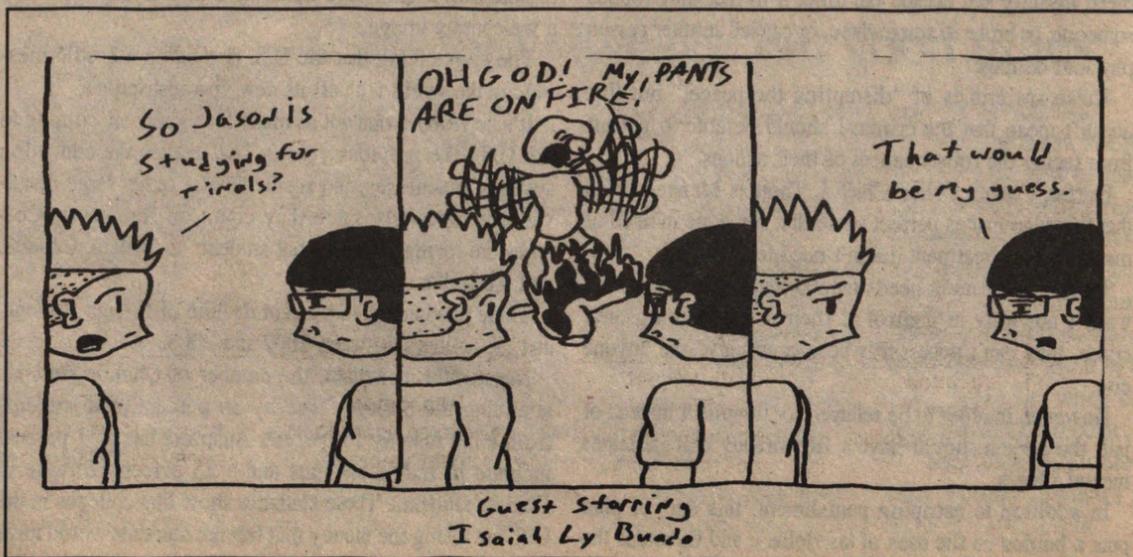
So an hour of homework a night isn't that bad, as long as it isn't a waste of time. Homework should not be given just for the sake of homework. The only reason students should be given homework is if they don't finish something in

class.

Students already spend around seven hours a day at school and then many go to work another three to four hours a day. If that's not enough students are involved in sports and extra curriculars.

Students shouldn't have to get two to three hours of homework a night. They spend plenty of time at school and do things after school. There is no need to spend an extra two or three hours a night on schoolwork.

My High School Life



Spanish teacher walks in protest to close U.S. school

By Mary Beth Selby

Solemnly walking the streets of Georgia, Spanish teacher Susan Junkroski chanted, prayed and cried amidst a crowd of 10,000 people a week before Thanksgiving.

Junkroski was one among the largest number of people to gather for the annual march in an effort to close down the School of Americas (SOA) at Fort Benning.

What is the SOA?

When the SOA began in Panama in the late 1940s to train Latin American soldiers to be skilled in the ways of the American military, the U.S. government's goal was keep communism from spreading at all cost. They hoped that if Ameri-

cans trained Latin Americans in military tactics, democracy would spread and halt communism.

Soon enough, Panama feared other Latino countries would storm their borders because of governmental changes, so they wished to rid their soil of the school, though they felt it was still a good idea. Therefore, America transferred the SOA to Fort Benning.

SOA classes include professional leaderships, infantry weapons, technical support, counter-insurgency, and specialized leadership and skills. Junkroski said that the students choose their own classes, and the most popular choice is interrogation.

SOA intention defiled

Though the school's intention was to promote democracy and peace, the SOA began to turn out graduates that used their education to invoke violent military authority and silent abductions of Latin American citizens and religious leaders. In fact, the march took place to mark the 14-year anniversary for the murders of six Jesuit priests, a housekeeper and her daughter, all killed by SOA graduates in El Salvador. The year after their death, people gathered outside the SOA to demand its closing, and protests have occurred every year since.

For instance, more protesters joined the group's beliefs with each successive

year, especially after the El Mezote massacre, where military men, many SOA graduates included, wiped out the quiet town of El Mezote in El Salvador except for one woman who hid in bushes.

Junkroski joins march

Junkroski heard about the protest last year after the march from some friends, and arranged to join them this year. As an alumna from Dominican University, Junkroski joined some college friends and current students of the school on a trip to Fort Benning to support the closing of the SOA.

"It (the experience) was surreal, uplifting, frustrating, infuriating, and saddening. There is so much to take in the brain can't process all of what goes on. To see 10,000 people gather for a cause they believe in is so moving," said Junkroski, beginning to cry.

In the march, almost everyone carried a white cross to honor someone that lost his or her life to an SOA graduate. Once everyone gathered, there was a solemn funeral procession where the Jesuits leading the procession called out every name of identified deaths linked to SOA murders, beginning with Oscar Romero. With each name, the entire congregation replied "Presente" in religious service tones to show respect and recognition to those dead.

Junkroski left early to return home, but she said she could hear the chants from four blocks away as her group approached their parked car.

"It wasn't until hours later



Photo courtesy of Susan Junkroski

At the march to close the School of Americas in Fort Benning Geo., Junkroski chanted with her fellow protesters to honor people killed by SOA graduates.

that the chants gradually lessened in my head. The recitation was almost in time with my heartbeat," she said.

She also said it is frustrating to see the U.S. government to continue to fund the school when it has turned out people that cause many deaths. She would love to see it close, and recalled one Jesuit priest's words from the Saturday mass, "With any luck, we won't have to meet back here next year."

Government reaction

Yet the government hardly seemed to recognize their efforts. Junkroski said she searched but didn't find any news story about their march at Fort Benning.

"How do you ignore 10,000 people?" she asked. "There was a huge variety, with many religious dominations, and people from all ages."

These 10,000 people spanned across all organizations, from Veterans of Peace, Gulf War Veterans,

families of Sept. 11 for Peace, various colleges, and numerous Catholics and Presbyterians.

In the past, the attempts have been made to close down the school. The SOA officially closed in 2001, the government claiming it had served its purpose, yet the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC) opened in its place, supposedly redesigned, said Junkroski.

She also said terrorist camps all over the world are endangered after Bush's actions in response to Sept. 11. However, the SOA has caused many human rights atrocities and it still remains open.

Protestors' efforts

"There will be a bill in the house to close the school and put the \$20 million towards education funding, which is what should happen," said Junkroski.

In preparation for the (See Junkroski page 11)

Dreams come true for two Youngwith sisters

By Andrea Bradley

It was a dream come true for Julie Youngwith, a sophomore at Community High School.

Being blessed with her 10-year-old sister Jenny, Youngwith was also able to visit Florida with her family due to Make-A-Wish.

Make-A-Wish is a non-profit organization that allows children with a life threatening medical condition to make wishes.

Jenny was born with many unusual cardiac abnormalities. She received open-heart surgery when she was only 9-months old. Throughout her life, she has suffered from five strokes, loss of hearing, and much more.

Jenny was diagnosed with a seizure disorder that has changed the lives of her family members.

Having a special needs sibling taught Julie how to be a more compassionate and patient person.

"Having a special needs sibling has helped me learn that everyone is special, and how we are all here for a reason," said Julie.

After her sister was born, responsibilities have challenged Julie, but she has handled them well.

Julie is responsible for helping Jenny with her hearing aides, carrying her oxygen tank, and monitoring her oxygen saturation. Although Julie has to help care for her

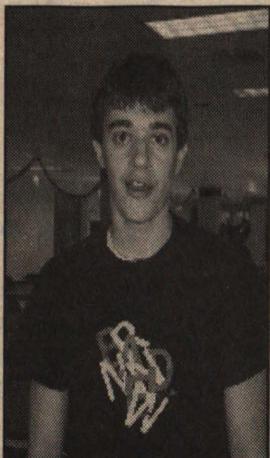
sister, she and Jenny are able to have fun.

Jenny participates in Buddy Baseball, a program where volunteers play baseball with a special needs child. Julie and Jenny aren't buddies, but are still able to spend time together doing activities they both enjoy.

Both of the girls also enjoy dancing. Julie volunteers to teach younger dance classes at the Carol Stream Park District. Along with her teaching, Julie also spends a lot of her time dancing for the school. She is currently in dance production.

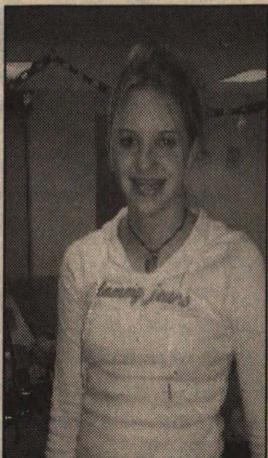
At home, Julie does her sister's hair and paints her (See Youngwith page 10)

Q&A: What is your favorite wintertime activity?



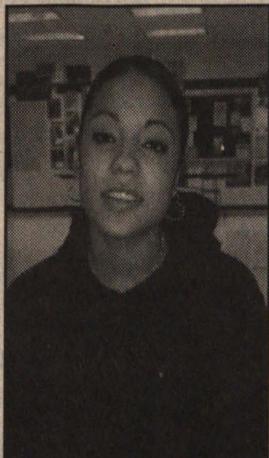
Chris Prochnow
Sophomore

I think skiing. It's really fun and I like to go fast.



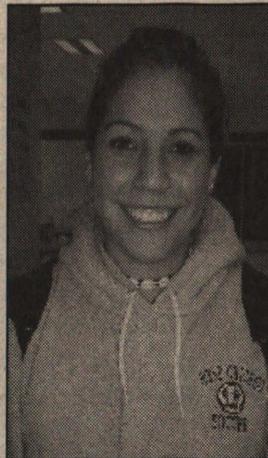
Justine Eget
Sophomore

Snowboarding and making snowmen with my friends.



