

# Wildcat Chronicle



West Chicago Community High School

326 Joliet Street

West Chicago, IL

December 19, 1996

Volume 28 Issue 5

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American College Testing  
Program (ACT) Scores:

Community High School

1995-1996  
(scores range from lowest of 1 to highest of 36)

	School	District	State
Composite Score	22.8	22.8	22.9
English	21.7	21.7	20.5
Math	22.2	22.2	20.9
Reading	22.7	22.7	21.5
Science Reasoning	23.1	23.1	21.3
No. of Test Takers	196	196	66,984
% Class	55.2	55.2	63.2

## ACT now

By Kelley Betts

Most high school juniors and seniors are preparing to take the ACT (American College Testing) exams or have taken them at some point in their high school career.

The results for We-go Community High School students' average ACT scores have come in and the average score on the test is 22.5 for the 1995-96 results.

This average is above the state average, which is 21.2, but according to Principal Dr. Alan Jones the tests are not an accurate way to compare or rank schools.

The scores experienced a radical jump about five years ago. The scores have remained in the 21-23 point range ever since.

Studies have proven that in order to raise the ACT scores, students should take classes that fall under the CORE academic program. This includes four years of mathematics, science, social studies and English.

"We have other missions and goals other than to focus only on preparing students for college," says Jones. These goals include meeting the students' needs.

ACT scores play a role in the student's decision of what colleges he or she wants to attend.

The scores determine placement in college courses and if a student is eligible for certain scholarships.

Some colleges require SAT's rather than ACT's. Most colleges in the Midwest prefer the ACT's. Community colleges do not require the student to take the ACT, but they have their own college entrance exams that must be taken before acceptance.

West Chicago Community High offers an ACT preparatory class in the spring for those taking the April or June exams.

This class is offered for up to 25 students. Sign up will be announced in January and it is on a first come, first serve basis.

Students can also join an independent study course. The fee of \$10 covers booklets and sample tests.

For more information on these study programs, see the Guidance Department.

## Masterpiece Dinner Theater

By Angela Johnson

Over 300 viewers came to the cafeteria on Sunday, December 14, for a dinner theater produced by the Thespians.

The show consisted of three student-directed One Act plays. While the audience watched the show, they also enjoyed a meal.

For the five dollar admission fee, they received salad, spaghetti, dessert, and entertainment.

What was unique about the One Acts was that the cast and directors did everything for themselves. They did their own set, sound, light, costumes, and make-up.

Panic struck the cast when a telephone, an essential part to one play, broke right before the performances.

Sparks flew, literally, as the cast tried to repair the phone, but luckily the Thespians are good at improvisation and they borrowed a school bell noise from the auditorium.

The first play, "Present Tense," was directed by junior Jessica Bina and senior Matthew Shinofield.

Norm (played by senior Dave Delort) was a high school aged boy who let his imagination run wild when he thought his beautiful and very popular girlfriend (senior Grant Barclay) may be cheating on him.

His sense of insecurity was only multiplied by his girlfriend's very

athletic ex-boyfriend Doug (freshman Chris Shern).

"Sorry Wrong Number" came with the entree. A character named Colleen Stevenson (senior Annalea Jimmo) is a mentally frazzled woman who overhears a murder plot when a ditzy operator (junior Elizabeth Edwards) dials the wrong number.

Despite all efforts to stop the murder, Colleen can't deal with the incompetence of the system. This suspense thriller was directed by senior Roxanne Rohrback and junior Steve Garcia.

Seniors Amanda Giermann, Melissa Kern, and Kathy York directed "This is a Test," a comedy that had all We-go students sympathizing with test taker Alan (senior Matt Potts).

Alan desperately tried to concentrate on the mid-term he had been up all night studying for, but he was bombarded with distractions.

None of his answers were right, 45 minutes just seemed to slip away and he didn't know how to speak Chinese (he was gone the day they learned how to speak Chinese fluently in class).

The cast did everything they could to throw this elaborate event together in just one month.

They practiced for three hours everyday after school trying to come with new ideas that would add to the enjoyment of the play.

## The Art of Speech

Press Release

The West Chicago Forensics Team, otherwise known as the Speech Team, competed in the Rochelle High School speech competition on Saturday, December 14.

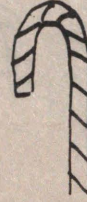
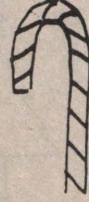
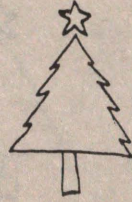
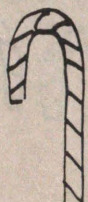
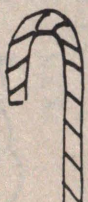
Three We-go students won second place awards.

Senior Annalea Jimmo and junior Steve Garcia took second place in Humorous Duet Acting, while senior Meredith Baker finished second in Prose.

In the Original Comedy event, senior Matt Bowne finished third and Jimmo finished fourth in her second event, Declamation.

Garcia teamed up with senior Roxi Rohrback in Dramatic Duet Acting to bring in a fifth place finish.

The final Wildcat to place at the competition was junior Liz Edwards who placed sixth in Dramatic Interpretation.



## Club Beats

### We-go Thespians

The Thespians at We-go recently completed work on the One Acts (see front page) and now are preparing for Theater Fest on January 9, 10, and 11.

Theater Fest is an event to help Thespians develop, learn, and see productions.

Every Tuesday, in lunches, the Thespians sell cupcakes.

The next meeting is tomorrow, Friday, December 20, followed by a meeting on January 17.

An additional meeting will be scheduled before Theater Fest.

### Student Council

The West Chicago Student Council holds meetings every Friday morning at 7:15.

Events planned for the Holiday season include many community service projects.

They will be caroling at West Chicago Terrace, a retirement home on Joliet Street in West Chicago, as well as giving gifts to families in need and donating money to worthy causes.

### Senior Class

The senior class holds meetings on Tuesdays at 7:15 am in Room 229.

Doughnuts are sold as a fundraiser for the class every Wednesday before school. Doughnuts are

sold for 50 cents and bagels with cream cheese are \$1.00.

Also look for additional sales of senior t-shirts in the near future!

### Pep Band

Look for the West Chicago Community High School Pep Band at the following events in the coming month:

Girls Basketball game-  
January 9, 7:00  
Boys Basketball game-  
January 10, 7:00

### German Exchange Program

Press Release

The participants for this year's German Exchange Program have now been chosen.

They are seniors Jocelyn Kovalik and Ted Barzso, juniors Shannon Baker, James Brittain, Bill Crothers, Leslie Harlson, Angie Johnson, Lindsay Leckner, Kelsey Link, Meg Runyan, and sophomores Brian Krawczykowski, Elaine

Wheatley.

They will depart for Gunzenhausen, Germany after school is out in mid-June and return three weeks later. While in Gunzenhausen, our students will live with host families, attend school, and participate in field trips and other activities designed to acquaint them with German life and culture.

## Use your head

Press Release

Each year 7,000 to 10,000 people in the United States incur spinal cord injuries; most become permanently impaired or paralyzed.

Another two million will suffer brain injuries, causing 75,000 to 100,000 deaths and 70,000 to 90,000 irreversible disabilities. Motor vehicle crashes, violence, and sports injuries are some of the major causes.

An overwhelming majority of brain and spinal cord injuries are incurred by persons under age 24, with the greatest between 15 and 24.

To help our students become more aware of avoidable risks and prevention measures, West Chicago High invited Central DuPage Hospital's "THINK SMART" to present their injury prevention program to 9th grade health on December 11th and 13th.

The presentation included a short movie titled "On the Edge," a slide presentation and talk about anatomy, injuries, and prevention by Debby Gerhardstein, RN, and personal testimony with a question and answer session by Pat Severin, who sustained injuries from a gunshot wound, and Tom Jacobson, who was injured while diving.

Key points that were covered by "THINK SMART" are listed here to help you encourage safe practice in your family:

- Wear your safety belts, even for short distances.
- Always wear a helmet when riding a motorcycle, bicycle, or participating in sports such as in-line skating.
- Know the limits of a given activity and use proper equipment.
- Follow speed limits.
- Do not drink and drive. Encourage your kids to call for a ride rather than ride with a driver who's been drinking.
- "Feet First, First Time." Check water for depth and submerged objects before jumping or diving. Do not dive into above ground pools.
- Avoid violent situations; don't touch guns.
- Do not move someone who may be injured; call for emergency services.

## Dance the night away

Press Release

One of the many physical education classes offered at the high school is titled Dance Production.

Those who desire to be in this class, tryout at the end of the year for the class offered next fall. Those who are selected for the class prepare an exciting show which is put on at the end of first semester.

This semester, the girls in Dance Production have been working hard choreographing and teaching dances for the show.

These dances are truly a variety, including Jazz, Modern, Hip-hop, and cultural dance. Some girls

have even invited in guest dancers to make the show that much more exciting.

The girls work especially hard to perfect the show by putting in extra time after school practicing the dances.

This year's show, entitled "Emotions in Motion," will be presented on Friday, January 17th and Saturday, January 18th at 7:30 p.m. in Weyrauch Auditorium.

Ticket prices are \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for students with an I.D.

The dancers are excited about this year's show and hope to see you there.

## Secrets of the Winter Play

The winter play, "Because Their Hearts Were Pure; or The Secret of the Mine," will be performed on February 13, 14, 15, and 16 in Weyrauch Auditorium.

The selected cast will be posted today and the first read-through will be this afternoon.

The play, written by Morland Cary, is an old-fashioned melodrama.

Each cast member will perform twice. When each member is not performing their speaking lines, they will act as extras.

