

Wildcat Chronicle



West Chicago Community High School
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Morris is off to Iowa after 5 years

By Dan Horyn

District 94 superintendent Joel Morris will resign July 1st because of a promotion that will place him in charge of 18 Dubque, Iowa schools.

Morris will supervise 10,000 students from 15 K-8 schools and three high schools. He said his greatest challenge will be "knowing everyone's name."

Morris has been District 94 superintendent for five years, which is, according to Morris, the average tenure for a superintendent.

He said that he applied for the Iowa job at a Glenview search firm at the start of the 95-96 school year.

The Board of Education, along with the help of a search firm, will begin looking for an interim superintendent that would serve for one full school year, said Board president Gerald Landis.

Landis said that once an interim is found, the Board and the search firm will have the necessary time to decide on a permanent replacement.

Personnel Committee chairman Michael J. Mueller said the search firm will select a large number of candidates for the permanent position. Then the Board will interview these candidates and from there, "it will

be a process of elimination," said Mueller.

Landis said that it's "going to be tough to follow [Morris], but that's what the board will have to do."

"We're losing one of our greatest assets. He created a great unity with the administration, staff, and student body. He had a good rapport with the community. I'm sad to see him go," said Mueller.

Morris said that it will be extremely difficult to leave West Chicago: "This is the finest high school in the state, maybe for the nation."

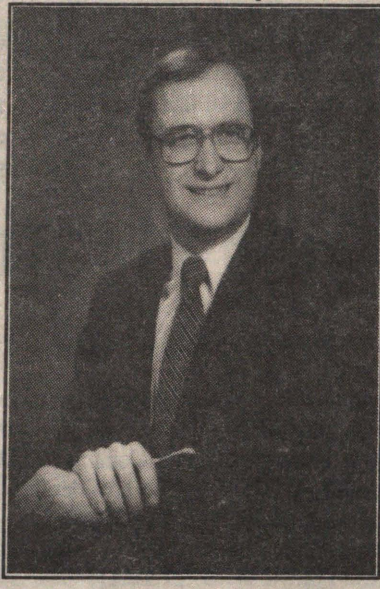
Among Morris' many memories during his career at We-go was watching West Chicago beat Wheaton North in 1992's Homecoming Game and attending the first ever All Night Long.

"It was fun seeing the kids come in," Morris recalled.

Morris also considers the 1993 Blue Ribbon of Excellence award a great highlight.

Though he did not mention it, he must have felt honored by being named 1994 Illinois Superintendent of the Year at an Illinois convention.

Morris offers this advice to the new superintendent: "You ought to enjoy a great student body and staff. Just have fun."



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You've read our words for the past two years, now hear what we really think. Senior Reflections by: Kristi Ault Steve Berezney Jenny Wagenaar

Looking for a delicious slice of pizza? Our favorite and most hated places to grab a slice. Page 5

Some Enchanted Evening

By Josette Kramer

From 6:30 until 11:00, the parquet dance floor of the grand ballroom at the Radisson Hotel was

packed with couples dancing. "Prom '96 was exciting for all those who went," said senior Liz Johnson. The DJ played current hits as well as old favorites, driving everyone to the dance floor. "I would have had more fun if I went with my friends," said junior Michelle Nudo.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the prom court; Dana Nelson,

Melisa Buenz, Teresa Arthur, Katie Toboja, Kathy York, Bear Ayala, Josh Brown, Chad Perry, Brad Dujmovic, and Matt Shinofield. This year's royal couple, Chad Perry and Melisa Buenz danced to the strains of the theme song, "In Your Eyes."

As soon as the dance ended, couples braved the warm and humid weather to go downtown Chicago to eat, take a carriage ride, or go to the All Night Long. After a



Prom King and Queen, Chad Perry and Melisa Buenz enjoy their enchanted evening at Prom '96



Janelle Hunn, Candy Estrada, Colleen Horgan and Liz Johnson are caught on the dance floor.

Chess team places 11th in Nation

By Dan Horyn

The Wildcat Chess team capped off an excellent season with an 11th place performance at the national meet held in Somerset, New Jersey from April 26th to the 28th.

The team, lead by sophomores Justin Sadauskas, Blair Machaj, Eddie Patel, and Kevin Brewer, got off to a terrible start on Friday's opening action. Head coach Steve Lehman said that Sadauskas was the only team member that won during the first two rounds.

Fifth scorer Tim Martin, a junior, said that the slow start could have been caused by the sixteen hour car drive many of the team members had to endure the previous day.

But after a relaxing night, the Cats were able to get their minds together during Saturday's competition. Behind Sadauskas strong play (he finished the tournament with a 5-2 overall record) and Machaj's perfect Saturday record, the team propelled itself into a top ten position with Sunday's competition remaining.

The team resumed play on Sunday with the hope of finishing top five in the nation. But some early round setbacks dropped the Cats back to 15th place. Martin said that it was difficult for the team to perform well on Sunday because Friday's play was "sluggish" and Saturday's required a lot of effort from the team to get out of the hole it had dug.

Nonetheless, the Cats played well in the final round of the national tournament and finished 11th - a two place improvement from the last year.

Lehman said the guys were a little disappointed, but he noted how high the level of competition was.

The team scored more points this year than last year's national champions did. A team earns points from its top 4 board members, and each victory counts as one point. At the close of the tournament,

See Chess Team, continued on page 2

"We've got magic to do"

WCCHS PRESENTS

Book By: Roger O. Hirson

Music & Lyrics: Stephen Schwartz

Originally produced on the Broadway Stage by Stuart Ostrow

By Steve Berezney

The final play of the school year entitled *Pippin* was performed on May 9-11 and left the audience in admiration of the fine performance of the entire cast and crew.

This musical is about the life of a young misguided prince named Pippin played by senior play veteran Mike Clifford. Throughout the play, Pippin is trying to find something that fulfills his empty life. He goes from thing to thing song "Magic to Do" which was kind of a preview of what was to

come throughout the evening. Among this cast was juniors Matt Shinofield and Ann D'Aversa and senior Sarah Arthur who were to act as the hosts for the evening.

One of the problems from the start for Pippin was his family. His father was King Charlemagne played by sophomore Steve Garcia. The king was not the most sympathetic man but he was there for

See "Pippin" continued on page 2

We-go plays the Stock Market

West Chicago Community High School student teams captured first, second, third, fourth, and sixth place in a state stock market simulation co-sponsored by the Illinois Council on Economic Education and the Chicago Tribune Educational Services Department.

The prize-winning teams were led by teacher-advisor Donald K. Zabelin. The school's resource person was Jerry Gouge, a financial consultant of the Robinson-Humphrey Company in Albany, Georgia. The Robinson Humphrey Company is a subsidiary of Smith Barney, Incorporated.

Members of the first place team were captain Josh Wilkovich, Russ Whitaker, Mary Stuart, and Steve Rogus. The second place team featured captain Michelle

Rapinchuk, Jenny Wagenaar, Ryan Saul, Christine Liller, and Joe Paver. The third place team consisted of co-captains Diana Thomas and Jeff Rau, Julie Vavrek, Liz Jedlicka, and Tracy Morris. The fourth place team featured captain Jenny Lennon, Karla Bussy, Brad Richards, Dave Splawski, and Liz Kosman, and last but not least our sixth place team, billing Cathleen Sullivan as captain and featuring Jenny Prusko, Sarah Slattery, and Jenny Jester as team members. All of the students worked to gain a greater understanding of economics through simulated trading in the stock market.

Participating in the competition were over 400 teams in the Northern Illinois University North Region and over 2,500 teams throughout the state.

Each team invested an imaginary \$100,000 in major U.S. common stocks. During the ten week period, teams researched companies to select their stocks and received weekly portfolios indicating their current trading position.

Wilkovich's first place team had a final portfolio value of \$272,127, Rapinchuk's team finished with \$189,874, while Thomas/Rau's team finished with \$185,088. Lennon's final portfolio value was \$160,695 and Sullivan's team finished with \$148,637.

Wilkovich's team used the strategy of buying many shares of one company and holding them for the duration of the contest. Zabelin said, "Their patience really paid off because it appears that Wilkovich's team established a new state record."

N.H.S.

By Jenny Wagenaar

Hard work and dedication finally paid off for some students who became part of the 1996 Chapter of the National Honors Society.

On Thursday May 2, a group of about 90 juniors and seniors were inducted into the National Honor Society (NHS). It was an evening to remember as proud parents watched their children become part of an organization that stands for excellence.

The ceremony began at 7:30 pm with Dr. Alan Jones's welcoming followed by Biology teacher Julie Overpeck's speech about the importance of life.

Senior members from last year's NHS informed the new members what the terms scholarship, character, service, and leadership stood for. Each student received a certificate and pin as they were inducted, to serve as a symbol of their achievement.

All the new members recited the induction statement read by National Honor Society advisor John Carter and promised to follow it.

Juniors who are now members of the NHS perform five hours of school service to maintain their membership of the NHS and in addition this year's chapter will have to do something for their town.

How does one become a member of National Honor Society?

The NHS was formed in 1919 to honor students who preformed well in scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

Each year, every junior and senior with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 is asked to fill out an application form to determine whether or not they will become a member of the NHS.

The application asks students to describe the extra curricular activities, leadership, job experiences, and community service they have been involved with throughout their high school years.

In addition to the student's input, teachers and other faculty members are asked for input as well, input in terms of leadership, service, and character the student possess in their classroom.

All this information is reviewed anonymously by a five member faculty council who have the final decision of choosing the students who will make it into the NHS. After they have decided which applications they have accepted, they then inform Carter of their decision.

"Pippin"

continued from page one

Pippin when he needed to be there. Pippin's half brother Lewis played by senior Tony Keen was the strong willed son; the knight in shining armor who stole some of Pippin's spotlight.

Because Pippin is a man who has no direction, he tries everything imaginable to find what suits him. He starts out trying to be a proud warrior like Lewis, but that soon turns him off after talking to the severed head of senior Stephan Grob.

After his war, he decides to try his luck with the fine women of the land. He immediately turns into the mack daddy, but that still doesn't fulfill him. After hearing of his father's evil deeds, he decides to overthrow the king.

Trying to get Pippin into trouble is his stepmother Fastrada played by sophomore Liz Edwards. She sets Pippin up to kill Charlemagne because it could mean the eventual crowning of her own son Lewis.

When confronting his father in the church, Pippin kills his father therefore becoming king. As king, he finds that his dad's job was not as easy as he thought it would be.

He seeks refuge in the house of a widow named Catherine played by junior Grant Barclay and her daughter Theodora played by freshman Season Barclay. There Pippin spends six months doing farm work which doesn't interest him in the least.

After realizing he is still not happy, Pippin leaves to go through his grand finale. In the end, he decides to exchange his "extraordinary" life for that of an ordinary life with Catherine and her daughter.

The energy for this musical was apparent even before the show started. The entire gypsy dressed cast was out in the audience conversing with the crowd and even reading their palms to tell the future.

When the show started, you could still see the excitement in the faces of the actors and actresses. Perhaps the most energetic was Garcia who looked to be having a ball on stage.

The show's star, Clifford, also did a remarkable job. His smooth singing voice added to his acting as he sang 11 of the 16 songs.

Lori Watson directed this play which has been her fourth since she started her We-go career just last year. She was assisted by Steve Kellner who has worked on plays in the past such as Oklahoma. Vocal director Kim Sirvatka also did a nice job preparing the actors for their numerous singing parts.

All of these elements put together proved to be an entertaining show. For some, it was a beginning and for other like Clifford, Arthur and Grob, this was their grand finale.

Class election results

By Hannah Kenny and Kelley Betts

Voting took place in the commons on Wednesday, May 2 in all lunch hours.

The class of 1999's Student Council is president Maggie McPike, vice president Staci Swan, Secretary Kim Charbonneau, and treasurer Melissa Acker.

For her third year in the row, Trisha Tinnes is Student Council president for the class of 1998. Vice president position was taken by Angie Johnson, secretary by Jenny Mullaney, and treasurer by Darcie Wostratzky.

Class of 1997 Student Council is made up of Jason Petronzio, President; Heather Horsely, VP; Chris Hauger, Secretary; and Annalea Jimmo Treasurer.

"I wish more people would vote next year because they don't realize how important student council is to the school," said Brown. He also said that next year there are plans for working harder on the campaigns.

"I thought it [campaigns] was run well because they used the TV's in the commons," said Charbonneau.

For the people that don't win, they're put on the ballot for Student Council Represent-

tatives. This ballot also includes anyone who is running for rep. Reps were voted for on Tuesday, May 7. Voters were allowed to vote for up to six reps for their class.

Class of 1997 representatives include Melisa Buenz, Joshua D. Brown, Dana Nelson, Stacy Hook, Sarah McQueen, Diana Thomas, and Katie Wilkovich.

