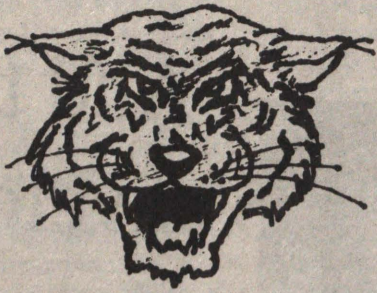


Wildcat Chronicle



West Chicago Community High School

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"After All" Prom Is Over

By Mary Merrick and Laura Torrey

Last week on May 19, the Junior class sponsored the Junior/Senior Prom at the Empress Banquet Hall in Addison.

Students began arriving elegantly dressed at 6:30 to have pictures taken and mingle with their friends. Photographers from Spellman Studios were in attendance most of the evening offering the opportunity to have professional pictures taken.

Over 400 prom-goers had many different ways of making their grand entrance to this special event. There was the traditional limo, car, and even a yellow school bus. Upon arriving students checked in, got their table, and time cards for pictures. Hors d'oeuvres were

given upon entering the maroon and gold decorated dining room.

Around 7:15 the first course was served. It was soup, followed by salad, and then the main meal. People who ordered the chicken plate received their plate first. Approximately fifteen minutes later the waiters served the vegetarian lasagna. However, the



Dawn Chorobik, Jessica Burns, Fran Napier, Brenda Jeppesen, Chris Altman

vegetarian platter was just buttered noodles with vegetables on the side.

Junior Katie Leitherer enjoyed the dinner the food and service.

She said, "I thought the chicken was really good."

Plates were then quickly taken and music began to play.

Dessert was hot fudge sundaes, but were served after the dancing had begun, so many people never received the sweet end to their meal.

The room then began to overheat as the DJ's started dancing on the tables to popular dance

songs such as YMCA, Stayin' Alive, and Jump Around.

During the dance portion of the evening, Prom court was announced. Candy Campbell and Joe Czernik, last years Prom King and Queen, crowned the 1995 royalty which were Candy Gallagher and Tony Keen. Following this was the song "After All" which piled everyone on the dance floor for the final hour of this memorable event.

Souvenirs that were provided for everyone were the program, a wine glass candle, a picture frame, and a key chain. In addition students took it upon themselves to take all of the balloons and center pieces as well.

West Chicago turned Oklahoma

By Jennifer Bailey

On May 11th, 12th, and 13th, students performed "Oklahoma" in the Weyrauch Auditorium.

Students and faculty that were involved with the production of the play worked for approximately two months in order to make the play as enjoyable as possible for the audience.

"We worked on set construction every Wednesday and Saturday for two months," senior Stacy Shannon said.

The cast of "Oklahoma" consisted of nearly 46 people, however, most of the cast was made up of members of the chorus (34 students).

The lead roles of Curly and Laurey were played by senior Chris LaCour and junior Sarah Arthur.

Chris and Sarah spent many hours rehearsing and perfecting

their roles. Each did a great job in their performances.

"Oklahoma" is a play about two love triangles. One is between Laurey, Curly, and Judd, played by senior Brandon Fantozzi. The other is between Ado Annie, played by senior Melissa Pagnozzi; Will Parker, played by junior Mike Clifford; and Ali Hakim, played by freshman Steve Garcia.

In the end, Laurey and Curly get married, and Ado Annie and Will are together. Judd dies after coming at Curly with a knife. Curly trips him, and Judd falls on his knife.

"Every night the play seemed to get better. It was the best play that the school has put on in a long time," senior Robert Hernandez said.

The time has come

By Blanca Rios

The commencement ceremony for the class of 1995 will be held on Sunday June 4th at 2:00 p.m.

The ceremony will take about 55 minutes. The ceremony will begin with a song sung by the choir members. It will also involve the Pomp and Circumstance played by the school band, the Pledge of Allegiance, the National Anthem and of course the reading of the graduating seniors, read by P.E. teacher Paul McLeland.

Later into the program seniors will present the senior gift which will be a new sound system for Bishop gym. As for the Valedictorian there are four possible candidates: Seniors Chuck Ashcraft, Jamie Symowicz, Sara

Watson, Dan Vock. They will not be decided until about two days before, when the teachers will meet for senior failures.

The speaker chosen for graduation is English teacher Kelly Kolasa. She was chosen by the students. Student Council interviewed students at random and Kolasa was chosen.

"I am honored and very excited. It makes me feel like people actually hear what I say," said Kolasa.

Her speech will be about giving back to the community, meaning, "Society has given a lot to us, and it is time we give something back."

The class of 1995 is a distinctive class according to others.

Assistant Principal John Highland feels that there are more leaders and there is a more positive impact than any class he can remember. An example of the leaders here are the many nominated students for student of the month. "Years before I literally had to look for students, this year there are so many but not enough months," said Highland.

Kolasa feels the class has experienced a lot of tragedy in and out of school.

"The class is very well rounded and clubs like SADD and Key club have really done a lot," remarked Kolasa.

"This has been an impressive class, and pleasure to work with," said Highland.

In This Issue...

Student Council Results on p. 2

Read All About Field Trips on p. 5

Take the Star Wars Quiz on p. 9

Check out Girl's Soft ball on p. 12

We-go students save lives

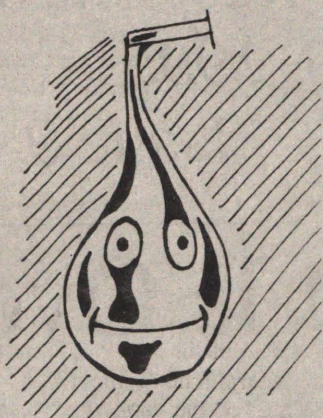
By Kristi Ault

Heartland Blood Center came to Community High School for our biannual blood drive. They reached their goal of 80 pints after turning down only 9 people. On Thursday, May 11, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the small gym, student council sponsored and supervised the drive.

Sapna Patel was the student council member in charge of checking birth dates and keeping track of donors. There were about 8 student volunteers each hour throughout the day. Ten Heartland nurses and workers ran the testing and blood donating.

The average time to take one pint of blood is 7 minutes, but you are only allowed to try for 10 minutes before they stop your suffering. After donating, each person must wait and eat cookies and drink pop for at least 10 minutes before allowed to go back to class.

All food and drinks were provided by Heartland.



All prospective donors must be at least 17 or 16 if they have written consent from a parent or legal guardian. Heartland has a quick efficient system for collecting blood, making the process an easy, practically painless act of charity. By donating blood, someone else is given a chance to live.

After an information sheet is filled out a nurse questions the prospective donor asking a range of questions about past medical history, possible medical diffi-



culties, and possible sexually transmitted diseases. The nurse tests each persons blood for hemoglobin. Each pint of blood is further tested at the lab for syphilis, gonorrhea, hepatitis, H.I.V.

The most common blood type is O-Positive, and the least common is AB-negative. AB-positive is the universal acceptor and O-Negative is the universal donor.

To qualify as a donor, one must be in good health, weigh over 110 pounds, and have

waited 8 weeks since their last donation. A 12 month waiting period is necessary after receiving an ear pierced, acupuncture, or a tattoo. Also a 12 week waiting period is necessary after surgery requiring at least a month of recuperation, and/or blood transfusion.

A donor is disqualified if they have uncontrolled asthma, a cold or flu, fever, persistent cough, sore throat or chest congestion, heart disease, history of heart attack, or viral hepatitis.

And the envelope please...

By Elizabeth Feltes

Well here they are, the results we've all been waiting for. After weeks of campaigning and poster-making, the new Student Council members have been chosen.

Student Council Advisor Mary Ellen Daneels is really happy with the choices that the student body made. "They seem really enthusiastic and have a lot of good ideas."

Next year's Senior class voted Jessica Aguirre as President, Karen Paton for Vice-President, Katie Leitherer as Secretary, Sarah Toney as Treasurer, and Tony Berg, Tracy Churan, Candy Gallagher, Bridget Horgan, Michelle Rapinchuk, and Dave Splawski as Representatives.

The next Junior class picked Chris Hauger as their President, Josh Brown for Vice-President, Heather Horsley as Secretary, Missy Buenz as Treasurer, and Grant Barclay, Elizabeth Feltes, Stacy Hook, Annalea Jimmo, Sarah McQueen, and Dana Nelson as Representatives.

Hauger plans to hold "the best prom yet" and "to boost school spirit, especially in the Junior class."

And as for the Sophomores, they choose Trish Tinnes as President, Angie Berg for Vice-President, Jennie Grobe as Secretary, Darcie Wostratsky as

"I have a lot of faith in Tracy as president." - Sapna Patel

Treasurer, and Tracy Busse, Marcia Chacon, Caroline McClellan, Lisa Mueller, Meg Runyan, and Chris Schnurr as Representatives.

The incoming Freshman class will vote early next fall and at the May 11th meeting the Council choose their Executive Board. Next year Tracy Churan will be Student Council President, Elizabeth Feltes will be Vice-President, Katie Leitherer will be Secretary, Bridget Horgan will be Treasurer, and Candy Gallagher will be Parliamentarian.

This year's President, Sapna Patel, thanked the council for a great year and said, "I have a lot of faith in Tracy as President."

President Tracy Churan is excited about next year and already has a lot of plans for the upcoming school year. "I want to increase communication between the student body and Student Council, because that would make Student Council be more effective in helping the students."

VICA goes down state

By Dan Dibble

On May 1st, VICA went down to Springfield. They returned the night of May 3rd. They competed in the state VICA competition. At the competition they each were given a problem in their field of study. For example, senior, Jason Day had a problem having to do with fire fighting. They were given a specific amount of time and then they were judged by people in that industry, Day's judges were firefighters.

Day came in first place in his fire fighting field. Some others that placed were senior Josh Murphy, first place; senior Joe Czernik, second place; senior Corey Johnson, seventh place; junior Rylan Jensen, eighth; and also senior Juan Figueroa, twelfth place. They all competed in machine drafting.

Others in the competition included Ehrin Arimura, first in sewing; Sokhorn Chan, second in sewing; Sandra Butkovich, first in interior design; Tara Grunwald, second in interior design; and Jeff Rau, second in architectural drawing.

"There was good competition. I met a lot of people," Day said when asked how the competition went.

VICA members all felt that it was really fun and that they met a lot of people.

Summer school coming soon to an area near you

By Jennifer Wagenaar

What a relief, school is almost over. Well for most of us it is, but not for those who are planning on attending summer school, they still have until the end of July.

Summer school begins only seven days after the real school year is over on June 14 and runs until July 27.

Summer school is available to students who have failed a class and need to take it again. They have the choice, most of the time, whether they want to make it up in the summer or during the next school year.

Summer school is also available for students who wish to take a class during the summer so they won't have to take it during the real school year.

Classes during summer school are limited. Most of the classes available are required for students to graduate. There are few (if any) classes that are electives. All classes are \$80.00 per semester.

The classes available this year to anyone are: Safety Education, Behind the Wheel (BTW), Consumer Education, Keyboarding/WP, American History, American Government, and World Geography. Classes that are for make up only are: Pre-Algebra, Algebra, Physical Education, and English I, II, and III.

Teachers teaching summer classes are not yet hired due to the lack of students signing up for summer school. Seventeen

students must sign up for a class in order to fill the requirement.

Three different periods are offered throughout the day. First period is 8:00-10:00, second period 10:10-12:10, and third period 4:00-6:00 PM., and the school week for the summer is Monday through Friday.

Summer classes follow the same syllabus as the one during the school year, the only real change is attendance. Attendance and tardies are monitored very carefully. Each student is allowed two absences, on their third one he/she will be dropped from the class. Three tardies count as one absence and if the student comes in 15 minutes late to a class it is then counted as an absence.

Revitalized N.H.S. inducts new members

By Dan Vock

Ninety-six new members of the National Honor Society promised to further the ideals of character, scholarship, leadership, and service in the N.H.S. on May 2.

In order to maintain their good standing in the Society, all of the juniors inducted are required to spend five hours serving the school.

In the past, inductees were expected to serve their school, but no service requirement was attached to membership. The new N.H.S. advisor, John Carter, changed that. The goal is to change the relatively dormant

chapter at WCCHS into an active club.

Currently, the N.H.S. holds one event a year—the induction ceremony.

Weyrauch Auditorium was filled with inductees and their families, along with faculty members and "old" members of the N.H.S.

Beverly Burke, a science teacher at Community High School, delivered a simple yet thoughtful speech to the inductees. In her oration, Burke compared the process of learning to the process of making a pearl.