### Go to College - Tuition Free!

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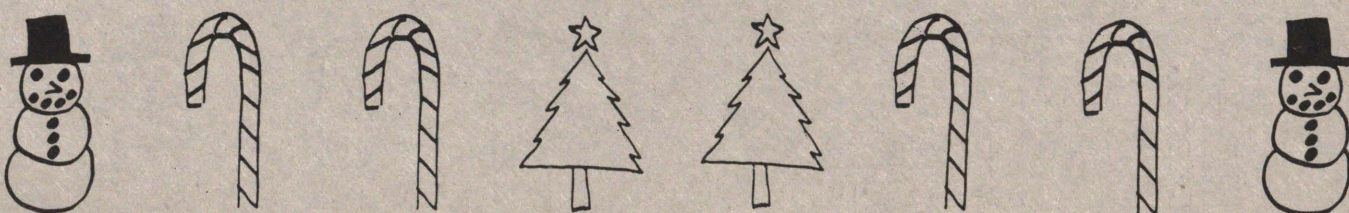
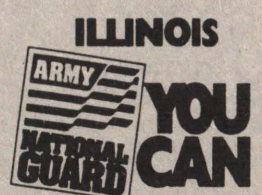
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## Be the life of the party

By Kelley Betts

Everyone is talking about the holidays and the upcoming extended winter vacation, but what about New Year's Eve? It seems that New Year's Eve is one of the biggest party nights of the year. With some parties comes the consumption of alcoholic beverages and other illegal substances.

An estimated 17,000 people are killed in alcohol-related crashes each year; that's one death every 31 minutes, and more than one million people suffer from injuries due to DUI's which balances out to one injury every 32 seconds. More than 50% of these alcohol-related accidents happen on New Year's Day.

Our school alone has lost two students to drunk driving related incidents in the past three years.

It seems that when New Year's Eve comes along people tend to ring in the New Year with a lack of common sense. What is so hard about designating a driver or staying over night at the house where the party is at?

What ever happened to people taking keys at the door?

When a person under the influence gets behind the wheel of a car, not only are they putting themselves in danger, but they are being selfish by putting every other driver on the road at a very deadly risk. The risk rises to a person under the influence being

twice as likely to get into a collision than a non drinking driver if the BAC (blood alcohol count) is .06. If the BAC count is .10 a person is 12 times as likely to get into a collision as that of a sober driver. With odds like those, how could anyone choose to drink and drive?

In 1993, 3,123 young adults (ages 16-20) were killed in automobile collisions. Of these 3,123 people, 1,056 had been drinking.

If you decide to have a party and know that illegal substances, including alcohol, will be there, wake up and take some responsibility: take keys at the door, decide whether or not people will be allowed to spend the night, if not, make sure everyone has a safe way home. You figure you're responsible enough to have a party, so be responsible enough to take care of these issues.

If you decide to go to a party, unfortunately, not everyone is as responsible as they should be, so think before you drink. Figure out a safe way home, like a designated driver, or plan to crash at the place where the party is at. It would be wise to bring extra money for a cab if you are far away from your house.

Please show some maturity. Don't start the new year off as a statistic. Don't drink and drive.

## Letters to the editor

### Life and Choices

RU-486...a "murder weapon?"

I don't know about that. An easier way to have an abortion, maybe. But a killing device, I doubt. This is, however, Kelley Betts opinion. And I stress the word opinion. Everyone is entitled to have their own perspectives, but to come across this close minded is naive. It's true that teens (or anyone for that matter) should think twice about the consequences of having sex, but I think it's a little harsh to assume they "deserve it."

Kelley goes on to say that: "women who were raped should consider adoption if they do not want the baby." Notice the word 'consider.' This isn't always an option. Suppose a 13-year old girl is raped and becomes pregnant. In some cases, if she were to choose to give up the child for adoption and have it, she may be putting her own life in danger. Is this still "murder?"

The scientists who research these methods of abortion aren't trying to make abortion seem "simple" or common, they are just doing their job in order to make complication less frequent and save those who, earlier, may have been in danger.

Abortion is hardly a "very selfish act of the women who make the decision." It's difficult to believe you would be capable of finding many women who have had abortions, say they didn't give a lot of thought to their choice or that it was a decision they still don't live with every day of their lives. Most of these women are educated individuals whom decide for them selves the best choice to make and until we are in their situation, it's impossible to accurately judge their actions. I just wish people would stop

to think and not be so "all-knowing" when it comes to other peoples lives they no absolutely nothing about.

Melinda Stratman

### We-go can compete

Dear Editor,

In the October 31, 1996 issue of the Wildcat Chronicle, Dan Horyn wrote an article on West Chicago playing sports in the DVC. As I read through the article I became appalled. West Chicago belongs in the DuPage Valley Conference!

If you travel back, within the last decade all girls' sports have fared very well. I am a member of the softball team, and I realize Dan complimented us, but I still say that we've been successful through he years and we've got big plans for this year.

Also, the boy's basketball team is doing great with a 7-0 record. I think you need to weigh out the good and the bad points. West Chicago is in the best football conference in the state. We may not win as much as the Naperville's, but we can compete.

Do you realize how many schools would kill to be in the DVC?

It is up to the athletes to be dedicated. WWS football players are players year-round, not just August thru November. Don't get me wrong, all sports need to realize this. Lastly, if you want a good high school program, you have to have good feeder programs. Currently at the West Chicago middle School it cost athletes over \$800 to participate in sports due to the referendum not passing.

Dana Nelson

## Quote

Deciding not to decide is a decision in itself

Unquote

## Resolve your resolutions

By Dan Horyn

Like a snake, on New Year's Day we shed our old skin and look at our new selves with hopeful eyes.

Having the best of intentions, many of us begin the new year with resolutions to stop our bad habits.

Unfortunately some old habits slither back into our lives- chocolate-eating, smoking, swearing, homework-neglecting, and treating others badly.

For many of us, January 1st becomes the painful reminder of unfulfilled goals. Some of us are five pounds heavier. Others have more tar in their lungs than on our driveways. Some have mouths dirtier than a lunch room table after eighth hour. And others have lists of unfinished assignments longer than the Equator. And unfortunately, some of us are meaner and snappier than the Grinch who stole Christmas.

In other words, come February 1st, we're pretty much thinking "New Year's stinks."

Oh, if we could take back those unused Bally memberships, those abandoned Jenny Craig diets. If we could just forget all the promises we broke, then it wouldn't be so painful.

But even when we fail, we cannot take back resolutions.

*Then why make them?*

If you want to change things, make a resolution. Resolutions can help get you past that bad habit. If you're stuck around December 28th, then a resolution can be your savior.

But consider a resolution a promise. You should fulfill every promise you make. If today you tell yourself that you plan on cutting chocolate from your diet, then do it. Don't cheat yourself. It's worse to make a promise and break it than to not make a promise at all. Because you are cheating yourself out of a chance to do something with your life. If you say no, and forget that promise, then you have taken one step away from progress.

Today is December 19th. You have roughly 12 days and 11 hours to decide whether or not you want to commit yourself to a resolution.

Are you going to do it? Do you want to change the way you live your life? That depends on your work ethic. If you are a driver, a do-er, then a New Year's Resolution is the thing for you.

Be careful if you are a slacker and a poor goal setter because you might not be able to uphold your promise. You could make a promise though to stop being a slacker or a poor goal setter.

A resolution is more than a statement. It is a commitment to change. Are you responsible enough to make that commitment? Or will you be saying "New Year's stinks" come February 1st?

That's for you to decide.

### Wildcat Chronicle

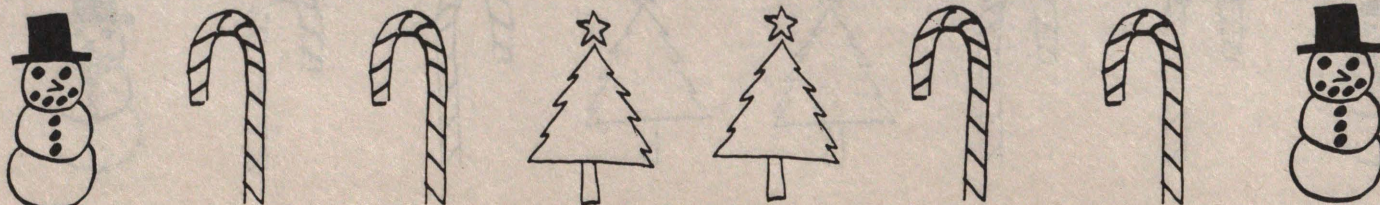
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Perspectives	Hannah Kenny
Entertainment	Kelley Betts Hannah Kenny
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Editor-in-Chief	Tracy Morris

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 Mocariski in room 319 or be put in her mailbox. Letters to the editor should be signed 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.



## Peace on Earth

By Carrie Zeffield

As I sit on my bedroom floor watching a Christmas special on TV, I notice something that should have nothing to do with Christmas. It's called violence.

I sit here and see people kill each other, fight, and try to ruin others Christmas. Christmas never represented violence. It stands for love, happiness, and the celebration of the birth of Christ Jesus. And trust me, Jesus never represented hate and violence. He tried to show people how to love, care, and how to be happy.

But let's face it. There is violence everywhere you go. You see it on TV, movies, plays, music videos, among friends, families, the news and society. We, as humans, use some sort of violence to survive.

Think about that ham and turkey dinner you'll indulge in on Christmas. And what about the parties on New Years. Violence was used to get that dinner, and on New Years people will be injured or killed.

I'm not trying to say let's eliminate all violence; that is totally impossible, especially with society today. But what I am trying to say is on Christmas, wake up, smile, wish everyone a "Merry Christmas" and try to stay away from trouble and violence all together.

Last year, between Christmas and New Year's Day, there were over 3,000 deaths in the U.S. alone. Let's reduce that this year. Go ahead, show people there is a better way of celebrating the holidays then to celebrate it with violence.

Christmas comes once a year. Make this one a safe and special one.

## Ever wonder why the midwest?

By Brian Miller

As Christmas approaches and as the darkness comes at 4:15, I started to think about why we live in the Midwest or more specifically, the Chicago metropolitan area. What about the eight million people living in the Chicagoland area makes them stand the extreme temperatures on both ends of the thermometer?

