

Get *Half-Baked*  
on page 5.

Did you receive a Valentine  
message? Find out on page 6.

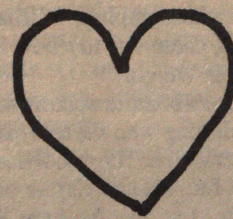


Check out  
Ladycats  
basketball's latest  
records on page 8.

# Wildcat Chronicle



West Chicago Community High School  
326 Joliet Street, West Chicago, IL  
Friday, February 13, 1998, Volume 29, Issue 7



## And the winner is...

By John Williamson

While sitting atop Richie Divito and Jim Carstensen's shoulders, Mike Brosseau had a huge smile on his face. The audience was clapping frantically and many students were chanting Mike's name instantly after he was crowned Mr. Wildcat 1998.

The competition was held in the Weyrauch Auditorium on February 4 and was sponsored by several businesses including Video Images, Jacobsen's Flowers, and Grobe's True Value.

Brosseau competed against eight other senior contestants in a talent competition, formal wear competition, and a question and answer competition before being declared the winner by a panel of judges, consisting mainly of We-Go alumni.

The night kicked off with the two hosts, seniors Josh Xiong and Lisa Mueller introducing the nine contestants.

Jon Hall started things off by singing "A Song For Momma," by Boyz II Men, while his mom sat proud in the first row.

Steve Garcia, a student who isn't new to

performing, changed things by performing his college audition skit and song.

After Garcia was done the curtains opened to reveal Abe Mashal and the third act. Mashal, known for performing parodies in the past, performed "Smile For the Bass," a parody from Scarface's "Smile." The song was obviously about fishing, as the title states, which is becoming a common trend for Mashal who performed "Bass Master's Paradise" two years ago at the variety show.

Divito and eventual winner Brosseau performed a fat boys skit together for their talent portion of the show.

They were dressed in stuffed clothes that made them look huge and gave the act the full effect. They went back and forth rapping about fast food until they danced to songs such as "La Bamba" and "Eat It" and then finished by throwing candy into the crowd.

Brian O'Hara and Joe Kaczmarek also performed together. Dressed up as the Saturday Night Live cheerleaders, they performed cheers about individual We-Go athletes.

Chris Shern and his band, the Poo Bears, performed a sample of their recently released album *Vedem*. Shern's singing hyped

up the crowd, but was hard to hear because so many girls were screaming his name. Shern was quick to give credit to his sophomore band members Jacob Briggs, Jason Mack, and Ryan Hammer throughout the show.

Carstensen and his crew, Divito, Justin Coletti, Justin Sadowski, and Brosseau, had a break dance battle against the Cudis, a well known We-Go breaking crew. Cudis (Rene Allende, Victor Acosta, and others) obviously dominated the battle but Carstensen still declared victory.

Before the judges made their final decisions the contestants randomly drew questions and had to come up with a quick response.

"Hopefully I'll be out of the high school by then but if not maybe I can be a paraprofessional," answered Mashal when asked where he hopes to be in ten years.

The winner, Brosseau, and the two runners up, Kaczmarek and Mashal, all received great prizes for their efforts.



Photo by Sandy Weiss  
Fellow contestants give Mr. Wildcat, Brosseau, a congratulatory boost.

performed a sample of their recently released album *Vedem*. Shern's singing hyped

## Chess rooking its way to the top

By Dan Young

The chess team has been scraping the bottom of the barrel for players lately, taking two students that are not even on the team to play in its most recent meet on February 10.

The team was missing first board senior Justin Sadauskas, fourth board senior Dan Janek and fifth board freshman Dennis Janek. According to senior captain Blair Machaj, they were unable to attend.

Still, the team managed to pull off a victory over West Aurora. Senior captain Blair Machaj played the first board and won, while senior Kevin Brewer played the second board and won as well.

Freshman Janita Patel played the fourth board and was victorious, while senior Alfredo Muhlburger played on the third board from the eighth board. Freshman Ryan Begy won on the sixth board.

The team is currently 7-2, losing to IMSA November 16 at home and to Evanston January 10. The team loss to Evanston was unusual and unexpected. Sadauskas faced a Romanian grand master on the first board, which turned into a loss. Then Machaj lost on the second board, Brewer lost on the third board, and the match was over.

The team bounced back after the loss to win two other matches. The important part of the recovery was the retaining of the Cats' confidence. "We (the team) still feel we can win state," said captain Machaj.

The team added newcomer Patel as well as Dennis Janek and Begy. The top four boards are playing well and Muhlburger has stepped up big from last year's role as eighth board to this year's sixth board.

Assistant coach Tim Martin said, "We are looking really good if we have our full lineup. I feel we have improved from last season. The younger players have really picked up the lower boards and made them competitive spots on the team."

On February 24, the Cats will be going up against Naperville North. Martin expects a win saying, "We can defeat Naperville North with our whole team. If we can get the whole team to the meet, we will win."

The team is looking forward to the state meet on March 27. The teams to watch are ISMA, New Trier, Glenbard West, University High, Evanston, and Wheaton Warrenville South. The State meet is a good meet to judge if the Cats are ready for the national meet in May.

## Good old days return

By Allison Taylor

This February We-go will return to life before television, cars, and technology with the play *Our Town*.

The play, written by Thornton Wilder, will be performed February 19-21 at 7:30 p.m. in the Weyrauch auditorium. The cost is \$3 for adults and \$2 for students.

The plot focuses on the coming-of-age of two small town teenagers. Each of them grows up through life's experiences, while growing closer to one another. Meanwhile, the people in the town, from Mrs. Soames, the gossiping old woman to Howie Newsome, the milkman, go on living every day the same. The play stresses that things rarely change in a small town. Some people move away, some people die, but life will go on.

*Our Town* has very few sets and minimal props which make it different from most plays at We-go. Senior Lisa Mueller believes this play is more difficult than most because of the minimal props. "It's hard to know

what to do on stage," said Mueller.

The cast is led by many new faces to the We-go theater department. Sophomores Meredith Moore and Andy Sinetos play the main roles of Emily Webb and George Gibbs. They are joined by sophomores Beau Brown and Dan Toboja in the roles of Mr. Gibbs and Mr. Webb, respectively. Sophomore Kendra Norton is the stage manager, or narrator of the play. Seniors Kelly Macauley and Mueller portray Mrs. Gibbs and Mrs. Webb.

"There are a lot of new faces in this play and it's nice to know that the drama department has a future at We-go," said Macauley.

Many of the people involved with the drama department will be graduating in June, and by casting many underclassmen as lead roles, the drama department will continue to have many talented actors.

English teacher Mary Hapertepe is the head director for the play and English

teacher Judy Minor is acting as assistant director, replacing former We-go English teacher Lori Watson. They have been heading practices since rehearsals began in January.

Brown is serving as student director and sophomore Sara Knox is acting as the stage manager.

*Our Town* is the second play performed at We-go this year. In November, *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940* by John Bishop, was performed by an ensemble cast.

Last year's winter play was *Because Their Hearts Were Pure*. The play was a melodrama designed to be humorous by the obvious overacting. *Our Town* is a more dramatic and serious type of play.

Tryouts for this year's musical *Anything Goes* will be held the first week in March. The musical is set aboard a ship on its way from America to England and focuses on various love triangles.

### Press Release: Wildcat Booster Club

The Wildcat Booster Club Scholarship is available for seniors only. Applications will be available in the guidance office March 9 and should be returned by April 9.

Applications will be evaluated by the Booster Club committee and up to four \$500 scholarships will be granted.

Winners will be judged on academic performance, and involvement of extracurricular activities and community.



## Spelman leaves, school seeks new photographer

By Jennifer Lasky

The school board is searching for a new photographer for the 1998-1999 school year, because current photographer, William Spelman, chose not to renew his contract at We-go.

The school board is working now in establishing who the new photographer will be. The school board will ask for bids and choose one, then Jim Mast, the Assistant Superintendent for Business, will approve the decision.

Before he leaves, Spelman will be finishing spring sports and Prom. Jack Feltes, of Jack Feltes Studios in Batavia, will be acting as photographer for the remainder of the school year.

In searching for a new photographer, the school board is looking for someone who is local, can provide quality photographs, and has worked with yearbooks before. The board would like the new photographer to be able to cover the sports, clubs, candid, etc. that

Spelman did. They would also like someone who can meet yearbook deadlines and work with the yearbook.

Superintendent Dr. Griff Powell says he wants to be sure all the students appear in the yearbook, because in previous years, some students have been absent from the book. Spelman says the absence of students was due to a lack of organization on the part of the yearbook staff.

Principal Dr. Alan Jones says in looking for a new photographer, "The most important thing to look for is service." He feels a new photographer should be able to be at the school a lot and be able to respond to students and parents quickly.

Spelman says in doing photography for other schools, he's found that the professionalism at other schools is far superior to that at We-go. Spelman discussed his contract with Powell and requested

in writing to terminate it.

Spelman was responsible for all types of pictures at the high school, including sports, Prom, and yearbook photos.

