

Wildcat Chronicle

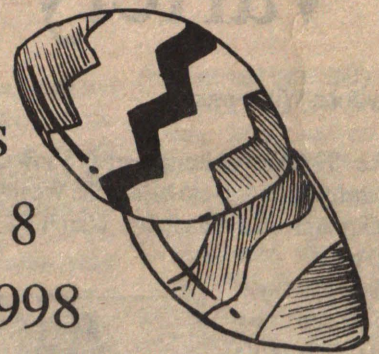
West Chicago Community High School

326 Joliet Street

West Chicago, Illinois

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What do some people think about **guy cheerleaders**? Find out on page 3.

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Missed any winter sports? Find a recap on page 10.

How have the We-go track teams fared so far? See page 12.

Anything Goes in Our Town

By Allison Taylor

Coming off of the success of the winter play *Our Town*, West Chicago students are preparing for the upcoming spring musical *Anything Goes*.

Anything Goes, by Cole Porter, features a large cast with senior Meg Runyan, juniors Michael Petrik, Abby Brown, and Jon Fraser, and sophomores Chris Thomas and Kendra Norton playing the lead roles.

The head director for the musical is Ron Koepl and the vocal director is choir teacher Lisa Smith. Koepl, who is replacing former musical directors Lori Watson and social studies teacher Steve Kellner, directs plays and musicals for the Norris Center in St. Charles. Smith is replacing former choir director Kim Sirvatka.

Auditions for the musical were held the first week of March and everyone who auditioned received a part in the musical.

The musical, which will be performed May 7-9 in the Weyrauch Auditorium, features a large cast, many sets, and a comical script which differs greatly from the winter play *Our Town*, by Thornton Wilder.

Our Town was held February 19-21 at We-go featuring a small cast, very few sets, and a serious, dramatic script.

The story focused on two teenagers, George Gibbs and Emily Webb, growing up in the small town of Grovers Corners. Each of them matures through life's experiences while growing closer to one another. Mean-

while, the townspeople go on with their life, living each day the same.

The cast was led by sophomores Meredith Moore, Andy Sinetos, Beau Brown, Dan Toboja, Kendra Norton, and seniors Lisa Mueller and Kelly Macauley.



Photo by Sandy Weiss
Sophomore Beau Brown and freshman Tim Henning converse during *Our Town*.

The stage contained very few props in the grand tradition of the play. The idea is to let the play take place anywhere. With fewer props the audience can focus on the characters rather than the setting and see how the people affect one another.

Senior Monica Acker played the role of

Sarah Craig, a woman who returns to Grovers Corners after the death of her friend. "It was an extremely easy role," said Acker, "It wasn't much different than my role last year in *Because Their Hearts Were Pure*."

Acker enjoyed working on the play, but wished her character would have appeared before the third act.

The townspeople sat on either side of the stage and they were in charge of the sound effects for the play. When one of the characters completed an action, such as laying a spoon on the table, one of the townspeople made the sound effect off to the side. This resulted in a louder sound that caught the attention of the audience. Senior Eva Silva thought the "sound effects sounded great" and enjoyed the extra effect.

The winter play drew a small crowd, but the musical is expected to have great attendance. Last year's musical, *Annie*, sold out every night with many people attending more than just once.

Senior Caroline McClellan was a member of the running crew for the play. As part of the crew, McClellan and others were in charge of moving around the scenery and running things behind stage. "I just did what people asked to try and make things run as smooth as possible," said McClellan. She pointed out that *Our Town* had few sets, so running crew had a fairly easy job.

We-go defeats Naperville, others in competition

By Kelley Betts

We-go placed second in the LifeSmarts Competition, sponsored by the Illinois Consumer Education Association (ICEA) held in Weyrauch Auditorium against five other schools.

Seniors Jeremy Adams, Raj Chavda, Lara Heinz, Janine Morris, and Jason Vana were the five participants who volunteered for the competition. The team was led by consumer education teacher and former ICEA President Donald Zaeblin.

Four other high schools participated in the state-wide event and a fifth, Neon Street, a homeless shelter for runaway teens was supposed to join, but never showed up.

The four included Conant High School, Naperville Central, Hinsdale South, and Stevenson.

Hinsdale South took first place in the competition defeating We-go. The competition went strong for We-go after defeating Conant in the first game 115-20.

The tournament ran most of the day, with a one hour lunch break at 11:45. Each tournament match consisted of three rounds. The first round is individual questions asked by the judges. Questions asked were about financial management, consumer rights, technology, environment, and health and safety. Each member of the four player team was allotted ten seconds to answer. The second round consists of one question asked to a team and the group may help the captain to answer. The third round is questions open to any player

on both teams.

Students were able to prepare in Consumer Ed. class by participating in sample activities.

