

Get your hands in paint on page 4.

Read about the new blockbuster movie *Titanic* in Entertainment.

See what the Lady Wildcats have been up to on the basketball court in sports

Wildcat Chronicle



West Chicago Community High School
326 Joliet Street, West Chicago, IL
January 15, 1998, Volume 29, Issue 6

Tune in and dance through the dial

By Allison Taylor

After months of preparation, the Dance Production class will present its annual show on Friday, January 16, and Saturday, January 17, at 7:30 p.m. in the Weyrauch auditorium.

The 19 acts in the show will include a variety of dance including ballet, pointe, jazz, hip hop, and modern. The show is expected to run about an hour and a half and will cost \$2 for students and \$3 for adults.

There are 25 students in Dance Production this year; however two students are out on medical leave due to injuries, said dance production teacher, Helen Zmurhal. The class is all girls this year, since no guys went out for the class. In the

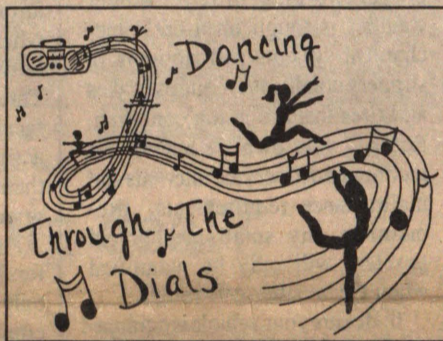
past a few guys were in dance production.

The theme for this year is "Dancing through the Dial." This corresponds with the different types of music that will be used throughout the show.

Last year the theme was "Emotions in Motion." The show included dances which represented different feelings and moods.

This year there are only three returning members of dance production: seniors Lara Heinz, Amie Weidner, and Brianna Smith. They are joined by a mixed group of juniors and seniors.

Senior Julie Hodge is excited about the show and her favorite part, the Spice Girls dance. In this



dance, the dancers are planning on dressing up as Spice Girls and dancing to a Spice Girls song. Hodge

believes the dancing and costumes put into the performance will make it one of the best acts.

There will be one solo performance by junior Allison Weir. She will dance to the song "Fever."

Dance Production has been offered as a semester class here at We-go for the past 30 years. Zmurhal has taught the class for 18 years and says it is, "Rewarding to see dances created from start to finish." She thinks this year's show will be more interesting than previous years, because there is more variety in the types of dances.

The dancers attended a dance fes-

tival at Northern Illinois University on Halloween last year where they participated in a variety of workshops and saw a dance performance. In December, the dancers attended the Nutcracker at NIU.

Dance Production is expected to perform at other school events, including Mr. Wildcat on February 4.

The tryouts for next year's dance production class will be held at the end of February. To tryout, a student must perform a required dance that will be taught beforehand, and a one-minute self-choreographed dance. The class is open to all students who will be juniors or seniors in the 1998-99 school year. Dance production can be taken both junior and senior years.



Who's the senior man?

By Jennifer Lasky

The sixth annual Mr. Wildcat contest, featuring nine contestants, will be held February 4, at 7:00 p.m. in the Weyrauch Auditorium.

The Mr. Wildcat contest, formerly sponsored by student council, is sponsored by the class of 1998 as a fund raiser. Mr. Wildcat committee chair Lisa Mueller is expecting to make \$300 from the event.

The contestants for the contest are seniors Mike Brosseau, Jim Carstensen, Rich DiVito, Steve Garcia, Jon Hall, Joe Kaczmarek, Abe Mashal, Brian O'Hara, and Chris Shern.

"I think this year, it's going to be very entertaining," says Mueller, in regards to the talent competition, which will include singing, dancing, and acting.

"It'll be funny and we can't wait," said Brosseau. "It'll be a barrel of laughs," promises Kaczmarek.

The male emcee for the event is senior class president Josh Xiong,

and the female emcee is undecided, but will be a senior girl.

To be eligible for the Mr. Wildcat contest, each contestant had to complete an application answering questions about their school activities, awards, and why they want to participate. Each application had to be signed by faculty members.

Judging the contest will be people from local businesses, We-go alumni, and possibly some members of the school board.

Last year there were ten contestants from the class of 1997, the winner being Josh Brown.

Prizes for the winner include free prom tickets, limo, flowers, tuxedo rental, and dinner from Houlihans.

Dance Production and Forensics will be performing at the contest.

The Mr. Wildcat committee meets once a week to find sponsors in the community, find judges, and organize the event.

The cost is \$2 for students, \$3 for adults.

Wego awakes to a surprise

By Kelley Betts and Allison Taylor

In celebration of halfway day for the class of '98, students took it upon themselves to break the recent ban on TP-ing by decorating the school. On Tuesday, January 13, 15-30 students gathered on the front lawn at 4:00 a.m. with over 300 rolls of toilet paper.

"I give the seniors a lot of credit for creativity," said principal Alan Jones.

"It shows senior pride and under classmen have something to look forward to. It was the best job for half way day that I have seen. I wish I could have gone," said student council president senior Trisha Tinnes.

The group was comprised of all seniors, who awoke before dawn to

TP in the snow. The 3 degree weather didn't seem to bother them, though.

"It was fun, and we didn't get



Photo by Kelley Betts
Seniors surprise the school with 300 rolls of toilet paper.

caught," said senior Jennie Grobe, "I hope we will do this again in the future."

The seniors did not vandalize any school property like the class of 1997.

"We hope they(the administra-

tion) see we can handle this(toilet papering) responsibly so we can do it again," said senior Crissy Berry.

"We just wanted to show them we can be responsible and still have fun," said senior Jenny Mullaney. "Sure, people messed up before, but they(the administration) shouldn't stop us from showing our pride." The ban on TP-ing the school began after the class of '97 went up on the roof of the school and one girl even fell off.

"We have to be concerned with safety, so we have to take the proper measures," said Highland.

Despite the precautions seniors took this year, the administration will not allow TP-ing.

Semester Exam Schedule

Monday-no school

Tuesday-1st hour final, 2nd-10th hour

Wednesday-2nd, 3rd, 4-5-6 finals/dismissal at 12:45 p.m.

Thursday-6-7-8, 9th, 10th hour finals/dismissal at 12:45 p.m.

Friday-no school

Speak out at Verbally Yours

By Kelley Betts

Verbally Yours, a showcase of Forensic events to show the community what Forensics does will be held Wednesday, January 28, in the Weyrauch Auditorium at 7:00p.m.

This will be the fourth annual performance by the Forensics.

People performing include all seniors and the regional team from We-go. Included are seniors Liz Edwards, Tanya Austin, Lisa Mueller, Steve Garcia, and Meg Runyan.

There will be about nine performances that will fall under three categories including public address which is either original or written, limited preparation, and interpreta-

tion, which are either dual or singular. Both public address and interpretation can be anywhere from funny to serious.

"This year's Verbally Yours will remain traditional to what we've done over the past years," said senior Steve Garcia, captain.

As a new addition to the event, there will be a \$1 admission charge for all. This dollar will go to a charitable cause of a raffle winner's choice. None of the money will go to personal funds.

Throughout the year, Forensics as a whole had an excellent tournament at Rochelle High School.

"We use Verbally Yours as a

warm-up because it is the last performance before regionals," said senior Tanya Austin, co-captain.

So far, Forensics has competed in six tournaments and have two left: Saturday, January 17 at Wheaton North and Friday January 23 and Saturday January 24 at Downer's Grove South. Downer's Grove South will have three states competing. It is one of the largest tournaments in the area.

Last year, two performances went to the state tournament: Matt Bowne performing in humorous interpretation and seniors Runyan and Edwards, and Meredith Baker performing theater in the round.

press release:

Discover DAVEA open house

The Davea Career Center, 301 S. Swift Rd., Addison, invites interested high school students, parents, and the public to its **Discover Davea Open House on Wednesday, January 28 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.** The Davea Career Center offers DuPage area high school juniors and seniors 21 state-of-the-art career acceleration programs as an elective part of their high school curriculum.

Those attending the open house will get firsthand information about the Davea's "real learning for the real world" programs. Among the innovative training facilities are a restaurant, deli, child care/pre-school laboratory, beauty salon, auto repair shop, multimedia studio, graphic arts production shop and an on-campus construction site, where students build a three-bedroom, two-bath home. Throughout the evening, Davea faculty and students will present activities designed to showcase their particular career study program.