In order to return to We-go to continue photography, Spelman says he would need a desire from the school board to treat him with the professionalism he deserves. He says he has always received a great deal of support from the school board. "I appreciate all the work Mr. Spelman did for us and I wish him well," says Powell.

Spelman says a small photography shop like his usually provides service to two schools at a time. Currently, Spelman is completing the first year of a four year contract with Geneva High School and is in the process of making a decision on the second school. He photographs weddings, family portraits, and senior portraits.

Starting in college, Spelman has been doing photography for 21

years. He has taken pictures for all kinds of purposes. He has taken pictures for the Chicago Tribune, the West Chicago Press, the Chicago Bear Report, the Aurora Beacon News, and spent 10-15 years doing photography for the West Chicago Fire and Police Departments.

Spelman did contract photography for WCCHS for the past six or seven years. However, he has been shooting pictures at the high school since 1979 for the West Chicago Press. He stopped photographing for the Press not long before he got the contract at We-go.

Spelman's most memorable moments as a photographer have been hanging around with Joe Theisman, of the Washington Redskins, and doing portrait work for Barbara Bush while her husband was in the White House.

The worst part of photography for Spelman was when he was

taking pictures for the We-go Fire and Police Departments. He did this for about 10 years. He was responsible for photographing fatal accidents and fires, which would sometimes turned out to be We-go students or former students. He also dislikes the hours, which run 70-80 per week. "I work when everyone else is having fun," he says.

Spelman attended West Chicago High School and has lived in the town his entire life.

His favorite part of working at We-go is the students. "I live for the high school kids," he says. He feels the We-go students are normal, well-rounded, down to earth, and the parents are great also. He says he has no regrets from working at We-go. He hopes some of the students will still come to him for their senior portraits. Spelman says leaving West Chicago High School, "After being involved in the school for 15-20 years, it's like going through a divorce. I don't get to see my kids anymore."

## Still looking for money?

By Jeff Goluszka

If you still need money for college, a good idea might be attending Financial Aid Night to help you receive some financial aid for your post-high school education.

Financial Aid Night is not an informational session and no college representatives will be present, said Interim Guidance Director Maura Bridges, but it is a hands-on workshop for parents and seniors on completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, also known as the FAFSA.

Presenting this workshop will be West Chicago Guidance Counselor and Financial Aid Advisor Ward Rau. A sample FAFSA form will be presented and filled out for the families.

Almost everyone is eligible for financial aid. "With the cost of colleges now, most students would qualify for at least some financial aid...financial aid does not necessarily go to the most needy, but the best informed students," said Rau.

The different types of financial aid available include school and federal grants, subsidized and unsubsidized loans, and a work study grant, in which the college of your choice may provide jobs, supplying financial aid.

Many students feel they should not apply for financial aid because they think they will be rejected. Rau disagrees saying, "even families with significantly high income could qualify for financial aid under some circumstances."

Another rumor is everyone is eligible to receive financial aid, regardless of high school or college choice.

You may be able to finish the

FAFSA form that night by bringing your financial information. Rau will also be able to explain some of the circumstances necessary to understand for the completion of the FAFSA. These include what qualifies a student to be independent, because an independent student will be likely to receive more aid than a dependent student (one who still lives with parents), what qualifies as income and/or savings, and family incomes that change

Rau strongly advises that this form should be sent in by the end of February.

It is also strongly suggested that a student have his or her college choice by Financial Aid Night, and definitely by the time he or she is awarded financial aid.

The FAFSA workshop will be held in the library at Community High School on Wednesday, February 18th starting at 7 p.m. and lasting until around 8:30 p.m.

Rau also wishes to stress that your privacy will be respected and any knowledge of personal finances will not be shared in any way. In order to have a private table for the FAFSA form, you need to bring your completed 1996 1040 form, your child's 1996 1040 form and banking information concerning savings, checking, interest earned and asset payments.

Also, if you wish to have a private table, please call the Guidance Office at 293-8129 so accommodations can be made for each family.

If you have any questions, or would like to register for the FAFSA workshop, see Rau.

## Speak your mind

By Allison Taylor

Three members of the Forensics team will compete in the sectional championships on Saturday, February 14 at Wheaton North High School.

Seniors Meg Runyan, Liz Edwards, and Steve Garcia will compete in three different categories of speech as a result of their success at the regional competition held February 7 at Wheaton-Warrenville South.

Garcia placed fourth overall in Radio Speaking and Edwards placed fourth in Humorous Interpretation. Edwards and Runyan placed second in their Humorous Duet Acting. Each of these performances will compete among other local high schools in the sectional championship, and possibly the state championship, depending on the outcome. Edwards and Runyan placed sixth at state last year in Theater-in-the-round.

Prior to the regional competition, the Forensics team held a showcase of their work in the fourth annual Verbally Yours.

The event held on January 28 contained various performances by eight of the nineteen Forensics

members. Each participant performed one of the solo or duet pieces which they have perfected throughout the season.

After a short speech from social studies teacher and Forensics advisor Steve Kellner, the evening began with performances ranging from poetry reading to comedy.

Edwards performed a solo piece early on in the show, portraying various characters in a 1960s beach party movie. Edwards used different voices and facial expressions to change from one character to the next. The piece received many laughs from the audience.

Edwards enjoyed performing in the show and said her favorite piece is her humorous duet with Runyan. The piece was a humorous documentary on PMS, and focused on the symptoms and problems associated with it. "My partner and I really related to it, maybe a little too much," said Edwards.

Junior Matt Edwards and sophomore Beau Brown performed a dramatic piece about two friends

in college. One of the friends was confined to a wheelchair and this disability tested their friendship through many difficult ordeals.

Senior Tanya Austin performed a special occasions speech on the fear of the abnormal, citing examples of people who are different from the rest of society. She gave examples of high school students who were not typical.

Forensics has had a rewarding season, with much improvement on the part of the members. "We've all come so far because we've all learned that it [Forensics] means more than ranks and trophies," said Edwards. "Knowing that we made people feel something is worth all the hard work and heart we put into performing."

This was the first year Forensics charged for tickets to Verbally Yours. However, instead of keeping the \$1.00 cover charge, the Forensics team held a raffle and selected someone in the audience to decide where \$200 should go. Junior Melissa Birch was selected and decided the money should go to the Forensics team for expenses at the upcoming sectional and state competitions.

## Feed my lambs

By Grant Wheaton

The VICA Food Drive this year has been the most successful one in over 25 years of VICA history. The old record for food items collected was 3,855. This year, VICA collected 4,141.

The food was delivered to the Feed My Lambs food pantry at St. Mary's church in West Chicago.

St. Mary's, as well as VICA, is grateful for all the support from the students and staff at We-go.

As always, the department with the most donations was the P.E. department. It took VICA members a long time to count all the food brought in to make up gym classes.

Coming in third place was the freshmen. Tied for second was the juniors and the seniors (classes of 1999 and 1998, respectively). First place this year was the sophomores for the second year in a row. Along with department and class winners, VICA also held a raffle for student and staff. For every three items someone brought in, they were given a raffle ticket (including a ticket for every three items brought in by each department). Winning numbers were called the day before winter break, December 19th. Congratulations to social studies chair, George Strecker, the winner of the faculty raffle and a fruit basket. Third place for the students was a ticket number from the P.E. department. Second place was Ramiro Resendez, and first place was sophomore Jenny Briggs. Winners received gift certificates to Stratford Square Mall.

Thanks again to everyone who donated food and/or helped with the counting and tallying.

### Press Release

Community High School's chapter of FBLA will sponsor a celebrity auction in conjunction with a variety show at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 11, in the Weyrauch Auditorium. Proceeds from the auction will benefit the March of Dimes.

Registration for the auction will begin at 6:30 p.m. The evening will include both a live and silent auction.

Items include an autographed boxing glove from Oscar De La Hoya, a jersey from Brett Favre and autographed pictures from Bill Cosby, Drew Barrymore, Leonardo DiCaprio and much more.

Admission for the evening is \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for students. For further information, call Donald Zabelin at 293-8164.



## Our day will come yet

By hannah m kenny

In the town of Speckles, ever since Was, people had to go inside when it rained. Lights out meant lights out and don't play in the mud was just that. Nothingheads make it this way and i can't question because it isn't the way.

i finally questioned and figured out what school is about - and i still think it is a load of BS.

It is not about sports, who said what, or who is popular. It is about nouns, sums and bettering ourselves.

It's about handling conflicts between Personalities and Nothingheads.

It is about learning the facts of life - some people won't like you or anything you do and will punish you for it.

It is about unfairness: we will be reliving live full of BS and doing despised work for the rest of our doomhood.

i've learned to fall and then learned to stand again. i've learned the art of tearing it all apart. i've seen through the fakes and i've seen the hypocrisy.

This world is tangled, deceptive and huge. You make your choices, try to find what's true. i wanted it all, now i find i'm lost too, crawling through the cracks of contradictions.

To tell the truth i could care less if

you all get screwed. Go away to your fancy, expensive colleges, stick with your crowd. Live your transparent plastic lives, trying to fool everyone but only making fools out of yourselves.

Bigger fish get fried.

Frankly, i don't give a damn if i will be remembered in these confines, even as just another face in the crowd. i don't give a damn about the future, either. i just go on day to day with nothing but matchbooks and sarcasm in my pocket, waiting for something worth waiting for.