"Knowledge begins with an irritant—a question—just as a

pearl does," she said. She extended the metaphor by noting how a long process ends in something beautiful in both situations.

Noted one observer, Bill Spellman, "This is what high school is all about... This is what we try to teach in school—leadership, service, character, and scholarship."

Seven "older" members of the Society served cake and punch to the inductees and guests afterward. Sherry Zulkowski, Alan Jones, and Carter organized the reception so it would run more smoothly than last year's, when cake was short and the servers were caught off guard.

A galaxy not far, far from your home

By Jeff Hadzima

Eighteen years after it's release, *Star Wars* has remained a force in the entertainment industry.

Action figures, video games, comic books, and trading cards all have been contributors to the new *Star Wars* generation. Whether you collected the action figures or you started collecting the comics, *Star Wars* is a big business.

Do you remember those *Star Wars* figures you had when you were little? They were the ones you tossed around, broke, or even lost. These figures are worth good money, if you kept them in good condition. In fact, if you kept them in the package, they could be worth as much as \$100 each.

Most likely you didn't take great care of them, but they still can bring you some cash. Here's how to tell.

If the figure is in the package and unopened, and the cardboard has no bends, it is considered mint. A figure from the original *Star Wars* is worth more than a figure from the *Return of the Jedi* series because they are older.

Like most playful kids, you probably opened your *Star Wars* figures from their package. This is alright, because they still can be worth some money. That's as long as you weren't a destructive kid. If you still have the weapons for the figures, it can boost the price about five dollars.

Check the figure for scratches or marks. If there are no scars

and you have the weapons, it is considered excellent condition. The price range for an excellent condition figure can run anywhere between \$10 to \$20. Rare figures can even reach as much as \$40.

Most of the figures that you may find will fall under good condition. This means the weapons are lost, and there are a few scratches on the figure. Most true *Star Wars* fans have figures in this condition, due to the great amount of play and abuse the figures got. Prices run from five to \$15 for this condition.

These prices mean nothing unless you find someone to buy these figures. The best place for buying or selling these figures is at a flea market. Here you can talk down the prices, and you can always get a good deal. This is a good place to sell your figures because the people selling the figures are most likely collectors themselves. They know what they want or need, so most will offer you good prices.

Another place to buy figures is at your local comic book or science fiction store. The prices here are usually high, so go here just to look at the collection. It's very tempting, but don't pay full price for these figures.

Many people collect *Star Wars* figures because of their love for the movies. These people collect for fun, and aren't out for a profit. These are the best people to sell your figures to, because you will make someone happy, and get a good deal out of it.

Summer Fun spelled F-E-S-T-I-V-A-L-S

by Elizabeth Feltes

Let me guess, you're not going to be doing much world traveling this summer because of that terrific job at K-Mart or because you just really don't want to be seen with your parents riding the Teacups at Disney World. So then, what can you do around here that won't blow all your hard earned cash? Well there will be a plethora of summer festivals in the area.

One of the biggest things that towns will be holding are 4th of July fireworks displays. They start at dusk most of the time and locations can be found by getting in contact with the park districts.

In addition to the annual 4th of July fireworks, Glen Ellyn will have a Fourth of July Parade running down Main Street from Hillside to Linden.

Carol Stream will hold their 4th of July festivities called "The Fourth of July Fabulous Fifties and Fantastic Fireworks" at Armstrong Park. According to Laurie Freeman at the Carol

Stream Park District, "We will go along with the 50's theme by holding Elvis Impersonation contest for kids, a hula-hooping contest, and entertainment by groups like Danny and the Twisters. They fireworks will begin a little bit after dusk and will last from 30-45 minutes."

The Warrenville Chamber of Commerce will hold their annual antique car show in July.

And last but definitely not least will be Railroad Days! This year's fun filled festival will be held from July 6th to the 9th. Most of the activities like the entertainment, the farmer's market, the carnival, and the parade will be held on or around Main Street, while the park district plans for the 5K and 10K races and the Mud Volleyball Tournament, and fireworks on Sunday will be held at Reed-Keppler park. Some of newer activities for next year will be the farmer's market, and a mini-taste including food vendors

from around the area. Entertainment will include some local talent and even a cajun band all the way from Louisiana. Other Park District events like the soap box derby and the Big Wheel race will be held on Highland Avenue.

This year they are trying to put the railroad back into railroad days with a antique railroad exhibit by Union Pacific, a model railroad show, a railroad memorabilia sale, and a possible train ride. The train ride sponsored by Union Pacific Railroad Company and the Illinois Railroad Museum will be run from the new train station in West Chicago towards Elgin along the Fox River giving riders a taste of history as they ride in antique passenger cars.

And the best part of all these festivals is that there is no entry fee. Food and drink will cost you money, but if you don't want to spend even a dime, pack a picnic basket and head on out the door.

Essentials for your home away from home

By Blanca Rios

The Master List for what you need for college.

1. Curiosity and desire to learn-Teacher Carol Campbell
2. Good attitude-Social Studies teacher Mary Ellen Daneels
3. Fake I.D.-Senior Lisa Ellerbruch
4. Fridge-Senior Jeff Hadzima
5. Afternoon classes(so you don't have to wake up early)-

Peer Writing Coordinator Keith Bullock

6. Good alarm clock-Daneels
7. Big tolerance for alcohol-Seniors Matt Wehling and Wendy Woodward
8. MONEY-unanimous!
9. A lot of responsibility-English teacher Lori Watson
10. A lot of confidence-English teacher Steve Kellner

11. Sense of humor, proficiency in reading and writing-English teacher Tom McCann
12. Enough clean underwear, so you don't need to do your laundry for 2 weeks-McCann
13. Dictionary-Head Librarian Sally Olson
14. Computer-Social teacher Barbara Lymans
15. Intelligence-Senior Dora Vargas

It's Wednesday and you know what that means!

by Dan Vock

"It's Wednesday, and you know what that means...IT'S DONUT DAY!!"

When Class of 1997 advisor Brad Larson announcing the now infamous fund-raiser, students echo the announcement through the hallways and many even abandon their hangouts to buy a donut or two from the Sophomore Class.

Larson got the idea from his high school National Honor Society chapter, who also sold donuts on Wednesdays.

This fundraiser is especially profitable because it provides the Class of 1997 with a steady income instead of relying heavily on a few, large-scale fund-raisers as Prom approaches like the Class of 1996 has done.

The donut selling has become so ingrained in the minds of students and staff that when, due to technical difficulties, there were no donuts on the Wednesday after Spring Break, students and staff alike expressed their disappointment to Larson.

English teacher Kimberly Austin poked her head in Larson's room to inquire about the missing Dunkin' delights. She skips breakfast every Wednesday because of the do-

nuts, so their absence was especially hard on her.

Mike Powers, a regular customer and the only other person besides Larson to have the honor of making the Donut Day announcement, also stopped in to find the missing goodies. Powers usually enjoys his donut with milk from the breakfast line, as does Leslie Harlson.

Students asked each other in confusion whatever happened to the announcement they loved to imitate and the cake rings they craved.

Fortunately, sanity returned with the donuts the next week.

Whenever donuts are mentioned, it seems somebody has to mention police officers. Larson admitted that our very own Officer Tony Cuordo receives free donuts on occasion.

Of course, Cuordo said, "You know, [Larson] came down once and gave me a free donut! If you want to talk about him, come down to my office...I'll tell you about him."

Law enforcement officers aren't the only ones to get free donuts, though. Larson said, "The sellers earn my undying gratitude, so occasionally they get a free donut."

Seller Sarah McQueen said, "I'm fulfilling my obligations as Student Council representative, so you should vote for me next year."

Unfortunately, by press time, elections will be decided, but it should be noted that McQueen spent one Wednesday morning selling donuts instead of hanging campaign posters, showing her dedication even in the face of potential personal loss.

Not everybody is a gung-ho donut freak, though. According to McQueen, para-pro Barbara Kearney drives off business by telling potential customers to "watch what you're eating." She suggests that the sophomores should sell bagels.

Even if students miss the morning sales, they can drop in Larson's room (room...) for a donut throughout the day. Of course, the selection isn't as great. Larson's classes also help the sophomores unload all of the extras. Larson says his third hour British/World Literature class especially seize the opportunity to satisfy their cravings.

Hungry bargain hunters might be able to buy donuts on Thursdays if there are any left over. Thursday means donuts are only 25 cents.

Summers not all fun in the sun

by Jennifer Bailey

Summer vacation. This is every student's 14 letter dream.

For nine months students await the day when the bell rings on the last day of school and they are dismissed for three months of fun in the sun.

Although summer break is supposed to be all fun, some people decide to work instead of spending their days basking in the hot sun. This of course still leaves their evenings free to spend time with friends.

"I'm working because I have to save-up money for college," senior Sarah Keuker said.

Other students, however, are planning on activity-filled vacations.

"I might be going to Florida. I also have volleyball camps. One is at NIU (Northern Illinois University) and the other is at Great Lakes Center in West Chicago. I'm going to my cabin in Michigan too," freshman Danielle Murphy said.

Some students may be staying around here and that might sound like a boring way to spend the summer for those who are going away, but for sophomore Katy Madden staying home won't be bad at all.

"I'm staying here, because my family is hosting a 15 year old girl from Ireland for 4 weeks. While she's here we're going to go to Great America, Chicago, and do service projects for the community," Katy said. "Having her here is a way to help out with the problems going on in Northern Ireland."

Whether your summer vacation is going to be spent working, on the beach in Florida, in a gym in West Chicago, or at home with a student from Ireland, vacation is still fun.

There are many things to do if you aren't planning on going away for vacation. There are some water parks in the area and the West Chicago pool should be finished in early June. Playing baseball or softball is always fun to do. People can spend their days relaxing too.

During summer vacation students get to put up their books and not worry about homework for three months. After nine months in school, for some people, just being able to relax is vacation enough.

Living the good life

I want to be a country boy

By Joseph Sosnowski

Just imagine the trees and log cabins where the smoke of burning logs slowly drifts towards the crystal clear blue sky choking a passing eagle causing him to crash into a nearby owl.

What's wrong with me you ask? Absolutely nothing, I'm not even crazy (Crazy? I was crazy once. They put me in a little padded room with a bowl of worms for food. I tried some. I didn't like them so I stopped eating them. I eventually died. The little worms crawled out of the bowl and into my ears. They started nibbling on my brain. It drove me crazy. Crazy? I was crazy once. They put me in a...).

Anyway, for all those who read the big paper (nickname for the Chronicle, stop that laughing), my last article discussed problems with the world and the evils of technology so I'll move on to the benefits of nothing.

The result would be a different world, something foreign and strange, a whole new frontier where not even the Starship Enterprise would travel because it would be just too cool.

Early to bed and early to rise would be tradition since there would be less to do at night unless it was some kind of dance or sociable thing like sitting around the cabin table sipping brew or hanging out in the neighborhood (most people wouldn't want to travel far at night since there would be no cars). At first this may seem boring, but appearances are deceiving.

We wouldn't be having less fun, just better and more quality filled times. Actually we would spend more time having fun during the day playing hopscotch or working (we wouldn't work as long though because we would only be chopping logs or hunting or doing whatever we needed to survive) when we can see each other's ugly faces.

I know there's at least one intelligent person out there who's thinking I can't deal with change. Far from it, I love cool gadgets and buttons especially when they're not mine. Change (not money) is neat and cool but I also realize that people would be more sane if there were fewer knobs, glitches, and fumes in the world.

People would spend less time playing at night, instead they'd be sleeping. Sleep means relaxation. Relaxation means people that are cool, calm, and controlled: people who get along.

Psyches would improve. What does this mean you ask? Well lots, and I wouldn't be an expert journalist if I didn't tell you so I will.

Calm people means no social problems, no social problems means no social problems, and no social problems means no social problems. Murders, drugs, violence, crimes, abortions, and other fun stuff just wouldn't be here. All this just from sleep?

Yep. Not to mention that people would not live in closer quarters since there wouldn't be any cities due to lack of technology. Instead there would be little country towns where people were fairly close and would wave at each other when they passed in the streets.

Everyone knows that cities have very high crime rates and scattered housing areas like the suburbs are fairly safe. If everyone were scattered the world would be fairly safe and friendly. Mr. Roger's neighborhoods would be everywhere.