I know that pretty much all of us are here because of our parents but why do they stay and will we stay when we have the chance to move?

To start, I decided to ask the knowers of all (what parents try to pass themselves off as) if they had any answers. Since I had often heard my parents complaining about the weather, I expected some legitimate answers.

Unfortunately for this story, my parents told me in these words, "We have no idea why." And so again learning that parents do not have all the answers, I was left

with nothing.

One reason could be because of jobs. And yet there had to be people here before the rest of us came in order to have any jobs.

So the obvious question would seem to be, why did people originally settle on the shores of Lake Michigan?

In the halls of history, it can be found that the first American settlers arrived here in the late 1700's directly after the Revolutionary War.

It was a time when a young American nation felt it was their right to expand to the West and take the land they deserved. A small group of adventurous people tried their luck on the southwestern shore of a large lake, and about two hundred years later, here we all are.

I don't know if it is common or not, but it seems to me that wherever I go on vacation I begin to say, "Oh, I could live here." From what I can figure, this happens

often because of our only view, the resort side, of the vacation spot. At the moment, I can't really decide where I will live but maybe someday I'll move to a place with a temperate climate.

But could I move from a place where I've spent my entire life and the place I call home? Something tells me I couldn't easily move away and give up all I've ever known. We've all heard "change is good," but I don't believe moving is a change I could make. Why? Probably because I'm just too stubborn to try to live in view place.

Now is about the time when people begin to decide what to do with their life and where to live it. Although you may now be thinking of moving out of the area when you receive the green light, just remember the outstanding characteristics of the people and the Chicago area and what it all meant in your life.

## Good bread, bad bread

By Dan Horyn

We are like bread in many ways. We satisfy others. We mold.

We can be bread to a person. Good bread people can feed others in many ways. We can give a person food. We can give them our money. We can help people, advise them, feed and satisfy their needs.

Today so many people walk down the hallway, the street, the aisle, and shed their mold on others. They selfishly avoid helping others, and because of this, these people are bad bread people. There are a lot of them in the world today.

Bad bread people have collected mold over the years. They have so many poor qualities added onto their person that now they are just an illusion of what they used to be. Bad bread people have a surplus of poor habits.

Stuck in their poor habits, bad

bread people wander from situation to situation doing nothing to help others out.

Are you a bad bread person? How do you approach life-situations? Do you head into an issue thinking that you don't want to waste too much time? If you are afraid of wasting time, of helping people, then you are a bad bread person.

Selfish ambition does nothing to improve the world. Don't waste air. If you are going to be selfish, then do not even consider asking others for help.

And though there are a lot of selfish people in the world, remember that not everyone is bad bread. Think of all the unselfish humans that wake up each day. Think of social workers, charity givers, teachers, friends. These people are good bread people. There are still a lot of them in the

world.

In your life, strive to avoid selfish acts. Do not collect mold. Stay fresh in your actions. Avoid selfish ambition. During the rest of this day, and during vacation, surprise your mother. Give her bread. When she asks you to clean your room and you're watching TV, jump up out of your couch and do it. Be giving to all: your dad, your friends, even strangers on the street! Pick up a pen if somebody drops one.

Because in the spirit of Christmas, giving goes further than physical gifts. Giving involves being helpful without complaining.

Good bread people are helpful. Bad bread people are not. Their mold gets in the way.

Live your life like you're fresh from the bakery.

## Poem

### The four letter word

There is a word in the English vocabulary,

A word that is used more often than regularly.

The word is so precious, even the brave dare not utter it.

Lend me your ear while I try to sputter it.

The word is interpreted in a plethora of ways,

Changing its value and meaning through the days.

The first letter is L for luck, lust or lonely,

Yet these are a few words that make it seem phony.

The O is for other, open, or only,

Yet the words still take away from its beauty.

The V is for vain, void, or victory,

But those who use these are false, fools, or giddy.

The E is for excuses, el-

egance, or eager,

But shouldn't this word mean something much deeper?

This word should bring happiness, joy, and glory.

It should not be jealous, selfish, or boring.

The word should be patient, kind and forgiving,

Any other form could be a form of sinning.

There are some who define this sacred word

As the sharing of certain physical desires.

Some blurt it out to their friends,

As a form of affection or even to make amends.

Time is another essence of this word

Without this measure it would be purely absurd.

Take heed to my advice,

And before you use the word, think twice.

-Amanda Pope

## Santa's sleigh doesn't stop on the streets

By Lexie Nussbaum

The Christmas season is a time for sharing, warmth, and being with those you love. What if there's no one to be with during this merry season? Many people take the joys of Christmas for granted. Some focus on gifts and Christmas lists more than the simple warmth of a family's comfort.

Too many people live without ever knowing the feeling of joy and warmth through the Christmas season.

There are many people whose Christmas lists include simple blankets, food, and a place to spend the night so they don't have to sleep on the streets. These people don't care about fancy cars, new clothes, or huge houses. All they ask for are the simple things like food, warmth, and shelter so they can remain alive.

It's very sad to think that hundreds of people will spend Christmas Eve alone, shivering from the cold on the freezing streets of our cities.

It's unrealistic to think we can

try and save each and every homeless person who is sick alone during Christmas, but if every person makes even the littlest donation, they can bring safety, joy, and warmth to many of these people who don't know what it's like.

There are many organizations that take donations during this season. It's never too late to give a blanket, some old clothes, used toys, or food to people less fortunate than us.

The Winfield Public Library is looking for people to help in their Adopt a Family program. They

are asking for donations of gifts, food, or money to help families in need.

The Adopt a Family program will allow people to choose a family from their list needs who help getting their children gifts and food for Christmas. A request of the family's needs is given if you commit to the program.

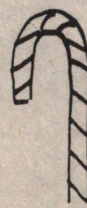
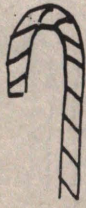
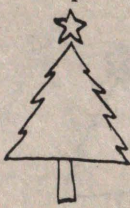
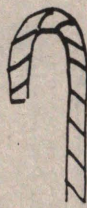
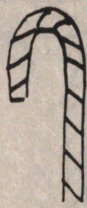
While you are doing your Christmas shopping this year, try to think about the unfortunate children who will have to go without presents this Christmas. By giving a simple

donation to the many shelters and charities around the area, you may be able to change the lives of a family who is suffering, and the children who have no hopes of Santa Claus coming down the chimney

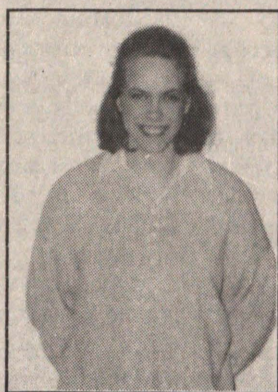
For more information on organizations in the area call the Winfield Township at 231-3591, or the Winfield Public Library.

If you have any toys, blankets, or other items to donate, please see Lexie Nussbaum.

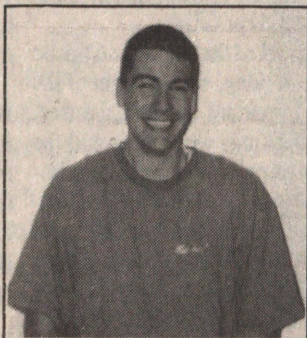
It is never too late to help.



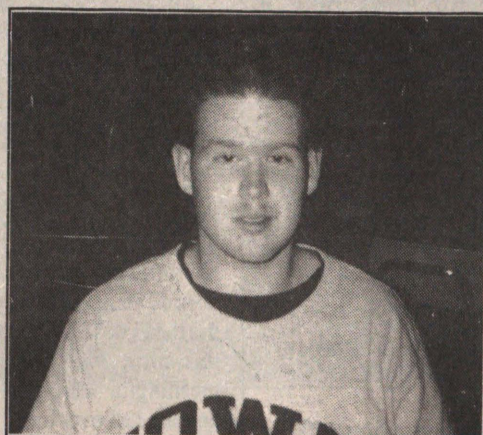
## Picture Poll: What do you want for Christmas?



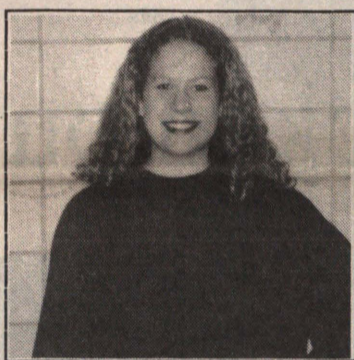
Amanda Pope (senior)- "The ideal man."



Mitch McCabe (junior)- "A new stereo system."



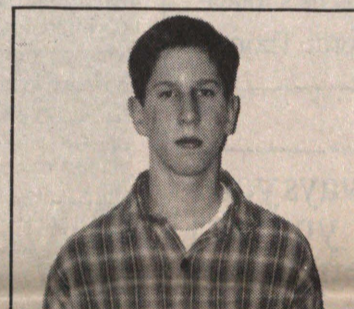
Jason Osterkamp (junior)- "A belly dancer and a monkey and a penguin."



Becky Fritz (senior)- "To get the heck out of here."



Matt Shinofield (senior)- "A pocket full of coal."



Sean Morris (freshman)- "A Notre Dame football jersey."



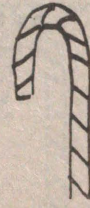
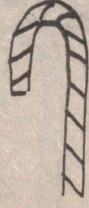
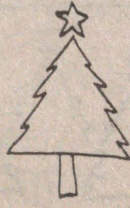
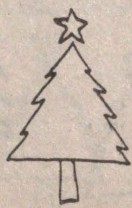
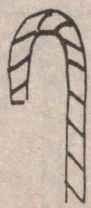
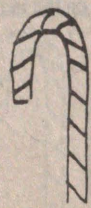
Katrina Minter (senior)- "I want a trip to Europe."



Jeff Goluszka (sophomore)- "Better tickets to Metallica."



Lisa Schellenberg and Beth Siwy (juniors)- "We want our boyfriends to take us to see *Jerry McGuire*."