We can't really prepare ourselves for the future, for who knows what it holds?

What do i want? i want to be rich and famous and happy but i'm terrified i have nothing to offer this world.

i don't want to become a Nothinghead, scratching the surface of truth and putting matter into meaningless material.

i want to stop reading magazines, stop watching television, stop caring about Hollywood, but we're addicted to the things we hate. Perhaps this is why we will feel a pain when we leave for the final time.

It could be we are scared of the Nothingheads: what would they want us to do, and are we doing it right?

Someone will always be looking over our shoulders, weighing our mistakes.

i am not God, although sometimes i wish i was. i don't know everything and it won't always go my way, but i can and will influence the outcome.

i will make the best of the knowledge i gathered these 17 years and make the best of each day high on life and caffeine, picking up the best broken pieces along the way.

In 70 days, i am breaking out of this dirty, overcrowded, badly lit prison. i will become my own Nothinghead. My wings will bud and i will fly. i know it will not be far (does anyone really leave?) because my wings are still weak.

Stephen Dedalus in *A Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man* hoped "I may learn in my own life and away from home and friends what the heart is and what it feels... Welcome, O life! I go to encounter for the millionth time the reality of experience and to forge in the smithy of my soul the uncreated conscience of my own race."

Let us therefore try with our whole heart and whole mind to stop praying for someone to save us and start saving ourselves.

Let's stop this and start over. Let's go out. Let's keep going.

I guess this is growing up.

## True Love



By Tracy Busse

A teen at We-go has many opportunities to be a witness of many things. I for one feel like I've seen and heard it all. Most likely this isn't true but there is one thing that I have seen many times; this would have to be what many couples at West Chicago would refer to as "true love."

Over the past few years I wondered about this love and where it came from, how could two people fall in love: especially in high school. Now I am not one to say whether these many couples were in love or not but I can speak for myself.

Now I admit I'm a sap and a complete romantic but I never thought I would fall in love. But here I am about to tell you that I too have fallen in love. Of course I will always be the first to tell you my love is special and that my love is true. You can decide for yourself.

So who is this person you may be asking yourself? Well the truth is that he is the most perfect person in the world. He loves me more than I can even comprehend. The greatest thing is the great lengths he went to for my love. He gave examples of how love should be acted out and he showed me that love is the greatest gift humans possess.

This guy is not your average guy, he's the type of guy that would take a weeks pay and go feed the poor, he would take a foster child upon

his knee and express his great love, he loves all no matter who they are. He is not one to look for a reward for his love. It is all part of his great compassion.

I met him about seven years ago and that's when I began to look at all the things he did and year after year I slowly fell in love with him. No matter what I do or say he always will forgive me and continue to love me.

He is so patient with me and my inconsistencies. There will be days when I feel like selfishly wallowing in my misery and instead of making me feel worse he'll pick me up and make me feel like I never had any problems at all.

Imagine the worst day of your life when you felt like your heart would fall to your feet and the tears you produced were enough to fill Lake Michigan. He would take that situation and comfort you to the point you thought your heart would burst open and your lips would fall off from smiling. Can you imagine?

Well I am proud to say that I can imagine that because I have experienced it. Now I am sure many of you think I am bragging about this true love that I have found and you wish I would stop before you shoot yourself from mush overdose. But before I end I have to tell you this guy truly loves you too and he is desperately seeking a relationship with you. So why don't you look him up; his name is Jesus Christ.

## Social classes aren't acceptable

Dear Editor:

Of course there are social classes in our school. Some of us may be in denial of this but no matter what anyone else may say, I'm convinced the order is clear within every grade. One can notice these things simply by sauntering down the hallway during passing periods; it doesn't take a genius to see what is going on. Ignorance won't get any of us anywhere, but will let it all continue. An understanding may bring forth a change where everyone is treated equally.

We wonder at times why things happen at our school yet we don't take time to try to figure them out. Newspapers such as this one bicker about things but I've rarely seen anything resolved within your pages. Well, let me give you something else to fight over. The preppies of our school against the rest of the students.

Don't ask me why I noticed this recently; I probably finally realized there was some underlying tone beneath most school relationships.

Just the other day, I happened to be watching some sort of presentation during our lunch hour. There was a decent sized crowd gathered there, apparently interested in what they were seeing. At one point, the presenter asked if anyone from the crowd would like to go and try their hand at the keyboard. Right behind me stood the "star" quarterback of our school's beloved football team, was asked by an administrator if he would go up there.

I don't resent the fact that the adult was asking someone to go up but I do resent who he asked; it reinforces the opinion that our

school's workers know the athletes first. It seems to me a lot of us in this school are simply in the shadows, whereas the athletes are recognized by all. I'd like to know why they get most of the attention, whether it's from the administrators or from this newspaper.

A few days later at lunch, I was peacefully eating when I was asked to fill out a yearbook survey. I figured "why not?" so I started looking it over. Finally I got to the questions where it asked what style of clothes I wear. As I figured, I didn't fit into the narrow categories presented.

I'd like to know why our school "leaders" feel such a need to categorize everything into such strict categories that exclude so many people. If I had to take a guess, I'd say maybe half the people don't fit into any of the categories listed but the pressure is there to conform to one of those groups so one can be "accepted." I saw the clothing styles split into two distinct groups, either the preppies at the top of the school or the burnouts at the bottom, leaving no room for a sizable middle group that exists.

Probably where this all started was in English class a few weeks ago when we were asked to decide who the "elite" and the "commoners" of the school were. I think we mainly found that we couldn't really decide who the elite were, everyone had such varying ideas.

Though I didn't especially agree with the project at first, it did reveal some interesting things and what I think are sorry ideas about the people in our school. As I watched

the preppies get up there and present, I had this overwhelming feeling they didn't realize this project wasn't supposed to be truthful. Yet, they thought it was real and that's the way the school should be run: with them at the top.

I felt disgusted with their aloofness and figured it was best not to argue with them at that point since I was pretty much outnumbered. Their plans had them at the top, and it bore a striking resemblance to what really goes on. And let it be said that they called themselves part of the preppie group and admitted that some of them could be stuck up, though they themselves were nothing like that.

There's an almost ever present arrogance about them (now, there are always exceptions to the rule) that I suppose intimidates a lot of us. They seem to think they run our school simply because they have some sort of athletic ability (I suppose not all preppies have those abilities but most of ones I have run into are athletes).

I'll admit several of them have put down either me or my friends for simply not having the talents they have or because of different and supposedly "improper" tastes. Talking with a few other people, I've heard they have similar feelings as I, including the feeling that so many of the "top" group seem so shallow or artificial in how they go about life.

Whenever I'm around, all I ever hear about is how the latest game went, how the last party was (and how wasted they got), how the cheerleaders did, or who is going

out with who.

It's rather sad that most of them are devoting their lives to a social scene that will disappear within a few years. So many follow the trends and simply go along with what everyone is doing and what everyone else will accept.

Don't you ever have important discussions on stuff that matters or lasts instead of something that's over within a night or a few days?!? Don't you ever think of things that are actually meaningful?!?

I don't see the point of not respecting everyone else and simply putting down everyone you consider "below" yourselves. I couldn't care less if you had your little preppie group, as long as you decided to give the respect everyone else deserves.

There's plenty more that's important than sports or cheerleading and yet most of what our school is about are those two things. I get the idea that if someone can do something the preppies can't, the plan is to beat the person down and drill into their skulls that they are what is important.

Maybe this will help people think a bit about what they're doing, although I doubt things will ever really change. Time will go on and it will always be the athletes and that type who get all the attention while the rest of us get left behind. No matter what happens, I plan to finish my years of high school well and with good memories, something the rest of you may not have.

Brian Miller

Wildcat Chronicle  
326 Joliet Street  
West Chicago, IL 60185  
(630) 231-0880

The Chronicle Staff:

Kelley Betts  
Jeff Goluszka  
Hannah Kenny  
Jennifer Lasky  
Joe Leli  
Dave Mehrman  
Arlete Penaflor  
Allison Taylor  
John Williamson  
Dan Young  
Carrie Zeffield  
Advisor Carrie Mocariski  
Name Plate Chris Kurzhals

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



## The ups and downs

By Carrie Zeffield

Now that 97 is out the door and 98 is welcomed in with open arms, many of us look back and think about who and what conquered the year. The answer, the music nation.

There were comebacks, reunions, new music groups, deaths of loved music makers, and of course those who caused controversy between the music world and its fans.

Lets start out with the biggest comebacks. Will Smith, singer turned actor, took the billboard charts by storm with his #1 hit "Men in Black."

He was a small time rapper of the late 1980s and early 1990s. He took some time off from his music and began working on movies such as "Bad Boys" and "Independence Day."

The Rolling Stones kicked off their "Bridges to Babylon" tour here in Chicago at Soldier Field. The tickets went quick, with a sold out show in twelve minutes on the first day. They will continue touring the U.S. throughout 1998.

The most talked about reunion of 1997 was the 70s group Fleetwood Mac. Fleetwood Mac staged their reunion on an VH1 special during the late summer. The group broke up in the early 80s; each person wanting to go their own way due to the many personality differences.

