

Wildcat Chronicle

West Chicago Community High School

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Referendum To Be Decided on April 4 Election

By Jeff Hadzima

West Chicago Community High School may see many new changes in the next few years, depending upon a vote that will take place on April 4th.

The referendum is a proposal that will receive 32 million dollars if passed, and will add on and remodel existing parts of the school. The 32 million dollar cost was an estimate made by an architect.

The referendum will bring a new 3,000 seat gymnasium, a 1,000 seat auditorium, remodeling the current school, new locker rooms, and replacing the heating, ventilating, and air conditioning system. South classrooms, construction of new tennis courts, and new furnishings for the school are also in the plan.

One problem that has been addressed is the tax increase. If the referendum passes, it will raise property taxes \$.34 for every \$100 assessed value of the home. If you owned a \$100,000 home, your property tax increase would be \$34.

In a recent survey of residents within a four block radius of the high school conducted by Brad Larson's 4th hour English 3 class, 63% of the people surveyed said they would vote in favor of the referendum. Of the people surveyed, 73% are registered voters, and 74% do not

even have children currently attending the high school.

When asked what should be part of the expansion, 33% of the surveyed said a new auditorium should be included. Another 22% said a fitness center should be included. All of these

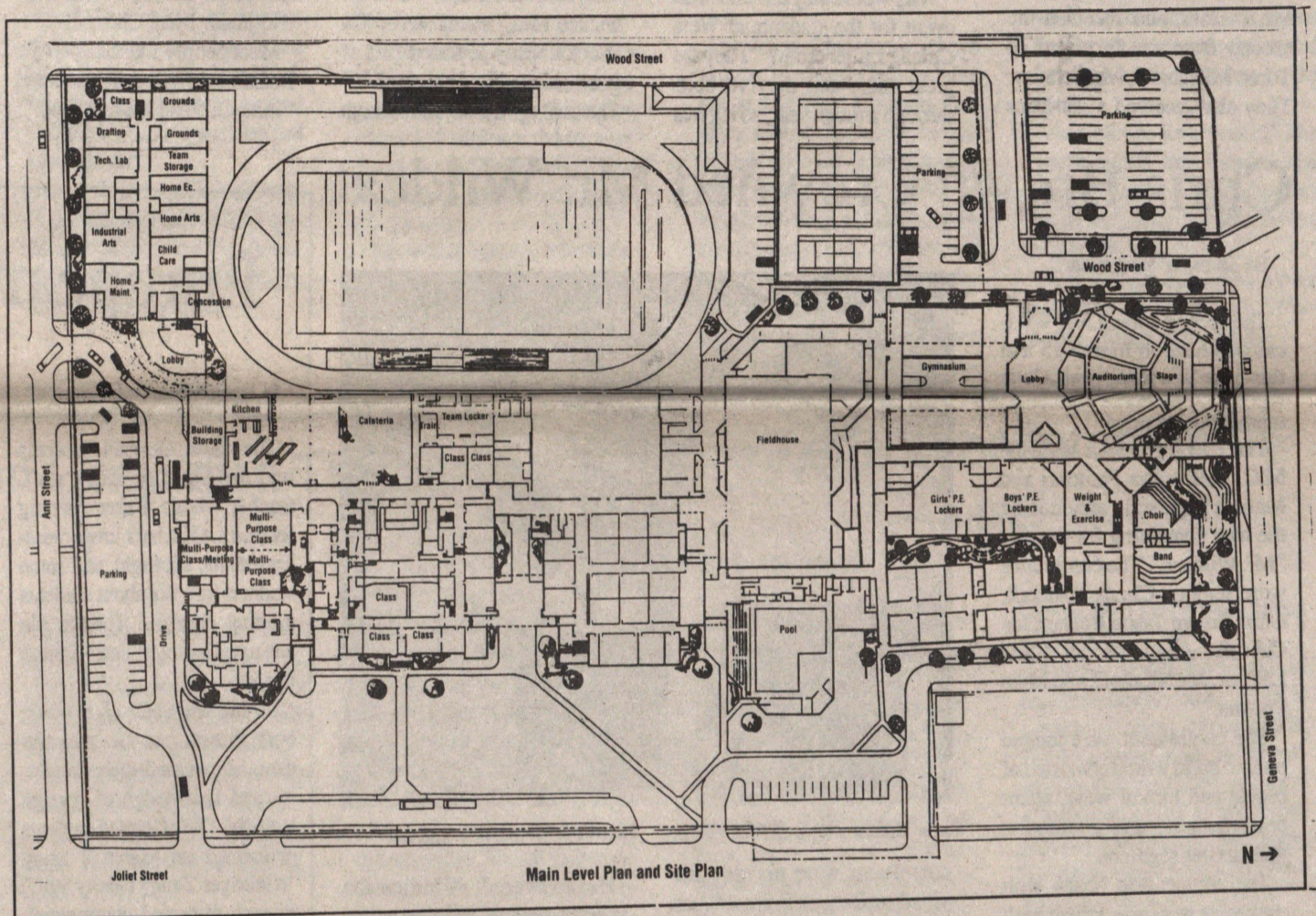
have been included in the referendum plan.

"If it's [the referendum] passed, the renovations on the school won't be as disruptive to the students and teachers," said President of the teachers association Wayne Kosek.

West Chicago is one of the few towns in Dupage that still has land to be developed. Now that the thorium is being removed, this town will become attractive to businesses looking to expand. This could bring new people to West Chi-

cago, and again enrollment could explode.

The April 4th election will decide the future of this high school. It will determine the tax rate, the plan on dealing with increasing enrollment, the facilities, educational and extra-curricular of this school.



The tentative plans for the future of West Chicago High School.

In This Issue...

Teen Activists and The Beatles featured in feature section. See page 3 for more details.

See the *Pros and Cons against Gun Control*, page 5 in the Perspectives section

New, exciting *Poetry* featured in Entertainment. Page 10.

Check out the *Spring Sports Previews* on page 11 & 12.



All Night Long: Take Two

By Robert Hernandez

It's back by student demand, yes *All Night Long* at Bowling Green right after the Junior/Senior Prom. You can do as many activities that are offered, such as sand volleyball, rock-n-bowl, karaoke, video games, dancing, and even the famous sumo wrestling.

They will also have a disc jockey, door prizes, 'lite' breakfast, pizza, hot dogs, soft drinks, fortune teller, magician, live bands, and caricature artists.

A Parent group consisting of about 20-30 members have finally received the second car for the 2nd annual *All Night Long*. They received their first car from the president of Family Ford, Mr. Pierotti, and received the second from the President of Torco Mitsubishi, Mr. Schnurr. They also received a generous

By Wendy Woodward
Prom is coming up faster than you think and you better start making plans for after prom. May 19th is the big day. This year prom is being held at the Empress in Elgin on Lake St. and tickets are undetermined

"After All," Prom Is Almost Here

but are planning to be \$60 a pair. Dinners being served are chicken breast and a vegetarian dinner. Prom starts at 6:00 p.m. and lasts till 11:00 p.m. you may not show up late but you may leave early.

The theme "After All" colors are cranberry and gold, and the decoration's are moons and stars. The Empress dance floor can hold up to 1,000 people, and we don't have to move the tables. It

is very roomy and Chairperson Bridget Horgan thinks we may have too much space. There is also a special surprise for all the prom goers! If that doesn't make you go then I don't know what will.

donation from Mr. Wayne "Doc" Fox a 1927 graduate of West Chicago High School.

The car's are not the only things they will be giving away. There is also color televisions, cellular phones, CD's, CD players, and much, much more.

Why would they have such an event for the students at West Chicago, after prom? "They are great kids, and they've been through a tough year, so it gives

them a little something back," stated Mrs. Sherry Bowne, one of the parents setting up the events.

It's going to be hard for the parents and Bowling Green to top last year. They are adding Synergy, the premier dance and entertainment club. "That's a wicked idea," stated senior Tia Brooks. Bowne stated "it's as good as Excalibur's night club." The ceilings are 20-30 feet high

and there's three story's. It's lighted by black lights, and has pool tables, mechanical dart boards and a fog machine for the stage.

In the view of the students "It's a great idea, because it gives us something to do after Prom, and keeps us out of trouble," said junior Mike Clifford.

Most people like senior Ajit Dadlani said the best things were "volleyball and the free food."

Brooks stated, "I didn't go last year, but I heard it was a lot of fun, so I'm going this year."

There's going to be so many things that are going to be there, that you will just have to come and see yourself. This event takes place May 19, and starts at 11:30 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. Tickets are \$5.00. For now most of the students reactions are like Clifford's when asked if there going, "I'm not to sure."

Chris Brown Crowned Mr. Wildcat

By Jennifer Wagenaar

The second annual Mr. Wildcat was held on March 15 and this year's winner was Chris Brown who caught the eye of many who attended.

The evening began with the M.C.'s, Brandon Fantozzi and Melissa Pagnozzi, announcing the men competing for the title "Mr. Wildcat." The contestants were seniors: Chuck Ashcraft, Chris Brown, Jason Bucher, Joe Czernik, Andy Grotto, Chris LaCour, Joe Nicoloff, and Mike Powers.

The contestants were judged on four areas which consisted of casual and formal wear, talent performances, and a question and answer segment.

The competition began with the casual wear area where each guy strolled along in their outfit seducing the audience with their slick moves as they walked up and down the stage.

The outfits ranged from NFL football jerseys to black leather jackets and the usual summer jean shorts.

Right from the start, Brown caught the applause and attention of the audience.

The competition went on with each guy showing off their talent. Brown was the highlight of this area, where he managed (with the help of his father and senior Joel Daniels) to shrink a few feet. Brown performed a small skit as a little short man who played football, baseball, soccer, and also exercised.

Other contestants also received positive responses from the crowd. LaCour sang a song and dedicated it to his future wife, "whoever that may be," LaCour said.

The contest went onto the formal wear competition where the



Chris Brown shows off his talent

Photo by: Jennifer Wagenaar

contestants wore tuxedos provided by Gingiss Formal Wear.

One by one each guy walked out in their tuxedo while the M.C.'s read a little something about the past, present, and future of each contestant.

During the readings, the M.C.'s would describe what each contestants favorite pick up line was and what question they would most like to be answered

Brown's favorite pick up line was, "I lost my phone number, can I have yours?"

According to Grotto he doesn't need a pick up line because women just come to him.

Ashcraft's question he would most like to answered was, "What exactly do paraprofessionals get paid to do?"

The competition ended with the question and answer segment where each contestant picked a question and had to answer the question as best they could on the spot.

Brown was asked the question of what he believes were the three important keys to success.

He answered, "Dedication, perseverance, and always look on the bright side."

Bucher's question was, if he had three wishes what would they be. "An A from Miss Krueger, an A from Miss Junkroski, and the ability to spend time with my family and make them happy," he said.

Finally, after an enjoyable show, the "Mr. Wildcat" winner was announced. The second runner up was Chris LaCour, first runner up was Andy Grotto, and Mr. Wildcat was Chris Brown who walked away with free tuxedo rental, free limo rental, and tickets to prom.

The audience was also entertained by Robin Westrom, Jessica Burns, Fran Napier, and Denise Napier who did a dance; Brad Dujmovic and Ed Abante who performed and sang two songs.

Mr. Wildcat was sponsored by student council and Mary Ellen Daneels. One half of the profits are going to the local P.A.D.S. shelter.

European Invasion

By Dan Vock

They sent German students into the world of sticky stuff, teacher Ursula Baker running for free Kit Kat bars, cross dressers into the spotlight, and some teachers into fits about students missing classes. They're the annual German and French Plays.