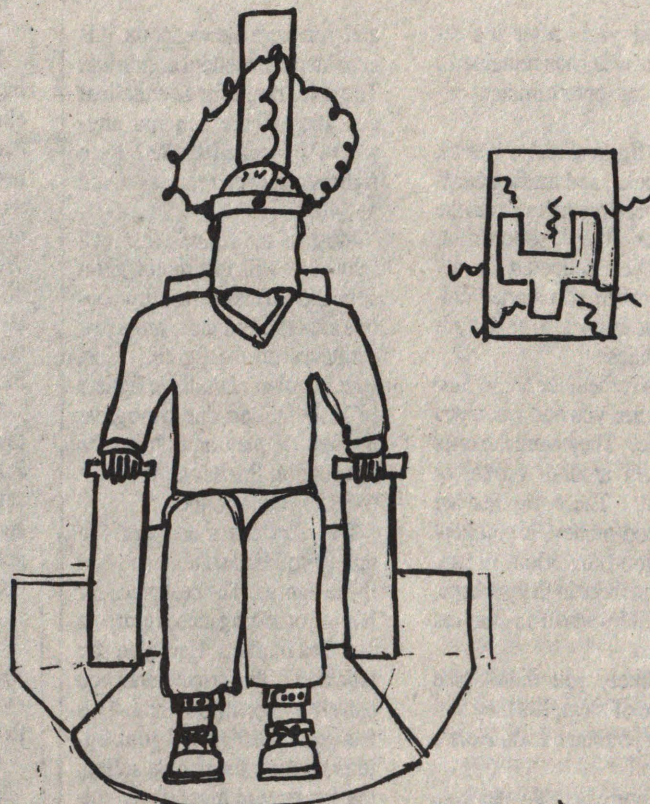
Furthermore people would be in smaller communities where they would try and take care of their own. If everyone took care of their communities problems and not the world's problems the world would be great.

The ideal world would come into existence because people would be living the way they were supposed to: one with nature without technology, thus they would be a Naturalist (you were all waiting for me to finally mention this word, I know it).

Being a naturalist means you have to say such things like "Down with the cars!" (and I don't mean that crummy musical group).

It wouldn't be that bad, then again I wouldn't have my electric blanket at night or my favorite toothbrush or my microwaveable egg rolls, or my job, or my house, or my...

What was I thinking?



It's time to pay the price

By Dan Dibble

What is the answer to the death penalty issue? Most liberals are against it and want it ended completely. Most conservatives think it should want be used more often.

New York Governor George Pataki, (R), has a crime bill that is moving through Congress. This bill would change the law to encourage more death penalties and also make it harder to appeal them. For all the liberals who are against the death penalty because it costs less to keep the criminals in jail, this bill proposes a major cut in the cost. This bill will make it a lot harder to appeal a sentence, (which means the court costs will drop dramatically). Since almost all of the cost of putting someone to death is in the court costs, the total cost will drop to where it will be more expensive to keep them in jail.

I am not proposing that everyone that kills should be set to the death penalty, I believe in three strikes and you're out. If someone kills three different times, they are not going to stop, even with intense therapy.

According to Stephen Chapman of the *Chicago Tribune*, there are nearly 3,000 people on death row in the United States,

but some 24,000 homicides happen every year. And out of those 3,000 on death row only 31 were executed last year. He also states that a killer has a slightly better chance of dying in the electric chair than being struck by lightning ("Dead Reckoning", March 2, 1995).

If this new crime bill passes it will not only reduce the cost of legal execution, but it will also decrease the amount of killers on death row. That means that we, the taxpayers, will have our taxes decreased because there will be less people in the jails to pay for.

The latest highly publicized execution was that of John Wayne Gacy. It cost \$2 million to pump potassium chloride into him. Wrong, it cost for all of the times Gacy appealed the decision, including the appeal right before his execution, not the actual pumping of the chemicals into his bloodstream. And with this bill that Governor Pataki proposed, appealing would not take place as much as it does, therefore cutting the cost of legal execution.

I think its time to pay the price. If someone commits a major felony, (rape, murder, etc.), three times, then they shall be put to death.

By Dan Vock

A prayer for guidance

"Every year somebody writes an article complaining about Guidance," said Assistant Principal Carol Sweder, "so every year freshmen look at it and say 'Hey that's right!' and we never get a chance."

I don't intend to break this tradition.

Besides, I doubt freshmen, who overall rate the counselors as neither extremely good nor extremely bad, change their minds after reading one newspaper article. More likely the change of heart comes from working with Guidance more often.

The most prominent of the criticisms among college-bound students is that the department places too much emphasis on College of DuPage, the military, and work training programs. Many seniors are disappointed at the lack of support from Guidance during the college application procedure—presumably the culmination of a student's academic journey at this high school.

Counselor Robert Hein realizes this problem. "Better students take care of themselves," he explained, "so I'm most likely to write recommendations for the students I see the least." He deals with this by conferring with teachers and making inferences about a student from his/her records, he said.

Still, this ironic twist is troubling. When counselors must deal with 400 students

each, they focus on the students who have the most problems—the ones least likely to go to college. This remains the case even though a survey of this year's freshmen conducted by the Guidance Department indicated that 80% thought it was important or very important for guidance counselors to help students select a college. Seventy-eight percent thought counselors should help students complete college applications.

Furthermore, counselors must do a lot of busywork because there's only one secretary/receptionist for the entire department. What this means is that your counselor may be filling in Scan-tron forms to register next year's freshmen instead of seeking you out.

That's another problem in this complicated mess. Students are dismayed that their counselors never seek them out—after all, that's their job, right? The counselors feel that students should seek them out, because there's no way they can check up on 400 students periodically.

Counselor Robert Hein noted that, "The younger kids are better than seniors at making appointments." Of course, it's hard to make appointments when many scholarships are announced within a week of the deadline.

It's time for some solutions.

To their credit the Guidance Department already considered some of these problems. Next year an additional counselor and secretary will be hired. Senior News, to those who get it, is a helpful tool in finding scholarships. The department will distribute a compulsory evaluation to the Class of 1995 at graduation practice, and a follow-up survey is being considered.

At least the latter will clear up the C.O.D. Myth. I'm sure you've heard it. It goes something like this, "I'll go to C.O.D. for two years to save money, and then I'll transfer out." I dare say that half those who start C.O.D. with this intention never fulfill their own prophecies. Maybe I'm wrong (a first, I know), but even Guidance couldn't prove it—and we're sending 35% of our graduates there. Hein says the C.O.D. representatives feel Guidance doesn't push their institution enough. Anymore emphasizing and we will become C.O.D. West.

Anyway, there are a few more options to consider. If counselors can't handle their caseload, perhaps students should be assigned a faculty advisor (one of their teachers) to actually offer a personal side of a counselor.

The advisors would know the student and be able to answer their questions about life beyond high school or find them out for the students. Of course, this wouldn't change much because most teachers are willing to do this and do it already.

The Guidance Department should continue to streamline the many meetings it holds with students. Recently, Sweder says, there have been less large group meetings. She says they function largely as "teaser" meetings to get students down to Guidance.

When selecting small groups, Guidance should look on the bottom of a student's four-year plan for the student's post high school plans. Would it be too much work to group students according to these plans rather than alphabetically?

It would allow counselors to focus more on what students are interested in and give students more than a watered-down synopsis of what they already know. Some students will undoubtedly change their minds, but with more specialized groups their decisions would be much more informed.

I still think it is a bit weird that it is no harder to talk with the superintendent than it is with my guidance counselor. I think Dr. Morris even knows me and my personality better than my counselor, and all he did was listen to me for a bit. Hey! I think we're on to something...

Letters to the Editor

Dear Wildcat Chronicle,

I would like to respond to your article about Walt Disney World, "Can you spell rip off? M-I-C-K-E-Y-M-O-U-S-E" (April 28). I found this article entirely untrue. I am fourteen years old and have been to Disney World four times. I loved it every time.

Disney World is not a lie. Most of the great things said about it are said by WDW veterans, like myself. Attracting people to the parks is common, but it is not done by lying. Disney World does not just care about profits; they care about the people.

As for the attractions and their lines; there are certain tricks to getting away from the long lines. At the Magic Kingdom, for example, get there early so that when the gates open you can head straight for Space Mountain, the Haunted Mansion, and other popular rides. Most people automatically head for the line on the right, so the line on left is usually shorter. The attractions are geared toward the kid in all of us. This is why, to a very small minority, Disney World seems corny. Although the every single attraction at Epcot's Future World and World Showcase are educational.

I checked the April eighteenth Chicago Tribune. The only part that mentioned Walt Disney World was a graph. This graph showed the increase and decrease of people attending these theme parks from 1993 to 1994. Out of twenty parks, eight had an increase, seven had a decrease, and six had no change. The Magic Kingdom and Epcot were among the parks whose attendants had decreased, while MGM Studios did not have any change. The Magic Kingdom lost 6.5% and Epcot lost 3%. These are very small numbers, and nowhere did it say that attendance has dropped because people found Disney World a rip off.

I agree that the merchandise at Disney World is very expensive, but, again, you have to know where to look. The Fort Wilderness Trading Posts are places where you can find great deals. I bought a pair of jeans for only twenty dollars that have a Mickey and Minnie embroidered on them.

Disney does live up to its reputation. I advise that next time you go to Walt Disney World (I hope that you will give it another chance), that you buy a book called Birnbaum's Walt Disney World. It has a lot of great tips on how to save time, money, and have a great time at Walt Disney World.

Caroline McClellan

Dear Wildcat Chronicle,

We feel that once again the Senior Superlatives have become a popularity contest. In the beginning there was a "2 rule" which limited the number of categories a student could win to two. By removing this rule, some students won as many as seven categories, many more. We feel that this is unfair and biased because the removal of the rule opens the superlatives to social discrimination. Because the superlatives are school (public) funded, using "contests" such as the Senior Superlatives use public dollars to pay for socially categorizing people. We feel this is unfair to the rest of the students who aren't "popular" and it is only for the amusement of those students who were voted into the multiple superlatives. We also feel there were more people than those who won that were voted for, and deciding to take the rule out of effect after people voted is ridiculous.

Colleen Lasky and Mandy Navarre

Field trips: the royal pain

By Raechel Anderson

For as long as I can remember there have been field trips, whether they have been were to the park around the corner or to Chicago.

In the past year, I have come to realize that there is a recurring problem with the attitude towards field trips.

For being a new concept, there have been many changes to the actual field trip form. The change was the addition of the "aware of" column as a third choice to "approved of" or "denied."

However, the main problem is the response given to the student when he/she presents the form to a teacher. We as students are not allowed to go on the field trip without the signature or initials of each of our teachers.

Many teachers are very unpleasant when you present them with a form. Why should a teacher come down on a student for choosing to go to a class sponsored activity? It is not the student's responsibility to feel bad for making that option.

In addition, the majority of teachers who seem to have a problem with the field trips, give field trips themselves. This is ultimate hypocrisy! If a teacher has a genuine concern about the class the student is missing, they should make that known in an appropriate way.

They could first of all write their concern in the "comments" column of the form, they could talk to the student, privately and, with a good attitude, they could talk to the teacher giving the field trip, or they could talk to the parents of the student.

A response such as, "Just put my initials down, I'm sick of seeing those things," or "Where are you going?...I don't think that's a good reason for missing class," is unacceptable. In addition, it's not very professional for any teacher to do this.

The fact that people have poor grades is a very relevant fact to missing class. It is nothing to joke around with. However it is improper to tell the student this in front of the class.

A problem that has arisen recently is the issue of the AP English IV/ British World Literature field trip to the Steppenwolf Theater in Chicago to see "Nomatamba" conflicting with the AP Chemistry calendar. The AP Chemistry teacher planned for preparing and reviewing on 5/15 and 5/17, and the actual final on 5/18. The English field trip lasted until 7:30 pm, so all the students with afternoon classes of Chemistry would have to arrange another time to take the exam.

The students were upset by the way they were treated for selecting the option to go on the field trip. The students having this concern followed the correct chain of command and went to the teacher who gave them the field trip forms.

The rivalry between these two particular teachers was more than obvious to many students and administrators. This conduct coming from members of a staff want us to solve our problems maturely and reasonably? One more element of hypocrisy to add to this controversy.

Despite that example there still remains the problem of fieldtrips. I have ultimate confidence in our administration. In fact one member of the administration posed a solution to this problem.

He asserted that any student who chooses to miss work, or a lab for example, will not be able to make it up, however it does not count in his/her grade.

In the long run the student will miss out by not having that information, but he/she won't be penalized by a lower grade because of missing that lab.