Representatives for the junior class of 1998 is entirely female and are Amber Planek, Angie Berg, Tracy Busse, Jennie Grobe, Lisa Mueller, and Meg Runyan.

The smallest group represents the class of 1999: Jeff Powell, Jamie Puchalski, Emily Sowinski, and Cheryl Case.

"I think it was very competitive this year," Wostratzky said.

Busse said the student council elections were "scary. Especially during 9th hour before they made the announcements. I couldn't concentrate at all."

I want our class to be more involved in activities and have more school spirit," said Swan. "With this year's new executive board, the sophomore class ('99) should have a great year," said McPike.

An "Enchanted Evening" All Night Long

By Tracy Morris

The All Night Long post prom party was held for the third straight year at Bowling Green Sports Center on prom night.

The event, which lasted from 11:30 pm on Friday, May 17, to 5:00 am in the morning on May 18, featured a variety of events and activities to keep the 375 partiers awake for the five hours they were "locked-in."

We-go students and prom-goers, clad in removable tattoos applied at the Wildcat Tattoo Parlor, took in free bowling all night while munching on all-you-can-eat pizza and snacks and listening to songs ranging from John Mellencamp's "Hurt So Good" to the Presidents of the United States of America's "Peaches."

The sounds of the deejay could be heard outside, behind the bowling alley, where sports buffs dove in the sand playing volleyball.

A line-dancing instructor was on hand to lead beginner and experienced dancers in the "Boot Scootin' Boogie", the "Electric Slide", and many others.

A slightly different style was offered by each of the five musical acts that performed at the event. Leading off the musical entertainment slate was Tessor Act, a group of four guys from Wheaton North. They were followed by Good Mule Caravan, featuring We-go's junior Matt Schinofield.

Another We-go junior, Ed Abante, was the last lounge performer of the early morning festivities. Abante performed several songs and was joined on some songs by his girlfriend Sara Snelling, a sophomore at Glenbard West.

The doors connecting Bowling Green to its neighbor Synergy II were opened shortly before 2:00 a.m. Playing in there were Traveling Sky and Jaded Cynics, starring three We-go students, junior guitar player and vocalist Brad Dujmovic, junior vocalist Jeff Weber, and senior bass player Jacob Yang.

Those who wanted to test their voices for a little singing of their own were encouraged to take part in the karaoke entertainment in the basement of the bowling alley. Prizes were awarded for a karaoke contest held at 3:00 a.m.

The prizes, which consisted of televisions, radios, \$50 cash, gift certificates to malls and restaurants, as well as airline tickets and splatterball games, were the highlight for many in attendance at the drug and alcohol-free event. The final two prizes of the night were a Pontiac Firebird and a Chrysler LeBaron.

Students were dismissed shortly before 5:00 a.m. and ventured off the remainder of their hot and humid prom weekend.

Chess Team

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Sadauskas had 5 points, Machaj- 4.5, and Brewer 3.5.

Martin (3 points), sophomore Dan Janek (2.5) and freshman Scott McQueen (2 points) were 5th, 6th, and 7th scorers, respectively.

Many of the chess team members will keep their skills sharp over the summer by entering tournaments and receiving lessons.

The team is already looking to next season as Coach Lehman is predicting a state championship and a top 5 national finish.

A look back on memories of the year

By Sarah Kennebrew

As I look back on my sophomore year there's so many things I've experienced. I'm also anticipating the events I have yet to encounter in the upcoming years.

During the beginning of my sophomore year, I realized I overcame my biggest obstacle, "freshman year". So I was already determined to start the year off positively.

As far as academics are concerned, I was very dedicated to

keeping up with my work and staying on task. For the first time I didn't have an unscheduled period. I also started a new job which meant I didn't have any time to study. I pulled off average grades, but nothing spectacular.

Throughout the year I've experienced a lot of stress. I was involved in electives such as sophomore choir, and journalism. So basically I had a pretty full schedule, and still made time for my

family.

Singing for the sophomore choir was probably the biggest highlight of my year. It gave me a chance to do something I really had an interest in. When it came down to the actual choir concert, I was astonished with the kind of feelings we portrayed to our audience. I felt I was more concerned with that feeling than the song itself.

Being on the Wildcat staff was also another highlight of my sopho-

more year. For the first time I was able to express myself through writing. I engaged with many things like working on the weekends, meeting deadlines, and the stress. It doesn't sound like any fun, but the end result was most rewarding.

Being that I'm not very sports orientated, I wasn't involved in any sports, however, I enjoyed attending many boy's basketball games.

The friends I've had during this year were basically what kept me enthusiastic about even coming to school. I actually gained more friends than I lost. I gained a lot of support, trust, and companionship from all of my 'real' friends.

Overall the outcome of my year was positive. Being the end of the year, I was asked, "If you had the chance, would you do it again?" No, I would not do it again; I'd rather just graduate.

Too much to handle

By Kelley Betts

It is the end of the school year. Those long, lazy days spent enjoying the warm, shining sun is on every student's mind. Then, reality hits. There are those people called parents threatening to make summer a nightmare unless grades are brought up. With that thought, finals are lurking right around the corner, and time is quickly running out to turn in the make up work that has been adding up. Then it hits...STRESS!

Stress tends to get the best of every student, especially around this time of year because many times the student will receive pressure to do non-academic activities such as socializing, playing sports, dating, and dealing with part-time jobs. These types of pressures are not only brought on by friends but by parents too. (*Science News*, July 16, 1994).

Stress can also come from peers and most importantly you. People themselves put so much pressure on themselves such as fitting in with others and working towards goals that are too high to achieve.

These pressures slowly start to build up, and many times teens find that the only way to escape

these pressures is to turn to eating, alcohol, smoking, or drugs (*Woman's Home Journal*, Sept. 1994).

Many teens simply aren't aware of ways to relieve stress. They seem to turn to all the wrong things. Some even turn to suicide.

These are all not answers to any problems.

Reducing stress is not as hard as it seems. Simply becoming organized eases tension. Try making lists or keeping a calendar. Another way to reduce stress is to clean your room. Throw out all unnecessary items.

Having a better mental outlook helps too. Think positive, and don't waste time worrying about things or events that you can't change. Be able to judge risks.

Eating healthier helps also. Try reducing sugar and caffeine intake. Crying helps. It is the body's way of relaxing. It causes a person to breathe deeply and that relaxes the body. (*Everything You Need to Know About Stress*, Eleanor H. Ayer.)

So relax and don't get too stressed out. Remember, only a couple of weeks left until summer.

With summer creeping up- what is your memorable moment?

Poll by Josette Kramer

"Nothing." Kirsten Hemmerich, freshman

"The first day of school, getting lost." Sarah Hahn, junior

"Being on the honor roll" Hilaria Garcia, sophomore

"Magic Johnson coming back to NBA." Dinesh Patel, junior

"Having Ms. Monohan as a substitute (I've seen aliens)." Dave Splawski, senior

"Getting my hair cut." Casey Mulligan, junior

"When I bought my guitar and played during homecoming." Josh Escobedo, sophomore

"Passing biology." Jose Perez, freshman

"The day I leave this school." Jim Lakomecki, senior

"Having Josette Kramer in first hour." Tony Pepe, junior

"December 27, when Salena and I started dating." Jason Schroeder, junior

Fun in the sun

Josette J. Kramer

Summer's here and who wants to stay in Illinois? There are so many places to go and so much to do.

Orlando is a number one vacation spot where the demands of a wonderful vacation are met. There is the beautiful beaches, and fun places such as Disney world, Epcot center, MGM Studios, Universal Studios, and for those dance lov-

ers, there's Pleasure Island, where every night is New Year's Eve.

Fun in the sun in Jamaica. Mile after mile of shimmering beaches and a rain forest with birds of paradise and rainfalls crashing hundreds of feet below.

Splashing waterfalls, silvery moonrises, and secluded beaches can be found on the Hawaiian

Islands. Visit the active volcanoes on the island of Hawaii. Some of the other more popular islands are Oahu, Waikiki, and Maui.

Pure white sand covers the shores of Cancun where anyone can have fun in or out of the crystal blue water. Cancun is famous for its great diving and fascinating sunken ships.

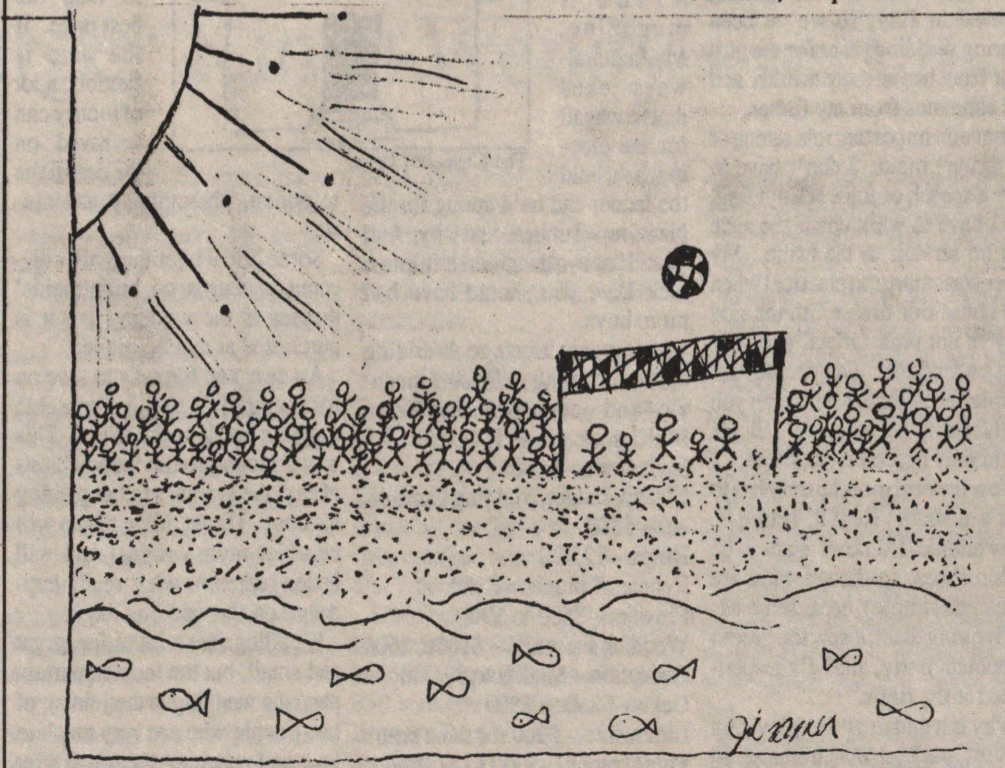
Treat yourself to a vacation. Go ahead, escape from home.

Signs of stress

- headache, chest pains, dizziness, or weakness
- upset stomach, hiccoughs
- tightness or twitching of muscles
- grinding of teeth
- frequent illness or complaints of pain

- nail biting, hair pulling, or similar behaviors
- changes in sleeping patterns or eating habits
- constant tiredness/irritability
- problems concentrating

Taken from *Everything You Need to Know About Stress*, by Eleanor H. Ayer



Hats will soon be flying

The class of 1996 is graduating

By Jenny Wagenaar

The countdown has begun, in exactly 10 days the senior class of 1996 will go down in history. We're graduating!

It took three long years to become the leaders of West Chicago High School and that leadership role will soon be handed down to the class of 1997.

Just think in a few short months most will be off to college. Total freedom, new faces, a different way of life, and whatever else goes along with college.

Yes, the beginning of a new life will shortly begin and it's safe to say that most seniors are eager to leave the school they've been a part of for the last three, almost four, years.

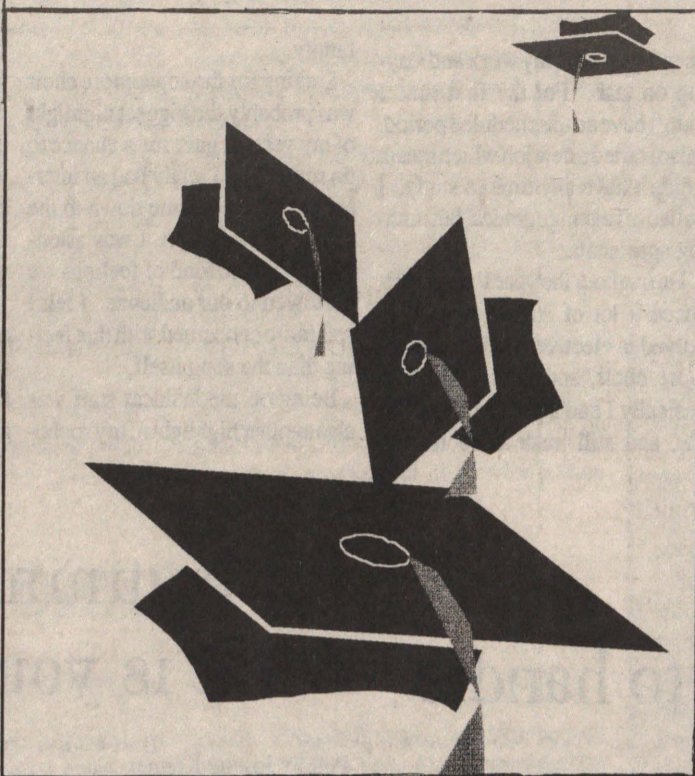
Let's go back and recap the past three years.