Within the span of a week, both French and German students showcased their creativity and knowledge of foreign language. The German students performed on March 2 using "Klebriges Zeug" (sticky stuff) in each play and commercial. Sticky stuff ended up on hands, in toilets, in corpses, and even manifested itself as "Klebriges Zeug Mann" (who, incidentally, was killed).

While the French students are not required to use a word in every play, most full plays utilized cross dressers. Consider, for instance, the awards for second year plays. Tony Keen won best actor for his role as Goldilocks; Mike Powers won best supporting actor as Lucy; and Sara Kane won best actress for playing Michael Jackson.

The biggest reason for all of the cross dressing is the male to female ratio of French students was approximately 5 to 13. There are currently no males in fourth year French.

Lindsay Eichman, who racked up awards in both French and German Plays, said she thought

the German Plays were better because the acting was better.

She says her awards for best actress in a third or fourth year French Play, best third or fourth year French Play, best props in a third or fourth year German Play, and best third or fourth year German Play were "just coincidence." Her plays, "ER" in German and "Forrest Gump" in French, fared well because they were popular themes, she said.

Since French Plays were on March 9, one week (but only three school days) after the German Plays, French students only had two days in Weyrauch Auditorium to practice before the actual performances. To prepare before that, French students practiced in the former Lincoln School library.

Not everybody, however, agrees with French and German Plays. The plays may be lauded as innovative, but "being innovative is using the time allotted—55 minutes per day, five days a week," explained physics teacher Al Wiggin.

"It's easy when you can have kids whenever you want, but working within the constraints you're given and around times when your students are gone at French or German Plays shows hard work and industry. That's innovation," he said.

Seniors Alicia Cox and Ami Sparkman hosted the French Plays, while seniors Katie Leuze and Katie Nolan hosted the German Plays.

Standing up for something

By Joseph Sosnowski

In Royal Palm Beach, Florida, Tomontra Mangrum sued the prom date that stood her up. She won.

From Swing Kids to Hippies youngsters have been very vocal throughout history. When we band together for a common cause things change.

Year: 1989. Place: Tiananmen Square, Beijing, China. Problem: Freedom.

Since April 15 students had been sitting in the square on a hunger strike following the death of a party secretary who was pushing for change. They demanded negotiations in order to make China a free society.

On May 19 Martial Law was declared by Deng Xiaoping, "president" of China, and troops began to surround the area. At that time there were nearly a million student protesters in the square.

On May 23 Prime Minister Li Peng was disobeyed by seven military officers when he wanted to send in troops to disperse the crowds on Deng's orders. Those officers were replaced by hard line communists.

On June 4 troops stormed in and nearly 3,000 protesters died while over 7,000 were injured for peacefully demonstrating for freedom.

In the words of Harrison Salisbury, a writer who was there, "They came in like gangbusters, AK-47s mowing down anything in sight. What is the difference between this army and those of all the other military despots in Asia or Latin America? Give them the order and they will mow down their own children. And they just have."

Linda Lin, one of our school librarians, heard from a friend that after the incident people were in hospitals and the place was "going crazy" after many students had been shot in the back running from troops. Bodies were laying on the ground without blood. The students had been gassed.

Over Chinese radio and television officials announced that several soldiers had been killed by attacking students. Soldiers hadn't fired any shots.

Freedom is desired everywhere and students force it along but in the U.S. what can teens do?

One example. Recently in New Jersey there was a basketball game at Rutgers with No. 4 Massachusetts. At half-time a young lady ran out on to the court and sat down in the jump ball circle.

Get up, go out there, voice your opinion and make a difference

She did this to protest Rutgers president, Francis Lawrence, who had earlier made remarks about genetic backgrounds hurting the chances of minorities when it comes to college entrance exams.

After security guards tried to talk to the young lady on the court she was quickly joined by about 150 students. Most were Black while the mostly White audience yelled for them to get off the court.

Interesting enough we, as students, do not have the same rights that adults have. There was a case awhile ago in Teaneck, New Jersey where a young lady found

a purse and turned it into the office.

It turned out that a few things were missing and she was forced to "drop her pants" and be searched. She sued the school board and rather than be publically embarrassed, the board settled out of court.

Despite her "winning" the Supreme Court has ruled in the past that the 4th Amendment, which guarantees that unreasonable searches are illegal, applies except that schools don't need probable cause.

Fortunately students do have the right to sue the school if Constitutional rights are violated, according to a 1975 Wood vs. Strickland Supreme Court case.

At West Chicago we have groups like Key Club helping out at the West Chicago Terraces, a retirement home, by providing services and donating time. Granted this is a different breed of teenage activist but they are trying to make a difference.

SEAC, active on an environmental cleanup mission, is planning recycling projects over weekends to give the commu-

nity the option of helping out. At the same time they hope to set an example for other communities by starting a Prairie Path cleanup and planting program.

These two groups are active in the community but as far as rights and what a student can do this school is lacking. (Despite there being hints of a Young Republican's Club)

If an administrator said something that could be considered racial, or if they banned coats from being worn, or if they refused to clean the bathrooms it would be up to you to say something about it. No one else.

It's up to individuals to act on frustrations and work to change what angers them. If that means finding someone who agrees and forming a group it has to be done.

As Anthony Esler puts it, "The world needs trail-blazers and experimenters with change as much as it does bastions of the established order."

Get up, go out there, voice your opinion, and make a difference. Things will change.

Ladies and Gentlemen The Beatles

By Jeff Hadzima

32 years after they stormed the world, the Beatles proved that after all those years, they still have remained at the top.

The Beatles, the world's most famous band of all time, continue to sell records and influence the youth of this world. All the albums that your parents bought are now on CD to appeal to the youth, and to satisfy the old fans. *Beatles Live at the BBC*, the newest Beatles release is selling at mass quantities.

The reason the Beatles have maintained such a huge popularity is because the great quality of their music, and the lack of it today. With the same kind of music dominating the airwaves, people want a change. That is one reason kids are turning to the Beatles.

"I grew up listening to the Beatles because my parents were fans. It was the enjoyment that just carried over, and has grown into a huge fascination," senior Beatle fan Terry Nelson said.

Many books are out that describe what the Beatles were like while they were on top of the charts. This may interest many kids, so these books are

big sellers. There are books about what the Beatles were doing when they wrote their songs, and books about what these songs are about. There are also Beatle lyric books, and these are usually swamped with pictures or illustrations of the fab four. These books range in price from \$15 to \$25.

Another reason people may be interested in the Beatles is because of the decade they were in. The 60's were one of the most important decades this century, and you can't learn about the 60's without learning about peace, drugs, and the Beatles. No other band dominated a decade the way the Beatles did. What John Lennon and Paul McCartney wrote was what the generation listened and lived by. Not only were they the best song writing team of the 60's, but they have remained the greatest of all time.

At Tower Records in Bloomingdale, *Live at the BBC* is the number one selling Beatles album, mainly because it's their newest release. *The White Album* is the another huge seller,

along with *Beatles 1963-1966* and *Beatles 1967-1970*, aka. the red and blue albums. These last two are greatest hit collections, and contain everything from "Love Me Do" to "Hey Jude."

All the albums include 2 discs and run about \$30 depending on where you go. Which means the stores are still making money on a band that has not been together since 1970.

The production of a new Beatles documentary has brought them back into the studio to record new songs. One of the songs was even written by Lennon before his tragic assassination. The documentary is a scheduled ten hours, and is to be coming at the end of this year. An new album may go along with documentary, and it may have the old and new work of the Beatles.

This is sure to please the longtime Beatle fans, and to create new ones. It will go into great detail of beginning and end of the Beatles, and it may even dip into the members lives after the Beatles. The only thing certain is that the Beatles are here to stay.

Do you see the future of the past?

By Laura Torrey

Have you ever had a sense that something was going to go right for you? Find it coincidental? Probably not. It's probably ESP.

ESP, or extrasensory perception, is an unexplained phenomenon that everyone has to a certain extent. ESP is the ability to know knowledge or information without the use of the normal five senses (sound, smell, etc.)

There are many forms of ESP. There's precognition (knowledge of future events), retrocognition (knowledge of past events), telepathy (mind to mind communication), clairvoyance (perception of objects or events not available to normal vision), and clairaudience (hearing sound not available to normal hearing).

Everyone has ESP. There is no difference between men and women. But, people who have poorer ESP probably will not do as well. If you are a confident person when it comes to ESP then the ability will be more clear.

So, how do you test it? The first kind of test is the Zener cards. They are a deck of 25 cards with symbols on one side such as the cross, circle, star, square, and wavy lines. If the person guessing the symbols guesses more correct than in-

correct, then he/she has a pretty well handled ESP.

Another test is the Ganzfeld test for clairvoyance. This is when a person is induced, their eyes covered and have earphones that send a low monotonous static sound to block out other noises. Then their mind creates dream-like images with ESP.

A lot of people who say they have ESP see things in dreams or when they daydream. Some foresee the future or people telling them information that would be helpful.

Pets even have ESP. It is reported that dogs can tell when an earthquake is about to come. Even snakes, pigs, cats, etc. have the same ability. They all run about and act scared like they know what's coming.

You can even test ESP at home. Zener cards are real entertaining and easy to make. Just make 25 blank cards with the symbols and have a friend test you.

Another test is to write down your dreams as soon as you wake up. Try to wake up from your intense dreams. If they're more intense than usual it could be a form of ESP.

Everyone should try out their ESP sometime. Who knows? You might be able to unlock secrets you didn't even know exist.

Jeff's Top Five Album Picks

- 1- Abbey Road
- 2- Sgt. Peppers Lonely Hearts Club Band
- 3- White Album
- 4- Rubber Soul
- 5- Hard Days Night

Come on have a heart

By Jennifer Bailey

What would you do if your life was depending on someone's donation? What if someone's life depended on yours?

There are many people waiting for organ donations and many of those people will never get them.

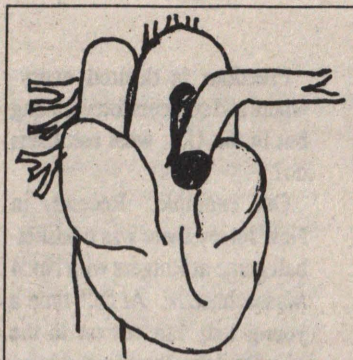
As of 1990, over 19,000 people were awaiting transplants for a kidney, a liver, a heart, a lung, and a pancreas. Of those 19,000 only 15,160 received transplants, and 3,840 died still waiting.

You may wonder how you can donate organs.

It's easy to donate. All you have to do is sign the back of your driver's license, or if you

don't have one, sign a Uniform Donor Card. You can get a donor card from the American Red Cross or the local organ procurement organization.

Signing your donor card is easy. You do not need to know your blood type or what diseases you may have had as a child. Just simply sign your card and have two witnesses sign it too. Once you have signed on as a donor, your name goes on a possible donor list. Your organs are donated once you have no need for them, obviously when you die. Organs are matched accord-



ing to blood type, but your organs can only be donated if your card is signed by you, two witnesses, and with the consent of your family.

If for some reason you change your mind about being a donor, tear up your donor card or write void across the back of your driver's license.

"I would definitely donate my organs because once I die, I have no need for them," sophomore Meredith Baker said. "It would be selfish for me to keep them when I could be helping someone else."

It is great that there are people who will donate organs, but many of the people willing don't do it. Why don't they? Many people do not sign their donor cards or driver's license and they

haven't discussed their wishes with their family.

According to an article in *Current Health* magazine, twenty percent of adults who carry donor cards, do not sign them. This is because they have never thought about signing them or because they believe signing these cards will recognize the fact that they are going to die someday.

The thing that people don't think about though is that by signing their cards, people who receive their organs will have the chance to live and in a way, the donor then lives too.

