

Wildcat Chronicle

West Chicago Community High School
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Referendum Plans Come to a Halt

By Stacy Shannon

District 94 came face to face with a brick wall on April 4th. The proposed plan to raise taxes to expand and improve the school was voted down by the taxpayers.

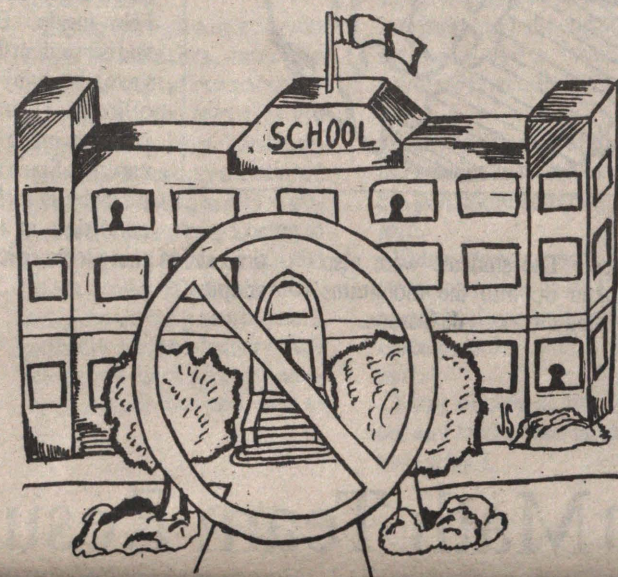
The future is still uncertain as to what the school board has planned with the referendum.

The plan that would have built more classrooms, a new auditorium, changed the small gym into a cafeteria, and more, lost by a total of one thousand votes.

The school board still hasn't talked about the referendum, but a meeting is expected around mid-May to discuss it.

Besides the fact that it would raise taxes, Superintendent Joel Morris feels that the referendum failed because, "They hadn't seen how students are effected."

The referendum was asking for a total of \$32 million dollars due to an increased tax rate, and was the cause of much contro-



versy and argument around town.

The school board can bring the referendum up to be voted on again in November, or April 1996.

While the passing of the referendum would have greatly benefited the school, Morris also feels that taxes being raised discouraged voters.

Oklahoma Draws Near

By Steve Berezney

The love triangled, spring musical "Oklahoma," opens in two weeks on May 11.

The play stars junior Sarah Arthur playing Laurey Williams and senior Chris LaCour playing Curley. The story focus' on Curley and Laurey who are in love each other but they pretend that they don't at first. This is made more complicated by the fact that Judd, played by senior Brandon Fantozzi, is in love with Laurey.

The second love triangle features Ado Annie played by senior Melissa Pagnozzi, Will Parker played by junior Mike Clifford, and Ali Hakim played by Steve Garcia.

Ado Annie is a very flirtatious girl who attracts both men, but in different ways. Will actually loves Ado while Ali just wants to get her into bed.

The 46 person cast as well as the entire crew has worked hard for the last seven weeks accord-

ing to director Lori Watson. They will try to make sure that this play will be different and better than all of the previous plays.

The leading cast is ideal for the play because of their special talent. Arthur states, "This is the first play in which all of the leading cast are musically talented." That's good considering that this is a musical and all of them have more than excelled in singing competitions throughout the year.

Tickets for the show should go on sale about a week before, but the date is still uncertain. The price is still uncertain as well, but they are expected to sell between three and four dollars.

As for surprises, Melissa Pagnozzi only offers, "Watch for the 'Oklahoma Hello' and the 'Persian Goodbye'."

The Countdown For England is On

By Mary Merrick

As time for the England trip draws near, Mr. Wroblewski and his students continue to prepare for departure from the U.S.

In anticipation for their upcoming trip across the Atlantic, three groups of Juniors and Seniors which consist of approximately twenty five students held a parent dinner Thursday April 12 in the cafeteria. Each person was to cook some sort of English cuisine to pass while parents of the students were informed on further details of the trip.

There are also scheduled times for the students to bond with their group with a trip to Chicago. The three groups of stu-

dents aren't only led by Mr. Wroblewski himself, but by Mr. Larson and Mrs. Laimins as well.

Along with the parent dinner, other forms of information are being given to those who are going to England. Every Thursday, Mr. Wroblewski holds cultural meetings for those going on the trip. These meetings teach students about the English way of life, and give the geography and also the history of the country.

In order to raise further funds for their trip, students are using the upcoming beautiful spring weather to their advantage. Two car washes are to be held at Walt's Grocery Store on North

Ave. in St. Charles on April 29 and May 27. The profits from the car wash will directly go to those traveling to England. Students who participate in the fund raiser will receive equal portions of the earnings that will go toward their payments.

Students going on the trip have participated in other fundraisers such as the DuPage Air Show last summer which brought in five hundred dollars.

Students are beginning to get excited because they leave for the ten day trip in less than two months.

Senior Jodi Sutenbach says, "I've never had the chance to go to England before and can't wait. I think it's going to be a really good time."

What Goes Down at WCCHS

By Blanca Rios

An elevator was installed over spring break this year.

The elevator will go to each floor including the floor by Industrial Arts and Home Economics area.

There has been a planning group consisting of administration, an engineer, and an architect. They plan for the elevator to cost about \$200,000.

The purpose for the elevator is to make the building more handicap accessible. The school is slowly becoming more handicap accessible with lower drinking fountains, signs to get to different departments and rooms, handicap parking, and different ramps.

Principal Dr. Alan Jones said that within the next five years something will be added each year for the Disabilities Act.

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) was enacted in 1990. It protects people with disabilities from discrimination.

ADA is primarily used for employment but is accommodated in schools.

The current elevator, that goes from first floor near the cafeteria to the third floor near the Art rooms, does not meet the requirements for the Disability Act. It does not give access to the Home Economics area.

Multi-needs classroom teacher Stephanie Farrelly said, "Some of the students who would like to take Home Economic classes or just want to cook for a certain project are not able to because there is no access to the first floor."

The elevator is not visible right now because it is boarded up with wood. It is situated by the courtyard, near the administrative offices.

At this point there will be no future elevators and the elevator will be in use for the next school year.

In This Issue...

See where all of our Seniors are going to college on p. 3

Check out the special "Prom" section starting on p. 7

Results of the Short Story Contest on p. 11

Softball and Baseball update on p. 15-16

Students Return From Spain

By Mary Merrick

Tuesday April second, the twenty Spanish students that accompanied Ms. Junkroski and Mrs. Black-Gomez to Spain came home after a two week exchange.

Those who went on to the trip to Europe came back tired yet full of wonderful stories to share about this other part of the world. Two Seniors, Wendy Kovacs and Lisa Petrik agree that the best part about Spain was the people, while others said that the mountains and scenery was too beautiful to describe.

In order for the students to reach their destination, the group crossed the ocean by plane and once landing in Amsterdam and then Madrid. Then they took a five hour train ride to Santander which is the town their host families lived in. In all, it took every-one thirty-two hours to arrive.

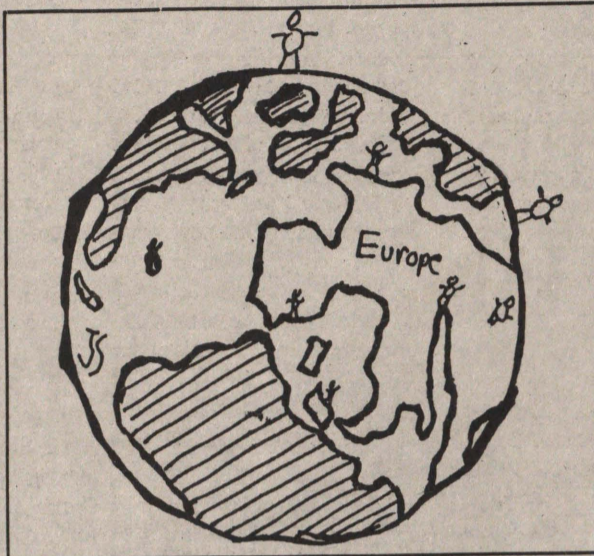
Out of the two weeks, students spent a week and a half with their host families in Santander

and the last three days in Spain's capital, Madrid.

A typical day for most of the students included waking up at around 7:30 and attending school with their Spanish student from 8:30 to 2:10 in the afternoon. After school they would return home for a two hour siesta (a time to rest, sleep, etc.), and then eat dinner. From 4:00 till around 11:00 each night they all would go out together to a discoteca (dance club) or just did something in town.

Some interesting and famous places that were visited by all

were the Prado, an open air zoo, and the 2400 room Royal Pal-



ace. The students were also taken up into the mountains called the Picos de Europa.

Sophomore Erin Pande and her Spanish student came across an interesting situation the first day she was in Spain. The two of them were walking down a street when they heard a crying sound.

The two followed the noise until they ended up lifting a garbage lid off of a can in an alley and surprisingly found a baby inside. Erin and her student then gave the baby to officials. Their experience made the papers in Spain and the baby is in fine condition at this

time and is going to be quickly adopted.

For the most part, everyone enjoyed the trip, and when asked if it was a good experience Wendy Kovacs said, "Yes! It was the best experience of my life! I got to be a part of a new culture and family, to learn about a country by living there. But I was also with nineteen friends who made things great!"

Students also agreed that not only was it a good time but a time of learning as well. "I learned a lot about ancient civilization and also about a different lifestyle," said Junior Jessica Aguirre.

From the learning aspect of it all, Miss Junkroski was impressed by how the host families persisted in making the American students speak Spanish. "Just about everyone who went expanded their ability to communicate and speak the language," she said.

End of Season Math Team Results

News Release

The West Chicago Math Team coached by Robert McCollum and John Carter recently completed its season on Saturday, March 18, at the Regional tournament held at College of DuPage.

The season was the first for the Wildcats in the North Suburban Math League (NSML) which is comprised of 52 teams from Chicago and the suburbs that compete in a series of five meets over the course of the school year. The Wildcats also competed in the DuPage Valley Conference (DVC) tournament as they have in years past.

The Math Team consists of students in grades 9 through 12 who compete against students from other high schools in a variety of areas of mathematics. Students compete individually by working problems in a set time period or in teams.

The levels for individual competition are Algebra One for freshmen, Geometry for sophomores or below, Algebra Two for juniors or below, and Precalculus for seniors or below.

Also, one student can compete as an oral presenter who is given a few problems on a complex topic and after a short preparation time has to explain the solutions to judges. Team competitions include, at various grade levels, 2-person teams that have to race other teams to solve problems, 8-person teams that have to solve problems together, and a Calculator Team of five students who have to work to solve problems that require a keen understanding of how to use the graphing calculator.

On October 6, 1994, West Chicago competed in its first NSML meet against four other teams — Antioch, Lake Park, Maine West, and Palatine. The junior team (Scott Balsitis, Brian Beerman, Dan Beerman, Emily Brittain, and Jamie Kirts) performed well, finishing second. Overall, the entire team placed fourth among the five teams competing.

On November 3, 1994, the Wildcats competed against Glenbard North, St. Charles, Schaumburg, and Waubonsie Valley. The freshman team (Mike Hendron, James Brittain, Jon VanGinneken, Marvin Boorsma), the junior team (Balsitis, Leah Bang, Emily Brittain, Kirts, Jeff Rau), and the senior team (Casey Balsitis, Jeff Catalano, Kirts, Francis Pugnere, Dan Vock) all placed second. Despite the strong showing in these competitions the team placed fourth overall.

On December 7, 1994, the We-Go Math Team had its toughest competition going up against IMSA, Lake Forest, Maine South, and Willowbrook. Despite the high level of competition, the senior team (Casey Balsitis, Pugnere, Ryan Tokarek, Sara Watson) placed third of the five teams. The team placed fifth in overall points.

On February 2, 1995, the problem-solving Wildcats faced Bogan, Lake Park, Proviso West and St. Patrick. Vock competing in the area of Oral Presentation on the topic of "Error Correction Codes" placed a hard-earned second. The senior team

(Casey Balsitis, Scott Balsitis, Catalano, Matt Johnson, Rachel Power, Pugnere) placed third. The freshman team (James Brittain Hendron, VanGinneken) and the sophomore team (Kelly Baker, Emily Conrardt, Leslie Crothers, Jennifer Gary, and Amanda Giermann) placed second. The highlight of the year was the first place showing of the junior team (Scott Balsitis, Emily Brittain and Conrardt). These efforts by the mathletes led West Chicago to a second place finish.

The NSML season concluded at the conference meet on March 8, 1995 where West Chicago competed in the Cook division against 12 other teams including Antioch, Bogan, Buffalo Grove, Lake Forest, Lake Park, Maine West, Palatine, Proviso West, St. Patrick, Waubonsie Valley, Wheeling, and York. The freshman team (Hendron, James Brittain, Bill Crothers VanGinneken) and the senior team (Casey Balsitis, Catalano, Joel Madden, Power, Pugnere, Vock) both placed seventh of the 13 teams competing. The sophomore team (Emily Conrardt, Gary, Patrick Kirts, Sara McQueen, VanGinneken, Bill Crothers) placed ninth. The junior team (Scott Balsitis, Brian Beerman, Emily Brittain, Emily Conrardt, Jamie Kirts, McQueen) placed second. This lead the entire team to a sixth place finish overall at the conference meet.

When all was said and done, West Chicago's first season in the NSML was fairly success-

ful. The oral competitor, Vock, finished the season in eighth place in the field of 13. Both the freshman team and the senior team also finished eighth. The sophomore team placed one spot higher at seventh. The most successful team was the junior team which earned a plaque for its second place finish. Led by the strong junior standing, the Wildcats finished in an impressive fifth place in the Cook division in their first year in the NSML.

On February 22, 1995, West Chicago traveled to Naperville Central to compete at the 19th annual DuPage Valley Conference Math Contest. While the team's seventh place finish was disappointing, there were a few highlights. The 8-person junior/senior team (Scott Balsitis, Emily Brittain, Jamie Kirts, Bang, Catalano, Madden, Power, Vock) and the 2-person frosh/soph team (Gary and Giermann) both earned fifth place. The senior team (Casey Balsitis, Catalano, Pugnere, Madden, Power, Vock), competing in the Precalculus competition, placed in the upper half of the conference in fourth place as did the oral competitor, Vock. The best showing of the night for the Wildcats was by the Calculator Team (seniors Catalano and Pugnere, junior Jamie Kirts, sophomore David Shilling, and freshman VanGinneken) which finished in third place.

The final competition of the season was at the Regional tournament against 11 other teams including Aurora West, Benet

Academy, Downers Grove North, Glenbard East, Glenbard North, Glenbard West, Lake Park, Naperville North, Wheaton North, Wheaton-Warrenville South, and Willowbrook. While the Wildcats overall did not have a good day finishing 11th, a few of the teams did fairly well. The 8-person junior/senior team (Dan Beerman, Emily Brittain, Jamie Kirts, Bang, Casey Balsitis, Catalano, Madden, Watson) placed seventh as did the junior Algebra Two team (Rau, Jamie Kirts, Brian Beerman, Emily Brittain, Bang, Dan Beerman). Jamie Kirts was awarded a special "20+" ribbon for scoring over 20 points (22) in that Algebra Two competition. The Calculator Team (senior Madden, juniors Jamie Kirts and Rau, sophomore Shilling, and freshman VanGinneken) finished in sixth place. The best finish for the Wildcats was the 2-person junior/senior team of Casey Balsitis and Catalano who each earned a medal for a third place finish.

At the First Annual West Chicago Math Team Coaches Conference awards were given for the most valuable members of the team based on points earned for the team at each grade level. The freshman M.V.P. was VanGinneken. The sophomore M.V.P. was McQueen. The junior M.V.P. was Scott Balsitis. The senior M.V.P. was Catalano. The Overall Math Team M.V.P. for earning the most team points was junior Jamie Kirts.

Lifes big party or so it seems

By Jennifer Wagenaar

Just as you think your school days are finally over, college (another four years of school) comes along.

College is an experience that will probably change your life style, the way you lived when you were in high school to the way you'll live in college.

Think for a moment, in college (assuming you go away and live on campus) you have a thing called freedom, meaning there are no parents to tell you where you can go and when you have to come home. As a college student, you now make decisions like this for yourself.

Let us travel to Eastern Illinois University and learn the way life is lived by the wild students who attend this college.

A big part of college life at Eastern is the joining of fraternities and sorority, studying, and parties (of course).

