

# Wildcat Chronicles

West Chicago Community High School  
 326 Joliet Street  
 West Chicago, IL 60185  
 Volume 22, Issue 5

## We-Go in the Running for Excellence

By Molly Statz

For many long and trying years West Chicago has been put down by the other schools in the D.V.C. Rivals say West Chicago can't ever win football games and we have an awful gang problem.

This year We-Go has worked hard to change their minds. First the football team did better than it has in 18 years. Second the Girl's swim team placed sixth in state. The so called gang problem is almost non-existent.

To top off West Chicago's list of achievements we have recently qualified for the National School of Excellence award. To the best of the schools knowledge there is only one other school in our D.V.C. who has been accepted.

West Chicago has been selected by the state as a possible National School of Excellence. The state chose 12 school applications for this award.

The applications are then sent to the United States Department of Education for further interpretation. The Department of Education will then set up a site visit to talk to the staff and the students of West Chicago.

From the 12 schools selected from Illinois the U.S.D.E will then pick anywhere from 12 to none of the

schools to become a National School of Excellence. The Department will also pick schools from every state in the U.S.

After all the schools have been selected for the National School of Excellence a large ceremony is held in Washington D.C. to acknowledge and honor those schools.

State Superintendent Robert Leininger said in his letter to West Chicago, congratulating on our success, "Your faculty, staff, parents, and community are to be commended for making this outstanding achievement possible for all your students at Community High School District 94."

School Superintendent Dr. Joel Morris said that being nominated is a terrific honor.

Morris hopes this will eliminate any misconception of West Chicago's lack of quality education. "This recognizes that our educational system is exceptional," Morris stated.

It's about time we showed it's true colors to those who felt West Chicago was a worthless school. West Chicago has proven above everyone's expectations on what we can achieve. Let's keep up our momentum and go beyond what they think.

## Behind The Brick Wall

By Raven Moore

The shooting death of a elementary school student, Dantrell Davis, prompted the B96 fundraiser at Schiller School in Cabrini Green.

Eddie and Jobo from the B96, WBBM, radio station in Chicago promoted and ran this fundraiser.

The proceeds were given to the Schiller School in order to try to give them a chance to go beyond the brick walls and not to be afraid of being

killed while walking to and from school.

The money raised will be used for the Junior Achievement Program. This program will give the students the money they can use to make their own products to sell.

Among the stars who stopped by, Mr. T made a surprise visit and by himself he raised \$37,000.

The total 75 hour marathon raised \$73,200 for the Cabrini Green students.

## Brown's Butchery

By Derek Barton

Mass slaying in Palatine: What used to be a quiet town is no longer! Some-time between 9 p.m. on Friday and 3 a.m. Saturday morning seven people were tragically slaughtered.

The two owners, Richard and Lynn Ehlenfeldt were found dead in one cooler and the five other victims, Marcus Nellsen, Rico Solis, Michael Castro, Thomas Mennes, and Guadelupe Maldonado were found stashed in the other cooler.

Police say that Mrs. Ehlenfeldt was stabbed once in the neck and then shot in the head. Mr. Ehlenfeldt and Nellsen

too, were shot in the head. The remaining victims were each shot twice.

As of now, no one has been charged for the murders. "There is a killer on the loose," Cook County States Attorney Jack O'Malley told the Sun Times. Also, the motive for the slaying has not yet been determined.

Ever since that dreadful night, Palatine residents have been in a state of panic. Residents have taken extra precaution, such as locks on screen doors, dead bolts, and motion detection lights in fear that they might be the next victims.

## What are the Students Rights?

By: Cheri Winkler

Well the rumor about the para-pros going into junior hallway and ransacking the lockers is not true, according Mr. Highland.

Highland said, "None of this is true. The only reason we would do this is to get textbooks from a students locker after withdrawal from school."

The students who thought this occurred were angry. As one student stated, "They have no right going through our stuff without us being there. This is a bunch of crap."

One student who wishes to remain anonymous stated, "The day this happened, I went to my locker and I saw some para-pros going through lockers and so I just went into my locker and took my jacket because there were cigarettes in my jacket. One of the para-pros asked me if they could see my jacket and I said no and I walked away."

A para-pro, who wishes to remain anonymous, said, "We only search one locker if we have a probable cause. This rumor probably started because we look for calculators or anything stolen."

This may sound like invasion of privacy, but according to the law it is not.

School officials need not obtain a warrant before searching a students, according to the Illinois Law and Survey 1990.

In a case, *New Jersey vs. T.L.O.* the law changed from "probable cause" to "probable suspicion" before searching a locker.

If school officials inform students that lockers are school district property for the student's convenience, and if the school officials warn students before the search, lockers may be searched if school officials have a probable cause.

If police officials are involved with the school officials for the search, a search warrant may be required under certain circumstances.

Police dogs are legal but may not be used for generalized searches.

A police officer is allowed to arrest a student on school property during the school day when the officer has a warrant.

Were you aware of your rights and the school districts rights of searches?

**INK  
SPOTS**

**Unplanned  
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Ditka dilemma  
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## Killer Kids and Baby Butchers

By: Heidi Herold

In November 1992, in San Jose, Calif. three teens, ages 18, 16 and 15 went to the house where 8-year-old, Melvin was home alone sick from school when his brother's friends stopped by.

Melvin let them in when they told him that his older brother had run away and they needed to get clothes for him.

They took him to an upstairs bedroom, beat him, then stabbed him with a butcher knife. He didn't die. While they were there they stuffed a sock in his mouth and wrapped tape around his head.

Before they left one boy took a meat cleaver and hacked at Melvin's throat. His attackers left with a handheld video game and a portable television.

At 3:30 his 14-year-old brother came home to find him with his eyes wide open, brown plastic tape wrapped over his mouth, and a cord twisted around his neck.

Every year at least 1,000 to 1,500 American kids under the age of eighteen intentionally kill others and are

arrested for murder or manslaughter. Some killings are motivated by greed, lust, or a desire for revenge. Others are crimes of passion and some are senseless.