R. C. Cars

By Dan Ziman

Ever wanted to drive a powerful race car? Race a stock car? Drive a big monster truck? Without getting hurt. Radio Controlled Cars are the excitement only on a smaller level. Believe it or not there is an "Indy 500" for R/C Cars. There are very affordable cars and the cars that you dream of owning.

Over the past couple of years radio controlled cars have grown in popularity, and have gotten cheaper as well. When buying a car you should keep in mind the modification possibilities. Most companies such as Associated Team, Kyosho, and Losi offer a sport version which very up gradible and affordable, but if you want to jump right into racing go for the race-ready Team version. The team version means it has everything that the team drivers get stock. Such as full bearings.

The sport version includes a bushing version of the team transmission, stock shocks, mechanical speed control, and usually include a stock motor. (except Losi, they don't give you a mechanical speed control or stock motor) With the sport version all you need is a controller, battery pack, and battery charger.

Here are some of the best beginner cars available:

ELECTRIC OFF ROAD BUGGIES

Kyosho-Pro X Sport. It is a race-proven power house. A cousin to Kyosho's number one gas car the Inferno. This requires a speed control, motor, controller, battery, and charger. \$109.99

Kyosho-Outrage. This car is 90% pre-built. This one is very up gradible. It requires a controller, battery, and charger. \$84.99

Team Associated RC-10CE.

This car lives up to Associated pursuit of perfection. This one is very up gradible. This car requires a controller, battery, and charger. \$114.99

Team Losi Junior Two. This car is a good start up car but it is not very up gradible. This car requires a controller, electronic speed control, motor, battery, and charger. \$69.99

ELECTRIC OFF ROAD TRUCKS

Kyosho Pro-XRT Sport. Just like the Pro-X, this truck is a very good race truck. And it is very up gradible. This requires a controller, speed controller, motor, battery, and charger. \$119.99

Team Associated RC10ST. This truck is almost identical to the team truck, except it has a bushing version of the Stealth Transmission. This also has full bushings instead of bearings. This is the most up gradible truck around. The truck requires a controller, 48 pitch pinion, battery, and charger. \$119.99

Team Losi Junior T. Just like the Junior Two, except it is a truck. This is not up gradible, but it is a good start for a good price. This truck requires a controller, electronic speed control, motor, battery and charger. \$75.99

These are just a few suggestions if you want to get into RC cars. These are economical. The good thing about the sport version of a team car is that it helps you develop your driving skills, and they are up gradible to the team version. If you are curious and want to find out more, check R/C Car Action, the Bible of R/C cars. Extra Hint: Most hobby stores offer combo deals, check it out you. Usually, you can get a whole kit for under \$300.

Kickin' it up

By Mary Merrick

Western hats, boots, a dance floor, and teenagers: this is what the first and last Sunday night of each month is like at the Silver Saddle in Hoffman Estates.

From five to ten on these evenings, teenagers are welcome to spend time with friend while listening mostly to country music and getting free informal line dancing lessons on the side which is all covered in a mere three dollar cover charge.

Common dances which repeat through the evening include the Sleazy Slide, Tush Push, and the Chatahoochie Chooch. These names to many have no bearing on how to do the specific dances. "The dances are difficult to keep up with if you

don't know what you're doing," says senior Joe Nicoloff.

The Silver Saddle though small in size is rich in comfortable atmosphere. No one sticks out. Some are dressed to the hilt when it comes to western fashion while others come in whatever they feel is appropriate.

To the every day average high school student, listening to country crooners may not be the ideal way to spend a Sunday evening. However, once you try it, you might surprise yourself. Sophomore Bear Ayala said "It's like an addicting drug. Go once and you're hooked." Nicoloff agrees, "I didn't think I'd like line dancing because I don't like country music, but it turned out

to be something that was enjoyable."

And don't be concerned with not knowing how to do the dances. Usually for each song there is someone who leads and helps beginners on how to follow along. It's an experience that can be frustrating yet fun and good exercise too.

If you decide to check out the Silver Saddle, remember to wear shoes that are pleasant to look at because you will most likely spend the evening staring down at your feet to make sure you're doing the right steps. And why not? It's your feet doing all the work. Give them a chance to shuffle on down to teen night and let them strut their stuff.

The birds are coming!

By Kim Freimuth

Can you smell the fresh spring air? Can you hear the birds chirping? Can you wait for Spring Break? Are you preparing yourself for the week long experience away from school?

Many of the students here at Community High School await the moment when the final bell rings on Friday the 24th of March at 3:25 p.m. When the second the bell rings, where will everyone go? What will people be up to? What dreams do you have about that certain special vacation place in your heart?

Some students already know where their dream vacation during the week would be! "I want go to Ft. Lauderdale because it's sunny there," Junior Jim Lakomecki stated with enthusiasm.

Speaking, of the sun, soon the clear skies, and bright sunny days will arrive! Some people will love fun in the

toasty sun, while others will miss the freezing weather.

It seems a lot of people are wishing for the things that they treasure most. "I would love to go to Mexico," explained Senior Ana Espino.

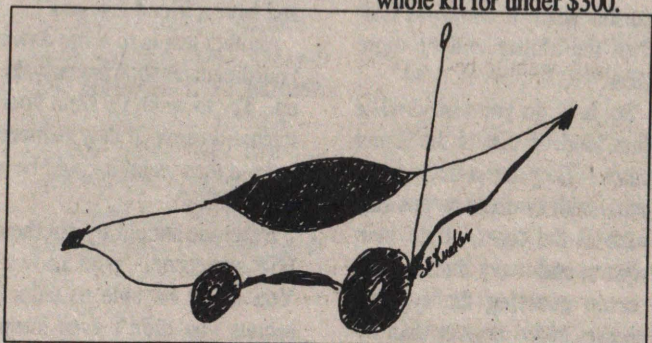
Besides dreaming, some people can't wait to begin their week off by doing the things that come easy to them. For example, sleeping. Senior, Bergen Mack explained "I hope to sleep a lot, though I'll probably end up working." Yes, work does seem to be a problem in doing the things we enjoy. Hopefully, this week off will seem like it's lasting forever.

A week off means, yes it's party-time, but also it means being away from the many stresses in our lives. Some people may just like to relax, watch television, or enjoy the freedom. "I'll be able to have more freedom, more sleep,

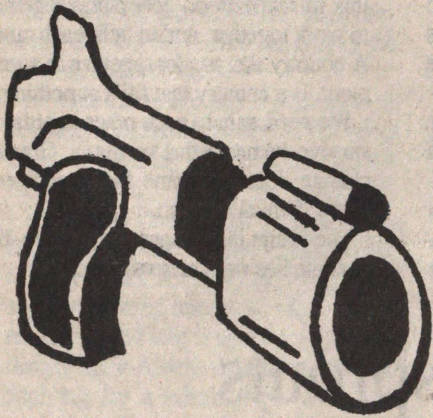
and no alarm clocks," said Freshman Laura Kramer.

Believe it or not? Even teachers like the idea of a week off. "It's about time to do nothing," stated English teacher Greg Leitner. The irony in this statement seems to portray that teachers look forward to breaks just as we do. Some teachers are different, in that they'd rather play a more active role during the break. "I'm going to coach baseball, and hope it doesn't rain," says Tim Courtney.

Whatever you may be doing over the week long break, try to enjoy it the best way you can. If your sleepy, don't let anything stop you. Sleep, relax, but most of all enjoy it the best you can, for it will all end, April 3rd!



Gun control: the pros and the cons



By Blanca Rios

A 19-year-old male, Willie Taylor, was killed in Los Angeles, when two men fired 34 shots from AK-47 assault rifles into a crowd of youths.

There are many examples like the one above, thanks to guns in general. Incidents like these wouldn't happen if there were simply no guns in the world.

If you haven't heard already, guns have already reached numbers of schools. It was stated in the Chicago Tribune that some 62 weapons were recovered in or near Chicago public school grounds in the 1994 school year, and almost 100 students were arrested for having one.

There is no use for young children and teenagers having guns at all. Some of these students may not even know how to use them, and why should they need them at school. Isn't education the purpose of school?

Teenagers complain about having metal detectors as they come into their school, but there wouldn't be a problem if teenagers or children simply did not have guns.

Many argue that the 2nd amendment gives you the right to own a gun. American Government teacher Steve Arnold, who is absolutely in favor of gun control, corrects that by saying the 2nd amendment does not give authority to own or not own a gun.

The amendment was in effect when it was introduced but it is no longer, and people still try to use the excuse.

Right now the only need for guns is for the police force. If you face reality there are guns, so it wouldn't do any good if our police force didn't have any guns.

Arnold said, "It is necessary that the police force have guns now, but if society was unarmed than the police force could be unarmed."

That is a simple fact that could some day be true.

As for protection, what protection? Why have one in your home? Why risk killing your loved ones?

There are other ways to protect yourself. Try mace, it may hurt for a while but if you did spray a loved one, that loved one is still alive.

When reading this article you might think, so what can we do? Any solution right now is going to take a lot of time.

If it was up to Arnold, the solution would be an enactment of legislation that would enforce strict laws on the sale, ownership, and distribution of guns.

I understand when people feel that guns are not the cause of all deaths, but they obviously kill people. Isn't that enough? It is an actual object that is made to kill someone.

What's next little three year olds with uzies.

By Nunzio Castellano

When asked to write an article for the Wildcat Chronicle pertaining to gun control, I agreed for the purpose of stating my opposition of anti-gun legislation. More importantly, I saw it as an opportunity to inform you, the student body of West Chicago high School and future decision makers of our great country, on the importance of retaining the right to bear arms.

I've done much research on this topic and have listened to arguments supporting both sides of the issue only to come to the conclusion that banning guns is completely illogical and ridiculous, not to mention an infringement on our rights as citizens of the United States.

I'm sure many of you are inclined to say that banning guns is the solution to America's violent crime problem, but I beg to differ.

If a law went into effect banning guns I'm positive that many of the lawful owners of firearms would turn in their weapons to the proper authorities. The key phrase here is "lawful." These citizens, including myself, are not the ones causing the problems.

Gun bans would, in fact, attack the wrong element. How could we possibly expect criminals, who are already breaking set laws, to turn in their illegally obtained firearms and give up their newly acquired advantage over the law abiding population who would then lack proper means of self-defense? I should hope that I don't need to explain the answer to you.

I say "illegally obtained firearms" due to the results of a 1992 federal survey which concluded that 37 percent of armed criminals bought their guns from colleagues on the street who obtained the firearms through illegal means. 34 percent said that they "ripped off" the guns themselves.

That adds up to an astounding 71 percent of armed criminals obtaining their guns in a manner which gun control laws would have absolutely no impact. That's an interesting fact when you cons

ider there are already over twenty thousand of these laws in the books at the present time.

By now I'm sure all of you, well I hope at least some of you, are wondering what my ideas are as to halting America's violent crime problem.

In my opinion, gun control is not the answer, rather controlling the criminals misusing their guns. I side with views expressed by Mark Bandow of the "Union Leader" when he said, "The slogan, 'Guns don't kill people, people kill people,' may be simplistic, but it's basically accurate. The one out of 400 gun owners who abuses his weapon should be punished, not the other law abiding 399."

He also said, "Indeed cars kill 50,000 people a year: should they be outlawed? Alcohol is actually involved in more homicides than are pistols. The solution, of course, is to hold drunks accountable for their actions, not to renew prohibition." There is no need for me to expound on these undeniably true statements, for they're self explanatory.

As long as I'm alive in this country I'm going to protect my freedoms to the fullest extent possible. I hope you decide to do the same.



Curfews are no good

by Kim Freimuth

"You have to be home by 10:00!" Do these words sound familiar to you? If so, you understand the agitation of being in the middle of a great time with friends, and then POW! "Well, sorry guys I have to go home now."

