

Wildcat Chronicle



West Chicago Community High School

326 Joliet Street West Chicago, IL

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West Chicago gets a bad grade on state report card

By Kristi Ault

Illinois' 1995 report cards came in on November 2, showing the top 25 state rankings and 238 suburban districts in Will, DuPage, Kane, Cook, Lake, and McHenry Counties.

These scores are taken from the IGAP (Illinois Goal Assessment Program) administered during the 1994-95 school year.

Third, sixth, eighth, and tenth graders were tested in reading, writing, and math' and fourth, seventh, and eleventh graders were tested in science and social science.

A state wide drop in reading scores prompted state superintendent Joseph Spagnolo to call an independent 60-day analysis of the low marks.

Reading scores dropped in 46 out of 59 schools for third graders, 24 of 59 for sixth graders, and 54 of 59 for eighth graders, and 18 of 24 high schools.

Spagnolo is concerned because "the declines are a serious concern, since reading proficiency is a basic underpinning for student success."

Although many DuPage school districts did rather well, unfortunately West Chicago was not one of them.

West Chicago District 33 is the main feeder school to Community High School, and Winfield District

34 and Benjamin District 25 placed much higher, at every level in every category, than West Chicago.

Benjamin and Winfield ranked almost twice as better in some cases than West Chicago. At the sixth grade level, Winfield and Benjamin ranked in the top 25 in the state in reading and writing respectively.

Whereas West Chicago placing usually in the mid-hundreds, placed below the state average in 7th grade social science and 8th grade reading.

Principal Dr. Alan Jones is not concerned with the test result saying, "IGAP tests are only one indication of measure of performance in high school. I am pleased with our current curriculum."

Jones went on to say that while West Chicago doesn't prepare for the IGAP tests, other schools do.

The rankings also displayed average administrative salaries, average teachers' salaries and average spending per student.

These results revealed no correlation between scores and per pupil spending, unless, spending less attains better results.

In the six county area, Benjamin and Winfield districts ranked 235 and 230 respectively on the spending list. Benjamin spent \$4,399 and Winfield spent \$4,476 compared to West Chicago which spent \$5,197.

The three schools ranked as follows among the six-county scores:

6TH GRADE MATH

Winfield 45th

Benjamin 50th

West Chicago 138th

6TH GRADE READING

Winfield 18th in the state and 9th

in the six-county area

Benjamin 28th

West Chicago 172nd

6TH GRADE WRITING

Benjamin 20th in state and 12th in

the six-county area

Winfield 61st

West Chicago 112th

7TH GRADE SCIENCE

Benjamin 21st

Winfield 31st

West Chicago 165th

7TH GRADE SOCIAL SCI.

Benjamin 66th

Winfield 105th

West Chicago 176th

8TH GRADE MATH

Benjamin 41st

Winfield 50th

West Chicago 172nd

8TH GRADE READING

Benjamin 53rd

Winfield 62nd

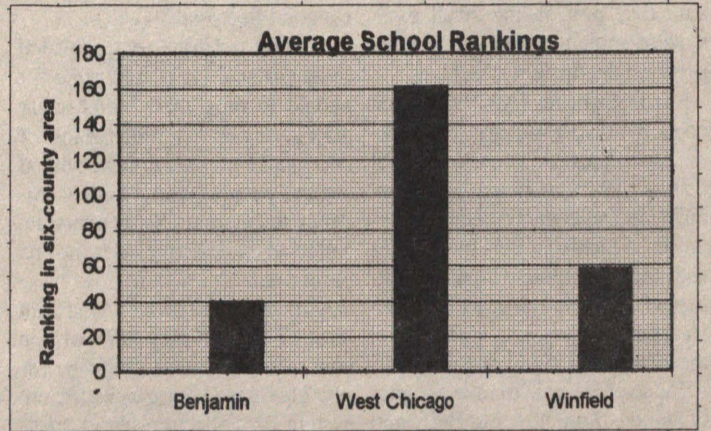
West Chicago 195th

8TH GRADE WRITING

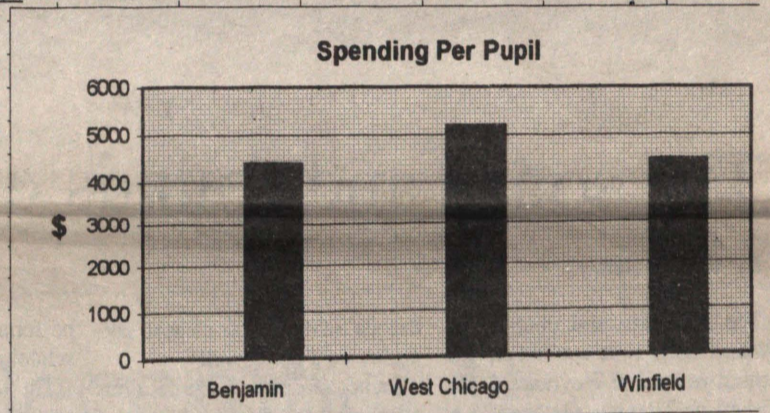
Benjamin 52nd

Winfield 52nd

West Chicago 162nd

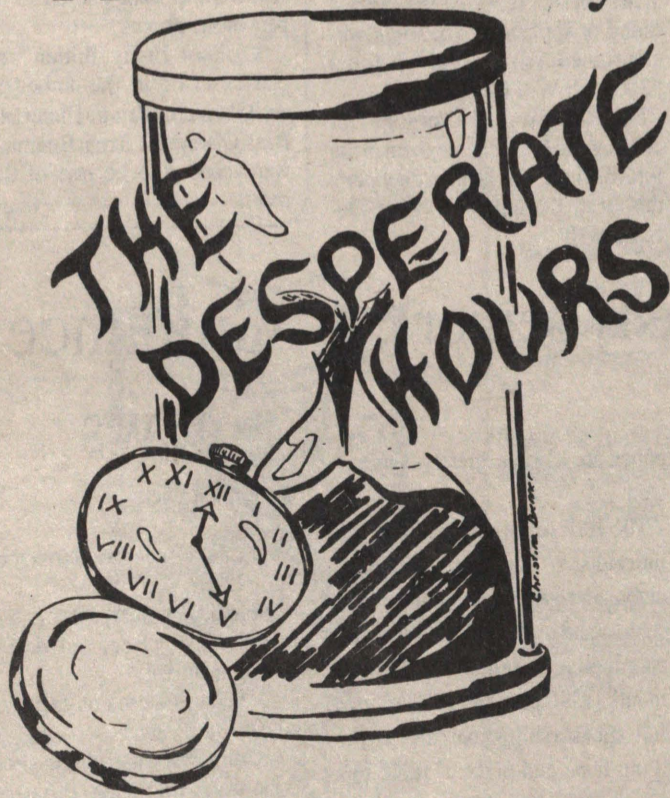


The rankings are an average of the eight reported test scores. Higher ranking represents poor test performance.



Murder and mayhem in Weyrauch Auditorium

By Tracy Morris



On November 2nd, 3rd, and 4th West Chicago was taken over by "The Desperate Hours" on center stage in the Weyrauch Auditorium.

The cast consisted of fifteen students, ranging from debuting freshmen like Jon Fraser to experienced seniors like Mike Clifford.

The entire cast and crew worked endless hours for the past month preparing the play for the eyes and ears of We-Go. The cast and crew spent a night bonding together and exploring their characters at a lock-in during the final preparation stages of the play.

Cast members calmly played off mistakes during the first performance when sophomore Steve Garcia calmly worked through a lighting mishap.

An obviously pleased Clifford beamed and smacked his hands together following the show, "There

were a few mistakes I was angry about, but we stayed in character!"

The setting was West Chicago at the present time where three escaped convicts overtake the Hilliard family home. Mr. Dan Hilliard, played by Garcia, comes home one day to find a gun at his neck and his wife on the couch scared to death.

One of the convicts, Sam, was played by senior Roxanne Rohrback who often interacted with Hilliard's 22 year old daughter Cindy, played by junior Kathy York.

Escaped criminal and former product of reform school Glenn Griffin, played by junior Matt Bowne, calls all the shots and raised conflicts along the way.

Hilliard's wife and young son, played by senior Erin Schullo and Fraser respectively, plot retaliation although it is Griffin's brother Hank's leaving that hurts him the

most. He had showed Hank all the ropes of crime, but Hank, played by senior Eric Peterson, "never even had a date."

Deputy Jesse Bard and FBI agent Holly Carson, played by Clifford and Annalea Jimmo, crack down on Griffin, the lone criminal still in the house. As Griffin steps onto the front porch of the Hilliard house, Bard kills him with one shot.

Bard is left with disgust for the human race until Carson reminds him that there are plenty of good men like Hilliard left in the world. A family is safe in each other's arms after two days of long, desperate hours.

Other cast members included seniors Joel Dawson, Stephan Grob, Mike Leck, and Kathleen Sullivan along with juniors Laina Wing and Chris Hauger.

Million Man March: a million steps marching to change

By Sarah Kennebrew

Louis Farrakhan, an African American Nation of Islam Leader, organized The Million Man March that took place on Monday, October 16, 1995 at Washington's Capitol. A crowd of an estimated 800,000 African American men gathered.

Farrakhan's speech urged African Americans to unify with one another, and respect themselves. In addition, this was a day for spiritual cleansing, anointment, and the reidentification of oneself.

Farrakhan stated, "we as African Americans need to accept the respon-

sibilities of being heads of our households. My goal is showing the world a vastly different picture of the black male."

The speech lasted approximately two and a half hours other speakers were the Rev. Jesse Jackson, The Rev. Benjamin Chavis, and more.

The event was the largest gathering of black men in the Capitol's history and surpassed the 250,000 attendance at the Martin Luther King Jr.'s, "I Have A Dream," speech in Washington.

The march caused a lot of expected controversy. The crowd

count was disputed, because Farrakhan as well as many others felt well over one million attended. Even though The Park Service estimated 400,000.

"It was well over a million people," was Farrakhan's belief.

West Chicago faculty and students make donations from the bottom of their hearts

By Kristi Ault

Heartland Blood Center came to Community High School for the biannual blood drive, and fell short of their goal of 82 pints, collecting 68 pints.

On Thursday, October 19, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the small gym, student council sponsored and supervised the drive.

Elizabeth Feltes was the student council member in charge of checking birth dates and keeping track of donors. Throughout the day, about eight student council members volunteered each hour, serving cookies and soda or helping with the check-in and registration process. Ten Heartland nurses and workers ran the testing and blood donating.

The average time to take one pint of blood is 7 minutes, but Heartland only allowed each person to try for 10 minutes after which time they stopped the process.

After donating, each person must stay for at least 10 minutes to eat

cookies and drink soda, before allowed to go back to class.

Junior Matt Bowne donated a pint, and afterwards saying "I was a successful blood donor. I did it because it is for a good cause and you get to eat good free food."

All food and drink were provided by Heartland. It is important for people to raise their blood sugar after giving blood. With the loss of one pint of blood and lower blood sugars, people have a higher tendency to pass out. Since everyone followed these simple rules, no one passed out.

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.

"I gave blood because of all the little babies who might someday

need my blood," reflected Junior Teresa Arthur.

After an information sheet is filled out, a nurse questions the prospective donor, asking a range of questions about past medical history, possible medical difficulties, and possible sexually transmitted diseases. The nurse tests each persons blood for hemoglobin count. 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 ensure the health of a donor, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) stipulates certain conditions before blood can be drawn.