They recently decided it was time to put differences aside and start over. 1997 treated Fleetwood Mac well with a top five single of "Silver Springs."

Another reunion that went sour was Van Halen. Van Halen announced at the 1997 MTV music awards they were ready to start over and soon go on tour. Things changed later in the year when

arguments arose among the group. Since the summer of 1997, David Lee Roth has gone solo, with three new released singles, none of which are in the top 100.

1997 was a big year for new comers in the music world. Hanson the three boys from Tulsa, Oklahoma, had a surprising year. Their biggest hit single "MMMBop" shook the billboards top five like thunder. "MMMBop" was a #1 hit in the U.S. for two months straight and a top five for five consecutive months.

Web sites were set up for people who are "Anti-Hanson." "Hanson are the tools of the devil," said rock star Marilyn Manson during an MTV interview. "They are just kids trying to have fun in their music and entertain the millions of people who enjoy pop music," said Sean "Puffy" Combs.

Hanson is still taking the world by storm and planning a new release some time in late 1998 or early 1999.

1997 was a tragic time for Sean "Puff Daddy" Combs after the death of his long time friend Christopher Wallace, a.k.a. Notorious B.I.G.

Puff Daddy formed the fun-loving group "Puff Daddy and the Family," featuring Lil' Kim, Mase, B.I.G and the Lox. Puff Daddy and the Family shocked the U.S. with their tribute to the death of B.I.G "I'll be Missing You" at the 1997 MTV music awards.

Puff Daddy and the family preformed the song with singer/songwriter Sting accompanying them.

Other new coming bands, groups and solo artists hit the top 100 in 1997: Blur, Backstreet Boys, Matchbox 20, Tonic, Smash Mouth, Marcie Playground, Paula Cole, and the Spice Girls.

The death of John Denver was also a tragedy after his plane crashed in California in October. Never released albums have been advertised for selling along with classics from Denver.

Now for music's most controversial people. Marilyn Manson's release of "Anti-Christ Superstar" had more than ten states try to shut down his act with religious protests. Many felt Manson is/was a bad influence on people.

"I didn't anticipate the rumors, but when you have an album called 'Anti-Christ Superstar, you're not going to make too many friends," says Manson. "There were many rumors going around, saying that I killed animals in my shows and that I rape people, it's not true. If there is a hell, I'll see them all there."

The Insane Clown Posse represents violence and death. The group is not viewed well, but when they travel to certain towns, there are just as many protests and riots as Marilyn Manson brings to towns.

"The group is just as satanic as Marilyn Manson. I feel for the parents who have children that fallow ICP," says Paul Anderson, a New York reporter. ICP is still making the death raging music, while keeping their public image low.

Now for some of 1997s best and worst. Beck took first place on critics best list while new comers Hanson and Spice Girls made the worst list.

The best makeover was Courtney Love, wife of the late Kurt Cobain. The worst model was Elle Macpherson while Kate Moss was dealing her cards right in 1997. And the most unexpected break up was that of actor Brad Pitt and actress Gwyneth Paltro.

## Time to rise

By Jeff Goluszka

A demon is here on Earth.

The bad news: its quest is none other than world domination.

The worse news: this demon just happens to be spread from human to human by touch, the simple brush of an arm or bump in the crowd.

This sadistic demon, named Azazel, is loose in present-day New York City in the new film starring Denzel Washington and John Goodman, *Fallen*.

The title refers to demons, which are created when angels have "fallen" into human beings, and must work out their angers through human actions, like murder.

Azazel first takes effect in the form of Edgar Reese, a normal man. Soon, Reese has committed various murders, is caught, and eventually executed in an electric chair.

Witness to this execution is Detective John Hobbes, played in an Oscar-worthy performance by Washington (previously in *Crimson Tide* and *Philadelphia*), the police officer who eventually caught Reese.

After Reese dies, everyone breathes a sigh of relief. Shortly after, something very mysterious happens. There is another murder, except it was done *exactly* the way that Reese always butchered his victims. The victim was stabbed numerous times by a syringe filled with a fatal toxin, then thrown naked into the bathtub.

At first this was seen as a copycat murder, but then the second killer is slain the same way he murdered, and the same way Reese committed his murders.

Added into all of this chaos, there are riddles written at every murder site, either on the bodies or the walls, by many different killers.

At the center of this adventure are Hobbes, Detective Jones (played superbly by *Roseanne's* John Goodman) and Greta Milano, a theology teacher, (played by Embeth Davidtz of *Schindler's List* and *Murder In The First*). Milano is somewhat of a secret adviser to Hobbes' from time to time, asking not to be named or involved. She feeds him little bits of information, but doesn't explain, so he needs to divulge clues himself.

Milano and Hobbes become confidants in each other, and Milano aides Hobbes in finding out what's really going on.

*Fallen* then goes down a roller coaster path of spirals and twirls that are bewildering, yet somewhat clarifying to the viewer. The plot can be difficult to follow at times, but it becomes more clear every so often, as if a light bulb went on in the viewer's head.

*Fallen* is filled with, madness and anarchy in a twisting web of confusion and deception.

Azazel goes mad, infecting everyone from a pre-teen boy, to a middle-aged man, even to an elderly woman.

In the midst of the havoc being wreaked by the demon, there are two themes in this story that can just not be avoided.

Hobbes states how during everyone's life, at some point, time gets divided by a major event, to the point where everything in you life then becomes "before this and after this."

The other theme involves the unnoticed things in life. There are things in life that happen and you see them, but you don't really think about it, until sometime later, you remember that moment as a now-defining moment, but at that time it was meaningless.

Not only does *Fallen* have one of the best and most original plots of recent movies, it has superior acting.

Goodman shows his versatility by playing an action role, instead of his usual comedic role.

He makes the transition very well, as he fits in just as well, if not better, as an action/adventure actor than a comedic actor. The role Goodman plays involves being a semi-serious and vulgar, yet caring and decisive detective, with Washington as his long-time partner.

Washington gives another great performance, as we now expet from Washington's past action/adventure performances in films such as *Glory* and *Courage Under Fire*.

Davidtz continues to evolve as a young actor, as she gives a very convincing performance mixing mystery and secret information, and hiding them behind a schoolgirl image.

★★★★

## We're an American Band

By Carrie Zeffield

Musicians from around the country gathered for a night of celebration at the twenty-fifth annual American Music Awards.

The Award show was televised ABC-7. Among the celebrities were Shawn "Puff Daddy" Combs Garth Brooks, Janet Jackson, the Spice Girls, Michael Bolton, Matchbox 20 and Mary J. Blige.

The three hour show had a variety of performers. Mariah Carey preformed live from Japan as she continues her tour promoting her latest release *Butterfly*. Mary J. Blige, Matchbox 20, Janet Jackson, Michael Bolton and Garth Brooks were among the performers at the award show.

Host Drew Carey was there to light up the night with the usual attack on Clinton, though he promised before the show took off that he wouldn't make any remarks toward Clinton with the alleged affair of White House intern Monica Lowinski.

Though Carey broke his promise, the crowd seemed to be highly entertained as laughter rang through the audience.

There were many expected winners on the award show. Surprisingly, the Spice Girls won five of the seven nominations for best pop/rock album, best female group, favorite group and best new album. Mariah Carey was awarded best solo female artist, but was not there to receive it. Babyface

was there to accept the award of best R&B/soul artist.

Bone-Thugs and Harmony got the award for best rap group of the year. Latin singer Enrique Iglesias received an award for best Latin record and Elton John won the award for best adult contemporary record and single for Englands Rose: A Tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales.

The highlight of the night arose when Frank Sinatra received the life time achievement award. Sinatra's long time friend Tony Bennett was there to present the award. He also showed the audience a quick look back on Sinatras achievements. Though Sinatra was not there to accept the award due to illness, his daughter Nancy Sinatra was there to except the award and to give thanks to all his fans.

Though some of these winners were not expected to win, Dick Clark, founder and CEO of the AMAs told USA Today in a January 27 interview, "The awards are not chosen by a blue ribbon panel unlike the Grammy awards are. The winners are based on how many records were sold throughout the year and their popularity level."

And in other news, the Grammy nominees were announced on January 25 at Radio City Music Hall. The Grammy Award Show will be taped live from Los Angles on February 25, at Seven o'clock. The show will be televised on CBS channel 2.





## Hip to the hop, and they don't stop

By John Williamson

The date was March 9, 1997 and Christopher Wallace, known by his fans as the Notorious B.I.G., had just received several awards including Male Rap Artist of the Year at the 11th Annual Soul Train Music Awards in L.A.

Like any success, Biggie's breaded envy. While leaving the awards, the 24-year-old superstar was shot in a drive-by which left him dead and left family, friends, and fans to mourn in disbelief.

It's sad to think that the most memorable moment of hip-hop music in 1997 stems from death but fortunately Big's death helped people in and out of the music industry realize that violence needs to stop.

Big's death combined with the death of 2Pac in 1996 sent the East vs. West war to a screeching halt.