What type of kids kill? They are a rare breed. Some of the kids are emotionally disturbed, mentally ill, mentally retarded, learning disabled, behaviorally disturbed, or simply "normal" kids who commit very abnormal acts.

The types of killings vary. There are family killings, theft-related, sexual, senseless, cult-related, crazy, gang, little kids who kill, and girls who kill.

In 1988 there were 16,326 murder and intentional manslaughter arrests in the United States. Only 1,765 of those were under eighteen years old. Even though that is only 11 percent of all murders, that is 11 percent too much.

In Chicago, through November 133 teens ages thirteen to seventeen were arrested for murders.

One example of a family killing took place on June 25, 1988. William Shrubbsall was supposed to speak as class valedictorian at his high school graduation in Niagara Falls, New York. He beat his mother to death with a baseball

bat after a lifetime of psychological abuse and occasional physical abuse.

Since he was young, she pushed him to achieve and he did. He was first in his class throughout school and number one in his high school graduating class of 250. But nothing he did made her happy.

That night, his mother who weighed 100 pounds more than him, abused him verbally and physically, threatened to kill him and backed him into a corner in his bedroom. In self-defense, he picked up a baseball bat and beat her to death.

An example of a crazy killing is when a seventeen year old high school senior, Brenda Spencer, randomly fired a semi-automatic rifle into a crowded elementary schoolyard.

She killed the school's principle and a janitor who tried to shield the children. Eight kids and a police officer were wounded. When she was asked why she did it, she told them, "I don't like Mondays. Mondays always get me down."

In January 1989, two brothers ages four and six, from Missouri, attacked a twenty-month-old girl with a shovel,

screwdriver, hammer, and brick because they thought she was "ugly" and because they "didn't like her."

In a cult-related killing, two thirteen year-old girls acted out a suicide pact on Election Day 1988. Marsh Urevich shot Nichole Eisel and then herself.

Even though both girls had troubled backgrounds, their deaths were partially because of a fascination in Satanism. They were known to be obsessed with the occult. In the weeks before they died, they told close friends of their suicide pact and their desire to "meet Satan."

Signs of children who are likely to kill are if they show no emotion and have a constant blank stare.

Psychologists have found that most killer kids come from abusive families, have troubled backgrounds, and they have not learned that it is acceptable to feel anger but not act on that anger. In the Chicago Tribune, a proposed solution is to prevent child abuse and create less-violent neighborhoods.

Resource: Kids Who Kill by Charles Patrick Ewing

## Who took the Pep out of Assembly

By Laura Rapinchuk

The first pep assembly for the winter sport season took place on Friday, January 8 featuring the boys' basketball team vs. the faculty, varsity girls vs. the J.V. girls, and the wrestling team.

This mandatory pep assembly, designed by Mr. Highland, was the first of its kind. He got the idea from another high school and thought it was a good way to showcase the athletes in front of a large crowd. He also felt it would provide students who had never seen a wrestling match with a better idea of how they functioned.

The various basketball teams played eight minute segments and substituted players at the four minute mark, while the wrestlers demon-

strated basic moves in between the games. The goal of this event was to introduce the teams and provide support for them.

Varsity basketball player Kevin Baldus felt, "the pep assembly itself was a good idea, but the crowd was not motivated. They looked at it as a way to get out of class and not to cheer on the team." Baldus was further disappointed because, "School spirit is down again, not that it was ever there, and all the winter sports are doing good."

Spectator Amy Turkot felt the crowd was not very enthused with the games because, "eight minute periods were too long. It was fun to watch them play, but it was just too long."

While there are mixed feelings, the administration feels they are trying their best to provide a variety of activities for pep assemblies.

## Thespians Performed at State Theatre Festival

By Skye Studabaker

On January 7, 8, and 9, eighteen thespians (theatre people), chaperoned by English teachers Mary Hafertepe and Brad Larson, attended the State Theatre Festival at University of Illinois.

The students viewed many plays performed by high schools around the state, as well as participated in various workshops about everything from improvisation to creating a crepe hair beard. They got a chance to meet new and exciting people, explore crowded elevators, and sleep in lobbies.

Magic Theatre, the children's play directed by Steve Broido, was enjoyed by theater buffs from all over Illinois. Thespians Nichole Cordin, Eric Heerwagen, Jen Johnson, Chris Leck, Rachel Owens, Rob Scott, Jessica Shinofeld, and Skye Studabaker performed the show twice on Friday afternoon and, suprising enough, received a great response from the high school age audience.

## Vica Food Drive 1992-93

By Leslie Rodgers

The VICA food drive was a huge success. Over 2,000 items were collected by the faculty and the students here at WE-GO. Also an amount of money at the sum of \$270 was donated to the Pads Shelter for the homeless in West Chicago. Combined with FBLA they put together groceries for the adopted family program. We would like to give special thanks to Scott Klosowski, Pam Toner, Kelly Leonard, Dan Strambo, Dustin Bicket, Jenny Bloniarz, Mike Leuers, Sheri Kirby, Mrs. Streicher, and everyone who participated in giving food/money to the food drive.

## Black History

By Cory Christensen

At this time every year, we celebrate the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.

What a lot of people don't realize, is that it's not just another day off of school or work. People don't often realize what this man did for our country and how he totally changed black history.

Could you imagine what it would be like to be a black man or woman to have lived one hundred years ago? Think about what we've studied in American History classes about the slaves and how they were treated. Think about the innocent blacks who were beat and whipped practically to death for taking a short break from their work, or stealing a piece of bread to hold them over until it was time for their small, disgusting meals.

Blacks back then did not get any opportunities to learn to read, write, or get any jobs besides being slaves.

Almost all of them were illiterate, but it wasn't their fault because they weren't allowed to attend school- all because of their dark skin.

Then, later on, in the 1950's, blacks slowly started standing up for their rights. But what happened when a black person spoke his or her mind? They'd get beat up or even sometimes thrown in jail. Martin Luther King changed all of this in the late 1950's because he didn't give up. He was at many times thrown in jail and beat up but he still stood up for black's rights.