## A Christmas to remember

Short story

By Lisa Schellenberg and  
Beth Siwy

When you walk down the halls of your school, or go to the mall with your friends, do you ever watch people and try to figure out what their story is? Everyone has a story, a rhyme, a riddle, something that you can't see by just looking at them. I realized this when I met Kerri.

My parents decided that as a good deed towards society, they would become foster parents to any little girl or boy who was in need of fostering at the time. Little did they know, the embarkment of this journey would lead to the most meaningful lesson of Christmas anyone had ever had.

When I was first introduced to Kerri, I never realized what her life had been like prior to moving into our house. She was an upbeat, happy little girl of six, and the subject of her years, one through five, were never an issue.

She had been with us for nine months, and had quickly become a very important part of all our lives. Being an only child, I came to know and love Kerri and her little six year old wise cracks and her

cute little faces everyone adored.

As Christmas approached, every room in the household became filled with green and red reminders. My mother tried to hint about a new toaster and my father, about his model car fetish.

With all of the hustle and bustle of the holiday, we lost sight of the most important symbol, the tree. The stockings were hung and the lights were lit, and we were missing the essence of pine in the house.

Mom, dad, Kerri and I all piled up into the family station wagon and started our search for the wondrous event. We found ourselves heading towards Bob's Barn 'O Trees, about an hour away from our house.

When we arrived, we saw the plethora of trees which covered the lot. We were the only people in sight when Bob himself approached us and said in a hurry, "Welcome to Bob's Barn 'O Trees, how may I help you?"

As my father started to tell Bob about our lack of pine essence, Bob rudely interrupted and excused himself from the conversation. My

father turned to me with a big smile and gave the okay sign. Being cold and annoyed with the whole Christmas tradition, I rolled my eyes while Kerri held her favorite angel ornament in her tiny hands, she happily ran from tree to tree.

Thirty minutes had passed and Bob never returned, and we thought we had found the perfect tree. My father left to pull the car around, as we stood there waiting. He returned shortly after without the car or Bob. "So where's the car?" my mother asked.

My father looked down at the ground, and looked back up with a stupid smile on his face.

"Um, I kind of locked the keys in the car, and Bob has left the building."

We all stood there in an unfamiliar silence, and looked around at our surroundings. At this point, I was rather upset and truly wanted to go home to our warm house, with or without a tree.

We huddled around the tree we had planned to buy and prayed for Bob's return. We sat on a nearby

bench and thought of conversation to help the time pass. My father cracked his chapped knuckles and my mother bit her fake nails and I rolled my eyes with every movement. Kerri jumped about and examined her breath in the cold air.

"Hey Mommy," cried Kerri, "let's hang up my angel!"

My mother's eyes lit up, Kerri had never called her Mommy before. My mother stood up and followed after Kerri to the tree, and then hung the angel on one of its branches.

My father stood up and I followed to satisfy my curiosity. There on a middle branch hung the small face of an angel. We all looked at each other and smiled despite our current situation.

Everyone remembers Christmas by Grandpa's World War II stories, Grandma's crocheting tips, and Uncle Otis' stories of walking to school up a hill both ways through ten feet of snow, but I will always remember this Christmas because this was the year that I learned the real miracle of Christmas.

### Top ten bad Christmas presents

By Dan Horyn

10. A lifetime supply of tainted clams.
9. Warrant's Greatest Hits.
8. A manilla envelope with the return address from Una Bomber.
7. Sox season tickets.
6. A severed head in a box.
5. Dannon yogurt from the sixties.
4. Feces.
3. A three week vacation to New Jersey.
2. A large sweaty man who claims he's Santa.
1. One word: Thorium.

### Top ten ways you know you're frostbitten

By Dan Horyn

10. You get up and your left leg is still on the couch.
9. Friends ask how Papa Smurf is doing.
8. You went swimming in a pool of liquid nitrogen.
7. Your bed is a snow drift.
6. Family mistakes you for Blueberry Flavored Pop-Ice Popsicles. They try to eat you.
5. You are underneath a layer of ice in a large, lonely lake.
4. People ask you for ice.
3. When inside, your hand melts.
2. You are strapped to a glacier in the Arctic Ocean.
1. You are the Snowman.

## We-go gets all decked out

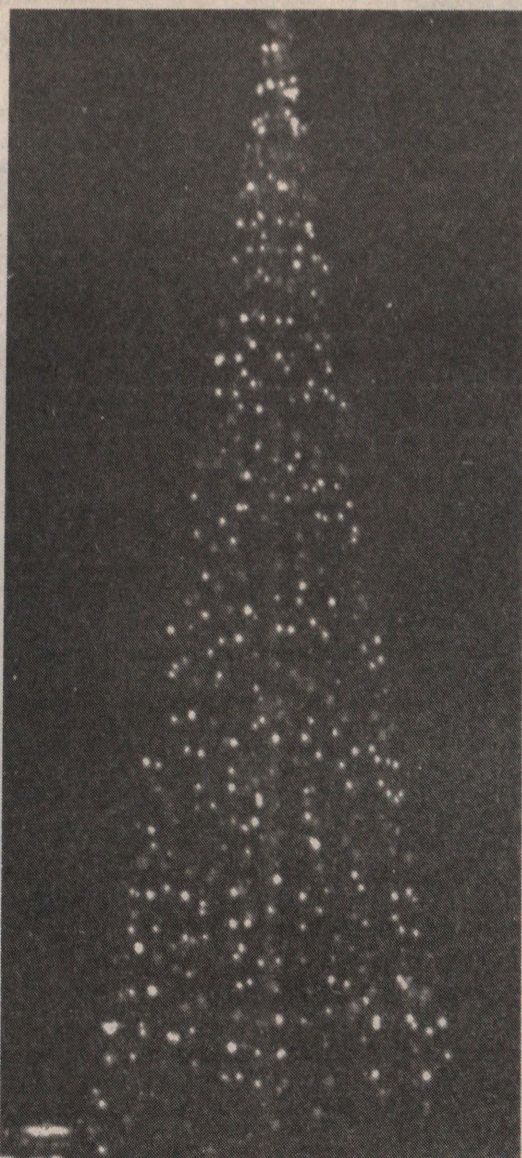


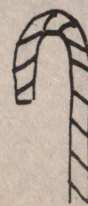
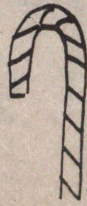
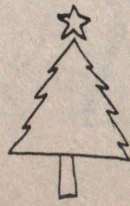
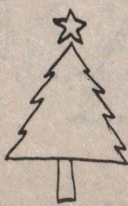
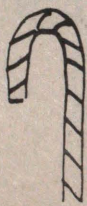
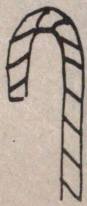
Photo by Tracy Morris

West Chicago prepares for the holidays by lighting a tree of their own. This tree is located near Bowling Green and Synergy night club.



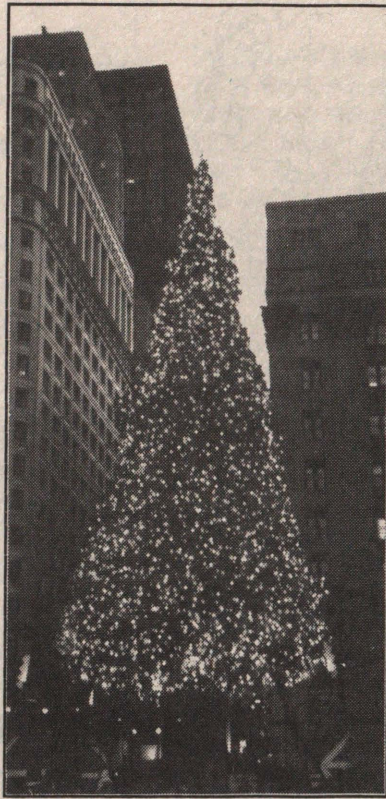
Photo by Tracy Morris

Downtown We-go is all decked out for the holidays with signs on the lamposts.



# Features

*Chicago prepares for this years holiday season*



(Left) Chicago decorates State Street with their Christmas tree.

(Right) Marshall Feild's located in downtown Chicago prepares for Christmas by creating window displays complete with characters that move.



Everyone enjoys the a chance to "Skate on State," sponsored by Sears.

## TOP TEN CHRISTMAS FAVORITES QUIZ

By Megan Miller

**BEST CHRISTMAS MOVIE:**

- A) MIRACLE ON 34th STREET
- B) IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE
- C) A CHRISTMAS STORY

- C) DECK THE HALLS

**BEST KIND OF CHRISTMAS TREE:**

- A) FAKE TREE
- B) REAL TREE

**BEST CHRISTMAS SONG:**

- A) JINGLE BELLS
- B) TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

**BEST CHRISTMAS COLOR:**

- A) RED
- B) GREEN

**BEST CHRISTMAS TREAT:**

- A) CHRISTMAS COOKIES
- B) GINGER BREAD HOUSES
- C) CANDY CANES

**BEST KIND OF CHRISTMAS COOKIES:**

- A) SUGAR COOKIES
- B) GINGER BREAD

- COOKIES
- C) PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES

**BEST CHRISTMAS DECORATION:**

- A) MISTLETOE
- B) CANDLES
- C) FIGURINES

**BEST TREE DECORATION:**

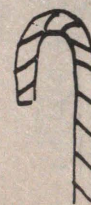
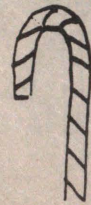
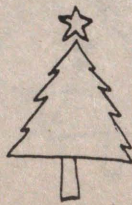
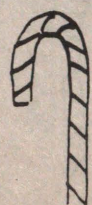
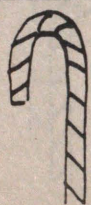
- A) GARLAND
- B) TINSLE

