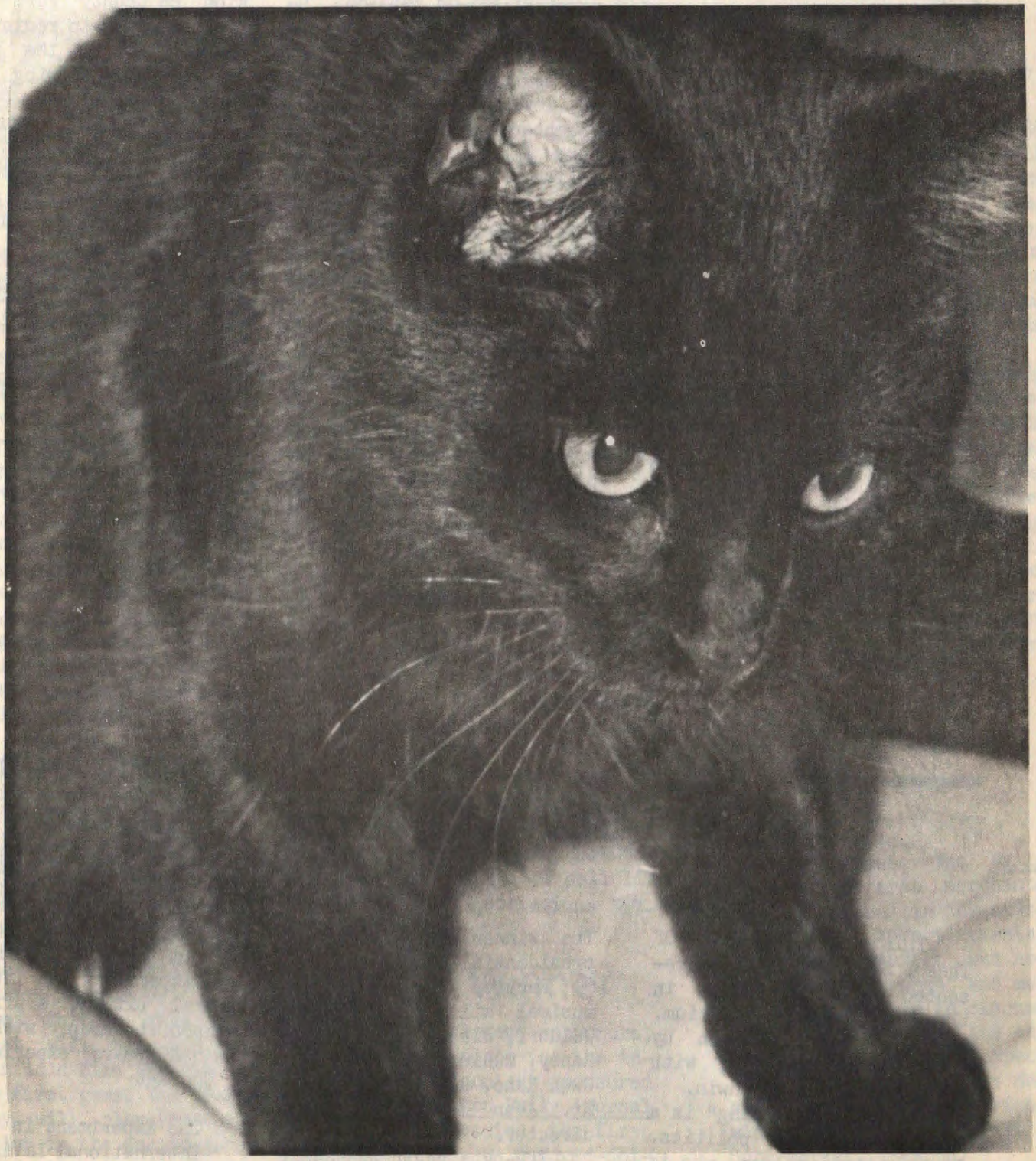
West Chicago

BRIDGE

Voice of Students today-
for a better school tomorrow

West Chicago High School February 13, 1976 Volume Five Number Eight



FRIDAY THE THIRTEENTH!

Feb. 14, Lupercalia?

by Kathy Kennedy

Heart-shaped candy, bouquets of flowers, and sentimental messages decorated with satin, ribbon, or lace each represent the many ways people celebrate the feast of lovers, St. Valentine's Day.