There was a black man in the early slave days who lived in New York with his wife and two daughters. He was an excellent violin player who played for people in public and made a lot of money. Two white men came to one of his performances one night and offered him a violin job, making twice the money in California. They offered him to take the train with them that night to check it out and see where they would live and where he'd

play. His family was so excited. When he was all packed to leave, he met the two white men at the train station. Soon enough he realized that the train wasn't headed for California. It was headed South-the slave states.

When the trip was over, the black man questioned the whites about where they were. They answered Georgia. The black man asked why and they admitted to him that they were slave catchers and he was now entering a new life, with a new name, a new, sloppy place to live, and a new white family that he was going to be picking cotton for everyday. He had no way of seeing his family again or live his dreams of being a professional violin player.

He missed his family so much that many times he tried escaping during the night, but always got caught. His punishments were to be severely whipped until he wasn't able to move off the cold ground. One time he tried to run away and got his feet sliced

open and had stones inserted in the soles of his feet so he couldn't walk anymore.

After about seventeen years of this cruelty, he was rescued by people from his hometown. When he returned to his old house, his family still lived there, but only to find out his wife was remarried and he two children. His own two girls didn't even remember him because they were too small. The black man went off by himself and continued his life playing his violin because that's all he had left.

Nowadays, slaves aren't even heard of. Blacks have the same opportunities as whites; high paying jobs and a good education. These changes only took place within about forty years-not a long time. It's too bad that forty years ago our country only favored whites. A lot has happened in these years and luckily it's for the better of our country. Black history will never be anything to brag about for the U.S. but it's great to see the changes.

Kristin Bedow

## United We Stand?

The Civil Rights Movement. This was Martin Luther King Jr.'s quest for love, peace, and equality among the races.

His non-violent protests paved the road for ending segregationism and racial hatred; his speeches were uplifting, they gave hope for a free and peaceful nation. But all of this came to an end on April 5, 1968 with the death of Martin Luther King.

Some say April 5, 1968 is the day the Civil Rights Era ended. And sadly, I must agree.

After all that King worked for, our nation has gone to pieces all over again. Did we really end segregationism? Are we really "The Great Melting Pot of the World"?

If so, why are minority groups offered the lower paying jobs, less than adequate housing, and why do hate crimes continue in frightening numbers?

The riots in Los Angeles over the Rodney King verdict are just one example of what racial hatred can do to a city.

Now imagine that all over the country. It is there. The air is thick with prejudice and hatred. And it is no longer black vs. white, but people against people for their religious beliefs, sexual preferences, and their style of dress.

The sadness is, that after all we worked so hard to overcome in the 60's and 70's, the problem of racial hatred has not gotten any better. In fact, it has gotten much worse. With the problems we face as a nation, we cannot afford to hate each other.

## Letters To The Editor:

Dear Editor,

We're writing in response to the letter written about the swim team's assemblies. First of all, this word "assemblies" should not be plural. Nikki, Carrie, and Heather had stated in their letter "all special assemblies for the swim team", however the team received only one fifteen minute assembly this year. The purpose of this assembly was to recognize the team's first place sectional finish and to cheer on its ten state qualifiers before the state meet. These are both outstanding accomplishments and definitely should be recognized. Yes, there are other state qualifiers who should receive credit also, and no, the swim team is not considered better than these individuals. The team is not receiving "special treatment" considering that there are several pep assemblies for different teams throughout the fall season. We agree with Richie Fikis in that you are getting carried away. You are members of the Pep Club which is in charge of assemblies; we suggest that you bring this issue up at your next meeting and do something about it. It disappoints us to see that you would take time out to put down a team for being recognized. We feel insulted and are astounded that you feel this way. Maybe in the future you can concentrate on the positive instead of the negative.

Swim Team Members  
 Kate Ryan  
 Corrie Gilgallon  
 Becky Manning  
 Tawney Lam  
 Jenny Wiegand  
 Stephanie Combs

Dear Editor,

The dance production class participated as extra entertainment for the annual Mock Wedding on December 3, 1992. The dance "Rich Girls" was performed by: Denise Nance, Patti Parra, Melissa Mullany, Eva Rivera, Shpresa Kerimi, Gina Clifford, Candi Kairys, myself and Rich Geroulis. We worked hard on making up this dance as well as putting the music together. While the dance was being performed, the crowd cheered and later we were complimented on being the best part of the entire show. These compliments came from students, parents, and teachers. However, Dr. Jones was not pleased. It was said that he didn't like our routine, it was too suggestive, and Dance Production will no longer be allowed to perform at Home Ec. Night. Well, first of all, we put much time and effort into this dance and in return we received many compliments. We are all very upset that Dr. Jones feels this way about something we put so much time and effort into. Why should Dr. Jones be so upset about something the audience enjoyed? We did change the dance for the Dance Production show, however we would like to know how he can take on the responsibility as head of a high school and expect to have everything short, sweet, and BORING! After talking to a lot of teachers and students, we feel that Dr. Jones is out of line in his judgement towards our work. We would appreciate a response from him as well as anyone else who has something to say on the matter.

Cory Christiansen  
 and Dance Production members

## It Never Snows in Administrationland

by Skye Studabaker

Hail stones the size of bowling balls are knocking holes through cheap Toyotas; ten foot mounds of snow block garage doors all over suburbia; houses are flying off to Oz. But the administration never fails, and school is still in session.

Hmmm... sound familiar? Like a certain suburban district #94 maybe? Why is our administration so cheap in giving out snow days when the extra days are already added on to the end of our school year?

I looked out my window on Wednesday, January 13, 1993 (remember that day?) seeing my yard and trees sleeping under a sheet of ice covered by at least a foot of snow. Surely, I thought, they won't make us battle these elements to get to school today. But to my pure amazement school was still on!