Music wise, 1997 was a record breaking year for hip-hop. Record sales hit an all time high, piling up 17 multi-platinum albums (\$2 million+), 22 platinum albums (\$1 million), and 30 gold albums (\$500,000).

### 2Pac still lives...in his music

Leading the impressive list of sales was *All Eyes On Me*, the double 2Pac LP that was released in 1996, which sold seven million copies in 1997. *All Eyes On Me* set the trend of double albums which was extremely popular in '97.

With singles such as "California Love," "I Ain't Mad At Cha," and "America's Most Wanted," *All Eyes On Me* will be remembered as a hip-hop classic, not to mention the best selling rap album ever.

Two other albums were released by 2Pac following his death: *Makaveli* and *Are You Still Down*, both of which have gone multi-platinum since.

### BadBoy "all about the benjimins" in 97

1997 was a year in which Sean "Puffy" Combs saw his deepest personal dreams come true as well as his greatest nightmares. Although nothing could match the pain felt with the death of his protege Notorious B.I.G., Puffy did achieve his personal fantasies by becoming a successful musical artist himself.

Instead of trying to get attention on his artists videos and songs, he now has his own videos and hit songs. *No Way Out*, Puffy's triple platinum selling album, was probably the most talked about album of the year.

*Life After Death*, the ironically titled album by the Notorious B.I.G., also sold like crazy. Six million people purchased the album in 1997 and every radio station in America was playing "Hypnotize" and "Mo Money, Mo Problems," two of it's platinum singles. It's just too bad Biggie wasn't around to see it all happen.

### No Limit "Tru" to it's name in 97

Another label that absolutely blew up in 1997 was the independently owned No Limit Records. Led by CEO and artist Master P, 1997 proved to be the year for the New Orleans based company.

*I'm Bout It*, the hit movie and soundtrack, made the already successful artist a national phenomenon by both the movie and the soundtrack going platinum.

Mystical's (a new No Limit artist) album, *Unpredictable*, was released towards the end of the year and debuted number one on the Billboard top 200.

Besides his artists Master P also had platinum of his own. Tru, consisting of Master P, C-Murder, and Silk, released a double album and sold two million copies quickly with the single "I Always Feel Like..."

His solo album, *Ghetto D*, also went double platinum and spent time at number one on the Billboard Top 200 also.

### Not waiting for Disaster to Strike

Busta Rhymes, not waiting for his debut album, *The Coming*, to get cold, released the year's most catching rap single, "Put Your Hands Where My Eyes Can See." It received tremendous air play and helped propel his sophomore release *When Disaster Strikes* to platinum status.

In 1997 Bone Thugs In Harmony, the Cleveland based tongue twisters, moved up the ladder and started their own record label, Mo Thugs Records. Despite receiving mixed

reviews on the label's debut album, *Mo Thugs Family Scriptures*, the future looks bright for Bone.

Besides releasing a compilation album on their own label they also released a double album of their own on their old label, Ruthless Records. *Art Of War* displayed the old, hardcore, side of Bone that many believed they lost. Despite being weaker than their previous three albums, *Art Of War* still reached platinum status.

### Wu-Tang Forever

Another group that came on strong in '97 was the Wu-Tang Clan. After taking a few years off from their debut album *36 Chambers* the Wu released a double album entitled *Wu-Tang Forever*, one of the most complete albums of the year.

This release definatly put Wu-Tang towards the top of the hip-hop power list and is the best display of true hip-hop all year.

The Wu-Wear clothesline also raked in a lot of cash for the Shaolin based group. Let's just say the members of the Wu-Tang Clan sat on top the world in 97.

### Rap isn't the only form of hip-hop

The softer side of hip-hop, R&B, was also represented in '97. BlackStreet's *Anotha Level*, Aaliyah's *One In A Million*, Babyface's *The Day*, Erykah Badu's *Baduizm*, and Mariah Carey's *Butterfly* all went multi-platinum in '97.

### A year full of surprises

The surprise artist of the year was easily Usher, the teenage sensation, that exploded with the platinum single "You Make Me Wanna..." and the soon to be platinum album *My Way*.

The best album you probably never heard of was the *War Report* from Capone and Noreaga. The album was solid track to track and went gold despite no videos and few ads. *The War Report* is a must have for any true hip-hop fan.

1997 was filled with hit after hit, let's just hope 1998's roster of music supplies us with the same line-up - PEACE!!

## Drugs, jokes and Hollywood

By Dave Mehrman

Catch phrases, stupid human tricks, and lots of drug paraphernalia is what *Half-Baked* is all about. *Half-Baked* is a movie directed by Tamra Davis about a group of four friends who have been smoking pot since high school and now live in an apartment together in New York City.

The movie begins with Thurgood (played by actor Dave Chapelle who was in the *Nutty Professor*) telling the audience how he and his friends started smoking weed. Thurgood then begins to explain about his friends, him, and their place in life.

He tells about thier lowlife jobs - Thurgood is a janitor at a government center. Brian (actor Jim Breuer from *Saturday Night Live*) works at a music store. Scarface (actor Guillermo Diaz who was in *Girls Town*) is a fast food restaurant employee who really despises his job. Finally Kenny (actor Harland Williams from the movie *Rocket Man*) is a kindergarten teacher.

The whole movie is based around pot and how Thurgood and his friends are going to get Kenny out of jail before he gets sexually abused by Nasty Nate. Kenny got put in jail for killing a police officer's horse by feeding it the food he bought from the store when he went on a snack run for everyone.

The horse turned out to be diabetic and eating all the junk food killed him. In jail there is a really big dude named Nasty Nate. He wants to get Kenny, but Squirrel Master (another guy in jail who "became" Kenny's "girlfriend") is protecting him.

Squirrel Master's parole date is in a week so his friends have to come up with a way of raising the bail money in time.

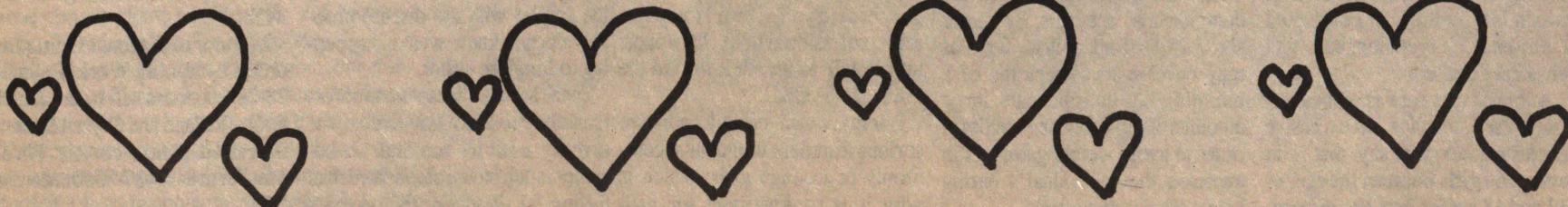
Then the story goes from there with the three friends trying to collect the money. Along the way they run into problems and other situations.

The acting in this movie was pretty crazy. They are all actors that look like they all came from "Saturday Night Live" or "Mad TV." The idea of what happens to them is kind of wild.

It's not like any of these kind of things would happen to any normal person. If you were to compare this movie to any other movies it would probably be closest to a Cheech and Chong movie. Both use the ideas of drugs and comedy to make people laugh.

It was pretty predictable. You could tell a lot of the time what would happen next by the way they would act. This movie is one for the home video player.

If you like this types of movies with the drugs and stupid comments and predictable actions, then maybe you will get a laugh from it.



**Montgomery Ward**  
**Driving School**



Call today to get in on our  
Winter Special!

Classes start soon - save  
your seat today and tell  
your friends

**(630) 539-2700**

State-Approved Program  
Start at age 15

Free Pick-Up for Behind The Wheel

Graduated Licensing Packages available  
classes located at Stratford Square Mall and  
on Main Street in St. Charles



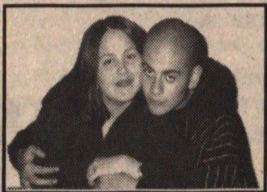
## Letters of Love

**Dear Seniors,**  
Happy Valentine's Day to the whole class of '98.  
Love ya all,  
Marcia

**Dear Eva,**  
What it is yo. Happy Valentine's Day nerd! Love You.  
Paul Martinez

**Dear Ces,**  
You'll always be my best friend. I love you. Always.  
Rachel Watson

**Dear Heather,**  
Just wanted to say, I'll always be there for you.  
Derek DiPietro



**Dearest Vince,**  
It was definitely fate that brought me here and us together again. May God bless us and prove us true. I love you!!  
Lindsay Cristina

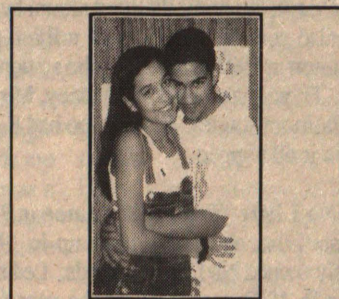
Happy Valentine's Day to my big sister Lara!!  
I Love You,  
Thumper

**Angels,**  
"I never believed in Angels before, but ever since I met you, you don't have to ask me twice."  
Poison Ivy