Although February 14 has long been known as a "red letter day," the origin of Valentine's Day is not certain. It may have had its beginnings in the Roman festival of Lupercalia which was celebrated February 15. On this day, boys and girls would draw lots that would pair them off for the following year. The European belief that birds begin to mate on this day is another superstition related to this holiday.

February 14 also commemorates the martyrdom of at least two St. Valentines. One of several Valentine stories states that Valentine served as a priest during the reign of the cruel Emperor Claudius. Claudius was unable to recruit soldiers for his wars, and as a result declared that no more marriages would be performed, and all engagements were cancelled. Valentine thought this unfair, and secretly married several couples. He was thrown into prison, where he died. Another legend says that Valentine fell in love with the jailer's daughter and wrote her letters signed "From your Valentine." The accidental acceptance of St. Valentine as the patron saint of lovers has led to the exchanging of gifts and love tokens on his feast day.

The first commercial valentines appeared about 1800. By the 1830's and '40's experts had mastered the art of creating delicate and artistic messages. They had pictures of turtledoves, lovers' knots in gold or silver, bows and arrows, cupids, and bleeding hearts —all emblems connected with love and lovers. The Victorian period was the golden age of Valentines.

Register to Vote

Registration for the March 16 Primary closes Monday at the Election Commission on County Farm Road. The procedure to register is simple. First, the person who is registering must swear that the information he is giving is correct. Then an information card must be filled out. Then the person will receive a voters' registration card in the mail.

Registration closed at the Winfield Village Hall and West Chicago City Hall January 30. The city must close its registration 45 days before the election, while the county closes registration 30 days prior to the election.

To be eligible to vote in Illinois the five voting requirements must be met. A potential voter must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old, must have lived in the state for a minimum of six months and in the district for at least 30 days, and must be registered.

Spring Musical

with Bicentennial Theme

by Kevin Hodges

This year's musical, "Of Thee I Sing," will be presented April 2,3, and 4 in the Weyrauch Auditorium. The play was written by Kaufman and Ryskind, with music by George Gershwin.

"Of Thee I Sing" is a comedy-satire on politics. It is about a man who is running for president, and runs a beauty contest throughout the fifty states. The winner will marry the presidential candidate.

Faculty working on the musical will be Ms. Cheri Waldorf, director; Mr. Gene Haney, musical director; Ms Gwen Reno, art director; and Mr. John Walton, lighting director.

Try-outs began Wednesday and will continue today after school.

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NEWS BRIEFS

February will have an extra day, because this year is leap year. Legend has it that it is a woman's privilege to propose to a man during leap year.

"Dirty Harry" and "Magnum Force" will be playing at Cascade Theater this weekend. "The Hiding Place" will be featured at Wheaton Movie Theater.

We-Go's faculty met in small groups last Thursday. They discussed a peer leadership self-improvement program. The most positive alternative is to improve the student's self-concept and awareness.

The anonymously sent carnations were delivered second hour today by the pom-pom squad. Each color carnation has a different meaning. Red means "I love you," pink means "I think you're cute," orange means "You're my favorite teacher," green means "I'd like to get to know you," purple means "You're a hunk," white means "You're a friend," and blue means "You're my favorite athlete."

Smile, you may be on candid camera, because today is Camera Day at We-Go.

The Donkey Basketball Game will be held next Friday in the Bishop Gym at 7:30 p.m. The West Chicago Fire Department will play against the Winfield Fire Department in the first game. The We-Go faculty will play the varsity club in the second game. Advanced tickets are $1.50. Admission at the door will be $2.

The giant six-by-six foot posters found throughout the school are the art work of Ms Gwen Reno's arts and crafts classes. Each student worked on one 18-by-18 inch section of the poster. Sixteen of these sections were combined to give the complete picture.

The Winfield Public Library will have a "valentine for girls" tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. There will be six experts at the library to show the girls how to make the most of what they have. The six experts will talk to the girls individually and demonstrate what's good on them. The areas covered are facial care, yoga, clothing, hairdressing, natural cosmetics, and manicure. Girls in grades seven through twelve are invited to attend.

Chicago area high school students and their parents may attend regular undergrad classes at Illinois Institute of Technology during its Open Classes Day next Monday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The High School Engineering Fair is also February 16, in Hermann Hall. For further information, call 231-0880 ext. 64, or 63; or call IIT Office of Admissions 567-3025.