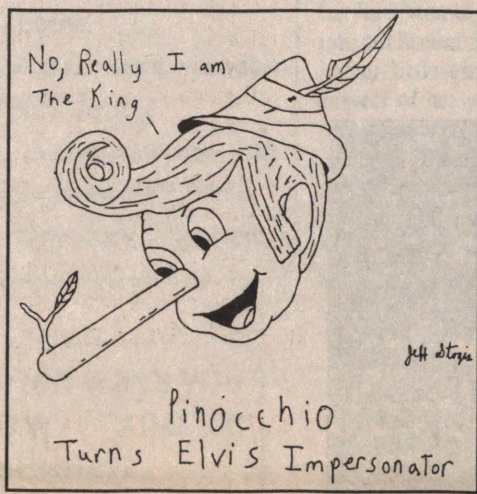
**BEST CHRISTMAS DINNER:**

- A) HAM
- B) TURKEY

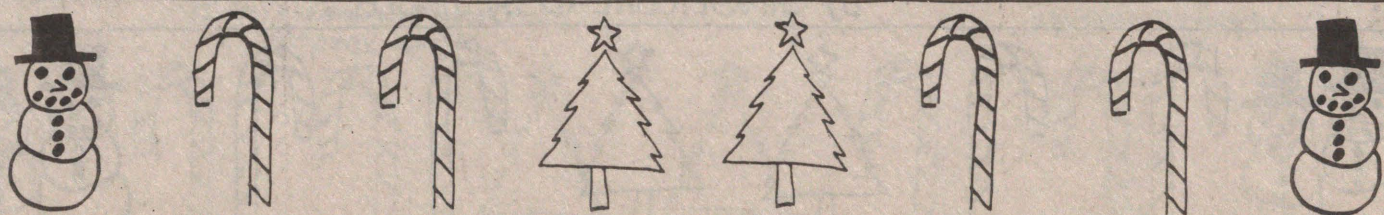
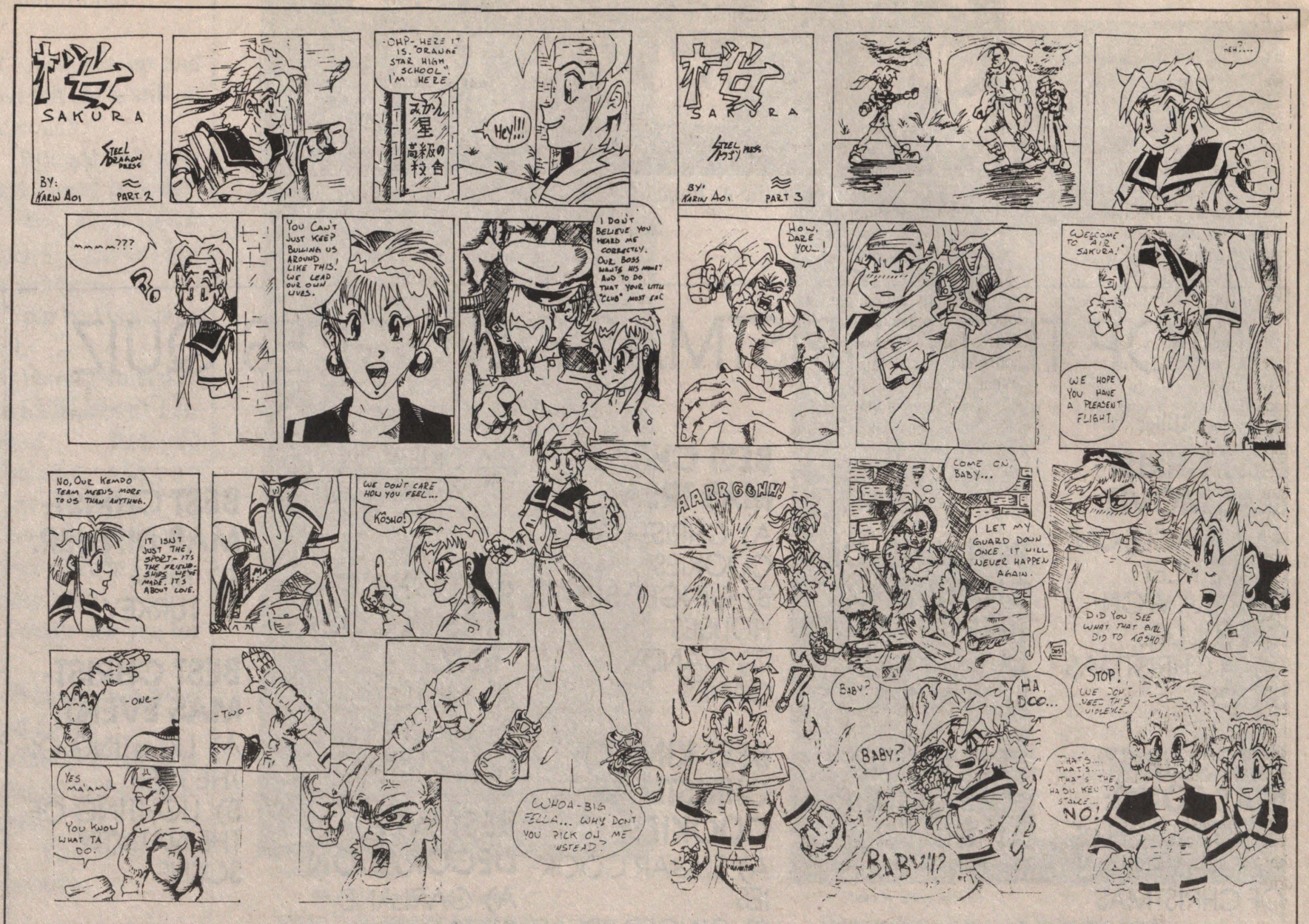
**BEST CHRISTMAS EVENT:**

- A) LIGHTING OF THE TREE
- B) LIGHTING OF THE NATIVITY SCENE





IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOUR COMIC IN THE WILDCAT CHRONICLE, TURN IT INTO MS. MOCARSKI IN ROOM 319, OR HER MAILBOX





## Holiday Movies

If you need something to do over winter vacation, take a look at this

By Kelley Betts and Dan Horyn

The holidays: a time of lights, bustling people, snow, cold weather, and, of course, winter vacation! Two weeks of sleeping late, and no school. It's time to relax, kick back, and watch holiday movies while gaining the five to ten pounds that the average person supposedly gains around the holidays. What's that... unsure about what movies to watch? Here are some great movie ideas to make the holidays a little bit more cheerful.

### Miracle on 34th Street

A modern version of the classic Christmas story that asks you the question, "Do you believe in Santa?" The city of New York is in for a big surprise when C.F. Coles, a well-known department store, hires a man with an amazing resemblance to Santa Clause, as their Santa.

Kris Kringle (Richard Attenborough) makes a be-

liever out of many with his warm heart and striking resemblance to "the real thing." He even manages to touch the heart of Susan Walker, a little girl who doesn't believe in Santa, and her mother, Dorey Walker (Elizabeth Perkins) with the help of family friend Brian Bedford (Dylan McDermott) making their Christmas an unforgettable one. This Christmas tale can make a believer out of anyone.

\*\*\*\*\*

### The Nightmare Before Christmas

For all cartoon lovers comes an outstanding movie with its perfected special effects.

In this classic, Jack Skellington is tired of Halloween. He looks for something more magical which he soon stumbles upon in Christmas Town. Jack attempts to bring this holiday to Halloween Town, but his dream doesn't fit into the ghouls of Halloween Town like he hoped it would. Now it's up to Sally, a

doll who is in love with Jack, to bring things back to normal. The Nightmare Before Christmas is sure to entertain people of all ages.

\*\*\*\*\*

### The Santa Clause

In this creative comedy, Tim Allen becomes Santa when the old Santa falls off his roof. Scott Calvin (Allen) goes through an entire year figuring that the past Christmas Eve

was all just a dream, but Charlie refuses to believe it.

After gaining 45 growing pounds, going gray, and a beard that will not go away, Calvin begins to believe he is Santa, but will anybody else except the children?

This movie is sure to warm the hearts of everyone in the family and help set the mood for Christmas time.

\*\*\*

### National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation

Clumsy Chevy Chase hits it right in this National Lampoon's classic tale of a nineties family trying to host Christmas. Disaster after disaster takes place, leading into a tumultuous end where Clark W. Griswold (Chase) goes over the deep end. Beverly D'Angelo (Griswold's wife) and wacky Randy Quaid (Clark's brother) co-star in this dysfunctional movie that will surely be watched in family dens for years to come.

\*\*\*

### The Grinch Who Stole Christmas

Straight off the Dr. Seuss shelf comes this children's tale complete with rhyming. Mr. Grinch tries to steal the magic of Christmas from Who-ville. He dresses like Santa and sneaks into all the whos' houses to steal their presents and decorations. He finds that he can't take away the magic when the whos wake up the next morning and continue their traditions. This is a classic Dr. Seuss creation that reminds everyone of the real magic of Christmas.

\*\*\*\*\*

These are just a few classic Christmas tales to warm your heart and put everyone in the holiday spirit. So, after walking through the door after a long day of Christmas shopping, relax, curl up on the couch with some egg nog and Christmas cookies and watch some holiday movies. With 16 days away from the torture everyone calls school, every student deserves to relax.

This movie is sure to warm the hearts of everybody

night was all a dream. He believes he is not really Santa, but his son Charlie, who saw it all happen, knows the truth and goes on to tell everyone including his mother and stepfather. They, of course, think Charlie is making up stories. Calvin tries to tell his son it

## A bloody good album

By Tracy Morris

Ever heard the saying, "It's always harder to repeat?"

With their latest release, *Razorblade Suitcase*, Gavin and the guys (known on the whole as the English-turned-American success story band called Bush) hope to overcome such a saying.

The four lads are now looking to capitalize on the huge success of their debut album, *Sixteen Stone*, which spun off five hits since its release in 1994.

It's hard to believe a disc with twelve songs could provide such a powerful act with two years of material to keep concert-goers coming and more people buying their album.

Every band should have the dilemma of not needing to put out a new album because their freshman effort made that bold of a statement.