The Davea Career Center offers high-tech programs that not only meet the needs of DuPage employers, but prepare students

for advanced studies on their chosen fields. Most programs offer college credit as well as high school credit. Over 80% of the Center's graduates continue their education through college or technical school.

Among Davea's programs are Pre-Architectural & Pre-Engineering CAD; Construction Trades; Machine Tool; Computer Information Systems; Data Entry; Office Systems Technology; Travel & Tour Services; Graphic Communications; Multimedia & Television; Certified Nurse Assistant; Medical and Health Care Career; Medical Laboratory Assistant; Auto Body Repair & Refinishing; Automotive Technology; Aviation Maintenance Technology; Child Care; Cosmetology; Culinary & Pastry Arts; Electronics & Computer Technology; Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration; and Residential Appliance Technology.

For more information about the January 28 **Discover Davea Open House**, call Davea's Main Office at (630) 620-8770 during school hours.

press release: AAA-CMC offers winter advice for young drivers

Winter driving can be challenging to any motorist, but slippery roads can be especially difficult for novice drivers dealing with snow and ice for the first time, according to the AAA-Chicago Motor Club.

"Teens need to work on gaining the experience they need for safe winter driving in the safest possible environment," says Brian Sterling, manager of public affairs for the club.

AAA offers the following tips to help teens to drive in winter conditions:

1. Under close supervision with your parent(s), practice slow speed maneuvers on a wide open snow- or-ice covered parking lot. Prac-

tice hard breaking and steering in skidding situations.

2. A novice driver's first on-road experience with winter-weather driving should not occur during a major blizzard. Wait until conditions are less severe. If you are unsure about whether or not you should be driving in inclement weather, ask yourself the question: "Is this trip really necessary?" If the answer is "no," then don't drive.

3. Consider limiting your driving on slippery conditions to daylight hours until you have experience.

4. Driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol is not only illegal, but dangerous, and the risk is even greater on slippery roads.

5. Make sure the vehicle is in proper working order. Winter weather is tough on a car's mechanical systems and stopping in slippery conditions requires brakes and tires that are in top condition. Refer to your owner's manual for recommended service intervals and maintenance requirements. Remember, any small mechanical problem will only be magnified when the weather gets rough.

6. Be sure your vehicle is equipped with the essential emergency equipment, including a flashlight, blankets, jumper cables, sand or non-clumping cat litter and a small shovel or ice scraper.

club beat:

scholastic bowl

By Jennifer Lasky

The Scholastic Bowl team competed last week against Glenbard South and the team competed better than they ever had before.

The Scholastic Bowl is an academic competition with questions focusing on all aspects of school curriculum. It is a timed competition. Advisor Steven Wroblewski, who is coaching the team for his second year, describes it as a combination of Family Feud and Jeopardy. Scholastic Bowl is an IHSA activity and each of the team members earn letters.

The team has already competed in two meets, one in Decatur before holiday break, and one against Glenbard South. Both went down to the last question, but We-go lost.

The team competes with all of the DVC, with the exception of Glenbard East, Glenbard South, Oswego, and at various Saturday morning round robin competitions, having anywhere from 30-60 schools.

The Scholastic Bowl team consists of seniors captain Liz Breiseth, Adrian Guzman, Blair Machaj, Ed Patel, Brian Prusko, Maulin Soneji,

juniors Tim Harwood, Josh Krecek, and sophomore Brian Miller at the varsity level, and seniors Kevin Brewer, Kirk Johnson, Heather Jones, Justin Sadauskas, Jason Vana, juniors Amy Edlund, John Hlotke, Amy Hook, and Deanne Volk on the junior varsity level.

The team practices twice a week, unless there is a meet. Home meets are held in the LRC classroom. The meets are held after school, beginning usually around 4:00 p.m. and lasting approximately one hour. Wroblewski says spectators are always welcome.

Conference play begins on January 26 against Naperville Central.

Scholastic Bowl home matches

- January 26 - Naperville Central
- January 29 - Glenbard South
- February 9 - Naperville North
- February 17 - Wheaton Warrenville South
- March 3 - Wheaton North
- March 7 - DVC at Glenbard North
- March 10 - Regionals TBA

Club Beat:

French Club

By Beth Siwy

With the school year half way in swing the clubs at We-go High have gotten involved both in and out of the school.

French Club president senior Brenda Vergara hosted a Christmas party for all French, Spanish, and German club students. She said, "this was fun because we got to sing Christmas carols in three different languages."

Years ago French club started because of a few people, but then grew into a group of many. Including juniors Derek Dipitrio, vice president, seniors Monica Acker, secretary, Adrian Guzman, treasurer, supervisor, and French teacher Madame Appel.

In March, members of the French club and other selected students are traveling to France for two and half weeks where they will be staying with families and attending the high schools of their hosts.

Vergara says, "this year we have a lot of members which is cool. Everyone is really involved, which makes our trips so much fun."

HELP !!!

WEGO'S LITERARY MAGAZINE, A SEPARATE PIECE, IS FALLING APART!!

If you are an aspiring writer or artist, looking for something "spiffy" for a resume or college application, or just enjoy working with fellow students, please fill out this form and place it inside Ms. Cipcich's mailbox located in the office. We really need students to help publish this magazine. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

NAME: _____ HOME PHONE: _____

The coolest thing or the worst nightmare?

By Jeff Goluszka

What's one of the most exciting times in a high school students life? A possible answer is sophomore year, when most of us get to take the class we've been waiting for our whole lives: Drivers Ed.

Many students at We-go already have their licenses, but there are more who don't have them.

I'm writing this article for all of you who just have your permit, or who haven't taken Drivers Ed yet, to let you know of the joys, and the dangers, of driving.

No, I'm not going to bore you with countless figures about how many people die each year and I'm not going to try to imprint "Don't drink and drive" into your brain. Not that those aren't good things to know, but I'm just as tired of hearing them as you are.

First of all, driving is a tremendous responsibility. Even though I have only had my license for just over four months, I have learned four years' worth of lessons dealing with everyday on-the-road occurrences.

For instance, when it's wet outside and you press the brake, you just skid uncontrollably down the road. Or, when it's icy and you try

to turn a corner, you keep going straight. Even when you have to slam on the brakes because you weren't paying attention to the road, that's how accidents happen.

There's also a tendency for the driver to act cool and go way over the speed limit to impress his or her friends. And these same friends quite possibly are the same people who may try to smoke or drink in the car. Whether you let them or not, well that's your choice. In addition to all of this, many drivers experience peer pressure, which makes driving pretty complicated.

There is so much freedom when you're behind the wheel, you can go anywhere, do anything, you can have a great time. But don't forget, you hold your own life and the lives of others in the palm of your hand.

Everyone is going to make a mistake or two behind the wheel. Before, it was a small fine, and maybe you lose your license for a month, but that was basically a worst-case scenario for a few speeding tickets. Now with the new laws that went into effect on January 1, 1998, it's three strikes and you're out. That's right, three convictions of a moving violation (speeding ticket, run-

ning a stop sign or a red light, not using your turn signal, etc.) and your license is gone for three months.

The laws are the same for all ages, so it doesn't matter if you're 16 or 45, you won't be able to drive legally for 90 days. That's over 60 days of school or work, without the use of a car.

Also, since you've committed a crime, included is a blemished record, and that's not even the half of it. Don't forget, convictions of moving violations will mean a fine of at least \$75, possibly as high as \$500. A reckless driving, DUI, or hit and run conviction can be punished with possible probation, community service, or even jail, according to West Chicago Police Officer Mike Bamish.

All of that can happen by not paying attention for five seconds, but can be avoided by just doing the right things, paying attention and not letting yourself get distracted.

In the end, driving can be one of the coolest things in the world, giving you great experiences that you will never forget, or it can be your worst nightmare.

Senior Column

Time to get out

By Tommy Walton

Finally, Senior Year, and I now have the great honor of taking my turn to do the esteemed Senior Column. I think it would benefit you, the reader, to kind of change the pace on this column.

In the past, my fellow seniors have written about all of the good times they've had, and how it all came and went so quickly. They've preached about how all the good times are gone, and how they've watched their friends come and go.