The teacher also benefits by not having to feel the need to take time out of their schedule to set up the lab for the student. After all the student has to learn to make these kind of decisions sometime. In the same regard they should not be harrassed for choosing to go or not to go.

Those teachers who don't like field trips need to accept the fact they were existant when they chose to be a teacher, they're here now and they will most likely always be around.

However, we as students do need to be sensitive to the teacher's concerns and follow the guidelines; that is to get homework ahead of time and to take quizzes and tests when it's convenient for the teachers.

Probably, more importantly though, we need to learn how to solve our problems and concerns maturely and properly- this includes students, administrators, and teachers. After all, WHY CAN'T WE ALL JUST GET ALONG?

We love you but we just don't trust you

By Kristi Ault

For just \$49.95, parents can buy DrugAlert, a new way of detecting illegal drug use without having their children pee in a cup. Actually, parents can conduct this test without their kids even knowing about it.

The DrugAlert package, manufactured by Barringer Co., contains three 2.8-ounce aerosol cans two for marijuana, and one for cocaine and crack, and a 260-page anti-drug paperback, "Not My Kid: A Parent's Guide to Drugs and Kids."

The DrugAlert test allows parents to use their children's belongings or anything they have touched-clothing, doorknobs, dressers, even bedding- to detect traces of cocaine, heroin, PCP, LSD, and THC (marijuana).

Parents take a white tissue or paper towel and wipe it over one of these surfaces, then spray DrugAlert on the paper. If turquoise discoloration appears, traces of cocaine are present, a reddish-brown stain indicates traces of hashish or marijuana.

The aerosol can of DrugAlert can be purchased through the mail, is good for up to 50 sprays, and its contents are guaranteed to remain effective for one year.

Another way to test is by buying DrugAlert's fabric swatch, which is a moistened pad that you swipe over the surface, seal it up and send it to Barringer for testing. This swatch is sent through an Ionscan which measures the speed of illicit drug molecules such as cocaine, heroin, LSD, PCP, and THC.

The speed and quantity of molecules should indicate the amounts of each drug

present, indicating high, low, or moderate amounts. Barringer then issues each sample a number, and confidentially mails the results, or if given a name, Barringer can telephone the results.

So, this test indicates the *presence*—not the use—of drugs.

Is this really what our society has come to? It perturbs me to see that we have hit rock bottom. People are now doubling as parents and private investigators. DrugAlert encourages parents and children to spy on each other. Is this the society we are fighting for in the 21st century?

What's going to happen, are kids going to be tested every night when they come home?

"OK kids, time for bed, turn off the T.V., turn off the lights, brush your teeth, and oh yeah, take a drug test too."

I think the idea of DrugAlert is detrimental because it will destroy family relationships. It's not a matter of trust and faith because as soon as parents suspect their children of drug use, these bonds are broken.

If parents suspect their children of drug use, they should have an open conversation discussing suspicions and reasonable doubts. Both parties should then be adult enough to take the drug test together to confirm or extinguish suspicions.

This isn't a question of privacy or trust, it is a question of what will this do to society. Is this really what people should be growing up fearing? And how long would it take for kids to find a way of falsifying test results? Let's try good old conversation, not DrugAlert.

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.

Senior Reflections

Wildcat Chronicle

Friday May 26, 1995

Page 6

Dan Vock
Marketing Director

Because I am a senior doesn't mean I know more than all of the younguns in the school; I just act like it.

Since nobody has the gall to write a letter disagreeing with what I say (or else they're all coloring in the front page of my Prom section ((ooh, triple parentheses...just for those math teachers) because the Wicked Printer of the East stole the color), so they don't have the time), I will assume I'm right and write the great Truths I have learned in my four years here.

If you want guidance, go to your parents. If you want a transcript or a hassle, report to Guidance.

"Sophomoric" still means immature; "valedictorian" means "the farewell speaker" according to Webster but not to our administration.

Homecoming is still a joke—most students don't even know why we celebrate it.

There is no gang problem here. Thank God...and the administration.

People who hate school haven't been paying attention. Same thing with people who vote against well-thought-out referendums.

Nihilism has its place—you're reading it.

The idea of school is to challenge the mind to rise to its full potential. The Social Studies Department forgot that.

Student of the Month is only slightly based on performance as a student; most of it is stuff outside the classroom.

The flapping in the middle of the rainstorm gave proof through the night that our flag was still there (and unlit).

Guy cheerleading this year was proof that Together Everybody Accomplishes More.

The rusty flowers in the courtyard outside the office take the prize for the best senior gift ever (with the doormat running a close second).

What the hell happened to Freshmen Hell Week?

Of the two articles cut-off in the middle of a thought in the Chronicle this year, two of them were mine. Graduation is in a week. Bye bye!

Dan Dibble
Reporter

I already know that most of this school won't ever read this senior reflection because there is no school spirit and no one in this school gives two hoots about anything, including the faculty.

When was the last time you saw anyone, at any sporting event at this school? Were there any teachers there, besides the ones that had to be there to make sure the twenty students that show up don't get too rowdy.

I know that there were some seniors that did support our sports and I thank those of you that did. And there are some that have school spirit, I thank the two of you.

As for the school rules, they SUCK!!!!!! Just in case someone is carrying a gun in their jacket, the school decided to ban students from wearing their jackets in school. What is so difficult with putting their gun in their backpack, or in their pants?

What's the next rule, we can't open windows during the summer, just in case someone drives by the school, recognizes someone and does a drive-by?

As for the teachers, well I can't publish what I would like to really say, but I would like to thank those that really actually did care how anybody did in their class.



Blanca Rios
Perspectives Editor

I'll never forget those FBLA trips and getting lost with two certain teachers and a certain student in the walkways of the hotel in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. All you underclassmen, seriously consider being a part of FBLA. It is the best organization you could be in and have fun at the same time, and Miss Blume, I hope you are reading, this is publicity.

The paper has been a blast as well, I apologize for any stressful situations with the staff, next time ignore my spastic behavior.

I don't know about you, but freshman year it was like "Not," sophomore year I thought I was "Awesome," junior year I was "like Duuude," and senior year I was "get me out!"

High school was a time to follow, and don't tell me you never did, because you did, and I know—I saw you all!

By senior year, all we had walking around our school were, young grungers, skaters, new wavers, gang banger wannabees, fashion skaters, preps, and anything else that looks like a big garbage bag. (Sorry if I offended anyone, but it is true.)

I would also like to thank all my friends, that did stick with me through thick and thin. You're the best!

My last word is for all you Street Fighter II players..... BZZZZZZZZZZZZ!

Joe Sosnowski
Assistant Perspectives Editor

I remember my first day of school, riding the big yellow limo, approaching the high school, only to see huge clouds of smoke pollute the sky across the street.

Those were the days when hundreds gathered for a morning smoke to unstress themselves before a big day of sleep.

Unfortunately the good old days are gone, but, like the over-used cliché reads, the more things change the more they stay the same.

I still can't tell you where a certain room number is (I can hardly find the locker rooms some days, of course, that's just because the smell makes my eyes water).

School gets harder as the years progress because, the older you are, the greater ability you have to rationalize not doing stuff like homework.

Athletes still don't change the world. They just clutter it up and demand a lot of money to have fun (not to mention that they usually smell and, if they're football players, they act really weird in the hallways wrestling and slamming each other against the walls injuring themselves, which explains why they play so poorly).

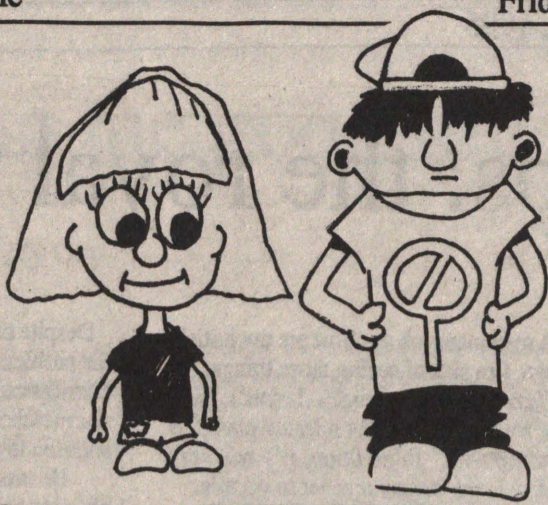
Freshmen are still dumb. I know, I see and hear them every day talking about how cool they are when they smoke (at this point I quickly offer them a roll-a-roll of my eyes that is).

Student council is still an administrative joke where the school officials let a few students pretend they have some power or influence just to keep the restless content.

Having a job and going to school and doing homework is still like having a 70 hour work week.

I'm still worried because all the old people I run into tell me high school will be the greatest time of my life.

Now I'm depressed.



Jeff Hadzima
Sports Editor

I could say it's almost over. I also could say that it has been a great four years at this school. Well this is my senior reflection, and I'm going to tell you the truth.

I'm not going to bore you with all that "I hate this school" trash, or tell you that I hate all the teachers at this school. I won't tell you that most of our sports teams are terrible, even though I showed you this every issue.

I won't even think about telling you that *Star Wars* is the greatest saga ever created. There is no way that I will tell you that Martin Scorsese is the greatest director of all time, or *Pulp Fiction* should have won Best Picture. There is no way in hell that I would tell you that the Beatles are the greatest band of all time.

I will not reveal to you all the hard work we put into this paper, or tell you about number of Saturdays and Sundays that we came in to work on it. I can't possibly tell you how much time Mrs. Kostro spent with us working on the paper during her own free time.

I just will not allow myself to tell you that journalism class is a rewarding experience. I won't blabber on about how journalism is a great way to express yourself, or that it helps you get into college.

One thing I will tell is that my 300 words are almost up. I would like to thank all the readers, and all the teachers who helped me over my four years.

Dan Ziman
Reporter

I have served my sentence here at West Chicago.

I was here for only first quarter my freshman year. I remember vividly, I got a terminal illness, Cardiomyaphy, and when I was in the hospital I remember my biology teacher Mr. Fickau had his classes write me, and he delivered them personally.

My sophomore year was probably the best because it was fun. It was hard to make new friends because it was like freshman year all over again.

Also I remember Drivers Ed. That's when I was in behind the wheel, and when we went out to drive my partner almost got us hit by a train. Also sometime in May a couple of friends and I went to a White Sox game and stayed after to get autographs. On the way there we were stuck on Congress Parkway for about a half hour, and we got lost on the way home. It took us two hours.

My junior year felt like a waste of time, I mean that was the year I had all easy classes. American was usually pretty fun, because we did a lot of simulation.

Geometry really stuck in my mind, that's where I met my friend Luis Alcantar. Our whole purpose in that class was to see how many times we could get Mr. Gimre to tell us to shut up. Also Geometry was memorable because of Mr. Gimre's "Soh Cah Toa" dance (little did he know Mr. Kimery was watching him dance around).

That summer, once again, a couple of friends went to a Sox game and we didn't get lost either way.



Mary Merrick
Assistant News Editor

It may sound corny, but the last four years have gone by so quickly I feel there is so much I've missed out of the whole high school experience. I keep thinking I should have been involved in more activities or put more heart into the activities I was involved in. Why didn't I take more risks, live on the edge a little more?

I don't know if other seniors feel the same way I do, but when time draws near to graduation one starts to think about these type of things. For the past three and a half years I've kept saying over and over in my head, "I can't wait to get out of here. I hate this place." Now I'm not so sure. Yeah I know where I'm going to school in the fall, but June fourth is going to close a significant chapter of my life and it's kind of a frightening thought.

I'll have to admit my high school years weren't always easy. I pretty much struggled through my first two years in order to sail through the last two.

But I will also admit that I have some incredible memories that I'll always cherish and those memories are worth going through all the hard times multiplied.

I absolutely adored those Saturday afternoons in the forest green SHO with Sarah by my side flipping stations on the radio and rolling down all the windows no matter how cold it was outside just so the people who were in a square mile proximity could clearly hear the song that was playing. (Also our little excursion to Des Plaines and the drive home)

I'll never forget you Adam, and those silly summer times, yet I have to say I'm really gonna miss you. The Kane County Fair, your bike, and nights by my Dad's house are things I'll never forget.

I LOVE YOU LILLY! You're my partner in crime and the greatest sister/friend. The trampoline incident and last summer are times I'd relive in a second!

Joey Pietsch, I miss you with all my heart. I would never have gotten through my freshman and sophomore year without you and your smile.

In another week or so I'll say goodbye to WCCHS and to a lot of people as well. It's time to move on, but making those final steps out these doors will be difficult ones to take.

