Wildcat Chronicle

West Chicago
Community High School
West Chicago, IL

December14, 1993
Volume 24
Issue 3

toys for tots

Once again, Student Council is running Toys for Tots this winter. New or used toys can be brought in before Wednesday afternoon to the library.

The toys will be given to local children who will not receive presents. Families who cannot afford to buy gifts for their children will be given presents to give their children.

Toys do not need to wrapped, but need to be in relatively good shape in order to be of benefit. Student Council will appreciate any help students can give by bringing in gifts.

Results from the donations will be reported by the council after Christmas Break. Help make a needy child's Christmas something special.

Mock Wedding Stopped Due to Over Production

by David Vingren

After only five years, the home economics department's annual presentation of the mock wedding has come to a halt.

It was following last year's show in January when Principal Dr. Alan Jones thought it was time for a re-evaluation of the presentation.

The presentation is a staged wedding simulation in the auditorium presented by the Contemporary Life class where all parents and students are invited to observe the event free of charge.

But, after the January showing, Jones began to voice his questions and concerns, including a re-evaluation of the mock wedding's purpose.

"I'm not sure what the purpose is," Jones said. "The [initial] purpose of it was to present parents and students what is home economics at this school. I think that's a good idea. I'm not opposed to giving parents the opportunity to come in and see what they (the students) are doing.

"I've had questions about what this show is trying to accomplish in home economics. I've questioned it since it began."

Jones said that the wedding itself isn't the only problem, but at times the side acts as well.

"One aspect of the wedding that I've had questions on is the taste of some of the acts produced. And I've had questions about the taste of what is being done on stage at times. At times there are suggestive dances.

"I guess what I've come to ask is whether the wedding is really the focus. It's being looked at as entertainment or a show. I don't want to advertise this as a talent night. It's gotten a little out of hand. It's become more of a Broadway production. The show has gotten away from what is done in home economics."

"I feel it focuses on the glitz, but none of it focuses on how do people get along with each other. Instead of doing a wedding why not do a skit showing different stages of relationships throughout a marriage."

According to Contemporary Life teacher Patty Koslowski, talks between the home economics department and the administration on a possible show in March have surfaced in recent meetings.

The show would fit Dr. Jones' wishes by presenting skits on various periods within a marriage. Included in the show may also be a fashion show, which would give parents and students a more ideas of what the home economic's curriculum at this school is.

Koslowski felt this proposal would not only promote home economics, but would also be something enjoyable the students are getting back.

"The students are upset because they feel something fun has been taken away from them," Koslowski said.

Peer Listeners Talk to Kids

By Kristan Mulley

Small groups of peer listeners are going to the local elementary and junior high schools to urge the kids to, "Say no to Drugs," and to tell them about high school life.

The first group to go were peer listeners Mike Clifford, Dave Splawski, Wendy Kovacs, and Carie Mielke.

They went to speak to a fifth grade class at Saint John's in Winfield, and two fifth grade classes at the Winfield Middle School.

Mielke commented that the kids seemed most afraid of drugs and gangs. "But, the more we talked to them we seemed to comfort and reassure them," she continued.

The kids were also very interested in learning about the high school. They asked about various activities and clubs the school offers.

They were especially interested in what the peer listeners were involved in individually at school. "The kids really wanted to talk to us. It felt good to share about high school life with them," commented Kovacs.

The other peer listeners who will get to speak to the kids soon are looking forward to this experience. Peer listener Candy Campbell said, "This is a good program to communicate with the younger kids and to tell them not to be afraid to come to the high school when they do."

The peer listeners want to send a positive message out to the grade schools. They plan to visit Indian Knoll, Turner, Lincoln, Gary, Pioneer, and Benjamin in the near future.

Is Sants Claus Real?

By Blanca Rios

Do you remember the day you found out...Santa Claus wasn't real!

It's terrible when you have to sit there and have your parents tell you there is no Santa. Brandon Fantozzi's parents told him while Christmas shopping downtown. He said "When I asked my parents if there really was a Santa," they said, 'no but he is still alive in your heart.' I was bawling my eyes out!" said Brandon.

For Laura Torrey it was Christmas Eve. I asked my parents if there was a Santa, they said, 'No Laura,' and I burst into tears. I'll never forget it," said Laura.

Some kids were told by other kids, which makes it even more tragic. Jeff Hadzima said "I was on the bus when some kid told me there wasn't a Santa Claus. I wouldn't believe him so I wanted to make sure with my parents, they told me there really was no such thing as Santa, and I started to cry."