Aida Hernandez
Sophomore

I love to go down big hills and scream 'weeeee!'"



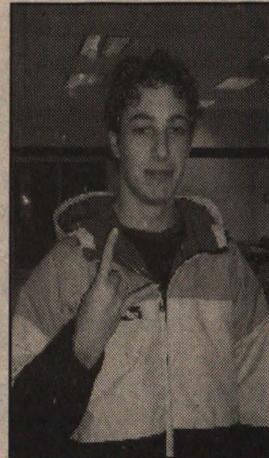
Yesenia Fernandez
Junior

Knocking down snowmen like last year (Girls, do you remember?)



Linda Ortiz
Junior

My favorite winter activity is skiing and throwing snowballs at my friends, finishing the day with a cup of hot chocolate.



Aaron Becker
Senior

Definitely snowboarding!

TRUE CRIME STORIES

Teachers share their stories of woe at the hands of criminals

By Sam West

More people than you may think have been victims of crime. In fact, many We-go teachers have been robbed, assaulted, and have witnessed shootings. Here are their tales.

Malinsky's Mess

English teacher Michael Malinsky lived in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, while finishing his minor in Portuguese. He and one of his Brazilian friends were on a commuter train, similar to Chicago's El, going to a party. Suddenly, the train stopped by a stack of concrete blocks on the rails, then armed men climbed aboard the train while the conductor investigated.

"They demanded purses, wallets, jewelry, and cameras," Malinsky said. "After casually walking through each car, the men stepped off the train and walked away."

Since Malinsky was broke at the time, he lost little money. But he said that he understands why the armed men did what they did.

"The gap between the world's rich and poor grows every day, and people are pushed into desperate situations," Malinsky explained.

Healy's Heck

Government teacher Shawn Healy has not had his bike stolen, but he has been robbed of multiple parts from his bike.

Even though he uses a Kryptonite lock, his back tire was stolen once and thieves have twice removed the bicycle's seat. These crimes occurred outside of a Chicago area train station, which Healy described as remarkably busy.

The loss of his bike seat affected Healy in more than one way. Not only was he affected by robbery, but his bike was seatless.

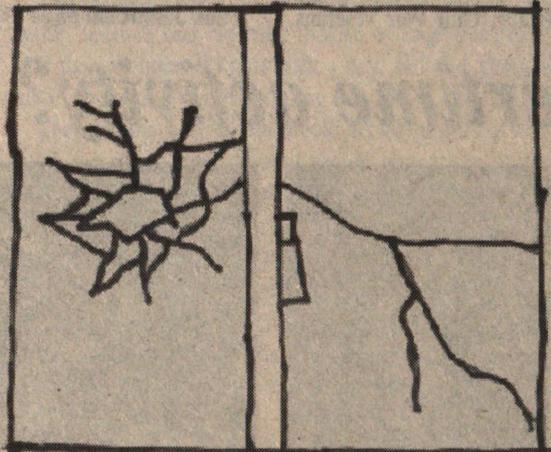
"I was forced to ride my bike, my sole means of transportation, without a seat," Healy said. "Chicago can be a cruel place."

Maloney's Misery

While working on a graduation project in inner-city Chicago, PE teacher Kim Maloney was hit by a car. But the driver of that car didn't crash on accident, Maloney said. When Maloney left her car to call the police from a grocery store, the driver did the unthinkable.

"My car was vandalized and my belongings stolen from it," said Maloney. Since the year was 1995, she didn't have a cell phone on her. A cell phone may have prevented the incident from occurring.

She advised everyone to carry a cell phone while driving, and to take different routes at different times of day while driving.



Stefancic's Suffering

During Janelle Stefancic's first year as a teacher (she is currently an ESL teacher at We-go), her purse was stolen from her desk. A student had stolen it.

"Before I got home, the student had already left school and tried to use my charge cards," Stefancic said. "Luckily, the store clerk realized that she was too young to have credit cards and confiscated it."

Stefancic had to replace everything in her purse. This is why she advises everybody to carry their purse with them or leave it in a locked location.

Fantozzi's Fuss

When choir and orchestra director Brandon Fantozzi was in college, his car was trashed—literally.

He parked his car under a balcony where a party was going on one night.

"The next day, I found that my car was littered with trash from bumper to bumper," Fantozzi said.

He then confronted the party-goers about his car's damage, requesting they pay for the cleaning. Reluctantly, they agreed to do the cleaning.

Unfortunately for Fantozzi, the party-goers' idea of cleansing meant taking paint off the car.

"I found my car keyed and scratched on every single body panel," he said.

Fantozzi wishes people would think before they act, and make decisions with maturity and responsibility.

Also, he wants people to follow the golden rule: do unto others as you would have done unto you.



Kuehn's Knaves

English teacher Laura Kuehn has encountered many knaves, deceitful and dishonest people, in her lifetime. She can recount several experiences with crime.

An antique ring was stolen from her locker at the gym, a drunk driver totaled her family car while they were riding in it, and burglars broke into her house. In fact, when the family pulled up after a Sunday night out, the burglars ran out the front door. The worst experience was when she was assaulted by a former employer.

But when she lived in Chicago, somebody broke the driver's window of her car and tried to steal the radio. However, the attempt was apparently in vain, because Kuehn found the radio and much shattered glass on the front seat, along with the ice pick they used to break the window.

When she moved from Chicago, the vandals followed her. On the first Halloween she spent in her new house, hooligans threw a rock through her bedroom window, narrowly missing an antique lamp on the dresser. She saved the rock as a memento of her troubles.

Also, vandals ripped off several pickets of a newly installed fence, which encompassed her house. They took vegetation with the pickets.

"They came on my front porch and deck and destroyed my cacti by cutting them in half," said Kuehn.

The cacti have been replanted, and the pickets replaced. But the vandals weren't finished with Kuehn.

"I shouted out the window and scared them," Kuehn said.

Arndt's Altercation

Brent Arndt, from the ESL department, has witnessed events much worse than a mere fist-fight. In fact, he saw a drive-by shooting last year in Aurora.

The shooting took place on a busy street, so Arndt was reluctant to call the police immediately, as he thought someone else probably called the police already. But he eventually called in anyway.

"My conscience persisted," said Arndt. "It turned out that I was the first, perhaps only, person to call and report it."

His description of the vehicle and the shooter were essential in the apprehension of the suspects. Arndt advises everyone to not hesitate to report criminal activity. Whatever information you provide will be useful and greatly appreciated, said Arndt.

Cobbett's Crime

Some time ago, English teacher Andrea Cobbett was landscaping the front of her house, when she decided that she needed a fairy statue to sit on a dying tree stump in her garden. She was very proud of her \$12 purchase.

"I placed that statue on the tree stump and my garden seemed to come alive. I was so pleased," said Cobbett.

The next afternoon, Cobbett was dozing in her living room when someone stole the statue. When she woke up and went to tend to her garden, she noticed something was missing.

"Why would anyone want to steal a \$12 statue?" Cobbett proclaimed. "It didn't do anything wrong."

She posted missing signs for her lost statue, and drove through her neighborhood searching for it. Then she realized that she was obsessed with the statue. "My neighbors would think I was crazy, and that wouldn't help the situation," said Cobbett.

Cobbett maintains that even though she is over the statue, she thinks that one day she will receive a collection of photos with the statue posed in front of famous tourist attractions, like the urban legend about other lawn ornaments. "I can dream, can't I?" asked Cobbett.

Cobbett advises anyone who maintains a garden to booby-trap it to keep out the thieves.

"Just joking!" Cobbett said.



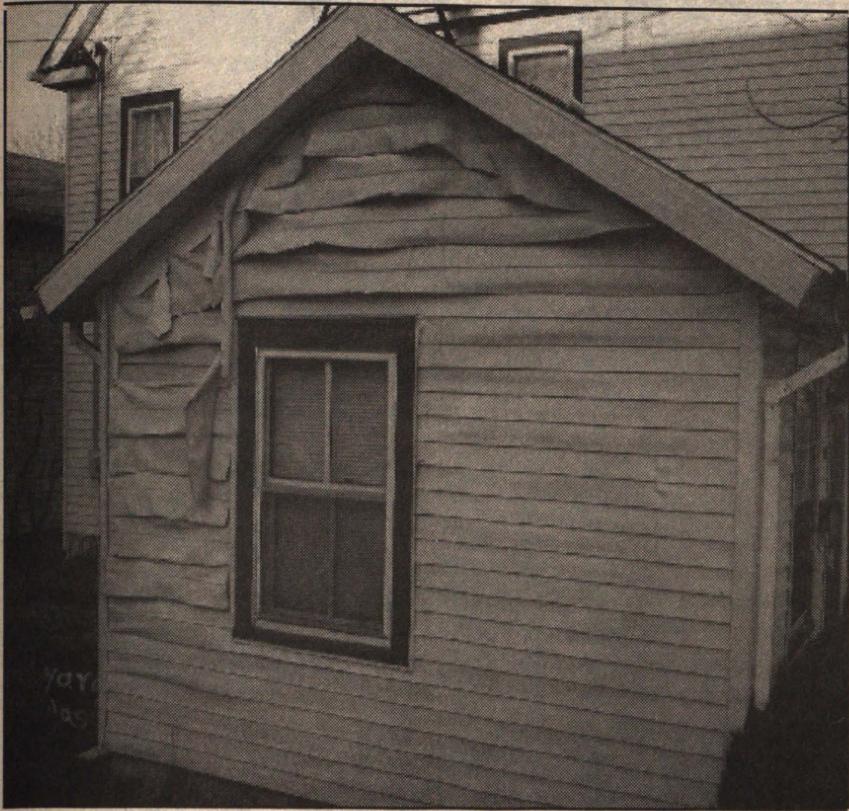
Zabelin's Zinger

Business education teacher Don Zabelin's house was broken into a while back. Thousands of dollars of items were stolen, he said.