**Dear Gina,**  
To the dearest of girls. May we share the happiest of our Valentines together, and hold a kind of passionate love no other couple endures. Let us be lost in a sea of love, and hold the most valuable treasure of all, nuestros besos, carinos sentimientos, y nuestro amor.  
Giovanni Mendez

**Dear Jason O.**  
You're sweet and I love you forever.  
Morning Star

**Dear John,**  
The way things are going, you should be able to eat steak soon.  
Donita Spaunhurst



**Dear Matty,**  
Things are going great! Trust me V-day is worth the wild. Happy Valentine's Day. I love you.  
Becky

**Dear Giovanni,**  
Sweetie, I know sometimes it's hard for me to express what I feel. But I thought you'd like to know that "Je t'aime beaucoup" mon amour. And that won't change.  
Cupid

**Dear Papa Smurf,**  
Merry Valentine's Day cutie! I'm here for you, Honey Bunny. K? Just call me. Luv ya!  
Smurfette

**Dear Monica,**  
Happy Valentine's Day sweetie. And happy 18th birthday too.  
Jenny and Eva

**Dear Peter Urso,**  
Hope we have a great year. I still remember you.  
Love, Cupid

**Dear Chano,**  
Quisiera desearte lo mejor en el dia del Amor y la Amistad y que siempre tengas mucho amor. Quiero que sepas que me gustas mucho. Y que siempre seras "Mi Amado."  
Anonymous

**Dear Heather,**  
Hey baby! Happy Valentine's Day. I love you more than anything and hope we stay together forever.  
Cupid

**Dear Magoo,**  
What it is nerd. Love you too.  
Paul Martinez

**Dear Justin M.**  
I know how to make you forget her. I can love you better than that.  
Eeyore



**Hey Visco,**  
Sure wish I had one of those fun bowling pins! I would ask you to be my Valentine, but that would be like asking you to call... It would NEVER happen!!!  
Happy Valentine's Day Brat.  
Love,  
Your Stalker

## Appearance: a decision between life or death

By Kelly Kaylor

When you're young there are certain situations you never expect to find yourself in, situations you see in after-school specials. The unfortunate reality of our society is that eating disorders are common in high school and the chances of them affecting you in some way is very likely.

Prior to my senior year, I looked at eating disorders as diseases that only tiny gymnasts and bony supermodels got. However, I have learned anorexia and bulimia can strike close to home.

The basis of these problems is a result of how a person looks at themselves. As a teenager it seems like your entire world revolves around how you look.

In high school, where a large percentage of eating disorders develop, what is seen as important can be greatly over-emphasized. Low self-confidence and self-image are frequent causes of anorexia/bulimia and are common worries of teenagers, which is why such diseases develop in adolescence.

The scary factor is how serious and life-threatening these situations become. You lose control of yourself and your outer appearance consumes your every thought. A minor worry can quickly develop into a disease that can turn you into a skeleton or even kill you.

Both disorders affect the person's thoughts, feelings, and bodies, which is why they are considered emotional, psychological, and physical diseases.

Anorexia nervosa is characterized by self-starving and excessive exercising; experts say that 1 in every 200 girls between the ages of 12 and 18 suffer from the disease.

Since an anorexic's main fear is gaining weight, the problems usually begin with an innocent diet, however the dieting does not stop at a reasonable point.

In addition to fasting, anorexics may use diet pills, laxatives, diuretics, or vomiting as methods of feeling thinner or controlling their calorie intake.

Anorexics develop a distorted body image which inhibits their ability to realize when they are skinny and when dieting is no longer necessary. They constantly feel fat and are looking for attention to be drawn to their new body.

Such a disease is typically a result of unhealthy ways of coping with the stresses and pressures in life and can produce innumerable serious problems.

Warning signs to watch for in suspected anorexics are: significant weight loss, reduction of food intake, denial of hunger, excessive exercise, strange ways of handling food, extreme fear of weight gain, and changes in personality.

Anorexia can result in heart irregularities, tendency toward infection, and anemia; in the most severe cases between 10-15% of anorexics die from the disease. Anorexia cannot be taken lightly, because if the individual goes untreated the possibility of death is very real.

Bulimia nervosa has become more common in recent years. Estimates show 25% of all college females may develop the symptoms of a bulimic. A bulimic eats large amounts of food and then vomits in order to avoid weight gain. As in anorexia the individual's eating habits are out of control.

The practice of binge eating and purging is usually done in private and often times people are ashamed of their behavior. They suffer major mental instabilities and despite their shame are unable to fix their addiction.

Bulimics share characteristics with anorexics in their preoccupation with food and weight control achieved by extreme methods.

In bulimia, the person will depend on food and usually understands that their actions are abnormal. Their perception of their bodies is not as distorted as anorexics, however, bulimics are more susceptible to additional problems such as alcohol abuse or shoplifting.

Both use their weight as a shelter from dealing with other pressures and issues.

Identifying bulimics is much more difficult than recognizing anorexics. Bulimics do not show significant weight loss and are much more secretive about their habits. Warning signs of the disease are: frequent usage of the bathroom after eating, normal body weight but concern for weight maintenance, depressive moods, and any evidence of the binge-purge cycle.

In bulimics, heart failure, kidney failure, and suicide are common repercussions to putting their body through extreme eating patterns.

Learning more about anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa can only benefit you. The first step is to seek professional help. It's important to talk to an adult to find the guidance needed.

Anorexia and bulimia are two serious disorders found most commonly in teenage girls, which is why it is so important for high

schoolers to be aware of the warning signs. When such signs are recognized, the severity of the situation needs to be addressed.

Facing eating disorders is neither easy nor simple, those suffering do not acknowledge the problem and are often extremely afraid of what fixing their problem entails. It is an anorexic/bulimic's worst nightmare to imagine gaining back a single pound.

The first and most important thing to do when you become suspicious of someone's eating habits is to talk to a trusted adult. Consulting friends about the problem may not offer all the necessary advice and options needed to ensure the best possible outcome.

Therapies of all sorts are offered as treatments to both disorders, often times the support group setting is most comfortable for sufferers to open up and discuss their situations. In many cases, family and nutritional counseling is necessary to focus on all trouble areas in the life of the anorexic or bulimic.

In more severe cases, anti-depression drugs and hospitalization are the only solutions to help those who are trapped deep within the eating disorder cycle.

When it affects someone important in your life, it's impossible to stop from getting too involved.

The truth of the matter is you may never understand, and in most cases the person with the disease probably doesn't know what is happening to him/her either.

These are real diseases and unfortunately most do not realize the severity until it's too late. It becomes much more complicated than feeling fat, it attacks the person's

ability to conceive reality.

Anorexia and bulimia are not easily conquered, and in the healing process there is a lot of frustration. Throughout all stages of these diseases feelings of desperation, loneliness, depression, anger, and hatred are common.

Such feelings are not only felt by those suffering from the diseases but by those forced to watch someone they love struggling with it.

These diseases can take their toll on all those involved, relationships can strain between those suffering and those trying to help.

As a friend to an anorexic/bulimic all you want is to see is that person normal again, but treating such disorders is not a simple or quick process. The sufferer may shut people out and feel betrayed by everyone attempting to help her.

Just remember both diseases can be life-threatening, and will drastically alter the behavior of your friend. In the end, a person can only be cured if he/she realizes there is a severe problem.

There are people fighting with anorexia and bulimia all around us, one could be the girl in your physics class, your math teacher, or even your best friend. In all scenarios, the outcome could be fatal if someone does not reach out to help.

For more information on eating disorders call National Association for Eating Disorders at (847) 831-3438.

In honor of National Eating Disorders Screening Week, February 23-28, seminars will be held in Elk Grove Village and Crystal Lake. If interested please contact Nicole Mueller at 847-437-5500 extension 5239.



## Ladycats enter regionals without key player

By Jennifer Lasky

The Ladycats basketball team begins regionals on February 17 at 7:00 p.m., with a home game against Batavia.

The team heads into regionals without the help of guard Jeanette Arroyo, who is out with injury.

In the game against Glenbard East on January 22, the Cats managed to overcome many difficulties to pull out a 34-26 victory.

Senior center Leslie Harlson spent much of the game on the bench or pacing the sidelines with foul trouble. She picked up two fouls in the first quarter, and was forced to sit.

Harlson said, "It was frustrating watching a close game and not being able to play." By the middle of the third quarter, Harlson had four fouls. Despite spending much of the game on the bench, Harlson outscored the rest of the Cats, scoring 12 points.

With Harlson on the bench, junior Kim Ellis played the role of center. "She did really well. She stepped up and played hard and aggressive. She really went in there and busted her butt for us and we needed that," said Harlson.

In this game, sophomore Kim Olson went down early in the third quarter spraining her ankle. Not long after, Arroyo went down, tearing her ACL and ending her season. Senior forward Janine Morris said, "It was horrible that we lost both of our guards and had foul trouble, but it was good that we won anyway." The Cats are playing the rest of the season with arm bands bearing the number 13, dedicating each game

to Arroyo.