Ad Winner

Paula Bloxam, sophomore, won first place in the Adcraft art contest sponsored by the Wheaton Daily Journal. She will receive the first place prize, a hundred-dollar savings bond.

About 75 students from different schools competed in the contest. The Daily Journal got area merchants to buy space in the newspaper for advertisements. Then each student was assigned to a merchant and met with the manager to discuss what was going into the ad. Based on the managers' specifications, the students designed an ad. Paula's prize-winning ad was for Walt's Supermarket, Wheaton.

Second, third, and fourth places were won by students from different schools.

'Turnabout'

by Donna Slivinski

"King's Gambit," We-Go High's chess club, will sponsor a turnabout dance on March 13, from 8 to 11 p.m. Tickets are $4.00 a couple. The money will be used for chess clocks and chess sets for the Illinois High School Association tournament in May.

The chess club currently has about a dozen members, with Ricky Gorvette as their star player. If they win at least one tournament, they qualify for districts. After they win districts they go downstate. Their record is not known exactly but "For the most part, we win more than lose," says one player. Their last meet was February 3, which they won.

BRIDGE

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Student Council--problems helping

Student council. The name conjures up thoughts of twenty or thirty 'A' students trying to decide whether to paint the garbage cans blue or yellow. Why is this so? To what may we attribute the seeming lack of action on the part of the council? What can we do to remedy this not-often-recognized problem?

The biggest problem is lack of interest, both on the part of students and the representatives. How can the council solve student problems when they don't know what they are? But let's not blame this on students themselves. The representatives are often to blame. Many don't bother to show up at meetings, so the ones that do are forced to do more work, possibly too much. Our student council also faces the usual problems of administrative censorship, although here not much is encountered.

What can we do? Open up communications! I have seen only one student council representative report in class since the end of November. Why? How can the student council hope to work when its representatives do nothing? And students should not be afraid to talk about problems and suggestions with student council representatives, either in class or during passing period.

I'll admit the school is not perfect, but with some true interest and work on the part of students and student council, we can make this school one to be proud of.

The Grim Paradox: In the World's Richest Nation Death Still Remains The Doctor For The Poor

In order for man to survive, it is necessary for him to have food, clothing, and shelter. Proper medical care can also be added to this list of necessities. Very often, however, people are deprived of proper medical care because they cannot afford it.

It seems ironic that a nation as rich as ours does not put more value on providing adequate health care for its citizens. Today, all too often, death remains the doctor for the poor.

Why does the United States remain the only industrialized nation that fails to provide a national health care program for its citizens? Part of the reason is because the doctors' lobby, the American Medical Association (AMA), has vigorously opposed any and all attempts to develop a workable national health care program.

Thus we have the paradox of the richest nation in the history of mankind lagging far behind the rest of the world in providing for this fundamental need. It makes one wonder about our values and our sense of priorities.

As John Kennedy said, "If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich."

LICENSES

Licenses are ruining us. We need licenses to buy and sell, to live and die, to get married, to drive a car, to hunt and fish, and to own a dog.

We could easily do without these licenses. They don't produce that much income and that could be made up partially by the reduction of persons involved in licensing and the cost of producing the licenses. The remainder could be made up by a slight rise in taxes which most people wouldn't mind if licensing was eliminated.

There are some important licenses though. The driver's license is most important for safety reasons. However I think most licenses are not needed and that's why I'm against them.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Recently when a friend of mine asked her daughter the amount of work involved in making a schedule change, her daughter replied "It's no work, my counselor draws a line through the course I don't want and writes in a new one."

I would like to tell you just what happens after your counselor agrees to make the changes you request. To help you understand, you should know there are six copies of each schedule and three Rolla Deks with schedule cards located in Guidance, Student Office, Nurse's Office and Learning Center.

First he writes up an entirely new schedule, making the necessary changes. He notifies the teachers whose classes you dropped and whose classes you have added. He also changes his office copy.

Next he gives the new schedule to me and I change my two copies. If there are many changes I may have to retype an entirely new schedule and for my Rolla Dek.

It is then sent to Data Processing where they punch schedule cards for every credit class, verify the work done, punch attendence cards for year and semester courses, and put it thru the computer for a print-out of the new schedule.

Again it comes back to Guidance with the print-out to be checked by Mr. Peterson for any possible errors. It is then sent to the Student Office so their two copies and Rolla Dek can be changed.

From the Student Office it will go to the Learning Center so their Rolla Dek can be kept up-to-date. They return it to Guidance to be filed for future reference.