No one could stay on the roads. Even in my 4-wheel drive truck I was sliding around corners and down hills. A morning bus route servicing Forest Trails got stuck in the snow. It was unbelievable.

Of course the administrators have to drive through this same snow to get to school. So why don't they recognize that is dangerous, as well as absurd, to make students and their parents trek back and forth to school in these types of weather conditions?

Couldn't the school set guidelines to assure the students and parents of snow days when road or weather conditions reach a certain limit? Or could we at least get our snow days back at the end of the year? Many summer camps and events start the last week of our school since most schools are let out earlier than West Chicago. In order for West Chicago students to attend events like these, they must make special arrangements, take finals early, etc.

Due to lack of time before my deadline, I am unable to find the answers to these questions for myself. However, the newspaper staff and our readers would appreciate a response to this article on behalf of the administration.

## Sexual Scars: Are You Invincible?

by Raven Moore

You may, whether consciously or not, feel you are invincible. If you for example drive after drinking, have sex without protection, or even go day to day not being aware and in control.

I will be covering a three part series addressing teenagers and their feeling of immortality.

Struggling, Screaming, Powerless, Ashamed.

Just a few of the emotions felt by a date rape victim.

One of every four women will be victims of date rape. Take four of your

ex-girlfriends or your closet friends. One of them will be a victim.

They will have been raped by someone they knew. That someone being their own date.

Date Rape is the crime of forcing sex upon someone against their will. It is increasing faster than any other violent crime in the U.S.

Many guys think having sex with a girl even if she protests or says no is not wrong. They are deeply mistaken. If a woman says NO and her date continues, then he has committed a violent crime; a crime that will forever haunt the victim.

Date rape does not have to do with sex. Yes, sex is what occurring, but the

reason it occurs has to do with power. Power the guy seems to need to feel more masculine.

Women must realize even if they've had sex with their date in the past it does not at all mean they are expected to in the future. It is your choice if you want to have sex, not your obligation.

As teenagers, we often feel we are invincible and nothing bad will ever happen—"especially to me". That's a terrible misconception.

You are not immortal. You may be date raped. Being prepared and aware will limit your risks and may save your life.

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

We would like to hear any comments or suggestions you might have concerning the paper and its contents. Please deliver letters to the editor to Advisor Carrie Kostro in room 320 or Editorials editor Kristin Bedow.

### JENS OSSENKOP

BY VERONICA CHAVEZ

Have you ever thought about going to a different country as an exchange student for a whole entire year? Jens Ossenkop did and is an exchange student from West Germany.

Jens Ossenkop came to West Chicago last August and is staying here until the end of June. He is staying with Mr. and Mrs. Clark who live in West Chicago.

Jens lives in Neuwied, a small town in West Germany. Jens said that he misses his friends, but he misses his family most.

This year Jens decided to take American History and American Government. Other classes that he chose to take were French 4 and English. He is also in the band. He is in percussion section. Jens said, "I like the American System because you get to pick your own classes."

He also said, "I think it's good that this school is doing something about gangs, but I think they take it too far when they lock all of the school doors." Jens thinks that America is more conservative, and it seems to him that it's a faster way of living.

Jens Ossenkop took four years of English. He said French is his first language. He said, "I was interested to learn more about this country and the American people," but he still continued to study French.

Jens was asked on what he thought about American music and clothes and he responded, "Heavy Metal is more popular, and Rap is absolutely not a big thing in Germany. Except for wearing clothes inside out, it's not a big difference."

During his free time Jens enjoys playing soccer. He said that if any one ever wanted to be an exchange student for a whole year, do it because it's a great experience and you get to learn the language a whole lot more.

### GO! SPEED GO!

By Leslie Rogers

On December 31, 1992, the Alpha Team was in concert at Toto's night club in Schaumburg. There was entertainment by Bobby D who had everyone jumping and dancing to his mixes.

The Alpha Team did their first concert that night which had an effect on a few students that go to WCCHS.

Speed was dancing on stage with two other girls, one was behind and one was in front as they simulated sex on stage.

Junior Caroline Yong quoted, "There were orgasmic blasts on stage."

Another student Dave Heeter said, "It was chillin', it was like sex on stage dude."

Everyone seemed to have liked the show except Rich Geroulis. He stated, "The dance was pretty good but I thought my girls and I did better." Rich was referring back to the mock wedding/dance production show that he performed in.

Everyone had a good time and Speed Racer is a song they will never forget!

### How To Ace Any Test

By: Mike Aigner

Test taking isn't geared toward everyone. There are some people that will study very hard and attend every class and who still fail their tests.

**Before the test.** Form a study group with other students...but only if they are slightly more intelligent than you. If they are below your level you will spend too much time over the material you've covered. And remember to reserve time to study on your own.

Get access to old exams from the same teacher if possible. Specific questions will vary from year to year but the test's structure and content will be similar.

**Multiple-Choice Tests.** Budget your time. If you have 20 minutes to answer 40 questions, spend a maximum of 30 seconds on each one.

- Read every answer before answering.
- Eliminate obviously wrong answers-when you don't know the right answer.
- The answer is often right if it contains sometimes, probably, or some.
- The answer is usually wrong-if it contains all, always, never or none.
- Follow your first impulse-only unless you are sure that you were wrong.
- If two choices are opposite, one is probably correct.
- If two choices are very similar, the answer is probably neither one of them.

**Reading Comprehension Tests.** Read the questions first. They'll clue you in to what to watch out for.

Answer the questions in order, unless you are stumped. Jumping around can lead to confusion.

Underline conjunctions that change a sentence's direction: However, although, nevertheless. These sentences are likely to figure in the questions.

**Essay Tests.** Reread the question and underline the verbs. Then follow directions exactly. You'll lose points if you "explain" when you're asked to "argue"...or "describe" when asked to "compare and contrast."

Make an outline. It doesn't need to be formal or fancy. A simple list of abbreviated words will do. Make sure you include everything you need and want to say.