Joining a fraternity (if you are a male) and a sorority (if you are a female) is something that many college students feel is a big of college at Eastern.

"It's a lot easier to meet people and make friends when you are in a fraternity or sorority. When you're in one, you have people to talk to if you have problems and to back you up if you get

into trouble," college student Joe Wagenaar said.

Joining a fraternity or sorority takes about 75% of your time and quite a bit of money. Depending on which one you decide to join, the dues you pay on these groups can be up to \$200 a semester, so that's \$400 a year not including tuition and spending money which at Eastern is around \$3000 for tuition, \$2000 if you live in an apartment, and \$1500-\$2000 for spending money.

Now as most of us know, you can't just say you want to join and get in, no you have to go through the process of rushing, pledging, and then initiation. If you can make it pass this part then you're in.

During the first couple weeks of school at Eastern, those who want to join a fraternity or sorority will rush the ones they are interested in joining. Rushing a fraternity or sorority means you go around looking at all the different frat or sorority houses to see if you may want to join it and which house offers the most. After the rushing week, you'll probably decide whether or not you want to be in a frat or sorority and which one you want to join.

Now is when the fun of pledging begins. All the frat's and sororities at Eastern have the new members go through a 10 week period of pledging. During this time the old members can decide which ones they want as members and which ones they don't want.

While pledging, you learn about the history and the founders of your frat or sorority and other things like the Creed (which is like the preamble).

The last step of acceptance is the initiation. Most fraternities and sororities are pretty good at not humiliating the new members during initiation. One fraternity at Eastern, Pi Kappa Alpha (the Pikes), would not allow their members to speak or see anyone except the members of their frat for a week, they couldn't even talk to their parents.

Okay, getting away from all the Greek stuff and getting to the part about studying in college.

"Most students here usually are in school about 10-12 hours a week having 1-4 classes a day," Eastern student Alicia Selemi said.

Many classes at Eastern are not any harder than the ones at high school.

"The hard part about classes in college, is making yourself go to them. There are a lot of distractions and the teachers don't rag on you if you don't attend because it's your choice and your money you're spending on college," Wagenaar said.

Well, coming from other students at Eastern, they claim that usually Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays they do school work and study for classes, but when Thursday rolls around they put the books away and begin to party.

Not to promote anything, I'm just writing the truth about college life (at least the way it is for many students who attend Eastern), but college parties are very different from high school parties.

You see, when Saturday rolls around, many people begin their party like festivities around noon. Yeah for some of us this may sound weird but its very normal at Eastern. For most of the day they cook out and basically party which lasts until about 10 p.m..

After ten, those who are old enough or have I.D.'s that say they are old enough, go to the local bars that are on campus for about 2-3 hours and then around 1 a.m. the parties start up again.

College parties are huge compare to a high school party. For example, a party at Eastern will probably contain about 500-600 people and 15-16 kegs. And this is just one party, there are usually a number of parties going on at one time.

The same kind of things that go on at parties like dancing, eating, talking, and drinking go on at the parties on this campus. Most of the parties last until early Sunday morning.

Life at Eastern is wild and distracting, I'm sure life at many colleges are like this. It's a new way of life for a lot of people and it's probably the best time many will have in their life depending how each individual who attends college chooses to live.

This article is not persuading anyone to go to college and spend your whole college experience joining fraternities, sororities, and partying. It's just telling you that at most colleges, like Eastern, it's there and can be very tempting majority of the time.

"You gotta be independtly strong during your college years and try to get everything you can out of it. Don't do something you may regret, just do what you want to," Wagenaar said.

Future of We-Go's hopefuls

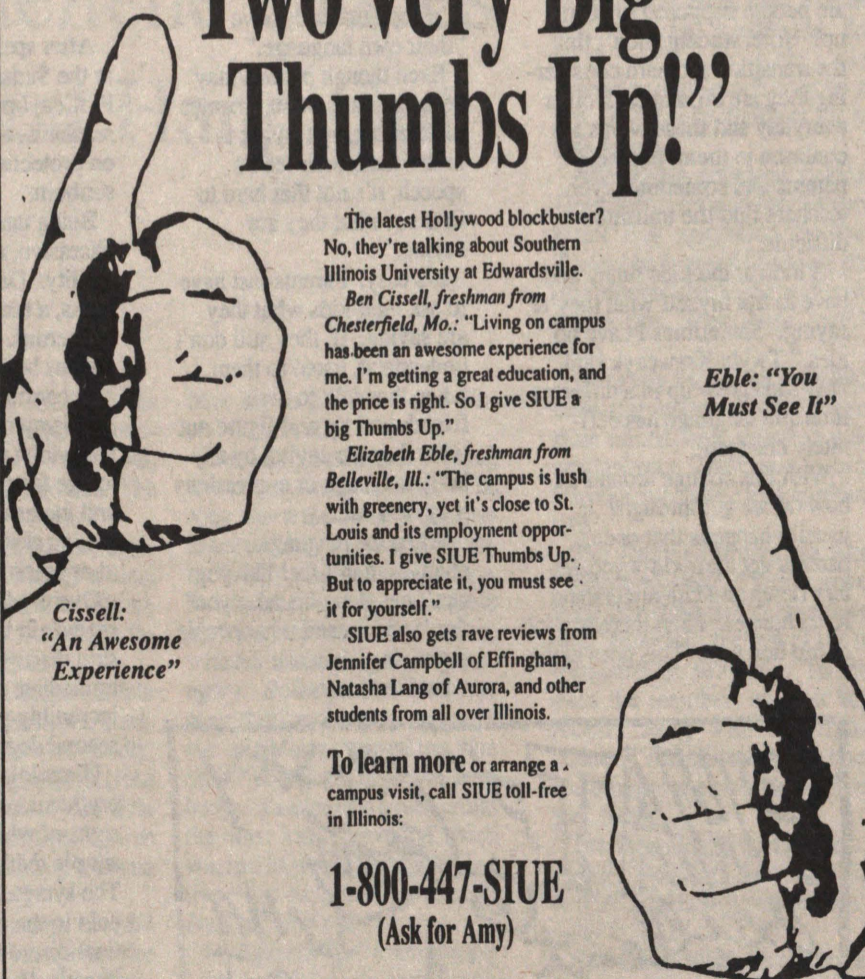
Here is a list of most of the seniors and where they are going after grauation. Although these are not etched in stone these are the hpoeful places of education to attend for the fall of 95.

Gabe Alfaro- C.O.D.- Computer technician
 Joel Alfaro- Lincoln Tech- Auto mechanics
 Christopher Altman- U of I- History
 Raechel Anderson- C.O.D.- unknown
 Jessica Barch- I.S.U.- Graphic art
 Rich Berenson- Lawrence- Recreational activities
 Meg Breiseth- Cornell- Psychology- Education
 Keith Brooks- C.O.D.- undecided
 Katie Brosseau- I.S.U.-Musical therapy- Special education
 Chris Brown- U of I- History
 Jason Bucher- Purdue- Computer Engineering
 Jessica Burns- N.I.U.- unknown
 Brent Busse- Judson- Premed
 Kristy Caligiuri- Bradley- unknown
 Candy Campbell- N.I.U.- Special education
 Jeff Catalano- U of I- undecided
 Jenny Cavaliere- Coleman- I.S.U.- Biology
 Trina Chalupa- N.I.U.- unknown
 Dawn Chorobik- C.O.D.- Sociology
 Kyle Christopherson- C.O.D.- Architecture
 Joe Czernik- I.B.C.- English
 Ajit Dadlani- N.I.U.- unknown
 Joel Daniel- Grand Valley State- Film
 RaeAnn Dawson- Mommouth- unknown
 Lisa DeSalvo- S.I.U.- Elementary education
 Dan Dibble- S.I.U.- undecided
 Lindsay Eichman- Bradley- International Studies
 Rachel Ekstrom- Purdue- Chemical engineering
 Lisa Ellerbruch- U.I.C.- Business
 Brandon Fantozzi- U of I- Music education
 Juan Figueroa- I.B.C.- Engineering
 Jason Francis- U of I- undecided
 Kim Freimuth- C.O.D.- Child care
 Mike Garceau- U of I- unknown
 Mario Gentry- C.O.D.- unknown
 Kelly Gleason- C.O.D.- unknown
 Andy Grotto- Vanderbilt- undecided
 Justin Guck- C.O.D.- Auto technology- Small business ownership
 Dan Guerrero- Ray College of Design- Advertisement
 Kim Hack- N.I.U.- Business hotel management

Jeff Hadzima- S.I.U.- Film
 Tina Hansen- N.I.U.- unknown
 Brandy Harris- N.I.U.- Psychology
 Tracy Haugh- E.I.U.- Elementary education
 Robert Hernandez- N.I.U.- Theater or Choir Education
 Adam Jardis- C.O.D.- Electrician
 Brenda Jeppesen- C.O.D.- Pharmaceutical
 Chris Jernstad- C.O.D.- History
 Matt Johnson- U of I- Chemical Engineering
 Corey Johnson- C.O.D.- Law enforcement
 D.D. Judson- S.I.U.- Engineer
 Bob Kaczmarek- S.I.U.- unknown
 Deidre Kellens- U of Iowa- Gun repair
 Ed Kern- S.I.U.- unknown
 Susie Kochniarczyk- W.I.U.- Psychology
 Michelle Kolodick- Loyola- Nursing
 Dennis Koriath- C.O.D.- Forest ranger
 Sarah Kueker- C.O.D.- Theater
 Tim Landis- Vanderbilt-unknown
 Amy Langemack- LaCrosse- Biology
 Bill Lecroy- S.I.U.- Auto tech.
 Mary Merrick- Marquette- elementary education
 Amy Myers- Chicago St.- unknown
 Terry Nelson- C.O.D.- Street Sweeper
 Joe Nicoloff- Winona State- Engineering
 Christina Nimmo- North Central- Education
 Mike Powers- U of I- unknown
 Jerry Planek- U of Wisconsin Oshkosh- Mathematics
 Jackie Robie- North Central- undecided
 Blanca Rios- N.I.U.- undecided
 Sean Roads- I.S.U.- Special education
 Stacy Shannon- C. O.D.- Journalism
 Pat Sliger- Lincoln tech.- Auto Mechanics
 Maggie Stammer- C.O.D.- Hotel management
 Joe Sosnowski- N.I.U.- Professional Bum
 Becky Szesny- North Central- Sociology
 Laura Torrey- N.I.U.- Biology
 Sara Watson- Judson- Linguistics
 Adam Webb- Aurora- unknown
 Robin Westrom- U.I.C.- unknown
 Matt Wehling- W.I.U.- Broadcast Journalism
 Wendy Woodward- C.O.D.- Childcare
 Dan Ziman- N.I.U.- Pre-Med

Cissell & Eble give Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville...

"Two Very Big Thumbs Up!"



The latest Hollywood blockbuster? No, they're talking about Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.


Ben Cissell, freshman from Chesterfield, Mo.: "Living on campus has been an awesome experience for me. I'm getting a great education, and the price is right. So I give SIUE a big Thumbs Up."

Elizabeth Eble, freshman from Belleville, Ill.: "The campus is lush with greenery, yet it's close to St. Louis and its employment opportunities. I give SIUE Thumbs Up. But to appreciate it, you must see it for yourself."

SIUE also gets rave reviews from Jennifer Campbell of Effingham, Natasha Lang of Aurora, and other students from all over Illinois.

To learn more or arrange a campus visit, call SIUE toll-free in Illinois:

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(Ask for Amy)



Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville

What's in a Name?

By Sarah Kueker

"With knowledge of the name comes a distincter recognition and knowledge of the thing."

-Henry David Thoreau

I'm sure everyone of us has wanted to change our names some time or another. Whether you were made fun of, or the name just doesn't suit you, you just didn't like your name.

Or maybe you hated your nickname. Maybe it was the most unflattering nickname in the world. At least you had one. Some people in this world don't even have them. Professor Rom Harre once said,

"Those who have no nicknames have no social existence—they are non-people... It may be better to be called Sewage than merely John."

That's kind of depressing,

though. Who even made up nicknames? Well, it goes back a long, long time ago...

Native Americans began the tradition of giving names to things by the sound it made. For example, a howl meant a wolf, and a gurgling sound meant a waterfall.

Names also came from appearances and animals, according to Our Names: Where They Came From and What They Mean by Eloise Lambert and Mario Pei. Suppose someone had a distinctive nose. You might call them "Big Nose" (all in good fun, however). If someone's characteristics were similar to those of a horse, you might call them "Galloping Horse."

But that doesn't explain where our nicknames came from. Actually, it's from the Middle English word "nekename" meaning additional name.

A lot of people have different views on their name. Some hate their name, but others love it. So, does your name affect your life? Senior Tia Brooks believes it does. She says that her name separates her from the "crop." Junior Mary Stuart agrees and says that "names give you character."

Many students are proud of their name and would never change it. Junior Tony Keen has this philosophy. He sees his name as his title for the rest of his life. Junior Sarah

Xiong wouldn't change hers because it's part of her character.

Only one other person, besides myself, seemed to show interest in changing their name. Junior Jessica Hitchcock would change her name if she could because she just doesn't like her name. I personally plan to change my name. I don't know, something tells me that "Sarah Kueker" doesn't ring a bell with many people.

So how did your parents figure out what to call you? There were a variety of reasons why. Personally, my parents named me Sarah from the Bible and my siblings' names came from the Bible as well. Sophomore Laina

Wing's parents thought up her name from a compilation of Linna and Layla. Junior Mark Rundell's parents wanted to keep up the tradition of "M" names. Senior Justin Guck got his name from the soap opera "Guiding Light."

No matter what name you may have, it does give you life and contributes to your existence. Think about where life would be if you had a name like Laura Adelaide Van Winkle Prigg or Herbert Wolfeschlaegelsteinhausen-bergerhaufstedt. (These are real names, mind you.) Or how about Dan Druff or King Mama or Luscious Bacon? Be happy with your name and remember it could be much worse.

Phat and Stoopid!

By Jennifer Bailey

Yo, Dude! What's up?

Teens have definitely changed their language throughout the years. It used to be that parents heard words like gnarly, awesome, and radical. Now parents need a Teen to Parent dictionary just to understand what is being said.

It's only natural that students' word choice changes along with the times. If it didn't, they'd be "stuck in the stone ages."

But with all this change, how are people supposed to keep up? Sure, students don't find the transition too hard considering they are around each other everyday and these words are common to them, but their parents and sometimes even teachers find the transition difficult.

"I look at the kids funny and have to ask myself what they're saying. Sometimes I have no idea," Twyla Krawczyk said. "My kids grew up in a different time and language has definitely changed."

With this change around us, how do we get through? It usually happens that once parents get their kid's vocabulary down and can understand it, it changes. Now there is a lot of hip hop talk. This goes along

with the clothes and music that kids are listening to.

Laura Beck said that the music kids listen to and the television shows they watch are a big contribution to the vocabulary.

Trends are always starting and ending. Change is a natural thing and shows that times are changing. Life would probably be very boring if everyone talked the same and dressed the same. It's good that kids have "their own language."

Even though parents may be in the dark when it comes to listening, and trying to understand, their teen's speech, it's not that hard to find out what they are saying.

It's easy. Parents just have to ask their kids what they are saying. If they still don't understand, listen to them when they talk to their friends and try and figure out what they are saying by any body language or expressions they may use.

When the language changes, don't feel like you can't get along because you don't understand what people are saying. Just ask them what they mean.

Nickname Matchup!

Now it's time to play the nickname matchup! Match the student with his or her nickname!

- a. Tia Brooks, Sr.
- b. Blanca Rios, Sr.
- c. Matt Shinofield, Soph.
- d. Mary Stuart, Jr.
- e. Becki Villareal, Fr.
- f. Laina Wing, Soph.
- g. Sarah Xiong, Jr.
- h. Tony Keen, Jr.
- i. Mark Rundell, Jr.
- j. Melissa Pagnozzi, Sr.
- k. Kim Scullion, Sr.
- l. Justin Guck, Sr.

- 1. B-Bec
- 2. Flipper
- 3. Pai
- 4. Fat Boy
- 5. Baby Huey
- 6. Angel Baby
- 7. Keener
- 8. Gibler
- 9. Tia the Tortilla
- 10. Squidgy
- 11. Melrose
- 12. White Rivers

Answers: (a:9; b:12; c:4; d:6; e:1; f:10; g:3; h:7; i:2; j:11; k:8; l:5.)



para-amino benzoic acid (PABA).