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

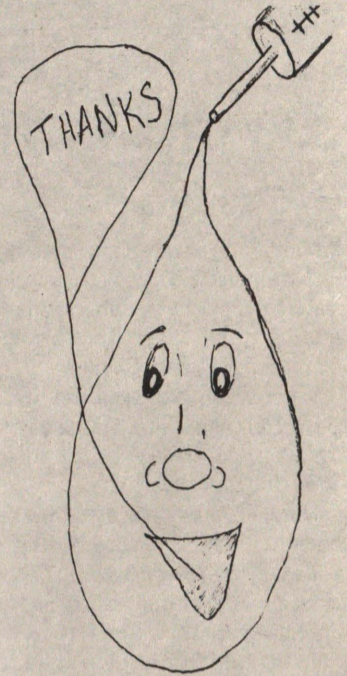
getting an ear pierced, acupuncture, or a tattoo. Also a 12 week waiting period is necessary after surgery requiring at least a month of recuperation, and/or blood transfusion.

A new addition this year to the list of disqualifications is anyone who has been an inmate of any correctional institution including jails and prisons, or anyone who has been incarcerated for more than 72 consecutive hours during the previous 12 months.

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.

If you didn't qualify due to age or health, and wish to donate, Heartland will be coming back to Community High School during the Spring.

Heartland, as a supplier to the victims of the Fox River Grove accident, thanks all We-go donors.



If you have any questions concerning blood donation you can contact Heartland Blood Center in Aurora at (708) 892-7055 or in Winfield at (708) 690-3222.

The songs and sounds of We-go's choirs and orchestra

By Hannah Kenny

The orchestra and choirs performed their first concert of the school year in the Weyrauch Auditorium on Tuesday, October 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Joel Morris opened up, welcoming the full house of 350-400 people. Morris discussed what the music department was looking forward to this year, and some upcoming events, such as the District VII Music Festival on November 18, at Oak Park River High School.

The string orchestra opened with "Air For Strings," and "Psalm and Fugue." Sophomore violinist

Brenda Santiago was pleased saying "it went pretty well."

Orchestra director, Lori Rollins announced try-outs for the rest of the orchestra following the marching band season, with the results posted in the music room.

The choirs occupied 45 minutes of the hour-long concert. Choir director Kim Sirvatka felt all choirs did a wonderful job saying "It was difficult and challenging music, and they did a super job with it."

Both choirs and orchestra have been working on the pieces they

performed since the beginning of the school year.

The freshman choir led by Sirvatka sang next. The three freshman boys made the bass section audible for their three songs, finishing with "Sleep My Baby."

Liz Edwards, Beth Schlenger, Amie Nottingham, Barb Karnoscak and Maura Jimmo who presented keyboardist Jim Sirvatka, pianist Drusilla McLeland and Kim Sirvatka with cards and flowers as a thank you from the entire choir for "putting up with them".

First soprano Sarah Kennebrew was pleased saying, "It went better than I expected."

The concert choir was last on stage. They began with "Salmo 150" and continued with "God Is Seen." Their third song, "Something Told the Wild Geese," received the biggest round of applause. The night was concluded with a old spiritual "Soon-Ah Will Be Done."

Sirvatka thanked everyone for coming and hoped to see them in the future. There will be many concerts this year, the next one being December 10.

Congratulations to the West Chicago artists who were accepted to play in the District VII Music Festival.

Tenor Mike Clifford and Bass Jacob Yang were chosen to be part of the chorus.

Violinist Emily Britten was chosen to be in the orchestra, and Clarinetist Kristin Dieter and Bass Clarinetist Brian Beerman were chosen to be part of the band.

Community High School adopts a needy senior

Press Release

The Humanitarian Services Project, a non-profit organization, announced that Community High School of West Chicago's Student Council has donated \$390 to adopt a needy senior for a year.

The commitment of \$390 will ensure that their needy senior receives groceries consisting of fresh vegetables, fruits, frozen meats, canned goods, fresh bread, paper and personal care products enough for a month.

Members of the Student Council received information from the Project requesting aid for needy seniors. The Student Council, made up of 40 members all elected by their peers, are very actively involved in the community and thought that adopting a needy senior in their community would be

an ideal way to set an example for their peers. The students also visit nursing homes in the area, help out the local food pantry and conduct Blood Drives.

In order to raise funds to adopt a needy senior, the Student Council held several dances, sold candy and pom shakers at Homecoming, and held a Mr. Wildcat Contest.

HSP Founder/Director Karole Kettering said, "It is very heartening to see such a dedicated group of students who truly understand what it is to help someone in need. We are so thankful to have the Community High School Student Council on board."

The Senior Citizen Project exists to provide groceries to impoverished seniors in DuPage County. According to recent statistics, there

are 9,000 seniors in DuPage County living below the poverty level.

The SCP purchases food in bulk and delivers grocery packages each month to between 72-77 seniors.

The other division of the HSP is the Children's Birthday Project which selects, wraps and sends via UPS, presents to 500 needy children ages 3 to 12.

With support from sponsors the CBP hopes to reach more underprivileged children. There are 5,820 needy children in DuPage County. The CBP needs more "godparents" to ensure all 500 needy children will be served. Your tax-deductible donation of \$45 for one year will help provide birthday and Christmas gifts to your adopted child. Donations of new toys, new books and wrapping

paper are always greatly appreciated.

The HSP relies on the support of individuals, businesses, schools, clubs, and groups to sponsor their seniors and children in poverty. By co-adopting a senior for \$33 per month (\$390 per year, or \$780 for a full sponsorship) you can help to bring hope and piece of mind to a needy senior's golden years. The SCP also offers a Special Friend Program for volunteers who wish to regularly visit a lonely senior.

If you or your group would like more information on adopting a needy child or senior, or volunteering for the Project, please call Humanitarian Services Project at (708) 231-1542, or write to 1425 S. Neltner Blvd, West Chicago, Illinois, 60185.

Guidance news

By Kristin Dieter

Sophomore meetings November 13th - 22nd

- Students contacted through invitation (time, place, and date of meeting included)

- Meeting focuses on exploring and choosing careers

- Counselors will discuss with Sophomores the I.G.A. P. interest inventory taken as freshmen

Sophomore Parent Night Nov. 17th

- Discussion of Sophomore Guidance Curriculum

Anyone interested in learning more about Self Directed Searches (SDS) which help you determine possible career options and Guidance Information System (G.I.S.) which helps with a variety of job related and college issues should set up an appointment with their counselors.

International Club V.I.C.A.

International club is accepting and gathering donations for needy families, for details contact Myrna Woodson.

V.I.C.A. meets the first Friday of every month in room 106 at 7:35 AM, their next event is sponsoring the Christmas food drive.

S.A.D.D.

S.A.D.D. sponsored the Red Ribbon Week celebration October 23-27. S.A.D.D. is completing their application for national S.A.D.D. membership. 40-50 new members have joined this year. Advisor Diana Vasquez is glad to see how many students are committed to living drug free lifestyles.

Pep Club

Pep club meets every Tuesday in room 155 at 7:30 AM, they are planning the Winter sports pep assembly.

Clown Team

Clown team meets every Thursday in room 226 at 3:30 PM, they are working on their skit presentations for the elementary schools.

Math Team

Freshmen meet Wednesdays after school in room 214 from 3:40 until 4:30 PM. Sophomores meet Friday before school in room 214 from 7:15 until 7:45 AM. Juniors and Seniors meet Tuesday mornings in room 214 from 7:15 until 7:45 and Thursday after school in room 214 from 3:40 until 4:30 PM.

Senior Class

Senior class meets every other Wednesday at 7:30 AM in room 146. The next meeting is on November 8. They are planning Turnabout which is scheduled for March 15, senior superlatives, half-way day January 9, 3 on 3 basketball tournament, and graduation.

Chess Team

Meetings are T.B.A., listen and watch student announcements

Government Election Results

Government class voting for the Legislative offices were held during all lunches on Friday November 2nd. All candidates on the ballot were required to fill out a petition form, and obtain a signature sheet. The number of required signatures were dependent upon the different offices.

The results of the voting are as follows:

Speaker of the House:
Nick Castellano

Majority Floor Leader:
Tawney Larm

Minority Floor Leader:
Sarah Toney

Republican Committee Chairmen:

Committee #1:
Steve Berezney

Committee #2:
Mike Leck

Committee #3:
Kent Mohr

Committee #4:
Michelle Rapinchuk

Committee #5:
Jenni Skidgel

Committee #6:
Ryan Saul

Democratic Committee Chairmen:

Committee #1:
Marissa Filippo

Committee #2:
None

Committee #3:
Dana Bowne

Committee #4:
Louis Penaflo

Committee #5:
Dietrich Rudolph

Committee #6:
Julie Vavrek

All unfilled committee chairmen positions will be appointed by the Majority and Minority Floor Leaders depending upon their party affiliation.

OOPS! Sorry about that...

We at the Wildcat Chronicle would like to apologize for the following mistakes in our last issue:

On page two under oops, cousins Paul Junkroski and Susan Junkroski have no "w" in their last name.

November 6-December 9

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Spanish French Clubs Art Institute Fall Sports Awards 7:30 PM	8 SADD 7:30 AM LRC	9 Marching Band Showcase 7 PM	10 IN-SERVICE DAY 10:55 Dismissal Per. 1,2,6,7,8	11 VETERAN'S DAY
12	13	14 Stud. Council 3rd hr French Club rm. 408 7:30 AM	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Soph Parent and Parent Conf. Night 5:30 PM	22 12:55 Dismissal All classes meet	23 HAPPY NO	24 THANKSGIVING SCHOOL	25
26 TEACHER APPRECIATION NOV. 13-17	27	28	29 Winter Play Auditions 3:30-9PM	30 German Club German Restaurant AUDITIONS CONT.	1	2
3	4	5	6 Booster Club 7:30 PM	7	8	9

Copycat, a true original

By Kristi Ault

Copycat, the newest suspense thriller starring Holly Hunter and Sigorney Weaver, and yes folks, she has hair in this one, opened in theaters nation wide on Friday October 27.

Hunter plays the leading lady detective who struggles to prove herself in an all male department. She's a good cop faced with multiple murders that may possibly be the work of a serial killer.

Weaver, who held a doctorate in criminal psychology, researched the same case on her own and came up with a profile of the killer and tipped off Hunter's department with many anonymous phone calls.

Hunter traces the calls and deems it a prank until she researches the caller.

Hunter discovers Weaver is an esteemed author on the subject of the psychology of serial killers. Weaver had scrupulously studied all of America's historic serial killers, the Boston Strangler, Ted Bundy, Jeffrey Dahmer, and Daryll Lee Cullum, played by Harry Connick Jr.

Weaver had composed profiles of all serial killers and published

books about how they think and how their minds work.

Unfortunately she tried to catch a serial killer using what she had known, which had also been published in numerous articles and books. William McNamara had studied Weaver's work and was always one step ahead of her, giving the film many suspenseful moments.

Together Hunter and Weaver are racing against time to catch McNamara before he kills his next victim.

Copycat is an original movie, following the likes of *Seven*, *Silence of the Lambs* and *Natural Born Killers*, but has a never done before twist. All the murders are done in copycat style down to the exact details, but McNamara is copying the murders of serial killers, first it's the Boston Strangler and then on through John Wayne Gacy and ending with Daryll Lee Cullum.

Copycat's ending was typical for a suspense film, and it left a large opportunity for a sequel.

Copycat was a good film, with some light humor and a good cast, I guarantee it will keep your heart racing, but it might not keep you in your seat.

Who knew the mall could be so much fun?

By Candy Estrada

In the new movie *Mallrats*, the two main characters try to deal with their recent breakups with their girlfriends. The film portrays the lives of these two very different friends who, throughout the entire movie, spend every waking moment at the mall.

Brody (Jason Lee) has just had his heart ripped out by none other than his long-time girlfriend, Rene (Shannen Doherty).

The two just don't seem to be getting along, and alas, Rene decides to call it quits. The reason? Brody is a comic book and Sega freak. To make things worse, Brody hasn't even introduced Rene to his mother.