Josie Montalvo said "For me it was just a surprise, I really didn't get upset, I was watching a Christmas commercial and my brother said, "Oh Josie did you know there really isn't a Santa?" I just said, "Your kidding."

Martha Garcia never even believed in Santa Claus. She said, "My mom always told me baby Jesus used to bring me my presents."

Kristan Mulley says she still would like to believe in Santa and when she sees a kid tell another little kid there is no Santa she says, "Oh that's not true I still believe in Santa. He's real."

Well if you're six years old or thirty years old just take Mr. and Mrs. Fantozzi's advice, "He is still alive in your heart."

Upcoming Events

December 17, 1993	Last day of classes
December 25, 1993	Christmas Day
January 1, 1994	New Years Day
January 3, 1994	Classes Resume
January 17, 1994	Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday
January 18-20, 1994	Semester Exams
January 20-21, 1994	Dance Production
January 21, 1994	No School Institute Day
January 27, 1994	8th Grade Orientation

Pep Club Debate Rages On

Nichole Cordin

It's game day, and pep club is busy scurrying around the school decorating players' lockers, the male players' lockers that is. Okay, so you are tired of hearing complaints about pep club, after all, you can't please everyone, right?

Wrong. Not only has pep club left out the entire female population at Community High, but they have done nothing to start including them.

Pep club member Lisa Ellerbruch said, "The guys don't appreciate what pep club members do. It would be nice if they did it for the girls." Juniors Melissa Pagnozzi and Karen Hesterman agree with Ellerbruch.

The administration is not responsible for the way the male students view the female pep club members. In one sense, it is not really important who's locker gets decorated, and who's doesn't. In another sense, the controversy can be a symbol of how far women's rights have come.

Women are supposed to have equal opportunity, equal pay, and the ability to make it in the world without a man.

All cheerleaders are in pep club, and now that there are male cheerleaders, shouldn't they have to decorate girl's lockers? It is really not too much to ask of the male cheerleaders.

It is pathetic that girl's sports teams have to decorate their own lockers. If pep club offers support to Community High sports, they should offer support to all of the teams, not just the boy's.

My faith in Community High has started to slip. I don't feel that the female sports teams are looked upon with respect for real athletes who work hard to score points for the school. Changes need to be made to bring equality of the sexes among sports. Such changes can only come through the fu-

Rachel Owens

It has been a tradition for the West Chicago High School paper to rip on Pep Club and everything they do. I thought that this might change with the turn over of the paper. New advisor, new staff, new name,...New Ideas? Nope, same old stuff.

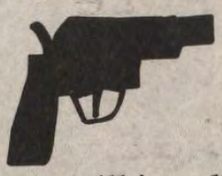
I guess I did see the humor in it in the beginning, but it got a little stale. I agree that Pep Club does make a few mistakes but why does everyone expect so much from them? No one makes fun of other clubs that do not do a whole lot.

Pep Club is probably one of the more organized clubs in the school. They meet on a regular basis and do get things accomplished. All the pep assemblies are organized by them.

It seems that students also feel burdened by the assemblies that are planned. Why is sitting in a gym watching stimulating sports activities less exciting than sitting in a class? Some people even sit in Commons instead of going to the optional Pep Assemblies.

The official purpose of Pep Club is to spread pep. What part of their job are they not fulfilling? It seems to me they have a huge load on their shoulders. Pep is something that is not common at our school.

So give Pep club a break and pick on something else. (Preferably not about the school, but if it does have to be about the school, try to think of something original).



What impact will it really have?

Raven Moore

The Federal Centers for Disease Control report that one out of twenty children across the nation carries a gun to school. Something must be done to control this astounding statistic.

It has taken seven years, but the Brady bill has finally passed. The Brady bill will create a mandatory criminal background check and a five day waiting period between the time a gun is bought and the time it is handed to the buyer.

The bill is named after Jim Brady who was permanently disabled when shot in the head by a gunman attempting to assassinate President Reagan in 1981. Brady was the presidents's Secretary of State.

This bill which is now going to be a law will in actuality not do very much to stop the 25,000 deaths that occur each year by handguns. Although the mandatory criminal background check will keep ex-convicts from receiving a gun legally, the five day waiting period is relatively useless.

