West Chicago

BRIDGE

Voice of Students today -
for a better school tomorrow

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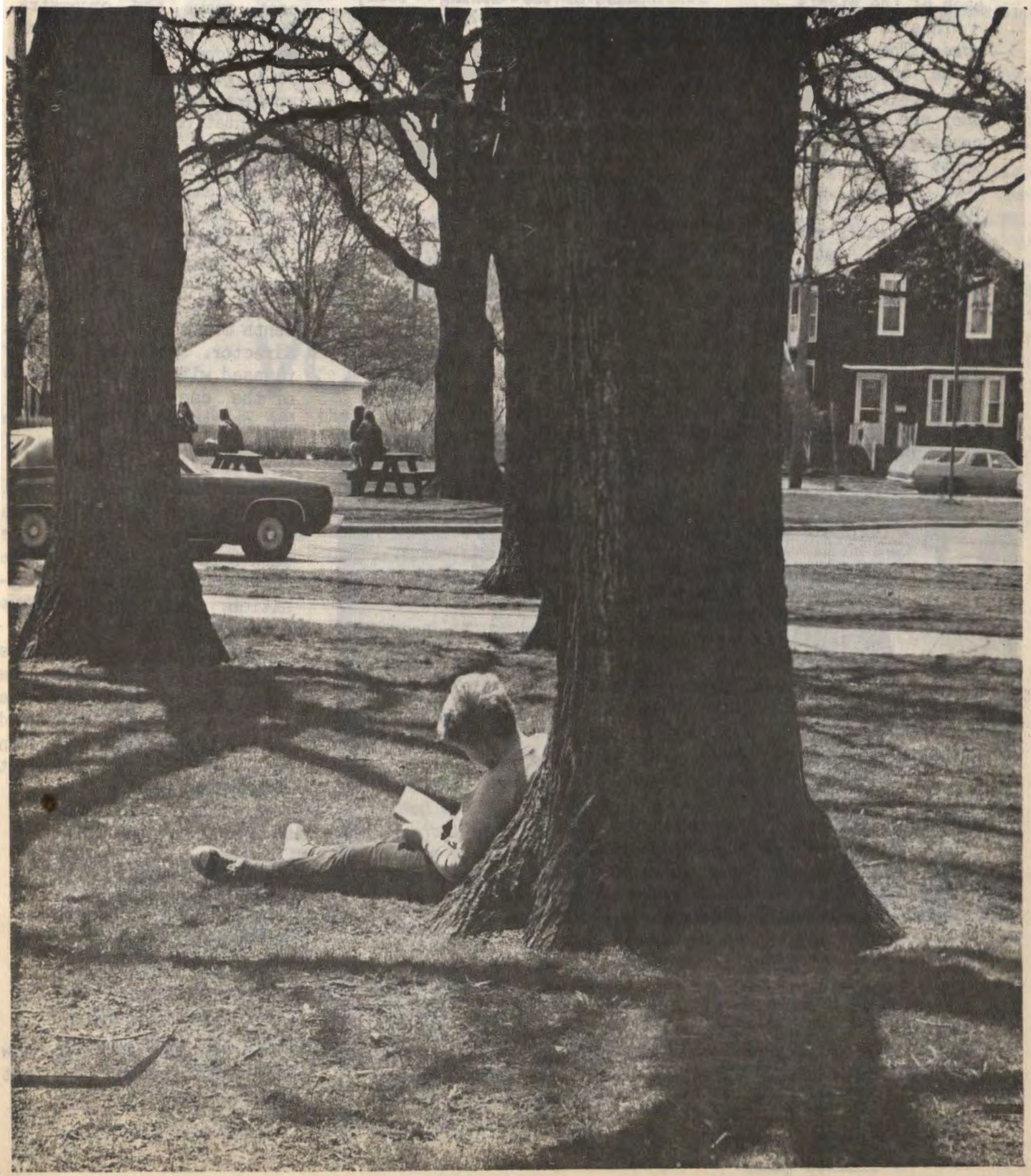

Musical - Comments

Recently WCCHS put on the annual spring musical. The program went extremely well all three nights. The only drawback was the auditorium was just two-thirds full on each of the nights.

This is hard on the actors. They work for almost three months on a play and when the curtains open, all they see is empty seats on opening night. Then the students of this school shout, "Our school puts on bad plays."

This year's musical, "Of Thee I Sing," was one of the best put on in years. Almost all who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves and came out with big smiles on their faces.