T.S. (Jeremy London) has also just had the shocker of his life. The girl he was to marry, Beth, dumps him over a complete misunderstanding.

T.S. figures that the only way to win his true love back is by way of her affluent father, who just happens to be putting on one of the coolest "love connection" show at

the mall where both guys hang out.

When the T.S. and Brody meet up, they find out that each have been dumped and vow to get their girls back.

But what seems like an effortless chore at first turns out to be one hectic adventure.

With the help of two very hilarious friends, Jay and Silent Bob, Brody and T.S. are able to come up with different schemes that are peculiar, but zany.

One was where Jay and Silent Bob try to act like Batman and Robin and destroy the stage for the dating show. Unfortunately, their gadgets don't seem to work and they fail at the task.

So T.S. and Brody decide to take the matter into their own hands. Taking advantage of Beth's father, they agree to be contestants on his show in order for T.S. to win back Beth.

On the other hand, Brody has the hardest job of trying to fend off Rene's new love, who thinks Brody

is still madly in love with Rene, by having to outwit him in any way he can.

In the end, the two win back the hearts of their estranged girlfriends by displaying their devotion in front of thousands of spectators. Brody finally ends up introducing Rene to his mother and T.S. and Beth agree to get married.

Despite the pointless plot, the movie is well-acted and comical. All of the characters seem to flow together and have some sort of depth to their personality.

Even Doherty, whom we all know from *Beverly Hills, 90210*, is able to do some decent acting and comes up with some amusing one-liners.

Mallrats is probably one of the funniest movies out this fall.

It was better than most of the comedies that have recently been released. Due to the great characters, there is no way the movie can be called dull. It'll definitely make you leave the theater roaring with laughter.

Seen any good movies lately?

The Wildcat Chronicle is interested. Write about a movie you enjoyed and give it to Mrs. Kostro in room 319 or put it in her mailbox.

The life giving essence of Pneuma

By Holly A. Sparkman

I got the privilege of sitting in on a developing session with Pneuma (an event I only get to enjoy every so often) to discuss some things they thought the general public of this school might want to know about the new band.

Pneuma is a fairly new band right here in our school that consists of four juniors. The band is made up of: Brian Madden (lead guitar and singer), Chris Hauger (drummer), Jay Symowitz (rhythm guitar), and Ted Barzo (bass player).

H.S.- Say your name and tell everyone what it means.

Pn.—Pneuma! It means the life giving essence of the monkey, or so we believe. That's what it says in the dictionary.

H.S.- What about the dresses that you've been known to wear, especially at band camp?

Pn.— We just wanted to show off our great legs. Brian's got the best and then it goes Ted, Jay, and Chris, in descending order. But Ted definitely has the hairiest (which he was not afraid to prove)! Actually, then it was for publicity. It was really just to bring a lot of attention to ourselves so everyone would ask us why we were wearing dresses and we could say " 'cause we're Pneuma."

H.S.- So are you all in the high school band?

Pn.— Oh yeah, that's how we all got hooked up back in the fifth grade, with Ms. Farnham (the elementary school band director). We all got to know each other back then, except for Chris 'cause he went to Benjamin.

H.S.- So how long have you been planning on being your own band?

Brian— Since freshman year. Well no, first it was going to be me playing guitar and John Stogis on bass and Ted was going to be our pots and pans percussionist. But John never worked out so now Ted plays bass. And we didn't want to leave Jay out because we like Jay, we didn't want him to feel bad and lonely and stuff. So we told him to

buy a guitar and be in our band too and then we needed a drummer and we knew Chris drummed so...

Ted-Yeah, it all happened about sophomore year. We all decided what instruments we wanted to play. We just said, "Brian, you play guitar, Ted, you're big, play bass..."

Jay- And Jay, you're left over and we don't want to go industrial so you gotta play guitar instead of keyboard. And Chris you're a drummer — go buy a [drum] set.

H.S.- What do you think about your musical ability now?

Pn.— There's room for improvement, you can always improve.

H.S.- Well, do you want your

band to be just about music or do you want to stand for a certain idea?

Brian- How 'bout just music because I wouldn't want people thinking we're just strictly about one idea.

Ted- Anyway, we like to experiment — it's where we get our original stuff.

H.S.- What do you think about the rumor that you play too many

Brian- Yeah, considering it was an industrial party, I felt really out of place. Especially since we didn't have a drum machine.

Chris- Right, but we were the only ones that got a mosh pit started, and with Hot Crossed Buns, too!

Another embarrassing moment, they told me, was they time they almost got their butts kicked in Wheaton. The incident basically involved a short exchange of words

Brian- Like with long, odd-colored hair.

After I'd gotten a pretty good grip on the present Pneuma, they talked about the future.

Ted- I just wanna play good music.

Brian- Someday we hope to hit the alternative mainstream and get on Q101.

Jay- For a Buzz Clip!

Chris- Yeah, I just want to be on the radio.

Brian- I just wanna stop shedding!

Chris- I'm gonna marry you guys. Pneuma wedding!

Ted- We're going to grow up and be rich rock stars and live in the same house.

Some of the people that the guys wanted to acknowledge for influencing, or at least helping, their efforts as a band are: Mrs. Farnham for teaching Brian treble clef (which helped for his guitar playing), Mr. Farnham for teaching Ted bass clef (helping him play bass), Mr. Bonnes (Chris's formative band director), Scott Joplin (for teaching about syncopation), Matt Potts (for being Pneuma's first singer at the 'fest disaster), and Steve Broch, "...he's our roadie."

Lastly, there were still only two things that I wanted to know:

H.S.- So, are you guys Garcia fans?

Pn.— Noooooooo!!!

H.S.- Okay then, what is the one thing that you'd like the school to know about you guys?

Ted, Jay and Chris- Give us a blank tape and we'll make you a copy!



Pneuma in action (L to R) Chris Hauger, Brian Madden, Jay Symowitz, and Ted Barzo.

Photo by Holly Sparkman

cover songs by other groups and not enough of your own stuff?

Pn.— It's true, but that's how every band got started. We needed to [play covers] just to learn our instruments and to fully understand what they can do.

H.S.- What about your modest beginnings and embarrassing moments encountered on stage.

Chris— Nudo-fest was bad. It was Snot-ball-fest this year! Were we the opening act?

don't want you to think we're biased or anything. Rap music is really good, it's an influence on our spoken word stuff.

We're not against any group but we think that the other groups should be tolerant towards us and the kind of music we play too.

H.S.- Aren't they?

Pn.— No, some aren't.. or just be more tolerant to other people in general who are slightly different from themselves...

Insomniac, not quite a snore

By Steve Berezney

It didn't take long for the boys of Green Day to make a follow up to their smash hit record *Dookie*.

Insomniac was released on October 10 and considering how many people bought their last album, it was surprising to see that it had not sold that many copies.

The album begins with "Armatage Shanks." Although this song doesn't have many words, it fits Green Day's style of music and is a fitting opener.

Looking at the third song "Stuck With Me," we still see the true Green Day format. It might not be their best song, but it is worth listening to.

This now brings us to the very first song released to the radio and to MTV, "Geek Stink Breath."

This song talks about using "methamphetamines" (speed) and having your teeth rot.

If you ever see the video, which happens to be one of the most disgusting videos ever made, you'll understand the song. This is one of the better songs on this album.

The next three songs are not even worth listening to, but we pick up at "Panic Song."

It has a drum beginning that reminds me of the song "Wipeout." The drum solo alone is longer than most of Green Day's other songs in their entirety.

When they do get to the words, they aren't bad, but you've listened to it that long that you might as well finish it.

One of the best songs on *Insomniac* is "Stuart and the Ave." This song could have come right off of *Dookie*. So if you liked their last album, then you should like this song.

This is the Green Day everyone is used to. It talks about an old

relationship that makes no sense anymore.

Every album has to have a worst song and this honor goes to "Brain Stew."

It sounds like a song from a beginning garage band that goes absolutely nowhere.

This song actually put me to sleep for a minute, so that must tell you something.

One of the last songs on the album is one of the better songs called "Westbound Sign."

This song is just a good combination of words and music. They both seem to flow very well and it makes for a good song.

Insomniac will take some getting used to. You might have to listen to it two or three times before you find the songs that stick out and that you like.

Since almost all of Green Day's songs sound alike, there shouldn't be any trouble finding a song you like.

This album is not as good as *Dookie*, but it's not bad. It's pretty hard to make a follow up to an album that millions of teenagers bought all over the country.

Insomniac is definitely not a bust however. There are several good songs which can easily stick inside your head.

If going on a four point scale, I would have to give this a two and a half.

The success of this all depends on radio air play, and if they make any videos so that people will get used to the songs like they did on their last album.

They will be performing at the UIC Pavilion on November 22, but unfortunately, the concert is sold out.

Aries (March 21- April 19)- Don't commit to one person or one event. Explore new horizons, but don't forget people who have been there for you. You might run into one of them. Your lucky colors are: Red and blue polka dots. Lucky Number: .001

Taurus (April 20- May 20)- Problems at home will momentarily increase due to your stubbornness. Relax, take it easy, back off. Let your feet lead you places. Beware of remote control devices. Your Lucky color is: Goldenrod. Lucky number: π^2

Gemini (May 21- June 21)- People will find you irresistible in the next few days. Beware this can have both a positive and a negative effect. Beware of small dogs. Your lucky color is: Sepia. Lucky number is: 7.

Cancer (June 22- July 22)- Your flirtatious nature may lead you to a new adventure. In school don't forget about that project you've been procrastinating getting started on. It's due tomorrow. Your lucky color number is: Plum. Lucky number: $A=L*W$

Leo (July 23- August 22)- After Thanksgiving dinner, a fight over the wish-bone will fall in your favor. You will then be granted

Horoscopes

Written by the stars

your fondest wish. Your lucky color is: Brick red. Lucky number: 0

Virgo (August 23- September 22)- Don't be afraid of the Christmas decor-haunting Carson's already. You'll just have to accept

to be too zany with that frosting. It doesn't belong in that loved one's hair. You will have a good shoe month and people will be complimenting you constantly. Your lucky color is: Maroon. Lucky number: 6.23×10^{23} .

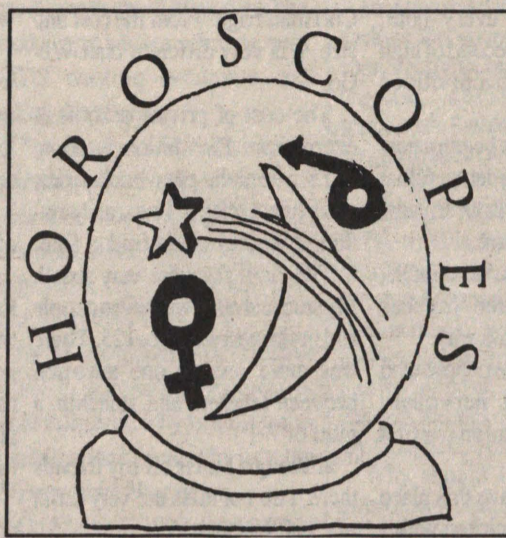
Sagittarius (November 22- December 21)- Start your Christmas shopping now. Your money will soon begin to mysteriously disappear. Keep your eyes on the road for small animals and other inanimate flying objects. Your lucky color is: Coral with a hint of brown. Lucky number: $9.8s^2$.

Capricorn (December 22- January 19)- A feud will lead you to gorge yourself on candy corn. Beware of flying mashed potatoes at Thanksgiving dinner. Remember to floss and brush.

Your lucky color is: Burnt Sienna. Lucky number is: $Y=AX^2+BX+C$.