This place is full of memories and experiences I'll just have to take along with me as I go off to college, which isn't so bad. As a matter of fact I wouldn't want it any other way.

Senior Reflections

Wildcat Chronicle

Friday May 26, 1995

Page 7

Laura Torrey
News Editor

Hallelujah!

After four years of pain and suffering it's finally over. But, as I look back at what I went through I wasted a lot of my time in High School doing certain things. If I had to do it all over again I'd do it totally different. I can't get into details about these things (or I'd write a novel), but I'd just wanted to say to all of the seniors to not wish their high school years away. It's the only one we have, and the only one that we'll ever get.

Memories are something that everyone has from high school. It's something that we all have to take with us. I'll always remember my first day at high school, my first date, my first party, etc. But the one thing that doesn't happen every day is the friends you make. They don't grow on trees. I probably have the best friends in the world. I'm going to miss all of them.

To Brandy: we still gotta find Bubba, and I brought you some ice cream lieutenant Dan.

To Chan: you always had good questions Aguato.

To Christie: What the heck does estuديات espanoles mean?

To Lisa: I'm glad that you were there when I won the jackpot.

To Maggie: it's about time you got Collin.

To Tita: get over him. There are many more lasagnas.

To Mary: we had the greatest gossiping stories first hour.

To Jenny H.: we made a great pair on the bench.

To Wendy K.: I'm sorry for all of the times my big butt was in the way.

To Ehrin: we made a great sumo wrestling team at prom.

To Blanca: wipe that smile off of your face for once.

To Diane: remember the bagels on the floor at U of I.

To Jeff: watching *Star Wars* and going to the comic book store with you was always special.

Everything is now coming to an end. It's hard to believe that in a couple of weeks, I will be leaving this school and heading off to college. It's a huge turning point for me. After graduation, I won't see half of these people anymore. It's very sad and depressing. We all have to leave sooner or later, so goodbye to everyone and good luck in the future.



Sarah Kueker
Assistant Features Editor

High school was a jumble of classes, people, and extracurricular activities. I mean there was nothing significant about my high school years-I wasn't class president. I wasn't on Homecoming court. I wasn't head cheerleader. I guess I was just bored.

High school involves making friends-a lot. I won't lie to you and tell you garbage about popularity. Friends do count. My best friend Crystal, for example. She came over many a time and we joked about stuff. She's a real trooper. I just wish that I had known her all four years. Tia was another influential person. She made me laugh when I wanted to cry. When I was supposed to be quiet, she made me snicker with lines like "My Mom knows John Wayne Bobbit," and "In the ho-ouse!" There are so many other people I would love to say Hi to. Hi Mom! Hey B-Bec and Lizzie Borden, and Steven Gump! I have so many fond memories of people and places. (Remember Discovery!) Sarah's zany necklaces; Jessica, Robert, and I getting caught by the police going down Summit hill; Ellyn's fascination with leprechauns; Blanca's self defense strategies; Val's countless mornings singing to Ace of Base and Green Day; and Jeff (You're so great! I love you man!) who was a strong influence on me even though he may not know it.

But there were so many other things that made high school livable. So what if I decided to go blonde (or red or brown or orange)? And all the plays I did. They made me look into the future and decide what I wanted to do. I'll never forget the late nights in that auditorium or the smell of it or the way it was so cold sometimes you couldn't bear it.

I did change a lot. (Can you believe that there was a time when I was quiet and withdrawn?) I broke out of my shell and I can't wait to see what fate and my student loan officer hand me out next

Kim Freimuth
Reporter

Freshman year. I can't believe how lonely it is not knowing anyone. Geez, I can just picture myself trying to look for room 106 and ending up in 202. I finally got the chance today to meet someone (who is now one of my close friends) in my World Geography class. Today I will be meeting more people at lunch with her! Well, I'm finally beginning to fit in!

Sophomore year. Well, this year I've had so much fun! I'm now friends with a lot of people! The teachers this year seem to be really nice too! I enjoy Child Development with Mrs. K the best!

Junior year. I can't believe how fast these years have gone! Boy, were gonna be seniors next year! Well, this year I've been attending Davea Career Center for Child Care. I love kids so much! This year has not been the best year for me though. I can't wait to get out of here and be on my own!

Senior year. This year has made me look back at all the years spent here. I've been thinking about my future more than ever! I'm beginning to realize just how much I'm gonna miss this experience. Whether I admit it or not I know the years here are probably the best times of my life. I'm entering a jungle where I must survive alone (the whole class of 95 will too). The scariest thing is that we are all going to open a totally "new door" in our lives.

Stacy Shannon
Entertainment Editor

A cloud slowly descends on me. The cloud is dark, but a fresh breeze lingers and spreads the scent of flowers. The cloud has a name too... the future.

Well, the final days are upon me. Looking back, it doesn't seem like I spent four years here. I can't say I enjoyed wasting those years of my life at this school, but I learned a lot.

I learned about myself, my friends, and my future (not that I actually learned this in any of my classes).

The future is only a problem because it scares me a little. I know what I am doing college-wise, but the question that sticks in my mind is what to do with my life after college.

Thinking about it I even amaze myself (It is scary) at how much I will miss this place. All the little things like the convict/warden feeling that emanates the halls, lack of school spirit, and locked bathrooms.

I realized the other day that you never stop receiving information that will impact your future. After four years in this dreadful place I have finally found the "hidden lockers."

You could never imagine the joy of working on the Chronicle. Just like family. Arguments, hatred, rumors, wow! What excitement. Oh, don't misunderstand, it is fun, only sometimes you could compare it to being buried alive. Before I leave, I'd like to thank the two teachers who have had the biggest influence on my life, (not by choice) Mr. Leitner (along with Rackam), and Mrs. Kostro.

So... "Good-by, Goodbye, world. Good-by Grover's Corners [West Chicago]...Mama and Papa. Good-by to clocks ticking..and Mama's sunflowers. And food and coffee. And new-ironed dresses and hot baths...and sleeping and waking up. Oh, earth, you're too wonderful for anybody to realize you."

Wendy Woodward
Features Editor

Everyone is expecting me to rag about track and things like that but I would actually like to take the time to thank some people and look back at the fun times.

First I would like to thank Mr. Highland for letting me and you know who solve our fights in your office, and letting us talk to you. You helped more than you know. Thank you!

Also another couple of teachers that helped me a lot where Kolasa and Kostro, when ever I had a problem I would come to you two and you did always help. I'm not saying you were that cool in the classroom but you were o.k. Thank you!

Also to D.J. for always helping me when I was going through a lot. You have helped a lot of students and I hope that you know how much you have helped and changed me (for the better). Thank you!

Since so much went on in this short year that made it so exciting, I would like to thank all the rumor spreading, immature, people in our class like myself for making it so exciting.

Since my freshman year I have grown up a lot but my motto hasn't changed- F!#+ this, F!#+ that, F!#+ you!

These four years have been a blast and I am really sad to go but I would just like to say something to all of you that have to stay. Although the school seems really bad just bear with it and have fun. It's worth it. See Ya!

Robert Hernandez
Reporter

I still kind of remember Freshman year, considering half of it was spent at Wheaton North. When I came here another friend before came here from Wheaton North also. Tiffany you are following me!

Sophomore year was much better. Hey, Kim what about the Italians dancing around the pyramids. I have another thing to say to Essy and Josie, "Booty" do you remember Tee.

Then there's Driver's education. What I remember was when I was driving down Route 59 and there was a truck in the other lane, and I didn't get any sleep from the night before. Well, I guess I started to fall asleep at the wheel and went right towards the truck. Mr. Howard reached over and steered me over back to my lane. He then asked me in his voice, "What were you doing?" I made up the excuse, "Um, I was looking at the car behind me. He was tailgating." He bought it.

Sophomore year was basically a blow-off year for me: little homework, lot's of fun.

Next is junior year. Mr. Leitner and his arms race. Then there was the musical "Hello Dolly." Hey, Mike I'll remember the chair next time and next time let's say out till 6:00 a.m. instead of 5:30 a.m. You drive this time.

SENIOR YEAR! First I want to thank Mrs. Sirvatka for getting me interested again in choir. I've had lots of fun. Also Mrs. Watson for being more of a friend then a teacher. For everybody in "Oklahoma," I do not look like Gumby. Natalie, Spot meets Dot and Dots a girl!

Matt Wehling
Reporter

Looking back on our fine institution we call West Chicago High School, I have to think of some good things and a fair deal of bad things.

Through all of this though, I, like many hundreds of other senior students, have survived the high-school experience.

First of all, let's start with the jacket rule. This was another one of those preventative procedures to side-step the huge gang problem that we have at our school. This was to eliminate any chances of bringing weapons in the school.

For any of you who know me, you know that I am strongly connected with the gang scene and the jacket rule has made it so I must think of other brilliant places to put my gun, like my backpack.

The whole guidance department is in serious need of a facelift.

I did have some positive experiences at We-go.

I have to thank Mr. Leitner who has really helped me express myself and help me in my writing process.

I also have to salute Mr. Reimer who in his first year did an excellent job in helping me find my strong points and interests.

So I must leave you all now We go, but I encourage you to join the newspaper staff instead of not do anything at all and just criticize it like so many people did this year.

But as I mentioned before, it's been fun while I have been here and I wish you all the best and remember to fasten your seat beats and remember that West Chicago Community High School is not responsible for anything lost, stolen, or broken.

Death march

New video release proves to be good effort but not enough to save it from the dumps

By Stacy Shannon

Mary Shelley's Frankenstein was based on original "Frankenstein," long before Boris Karloff took the role of the "bolted one." Shelley wrote the book when she was only nineteen years old. The movie version is directed by Kenneth Branagh, and produced by the legendary Francis Ford Coppola. Unfortunately, the movie doesn't live up to the status of the people behind the scenes.

Branagh also stars, along with Helena Bonham Carter, and Robert DeNiro as the monster.

The quality of Branagh's work in the past made this appear to be a safe choice, but this is the excep-

tion. In the past there was *Dead Again*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and *Henry V*, all movies Branagh starred in and directed. All were great movies, and masterpieces compared to this one.

Frankenstein had good special effects, and presented a good atmosphere, but it failed to live up to the book.

The story itself is a tragedy. A youthful man, Victor Frankenstein (Branagh) who has always had a thirst for knowledge. Now, at the age of 25 he is determined to find the secret of life, because his mother died suddenly. His sister/lover Elizabeth (she was adopted at like age 7, but that sounds like incest to

me.) sees a change in him, and is concerned that he'll never come back to her.

Victor locks himself in his laboratory in a near-by town, and begins to experiment on frogs to make this "fantastic discovery." His teacher at college warns him that he will regret it if he goes ahead with it, because he tried it before too. Of course, Victor ignores him and proceeds.

When Victor finally succeeds, he brings a monster into the world, a creature pieced together by parts of dead people. The creature is awkward, clumsy, and seems dumb. DeNiro portrays the monster wonderfully, and after the initial pity,

you really begin to hate him. The monster escapes, and hides in a barn in the forest, where it learns to talk. He has confrontations with humans, and begins to hate his maker because no one can stand to be anywhere near this monstrosity.

He treads back to Geneva, Switzerland, where he finds Victor, and to get the attention of Victor, kills someone he loves. When Victor finally meets with the creature, he asks Victor to make a mate for him. The creature threatens Victor by saying, "If you refuse me my wedding night, I'll be with you on yours." So, either Victor complies with the creature's demands, or his life will be ruined. As Victor determines his future, we see basic stu-

pidity from many characters in this film.

One basic thing lacking in this film is the magic projected by Branagh's acting. He doesn't live up to his capabilities, and the movie falters. I think a team such as Branagh and Coppola could have done better and could have had a hit if a few things were different. One lingering question I have, why did DeNiro take this role of the suture-bound freak?

Despite it's small downfalls, the movie is worth watching. The major reason why I failed to thoroughly enjoy the movie is because I read it first. So, if you don't read the book first, you'll probably enjoy it more than I did.

Unrecognized mastermind

By Jeff Hadzima

For 25 years, Martin Scorsese has been atop the film making world. He is arguably the greatest director of all-time, yet none of the 52 year old's movies have won Best Picture at the Academy Awards. Scorsese also has never won Best Director

Scorsese is responsible for such classics as *Mean Streets* (1973), *Taxi Driver* (1976), *Raging Bull* (1980), *The Last Temptation of Christ* (1988), and *Goodfellas* (1990). He also directed *Cape Fear*, *The Color of Money*, and *Age of Innocence*.