Make special efforts to be protected from sun overexposure and dehydration if playing sports when the sun is at its strongest between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. I strongly recommend Coppertone Sport sunscreen, coming in bottles of 15 S.P.F. and 30 S.P.F. Not only does it protect from sunburn, but is also water proof and sweat proof.

A water resistant sunscreen indicates that a product maintains its degree of sunburn protection after 40 minutes of water exposure. Waterproof indicates that the degree of sunburn protection is maintained after 80 minutes. When playing outdoor sports use a waterproof product.

Look for products containing moisturizers such as vitamin E or aloe to replenish the moisture lost when your skin is exposed to the harsh elements. Most after-tanning products don't contain sunscreens and should not be used in the sun.

Be extra careful near highly reflective surfaces, such as sand and water (apply sunscreen even when you're underneath a beach umbrella, the rays can still reflect off these surfaces and reach you).

Check with your physician before going out in the sun if you are taking medication; some don't mix with the sun.

Examine your skin periodically for any irregularities, differences in color or shading. If you notice any changes, consult your physician.

Have fun and be careful, happy sunning.

Sunscreen

By: Kristi Ault

After spending spring break in the Sunshine State of Florida, I picked up some seashells, a tan, and some tips on protecting yourself from sunburn.

Being tan has become an obsessive, much desired quality. Despite how well it looks, a tan can be very dangerous, causing some serious health problems.

According to The American Academy of Dermatology, ultraviolet rays cause the skin to age faster, wrinkle sooner and increase the chances of getting skin cancer from 20% to as much as 65%.

Overexposure to the sun will get you in the long run, with skin disease and cancer. Some immediate effects are an incredibly sore burn and some second degree burns.

Ultraviolet light causes erythema solare, or sunburn, signs of which can range from simple reddening to blistering. The symptoms can range from pain in the skin to gastrointestinal disorders (stomach and intestinal), malaise, and prostration (complete physical and mental exhaustion). Susceptibility is greatest in persons with fair skin.

In terms of physiological and genetic adaptations, all human beings are fundamentally tropical animals. Nevertheless, the people with the

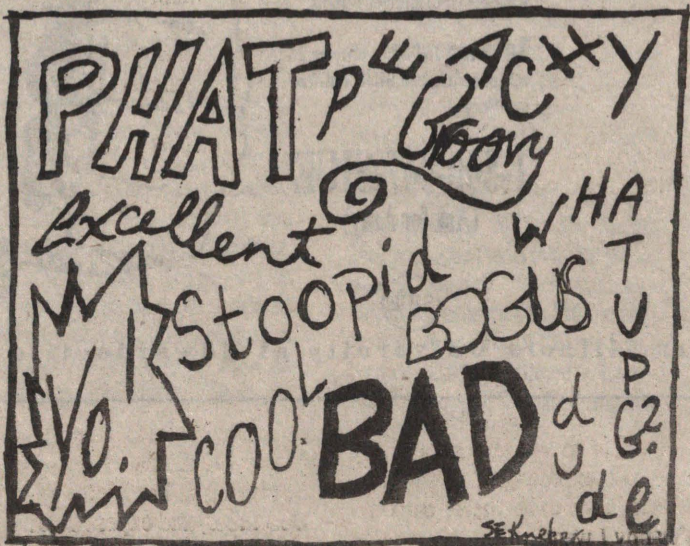
least exposure to severe climates, the Australians and Africans, are dark skinned. This kind of skin is resistant to sunburn and skin cancer. So take note of your skin color and accordingly use a sunscreen especially formulated for your skin type.

The Sun Protector Factor (S.P.F.) is a number which indicates how many times longer a person can stay in the sun before beginning to burn, when using the product, than without any sunscreen at all. SPF numbers range from 2 to 30-plus. Remember, the higher the number, the longer the duration of protection.

Use a protective sunscreen product whenever planning to spend time outdoors. Give maximum protection to parts of the body that get the most exposure: forearms, face, ears, shoulders and neck. Girls, don't forget the nape of your neck and chest.

Freckles are small, yellowish or brownish spots on the skin caused by an accumulation of the skin pigment melanin. The pigment cells respond unevenly to sunlight. Freckles appear in susceptible, usually fair-skinned persons as a result of exposure to sunlight and may become permanent.

Freckles can sometimes be minimized by the use of sunscreen lotions containing



Surprise, Surprise

By Laura Torrey

Every year the same people show up for the same awards, to receive the same recognition at the same time, so what's wrong with that?

Many people were upset with the decision of this years Academy Awards. Most of the awards went to the film *Forrest Gump* which took home best picture, best actor (Tom Hanks), best director, best adapted screenplay, best film editing, and best visual effects.

Personally, I did like *Forrest Gump* and it deserved its recognition. But, many people feel that *Pulp Fiction* should have taken home more that one Oscar (Best original screenplay). It was a good movie but sex and violence isn't what the academy is looking for. They like the wholesome, family type. It really did not make any sense, until the end, and it was a little repulsive for my taste.

The award for best actress went to Jessica Lange for her film *Blue Sky*. Jodie Foster, *Nell*, was a sure winner for it, but because she has won two Oscars already, it was decided to go to Lange. This is totally illegitimate because Foster deserved it so who cares that she's won twice already; she earned it.

David Letterman was the host this year for the Academy Awards.

He's really funny, and talented, but the little, "Uma, and Oprah," deal was getting old. Once you say a joke, you really don't have to go on about it. The only funny thing he said was his top ten list, which degraded the Oscars in the first place.

Everyone knows that each year the best original song goes to some Disney movie. This year three Disney songs were nominated: "Hakuna Matata," "Can You Feel the Love Tonight," and "Circle of Life." The winner was "Can You Feel the Love Tonight," sung by Elton John. What a total surprise!

The Oscars need to get a little bit more original. It seems that every year it is the same thing. The only

thing that changes is the order of the awards. The only part worth watching is the very beginning where they present the award of best supporting actor and actress. Then around 10:00 you can change it back to see the main awards: Best actor, actress, song, screenplay, director and picture. Who really cares about best documentary, foreign film, etc.?

If the Academy were to change anything about the awards, I would make them judge the criteria on box office sells. Maybe even have critics put their input on the Oscars and have them vote too. At least then it would be fair.

Classic Album of the Month

Boston



By Steve Berezney

Boston's self titled debut album back in 1976 was one of the biggest first albums of any group in the history of rock. With their comeback in making a new studio album and their return to the World Music Theater this summer, here's a journey to the album that made the band famous.

The first song, "More Than a Feeling" is probably the band's most well known song. It has a catchy chorus both in the words and in the guitar playing. It's the kind of song that makes you feel good. It's also nice that the first song you put out is your most popular.

"Peace of Mind" is another strong song that kind of sounds like the

Doobie Brothers' "China Grove" at times. This also has some impressive guitar parts and is played on the radio every so often.

The next song, "Foreplay/Long Time" is in two separate parts but is still in the same song. "Foreplay" is all instrumental that sounds like a basic jam in your garage with the organ, guitar, and drums featured throughout. It has some good special effects in the background for the time period.

"Long Time" is another popular song with Boston fans. This time the acoustic guitar is played more and the chorus riff is easily identifiable to rock fans.

Boston decided to write an autobiographical account of their own band called "Rock and Roll Band". It just tells about how they played in the streets and just trying to stay alive in the business.

The last noteworthy song on the album is "Smokin'". It's the kind of song you like to drive with. It's a fast paced song that kind of sounds like the previous four.

The one thing with Boston is that they have the same beat and song rhythm throughout. The music is kind of like Green Day: if you like one, you'll like them all because

they all sound the same. That's great if you like that style of music, but if you don't care for it, then there is no chance that you'll like anything they do.

You'd be surprised by how many times you have heard the first five songs on the radio. All of them have been played some time or another. I'm sure most of the people in our school has heard Boston before and not even known what it was.

This album would be even better if it was made today. The music is there, they just needed some better studio work to make it more intense. They did the best with what they had at the time, but it seems like there is something being held back. It was probably just the primitive recording.

This album was Boston's claim to fame. They made other fine albums, but none of them were any near as great as this one. They are still doing fairly well. They released their latest album last year and are coming to Chicago in the summer. Overall, it's a great album to have. You'll be surprised when you hear it as to how familiar the songs are.

Green Day, Petty, The Who? Imagine That!

Local Talent

Madeliene Graces Local Hang Out

By Stacy Shannon

A Wheaton coffee house, *Be'an Wild* provided the perfect atmosphere for a great show April 14th, for a mere cost of two dollars. The cover charge was well worth it.

A little known folk singer, Charlotte Madeliene, evidently a local favorite, packed the house. We are talking 20-25 seats maximum, including standing room.

Madeliene sang Hungarian folk songs that touched the heart. There was one song I remember fondly, where a cute little squirrel falls out of a tree, breaks all of his little limbs, and bleeds to death. It was funny, but then again, I guess you had to be there.

Besides the folk songs, she did cover songs. A few songs by The Beatles "With a Little Help From my Friends," and "In My Life," and spanning the horizon of music to "Something in Red," last recorded by country singer Lorrie Morgan. To complete the set there was the 1970's portion with "You're So Vain," by Carly Simon. She also found time in her two and a half

hour set to perform some Simon and Garfunkel.

The low point of the evening was a song entitled "Irma." The song was a touching dedication to her mother. It actually ended up being a really corny song. Basically, it was stupid. I think any two year old could compete with her in the song writing category. Some phrases from the song that particularly sticks in my mind went something like this: "We glued macaroni on boxes. You kept us inside while the other kids played." I think you can basically get the idea of the song, and you can't really disagree with me.

Madeliene was entertaining with her familiar and funny songs. She was a refreshing surprise to see there, especially since a month or so before, there was a really bad band playing there. That is the nicest thing I can think of to say about them. I wasn't expecting a talent like Madeliene to be there, but I'm happy I went.

Redefining Christian Music

By Elizabeth Feltes

"For your safety tonight, there will be no smoking, no slam dancing, no fly fishing, and no pole vaulting."

The Geoff Moore and the Distance concert, April 8, started on a humorous note, but soon the rather small Edman Memorial Chapel at Wheaton College was filled with not only adults and students, but energy.

This was the only concert in the area for them this time around. But with the release of their album *Evolution Redefined*, they wanted to get to as many cities as possible. Geoff Moore and the Distance started, like many of the Christian groups in the Midwest. They have been around for a long time, so the concert goers were prepared to have a great time.

Moore and his band played all of their favorites and their most popular songs from *Evolution Redefined* to *Heart to God*, *Hand to Man*. The chapel was filled with high school students from all over the area who wanted to have a good time on a Friday night, and that they did. While the lights and the stage were not the largest or most high quality, that didn't seem to matter to any-

one who was there. People were dancing in the aisles and chanting along with every song.

Even those who were not familiar with their music had a good time. Melanie Borga-Jacquier, a high school student from France, said that the music was very good and she enjoyed it a lot.

As the concert came to a close, people screamed for an encore, and the band returned to play the very high energy and positive "Friend Like You". Only after the encore, everyone was asked to take their seats while Moore spoke of an organization called Compassion International that was trying to help children around the country escape from poverty through education and love. He urged everyone who could to donate just a little.

Then as the concert closed in prayer, I think just about everyone left feeling a little bit better about themselves and others. Sophomore, Jenni Sulak, who was at the concert said, "I've been to other big name concerts like Gary Chapman and Amy Grant, but this one was so much better. It was so personal because the chapel was smaller and I had an awesome time."

All Shook Up about Graceland

By Laura Torrey

Have you ever wondered what it's like to live as a king? Servants tend to your every word, women go crazy for you, only because you're the king of rock n' roll.

Elvis Presley was a man who had everything. He had a great voice, beautiful wife, a daughter, and a wonderful mansion in Memphis, called Graceland.

Located in the heart of Memphis on Elvis Presley Blvd. is his 23 roomed home equipped with everything such as carpeted ceilings, waterfall wall, racquetball court with lounge, pianos, whirlpool and much more. It was opened to the public in 1982, five years after he died. Since then, millions of people every year have visited to see Elvis' world.

There are four different tours at Graceland. There's Graceland itself, the Automobile museum, Sincerely Elvis, and the Lisa Marie Jet tour. To see all of these great tours at one low price is only \$17.00 for

adults, and children 5-12 is \$11.00. To just see Graceland it would cost \$9.00 for adults, and \$4.75 for children 5-12.

As you arrive, you begin by stepping onto the porch then into the foyer of the home. To the right you will see the living room with an extremely large couch and coffee table, and to the left is the dining room.

The next stop is the kitchen which just recently was opened to the public. There you will find many dark brown cabinets and a peanut butter and banana sandwich which was Elvis' favorite food. After the kitchen is the "Jungle Room," with wonderful decor that seemed al-



Graceland from the outside

Chronicle photo by Laura Torrey

most Amazon-like. This was used mostly as a family room with a waterfall wall.

In the basement is where Elvis kept his three tv's so he could watch three football games at the same time. To the left of that is his pool room with carpeted ceilings and walls. The upstairs is not for viewing purposes so the family can have privacy.

Close to the mansion is a little museum which has all of Elvis' gold and platinum records, some

outfits (like his famous jumpsuits), and awards.

At the end of the Graceland tour is the Meditation garden, where you will see the resting place for Elvis

and his family. This whole tour takes about 60-90 minutes.

The Elvis Presley Automobile Museum is another attraction worth seeing. In this you will see all of the cars Elvis had. It's atmosphere is very unique with a walking highway with trees, a drive-in theater in the middle and cars all around. The cars there include the famous The Lisa Marie Airplane tour costs \$5.00 for adults, and \$2.75 for children 5-12. You will be able to walk around the jet that Elvis named

after his daughter. There's a living room, conference room, sitting room, private bedroom, and bathrooms. All of the seat belt buckles are gold plated which adds to the glamour of the plane.

For the last attraction there is "Sincerely Elvis" which is a small museum that includes the private side of Elvis' life. For example there are home movie clips, stage clothing, and mementos.

All along Elvis Presley Blvd. is hundreds of stores with Elvis souvenirs. There are the usual things: postcards, t-shirts, Coca-Cola Graceland bottles, thimbles, expensive collectables, and even Elvis Drivers License. At the Graceland Plaza there are four gift shops with many Graceland and Elvis mementos.

Graceland is only about 550 miles away, so next time you're down south, make a pit stop there.

Worse than stealing candy from a baby

By Joseph Sosnowski

For all those cheap-theater movies goers who love a bad movie, *Candyman II* is for you. While not quite at the cheap theaters yet this movie doesn't even deserve that good of a facility. Perhaps a trash can would be more to it's liking.

I entered the over priced \$7 theater in a neighboring town and grabbed one of about 250 open seats with a small horde of miscreants who expected nothing more than a scary movie.

Well, well, well, this movie was scraped from the bottom of a well. It was actually good for the first twenty minutes when a really nerdy weirdo-type was explaining the Candyman lore to a horde of people.

The myth went as follows: there was a slave who had an affair with the plantation owner's daughter, was caught, and soon afterward was

lynched by a horde of farmers, in a creative fashion. They poured honey all over him after they cut off his arm with a rusty saw.

Then I guess it was bee season or something because gigantic hordes of bees stung him to death. But, right before his death, the farmers showed him a mirror and the superstition reads that if you look into a mirror and say Candyman five times you are as good as dead.

Unfortunately this same series of events was flashed back upon throughout the movie at pivotal scenes throughout. I say pivotal with a chuckle because after the first appearance of Mr. Candy the multiple times he appeared weren't shocking any more. Other than that the movie wasn't scary failing my expectations.

So basically you all know the plot of the movie. The main character, a teacher, summoned the Candyman, he came, and she had to get rid of him. By the way I don't remember who any of the actors or actresses were and when I looked at a newspaper the ad didn't bother to mention any names obviously indicating lack of talent.

So a crazy movie (Crazy. I was crazy once. It drove me crazy. Crazy? I was crazy once...) that was meant to be scary wasn't scary, had no plot, and I paid seven dollars to see it.

I learned one thing and it wasn't that I was dumb. The moral of the story is to never to pay a lot for a movie that's supposed to be scary because it'll probably won't be, just because.

Lethal dose

Murder and mayhem finally work for Freddy, courtesy of Wes Craven

By Stacy Shannon

Remember the original *Nightmare on Elm Street*? The one that started it all, before all of the corny and poorly acted sequels that followed? You may have thought that it was over with *Freddy's Dead: The Final Nightmare*, but it wasn't. Just like Jason who keeps popping up in New York somewhere.