Aquarius (January 20- February 18)- Your favorite song will haunt you over the next few days. Watch out for blue pens. The pen is mightier than the sword. Enjoy your German chocolate cake. Your lucky color: Chartreuse. Lucky number: $Y=MX+B$

Pisces (February-March 20)- People will smile at you for no apparent reason. Do not be alarmed. You will grow out of it. Enjoy those special socks you've been saving for that great occasion. Your lucky color: Tangerine. Lucky number is: $(1/2)BH$



it, break down, and buy an early Christmas gift for yourself. Your lucky color is: Cadet Blue. Lucky number is: ∞ .

Libra (September 23- October 23)- That hard decision you've been trying to make will become clear when you hear the word "Katzenjammer." Beware: you will hear it in a strange context. Be not afraid, life will soon begin to make sense and you'll feel yourself again. Your lucky color is: Zebra stripes. Lucky number: $E=mc^2$.

Scorpio (October 24- November 21)- Hey, it's your birthday Scorpions. Don't let the moon effect your already crazy nature. Try not

Short Stories

Confession

By Anonymous

I knew I shouldn't have stayed up so late. I wanted to leave the party, but my friends wanted me to stay.

After a while I got up and said, "I need to get going, I've got to work tomorrow." I'd had a few beers to drink, but I only lived a half an hour away on back roads, so I figured I could make it without the cops catching me.

I pulled out on the road and started to drive. Sure I swerved on the road a little, but I didn't think that there was anyone else on the road.

I had gone a few miles when I started to get tired. Going between my dreams and the real world, I began to swerve a little more. So I turned up the radio to keep me awake.

Soon though, my lazy eyes began to droop again, and my car

drove itself over to the other side of the road. I woke up suddenly, I still am not sure why, and saw someone walking on the road.

At first, I thought I was still sleeping. "Something like this wouldn't happen to me, this is just a way for my mind to keep me awake." But I was wrong.

As soon as I realized it, I slammed on the brakes. In my drunken stupor I was too slow. The person bounced off my hood and rolled onto the wet, dewy grass.

I didn't know what to do, so I got out of my car and went around to where the body was. I turned the body over and found myself looking at a girl of about 14 or so. And she didn't look like she was breathing.

I panicked and ran back to my car and drove away. The next day I saw her picture on the news.

"Jessy Morrison was hit by a car on her way home last night. At age 15, she was a varsity football cheerleader at her high school. Today she would have been cheering in the homecoming game. The halls were eerily quiet compared to most high schools today, but everyone has been touched by this tragedy and she will be missed dearly. *The driver is still at large...*"

I have never said a word about this to anyone, and I probably never will, but sitting here at your grave, it is still fresh in my memory. I just need to tell you Jessy, if you can hear me, I'm sorry.

This is not a true story, but it could be. If you do insist on drinking at parties, or because you think you'll have more fun with your friends, be responsible and DON'T DRIVE.

Poetry

River of confusion

Take this pain I'm feeling,
and place it in your hands.
Look me in my eyes,
and help me understand.

I can never run,
I can never hide this pain in my heart.

If it wasn't for these dreams I have,
my life would fall apart.

Please don't give up on me,
I'll try again.

I'll try everyday,
I'll try to be a friend.

If I sail away,
down this "River Of Confusion"
Will my boat be strong?
Will my mind be free?
Will it sing that song?

I wish I could change all this darkness,
and bring out the brighter days.
I would feel the heat from the sun,
and feel freedom from it's rays.

Josette Kramer

Senior life

By Kristin Dieter

So this is it. My Senior year. Your Senior year. Our Senior year. No more "I can't wait to be a Senior," the moment is now.

We have waited, enduring eleven years of schooling for this chance to be "on top." Now that we're finally here, every hour, every minute, every second of high school is slipping unnoticed through our hands.

Three years ago we began a new life as high school students. What we have experienced in these years has created who we are.

The confusion, the heart-ache, the laughter, and the joy has changed us all in some way.

We are not the same people who walked somewhat nervously through the front doors on our first day as freshmen.

Instead we will leave this place full of vitality and spirited ambition. And hopefully, most of us will leave proud of the people we've become.

When I personally walk out the doors, diploma in hand, I hope I'm proud of what I've accomplished in high school.

I want to leave this place knowing I didn't bypass any opportunity to get involved in school. High school will be for many of us the last time to participate in competitive athletics, various clubs and organizations, and the arts.

For those who have failed to get involved, I hope you don't regret it. For those of you who have been involved, enjoy every moment of your activities before they come to an end.

When high school ends, we will begin new adventures. Some of us will go to college and some will enter the work force. Either way, in the end we must say good-bye.

We will have to say good-bye to the school, to teachers, to friends, and to others who have touched our lives over the years.

Saying good-bye will not be an easy task, but until we are forced to do so, there is still time. Make new friends, catch up with those who have faded from your life, and strengthen present friendships.

Don't bypass any opportunity to spend time with those you love, family or friends, for in a quick few months we will separate to travel down distinct paths.

Throughout our journey into the future we will never be entirely cold and alone. We will always have the recollection of these days to warm our hearts when they have slipped into the cold, unknown world.

Fill yearbooks and photo albums with memories of what made high school enjoyable. High school will always be alive in our hearts as long as we have the memories.

So this can all pretty much be summed up by Wordsworth who said, "...Though nothing can bring back the hour of splendor in the grass, of glory in the flower; we will grieve not, rather find strength in what remains behind..."

A Private Matter

By Hannah Kenny

Coming from a private school, WCCHS is a whole new world to me.

Last year I went to Wheaton Christian High. From the cost and size, it is very different than We-Go.

The cost of private schools is enormous. The tuition is about \$575 a month, plus book fines, class fines, science fines, and anything else they could find to fine.

The class sizes are very small. My smallest class was seven people and my largest was about 25. There was more one on one attention between teachers and students, a ratio of 7-1.

Although I miss all my friends there, I do not miss the very strict rules of Wheaton.

The rules took away every freedom that I have here. No one had a choice if they wanted a bible class or not, or if we wanted to go to chapel 3-5 times a week.

Even though it was a Christian school, they forced their beliefs on us.

To be accepted as a student there, we had to sign a contract that we had to follow throughout the school year, even on weekends.

Many of the principles on the contract were unreasonable. Keeping our minds on "wholesome thoughts," going to church or a youth group every week, and staying away from people that could lead us to bad things were some ideas that we were told to follow.

I couldn't even make a point that contradicted what a teacher or administrator believed, because I would be looked down upon.

Talking back to a teacher would be an automatic trip to the dean's office. Teachers would give a detention for the littlest thing, even smaller than sleeping in class.

Clothing rules were very strict. No dresses or shorts six inches above our knees. No holes in our jeans, and nothing that promoted a band.

One girl even had to change because her clothes were 'too bright'.

We weren't even allowed to dye our hair unnatural colors.

If they caught anyone doing something that could be considered "wrong" then they were most likely to be kicked out.

They would throw people out so fast, they wouldn't know what hit them.

If someone was suspected of being at a party with drugs, if their language was not appropriate, or if they had an ongoing problem with respect, detentions, or suspensions, they were most likely not coming back next year.

Sure, there might be video cameras in most halls here, and paraprofessionals roaming the halls, but at least I have the freedom to stand up for what I believe, and have a choice how I want to live my own life.

Million man march A million to one, or one in a million

By Dan Horyn

He has been accused of being a racist, a bigot, a separatist, a Jew hater and a murderer.

He considers white America the black community's "enemy", and was once quoted as saying Hitler was "a great man".

All this coming from the person who last month told 400,000 black men to never raise a hand in violence, to never strike their wife in anger and to empower themselves.

Is it just me, or is there a conflict of interest here?

Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan spent a year planning the Million Man March, whose goal was to unite one million African American men to make a pledge of peace to themselves, their race and their country.

But when he found out the National Park Service's count to be about 400,000, he lashed out, saying, "There were well over a million. Racism, white supremacy and hatred for Louis Farrakhan disallows them from giving us credit."

Sounds like the wrong guy came up with the right idea for today's black community.

Louis Farrakhan has been amidst controversy in America ever since speculation that he murdered black activist Malcolm X.

And it seems that every time Farrakhan begins to fade out of the spotlight, he comes back with a comment that offends and angers many people. His outlandish statements are most often directed towards the Jews.

Farrakhan blames the Jews for taking jobs from African-Americans. He incorrectly says that Jews owned the majority of black slaves during the eighteenth century. He once called Judaism "a gutter religion".

Why is *this* guy speaking to a million men? Why not Jesse Jackson or Colin Powell?

It's sad to know that present day society listens to people like Louis Farrakhan. It's scary to know what kind of power these individuals have.

I'll move out of the country when Mark Fuhrman has a Million Man March.

By Dan Vock

To a large extent the Million Man March was portrayed falsely in the mass media. Most people dismissed the march as a racist outreach of Louis Farrakhan's Nation of Islam, as an attempt to further divide American society, or a show of "Black Power."

My first reaction was much the same. I asked myself why there should be a gathering of so many African-American men on Washington D.C. and why anybody should follow Farrakhan.

As a curious observer, I decided to watch the speakers at the March to see what they were saying. I wanted to know what was so important to prompt hundreds of thousands of male African-Americans to flood into the nation's capital.

What I discovered were African-American males determined to assume responsibility in their culture, to become better fathers, brothers, and role-models.

The men there pledged to deter drug-use, gang violence, and broken families in their African-American communities. This was no assertion of racism. They called upon themselves to fix many of the problems they faced in everyday life.

So why gather at the steps of the Capitol? Why gather at Farrakhan's urging? The fact of the matter is that the present Congress is determined to destroy as much hope in the African-American community as they can possibly get away with.

The attacks on Affirmative Action, on programs that give incentives for the poor to work, on scholarships for the needy all target the African-American community. Seeing this, it is no wonder the leaders of the African-American community are calling upon themselves to solve their own problems.

There is no help coming from Congress, but the hope is coming from the Capitol—from the masses taking matters into their own hands. Nobody can argue against this. This is presumably what conservatives want, but now the conservatives are crying foul as the African-American community tries to organize itself.

The fact remains that Minister Farrakhan was the leader of the rally. But who else could take control?

There is a disturbing void of leadership in the African-American community as in America as a whole. Whites balk when African-Americans follow Farrakhan, but they still tend to support Pate Philip, the majority leader in the Illinois General Assembly, who has publicly asserted that minority workers in DCFCS do not have as great of a work ethic as other workers.

The leaders we follow are not well liked. Neither Clinton or Gingrich are especially well-liked by Americans as a whole, but we gravitate toward them because of a lack of alternatives.

So it is too with African-Americans following Farrakhan.

Moreover, this rally was needed now. Thirty years after the heyday of the Civil Rights Movement, we cannot pretend that racism or its social and economic effects have been cured.

Minorities still have a greater obstacles to overcome than white males. As Maya Angelou said in a poem written especially for the rally,

"The night has been long
The wounds have been deep
The pit has been dark
And the walls have been steep."

If African-American males are gathering to help themselves out of the pit, then more power to them! Furthermore, we should all help our brothers in their struggles.

What gets you upset?

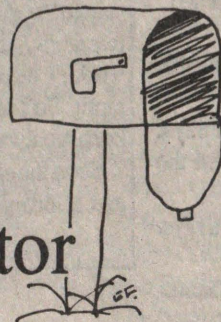
We've all got a pet peeve like chewing with your mouth open or constantly playing with your hair.

Well now it's your chance to tell the world, or at least West Chicago, what they are, because they'll be printed in the next issue of the *Wildcat Chronicle*.

So drop off your best pet peeves and your name in room 319 with Mrs Kostro, or stick them in her mailbox.

Letters

to the Editor



To the Editor:

I believe that Homecoming this year was one of the best ever. However, there was one thing that deeply disturbed me.

At the Varsity Homecoming game the spectators from our school decided to leave after half-time.

It was terrible that Glenbard East had more fans at our Homecoming than we did.

I realize that people wanted to get ready for their dinner plans and

the Big Dance, but school spirit is a key to a victory of any kind, and we need that!