The album that brought "Everything Zen," "Little Things," "Comedown," "Glycerine," and "Machinehead" into the mainstream also brought drummer Robin Goodridge, bassist Dave Parsons, guitarist Nigel Pulsford, and lead singer/guitarist Gavin Rossdale more success than they could have imagined and/or hoped for.

So what could *Razorblade Suitcase* possibly do for them? Hadn't they already reached the top? Isn't down the only place to go from

there?

I get the feeling that this one is for themselves.

I would imagine it would get a little hard to "swallow" the fact that everywhere they turn they are deemed (Do I dare say it?) Nirvana-wannabes or the next Pearl Jam.

Why can't they simply be the next Bush or just Gavin, Nigel, Dave, and Robin wannabes?

After the album opener, an intense little ditty called "Personal Holloway" I expected the entire CD to be packed full of punched chords and strong beats.

What I found instead was 13 slow paced tunes, although they could hardly be called mellow songs.

In "Cold Contagious," a song that begins calmly, Gavin half says half screams, "You will get yours!"

Most songs on the album feature Gavin's calculated lyrics broken off by absolute piercing, powerful silence.

On *Razorblade Suitcase*, Pulsford and Rossdale combine on the silence to produce the most quiet intense effect I've ever heard, one that leaves the listener wanting more music and wondering what Bush has in store for them in the next chords.

Since dissecting the lyrics of every popular band instead of simply listening to them seems the cool thing to do these days, I can't help but notice references to

Gavin's now famous love problems with former girlfriend Jasmine.

At the end of "Swallowed," the newest addition to Q101's broken record list, Gavin repeats over and over, "Miss the one that I love a lot."

In "Straight No Chaser," he groans in his best hurt love voice, "There's nothing like losing you."

It's that kind of desperate, cynical-to-a-point music that makes *Razorblade Suitcase* a must have for anyone who bought and kept *Sixteen Stone*.

It's conceivable that listeners will find *Razorblade Suitcase* similar to *Sixteen Stone* in certain facets, but it is my belief that one band can only do so much musically with the same instruments from one album to the next.

Plus, if a listener has heard the *Sixteen Stone* tunes a number of times, that will be in the back of his or her mind no matter what he or she is listening to.

Of course the music will sound somewhat the same, it's the same band.

What Bush has done with *Razorblade Suitcase* is a testimony to the verbal and lyrical abilities of Gavin, but more importantly, to the ability of Bush to adapt to success and still put out a bloody good album.

## Silver Jet crashes and burns

Hannah Kenny

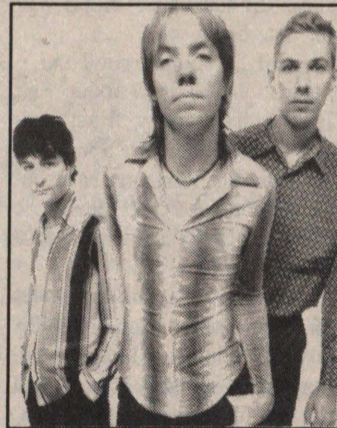
Conformity is nothing an artist, of any type, wants. Silver Jet sounds much like anything else that is played on Q101, which really isn't that good in the first place. This three member band (Grant Conway, Luke Tierney, and Jeff Gross) from Los Angeles says they're old enough to know who Cheap Trick is, and young enough to know it's Foo Fighters, not Food Fighters.

Their debut album, *Pull me up... Drag me down*, sounds way too much like either of these bands and a million others. Also, the recording sounds like they took it from a record, like *Tiny Music...* from Stone Temple Pilots.

Not only does Silver Jet sound like other bands, all their songs are alike. I know each band's songs are similar, but I can't even tell the songs apart. That makes for a sucky band and a bad album.

Their lyrics are cheesy. They talk about girls, girls, and more girls. In one song "Plasticqa" they talk about "fake plastic silicone." They couldn't think of anything else better than the problems they have, and I really don't want to hear about it.

They perform with drums and

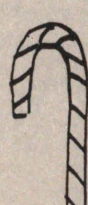
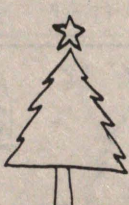
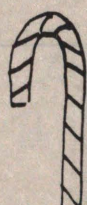
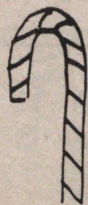


an electric guitar, and the music these instruments make is painstakingly monotone and repetitive.

Silver Jet has been together four years, and opened for bands like Presidents of the United States of America, and Dramarama. They will be on tour the first three months of '97.

If you want to know more about Silver Jet, contact:

Shagg  
138 Duane St.  
New York, NY 10013  
212-964-2244  
Fax 964-4509  
Email: shagghome@aol.com  
Web site http://www.virginrecords.com



## Engines are ready to go

By Dan Horyn

Among the Goliaths of local alternative bands plays Engine 364, the David of sophomore bands.

Over the last three months, Engine 364, led by sophomore lead singer/guitarist Justin Bircher, has played along with tough local acts including GMC, Colfax Avenue, and Kid Taff.

Engine 364 has experienced its share of bad luck (see "Band Luck" of the Chronicle's October issue), including technical difficulties. But inexperience is the greatest hurdle this band has to clear.

Bircher acknowledged this and said, "I'm trying to get more confidence in my singing." He remembers Engine 364's first show: "I was nervous because I'd never [performed] before and I didn't know what I was doing."

Since their first show, there has been a gradual evolution in En-

gine 364's stage confidence. The David of local bands is slowly but surely approaching Goliath proportions. And though it might take a year, "They have immense potential because they're incredible musicians and they're young," said local band expert Matt Potts. Potts has seen countless local bands in his four years at We-go. He has twice watched 364 live.

Along side Bircher plays guitarists Dan Perdue and Matt Hesslinga. Jordan Hill lays down the beats. Hesslinga is the latest edition to the band, as he joined the guys one month ago.

The group most recently played two weeks ago at a Glen Ellyn church. There were some obvious flaws in the performance — the vocals were not loud enough and occasionally the bad got lost in confusion. But as the show went

on, the confusion gradually died away, as evidenced by the last two songs. Bircher sang with more confidence and the band's potential shined brighter than Goliath's armor. In other words, during the closing songs Engine 364 rocked.

The general consensus of fans is that musically 364 is extremely talented. Sophomores Hilary Johnston and Cassie Mitchell have seen all three shows and noted that the band has a lot of potential. Sophomore Liam Doyle agrees, saying, "A lot of bands break because of college. But these guys are young and they sound good on stage."

Now just imagine when they get everything together. Engine 364 will be successful once they sound as good live as they do on their demo tape. They were musically coherent, the bass was strong, and the vocals were louder than

Goliath's voice.

Engine 364 has a unique sound. Though it is clearly alternative, it is hard to decide whether the sound is hard-hitting or fun and light-hearted. This is because some songs start out with a colloquial topic - like smurfs - and the music reflects this. But all of a sudden, with distortion pedal, the sound screams out and the drums start BOOMing. Bircher also wants to add a third quality to the next show. Since he is a Christian, he wants to make it more spiritual.

So what must the group remember? "They've only played three shows, so confidence will come with time," said Potts.

The band will play December 20 at the Upstairs in Wheaton. GMC plays along with Engine 364. Ticket price is \$5 at the door, and looks to be a great way to start Winter break. "My high school

experience has been so enriched because of countless local band shows," said Potts. "You don't have to drink; you have to come out and see [some local shows] because they're the best thing around." For those reasons and many more, a trip to the Upstairs on Friday should be on the to-do list.

Bircher considers Friday's performance extremely important: "[The show] has a lot of significance. It will be a chance to redeem myself for shows where we played bad. We need to put on a good show instead of just singing—we'll need more feeling."

Friday should be one step closer to Goliath for Engine 364.

But maybe it wouldn't be so bad to be David-after all, he killed Goliath.

We'll see what the next few shows bring us...

## Resistance is futile

By Tracy Morris

It would appear yet another Star Trek movie will "live long" in theaters and "prosper" at the box office.

In my lifetime, since 1979, there have been eight "Star Trek" flicks released, and I waited until now to take interest in one.

Luckily, I caught a good one.

Here's what I knew about "Star Trek" going into my "First Contact" experience: Dr. Spock has big ears, the Klingons have deformed foreheads, and the Rescue 911 guy used to hang out in space with all of them.

Sure, I caught a couple episodes of Deep Space Nine, on UPN Power 50 television, but my attention span wouldn't let me get past the neat uniforms the crew wore.

All kidding aside, "First Contact," which was released on November 22, was my first science fiction sort of movie. (Terminator 2 doesn't count, right?)

I have to say I was impressed beyond belief with how detailed space really can be and how lively a few producers and directors can make a story about people waiting to die on a floating spaceship.

I guess it didn't hurt that director Jonathan Frakes, who also plays a part as William Riker, managed to pack a sense of humor in the survival kits of all the crew members on the Enterprise.

When I walked into this movie, I never expected to hear myself say anything besides the previews were funny.

This especially holds true for the

story's main character, Captain Jean-Luc Picard (played by Patrick Stewart).

It's astounding to me that Picard can laugh and have a joke with a Klingon (Worf, played by Michael Dorn) or a virtual computer robot (Data, played by Brent Spiner) while the world as we know it is about to become caput!

You'd also think a man who has gone against higher-authority orders to stay put only to battle an enemy who previously captured him wouldn't have a whole lot to joke about.

What am I thinking? This is outer space and Hollywood, pretty much one in the same.

Picard and his Enterprise buddies are taking on the Borg, a part machine, part flesh race.

The Borg are loyal to their collective mind, which keeps track of and reprograms any new race brought in or defeated by the Borg.

There are Borg soldiers, which actually look a lot like Arnold's character in T2, who do all the fighting on board the Enterprise.

An odd race to begin with, the Borg aren't the brightest robots ever to come out of robot school.

If Picard and his crew simply stand still or walk slowly past the Borg, they pass them without harm.