Raitings for Spin Doctors review by Paul Abella:

- "It just doesn't get any better than this!" \*\*\*\*
- "Dammit it's good, it's really good!" \*\*\*
- "Well, it's better than Michael Bolton..." \*\*
- "It's not worth a warm bucket of spit." \*

### Spin Doctors- Pocketful of Kryptonite \*\*

The Spin Doctors are part of a new music revolution. Though some people consider them alternative, the band is much more jam-oriented like the Blues Traveler, the Allman Brothers band, and the Grateful Dead. But unlike those bands, these guys make a definite attempt to make a variety of different songs, and sometimes it works.

*Little Miss Can't Be Wrong* is a great pop song with a sadistic edge, and it's getting some much deserved airplay on some of the local radio stations. *Jimmy Olsen's Blues*, *Two Princes* and *More Than She Knows* are jams, reminiscent of Earth rattling Grateful Dead songs like *Shakedown Street* and *Touch of Gray*, and *How Could You Want Him* is a song that echoes Led Zeppelin's *Over The Hills and Far Away*.

Unfortunately, the rest of the album is garbage. *Refrigerator Car* and *What Time Is It?* are blandly mediocre, and *Forty or Fifty* is just plain terrible.

The album has already made Platinum status (Over 1,000,000 copies sold), and is quickly climbing the Billboard Hot 100.

### Spin Doctors- Homebelly Groove...Live! \*\*\*

The Spin Doctors also released a live album after all the fuss about *Little Miss Can't Be Wrong*. This album is basically just a re-release of their first EP *Up For Grabs...Live!*, with lots of unreleased live gems.

The shining moment on this album is a little ditty called *Stepped on a Crack*, a bit of Jethro Tull wannabe-ism, complete with a flute solo. Other good songs include *Yo Mamas A Pajama*, and slightly reworked and quite enjoyable version of *Hard to Exist*. The rest of the album is just as good, with the only downers being the songs that were pretty crummy on *Pocketful of Kryptonite*.

### Mary's Danish- American Standard \*\*\*

Mary's Danish is another new band trying to make an old sort of Rock 'n' Roll. Most of their songs sound like they went to the Jimi Hendrix School of Ear piercing feedback, though the music is much less Blues influenced than in Jimi's day.

*Porcupine* and *Shotgun* put new twists on their 60's style of power chord drenched music, and a sloppy cover of the 60's hit *I Fought the Law* is also very entertaining.

Not all of these songs are a 1967 renaissance, though. *Killjoy* and *Underwater* are cutting edge Alternative, and *Sister Shade* is pschadelically tinged grunge rock.

There are very few things to gripe about on this album, and even the worst songs on the album are listenable. *Leave it Alone* is so distortion drenched that you can barely make out what they're saying, and *O, Lonely Soul, It's a Hard Road* is so out of place that you'd hardly think you were listening to the same band.

This album has barely made a ripple in the sales category, but is getting some airplay on the local Alternative stations.

### Disney Gets Its Wish With Aladdin

by Carolyn Mertz

Disney continued its string of hits in the new release *Aladdin*.

*Aladdin* is a combination of adventure, romance and comedy. The result is an entertaining movie for people of all ages.

The animation was colorful and imaginative. It was set in the Middle East, which made the film different and more interesting than the typical cartoon, despite the All-American voices. The musical score was fun and geared toward adults as well as children, although the song "A Whole New World" bore a striking resemblance to "Part of Your World" from *The Little Mermaid*.

The main characters included Aladdin, the poor village boy (with the voice of Scott Weinger of the TV show *Full House*) who falls in love with the over-protected Princess Jasmine.

The highlight of the movie was Robin Williams' hilarious portrayal of the Genie. From the moment Aladdin rubbed the magic lamp, Williams' impersonations (in a role practically written for him) made the film fun. The Genie also sang one of the best songs in the movie, "Prince Ali Ababa", when he gave Aladdin a parade that granted him his wish of being a prince.

Another amusing character was the parrot of Jafar, the traditionally evil and sinister character, in the humorously irritating voice of comedian Gilbert Gottfried.

While the movie is predictable and in the usual Disney storyline of good vs. evil, *Aladdin* was a fun and entertaining movie.

One word of caution: you'll have to put up with hundreds of small children and bubble gum stuck to the seats, but it's worth it.

## "I'm not ready to be a mom," or how to deal with an unplanned pregnancy

By Molly Statz

High school is a time to grow up both physically and mentally. Most high school memories last forever and can effect future decisions. Many teens are faced with peer pressure in high school.

The invasion most have is being at a party and drugs or alcohol is pushed on to them. Teens don't think of sex as a peer pressure but it is. Friends who have had sex talk about it and those who haven't tend to feel left out.

Once the decision is made it will stay with the person for the rest of their lives. Some feel good about it and some wish they had waited.

Sex has it's disadvantages just as all things do. Unprotected sex can lead to sexually transmitted diseases or pregnancy.

Use of a condom or another form of birth control will greatly decrease the risk of STD's and pregnancies but remember nothing is 100%.

Girls usually get the short end of the stick when it comes to sex. In the case of becoming pregnant a guy could easily go on with his life as if nothing ever happened. Not all guys are like that but what they say before and what

they do after they find out could be two different things.

Pregnant girls should not feel they have no trusting friends to talk to. There are many places and people out there to talk to.

In this school a girl can talk to counselors or a trusted friend. Much of the faculty at West Chicago is more understanding then teens think. They where all teen-agers once and some have teens of their own.

Outside this school the family doctor can be a person to talk to. If a girl is afraid her parents will find out a doctor is not allowed to tell any one because of Doctor/Patient Confidence.

The health clinic also has councilors to talk to. They can suggest three alternatives for the girl. Keeping it, abortion, or adoption. Each one has it's pro's and con's and must be made after consideration of all options.

Don't forget parents are there for their children. Although the popular answer is "My parents will kill me" not one teen has died yet. True a parent will be mad after they hear the news but they will calm down and be reasonable.