I think that some changes need to occur. Either move the game back to Friday nights, where it belongs, or make the games earlier on Saturday.

We need to be there for all of our teams for support and to show our spirit. Especially on Homecoming!

I think we need to prioritize ourselves, and realize that we are

Legalize it First in a series on legalizing marijuana

By Colleen Roberg

Marijuana consumption shouldn't be a crime, and the government shouldn't fight a war against its own citizens to stop it.

Every time I pick up a newspaper, I read about more and more oppressive marijuana laws being introduced and passed by the legislature.

I was offended to read that these laws were consistently supported. Didn't they ever hear of the Bill of Rights? Freedom and justice are at risk.

Marijuana is legally available, for medical reasons, to only nine people nationwide. The Compassionate Investigational New Drug (IND) program, which supplies this marijuana, is jointly administered by the Department of Health and Human Services.

The National Institute of Drug Abuse and the Public Health Service cut off the IND program from expansion two years ago shortly after the IND was also shut down.

PHS spokesman, Rayford Kytel, was quoted as saying that the program was closed because the "National Institute of Health believes there are better and safer treatments, than smoking marijuana for controlling the side effects of chemotherapy-induced nausea, relieving eye pressure caused by glaucoma and stimulating blood sugars to encourage HIV-wasting syndrome patients to eat sugars."

Kytel also added that the NIH scientists believe the occupancy of carcinogens in marijuana smoke poses a health hazard to AIDS and chemotherapy patients, since their immune systems are impaired.

An aspiring speech writer, Robert Randall, was diagnosed with

glaucoma, a degenerative eye disease and the leading cause of blindness, and placed on the standard medical treatment.

Robert developed a tolerance to drug therapy and his sight continued to deteriorate.

In the fall of 1973, Randall smoked two joints before going to bed one night.

"When I got done I looked at a street light outside my window and noticed there were no tri-colored halos like I usually saw when the pressure in my eyes built up," he said.

For the first time, his disease was under control.

Kenny and Barbara Jents made this same discovery after contracting AIDS through a tainted blood transfusion.

One month from the time Barbara entered the hospital, she had lost 40 lbs., one third of her body weight and Kenny started losing weight after starting the AZT therapy. By the end of that same month, he had lost 10 lbs.

"It was impossible to eat," Kenny explained, "And when we did, nausea brought on by the AZT could last several hours."

They were prescribed six medications for the nausea, but none worked.

"Then we started going to an AIDS support group where someone told us he used pot and it took away his nausea," said Kenny.

Barbara recalls the first time Kenny smoked pot, "He went into the fridge and ate everything in sight. That's when we decided to try it."

During the next year she regained 35 lbs. Kenny also de-

scribed marijuana as effective enough to stop nausea even in the middle of a bout.

They were both arrested and pleaded innocent saying that marijuana was a medical necessity.

Robert Randall would have gone blind without marijuana. Kenny Jenks said that Barbara would not have made it through the first spring following her pneumocystis without marijuana, and credited it with prolonging his life as well.

Chris Woiderski is a paraplegic who uses marijuana to control his muscle spasms.

"The spasms can be as simple as one of my feet tapping, one can have them so suddenly, I go rigid as a board," Chris explains.

Chris started having muscle spasms after an accident that paralyzed from the chest down.

To battle the spasms he is prescribed Baclufen, Valium, and Darvon. Ten months after his accident he was taking 480 pills per month. The pills provided little relief and the side effects were unbearable.

He suffered weight loss, insomnia, severe headaches, and developed a problem with his left kidney. While in the hospital, several paralyzed veterans told Chris to use marijuana for the spasms.

He found out that one joint would control the spasms for six hours.

Personally, I know someone who uses marijuana illegally for medical reasons. His name is John* (not his real name), and he is suffering from the incurable Lou Gehrig's disease. Lou Gehrig's disease that causes the muscles to shorten and tighten.

The doctors gave him 2-5 years when he was diagnosed with it in 1993

His condition is still deteriorating, but marijuana eases the pain.

Before the IND program was shut down, the government had acknowledged that marijuana has use in treatment of glaucoma, chemotherapy nausea, chronic pain, AIDS wasting syndrome, and spasm disorders.

But studies and experimental evidence also suggests that it is beneficial in treating arthritis, anorexia, head injuries, epilepsy, migraines, PMS, sickle cell anemia, and stress disorders.

But if marijuana is so effective in the symptomatic treatment of these ailments, why is it illegal as a medication? And why was the IND program shut down.

On March 4, 1992, the program was officially shut down to all but those 13 persons who were receiving marijuana from the government.

The only official comment made at the time came from PHS director, Dr. James Mason, "If it is perceived that the Public Health service is going around giving marijuana to folks, there would be a perception that this stuff can't be so bad. it gives a bad signal."

Therefore the question is not how we solve this problem, but whether or not the government is willing to make an effort to solve it. And if so, when?

It remains to be seen in which direction the government will turn. Why marijuana is not legal, is something that we may never understand.

Why?

By Michelle Rapinchuk

I just wanted to take some time to thank everyone who participated in the Homecoming events and also for supporting me as your Homecoming Queen.

It really meant a lot to me to be able to represent West Chicago Community High School and all who support me. I know that it is late, but I felt the need to express my gratitude.

I am involved in many activities such as the sports and clubs and church activities and councils. You may ask, "why?" or you may respond with, "what a stuck-up snob, bragging about what she does!" or even, "What an IDIOT to put herself though that!!".

The truth is, I am an idiot. Why should someone do activities and sweat and do things you don't want to do at times? Why should I go to basketball practice knowing that I will be yelled at, and run to death, gaining bruises each time I turn my flustered, dizzy head.

Why should I roll out of my awesome, warm, snuggly bed with good, puffy pillows early to go to a meeting that does not even have doughnuts for Pete's sake!

Why would I want to work with others that are handicapped or go to a nursing home and pass out cookies to the elders that take a dozen at a time, realizing they can't even eat them without their dentures they lost three days ago?

The reason is because God gave me the talent and the strength and mindset to do these things. I know that I would have quit or dropped out of school if this was not the case. When I was a freshman, I remember thinking, "How will I make it through?!"

There were times when I did not put my seatbelt on, driving to school, because I thought that maybe we'll get into an accident, and then I will not have to do my homework!

My point is, I know that without God I would not be the Michelle Rapinchuk you all know. It is so easy to quit and to give-up. It is to God's glory that I use what He has given me - that is why I am full of get-up.

OJ, OJ, OJ, why's it always OJ?

By Matt Sosnowski

Oops! Maybe I shouldn't have used those two initials, they have put a copyright on them you know.

I tell you, I'm glad that tediously long case is finally over with. I have become really sick about hearing about it. Great! He won! But, personally, I could really care less.

I made a point not to watch or to listen to any part of the case. Well, actually, I must admit, I DID watch the overly-exciting low-speed chase at the beginning of all this.

Other than that, I swear that I didn't watch or listen to any part of

it; therefore, I cannot have an opinion on Simpson's innocence.

Many people think he is guilty and somehow, he just got really lucky. Both sides of the story are very convincing, but like I said before, my decision is indefinite.

I feel very sorry for those people who actually sat through and watched the case on TV or listened to it on the radio.

It clearly shows that some members of our society have nothing better to do with their time. I also feel sorry for the families of Nicole Simpson and Ron

Goldman, who were mysteriously murdered.

But I feel sorry most of all for the jurors who had to sit through this overly-long case, mostly in consolidation.

This case should have lasted AT MOST about a month or two. I actually feel that the case was dragged out to cause public interest and, therefore, much more publicity.

I was actually surprised that it took the jurors only a few short hours to reach a verdict. I expected that it would take at least a

month or so to come to a conclusion, based on how long the case itself took to present.

The jurors probably reached a verdict so fast because they were sick of the case (probably almost as much as me...).

How, you ask, do I know all of this about the case? Believe me, almost everyone I know has talked about it at least once. This, as you may have guessed, helped my disgust grow.

So... Simpson's a free man. What is next? Who knows? Who cares? I can honestly say: I SURE DON'T!

lots of people are in the cafeteria and can read them, if you sit far enough away you can't.

Another problem is the time. Lunch is only 25 minutes and it seems to take forever for the announcements to change. If you have to eat and read the announcements you have no time to talk with your friends. Another thing is that many people have off-campus lunch. When are they supposed to read them?

Jenni Davis

the powers of the earth the separate and equal station to which the laws of Nature and Nature's God entitle them (the monitors to which we see the announcements on), a decent respect to the opinions of mankind (hey, the new way is cool!) requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation (why would anyone want the announcements back?).

William Deutsch

To the Editor- This letter is concerning the Student announcements being read over the intercom.

The idea of putting the announcements on the TV's was a very good idea, but it does cause problems for lots of people.

For instance, lots of people are unable to go down and read them. Just imagine going through days of school and not knowing what is really going on. In this case, that is what the problem is. Even though

all apart of this school, and we should be proud of that.

Sincerely
Katie Lietherer

Declaration of Independence from Third Hour Announcements

When in the course of human events (namely noisy people in classrooms during announcements) it becomes necessary for one people (us) to dissolve the political (school) bands (announcements) which have connected them with another, and to assume among

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Features Steve Berezney
Perspectives Elizabeth Feltes
Entertainment Elizabeth Feltes
Sports Jennifer Wagenaar
Advisor Carrie Kostro
Name Plate Chris Kurzhals

The Wildcat Chronicle is the student newspaper at West Chicago Community High School. The views and opinions of the Wildcat Chronicle do not necessarily reflect or represent the majority of the staff or student body. Any suggestions or comments for the newspaper can be delivered to Advisor Carrie Kostro in room 321. Letters to the editor should be signed if they would like to be printed. The paper has the right to exclude any letters that are inappropriate or will not fit in a particular issue.

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

Growing up way too fast

-How one night can change your entire life

By Jenny Wagenaar

The two most dreaded words a teenage girl could ever hear is "You're pregnant."

The society we live in today is much different than it was 40 years ago. Individuals possess different values than they did back then. For example, many people don't wait to have sex until they are married anymore, many begin early on in life as teenagers, which may be a reason why pregnancy among teens is so high. Sex before marriage was wrong in almost everyone's eyes back then, but today fewer people are concerned about it.

It seems that basic sex education is not enough to draw teens away from having sex or practicing it safely, according to the numbers of teens who pregnant.

Each year in the US half a million teenage girls give birth, one out of every eight babies is born to a teenager, and one in every 10 girls will produce a baby before their 18th birthday (Turback, Kiwanis Magazine, May 1991). To any teenage girl these statistics are frightening, especially those who believe that nothing like this could happen to them.

Most teens don't want to get pregnant, most get pregnant because they're easily duped and careless believing that such a thing could never happen to them. Getting pregnant is looked at in the same way AIDS is, "it will never happen to me."

There are often other reasons to why teens become pregnant, here are some;

Reasons: The couple may not use any protection because of carelessness. They may not have any type of protection such a condom.

The couple gets so into the moment that the thought of using protection may not enter their minds. The protection they use may not work. Just because a couple uses protection doesn't mean that it will always work, nothing except abstinence is 100 percent effective.

Some teenage girls become pregnant as a way to receive attention or to rebel against their parents.

Some girls may think that if they become pregnant it will cause the boy to fall in love and want to get married. They believe it will never happen to them, they think they are immune to it.

These are a few of the many reasons to why teens may become pregnant.

Today, many teen mothers are 15 or 16 years old, some as young as 12. For the most part, fathers of these children contribute little or nothing. How would a boy feel if he was the one who got pregnant? If the roles were reversed, guys would probably be more careful and more intent on using some type of protection.

Think about it. Guys have a lot to worry about too. They may have to pay child support for that baby until it is 18 years old. They may have to give up school in order to support the mother and child. Expectations they once had may never be reached.