To me, I think that it's about time we all got out of here.

The past three years didn't go by as fast as everyone said they went by. I remember a few classes in particular through my high school career that seemed as if one class lasted a lifetime. You all know what classes they are. I'm sure all of you have at least one of them in your schedule. I won't single out any classes though, to protect the good-intentioned teachers.

Class periods vary in length by what year you are. If you're a freshmen, classes are short. If you're a sophomore, they're medium. Once you get to be a junior, they're long. By the time you're a senior, they're longer then waiting up on Christmas Eve when you know you have 20 fat boxes under the tree to open in the morning.

Not to say that the whole high school experience hasn't been fun. It has been one of the greatest times of my life, but it sure is time for a change. I'm sure we're all a little tired of being pushed around by the lovable "security guards." Now I'd like to take some time to say some much-anticipated farewells:

1. No more Ker-McGee (no explanation needed)
2. No more getting yelled at by that lady on the second floor who makes you walk all the way around the library just to get in if you're late.
3. No more weird smell in the library.
4. No more crowded halls
5. No more Security Guards hassling you for no reason at all.

Why would anyone possibly want to stay here for another four years? The thought has never crossed MY mind. Yet people still say it is so great here. What's so great about living with your parents? What's so great about having a curfew? Isn't everyone sick of living here?

To close, I think we should all enjoy our moments in high school, but not dwell on the past and how fast the times went. There a plenty of **better times** to come in college or wherever you're off to. So, live now, but still save plenty of energy to live it up later, because college has some pretty hard-core parties

Why such the big deal?

By Arlete Penafflor

Every year has to come to an end, but when we begin to feel the New Year come around the corner, we always seem to panic.

We begin to wonder whether or not we have accomplished what we set at the beginning of the year. Usually not everyone seems to be on top of what they said they would accomplish, they sort of just put it to the side and suddenly seem to remember when there's a week left before New Year's Eve.

People usually make resolutions because they really want to accomplish something throughout the year. They usually never had much time to get it done so they just resolve to do it the upcoming year.

Most people really seem to focus on the idea, "a new year, a new me", but how many people really

change? Does the idea ever cross our mind again after New Year's? Everyone knows how hard changing is.

You just can't change something you've been used to your whole life in a couple of months. Although it's not impossible, if you really set your mind to it throughout the whole year.

Every year I make a resolution, but when I look back at the end of the year to see whether I kept it or not, I always seem to see a resolution that was left untouched. I never even seemed to remember about it or even care about it until its too late to get it accomplished.

Resolutions are just an excuse for people to be more psyched up about the year approaching. People go around asking other people, "so

what to you plan this years resolution to be?" and just make a big deal about it.

Some resolutions people usually make are to save up more money, organize their time more wisely, change their appearance. There are so many that you can't even name them all. Everyone has their own individual resolutions and why they make them based on experiences they've had in their lives. At the sound of midnight everyone is ready to face the New Year and whatever comes of it whether it's good or bad. People usually prefer the good but take what they get.

Whatever your reason is, think about how important that resolution really is to you and whether or not you know its something your really want to accomplish.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am writing regarding the articles on drinking and driving. The entire school knows not to drink and drive. We've heard it at school, on t.v., from parents, and it gets really annoying.

The fact is that if you make the decision to drink and drive, you choose your own consequences. Many students at our school have chosen to drink already. Most of us are responsible enough to get a designated driver or just sleep wherever we are at.

Drinking under 21 may be illegal, but I'm sure that within your years of being in school, you'll try it at least once. Many of us are experimenting, and the reason we

drink is because it makes us relaxed. Smart people make stupid decisions also, but learning from your mistakes is a part of life.

People are not going to change their decisions about drinking and driving because of the articles written in this newspaper. We are aware of the punishments that go along with drinking. But, most of us feel like we are willing to take the chance.

SADD's job as a club in this high school is to make the student body aware of the certain consequences when drinking. SADD cannot force or pressure kids to take a certain path when they've already chosen the other way.

SADD and the school are not our parents.

If we've talked with our parents about drinking and they've told us about the responsibilities and consequences, then why not? Most parents say that if you do need a ride, just call and no matter what time it is or how drunk you are, they'll just come and get you. It is important to speak about drinking with your parents because you can see how they feel about it. It's better not to lie about your decisions.

All I have left to say is no one is going to impact a teenager's decision, without a personal experience. But we all learn from them.

Addie Shreeram

Wildcat Chronicle

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The Wildcat Chronicle is the student newspaper at West Chicago Community High School. The views and opinions of the Wildcat Chronicle do not necessarily reflect or represent the majority of the staff or the student body.

Any suggestions or comments for the newspaper can be delivered to the Chronicle box in the

main office. Letters to the editor must be signed to be printed. The newspaper 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.

Chicken soup: not just for eating



By Beth Siwy

What do you get when you put three number one bestselling authors together?

Chicken soup.

One hundred and one short stories and poems have been compiled by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, and Kimberly Kirberger. *Chicken Soup For the Teenage Soul* came was released late '97, and can be very motivational when dealing with love, family, friendships, "tough stuff," making a difference, and going for it.

In this book are stories from Bill Cosby (*Bill Cosby Show*), Robert Fulgham (author of *Everything I Needed to Know I Learned In Kindergarten*), Jenie Garth (*Beverly Hills, 90210*), Jennifer Love Hewitt ("I Know What You Did Last Summer," *Party of Five*), A.J. Langer (*My So-Called Life*), and quotes and a story from Helen Keller.

The stories in this book are set up to motivate teens throughout their teen years.

The goal of this book is to show teens they are not alone, teach teens about life and what others are going through.

Once the stories are read, you can't help but see similarities with your own life.

Both Canfield and Hansen are

bestselling authors, while Kirberger works with teens.

This literary work took two years to complete with editing, compiling, and writing. Authors call it the "labor of love."

Just one of the many great things about this book is that you don't necessarily have to read it cover to cover. Ever issue ever dealt with is dealt in a story.

"A Simple Christmas Card" is about a young girl who doesn't feel as though she fits in. She feels alone and decides to do something drastic to end it all, when she finds a letter that would change her life forever.

"The Miss of A Great Miss" is the story of a young man who has a crush on a young girl but never has the guts to ask her out. He finds out later that she had to get over him, too.

This story is probably a familiar one to most teens, as well as others in the book.

One of the goals of this book is to not only give hope to teens, but also pride.

With the stories of triumph, tragedy, love, and happiness, you can't come away from reading *Chicken Soup For the Teenage Soul* without a good feeling.

Big screen Titanic doesn't sink

By Allison Taylor

Movies are usually made with one particular audience in mind. Films like *Jurassic Park* and *Air Force One* are made for the action-adventure audience, while *Romeo and Juliet* is for a more romantic audience.

In the new film *Titanic*, action, adventure, and romance are combined into one story, appealing to people of all tastes.

Titanic is a collection of every emotion a good romance movie should have, in addition to daring chase scenes and death-escaping tactics that would be found in an adventure movie.

The film opens in present day, with ocean explorer Brock Lovett (Bill Paxton) leading an expedition to uncover a lost jewel in the Titanic. Lovett's team uncovers a safe, but not the jewel. However, they do recover a drawing of a woman. The only thing the woman has on is a necklace-- the wanted jewel.

This report makes the news, and shortly after, Rose Dawson Calvert, an elderly woman, who claims to be the woman in the picture, contacts Lovett. Rose visits Lovett and she tells her story of the Titanic.

The past now becomes the focus of the movie and Kate Winslet takes over the role as Rose Dewitt Bukater. Rose, her mother, and her fiance, Cal Hockley (Billy

Zane), are traveling as first class passengers on the brand new Titanic.

Rose is unhappy because her mother is forcing her to marry Cal. One night, her emotions overwhelm her, but as she is about to jump overboard, a third class passenger, Jack Dawson (Leonardo DiCaprio) talks her out of it. The two start to spend time together, and soon they are inseparable.

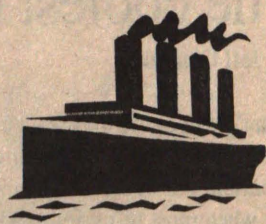
Their romance progresses, and on the night of April 14, 1912, Jack draws the picture of Rose, wearing nothing but the jewel that Cal had given to her.