Zabelin wants people to make sure to have good homeowner's insurance, because most of Zabelin's stolen items were replaced because of his policy's coverage. "However, it is necessary to insure your valuable jewelry separately," said Zabelin.

In Zabelin's case, the jewelry was only insured for a limited amount and he received only a portion of money from the insurance company. "I now insure my jewelry for replacement value, which of course costs more," Zabelin said.

The person or persons who entered Zabelin's house came in by breaking a basement well window and crawling in.



Staff Photo

Kyle Bullis' neighbor's house gets scorched by a nearby car fire.

Kyle's Komments on Crime - Crime is everywhere, including my home

By Kyle Bullis

Crime happens everywhere. It doesn't matter if you're in the richest neighborhoods or the most rural farm towns, there is going to be crime.

West Chicago *definitely* isn't an exception. Over the wonderful 15 years I've lived in this town (right on Main Street in the heart of the town), a lot of wacky things have taken place.

Fights raging across the street, random shootings, and theft all contribute to the crime situation by my house.

Some people may be fortunate enough to live in a part of this town that isn't infested with crime on a day-to-day basis. I, unfortunately, am not that fortunate.

There are a few perks to living where I live (getting to school is an eight minute walk) and some sacrifices (I live 6 inches away from the railroad tracks).

I have also fallen victim to crime in West Chicago, probably more than anyone else. Thankfully, they weren't violent crimes, although a few them almost were.

So without further ado, I present to you: "Reasons Why We're Moving When I Graduate."

The first crime on my list is actually a fairly common occurrence no matter where you live, but to make the list longer I've decided to include it.

I used to have a purple-bluish bike that was perhaps the coolest bike in the history of the world, and I don't care if it was way, way too small for me.

When it got stolen (Right next to my house. West Chicago's criminals don't

care), I never got it back or got a hint of who might have stolen it, and I was heartbroken.

I was forced to commute by means of a junked up Sears bike that was huge, missing air caps on tires, and wasn't worth a pack of gum.

Not until a few years later that I got a new bike, but by then I was almost old enough to drive, but it's nice to have one anyway.

The second crime on the list involves a mini-bike. Yes, I used to own a mini-bike. I was terrified of it when I first got it, but I never truly realized how great it was until, you guessed it, it got stolen.

After a few years my dad decided to try and get a new one, and he ended up meeting a guy who was working on a mini-bike for his kid.

Believe it or not, it was the exact same one stolen from my house. The guy working on it said he bought it from a group of guys (a whole of group of guys got together and bought one mini-bike? Unlikely.) and was working on it for his son.

Unable to do anything about it, my dad was had to leave the matter alone, and now some undeserving kid is probably puttering around on my mini-bike.

The third crime on the list involves something much more beefy, loud, and awesome. My dad bought an ATV for us (why not?) and it became our treasure.

That was an age to be terrified of it, I did eventually give it a shot but the clutch system confused me, so I traveled maybe a full 4 linear feet with the thing.

We finally decided to get a lock for the ATV and the

very night we locked it up somebody cut the lock and rode off with it. This is why I can't have nice things.

We decided that we were never going to own anything cool ever again until we moved out of West Chicago, because we've apparently been a treasure chest of cool stuff to steal.

Once the crooks got bored with destroying our cars, they decided to torch our shed and, I guess because they were on a role, our garbage cans (But not before stealing on of them. I like to think that he was stealing himself a house).

How do I know it was a "he"? Our neighbor almost caught him. It was some guy in a white poncho. White Poncho Guy, when I find you I will sick my dog on you. She bites hard.

Those are the things most worth mentioning, although we also constantly find cigarette butts, beer cans, and empty condom packs (no kidding).

We've also had a few people slam into our lawn and speed away, and these acts of random extreme landscaping has left the perimeter of our house looking a bit drab, although we've tried our best to get it back in good looking order.

I'm sure a few more things will happen to me before I finally escape this town, but until then I, somewhat, look forward to it, because no crimes are exactly the same (like snowflakes!) and they all have their little surprises, so they have a little bit of excitement to them.

I'm kidding, of course. Stay away from my house, and give me back my ATV!

Tis the season to be merry, and for heinous crimes

By Doug Sieder

Christmas is the time for joy, love, family, and caring but also a time for crimes. Crooks come out this time of year, but precautions can be taken to prevent from being a victim.

Newsmax.com said the biggest mistake people make is carrying too much money and extra credit cards with them. This is a perfect opportunity for criminals to pick pockets.

If a credit card is stolen, contact the company that issued the card and have them cancel the account.

If people use an ATM, use one in a busy location so no one will attempt a robbery. Remember to cover up the pin number. Also make sure to never share that number.

When shopping, make sure not to carry wallets or purses because they are perfect targets for criminals, who know that something valuable is inside.

JaxAirNews.com said shopping malls are a favorite for pickpockets. To avoid this, people should carry money and credit cards in their front pockets. This way it is hard for any crook

to reach in without the person seeing the action.

Also, the best thing shoppers can do is stay alert at all times. They should always be aware of their surroundings.

People should also try to walk to their cars with other people or with a mall security escort. If criminals see a person walking alone, they will not think twice about attacking that person.

Many criminals are just waiting for this time of year, but if people are smart about their possessions, these crimes can be avoided.

Community High School is actually safe, despite beliefs

By Mary Beth Selby

When discussing high school crime, Officer Rich Theodore is quite proud of the crime rate at Community High School.

Crime happens no matter what school one attends. However, the crime rates vary with each school and town, and We-go puts out sincere efforts when it comes to the safety of its students, Theodore said.

"We are probably one of the safest schools in the conference. The staff is involved, being actually out in the halls rather than always in their classrooms or offices," said Theodore.

However, thefts still happen, even though crime reports cross Theodore's desk about two to three times a week, which is normal or

low for a high school this size. He said that the number one crime is theft.

Thefts span across a large range of items stolen, but the most popular objects are cell phones and calculators.

These items have been stolen anywhere, from backpacks and purses or an enclosed area, like a locker or room.

When asked how objects are being stolen, principal John Highland said, "We believe kids aren't taking the time to turn the tumblers (on locks) before they leave their lockers."

Besides not always locking up their lockers, sometimes kids will leave their property out in the open in locker rooms, said Theodore.

Also, sharing combina-

tions and lockers with friends can easily give the opportunity for thieves to steal.

"I wish there was a better way to beef up security after school and at school events, because the school is open to We-go students and opposing team students to just wander all over the school," said Theodore.

Other than theft, Theodore faces reality of bathroom graffiti.

The only way to increase security is to add more cameras, but that option might cause privacy issues.

Since the police liaison and staff members are trying hard to keep up the security, students just need to take a stronger step to protecting their own property to keep it safe.



Staff Photo

A hooligan used a brick to break the back window of car parked at Kyle's house.

Tech crew sweats to keep We-go working

By Sam West

Your computer goes berserk, and you don't know what to do. Who do you call for help? The tech team is ready to help with all your technical difficulties.

Who is the tech team?

The team consists of Beth Schuck, Margot Reges, Mike Stoner, and Tim Walsh. And although they say their job is quite difficult, they enjoy it.

They work with all types of electronics and technology, said Schuck.

"If you have to plug it into a wall, that's our department," she said.

New day, new challenge

Each day is something new, said Stoner, and that nobody on the team gets bored with the same routine. Schuck agreed.

"It's never the same day and it's always challenging," she said.

That means that there is no such thing as a typical

day for the tech team.

Every day brings a variety of jobs to be done, such as fixing computer problems, working with televisions, giving cameras to school organizations, and maintaining all the technological appliances in the school.

Government is trouble

Stoner said that during government simulations, days in the tech department are very busy.

The team has to assemble podiums, microphones, overhead projectors, and cameras to make the simulation work.

Through it all, Stoner said, the department usually has a camera or two left for other teachers to check them out.

The spine of the school

Not only does the tech team make up the backbone of We-go's technology, but it also provides the foundation for the school's web site

and all of its department web pages.

Teachers take the basic ideas and formats the tech team presents them and create their own web pages. Schuck said, "We show them how to use (the web page creator) and then they administer their own web pages."

Walsh sees all

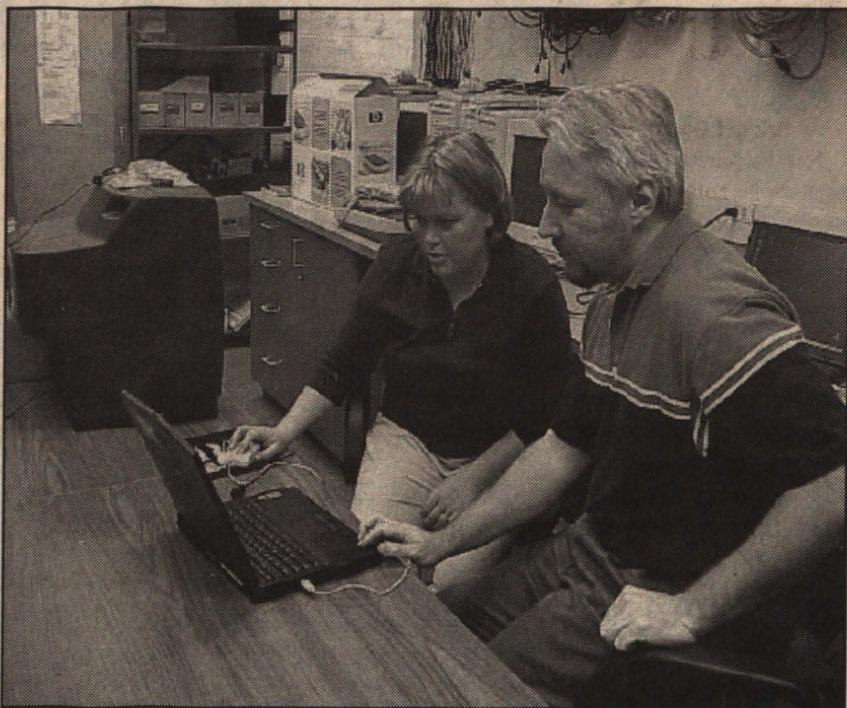
Walsh is in charge of the audio-visual department. In his department, all the cameras, video recorders, computers, radios, and overhead projectors wait, ready to be checked out by teachers for lectures.