Girls have it a lot harder. Becoming a parent alters a teen's life.

Finishing school can become a difficult task as well as pursuing dreams such as college, a career choice, and even a happy marriage. The freedoms they once had are now limited.

"When Friday night comes along and I want to go out I have to think of my daughter first," Sarah Slone, a teen mother, said, "if there's no one to watch her then I don't go out." Sara became pregnant at the age of 15 and like most girls who find out they're pregnant, her first reaction was, "Why did this have to happen to me?"

They often have to grow up in a hurry. No longer can they act as wild as they once did because now they have a huge responsibility. "I don't think I'm a kid anymore," Slone said, "I've grown up. There are some people who have kids who think they are still little babies themselves. They don't understand responsibility."

Pregnancy among teens is an issue that society has to deal with. Obviously the education on sex is not doing the job of promoting the use of protection when having sex or the consequences that may happen if people have unprotected sex, and teens are not using good judgment when it comes to having sex.

Sex is not just physical pleasure, there is the emotional part, the STD's and pregnancy. No one is immune to anything today, it can happen to anyone and any teen girl can become pregnant if she is not careful.

Passengers need to help driver so tragedy doesn't strike twice

By Jessica Slawa

On October 25, 1995, a Cary River Grove High School Bus was struck by a Metra passenger train going 50 miles an hour. It claimed at least the lives of 5 of the high school students riding the bus. Many passers by got out of their vehicles to offer their services to the traumatized students, and many could not help. Even a woman, a nurse, who worked in a hospice and was used to death, was in tears over the young boy who died in her arms at the scene of the accident.

Many people were affected by this crash, a tragedy. Whether it had been a city bus, a family van with a husband, wife and child, or an elderly couple, this terrible collision would have been just as shocking. The age of the victims involved was a definite factor in all of our shocked reactions. Many of us ride the bus to and from school, expecting the bus driver to get us their on time and in a safe condition. Many assume it was mostly the bus driver's fault, or a technical difficulty in the traffic signals. But how many of us ride to and from school on a crowded bus, with over twenty yelling students, trampling along the bus, paying no attention to what is going on outside the bus giving any sympathy to the person driving the bus. We just expect to get our destination on time, in one piece.

Though maybe this, and other fatal bus accidents were held partly in the hands of us, the students. How many times have we gone over the tracks, clear of any danger, and yelled "train! train!" at the bus driver, making the whole affair an entirely fun event not realizing the harm it really does? On October 25, many students were calling out the same words, and like the little boy who cried wolf, they were hardly paid attention to.

We have to start giving our bus drivers a safer environment to drive in. This protects our lives as well as the lives of others. Here are some tips for riding the bus safely, so you can get to where you want to go, safe and alive:

Keep quiet. This doesn't mean sit in silence and don't talk to your

friends, but talk at a normal voice. Avoid yelling warnings at the bus driver, even in harmless manner, unless you mean it. You don't know when you'll really need to use those warnings.

Stay in your seat. Don't stand up, but the occasional lifting of the torso to annoy the person in the seat in front of you is OK, but do not stand up and walk around the bus. This could distract the bus driver and cause problems.

If possible and available, wear the safety belts that are on the bus. This could prevent you from getting hurt in a collision. If you have no safety belts, you may want to ask your bus driver, the bus company, or even a school official what you could do about getting them installed.

Don't use chaos with, or out of the bus. Don't be obnoxious by flipping obscene hand gestures to the car in the back of the bus, opening the windows too wide, smoking, playing loud music. This could distract the bus driver and make him/her force authority upon you, making them less aware of what is happening outside of the bus.

Listen to the instructions of the driver. I know that we all listen to instructions all day from teachers, parents, etc. but this is especially important. This could save your life.

Read those nifty rule things that are in the front of the bus. These not only help you in keeping safe, but they are cool to read when you're on the way to or from school and you're really bored.

We've all heard these rules before, and it may take a tragedy like this one to get us moving and into action and listening. And although the last thing we want to do in the morning is follow directions from another person, and actually behave, I think we would all agree that our parents would thank us for saving them the trip and anguish of wondering if we are OK in a smashed up bus, and though it's not the most appealing thing to think about, the big test you have to take when you get to school, and least you could be there to take it.

When "no" means no

By Elizabeth Feltes

He's the boy next door, the one you've been drooling over for months, and finally he asks you to go out Saturday night.

After dinner and a walk in the park you think he is the best thing in the world. So you are not hesitant to go back to his house to watch a movie, besides you've known him since you were five.

Midway through the movie he leans over and tells you that you are beautiful, then he kisses you. You are in heaven!

But all of a sudden he kisses you harder and pins you down. What is going on? You push him away and tell him to stop, but he doesn't listen.

This is a fictional situation, but for 1 in 4 girls under the age of 18, this is reality.

In this day and age of political correctness and sexual harassment rape is a hot topic. But to understand how to fight rape, we first have to know what rape is.

Date rape is the most prevalent type of rape, but many of us still equate rape with the stranger jumping out of the bushes at night and the woman who asked for it. These misconceptions make it imperative for both women and men to learn more about rape and protection.

Myth #1: Rape is a sex crime. **Reality:** While rape does involve sex, it is a crime of violence. A rapist feels that they have to show some form of dominance against the victim.

Myth #2: Only women are raped, and only men are rapists.

Reality: Both men and women are targets for rape. While 97% of rapes are committed by men, they are not the only ones who rape.

Myth #3: A rapist is a stranger who jumps out of bushes at night.

Reality: A woman has a four times greater chance of being raped by someone she knows.

Myth #4: Women who dress provocatively or have been promiscuous are asking for it.

Reality: No one deserves to be raped even if they have do dress "provocatively" or are promiscuous. Besides saying what is provocative and what is not is difficult. In some countries not wearing a full length dress would be considered dressing provocatively.

As scary as it seems, in a 1991 poll of 6th to 9th graders in Rhode Island, one third of the children

said it would not be wrong for a man to rape a woman who had previous sexual experience. But a woman's sexual past has nothing to do with the present.

Myth #5: It can't happen to me.

Reality: 1 in 4 women will be raped within their lifetime, and half of those women will be under the age of 25.

And that is why everyone needs to protect and educate themselves. No one is immune to the possibility of being raped.

To protect yourself, start with the obvious. You want to set sexual limits before you get in an uncomfortable situation and communicate those limits. If you do get in a situation that is uncomfortable, get out. Always trust your instincts, even that sick feeling in

the pit of your stomach could signal something.

Stay sober. 75% of acknowledged date rapists interviewed in one study said that they sometimes got females drunk to increase the likelihood of having sex with them.

Be assertive. Once you say "no", you mean no. Try and stay in control. A man will not try to take advantage of a woman who says what she will and will not do and who stands up for herself.

And there are things that men can do to prevent rape too. Don't force a female to have sex, and stay sober. Don't think that if a girl is drunk, she is asking for it. Don't confuse "scoring" with having a sexual encounter and don't assume that you know what the girl wants.

Tattoos: get the point

-Things to think about when considering body art

By Kristi Ault

Sitting beside an old discarded dentist's chair, in a dirty room, with a grungy guy wearing a shirt of tattoos and dirty jeans leaning over her ankle, I watched my best friend get a tattoo. I contemplated yanking her out of the chair, throwing her in the car and driving away, but I decided against it.

It's her life, her leg, and the guy did sterilize everything, so the environment was a little dirty, they were remodeling. . .

There was a certain rebellious flair about getting a tattoo, and I decided that on my eighteenth birthday, I too would indulge in a little body art.

Doctors, lawyers, teachers, supermodels, priests and politicians are all getting tattoos today, it's no longer the motorcycle gangs, prisoners, and drunken sailors, the stereotypical tattoo getters.

The body art of tattooing has definitely hit mainstream in Europe and the United States. Famous French fashion designer, Jean Paul Gaultier, has come out with sheer body suits with tattoo designs imprinted on them for those who like the look, but aren't too sure about the permanency.

A permanent tattoo is created by inserting colored inks under the epidermis, using a variety of electrically powered needles. The needles are dipped into permanent

hypoallergic ink. The needles are then moved up and down in sewing machine fashion, depositing the ink below the epidermis. Up until a couple years ago, tattoos were permanent, however, recent technology allows for the removal of this body art.

To remove a tattoo, a laser is inserted under the skin, and is used to evaporate the ink. The laser emits about 10 pulses of light per second which penetrate the skin and evaporate the dyes underneath the epidermis. This process can be done rather quickly, a surgeon can remove many square inches of a tattoo in five minutes. However, the laser surgery must be repeated four to six times at four to six week intervals to be effective.

All major U.S. cities are faced with a gang problem, and tattoos are a contributing factor.

Many people are marked with symbols of violence and hate. Gang tattoos immediately give away one's past, and could very likely rob someone of their future. Displaying a tattoo in the wrong neighborhood can be as harmful as wearing the wrong colors. Unfortunately, unlike an earring, colored scarf or jacket, tattoos can't always be concealed or removed.

San Jose officials spent \$15,000 on a pilot program to help former gang members remove their tattoos for free. The program had an

incredible turnabout and proved to be very popular.

Many people regret getting tattoos revealing gang affiliation or a now ex-spouse's name or initials. Tattoos usually represent power, sex, or fashion, all of which change with the times. If unsure about getting a tattoo, thinking it might be regretted someday, hold off until 100% sure.

If determined to get a tattoo, be aware when choosing a tattoo parlor and consider the following:

- ◆ A clean, well lighted studio
- ◆ Make sure the artist is a member of the Alliance of Professional Tattooists, ensuring they've taken a course in sterilization techniques and proper disposal of all materials.
- ◆ Ask if you can witness the disposal of all materials used on the previous patient.
- ◆ Make sure you receive a print-out describing the proper care of a new tattoo.
- ◆ Make sure the artist wears gloves during the entire procedure.
- ◆ All of the tools should be prepackaged.
- ◆ Make sure you have the artist's studio number so you can get in touch with the artist if you have any problems.
- ◆ If it doesn't look or feel safe, chances are it is not 100% safe. Use your best judgment.

Despite violence in society, We-go still safe

By Jenny Wagenaar

The FBI says someone in the United States is murdered, raped, assaulted or robbed every 16 seconds (Moyers, Parade Magazine), which can make a person walking the streets question their safety.

Acts of violence such as rape, shootings, assault, abuse, and murder, are associated with every town, city and state in the United States, including West Chicago.

West Chicago has it's problems just like every other town. "With in our community we have a gang issue," Officer Tony Quarto said, "the reason why students at West Chicago may not be aware of them is that they are not as pronounced as they were a few years ago."

Gangs are not the only problem We-Go faces, theft is also a problem. On Halloween night someone went into the girl's locker room while the freshman and sophomore basketball teams were practicing and stole a number of items.

A sports bag was stolen, evidently the person dumped everything out onto the floor and took only the bag itself. Players from the Varsity and JV team recall seeing items and clothing scattered among the floor as they walked through the locker room around 5:15 pm. A CD diskman was also taken along with a sum of

money.

Coaches are urging all their players and those who use the locker room after school to lock up all belongings to prevent such a thing to happen again. This event may cause the locker rooms to be locked up while the teams are practicing.

Another problem West Chicago faces involves guns. Although this high school doesn't have a big problem with students bringing in guns, it is said that one in five high school students, and nearly one in three boys, sometimes carries a gun (Chicago Tribune). That is why there is a coat policy, a student could carry weapons in the coat, this is to protect the students and staff of West Chicago.

The town of West Chicago has seen shootings in the community this past year. "We've had a number of shootings within the last year," Quarto said, "The exact number I'm not sure. I'm thinking it's more than 15."

Although the city of West Chicago has it's problems, Quarto believes that the police officers are doing a fine job controlling the violence.