Later that night, the Titanic meets her grim fate and runs into an iceberg, severing the lower compartments of the ship. The last hour and a half of the movie focuses on the sinking of the ship and the survival measures taken by the passengers and crew.

DiCaprio and Winslet give excellent performances throughout the film and keep the movie interesting.

Winslet does well converting from a high society woman with a lot of attitude to an warm, compassionate woman who doesn't care about what others think. She breaks free of her roots and starts over.

DiCaprio gives a superb performance better than any of his previous performances including his as Romeo. The role of Jack Dawson



required a more mature attitude and DiCaprio was able to take on the role with great skill.

The sets were incredible, and were expected to be considering the movie cost \$200 million to make.

Director James Cameron, (*True Lies* and *Terminator 2*), combined the scenes with finesse. Everything was done very professionally and the camera work was incredible.

Before the iceberg the audience is introduced to their dreams and hopes for the future. The second part becomes more tragic and real because of the character development.

The sinking of the Titanic is an event studied in history classes all over the world. People don't think about how horrible it was for the passengers, they just read how it sunk and how many people died.

Titanic, the event takes on new meaning because the audience is able to put faces with the tragedy. The death of 1,500 people is not just number to be memorized; it was actual people with dreams, with families, and with the hope of living through a disaster.

★★★

Destruction, death and action

By Dan Young

"Tomorrow Never Dies" is a great movie, supported by huge action scenes and decently funny one-liners.

Pierce Brosnan (Mrs. Doubtfire) teams up with a secret agent from China, Lin Kang (Michelle Yeoh, *Super Cop*) to stop Elliot Carver (Jonathon Pryce, the Lexus commercials) from starting a war between China and England.

Carver is a multi billionaire who decides to spend a little of his fortune on a stealth boat. The boat has a contraption with a controller able to force through metal walls and direct the contraption in any way they want to. This doesn't seem like a problem, but then there is a small boat accident in the China Sea.

Neither England or China realize what is happening until Bond steps into the fray. He is assigned by agent M, the head of the English Secret Agent, to the mission. However, he only has forty eight hours to make something happen.

The movie then shifts into the action scenery as Bond tracks down the Carver ship.

The movie is as action packed as it possibly could be. The opening scene has Bond destroying a terrorist camp. He eventually gets away in trilling fashion, but must fight off a jet while being choked by an enemy.

The plot is moved along by tons of action and an affair between Bond and Mrs. Elliot Carver (Teri Hatcher, "Superman"). Mrs. Carver is killed and Mr. Carver is on to Bond.

Bond is trying to escape from Carver's henchmen in his car and he uses all of his neat little toys that

were installed by agent Q. The destruction caused by the BMW is amazing and the technology factor is incredible.

However, there is a knock to the movie. Unlike traditional Bond movies, this tends to play up Yeoh's role. She is in more than half the movie as a major force and assists Bond in defeating Carver. The role she plays is too hyped-up and she destroys just as much as Bond.

The movie was written in the memory of Albert R. "Cubby" Broccoli and directed by Cubby's daughter.

Brosnan is almost as good as Connery, and although no one can actually touch Connery's level, Brosnan came close. His accent is perfect and he plays the role well.

Yeoh did a pretty good job with her character and she killed a lot of people. However, she used her ninja/ karate moves to the point were it was repetitive.

Pryce was an excellent villain, portraying an editor-in-chief of his newspaper very well and giving a great performance on his ship.

In comparison to other Bonds, this one had a lot more action. *Golden Eye*, the only movie with Brosnan as Bond, set-up the characters a lot better and was more suspenseful. This time, it was just Bond running around and destroying things.

If you like James Bond movies, you will like this no matter what happens. If you are looking for destruction, then this a good movie to see as well.

However, if you are looking for attachment to a lot of characters, then this ain't your flick.

★★★

Nightlife Chicago style

By Kelly Kaylor

The night life in West Chicago can easily be dubbed non-existent, and students are finding themselves increasingly fed up with the lack of selection.

I offer a single suggestion- the Chicago theatre scene.

The following plays are neither the only or best plays in the city, but are affordable and entertaining alternatives to seeing "Titanic" for a sixth time.

High schoolers need to discover plays and musicals that may surprisingly catch and keep their interest for a lifetime.

The highly acclaimed musical "Forever Plaid" tells the story of a traditional four-man group from the fifties and sixties attempting to make it in the music business.

Through harmonizing and accessorizing, these nobodies aspire to perform on a stage other than barmitzvahs and airport lounges.

En route to picking up their custom-made plaid tuxedos they were tragically killed by a school bus of teens on their way to see the Beatles.

Where their lives end the story begins, when the quartet returns to Earth for the "big gig" they never got to perform and to fulfill their "Mission of Harmony."

The brilliant script by Stuart Ross encompasses everything necessary to make a timeless hit.

Whether it be their beautifully crooned melodies from decades ago or the charming humor of each

of the four characters, you do not want "Plaid" to end.

When the curtain closes you wish the group would have reached their dream and hit it big when they were still alive. Although the guys keep you laughing the entire time, there is an undertone of sincerity in the songs.

Among some of the play's biggest admirers are President Clinton and former President Bush, whom have caught shows performed nationwide.

Performances are held at the Royal George Cabaret Theatre located at 1641 N. Halsted Ave. For more information contact the box office at (312) 988-9000.

Another Chicago based play worth seeing is "Shear Madness," one of the longest running productions in the city's history.

In this "whodunit" murder mystery the verdict is cast by the members of the audience, and participation is required to catch the suspect.

Set in a trendy, but quirky hair salon the performance generates witty humor and a talented cast of actors involvement from all members of the audience.

The unique blend of characters and outrageous predicaments they are faced with hold your attention through its two-hour running time.

This production breaks the mold of stuffy plays that allow you only to observe rather than participate, a refreshing change to theatre

should interest viewers of all ages.

Held within the Blackstone Hotel in the Mayfair Theatre at 636 S. Michigan Ave., for more information on show times and ticket prices call (312) 786-9120.

"Triple Espresso" referred to as a "highly caffeine-ated comedy" about a coffeehouse and its unfortunate set of entertainers. This production follows a male trio desperate for success, however tough luck and bad opportunities leave them destitute.

As you watch them relive their hilarious attempts to make it into the business, you cannot help but feel sorry for their misfortune.

Deemed the "new vaudeville" this play offers singing, dancing, magic, and three talented comedians. Energetic and well-timed, the main characters bring this show to life, and again use audience participation to keep the crowd involved.

The Mercury Theater at 3745 N. Southport Ave. houses the production in addition to a perfect restaurant for a pre-play meal in Cullen's Bar. For more information call (312) 902-1500.

The city of Chicago has one of the most prominent theater communities in the entire country, there are a variety of productions running at any given time.

Search the options (theater listings are in every Friday newspaper) and take a worthwhile evening entertained Chicago-style.

Horoscopes for the new year

Aries (March 21-April 19)

With the holidays over and '98 finally here it's time to get back on track and take care of all of the things you put off to the side for a while. You've got a lot of things to do and not a lot of time to do them in. Get in gear and start hitting the books before you find yourself a couple of hours away from final exams. If you put in some of your best efforts this year, '98 will be one of your best. Your money situation will soon come into order and you will feel more organized with every passing day. Your love match is a Gemini, good luck charm: a penny.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Don't let being broke bother you, pretty soon you'll run into some spare cash. Feel great about yourself this month-your grades are up, and the stars are without a doubt in your favor. Your lucky love match this month is Cancer, good luck charm: a bunny's tail.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Now that you're active physically get active in your community. With every good deed that you do there is another star in the skies for you. Keep your eyes and ears open that certain someone is ready to make the big move and pretty soon will confess their feelings for you. Your love match this month is Aries, and good luck charm: a silver necklace.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

With regard to your love life you have been feeling as though you are helpless with your efforts. He or she is not responding so do something to make them respond. Don't lose sight of your friendships. You tend to be one to have new friends every other week but don't forget the ones who have been closest to

you. Your lucky love match this month is Aquarius, good luck charm: different colored socks.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

Some friends aren't feeling as glorious as you this month; get them ready because this year could be one of the best provided everyone is willing to make it great. Second semester brings many good things for you and your grades, love life, and family. Your lucky love match this month is Pisces; good luck charm: wear your underwear inside out.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

That certain someone in your life finally makes that big move that you've been waiting for. Don't be let down if he/she doesn't do it the way you expected them to. At least they made the move. Try to organize your time more wisely that way you'll have enough time to do everything. Your lucky love match is Sagittarius; good luck charm is pocket lint in your ear.