As long as you "live to have fun" you can understand the urge to be out late with friends. It is a clear fact that police officers don't always agree with us either. Why? As Officer Quarto explains what the judge would say. "There's no reason why kids should be out after the enforced law." In other words, us teens under seventeen are to be home by 11:00 p.m. on weeknights, but can be out until 12:00 p.m. on weekends.

"I like having no curfew because it lets me do a lot more things," explained one freshman.

It seems to me kids today are getting away with too many things that are becoming major hazards to communities.

Some parents of these teens are accepting their wants to stay out late. What happens when parents give in? Half the

teens probably behave, while the other half you could picture committing crimes.

Because people hold many different views, we can assume some people trust only the mature responsible teens for a "midnight cruise." (those of course who hold drivers licenses)

I believe some of our very own seniors understand this. "Curfews are important, but I just don't want one." This explanation given by a senior shows just how bad the urges to be independent, and be out without a curfew really are.

What I have noticed as I talk to more teens here at school is that everyone most likely wants to stay out as late as their parents will allow them to. "I don't want a curfew because it gives people more freedom." This proves hardly anyone really wants to stay home and do homework, or certain chores around the house.

Curfews, are good enough to stop crimes, but don't satisfy teens needs to be out as late as they please. I believe a curfew should not be given to a mature responsible young adult.

Aids: bringing out the human

By Laura Torrey

I used to think that AIDS (Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome) is something you only hear in the news or it only happens to other families, but I found out that I was wrong.

Recently, I had bad news when I found out that a person real close to me had AIDS. How is anyone suppose to take this news?

AIDS is a disease that is killing thousands of people today.

AIDS isn't exactly the axe that kills people, it actually breaks down your immune system so that your body can't fight the viruses that are in your body, making you defenseless.

Most people believe that you can contract AIDS by kissing and touching, etc., when in reality it is totally untrue.

The most important thing to me right now is to spend time with my relative who has AIDS.

I'm not worried about getting AIDS, I'm only worried of not being there to spend the last years with him.

When I first heard the news, it was shocking and I didn't really want to believe it.

But, then when I thought about it, it all is clear to me that this disease is real. Someone I actually know is dying of it.

"If you know someone with AIDS, don't think lesser of them," says senior Tita Arroyo. "Treat them like you use to, don't treat them like they are a bad person."

It's a little uneasy at first when you are around them because you do not know what to expect.

But, think how they must feel knowing that they only have a few years left.

They are humans just like you and me, so they should be treated as equals.

These are the last years of their life, and being scared of them will just make their body worse.

The only way to get this disease is by having sex with an infective person, sharing a needle, a blood transfusion, or by a pregnant woman to her child.

So, if you plan on doing any of these things with a person you know who has AIDS, I'd be a little scared to be around them too.

Just talking to them and being there is enough to make them happy. Just show them that you care.

AIDS is a very scary word. As you hear it, it kind of makes you quiver. This is normal.

The way that I think of it is that we all are going to die someday.

We are dying right now as we speak, but some are dying at a faster rate than others.

So, in a way, AIDS is kind of like a catalyst (something that speeds up a chemical reaction). It just makes us die a little faster.

AIDS is very frightening disease that someday will be cured.

But, right now in our darkest hour, there is someone who has it, and needs some support from a very special person.

That special person may be you.

Conformed to be born

By Jeff Hadzima

Over the years, separation has become the "in" thing to do. More and more people have moved away from the norm and have started their own cult of differences.

These are the people who fight for change, or refuse to contribute something that they are so much against. They refuse to take part in something that is against their morals. In the 60's and 70's, the Vietnam war protesters were transformed under this category. The separation began here, and they let the world know of a revolution that was taking place. They moved in the idea that killing brings people farther way from humanity.

These were young adults who believed that the war in Vietnam was just senseless killing. Some even went against what they believed and fought, only because the government made them. Some lost their lives, while others lost their minds. They came back from Vietnam as different people, and their experience was like no other generation had faced.

This era wanted change, and they wanted to move away from what had been learned. The differences just got greater and greater, and a huge generation gap took place. The gap still re-

mains, with the offspring of the Vietnam era.

This generation has been labeled as the MTV generation, and they have been branded as the "slacker" generation. Generation X is the widely used name, due to unknown direction that it is going. This generation is the one of the future, yet the future isn't so bright.

This is the generation that is separated the most. Many different branches extend from this misunderstood group. The gap of differences extends across the country. From the heated racial problems to the wide division of political views, there is no love

between the different sides. The future does not look good, because nothing is being done about this separation that scars the youth of this nation.

It is time to change this. We must bring this misunderstood generation together, to work together, and to help each other. A country that works together in agreement, is a country that fails at nothing.

We need to help each other in order to survive the future that awaits us. Granted change does not come fast, but it will come if we allow it to.

The future may sound so far away, but our fate lies right around the corner.

Meat and pork vs. asparagus and sprouts

By Sara Kueker

When I think about my being a vegetarian (well, actually, I'm a lacto-ovo-vegetarian) a quote by George Bernard Shaw comes to mind.

He said: "Animals are my friends...and I don't eat my friends." So, now when anybody asks me why I became one, I tell them that quote. They get the picture.

A stereotype about vegetarians is that we're all "tofuheads" who are out to rid the world of all animal products. That's so wrong.

There are a variety of reasons that people may not eat meat. Maybe they don't like the taste. Maybe it's for health reasons. Or maybe they just don't like the idea of raising Bossie's cooked flesh between two buns to their lips and chowing down.

For many it's dead animals. The food industry knows that "meat" sounds better on a package than the words "dead animal."

In an average American meat-eater's life, they consume 1 calf, 3 lambs, 11 cows, 23 hogs, 45 turkeys, 1,097 chickens, and 15,665 chicken eggs. These people might as well go down to the barn and just shove 23 Wibur's in their mouths. It'd go much faster.

-20% of factory or farm hens die of stress or disease. -80% of poultry are given antibiotics.

-Half the chickens sold in the U.S. are infected with salmonella.

-70% of pigs are constantly confined all their lives.

-30% of pork products are contaminated with toxoplasmosis.

-Cows lose 9% of their body weight during transportation.

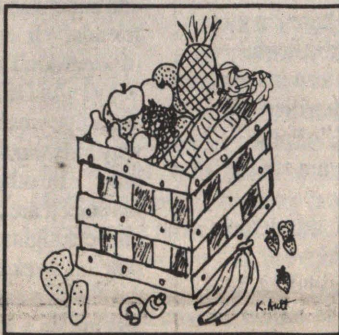
-60% of cows are given antibiotics regularly.

-1 out of 10 calves die of confinement.

If more people would look into reducing their meat intake, the world would be a better place. The meat industry causes overgrazing, water pollution, topsoil erosion, and rainforest destruction.

Meat eaters use 50 times more fossil fuels than vegetarians. An acre of trees is saved for every vegetarian every year. Between 1960 and 1985, 40% of

Central American rainforest was cut down to make room for cattle grazing. People would also reduce human hunger. It takes 16 pounds of grain to make just 1 pound of beef. U.S. livestock eats enough grain each year to feed 5 times the U.S. population. That's 1.3 billion people. If people reduced their meat consumption by 10%, there would be 12 million more tons of grain to feed humans.



It is proven that vegetarians are healthier than meat-eaters. Eating meat is linked to heart disease, cancer, diabetes, arthritis, and osteoporosis.

Health risks are also increased by chemicals, antibiotics, and hormones put in meat. There is a 90% reduced risk of a heart attack if you are a vegetarian.

If I haven't already scared you enough, it's not too late to turn back. The trick to being a vegetarian is starting out gradually. And there are many types of vegetarians too.

Total vegetarians eat only plant foods. Vegans eat only plant foods and don't wear or buy products made from animals.

Lacto-vegetarians drink milk. Lacto-ovo-vegetarians eat dairy products and eggs.

Pesco-vegetarians eat fish. And pollo-vegetarians eat poultry, but no "red meat."

So with whatever way you choose to go, remember that of the 15 million vegetarians in the U.S., every one of them has the right to be a vegetarian.

Don't let anybody tell you otherwise. Hey, if you are one, you join the ranks with such famous vegetarians as Socrates, Plato, Leonardo de Vinci, Leo Tolstoy, Sir Isaac Newton, George Bernard Shaw, Henry David Thoreau, Gandhi, Paul Newman, Bob Dylan, the B-52's, and Madonna.

They all took a stand and look where they are now.

The concert you should've been to

By Robert Hernandez

There's people on the stage ready to preform, they've been practicing and working hard for about two months. Dressed and ready to go, they start to get nervous that they have to sing on stage. They start to walk slowly, stepping up to the risers. They look out into the audience, but the auditorium is empty. It's a choir concert, and no one is there.

Well let me tell you a choir concert is a night that all the choirs (Freshman choir, Sophomore choir, and Concert Choir) get together on a night and preform the music that they've been learning for about two months or so.

For most of you reading this it's probably the first time since you've heard of this kind of thing.

These choirs have lots of talent and are very good, but who supports them? Family and some teachers, and that's about it. Hardly any of the student body. There's more students at a pep assembly than a concert, especially if it's mandatory. I'm not saying that the Choir Concerts should be mandatory, just that more students should come.

The choirs that we have at this school have some very good singers. I should know I'm in the Concert Choir, the names

that come to my mind are Mike Clifford, Mike Selk, Brandon Fantozzi, Chris Lacour, Melissa Pagnozzi, and Sarah Arthur, and there's lots more that I didn't name. I bet you know someone in a choir and didn't even know it.

These people work hard and like everybody else expect to be congratulated.

Some of you may think that they should publicize more, then maybe people would show up. Well let me tell you something it's been done. They have had announcements about all the concerts. They just don't get enough recognition. They also put up a cornucopia of fliers all over the place, and still no one comes.

"It's just part of our culture that our society supports sports, and choirs are unheard of," stated Mrs. Sirvatka. I would have to agree, but lets just get right to the point I want to see more students at Choir Concerts.

Well the only way I'm going to do that is to just convince you to go. Well, look at it this way, it's free, yes I said free entertainment.

You also get to see friends that you know, or acquaintances sing in front of you. You may think that they are not good but come to at least one concert and see for yourself. One more point that I would like to make is that one of these talented people could become a famous singer, and you could say that you heard them when they were younger.

Their last concert was Thursday the 23rd at 7:30 in the auditorium. You only have two more chances to catch the sounds of the choirs, one is the Fox Valley Music Festival the 24th of April which is hosted here. Another is the last of this school year in May. So stay tuned for the exact times and dates. When you pass the band and choir rooms and you hear music stop and listen on how hard the choirs are working.

Come and hear the music and keep on supporting them next year. "A grounding in the arts will help our children to see; to bring a uniquely human perspective to science and technology.

In short it will help them as they grow smarter to also grow wiser." Stated Robert E. Allen, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, AT&T Corporation, in "America's Culture Begins with Education."

Wildcat Chronicle

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The Wildcat Chronicle is the student newspaper at 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 321. Letters to the editor should be signed if they would like to be printed. The paper has the right to exclude any letters that are inappropriate or will not fit in a particular issue.

The Wildcat Chronicle is a forum for freedom of expression and encourages readers to express their views and thoughts.

Affirmative Action: Problems and solutions

Affirmative action is discrimination

By Matt Wehling

Affirmative action is a system that gives minorities a distinct advantage in the job market and the educational field. It gives the "disadvantaged minorities" an opportunity that the white race has had in the areas mentioned above.

Reverse discrimination is a fair term to describe Affirmative Action. This issue is one that clearly discriminates against the white race.