The cast of the play are people who attend almost every sporting event, sit in the stands, and cheer loudly for the home team. When they miss a game, or complain because of the losing team, they are rapidly accused of having little or no school spirit by the team members. But these Super Jocks are the first to miss a dramatic event or poke fun at the actors. All I can say to these people is "Where is your school spirit?"

Lisa Black
Sports Editor

LEFT—Diana, Jenny Havlin, interrupts the marriage of Wintergreen, Kurt Liebezeit, and Mary Turner, Marvel Samson.

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by Dan Robbins

This year's all-school musical, "Of Thee I Sing," was greatly enjoyed by many of the audience. Some of the comments heard were, "It was super!....A fantastic job!" The shows success was due to the undivided efforts of the cast, crews, and orchestra. Director Ms Cheri Waldorf and student director Kem Daily gave their all in the preparation for the play's presentation. Being of equal importance, the set, stage crew, and lighting were under the direction of Ms Gail Reno and Mr. John Walton respectively. Both devoted much time and effort for the musical.

This is Mr. Gene Haney's tenth musical as orchestra director. He was greatly pleased with the performance of the cast and orchestra. He commented, "This is the best prepared group that I have seen in ten years."

Speaking for the cast, I believe much applause goes to the crews, who did as much hard work as everyone else and without much recognition. They were always there when needed.

At the cast party, the orchestra was awarded the Louis S. Duck Award for the best audience. They laughed at all the funny lines, even after hearing then at least fifteen times!

A special meeting of student council was called for a week ago Wednesday. The meeting was to clear up the misunderstanding about the Manilow Fund. Student council thought the money from the juke box was going to this fund. But it was found out that the Manilow Fund was donated by Rotary Club. An investigation is being held to find out exactly where the juke box money is going.

Did you hear about the new Air Force parachute that opens on impact?

NEWS BRIEFS

After school April 20 the Home Economics Kitchen was bustling with activity and the aroma of Spanish cuisine filled the air. Spanish Club sponsored a cooking workshop and dinner that was open to all Spanish students. The objective of the workshop was to learn how to prepare Spanish food from a variety of Spanish cultures. Spanish, Mexican, and South American food were all represented. A group of 20 students observed and participated in making the food, and all enjoyed eating the delicious results of their work.

Chris Murnane, editor-in-chief of the BRIDGE, and Lisa Black, sports editor, won Blue Ribbon Awards for Excellence in Journalism at the Northern Illinois School Press Association conference in DeKalb April 9.

Chris' award was for her articles on "Weighted Grades," "American Government," and "2000 Mile Journey." Lisa's award was for "Inflation Hits We-Go's Cafeteria."

Kim Kynast, poetry editor, asks students who write poetry to send in some of their work for publication in the newspaper.

Spanish Club will be sponsoring a car wash in the school parking lot May 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The proceeds from this car wash will be used to send students to language camp this summer and for future Spanish Club activities.

The horticulture department's plant sale officially opens May 7 and will continue to the end of school, according to Mrs. Carol Miller. They have many hanging baskets of petunias, geraniums, and lobelia. Please buy your tickets at the bookstore before going to the greenhouse.

VOICE

Friday, April 23, the choir from Lindmar High School came to West Chicago High School. The choir, which is from Iowa, was on tour, and a performance was given here during sixth hour, and was open to any students who have that hour free, or whose teacher was willing to let them miss class to hear the concert. As it turned out, the main floor of the auditorium was full. This means that approximately four hundred students heard the concert—four hundred out of a student body of at least sixteen hundred were able to hear that concert. That's disgraceful! The choir came all the way from Iowa, and only a fourth of the school heard them perform. What if four hundred hadn't showed up? What if three hundred, or two hundred, or even only one hundred, had showed up? How would West Chicago Community High School have looked then? And whose fault would that have been? Part of the blame would be on the students who could have gone but didn't, but most of the blame—by far the most blame—would belong to the administration that arranges special assemblies for our benefit and only allows a handful—a mere quarter of the entire student body—to attend! That's whose fault it would be!