Finally, there is a sequel that was actually made well. *Wes Craven's New Nightmare* brings back Heather Langenkamp, who portrayed Nancy in *Nightmare 1 & Nightmare 3*, along with the original actors behind the Freddy movies. *New Nightmare* is also the first Freddy movie that Craven has been involved with since the first movie, and it shows.

Langenkamp is back as herself this time, and the film evolves around nightmares and eerie phone calls that she gets. Of course it is Freddy terrorizing her, and like *Nightmare on Elm Street 5 The Dream Child*, Freddy is also after a child.

When Langenkamp's husband gets killed after one of her nightmares occur, her son Dylan starts to sleepwalk and fall into deep trances. This basically leads us into the storyline. Her husband (who is a special effects expert) was secretly working on a new glove for Freddy, and Craven (Wow! Directs, writes, and even has a cameo..) starts writing a script for a new sequel. When Langenkamp confronts him about Freddy being back he merely says, "Play Nancy one last time, and stop him forever." Things start to happen just like in the first movie, with her hair turning gray and the baby-sitter Julie being killed just

as Tina was in the original. Lots of special effects are re-used again like the marshmallow staircase, and Freddy's tongue through the phone.

Anyway, Langenkamp implores the help of John Saxon (Nancy's father) and Robert Englund (Freddy) for advice. Saxon fails to believe her, Englund mysteriously disappears, and right about then we see Freddy for the first time.

So Langenkamp is left to defend herself and her son from this evil monster that continually terrorizes her. Only this time, she isn't in a movie, and Freddy is real. She is thrust into the land of make-believe and the only weapons of any real use to her are a knife and the fable "Hansel and Gretel".

This movie doesn't use any tricks to get by you, and if you liked the first movie, you would like this one. What is great about this movie is that it only uses things that happened in the first film. So, you wouldn't have had to have seen any of the sequels to understand anything. There are lots of references to the original, and that age-old tune "One..Two..Freddy's coming for you."

It was a bigger budget movie, therefore the effects and the clarity (color wise) are better. Overall, I thought this movie was better than the first one, and far surpassed the other cheesy imitations. The storyline had lots of twists in it, and everything seems a bit more realistic than the other half-dozen sequels. One big downfall is definitely the makeup on Freddy, which looks as if they slapped it on at the last minute.

It is a definite improvement in the series, and is surely worth the three dollars to rent it at the local video store.

Quality takes a holiday

By Stacy Shannon

The biggest piece of fluff I've ever seen. *Silent Fall* was a horrible movie that had a plot, but failed to develop it. Very surprising, seeing that the movie totally bombed at box office and now it is out on video.

It stars Richard Dreyfuss (*What About Bob?*), Linda Hamilton (*Terminator*), and Liv Tyler (daughter of Aerosmith's Steven Tyler). Why Hamilton gave up money out of her paycheck just to have her name in top billing, I have no idea. She had maybe ten lines of dialogue.

Casting Tyler was the director's way of having an Alicia Silverstone (*The Crush*, *Aerosmith videos*) without paying the big dollars for the real thing.

The movie starts off without telling you the past of the main character Dr. Rainer (Dreyfuss), and thrusts you right into the story. This basically leaves you confused for the first hour.

A high-society family was murdered, and Rainer is called to the scene to deal with an autistic child who witnessed the murder. Rainer's job throughout the entire movie is to try to get the child to disclose what happened that night.

So, with the sister's (Tyler) help, Rainer sets off on a mystical adventure into the mind of the unknown. Along the way, he must deal with the past that "haunts" him, the suicide of an autistic child he was helping years back.

As he works along, the only thing he comes up with are tiny clues, which continue to confuse and drag him in circles. Among his suspects are the little boy, a stranger, and even the sheriff.

He also has to deal with an opposing doctor who wants to use drastic measures to get the truth from the boy.

The downfall of this movie is the people behind the movie. They

pretend that they know how to make a good movie, but in all honesty, they don't. Morgan Creek is the production company behind this piece of slop. The company who also was behind *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*, and the latest box office hit *Outbreak*.

The dialog in *Silent Fall* is bad, and the incidents that happen to the little boy are tragic, but played out really corny.

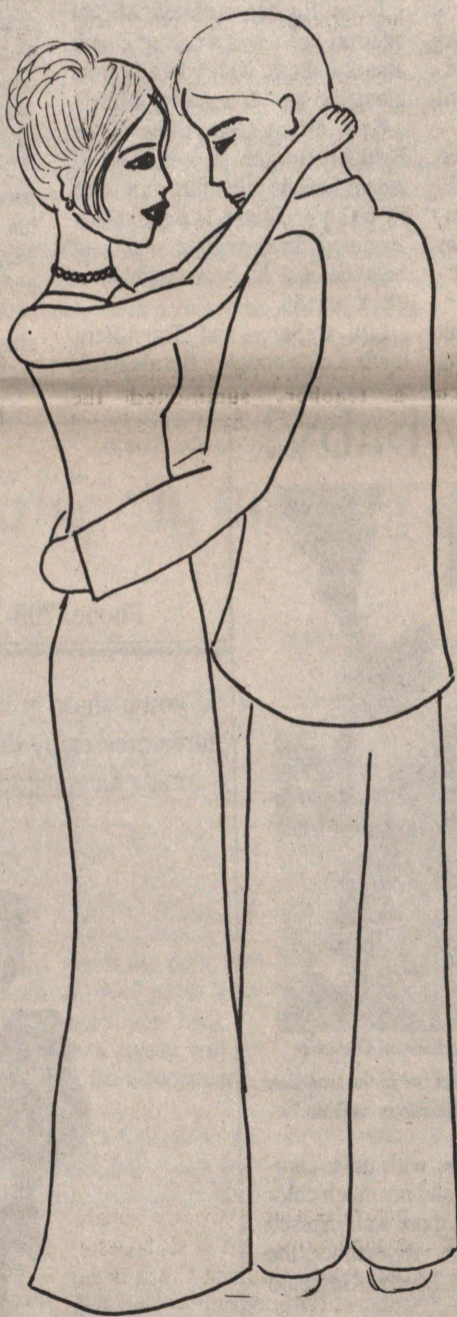
Silent Fall is not that bad, when compared to things like *Spaced Invaders*, *Ernest Scared Stupid* or *Drop Dead Fred*, but I still wouldn't recommend it.

They tried to take an all-star cast, and hope that the big names would keep the movie afloat in the box office. No such luck. This movie bombed big time, and will most likely do the same in video rentals. Try *Legends of the Fall* instead.

The *Wildcat Chronicle* presents

After All Prom 1995

After All year long of teachers and classrooms, of homework and tests, the upperclassmen at W.C.C.H.S. finally get to enjoy the biggest party of the whole year--Prom. This annual tradition allows the upperclassmen to show off their style, to hang out with friends, and, yes, to have a little romance.



Artwork by Kristi Ault and Jessica Bartsch

This event offers the Senior Class a chance to reflect upon the many years spent with their friends. Prom brings a host of emotions from celebration to romance, so the next pages, decked out in the Prom colors of cranberry and gold, shall reflect the many ways we celebrate this tradition. Enjoy!

INSIDE THIS SECTION

Tony Keen shows off in the Prom Fashion show, "So Much In Love." Complete coverage of the dazzling event and the history of Prom fashions on **Page 8.**



Chronicle photo by Dan Vock

The Prom Committee's monumental task of throwing the biggest bash of the year along with specifics for this year's Prom is covered in full detail on **Page 9.**

Wondering how to ask that special someone to Prom? We've got a few pointers on how to (and how not to) ask the big question. All you have to do is turn to **Page 9.**

Personal reflections fill our back page, **Back Words.** Included are SADD's actions for the event, blunders of We-Go Prom-Goers, and more. **Page 10.**

So much to love in fashion show

We-Go shows off spring's swankiest styles

By Laura Torrey

The hottest styles and the coolest looks are what everyone encountered at the annual Prom Fashion show.

On Thursday, April 6, juniors, seniors and staff took the stage to show off the latest prom fashions from Bridal Mansion, Irena Bridal and Modern Tuxedo.

This year's theme was "So Much In Love," and was student directed

Melissa Borek is "stylin'" as she struts across the stage in basic B&W.

Chronicle photo by Dan Vock



by seniors Noelle Giammanco and Kelly Gleason. It was sponsored by the Prom Committee and the \$350 earned went to the 1995 Prom. Overall there were 36 students and eight staff members who participated.

"We were real lucky that these girls [Giammanco and Gleason] did this for us," said supervisor Barb Laimins. "They did a great job, and were very impressive."

Brandon Fantozzi, master of ceremonies, described all of the outfits with his inimitable sense of fashion and humor.

The ladies modeled dresses that ranged from about \$110 to \$300 and were very elegant for a romantic evening. The trend was towards long dresses in deep, formal colors.

The gentlemen wore tuxedos that were black, white, or even gray

pinstriped from Modern Tuxedo. The vests and cummerbunds matched their dates' dresses, so they went well together. The gentlemen tended to choose black, single-breasted tuxedos with colorfully patterned vests as accents.



Chronicle photo by Dan Vock

After this fashion biz, Bill Dujmovic and Jessica Statz are ready to dance.

Mary Stuart, who was escorted by Brian Flanagan, wore a \$195 dress from Irena Bridal. It was a long, blue halter dress that

was the perfect length. The top was blue satin with jewels in the middle.

Jason Bucher escorted Michel Weston, who was wearing a pink slip like dress, with white flowers along the top. It was only \$130.

Even Prom Committee Chair Bridget Horgan and her escort Adam Owens joined the fun. She lit up the stage in a short, black sequined dress with a scalloped hemline and he was stylin' in a black tuxedo.

Lisa DeSalvo and Tony Berg made a cute couple. Berg's black



Chronicle photo by Stacy Shannon

Wendy Woodward and Joe Paver are among the stars at the fashion show.

and gray pinstriped suit complemented DeSalvo's black and white dress and pearl jewelry perfectly.

The gold sequins of Christen Hansen's dress from Irena Bridal dazzled the audience (as did the price of \$290).

Wendy Woodward wore a low back, black dress highlighted with pearls. Joe Paver escorted her with a forest green and black vest and black jacket.

On bended knee, Juan Figueroa offered Eileen Lubbs a red rose to match her dress. She wore a classy evening dress with rhinestone straps and a bow in the back. Figueroa wore a black tux with a maroon and black vest to match Lubbs' dress.

Dietrich Rudolph was the only participant to sport a hat. Histweed hat definitely made a statement. Megan Terry accompanied him in a slinky, black dress.

The show included a segment for chaperones as well. English teacher Kelly Kolasa wore a white and blue

dress that was plain and simple but displayed her Wildcat Pride for the prom evening.

Parapro Myrna Woodson strutted in her elegant black dress. Her charisma and natural grace wowed the crowd.

Chronicle advisor Carrie Kostro wore the "Grey Poupon" dress, with her fabulous shoes that matched perfectly.

Just back from Spring Break in Mexico, Guidance counselor Maura Rowland showed off her glowing tan with a black and white off the shoulder dress.

Albert Wiggin was certainly snappy in his double-breasted tux. Paul McLeland, Mike Arenberg, and Antonio Del Real all caught the ladies' eyes with their "fun" vests.

At the end of the program was a simulated prom with the chaperones mingling and the students dancing with their dates as they showed off their outfits.

You've come a long way baby!

by Jennifer Bailey

Have you thought about what you are going to wear to prom this year? Well, looking back over the years you could get some ideas if you are interested in a certain look that existed in a different time. Choosing the special look may be tough, so let me give a few suggestions from what I have found after searching old yearbooks.

From the late 40's to the early 60's many of the girls wore long white, or light colored, dresses with overskirts. Their hair was short and pulled back with a headband or nothing at all. Basically, they were pretty plain, June Cleaver type.

The guys wore black slacks or tuxedo pants, white shirt and dinner jacket, and a black or red bow tie.

These seemed to be the "prom-goer's trend" for several years.

Then getting into the late 60's and early 70's, there are many of the Mary Tyler Moore look a likes.

This is when there was a change in prom clothes. Many of the dresses had floral prints. Not just floral prints either, but big flowers. Of course, this is understandable because of the time period. This was the time of "flower children" and war. Flowers seemed a symbol of hope and peace.

These flowers were in bright colors too. The short dresses had hot pink, lime green, robin's egg blue, or orange in them. And often, there was a scramble of white patent leather go-go boots on the dance floor.

The guys attire was somewhat different from that of previous years too. Guys started sporting the ruffled shirt. (You know what I'm talking about.) These are the shirts with color trimmed around the ruffles and pants and jacket to match the ruffles. But don't forget that matching bow tie. This was the era of Greg Brady's or for those of you who may have missed Greg in his ruffle tux with matching shoes, picture Jim Carey's and Jeff Daniels' formal wear in *Dumb and Dumber*.

Though for many this was a trend we didn't want to lose, times continued to change. The eighties brought a lot of Cindy Lauper and early Madonna looks. There was lots of lace, big hair, longer dresses, and the all famous dyable shoes.



Courtesy of Challenge

Sue Jellison and Bob Fowler were the trendiest thing at the 1959 Prom, "Rhapsody in Blue."

The guys wore tuxedos with tails, cummerbunds with bow ties, and not much color (basic black). Just picture those well-dressed guys from *Pretty in Pink*. Remember, the Andrew McCarthy and Molly Ringwald flick?

Now, this era is a lot more familiar to us. It's the 90's. These days, prom dresses have more sparkle and glimmer. Many girls go for the sequined look. For some people this may be considered more formal. The guys wear tuxedos and vests under the jacket has also become a very popular choice when it comes to getting ready for that special night.

Whether it was fifty, thirty, or ten years ago, high school prom is still a big event. More people are arriving at their prom in limousines rather than Dad's freshly washed and waxed car. To parents of kids in this day's prom era, this may seem extravagant and silly, but this is the way kids are choosing to celebrate their prom. Sure, it may leave them broke, but at least they enjoy themselves. Prom may have changed a lot through the years when it comes to attire and transportation, but it still comes down to one thing—fun.

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Planning the Mother of All Parties Tanning Salons: No Sweat

By Jennifer Wagenaar

Thousands of balloons, over 500 stars and one huge moon (that is assembled by hand), along with 50 tables with place settings and glasses, all to be set up in seven hours on the day of the most important dance of the year, Prom. And who will be doing this all? None other than the prom committee.

Prom is just around the corner (probably coming faster than most expect) and all the hard work the prom committee has done to make this year's prom perfect, will soon pay off.

Since the beginning of the year, the prom committee has been meeting every Thursday after school to plan this year's perfect prom.

The Prom Committee consists of: Bridget Horgan as Chair, Mary Stuart in charge of music, Jessica Aguirre in charge of decorations, Alysson Ryan whose job is to publicize prom, Tawney Larm and Karen Paton in charge of party favors, and Candy Gallagher, Katie Beutjer, and Brett Stark in charge of the invitations

"We're really excited and nervous about this year's prom. We've worked really hard to hopefully make prom night a memorable for everyone," Horgan stated.

The committee has been planing prom since the beginning of August deciding on things such as where prom should be held at, decorations, D.J.'s, music, and many other things that go along with it.

Decorations are one of the most important details of prom. A huge amount of money and time go into

decorations.

"The committee is still working on the decorations for prom and because of this we really don't know how much money we've actually spent on them, but we do know that it's a lot," Aguirre said.

To decorate the cafeteria for Homecoming or Turn- About it takes about an hour or two, but decorating the room in which proms held, it takes about six to seven hours.

On the day of prom, the committee has from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. to decorate a room that holds 750 people.

The room will be covered in the colors of cranberry and gold (which is the color theme) along with many stars and balloons that will dangle from the ceiling, and a huge moon. The stars and moon were choose to give the room a romantic night setting.

Tickets for prom are \$30 per person and \$60 per couple. Tickets go on sale the first week of May at all lunch hours. While purchasing tickets people will also choose which dinner they want and who they want to sit with at a table.

The dinner choices this year are a chicken plate and a vegetarian plate.

The doors will open at 6:00 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m.

From 6:00-7:00 people should be arriving at the Empress for registration, receiving their table number, and

sighing up for a picture time (if they wish to get pictures with their prom date taken by Spelman Studio).