I reject this idea because of the reasons behind its existence. If two students were to apply for a scholarship there would be some interesting outcomes. Let's say a student named Jake is white, another student, Mike, is African American, both are applying for a scholarship. Jake has worked hard in high school and has a 3.8 grade point average and scored a 31 on his ACT. Mike has also worked hard, but only managed to get a 3.0 grade point average and a 25 on his ACT.

It is clear which student, in this example, is more qualified for the scholarship than the other. When the council had to pick the winner they looked over the applications and saw that Jake was white and Mike was African American. Through that piece of information the decision has been made; Mike will be the recipient of the scholarship because of the great system known as Affirmative Action.

This is unfortunately a common occurrence in the educational field as well as the job market.

The University of Texas law school had an incident involving Affirmative Action. "Four white students who applied to the law school at the University of Texas, and were turned down, sued because minority students with lesser credentials were admitted," said Thomas Sowell in an issue of "Forbes" magazine, the students challenged the system.

The students won the case because the admissions program violated the 14th amendments requirement of equal protection under the law. Later the article referred to the minority students in the school.

"One of the most unpleasant facts of all is that minority students admitted with lower qualifications fail to graduate more often than students admitted under normal standards, whether these latter students are black or white. Those who do graduate tend to come in at the bottom of their class. Yet supposedly responsible adults seriously believe that this makes for better race relationships."

This says that what the government is trying to accomplish isn't working.

When applying for colleges, most seniors know that if you are a minority you have a distinct advantage. Minorities can have lower grade point averages and lower ACT scores and still enter a college. The reason behind this is that these minorities have not had the educational advantages that many white students have.

If a white student takes the same test and gets a better score than a minority student, then it is obvious who should receive the scholarship or be admitted into a certain school. This act is a crime to the white race.

As a white male, I am at the bottom of the line, as far as benefits from affirmative action is concerned.

"Affirmative Action does not play a role in hiring here at all. I think the system disturbs peoples self-esteem who may think they are employed because of race only," said Ms. Debbie Edwards, head of the personnel department at Pheasant Run.

The point brought up is certainly a valid one. Minorities will be hired knowing that because of their skin color they got the job. They will know that there were other people better qualified for the job but were denied it because they were white.

If we as a country are for equal rights, then lets have equal rights.

"You should never treat a person differently because of their skin color." This is a saying that I have heard countless times.

Too bad affirmative action does exactly the opposite.

A chance is a terrible thing to waste

By Joseph Sosnowski

"If the white male can be made angry enough, he will forget the fact that conservatives have traditionally represented the interests of big business and not those of the middle or working classes. If he can be made fearful enough, he will ignore the reports that American industry is reaping most of the benefits of low inflation and interest rates." -Rovana J. Popoff, Chicago Tribune-

California: the sun drenched palm trees, the balmy beaches, long haired hippie beach bums, the scorching sun, Proposition 187, really uncool natural disasters, and now Affirmative Action.

For all those who were trapped in a vacuum since birth and don't know what Affirmative action is let me inform you. In all simplicity, it requires companies, businesses, schools, and government agencies to have a certain percentage of minorities working or attending.

Forexample: A young black man living on the poor South side of Chicago received C's throughout his school life. A young white man living in a rich white suburb of DuPage received B's throughout school.

Affirmative Action says the black male should have the edge, when it comes to college admission, over the white male who wants to go to the same college? Many say no. I say nothing, but my article isn't over yet so I have time to offer a solution.

The idea started in California politics and is spreading: Maybe minorities shouldn't have a chance and Affirmative Action should be abolished. Besides, the opponents say, Affirmative Action really doesn't help.

Many white males complain that Affirmative Action is just reverse discrimination and there is no reason for giving minorities preferential treatment. But let's keep in mind some facts.

Unemployment rates for blacks are over twice that of whites who make considerably more. The median income for a white male is about \$21,000, white females bring in \$10,000, black males:

\$13,000, and Hispanic males: \$14,000. This means that the average black male only makes 60% of what the average white male makes.

Fantastic! I guess opponents to Affirmative Action are right, minorities really don't have it that bad. Whites almost making twice that of blacks seems fair enough. Maybe if you're a racist pork product, but not if you're a human being.

I agree with angry white children, I mean men, who have nothing better to complain about when they say there are problems with Affirmative Action. Case in point: Piscataway school district.

There were two female teachers in the business department who had almost identical credentials and equal experience. One had to be cut due to financial constraints. One was white, one was black. The choice was easy, the white lady was hasta lavista.

As much as I support making up for past racial crimes, I acknowledge that people are people and decisions should not be based on race as they were in this case. Instead of deciding it the way Piscataway did, I say it's time for a solution.

Joe Solution Method: Change the requirements from percentage of minorities to percentage of poor.

For example colleges that need minorities to fill requirements would now have to find those with poor backgrounds or those who are poor and give them the tilt of the hat instead.

This way you please all the rich white whiners who think they're being stiffed some how while those for Affirmative Action will be happy because the poorest of our country are still largely minorities and they would be receiving well deserved help.

In the words of a non-famous philosopher, "Steal from the rich, give to the poor." I totally disagree with this but at the very least you could help the poor just a little more than the rich.

After all, there's nothing wrong with a little sacrifice, and I don't mean animal or human rituals.

West Chicago's unjust foreign policy

By Dan Vock

Usually, good things happen when eager students and determined teachers are combined. Sometimes, however, circumstances play games with the system and teachers eager to teach get too eager for other teachers.

Let me explain. If a student chooses to take a rigorous course load of science, math, government, foreign language, and English (oops, can't forget gym), she will take field trips in most of these classes.

Whenever she misses a foreign language class, however, she will automatically lose participation points (without hope of ever making them up) for every day she misses.

That remains true whether she were taking French, German, or Spanish.

The underlying motive of this policy is to encourage students to come to class. This is especially important when learning to speak a foreign language, because there are few opportunities outside of class to practice speaking a foreign language.

Unlike math or science, students can't bring home a few materials and practice speaking a foreign language; unlike English, students can't practice speaking a foreign language with just about anyone. Class time, therefore, is especially crucial in foreign language classes.

That is the rationale for the policy that punishes students for learning in classes other than foreign language—students like Rachel Power. Every time that Power goes to a government simulation, her foreign language grade drops.

She doesn't have much say in the matter. Her government grade depends heavily on her performance in those simulations. Her foreign language grade depends on her attendance of class. Since they are scheduled at the same time, Power, like many other foreign language students, is caught in a Catch 22.

She must choose between two unique experiences that cannot be replicated. Realizing that a day's worth of participation in her foreign language class is far less than a large portion of her government grade, Power opted for the government simulation.

If she does this enough, her foreign language grade will suffer. A dedicated and responsible student, Power asked her teacher how these points will affect her grade.

The teacher says not to worry about it—it takes thirteen to fifteen days (depending on the teacher) of missed class to "significantly affect" her grade (i.e. a drop of ten percentage points), and who misses thirteen days of class anyway?

A dedicated student would. Power spent a week visiting colleges because there's more that she wants to learn than high school can offer. Five.

Within a few weeks of visiting college, Power was required to take the American High School Math Exam for her calculus class. She only missed two classes because of it—calculus and Spanish. That's day number six.

Realizing that for her other classes she would miss Spanish many more times (three days for government, an English field trip, a chemistry field trip, and up to three days for Advanced Placement tests in English, Calculus, and Chemistry—making a possible 14 days of legitimate, school-related absences from her Spanish class).

Power asked if she could make up some of the points. She couldn't.

Left with no other alternative but to be punished for participating in her other classes, Power headed to the principal's office. Jones urged her talk to Marjorie Appel, the foreign language department chairperson. She told her that "life isn't fair" and to "focus on more important things."

Obviously not satisfied, Power returned to Jones. Jones offered little solace. He assured Power, as Appel had also done,

that she would receive the higher grade. Power insisted on taking the lower grade if that is what this system would determine as her grade. Jones finally realized that we were trying to change a policy, not a grade.

Our language programs focus on speaking, he maintained, so as an overall policy "it is legitimate."

Are students supposed to prioritize classes and determine which subjects they should sacrifice grades in for grades in other classes?

Maybe, just maybe, some choose classes based on what they want to learn. It would certainly be nice if teachers encouraged students to learn as much possible about as many subjects as possible.

Instead they are punished for trying to do so.

"No matter what side I take," explained Jones, "I will be considered unreasonable."

Fortunately, after Power talked with Superintendent Joel Morris, Jones now plans to discuss the issue with the entire foreign language department.

Hopefully, they will agree on a policy that emphasizes attendance of foreign language classes without punishing those who try to learn in their other classes too.

Van Halen not off Balance

By Steve Berezney

After four years of waiting, a goateed and head shaven Eddie Van Halen and his crew are back with their new album Balance. The album has twelve songs, three of which are instrumentals.

The first song, "The Seventh Seal," starts out with a bang. It's pretty hard and sets you up for the next few songs.

The third song is the first single released and the first video made, "Don't Tell Me (What Love Can Do)". This keeps up with the beat set from the beginning and is a very strong Van Halen tune.

The next four songs are not worth listening to. The lyrics are put aside and they concentrate more on the music. They sing too fast to understand anything, almost like they are trying to cover up the weak lyrics.

Next comes "Aftershock," and this song is what Van Halen really sounds like. It's a pick me up after the last four poor songs. It's just all out hard rock.

"Baluchitherium," the tenth song called, is the only instrumental worth listening to. One of the other instrumentals was a baby grand piano being abused, while the other one was just a toy sounding like a jack-in-the-box

being played. There's not much talent involved in these. "Baluchitherium" is a guitar and drum solo that is one of the best pieces on the whole CD.

The last song, "Feelin'," is a slow song with more importance placed on the lyrics. Then, out of no where, a ripping guitar solo just tears it up for a minute. It reminds me of the



old Eddie playing a ten minute solo in front of 30,000 people. Then, just as suddenly as it started, it stopped and went back to the original beat. The guitar on this song is what

makes it so good. It is the best guitar on the album.

If you don't mind songs about love, then you shouldn't have any problems with this album, but if you despise songs about love, then you should probably stay away from Balance.

Overall, this album is decent. It is almost impossible to beat the music and success of their last album, For Unlawful Carnal Knowledge. You can tell that they didn't try to produce a carbon copy of it and just tried to play what sounded best.

Balance keeps up with the style of music that they always play, and if you like what they have done in the past, then you should definitely like this album.

Porkchops and Applesauce

By Sarah Kueker

Yes, it's those wacky Bradys invading the movie theaters. The neat thing about this movie is that it takes real scenarios from the original episodes and uses them. There's Peter's puberty, Jan's jealousy (Marcia!, Marcia!, Marcia!), Marcia's dreams of modeling, Greg's guitar, and on top of that, the Brady's are going to lose their house to become a strip mall, if they don't come up with twenty-thousand dollars. The Bradys, with the help of their maid Alice (who just happens to work for free), must struggle to save their happy home and still be bright and cheery.

However, the Bradys think and act like it's the 70's, but it's really the 90's. Sure they still have the same problems: Jan has no friends; Greg, "the Casanova of Clinton Avenue," can't get a girl (even with catchy pick up lines like "Hey there groovy Chick!"); Marcia can't decide which boy to take to the dance,

and Alice can't get Sam to marry her. All this and they only have one bathroom, with no toilet, mind you, and no one has seen their dog Tiger in years.

How will the Bradys get their house back? What will they do? Will the Brady kids save the day? Will Davy Jones perform at Marcia's dance? Will the Bradys ever get a toilet? (*note: In all the years that the Bradys have lived in their house, no one has ever seen a toilet in their bathroom.)

"The Brady Bunch Movie" is hilarious for anybody who grew up hooked on the show. It also helps that all the new Bradys are "dead ringers" for the old Bradys. The only bad thing I found was that never once in the movie did I hear Peter say "Pork chops and applesauce" in that funny Humphrey Bogart voice even though it was used frequently in the previews, but I still give this movie a groovin' thumbs up!