Walsh said, "I help the teachers and administration set things up and organize their presentations."

He also maintains and helps to clean electronic equipment. He replaces or fixes broken parts on any appliance.

Team teaches teachers

The team holds a work-



Staff Photo

Beth Schuck and Mike Stoner work with various types of technology to keep the school technologically fit.

shop for teachers that teaches them how to access their e-mail, use the phone system, and voice mail, said Stoner.

Plus, they configure all the computer labs in the school and arrange them after school.

Entire team covers field

Sometimes, there is so much to do in the labs that

more than one person on the team will work on it to accomplish everything.

Reges also helps organize computer labs, but as technical director, she coordinates the technical aspects of performances in the auditorium.

She said her job is to tell student workers light, backstage, and sound cues.

"I come here," Reges said, "and we do practice with anything that happens in the auditorium, like dance production, which is going on now."

Entertaining performance

Also, she burns and cuts CDs for performance music, which she says is actually a fun job.

(See Tech page 11)



Photo courtesy of Julie Youngwith

The Youngwith siblings, from left, Elizabeth, Jenny, Julie, and Matt all went to Walt Disney World for the Make-A-Wish foundation to party with Disney characters.

Youngwith... (Continued from page 7)

nails, acting just like other sets of sisters.

One thing that brought the sisters closer together was their trip to Florida. Last November, the Youngwith family received a trip to Disney World from the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Jenny's therapist referred the family and Make-A-Wish decided to let Jenny make a wish.

The family stayed at Give Kids the World Village in Orlando, Fla., for one week.

Jenny's wish was to have a sleepover with the princesses inside of the Disney castle. Julie's family was included because having a special needs child affects the whole family, and Make-A-Wish wanted to share the once in a lifetime chance

with the whole family.

When Julie learned that she was going to Florida, she was excited. She had wanted to go to Florida and she was happy that her sister's wish was going to come true.

While in Florida, Julie and her family had a lot of fun. They were able to go to many different places, including Sea World, MGM Studios, and Epcot. They were also introduced to many different Disney characters including all of the Winnie the Pooh characters. They even enjoyed a meal with the characters in the castle.

Julie's favorite activities were going to the beach and shopping with her family. She also enjoyed visiting

Sea World. Whales soaked Julie and her brother Matt when they sat in the front row. They also got the chance to pet and play with the dolphins.

This trip is a trip that Julie will never forget.

Jenny also will never forget that trip. She was supported by her friends, teachers, and school. She attends Benjamin Middle School, where the student council had a penny wars fundraiser to help support Make-A-Wish. The school also held a special assembly just for her.

Julie has been blessed with her sister Jenny, and will continue to support her sister in many different ways. Her dreams really have come true.

Tom Wingstedt selected key model of 12 agencies

By Mark Tonchick

Since freshmen year, Tom Wingstedt has been into modeling, but not the kind of models you make with glue.

It all started for Wingstedt when a company named Model Search America started talking to him. He attended one of their presentations where they interviewed everyone in attendance which numbered about 300 people. Out of those 300 about 150 were cut. Winstedt was one of the lucky ones.

A month later he was called back to a meeting where there were many agencies present.

"We had to walk the stage in front of about 30 agencies," said Wingstedt, "There were about 500 to 1,000 people there to see the agencies."

Any agencies interested in a person would contact them. Many were lucky to get a couple, said Winstedt.

He also said many were disappointed to find out that no agencies had contacted them.

"It turned out that I had 12 callbacks," said Winstedt. This meant that he could choose any of the 12 that he would like to work with.

"I choose an agent called

Arlene Wilson at first. I worked with them for about a month then switched to Ford Models because they are much bigger and many famous people started at Ford Models," said Wingstedt.

Wingstedt models clothes, just clothes. He made this very clear.

"No, I don't mean underwear or thongs. I try on dif-

ferent clothes and do what they tell me to do. (I) act like I'm doing something; playing a game, tennis, basketball or just smile and hold something," said Wingstedt.

Wingstedt said that he would not mind modeling for a career and plans to model as long as possible, but he does plan to graduate and go to college.

"It's not an easy job," said Wingstedt. He is never

(See Wingstedt page 11)

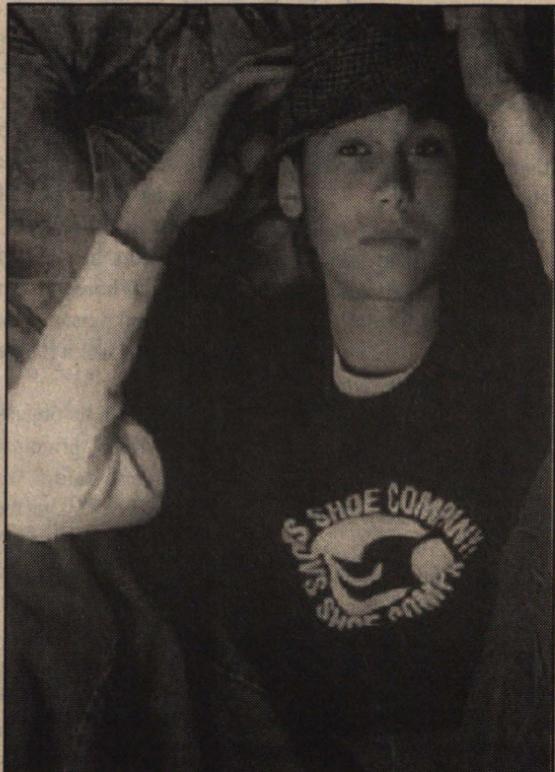


Photo Courtesy of Tom Wingstedt

Wingstedt models clothes for Ford Models.

Paw Prints

Brett Palmer sets tunes as Artist of the Month

By Bridget Geraghty

Brett Palmer takes the first step to becoming a renowned musician by earning December's Artist of the Month.

Which instrument(s) do you play? Tenor and soprano saxophones. I have also played the piano, violin, and alto saxophone.

When did you start playing? When I was 10-years-old (in fifth grade) I started to learn the alto saxophone. I picked up the tenor at 13 and the soprano this year.

In which musical organizations do you perform in school? Jazz combo, jazz band, symphonic band, marching band, and pep band.

Do you perform or have you performed in any musical organization outside of school? IMEA District IX Third Senior Jazz Band.

Which music group(s) do you like performing in the best? Jazz band and jazz combo.

How many years have you performed in the vari-



Photo courtesy of Brett Palmer

Artist of the Month Brett Palmer with his tenor sax.

ous school music organizations? Jazz combo and jazz band for three years, and symphonic, pep and march-

ing band for four years.

What kind of music do you like best? Jazz and all of its derivatives, such as

funk, swing, Latin, avant-garde, etc.

In what other activities have you been involved with in school? Out of school? Math team in my freshman year and chess team my sophomore year.

Do you plan on continuing to play your instrument(s) after high school? For college, for fun, or both? I plan on majoring in music performance with an emphasis on jazz, so essentially yes.

Which musicians have influenced you the most and what instrument(s) did they play? Elvin Jones and Tony Williams on the drums; Joe Henderson, Sonny Rollins, Mark Colby, John Coltrane, Stan Getz, Zoot Sims, Dexter Gordon and Wayne Shorter on tenor saxophone; Miles Davis, Kenny Durham and Freddie Hubbard on trumpet; McCoy Tyner and Thelonious Monk on piano; and Jimmy Garrison on bass.

Who has influenced you the most in your musical

career? Mr. Guter, as he is the sole reason I discovered jazz, met my current instructor (Mark Colby), and decided to pursue music professionally.

Does anyone in your family play a musical in-

strument or sing? My brother, Sean, used to play drums, and still does, on occasion, for fun. My mother and grandmother have played the piano and sung. My great-grandfather played the violin and flute.

College Column

Students smile

about college aps

By Mary Beth Selby

By now, most college deadlines have expired, leaving the holidays a time to relax and have fun for students.

All the research, the calls and visits, filling out forms and writing essays has ended and now it's time for waiting.

Just as students put in time to finish their forms, the admissions departments need to take time in choosing the new class of students.

Colleges will probably take the rest of December to wait out the arrival of the final applications, and then consider who to accept.

Schools take the whole process seriously and so should the student. Once the acceptance letter comes rolling home, take time to rejoice and celebrate conquering the first college hurdle: getting in. If in fact that chance comes during these upcoming holidays, take time with friends and relatives to share your college success.

However, students cannot let that fact go to their heads because the college can still withdraw their acceptance,

and reject them.

Grades matter a lot to colleges and the rumor is true that junior year of high school is the toughest, because it is the year that can make a big difference to colleges.

The junior year is the last full year a college will have to look at grades before the student applies to their school and a college can survey the grades. If the grades are high, it helps the GPA and scholarship funding. Lower grades make it difficult for students to have a greater variety of choice for schools.

On top of junior grades, seniors have to be aware of the senior grades they will send their college. Colleges still look at the first semester grades from a senior, which will show the true character of their applicant. If through the year the grades drop, the college will start to second guess their choice of admission, causing either a notice of warning to not slack off (and it does happen) or even a withdrawal of admission.

Counselor Maura Bridges tells her seniors not to forget about grades, and that colleges will still be watching every move the student makes.

"(Seniors) need to know they can't just coast through," said Bridges.

Parents can also help with college when those acceptance letters begin to roll home by looking into the Free Application for Financial Student Aid (FAFSA) form, which colleges will begin to accept after Jan 1. To help with this form, counselor Ward Rau will be hosting a FAFSA night on Jan. 14 to explain the ins and outs of collegiate financial aid and how to apply.