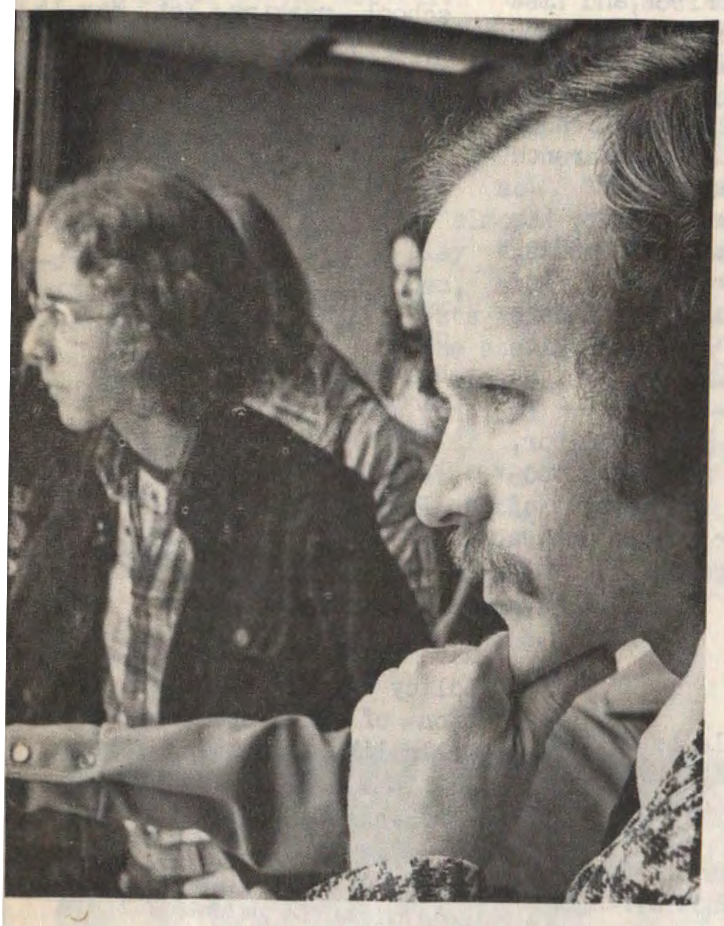
A concert as well done as last Friday's was. I heard about if from friends; I couldn't go because I had a class should have been heard by the whole school, not just a lucky few. This policy seems to apply to all assemblies except pep assemblies and assemblies called by Dr. Kamm when he wants to speak to us and wants to be sure that we all are there. This policy of arranging assemblies for whoever happens to have that hour free, was in effect when the pantomime group came last year, and it is always in effect when any special music programs have been arranged. This policy allows only a fraction of the students who would like to attend assembly (and not just to get out of class, either) to do so, and this isn't right.

Isn't there some way this policy can be amended? There must be. When a group is willing to come to our school, they ought to be given the courtesy of performing for the whole school, not just a fourth of it. I'm sure our daily time schedule can be rearranged, for just one day, to accommodate a special event. I don't believe it is beyond the ability of our main office to arrange something.

Anyone who performs at our school must have something worthwhile to offer, otherwise they wouldn't be given permission to perform in the first place. So if it's worthwhile enough for them to be here, then I think that it's worthwhile for the entire student body to be able to hear and see their performance, Don't you?

Ginny Schmult

Journalism to Fermi-Lab



Student teacher Chris Barnes in deep thought.

Structure made out of recycled pop cans.

View discussion.

Mike Rennels ponders the view.

Photos by Kurt Liebezeit

Sunshine Speaks

Friends,

I wrote to you shortly after my dismissal. Many of you know I care about you very much. I too need care, and I thank all of the many wonderful friends I have.

The reason for my dismissal is obscure. I suppose Walker's cut in school aid had a little to do with it. Also, you all know I loved being with you. At times, like at rock dances or when skipping down the sidewalk, my actions were frowned upon. That never stopped me from trying to bring a smile to someone's face, though.

Remember that many rules have good reasons behind them. Take courage that evil soon passes and that rules and forms of harassment designed for teacher and/or administrative convenience can be changed by righteous complaints and indignation, but never by anarchy or refusal to comply.

The world is full of south ends of mules going north and life is full of unfairness. Practice getting along with such and work to change the worst. Remember also that the world will be better if you clean up your own act!

Honesty in every situation is always the best policy. If you're not getting much out of life, try putting more into it. Care about your friends and acquaintances. If you ever need a friend, my heart is always open. Good luck, take care, and keep yourselves out of trouble. I still care; I care very much.

He who kicks a skunk pays through the nose.

If a nasty stone gets into your shoe, thank the Lord it came alone—what if it were two?