It all began with the Freshman Mixer when we all met for the first time. Many went to different jun-

ior high schools and suddenly experienced new faces.

On our first day of high school we entered the building feeling a little scared because of all the stories about "freshman hell week" but soon that feeling went away, when we found out high school wasn't that bad and that we wouldn't get lost looking for our classes. We got a taste of the exciting sporting events, Homecoming week, and para-pros. By the end of September we were friends with a lot of new people we never knew before.

The following year was a breeze for us, we were no longer little freshmen who could be picked on, we were sophomores. This was the year we began to drive, Mom and Dad no longer had to drop us off a block before our desired destination, and we were actually considered equal in most juniors



Hats will be flying at this years graduation ceremony

and seniors eyes and even asked to hang out with them.

Many new friendships were made junior year. Homecoming week was a battle for us, even though we didn't win (again), and for many of us it was the first time we got to experience Prom. We finished that year knowing we only had one more year to go.

Now we are seniors who are almost graduates.

We have exactly four days left as seniors, after that we will only have memories of what it's like to be a high school student. What memories we have... Tee peeing the school before the first day, Homecoming week, tailgate parties, football and basketball games, government simulation, get together's, Prom, and graduation.

We've seen and lived it all, and now it's time to say goodbye.

Going to the chapel of love

When it's time for people our age to get married, look what the future holds

By Kristi Ault

Wedding bells are ringing year round, but we are coming up on the prime time for weddings. 2.4 million couples tie the knot each year, with most couples getting married between May and July, with June being the wedding month of choice. The birds will sing and the sky will be blue and everyone will live happily ever after. Hopefully...

Weddings are a big deal. A wedding unites two loving people together. On that day the couple exchange their vows and promising everlasting faith and devotion.

Weddings are a lot of fun to attend, but to plan...geesh!

From the "Mother of the Bride Dress" to the decorations on the napkins, planning a wedding is a huge project that can cost a fortune. My older sister is getting married in July, so we've been hearing wedding plans for the past year from her and my mother and bill estimates from my father.

I have an important role as one of the bride's maid. I don't have to give a speech or toast or anything, but I have to walk down the aisle and be servant to the bride. My sister was smart and practical when she chose our dresses, thank god they're not pink taffeta, and they cost under \$200. Our dresses are simple yet elegant, something you could easily wear again. If we could only agree on the shoes...

Now the best man, he only has to rent a tuxedo. Rent it, return it. How simple. I'd never want to be in his shoes, (although they are black and simple) because he has to give a big toast, throw the groom a bachelor party, and he's responsible for the rings.

Why is it that in all the television movies, the best man manages to lose the rings?

Wedding rings usually cost around \$2,500 a pair, and the engagement ring starts around \$3,000, but can be as expensive as \$100,000.

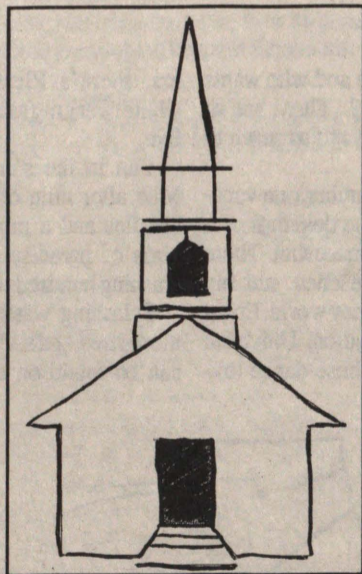
The average American couple will spend \$18,000 this year on their wedding. Another \$4,000-\$10,000 will go towards the costs of a honeymoon and setting up a home. The wedding industry in America rakes in \$32 billion a year according to *Bride's* magazine. My father always joked that he was all for me eloping, he'd hold the ladder and he'd spring for the pizza, now I understand why. And he still has two daughters left, tough luck Dad, you should have had more boys.

Last years average Wedding costs, according to *Bride's* magazine and wedding planner Karen McKissock, are as follows:
 Invitations—\$500
 Clergy, Judge, Wedding Consultant—\$300
 Rings—\$2,500
 Rehearsal dinner—\$400
 Flowers—\$500 to \$900
 Wedding site rental—\$100 to \$600
 Reception—\$6,000 to \$9,000
 Cake—\$250 to \$500
 Limousine—\$200 for three hours
 Photography—\$500 to \$1,000
 Groom's mother's dress, groom's

and ushers' formal wear—\$600
 Bride's mother's dress, bridesmaids dresses—\$950
 Bride's wedding dress and veil—\$1,000
 DJ or a band—\$400 to \$1,500

And believe it or not, the costs don't stop there, however, there are ways to minimize the over all cost but making small cuts here and there.

Starting by booking the wedding a year in advance and shop around to find the best price. If the date is flexible, a lot of money can be saved on the cost of the



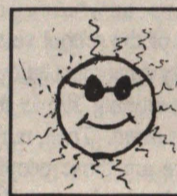
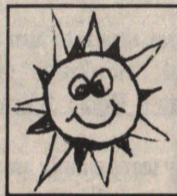
The Chapel of Love

reception, photography and music.

Some bridal boutiques offer discount packages on bridesmaids' dresses if the wedding gown is purchased at that boutique.

An easy and fun way to save on photography is to put disposable cameras on all of the tables. This way you can get some candid shots of say, the groom's father picking his nose. The wedding album will be a lot more original and will better represent what really happened on the wedding day.

Weddings are a lot of fun, great and small, but the most important part of a wedding is the joining of two people who are very much in love and watching them live thier life together, happily ever after.



SUMMER IS COMING...

WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR FREE TIME

By Candy Estrada

What do you think the summer is going to hold for you? Sitting around your house, watching talk shows and re-runs?

Well, there's plenty out there that you could do over summer vacation that seem much more venturesome and rewarding.

For one, there's always the reward of getting paid. And what other thing could you possibly do that assures you a paycheck every week? Getting a job, of course!

Summer is the ideal time of year to acquire a job. Look at the all the choices and possibilities that are out there for a summer job.

For example, if you're more of an outdoors-type, there's the idea of being a camp counselor or maybe even a lifeguard. But on the other side of the spectrum, there are many openings for jobs at the mall, which just happens to be air-conditioned.

"I'm probably going to end up working at my mom's store and as a type of secretary," said sophomore Nathan Hoskinson.

Sophomore Julie Hodge said, "I plan to work at the aquatic center and work there as much as possible so I can fix up my car."

Another thing that you could do is read. Yeah, yeah, yeah, I know. It's your summer vacation and reading a book is the last thing that you could possibly want to do. But summer is a good time to read a novel cover to cover.

"I'm going to read every book I can possibly find," said sophomore Liz Breiseth.

Hot weather is the absolute perfect time to, what else, join or take up a sport. Good sports that are great to try during the summer are

baseball, swimming, tennis, golf, running/jogging; there's an endless variety of individual or team sports out there that are fun and easy to take up.

"I hope to play baseball and hopefully will go up to New York to fish," said freshman Dustin Smith.

Junior Maritza Vargas said, "I'm looking forward to playing soccer."

An extra bonus is that if you're 18, you are able to join a health club, where you can work out on your own time. Plus, taking up a sport and working out is a great way to get into shape for the usual summer baring of flesh at the beach.

How about using the summer for a great adventure? Say going camping or spending a weekend without your parents? Even if you have to spend most of the summer with your parents, you can still have fun doing adventurous things with them.

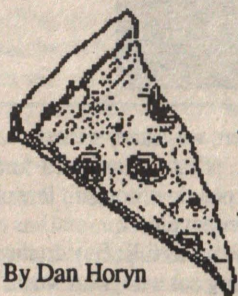
"This summer I'll probably go to Atlanta for the Olympics," said freshman Derek DiPietro.

Sophomore Hilaria Garcia said, "I'll probably go down to Mexico and spend time with my family."

Well, let's face it; there's one thing that everyone has on their minds to accomplish over the summer and that's partying. Both Nancy Ortiz and Janelle Hunn said that they plan to party as much as they possibly can over their summer vacations.

But, even if you don't get to enjoy any major bashes over the summer, remember that there is always something out there that you could try.

Pizza! Pizza! Best places to grab a slice?



Any Day!

By Dan Horyn

Pizza places cover the nation much like the many cheeses smother the golden dough. Pizza has become an American pastime. It can be found in nearly every strip mall, cafeteria line, and corner of the world. Volumes of the Yellow Pages are devoted to the advertisement of "the finest pizza in Chicago."

So where must ye go once thy pizza crave hits?

If you enjoy stuffed pizza, then give Gino's East of St. Charles a try. Gino's East is just ten minutes from the heart of West Chicago's busy business sector. Travel west on North Avenue and the restaurant will be on the north side of the road, about two miles from downtown St. Charles.

Though not the greatest pizza to ever grace the earth, Gino's offers good, inexpensive pizza in a comfortable, yet festive, T.G.I. Friday's type atmosphere. You can write on the walls if you bring a marker, however, good luck if you walk in with a can of spray paint.

You won't be disappointed with Gino's stuffed pizza. The dough is a lot like Pizza Hut's pan pizza dough and there is a generous amount of cheese. Order the sausage stuffed pizza because there are large pieces in excess. The pepperoni stuffed lacks pepperoni.

Gino's thin crust has a tasty crispy dough with the perfect amount of sauce- a little will ooze out when you bite down. Once again try the sausage- it is of the right shape, amount, consistency, and taste.

The pizza usually takes forty-five minutes, so pass the time with Gino's many satisfactory appetizers- mozzarella sticks and hot wings. Also try the bathrooms- they are quite comfy.

Bacino's of Naperville has, by far, the finest stuffed pizza in the Chicago area. Take Butterfield Road to Naperville Road. Stick on Naperville and you'll see it on your left in about 8 minutes.

At Bacino's, you'll notice the cheese seeps from the crust and that it's buried *beneath* the sauce. Experiment with the many different toppings- even the *spinach* tastes excellent. The sausage pizza is loaded, and the pepperoni is plentiful.

Bacino's has consistently been rated one of the top ten Chicago area stuffed pizza places by various food magazines and the Chicago Tribune.

You can order thin crust, but stick with the stuffed- it's a tough act to follow.

Chocolate snacks minus all the fat

They are the snacks you crave with the chocolate you love but without the fat.

By Candy Estrada

Are you craving for a snack that's both delicious and wholesome? Well, look no further.

Compiled here are three tasty and healthy treats that can be made under a half hour.

Not only that, but they're better versions of your typical snack.

For example, regular chocolate chip cookies can have up to 9 grams of fat per cookie. In the recipe here, each cookie has only 2 grams of fat.

So, hesitate no further and bake these goodies tonight for a delectable treat!

Chocolate Chip Bars

Makes 24 bars

- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) reduced-calorie margarine, softened
- 1/3 cup firmly packed dark brown sugar
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 3/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 egg white
- 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 3/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1/2 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a 9-inch square pan with vegetable cooking spray; set aside. In a medium-sized mixing bowl, using an electric mixer set on medium speed, beat margarine, both sugars, and vanilla until fluffy. Beat in egg white.

In small bowl, combine flour and baking soda; mix well. Reduce mixer speed to low.

Alternately beat flour mixture and water into margarine mixture, beginning and ending with flour. Stir in chocolate chips. Press dough into prepared pan. Bake until lightly golden, about 20 minutes. Cool in pan. Cut into squares.

Nutritional Facts: Per bar: calories 76, fat grams 2, cholesterol 10 mg.

Best Fudge Brownies

Makes 12 squares

- 1/2 cup cake flour, sifted
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 egg whites
- 1 large egg or 1/4 cup egg substitute
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 6 tablespoons applesauce
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 tablespoon chopped walnuts

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray an 8-inch square baking pan with vegetable cooking spray and set aside. In a medium bowl, combine flour, cocoa, and salt. Mix well. In a large bowl, whisk together egg white, egg or egg substitute, sugar, applesauce, oil, and vanilla.

Stir in flour mixture until just blended; do not overmix. Pour batter into prepared pan; sprinkle with walnuts. Bake until just set and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, about 25 minutes. Place pan on wire rack and cool for at least 15 minutes. Cut brownies into squares and serve.

Nutritional Facts: Per serving: calories 112, fat grams 4, cholesterol 18 mg.

No Way!



By Kristi Ault

I must admit that my mother makes the best pizza in the world, however she has yet to go commercial. And since I don't want you all at my house pestering my mom, here are some other great places to grab a slice.