"There is a lot of financial aid available to students and families and not only to students whose parents are poor," said Rau. Most aid comes from the government.

Wingstedt...

(Continued from page 10)

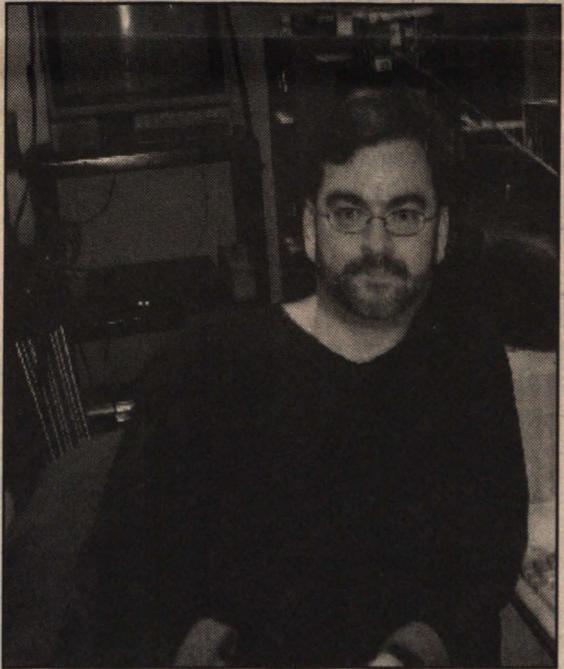
completely comfortable and is learning more all the time.

What Wingstedt likes most about modeling is that he makes a lot of money.

"I make \$150 an hour," said Wingstedt.

Wingstedt said the worst part of modeling is the photographers sometimes treat you poorly. The photographers sometimes yell and swear.

But Wingstedt likes modeling for the most part and will keep on strutting his stuff.



Staff Photo

Tim Walsh is a member of the tech team.

Tech...

(Continued from page 10)

"Every once in a while, I'll make a perfect cut, and that makes me happy," Reges said.

A cut, as she describes it, is a combination of parts of a song or two different songs to make one song, with a seamless transition between the two parts.

Performances are Reges' favorite parts of her job, because she says they are more interesting.

"They are a lot more involved and it's always fun to see the talent that comes out of high school," Reges said.

Junkroski... (Continued from page 7)

house vote, the School of Americas Watch (SOAW) organization is comparing the 2001 graduate list to news connections of human rights abuses. The government wouldn't release any recent graduate lists until forced by the Freedom of Information Act.

SOA logic

She made note that a group of government students sponsored a bill to close the SOA, and it passed unanimously in the full government session. She is frustrated with the fact that high school students can see the logic to close the school, and yet the U.S. government has neglected the importance.

Junkroski argues

Junkroski said an argu-

ment to keep the school open is that only 1 percent of the graduates are linked to atrocities. In response, Junkroski argues that if major human rights atrocities were committed and they were all linked to 1 percent of a We-go graduating class, school would be closely looked over or even closed.

"(We want them to understand) we were not protesting the fort, we are protesting the school," she said.

After spending some time in Fort Benning, Junkroski has never been more sure that she wants the SOA to close.

Log onto www.soaw.org for information, post messages, or join the SOAW organization.



Photo Courtesy of Susan Junkroski

Junkroski, second from right, gathers with her traveling band of protestors to close the School of Americas in Fort Benning, Geo.

Ñ Noticias Disaparición de tradiciones Mexicanas

Por María Pérez

Viviendo en los Estados Unidos emigrantes se encuentran luchando por sus tradiciones Mexicanas y se enfrentan con nuevas tradiciones americanas.

"Muchas personas no pueden celebrar sus tradiciones porque no está toda su familia, las diferencias de climas, y no se puede festejar bien," dijo señor Lucia Cortes que ha vivido en los Estados Unidos por cuatro años.

Estos estudiantes recién llegados de México se han dado cuenta, Ana María López y Antonio Carlos.

"Aquí no se puede celebrar libre. No son las mismas tradiciones y no es lo mismo una fiesta aquí como allá (México)," dijo Carlos.

En el 12 de diciembre en México se celebra el Día de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. López y Carlos dijeron que en México se hace una feria en los pueblos, se llevan mañanitos al santuario, y les dan las felitaciones a las personas llamadas Guadalupe. Cortes dijo que en diciembre nada mas celebra la Navidad el 25 de diciembre con comida

tradicional porque también es una tradición en los Estados Unidos.

"Aquí no se puede celebrar la Virgin porque no se puede salir a la calle a celebrar," dijo Cortes.

El 1 de enero en México y en los Estados Unidos se celebra el Año Nuevo. La noche de diciembre 31 es La Víspera Del Año Nuevo en México, que también se celebra en los Estados Unidos. López y Carlos dijeron que para el Año Nuevo en México hacían posole, tamales, y ponche. Su familia se reuniera y esperaba hasta la 12 a.m. para que tocaran las 12 campanadas. La iglesia suena la campaña 12 veces representando cada mes que ha pasado.

"La familia se da un abrazo para dar gracias por haber vivido el año y comenzar uno nuevo," dijo Carlos.

En enero 6 se celebra el Día de los Reyes Magos cuando se dan los regalos a los niños en México. Para celebrar López y Carlos dijeron que la gente se reúnen, los niños especialmente.

"Es el día que los Reyes

Magos les traen juguetes a los niños, y se parte la Rosca de Reyes. Tiene cuatro muñequitos adentro y el que le toque es el que hace la fiesta para el 2 de febrero, el día de la Candelaria," dijo López.

En enero Cortes dijo que sí celebra el Año Nuevo, pero eso es lo único que celebra. Para celebrar Cortes y su familia hacen una fiesta con posole, tamales, y otra comida tradicional de México. En la noche brindan el nuevo año y ella come las 12 uvas, una tradición donde se las come medianoche del año nuevo. A Cortes se le hace fácil celebrar el año nuevo porque es una tradición en los Estados Unidos.

"Me siento un poquito mal porque no se celebra el Día de la Virgin De Guadaupe o la Noche Buena. Me estoy ajustando a las tradiciones de los Estados Unidos porque son las tradiciones aquí y uno lo tiene que celebrar," dijo Cortes.

Otra celebración que se celebra mucho en México es el Día Del Niño el 30 de abril. Carlos y López dijeron que en México se hace

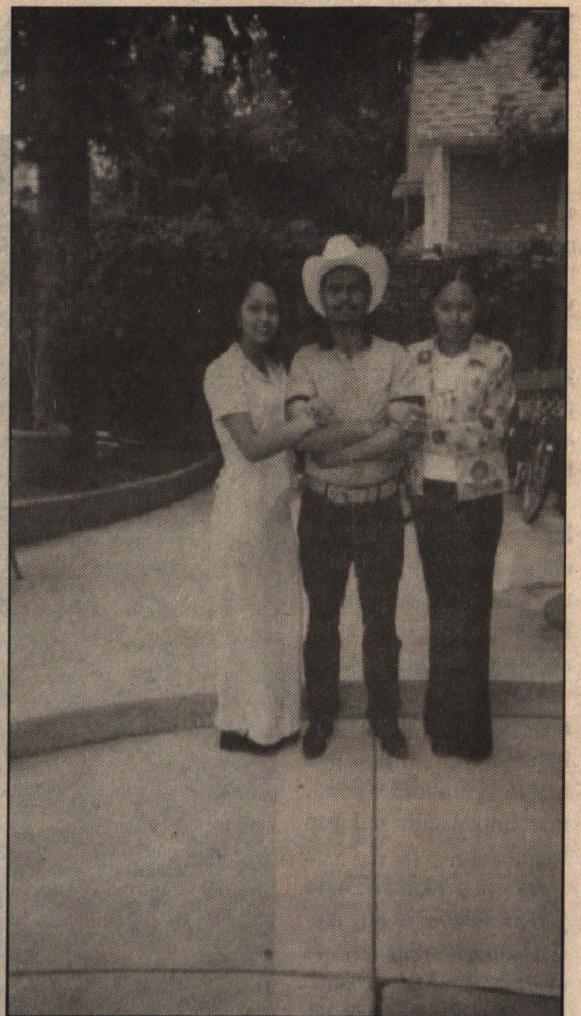
comida tradicional, en las escuelas les hacen un festival con payasos y a los niños les regalan dulces.

"Aquí no celebramos el Día del Niño porque no es la tradición en los Estados Unidos. Para mí fue difícil dejar mis tradiciones por que estamos acostumbrados a celebrar las tradiciones Mexicanas. Cuando nos venimos acá a los Estados Unidos paramos de celebrarlos, porque ya no podemos celebrarlos," dijo Cortes.

Días importantes en mayo es el 15, el Día del Maestro y el 22 de mayo es el Día del Estudiante. En estos días la escuela no da clases y hacen festivales con comida especial.

El 15 de septiembre es el Día de la Independencia en México. López y Carlos dijeron que en este día se hace un desfile en la mañana y en la noche sale el Presidente de México para nombrar los personajes que han sido parte de México.

Cortes ya no celebra el Día del Maestro o del Estudiante como no es algo que se celebra en los Estados Unidos. El 2 de noviembre, se celebra el Día de los



Fotografía cortesía de Lucia Cortes (De izquierda a derecho) Luz María Cortes, Señor Cortes, y Lucia Cortes juntos para una fotografía antes de salieron para una quinceñera.

Muertos en México. López y Carlos dijeron que ponen altares para los familiares que se han muerto, y a los panteones le llevan flores a las tumbas de su familia.

Cortes todavía celebra el Día de los Muertos

arreglando un altar para su familia, pero admito que a veces se le olvidan poner el altar como no es la tradición en los Estados Unidos.

Pronto Cortes alomejor ya no celebraran el Día de los Muertos.

U.S. styles impact Mexican traditions

By Maria Perez

Living in the U.S. immigrants find themselves fighting to keep their old traditions and deal with new American traditions.