"450 people are expected to at-

Class of 1997 Gains Headstart

By Dan Vock

Next year's Prom is already being planned by the current sophomores. The Class of 1997 already selected a site for next year's bash. It is to be held at the Radisson in Lisle, according to Class of 1997 advisor Brad Larson. As of yet, there is no theme selected, only because that is traditionally saved for later to build hype for Prom as it approaches. You can support next year's Prom by buying donuts from the sophomore class on Wednesdays.

tend prom this year. The room holds up to 750 people which is why we choose the Empress, we won't have to move any tables and people will be able to move around freely even on the dance floor," junior class advisor Barb Laimins said.

Prom court will be chosen the second week in May. During lunch students will nominate guys and girls they think should be on Prom court. The top 5 girls and 5 guys will be taken and put on prom court. During prom itself the people attending will vote on who they think should be prom Queen and King.

As always, the committee will provide fabulous party favors for each person who attends, but they will be unknown until the night of prom.

If anyone would like certain music or songs played at prom he/she should talk to Bridget or Mary.

By: Kristi Ault

As prom approaches, many people are starting to get ready: buying dresses, renting tuxedos, chartering limousines, and some people have even started tanning. Prom goers tend to follow trends, and this year's vogue is to "fake-n-bake" as indoor tanning is commonly referred to. If you haven't noticed, many We-Go girls. come to school with a tan, and when asked where they have been, they might reply, The Beach.

The Beach is a tanning salon in Carol Stream.

Even though a golden brown tan is thought to be very glamorous, it could result in not so glamorous medical difficulties.

An estimated 1 million Americans a day visit the 24,000 tanning salons in the U.S. despite warnings that repeated use of tanning devices can cause wrinkling, dryness, premature aging of the skin and skin cancer, damage to the immune system, and in unprotected eyes, cataracts.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commissions, tanning booths have caused an estimated 1,500 to 1,800 injuries a year since 1987, two-thirds of them among people 15-24 years of age.

Physicians at the American Academy of Dermatology say only 7% of tanning users are aware of the risks associated with indoor tanning. The Academy, the National Institute of Health and the Food and Drug Administration all warn against the use of indoor tanning devices.

Why would people still expose

themselves to such risks? Four common myths are the most common reasons why people still go tanning. The following is a list compiled by the Academy of Dermatology of the most common beliefs about indoor tanning:

Fiction: Tanning parlors are safe.

Fact: In 1991 there were 2,150 tanning bed injuries reported by emergency rooms according to the

Consumer Products Safety Commission's National Electronic Emergency Surveillance System.

Eye injuries were the most common problem reported.

Fiction: A tan acquired at a tanning salon serves as a good base for protection against sunburn before going on a vacation.

Fact: Tanning indoors before going on vacation often gives a person a false sense of security. That's because the type of radiation emitted by tanning salon lamps is ultraviolet A (UVA). This type of radiation penetrates farther through the skin than ultraviolet B (UVB). Some tanning devices emit more ultraviolet radiation than natural sunlight.

Fiction: Skin is healthier and looks better with a tan.

Fact: While people may think they look healthier with a tan, dermatologists disagree. There is no such thing as a healthy tan because a tan is the skin's response to ultraviolet-induced injury. A tan is a sign that injury has occurred.

After After All, Bowling Green Fun

By Robert Hernandez

There are now 5-6 bands one of them which is Jason Smith, Chris Brown, and Luis Alcantar. They will be playing some modern songs, and Chris Brown will be playing some songs on the tuba.

The parent group will also be giving out those narly All Night Long T-shirts,

Bubba is also going to appear. People that were there last year might remember the parrot that introduced you at the door and tried biting your head off. Well guess what he will be there also so watch your back.

For entertainment there of course will be bowling, Sumo wrestling, the video arcade, Plus the awesome Synergy's.

Synergy is a dance club. It will add more room and fun to All Night Long. They will have line dancing in there also be a couple of

bands playing there.

West Chicago is known as the pioneers of this great idea, but now Wheaton North is copying it. There's one group from West Chicago that is playing here and at Wheaton North. The only thing is that Wheaton North is holding there's before us.

If you go you'll be locked up in Bowling green from 11:30 p.m. till 5:00 a.m your going to get very hungry. Don't worry there is going to be free food and Beverages. For the evening there will be pizza and hot dogs maybe even nachos. For breakfast there will be fruit and donuts.

So come on down, it will be at Bowling Green & Synergy May 19, at 11:30 p.m. till 5:00 a.m. Ticket are \$5.00. Come all you Prom-goers and enjoy the smorgasbord of entertainment.

Getting that Prom date

By Wendy Woodward

Guys say that they would rather be asked to prom but they feel that they have to ask a girl to prom. You guys get pressure from friends and parents and most of all yourself.

Believe it or not the girls in this school just want to go with someone who they will have fun with. "I don't think that any girls would say no to any of the guys at this school," said senior Karen Hesterman.

Unless you have had a bad personal experience with them you might want to consider someone else.

Do you need a creative way to ask your potential date to prom? Here are a couple examples of how others have done it.

Playing dumb- Act like you are just asking her on a regular date, and it just happens to be a month before.

Make her hunt for you- Lead your unsuspecting date all around a house, town, mall, room, etc... Leaving small gifts such as; a Hershey kiss, a spring flower, little stuff under \$2. The end prize will be you with a flower and a question.

A Big Surprise- If you are into sports and go to a lot of games you could take your date and ask them on the scoreboard, or on a sign in your hometown Make sure you remember to put who it is from.

Plain old question- Just ask the question. You might want to set a mood before you ask, remember your creativity will influence her decision, and make her think about how fun you are to be with.

There are ways that you will definitely not want to do it. One is to have someone else find out if the person you want to ask wants to go with you. One that goes along with that is having a friend ask for you.

Now I know that no junior or senior would do that but I had to mention it.

One other bad way to do it is to assume that you are going with someone. Always ask! There are a lot of people going stag this year so if you don't get a date your not the only one.

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BACK WORDS

Goofier than strange, Prom is back

By Joseph Sosnowski

A fellow professional laborer (part-time bum) of mine advised me, back in August, that I should find my Prom date soon, otherwise I'd be alone on Prom day watching Woody Allen movies. Obviously he learned from past experience so I assumed he knew what he was talking about and I humbly followed his advice. Being the smart punk I am, I'm not going to West Chicago's Prom but rather to another school not so far far away.

I've decided to discuss ten things I think of when I hear the word Prom.

1. Preparing for Prom. I haven't done anything, being the guy I am, but I almost thought about it once so I quickly hit myself with a trumpet and begged forgiveness from the Prom god. The guys and me that will be going to Prom in our group are letting the girls plan (there are girls), but we reserve the right to veto any bad ideas.

2. Girls and Prom. Being male I feel so normal because "I'm going to Prom, it'll be cool dude," and that's the extent of my excitement. The other sex, however, has been thinking about and planning Prom since long ago. I know all the girl-type

magazines were advertising Prom stuff months ago (Since I'm an avid reader), so I'm assuming that most girls were looking for dresses at the same time. Planning ahead? I don't understand.

3. The cost of Prom. Blah! What's money? I'm a rich, white, suburban teenager.

4. Tuxedos. What's up with these cheap imitation suits with the flappy tails hanging behind them? Despite the fact that you can easily zap innocent bystanders with them there isn't much point other than to allow troublemakers to tie you to your chair so when you get up you look like the clumsy fool you are. Actually being able to zap people with the tails is enough for me. These suits are awesome. Unfortunately I haven't bothered to rent or look at one yet (I'm hoping a week before Prom isn't too late).

5. Those corsage flower type things. According to misguided tradition a guy must buy one for the lady. Sure they look oh so flowery, but I bought one for my date at Homecoming and she wore it for a little while until it started digging into her wrist and she stuffed it into her purse. I have no recommendation. Misguided traditions cannot be broken: follow the crowd, don't try to be different, be a mindless inhabitant of our country. If you don't you

will be called names and you might cry just because you didn't buy a flower. You'll be an outcast. Buy the flower, buy the flower, buy...

6. Limos. Who's stupid enough to get a limo? Pretending you have money isn't cool because afterward whatever money you did have is gone.

7. The day of Prom. I know what I'll be doing on the big day. Sleep till 11 (my girlfriend's prom is on summer break so sleep I will) and then I'll likely call a few buddies to play basketball for a couple hours. Well, they play, I pretend to. Of course guys named Chuck make me look good when they try to dribble and fall sprawling into a pile of garbage cans. As Joe always says, "No matter how bad you are there is always someone you can school."

8. Eating at Prom. Granted I didn't attend prom last year but having to choose between two different meals, Veggie Gourmet Yucky Stuff and the Mystery platter, is a dangerous feat indeed. I'm assuming that we dance and eat or eat and dance or any combination of the two. Now if we eat then dance chances are the food hasn't digested

yet. I can just see it, Jim and Jill sit down, eat a fine Veggie platter and they trot off to dance. Ten minutes later Jim boy has become best friends with Mr. John (you know the one that flushes).

9. After Prom. "All Night Long" is back this year (or whatever it's called, journalistic ability to produce everything but the facts strikes again) and boy should it be fun. Of course I'm not going to West Chicago's Prom so this is a deal I couldn't pass up, but for all those going to Prom I can't believe you couldn't think of anything else to do. You dorks. "All Night Long" stuff is for those who wanted to go to Prom but hated their Prom dates. If you're going to Prom there are better things to do afterward like go downtown for a carriage ride or just go home and sleep. Actually I'm just hoping less people will come so I have more room to throw bowling balls around, kick sand all over the place, pelt the band with ice, and do other nerdy things. Also, the less people the better chance I have on winning the run down rusted out car. Yes!

10. Summer. I'm a senior. Summer's almost here. This is a good thing and my article is done so in the tradition of me I'll stop writing without having a conclusion. Enjoy Prom.

Thinking Smart

By Stacy Shannon

S.A.D.D is active during the year, fighting to keep students and staff members to refrain from driving drunk.

Prom time is no exception, and it seems that the club fights even harder. S.A.D.D has something very different planned.

On May 18th, the day prior to Prom, all students planning on attending Prom will be required to attend an assembly called *Think Smart*.

A guest speaker from Central DuPage Hospital will be speaking about spinal injuries. "The speaker will discuss how spinal injuries occur from sports, driving, and eventually even talking about drunk driv-

ing accidents," said advisor Robert Hein.

Also appearing with the speaker will be a paraplegic who was confined to wheelchair due to a car accident.

S.A.D.D is really excited about the assembly, and this is something that is different from things that the club does every year. In the past, there has been a mock accident, and D-Day. Earlier there was the "chain of life" in which each student or faculty member who promises not to drink and drive, gets a link on their group's respective chain. Those chains are now in the display case in the library.

Prom time is a classic time of campaigning for safe Prom nights, and S.A.D.D takes it very seriously.

I went to a party, Mom

I went to a party, Mom,
I remember what you said.
You told me not to drink, Mom,
So I drank soda instead.
I felt really proud inside, Mom,
The way you said I would,
I didn't drink and drive, Mom,
Even though the others said I should.
I know I did the right thing, Mom,
I know you're always right.
Now the party is ending, Mom,
And everyone drives out of sight.
As I got into my car, Mom,
I knew I'd get home in one piece,
Because of the way you raised me, Mom,
So responsible and sweet.
I started to drive away, Mom,
But as I pulled onto the road,
The other car didn't see me, Mom,
And it hit me like a load.
As I lie here on the pavement, Mom,
I hear the policeman say,
The other guy is drunk, Mom,
And now I'm the one who will pay.
I'm lying here dying, Mom,
I wish you'd get here soon.
How come this happened to me, Mom?
My life burst like a balloon.
There is blood all around me, Mom,
Most of it is mine.
I hear the paramedic say
I'll be dead in a short time.
I just wanted to tell you, Mom,
I swear I didn't drink
It was the others, Mom.

The others didn't think.
He didn't know where he was going, Mom,
He was probably at the same party as I.
The only difference is, Mom,
He drank and I will die.
Why do people drink, Mom?
It can ruin your whole life.
I'm feeling sharp pains now, Mom.
Pains just like a knife.
The guy who hit me is walking, Mom,
I don't think it's fair.
I'm lying here dying, Mom,
While all they can do is stare.
Tell my brother not to cry, Mom,
Tell Daddy to be brave,
And when I get to heaven,
Write "Daddy's Little Girl" on my grave.
Someone should have told him, Mom,
Not to drink and drive.
If only they'd have taken the time, Mom,
I would still be alive.
My breath is getting shorter, Mom,
I'm becoming very scared.
Please don't cry for me, Mom,
Because when I needed you, you were
always there.
I have one last question, Mom,
Before I say goodbye.
I didn't ever drink, Mom.
So, why am I to die?
This is the end, Mom,
I wish I could look you in the eye
To say these final words, Mom,
I Love You and Goodbye.

Anonymous

Prom Blunders

Glad it happened to someone else and not you

Compiled by: Kristi Ault

One sophomore said: "Last year at prom, I was very excited during dinner, a little too excited. I ate the salad just fine, but eating the chicken was a mistake. I took one bite and looked at my date in horror. He knew exactly what was happening. I jumped up and bolted towards the bathroom, and I almost made it. I threw up all over the bathroom door, and then some in the bathroom. I was totally embarrassed, but I still had fun."

One senior said: "In the limousine on the way to prom, I pulling up my nylons when I ripped a huge run in them. Since I didn't have a spare pair, I asked the limo driver to stop at K-mart to get a new pair. We all went in together, and they waited for me in their formal wear while I changed nylons in the K-mart bathrooms."

One junior said: "My date and I were in the car driving to the after prom party with our tickets on the dashboard and our windows open. We were still in our formal wear when the tickets blew out the window. We had to stop the car, throw it into reverse to where we thought the tickets might be. We turned the car around and faced the headlights off the road where we searched for the tickets in our formal wear. Fortunately, we found the tickets."

One senior said: "The Saturday after prom we had planned on going to Great America, however, we made the mistake of letting John drive. He took 90-

East and instead of ending up in Gurnee, we were in Chicago. John and I were the only ones awake, and realizing his error, I threw his sleeping date into the back seat with my date, and climbed up front. I got out the map and navigated our way to Great America. The next day we were going to go to the Michigan Dunes, but since John was driving, we ended up at the Indiana dunes. We were so fed up with John's driving we said "forget it," and stayed at the Indiana dunes."

One senior said: "On the way to Great America the day after prom, we got into a car accident. I accidentally rear ended another car stopped in front of me. The good news was that my date and I were o.k. and we did end up going to Great America. The bad news was that my Thunderbird was totaled. I didn't want to face the wrath of my father right away, so I called home from Great America. My father wasn't home, so I told my mom. She just told me to enjoy myself for the rest of the day, and face my father later that night."

One junior said: "My prom date asked me to prom about a month ahead of time, but put off buying the tickets till the last day. He completely forgot about it and didn't have the money, so he had to call his mom and ask her to bring the \$80. He also put off getting his tuxedo until the day before prom. I figured there would be only a few tuxedos left, and that he would show up in baby blue knickers. Well, his tuxedo was black, but the pants were too small, and made him look like Steve Urkel. He had to go back and get different pants which made him an hour late picking me up."

Take a hike

As summer draws near, discover the joy of hiking

By Kristi Ault

First used as an exercise in military training programs, hiking has become a popular recreational activity, both for the joy of hiking itself, and as a means to enjoy other wilderness activities like camping and canoeing.

In the U.S. the National Scenic Trail Act of 1968 made large tracts of land available to the public for recreational use, contributing greatly to the growth of hiking as a pastime. The act helped to set up a system of hiking trails that runs throughout the country, including many in Illinois.

Short hikes over mild terrain are easily accomplished; longer hikes through the wilderness require special equipment. Hiking boots of sturdy leather-and-rubber construction are essential. Clothing made from such durable materials as denim and wool is also favored by hikers.

Sleeping bags, tents, and other equipment are needed for a hike that lasts more than a day. A hiker may also wish to take along equipment such as portable camp stoves, cameras, fishing poles, and lanterns.

A hiker should try to maintain a steady pace that is comfortable. A

speed 2 to 2.5 mph is generally considered pleasant, although the speed may be modified according to the length and characteristics of the trail.

Starved Rock State Park is located near Ottawa, off Route 71, on the Illinois River. Besides the romantic history, there are many canyons, icy waterfalls, 200 ft. gorges, deep ravines, blankets of wildflowers, and over 20 miles of marked trails.

A Wildflower Pilgrimage is a guided tour the first weekend of May to view the 600 species of wildflowers.