"We want to reduce the number of deaths and injuries from guns in this nation. That is my goal," Sarah Brady, Jim Brady's wife and gun control supporter, said.

For about $10 a year, just about any adult in America can legally buy a gun without regard for cooling-off periods or criminal background checks. The enforcement of the Brady law will have to be strictly enforced in order to make a difference in handgun deaths.

This law will do nothing to regulate illegal guns already circulating among youths. Recently a nationwide survey was conducted that revealed 9% of high school students have shot at someone and 11% have been shot.

If students already own or have use of a gun they will not be stopped from using it. Although people will be unable to purchase new ones, the ones they have will be used without this law threatening them.

The focus of this law seems to be on keeping a couple hundred Americans from obtaining a gun if they are criminals or if they are planning a murder on a momentary fit of rage. Gun control has got to more than a couple insignificant laws.

Children and adults alike must be stripped of handguns if the death rate is to seriously decline.

Teacher Recognition at West Chicago

Rachel Owens

When something positive happens in our school, the administration is not afraid to let the community and the student body know. For instance, when We-Go won the Blue Ribbon Award, the entire school attended an assembly to share in what a great school we all attend.

When a student wins an award, their name is placed on the Marquee and it is announced over the Student Announcements. All of the "Student of the Months" grace the hallway display case with their picture. All these things are designed to inform the students of We-Go's great accomplishments.

Our school has had the opportunity to work with many great educators. Some of them have even won awards! This is a great honor not only for them but for the school. The school should pride themselves on a wonderful staff with outstanding teachers. Some teachers, for instance the former math teacher Mr. Carter, won a Presidential Math teachers award.

And did you know that Mrs. Kozlowski won a Certificate for participation in the High Scope Child Care program? Many teachers speak at conferences including Mrs. Carter (Illinois Association of Teachers of English West Suburban Conference) and Ms. Strohm (Illinois Council; Teaching Foriegn Language on art, music, and philosophy).

It is important to let the public know that these people are important to the well being of the school.

How many of the students know about the awards that the teachers have won? These are the people that teach us to sing, dance, solve, sew, and print. Is it not important for the students to take pride in the faculty? Wouldn't knowing about the faculty's accomplishments help boost the student's moral?

For almost 30 years students here have had the change to work with one outstanding teacher in particular. Ron Benner has seen our music department change drastically.

He has developed a choral department that made a name for West Chicago. He not only taught the basic voice techniques, but he gave students an outlet and a free place to express. He turned a lot of people around and gave them a reason to come to school.

Outside of school, his groups have performed for local clubs and businesses thoughout the community. He has brought Christmas spirit to many in our town.

Mr. Benner was famous not only in West Chicago, but statewide. Anyone that knows music knows Mr. Benner. Many surrounding college music professors know him on a first name basis. People appreciate his work and show him.

Benner has won various awards in his 30 years of teaching. He has been a Fox Valley Honors Choir host, President, and Treasurer. His groups have taken first places at the State Music Contest and so have his individual students. In 1987, West Chicago was named State Music Champs under his direction.

Probably his greatest honor was receiving the Harold Decker Award. This is a national Award given to one secondary school or college teacher. He was nominated by his peers and was one of only two people chosen for this award.

The sad part of the story is that nobody knows. Students that worked under Mr. Benner have talked to the School Board about naming the choral room after Mr. Benner. That idea was shot down.

Nothing was done to recognize Mr. Benner, or a lot of other teachers for their achievements. What would be hurt by calling the Choir Room the Benner Choir Room? Why can th ings only be named after administrators. Bishop, Weyrock, Kamm; they were all administrators. Aren't teachers just as important?

Rewards make us all work harder. No one seems to do something for nothing. If we want teachers to stay, we need to let them know that they are appreciated.

Who is to say that the teachers that leave are not leaving because they do not feel loved? More than five teachers left last year. Too bad they are not here so we could ask them why.

Wildcat Chronicle
326 Joliet Street
West Chicago, IL 60185
231-0880

Features Editor.....Nichole Cordin
News Editor.....Rachel Owens
Perspectives Editor...Raven Moore
Sports Editor.....David Vingren
Advisor.....Mrs. Carrie Kostro

The Wildcat Chronicle is the student newspaper at the West Chicago Community High School. The views and opinions of the Wildcat Chronicle do not necessarily reflect or represent the majority of the staff or student body.