Such fierce conquerors they are!

Threaten them with even the slightest of movement, though, and their computer eyes trigger a message to their computer brains to destruct the threat and retrieve it for the Collective Mind.

If this is a sign of what the future will be like, at least a woman is in charge somewhere in the galaxy.

The Borg are ruled by the Borg Queen, who is best described as a sweaty, swollen, bumpy-headed ruler who has hookups coming out of the back of her head that look like car jumper cables.

Okay, so she's not the most flat-

tering specimen of the female race, but she can hook her head and shoulders up to the rest of her body by floating down on a wire and "stepping into" her lower torso. Now that's cool!

Not only does the story feature comedy, but there is even a plot of temptation and seduction between the Borg Queen and anyone she

captures.

At one point, Data is captured and the Borg (using the Borg Queen's seductive methods) attempt to steal all the information in his android mind.

"Star Trek: First Contact" is one of the best movies I have seen in a long time, so I'm glad they saved one of the best until I was ready for my "First Contact."

## SENIOR T-SHIRTS

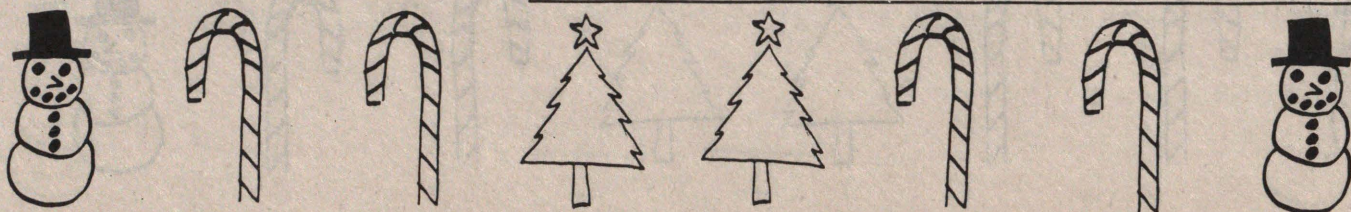
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**If you haven't gotten yours yet...**

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## Editorial Steroid users: the real losers

By Hannah Kenny

Athletes play sports to prove to themselves or others that they can play and have the strength to win. Taking steroids defeats the purpose to strengthening oneself so one might be able to play to the best ability.

I thought sports were all about being better than everyone else. Steroids will make a player bigger and better for a little while, but in the long run it ruins the person.

We've all heard of the side effects of steroids from the wonderful health class most of us have taken. Steroid users have bad breath, acne, and temper outbursts. They look ugly and shrink. But what about reputations?

Yeah, they'll be the best wrestler, the biggest football player, the faster runner, the best whatever for a while, but soon teammates and friends will start to notice something is not quite right. That will lead someone to start talking. Which will eventually lead to the athlete getting kicked off the team, and the school authorities will step into the picture. Their rep is totally diminished by this point.

Sports players that hope to get a scholarship for their talents and use steroids are pretty much fools. No college is going to even look at an athlete who is on steroids.

What about random drug testing? It's not a factor at this school, but at universities and many other schools, it is. The outcome of a drug test with steroids showing up can't be too great.

Cheating is not allowed in sports. But steroid users are cheating. They are cheating themselves out of being able to play to the level they are capable of without help of steroids. They are also cheating themselves out of feeling the pride of being the best wrestler, the biggest football player or the fastest runner, and having the pride of achieving that by themselves.

In the game with steroids, the athlete will never win.

## Ladycats lose heartbreaker

By Tracy Morris

After snagging a win over reigning conference champs Naperville North, the Ladycat basketball team dropped a game to Wheaton Warrenville South and found themselves dead even in conference play.

The Tigers battled We-go down to the last minute of play, as the Cats held the lead throughout most of the game.

In a game constantly broken up by referees' traveling calls, West Chicago managed to lead 13-9 after the first quarter. The Cats hit a dry spell, allowing Wheaton Warrenville South to tie the score at 17 before regaining a one point lead just before the first half ended.

Senior Natalie Fijalkowski put the Cats up by eight with a three point field goal in the first two minutes of the third quarter.

The point guard had a big second half, improving on her two points in the first half to finish the game with nine.

Forward Missy Buenz also scored nine, making the two senior captains We-go's second highest scorers. Buenz did all her scoring in the first half, as she passed and played defense the last half of the game.

The Ladycats took a 31-24 advantage into the final seven minutes of play after two free throws by Fijalkowski. The Cats' seven point lead lasted for over two minutes of the fourth quarter before it was broken by a Wheaton Warrenville South three pointer and a baseline jumper. The Tigers took a 34-33 lead when Ale Klaas hit another three pointer.

From that point on, the game was back and forth between the conference rivals and anyone's for the taking.

After Wheaton Warrenville senior Netty Hallahan hit a shot to put the Tigers up by two, We-go took a timeout with 50 seconds

on the clock.

After the breather, Fijalkowski was fouled, went to the line for the bonus one and one situation, and hit both clutch free throws to tie the game.

Hallahan, Wheaton Warrenville South's leading scorer with 12 points, forced the Cats to contemplate the last 14 seconds of the game in a timeout when she nailed a basket and put the Tigers up one basket.

Buenz was forced to foul Hallahan after she was called for a travel and the ball was turned over to Wheaton Warrenville South.

Hallahan made the first in the one and one to force We-go to try for a three point play to have a chance at their second conference win.

Senior Angela Barnes grabbed the rebound off Hallahan's missed free throw and passed up the court to Fijalkowski, who stepped behind the three point line and had her shot blocked.

With two seconds left to play, the Tigers inbounded the ball at half court to try to keep it away from West Chicago, but instead turned the ball over as it went out of bounds.

After a Wheaton Warrenville South timeout, Barnes inbounded the ball to Buenz, who had her shot blocked as time ran out.

The Cats' high scorer was senior Sarah McQueen, who put up 10 points. Junior Leslie Harlson scored seven and Barnes put in three.

Over break, the Cats will take part in the Plainfield Holiday tournament.

We-go looks to improve to 2-1 in conference play as they take on the Panthers of Glenbard North tonight in Bishop Gym at 7:30.

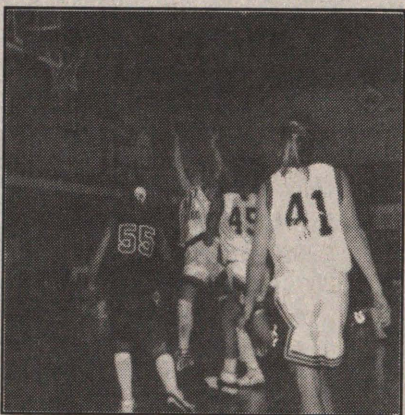


Photo by Jenny Wagenaar  
The Cats battle the boards with the ferocity of bulls last week in their loss to Wheaton Warrenville South. Senior leader Missy Buenz (41) looks on.

## Pep assembly the pits

By Dan Horyn

Where's the spirit?

West Chicago's Spirit Machine put together a great Homecoming pep assembly last September, but after last week's rally, I was left wondering if the mind, soul, and spirit of We-go was dead.

The rally was optional for students, and consequently, the bleachers were half-filled with less-than-enthusiastic fans. In addition, approximately one-tenth of the faculty was present at the rally.

But worse off, the assembly was slow moving and dull. The knockout game between the guy's and girl's basketball teams took a lifetime, and there was far too long of pauses between different pep activities.

The Spirit Machine has done a fine job instilling pride in We-go students this year, but a pep assembly so poorly run should be called to attention.

## Letter to the editor Towel fee stinks

By Liam Doyle and Dan Young

Remember when you registered for school way back in August? Your parents paid a \$10 a towel fee, and most people in this school never see the towels.

Certain people, like athletes, use the towels every once in a while. But all in all, the average student goes to P.E. each day and the word "towel" never enters his or her mind.

Most people don't care about the \$10 their parents throw towards the school, but that \$10 could go to something else.

Think about \$10. When added up, it could be the \$40 that allows you to go to Hawaii, or could get you into the college of your dreams.

Where does this money go? It goes to replacing towels. But it just seems unreasonable to charge so much money for the use of cloth.

If you do some simple math, you'll see that the school collects close to \$15,000 each year for towels. That seems like an awfully high amount for towels.

Junior Danielle Christopher said, "Collecting \$10 from every student in the school, whether they use it for towels or not, is a lot of money. I want to know where it goes."

The money goes to new towels, but when is the last time you actually saw a new towel? More often than not, the towels are old, smelly, and home to a family of spiders.

We know that people can use towels in gym, but after changing and getting ready for the next hour, there is usually no time to find and grab a towel.

That's another thing, towels are often hard to find. If they are in the locker room at all, they are likely to be in a dark and shady corner. It is an adventure every time you search for a towel.

So then, why does the school collect all this money?

## Wildcat Sports Schedule

### BOYS BASKETBALL

Fri	Dec 20	7:30 p.m.	at Glenbard North
Sat	Dec 21	7:30 p.m.	at Driscoll Catholic
Mon	Dec 23		at DeKalb Tournament
Thu	Dec 26		" " "
Fri	Dec 27		" " "
Sat	Dec 28		" " "
Fri	Jan 10	7:30 p.m.	Naperville Central at Home
Sat	Jan 11	7:30 p.m.	Glenbard East at Home

Thu	Jan 9	7:30 p.m.	at Naperville Central
Sat	Jan 11	7:30 p.m.	at Glenbard East

### WRESTLING

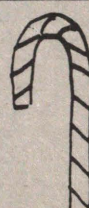
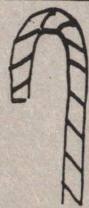
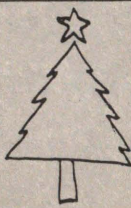
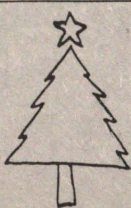
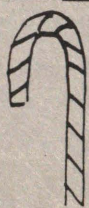
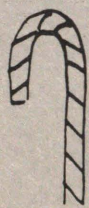
Fri	Dec 20	4:30 p.m.	at Hinsdale Central- RW Invite
Sat	Dec 21	11:00 a.m.	at Hinsdale Central- RW Invite
Fri	Jan 3	5:30 p.m.	at Batavia w/ East Aurora
Sat	Jan 4	9:00 a.m.	at Downers Grove South
Fri	Jan 10	7:30 p.m.	at Naperville Central
Sat	Jan 11	9:30 a.m.	at Geneva Invitational

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

Thu	Dec 19	7:30 p.m.	Glenbard North at Home
Thu	Dec 26		at Plainfield Tournament
Fri	Dec 27		" " "
Sat	Dec 28		" " "

### BOYS SWIMMING

Thu	Dec 19	5:00 p.m.	Marmion at Home
Thu	Jan 9	5:00 p.m.	at Elgin
Thu	Jan 11	12:00 p.m.	at Riverside-Brookfield Invite



## Move over Chicago Bulls!

By Dan Horyn

Ladies and gentlemen, the Chicago Bulls have dropped out of the playoff race and handed their spot over to the West Chicago Wildcats.