Pal Joey's restaurant, in West Chicago, makes an incredible deep dish. Not only is their pizza superb, but they also have other Italian cuisine that is delicious. If you are ever in a toss up between Pal Joey's or Pizza Hut, Pal Joey's is ten times more succulent than Pizza Hut.

Jimmy's Cock and Bull now serves authentic Italian style pizza, with spingone crust. Cock and Bull is located right of North Ave. between County Farm Rd. and St. Charles Rd., and their pizza definitely beats a slice of Sabbaro's at the mall. And Cock and Bull delivers so you can have it brought to your home or you can dine in.

If you are looking for good pizza in a comfortable atmosphere, try Al's pizza in Warrenville off Warrenville Rd. You grab your own plates and drinks, have a seat and your pizza is brought out promptly, and Al's won't cost you a fortune. Grab you change for the jukebox and a few friends for some great pizza at a comfortable cost.

Dan's word on what's out with pizza:

Don't drive into just any place that says "Pizza" above it. If you're not a fan of grease, then avoid Luigi's of West Chicago. Each slice contains the equivalent of one pint of motor oil.

The California Pizza Kitchen of Wheaton reminds us all that California should have stuck with wine, fruit and fish. Tomatoes should be made into sauce. I think the chefs forgot- last time I checked chunky style pizza was out.

As cheap as Taco Bell is, don't go there for the pizza. When I sampled it, I noticed that the sauce was made of refried beans. Maybe that'd work in California, but beans just don't cut it in Chicago.

You're taking a little chance when you enter the school cafeteria. Some people praise the pizza, others call it greasy and unpleasant. My advice- try it once but be prepared. Prepared for what? Your body will soon tell you.

Mc Donalds+Burger King+Wendy's = Fat

By Candy Estrada

It's almost five o'clock and you're starving. Your mom left a message on the answering machine telling you to "make a decent dinner for yourself." Yeah, right, as if you have time.

So you ask yourself what is the most reasonable, not to mention cheapest, place to eat? The answer: a fast food restaurant, of course!

Americans seem to be getting a bit lazy in the kitchen. In the 50's, nobody worried much about burger joints and chicken huts because they always knew Mother would have dinner on the table when they arrived home.

Time's have certainly changed, unfortunately not for the better of our waistlines and wallets.

The low-cost image of fast-food

joints still remain. However a fast food meal can cost you more than double what it would cost to cook at home.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 5 out of 10 dollars we spend on restaurant food is handed across the counter of a fast-food restaurant. Even scarier, Americans spend an average of \$250 a year on fast foods alone!

All the fast food added up can lead to weight gain; as much as 5 to 7 pounds just from McDonalds and Burger King.

Most fast-food is saturated with fat and other unhealthy junk that Americans either don't care about, or they just don't know about it.

Fortunately, there have been numerous "good-for-you" changes in the fast-food industry.

For instance, Burger King recently switched from beef fat to vegetable shortening for all frying.

McDonald's reduced the fat content of milk shakes by 80 percent and introduced the McLean Deluxe burger, which contains half the usual amount of fat and cholesterol. Even Taco Bell has made adjustments by removing lard from the beans and tortillas.

But what about breakfast, the most important meal of the day?

There has been an increase of healthier breakfast foods attracting customers who do not usually eat fast food.

One of the "inventors" of serving breakfast was Hardee's. The restaurant tempts its customers with chicken-, ham-, sausage-, or

bacon-topped low-fat biscuits with or without eggs.

Burger King offers bagel sandwiches topped with cheese and meats as well as their croissant sandwiches.

Both McDonald's and Hardee's offer low-fat pancakes, and Dunkin' Donuts has bran muffins and bagels.

But most people agree that McDonald's still offers the best breakfast by far with its apple-bran muffins, Wheaties, Cheerios, and 1 percent low-fat milk.

Unfortunately, not all changes have been for the better. Taco Bell added a teaspoon of fat and about 250 milligrams of sodium to its Bean and Beef Burritos and Burrito Supreme.

Wendy's Taco Salad rose up 270

calories and over 4 grams of fat, and Arby's Mushroom and Cheese Croissant gained 150 calories and 5 grams of fat.

A new low-fat, low-sodium chicken product that resembles fast-food fried chicken has been introduced to the market. The Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise is looking into purchasing the new chicken.

Also a hot air oven that could replace frying machines is being researched.

But, overall, fast-food restaurants are a good reminder to American society that maybe things should be healthier, but still cheap and fast.

Remember, you have healthy and tasteful choices fast-food restaurants, so enjoy!

Senior Reflections



Jenny
Wagenaar

My life as a high school student is almost over, in 10 days I'll be a part of the graduating class of 1996. It's been fun but now it's time to say good-bye to all I have grown accustomed to over the past four years.

No longer can I look forward to the start of a new high school year. Starting the first day of school after a long summer vacation had always been exciting for me, I don't know why. Maybe it's because I got to see all the people I hadn't seen over the summer, maybe it's because I was a year older and able to do more exciting things.

After I graduate I can no longer look forward to the end of a high school year. The anticipation of summer vacation will die after I leave high school. Summer vacation in college means going home to disciplining parents that have rules, not freedom. I'll miss the last day when all the halls are filled with old papers and books. It will be sad to leave high school, but not hard.

My high school years have gone by at

a moderate speed, not too slow and definitely not fast enough. I had good times and bad times. I've made friends that I plan to keep for the rest of my life and I've made enemies that will no longer mean anything to me when I'm out of here. Every grudge I had in high school will be left behind and forgotten, why hold on to it?

I'll remember the teachers I got along with and whose class I enjoyed. One teacher I definitely won't forget is Mr. MacNamara and his "carefully researched joke." I think the question I most want answered before I leave high school is what size shoe does Mr. MacNamara wear? The man never responded to that question.

I'll remember the dances, especially my junior and senior Prom. I'm glad I went to both because I don't want to be one of those people who say, "I never went to Prom." I'm glad I did.

Football games are what I will miss the most. No one really cared that we didn't have the greatest team, if we did we wouldn't be at all the games freezing our butts off because 20 of us were trying to fit under one blanket. Some of my favorite memories are of football games because I always had a good time.

West Chicago has been my home for the past four years, I know everything there is to know about the school and all

the escape routes from para pros. I know which teachers really care about their students and how far you can go before they blow up.

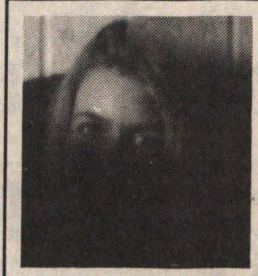
I'm not going to lie and say that I'm not anxious to get of here because the truth is I can't wait. The last few months have dragged on and on, I found myself dreading going to school more and more each day. I guess it's because nothing seems to be a challenge to me anymore and my mind keeps wandering and thinking about other things that have nothing to do with school.

I'm graduating, something so easy for me to say because I'm ready. Ready to take on college and begin the start of my "adult" life. Ready to have freedom from my parents' rules. Ready to see if I can discipline myself and make something of my life. Ready to meet new people.

In exactly ten days it will be over. Maybe a tear or two will be shed but only at the thought of never again seeing some of the people I went to high school with.

It's been fun, maybe the best time of my life, but I won't be able to say that until after I graduate college, another four to five years of school.

I'll hold onto the memories and friends I've made here, but that's all I can promise.



Kristi
Ault

As freshmen, we came, we saw, we hesitated to ask. That is, hesitated to ask for directions to our classrooms in fear of being locked in a broom closet.

Freshman year was full of uncertainty. Who would you hang out with, who would you go to Homecoming with? What sports would you play, what clubs would you join? We made our decisions, some good and some bad, but we endured the first year and were then promoted to the title of sophomores.

We learned to drive and we received our drivers' licenses, and hopefully in that order. We have survived without any casualties. Junior year came and went, and the reward of being upper classmen came in the form of tests, ACT's, SAT's, and AP tests. We tolerated the testing and finally made it to senior year.

College. Everyone wanted to know where we were going, if we were going, where we applied, when we applied? By Christmas break were up to our kerchiefs in applications. On Christmas Eve our parents watched us all snug in our beds while visions of College applications and scholarships danced through our heads.

Hopefully we all can relax because all our hard work paid off and we've been accepted to a school. Now it's time for our parents to worry about how they're going to afford that school.

Many parents are ready for us to get out of the house, and some of us can't wait to be on our own. I've had some great times in the past four years, but I'm ready to move on.

In the past year, I have learned to love. Something not too many people can do. I have learned to give and receive love unconditionally. Learning to love has definitely made me a better person, I am more understanding, compassionate, tolerant, and amiable. In short, I have matured and grown up.

Soon, we are graduating from high school into the real world. I will be responsible for myself, my health, my well-being. After high school, we will have our future in our hands, and it will be what each one of us makes it. We will no longer have our teachers looking over our shoulders correcting our mistakes, or our parents making sure we eat right and get enough sleep. Our future will be what we make it.

To the seniors, whether you are going on to college or you are choosing some other path, I wish you luck and good fortune in whatever you choose. I hope each one of you makes your dreams come true, I know I will.



Steven
M.
Berezney

As the remaining months turn into days, it's too hard to describe the changes that go through a student from the day they step in as a little freshman worried about finding World Geography class to when they leave the school worried about supporting themselves and even a family.

Each year there is a different goal, and in that time, you really pass up the moments you are living. When you are a freshman, all you really care about is next year when you get the title of sophomore. Now you are no longer the little guy of the school and can pick on the incoming freshman if you so choose.

By the time you become a sophomore, the only thing going through your mind is your 16th birthday; the day of freedom; the day of no more bus rides.

With half of the experience over, you are almost at the top, the title of junior. You already have your license but there is still one problem. Do you wake up at the crack of dawn to get a spot in front of the school, or do you just say "screw it" and

wake up at somewhat later to park at the toxic waste dump? You sit there dreaming about next year when you will finally get the parking sticker- your ticket to more sleep.

Then out of no where, senior year appears. You remember being a freshman looking at the seniors and saying, "My God, these guys are huge and so grown up." When you finally get there, you realize that they never were as big or as all knowing as you thought they were.

Talking to seniors, some of them can't wait to get out of the "ID ridden penitentiary" we call a high school. Talking to others, they too are not ready to leave the house; that this was the easiest time of their lives and they know it.

If you keep on thinking how good it will be in the future, then you miss out on the great things that you have in the present. It's a time in your life that you will never get back and regret is something that will live on with you forever.

let's get something no school has ever had before. FRESH FOOD! Most of the food I ate was stale and the milk was a big ice block! Well, I've complained enough. Before I go, I would like to wish everyone a fun and safe summer. And to all the people who got away with pranks this year, be careful because I think that those cameras (not the deans) in the school might catch yah. Remember you're under surveillance. (I paid for it and so will you if you get caught which I thought would never happen.) See you all next year except for the seniors of course.

Sincerely "Bass Master" Abe Mashal

Critics of appearance

I find it ever so annoying when I hear people criticize everyone who walks past them.

Those of you who make comments about everyone's outfit, their hair or the way that they walk choose to be extremely rude. And to think you actually feel the need to shout it down the hallway. So

what if you don't like their style, that's fine, but don't be cruel. Who knows- they might not like your's.

The way people dress gives you no reason to be rude. Everyone has a different style, whether it be big, tight, long, short, bright, dull. Why should their dress affect you if they feel comfortable in it? We've all went through some funny styles, so you shouldn't knock down their self-esteem when they're trying to be unique.

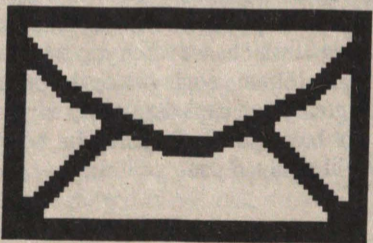
So think before you speak- you're probably better off saying nothing at all.

A better way to vote

We all saw the posters, signs and banners. The majority of us even knew what day the elections were actually taking place and it was near impossible not to at least think about who we thought would make the best choice.