Any suggestions or comments for the newspaper can be delivered to Advisor Carrie Kostro in room 319 or to Perspectives editor Raven Moore. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 200 words and typed. The paper has the right to exclude any letters that are inappropriate or will not fit in a particular issue.

A More Colorful "What-to-do-with-your-weekend" Report

By Addie Panveno

Warning: This installment of "What-to-do..." is not for everyone. It is only for those people who have money to burn and who have a high tolerance for pain.

Tattoos.

It has been a form of art for centuries, but lately it has boomed up to be the latest fad. You see tattoos, both fake and real, painted across runway models and punk rockers. It makes one wonder if they are really as cool as everyone makes them out to be.

Personally, I think they are. But that's just me. But I'm not saying that tattoos are for everyone. I don't suggest withdrawing a hundred dollars from your college savings to run out and have "MOM" tattooed across your back. You have to remember that it will be with you for the rest of your life. Unless you want to have it surgically removed, which is both costly and painful.

I don't suggest withdrawing a hundred dollars from your college savings to run out andhave "MOM" tatooed across your back.

But if a tattoo is well thought out, it can reflect a person's personality and enhance their beauty.

There are several places in the area that you can get tattoos, but not all will do it if you are underaged. Some places will with parents consent, but other places won't stick a needle in you if you are under 18.

Most all parlors having books in which you can pick your design, or you can bring in a picture of your own. I've seen tattoos copied from photographs that have been absolutely amazing, but it really depends on the ability of the tattoo artist.

Area Skiing Takes A Lift

By Ted Fijalkowsk

They're not Aspen or Steamboat Springs, but four area ski mountains provide for that winter urge to hit the slopes. Whether you are a first timer or an avid downhiller these hills are close enough for a one day outing.

In Wisconsin, about two and a half hours north of Chicago, three convenient mountains offer miles of runs to satisfy recreational skiers.

Cascade Mountain thirty miles north of Madison on I 90-94, boasts twenty-one runs, seven chair lifts, one tow rope, and can circulate 14,300 skiers per hour. Night skiing, a full service equipment shop, and a log burning snack shop are featured.

Devil's Head just south of the Dells on I90-94, is by no means as ominous as it's name. It is a full-service resort with twenty-one runs, four lifts, and two two ropes. Cross country sking, hiking trails, horseback riding are also available at Devil's Head.

Christmas Mountain, five miles west of the Dells, is appropriately named because of its scenic north woods setting. It is a fast growing resort with seven runs, two chair lifts and one two rope. Lodging, dinning, cross country skiing and snow mobiling are all part of the attractions to Christmas Mountain.

Lift tickets for these Wisconson slopes range from $19 to $31 for adults and ski rentals are $13 to $17.

If two and half hours seems a bit too much of a ride, there is Villa Olivia, about twenty minutes from West Chicago in Bartlett, Illinois. Although smaller than the Dells trio, you can spend less time in the car and more time on the eight runs with four ropes and quad chair lift. Lift tickets are$15 to $21 (adult) and rentals from $15. Villa Olivia also has several inexpensive packages available through local park districts.

No need to wait for the snow to fall, all of these ski areas are starting up their snow machines now.

Who Is Santa?

by Laura Torrey

"Santa Claus is this jolly old man with a red suit who brings you Christmas presents on Christmas if you good. He has Rudolph, all of these reindeer, a wife and little elves. He also lives in the North Pole," says Blanca Rios.

I hate to say this, but, Miss Rios is wrong about the true facts of Santa Claus.

In America, he may fly in a sleigh and have Rudolph guide him, but, he has many other names and beliefs in different countries: Sinter Klaas- Netherlands, Father Christmas- England, Weihnachtismann- Germany, San Nicola- Italy, Jultomten- Scandinavia, and Nikolai Chudovotis- Russia, just to name a few.

All of these people date back 1,700 years ago to one man from Southwest Turkey, named St. Nicholas.

St. Nicholas was known as a "miracle child." It was said that right after his birth he was given a bath, then he stood up, raised his arms, and prayed to God.

Once Nicholas grew up, his parents wanted him to become a priest. Nicholas lived near a neighboring family, who was poor, had unwed daughters in their twenties, and no mother. None of the daughters could wed because they didn't have dowries, (the money given to the husband when married).

Nicholas heard of this, so on night he slipped into their room, and gave them all a bag of gold. The next night, a second bag arrived anonymously through the window.