Movie making has always been a long battle for Scorsese. Scorsese is a perfectionist, and has been known to spend months editing his movies, just so he will meet his own expectations. Even with all his hard work, criticism has come with his movies.

Easily his most controversial, and once called the most controversial film of all-time; *The Last Temptation of Christ* caused protests before the movie was even finished.

Taxi Driver, the movie about Travis Bickle cleaning up the scum off the streets caused quite a stir. Many people said that it could influence people to take the law into their own hands, because Bickle is considered a hero at the end. Scorsese actually tried to make a point that Bickle was insane, and our legal system let him back on the street. The movie is really a wake-up call to the government.

Every Scorsese movie has its own bit of magic. If you think you know movies, you don't if you have never seen a Scorsese movie. His next up and coming flick is called *Casino*, and stars Robert DeNiro, Sharon Stone, and James Woods.

Whole lotta lasers lighting up the sky

By Steve Berezney

Looking for something different to do on a Saturday night, I heard a commercial on the radio for something that not many people have heard of or even seen; the Led Zepelin laser light show.

Triton College, in River Grove, is located at 2000 Fifth Avenue. It's host to this event every Friday and Saturday night between 8 and 10 p.m. It costs five dollars and fifty cents and that is not a bad price for a show such as this.

The actual show has nothing to do with the band. The only images of the band were in the first scene where they showed a giant blimp (or zeppelin). The rest of the show is just different patterns of laser lights, just kind of showing off what the students could do with the new technology.

With all of these different patterns rolling across the screen, Zeppelin's music is blasting out some of their most unforgettable tunes. The show opens suddenly as I noticed the entire audience jumped a little because of the sudden rush of "Kashmir" This was the craziest of all the lasers because the scribbled lines made your eyes focus strangely if you stared into the screen for a long enough time.

Other songs featured were "Dy'er Maker", which had a laser pattern of a globe spinning on an axis, "Good Times Bad Times," "Dancing Days," and the smashing "Whole Lotta Love."

The highlight of the show was the legendary "Stairway to Heaven." It's good enough just to hear the song, but the lasers accompanying

the song were incredible. There were images of cloudy spheres encompassing the entire screen and lasers depicting different parts in the song such as the face of a woman. Just seeing the different things they can do with lasers makes you wonder what's in store for the future.

Triton is host to other laser light shows as well. In the past they have featured the music of Pink Floyd to accompany their show. Each show runs for about a month so get out there to see it while you can.

The Led Zeppelin light show was a great experience for anyone who likes the band. If you are a fan of Zep, then I encourage you to go and check it out. If you don't like the lasers, at least you'll enjoy listening to the music.

Shattered dreams

By Nicole Revello

Going in to see "The Basketball Diaries," I really had great expectations. Supposedly, it's telling the story of the famous performer and writer, Jim Carroll. I expected the movie to explain how and why he is where he is today, and how such hardships could dramatically change his life. Well, there were plenty of hardships, but no follow up on his life after the hardships.

The entire movie circulates around Jim (Leonardo DiCaprio, "The Quick and the Dead,") as the rebellious Catholic school boy. Jim, along with three other friends, finds himself entwined in a life of drugs, six and crime.

After a long battle with a heroin addiction, Jim lands himself in prison and of course, rehab. The movie ends with a brief monologue by Jim, explaining how his life of crime wasn't worth the trouble it caused. One of his friends, played by non other than Mark Wahlberg (A.K.A. Marky Mark), ends up in prison for a large number of years on murder charges, while the other

two continue to go downhill, living on the street begging for dope.

Although the movie is somewhat repetitious, I won't say it wasn't somewhat entertaining. The acting by all the characters is superior, and there is a lot of humor through it all. Not to mention you wouldn't believe how far DiCaprio will go for heroin. However, don't expect anything too original. Although Him takes his life to the extreme (unlike most of us), it's not too uncommon from the things we see all too often. What I'm saying is, it's kind of predictable: Catholic boy rebels, boy uses drugs, drugs lead to crime, boy gets kicked out of house, boy goes to rehab (jail), boy grows up.

And if you don't like a movie with a moral, here's definitely one to avoid. You realize in the end that the movie is like one giant "Just Say No to Drugs" campaign. The kids, who happen to be the stars on the school's basketball team (hence the title), start by "experimenting" with inhalants, and eventually start using heroin, which leads to their

life of crime on the streets. Eventually, of course, they completely destroy their lives due to their fast-paced lifestyles. It soon becomes obvious that the lives of "users" are completely stereotyped. I'm not saying this is a bad thing, it just kind of ruins the movie.

It's hard to say exactly whether or not you should see "The Basketball Diaries."

It's very stereotypical and a little disappointing, not to mention cliched (the boy on the basketball team who didn't use drugs becomes this wonderfully admired athlete among America, of course). But the characters are very strong, and interesting to watch. It's particularly fun to watch DiCaprio attempt to go through withdrawal and to see Juliette Lewis ("Cape Fear," "Natural Born Killers") portray a skanky street whore who turns tricks in return for dope. And, in case you're interested, Wahlberg is almost nude in one of the scenes. but, other than that, an average night at a party in the city will basically give you the same experience.

Dreams of love

By Jessica Statz

You could say that it's your typical love story: girl sees guy, girl falls in love with guy, guy falls into the train tracks, girl saves guy from oncoming train...okay, so it's not your typical love story.

While You Were Sleeping takes place in Chicago during Christmas. Lucy (Sandra Bullock) works for the CTA, and believes that love will come to her when she finds that certain someone and their eyes meet. Then, one day, she sees him. Lucy believes he is the man she is going to marry, if only he would only notice her. Then one magical day, "Mr. Right" falls onto the tracks, and that begins the magical tale of confusion, family, and love.

In order for the entire movie to take place, there has to be some kind of mix-up or confusion. A nurse at the hospital mistakes Lucy for saying that she is Peter's fiance, and tells his entire family. His family welcomes her in with open arms and warmth.

Don't think that they don't question why they were never told about Lucy, because she does get the third degree from Peter's brother Jack (Bill Pullman).

There is only one person in the story who knows that Lucy is not

Peter's fiance and that is Sol. Sol is the next door neighbor and a close friend of the family.

Lucy then realizes that she does not love Peter, and that she loves Jack. Jack is falling in love with her too. Then one day Peter wakes up and a whole new story begins.

There are so many times during the movie when you wish that you were a part of it. The story is so well-written and the characters were cast perfectly, you couldn't have dreamed of a better combination of people. The characters drew me in and made me believe that they were real. Sandra Bullock and Bill Pullman were perfect for the job. They have that "boy/girl next door" look to them that makes you fall in love with them. I found myself looking at the screen and wondering how could anybody not want Lucy and Jack to be together.

I'm not going to tell you how the movie ends, but I will tell you that it touched my heart and left me teary eyed. I left the theater with hope in my heart that love still does exist. The movie left me feeling that what just happened, had just happened to me.

Classic Album of the Month

Abbey Road

By Jeff Hadzima

Released in September of 1969, *Abbey Road* is arguably the Beatles' finest work. The album was named after the famous studio that the Beatles and other bands recorded in. They put tension aside, and made one of the greatest albums of all time.

The album opens with John Lennon's anthem "Come Together." "One thing I can tell you is you got to be free," is one of the many hints of revolution that Lennon tried to spark.

"Octopus's Garden," is a song that Ringo Starr wrote after he left the Beatles for a short time. It was his only flash of songwriting skill.

Then the album picks up momentum with Harrison's "Here Comes the Sun." This is one of the happier Beatles songs. "Because," the next song may be their best ever. "Love

is old, love is new" repeats, and it becomes the most beautiful contradiction ever.

Then *Abbey Road* becomes the classic that it is. "Sun King," "Mean Mr. Mustard," "Polythene Pam," and "She Came In Through the Bathroom Window," are the group of unfinished songs that the Beatles put together. This is the highlight of the album, and the songs fit perfectly together. From the crickets on "Sun King" to McCartney's bass on the four songs: the music is wonderful.

Abbey Road is not just a good Beatles album. It was one of the best albums of the 60's, and was a perfect way to end the decade. It's hard to believe that with all the disagreement between the Beatles at the time, they came together to make such great music.

This pyromaniac didn't ignite

By Mary Merrick

Welcome to another one of those, "I can't believe I paid seven dollars to see that" kind of movies. *A Pyromaniac's Love Story* contains only one well known actor- William Baldwin, and a run-away plot which leaves the audience cold at the end of the film.

There isn't much in this film, which is about an Italian man named Sergio. Sergio works in an old run down pastry shop and frequently visits a downtown diner to see the love of his life, Hattie (Sadie Frost).

Hattie doesn't want to be romantically involved, she only wants to travel around the world. Sergio asks to go along with her, but he doesn't have any money and she won't wait around forever.

The bake shop burns down, and no one knows who did it. The day after the fire, a businessman offers him an

incredible business opportunity. The son of the owner of a large corporation was the one who burned down the shop. However, in order to keep the son out of trouble, they want Sergio to turn himself in. The reward would be \$25,000, which is more than enough for his trip around the world with Hattie.

Then, William Baldwin finally walks onto the screen. Baldwin plays the part of the businessman's son and is furious at Sergio for attempting to take the blame for "his" fire. He explains that he set the fire for his love, Jessica, to prove how far he will go to prove his love for her (because she loves someone else).

Now that the plot is a mess, actions begin to be made to straighten the situation out.

With Steven Spielberg, dreams become reality

By Laura Torrey

Jaws (1975)

Everyone knows that it's not safe to go into the water, but this is ridiculous. Who ever heard of a 20 ton fish killing people just for food? Well back in 1975 the whole nation experienced this when Spielberg released his film *Jaws* adapted by the novel *Jaws* by Peter Benchley. It takes place on a little island off the coast of Massachusetts called Amnity during the summer where people love to just have fun on the beach. Suddenly, out of nowhere, two people have been killed by some beast of the sea. Chief Brody (Roy Scheider) has just moved there being from New York and is experiencing this mystery. The town hires an isthyologist named Hooper (Richard Dreyfus) and a shark hunter named Quint (Robert Shaw) to murder the shark that is killing people. It is full of fear, suspense, and lots of blood. Back in 1975 it was considered a "very" scary movie. It actually still is today, because I still am scared to go into the water.

Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981)

Here he is, the man with the hat, jacket and the whip who would do anything to get his archiological findings. Yes, we are talking about that handsome and adorable Indiana Jones is his first full length feature film. The film stars Harrison Ford (*Star Wars*, 1977) and Karen Allen, who are in search for the lost ark of the covenant. But, however the Nazis, who were in power at the time, also want it so the two parties keep stealing and killing for it. The covenat contains the ten commandments which were in the bible. So there is a great value to it's name. Being an adventure film, it certainly keeps you on the edge of your seat. There's excitement, adventure, and even a little romance. It's a film everyone most likely would enjoy.

E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial (1982)

"E.T. phone home," was the slogan heard around the world in 1982. This film starring Henry Thomas as Eliot and Drew Barrymore as Gertie, was the biggest blockbuster hit of the year. It's about a little boy who finds this alien, which was left here accidentally, and he decides to keep it. But, there are scientists who know the alien arrived, and they trace E.T to Eliots house. During the time we see that E.T. (as they named him) has special powers with his finger and his mind (which Eliot can read). There's adventure and excitement as Eliot tries to send E.T. back without having the scientist get to him first. It certainly was a terrific movie. I even remember seeing it when I was five, remembering how I cried so they wouldn't hurt E.T. It's a film the whole family would enjoy, and one they would want to watch over, and over.

STAR WARS QUIZ

By Laura Torrey and Steve Berezney

So do you think you know everything about *Star Wars*, *Empire Strikes Back*, and *Return of the Jedi*? Well, we have a little quiz for you to take to see if you have what it takes to be the Star Wars king or queen. Good Luck!

1. What planet is Princess Leia from?
2. How big is the hole Luke Skywalker had to shoot his torpedo in to detenate the death star?
3. What is Princess Leia's last name?
4. What is Luke's aunt and uncles names?
5. What is the probability of surviving an asteroid field?
6. What is the name of Boba Fett's ship?
7. How old was Yoda when he died?
8. What is Lando's co-pilot's name (at the end of *Return*)?
9. How many different hairstyles does Princess Leia have throughout the three films?
10. How many languages does C-3PO speak?

Answers: 1) Alderaan 2) 3 meters 3) Organa 4) Owen and Beru 5) 3,720 to 1 6) Slave 1 7) 800 8) Niem Numb 9) 10 10) six million

Who Said These?