The judges included representatives from many consumer agencies. The judges were Norman Brown from the Food and Drug Administration, Steven Baker of the Federal Trade Commission, Wally Kleinfelt of the Better Business Bureau of Metropolitan Chicago, and Patrick Hurley from the Illinois Attorney General's Office.

A few of the judges even gave speeches about consumer education information.

"There was great information given in the competition," says Zaeblin. The winner, Hinsdale South, qualified for a national competition sponsored by the National Coalition for Consumer Education held in Phoenix, Arizona in April.

The tournament is open to any grade level of students. Consumer Education and business classes attended the competition throughout the day.

Last year the team placed fifth out of nine schools. The team consisted of Dana Nelson, Roxy Rhobak, Anup Germani, Steve Raines, and Kim Levine.

Naperville Central won state last year. Prizes for the competitors include plaques, certificates, and T-shirts.

Press release: Student Council

The student council would like to welcome seniors Lexie Nussbaum, Jessica Bina, Barb Karnoscak, sophomore Michelle Grove, sophomore Katie Saul, and junior Molly Saul as honorary student council members. As honorary student council members they will be invited to participate in student council events like Friday morning and class meetings. They were chosen to be honorary members because of their enthusiasm and dedication to our school.

Variety show successful, entertaining

By John Williamson

The 1998 West Chicago Variety Show and Celebrity Auction were held in the Weyrach Auditorium on Wednesday, March 11 at 6:30 p.m.

The events were sponsored by West Chicago's own FBLA in an attempt to raise money for the March Of Dimes Foundation.

The Celebrity Auction began at 6:30 with the live auction and continued throughout the night with the silent auction.

During the live auction the crowd made bids on big ticket items such as an Oscar De La Hoya boxing glove, a Brett Favre jersey, and a Tiger Woods

8x10 photo (all of which were individually autographed).

The biggest seller of all was a Titanic movie poster autographed by Leonardo DiCaprio which finally sold for \$360 after a

frantic bidding.

"The big items did great. We were really impressed with the outcome," said senior Leslie Harlson.

All the 80-plus autographed items were donated individually by the celebrities when they heard it was going to a charitable cause.

The stars of the future were also showcased during the talent show portion of the night. All the acts in the show were musically oriented.

During this portion students performed everything from dancing to rapping in an attempt to showcase their hidden talents.

"I bet no one knew I could rap. I'm glad I was able to come out and turn some heads," said senior Pete Heinz when asked about his performance. Heinz along with junior Joe Leli, performed "Deep Game", an original rap about the past and present of hip-hop.

"Tell Him", a song performed by seniors Angie Berg and Darcie Wostratzky not only displayed the two's voices bit at the same time

made the crowd laugh hysterically.

As the two sang senior Jim Carstensen pretended to play the piano with no hands, his feet, and several other funny positions.

"I had no clue he was doing any of that. I

wondered what people were laughing at," said Berg when told about Carstensen.

For the first time in a long time the Variety Show wasn't able to showcase the

a few parents walked out.

Despite the few who were offended, the majority were pumped up over Shern's performance.

The show finished off with seniors Kelly Berec, Jenal Menola, Connie Pappas, Beth Schlenger, and Trish Runions performing a dance to a whole mix of songs.

There were several other acts which include a drum solo, dancing, and many other songs.

The show seemed great from the outside looking in but some people behind the scenes

Bassmaster's, senior Abe Mashal, rapping talents because of complications so senior Chris Shern took his place.

Shern proved he was multi-talented by rapping instead of the common singing usually done with his band, the Poo Bears.

Shern's act turned out to be somewhat controversial when he took his shirt off and

had a few different ideas.

"I thought the committee put a lot of work into it for nothing. Only the performers got credit. No one ever told me 'good job,'" said senior and director of the show Mike Altman.

"I worked hard and got no respect or flowers like everyone else," added Senior and stage manager Mike Kvasnicka.



Photo by Sandy Weiss

Junior guitarist/vocalist Josh Bain and junior keyboardist Olivia Schmidt perform at the variety show as part of the band Black Circle.



Photo by Sandy Weiss

Senior Jerry Erickson, sophomore Jeff Tillson and junior Heidi Fuoss play at the Variety Show.

Technology meeting raises some eyebrows

By Jennifer Lasky

The school boards of districts 94, 25, 33, and 34 gathered together in the Wego cafeteria on Thursday, February 26, to hear guest speaker Alan November talk about technology.

November's speech topic was "Real Revolution: Not Technology, but Information." He focused on ways to improve education in the classroom. He spoke on how the most recent technology is not as important as the most relevant.

November told school board members they should ask the question "where do students struggle the most?," then attain technologies which address these issues.

A school is not going to get its money's worth if they add technology to what exists, says November. They need to be willing to change structure to use the technology well. To get a good investment in technology, he says, the school must shift control from the person in charge of the class to the people doing the work.