On the third night, the father and the three daughters hid to catch a glimpse of the mysterious man. Once they saw Nicholas, Nicholas made them swear not to reveal his identity. Unfortunatly, they did and the story survived. It all comes down to ,"...stockings were hung by the chimney with care, in hopes that St. Nicholas soon will be there..."

Later on, St. Nicholas became a bishop and he traveled to Nicea. On the way , he went to an inn to recieve shelter and food. This town was very poor, but they were impressed with a bishop coming so they gave him a pot roast. Nicholas thought it was strange that the poor would have a pot roast, so he went back in the kitchen to check it out. The innkeeper was chopping up three little boys, who were already killed and pickled in brine.

As Nicholas walked in the kitchen, the three boys came back to life. This is when St. Nicholas became the patron Saint of children.

Over the years, St. Nicholas changed his style. The stories of all his miracles traveled on, and others decided to follow in his footsteps.

Once the story reached America, many people called him Christkindle, who in Protestant names was the "Gift Bringer." Then later it was changed to Kriss Kringle.

Around the 1800's, they changed the name to Santa Claus, but no one could figure out why. Then, in 1822, a poet called Professor Moore created the legend of Santa Claus in the poem, "Twas the Night Before Christmas."

Moore decided to take different characteristics from each of the countries beliefs and made them into what we believe today. The Germans Weihnachtisman gave Santa a red suit, Scandinavia made him slip down the chimney, the Russians gave the Magic reindeer, France originated the Stockings and gifts, the Dutch thought up the good and the bad children, an now Santa Claus became the Great American Dream, with making old world cultures to a whole new on combined.

Now a days we are left with magizines, pictures, cards, postcards, etc. filled with St. Nicholas memories that came to life with the belief of Santa Claus. And as Professor Moore would say, " But, I heard Him exclaim ere he drove out of sight, Merry Christmas to all and to all a goodnight!"

Shaky Start for Cats

by Raven Moore

The Varsity boys basketball program has more experience than ever before, but in the first couple games it has not shown.

The boys finished the Oswego Thanksgiving Tournament 2-1, but did not place because three out of four teams in the tournament finished with the same record. The Wildcats went into the last game with and 2-0 record, but could not hit key shots in the fourth quarter to beat host Oswego.

"We played pretty well, but we didn't stay focused," senior forward Donta Norwood said of the loss to Oswego. Experience should have prevailed for the Cats, but shot percentage was the key in the loss.

The Yorkville Foxes won the tournament over West Chicago and Oswego because of their freethrow percentage.

West Chicago's John Jovanovich and Donta Norwood made the all-tournament team with consistent shooting and key rebounds.

The team's first conference opener was played at home on Friday, December 3 against Glenbard North. The Cats were in contention for the first three quarters.

A fourth quarter breakdown handed the Cats a 51-62 loss with a 0-1 record in conference and a 2-2 record overall.

"We're off to a rocky start. As we progress in the season we will do better than we are predicted to do by the Daily Herald(5-9 in conference)," Norwood said.

The key for the Wildcats this season will be the experience of senior starters Tom Suess, Jovanovich, Norwood, Jesse Montalvo, and John Lammers. Play from seniors Rolando Chavez, Dave Vingren, juniors Eric Buenz, and Derek Porter will also determine whether the 5-9 prediction by the Herald will prove to be true.

Ladycats Prepare for Central

by David Vingren

Bring on the Napervilles! Riding a 6 - 2 record, West Chicago begins preparation for Thursday's big match-up at home against Naperville Central, the Chicago Tribune's #13 ranked team in the Chicagoland area.

Right now, the Ladycats possess two key elements they need to beat the Redhawks. The first one is confidence, which came from a 68 - 50 victory over Lyons, the #3 team in the state last season, at the Lyons Township Thanksgiving Tournament.

"[The victory] gave us confidence that we can compete with anybody like Naperville North and Naperville Central," senior forward Julie Kramer said.

The second element is momentum coming from a sweep of last week's action against Glenbard North and Glenbard East.

But to beat Central (8 - 2), the Cats will need more than just confidence and momentum, they will need to play their style of basketball.

"We have to out hustle them," Kramer said. "We're quicker than they are so we'll have to apply a lot of pressure."

"We have to turn it into a full-court game," senior center Jen Ault said. "We have to apply 94 feet of pressure."

The Redhawks recently had to gather themselves after a 57 - 40 loss last Thursday to fellow top 25 ranked Naperville North which snapped Central's 27-game Dupage Valley Conference winning streak, proving they are beatable.