1. "Don't give in to hate?"
2. "I am wondering, why are you here?"
3. "It's the ship that made the Kessel run in less than 12 parcels."
4. "They're coming in too fast."
5. "Vader wants us all dead."
6. "Here we go again."
7. "Vader's after someone called Skywalker."
8. "The force will be with you - always."

Answers: 1) Obi-Wan Kenobi 2) Yoda 3) Han Solo 4) Luke Skywalker 5) Princess Leia 6) C-3PO 7) Lando Calrissian 8) Obi-Wan Kenobi

Sequel Summer

By Stacy Shannon

The movie to watch for in June is *Batman Forever*, starring Val Kilmer (Batman), Chris O'Donnell (Robin), Jim Carrey, Tommy Lee Jones, and Nicole Kidman.

The media has been hyping up this third movie in the series. Tim Burton (*Nightmare Before Christmas*, *Batman*) is no longer directing, and Joel Schumacher has taken over by presenting even more classic characters. The budget for filming was one of the highest of upcoming movies, at a whopping \$100 million. The biggest eye-catchers in the movie will probably be Carrey, and the introduction of Batman's young sidekick Robin. Also in June is Disney's *Pocahontas*, and Tom Hanks in *Apollo 13*.

July looks pretty bleak, with no blockbuster hit forcasted, except maybe *Waterworld*, with Kevin

Costner. There are a bunch of small movies though, *Free Willy 2*, *Under Siege 2*, and *First Knight*. *First Knight* is the re-telling of the King Arthur story, starring Sean Connery (Arthur), Richard Gere (Sir Lancelot), and Julia Ormond (*Legends of the Fall*).

August, the last month of summer, has no big media blitz movie on the agenda yet. There are big stars though, in *Fair Game* (William Baldwin, Cindy Crawford), *Virtuosity* (Denzel Washington), *Lord of Illusions* (Scott Bakula), and *The Net*. *The Net* stars one of the most sought after actresses right now, Sandra Bullock. It is yet another hi-tech computer-age thriller. Like in the stupid *Love Potion No. 9*, Bullock plays a total geek, in another stupid movie, but who can tell?

Poetry

By Michelle Toms

Hell flames inside of me
 "all evil lurks within"
 The Devil himself is borne
 of me
 including all his kin.
 We, ourselves, are lucifer
 for all people have sinned.
 Maybe together we make
 the whole
 maybe our peace should be-
 gin.
 But no, the flames burn on
 kindled by fear and pain.
 Until the end comes shortly
 We repeat old lives again.

This Ain't the Love Boat

Review of the new submarine movie *Crimson Tide*

By Steve Berezney

On the verge of nuclear destruction, the fate of 900,000 people lie in the hands of two people. One wants to fire the missiles because that was the final order received and the other wants to make sure, but it could cost even more lives.

That's the scenario in the latest submarine movie *Crimson Tide*. The movie stars Denzel Washington (also in *The Pelican Brief*) who plays Harvard-graduate executive officer Lieutenant Comander Hunter. His counterpart Gene Hackman (also in *Unforgiven*) plays Captain Ramsey, the leader of the nuclear submarine the U.S.S. Alabama.

The movie starts out with a Russian radical taking control of his country and threatening to start a nuclear war with the United States. As a precaution, so that we are ready to fire first, the U.S. government sends the Alabama to do the dirty work.

While underwater, the ship experiences some early challenges as a fire in the kitchen breaks out followed immediately by a drill order by Ramsey. The fireworks start to light off now because Hunter disagrees with his captain's call. This is the first of many disagreements that the two will have. Ramsey is all in favor of voicing your

opinion but believes that the sub is here to "preserve democracy, not practice it."

After a few turmoils, the heavy action begins to take place. The Alabama receives messages from the government to fire the missiles in a few minutes because we are on the brink of war. While this is happening, the ship is under attack by one of the Russian subs. Because of the attack, the next message is broken off before they could see what it said.

After they dispose of the Russian attacker, the ship is faced with a tough decision. Do they carry out the last seen order or try to re-establish contact to see what the next message said? Ramsey wants to fire the missiles right away because he is all for following orders and wants to get the Russians before they get the U.S. Hunter takes the opposite position because he wants to fix the radio and see what the message said. He believes that it might be an order to stop the attack.

Tide has an excellent cast that makes the movie what it is. Both of the leads played their parts very well. It was hard to side with one or the other. I found myself siding with both of them at different parts of the

movie [and that is kind of uncommon.]

There are some weak points in the movie however. Parts of the movie are unrealistic like the multiple mutinies. That just wouldn't happen.

Another scene which was unnecessary was during the final scenes of the film as the two men discuss horses while waiting for the message. Ramsey talks about a certain Spanish horse that only comes in white. Hunter then replies that they are born black. Bringing up the racial issue was not consistent with the rest of the movie and had no part putting it in there. The issue of race was then never brought up again.

Besides those few flaws, this is outstanding. There are not many movies that can keep you in suspense for the entire film, but this one managed to do so without a hitch. I was literally on the edge of my seat for most of the film. Even in the end when you knew what was going to happen, it was still suspenseful and that's why *Crimson Tide* is so good. This is not a movie that you should wait and see on video. You should see it as soon as possible because the issues of the film are great for debate.

No More Ice What Now?

By Matt Wehling

Rollerblading has been a popular sport in the area for some time now. With summer on the way, this recreational activity, or sport, is becoming even more popular.

Many We-go students have joined the ever growing sport of rollerblading. Many find the sport a good way to get some exercise, while others go the street hockey route.

Rollerblading can be an expensive sport, depending on the quality of equipment you buy. The actual cost of the skates themselves can cost anywhere from \$40-\$200 or over. The cheaper skates have cheaper features, and don't tend to be the most durable. It certainly pays to buy a more expensive skate if you plan on using the skates quite a bit.

Once you do buy the skates, its time to put them to work. Riding around town is a popular way to strut your stuff on your blades, but there are alternative places to ride around. Lake Park senior Brian Erwin finds riding around in Grant Park in Chicago is a good way

to get to the city and enjoy the scenic coast. Erwin said, "Going to Grant Park and the beach in Chicago is a great time. After skating you can go out and then enjoy the town."

Other ways of enjoying rollerblading are to play street hockey. This has caught on so well that last year Chicago saw its first professional rollerblading hockey team, the Cheetahs. This team played at U.I.C. this past summer for the RHI (Roller Hockey International), and plan to return for the upcoming summer.

Roller hockey has also caught on here at the high school. Senior Dan Dibble plays roller hockey on the weekends and plays the sport as a recreational activity. Dibble said, "It's a good sport to get into when your not on the ice."

Rollerblading is a good way to have an alternative way of exercising this summer. Be sure to blade safe by wearing knee pads and wrist guards if you are starting out. But most of all, have fun while blading around this summer!

War in the Water

By Dan Dibble

It starts when you wake-up at 5:30 in the morning. Then you take a shower and head on down to the rafting company, in my case it was Arkansas Valley Expeditions in Salida, Colorado. By 6:30 you have been lectured on instructions and have boarded the bus that takes you to the launch spot, where the raft is put into the water and the journey begins. By 7:30 you're in the water and have started down the Arkansas River.

The tough part of the river, The Royal Gorge, is a very deep gorge that the Arkansas River runs through. It also has the highest suspended bridge in the world crossing the top of the gorge.

As for the actual river, the Arkansas River is a very popular river to go rafting in. It contains some level III's, IV's, and some V's. What the levels stand for are the difficulty of each set of rapids. With VI being the hardest and I being the easiest.

The trip down the river is a real rush. At one point of the trip the guide makes everyone put on a safety helmet because there are rapids one after another. And it does get dangerous, there are many large rocks sticking out of the water.

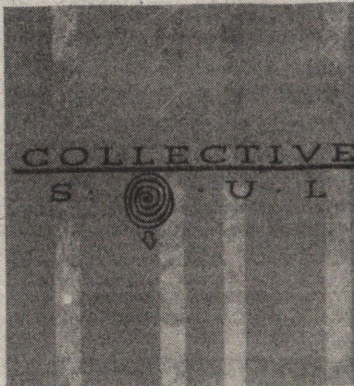
Once I got through that first rapid, I wasn't nervous anymore, I was now excited about going through more. I wasn't worried about falling out of my raft, I was worried about never wanting the trip to end. In case someone does fall out, it isn't as dangerous as everyone may think. All you have to do is put your feet pointing forward, in front of you, and look for the next rock sticking out of the water.

At about 11:30 there is a lunch spot where we got out and ate lunch and then got psyched about the second half of the trip, which is always the better half. As the old cliché goes, "...save the best for last."

The rafting trip that I went on cost about \$350, and that includes lunch and rental of a wet suit, if it is too cold to just go in shorts and a tee-shirt. Most trips cost between \$300-\$500, depending on the river taken on the trip and the tour guide company it is taken with.

If you ever have the chance to go white water rafting, don't pass it up. If you do go on a rafting trip, make sure the guide that you are going with is actually using an oar and not just sitting there for the ride.

Smashing Young Band



By Steve Berezney

The sophomore effort by the Georgia based band Collective Soul is opening many new ears and gaining many new fans, including myself.

The band, which is currently touring with rock legends Van Halen, features three guitarists, one bassist, and a drummer. So you can already tell that this will primarily be a hard guitar album, which it is, and they do it very well.

Collective Soul uses a technique they are outstanding with on the second song "Untitled," which is sudden stopping. During various parts of a song, they just stop on a dime all at the same time. It's even more impressive to see them do it live where they can't mess up, and they still pull it off unbelievably well.

The following song is a change in tempo from the rest

of the album. "World I Know," is a slower song featuring the only totally acoustic song on the entire album. This song also has a violin background which gives the song a little depth.

"Smashing Young Man," is just an all out great song. The guitar playing is smashing and very catchy. This is the kind of song that sticks in your head for hours. I would believe this song to be the third song released and put on the radio. You might be hearing it soon.

One of the more popular songs on this album is a song called "December." This song was the second song released to the airwaves and they are playing it all the time. It's one of the best songs on the album, but I hope that it isn't played out like their breakthrough hit "Shine," on last year's fairly popular debut album *Hints, Allegations, and Things Left Unsaid*. It would be a shame to see a song that good get old too fast.

The very first song released on this album was actually released months ago because it was on the *Jerky Boys* soundtrack "Gel." This happens to be my favorite because of the fast beat and a chorus that is good to sing along to. There's no telling why this song is so good, it just is. "Gel," was

another popular song that was played on the radio often, but not as often as "December."

"Bleed," is one of the final songs on this work. It has the bass guitar featured more than the regular guitar. The bass makes the song what it is and basically sets its tone. The song does sound very familiar, but I can't say exactly what it sounds like. The electric guitar solo in the end is also noteworthy as well.

Collective Soul really put out an outstanding album. This is one of the first CD's I have ever seen in which I liked every song. Some were better than others, but there is not one song that was totally repulsive. That is very rare to see.

Another great thing about this is that it even sounds good live. There are some albums that you know wouldn't sound all that hot live, but this one is different. All of these songs would be awesome live. I hope they stick with Van Halen and open for them when they return to Chicago in late July.

At first, I had some reservations about buying it, but I am very glad that I did. The album is filled with good songs and not one of them is bad. I definitely recommend buying this extraordinary album and I know that you won't be disappointed.

Volleyball season all but spiked!

By Kristi Ault

The boy's volleyball season is coming to an end, closing their second season in the D.V.C.

Their record going into their last three games is 4-24, with their wins over I.M.S.A. and Aurora Christian. In their final games, they lost to Naperville North for senior parent night, and faced Aurora Christian at sectionals.

The Wildcats placed fifth in conference, which meets coach Kristi Hasty's previous goal.

"We have improved immensely, and in a couple of years, we will be competitive," Hasty went on to say that "we're not tall, so it's hard to be competitive." Hasty is looking to recruit basketball players for the 1996 season.

Junior Varsity competed against Naperville North, and came back to take the second game 15-6. The Wildcats lost the first game 5-15. They finished a close third match by losing 10-15.

This year's Junior Varsity team, coached by Stacey Anderson, holds potential with five sophomores and six freshman. Captain Ryan Acker and Jai Hartigan have carried the team this season, and hope to lead them next season.

Varsity will lose some key seniors this year, but next year's team will be more experienced. Next season will be the third season for the program, and will be returning many three year players.

Senior Brent Busse makes his predictions for next years team by saying "they will be a major force in the D.V.C. next year."