Girls Night Out

By Elizabeth Feltes

Boys on the Side would best be described as Thelma and Louise for the heart. Many critics have exploited the fact that this movie is about lesbians, but it really isn't. It's about friendship, love, and life.

Jane (Whoopi Goldberg) is a singer looking for work, Holly (Drew Barrymore) is living with an abusive boyfriend, and Robin (Mary-Louise Parker) is the epitome of properness.

And through pure luck, these three very different people end up in the same car headed for California. That is, after they accidentally kill Holly's boyfriend.

They finally decide to live in Tucson, Arizona after Robin falls ill. Everything seems fine until the death of Holly's boyfriend comes back to haunt the three of them and threatens to tear their friendship apart.

But the three women find the only way they can pull through it is together. All three of them learn something very important, the meaning of love.

These three actresses do a very good job in playing these diverse roles. The movie deals with many of the problems that plague our society today. It is very down to earth, which makes the ending seem so much more wonderful. It instills just a little bit more hope that love can conquer all boundaries.

The end is a definite tearjerker, as is the whole movie. There are not a lot of guys I know who would enjoy this movie, but I highly recommend seeing it with a friend. So bring a female friend, a box of Kleenex, and enjoy.

Return to Energizer

By Kristi Ault

DEFENSE SHIELD ACTIVE. ACTIVE. WARNING! WARNING! WARNING!

That is one of the phrases the laser gun says during a game of Q-ZAR.

Q-ZAR is a fast paced game of laser tag with head-quarter hits, re-energizing, de-activating the opposition, defending each base, and just trying to stay alive.

There is no limit to the number of times each player can get hit before their game is terminated, however, they must re-energize after every four times they get hit.

After a player is hit, their laser gun can't fire for six seconds. For the first three seconds, the player has an imaginary defensive shield active around them. For the last three seconds the defensive shield is de-activated, and the player can get hit again, but still cannot fire their laser gun. A player should hide during these last three seconds.

Inside the arena is a maze of padded walls and barrels, which help keep players hidden from your opponents. The arena is darkened and lit only with black fluorescent lights, which gives everything an eerie glow.

Each game of Q-ZAR lasts about 25 minutes, 15 to play the game and the remaining time in the briefing and vesting rooms.

After entering the briefing room, players meet their game marshal, the person who explains the game and the rules, offers some helpful hints, and referees the game once inside the arena.

The marshal doesn't interfere with the game but is there for supervision purposes.

The most commonly played game is Energize 4 which is a team game, so players work together with their team to achieve the highest score.

Points are scored by de-activating the opposition's base which is done by getting Head-Quarter hits, points can also be scored by shooting and neutralizing players on the other team.

Be careful. Players lose points when they get hit, or shoot one of their teammates.

Prices of Q-ZAR vary depending on memberships and holidays. The average price for a game is \$6, or a dollar less for members.

It is very easy to become a member, because memberships can be bought the first time you play. A membership costs \$10 and includes your first game, a free game in the month of your birthday, a dollar discount every time you play, and a discount off Q-ZAR merchandise.

Q-ZAR is a mid-western chain of laser tag arenas. There are national conventions and tournaments taking place every year.

The Lombard Q-ZAR sends at least one team of league members to such competitions.

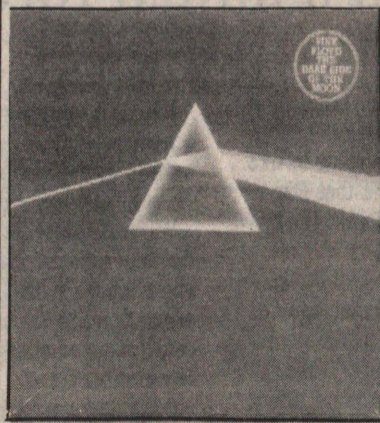
Lombard Q-ZAR is located in the eastern wing of the Enchanted Castle off Route 38, Roosevelt Road.

For further information, call Q-ZAR at (708)953-7860 ext. 120.

For Carol Stream residents, the Lakeside Q-ZAR maybe closer, off Route 20, Lake Street, at the Lakeside Bowl, Call (708)315-2568.

Classic Album of the Month

The Dark Side of the Moon



By Steve Berezney

Arguably the most popular album of all time was released by Pink Floyd in 1972 called The Dark Side of the Moon. It went on to stay on Billboard's Top 200 for fifteen years in a row and boosted the popularity of the band tremendously.

The album starts out with the sound of a heartbeat and preview of what is to come as you listen, so you hear a little bit of every song before you actually hear them.

The first song is a slow poetic song called "Speak to Me/Breathe in the Air," which is in two parts; the second part being finished after the third song.

The third song "Time," probably has the best balance between music and lyrics. It has a good story line for a song talking about how time effects your life. The solo in the middle is outstanding played by guitarist/vocalist David Gilmour.

The next song is not really a song. It's more like a highlight of the vocal range of one of the backup singers called "The Great Gig in the Sky". It gets a little annoying after a while with all of the yelling.

"Money" is one of Floyd's most popular songs, and definitely a crowd favorite at the shows. It doesn't have the greatest lyrics, but the beat is what gets everyone going. It talks about the different uses of money in our society. The saxophone solo in the middle is a classic.

Song number six is another very popular Floyd song that is the slowest song on the album called "Us and Them". This song also has a sax solo that is almost as good as the one in the previous

song. The lyrics are hard to figure out as to what the band is trying to say, if they are trying to say anything at all.

The album ends with a punch with "Eclipse". It's probably the hardest song on the entire album. After the song is over it's fades out with the same heartbeat that you heard during the first minute of the album. It starts the same and it ends the same.

Pink Floyd used a different technique that they are famous for on Dark Side, blending all the songs together. All the different songs are put together so that it seems like it is only one song. It's unique because this way the album stays consistent.

The album is still very popular today. It sells about 500,000 copies a year and that's good for an album that came out twenty-two years ago.

After listening to the album from start to finish, you kind of get a good feeling inside that is totally unexplainable. Maybe that's why this was such an enormous album. The Dark Side of the Moon doesn't contain the band's most thought provoking material lyric wise, but it is by far the most popular and a must buy for any classic rock fan.

Bye Bye Laughs

Comedy/Drama film fails to deliver

By Stacy Shannon

Very possibly, the most mediocre film out there. This movie was compiled with no plot and pure stupidity.

The one good thing about this movie was the acting involved. They did very well with the script they were given. Paul Reiser (*Mad About You*), Matthew Modine (*Gross Anatomy*), and Randy Quaid (*Of Mice and Men*) play Donnie, Dave and Vic, three ex-husbands who are best friends.

They spend the entire movie resolving harsh feelings in their families, and lusting for what they don't have. The rest of the time, they argue and yell at their bratty kids.

In perhaps the stupidest moment in the movie, Vic breaks

into a radio station, beats up the disc jockey, and then gets his own show. Did I miss something?

The "moral of the story" is how divorces strain relationships with children and how you should love them no matter what. What it actually seems like is: forget your children, find someone new.

The actual problems with the kids aren't resolved until the radio station incident and when Donnie's 14 year old daughter driving drunk.

The object of the movie was to rely on comedy to support it in the box office. Well, one thing, the humor stinks. If you want to see Reiser do comedy, watch *Mad About You*.

The New Alternative

By Elizabeth Feltes

Christian music is definitely picking up steam. In order to understand why all these people are listening to Christian music, you have to understand what Christian music is. It's not a bunch of hymnals and psalms, but rather talented musicians who choose to spread the Word through song.

"People think Christian music is a style like country or rap," says Rob Krystal, a youth minister at a local church, "but it's more of a heading. You have your secular [i.e. the music you hear on most radio stations] music, and you have Christian music."

A lot of people sell this music far too short. They have already made up their minds as to what it's like. A lot of the earlier and more well known Christian music is more slow and soft like Amy Grant or Steven Curtis Chapman. But it doesn't just stop there. There is everything from rap, industrial, country, new age, alternative, folk, heavy metal, dance and pop. But they all have a common theme, their words praise God.

"I listen to Christian Music because it lifts my spirits," said Sean Brennan. "I especially like rock groups like *Petra* and *Guardian*," said Brennan.

And a lot of the groups would never even seem like Christian groups if you just look at the titles. Who would ever think of a song by *Under Midnight* called "Do Androids Dream of Electronic Sheep?" or *Newsboys* lyrics like, "I am the voice of the male agenda, sensitive strong or shy I tend to, act anyway that would possibly send you, somewhere we can be alone," as having a Christian theme?

But why do people turn it off so easily?

"Anything having to do with Christ or church tends to scare off a lot of people," says Krystal.

But if you think about it, just because a group doesn't proclaim itself as a "Christian" group, doesn't mean they can't or won't sing about God.

You probably won't find a lot of Christian groups at the music store in the mall, but any Christian bookstore like Lemstone's or more special-

ized stores like True Tunes Etc. in Wheaton carry just about anything you could want. One of the clerks at True Tunes, Louise, said that a dominant part of their customers are teenagers.

"We have a more laid back attitude and I think that's what attracts teenagers to our store," said Louise. "We have all the different types of Christian Music and they realize that there is more than Amy Grant, Twila Paris, and Michael W. Smith. They can find a type of music they can relate to and grow with."

Probably one of the most popular Christian radio stations on the air is WCFL 104.7. Wheaton and Judson College host artists year round and you can buy tickets for as low as \$8. True Tunes is also beginning to hold concerts, "upstairs."

Jenni Sulak, a sophomore who listens to Christian music says she listens to it for the feeling she gets from it. "It's good music, it's not gospel or psalms. It could be compared to everyone else's music. It's just another style."

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Mastermind

By Stacy Shannon

Dean R. Koontz is one of the greatest horror authors, and should be known as the "Master of Horror," instead of Stephen King. (While King writes a few horror novels, like *It*, and *Pet Semetary*.) Most of his novels are more like thrillers, such as *Misery*, *The Stand*, *FireStarter*, and *Cujo*.

All of Koontz's books are pure horror. Each one has a new creature or monster after the protagonist.

Recently, his novel *Hideaway* was made into a movie (starring Jeff Goldblum, and video girl Alicia Silverstone), and here are just a few other great books he has written.

Phantoms, is the story of a small town that is totally wiped out by a mysterious creature. There are only two survivors in the village, and each inhabitant was killed different. Some had their heads chopped off, and their heads are found in the oven. Some are mysteriously squeezed to death. In trying to destroy the creature, they discover that it is responsible for all the mysterious incidents in history. It is my favorite of all of his books.

Watchers, which has been made into three movies, was totally trashed in the film versions. The story of a laboratory experiment involving a dog and a biological monster gone wrong. There is a fire at the lab, and the two creatures escape. The dog is overly intelligent, while the monster is a killing

machine. The book covers the people that the two creatures come in contact with, the monster killing everything in its path.

The Bad Place is the story of a guy who wakes up in an alley, doesn't remember his name, where he is, or how he got there. The story evolves with the guy trying to remember who he is, and deal with strange things that are happening to him. When he finds his family, he also has to deal with them and his urge to kill them, while strange things continue to happen to him. (Including cockroaches growing out of his hand.)

One of the only thrillers he has ever written is *The Vision*. Basically, it is the story of one of those psychics who track serial killers with the police. The only problem is that she has to also deal with haunting nightmares and has to put her past behind her, and in the meantime (surprisingly) the killer comes after her. It was a pretty good book, but not one of his best works.