Arroyo is undergoing surgery on February 18. (anterior cruciate ligament) is a knee stabilizer, protecting against sliding and rotational forces on the knee. An ACL patient usually undergoes a six month protocol, then wears a knee brace until the doctor is comfortable with the patient going without it. Arroyo will be out of athletics for the rest of the 1997-1998 school year.

On February 7, the Cats faced Naperville North for their senior parent night. The Cats lost this game. By halftime, the score was 10-19, with Harlson owning seven of the Cats' 10 points. Junior Molly Saul fouled out of the game with about two minutes left in the game.

The Cats were defeated by Wheaton-Warrenville South on February 5, by a score of 40-59. Harlson was the high scorer for the girls, ending the game with 15 points. Olson scored 13 points for the Cats.

The Cats defeated Wheaton North in a home game on January 29. The final score was 36-41. Juniors Saul and Kelly Bolton both stepped up to replace the injured Arroyo. "They are doing good things for us, each bringing something different to the game," says coach Kim Wallner. Saul stood out in this game by hitting two three pointers. Last time the Cats played Wheaton North, Arroyo was in foul trouble, giving Saul more playing time. Saul said she knew what to expect from

Wheaton North. She knew she had to get her shot going early, which would be easier because the game was at home.

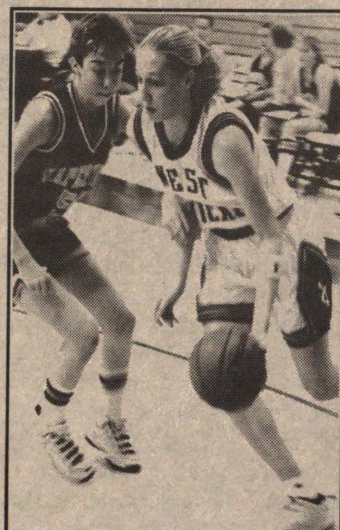


Photo by Sandy Weiss  
Janine Morris drives past an opponent.

Wallner was pleased with the Cats performance against Wheaton North. She says the girls shot better in the few days of practice before the game than she had seen all year and it showed in the game.

Senior guard Andrea Beutjer scored the first points for the Cats. Wallner says Beutjer's confidence was definitely up after she made the first shot. "I knew because J was hurt, all of us would have to step up," says Beutjer. Scoring nine points overall, Beutjer also scored four out of the last five points in the game.

Harlson leads the Cats in points for the season, averaging 15.7 points per game, with Olson following at 7.8 points per game.

Harlson also leads the team in

rebounds, averaging 7.8 per game, blocked shots (97 so far this season) and fouls (71). Morris has the second largest rebounding average (6), number of blocked shots (16), and assists (38).

## Wrestlers head to sectionals

By Arlete Penafior

The wrestling team will face Regionals on Saturday, February 14. The varsity team feels confident overall about these regional meets.

This sectional will be held at Glenbard North.

"I feel that as a team and as an individual we have a pretty good outlook, we just have to have fun and have no pressure. I hope to place at the top three for this sectional," said junior Ben Stevens.

Five varsity wrestlers made it to Sectionals this year: junior Ben Stevens, senior Jason Osterkamp, junior Luis Aquado, senior Marvin Boorsma, and senior Steve Pastore.

32 teams are involved, which has a combination of four regions. The team would like to qualify in the top four for Saturdays meet.

"This sectional is very important to us. It could either make us or break us. It's going to be hard but were going to work hard and do what we have to do," said Osterkamp.

"I think that overall as a team we are going to have a great performance at sectionals," said Osterkamp.

At the DVC Tournament in Naperville Central on January 31, the varsity team placed 8th.

"The season has been pretty poor because we don't have a lot of people. We usually like to have about 15 people in each level. This year we only had approximately 25 people all together," said senior Marvin Boorsma.

The team has had many individual forfeits because of a lack of people on each weight lever this year.

"We had a lot of young people this year who were not ready for varsity," said Boorsma.

"I feel that one of our strong points this year was having young guys wrestling at varsity level, and they were doing very good at it. With all of their experience at varsity level now they are just going to keep getting better and better," said Osterkamp.

"We had a hard time filling up all the weight classes, that is one of the problems we had this season," said junior Luis Aquado.

One highlight of the season that the team is really proud of, is placing third overall at the Geneva Invitational of twelve schools. One thing people on the wrestling team really seem to like is the individuality.

"It's one-on-one. If you lose or make a mistake, there is no one you can blame but yourself. You have to do the best you can in order to win," said Boorsma.

"I like being out there wrestling someone else. It sort of feels like a final battle. It feels like a test of life in which you prove how much you know, just like finals," said Osterkamp.

The freshmen wrestling team has an overall record of 2-11, and a conference record of 0-7. Junior varsity has an overall record of 3-8, and a conference record of 0-6. Varsity has an overall dual meet record of 4-15, and a conference dual record of 0-7.

## Sports Schedule

### Badminton

Mon. Mar. 2 Season Starts - 1st day of practice (JV/V)  
@ Riverside Brookfield (JV/V)  
Mon. Mar. 16 @ York (JV/V)  
Tue. Mar. 17 Downers Grove South (JV/V)  
Fri. Mar. 20 @ East Aurora (JV/V)  
Tue. Mar. 24

### Boys Basketball

Fri. Feb 13 @ West Aurora (S/V)  
Sat. Feb 14 @ West Aurora (FA, SB/FB, JV)  
Sat. Feb 18 @ St Charles (FA/FB)  
Sat. Feb 21 Naperville North (S/V)  
Sat. Feb 21 Wheaton Warr South (FA, SB/FB, JV)  
Mon. Feb 23 Naperville North (FA, SB/FB, JV)  
Tue. Feb 24 @ Glenbard South (FA, SB/FB, JV)  
Fri. Feb 27 @ Glenbard North (S/V)  
Sat. Feb 28 @ Wheaton North - Falcon Tournament (F ONLY)  
Mon. Mar 2 TBA Regional Quarterfinals (V ONLY)  
Tue. Mar 3 TBA Regional Semifinals (V ONLY)  
Fri. Mar 6 TBA Regional Finals (V ONLY)  
Tue. Mar 10-11 TBA Sectional Semifinals (V ONLY)  
Thu. Mar 12 Winter Sports Award Night - Auditorium  
Fri. Mar 13 TBA Sectional Finals (V ONLY)  
Tue. Mar 17 TBA Super-Sectionals (V ONLY)  
Fri. Mar 20 TBA State Finals (V ONLY)  
Sat. Mar 21 TBA State Finals - Season Ends (V ONLY)

### Girls Basketball

Mon. Feb 16 TBA Regional Quarterfinals (V ONLY)  
Tue. Feb 17 TBA Regional Semifinals (V ONLY)  
Thu. Feb 19 TBA Regional Finals (V ONLY)  
Mon. Feb 23 TBA Sectional Semifinals (V ONLY)  
Thu. Feb 26 TBA Sectional Finals (V ONLY)  
Mon. Mar 2 TBA Super-Sectionals (V ONLY)  
Fri. Mar 6-7 TBA State Finals - Season Ends (V ONLY)  
Thu. Mar 12 Winter Sports Award Night - Auditorium

### Boys Swimming

Sat. Feb. 21 Sectionals @ St. Charles High School (V)  
Fri. Feb. 27-28 State Finals - Season Ends (V ONLY)  
Thu. Mar. 12 Winter Sports Award Night - Auditorium

### Boys Track

Fri. Mar. 6 @ Glenbard North - Panther Invitational (V ONLY)  
Tue. Mar. 10 Larkin; Genoa-Kingston (S/V)  
Fri. Mar. 20 @ Glenbard South - Indoor Invitational - 9 schools  
Tue. Mar. 24 @ Fenton - Junior Bison Invitational - Indoor Season Ends (F-S)

### Girls Track

Sat. Feb. 14 @ Oswego with Naperville Central (JV/V)  
Thu. Feb. 19 East Aurora; Larkin (JV/V)  
Thu. Feb. 26 Rosary; Streamwood (JV/V)  
Tue. Mar. 3 West Aurora; Wheaton North (JV/V)  
Thu. Mar. 5 @ Glenbard North (JV/V)  
Sat. Mar. 7 @ Rolling Meadows with Lake Forest (V ONLY)  
Sat. Mar. 14 @ Fenton - Kurtz Klassic (JV/V)  
Wed. Mar. 18 Spring Parent/Athlete Drug Meeting - Bishop Gym  
Fri. Mar. 20 @ Glenbard North - Indoor Track DVC Invitational (JV/V)  
Thu. Mar. 26 Plainfield - Indoor Track Season Ends (JV/V)

### Boys Volleyball

Mon. Mar. 9 Season Starts - 1st day of practice (S/V)  
Tue. Mar. 24 St. Joe's (F-S/V)

### Wrestling

Fri. Feb. 13-14 Individual Sectionals (V ONLY)  
Fri. Feb. 20-21 Individual State Finals (V ONLY)  
Tue. Feb. 24 Team Sectionals (V ONLY)  
Sat. Feb. 28 Team State Final - Season Ends



# Boys basketball shooting for .500

By Dan Young

The boys basketball team came alive in the last three weeks, going four and two in their last six games and outscoring Wheaton North by 26 points.