"A lot of people can't celebrate their traditions because all of their family is not here, the differences in climates, and it can't be celebrated well," said senior Lucia Cortes who has lived in the U.S. for four years.

Recent arrivals from Mexico, students Ana Maria López and Antonio Carlos, agreed.

"Here you aren't able to celebrate freely. They don't have the same traditions and a party here is not the same as over there (Mexico)," said Carlos.

One tradition that Carlos and López celebrate is on Dec. 12. In Mexico they celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe's Day. López and Carlos said that in Mexico there is a festival in the towns where they take gifts to the sanctuary, and they congratulate all the people named Guadalupe, because it is their saint's day.

Cortes said now in December all she celebrates is

Christmas with traditional Mexican food, forgoing

Guadalupe's Day.

"Here you can't celebrate



Photo courtesy of Ana Maria López Ana Maria López visited Aguascalientes, Mexico, near her home town with some friends.

Our Lady of Guadalupe's Day because you can't go out to the street to celebrate," said Cortes.

Both Mexico and the U.S. celebrate New Year's Day. On New Year's Eve in Mexico, López and Carlos said they made tamales, homemade punch, and posole, a Mexican beef stew. Their families gathered together and waited until midnight for the 12 camponatas, which is the church bell ringing 12 times signifying each month that has passed.

"Then our family would hug to give thanks for living the year and starting a new year," said Carlos.

On Jan. 6 they celebrated the Wise Kings when they gave the gifts to the children in Mexico. To celebrate the holiday Carlos and López said that people gather together, especially the children.

"It is the day that the Wise Kings bring toys to the children, they cut the rosca, a ring-shaped bread, of Kings. The rosca has four dolls inside and who ever gets a doll has to plan the party on Feb. 2, the day of the Candelaria," said López.

In January Cortes said that she celebrates New Year's Eve but that is the only thing that she celebrates. To celebrate Cortes and her family have a party with posole, tamales, and other traditional Mexican food. At night they toast for the new year and she eats 12 grapes, a tradition she has where she eats 12 grapes at midnight of the new year. Cortes finds it easy to celebrate New Year's Eve because it's a tradition in the U.S. too.

"I feel a little bit sad because here they don't celebrate La Noche Nueva or the Our Lady of Guadalupe's Day. I am adjusting to the traditions of the U.S., because they're the traditions here and people have to celebrate them," said Cortes.

Another holiday that is celebrated a lot in Mexico is Child's Day on April 30. Carlos and López said that in Mexico families cook traditional Mexican food, and the schools give the children a festival with clowns and give them candy.

"Here we don't celebrate the Child's Day because it is not a U.S. tradition. For me it was difficult to leave my traditions behind because we were accustomed to celebrating the Mexican holi-

days. When we came here to the U.S. we stopped celebrating them, because we couldn't celebrate them anymore," said Cortes.

Important days in May are May 15, the Day of the Teacher, and May 22, the Day of the Student. On those days the schools in Mexico don't hold classes and they make special food for the students.

The Day of Independence in Mexico comes Sept. 16. López and Carlos said that on this day there's a parade in the morning and at night the president of Mexico names all the people that have been part of Mexico.

Mexicans celebrate the Day of the Dead on Nov. 2. López and Carlos said that they create altars for their dead family members, and take flowers to the graves of their family members.

Cortes still celebrates the Day of the Dead by putting up altars for her family, but she admitted that sometimes her family forgets to put up an altar since it is not a tradition in the U.S.

Soon Cortes may find herself not celebrating the Day of the Dead at all, and it, like other Mexican traditions, will disappear from their calendars in the U.S.

HAVE FUN AT OTHER PEOPLE'S EXPENSE! HAVE A NICE BREAK

By Kyle Bullis

Winter is supposed to last for three months. That's it. Every season is supposed to last three months.

Unfortunately we all live in the Chicagoland area, which is famous for having the most erratic weather next to Jupiter., so it's come to no surprise to you, I'm sure, that this winter is going to last more around six months. There's absolutely no way to stop it, so the best thing we can do is amuse ourselves.

Get outside

Not with television or video games, mind you. Get creative. Winter can take your mind for a ride, so why not enjoy it? Using these patented (okay, not really) amusement techniques (also known as pranks), you can be sure that your mind won't freeze like most everything else in the Chicagoland area.

First, there are two kinds of pranks: Mean pranks, and what-in-the-world pranks.

A mean prank would be peeing in a snow ball and throwing it at strangers. We'll be focusing on that later because they're way

more fun, and nobody will get sued.

Yellow snow fun

Here's one to get started. Find a strong yellow drink, such as yellow Kool-Aid (melted mustard also works if you don't mind the smell that will linger around your house for the rest of eternity).

Basically, find something that closely resembles everyone's favorite bodily fluid, and make a lot of it. A few truckloads should work. Your next task is to put it to work.

Most everyone considers spelling their name out in the snow an accomplishment, so out do the best of them and write a

novel, right there on your lawn. Do it in cursive. You could even do an elaborate

than putting up dopey Christmas decorations, especially when you have

Another way to show your holiday spirit is to create an efficient decorating plan that is sure to get people staring (but maybe for the

wrong reasons). Christmas lights are a pain.

They get tangled, make electric wiring a nightmare, and the owners are so lazy that the lights usually stay up until the 4th of July rolls around.

So to put up an awe-inspiring decoration, get a light bulb. One light bulb. White. Hang it in front of your porch and declare yourself part of the holiday spirit.

Summer fun

For sheer craziness, you could casually walk onto

your lawn in the dead of winter and set up a lawn chair, umbrella, and some lemonade. Get a big aluminum foil sun deflector and try to catch a tan. Assuming you can withstand the extreme cold, you'll probably succeed.

Sure, if you want to have fun over the winter you could just kick back with some chips and soda and watch sports or play video games, but what's the fun in that? Well, you do gain a something: 20 pounds.

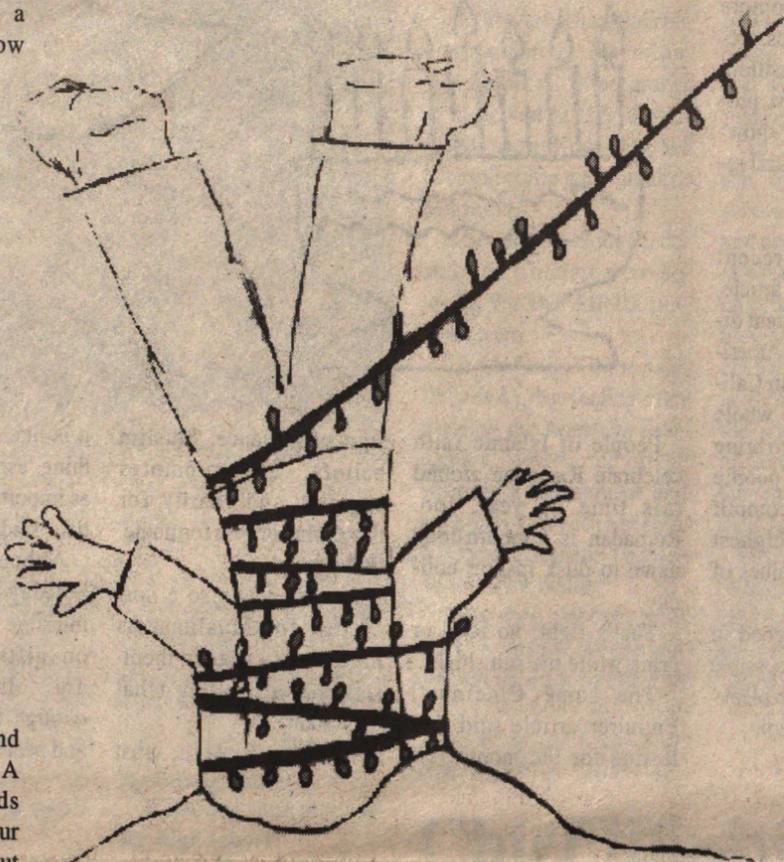
Stay active

Instead, get creative over the winter and focus yourself on getting the best of everyone you know and hold near and dear.

Family, friends, and even enemies are all great targets for your little schemes, but you shouldn't neglect setting up random strangers, because sometimes they can be the most fun.

As always, don't do anything that could potentially hurt yourself or others, because spending the winter in a hospital could drive one to madness.

Keep it safe, but above all, keep it weird.



picture like the Mona Lisa, although your color choices will be heavily limited.

This is a lot more fun

people staring, wondering how many cups of water you had to drink.