Libra (September 23-October 23)

You might want to spend a bit more time with your family instead of all your spare time with your friends. Have a shopping spree this month, it's about time you gave yourself a treat. This is the perfect time to meet someone new. That picture perfect poster guy or girl will be coming into your life. It couldn't have come at a better time. Your lucky love match is Taurus; your resolution might be to get a new hair style for the new year.

Sagittarius (November 23-December 21)

Sit back and relax this month, you've been stressing yourself out to much these past weeks. Don't give yourself such a hard time about

things that have happened with people. Try to think things over before you do something you'll regret forever. Your love life this month is looking brighter there will be a person that will really be attracted to you. Your lucky love match is Capricorn, good luck charm is a warty toad.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Don't start to slack off yet, give it all you've got for the last few days of the semester, then just relax you will have earned it. A friend who you've offended in the last few days will be hurting. Make an effort to smooth things over between you.. Your lucky love match is Leo, good luck charm- wear a ring on your right hand.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Don't worry about that one person you cannot figure out, pretty soon you will be able to. Hit the books and try to really concentrate you'll see all the hard work will have paid off at the end. This could be a great time to do something you've always wanted to try. That certain someone in your life is really ready to commit to you take your chances. Your lucky love match is Virgo, good luck charm: a green M&M.

Pisces (February 19- March 20)

Take time to get things you've left on the side for a while, accomplished its about time. That special person might come up to you when you least expect it and might want to strike up a conversation with you. Don't ignore the indications this one might be the one for you. Your lucky love match is a Libra, good luck charm: a purple pen

Chicks with guns

By Jeff Goluszka

A gun dealer, an airline stewardess, an ATF officer, a bank robber, a bail bondsmen and a beach bunny are all after a half a million dollars in director Quentin Tarantino's newest film, *Jackie Brown*.

This is Tarantino's first film since his 1995 smash hit *Pulp Fiction*.

Jackie Brown starts out in a luxurious California house, owned by illegal gun dealer Ordell Robbie (a performance made memorable by Samuel L. Jackson, from past films such as *Menace II Society*, *Pulp Fiction*, and *Die Hard With A Vengeance*).

Present are a bank robber fresh out of jail named Louis Gara (played excellently by Robert DeNiro, from *Backdraft* and *Cape Fear*), and Ordell's "little surfer girl" named Melanie (fitting Bridget Fonda).

They are all discussing Ordell's prominence and knowledge about gun dealing, when he receives a phone call from a friend named Beaumont Livingston (Chris Tucker, *Friday* and *The Fifth Element*).

Beaumont needs to be bailed out of jail for \$10,000, so Ordell contacts bail bondsman Max Cherry (Robert Forster, previously in *The Delta Force*) to free Beaumont.

The scene then shifts back to Louis and Ordell, who eventually decide to go in together on a large sum of money that Ordell has in Cabo San Lucas in Mexico.

Then, airline stewardess Jackie Brown (played superbly by Pam Grier), is stopped on her way back from Mexico, and is found with \$50,000 she was bringing for Ordell, pulling ATF officer Ray Nicolette (Michael Keaton, from *Batman* and *Multiplicity*) into the picture.

Now, all six major players, Max, Ray, Ordell, Jackie, Louis and Melanie are all after the money in Cabo.

This film then switches to hilarious scenes and one-liners during the scramble for the fortune.

Jackie Brown has it all, murder, mayhem, sex, drugs and money, but having all that doesn't make a good film.

In *Jackie Brown*, all of the characters and all of the mayhem add to a puzzling scenario.

Although this film is not bad, it isn't great. Good one-liners don't make a movie, and is the case here.

The acting *Jackie Brown* is tremendous; Jackson and Grier both gave award-winning performances.

Robert DeNiro plays a decent role, but his performance was somewhat of a disappointment compared to the DeNiro we're used to seeing in films like *Goodfellas* and *Awakenings*.

He plays a marijuana-smoking, going-gray aging man who still orders lap dances. He plays the role well simply because he's a great actor, but he just doesn't fit the character too well.

Fonda, however, fits perfectly into her role as a beach bunny who isn't seen in anything other than a bikini top and daisy dukes.

Mealanie's live-for-the-moment personality and do anything at any-time attitude, brings Fonda a perfect role for her looks and acting ability.

Fonda did a great job, but Samuel L. Jackson solidified his superstar acting status with a superlative job in a mediocre movie. Jackson's character is very intimidating, controlling, and will do anything to get what he wants.

Jackson also fits into his role by wearing a long ponytail and a braided goatee.

Jackson goes with this role as peanut butter goes with jelly.

It has been almost three years between *Jackie Brown* and *Pulp Fiction*. This dry spell may have hampered him in some way, as the latter is superior to the foremost.

In this case, great acting can only take you so far with a confusing story line and a generally dumb story. As for Tarantino, better luck next time.

Show your special someone



you care



The *Wildcat Chronicle* will print classified ads at the low price of \$1 per 10 words. The classified section will appear in the Valentine's issue on Friday, February 13. All ads and money can be given directly to any staff member or placed in the *Wildcat Chronicle* mailbox in the main office. Look for your message form in all lunch hours the last week in January.

Let them know you care.



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A walk through the sands of time

By Kelley Betts

As 1998 begins, the century is coming to a close.

It makes everyone wonder what life in the 21st century will be like. Life in the nineties brought the computer era. Teens learn that a career in computers is the best way to go.

Drug use and smoking is on the rise among teens. Families no longer consist of Mom, Dad, Brother, and Sister. Split families and families with step-parents and siblings are very common.

Teens hang out at music clubs and coffee houses. Looking back as far as our grandparents' teen years, the lifestyle young people lead has drastically changed with the change of society.

Looking to the 1940's the "baby boom" began. Women took over men's jobs while the men went off to war. Children were coined with the name "juvenile delinquents" because they would roam the streets while their mothers were at work.

This was the beginning of both parents holding jobs.

Family togetherness was not strong during this time. The Forties were also a time of music and

movies. The rise of the big screen gave people a place to go-the movies.

Many actors and actresses from that era are still well known today. Teens would dance to jazz and big band music. Comic book hero Superman is a hit among all ages.

Then, teenagers hung out at soda shops, went to pep rallies, beach parties and roller rinks. High school guys often gave their girlfriends their jackets.

Unlike the 40's, the 1950's brought family togetherness. The suburbs started booming with families wanting to leave the cities. TV's were in almost every household, and polls found children watched television as much as they went to school.

Drive-in theaters became a big hit and popular dating activity. Everyone loved dancing and listening to the new style of music-rock and roll.

Poodle skirts, crew cuts, and side burns became popular fashions.

Everyone wanted a hula hoop. Teens also grew up with paranoia.

For many, fallout shelters were in

backyards because of the introduction of nuclear warfare and the Cold War.

1960's were all about freedoms. Teens let go of old traditions by

guy's growing long hair and girls wearing shorter skirts. Teens were losing touch with reality and started trying drugs.

Songs of protest were heard everywhere. The Vietnam War began as men including teens (18 and 19 year old's) started being shipped overseas by the thousands. Teens experienced the reality of war while being shipped overseas themselves or friends being shipped out along with family members. Many of them were killed.

Throughout the madness all around the world, late August of 1969 brought three days of peace, the love, and music. Woodstock featured some of the most popular bands of the time, and the three day outdoor concert ended up being one of the most peaceful events of their lives in the war.

1970 led distrust in the government when President Richard Nixon resigned from the presidency after

being accused of taking part in Watergate, one of the biggest conspiracies of our time. People began to really lose their trust in the government.

Women and African-Americans fought by rallying for equal rights, and are still fighting today. Kent State experienced an all-out shooting leaving six students dead.

Some of the decade's most well-known artists died of drug overdoses- Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, Jim Morrison, and Elvis. This marked a new interest in drugs and rock and roll which carried over into the nineties.

Running and yoga became popular activities while jeans and a t-shirt became the latest style.