Multiply one schedule change by many hundreds and you will see why "drawing a line through the course you don't want" can be one big headache.

Agnes Keeley
Guidance Secretary

VOICE

Report cards at West Chicago High are addressed solely to the parents or guardians of each student. Doesn't the report concern the student at all? Most students never know exactly what they are getting until that final report comes. If parents choose not to share the contents of the report, the student may never know their grades without asking their teachers or counselor. Students should have the right to know before their parents what kind of grades they are getting.

There are several solutions to this problem. Reports can be addressed to both parents and students. Separate reports can be mailed to each party (making sure the student's copy arrives first). The student could receive a copy of the report at school and a second copy could be mailed to the parents.

However small this problem may seem, it concerns every student attending the high school and should be seriously considered.

by Kathy Kennedy

18year olds right to vote

The Twenty-sixth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, adopted June 30, 1971, gave 18-year-olds the right to vote. The turnout of those new voters at that first presidential election year was disappointing, to say the least.

Since then we have had the scandals of Watergate, the forced resignation of a president and a vice-president in disgrace, and the revelation of the abuses of the F.B.I. and the C.I.A.

All of this can be traced to a certain degree to the apathy of American citizens.

If we do not want future Watergates, it is our responsibility to pay more attention to the processes of our government. This begins with voting for good leaders.

This has particular application to seniors at WCCHS who have just turned 18 or soon will do so. These seniors will be eligible to participate in the process of government by voting for the first time in local and national elections.

There is no better way to celebrate our nation's Bicentennial than by exercising that privilege. However, first we must be registered. An article in this issue gives the details on registration. It is a very simple process that can be completed in minutes at your local village or city hall, or county office.

We can show our community that we truly cherish our heritage by taking advantage of this opportunity.

Moods And Movement

"Moods and Movements," this year's dance-gymnastics show, was held January 17 and 18. The annual show is a product of Ms. Barbi Henry's modern dance class and Ms. Lorri Jordan's gymnastics class. It takes skill to enroll in these classes; anyone interested must try out first. The members spend the entire first semester working on and perfecting the show.

"Moods and Movements " had a good turnout. There was a variety of dances: anything from ancient belly dancing to prancing flowers and frogs. The gymnasts demonstrated their skills on the trampoline, uneven bars, balance beam and through floor exercise and vaulting.

Above–Jenny Jolls in a solo dance.
Left–Sherrie Lennertz on the unevens.

Pedro Cortez, Here from Chile

by Kathy Kennedy

Pedro Cortez, exchange student from Chile, loves peanut butter and jelly sandwhiches.

Ask Pedro Cortez what his favorite subject is and he'll reply without hesitation, "Food." Besides hamburgers, potato chips, and cookies made by his American sister, he loves peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

Pedro arrived from Chile Jan. 10 and is staying with the Carl Wampole family in Winfield.

Students in Pedro's school eat fresh bakery bread between classes which is bought outside the school. A typical schoolday consists of 8 classes of 45 minutes each. Recesses of 10, 15 and 25 minutes help students relax until 2:45, when their day ends and they return home for lunch. Pastry is served during tea which follows lunch at about 5:00. Dinner finishes the evening at about 9 p.m.

"Classes tire me more in Chile than here," says Pedro. Unlike U.S. schools, the teachers move from class to class instead of the students. Students are responsible for 12 classes per week, changing schedules each day (as in most European countries).

Pedro, who plays guitar very well, likes Emerson, Lake and Palmer, Joan Baez, and folk music from the north of Chile.

Pedro's love of food is beginning to show it's bad sides, though. Most of his shirts no longer fit, particularly in the region of the stomach.

Beware of Black Cats. . .

Beware of black cats and don't walk under any ladders! Knock on wood and cross your fingers because today is Friday the 13th.

There are several theories to explain how the superstition of Friday the 13th began. One theory explaining its origin is that there were 13 people at the Last Supper, and Christ was crucified on the following day, Friday. Another theory that ancient man believed was that every Friday twelve witches and the devil met. Others believe that Friday brings bad luck because the great flood began on that day, and Eve tempted Adam with the forbidden apple on that day.

Thirteen is thought to be an unlucky number because primitive man could only count to twelve (ten fingers and two feet). Thirteen was the beginning of the unknown and as a result it was to be feared. Today many office buildings and hotels don't have a thriteenth floor.