Yet, how many actually went out of their way to vote May 2nd and voice their opinion? Unfortunately, not many. And it seems those who did were merely vot-

Letters To The Editor



We-go at a glance

Sexual Harassment, Drive-bys, drugs, drunks, fights, stealing, lying, new friends, used friends. Just a typical year at school! Yes, as another year of school flies by I wonder... what will happen that is significant next year? It's kind of funny that almost everything significant is bad. I am real close to becoming a junior. I sure do wonder if anyone will die or get hurt next year that I know. The reason through my two years of high school most of what I have seen is bad. People who I used to be cool with smoking, doing drugs and many other so called cool things. Well I admit I still am cool with some of them but that doesn't mean I'm going to join their crusade in killing themselves. Well now that I got that out of the way I would just love to address all the people who I have had a quarrel with this year. No matter who's fault it is, I hope you can get over it because I can. Yes, there may be a couple of you who I can't stand or maybe a couple or alright

a lot that can't stand me! Well it's summertime. Almost. Cheer up, be happy and think positive! Since in about 3 1/2 months I will see many of you again hopefully if we do meet we can become friends. I am not sure how all of you feel about some of these high school rules but there are some that need to go! The first one I will be addressing is showing I.D. at lunch. Yes, people do ditch and if they do and have their I.D., they can get in anyway. It's not like paraprofessionals check the I.D.'s. So if any of you deans don't understand what I'm saying and are currently still reading, GET RID OF IT!!! Another thing that I dislike is the T.V.'s in the lunch room. Yes, they're cool but they play the crappiest channels ever created. So if you can put on something good, like TNN FISHING. That channel (TNN) rocks. I could definitely eat and watch fishing at the same time. Another problem is the food at lunch. Yes, I know every school has a crappy lunch program. But let's be different! Let's have a good lunch program. And yes if we can

One minute left

By Dan Horyn

The classroom hotter than a sauna, sweat streaming down my face, all student's eyes fixed upon the fateful clock-poised and ready: their bags already packed, their feet halfway out the door.

The teacher is frozen waiting for that promised bell-the bell that will set all of us free for the summer months.

I put my head down on the desk. These thirty seconds will last an eternity.

A countdown wakes me up. For a second the entire school year flashes by and I remember all the laughs, lessons and late-night homework assignments. I begin to wish we had another month left but I slap myself.

The bell screams out loud and we dash out into the hallway. Notebooks fly through the air, pencils are smashed as I race for the car with friends.

Life is a party for one straight week and by the time June 15th rolls around I am exhausted and laying motionless on the dining room floor as dead as Elvis.

The summer has taken its toll and it's not even July yet. My wallet has become a dry waterless well and I see no signs of relief.

So I turn Oprah on. For four hours I watch daytime television and the scary thought of school crosses my mind. I wonder why.

Maybe I should go do something.

So I hop in my car and look for a job. My fruitless search ends three hours later. Most jobs have already been taken and the only ones remaining are McDonald's and Burger

King. I've never been a fan of greasy pants and French fry shoes.

I mope all the way home and tell my mom of my predicament and she reminds me I should have better prepared myself for this summer.

At first that sounded corny and a whole lot like school, but I should have gotten a job before school ended. I learned a lesson that summer can be fun only if you structure your time. You see-waking up at noon is an occasional necessary, but imagine doing it for three months. Watching daytime television can be relaxing, but can't Jerry Springer get annoying? Spending money is great, but how deep does your wallet go?

So I'm giving you some advice. Have the summer of you life, but do something with it. Work a little, make some money, and then go out with your friends. Sleep in sometimes-but not every day! And definitely watch TV, go to the movies and chill out in you room with music. Just make sure you get out some. Keep this newspaper as a summertime guide. If the paper's hue is darker than your skin, then you gotta see the sun some.

Don't get caught up in a daily summer grind. In other words, don't let a 9 to 5 work shift turn into school. Take a day off and hit the Warren Dunes, Chicago, or even West Chicago!

Or you could have fun being a zombie.

Abortion Freedom

By Jenny Wagenaar

"The most crucial question of democracy, feminism, and self-respect is not: *What gets decided?* That comes second. The first question is: *Who decides?*" (Steinem, Abortion).

Every individual in the United States is given basic human rights such as freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and freedom of religion. If reproductive freedom-the right to choose whether, when, and with whom to have children-is a basic human right, like freedom of speech, then state interest lies directly protecting that freedom. "If reproductive freedom were a fundamental human right, like freedom of speech, then trying to legislate the exact conditions under which one can or cannot give birth to a child, use contraception, have an abortion-or any other of the personal choices that are component parts of this basic freedom-would be as problematical as trying to legislate the exact conditions under which we have freedom of speech" (Steinem, Abortion). In other words if we were to take away a freedom such as a woman's choice, it would be like taking away an entire nation's freedom of speech.

Let's put it another way, there are many alternatives that women will go to if abortion is ever made illegal again. Women will have abortions no matter what, but if it were to be made illegal again many women will be risking their lives. For example there may be women who will give themselves an abortion. How? It's very simple but very dangerous; a self-abortion consists of placing a wire hanger up the women's vaginal opening and poking at the embryo sack until it breaks. This leads to the abortion and most of the time, death.

It seems that a woman's body is rarely her with all the people out there who hassle a woman about whether or not she should have an abortion. It's not their body or life and therefore they should accept the fact that they have no say so in her decision.

Abortion is not just about ending a child's life, it's about decisions, emotions, and choices. It is hard to understand why there are some people out there who believe that it is their duty to make a decision for a woman about abortion. It is, and should only be, a woman's choice whether or not she has an abortion. No other person should make that decision for her, after all it is her body, her life, and her choice.

Not every woman wants an abortion, but sometimes it's the only way out. Some women who get pregnant have abortions because they cannot emotionally or financially take on such a responsibility; if they had the child, goals that she has made for herself may not be reachable because of the mistake she made. Everyone makes mistakes and an unwanted pregnancy is a human mistake. When you get into a car accident and smash up someone else's car, after a while all is forgotten and forgiven because you made a mistake, aborting an unwanted pregnancy should be considered the same way. Lessons are learned from mistakes.

Some people believe that aborting a child is murder. In many countries, illegal abortions is a leading cause of death for women in their childbearing years. Could it not be said that denying women the right to safe abortion is itself a form of murder?

You can bring God, doctors, or anyone else into this issue, but the bottom line is that it is the woman's choice,

Quote
Don't worry,
be happy!
End Quote

The days of our lives

By Kristi Ault

Like sands through the hour glass, these are the days of our lives. Like pop quizzes and final exams, these are the days of our lives, or maybe like lost friendships and ridiculous relationships, these are the days of our lives at Community High School.

I can't speak on the behalf of other high schools, but West Chicago is laden with spreaders of ugly gossip and tonsil hockey champions. Broken friendships and broken dreams leave trails of tears through our hall ways.

Can anyone honestly say that they have maintained every friendship since the beginning of high school? I must admit to letting a few dwindle away myself. You meet new people and you grow and change, but are you really that different?

I remember who my best friends were in the fourth grade. We had some really fun times, riding our bikes all day towards a destination (the journey now takes only two minutes by car) for some Jolly Rancher sticks and Laffy Taffy. We didn't care who was dating who, nobody was really dating anybody. And if one of us wore Kangaroos and Levis and the others wore Keds and Wranglers, nobody gave a damn, everyone played together just the same.

I think as children grow older they develop something called superficiality, and they reach their superficial peak in high school. Value is found in material items and false friendships. If you dress the right way and get the trendiest haircut, you can hang out with that group. If you are really athletic you'll fit in with those. And if you're smart, you've got it made with the crowd over there.

So, four years are spent in limbo, going from one crowd to the next. But after graduation who will you still keep in touch with? You maybe best friends in high school, and only talk once or twice in college. Or maybe you're "married" and know you will never part, but when you're in college, you break up because you realize how different you are.

High school seems to be a place where the real world is an illusion, and everyday life revolves around last weekend's beer blast and who broke up with who. Sophomores seem married, and then as juniors act like they're divorced. Kids meeting each other and two weeks later, desperately proclaiming their love for each other. And then the relationship leads to sheer madness disguised as passion in the hallways; sucking face in front of hundreds of people. Not only are these relationships superficial, but they are also artificial and premature.

Friendships and relationships are taken too lightly and seriously respectively.

Is this all necessary, can it all be avoided?

Maybe it's just something all teenagers have to endure. From the high school experience teenagers learn how superficial and cruel kids can be. Whether they graduate with a positive or negative outlook, either way they have learned some valuable life lessons.

ing for friends. Not who would represent their class the best.

Is there a solution? Is there even a problem to solve with all this? To me, there is.

For years now, we have taken time out of class to vote for who we think would make the cutest couple for homecoming. Yet, student council elections have always been held during lunch. Is this not as important as couple of the year? I think it's obvious that the popularity level is the same in both circumstances.

Some may argue that school elections should represent the United States presidential elections, and it should be the students' choice to go out of their way and vote.

Well, if we were to hand out the ballots during class, the student could just as easily choose not to fill it out. More accurate and better representation of our school just may come from two minutes of classtime once a year.

Just something to consider.

-A junior

We-go C.A.R.E.S.

Bill Crothers, you have no right to say that the group We-go C.A.R.E. doesn't care.

We picked We-go C.A.R.E. because care means something to the group. You want to pick on our english, but you can't even spell which right, you spelled it like this, witch- big difference.

(Editor's Note: The word was spelled correctly in Bill Crother's letter. It was a mistake on the part of the editor.)

Seondly, I don't see you at the meetings, so come to our meetings and hear what we (C.A.R.E.) say before you write anything down. Yes, you have the right to the freedom of speech etc... but you don't know our ideas. You should come to the meetings that are announced in commons and in the mornings and hear what the group is doing to help the school and you too.

On the final note, before you open your mouth, you should open your ears first.

C.A.R.E. Leader, Sandra Castro, junior, Speaker for the Hispanics

We-go does care

In the last issue of the Wildcat Chronicle, an individual responded to our actions by saying we don't really care. Well, as a member of the We-go C.A.R.E.S. committee I can honestly say that we do care.

We've just started putting ourselves together and are really accomplishing a lot. So far we've had a car wash and from May 20-24 we'll be selling suckers during lunches. All of our profits are going toward different ways of promoting the referendum. One thing to look for is our float during the Railroad Days parade. Not only is our group concentrating on getting the Referendum passed we are very concerned about the U.N. Railroad problem. We addressed the issue in our last meeting.

We-go does C.A.R.E. and if you do too, please sign up this week for membership or contact Ms. Laimins.

Tracy Busse
Special Event and Promotions

Wildcat Chronicle

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Perspectives	Dan Horyn
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Entertainment	Steve Berezney
	Candy Estrada
Sports	Tracy Morris
	Sarah Kennebrew
Arts/Photo	Josette Kramer
Advisor	Carrie Kostro
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The Wildcat Chronicle is the student newspaper at West Chicago Community High School. The views and opinions of the Wildcat Chronicle do not necessarily reflect or represent the majority of the staff or student body.

Any suggestions or comments for the newspaper can be delivered to Advisor Carrie Kostro in room 321. Letters to the editor should be signed if they would like to be printed. The paper has the right to exclude any letters that are inappropriate or will not fit in a particular issue.

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

Hype on ropes, but not down for count

Over-weight Wayans not at his best in boxing parody

The Great White Hype ★★½

Damon Wayans	James "Grim Reaper" Roper
Samuel L. Jackson	Fred Sultan
Peter Berg	Terry Conklin

By Candy Estrada

Out for another round of laughter is funny man Damon Wayans in the new comedy *The Great White Hype*.

Wayans plays James the "Grim Reaper" Roper, an overweight, totally out-of-shape boxer who has just won the heavyweight championship title for the third consecutive time. But, unfortunately, he's not going to get paid for his spectacular performance. Little did he know that behind all the glitz and glamour of professional boxing lies a much more corrupt and unethical

organization, which is run by Roper's agents and promoters.

Samuel L. Jackson plays James' head promoter, Reverend Fred Sultan. Sultan knows that he owes Roper over ten million dollars for all of his fights, but also knows that he's broke. Roper refuses to fire Sultan because he feels he owes the Reverend much more than that; after all, James did receive six Rolls Royces from his main promoter.

Forced to pay Roper his rightful money, Sultan suggests that another fight be scheduled, one that will bring

in the people and interest in order rake in the cash that he desperately needs.

And what other way to get the American public's interest but a fight between two men of different races. Sultan assembles his gang and tries to recall if any white man has ever defeated the "Grim Reaper."

Fortunately, there had been one. Back when Roper was an amateur, there had been only one man who defeated the champ; it was a "white boy" from Cleveland named Irish Terry Conklin.

Wanting to find this man, Sultan flies to Cleveland and offers Conklin the chance to fight the champ and \$ ten million. Unable to refuse the offer, Conklin agrees, staunchly exclaiming that he doesn't want the match to be a "racist thing" and that all of the money he'll win from the fight will go to the Cleveland homeless.

But Sultan has other things in mind. He knows that the fight does not belong to Conklin, it belongs to the "Grim Reaper." He wants to benefit from the fight and goes to extreme lengths in order to assure Roper's victory.

There is one other thing that needs to be remedied: the fight needs

to be hyped up in a big way. The only way to assure that money will flow in from the fight is if Sultan and his group of promoters, headed by a man named Sol (Jon Lovitz), overexaggerate the capabilities and strengths of this "Great White Hope" Irish Terry Conklin.

Fortunately, the promoting works. People all over are waiting to see the seriously overweight champ defend his title from the newcomer. It quickly becomes a fight between the races.

The fight is definitely the climax of the entire movie and smoothly leads to the end.