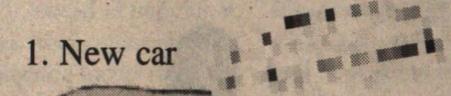
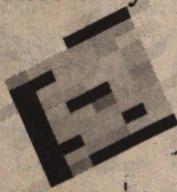
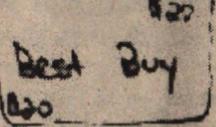
Bright decorations

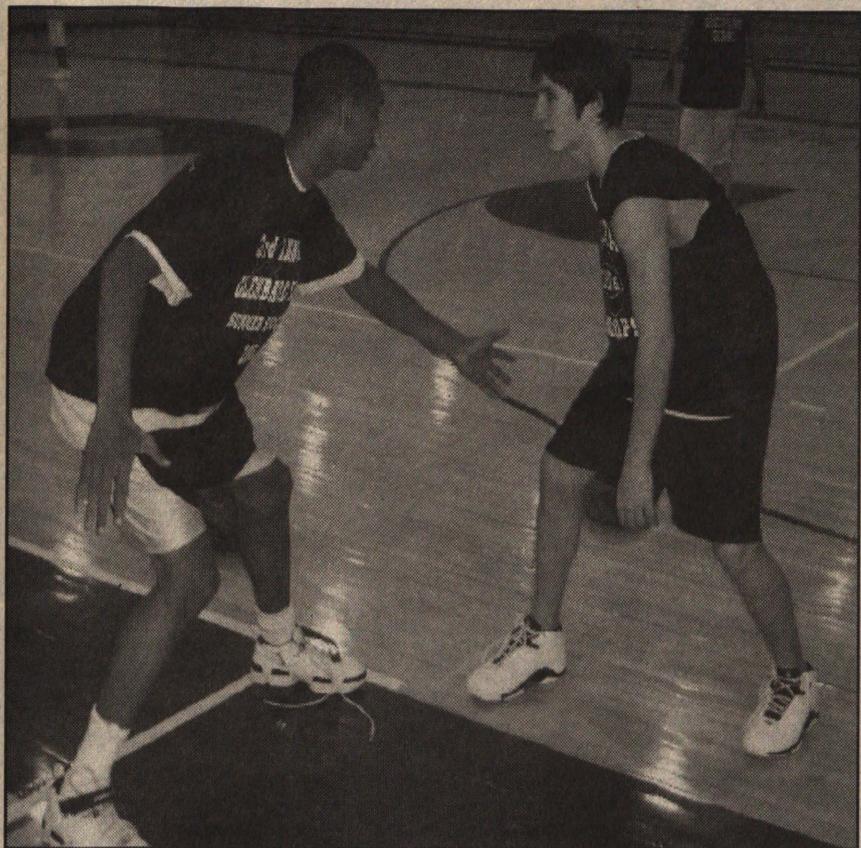
'T'WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS - WE-GO STYLE

By Mark Tonchick

*'Twas the day before winter break and all through the school
Not a student was learning, not even in the pool.
Sleeping in late, not getting out of their beds,
Thoughts of final exams went through their little heads.
On the last day of classes, amongst all the chatter,
Season greetings were wished in a politically correct manner.
Spending time with family and exchanging presents
The air is filled with food aromas and potpourri scents.
Playing with friends and goofing off in the snow
Students are busy forgetting all that they know.
With carolers singing and winter bells ringing
Off of peoples' houses, decorative lights are swinging.
In the morning sun, snow lines the trees,
Little kids have to come inside before they freeze.
Stuffing their bellies with meats and yams,
Tests will be here soon and students will have to cram.
It's a happy time for all, (INSERT YOUR HOLIDAY HERE)
But to all can be wished a happy new year.*

TOP 10 MOST WANTED GIFTS BY STUDENTS

1. New car 
2. Video games 
3. DVDs 
4. Clothes 
5. Accessories/Jewelry 
6. CDs 
7. Gift certificates 
8. Cash 
9. CD player/MP3 player 
10. Cell Phone 



Starting varsity players Leo Baylor (left) and Doug Sieder are focused on getting back to sectionals. Staff Photo

Wildcats start season perfect with 5-0 record

By John Jennings

This year's boys basketball team has started off by winning their first five games and a tournament.

To start the season the team won the Thanksgiving tournament at Marmion. They won all three games they played at the tournament including a close championship game against Marmion.

Also, players Doug Sieder and Lee Corning were selected for the All-Tournament team.

Coach Kevin Gimre said, "It was a great feeling after winning the Marmion tournament. We started off by winning a tournament and we got to start with a perfect 3-0 record. It made Thanksgiving a lot better."

Since then, the boys have beat a much improved Glenbard East team and

Joliet Catholic.

Gimre said, "The players have been working really hard. We are doing good this year because the players are mentally prepared before every game. They are doing what we ask of them and what we show them in practice."

To prepare for the games the opponent's team is scouted. Then the players and coaching staff will look at what the other team does on offense and defense, and they will prepare the players for what the other team is going to do. In practice the coaches will have the players work on areas that they need to improve on for their upcoming games.

Gimre said that the one thing that the team needs to improve on is their rebounding. In addition to rebounding the team also needs to

work on executing offensively. Overall though, Gimre said, "I think that we are really playing well together as a team. This year, no one cares who gets all the points or glory."

The team's goals have not changed since the beginning of the season. They still want to get back to sectionals and start where they left off from last year. Gimre said that the team goes into every game expecting to win.

Gimre said, "The players are definitely playing with a lot of confidence right now."

He added that the team is playing at a very high level this early in the season.

Some surprising play has come from Greg Callahan. Gimre said that he has done much better than he had expected.

Athlete of the Month Family plays biggest part in Adduci's life and in her sports

By Doug Sieder

Christy Adduci is this month's Athlete of the Month. Recently, she qualified for state in cross-country.

Who influenced you the most during your career?

My family has influenced me more than anyone. They have always been there for me. My parents always push me to reach and exceed my goals. My sister makes things fun. If it weren't for them I would never have become a runner.

Which is your favorite sport and why?

I love cross-country and track the same, after all, there's no big difference from racing 3 miles or 2

miles when you run 6-10 miles in practice.

What is your best sports memory?

The minute sectionals for cross-country ended this year, and I knew I qualified for state! Having my family come up to me and my teammates, and my coach hugging me. Everyone was crying, including me! It was the best moment ever!

What is your biggest sports accomplishment?

Qualifying for state in track (2 mile race) last year and cross-country this year.

What did you do to get where you are now?

I worked hard, trained in the off season, listened to my coach and father's ad-

vice, and I never let past mistakes get me down.

What are your plans after high school?

I plan to attend a four-year university and major in business.

Do you plan on playing any sports after high school?

Yes, I definitely plan to run in college, and already have some opportunities.

Do you do anything special before each game?

I have a lucky T-shirt we made before DVC, and I always wear that for warm-ups. Plus I have a lucky pair of socks, other than that I focus on my race.

What would you tell underclassmen in your sport?

I know it's really hard, because you're competing against the hardest opponent of all, yourself, but if you keep focused, have some fun and never say "I can't" you will go far.

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

My dad has helped me achieve my goals whether it be coaching my 3 v. 3 soccer team to nationals or giving me strategies to qualify for state in cross-country and track. He's always been there for me and he always will be. Katerina Claiborne (the cross-country and track coach) has been very helpful. She never gave up on me and always encouraged me to be my best. She knew what my strengths and weaknesses were, and always helped me to improve them.

John's Jive

Chief Illiniwek might get the axe at University of Illinois

By John Jennings

For over a decade now, people have complained about the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's mascot, Chief Illiniwek. The university is deciding whether or not to retire the chief. For me, it's simple. The Chief should stay and the groups protesting him should let the issue go. After all, he is just a mascot.

History of the Chief

The Illini were a group of tribes in the Illinois area who have been extinct now for some time. This group of tribes is where both the state and the University of Illinois got their names.

In 1995, the Peoria tribe, the only direct descendents of the Illini tribe approved of Chief Illiniwek and his little halftime routine. They were quoted as saying that the Chief, "pays us honor."

According to the language of the Illini tribe, Illiniwek refers to "the complete human being - the strong, agile human body; the unfettered human intellect; the indomitable human spirit."

The tradition that is Chief Illiniwek was started in 1926 as a halftime dance. At halftime of both football and basketball games the Chief comes out and does a dance which is approxi-

mately four minutes long.

Anti-Chief arguments

Now, some organizations want the Chief retired as the school's mascot.

Protesters say that the Chief creates a hostile learning environment and is a distortion of religious ceremonies. They say that the Chief divides the student body instead of unifying it. Their main argument is that it ridicules Indian races and the dance and music are inaccurate.

The person that first brought the Chief Illiniwek issue to the forefront was a woman named Charlene Teters, a descendent of the Spokane tribe. In addition to fighting the Chief, she has also fought the names, logos, and mascots of both professional and school sports teams, including the Washington Redskins of the NFL.

Why Chief should stay

First of all, Teters isn't even a member of either the Illini or Peoria tribes, so I do not understand why she is offended by it, if the direct descendents are not.

Second, the Chief is not a real, authentic portrait of an Indian or what Indian culture was like. Anyone who goes to a football or basketball game and sees the Chief and thinks that is what the

Indians must have been like, has some major issues. The football game is not where one goes to learn the history of the Indians.

The university though, would even have a basis to make the argument that the Chief is pretty accurate. Actual Indians have made all of the outfits the Chief has worn over the years. One of the first people to play the part of the Chief, Webber Borchers, was inducted as an honorary member of the Sioux tribe because of his portrayal.

Justification

Chief Illiniwek is a symbol of reverence and honor, not one of racism. He embodies the spirit and emotion of the university and its students. He is meant to be a noble, honorable representation of the Illini, not a racist one. When he comes out during halftime, everyone in the stadium stands and cheers. He is a tradition and he should stay as the team's mascot.

The Chief is no worse than the other 20 or more universities that have Indian names. Or what about the Washington Redskins? That is much more racist than the use of Chief Illiniwek, but you don't see Washington about to

(See The Chief page 16)

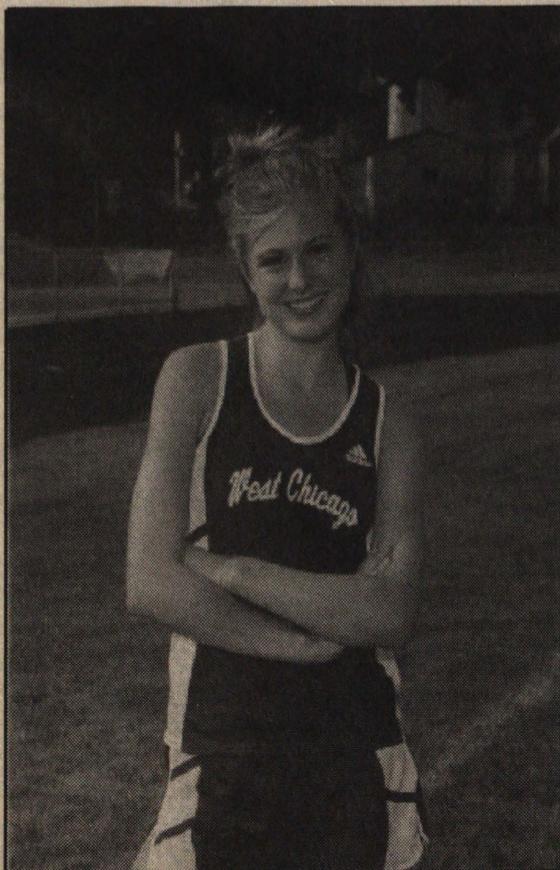


Photo courtesy of Christy Adduci
Christy Adduci recently ran at the state competition.