1980's brought both the end and the beginning of many issues. The Cold War was over after lasting twenty years. The Vietnam Wall was built in dedication to the thousands of men and women who lost their lives in the war.

Environmental awareness became a big issue. People discovered the hole in the ozone and recycling became a big issue.

Former musician John Lennon was killed in 1981 and President Reagan was shot in an attempted assassination.

Homelessness and the global population saw a huge increase along with an increase in the budget deficit.

The feared disease AIDS was first discovered in 1981. As the decade went on, the growth of AIDS increased to enormous rates.

The computer era soared as video games gained popularity. Teens consumed their time with playing video games. Computers started being used more and more and began to replace people.

As the twenty-first century draws near, it raises the question of what teen life will be like then.

Will strong family values come back? Will music fade? Will war break out? Will computers consume our lives?

These are all things that would affect the lives of teens. Social issues and society do affect our lives, but how will they in the future?

USA or Mexico?

By Arlete Penaflor

When you think about Mexico what's the first thing that comes to mind? What comes to mind when you think about the United States?

Both countries have very much in common even though Mexico still is considered a third world country. Mexico is not in full development of all of the resources the United States has, as far as technology goes.

Although they're not as advanced as we are in technology, Mexico does not have many economical problems to hold them back.

Mexico tries to stand out in any way possible similarly to the United States, when they're proud of something they've accomplished.

Both countries offer society a chance to live the life they want to, with the material things life has to give as well as the emotional things. People in the United States as well as in Mexico take advantage of every day.

Both countries also have delicious food with their own traditional ways of cooking. When people think of Mexican food, tacos, nachos, guacamole, enchiladas, and for some people even Taco Bell, comes to mind.

Then when people think about American food they think hamburgers, hot dogs, home baked apple pie, pizza, and McDonalds.

Mexico and the United States both have delicious food that many people may like, but they won't know unless they go and try it.

One similar plate that both countries share in common is what is known in the United States as steak with potatoes and vegetables. In Mexico this would be called bistec a la Mexicana but it would be a bit more spicy and the potatoes would have some salsa on top, with frijoles (beans) on the side. This is something that many people enjoy eating in Mexico just as much as people enjoy eating it in the United States.

Then there are the holidays where both countries really get into the spirit and celebrate.

The houses in America are lit up with many Christmas lights and decorations. Also, there are celebrations that happen in the cities, like in Chicago when the city Christmas tree is officially lit, and the shopping store windows have special themes.

Mexico doesn't stay behind, they also try to go all out when it comes to decorating. They try to show their best when holidays come around the corner.

Many people in Mexico decorate their houses with lights and put special streamers of festive colors to get into the spirit. During some of the festivities around Christmas, people come together and enjoy a posada (big party). One of the featured activities is when the people take turns at breaking the pinata, a Mexican tradition.

Other than the varied types of customs and cultures, each country has it's special places for people to visit. From Chicago to Acapulco, Miami to Cancun, New York to Puerto Vallarta and California to Veracruz, both countries have a rich past and present for all to see.

Next time you think about America and Mexico, think about more than you're used to hearing about it, instead about how both countries have so much more to offer.

Welcome to the house of paint

By Rick Williams and Andrew Merrick

What did you do over Christmas Break? Did you see *Scream 2*, ooh? Or how about sledding?

We've got a brand new and innovative way to bring out the child in you. However, trust us, this is not a game for children.

Paintball. What are you thinking right now? Are you thinking James Bond Nintendo 64 or a hot new arcade game? Absolutely not, this is in your face, hard-core, real-life action. This game is not for everybody.

If you have a weak stomach for plastic balls flying straight toward you at 150 miles per hour, don't read further.

If you are interested in one of the most realistic and intense environments in our world today, you might want to hear what we have to say.

Paintball is a game played with two teams and a single objective: capture the flag, or be eliminated. Normally, every member is equipped with his/her pump, semi-automatic, or fully automatic machine paintball gun.

Combine Laser Tag with real projectiles in a search and destroy atmosphere. Your heart will race twice its normal speed when you dodge and deliver with deadly force.

Play is either held on personal property or one of the many playing fields in the Chicagoland area.

Playing in backyard woods and shrubbery where barricades, forts and pathways are set to our liking.

Boundaries are determined by the number of participants. Missions include: Capture the flag, Elimination and tournaments.

Playing fields hold their own rules and regulations. "BADLANDZ" is located half an hour from downtown Chicago, approximately an hour and a half drive. This includes seven or eight different playing fields occupying two teams per field.

Rotations from field to field occur with you set opponent and team continuously. They include forts, bunkers, bridges, barricades, creeks, hay fields, woods and ravines. This accounts for a very hostile environment.

Paintball is not cheap to play, though. Unfortunately, purchasing prices are a little extreme for some. A \$10 field fee, \$15 rental package (if

necessary) which includes a semi-auto gun, 12 ounce carbon dioxide tank and an ammo holder.

Paintballs are the most expensive part because the field requires you to use their own paintballs on their fields. Prices are set for packages of 100, 200, 900 and 1800 rounds for \$10, \$14, \$55 and \$99, respectively.

Safety equipment is automatically provided, such things as goggles, hats, gloves and belts. Getting hit with one ball is nothing; a little sting for a couple of seconds for the thrill of playing.

The Country Club is an indoor field which offers a different aspect of the game, at 2,500 square feet of pure adrenaline.

The gym-like floor is showered with spent casings and dried up paint. It has a number of barricades including four elevator shafts allowing strategic placing of members. The prices are similar for paintballs, but the maximum payment of \$10-15 is all for gun and field fee.

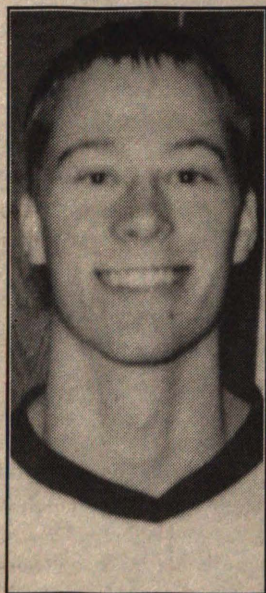
You play for a maximum of five hours or until you've had enough. Phone numbers for BADLANDZ are (708) 418-3335 and The Country Club at (708) 756-1166.

For supplies, we recommend BadBoyzToyz located on Rt. 59 in Fox Valley. They have guns, packages, and all the accessories you could ever dream of. Some of the lower end guns are: Tracer, \$99 (pump), Spyder, \$189 (semi-auto) and Carbine, \$219 (semi-auto).

The most expensive gun is the Angel, which will take \$1300 from you. It's electronically digitized and fully automatic.

For those of you who don't want to spend so much money, Sportmart and Sports Authority offer alternatives to other guns. Prices are cheaper, the Stingray is semi-automatic and costs \$99. The other gun, the Tiger Shark, is priced at \$70. Visit these stores for other options.

We have been playing for a couple of years now and we can't get enough of it. It's something you really need to experience to understand. It does bring the "child" back from hibernation, it is truly a thrill.



Our Wildcat Athlete of the Break

NAME: Lucas M.. English

CURRENTLY WRESTLES AT: 135 lbs.

SEASON GOALS: Stay at 130 lbs. for rest of the season, try my hardest in all meets.

STRENGTHS: No matter how good my opponent is, I just go in and wrestle.

WEAKNESSES: Finishing my shoots.

TOUGHEST OPPONENT: Joe Paun of Thornwood.

WHAT DO YOU RESPECT MOST ABOUT COACH HEIN: The time he has put in working with the team to make us better.

I'VE BEEN INSPIRED MOST BY: My family and Coach Hein and Coach Guerrero.

ONE THING I WOULD NEVER DO IS: Shave my head bald

I AM MOST PROUD OF : How hard the team has worked this season.

YEAR: Senior

ACTOR WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE: Val Kilmer.

ADVICE TO PEERS: Get involved in school activities and don't put things off; enjoy your four years in high school.

PLANS FOR FUTURE: Go to college in Colorado and major in business.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT YOURSELF: Easy to talk to and get along with.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: To not get any more speeding tickets.

BOOK I WOULD RECOMMEND: *No One Gets Out Alive*, biography of Jim Morrison.

FAVORITE MOVIE: *The Wall* by Pink Floyd.