Keeping the baby will make it hard to finish school put not impossible. If the girl wants to graduate there will always be a way. On the positive side the child will bring great joy and sadness that nothing else in the world could bring.

Having an abortion is an easier way to get rid of the problem quickly, however; the effects may catch up with the girl later in life when she want to have a child. One point to remember is an abortion is in no way, shape, or form a method of birth control.

Adoption may let the mother feel she did the right thing by giving a couple who can't have children the joy of a baby. This also may be hard to let go of the child that is hers.

The choice should be made by the girl and the baby's father if he cares what happens. The out come will be lived out by the mother and hers to deal with no matter what she decides.

Avoiding all this is easy enough by simply being careful about sexual relationships. Should any carelessness take place a friend is always there to talk to. Finding that friend may take some time but they are out there waiting to be found.

## Only the Basics

By Dina Bascharon

At West Chicago High School, besides the classes required to take for graduation, the selection of courses is limited to the very basics.

Assistant Principal, John Highland, said one of the reasons why We-Go's curriculum selection is limited is because the number of students enrolling in elective and Advanced Placement(AP) classes is few.

Currently, there are only four AP courses; AP English III and IV, AP Chemistry, and AP Calculus.

However, many neighboring schools have the same amount of enrollment in AP and elective classes, yet they also have a variety to choose from.

The variety includes AP Biology, AP History, AP Foreign Language classes, Anatomy, etc., plus the courses We-Go offers.

Recently, adding AP Biology to the science curriculum was brought before Superintendent, Dr. Morris.

Mrs. Tunt, the Head of the Science Department, claimed there were a few requirements to be agreed upon before AP Biology could become a class.

One, the teacher wouldn't be given adequate preparation for teaching the class. They would also need to have a 50% passing rate and everyone enrolled in the class must take the AP exam.

Having enough interest or enrollment in the class isn't stopping AP Biology from becoming a class, it's the unreasonable requirements set on the teacher and class.

Tunt felt these requirements were unfair because if a teacher can't prepare for the class, then they wouldn't be adequately qualified to teach it.

And although a 50% passing rate isn't unreasonable, saying all students must take the AP exam was.

"Some people take AP classes for college credit, some take it because they're just interested in the course," said Tunt.

Thus, she believes it's unjust to say everyone must take the test, when everyone's motives for taking the class would be different.

It's also unfair because some people can't afford \$60 or so to take the test.

Since Tunt couldn't agree to these stipulations, and the Administration wouldn't compromise, AP Biology won't be added to the curriculum.

The Foreign Language Department also lacks in AP classes.

Many students in the forth/fifth year of a foreign language often take the AP exam for that language.

However, these classes aren't AP courses, so when students desire to take the exam, they aren't adequately prepared for it.

There still may be some hope for change however. the Horticulture classes might be changed to Botany, so they can be considered college courses.

## Pros and Cons of Weighted GPA

by Richie Fikis

Colleges across the country are receiving applications from students with grade point averages above four (on a four point scale). Yes, actually above four!

The question is, how much better is this than a 4.0?

Students end up with these higher grades by getting extra grade points for taking advanced classes. Knowing this many students at our own school are discouraged by the fact that they don't get anything "extra" out of taking advanced classes.

When confronting Dr. Jones as to why we don't have a weighted scale, he gave several valid reasons why this scale doesn't exist here at We-Go. He stressed differences in individual ability by stating, "We shouldn't penalize people who don't have extra god-given gifts."

He also admitted to the fact that he, along with many other administrators have no idea where the extra grade points come from. For example, the Glenbard schools add an extra .25 to

the GPA for advanced classes, while the Naperville schools add .65 and Wheatons add .75.

When We-Go did have a weighted grading scale (from 1970 to 1975) we used a multipliers to weight the grades. This meant that a math grade which was normally worth 4 for an A may be multiplied by .75, .85, 1.00, 1.15, or 1.25 depending on the difficulty of the class.

Another "negative" of this scale was stressed by Dr. Jones, "Students will stay only within the weighted system."

He explained this by saying that students would not take art, music, drama, etc. because they would be worth "less" in the grading system.

From this stems yet another problem, which classes should be weighted?

This problem was also brought up in a report done by former superintendent Richard M. Kamm on December 22, 1987. The report stated...

"In 1974-75, after five years of wrangling within and between departments over which course should

be weighted and how much they should be weighted, the teaching staff, student counsel, and administrative staff did an extensive study of grade weighting and recommend to the Board that the grade weighting system established in 1970 be abolished."

Probably the most startling fact I learned by doing this report is the fact that most colleges de-weight grades after they get them to see how the students compare to others. So, basically a weighted GPA does almost nothing to help college admission.

After reading these facts some might still wonder: if it is so bad, then why do so many schools keep this system?

The answer is politics. Very few administrators agree with the system, but they don't want to deal with parents if they abolish it.

The facts are clear, as much as many of us hate to see them, that a weighted grading scale just isn't worth all the negatives it brings about.

# 6 CLASSIFIEDS

JANUARY 25

HEY CHRIS O!  
KEEP UP THE BEAT!  
LOVE,  
YOU KNOW  
WHO

Cory-  
Valet-parkers, parka  
hats, Sparkle Crest-Need I say  
more? Xanadu forever!  
-Amy

Blowfish Posse sings:  
Y-M-C-A!  
21st floor of the Marriot on  
Rush Street. A night to re-  
member!

Stacey (Dew)-  
LEAVE!!!!  
Love  
Zabool

Dear Hallie, Susie, and  
Megan:

1/1/93 4:00 a.m.  
Go to bed!  
1/1/93 7:00 a.m.  
Good morning  
Hallie!  
Love ya,  
The guys from the  
party!

Danna-  
Poke Smot!  
-Heidi

RAUL, SCOTT & JOHN-  
Who is Base Face?  
-M-C-M

Cory-  
Keep on driving-don't  
worry, ignore the smoke!  
Everythings o.k.-MAYBE  
NOT!