So, do you think West Chicago is a safe place? "Yes, I do," Quarto said, "I think that the community is safe as well as the school."

Dressing up for a thousand year old tradition

By Leslie Ault

Ghost, goblins, costumes, and candy. What do all of these things make us think of? HALLOWEEN! But what is Halloween, and where does it come from? Well, Halloween has many different histories, from different parts of the world.

Halloween dates back to the 800's. In the 800's A.D., the Roman Catholic Church honored, on the first of November, all the saints who had no special day of their own. That day was known as All Saints' Day, or All Hallows' Even, then shortened to All Hallows and eventually Halloween.

On October 31, or the eve of All Hallows' Even, priests of Ancient Gaul and Britain believed that witches, demons,



The spook shed located at an old Halloween site favorite, Sonny Acres

photo by Steve Berezney

and spirits of the dead roamed the earth. They believed that

this was the day they could visit their home.

Many things were done in preparation for this day. Great

bonfires were built and lit to drive the "bad" spirits away. All of the people would dress up in masks and disguise themselves so they looked like the spirits. By doing this, if the spirits were going to hurt someone, they wouldn't hurt their own kind. Some costumes that they wore were withes and devils.

Trick-or-Treat smell my feet, give me something good to eat. If you don't, I don't care I'll pull down your underwear! Sound familiar, well back in the 800's, people used to feed the spirits good food so they wouldn't play mean tricks on them. That's where the idea for trick-or-treating for candy came from.

So on Halloween, have fun, be safe, and remember you're keeping a part of history alive. HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!

Optional P.E. long ways away

By Steve Berezney

Everyday in the locker room, you hear someone say that they wish they didn't have Physical Education. That brings up the idea every single year, P.E. should be optional after two years.

As of now, four years of P.E. is a state requirement. Almost every year, the issue is discussed by our government and is always shot down, one of the main reasons being teachers jobs.

Not to say that optional P.E. will never happen because people such as Superintendent Dr. Joel Morris have an open mind about this subject. "I'm not 100% sure on let's get rid of it," Morris states.

He says that he sees the P.E. department doing some very good things like aerobics and that they are cutting back a little. Just this year, band members were given a P.E. exemption.

Morris also understands that P.E. sometimes gets in the way of other academic classes. Some students can't take all of the classes they want before they graduate and having P.E. optional would give them a chance to take other informative

classes. That is why Morris is sort of split on this decision.

P.E. department head Dan Johnson was faced with the same questions. Johnson states, "I would rather it stay as a requirement. Forty percent of people of 16 years old don't have any cardio-vascular fitness." He wants all four years so that hopefully the students will learn to live a more active lifestyle.

When the idea of a P.E. proficiency test was brought up, there were conflicting views. The test might let students do specific fitness tasks in order to get out of P.E.

Johnson says that it would be very unlikely, "High schools tend to stay away from proficiency and the last class that would have it would be P.E."

Morris says that a test could possibly work, but nothing can happen without the state giving their OK.

Another idea for a different P.E. schedule is doing what other schools are already looking in to, having P.E. every other day, but

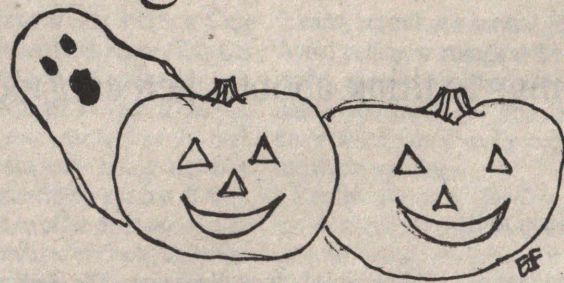
for a longer time. You might have to go an extra half hour, but then you would have a day off.

If the students at We-Go are interested in how this could be accomplished, we would have to contact our state representative Tom Johnson and tell him our ideas. He has fought for this same issue before, so he has already shown his interest and might be a big help.

By having P.E. optional, only the students who enjoy the class would take it and that would be best for both the student and teacher. It would make for a more competitive game if everyone liked to play and the teacher wouldn't have to hassle the students who don't participate.

Whether you want to take more classes or just don't want to dress for P.E. everyday, having P.E. optional could make life easier for all of the parties involved. While it looks as if this option won't be here for a while, it could happen soon if students like you and I call our Congressman and try to get it done. I'm sure our kids will thank us.

Great America's 'frightful' bash



By Kelley Betts

Bloody waters, eerie music, creatures all over, and of course Bugs Bunny dressed as a vampire.

This is the setting for Six Flags Great America's Fright Fest. Great America really got into all of the Halloween festivities this year.

The Fright Fest feature, The Mausoleum of Terror located in the Necropolis, was excellent. With narrow pathways and the "undead" roaming around, The Mausoleum of Terror will have left you pale faced and down right freaked out!

The Fright Fest employees do an excellent job of creating the "Halloween mood," dressed as zombies and other ghoulish creatures.

To top all of this off, there is eerie music echoing through the park.

Even some of the rides were decorated for the festivities. People driving on the highway could see the enormous tarantula "crawling" the American Eagle roller coaster. The drop on the Demon roller coaster sent one plunging towards bloody waters while a swamp creature was greeting everyone soaring through the tunnel.

The little kids could enjoy the park by meeting all the characters such as Bugs, Daffy, and Sylvester who were all dressed in costumes.

Overall the Fright Fest was a "frightfully good time."

Feeding the Cats a little Tequila

By Kristin Dieter

"Grave - yard silence " was the atmosphere at girls' home varsity volleyball games until seniors Mike Leck and Eric Peterson founded the group they named Kitty Litter.

The band is comprised of senior Richie Wadda on trumpet, junior Matt Shinofield handling percussion, Leck on berry sax, and Peterson on tenor Sax.

The band began its efforts after attending one girls' game. Leck, astounded by the silence, felt the crowd "needed a little pep - a little school spirit."

Pep band favorites such as "Tequila" and "Smoke on the Water" as well as loud cheering managed to stir up the needed energy. According to Amanda Pope, a junior on the varsity squad, Kitty Litter's involvement in the games "Got

the team up. Boosted 'em up a little. They even got the crowd going."

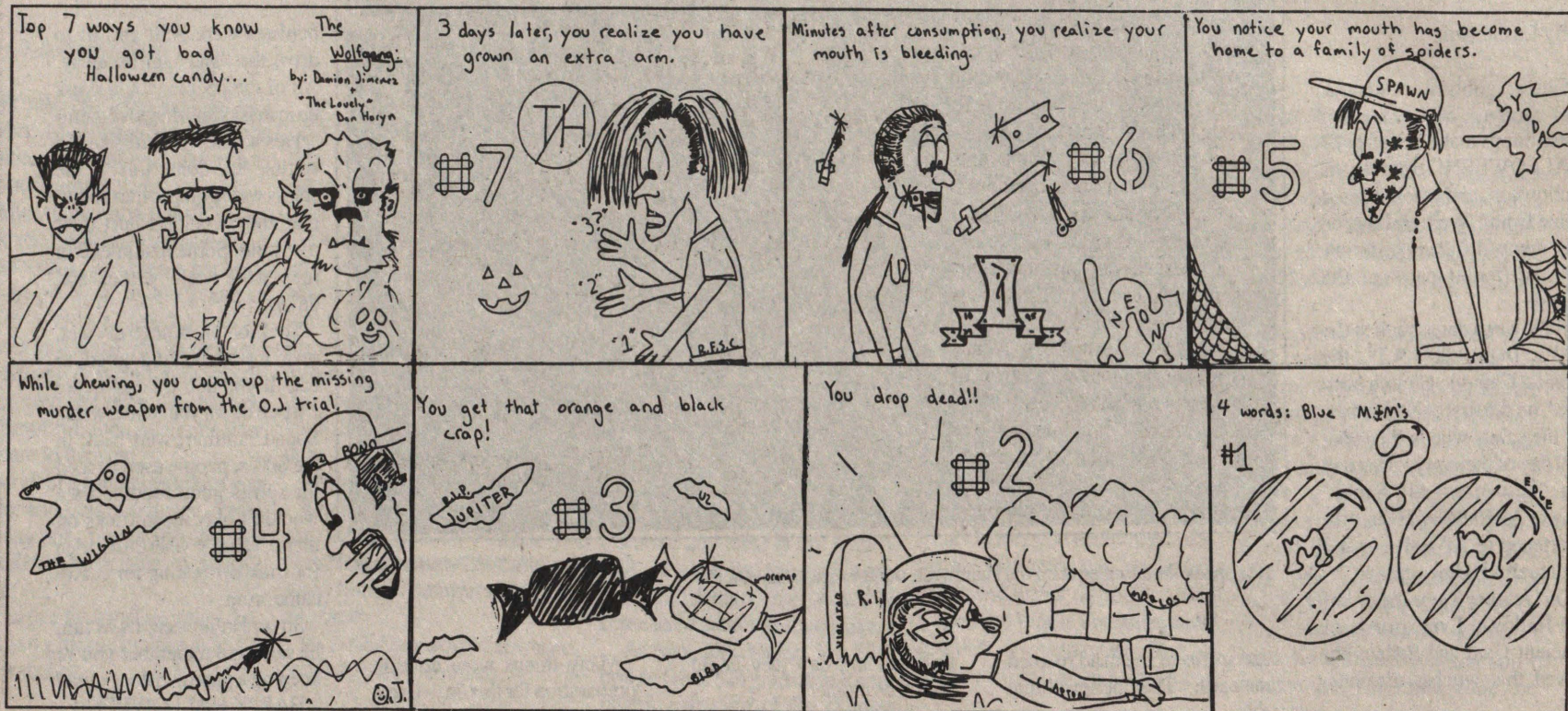
Pope was not alone in her appreciation. After Kitty Litter's initial performance, the Booster Club extended their gratefulness. Shinofield, finding their gratitude amusing commented, "We played one game and the Booster Club decided to give us tee - shirts. We thought that it was hilarious."

The band's enthusiasm was noted by many appreciative parents as well as the team itself. On a winning night, the team approached the foursome and literally patted their backs. "The whole squad made us feel real good," said Peterson.

Finally, Gail George, assistant athletic director, had nothing but praise for the group. George felt Kitty Litter "was the highlight of

our home games. They really got the team going."

Now that volleyball season has officially ended, Kitty Litters future is uncertain. The group, however, is toying with the idea of playing at girls' basketball games. Their presence, as it has in the past, could add a lot to the games. Kitty Litter wishes to extend their thanks to those who supported them.



A year to remember

By Jenny Wagenaar

A long tough season is over for the West Chicago volleyball team but expectations for next year are within their reach.

On Tuesday October 24, the Wildcats played St. Charles in the Regional tournament and lost in three matches. This was the final game of their season and one of the best they've played all year long. "We had a great match against St. Charles," head coach Kris Hasteley said, "that should have happened more often during our season." The Wildcats came out with great intensity, as they always did, but it wasn't enough to win the game.

This season was a disappointment in many of the players eyes. "We had a lot of talent but we didn't use it," junior Angela Barnes said, "We should be a lot better next year. We'll all have the varsity experience and all the starters are returning next year so we'll have the advantage of already playing together."

Next year's team will consist of the same six starters as well as others which will be a big advantage for a West Chicago. "With all our starters returning next year we should be very competitive," Hasteley said.

Although the season didn't go the way the team would have, West

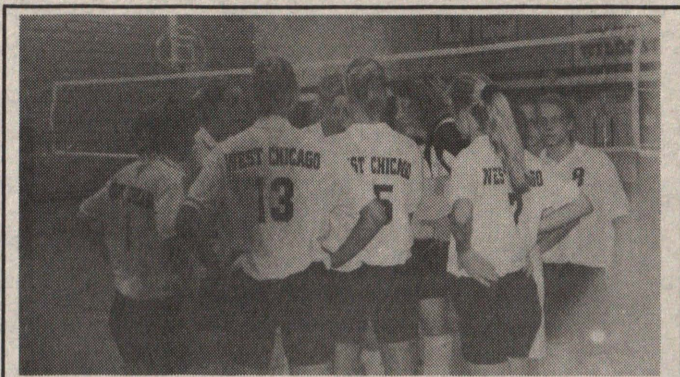


Photo by Jenny Wagenaar

The volleyball team huddles around head coach Kris Hasteley while she talks.