The Starved Rock rock formations are part of a large bed of sandstone which was heaved up and then were eroded by running waters over millions of years. Today there are 18 canyons inside the park, and all make for exhilarating hiking. Starved Rock is great for hiking, but if you're not interested in the hike out there, there are many trails closer to home.

The Fox River Trail which is 33 miles of asphalt stretching from Algonquin to Aurora through Kane County. Hiking, biking, fishing, and rollerblading are allowed on this trail.

The Great Western Trail, 18 miles in length, runs from St. Charles to Sycamore. The trail runs 18 miles and is made of asphalt and crushed stone, throughout Kane and Dekalb Counties. Hiking, biking, and horseback riding is allowed on this trail.

The Dupage Parkway Section of the Great Western Trail runs from Villa Park to West Chicago. This trail runs 12 miles through Dupage County, and is made of crushed limestone. This trail offers all that the other offers plus cross country skiing.

The Illinois Prairie Path runs from Maywood to Wheaton with spurs to Aurora, Batavia, Geneva, and Elgin, in Cook, Dupage, and Kane Counties. The path is over 50 miles long, and consists of asphalt, crushed stone, and dirt, offering hiking, biking, rollerblading, fishing, skiing, and horseback riding.

To plan a hike, information, maps, and instructional pamphlets may be obtained from the National Park Service in Washington D.C., and from organizations such as the Sierra Club, the Appalachian Mountain Club, American Youth Hostels, Inc., the International Backpackers Association, and the National Hikers and Ski Tourers.

Big Business

Tommy Boy opened at top of box office, but that didn't last long

By Steve Berezney

Going in to see *Tommy Boy*, I expected to see a movie that was mildly humorous and that's exactly what I got.

Tommy Boy is a movie about an idiot named Tommy played by Chris Farley. He is the son of a big business man, who has to take over his dad's business when he dies.

David Spade plays the business side-kick who has to teach Tommy everything he knows in order to keep the company from selling out to a larger competitor.

The movie does have some fairly big name supporting actors and actresses in it. Bo Derek (10), Rob Lowe, and Brian Dennehy (FX) play the other members of Tommy's family. Their performances were not bad. They were all decent.

This movie is not original at all. The storyline of a stupid guy trying to save the day when no one has any faith in him is played out way too much. Adam Sandler's

Billy Madison, had the same plot and that movie is still out in the theaters. This plot is just being recycled with different actors playing the parts. Farley's very energetic acting was funny at some parts but at times, his excessive craziness got a little old. He wasn't lousy in the movie; in fact, he was really the only bright spot in the entire film.

This is just another movie in the growing trend of placing Saturday Night Live actors in their own flick. Wayne and Garth started it out a few years back, and now people like Stuart Smalley and Pat have their own movies and they're not even that good. They're not even good on the actual show that they started out on, but that's a different story.

Tommy Boy was not really all that bad of a movie. It had its moments, but overall, it was not a impressive comedy. If you have seen it, that is fine. If you have not seen it, just wait until it comes out on video and save yourself the seven bucks.

Congratulations to the winner of the Wildcat Chronicle short story contest for 1995...senior Jeff Nyman. Thanks to all the people who took the time to contribute. Special thanks to seniors Susie Kochniarczyk and Chris LaCour for their second place entry. Below is the winning story.

"Where do you think you're going?"

"I'm just going out." His mother had a way of annoying him. He figured it was because she was family.

"Well, don't be too late, Steve. Remember, your father is going to be home tonight. You know how he gets when people leave the house."

Yeah, I remember, he thought to himself. His father wasn't a very happy person. As a matter of fact, some might question whether he is a person at all. His father had a tendency of drowning himself in any type of alcohol available, except for rubbing alcohol. His dad said that people who went that far were sick. He had been this way since Steve could remember.

Steve grabbed his dusty black jacket, tattered Blackhawks hat and stepped out the door with his car keys in hand. He began walking up to his blue Cavalier when he saw his father pull up in the driveway. He tried to get in his car and pull out as fast as he could so he could avoid his father, but his dad ran behind his car before Steve could pull out. He stopped the car so he wouldn't hit his father, despite how happy it would make him feel to feel his tires roll back and forth over that fat man's beer gut. Steve could just imagine the crunching sound of his father's bones and the alcohol-ridden screams that would escape from his big mouth. But these were only dreams. Nothing worth wasting his time with.

Mr. Warren banged on his son's car window. Steve rolled it down a crack, just enough to talk through. "Where you going," inquired his father with his permanently slurred voice.

"I'm just going out. Mom said I could, so I'll be home later." Steve started his car and drove away. He turned up the radio to drown out his father's incessant screaming and yelling. Just ignore him, because when he's drunk, he doesn't know what he's doing.

Steve rolled into the Denny's parking lot, spotted an empty space and pulled in. He walked into the restaurant and told the hostess he was meeting a girl here. She asked him his name and led him to the girl's table.

"Howdy babe, what's up?" Steve sat down and cracked a smile at his girlfriend. He grabbed a french fry off her plate and popped it into his mouth.

"Not much. Did you leave before your dad got home?" She tried to look as if she didn't know the answer, but she could tell by the look on his face that he didn't.

"No, he ran out behind my car before I could pull out. Don't worry," he said with a forced smile on his face, "he didn't give me too much trouble tonight. Hey, I got here on time, didn't I?"

"Yeah," she replied. She really worried about Steve. His dad was far from Ward Cleaver. He was more like Al Bundy drunk off his butt. He hadn't done anything yet, but some day he would get too drunk. "Oh yeah, Ivan and Dan are going to

meet us here in about half an hour."

"Alright. I won't be able to stay out too late tonight. My dad's gonna be home, so I better get home early. No bar-hopping for him tonight." They soon escaped the subject and they sat and conversed. Once in a while, Steve would slip his hand under the table and caress Annie's leg. They seemed to be having fun. Ivan and Dan arrived a little later. Whenever those two showed up, things always got a little crazy. Pretty soon, they were all singing songs. People from other tables were looking at them strangely. During Iron Butterfly's "In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida," Steve got up, gave Annie a long, wet one on the lips and told them all that he would see them later.

"Give me a call tomorrow, if you can," Annie said. "And be careful on your way home."

"You, too." He pointed to Ivan and Dan and said, "I'll see both of you tomorrow at practice. Later." Steve, Ivan and Dan were in a band called DeFacto. Steve dropped five bucks on the table for his Coke, fries and the tip and walked out.

When he arrived home, Steve noticed his father's car was gone. "Probably got his second wind and went to the bar," Steve said to himself. He went into his house and walked into the kitchen. His mother was sitting at the table reading a book with a cup of coffee.

"Your father went out to grab another six pack," she said in a low voice. "Well, at least he's

not bar-hopping. He should be home in a few minutes."

"He tried to stop me from leaving by standing behind my car."

"Well, that's a new and interesting one." They both laughed a bit and then Steve went up to bed. He fell asleep about an hour later.

Steve woke up to someone knocking at his door. He looked over at his clock and saw 2:38 pierce his eyes with their red numbers. *He must be really drunk. I wonder what he wants*, Steve thought. He got out of his creaky bed and went over to his door. He opened it and saw his mother standing in the entrance.

"Your dad's been in an accident. We're supposed to go to the hospital." It hit Steve pretty hard, partially because it was 2:30 in the morning and partially because it was his father.

They arrived at the hospital and tried to find his father as quickly as they could. They found a doctor who directed them to the area. An officer came up to them and told them what happened. He was drunk (big surprise, thought Steve) and he was driving around with no headlights. He made a left turn too sharp and nailed a car head on. He escaped with minor head injuries, but the other driver was pronounced dead on the scene. Steve turned away, too shocked by the news, only to see something he didn't expect. Annie's parents were leaving the emergency room, crying.

Without a Clue

By Jennifer Bailey

When walking into the theater, you may think that *Dolores Claiborne* is going to be another Stephen King-edge of your seat-cover your eyes at the scary parts-movie. I was totally amazed to find that this movie, while a little strange, was not a typical King film.

The audience is lead to believe that Dolores Claiborne, main character played by Kathy Bates, has coldbloodedly killed her boss.

Maybe she did, I'm not telling. But most of the novel is spent in flashbacks between Dolores and her newspaper reporter daughter, Selena St. George, played by Jennifer Jason Leigh.

Selena comes back to her Maine home after a fax is sent to her office saying that her mother has been accused of murdering Vera Donovan, the woman that Dolores has spent twenty-two years working for and taking care of the past ten years since she became ill.

Selena hasn't been to see her mother for fifteen years because of the problems she had in her childhood. Selena had been abused by her father when she was younger, and she had put the incidents out of her mind.

The flashbacks are used to give the viewer some background on Dolores's character and reasons why Detective Mackey (the detective handling Vera's case) thinks that she did commit the murder.

This movie has more suspense than horror than many of King's movies do. Usually when I watch his movies, I cover my eyes at the "scary" parts or leave the room, (I've never been much of a King fan) but I kept my eyes on the screen the whole time.

If you're looking for a movie with suspense then *Dolores Claiborne* is the movie for you. Stephen King shows a little more of his normal side (if he does have a normal side) in this movie.

Enter miracle cure 187

By Dan Vock

Oh, what do you do with 1.5 million criminals? That is the question California voters tried to answer in last November's elections when they voted on the now infamous Proposition 187 which would deny illegal immigrants all non-emergency medical care and public education.

On November 8 California voters sent an extremely hostile message to illegal immigrants by passing Proposition 187, which would deny education and non-emergency medical care for illegal immigrants.

They were encouraged in no small part by Governor Pete Wilson, a man with the worst public approval ratings of any California governor since World War II. That is, of course, until 187.

Now Wilson is a popular national figure whose name is already being tossed around for President in 1996. Although initially opposed to the measure, Wilson now misses no chance to support it and boost his popularity.

Proposition 187 hasn't gone into effect yet because of a court order. Legal proceedings are expected to continue for at least another year. Nonetheless, California government agencies are preparing for its immediate enforcement once (if) the courts allow it.

Most proponents of the bill say they are sick of paying for people who have committed a crime by entering the country. They advocate immigration as long as it is done through due process.

If that were truly the case, they would focus on raising immigration quotas (the United States only allows so many immigrants from other countries to enter per year).

Alas, it is not. The truth is that a new wave of xenophobic isolationism now grips the country. This fear of insiders has many Americans resorting to the childish notion that, "We were here first," instead of realizing that America is a land of immigrants. "But my ancestors did things the way they were supposed to—they were legal immigrants," the argument goes.

Of course they were—during a time when it was significantly easier to immigrate legally. The best argument from supporters of 187 is that illegal immigrants already committed a crime and, therefore, should not be entitled to receive any benefits of our tax dollars.

The idea that those who commit a crime should not be allowed to receive the same benefits of law-abiding citizens seems fair enough. It seems fair until you consider the fact that mass murderers are still entitled to receive health care provided by the state.

Furthermore, the state government does not only subsidize their living, the state covers their entire cost of living. If mass murderers are entitled to these benefits, why aren't people who, in seeking a better life (not trying to malice anyone), broke a law?

Here is the reality of the situation. In order to rid the country of illegal

immigrants there are few possibilities. East Germany had few illegal immigrants—we could surround ourselves in concrete and DMV's like they did. Nobody seems to like that idea too much.

We could allow mass searches and witch hunts of illegals and ship them home. The problem with witch hunts is that they tend to target more than just witches.

Another problem is what to do after we round up illegal immigrants. Jailing them or beefing up security on the borders to keep them up would be incredibly expensive.

Another option is to severely punish companies who hire illegal immigrants (immigrants come for jobs, not hand-outs). I'm afraid the primarily right-wing supporters of this bill would consider this option much too burdensome for business.

What is left? Enter Miracle Cure 187. Not only does it relieve you of the symptoms of the world's greatest economy (illegal immigrants), it saves money at the same time. Or so the story goes.

Enacting Proposition 187 could cost California up to \$15 billion of federal funding if the measure were declared unconstitutional. California could save potentially 20% of that assuming all illegal immigrants packed up and left.

That seems to be the biggest conflict regarding 187. Will denying people education and health care persuade them to move out of the United States?

Considering that most illegal immigrants come from Third World countries, they have little to go back to. Instead, denying illegal immigrants education and medical care will do nothing more than breed poverty and crime.

By isolating these immigrants (or descendants thereof), we are only creating more class (and racial) tensions. This is exactly what the inner cities need right now (Rodney King, anyone?).

In California, 300,000 children would be affected by the ban on public education. That's 300,000 idle kids—most of whom probably live in the city. 300,000 idle kids with nothing to lose.

Increased criminal activity is a very likely scenario. Increased crime will lead to more of them in jail, which means more money going to jails to provide these criminals with the education and medical care they were denied in the first place.

What a money saver!

Proposition 187 also contains a clause requiring law enforcement officers, health care officials, and teachers to report "suspect" illegal immigrants to immigration authorities. What qualifies as "suspect"? Being Asian or Latino? There is no answer in 187, so it provides a justification for being racist.

The United States faces a large problem in illegal immigration. Proposition 187 is not the solution. It is merely part of the problem.

Go! Think! Win!

By Clueless Danny V.

In the midst of the end-of-the-day bustle in the cafeteria, Francis Pugnere and Joel Madden glare at the board before them and a curious crowd of friends draws near. Madden and Pugnere swap rooks, blowing the game into a race of pawns for the opposite sides of the board. Pugnere gains the advantage and within minutes has Madden in check mate.

It's just another game for the two members of the West Chicago Chess Team that not only finished second in state but also thirteenth in the nation.

Besides the notes in the marquee and the trophies in the main office, there is little evidence of the best performance this year by the Wildcats in any interscholastic competition.

Similarly, a fourth-in-state FBLA chapter stole the limelight for only a few minutes in the student announcements one day only to fade to the specters of the more popular sports.

When the girls basketball team took the regional title earlier this year, we had a mandatory pep assembly. A few years back, the girls swimming team captured a third place in state competition. You bet everybody was required to gather for a school spirit serenade in Bishop Gym.

Even the administration reveled for a bit in Bishop when we earned the Blue Ribbon which now adorns every piece of Wego paraphernalia possible.

No such luck for the infant Chess Team or even the traditionally strong FBLA chapter. They can pat themselves on the back and move on.

I'm not saying pep assemblies for the Chess Team are a good idea. In fact, they're not. The last thing we need are more nervous captains echoing the ever-

inspiring refrain so often heard at these emotionally-charged shenanigans, "Uhh...Come out and support us."

Neither should Pep Club, those Homecoming heroes, decorate lockers to commemorate and celebrate chess (although I'm sure not many people would turn down a plate of cupcakes). Chess cheerleaders would probably cause too much commotion.

No, FBLA and the Chess Team will survive without being blown away by blue and white...and that's the beauty of it.

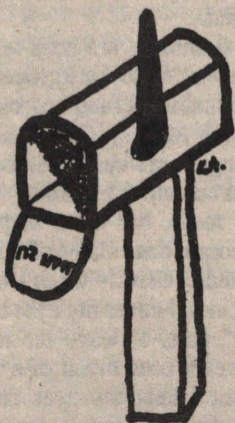
See, our best contenders for state thrive because they love what they do—as do most of our athletes, I'm sure—and compete for themselves. They can almost take for granted (Chess Team especially) that recognition will come seldom, if ever.

It only makes recognition when it comes all the sweeter.

They don't blame their failures on too few fans in the bleachers, because they know, like true champions do, that success lies within.

It is that dedication—not their records or standings—that should be recognized. The same holds true for any athletes, mathletes, band members, or whoever, who motivate themselves without demanding recognition by others.

In the meantime, the pep assemblies will be reserved for high-publicity sports while the likes of our Chess Team—Casey Balsitis, Joel Madden, Francis Pugnere, Justin Sadauskas, Blair Machaj, Eddie Patel, Kevin Brewer, Dave Porubcansky, Dan Janek, and Tim Martin—will have to settle for newspaper articles.



AIDS: The battle you can't win

I'd like to thank you for printing the article Aids: bringing out the human. It's

Letters to the Editor

a growing disease that affects all of us and education is the only solution. Society tends to ignore what it doesn't understand and until people feel comfortable discussing AIDS, and other controversial issues, solutions will be scarce.

This particular issue concerns me because I also have a family member who has AIDS. My brother, whom I admire and love, contracted AIDS and now lives with us. I'll admit that I didn't know

exactly how to react. It was, and still is, hard to deal with. I know it's very important to support him and keep his attitude positive, but it's hard when you know he's closer to dying everyday.