Imagine hearing that come May 1997. One month ago, the thought was unthinkable-to wild for even the wildest imagination. But now, the way West Chicago is playing, it's hard to believe any team can beat them.

The victory tour began months ago when Community High School hired head coach Dan McCarthy to teach Consumer Education. As each day passed, McCarthy added fuel to the fire by holding conditioning sessions preparing for the upcoming season. By the time the team reached its opening game- the Oswego Thanksgiving Tournament- the fire was so immense it had gained proportions to that of the Great Chicago Fire. The team unleashed its energy and has not looked back

since.

And now not a fleet of firemen could put this fire out. The Cats captured the tournament trophy and Eric Daniel earned first-team honors.

The momentum carried the Cats to their next game versus conference favorite Naperville North on December 6th. The number one ranked team pitted against the number seven ranked team.

And who wins? West Chicago. So much for seventh ranked. West Chicago shocked Naperville North at Naperville North behind Daniel's 26 points. With the win came "a lot of confidence. The kids are so excited, they feel they can beat anybody," said McCarthy.

And they have. Since Naperville North, We-go has blazed by Glenbard South (where they scored 70 points), torched Wheaton-Warrenville South (behind junior guard Jim Callahan's hot hand and four three-pointers), and incinerated St. Francis (last

Saturday at home where the team forced nine turnovers alone in the first quarter). The Cats are presently 7-0, their hottest start since 1986.

What's their secret of success? Depth. McCarthy uses his bench like a loaded weapon. At set points in the game he fires in certain players to spell the starters relief. Sometimes he subs in one player, but more often than not, McCarthy sends in two or three players at a time. The result is havoc for the opposing team defenses and fresh legs to get in the game, said McCarthy.

Because of this system, in the first six games the team has had five different leading scorers. Daniel is the only playing averaging double figures. After him comes five players, including seniors Jeff Murphy, Tim Fraser, Bart Gallagher, and junior Jim Callahan, that average between six and ten points.

"Everyone does what they have

to do and nobody is selfish. If a guy is hot, then we'll feed him the ball," said senior starting point guard Jeff Weber.

"Our depth really shows in the fourth quarter where we wear teams down," said Daniel.

Coach McCarthy came to We-go hoping to build a strong defense. If the offense is clicking, that's great, he says, but the "defense has to remain constant." The team often utilizes its pesky defensive press and its effectiveness was evident by how flustered St. Francis got in the backcourt.

West Chicago played Plainfield at home on Tuesday night (results were unavailable at press time). They go to Glenbard North in

Carol Stream on Friday night.

The one thing We-go should be weary of is cockiness. Arrogance can come with a perfect record. Though McCarthy said that overconfidence is not a problem,

Weber said that the team will have to be reminded each game that they can lose at any time.

Remaining undefeated is a tall order, and

McCarthy said he is curious to see how We-go will react to adversity. He also noted though that "we can only get better."

If this is true, then when May rolls around, look to see West Chicago, not Chicago, on your TV screen.

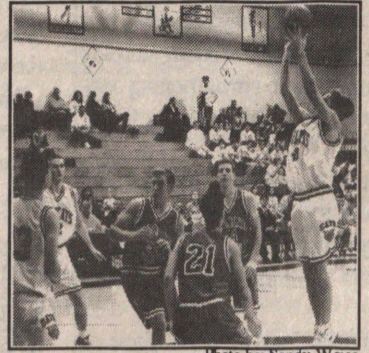


Photo by Sandy Weira  
Senior forward Jeremy Gleason demonstrates perfect shooting technique.

## Senior trio leads We-go

By Dan Horyn

Luke Stevens, Adam Fitzenreider, and Bear Ayala have put four good years into the Wildcat wrestling program and now reaping their reward.

The three senior captains are the leading point scorers for the team and because of their strong start, head coach Bob Hein said the rest of the team "is hopeful because [Stevens, Fitzenreider, and Ayala] give We-go a chance at some downstate competitors."

Of the three, Ayala is enjoying the best season. He is presently 12-1, his only loss being to a wrestler who placed third in State one year ago. He feels he can reach his goal of making it to State because his "matches have been flowing."

Stevens is 8-4 for the Cats, where three of his losses have come by the number one, three, and five ranked wrestlers in his weight class, 171. Most recently Stevens lost 4-3 to the number three wrestler in the state. The third period has been a challenge to Stevens, as he said: "The closer [the core] is, the more cautious you get." He is working on losing this mentality in an effort to change the heart-break losses into convincing victories.

Fitzenreider has jumped out to a 10-3 record this season. He, like Ayala and Stevens, has downstate aspirations, but admits he is "taking it one match at a time." A new regional and sectional alignment should make qualifying for State easier for Fitzenreider, but right now he is focusing on his "obligation to lead the team. Being in a lower weight class, I try to start things off good and Luke and Bear try to close it off."

Though these three wrestlers contribute

valuable points to the team score, they are not alone. Heavyweight wrestler Jason Osterkamp has scored some important points for We-go, including the heavyweight title at the West Chicago Invitational three weeks ago. Hein was "pleasantly surprised" with We-go's third place finish and considers Osterkamp "greatly improved from last year."

In addition to Osterkamp, freshman phenom Ben Stevens has a winning record for the team. Ben Stevens has experienced his share of defeats, but notes that all of his losses have been by two points or less. "Freshman year has been great for me," said Stevens, "I'm not as nervous and I have a lot more motion." Ben Stevens considers his freshman season extremely important in his development someday hopefully being a "state champ."

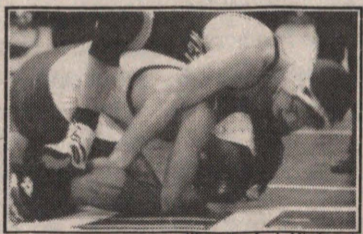


Photo by Josh Hitchcock  
Freshman Ben Stevens puts the crunch on.

Senior Jaime Sanchez provides vital leadership as the fourth captain of the team and Hein is happy to get 112 pound junior Greg Gomez back from injury. Gomez's return is helpful because the Cats have had trouble filling the lower weight classes.

Freshman Rachel Watson has won a match on the freshman level, and sophomore Sheridan Bolz continues to compete on the sophomore level.

Last Friday the Cats beat Wheaton-Warrenville South at home. The Cats competed last night at the Bishop Gymnasium against Glenbard North (results were unavailable at press time). Up next for Hein's squad is the 16 team Hinsdale Central Invitational. The team placed eighth in last year's two day affair, and Hein said the team "is looking to improve and I think that we can."

## Fab four enters senior season

By Dan Horyn

The freshman foursome of four years ago is now in its senior swimming season, ready to live up to all expectations.

Jai Hartigan, Jeff Cain, Peter Grant, and Ryan Acker came into the Wildcat program in 1993 with high aspirations after enjoying success in Sharks- a West Chicago-based swim team.

Hartigan has had the most downstate experience of the four. Last year alone he qualified in three events, including the 200 freestyle relay, in which Cain, Grant, and Acker were members.

Four years later, though, these Cats look back at their performances and all agree that there's more to be done.

The foursome is looking to put together a strong 200 medley relay, an event which the Cats won last Saturday at the Wildcat Relays.

"We have some unfinished business to do [in the 200 medley relay]," said Cain. "Winning Sectionals would be a pinnacle for us, though."

"The guys have a lot of state-level experience," head coach Len Penkala noted. "They have great expectations for themselves."

After the relay, Hartigan will be looking to place in State in the 50 freestyle- his specialty. To do that, Hartigan said he will have to cut approximately one second from his personal best. "Jai is placing pressure on himself to score at State this year," said Penkala.

Grant's marquee event is the 100 breaststroke. The ultimate accomplishment, he said, would be to qualify for State in the breaststroke and medley relay and place in the relay.

In addition to the fab four, the Cats will be looking to sophomore Josh Slattery for some team points. Slattery did not swim last year, but he was a state champion in multiple freestyle events when he was with

the Sharks as an 11 and 12 year old.

If Slattery can get back into form, and Penkala said he will, then expect to see Slattery join Hartigan in the 50 free at State. "It wasn't that hard to get back into swimming," said Slattery, "But I need to get in shape," he said. Slattery appears to be on the right track- as he swam a personal best last Saturday.

Teamwise, a lack of numbers should hinder the Cats this season. They have only 13 regular members. This is an increase from last year, Grant said that the team loses many close meets because of low turnout. Though the Cats might win an event, without depth they lose out on second and third place points.

The only other thing that might slow the team down is conditioning. The fab four and others didn't get in the pool enough during the off season. Cain acknowledged this, saying, "We have a lot of ground to cover."

Fortunately though, the state meet isn't until early March, so with the morning and afternoon practice sessions, the team should get to State with their heads above water.

And the fab four will be leading the way.

## Softball getting into the swing of things



Photo by Tracy Morris