Another superstition is that if a black cat walks in front of your path, it will bring you bad luck. This belief began in the Middle Ages when people thought witches could transform themselves into black cats, and if one crossed your path, it meant bad luck.

The fear of walking under ladders began in the ancient pre-Christian times. A ladder leaning against a wall formed a triangle, which symbolized the Holy Trinity. If a person went through the triangle it would be a "defiance of sacred power and intrusion into santified space," resulting in bad luck for that person.

Knocking on wood is supposed to bring good luck. Primitive man believed that gods lived in trees. If they wanted to ask the gods a favor they had to get their attention by knocking on the tree. Another theory is that when people lived in wooden huts they knocked loudly on their huts to prevent the evil spirits from eavesdropping on them when they were talking.

The superstition of crossing your fingers originated at the time of Christ's crucifixion. People began to make a cross with their fingers to ward off bad luck.

Even though these superstitions seem funny to people today, it is surprising how many people take them seriously!

Band Features U.S. Composers

by Tim McAdams

The Concert band gave it's winter concert last Tuesday evening, in the auditorium. This was the band's first event of this year. The program emphasized the contribution of our country. The Music Department activities this year will be along this basic theme.

The "Battle of Trenton" was described in a 16-minute piece by James Hewitt; The "American Heritage Festival" by Jay Chattoway features hymns and dance tunes from early American frontier communities of the early 1800's. "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," in an arrangement by James Ploybar, became popular during the Civil War. John Phillip Sousa's "George Washington Bicentennial March," written in the 1920's, celebrates the 200th birthday of our first President.

A medley of John Denver's hit song reflects a modern adaptation of American folk music, specifically of the country and Western type. Ragtime was brought out in the music from the "Sting," by Scott Joplin. Many famous Broadway tunes were found in Warren Barker's arrangement of "Broadway Showstoppers' Overture."

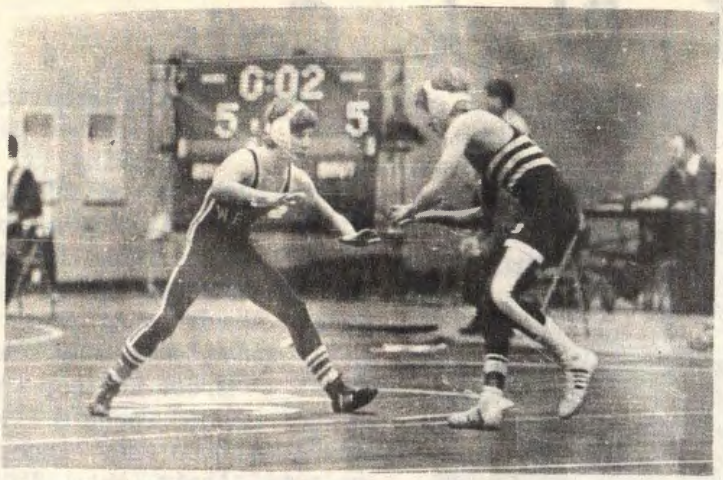
Closing the concert, the band saluted Walt Disney. A medley of famous Disney songs, arranged by James Christensen captured the charm of the "Magic Kingdom" in the "Walt Disney Overture."

Review

by Dick Waterhouse

Begining in Holland in 1940, "The Hiding Place" is the true story of Miss Corrie ten Boom and her family trying to survive Hilter's persecution in W.W. II. After their underground escape route for Jews was discovered, the Ten Booms were captured, separated, and sent to concentration camps in Nazi Germany. Miss Ten Boom is subjected to endless punishments but overcomes them with her unfaltering faith in God.

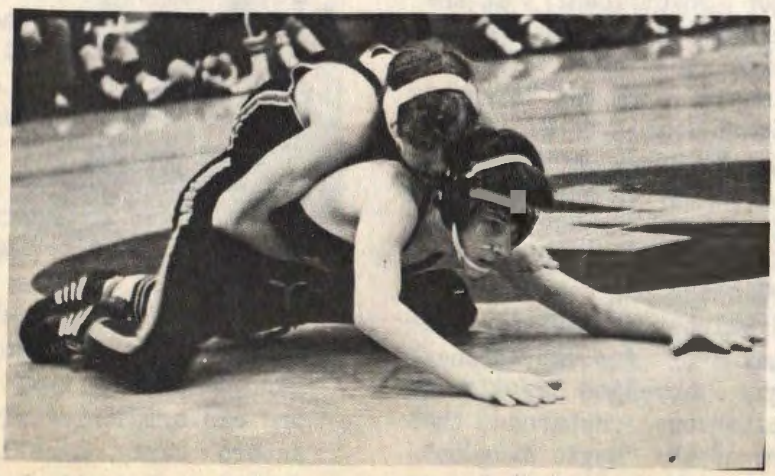
"The Hiding Place" is a movie well worth seeing and has something that everyone can sympathize with. The actors are excellent and depict each emotion perfectly.