The Great White Hype is aptly named and is a hilarious movie. One thing that helped the film was the range of characters and their personalities. It was good to see Jackson in the film; his character here is just as funny, if not more so, than his character of Jules in *Pulp Fiction*.

Wayans' performance was good, but not as funny as I expected from a man with much comedic experience under his belt. His character just didn't suit him, but I think he performed well with what he had.

The other thing that hindered the movie were the lesser characters. Jeff Goldblum, Cheech Marin, and Jammie Foxx (who teamed up with

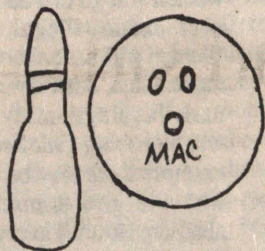
Wayans a couple of years ago in the comedic sitcom, *In Living Color*) played promoters and agents that helped Sultan run his little conspiracy by tricking the media and public into thinking that this was going to be one really great fight.

The ending of the movie is quite a cliffhanger. We don't find out what happens to either of the boxers, but we do find out who wins the big fight. But this isn't enough. I expected a couple more minutes in order to get a definite ending, but we almost have to think for ourselves as to what might happen next.

Plus, how did an overweight, out-of-shape boxer ever get to be the champion? It's scary to even see Wayans with his bloated potbelly, trying hard to run after an ice cream truck and smoking cigarettes in between rests from his "strenuous" workout.

Overall, though, the film is quite funny. It was a little bit less than what I expected, but still good. *The Great White Hype* respectfully deserves two-and-a-half stars. Don't think that because of its rating that it's naturally bad; it really isn't. The good laughs that you get out of the film definitely make the movie worth it.

Saturday night fever



By Steve Berezney

For years, bowling has been something to do on a weekend when you couldn't think of anything better to do. But now, Brunswick Bowl in Palatine has put a new twist on this game that is worth planning an entire evening around.

Every Saturday night usually starting at 10 p.m., regular bowling turns into "Cosmic Bowling." The same bowling rules are still in effect, but the surrounding scenery changes.

All of a sudden, the main lights dim and fluorescent lights appear. Then, the fog slowly starts to move in, leaving a haze over the entire alley.

Then for your listening enjoyment, the place is filled with the sounds of party music. Typical songs that play are the Bee Gee's "Staying Alive," Digital Underground's "The Humpty Dance," and the disco anthem the Village People's "YMCA." About half of the music played is from the last six years while the rest is mostly disco.

What's fun and different about this is that you can have a great time while bowling. On a regular bowling alley, you just get up there, roll the ball down, and have a seat. With Cosmic Bowl, you can get up "do a little dance, make a little love, get down tonight."

Most of the other bowlers are teenagers just acting crazy, it's just the atmosphere. If you don't mind having a little fun with the idea of

cosmic bowl, it can be a really fun and out of the ordinary night.

Where most regular bowling games take about a half hour, you can easily stretch one game into an hour. There is no hurry because you are there to have a good time and enjoy the area surrounding you.

Because this is a new, popular activity, it gets very crowded. Cosmic Bowl usually starts at 10 p.m. but is subject to change and has changed on occasion so it would be wise to call.

If you would like to start bowling right when it begins, it's a good idea to get there 30-45 minutes early to get a good spot in line. If you arrive right at 10 p.m., the line is usually an hour to an hour and a half long. That can lead to a long and boring wait.

The prices for bowling is \$3 a game which seems like a lot, but for the fun you will have, it all evens out. If you pay the \$1.50 for shoes and play two games, you can leave there having a great time for under \$10.

Brunswick Bowl is located in Palatine on Northwest Highway when getting off Route 53. It is in the back of a long sports complex which also houses Do It All Sports and Grand Slam U.S.A.

If you have any questions, it's a good idea to call. The number is 847-392-8290.

So if you find that West Chicago has nothing to offer anymore on Saturday night, give Cosmic Bowl a chance. It's a unique experience that gives you a different option on things to do on the weekend.

One big reason to remember your 'friends' in high school

The Pallbearer ★★

David Schwimmer	Tom Thompson
Gwenyth Paltrow	Julie DeMarco
Barbara Hershey	Mrs. Abernathy

By Steve Berezney

Imagine being called by a woman you have never met before who asks you to give the eulogy of her son who you have never met before either.

That is the situation for Tom Thompson in the new comedy *The Pallbearer*. Thompson, played by David Schwimmer, is a 25-year old soft-spoken loser who still lives with his mother.

One day out of the blue, Thompson gets a call from Mrs. Abernathy, played by Barbara Hershey. Mrs. Abernathy tells Thompson that he was her son Bill's best friend in high school and that Bill is now dead. She then asks him to be a pallbearer and even give the eulogy.

Trouble is, Thompson has absolutely no recollection as to who this man was. Sure enough, when looked up in the yearbook, Bill missed the day of pictures.

Thompson, the kind of guy who will say yes to almost anything, agrees to do this out of kindness to

the heartbroken mother, much to the disbelief of his friends.

Before the dreaded funeral, Thompson meets up with the girl he dreamed about dating all through high school, Julie DeMarco played by Gwenyth Paltrow.

Going out with her a few times after their meeting, he thinks this relationship could actually grow. But when he tries to make his move, he finds out she is not interested in a relationship at this time because she is planning a year-long car trip around the country.

Hearing this, he turns his love elsewhere in a most unusual place. While spending many hours with Mrs. Abernathy in hopes of cheering her up, the two start a physical relationship of their own. This is not the prettiest thought considering she is about 25 years his elder and the mother of his supposed best friend.

A twist in the plot arises after Thompson romances the much older mother of his supposed best

friend. Throughout these events DeMarco starts to fall for Thompson. Because of his want for her since high school, Thompson cannot refuse the advances of his dream girl and is now caught up in a love triangle between himself, DeMarco, and Mrs. Abernathy.

With his hands full, literally, Thompson now has to figure out what he is going to do because he knows he can't keep both lovers. But in the back of his mind, he knows and always has known the girl he really wants to be with.

This movie, Schwimmer's first since being on the hit TV show *Friends*, is not a bad effort. In fact, Schwimmer did a great job with the role he had. Unfortunately, the plot killed it. After going through the entire movie, I expected a much better ending instead of the one we got that just kind of stopped out of no where.

There were also little sub plots that didn't really go anywhere. Schwimmer's problems with his friend's marriage to a girl he felt wasn't right for him never went anywhere. They just made up a day later.

I don't know why they bothered putting it in the movie. They probably just needed to get a full 90 minutes to constitute a normal movie length.

Because of these little problems, I would give this movie two stars. It had all the potential with two talented actors in Schwimmer and Paltrow but just couldn't produce a good enough movie to be worth its hype.

Evil Empire soars to the top of the charts

By Steve Berezney

After taking a four year break they released the self titled debut, Rage Against the Machine is back with their new disc *Evil Empire* which has many people talking as well as listening.

Every song on this disc has some actual meaning, not like some other groups who can sing a song and you have no clue as to what they were saying.

On the first song, "People of the Sun," vocalist and primary song writer Zack De La Rocha takes us on a little history lesson. If you are not familiar with history, this song might be hard to understand. To add to the strong lyrics is the strange sounding guitar that incorporates every Rage song and makes this song a great opener.

Song two is the song that can stick in your mind for hours with its catchy guitar riff, "Bulls on Parade." This song was the first song released. The entire album has been helped by the popularity of this song as well as the support its getting from all the radio stations and is a high point of the album.

Even though radio has helped the previous song, the next song

"Victim" kind of thrashes its helper. "Victim" is a song that is anti-talk radio with a message of "Fear is your only God." This theme, combined with a strong beat, makes this

song another highlight of the album.

Taking on a different approach to the lyrics, Rage goes away from its usual political oppression theme and talks about a new issue. On song four, "Revolver," the topic of



discussion seems to be about domestic violence. Even though they do not come right out and say it, there are implications that it is the song's focus. Accompanied by an array of unusual sounds at

beginning songs are the ones that stick in your mind.

There still are some good songs with a message. On the eighth song, "Without a Face," there is a message that not many tax-paying Americans would agree with. This song seems to be sympathetic to the situation of

the beginning, "Revolver" is another good Rage tune.

Rage closes out the first half of the disc with a song called "Snakecharmer." In it, they talk about people who pretend to be your friend but aren't with you when needed. This sounds like most of the other songs on the album but is still worth a listen.

The first half of the disc is much better than the rest of the disc. For the most part, all of the songs sound very similar, but the

an illegal immigrant trying to cross the border.

After listening to the beginning of *Evil Empire*, you can get a feeling for what the rest of it sounds like. It is basically based around its strong message and different sounding guitar effects.

One of the things that makes *Evil Empire* different from most CDs is its creation of sounds. Listening to this, it kind of gives you the feeling that the sounds being made are made by a whole bunch of different instruments with some synthesizers. What it really is, is the use of the guitar by Tom Morello. With a bunch of pedals, feedback, and talent, Morello uses his ability and knowledge of equipment to give Rage their unique sound.

Evil Empire basically has it all. Great guitar usage, drum presence, and a singer that can get his message across to the listeners and because of this, I would have to give this effort three stars. It is an album that stands out from all the others who try to mix hard rock with rap and is something worth checking out.

The Worm reveals his bad side

By Tracy Morris

Just him, his Harley, and his basketballs.

Don't judge a book by its cover...unless that book is *Bad As I Wanna Be*, the latest book by Bulls phenomena Dennis Rodman.

The front cover features a bare Rodman on his Harley Davidson motorcycle surrounded by five basketballs, one of them appropriately covering his private parts, while the back reveals a side of Rodman we're not accustomed to seeing on the basketball court.

Since the book's debut in stores on May 1, it has been regarded by many as controversial. What a surprise. You wouldn't expect that word to be mentioned in the same sentence, let alone breath, as Dennis Rodman.

The Chicago Bulls forward, who strives to keep people guessing, tackles issues that range from HIV and AIDS awareness to drug use in the NBA.

Just when I thought I knew everything about the best rebounder in the league, an entire chapter devoted to his sexual encounters and relationship with Madonna pops up. Rodman graphically blabs the intimate secrets of his first night with Madonna in Miami. Dennis expected to be interviewed by the Material Girl, but got a much more up close and personal meeting.

Bad As I Wanna Be is not suitable for all audiences and readers. While it's obviously not a children's book for story time

or show and tell at school, it may also be inappropriate for some young adults and teenagers. The extreme adult content in some chapters and portions of the book, as well as the graphic language (the favorite "F" word of many high school students is displayed throughout the 254 page book), could make the book repulsive and even offensive to some readers. Be cautioned before picking it up; it's not your typical leisure book.

Rodman explains how he likes to dress up in women's clothes, paint his fingernails, and basically make people wonder if he's got a loose screw. He proceeded to show his eccentric side by riding through downtown Chicago on his way to a book signing at Borders wearing a pink boa and women's makeup.

He's a general manager's nightmare, but the Bulls have managed to let him be while he's performing on the basketball court. They let him be himself and it hasn't gone unnoticed by Dennis, as he addressed it in his final chapter of the book, entitled "The Great Escape: The Circus Comes to Chicago."

In the circus environment that this 70 win Bulls season has become, Dennis has been suspended and fined for a supposed "head-butt" and has been slapped with an uncountable number of technical fouls.

The singled-out Worm has heard little to no argument from the management and

coaching staff of the Bulls (at least as far as us outsiders know). When he's wrong, he knows it, and Phil Jackson or Jerry Krause doesn't need to tell him. When he deserves it, Jackson gives him a lecture. More than anything the Bulls have treated him like a man, and the impression from his book is that he's been enjoying it.

Rodman reveals in the book that when he got his first technical foul as a Bull for a temper tantrum in an exhibition game, he looked at Jackson on the bench and he was laughing. Dennis writes, "The man was laughing. He was kicking back in his chair, and he was laughing. I thought this was cool."

Phil Jackson is not the only Chicago Bulls personality that Rodman discusses in his book. He writes about his relationship with His Airness—"It's amazing to watch the way some players find the creases and slash to the basket, and that's what amazes me most about Michael."

Just about everyone in Chicago who watches the Bulls knows about the troubled on-court relationship between the Worm of the Pistons and his new teammate Scottie Pippen—"I don't expect Scottie Pippen to forgive me for what I did to him. I don't expect him to forget about it either."

The purpose of the book was hardly to discuss what a thrill

it is to play with Michael and Scottie. The book is much more than the blurbs you get from listening to the Sports Sunday program he hosts on NBC or from reading the sports page in the newspaper.

Bad As I Wanna Be is really an insight into Dennis Rodman the person and the human being. While his first book, titled *Rebound* and released while he was with the San Antonio Spurs, was more of his life story, this book is a forum for his inner thoughts and feelings.