"Buying technology, installing it, and teaching it is only 20% of the battle. 80% is organizational design. There is a large knowledge base among the teachers," said November. They need to organize it, and the technology they use should help with that.

November spent much time talking about ways to get the students more interested in academics. He said in his experience with high school kids, he has found that kids who don't know how well they're doing don't do well. He also said the more information a student has about how well they are learning, the more they learn.

By giving students grade reports every day, November found the difference in students grades to be almost an entire grade.

Parent involvement, November has found, is a factor in students success. Of the parents who come to three or four events, 51% of their children get all A's. November feels schools are designed to keep parents out and should create opportunities where kids, parents, and community can interact. He says schools are heading to where classes will be video taped and be available on the internet to increase parent involvement.

November says that if a student is taking notes, they are not learning. "Making kids take notes when they could be asking questions and thinking. No comparison." He feels students will work harder on a realistic problem.

Egg Hunt!!!

Would you like to go on a Tower Records shopping spree?
Would you like to see a movie, for free?

All you have to do is join the Wildcat Chronicle Egg Hunt in this issue.

Find all the eggs from front to back. Find them in pictures, in drawings, in articles, in headlines, or in sentences.

Count the number of eggs in this issue, fill out the form on this page, then drop it into the Wildcat Chronicle mailbox, located in the main office.

Winners will be announced on Friday, March 27, 1998.

Prizes include:

\$20 gift certificate to Tower Records!

2 free movie passes!

All entries must be in by March 27 by 8 AM!!!

NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED

Winners will be selected from all correct responses.

EGG HUNT CONTEST ENTRY FORM

NAME _____

GRADE (circle one) 9 10 11 12

NUMBER OF EGGS IN THIS ISSUE _____

TURN IN TO CHRONICLE MAILBOX IN OFFICE. WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST ENTRIES.

...I Don't Think So!
By: John Williamson

ACT test taking guide

By Joe Leli

What comes to your head when you think of a cheerleader? What picture pops up in your mind? When I think of a cheerleader I see a girl with blonde hair, blue eyes, long legs, and a perky type of personality. None of these traits are a necessity but the thought of the opposite sex (males) being cheerleaders just doesn't appeal to me.

This article isn't being written to offend any guys who are thinking about cheering next year but instead it's to express my opinion on a somewhat controversial issue.

Let me start my argument by asking a question. At what events do you see cheerleaders in action at We-Go? Yeah that's right, at the guys sporting events. Not once have I ever seen a basket-toss at a girls basketball game or heard the "Victory Cheer" at a girls volleyball game. Now is that sexist? No, it's just the way things have been for as long as I can remember.

The conflicting article stated that it is necessary to be a cheerleader to show your school spirit. I have two words for you: The Fans! The fans show plenty of school spirit by coming out and supporting their team and they don't even have to wear little skirts or go to practice day after day.

The opposing article also stated that guys are stronger than girls. Now isn't that a little hypocritical? That seems more sexist than not letting guys cheer!

Sure other schools in the DVC have male cheerleaders but I don't think it's necessary to try and follow in their footsteps. We don't follow them in their winning ways so why should we at-

tempt to follow them on this one?

Throughout my four years here we've always had girls as cheerleaders. I'm just glad I'll be gone so I don't have to see the old tradition come to an end.

Starting next year, West Chicago is going to have male cheerleaders. I have heard many people say that guys have no place on a cheerleading squad. Why not?

Are females the only ones capable of promoting school pride? A cheerleader is supposed to cheer on the teams and encourage the crowd to cheer. Guys can yell just as well as girls can. In fact, guys have louder and more prominent voices than girls, so would probably do this better.

Guys, for the most part are stronger than girls. That's not sexist, it's just the way things are. Guy cheerleaders make lifts, pyramids, and basket tosses even more impressive. Sophomore Julian Gomez, next year's only male cheerleader, says he tried out because, "guys are just as capable as girls to be cheerleaders. Guys should be cheerleaders because then there are more spectacular stunts and lifts."

Of the schools in the DuPage Valley Conference, at least half have male cheerleaders. Why shouldn't we take the same step towards equality between the sexes?

The opposing article says guys shouldn't be cheerleaders because that's just the way things have always been. Is there something wrong with change?

For those of you who feel guys should not be cheerleaders, get ready for a shock when you get to college. Most colleges and universities have male cheerleaders.

I regret that I'll be gone to see "the old tradition" and the sexism end.

Finally
By Jennifer Lasky

In today's society, it is sexist to believe there are roles restricted to one gender or the other. Roles such as a secretary or a parent who stays home with the kids are typically viewed as women's roles, and roles such as construction worker, trash collector, or auto mechanic are typically viewed as men's roles. Society says it is sexist to believe men and women can't do the same things.