West Chicago may have to brush up on offense a bit this week in practice as they scored under 50 points both games last week.

"We need to work on being more consistent on offense," Ault said. "We need to hit open shots when we get open shots."

"We had our big scoring game against Geneva (72 points)," Kramer said, "but other than that we need to wok on our offense a bit."

The Cats have obtained a 6 - 2 record by creating turnovers and picking up the tempo by applying the full-court pressure, just as last year. What is different this year is they can go much deeper on the bench, so junior Robin Westrom and seniors Carey Netzel, Raven Moore, and Kramer do not have to carry the load.

Head coach Kim Wallner can go to any varsity player including sophomore Michelle Rapinchuk, junior Chris Nimmo, and seniors Ault, Darcy McLeod, Sheri Daleiden, Betsy Co, and Carie Milke.

"We have a real good balance of scoring," Ault said. "It doesn't give the other team a key player to focus on."

Editorial

Discrimination at Wego?

by Wendy Woodward

Have you ever been discriminated against because of your color, age, size, or religion? Have you ever thought of what the word means? In general it means that someone treats you differently because of your color, age, etc...

For example, take the November 19 Pep Assembly, there was a mens' facility team but not a women's team. Mr. Highland said that no one thought of it.

Mrs. Kolasa said that it makes her sick to think that the pep club thought that the women wouldn't want to play. In a matter of about ten minutes before the pep assembly Kolasa and Mrs. Kostro found about twelve women teachers that wanted to play.

Highland said,"We weren't trying to discriminate against anyone, in fact we put the girls before the boys so that if anyone left early they would walk out on the boys." Students say that even if they tried to leave the hall monitors wouldn't let anyone anyway.

Highland also had the concern of if Kim Wallner (the girls' coach) would approve of the girls playing at all. She didn't want anyone to get hurt, and Highland had to respect that.

One other concern of Highland was that there were twice as many girls on the team then there were on the boys team. Not true. The girls varsity team has eleven or twelve girls on it, the boys varsity team has twelve boys on it. So I don't know where he got that idea.

A lot of students didn't have a response until after the teachers were upset about it. It wasn't only female teachers either. Mr. Sayner said, "I thought it was horrible." The women facility were encouraged, by the males, to get on the court because they didn't think it was fair.

After I asked some students how they felt about it, they said I never thought about it till now, it's only typical. It's always been that the guys are the first to do every thing.

For example, the football team did very well last year and everyone was excited about it. Guess who else had an outstanding season--the girls' swimming and girls' volleyball teams. Did they get an assembly just for their teams like football did? No they didn't. Girls' swimming went to state and placed third overall; but where was their recognition? Only in the announcements.

Student Brooke Logan said,"We worked just as hard as the guys did. We put in the same amount of time, so we should get just as much credit. It should be the same for everyone."

Blame isn't the focus, but something should be done.

STUDENTS SUPPORT GUYS CHEERLEADING

by Anthony Mennella

When it was first said there was a Guys Cheerleading team, students laughed.

They shrugged it off as if it was going to be a joke.

Little did they know that this was just as serious as any other team sport. The guys on the team are having fun, but are taking their job seriously.

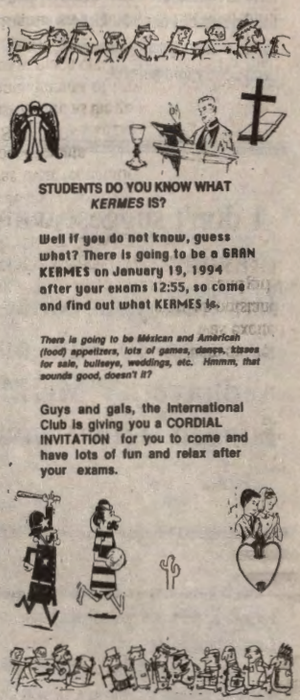
Suprising to most is that students are supporting the team.

"I think it's cool and it will be exciting to watch," said Senior Melissa Schlenger.

Since we are one of the only schools with a Guys Cheerleading team, it will be interesting to see whether or not if the guys can get the routines down.

"It's pretty good because they have strength and then it will be easier to perform the routine," said one student.

"It's the guys choice, I'm not going to judge them on it," said Senior Rick Swanson.

The guys will only cheer at home games with the girl cheerleaders.

The team only practices two times a week, but take their work just as serious as any other team sport.