He's not just a superstar performer on the basketball court. He has certain opinions and views on life and they all come out in this book. He's a self proclaimed "guy who's everywhere," and although he comes off as a guy who likes to run his mouth a lot, the book reveals that he is really a quiet individual who doesn't talk much to other people.

He shares his experience of being shot at while entering a bar with a drug dealer (a story not many people know about) and his plan of having two eyeballs tattooed in the back of his head when his hair falls out.

A number of psychiatrists have evaluated Dennis, often by team orders, and they've said the same thing. "You're not crazy. They're just not used to dealing with somebody like you, and they don't know how to handle it."

I would recommend *Bad As I Wanna Be* to anyone who feels they have something to learn about the Bulls superstar. If you are looking to find an insight into the basketball player Dennis Rodman, go somewhere else, like his first book. But if you want to know who Dennis Rodman the individual is, go straight to him, and straight to his latest book.

Chicago Area Concerts and Events

TICKET HAVEN
600 S. County Farm Rd. Suite 140
Wheaton, IL 60187
(708) 260-0626

- RH--Rosemont Horizon
- SPT--Star Plaza Theater
- AV--Alpine Valley
- ACT--Arie Crown Theater
- RT--Rosemont Theater
- WMT--World Music Theater
- May 30: Tim McGraw/Faith Hill--RH
- June 1: Jimmy Buffet--AV
- June 1: Bill Cosby--SPT
- June 6-7: Tori Amos--RT
- June 7: Barry White--ACT
- June 8: Jeff Foxworth--RT
- June 23: The Moody Blues--WMT
- June 25: Willie Nelson--Ravinia Festival
- June 28: Ozzy Osbourne/Filter--WMT
- June 29: The Further Festival--AV
- June 30: The Further Festival--WMT
- July 3: Meat Loaf--WMT
- July 5: KISS--Mark of the Quad Cities
- July 12: Hootie & the Blowfish--WMT
- July 13: H.O.R.D.E. Festival--WMT
- July 13: Hootie & the Blowfish--AV
- July 19: Scorpions/Alice Cooper--RH
- July 19: Boston/Cheap Trick--WMT
- July 20: Styx/Kansas--RT
- July 27: Chicago/Crosby, Stills, and Nash--WMT
- July 30: Sting--WMT
- Aug 5: Tony Bennett--Ravinia Festival

Wildcat boy's track team strives while finishing season

By Tracy Morris

Amidst hot and humid conditions, the boys track team ended their season by competing at sectionals on Friday, May 17, at Elgin High School.

The sectional, which was one of the toughest in the area this year, consisted of fellow DuPage Valley Conference schools Wheaton Warrenville South, Wheaton North, Glenbard North, Glenbard South, and Glenbard East, as well as several teams from other conferences.

The Tigers from Wheaton Warrenville South were DVC champs this year and are expected to be contenders for the state meet championship to be held this weekend, Friday, May 24, and Saturday, May 25, at Eastern Illinois University.

Our West Chicago team scored ten points at the sectional, placing them in the lower part of the teams competing, and failed to send any

qualifiers to state. Since there are no regionals in track, sectionals is the only meet that determines state qualifiers.

While the results could have been more appealing for the Wildcats and were expected to provide a better outlook for the team, several We-go athletes ran or jumped personal bests in their events.

Junior Jake Meyers jumped to a personal best of 20'11" in the long jump event, while John Stogis, a junior, and Joe Kaczmarek, a sophomore, also put in impressive performances in their individual events.

The 400 meter event provided an opportunity for Stogis to reach a new height for his personal achievements as he ran a personal best 52.8 seconds.

Kaczmarek made good use of the Wildcat record books by breaking a frosh-soph record he previously set himself. He ran

the 400 meter in 51.0 seconds, won his heat, and placed seventh overall at the same time.

Personal best results didn't end there, though. Junior Jaime Sanchez ran the 100 meter in 4:49, which shaved 45 seconds off his personal best time from last year.

Rounding out the sectional results was junior standout Dan Horyn, who ended up with a third and a fourth place finish in ran the 3200 meter in 9:41, just missing the state cut of 9:40, which was a disappointment for him after being at state last year. The time earned him a third place finish in the event and he ran to a fourth place finish in the 100 meter with a time of 4:29.

Prior to sectional competition, the Wildcats finished eighth at the conference meet on Friday, May 10, while scoring 19 points. The meet, held at Naperville North, showcased even more personal bests.

The conference meet is the only determining factor in the standing of conference teams. Wheaton Warrenville South walked away with the conference championship after the meet.

Meyers, Kaczmarek, and Stogis once again performed exceptionally well, both as individuals and team members.

Meyers reached a personal best in the long jump competition by reaching 20'7" and capturing fourth place.

Kaczmarek grabbed a sixth place finish in the 400 meter dash and then earned another sixth place finish in the 4 by 100 meter relay event along with teammates Meyers and Stogis and junior David Blozis.

Dan Horyn once again earned third place status in the 800 meter event with a time of 1:58:1 and in the 1000 meter event running it in 4:26:3.

Schedule

Baseball Schedule

Regionals- May 23-28
Spring Awards Night-in Auditorium- May 29
Sectionals- June 1&3
State Finals- June 7&8

Girl's Soccer Schedule

Sectionals- May 23-25
Spring Awards Night-in Auditorium- May 29
State Finals- May 31 & June 1

Softball Schedule

Regionals- May 23-28
Spring Awards Night-in Auditorium- May 29
Sectionals- May 31 & June 3
State Finals- June 7&8

Boy's Volleyball Schedule

Sectionals- 24&25
Spring Awards Night-in Auditorium- May 29
State Finals- May 31 & June 1

Boy's Tennis Schedule

State Finals- May 23-25
Spring Awards Night-in Auditorium- May 29

Boy's Track Schedule

State Finals- May 24 & 25
Spring Awards Night-in Auditorium- May 29

Girl's Track Schedule

Spring Awards Night-in Auditorium- May 29

End-of-year turmoil for volleyball

By Tracy Morris

With a loss on Monday night, the Wildcat boy's volleyball team concluded their season and are now looking to the off season and preparation.

The Cats took on the Willowbrook Warriors on Monday, May 20, for their first and final regional match of the season. We-go expected to win the match and move on to play Wheaton North on Wednesday, May 22.

Things didn't work out quite the way West Chicago players had hoped. In the third year of the Wildcat volleyball program, the Cats had broken winning records, gained more respect from other teams and coaches, and gotten more fans to come out and support them.

The premature end of the season marked disappointment for the team, which was optimistic after coming such a long way from the 1993 season.

The Cats had an overall record of 13-18 before post season play began, but only posted a 1-9 record in conference amidst powerhouse

teams such as Naperville Central, Wheaton North, and Naperville North. Naperville Central took the Cats in 2 games on May 9 when they met by scores of 7-15 and 13-15, while the Falcons from neighboring Wheaton North blanked the Cats in the first game 0-15 and only allowed them to get five points in the deciding game. The Huskies of Naperville North, who We-go lost to 4-15 and 14-16 in their second match against them, are expected to be state champions this year as they are ranked highly by the Chicago Tribune and most other sportswriters.

With team play on their side, the Wildcats made progress in tournament play. When someone wasn't on, a new player picked it up and it proved to work for We-go.

On May 10 and 11, the Cats placed second in the Willowbrook tournament. They won against the host team, who recently knocked them out of regionals, and also beat St. Joes, Leyden, and Eisenhower on

their way to the second place finish.

The Cats also finished in fourth place out of eight teams at the Schaumburg tournament, which they participated in as representing Schaumburg after one of their player's father died at a home West Chicago match.

After a season that didn't quite go as expected or hoped, the Cats will be back next year with some youth. There are few varsity returners since they're losing a number of seniors to graduation. The netters will have to rely on the junior varsity players from this year to step up big next year, following some off-season preparation. The younger players need to develop their game a little more by playing some club ball in the off season.

With that on their side, the Cats will look to turn a few more heads next year.

Girl's track: good overall

By Dan Horyn

The Ladycat track season ended last week with senior Jill Branner competing in the 3200-meter run at the state meet.

Branner was the lone Ladycat qualifier, as she ran an 11:27 at the Downer's Grove South sectional, placing sixth, and scoring the team's only point.

Branner was unhappy, however, with her performance at the state meet, as she ran nearly 45 seconds off of her personal best time. Branner said that the temperature was close to 90 degrees, and had she run close to her best time, she would have finished in the top five.

Despite her disappointment at state, Branner has accomplished great things at West Chicago since moving from Arizona before her junior year. Branner has rewritten the varsity record books, breaking and rebreaking the 800-, 1600- and 3200-meter records. Twice Branner has been an All-Conference cross country selection and twice Branner has qualified for the state meet in track. And this year's 11:17 3200-meter time is one of the top six in the state.

Branner will be attending the University of Wisconsin at Parkside on a scholarship where she will be majoring in elementary education.

Points have been a little hard to come by for We-Go after Branner, as the girls took 8th place in the conference meet with 15 points. Branner scored 14 of the team's

points by bringing home a second in the 3200 and third in the 1600.

Senior Lyndsy Paver scored the other point—a sixth place finish in the 100-meter intermediate hurdles.

The JV team did well, though, and grabbed the 4th place spot behind some strong individuals and a couple of high finishes in the sprint relays.

Sophomore Lexi Nussbaum led the way with a first place trophy in the 200-meter dash. The 4x200-meter relay team, anchored by Nussbaum and also consisting of freshmen Cori Heinz, Megan Horgan, and Joleen Williams took second.

Sophomore shot putter Shannon Baker tossed a 31'1" personal best, good for a third place finish. Head coach Wilbur Walters said that Baker's future "look promising."

The 800 medley relay team with Williams, Horgan, Nussbaum, and sophomore Beutjer (who also placed third in the 800-meter) finished third.

The sectionals did provide one additional highlight for the girl's team as Heinz, Nussbaum, Williams, and Horgan broke the JV record by running a 53.2 in the 4x100 meter relay.

Should these underclassmen make the transition into varsity competition next year, Walters can hopefully begin to fill the spacious shoes that Branner will leave behind upon graduation.

Inconsistent Play Haunting Baseball

By Steve Berezney

The past month for the boys baseball team has seen some inconsistent play, some records broken, and on occasion, some winning.

Due to the awful weather, the Cats were forced to cancel almost a week's worth of games. Because of this, they had to be made up before regionals start, which is this week. So they had to play a total of seven games in six days.

The Cats went up against DuPage Valley Conference foe Naperville North last Tuesday. Having played them the day before losing 10-1, the Cats were looking to get some redemption.

Junior Andy Gehrett, still winless this season, got the start on the mound. We-go took the lead early in the second inning on a RBI sacrifice by senior co-captain Phil Barone.

The lead lasted until the fourth inning when Gehrett was relieved by junior Chad Perry who came in with a no out, bases loaded situation. Perry, not one of the most practiced pitchers on the staff, had a hard time on the mound as they got out of the fourth giving up four runs.

The only other run the Cats would get was on a sacrifice by junior Jim Richardson. Senior Russ Whitaker came in to finish the game that would end in a 6-2 loss.

Going back to one of their more successful performances of the

year on May 4 the Cats took on Glenbard South.

Junior Jeff Murphy took the mound as he pitched six innings giving up only one run. Murphy, who struck out four while walking two batters, was relieved by Whitaker who pitched the remainder of the game.

Not only was the pitching strong, but the bats had a good day as well. Senior Dan Oklepek led the way going 3 for 4 with a run scored. Senior co-captain Ryan Saul went 2 for 5 with the other run scored leading to a 2-1 victory in 10 innings.

The day before the South meeting, the Cats faced Naperville Central, one of the best teams in the DVC. Junior Bart Gallagher was the hurler in this game as he had his roughest outing of the season. Central scored six runs in the second inning. Then Gehrett came in to try to stop the Central barrage.

Gallagher or Gehrett would get no support from the offense as they could muster up only four hits. Three of those hits went to Saul as he went 3 for 4 with three RBI. When it was all said and done, the Cats could not overcome Central's second inning as they lost 9-5.

Even though this game ended in a loss, two positive things came out of it. Saul broke the record for

tween the years of 1991-93.

Also, the entire team tied the record for most double plays in a season with nine set by the Cat team of 1991 and 1994. This is a record that the team now owns as they got another double play a few games later.

Two days before the game against Central, they faced Glenbard South once again. Senior Brian Bowen got the start on the mound as he pitched his best game of the season. Bowen finished after five innings striking out nine batters while walking only one.

Bowen was not the only one to have a good day as the entire offense lit up the South pitching. Bowen and Richardson each went 3 for 4 with three RBI a piece. Junior Nick Cleinmark had his best hitting performance of the year going 2 for 3 with a run scored. Saul and senior Eric Hall each went 2 for 4 with Saul getting two RBI.

With a substantial lead going into the final two innings, the Cats had a little scare. After Bowen left giving up two runs, junior Josh Harris was brought in relief. Harris did not

have his best game as he was knocked around for four earned runs.