Until the next time,
K. S. "Sunshine" Ruch
1460 N. Webster
Naperville, IL
355-3135

Are you an Illinois Steak Color?

by Kevin Hodges

"Hey, Rick! Guess What? I'm an Illinois State Scholar!"

"A what?"

"An Illinois State Scholar."

"What is an Illinois Steak Color?"

"State Scholar, Rick. Let me explain. I took the ACT in April or June, and where they have the college choices, I put down 1047, for the Illinois State Scholarship Commission. You have to do that. Then, they weight the subscores for Math, Science, Social Studies, and Natural Science, and add them together. Then they weight my class rank, and add that also. If my total is high enough, I become an Illinois State Scholar."

"Great! How much money do you win?"

"None. The program is set up to give recognition to above average students. The Illinois State Scholarship Commission does have a Monetary Award, though. Anyone can apply for that. They could receive up to $1500, depending on financial need. But just think! I'm an Illinois State Scholar!"

"I'd rather be popular."

"Shut up, Rick."

Music Festival

by Tim McAdams

The annual Fox Valley Music Festival was held at Aurora East High School April 25 and 26. Sixty-two West Chicago High School students participated.

The festival was the combined effort of many students from high schools in this area. The top players from the schools practiced Sunday afternoon in preparation for the Monday night concert.

The 165-member orchestra, which included 15 We-Go students, started the concert with "Short Overture to an Unwritten Opera." They continued with the Fourth Movement of Dvorak's "Symphony No. 9 in E Minor," and they concluded with selections from "Porgy and Bess," by George Gershwin. The orchestra was directed by Mr. Otto Jelinek from the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago.

The chorus, under the direction of Mr. Fichard Hoffland of Millikin University, sand six numbers: "Now Shall My Inward Joys," "Psalm 150," "I Will Arise," "Ain't Got Time to Die," "Black Is the Color of My True Love's Hair," and "Stomp Your Foor." Thirty-two We-Go students were in the chorus of 650.

The 175-piece band was directed by Mr. Kenneth Bloomquist, of Michigan State University. They played "American Salute," "Chorale and Shaker Dance," "Serenada" and a favorite Sousa tune, "Stars and Stripes Forever." The band included 15 members from West Chicago.

To close the show, all 990 members performed "America the Beautiful."

Student director

by Lisa Black

"I have found West Chicago a very nice town. I've really enjoyed my stay here. The people are very nice." This was said by Mr. Glen Akers, a student teacher under Mr. Gene Haney, orchestra director, and under Mr. William Sargent, band director.

After completing student teaching here and graduating from Wheaton College, Mr. Akers will be certified to teach music from kindergarten through junior college.

While in fourth grade in Detroit schools, he began private lessons on the trumpet. He was in grade school and high school bands. When he was a sophomore, he was convinced that after graduation he would put his trumpet under the bed and forget about it. He wanted to be a pro basketball player. But in his senior year w knew that he would major in music.

He chose Wheaton College for three reasons: he wanted a small college, a Christian college and he wanted to major in music.

Mr. Akers has had many experiences working with high school kids. He was a counselor for Life Line in Detroit. "This is a program for juvenile delinquents," he said. "We work one-on-one."

He spent four summers at Interlochen, MI, at music camp.

Mr. Akers knows more about bands than about orchestras, but he says, "I'd rather conduct an orchestra. I like... classical music...and the sound of a big symphony orchestra."

Mr. Glen Akers

"Man, I wonder if they'll make it home all right. They were really blasted."

The next time you and your friends are partying, and one of them attempts to drive while under the influence, think twice. It sounds cliche, but it's reality, "Drinking and driving just don't mix."

In light of the disaster that occurred in We-Go a few weeks ago, we should all give thought to a serious problem. Sure, partying is fun, but disastrous aftermaths can occur and can be prevented. Don't let yourself, or someone you care about, get behind the wheel of a car if they're unable to drive safely. This has been a public service message sponsored by the BRIDGE.

With the start of spring, one hears the crack of baseballs being hit and the plop of them being caught. Although the temp still drops down to the 40's or 30's, baseball season is at full strength.

Practice began March 15 for pitchers and catchers, March 18 for the other players.

The new varsity coach is Mr. David Ream, who led the seniors to the conference championship when they were sophomores. The season opener was April 5 against Lake Park. Dave Holderman, starting pitcher, went the first with junior Rick Morgan coming in for relief. The Cats lost 5-3 in 6 innings. The game was called because of darkness.