I never realized how deadly AIDS could be and how much it could affect a person. I understand that many people believe it will never happen to them or their family members because I once felt the same way. However, the truth has now become

painfully obvious. My brother and my family must now battle a disease that has no cure and only one outcome. I urge everyone to become aware of AIDS and its growing population of victims. I know my time is limited with my brother and it took a tragedy to open my eyes. I only hope that my unfortunate experience is evidence enough for others to become aware and educated.

Again, thank you for printing that article.
Susie Kochniarczyk

Change in school day system

By Matt Wehling

You are experiencing it right now, the same old school day schedule. We have had the same system implemented for over thirty years, and now some people on the school board want a change.

A popular system that is being proposed is the split semester plan. What this entails is that students have four classes a day, each period lasting 90 minutes. At the end of each semester the students will then enroll in four new classes.

This system will allow students to finish eight classes, compared to the traditional seven.

Educators from the Hinsdale school district believe that the longer school period benefits the students by offering them a longer time to focus on the certain topic.

The article in the *Chicago Tribune*, on March 22, 1995, described the entire school scheduling involving Hinsdale. A big supporter of this block scheduling is Hinsdale Superintendent Roger Miller.

This seems to be a system that many teachers would like to give a try. Miller thinks the students will be able to focus on the subjects more than with the traditional schedule.

For some students, the block scheduling offers a new look at school, and a new approach to school. For others, the block schedule is not a real solution at all.

Many think that school should be divided into different classes for each day. The block scheduling is popular with some because it offers a different classes every other day.

Some situations involve having a class on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, while there would be another class on Tuesday and Thursday, and this schedule would then alternate the following week.

Far too many times people always scream "change." The sad fact is that the block scheduling won't really make school more interesting. Assistant principal John Highland said, "The students will not take advantage of the extra class period and just use it as an off-campus."

I speak for myself when I say that I have seen some students sleep in class. The only thing that keeps these people from sleeping all hour, is the bell for the next class. So do we want to let the students sleep ninety minutes instead of sixty? I can't really see the sense in holding classes a bit longer to simply have block periods.

Highland also remarked that several plans are being considered as to the scheduling of school.

One person in charge of exploring new school plans is English teacher Brad Larson. Larson said, "The system we operate on now is one that was created in the early

1900's." Larson also commented on the issue by saying, "Right now we are in the exploration stage. We haven't talked about dates at all."

I have a noble idea! Lets keep the school day the way it is now. This is a system that we all know is a proven one, and we wouldn't have to worry about problems in the system because we already know that it works. Highland also said, "Our school day system was one of the reasons we got the blue ribbon award."

Highland also commented on school scheduling plans by saying, "There are several plans being considered. Whatever change was made, we're talking that all the changes will be made down the road." He said that something as big as a schedule change is something you can't just jump into.

Change is something people always want to see in just about everything. Nothing can ever be the way everyone wants it, and we all know that you can't please everyone all the time. Lets leave something intact for the time being because if it works, then why fix it!

The Criminal Solution

By Jeff Hadzima

With the increase of criminal offenders, the United States has begun a race for space: prison space.

Prisons all across the country are becoming overcrowded, and a quick solution is needed before prisons are filled to their maximum capacities.

Whether the solution is using the death penalty more often, or building more prisons, many people are missing the point.

If I was the almighty decider of what to, this would be my plan. The first thing I would do is get rid of the death penalty. The death penalty has proven that it costs more to kill someone than to keep them alive and in prison for their entire life.

This is because the court costs for the many appeals that a death row inmate would go through. This cost millions of dollars in court fees, and most of it comes from our tax dollars.

Reform in the appeal system is not the solution because it takes away the right to a fair trial. If someone wants to appeal a case, they should have the right to.

Sure some people take advantage of this, but are you going to take away this right to the people who are using it honestly? I hate to say it, but some people are not given fair trials, and the appeal must be used to prove their innocence.

Parole is something all inmates know of and hope for. Too many criminals are put back on the street because of good behavior in prison. Some criminals are not ready to go free, yet they are released and immediately become repeat offenders.

A program needs to be set up to monitor the inmates who have that

chance of getting out. This program should consist of school-like classes that would develop the inmates learning and understanding skills. Daily meetings with a psychanalisis would also be manditory to exmanine stability of the inmate.

When someone commits a crime, our legal system allows them to be released on bail. This is depending on the crime committed, and almost has nothing to do with the mental condition of the accused. Money can buy freedom, even if it means putting people at risk.

The prison system has, and will continue to have problems unless something is done about it. Criminals continue to go free when they are not ready to be released. It's either take the rights away from offender, which is illegal and unconstiutional, or reform the system.

The referendum: history

Staff Editorial

Enrollment is getting larger and our school feels like it is shriveling like a prune.

The \$32 million proposal to expand and renovate our school was turned down Tuesday, April 4.

The results were 2,854 against the referendum to 1,841 for the referendum, making it 60/40 ratio.

The referendum was going to bring a 3,000 seat gymnasium, a 1,000 seat auditorium, and other renovating.

Now that it has been turned down, the question is, what are we going to do now? The school enrollment is obviously going to get larger and the year 2001 is going to come sooner than we think.

There has been planning for 3-5 years prior to the referendum, to make the best possible plan to accommodate the students and teachers.

At this point there is no solution. The next meeting for any planning will be in May. The only thing planned are the

current projects of the two new science labs, and a new computer lab.

You may be thinking well why didn't the referendum pass? Principal Dr. Alan Jones answers that with, "There is a mood throughout the country that is anti-tax., which is understandable."

Assistant superintendent James Mast feels that the voters were not informed enough on the referendum. The plan was for three or four years later, not for now, which the voters were misunderstood with.

Many argue that there should have been an alternative or better plan. For instance, having just a whole new school.

This was an actual consideration, but the negative side of it was it would be much more expensive. Everything would have to be duplicated, and considering the computer labs and the pool, taxpayers would be even more disillu-

sioned. The other negative factor was that it would cut the distract in half.

Senior Joe Sosnowski feels that the gymnasium is unnecessary and that there is no need for a multi-million dollar, 3000 seat gymnasium, even if the enrollment is going to go up. The gymnasium might not always have to seat 3000 people but there are certain occasions that without it, where would we put all the extra people?

As for any alternative plans, we are still not convinced that there was a big enough effort for a different plan.

The students did not have much, of say and they are a large percentage of the school.

Junior Steve Berezney feels it is not up to us because we don't pay taxes. That may be true, but we do know what it is like to go to a crowded school.

"I think it is selfish for the people who voted no, because kids are the future," said Laura Torrey.

If there is going to be a new plan, everyone needs to be involved and everyone needs to be informed.

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 319. 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.

If someone was to travel to Orlando, Florida there is more than likely one thing on their mind, Disney World, that wonderful land of enchantment which represents the Magic Kingdom, EPCOT, and MGM Studios.

Disney World is one of our country's landmarks, where the American family is seen toting children along with balloons in hand. The image of children happily running toward Mickey Mouse quickly comes to mind.

Being seventeen I've never been to Disney World, so I felt a bit deprived. When asked to accompany a friend and her family to Orlando, over spring break, I jumped at the chance, hoping the grueling twenty hour car ride would be worth the memorable hug from Mickey.

Everything said about Disney World is a lie to attract the trustworthy to spend large amounts of money. This place only cares about profits and there are enough people left, to try it just once, to keep it successfully in business for awhile.

At least that's my theory, after spending six days standing in line for every type of corny roboticized show on this planet. From hick bears that sing, to birds in the Tikiroom, to learning about various kinds



Can you spell rip off?

M-I-C-K-E-Y-M-O-U-S-E

By Mary Merrick

of energy, I have seen it all, unfortunately.

What I can't rationalize is how so many people waste their time off work to stand in line, with screaming children, to see an attraction that's either a movie or a mannequin that explains how we, as a country, have progressed over the years.

If I wanted to do that I'd stay home and listen to a social studies teacher and then

pay seven bucks for a movie I was actually interested in seeing.

I honestly thought Disney World appealed to everyone. Wrong again. Within the three parks there are two good rides—Space Mountain, which is an indoor roller coaster in the dark, and the Twilight Zone Tower of Terror at MGM Studios.

The Tower of Terror is a large elevator set in the Twilight Zone TV show hotel that takes its passengers in a freight eleva-

tor and free fall drops them thirteen stories. Sure there are other rides that anyone can go on like Mr. Toads Wild Ride and the Tea Cups, but nothing new.

If the plethora of rides where people sit in carts and travel through Small World aren't for you, then the shows are another option.

There were so many to choose from. Would you like to see the Lion King, Little Mermaid, Beauty and the Beast, or the Aladdin Showcase?

If you wanted to watch money fly out of your pockets at the speed of light watching mannequins then Disney is the place. Not if you're looking for fun.

However, I'm not the only one who feels cheated by the Disney experience. According to the Chicago Tribune on April 18th, attendance between the three Disney World parks in Florida has gone down 9.5% in the last year.

My trip was a thorough disappointment but, what saddened me most, was out of the six days I was there, Mickey Mouse was no where to be seen. Except when the famous rodent was on a thirty dollar tee shirt or an over priced hats.

Disney just doesn't live up to its reputation.

The American Victim

By Elizabeth Feltes

It seems that everyone is a victim of something. We cannot do our jobs because something in the workplace distracts us; we can't have decent relationships because of something that happened to us as a small child. We are being victimized everyday and we should be compensated for it.

Remember Susan Smith, the woman who set national authorities on a wild goose chase after saying that someone had kidnapped her children? She then admitted to driving her two young sons into a lake and letting them drown. Smith now is pleading that her father abused her as a child and that led her to kill her children.

Murderers plead such things. They say they didn't realize what they were doing because they're a "victim."

All over America companies are trying to cover their butts because America, on the whole, is sue-crazy. We are "victims" usually because of something we do wrong and are not willing to take responsibility for our actions.

Take for instance an 81 year-old Albany woman. She pulled into a local McDonald's drive-thru in her grandson's sport car.

After ordering a cup of coffee, she pulled away with the cup between her legs and spilled the hot coffee, causing serious third degree burns to her legs.

She then proceeded to sue McDonald's for \$2.9 million, and won, yet a judge later reduced her winnings to a mere \$640,000.

Everyone who has ordered a cup of coffee from McDonald's knows that their coffee is hot and that on the cup it is clearly printed "CAUTION: HOT."

This was her fault, the drive-thru attendant didn't spill the coffee on her, she did it to herself. McDonald's had to pay for her stupidity. The amount of money the "victims" are winning is the sad part.

According to the senior counsel of the National Women's Law Center, Ellen Vargyas, \$300,000 is usually a minimum. That's more than the president of the United States earns in a year.

The result of these lawsuits has been some very uptight manufacturers and restaurants. Wendy's refuses to serve hot chocolate, the Russian Tea Room will not serve steak tartar anymore, and warning labels are popping up on everything.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission was also trying to crack down on

the deadly 5-gallon bucket. It's estimated that around 40 children die every year by falling in and drowning in these buckets.

These buckets are mainly used for holding chemicals and adhesives, or for shipping purposes. In the drowning cases though someone had usually brought one home from the workplace where they were in easy reach of toddlers.

The Safety Commission stopped their research into this topic after they realized that it was a waste of time and money.

The problem that I have with this is that The Safety Commission was trying to find ways for the manufacturers of these buckets to redesign them because children's parents are irresponsible enough to leave their children unattended.

Forcing manufacturers and other companies to change their products raises prices.

The same thing is true with guns. A woman whose teenage son was killed when he and his friend were messing around with a gun, is now suing the gun manufacturer because they neglected to equip the gun with a safety device that would have cost pennies.

She has been "victimized" by the manufacturer because of her son's stupidity.

I do realize that there are many very legitimate lawsuits regarding product safety and some people are truly mentally ill, but it seems like it has become a quickly spreading disease.

Instead of attacking your immune system, it is attacking our morals and our idea of responsibility. Americans are paying money for other American's stupidity.

If you think about it in the end it only hurts us, as consumers and as normal, intelligent, rational human beings. It's beginning to trickle down and affect the younger generation.

Students at Stienmetz High School in Chicago were suspected to have been cheating during academic competitions, and even though the allegations were proved, the students involved are still not willing to take responsibility for their actions.

While we are worried about bringing our country out of debt, we are teaching our children that it is okay to be irresponsible. We're saying it's okay to sue for our mistakes to make a quick buck.

We need to step back and reevaluate where our priorities.

I wanna be a country boy

Technology: It's a bad thing, seriously

Part one of a series of two where I'll discuss my desire to be a naturalist.

By Joseph Sosnowski

Everyone knows that planes, trains, and high priced luxury automobiles with built in pools burn fuel causing pollution which, last I heard, was that foggy, bad to breathe, icky stuff (my sources could be wrong).

I hope I'm not assuming too much when I assume that all people assume this knowledge. I assume I can go on to why it's harmful in other ways.

My theory: the world has become impersonal and anti-social because of technology. Now, I have no statistics to actually support myself so my overwhelming common sense will go into effect for the rest of the article.

Ever since the light bulb technology has run amok. With the light bulb came the need for electricity which started it all. Computers, phones, televisions, and that device that turns the Christmas lights on when you clap are everywhere.

Because of the light bulb people began sitting home more often, at late hours, to read or whatever thus requiring them to sleep later.

Instead of going down to the nearest coffee shop to talk with fellow boatmen they snoozed longer and longer until they snoozed so long that they had to wake up.

I'm going way to far here though because actually the light bulb's good outweighs its bad so I'll let it go.

To continue like a line in geometry, I think phones came first so in the tradition of the time line (and the fact that I don't want to look it up) I'll start with phones.

Communication in general has been altered completely with the advent of phones. Instead of getting together for a tea party we talk to our friends on the phone because we don't think we have time to visit them.

The impersonal aspect comes into place. We no longer see people as much and, instead, we talk to a voice which doesn't necessarily have to reveal whether it's happy and it knows it or ready to start a brouhaha.

People can say things or pretend they feel a certain way and you have no idea of how they actually feel because you can't see their expressions so the art of communication plummets to new lows.

The phone might not be all that bad because it does save you from having to smell the person just in case they've forgotten to take a shower for a few months, or if they've eaten an infamous onion sandwich. Let's move on to computers since I'm beginning to babble and I've just destroyed my first reason's validity.

(By the way I'm assuming there were simple computers before there was television.)

The dawn of the information age encased us years ago and the computer provides us with the ability to spend hours of lonely depressing time with a box that tells us lots of stuff.

While there are those who drool at the chance to spend some cold, calculated, and unemotional time, others are forced into it. Most people in schools and jobs are required to use the computer things and love it or else.

This means we spend less time talking to others and more talking to Mr. Mac (the only good computer out there).

Now onto the big one: television. The age of the couch potatoe (spelled wrong in honor of Dan Quayle who finally realized how stupid his idea to run for president was) came and, gosh darn it, people liked it.

So we sit in front of the tube by ourselves, talking to no one, in our make-believe Barneyland, thrilling ourselves till the end when, instead, we could be learning useless facts from a computer, or driving Mrs. Daisy on pointless errands destroying trees as we go, or talking into a banana shaped device.

On that happy note I'll ask a question. Is being socially dead bad? Who cares! I'm just saying technology makes us impersonal.

Oh, alright, I admit I think it's bad, so I'll offer my solution next issue. Be here and expand your horizons.

Or whatever.

Searching for consistency

The Wildcat baseball team and their up and down baseball season

By Jeff Hadzima

The weather hasn't slowed down the Wildcat baseball team, but inconsistency has.

It is too early to tell, but the ups and downs the Wildcats have experienced might be an indication of how the rest of the season will go. In a rain plagued early season, the Wildcats were forced to hide under umbrellas for their DVC opener against Naperville North.

This forced the Wheaton North Falcons to become the Wildcats first opponent, and the first game jitters were apparent. 16 strikeouts for the Wildcats was the deciding factor in this game, and the game wasn't much prettier for the Falcons. This pitching duel ended in a 1-0 loss, and the key factor seemed to be nervousness.

This all changed for the Wildcats in their second game against the Wheaton-Warrenville South Tigers. Perfect execution and smart baseball lead the Wildcats to their first DVC win of the season, but it wasn't easy. Junior catcher Ryan Saul laid down a perfect suicide squeeze bunt, and this scored the go-ahead run. The final score was 5-4, and the Wildcats had gotten over the hump. Past Wildcat teams have had problems with the Tigers, but that was history.