Chicago had two players from the team receive positive recognition from the rest of the DVC coaches. Sophomore Kelly Kaylor received All-Conference first team and sophomore Danielle Murphy received Honorable Mention All-Conference.

Seniors Renee Levine, Lyndsey Paver and Karen Paton will not be returning to the team next year. "What I'll miss most about volleyball are my teammates because they were all great people," Levine said.

One of the most memorable moments the players experienced this year was their success at the Lyons Township tournament. "My most memorable moment

was in the beginning when we beat LT (Lyons Township)," freshman Krissy Dabbert said.

One of the funniest memories the players will always remember involves Karen Paton. "Rudy! When Karen fell," Paver said.

"She was running through Waubonsie Valley's tunnel and she felt like she was Rudy (from the movie Rudy), Barnes explained, "and she tripped over a ledge in the ground and fell." According to Barnes she said it was one of the events they always talked about before a game.

Maybe the season didn't go as well as the team wanted it to but there's always next year to look forward to and the memories to look back on.

Wildcat tennis season ends on a good stroke

By Steve Berezney

Even though the girls viewed their season as a disappointment, they didn't finish too poorly coming in with a .500 record going 12-12-1.

They ended the season on an up note by winning against both Plainfield and St. Francis.

Too bad they didn't play as well in the DVC Tournament just three days before. They lost to Glenbard South, Wheaton Warrenville South, and Naperville North finishing in seventh place. The Cats had troubles against those same teams just a month before, losing to all three of them.

The girls might have lost the DVC games, but at least they received some praise for their non-playing attitude. One member of the Glenbard North tennis team said that the Cats were the nicest and most polite team in the conference. That is something for this team to be proud of because of they're representing the school in

a positive way.

This DVC losing trend was typical of their entire season. They lost to all of the teams that they needed to beat in the DVC, and they won most of the games that they played out of their conference.

The season was not all bad for some of the members of the team who were awarded with individual honors. Senior Michelle Rapinchuk, juniors Amanda and Melissa Petrowich, and sophomore Kelly Yednock received Honorable Mention All-Conference.

Rapinchuk offered this about their season, "We improved individually, but we just didn't improve as a team." This will be the end for seniors such as Rapinchuk, but the younger talent such as the Petrowich sisters and Yednock, coming up should be much better in the next few seasons learning from past experiences.

Wildcat football retires season with a win

By Kristi Ault

Well, they came in like Lions, and they left like Lions, rather than March, more like October, but the cold couldn't stop the Wildcats. After winning their home opener, on Friday October 20, the Wildcats won their last home game.

For some this game marked the end of the football season for the Wildcat football team, and for most seniors, marked the end of a career. For the varsity coaching staff, the loss of head coach Bruce Donash.

The Wildcats hosted the Glenbard South Raiders and outclassed them. The Wildcats played real football and won 24-12.

Scoring the four touchdowns were juniors Andy Aliniz and Bear Ayala, seniors Nick Castellano and Dave Spohn. The whole team contributed with intensity and good execution leading the Wildcat to a gallant finish.

From the start of warm ups to the final hand shake, the Wildcats were pumped with intensity. They came

on to the field ready to win, they played with all their hearts, and they won. To any bystander, it was apparent that the Wildcats wanted to win this game.

Whether it was because it was the last organized football game ever for many of the seniors, or because they just wanted to play football, the Wildcats showed up with such intensity that a loss would have been inconceivable.

The end of the season is usually sad for the seniors and other players who are leaving; spending four years with a team and coaches has emotional attachment. Unfortunately this season's end means more than the loss of a bunch of good players, but also the loss of a great coach. On Thursday November 2, head coach Bruce Donash announced to his players that he would not be returning as the head football coach next fall.

With the resignation of Donash, the future of Wildcat football is uncertain.

Check out your Wildcat winter sports schedule during the month of November

Girls Basketball

Wednesday Nov. 15 vs. Plainfield (away) @ 7:00
Nov. 17-18, 22, 25-26 Lyons Township Tournament

Boys Basketball

Nov. 21, 24, and 25 Oswego Tip-Off Classic
Friday Nov. 29 vs. St. Francis (away) @ 7:30

Wrestling

Tuesday Nov. 21 vs. West Aurora (away) @ 6:00
Saturday Nov. 25 Wildcat Invitational (home) @ 10:00
Tuesday Nov. 28 vs. Batavia (home) @ 7:30

Boys Swimming

Sorry, nothing's going on until December

Knocked out until next year

Wildcats lose in second round of Regional play

By Steve Berezney

The boys soccer team ended the season with a loss, but that is not reflective of the kind of season they had.

The last game of the season was played against Glenbard West in which the Cats lost 2-0. That game gave them a second place finish in Regionals.

Regionals began on October 21 against a school that is only a few miles away, yet aren't part of our Conference, Wheaton Academy. That game turned out to be the last win for the team as junior Chris Payton scored two goals and senior Joe Smiley added a goal of his own for a 3-0 victory.

In the preceding DVC Tournament, the Cats didn't do as well

as they hoped finishing with a fifth place showing. With the stiff competition in the conference, the finish was understandable as they ended up where they were predicted to end.

Besides the team doing well this season, there were several players who received additional praise for their play on the field.

Senior goalkeeper Rafael Pasillas was honored with a selection to All-Conference and All-Sectional. The same goes for junior forward Roberto Martinez. Two players were awarded with All-Conference, senior midfielder Eddie Acosta and senior fullback Nick Spalo who was also given

Honorable mention for All-Sectional.

Two seniors, forward Dietrich Rudolph who had a quick start to the season with his goal production, and fullback Joe Paver were given Honorable mention for All-Conference.

Payton summed up the season when he stated, "We had all of the pieces, but we couldn't put them together."

There are plans for the future for this group of guys. They are playing indoor soccer in the off-season at Glen-Ayre on North Ave. for additional practice and also for fun. If you would like to show your Wildcat support, come watch them play on Thursday nights.

They're back!

The girl's basketball team is shooting for a DVC title

By Elizabeth Feltes

Coming off the first Regional championship since 1989 and a terrific season, the Lady Wildcat Basketball team is ready to go.

This season the Wildcats are thankful for the experience they have. They lost five of their 11 varsity members, including All-Conference Robin Westrom, but of the remaining six, five have had significant time on the court. Returning will be seniors Michelle Rapinchuk, Ellen Gernand, Jenny Wagenaar and juniors Sarah McQueen, Missy Buenz, and Natalie Fijalkowski.

While size is not one of the Cats greatest assets, they will be concentrating on the speed they have.

"We are going to try and run a very quick pressure defense," said

Coach Kim Wallner, "Hopefully we'll catch a lot of team's off-guard and create some easy baskets for ourselves."

Tough opponents this year will be the very large Naperville North and Wheaton Warrenville South.

But the Lady Wildcats are keeping a positive attitude.

Wallner stated, "We definitely want to go farther in the state tournament and place first in the DVC."

And the team itself is excited. "I think we have the power to win the DVC," said McQueen, "It's not only a goal for the year, but an expectation."

Other members of the Varsity team consists of senior Kiley Long, junior Angela Barnes, and sophomore Leslie Harison.

Addition added to Poms performances

By Hannah Kenny

This year the We-Go poms squad have added another addition to their performance schedule, they have decided to cheer at the girl's basketball games to promote school spirit.

Captains Bridget Horgan and Christen Hansen-Porayko came up with the idea and then presented it to the squad. Other members of the squad were supportive of the idea and willing to go along with it.

"The girls basketball team needs more support than just parents. The girls basketball team is one of the best in the school," Horgan said, "they deserve as much support as they can get. The girls work as just as hard as the guys do, and should receive as much recognition as the guy's teams."

Even if it means more work for

the poms, the squad is willing to put in the extra time and commitment. "If that's what it takes, we'll pull it off," says sophomore Liz Edwards. Some of their routines will be the same if they have a tight schedule, but they will try to vary them for each game.

During the summer the poms attended a competition camp. All through the summer they practiced every day during the week for a number of hours to prepare for the routines they planned to perform.

They placed first in the skills routine, second in the senior kick line, second in Originality and brought home the Sunshine Award (an award presented to the squad who had the most spirit) This gave the squad an invitation to the 1995 Midwest Invitational where they placed in the top 10 for their

prop routine.

"We had a really good year this year. We practiced all summer long for 5-6 hours a day, but in the end it all paid off," says Horgan. Over all, they received first in their division, 1995-96 Class A Grand Champions, and Horgan and Patience Tannebaum were named to the All-Star Team. And to top it all off, many friendships were made.

This year the poms performed at soccer and football games, and will be performing during half time at the boys and girls basketball games. They hope to be going on to a few more competitions in February and March.

After this year, there will be 13 seniors leaving, opening up 13 new places for squad members. Tryouts will be in the spring.

Hopes high for swim team going into Sectionals

By Tracy Morris

It's what they worked for all year. It's every team member's common goal. Swimming qualifying times at sectionals and making their way to state competition is what it's all about for the Ladycat swimmers, and the time has arrived!

This month, the girl's swim team will put forth their best effort in order to make their mark at state.

The Ladycats have until Saturday, November 11, to prepare themselves for sectionals. The 200 freestyle and 200 medley relay teams are hoping to make the state cut time. They have swam a time that makes the cut this year, but it is necessary to do it at the one sectional meet.

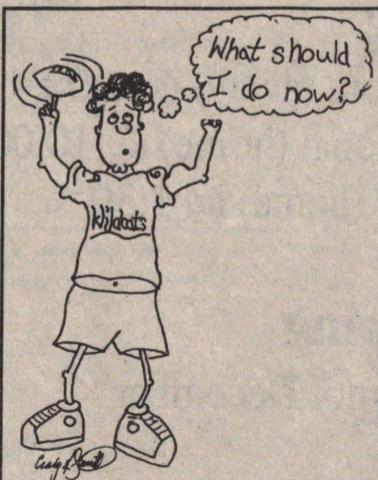
Coach Dan Johnson usually

knows by October who is going to be able to make sectionals, but he has held off until now due to injuries and sickness. Senior Meghan Hadzima explains, "Everyone is either sick or hurt, so we're just trying to piece it all together."

At this point, senior Tawney Larm is expected to make state to compete in the breaststroke. State events take place the weekend after sectionals November 17 and 18.

The Cats had their Senior Parent Night meet on November 1. West Chicago, Dekalb, and Rosary competed at We-Go's last home meet of the season. All three Wildcat levels, Varsity, JV1, and JV2, finished with second place finishes, as Rosary came out on top in all levels.

Now that your season is over what are you gonna do now?



"Wrestle,"-Miguel Silva (soccer)

"Play club volleyball and play basketball with Lavonne Harvard,"-Kelly Kaylor (volleyball)

"Play indoor soccer and work more,"-Nick Spalo (soccer)

"Maybe wrestle or get a job,"-Andy Aliniz (football)

"I don't care,"-Dave Spohn (football)

"I'm looking forward to attending the exciting basketball games,"-Matt Belokin (fan)

The funniest thing that has happen this season...

"The Jimmy thing,"-Bret Mackert (football)

"Mavrick swimming in the pond at Chad Perry's house,"-Tony Berg (football)

"Pulling Patience off the bed at camp,"-Mary Stuart (poms)

"Katie Leitherer running and falling after our team scored a touchdown,"-Brenda Miller (cheerleading)