Love  
-The Posse

SWM looking for a loving fe-  
male, just as long as rigormortis  
hasn't set in!

Call Paul  
231-4045

Mimi-  
He looked my way at  
9:04. Come help me paint,  
Bill Clinton.

-Amy

Ull, Ritie, Fras, Jowanna &  
Tommy-  
10:00 AM at my house.  
Sound good?

-Small-Calf-  
Worty

Nicki,

Happy 18th Birthday!

Love,  
Vicki

Shannon (MOO)-  
Remember the Citgo? How  
about the \$5 ballon? Toomany  
memories-so little space.

Love ya,  
Dana

SENIORS!  
THIS IS YOUR LAST  
YEAR. ISN'T THERE  
SOMETHING YOU  
WANT TO TELL SOME-  
ONE? IT'S JUST \$.50 TO  
HAVE YOUR FEELINGS  
PUT INTO YOUR  
SCHOOL NEWSPAPER.  
SEE DEREK BARTON OR  
MRS. KOSTRO FOR  
DETAILS!  
UNDERCLASSMEN!  
DON'T BE LEFT OUT YOUR  
ENTIRE 4 YEARS!  
TELL THE WHOLE SCHOOL  
WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND.  
IT'S ONLY \$.50 AND I KNOW  
YOUR ALLOWANCE IS MORE  
THEN THAT! SEE DEREK  
BARTON OR MRS. KOSTRO  
FOR DETAILS.

To: Paul, Mike A., Derek, Dina, Kristin,  
Mike C., Damon, Veronica, Cory, Richie,  
Heidi, Maria, Carolyn, Raven, Laura,  
Leslie, Dana, Molly, Skye, Vicki, Amy,  
Dave, Scott, Cheri & Adrienne -  
Thanks for a truly interesting first  
semester. You've come a long way!  
- Mrs. Kostro

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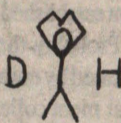


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## 'Cats Rebound After Slow Start

by Richie Fikis

After a rocky start, the wildcat boys basketball team got right on track.

The team started off 1-4 before winning 8 games in a row.

During that 8 game winning streak the cats won the Waubonsie Christmas tournament, which included Waubonsie, Geneva, Oswego, Marmion, Aurora Central Cathoic, Glenbard South, and St. Francis.

They won the championship game vs. Marmion in a thrilling double over time victory.

Kevin Baldus received his second consecutive all-tournament team status

The cats streak ended at 8 when they hit Naperville central and Anthony Parker. The cats lost a nail-biter 70-38.

However the team showed character by going on to knock off Driscoll on it's home floor the following night.

The home team stayed tough the whole night. In the remaining seconds the cats were clinging to a one point lead when John Jovanavich executed a clutch steel and break away basket to increase the lead to 3.

The cats held the lead to get back on the winning track with a 54-50 victory.

The team got back into conference play on Friday versus Naperville North.

## Go We-go Swimmers

by Amy Turkot

The guy's swim team is half way through their season. They have six weeks till sectionals, and a week later they have State.

Since they are in the middle of their season they are having some intense practices. They are all working hard, but they still try to have fun.

They don't have team goals, but they do have individual goals that they make up themselves. So all goals are different, according to what the individual wants to do.

This season they are not expected to do as well as they did last year, but there is room for improvement. So far

this season they have swam in 2 meets, they have not won any.

Some of the outstanding swimmers are freshman Dan Tracy, sophomores Corey Johnson and Brandon Fantozzi, and seniors John Adamo, and Dave Flatter.

According to head coach Marybeth Eaton, "Dave Flatter should qualify for State and should also place."

The Wildcats have 3 senior swimmers and they are John Adamo, Dave Flatter, and Jim Staniels.

Come and support our Wildcat swimmers at their next home meet on Tuesday January 19 against York and Elgin.

## Tough Expectations

by Richie Fikis

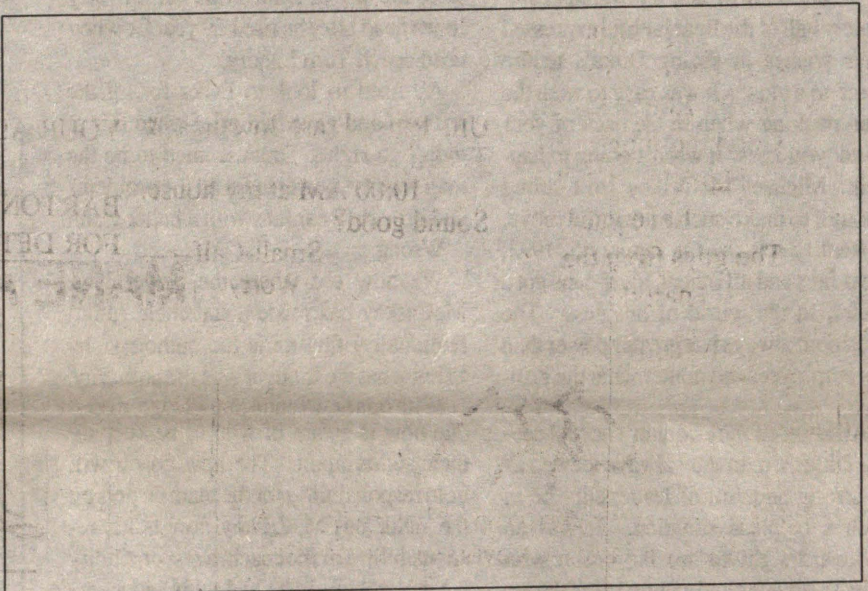
The Lady Cats are currently holding a 10-5 record. Sounds pretty impressive, until you look at how that compares to pre-season expectations.

When the season began, the Lady Cats with four returning starters were touted as the top challengers (vs. Naperville Center) for the DVC crown. Right now after a 1-4 conference start, those title hopes are looking bleak. Yes, there have been bad times, but

The girls won the Lady Cat Invitational over Christmas break and at one time were ranked 23rd in the greater Chicagoland area in the Chicago Sun-Times.