Tom Reed takes first in conference meet

The Varsity Grapplers' season scores are:

We-Go	24	Dundee	27
We-Go	25	Lyons	32
We-Go	27	Naperville C.	19
We-Go	63	Lake Park	0
We-Go	34	Wheaton North	11
We-Go	30	Glenbard North	15
We-Go	21	Oswego	28
We-Go	28	Glenbard West	22
We-Go	55	Naperville N.	3
We-Go	34	Sycamore	17
We-Go	27	Aurora West	19
We-Go	38	Wheaton-War.	16
We-Go	35	Glenbard South	18
We-Go	37	Wheaton Central	18
We-Go	42	Plainfield	6



Tim Rennels battles opponent

We-Go Cheers B-Ballers

by Dick Waterhouse

The We-Go girls' varsity basketball team has a record of 4-1 in their first month of play and has a very promising future. These are the rewards of hard practice two hours a day, five or six days a week. Trouncing Kaneland 52-19, Naperville Central 43-30, and Sycamore 52-29 got the team off to a fine start. We-Go met Glenbard North last Thursday, winning 32-28, Cheri Straka tallying 14 and Chris Miltner 10 points. In the Sycamore game, Straka scored 10 points, Kathy Courtney 8, and Miltner and Sandy Winiecke 6 each. In the Naperville Central contest, Miltner was top with 15 counts and Straka had 10. Against Kaneland, Rae Murray and Tammy Waterhouse had 12 and 11 respectively.

Coach LaVora Singleton stated that this year's varsity was "the tallest and the fastest" she's ever had. "They had complete control of ball and body."

The team has 14 dual meets left on its schedule. The St. Francis Invitational will be in Joliet the first and second weekends in March.

Mr. Grubbs, Mr. Owens and Mr. Ainsworth will take the varsity wrestlers to DeKalb for the District Tournament today.

Headline in Boston paper:

Public Hanging For Artists

We-Go Sports

A Lone Star From Texas

by Lisa Black

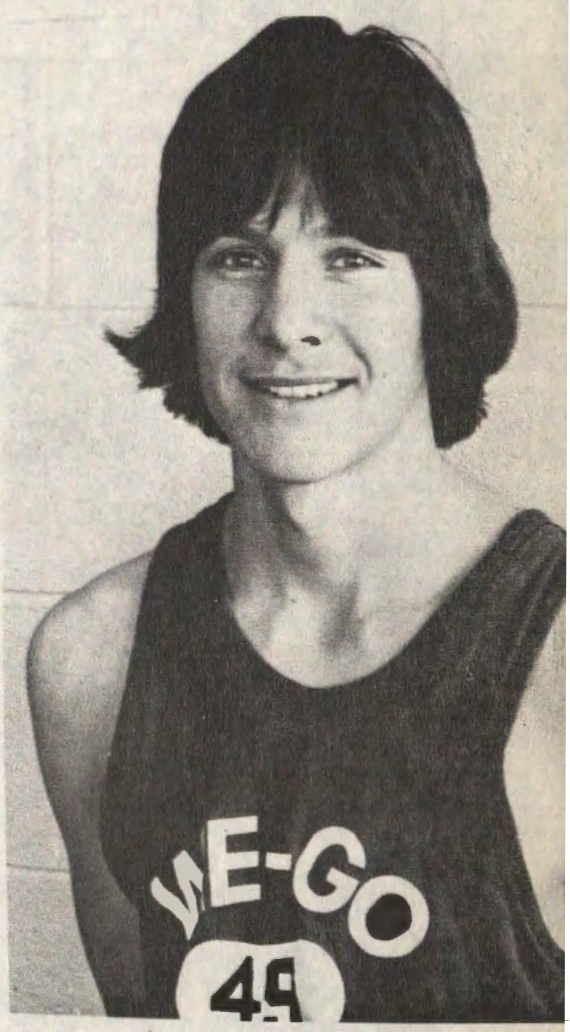
Vic Mercado, the freshman on the varsity basketball team, started playing B-ball when he was 9 years old in El Paso, Texas. Since then he has played on the grade school and junior high school teams. When Vic moved to West Chicago this year, he was defensive end on We-Go's freshman football team. But he is really at home on the basketball court, with the ball in his hands, and open for a shot.