Koontz isn't as popular as King, but his works show that he has as much as, if not more talent than the author of *The Shining*. The best thing about Koontz is that he can crank out a few books a year that are of good quality, unlike King who has maybe one book a year and daudles before starting his next "masterpiece." How many years have we been waiting for the sequel to *The Wastelands*?

Poetry

Demons

By Jeff Nyman

the demons open their eyes
searching for the irresolute
souls
which yearn to be taken in
the demons open their
claws
feeling for the feeble souls
which search for comcrt
shelter
the demons offer the pitiful
souls
a chance at an effortless
existence
life without pain heartache
and grief
the demons tempt the souls
with a savior
no more conflict no more
pain no more sin
just to follow the demons
into eternal salvation
the souls accept the offer
of an easy life
life of promiscuity and
guiltless affairs
tumbling through everyday
in altered consciousness
the souls take in the life of
mindless tasks
working with ambitionless
efficiency
blind to the world around
them
the souls know none other
than this
not realizing the magnitude
of their decision
waiting for the day of
salvation promised to them
the souls never see

Alive

By Carrie DeBlecourt

I can see you,
and hear you
you are still
a part of
me.
Never leaving me,
always here.
I can feel your
presence,
hear your song,
living through
us,
lasting forever,
eternally alive.

West Chicago

By Dan Vock

i follow the railroad tracks
into town
follow the cold steel into
gray sky and gray town
into deep black night so blue
into the town weeping blue

i start the journey home
out of town
cold steel backbone
of a blue and gray town
clanking lonely tone
walking with others; still alone

i follow blue and gray skies
right through town
i try to disguise
the blue and gray i found
walking the straight railroad ties
all the world cold without lies

Untitled

By Katie Nolan

I drink the Earth dry.
You shield yourself behind
your war
I satisfy you with the pain
you deserve
you cry out for more.
I relinquish your mind from its
polluted cage.
you beat the shadows of
dread back
I force the clouds upon you.
You push against the hands
of confinement.
I defy you the right.
You lose your wish.
I enforce the remedy.

Cry

By Stacy Shannon

Eternally blooming,
Heavenly angel,
look down on me.
Send me your love,
do not worry,
as I cry.
It's just my way,
to say
Goodbye.

If you have any poetry
you'd like to submit, please
contact Stacy Shannon, or
Steve Berezney.

Silent Killer

Outbreak cleans up at box office

By Stacy Shannon

Picture this, you are silently infected with a mysterious disease. The only problem is, after taking 24 hours to attack your immune system, in a total of 8 more hours your internal organs will have been dissolved.

In Warner Brothers newest venture, this is just the scenario. Only this virus is so contagious that the death count would be in double digits by the end of the day. Plus, it cannot be contained. Thus the title, *Outbreak*.

Enter expert bacteriologists Sam Daniels, and his ex-wife Robby, who are enveloped in problem after problem, including military intervention. They don't know where the disease started, there is no cure, it is spreading fast, and there are two strains of the virus.

Outbreak presents a situation that is plausible, and if you think about it, scary. This virus is deadlier than A.I.D.S., and is far more devastating. In

the movie, it would take only 36 hours for everyone in the United States to have contracted the virus.

Directed by Wolfgang Petersen (*In the Line of Fire*, *The Neverending Story*), and starring Dustin Hoffman (Daniels, *Rain Man*), Rene Russo (*In the Line of Fire*, *Lethal Weapon 3*), and Morgan Freeman, this movie is well directed, acted, and written. All the actors give excellent performances.

Gene Siskel and various other critics didn't like it, but I've always wondered if they are actually awake during the movie. It sure seems like it, especially with this film. It is a strong movie though, and I suggest that you don't over look it. You can't miss.

Outbreak also stars Cuba Gooding Jr. (*Gladiator*), Patrick Dempsey (*Can't Buy Me Love*, *With Honors*), and Donald Sutherland.

Hollywood Moves to Chicago



By Jennifer Wagenaar

Planet Hollywood has become one of Chicago's hottest places to dine. Mainly because of its unique look and taste, people from all over the Chicago area come to visit this exciting restaurant.

Located in the heart of downtown Chicago on the corner of Ontario and Wells street, Planet Hollywood has something to offer for everyone. What can be expected is a variety of food, entertainment, and a wild atmosphere.

Planet Hollywood is owned by the well known Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sylvester Stallone, Bruce Willis, and Demi Moore who's restaurant is decorated to please the eyes of many who come to dine there.

Be prepared to enter into the world of entertainment when walking through the doors of Planet Hollywood. Almost

every well known movie that has ever been made are on the walls or the huge T.V. screens in the restaurant.

For the lovers of *The Terminator*, a waxed statue of Arnold Schwarzenegger is displayed, and the dress worn by Demi Moore in the movie *Indecent Proposal*, is also displayed.

The Chucky doll from *Child's Play*, Freddy Kreuger's shirt and glove from *A Nightmare on Elm Street*, one of the Turtles from *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, and the costume of Chewbacca from *Star Wars* are just a few things that can be seen at Planet Hollywood.

Dinner is always a show for those who eat here. From time to time, there is a movie shown on the big T.V. screens and no one will be able to miss it because it is played very loud and every way you turn there is a T.V. screen.

Service is very good, and fast at Planet Hollywood. The waiters and waitresses are very friendly, and are willing to do whatever they can to make their customers happy.

There is a variety of food to choose from—salads, burgers, sandwiches, pastas, dishes, and deserts. The drinks they have to offer are named from movies, so be sure to read the explanation before choosing one. One of their drinks is called the Terminator (I wonder why).

For a restaurant downtown, the prices are pretty good. For two people to eat at Planet Hollywood it will cost about 25-30 dollars at the most. Reservations are not taken at Planet Hollywood so there could be a wait, depending on the time you go. Parking is something you don't have to worry about because they offer valet parking which is good because there are hardly any places to park downtown.

With the wild atmosphere and delicious food, there isn't anyway someone who eats at there could be disappointed with it, but be sure to absorb as much as possible because time goes by really fast at Planet Hollywood.

One more thing, when leaving Planet Hollywood or Chicago, be sure to take the Kennedy expressway home and not the Dan Ryan, it will save you about 3 hours and also from getting lost.

Club Wars

By Matt Wehling

The constant debate over whether these music clubs are a scam or not is continued to be an issue for a prospective CD buyer for years now. Two companies well known in the business are Columbia House and B.M.G. Music Company.

These companies specialize in selling large quantities of CD's to the listening crowd. What they do to entice the buyers is to offer them x-amount of CD's for the price of one.

Columbia House is a huge company that offers these deals for CD's and movies. Their policy tends to scare away potential customers by the large commitment that the buyer has to make.

When joining the club the buyer chooses ten CD's for one penny, and is then suppose to buy six CD's at regular club price over the next six years.

The regular club prices range from 12-16 dollars. Columbia House also offers the buyer a chance to buy one of the six required CD's for \$5.98 and then you will receive two free CD's for purchasing them.

After the six CD's are purchased, then you are not required to buy any more CD's.

BMG music company has a similar offer that Columbia House does, doesn't offer as many CD's, yet doesn't have the high commitment. The plan starts out with the buyer selecting seven CD's absolutely free. The buyer then has to purchase one CD at regular club price and will then receive two CD's free. After that, the commitment is over!

Many might be wondering why everyone isn't doing it. Senior Erik Cappadora said, "There are some good deals you can get with the clubs, but you have to read the fine print." There is a catch to this, if you can actually believe that. The hidden cost behind both of these clubs is the shipping and handling for the CD's. The company's charge for shipping on every CD you receive, despite what they say as free CD's. Cappadora recommended not joining the clubs by saying, "Save your money, and go to a store. Don't join unless your parents pay for it."

Senior Greg Opaczewski also said, "The CD clubs are ripoffs, and you are much better off just going to Best Buy and get your music there."

Ladycats kickin' into action

By Elizabeth Feltes

The ground shakes, a pounding like a roaring train vibrates the air, from the corner of your eye you see 19 players come running onto the field. The Lady Wildcat Soccer team is kicking into action.

With the loss of starters Betsy Co, Raven Moore, Dana McKenzie, Sheri Dalieden, Shannon Walkoe, Mandi Lobraico, and Sam Bauer to graduation, this year's team will be a young one with only 5 seniors. Coach Del Real was surprised that he has 5 freshman on the varsity team this year.

"The loss of the seniors will definitely hurt us," said Coach Julio Del Real. "They were not only quality athletes, they were quality people and good leaders."

Del Real was upset that he had to choose the varsity team so soon because of the season starting early, but he is assured that the varsity team will be a good one.



Chris Nimmo and Josie Montalvo practice their dribbling and defensive skills.

This year's leaders will be seniors, Christina Nimmo, Kim Hack, Becky Sezeny, Josie Montalvo, and Tavia Tawney.

He is also looking to some of the younger varsity players to stand out this year like sophomores Katy Madden, Elizabeth Morales, and Maritza Vargas.

Also new on the varsity team this year is sophomore Missy Buenz who will be helping on the defense.

"We will go into every game looking to win," said a positive Del Real.

But realistically they will be reaching for the 500 mark and



Kim Hack catches the ball while coach Julio Del Real looks on.

Photos by Stacy Shannon

trying to break last year's record of 7-10-1.

"I really think that we will do well this year," said Katy Madden. "We're really determined and I think we'll come out on top this year, if not with a winning record, a winning attitude."

The Lady cats first home game is March 23 against Wheaton Christian.

Ladycats come out swinging

By Dan Vock

The birdies are flying in Cat country again and the Lady Cats are only getting started.

The first game of the season (against York) for the badminton team was a decisive victory for Varsity, but the second against a strong Downers Grove South team was a bit humbling.

Both results were expected. "We play York to feel good, and they [Downers Grove South] play us to feel good," explained senior Katie Nolan.

Senior Alicia Cox, number one singles, was the only person to win a match against Downers South. During the match, Cox's opponent threw down her racket in frustration when Cox landed yet another bird just in bounds and just out of her opponent's reach.

Cox singles win followed a disappointing doubles match, when she and junior Stephanie Marine paired up for only the second time.

In the third gamet on the short side of a 10-6 score, Cox and Marine dropped three consecutive points and they lost 7-15.

Elsewhere too the Cats put up a good fight but didn't have enough to win. Seniors Krista Oleksiak and Michelle Kolodick split their doubles match before losing. Oleksiak also split her singles match, as did senior Amanda Shemezis. Kolodick lost in two sets in her singles match.

Varsity coach Lavora Singleton realized the difficulty in beating Downers Grove South. "They're a big school," she said before the game, "and we've never beaten them."

The Lady Cats' prospects are promising in the future, though. Cox, who advanced to the top 32 in state competition last year, was the only DVC player mentioned in a Chicago Tribune listing of strong contenders for this season (March 10, 1995).

Oleksiak and Kolodick will be in a constant battle for second and third seeds this season, according to Singleton. Together with Cox, they will be the leaders of the team, she says.

The team includes seven returning seniors, six of whom play varsity. Last year's team had only one senior, so most of the current varsity players have experience at that level.

Another factor in the Lady Cat's favor is their high morale. "Morale has never been a problem [with this group of players]," said Singleton. It is even higher this year because the athletes have "a wonderful work ethic. They want to do their best, and, quite frankly, they're tired of losing," she explained.

Hopes high for softball

By Jennifer Wagenaar

The future seems to hold another West Chicago girls' conference and/or regional championship not in basketball this time, but in softball.

We-Go has built a strong softball program over the past years and have been top contenders in the DVC as well. Last year the Wildcats finished second in conference which has given them confidence, but also a strong desire to become the number one team in the DVC this year.

"My expectations for this team this season is to win conference

and possibly regionals," head coach Jim Schaudt said.

Schaudt has coached at the Freshman level for the past few years. Now as Varsity coach, he is excited to be working with kids at this level. "It gives me the opportunity to coach kids I already coached," Schaudt said.