Lucas and the entire Wildcat wrestling squad will wrestle Wheaton-Warrenville South at home on Saturday. For more information on the team, read the wrestling article on page 8.

By Kelly Kaylor

The West Chicago wrestling squad has opened 1998 with victory, the first coming against the Batavia Bulldogs on Saturday, January 3rd. All wrestlers contributed to the win, in a season where a number of guys have shared the spotlight. In the Batavia meet, the score was tied at 11-11 after two Bulldog wins when Lucas English took control. Leading 5-0 after the first 18 seconds of the round, he won by default and began the Cats breakaway to a 32-11 victory. In a season where the entire team has determined the program's success, English's effort is just an example of the unity the West Chicago team carries. Here's more information on Lucas:

Preview: Girls track gets ready with new coach

By Allison Taylor

The Ladycat track team begins practice for the indoor season on January 26, with a group of experienced girls and a new head coach.

Head coach Kelly Kolasa replaced former head coach, Wilbert Walters this season. Kolasa, who has been an assistant coach of girls track for the past five years and has coached cross country, is thrilled with her new position.

"Words can't describe how excited I am, and that's the truth," said Kolasa.

She begins her reign as head coach with a good amount of experience in track. Kolasa ran cross country and track in high school and won the Big Ten triple jump six times while attending the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana.

In addition to coaching track and cross country, Kolasa coached basketball at We-go her first two years, but stopped when the basketball season started to overlap with track season.

In regards to her team, Kolasa believes they "haven't done nearly as well as they should have in the past." She is expecting great things to happen this season and hopes to place in the top five at conference and qualify two relay teams and three individuals.

Returning key athletes to watch this season include seniors Shannon Baker, Janine Morris, Lindsay Leckner, Lexie Nussbaum, and Becky Blenkle, and sophomores Jocelyn Schineller, Jennifer Wiechert, Crystal Adams, Michelle Lasky and Christine Cleveland. The team has yet to reach its maximum level.

The team lost very few members to graduation and return with a strong

group of seniors and sophomores. "We lost very few point scorers, but we lost key people in terms of spirit," said assistant coach Carrie Mocariski.

Schineller is expected to be a key athlete for We-go this year in the discus. Last year she was almost a state qualifier, and is expected to qualify for state this year.

Morris is also expected to make state in the high jump. She was close to making state last year; however she chose not to compete in sectionals. "I expect to go to state, because state qualifying height is 5'3" and last year I jumped 5'2," said Morris, "My vertical has gotten higher and I'm a lot faster."

Blenkle is the top hurdler for We-go, competing in the 100, and 300. Her goal for this season is to beat her aunt, Jill Blenkle's, 50 M record set back in 1986 here at We-go. "I just have to cut off a few more seconds," said Blenkle. Beutjer was also a hurdler last year.

Some of the track members, including, Morris, and Lasky are currently on the girls basketball team and will not start track until later in the season. Kolasa is hoping other girls, especially underclassmen, currently involved in basketball will decide to join track after the basketball season ends.

This season also brings a new face to the coaching staff. Aaron Carper is a new coach of the girls track team. He joins the coaching staff with Kolasa and Mocariski.

Carper, who teaches science here at We-go, competed in the decathlon at North Central College in Naperville, IL.

Members of the track team began practicing in the off-season after the cross-country season was finished.

Preview: boys track relies on youth

By Jeff Goluszka

The West Chicago boys track team will begin this season with a young core to build on for the future.

This year's team consists of only two seniors, along with many underclassmen that are ready to step up and play a lead role.

As for the expectations of this year's squad, coach Paul McLeland said he wants to "get the kids to improve, to work 100 percent and get better."

"Everyone from the seniors down to the freshmen need to improve in all events, get stronger and faster," added McLeland.

The Wildcats will have to recover from some tough losses last year due to graduation. One of the toughest losses, according to McLeland, was current Division 1-A athlete and last year's state runner-up in the 1600 meter, Dan Horyn. Along with the loss of John Stogis (100 meter, 4x100 meter relay), Jake Meyers (Long Jump, 4x100 relay), Dave Blozis (Triple Jump, 4x100 meter relay), and Jaime Sanchez (Distance), the Cats will have to rebuild and strive to compete once again.

This year's team has a strong cast to step up and replace the graduates.

Seniors Kevin Openshaw (Middle distance - 800 meter) and Alfredo Muhlberger (Distance), juniors Bart Visser (Distance - 800 meter), Dan Young (Distance - 1600 meter), Wes

Skidgel (Distance - 800 meter) and Bryan Franckowiak (300 Intermediate hurdles, 100 meter, 400 meter, 4x100 meter), plus up-and-coming sophomore Tim Keller (3200 meter) are some of this year's crew that will play key roles, said McLeland.

As for how far the team will go individually, McLeland thinks Keller and junior John Slattery (discus) have

good chances of making it to state.

The team would like to improve on last year's last place finish in the DVC.

The team needs extra athletes to complete the numbers. "In comparison to the Naperville schools, we have a very small team. We are always looking for new members," said McLeland.

The team is getting ready for the indoor season. This team's journey begins with their first meet, which will be held at Rolling Meadows High School along with We-go, Elgin and Maine East on February 13.

McLeland noted that a key meet for the Wildcats will be the annual, eight team Jim Spivey Invitational, this year being held at Fenton High School on February 28.

As for the team in general, more athletes are encouraged to join the team, and it's not too late to sign up and participate.

Anyone who plays another sport, and wants to stay in shape or build their speed and get stronger faster is advised to join, said McLeland.

The track team has been preparing by running over the winter and into the season. They also have been lifting weights.

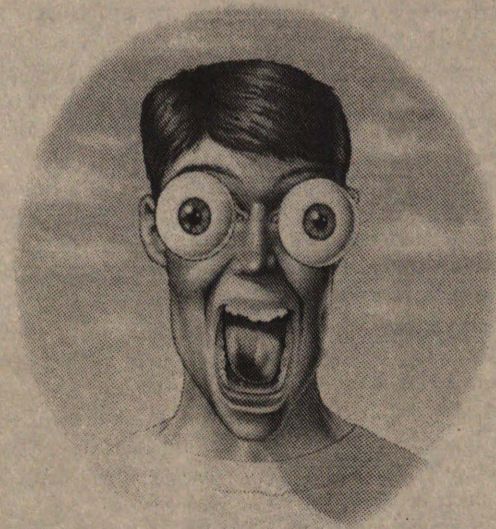
If you are interested in joining the track team, contact McLeland or math teacher Matt Doll.



Photo by Sandy Weiss

Tim Keller leads the up and coming boys track team

He just found out he forgot to register with Selective Service when he turned 18.



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Girls basketball on fast break towards play-offs

By Dan Young

After a red hot start, the girl's basketball team has run into a couple of tough opponents and unlucky breaks.

West Chicago played against the West Aurora Blackhawks on Thursday, January 8, who are ranked tenth in state by the coaches around the state. The game was close in the first quarter, with the Cats taking advantage of great passing and good spacing. The team capitalized on a running jumper by senior Andrea Beutjer, and a long three by sophomore Kim Olson. The inside force of seniors Janine Morris and Leslie Harlson came up big in blocks and steals.

But the team fell apart in the second quarter under tough pressure by the Blackhawks. The Wildcats scored seven points to West Aurora's 20. However, the team came back in the third quarter with a couple of halftime changes. The team came out with a different defense and a new press breaker that beat the Blackhawk's press. The Cats went on a ten to zero run, sparked by great defensive play.

In the fourth quarter, the Cats were in it all the way. They were down by three points with the ball with about one minute to play. Then the Wild-

cats got a bad break. The play they ran didn't work and Olson's shot was blocked. Then the Blackhawks got key foul shooting from their guards and the game was put away.

The Cats had great play from Olson, Morris, Harlson, Beutjer and junior Jeanette Arroyo handled the ball under the full court pressure by West Aurora and Beutjer hit a couple of big shots in the game. Junior Kim Ellis came off the bench to spark the team with hustle and sophomore Kelly Bolton added to the show with some really good defense.

Coach Kim Wallner said, "We executed the game plan that we set before the game, but our shot just didn't fall. We are a lot better team than our record shows." The girls are currently 7-9 (2-3), but Wallner was happy with the team play.