All talent, experience, and height set aside, this team hustles. J.V. is a quick transition team, allowing them to play difficult balls. Starters Chris Pheneger and Nick Barton have made many break-neck saves. Barton contorting his body to set a tight ball into the net cleanly, and Pheneger plunging to the floor to play up a tip.

Acker, Hartigan, and Peter Grant have strong swings, and can put up a good block.

Anderson remarked that her team has improved in many areas, but most improved is "their knowledge of the game overall."

Next season looks good for the Wildcats with over half of their players returning, including both Varsity captains, junior Dustin Schultze and sophomore Ed Gomez. Hasty is looking for new talent among next year's classes, and has a vigorous training program scheduled for the off season including summer camp, lifting, and conditioning.

At senior parent night, with the close of the season, Hasty announced to everyone to "keep the faith." Hasty says that these are the toughest years, and it will be "easier now in the next coming years."

The Downward Spiral A Ladycat look-back

By Jeff Hadzima

The Wildcat baseball team has had a streak going.

Unfortunately it has been a losing streak, and it has reached 16 games as of May 22nd.

Playing in the DVC has not helped the Wildcats. With teams like 5th ranked Naperville North or highly regarded Glenbard North in your conference, your record is difficult to improve. The catch is that the Wildcats have played Glenbard North tough in both their meetings, and has stuck with teams like Naperville Central and Glenbard East.

The Wildcats won their first DVC game against the Wheaton Warrenville South Tigers, but they have not won a game since. As the frustrations build, so has the finger-pointing.

Where is the motivation to win a game and end the losing streak?

"The West Chicago baseball team will never have a winning record without new coaches at the varsity level," senior outfielder Joe Czernik. The frustrations have hit the entire team. Unfortunately most have handed the blame to the coaches for the losing streak, and no one is willing to accept responsibility.

"After a 16 game losing streak, they still play favorites and never give anyone else a chance," senior second baseman Chris Jernstad said. The team feels that with the losing streak, change is needed to end it. The coaching staff continues to use the same players, even though the streak continues.

The players feel that changes are needed before their regional meeting. Many on the team are seniors, and they feel their last game may be near. Without these changes, their season may be all but history.

By Stacy Shannon

The girls soccer season draws to a close with a record of 5-10-1. It hasn't gone all according to plan, but every team has their setbacks.

A past issue of *The West Chicago Press* quoted coach Antonio DelReal as saying that the last stretch of games would be easy one, and the challenging games were past. It didn't entirely work out that way.

They had a few tough losses to Fenton, Glenbard East, West Aurora, and Wheaton North. At press time they were playing one of their last games.

The Ladycats ended up having better luck earlier in the season, especially before goalkeeper Kim Hack injured her foot. They had a slow start, then had good streak, had their share of injuries, but unfortunately faltered in the end.

Remember, they did have great performances against Naperville North (a strong defensive stand that led to a 1-0 loss to a superb team), and the Elgin and Streamwood offensive blow-outs. The memories are there, only not a very strong record to show it.

Despite losing departing seniors Hack, Christina Nimmo, Becky Szesny, Tavia Tawney, and Josie Montalvo, the future isn't entirely bleak.

Besides returners Kathy Nimmo and Katy Madden, the team is set for the future with numerous freshmen starters this year. In the future they should be ahead, experienced, and wise.

So, of course the next few years will be challenging, and they still have to play the Naperville teams, but we can't lose forever, and the Wildcats will have their "moment in the sun". The sun shines bright on future Ladycat soccer teams.

Tennis team serving up ace

Strong doubles play has been the key for the tennis team this year

By Matt Wehling

The We-Go tennis team is ready to complete the season and some are ready to head to state for further competition.

One of this years high points of the team was the play of both Mike Leck and Matt Bowne. These two have played a few matches as first doubles and most of the season on second doubles. These two have come along and had a respectable 9-6 season before entering the sectionals competition.

The first doubles team that has also played well is the team of senior Jeff Sterling and senior Joe Madden. The two are the best tennis players on the team, according to coach Sione Moeaki, and have teamed up together to test their strength in the DVC. The two have also had a winning record of 12-5.

Moeaki commented on the season by saying, "We've done OK. I wish we could have done a little better in some of the matches and we ended up with a 6-11 team record." He is hoping that some of his players will play well in the sectionals competition and then advance to state.

Coach Moeaki said, "Our first, second, and third doubles have all played well and come through. I'm hoping our first and second doubles can make it to state."

Moeaki said, "Singles play has really hurt us this year. My first singles player should be (seated) at third or fourth, but I had to move everyone up so it hurts the team." This referring that his first singles player should be matched up against the other teams third or fourth player. He said that the singles have a lack of experience and that some better off-season work would have helped.

On the junior varsity scene, Coach Moeaki said that the team played fairly well. He said that he was pleased with the play of Tim Martin, Jason Kneel, and Kirk Johnson. He said that he looks for some of these players to step up next year.

Moeaki stressed the importance of the off-season. He said, "I hope some of the players play over the summer in lessons and tournaments, instead of hanging up the racket over the summer." He said that he will be running a tennis program over the summer for the West Chicago Park District so he can help his players out as much as possible.

The future looks bright because Leck and Bowne will be returning next year, and likley take the first doubles spot.

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Wildcats DVC champs!

By Jennifer Wagenaar

With pride and teamwork, the Wildcats clinched the DVC title for the first time in three years.

The Cats finished first round of conference play with a 6-1 record and finished with a 4-3 record the second round.

Despite their losses to Wheaton Warrenville South, Naperville North, and Glenbard North the Cats managed to hang on to their first place slot.

"We surprised the rest of the DVC by winning the conference," second baseman Candy Gallagher said, "I think people expected Glenbard North to win this year."

This was a major accomplishment for a team that was not expected to go any where in the conference.

"It's pretty cool that we won the conference this year because it marks the 20th anniversary of the

first time West Chicago's softball team ever won conference," catcher Katie Leitherer said.

This softball team never gave up on each other if things weren't going the way they wanted it to which is probably a big part to their success this season.

"Our team learned to put differences aside and play as a team which is why we were so successful," Jenny Cavaliere-Coleman said.

Defense was also a big part of their success, head coach Jim Schaudt once said, "When we play defense we win, if we decide not to play defense we lose."

The Wildcats are seeded second in their regional, seeded first is West Aurora to whom the Wildcats met in a doubleheader May 6 where they split the two games.

"We never got the credit that we deserve because the top six teams

in our regional were expected to win. We are seeded second, so again our ability to play with these teams is questionable," Leitherer said.

The Wildcats began their regional play yesterday May 25 against the winner of the Batavia/Geneva game. If We-Go wins that game they will face either Naperville North or Rosary.

Girls track take two to state

By Blanca Rios

At Saturday's meet in Elgin May 13, Junior Jill Branner and Senior Dee Dee Judson showed their talent by over qualifying for state.

Branner ran the 800 meter dash in 2:19.4. The required time for state was 2:21.8. Branner also ran the 1600 meter in 5:18.3, beating the required time of 5:22.

Judson the other state qualifier threw 40ft over exceeding the required throw of 37ft.

Both Judson and Branner are excited about state. "I hope to do my best at state and break my personal best like I did last year," said Judson.

State was held at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston Illinois on Friday and Saturday May 19 and 20th.

"The season had its good and bad points," said coach Wilbur Walters. He followed by saying there were a lot of young people on the team that made winning more important.

Walters feels performing to the best of ones ability is more important.

It was good year because West Chicago dominated in the shot put event just about every meet. It was also a good year due to many talented performers.

Now that the season is over for the rest of the team, it is time to look in to next year.

Branner feels there are a lot of freshman and they will improve for next year.

Judson feels that they had a small team with talent like always, and hopefully next year more people will come out for track.

"Next year has a great deal of potential with strong athletes returning," coach Carrie Kostro said. She also added that the seniors will be missed and they have done a good job of setting a positive example for the younger athletes of next years team.

Hackysack, what's so big about it?

By Jennifer Wagenaar

A sport that is becoming very popular among the students at West Chicago is one that is combined with skills of the eyes and feet and is played with a small bean bag like ball called the hackysack.

You've probably noticed the guys and even some girls playing during your unscheduled or lunch period in the Pit or outside on the campus grounds, but what is so big about hackysack?

"It's not too active of a game, you don't have to run around too much and at the same time it's challenging," sophomore Jason Schroeder said.

The object of hackysack is to keep the ball from hitting the ground using only the feet and other body parts except the hands which is basically the only rule that applies to the game.

Being able to use the feet well to keep the ball going is a huge part of the game, if you can't use you feet you probably can't play because a majority of the game is played with the feet.

There are a number of moves used to keep the hackysack going, the best looking one is called a jester but it is also the hardest to perfect. Other moves are the neck stall, hat stall, foot stall, knee stall, crotch stall, basically any move with the feet and other body parts that can keep the hackysack going.

There are many different kinds of hackysack balls to choose from. "The best hackysack to play with, I think, is called a Guatemala Hand Made Sack With Large Beans," sophomore Peter Dziejdzic said. He also said that a good hackysack will probably cost around ten dollars.

The hackysack students spend most of their unscheduled and lunch time playing the game. There are a few games other than juggling where the object is to pass back and forth to one another. Kill is a game that is played, and in this game each person has to hit the hackysack twice and then try to hit someone with it. Pass Kill, in this game each person again has to hit the ball twice then pass it on to someone and if they don't save it, they're out.

Some tips when playing hackysack: "Never wear anything bright or outstanding because everyone playing will want to go for you," Dziejdzic said, "playing with a lot of people will make it the games easier and wearing shorts will make it easier for you to play, and never serve the hackysack to yourself."

Cox shines at state

By Dan Vock

Alicia Cox did "awesome" the first day of state badminton competition, she said. She "fizzled" the next day, but still finished between eighth and twelfth place in Illinois.

Cox played "among the best badminton she's ever played," said one of her most loyal fans, Albert Wiggin. "She beat some people I didn't think she could've beaten," he continued.

Cox's first loss was to a girl from Downers Grove North, traditionally a strong contender in the sport. She split the match before her eventual loss.

Wiggin attributes Cox's losses mainly to fatigue. "She played three exhausting games on Friday both emotionally and physically added to an hour and a half car ride to and from Evanston. That's exhausting."

She was seeded between fifth and eighth going into the tournament in Evanston.

The state champion Liz Meloy hailed from Evanston. According to Wiggin, "That kid is good. She's got it all, both form and flair...I don't think she had much competition until the finals."

Many other members of her team came close to advancing, but Cox was the only Lady Cat to qualify for state competition.

Kathy York and Amanda Schmezis lost after splitting their last match. They led by a comfortable margin before suffering from a comeback by the other team.

Junior Stephanie Marine's biggest problem according to Wiggin, was that "she has good shots—a good slam—but she gets down on herself. She lost to some people she shouldn't have lost to."

Cox's teammates still made it out to Evanston to support their comrade. Kolodik, Schmezis, Marine, Horsley, Wiggin, and Cox's parents all found Evanston to support Cox.

A fun kind of fund raiser

By Dan Dibble

On Sunday, May 7th, the junior class held the 1st Annual Wildcat Classic. It started at 10:00 am and ended with the championship game ending around 1:00 in the afternoon.

Most of teams were very good and the competition was high. The idea of the tournament was to raise money for prom. It cost twenty dollars to enter a four-man team in the tournament. And it cost two dollars to enter the three point contest.

"It was great for the school to get the faculty and students involved in something besides discipline and teaching," Para-pro, Paul Godinho said about the tournament.

In between the semi-final games, the three point contest took place. It featured terrible shooting. Assistant Principle John Highland won the contest by hitting six shots, proving that the shooting was bad. Freshman Justin Coletti, finished second by hitting five. Three others finished with four; junior Jeremy Logan, junior Ryan Saul, and senior Jerry Planek.

The championship game featured the team of junior Brian Bowen, junior Eric Hall, Saul, and Planek, and the team of senior Dan Dibble, senior Mario Gentry, sophomore Eric Daniel, and sophomore Jeff Weber.

The game was a game for only about five points, then Bowen's team pulled away for good. Leaving Dibble's team, the #1 seed in the tournament, in second place.

The team of Logan, junior Jose Munoz, senior Luis Gonzalez, and senior Ramon Nieto, won the consolation bracket.

"It was fun to watch. It was cool," said senior Joe Czernik.

On the other hand, some people like junior Tony Berg, got really mad just because their team got killed in the semi-finals.

"We got cheated," said Berg, after being beaten by a score of 11 to 5.



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