The Varsity team consists of four sophomores: Angela Barnes, Sarah Ekstrom, Tracy Morris, and Dana Nelson; five juniors: Kristin Dieter, Candy Gallagher, Elyn Germand, Katie Leitherer, and Kiley Long; and five seniors: Jenny Cavaliere-

Coleman, Rachel Ekstrom, Susie Kochniarczyk, Beth Lemke, and Karissa Saville.

The girls have been working hard since mid-February when softball actually began. "We have the potential to be the best in the conference if we work together," first baseman Susie Kochniarczyk said, "We haven't quite pulled together playing as a team yet. Right now many of us play as individuals."

It will take a while for the players to get used to their position and new teammates, but it will only be a matter of time for this team to be successful.

With the loss of seniors Stacey Ciombor, Darcy McLeod, Amy Mertz, and Bridget Shochey, Coach Schaudt feels that it is an opportunity for other players to fill in the holes left by these players.

"Bridget Shochey was a great pitcher last year," Schaudt said, "but I feel that Barnes and Morris can fill in and do well this year as our pitchers."

Guys set for victory

By Stacy Shannon

Last year was tough, being winless, but the guys volleyball team is optimistic for this year.

They are off to a fresh start, with a new coach, Kristi Hasty, and a whole new team. Without graduates Dontá Norwood, Jason Rehmus, Helio Juarez, and Dan Schoenenburger, they have a lot of work to do to get into that win column.

The varsity team this year are seniors Steve Petusky, Brent Busse, and Jeff Nyman, juniors Kent Mohr, Brad Richards, Bill Saunders, Ryan Drake, Don Williams, Jeremy Salutric, and Dustin Schultze, and sopho-

mores Ed Gomez, and Rich Standish.

The DVC isn't an easy conference, especially since all the other schools have been playing for years, and have more experience. This team has a lot to learn. "We're in a tough conference, so we'll have to play tough in every match," Hasty said.

Some goals for the year that Hasty listed included working hard on passing and becoming more consistent.

"We have a lot more talent and more experience this year. I think we are going to do a lot better," Busse said.

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Baseball season right around the corner

By Jeff Hadzima

Spring time means blooming flowers, warm air, April showers, and Wildcat baseball.

Yes, it's that time when baseball becomes a dominate force, and this year is no exception. The Wildcat baseball team will once again search for that DVC title.

Pitching is the most important aspect of baseball, and in order to win games, you need a strong pitching staff. The Wildcats hurlers this year are seniors Tim Landis, Owain Price, Juan Figueroa, Giovanni Arroyo, and junior Steve Porubcansky. They hope to be the key to Wildcat success.

"If our pitchers keep the ball low, we will be tough to beat," Figueroa said.

Another key to the Wildcat season is the addition of a new assis-

tant coach Miguel Arroyo. He has brought his knowledge of the game with him, and is helping the players improve greatly.

"The addition of Mr. Arroyo has helped the team morale, and he has given us the confidence to win," Figueroa added.

Playing as a team is another problem the Wildcat baseball team has experienced. Teams in the past have been separated, breaking the team structure. This team promises to be different.

"We need to play for the team, and not for ourselves," junior shortstop Kevin Griffey said.

He and the other players are making this change for the better.

The Wildcat defense should be solid this year. Starting centerfielder, junior Eric Hall is back, along with Ryan Saul at

catcher, and Griffey at shortstop. Griffey replaced an injured player last year, and has had his position ever since.

It looks like Arroyo will fill in the hole at 3rd base. Senior Chris Jernstad and junior Dan Oklepek will likely share time at 2nd base. 1st base will be up to Landis, and Price may replace him when Landis is on the mound.

The outfield is uncertain, though we will likely see Figueroa in right field, and senior Joe Czernik in left. We may also see Price in the outfield, due to his powerful arm.

The season officially begins on March 28th. They have a doubleheader at home against St. Charles. The game begins at 11:00 AM. Their first DVC game is on April 11th at Naperville North.

Boys track finishes a close second

By Mary Merrick

The boys track team took hold of the competition last Saturday as they competed at Glenbard South for the indoor DVC title.

Junior Varsity We-Go runners clutched second place early in the meet with impressive placings by sophomore Jake Meyers, jumping 19'6" in the long jump, giving him a first. He also placed third in the 4 by one lap relay team which consisted of sophomore John Stogis, Mike Palmese, Dave Blozis, and Joe Kazmarek with a time of 1:22.

However, there was a key to the fortune the team possessed at the meet and, that was sophomore Dan Horyn. Dan started the day breaking the conference record in the two mile run, giving him first with a time of 10:04, and also winning the 800m in 2:07. Horyn went on to win the 1600m in 4:45, and brought the 4 by 400 meter relay team of Mike Palmese, John Stogis, and Joe Kazmarek to victory as well.

Along with impressive finishes in relays, sophomore John Stogis individually added to the teams strong standings by placing second in the 55m in 6:33.

By the end of the day, JV We-Go runners racked up a total of 35 points, finishing right behind 1st place Wheaton Warrenville South.

Though this wasn't as strong of a meet as the runners anticipated, they performed well, putting forth their best effort.

The team is a majority of underclassmen runners which made it difficult to competitively run at the varsity level.

Junior Adam Owens has a positive outlook when it comes to how varsity will do in the upcoming outdoor season.

"Last year the team only had one varsity runner and the rest sophomores and freshmen. Still the numbers aren't real even between the teams but I think the team is going to do real well as a whole this year."

Sports injuries

Sports injuries have been plaguing our athletes. What is being done to prevent them?

By Wendy Woodward

Out of all sports injuries most people think that football has the most. This is untrue overall.

In fact, the sport with the most injuries has no physical contact what so ever. It is Cross Country. Among high school sports, runners seem to have the most knee, ankle, and shin injuries.

Some trainers say that coaches push their runners too hard. They think that the more athletes run the better off they will be. If the runners are already hurt, it will just make the injury worse. Also, running long distances every day increases the chance of injury.

In our school the situation is the exact opposite: the football team has the most injuries. School trainer Mike Keating says it is only because we have so many more athletes in football.

When Keating compares injury to athlete, girls basketball had the highest percentage of athletes injured. They have had injuries ranging from a cut to torn ligaments.

Senior Jenny Cavaliere-Coleman tore her anterior cruciate liga-

ment, which is under the knee cap and otherwise known as ACL. Surgery is the only way to correct this injury.

When she is healed her knee will be stronger; but, if this happens again she will have to rebuild her whole knee. For the next two years Cavaliere-Coleman will have to wear a custom made brace for athletic activities. She is recovering very well and has made much improvement.

Recovery for ACL requires a lot of hard work, including one and a half to two hours of physical therapy three times a week and meeting with the school trainer every day. This injury takes about six months to heal to before an athlete can become completely active again.

For high school sports there have been some pretty serious injuries that will last a life time. For example, Cavaliere-Coleman will always have to watch and be careful not to push her knee too far or she could hurt it again.

Once the ligaments in the knee have been torn, a knee brace must be worn during strenuous activity. Senior Amy Turkot wears hers in track practice. She injured her knee sophomore year in basketball, and has not yet been able to compete.

Doctors have not yet found out why girls are more susceptible to knee injuries but they plan to keep looking because of the number of injuries.

A theory of the cause of this injury is that girls are not taught how to pivot and catch a ball at the same time and the movement causes the knee to "crumble." Since boys are pushed to play at an earlier age, they are taught at an earlier age to learn the correct way.

An article in the February issue of Sports Illustrated explained that because men's and women's bodies are different, women are more likely to get knee injuries. Knee injuries are the most common and most serious and are causing concern among college and high school basketball coaches.

he is not proud of our girls the way the whole town is. Doesn't he realize how hard this team has worked to get to where they got? Maybe the girls right, and he just doesn't care about the girls' athletic department. This is very hard for the girls to understand. If he doesn't care enough to acknowledge our winning teams maybe it's time to get someone new, who will give the teams and coaches the recognition they all deserve.

Our thanks to the Booster Club, who did take the time to come into the auditorium and congratulate our girls and present them with t-shirts. Our special thanks to Coaches Wallner, Rivan, Schaudt, and the whole basket-

ball team for all the support they gave to our daughter when she received an injury which ended her basketball season. Each coach and the whole team came to the hospital the night of her surgery to lend her support. This was the best medicine she could have received. This act proved to us what a great bunch of girls and coaches our community has created. They deserve ALL the recognition they get.

PROUD and HONORED to know this team,

The Cavaliere-Coleman Family

I just wanted to thank you for coming out and supporting the Lady Wildcats in our '94-'95 basketball season. It was really great to see all of you in the hallways of school just

Art behind the mask

By Osvaldo Guajardo

When you go see a professional or minor league hockey game, what is the first thing you would probably notice about a team's goaltender? Odds are that you would look at the flashy designs of the goaltender's mask.

One could say that a goalie's mask reflects the player's personality. Probably the only way to find out if this true is to ask the goaltender himself. Ever wonder who makes those masks? I'm sure you have.

His name is Greg Harrison from Brampton, Ontario, just outside of Toronto. He creates masks from scratch using multilayered fiberglass for such clients as Felix Potvin of the Toronto Maple Leafs, Mike Vernon of the Detroit Red Wings, Bill Ranford of the Edmonton Oilers, Kirk McLean of the Vancouver Canucks, Mike Richter of the New York Rangers, and of course, Ed Belfour of the Chicago Blackhawks.

The process of creating a mask takes between 45 to 60 hours, and the final product could cost a goaltender as much as \$1,500.

"It [the mask] has to be done right, or I won't take the job," Harrison said. "I usually don't get them done as quickly as the goalies want, but that's the way it goes."

asking how we're doing, at the pep assembly and especially at the games! I love the crowds of people; the bigger the crowd, the better I play (and I bet that goes for the rest of the team, too). So, thanks to all of you for your participation in this past, fantastic season. Oh, I cannot forget Joel Dawson and com-

Michel Lefebvre, from Montreal, is another artist who supplies to Stephane Fiset of the Quebec Nordiques and Dominic Roussel of the Philadelphia Flyers. He praises Harrison for his work.

"Greg is one of the best in the league as far as concept and design. He is very artistic," Lefebvre said.

The first netminder to don a mask regularly was Jacques Plante with the Montreal Canadiens in 1959. His original plan for the mask was to protect a broken nose he had suffered. He then wore it regularly to protect his whole face.

The first "designed" mask may have been that of former Boston Bruin goaltender Gerry Cheevers. During the 70's, he would take a marker and draw "stitches" on his mask wherever he had been hit by a puck.

Harrison also stated that his three favorite masks that he has done are that of Florida Panther's goalie Mark Fitzpatrick, Ed Belfour's, and also of that of retired Blackhawk goalie Darren Pang. "Darren's may have been the nicest I've ever done," Harrison said, "He had an Indian headdress, like a war bonnet."

I asked him if he had any other special creations up his sleeve. He said, "The last thing I want to do is give away upcoming surprises."

pany for their enthusiasm during the assembly, the band, Stacy Shannon, the Wagenaars, the Grand Trainer Michael, and Marisol Garcia. Thank you and I hope to see you next season (it will give me a chance to wave to someone else besides my mom). Michelle Rapinchuk #40

Sports letters

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Varsity Girls basketball team, the coaches, and all the parents that made this season possible. Most of these girls have worked very hard for four years to make it to and WIN the Regional games. Coach Wallner and coach Rivan have worked endless hours with these girls. They never gave up on them and they would never let the girls give up on themselves, WCCH has not won a regional championship since 1989, but, were our girls recognized on Awards Night in front of the school? NO!! Mr. Hancock never mentioned it. I don't know why