Wildcat wrestling team has a promising future

By Isaiah Ly Buado
Slams. Holds. Reversals. Commitment.

This year's wrestling team has them all in their arsenal, ready to take on any other school.

Trainer Pam Denhof said that the freshmen are improving every day. The freshmen have already won two duel meets since the start of the season, and are working hard to get better.

Marty Molina, the head coach, agreed, "The freshmen and sophomores are the future of We-go wrestling."

Assistant coach Jamie Philips said that the meets

turn out great.

"Not everyone is able to go to the meets, 18 points is automatically deducted of the score due to forfeits, but the team is still able to come back," said Philips.

At a Wauconda take down tournament, the team placed fourth out of nine teams after only a few weeks of practice.

Brad Murison said, "Wrestling is fun. It is also great for conditioning and as a work out for football during the off-season."

Ryan Fortyk said, "New freshmen are curious to learn the sport, and skillful

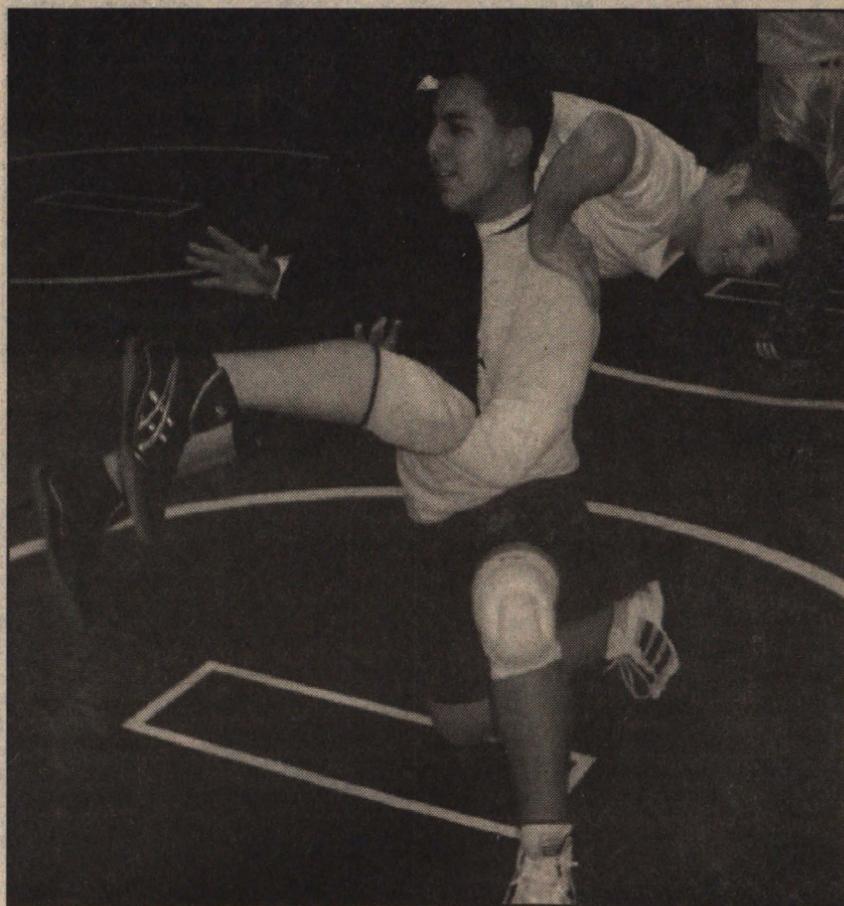
juniors and sophomores are here to teach them the tricks of the trade."

Adam Pineda said that wrestling is hard but worth it, and the hydro test is horrible.

Stephany Vasquez the only girl on the team, said that it takes devotion to play a sport like this. And with a laugh, Vasquez said, "Girl power! Woo!"

Mike Assaf, the assistant coach, promised that, "In a few years, the team is going to be a powerhouse."

One of the team's mottos is "Pain is temporary, pride is forever."



Staff Photo

The wrestling team hopes that the sophomores and juniors can help teach the incoming freshmen and provide some veteran leadership.

Swim team looking forward to conference then, sectionals

By John Jennings and Maria Perez

The boys swim team has set high expectations for themselves. They would like to place fourth or fifth in conference and want to have a good showing at sectionals.

Coach Eugene Spivak said, "We're doing well. We are a very young team. The team really has a good working attitude in practice. They are a very close knit team." The team only has one senior on the roster while everyone else is a junior.

Spivak wants to have everybody on the team drop

their times. It is his most important goal for the year. He also said that he wants to, "take the discipline of swimming outside of the school." The team plans on working hard and do well in conference, hopefully placing fourth.

Jeff Lesniak, Matt Simon, Drew Weigand, and Erik Nelson, are all expected to do well this season. Lesniak placed 13th in state last year in the 100 meter breast stroke.

He hopes to place sixth this year. Simon is expected to do well in the back stroke, and Weigand and Nelson should do well in free styles.

Plans to improve Spivak's team include making them work harder than they have ever had to work. Spivak said, "I bring a college style of coaching that will hopefully improve the swimmers all around, not just in the meets, but in practice as well."

To prepare, the team used the same routine about of 10 to 15 workouts, and decided to adopt the routine for all their practices.

Overall, Spivak said that he just wants his team to "take swimming and use the discipline you learned from it, and use it in other aspects of your life."

Girls basketball works from losses of games and injuries

By Mary Beth Selby

Girls basketball started off strong, but suffered the loss of a key player and therefore loss of games, said coach Kim Walner.

Playing against their first opponent of the season, the Lady Wildcats made a strong comeback to outscore Nazareth by 13 points in the fourth quarter.

Walner said their victory catapulted the girls' confidence into their next two games in the Willowbrook tournament, beating Maine West 72-46 and St. Benedict 62-49.

Unfortunately, the day before the Willowbrook game, Lauren Johnston suffered a knee injury. An MRI revealed she had some meniscus tear in the cartilage.

"It was really heartbreak-

ing for her. This is her senior year, and she has been working really hard," said Walner.

Johnston was a significant player, averaging 10 points, seven rebounds, and six assists per game.

Johnston's injury put a damper on the team's spirit, said Walner.

At first, the loss of Johnston didn't hurt the team too much since they shot well without her in the Willowbrook loss. However, the loss of Johnston really struck hard in the next game against North Side Prep, losing by four points.

"It was one of the worst games. We didn't execute very well," said Walner.

They tied for second in the tournament. Unfortunately, their performance

didn't improve too much after that.

Walner claimed their ugliest game was their loss against St. Viator.

"We shot poorly, and we were never really in the game," said Walner.

However, the girls are working even harder in practice now to prepare for the conference games ahead of them. They looked forward to the four conference games in the week before winter break.

"We will be ready and raring to go for the majority of our conference games in January," said Walner.

Johnston hopes she will be able to play by then.

"Right now we are all praying for her," said Walner, recognizing Johnston's years of efforts.

Off-season is when real work begins for athletes

By Rich Visser

Ask any star athlete how they achieved greatness, and they'll tell you the key to their success is in the off-season.

Training in off-season

Many high school athletes now train in the off-season in order to stay ahead of the competition.

Before, most athletes participated in as many as four different sports in a given year, but now some concentrate on one sport to keep their competitive edge.

How athletes train

Ryan Stuhr, a football player at Community High School has developed his own off-season training program for football. His program includes weight lifting, sit-ups, push-ups, and jogging. This gives him some variety from doing the same thing everyday at football practice.

Stuhr said that the hard work he puts in during the off-season is a good motivator for the regular season.

What are the benefits

Off-season training also gives athletes a chance to try new things. Tom Harwood, a track and cross-country runner, says he goes off-roading in through West DuPage Woods during the off-season. During the regular season, the risk of injuring himself would be too great for this.

An added benefit for athletes who train in the off-season is that an injury will not have as drastic consequences as an injury during the season.

Harwood also plays ultimate frisbee with his teammates during the off-season. Ultimate frisbee gives him a chance to improve his coordination skills while having a good time.

What training helps

Some athletes even participate in one sport to develop skill in the other.

In fact, many colleges require their football players to participate in track and field during the winter and

spring so they can stay in shape and improve their skills for the fall season.

Mike Smolucha is a football player and is a distance runner in track. He uses the work ethic he gets from football and the speed and endurance he gets from track to improve in both sports.

Smolucha says the benefits of off-season training include making yourself faster and stronger, both mentally and physically.

"You know your training will pay off and you don't have to worry about being sore," Smolucha said. "You have to train year round to be the best you possibly can be."

Smolucha knows that in order to be the best in both of his sports, that he has to train year round.

The most important benefit of training in the off-season is the improved mentality.

"Hard work will get you where you want to go," Smolucha said.

The Chief... (Continued from page 15)

change their name.

The truth is, the people that want the Chief retired are few. "The Sun-Times" took a poll that showed that 86 percent of Illinois residents wanted to keep the Chief.

I just do not understand why we have to listen to the minority all the time and let them make the decisions.

I think the majority, who are pro-Chief, should de-

cide whether or not the Chief should stay.

If we retire the Chief, soon these same people are going to want to change the name to something other than the "Fighting Illini."

But, what's next? Our state, along with many towns, is named after an Indian tribe.

Our we going to have to change the name of our state to satisfy the wishes of a few

people who find it offensive? Where do we draw the line?

Our country needs to stop worrying about what's politically correct. If people are offended, they just need to deal with it instead of making it into a big problem. People in America are too sensitive. There is way too much emphasis on being politically correct. The Chief needs to stay.