The Cats then brought in junior Ted Barzso who pitched an inning of shutout ball to preserve the Wildcat 9-8 victory.

With regional play staring this week, the Cats are looking to improve their regular season record which only saw three conference wins.

"It's just a matter of consistency; doing what we need to do every game," head coach Tim Courtney said.

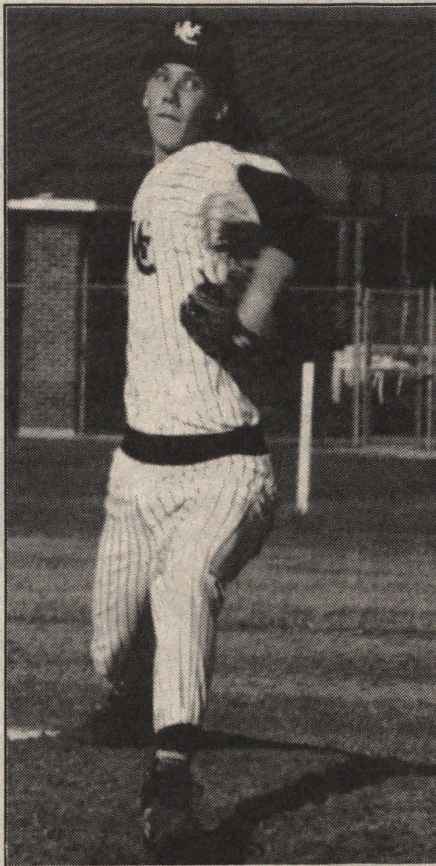
Although they do not know who they will face in regionals yet, the Cats are confident that they can match up well against anybody.

"It depends on who we play in the first round. We're in a tough division, but I feel that we can beat anyone," assistant coach Miguel Arroyo stated.

The Cats first round opponent was West Aurora, a team the Cats feel they can beat. They have a relatively easy regional schedule, so if they do go far, it wouldn't be that much of a surprise.

If the Cats want to go anywhere in regionals, they will need to get strong, consistent pitching which is something they haven't had all year.

Regionals started two days ago and will be played until Thursday May 28 with the location still to be announced.



Russ Whitaker hurls a pitch from the mound.

Photo by Steven Berezney

doubles in a career with 21 breaking Ken Hodgen's record set be-

York and Marine Fall at State

By Tracy Morris

And then there were two.

Junior Kathy York and Senior Stephanie Marine were the sole We-go Badminton players at the state meet on May 10 and 11 at New Trier High School in Winnetka.

The two Wildcats represented West Chicago at the meet and both feel to their opponents in the singles events. All their opponents were highly ranked in state.

York will return next year for the Cats, while Marine will move on past graduation.

Marine and York moved on to the state competition after facing most of the teams from the DuPage Valley Conference at the Sectional. Naperville Central, Naperville North and Glenbard East were the only DVC teams that were not included in the sectional.

The Wildcats produced strong individual performances over the course of the season, but at the same time had a fairly productive team record. We-go captured an 8-5 overall record despite finishing eighth out of 8 teams at the conference meet.

This season's team was made up of some youngsters stepping up to perform at a higher level of play, at both the junior varsity and varsity levels.

JV player freshman Monica Acker commented, "We did awesome, especially the little 'babies' who came in this year."

The varsity team boasted talent from all grades this year, ranging from sophomores to seniors.

The team included seniors Marine, Elizabeth Murphy, juniors York, Nicole Oleksiak, Julie Kolodick, Heather Horsley, Kelly Yednick, and sophomore Tanya Austin.

Senior Jamie Llorens, the only JV player to place at the DVC meet by earning third in the 4th singles event pointed out, "The whole team, JV and varsity did pretty well considering we had a young team."

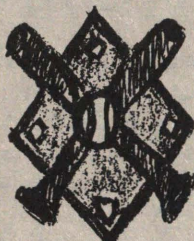
The Cats will not look to next season and hope to follow the lead of York and her leadership as a senior next year.

That can only mean good things for the Cats and more state qualifiers.



Congratulations to the Sophomore Boys Baseball Team on their DuPage Valley Conference Championship

Good Luck to Girls Softball and Boys Baseball in Regional play this week!



Wildcat Softball Swings Into Regional Play

By Steve Berezney

With regional play starting tomorrow and their #1 ranking, the Wildcat softball team is using the regular season to help strengthen their bid for a championship.

The Cats finished DVC play against Glenbard South by finishing up a game that had been rained out on Tuesday, May 14. We-go went into the second part of the game, which was made up on Thursday, May 16, down 4-0 but came out strong and scored two right off the bat. The Raiders added one more run and the game ended with a score of 5-2.

The game clinched a shared DVC championship between the Raiders and the Naperville North Huskies with West Chicago coming in second.

The Cats played at home last Monday, May 13, against a DuPage Valley Conference team, Wheaton Warrenville South. Starting at pitcher for the Cats was junior Angela Barnes, who has been their work-horse this season.

Barnes had no problems for most of the game as she went through most of the batters one, two, three. The only hope for WWS came in the third inning as they scored one run on two fielding errors by the Cats.

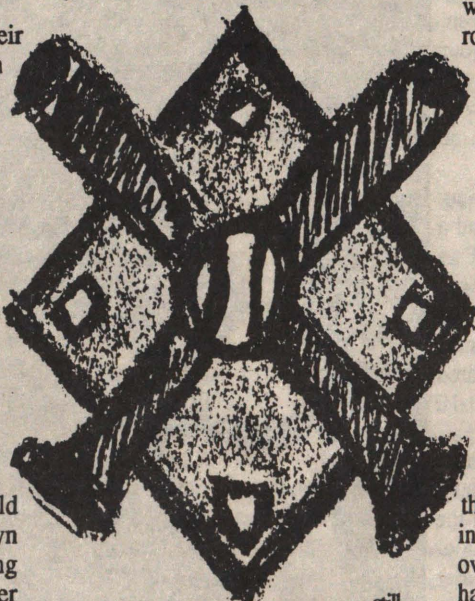
The Cats would have their answer two innings later in the fifth as junior Tracy Morris led off the inning with a walk. Then junior Nicole Winkler drove Morris home with her triple to right-center field.

Senior Kiley Long then drove in Winkler with her single to center field. The last run the Cats would score was when senior Ellyn Gernand drove home Long with her double to left-center field.

The Cats had a little strange luck when they went up against Glenbard East on May 6. The

game was turned into a double-header because of a game that was rained out last month.

In game one, the Cats were no hit yet



managed to win the game 2-1. Both of the runs came on errors by

East. Gotta feel sorry for the East pitcher.

After game one, the luck ran out on the Cats. They did manage to get a hit, but still lost the game 4-3.

The Cats were in top form when they played West Aurora in another doubleheader on May 4. Barnes started the first game and pitched a shutout for a Wildcat 6-0 win. Morris took over the pitching duties in the second game as the Cats won 5-1.

One of the main reasons that the Cats have been so successful this year has been the pitching of Barnes. She has an overall record of 14-4 and has been called the most dominant pitcher in the DVC by some coaches.

Barnes hasn't been the only one to play well this year.

Long is having a great year catching everything in sight out in center field. Gernand is one of the best on the team, tied for the lead in RBI. She comes up big in the important games according to head coach Jim Schaudt, as she is batting .400 in conference games.

Even though they will go into regionals as the #1 seed, there are still aspects of their game that they would like to improve.

"I'm concerned about our defense," Schaudt said. "We have a tendency to have a few errors a game which we can't have happen. I would also like to see our hitting be more consistent."

If they can iron out those few things, the Cats should be in great shape to go all the way in regionals. They will play today against the winner of the East Aurora vs. Batavia game.

"We feel that we can beat every team in our division," Schaudt said, "but we just can't look too far ahead."

Netters Fall Short at Sectionals

By Tracy Morris

For the boy's tennis team, the season seemed to end almost as quickly as it started.

With sectionals held on Friday, May 17, the Cats failed to send any of the six doubles and singles players who were slated for the competition to the state finals to be held Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of this week.

Junior Tim Martin and sophomore Jason Neal were the lone Wildcat netters to advance past opening play. The first doubles duo of Martin and Neal won Friday and just fell short on Saturday, the day after prom.

The sectional line-up consisted of first singles player junior Matt Bowne and second singles player senior Mike Leck.

The doubles line-up for We-go slated Martin, who placed fourth in the DVC fourth singles competition, and Neal at first doubles with seniors Brett Stark and Matt Gonzalez playing second doubles.

Bowne lost his match, which he was supposed to boost him higher in the meet and eventually lead him to state competition.

Although the sectional disappointment is occupying the minds of the Cats right now, it won't linger too long.

The netters are already making plans to regroup, recover, and play their best tennis next season.

While next season is still quite a ways away, the Cats expect to be back with a vengeance on the courts, and the preparation phase is soon at hand.

By playing in the USTA (United States Tennis Association) in the off season, We-go hopes to use the time to their benefit and gain rankings in the Western region.

They will have to do so without the help of several seniors, including Leck, Stark, Bill Dujmovic, David Splawski, Gonzales, and Tony Co.

Luckily for We-go, despite losing some depth in the seniors, this year juniors will be back strong next year. Bowne, Neal, and Martin are looking to represent the class of '97 as next year's seniors and prove something about themselves.



By Tracy Morris

With the Chicago Bulls coming off a 72-10 winning season, breaking records right and left, and stampeding through the playoffs, Bulls mania has swept through the city and swept fans off their feet.

As if it wasn't enough to just gaze in amazement at Michael Jordan soaring

through the air, Scottie Pippen slamming one down with a tomahawk, or Dennis Rodman engaging in his rebounding art form, the fans of Chicago have come up with a colorful way to watch the games.

Some aren't allowed to so much as breathe as long as the tube is tuned to NBC or Sports Channel and the Bulls are crushing their latest victim.

Others can breathe, as long as they're on the edge of their seats and screaming and yelling anytime a man in a red, white, and black uniform makes a play.

It's common to see interviews of fans on the sports reports at night, but most of the people being interviewed are middle-aged adults drinking with their buddies in bars and taking in the games of the most sacred team in the Windy City.

If there are any teenagers who aren't allowed in bars being interviewed or asked their opinion on the hottest team in town, they are interviewed on the streets of Chicago.

Since we're stuck out here in our teenage lives in the suburbs of the Great Land of Jordan, it's

You don't have to be sweating it out in the city to be die-hard Bulls fan. There have even been signs posted on the parapet car by the fieldhouse to encourage Bulls spirit in our school. You'd almost think it was the West Chicago Bulls that were taking on the Orlando Magic in the Eastern Conference Finals.

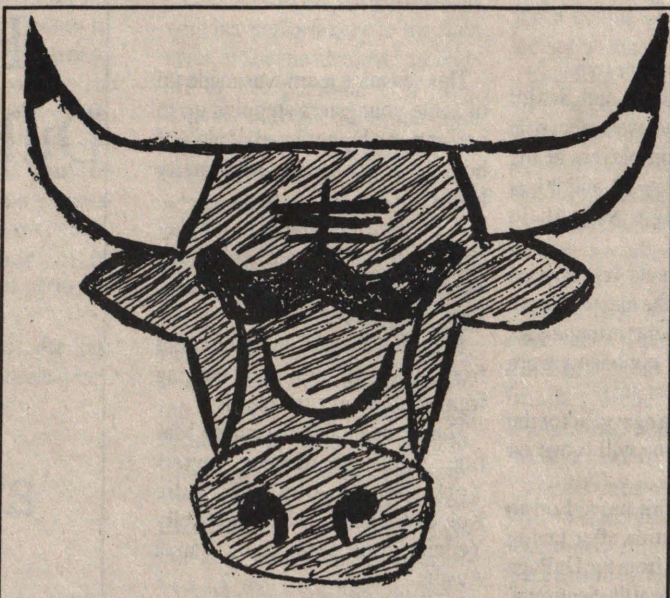
When the lights go out at the United Center and the fans erupt as the starters for our anticipated world champions are announced, it can almost be felt all the way out in each of the homes in the suburbs.

Bulls games are more of a television attraction than "Must See TV" on NBC. When the Bulls are on,

they are the must see TV.

Think of the money Sports Channel on cable must take in from Bulls games in any year. You can multiply that amount when you think of the unbelievable success the Bulls have grabbed this season.

When Dennis Rodman was traded to the Bulls, Phil Jackson told his son they no longer had to go to the circus, the circus came to them. With the circus playing in town, Bulls fans couldn't be happier.



not very often that anyone asks us about our favorite team.

We look forward to the next Toni Kukoc around the back assist, Steve Kerr three-point rainbow shot, Michael Jordan eyes closed free-throw, Dennis Rodman hat, and Ron Harper grin just as much as a suit-wearing goof in a downtown office building. And when was the last time you saw one of them wearing a Rodman jersey to work?