The varsity coach, Mr. Paul Netzel, saw Vic play and decided to bring him up to the varsity level. In the Rich South game in December, coach Netzel put Vic in as a second. It was then that he decided that Vic was capable of varsity basketball.

Vic was born in Mexico, where he lived for nine years. He then moved to El Paso where he lived for six years. Then in July of 1975 Vic moved to West Chicago. When asked to comment on West Chicago, Vic said, "It is so completely different than any other place that I have ever lived. It's such a small town that there isn't much to do. The people are very friendly and I'm beginning to like living here, although I still miss Texas.

Vic says he plans on continuing to play basketball when he gets out of high school, if he is good enough.

When Vic was asked what it is like being the only freshman on the varsity, he said, "I guess it's pretty exciting. But I'm treated as if I were a junior or senior. Everything is equal. The next year's team should be very good because all but three members of this year's team are juniors—so they'll be back next year even better than ever. Next year should be a dynamite year."



Vic Mercado, varsity guard

GRAPPLERS

by Lisa Black

Congratulations are in order to the junior varsity and varsity wrestling teams. Junior varsity took third in conference, with John Bell and Rick Brown taking first place championships.

The varsity tournament was held on February 6 and 7 at Naperville North. We-Go's Grapplers took first place with seven of it's members making championship rounds.

At 98 lbs., Dan Unruh took second place. Carlos Cruz at 105 lbs. took first place. At 112 lbs., Tom Reed took first place, beating Tom Best who took third in state last year. Zane Bussler at 126 lbs., took second. Ralph Schmuggerow, 138 lbs., captured the second place award. Miguel Cortez took third place. At 167 lbs., Jim Hensel took second. Heavyweight Tim Norman took second.

West Chicago won with 127.5 points, followed by Glenbard South with 82.

We-Go Sports

Sports Editor
Lisa Black

BOWLING: GOES CO-ED

by Lisa Black

This year West Chicago has something new on the bowling lanes—a coed bowling team.

Coach Helen Zmrhal and the twelve members practice twice weekly at the Bowling Green. The team consists of eight girls and four boys whose averages range from 108-173. According to Illinois High School Association. Only the girls can compete in the districts that were held last weekend. Coach Zmrhal said she feels this rule will probably be changed next year with Title IX, but right now it is unfair to the guys who practice right along with the girls only to find out that they can't compete in districts.

The varsity record is 5-4 going into Districts, held February 7, and the junior varsity's is 4-3.

Members of We-Go's bowling team and their averages are, Bill Bueshel-143; Debbie Christopher - 128; Bobbie Foster-123; Lisa Gould-108; Gina Harris-120; Bob Jossendal-173; Linda Nichols-124; Tom Rehs-115; Tina Rowen-118 Becky Schneider-114; Dave Serpa-125; Laurie Todd-112.

Gymnastics

by Gary Bell

In only two short years, Coach Dave Sparkman has brought the boys' gymnastics team up to the point where they are capable of winning a meet. But for some reason, they are always stopped short.

Their best hopes of winning a meet were against Wheaton-Warrenville and Naperville North. The scores were close: West Chicago 52, Wheaton-Warrenville 67, and Naperville North 70. Mr. Sparkman felt that they could have won but they didn't show as well as expected in a few events. West Chicago did show better than expected in the floor exercise event. Ken Novosad placed second and on the rings senior Bob Johnson placed third.

In the sophomore meet there was a great surprise when Dave Judson placed first in the all-around competition. Freshman Mike Willes placed fifth in floor exercise.

B-Ball

The Wildcats fell to defeat Friday against the Naperville Redskins 72-51. The Wildcats were in the game the first two quarters trailing the conference leaders by only 5 at the half 33-28. In the third quarter the Redskins showed why they have the number 1 ranked defense, outscoring We-Go by 18 points. Kevin McConkey led the Cats with 13 points, 7 of them free throws and Mark Soderquist was the only other Cat in double figures with 10. The Redskins leading scorer was Kurt Moeck with 24.

We-Go scores 2!