On Saturday, February 7, the Cats took on rival Wheaton North at home. The Cats blew the game open early, keyed by an eight point streak by senior Jon Hall.

When Hall was finished, senior Martin Filipsson knocked down two key threes and finished a smooth move with a beautiful lay-up.

Arizona University has its bench and the people in the stands keep standing until they score. The Wildcats borrowed this idea from Arizona and had the Wildcat bench stand up until We-go scored. They weren't standing very long.

On the defensive side of the ball, We-go was very active, stealing the ball five times and holding the Falcons to twelve first quarter points. The Cats defense set the tone for the game and Wheaton North was never able to close the game back to within five.

In the second, Hall scored on a turnaround jumper and made a fancy move for the score.

Coach Dan McCarthy said, "Hall is a good player in the post. We pulled Pearson (Wheaton North's center) out to the perimeter and that allowed Jon to make his moves."

Senior Jim Callahan got on the scoreboard with a driving layup in the second and senior Justin Sadowski highlighted the first half with an offensive rebound and a put back.

Leading 30-21 at the break, the Cats broke the game wide open in the third. Callahan helped the Wildcats' cause with seven points and a couple of steals. Filipsson scored nine points in the third, including a fall-away jumper and a layup off of a pretty pass from junior Brian Raymond.

The fourth quarter was the nail in the Falcons' coffin. Raymond found junior center Chris Grin for a bucket and Callahan scored on a breakaway after he blocked a Falcon's shot.

In the fourth, senior Justin Coletti had a steal, a pair of free-throws and he canned a long three. Junior Bryan Franckowiak finished the scoring effort by making a free throw to make the score 67-41. Hall and Filipsson lead the way with 19 a piece and

Callahan scored 13.

The game was very special for Filipsson because his parents came in from Sweden. It was the first time Filipsson had seen them in six months, so he wanted to play really well for them.

"It has been a really long time since I've seen them," Filipsson said.

The Wildcats also broke the longest streak in McCarthy's We-go coaching career, winning in a new year. The Cats lost their first four games of 1998 before breaking the streak against Glenbard North.

"It's nice to win. Last year, we didn't finish the season strong and our confidence dropped. It's nice to see us bounce back after a couple of losses this year," said McCarthy.

The team also welcomed Sadowski back. McCarthy said, "He is a great asset to us. He is good around the basket and he is a great rebounder. He provides a lot of depth for us from the bench."

Looking ahead, the Cats have landed the 11th seed in the regional. This means they have to play a Wheaton-Warrenville South team that holds the sixth seed.

The Cats lost to the Tigers in their first match-up by ten points and want to return the favor. Unfortunately, this means We-go won't have a home playoff game this year.

If they continue at their current pace, they have a good possibility of knocking off a few teams, said McCarthy. But McCarthy wants his team to "play better defense early. That is why we lost the game to Naperville Central."

Central jumped out to a 19-9 first quarter lead and the Cats couldn't catch-up. After the 58-42 loss, McCarthy would like his team to get the defense going early.

"All we really need to do in regionals is to play with team unity. When we do that, we beat teams, like Wheaton North," said Raymond.

McCarthy is happy with team play. "We avenged a loss to Geneva and a loss to Wheaton North. We also beat Glenbard North, which was a huge game," said McCarthy.

The next match-up for We-go is against at West Aurora today, Friday, February 13.

## Boys swim team exceeds expectations

By Jeff Goluszka

The West Chicago boys swimming and diving team has performed above and beyond expectations this season, said head coach Chris Hall.

The Cats will now prepare for Sectionals, which will be held at St. Charles high school, on Saturday, February 21.

This year's squad is filled with young swimmers, and is becoming experienced and well-prepared for the future. The eight-man crew has four freshmen, with only two seniors, plus a host of incoming freshmen next year who have experience by participating in the year-round USS (United States Swimming) program, also known as the Sharks program.

The combination of the experience of seniors Scott Hamlin and Jacob MacPherson and juniors Mark Gottlieb and Dave Marino, the youth of freshmen Brian Ahlgard, Joseph Hamlin, Joseph Lureau and Kevin McCarthy, and their all-around talent has made the Cats "consistently faster...and improving every meet," commented Hall.

Those young swimmers will help in recovering from the losses of Jai Hartigan, Ryan Acker, Jeff Cain and Peter Grant to graduation.

Lureau thinks the team has done "really well...we've pulled through in tough spots."

The Cats won two of five dual meets this year, which is better than Hall had expected. Two of those meets were against

Oswego, and We-go lost by only ten points each time.

In the other dual meets, the Cats were defeated at York 93-69 in January, beat Elgin 82-78 at home in January, and beat Crystal Lake Central 88-65 at We-go in December.

The Cats have not done as well in some other, larger meets, as was shown in a last (sixth) place finish at Lyons Township and a last (12th) place finish in the Wildcat Relays at West Chicago. Also, We-go had a third place finish by scoring 32 points at Naperville Central (winner with 67 points) with West Aurora (45 points), and a third place finish (81 points) at the Illinois Math & Science Academy with Bartlett (91 points) and victor West Aurora (139 points).

One unfortunate meet was the Schaumburg Relays in late January, in which We-go had to forfeit because four of the team's eight swimmers were sick and unable to perform.

Results for the final regular season meets at Nequa Valley and Streamwood were unavailable at press time.

The team has come together really well, said Hall.

Highlights of this year's team individually include Joseph Hamlin, who has won three diving competitions, and MacPherson who has also done well in winning one diving competition.

Leading this year's team is Lureau, who is swimming very well and has the best chance of going to state this year, said Hall.

Lureau feels that everyone on the team is a leader, and everyone is equal.

As for state, Lureau said, "I really hope [to make it to state]. If not, [I'll try again] next year."

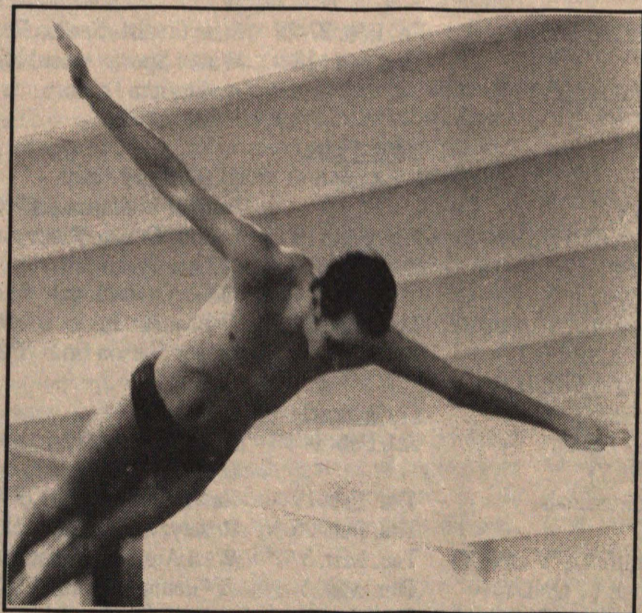
Lureau recently set a new record of 100.88 seconds in the 100 meter breast-stroke at the Lyons Township meet. He not only set a new varsity record, but broke the meet record and the 22-year old pool record.

"I'm really surprised I've done so well," said Lureau.

The swimmers and coach Hall like the Sharks program, as it gives swimmers of all skill levels and ages five to 18 years old experience

in a program that runs year-round and seven days a week.

Hall is in his first year as the swimming coach, as he coached for four years previously in Arizona, and for three years for the USS.



Senior diver Jacob MacPherson takes a dive.

Photo by Sandy Weiss



A wildcat swims toward the finish.

Photo by Sandy Weiss

## Wildcats on ice

By Dave Mehrman

On February first, the Bartlett High School Hockey Team, the Hawks, were leading against Fremd 2-0 when Bartlett's goalie discovered a hole in the ice in front of the net. The ice was unfixable at that point, so the game was suspended with 12:48 left in the third period.

The question why a West Chicago student might care about the Hawks might have passed through your mind.

The Hawks have players that go to West Chicago Community High School.

The Hawks have a very good record. Their regular season record is 10-2-2 and so far their playoff record is 6-1-0. Two people from WCCHS, juniors Marc Doerr and Derek DiPietro, play for the Hawks.

They both found out about the team when the manager Bill Baldwin called them up and told them about the team.

Doerr and DiPietro said the manager probably got their number from a house hockey league list they were on from playing for other teams.

Doerr has been playing hockey for about two years and plays center for the team. Doerr used to play for the Elmhurst Chiefs.

DiPietro has been playing for four years and plays defense. DiPietro used to play for the Bloomingdale Hockey Club.

Doerr said, "this past season the team has been playing very well and possibly have a chance of winning the division championship."

So far it looks very possible that the Rockford Icemen will be the other contender for the division championship.

They play every Sunday at the Polar Dome at Santa's Village. The cost is one dollar to get in to support the team. The next game is against the Schaumburg Saxond on February 15.

The Hawks are an exciting team to watch. They are an aggressive and hard hitting team. There is almost always hard hits and penalties for roughing.

They beat Northwest Hoffman and Wheeling 7-3 with no goalie the entire game. The first goal from the other team was in the third period.