"We could have just laid down and died after that second quarter, but we stuck it out and fought back. They were up by ten at one time and seven at another, but we cut it down to one. We just couldn't get over the top," Wallner said.

The Ladycats have been averaging 44.9 points per game and the teams they are playing are averaging 40.7 points per game. They beat Wheaton

North by two in a close conference match-up and destroyed Glenbard East by 31.

Coach Wallner wants her team to toughen up on the boards and to play

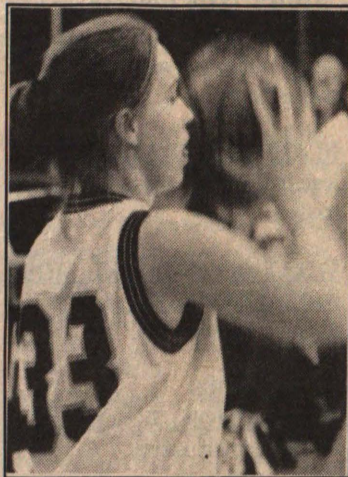


Photo by Sandy Weiss

The Ladycats prepare for DVC play more consistently.

Their rebounding in the game versus West Aurora wasn't very good and the Cats were out-boarded 37 to 28. "We lost most of rebounders last year, but we are doing the best we can," said Wallner.

Wallner feels the team can compete with all of the other teams in the

DVC. "We are getting better all the time and we are able to play with the other teams in the DVC."

The team has experimented on both sides of the ball this season, forming a new offense and using multiple defensive choices.

On the offensive side of the ball, the team has tried a three guard, two center offense. The main reason for this is there are two centers on the team. The offense is trying said Wallner. This is because lack of consistency on the Wildcats part. The Cats also have more long range gunners (Olson, Arroyo, Beutjer, Saul) this year than on any teams in the past.

On defense, the Wildcats throw a barrage of formations at their opponents, letting confusion rain upon their opponents.

The heart of the Wildcats defense starts in the middle with Morris and Harlson. The two tallest players on the team are top-notch at blocking shots and stealing passes to the post. They also grabbed about 78% of the teams rebounds against the Blackhawks. However, those two couldn't do it alone. Great pressure up front by their guards causes plenty

of steals for the Wildcats to capitalize on.

Coach Wallner wants the Wildcats to place in the top eight of their regional and in the top four of their sectional. She said, "We have a really tough regional, but I feel we can continue the excellence."

The team was third in the DVC going into Saturday's tussle with Wheaton-Warrenville South, while West Aurora is in first and Wheaton Warrenville South holding second.

Wallner has and will continue to stress consistency with her team. The Cats destroyed Glenbard East and Downers Grove North, but the previous three games were losses to Lyons Township, Homewood-Flossmore and Downers Grove South.

The importance of youth for the future is coming in for Wallner. "The frosh team is playing extremely well and the sophomores are successful. JV is struggling, but they are progressing," said Wallner.

"The main reason for JV's lack in the win column is because they also have to train the Varsity on our opposition," said Wallner.

The next game for the Ladycats is January 15 at Naperville North at 7:30 P.M.

Consistency the next step in the cats plan

by Kelly Kaylor

The boys basketball team faced two tough opponents last weekend but offered hope for their season which has been less than successful.

Against the visiting Blackhawks of West Aurora, the team proved they can be a competitive force in the DVC when they want to be.

Throughout all four quarters the Cats refused to let the co-leaders of the conference control the scoreboard.

With the defensive steadiness they have maintained all season and an awakening of the Cats offense, West Chicago (4-10, 1-4) battled to the end with last year's state runners-up.

The Blackhawks were forced into overtime by an intense Wildcat squad with the roar of an enthusiastic home crowd behind them.

In the overtime period, West Aurora regained their momentum and outscored the Cats 16-7. Despite their hard fought 68-59 loss, the team gained some much needed confidence and well-deserved respect from the West Aurora team.

Leading scorers for the night were Jim Callahan who repetively drove the lane for his 13 points and Justin Coletti who had the "hot hand" with all of his 12 points being three-point baskets.

The following evening the team traveled to Wheaton-Warrenville South. In a game lacking the emotion and intensity of the previous night, the Tigers defeated the Cats 65-55.

South's leading scorer Eric Channing unleashed 21 points on

the Wildcat defense that struggled with the Tigers' perimeter-style offense all night.

Jon Hall carried his West Chicago team with an impressive 21 points. Martin Filipsson was unstoppable outside the arc with four three-pointers for 12 points in the team's loss.

"We are trying to stay positive, our guys need to believe they can win. The rest of the season will be a struggle but we need confidence to compete," Coach Dan McCarthy said.

In recent games he has been pleased with the play of different individuals on different nights. "It can be frustrating when not all the guys play well at the same time. We have to sustain good play to win," McCarthy said about his team's lack of consistency.

This Friday night, the Cats travel to Naperville North to challenge the other leaders in the DuPage Valley Conference.

The team will have to attempt to contain the Huskies two senior standouts, Henry Domercant and Chad Plotke, both highly recruited by Division I schools. The Cats lack of size will again be a setback against North's big men and strong rebounding.

Coach McCarthy acknowledges the struggle necessary for a win, but stresses the importance a victory would have for the team's morale.

Sophomores will play at 6 p.m. and the varsity at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, January 16, at the Naperville North campus.

Wrestling Wildcats show their pride

by Arlete Penaflor

At the Geneva Varsity Invitational on January 10, We-go placed 3rd overall against 12 other schools.

The wrestling teams performance has proved to be tough to keep up with, especially with all of the competition they've had from other schools.

"Their performance has been very good, we have a very young line up, and a tough schedule to keep up with but we've done as well as we could," said head coach Bob Hein.

In the Geneva tournament senior Steve Pastore placed 3rd in his weight class (119), senior Dale English 3rd at 135, junior Ben Stevens 3rd at 152, senior Marvin Boorsma 2nd at 160, junior Luis Aquado 1st at 215, senior John Svast 4th at 189, and senior Jason Osterkamp 1st at heavyweight 275.

Going into the tournament Hein felt confident but knew it would be hard going up against all 12 of those schools.

"We were fortunate to win last year, although it'll be tougher than ever to get into the top three teams this year," said Hein.

At some of their past meets like Hinsdale Central on Friday, December 19, they lost as a team. They usually have one or two finalists although this year they didn't have any. According to Hein this meet was tougher than ever they had to face some very tough opponents.

Against Batavia on Saturday, January 3 they won 41 to 27. The team was very pleased with their performance.

Against West Aurora on Friday, January 9 the team lost, although Pastore and Osterkamp won. Hein

wasn't very confident going into this meet.

"This meet will really be tough, they have a lot more experience than we do. Also, they are more mature, I know the team will put in a good effort," said Hein.

There are a lot of key wrestlers on the team. Hein feels that the key

wrestlers are Stevens with a record of 15-4, Osterkamp 18-4, Pastore 13-3, Boorsma 12-7, and junior Luis Aquado 17-6.

The wrestling teams next meet is against Wheaton Warrenville South at home at 6:00 P.M. on Thursday, January 15.



The We-go Wrestling team looks on at a match

Photo by Sandy Weiss

Top Ten Worst Trades in Chicago History

By Dan Young

With some of the worst general managers in the history of the sport, there have been a lot of really dumb signing and trades in the Chicago sports record. Here are some of the more recent trades that Chicago has been involved in.

- 10) Can we say Alonzo Spellman.
- 9) Dave Wannstedt and his five year plan that is going on to year seven.
- 8) Tyrone Hughes, the great punt and kick-off returner.
- 7) Jeremy Roenick for Alexi Zhamnov (So far, a loser for both sides, although Roenick was one of the most beloved players in Chicago before the trade).
- 6) Ed Belfour for two back-ups (Chris Terreri and Ulf Dahlen).
- 5) Scottie Pippen for nothing (Disguised as Olden Polynice. What a deal for the Bulls).
- 4) Tony Phillips for umm, uhh, I forget. Maybe that will tell you something.
- 3) Rick Mirer (Say no more).
- 2) Ryne Sandburg for Ivan DeJesus (My point exactly. The Philly's got ripped off more than once on this deal).
- 1) The White Sox pitching staff for nothing (Disguised as minor leaguers and players to be named).