In the Wildcat tournament Kristie Murphy was named MVP.

The JV girls have also been winning consistently. The girls are 7-2, which means a bright future for the Lady Cats.



## McCaskey Shows Who Big Bear Really Is

By

David Vingren

It was a dose of reality. The fans, press, players, and Bear coaches were informed at a press conference that Mike Ditka isn't the big Bear after all. Now we realize who the big Bear really is and all eyes are focused upon him.

Even after the final whipping at Dallas summarized a 5-11 season, pro and anti-Ditkaists couldn't come close to picturing the windy city without its most popular figure. Through the press, surveys, and call-in talk shows, approximately half of the Bear faithful expressed their wishes in seeing Ditka's tenure come to a close. It was easy to wish the man packing when in the back of your mind you knew it wasn't going to happen. Michael McCaskey isn't strong enough to make such a powerful move.

Reality sets in. On January 5, 1993, Bear fans and all other Chicagoans got a lesson in the world of business. The president always has greater power than his employees, no matter what the business.

All showed they couldn't accept seeing Ditka, a man they always viewed as so strong and full of leadership, be in such a helpless situation. It was an awkward sight to see the coach with tears in his eyes and a lump in his throat.

Iron Mike will no longer stomp the sidelines of Soldier Field on Sunday afternoons. There will be no more of the most awaited press conferences in the city. There will be no more rugged Ditka type competition. The definition of Bear football seemed so empty without him.

Those who had wished to see him go quickly changed their minds. They, as

everyone else, never took time to think about how much Ditka meant to the city and what a sad day it would be for all Bear fans because they never thought it would actually occur.

But, when the firing did happen, the shock was too much for the conservative Bear fans to absorb and everyone would flash evil eyes at the man responsible for this severe change.

It was there that the McCaskey bashing would begin. It was some of the most resentment an individual has received in Chicago; and the most resentment in sports since the city of Dallas was out for Jerry Jones head after he fired 29 year Cowboy head coach Tom Landry.

All used to look to Ditka for all the answers and gave him grief when things didn't go right. Ditka seemed to be the man with the power to fix all the problems and provide Bear fans with a better team.

Wrong.

We now see where the power lies. McCaskey has made a statement (unintentionally) that he is the authority by firing what we thought was the authority.

With this new found knowledge, everyone now is aware of who to be keeping their sights upon. The new coach will hold responsibility for the team he puts on the field; but McCaskey now holds responsibility for the coach, a responsibility we never thought he had with Ditka.

The firing of Ditka pretty much closes the book on the 1986 Super Bowl era. This upcoming rebuilding process that McCaskey has said the Bears will enter will take a lot of time and patience, something the Chicago media and fans don't have much of.

It will be McCaskey who will serve as the new punching bag for the new era.

## Da (Former) Coach

by Richie Fikis

Former Chicago Bears head coach Mike Ditka challenge owner Michael McCaskey one too many times.

In my mind Michael McCaskey definitely did the right thing by firing him.

Bears fans shot out of hand with Ditka. They act as if he is the greatest thing ever to come to Chicago.

Yes, he did win a Super Bowl, but who couldn't have with the team the Bears had in 1985-86? He had players like Walter Payton, Jim McMahon, Mike Singletary, etc. All he had to do was kick back and watch in awe just like the rest of the fans.

So why all the attention?

He is getting more publicity than our new President Bill Clinton. There was a half hour extension to newscasts because of the firing, as if we didn't know it was coming.

Another thing that bugs me is all the sympathy "Da Coach" is getting. Don't fans realize that he ruined the '92 season? His lack of self control and the incident with Jim Harbaugh was what turned the winners into instant losers.

Also, if he knew his job was on the line then why didn't he try to win the last 3 games?

He started Wil Fuhrer.

Maybe just another test?

Well, I think Iron Mike tested the head Mike one too many times.

## Shot Clock

By Mike Campbell and Jon Dupuis

The final game of the IHSA championship and the West Chicago Wildcats have the ball with 3:00 left in the game and down by one point. The coach calls a time out and makes the plan. "hold the ball for the rest of the time till ten seconds left then shoot!"

What! This game is turning into who can hold the ball the longest than shoot! Many coaches like it if they are up and have the ball with a minute left and can just hold the ball forever. But put yourself on the other end of the ball. You are down two points and the other team just holds the ball the rest of the time.

The colleges have a shot clock that is forty five seconds, that is a big

change from no shot clock at all to forty five seconds. The pro's got a shot clock that is twenty five seconds. This could help develop skills that the basketball players could use in the future.

Coach Cameron quotes "It would give the team with lesser ability a better chance to win". It gives more advantages to the shooters that are not rushed. It's a game, its just not what high school basketball is all about."

I could see that a shot clock wouldn't be good in a coaches point of view 'cause of the game being rushed too fast. But from a fans perspective it would give the game excitement because that is what the fans come to see!

## Support Your Supporters

By Vicki Thomas

It's competition time for West Chicago's varsity football and basketball cheerleaders.

Ten cheerleaders will compete as a small varsity in both regionals and possibly state.

Football cheerleading captain, Candi Kairys, explained preparations for state. Three hours a week are dedicated strictly to the perfection of a three and a half

minute routine including mounts, jumps, and chants.

Strict rules as to what can be done in these routines are provided by the ICCA (Illinois Cheerleaders and Coaches Association)

Of the fifteen regionals statewide, the cheerleaders will compete in two. One is the thirty-first of January at Naperville North. It's only a practice

for the one on February sixth at Robinson High School in Chicago. Here they will try to qualify for state.

Kairys said nine out of ten of the cheerleaders are seniors who've competed since sophomore year. As sophomores they qualified for state and took nine out of thirty-five. Last year they took eight out of twenty-one.

Kairys believes they have a good chance of qualifying for state this year.

She said, "Competing is the most important thing in cheerleading. It's our playoffs and sectionals. It's the funnest and most rewarding experience."

Go support the people who support you.