Then came archrival Glenbard North, and the Wildcats had their hottest pitcher, junior Brian Bowen on the mound. The Wildcats wasted no time, and scored a run in the first when the

Glenbard North pitcher balked, allowing junior Kevin Griffey to score from third. That was all the scoring for the Wildcats. Bowen continued his magic, throwing a shutout until the fifth inning. That was when the Panther bats struck. Bowen began to tire, and the Panthers finally began to hit. A two-run fifth inning was all the Panthers needed, even after a strong seventh inning rally by Wildcats.

A strong performance was put on by senior Giovanni Arroyo, who hit three singles. Griffey, Saul, and junior Eric Hall also singled.

"I was really psyched to play against most of my old teammates, so the pressure helped me do better," Arroyo said.

The following day, the Wildcats traveled to Naperville to face the Naperville North Huskies. The Wildcats did not wear out their welcome, and let Huskies destroy them. Senior Owain Price and junior Steve Porubcansky were shelled the entire game by the Huskie bats, and the final was a 14-1 slaughter rule. A definite lack of desire lingered over the Wildcats.

On Saturday April 22nd, they faced the Glenbard South Raiders, and a win was needed to stay in the DVC race. After a two-run first, things looked good for the Wildcats. Starting pitcher Tim Landis cruised until the fourth inning, when the Raiders showed their first sign of life. They scored five runs, and took

a 5-2 lead. The Wildcats bounced back in the fifth when they scored three runs to tie the game. The inning was sparked by Juan Figueroa's RBI double to center. Senior Tim Landis and sophomore Jim Richardson also picked up RBI's.

Unfortunately the Wildcats could not pull the game out, and ended up giving up two runs in the seventh. The Wildcats could not rebound from their disappointing seventh inning, and the game ended in a 7-5 defeat. The Wildcats moved to 1-3 in the DVC.

The Wildcats have a double-header this Saturday against Naperville North. The games are at home and begin at 11:00 AM.

Lady Cats on the prowl

By Stacy Shannon

The girls varsity soccer team was off to a disappointing start this season, but things have begun to turn around for the Lady Cats.

Starting early with five losses and one tie on their record, things were looking bleak for the season ahead. Although the team is still searching for their first conference win, the future is looking a little brighter.

In a non-conference game on April 22nd, injuries meant sacrifices, and sacrifices meant a victory. Christina Nimmo left the game at the end of the first half with an ankle injury, and her sister Kathy Nimmo had her knee looked at by the trainer during the game.

The Bolingbrook Raiders looked like an equally matched team, however their offense couldn't pull through for them. The Lady Cat defense was too much for the weak Raider offense, so the Lady Cats took the game 1-0. In the first half, senior Kim Hack was goalkeeper. Hack had 5 saves, while freshman Beth Schlenger had 1x saves in the second half.

Lady Cat defense dominated the second half, and offense finally found its stride. Esther Gonzales scored off a rebounded shot taken by Hack.

The Lady Cats suffered a tough loss to arch-rivals Naperville North April 20th. The score 1-0, was the product of a strong defensive stand. Other teams have been demolished by the Huskies. Both teams were scoreless in the first half of play. It may have been the Lady Cat defenses finest hour.

Early in the second half, Huskie Heather Ory scored to get her team on the board. The Wildcat defense looked sedate, and We-Go had few scoring opportunities. The Lady Cats were out-hustled the entire game,

but they never gave up. Tavia Tawney and Missy Buenz each put in good performances on defense.

April 18th, Hack was a major factor in the team's victory against Elgin. Hack had an assist on a goal by junior Lisa Coleman, scored on a penalty kick, and scored once again. Both of her goals came in the second half. Elgin scored only twice. Schlenger had eight saves.

At the beginning of the season, the Lady Cats had a few frustrating losses against Wheaton Christian and Glenbard North. Their game on April 10th versus Glenbard West Hilltoppers was canceled due to the weather, and another loss to the Batavia Bulldogs. April 15th brought on a win at home against Streamwood.

Although a non-conference win, Streamwood was a big move for the team. "We feel that the team confidence level is up," co-captain Nimmo said.

The team as whole has it's good and bad days, but there is still room for improvement.

"We have to work on paying attention more. Especially after the other team scores, we tend to get discouraged," senior Becky Szesny said. Hack feels that they need to work more as a team, and their passing is a little rusty.

Nimmo and Hack, as the team captains have established themselves as leaders, setting an example to the five freshman and four sophomores gracing the ranks of varsity. However, with coach Julio DelReal starting younger players, that leaves some more experienced players sitting the bench most of the game.

Varsity's next home games will be May 6th against Fenton

Of happy feats and hard-fought defeats

By Dan Vock

After a clear loss to Wheaton-Warrenville South, varsity badminton coach Lavora Singleton encouraged the team by reminding them that the true goal was to play well, not necessarily to win. She reminded the Lady Cats that they handed the defending state champions four losses, as opposed to only one last year.

Improvement has been the key for Lady Cats.

In the last home meet of the season, the varsity squad put on a show that ranged from inspiring to frustrating.

Alicia Cox smeared her opponent in singles competition, and Amanda Schmezis mustered up an impressive comeback, but the Lady Cats still fell short 7-8 against the Glenbard South Raiders.

The top two doubles both split their matches. Cox and Stephanie Marine regrouped after a loss in the second game and

beat their opponents 15-8. Krista Oleksiak and Michelle Kolodik weren't so fortunate. They lost in a close game 12-15.

With the end of the season close at hand, the team started to look forward to the DVC Invitational (which started yesterday, continues today at 5:00 p.m. and continues tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. at Glenbard South).

Cox held up one finger and said, "This is what I'm going for. I was it sophomore year, was placed that last year (but got second), and I'm going for it again this year." As for the rest of the team, "We'll have have a spiling good time," she said.

To place third, as the Varsity originally set out to do, would mean the Lady Cats would have to beat out one of the Napervilles or Wheaton Warrenville South. Singleton predicts that West Chicago, Glenbard North, and Glenbard South will all be vying for the fourth place spot.

Singleton believes (and hopes) that West Chicago will do very well in state competition. "We're a meat and potatoes kind of team," she said, "we focus on the basic skills." She noted that the team, while containing many young players (including four sophomores and one junior), is in excellent shape.

"This is one of the youngest, most successful teams we've had," she said. Especially noteworthy is the great individual performances which have lifted the team for many of its victories. "Singles have never been the stronger part [of the team]," she said.

To prepare the team for sectional competition at DeKalb on May 5, the varsity will play in the same teams as they will for state. The team is in excellent shape physically for post-season play and the next week will focus on preparing the play-

Did you save your sports memorabilia?

By Dan Dibble

Remember when you used to go to Jewel and buy about ten packs of baseball cards, praying that you would get just one Jose Canseco or Bo Jackson.

Well, times have changed. Kids are now looking for Frank Thomas, Jaromir Jagr, Emmit Smith and now with the return of "His Airness," Michael Jordan's cards are probably the hottest cards out there. Right now M.J.'s old No. 23 jerseys are increasing in value because Champion, the only company to make NBA jerseys, has stopped making them. This has created a high demand for them.

Kids have now turned their attention to more than just cards. They have now started collect-

ing memorabilia more than ever. They are collecting bats, balls, sticks, jerseys, pucks, and pieces of floors or stadiums. For example they are selling pieces of the old Chicago Stadium floor, and when Old Comisky Park was torn down, they sold the seats and bricks from the building.

Many people considerer baseball card collecting a small "bubble gum" investment, but it really isn't. More and more adults are collecting not only cards, but all other memorabilia.

"Although most collectors are usually kids around middle school age, there are some adults that collect for a living," explained Steve Flattery, a Carol Stream

resident. He owns *The Classic Card Shop* in Downers Grove.

He also explained that most of the adults that collect, are doing so that they can turn right around and sell them at a higher price.

When questioned on how much profit he gets from selling, he said, "It's pretty good money."

Steve went on to explain that collecting is mostly seasonal. Most of the collectors buy in the summer, because most of the collectors are kids, and kids have summers off.

If you are interested in sports memorabilia and like "dealing" with kids, then maybe opening up your own collector shop is in your future.

Wildcats defensive play put pressure on DVC teams

By Jennifer Wagenaar

The Wildcats have begun their season with an ultimate goal of become conference champs, but with the loss to Glenbard South (in the first conference game of the season) the Cats now must play every game to win and that is exactly what they did when they met up with Wheaton North.

We-Go defeated the Falcons last Wednesday (April 19) 5-4, giving the Wildcats a record of 1-1 in the conference.

Up until the bottom of the fourth inning West Chicago trailed Wheaton North 4-1 when catcher Katie Leitherer hit a double bringing in two runs, leaving the Cats trailing by one.

In the fifth inning, shortstop Ellyn Gernand bunted and beat it out for a safe hit. Then second baseman Candy Gallagher hit a sacrifice, advancing Gernand to scoring position for We-Go.

Center fielder Karissa Saville answered the call when she hit a line drive into center field bringing in Gernand and tying up the game 4-4.



Chronicle photo by Jennifer Wagenaar
Candy Gallagher adds to the Wildcats defence as she throws the ball to Susie Kochniarczyk for an out.

In the sixth, left fielder Kiley Long hit a sacrifice and put right fielder Kristin Dieter in scoring position. Right after, Gernand flew out bringing in Dieter to take the lead of the game 5-4.

The Cats went on a defensive run after the fourth inning never letting the Falcons back into the game.

"Defense was the key to this game and we proved that. When we played Glenbard South we didn't have the defense we had today and that made

the difference in winning," head coach Jim Schaudt said.

Tracy Morris pitched for the Cats and had three easy innings following the fourth.

"She throws strikes, has good control, and a natural low ball which is hard for good hitters to hit. She could have fallen apart today but she didn't," Schaudt said.

Morris pitched well that day and those balls that were hit were easy enough for the infielders and outfielders to play defense.

We-Go closed the game in the top of the seventh inning when Wheaton North's player rounded second and tried for third. The Cats quickly reacted by getting her into a rundown situation and allowing Ekstrom to tag her out on her way to third.

With their confidence high the Cats once again made a step towards the DVC title when they defeated Naperville Central (who were ranked in the top ten of the *Daily Herald*) in extra innings 8-6, on Friday April 21.

In the top of the seventh the Cats battled their way

to gain the lead when Leitherer's hit brought Saville home. Unfortunately the Red Hawks would answer by tying the game up in the bottom of the seventh.

We-Go went on a scoring streak in the top of the eighth scoring four runs to Central's two in the bottom of the eighth increasing West

Chicago's record of 2-1 in the conference.

"This was an exciting game because we weren't expected to win, they were. They were ranked in the top ten by the *Daily Herald* and we beat them," Leitherer said.

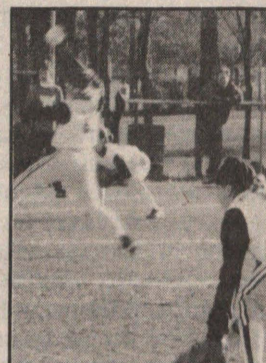
The Cats also beat Wheaton Warrenville South, Monday April 24, with an easy victory of 7-2.

Saville had a triple in the game along with Ekstorm and Kochniarczyk who each had a double.

Leitherer and Gernand showed off their defensive skills when they threw out a girl trying to steal third.

"A lot of people underestimated us in the beginning of the season, I think we're gonna prove them wrong," Kochniarczyk said.

The Wildcats face Naperville North tonight at Pioneer Park beginning at 4:30 p.m.



Chronicle photo by Jennifer Wagenaar
Tracy Morris pitches while Susie Kochniarczyk is ready at 1st base

Tennis team tries to avoid any faults

By Matt Wehling

After losing more experienced players, the tennis team must rebound and look for leadership in this coming year from some seniors.

After a decent performance last year from Jeff Sterling, the team is looking to him for leadership. For now, Sterling will concentrate on single matches and then center on doubles toward the end of the season.

Another player that will add some strength to the team will be senior Joel Madden. Madden, like Sterling, is coming off a strong season and hopes to perform even better this year. Madden is also a singles player and will look to be either first

or second singles this year. Madden will also play doubles matches towards the end of the year.

Sterling likes the idea of both him and Madden playing doubles. "I really like our chances. I think we have a really good shot at making it to state this year," he said.

Coach of the tennis team, Sione Moeaki, said that Sterling and Madden will both participate in doubles play later on in the year. He described the two by saying, "Those are the top two players on the team." He said as far as expectations go, "I'm expecting them to qualify for state finals."

Sterling commented on expectations concerning his doubles team

by saying, "I would really be disappointed if we didn't make it to state."

As far as the doubles are concerned, junior Mike Leck and sophomore Matt Bowne will most likely play first doubles for the time being. "This team will be first and sometimes play second doubles," Moeaki said.

Coach Moeaki also said he was looking for players like Andy Dvorak, Brett Stark, and Chris Brown to have strong seasons. He also said there are some good players on the rise with players like Kirk Johnson, Nate Estlund, and Brandon Beiderman.

Rain rain go away

By Blanca Rios

Spring is here and the girls are ready for outdoor track, but the rain isn't waiting.

The outdoor season has gotten off to a very slow start, with weather, trips, injuries, and other time conflicting obstacles.

The weather is not helping at all. Tuesday April 18th's meet at Glenbard East included strong gusts of wind, rain, and hail.

As for injuries, one of the top throwers Senior Dee Judson, has a back injury and at this point, there is no telling when she will be back.

Despite all the problems, there are some new runners for the outdoor season. The new face of Senior Robin Westrom has joined the team as a sprinter, Tawney Larm is back, freshman Kelly Boyle is back after

being injured, and junior Leslie Kurzawa has joined for the new outdoor season.

Coach Carrie Kostro said that because of all the restraining problems the team has not reached their full potential.

The Kurtz Classic Invitational at Fenton was a great success, when the Girls Track team placed 3rd out of eight teams. 3rd was very good considering they were missing some of their top runners.

Coach Wilbur Walters feels there is a bigger varsity team this year, with more experience.

The top sprinters are senior Andrea Ohins and again Nussbaum.

The top relay team is juniors Michelle Rapinchuk, Larm, Sara Toney, and senior Mary Merrick.

Sutenbach is one of the top throwers and Judson is the reigning shot put champion in the conference from last year.

Branner is the top runner in anything from 400-3200, and consistently wins the 2 mile run.

Garcia is also a top performer in the long jump and high jump who consistently jumps 5' in the high jump.

State is coming sooner than you think and some potential state competitors will be Branner and Judson, if she recovers from her injury.

Kostro feels that for years to come a lot of the younger performers have a strong potential to be much better.

West Chicago volleyball battles for varsity victory

By: Kristi Ault

The guys volleyball team has gotten off to a slow start, but have not lost their optimism. The team is 0-2 in conference, however, that doesn't fairly reflect their play.

"The D.V.C. is a tough conference," Coach Kristi Hasty commented. "We are a young club. It usually takes about three to four years to build a good strong program."

This is only We-Go's second year in the program, and We-Go's first year with coach Kris Hasty. Returning senior players are Brent Busse, Jeff Nyman, and Steve Petusky. Returning juniors are Ryan Drake, Kent Mohr, Brad Richards, Bill Saunders, Jeremy Salutric, and Dustin Schultze.

Two Sophomores new to the varsity level are Ed Gomez and Rich Standish.

Schultze has been We-Go's strongest passer this season followed by Drake who also stands out as the team's strongest hitter.

On Tuesday, April 18, We-Go broke the school's losing streak when they defeated I.M.S.A. After losing the first game, We-Go came back to take the match in three winning 16-14 and 15-7.

We-Go has been battling all throughout the season, they took

"We have to remain positive and patient along with continuing to improve to reach our goal," Coach Hasty

one game from Fenton, losing in three, and put up a good fight against Wheaton North's block of 6'3" Griffin Sonntag and 6'7" Chris Puryear.

Wheaton North is a new team this year and have created an upset in the D.V.C. by defeating Naperville Central for the first time.

Schultze hopes to "give them (Wheaton North) a tough match when we play them on our home court."

Hasty expects her team to keep getting stronger and to keep playing better with each match they play.

"I'd like to finish other than last place in the D.V.C. This is a realistic goal considering our competition. We have to remain positive and patient along with continuing to improve to reach our goal," Hasty said.