So why isn't it sexist to believe guys can't be cheerleaders?

Staff Editorial: Sportsmanship in the DVC

Over the last few years, sportsmanship among fans and sometimes athletes in the DVC has declined significantly.

During the winter sports season, We-go fans and other DVC fans at both girls and boys basketball games displayed rude and inappropriate behavior. Instead of just cheering for their team, fans taunted and ridiculed the players on the opposing team. Actions such as chanting a player's last name or shouting "you suck" or "learn how to play" at the athletes.

This behavior is rude and it distracts the athletes. While many West Chicago fans display great sportsmanship, we are not completely blameless in this situation.

The majority of the DVC schools seem to feel they are superior to West Chicago. Their fans travel to our school, sit in our stands, and yell about how bad We-go teams are and how we always lose. It is not just the students, either. Many

parents taunt players and coaches. While We-go fans sometimes act a little rude at home games, the visiting fans seem to have no respect for our school. Their lack of sportsmanship is apparent to fans and athletes.

This is not the only time poor sportsmanship is displayed. During the football season the same type of behavior was present, but was not as apparent since the fans sit farther away from one another.

The degree of sportsmanship among athletes and fans varied from sport to sport. Some sports such as track and swimming have fans who cheer for both teams and athletes who support one another. However, sports such as basketball and football tend to have fans and players who are more aggressive.

Lack of sportsmanship also extends to DVC cheerleader. It is common courtesy to let one school finish a cheer before the other school begins one. Many times, though, the cheerleaders try to yell louder and interrupt the others' cheer. This is not illegal, but rather just inappropriate. Cheerleaders are sup-

posed to represent their school and their fans, so when they act childish, it reflects poorly on the school.

Why do fans feel the need to upset the other team? Why are fans so disrespectful? It seems as though the DVC has made winning the most important thing. The fans want their team to win and they don't care how rude or disrespectful they might act.

As we move into the twenty-first century we should be focusing on our achievements as a conference rather than who has the best school. We should be focused on improving ourselves and preparing for the real world. Once we graduate from high school, we have to realize that we are all equal and it won't matter if you went to Glenbard East or Naperville North or West Chicago. No one will be able to call themselves superior. By improving sportsmanship in the next few years, the DVC can overcome these problems and focus on being a united conference. The degree of sportsmanship needs to be improved in the next few years.

person still after reading this needs a serious reality check.

Different study tactics are used for every different person. Some students like to go all out before and after the test every day and some called "crammers" like to see how much they can cram in the night before the big test and then are few proud people like my friends who don't even take the studying route. In a short interview with Alan Walker you can make a short conclusion about his studying tactics.

"Study?" was his only comment about being prepared for ACT's, but like before there is no way that someone could the same grades as him and not ever study whatsoever.

Other students besides Alan take a different approach to studying and study just a little every day up until the test or ACT.

An out of town grammar school teacher in Buffalo Grove who as also put two children through high school and college explains how students study tactics depend on when students know when the test is.

"High school is definitely a difficult place to take a test, but from experience I know that if kids can be prepared before the instructor even warns the students of the test, then that students should be alright."

As you can see, his grades still probably will not be as good as someone who has a better studying attitude or is constantly prepared for the test and studies whenever the person gets a chance or even the occasional "crammer." Kids also don't seem to study

for tests and especially final exams like we saw first semester. Many students like myself do very well throughout the year on average tests and quizzes over specific material then once ACT's come around people may over study and instead of getting a high B on the test and a B in the class that same person who was studying very hard and had a eighty percent all year may get a C on the exam and awkward 78% percent for the semester.

This is a very common case that happens mainly because of not hard enough work dedication to your grades. So rather than these people studying as much as possible the two nights before the test, they should be prepared and study and review a little every day.

Some, the only logical way to solve this problem is to find out as early as possible when the next upcoming quiz or test is and the next progress report is coming so you know exactly when you need to get grade higher. Always know your current grade, and study all the way up until the last day before the test. You can always take the test another day so don't worry if you don't get a perfect grade the first time.

After reading this you should have a idea in your head about what studying really is and overall, don't follow what you think your friends are studying by because they may not be saying what they are really doing to get ready for those all important ACT's that will either make or brake your way in to the college of your choice.

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

Any suggestions or comments for the newspaper can be delivered to the Chronicle box in the main office. Letters to the editor

must be signed to be printed. Letters may be to a maximum of 300 words. All letters above 300 words may be edited for space. 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

Editor

Before I begin let me say congratulations to everyone who performed at the variety show. You all had great performances. I write this letter referring to the behavior of the people sitting by me.

During the performance of Josh Beyne, Olivia Schmidt, and Mike Pleafka's Fearless Insanity who may I add were absolutely stellar and deserved a much larger applause than received. Although I guess if you're unpopular and dress in all black you don't deserve it anyway. I got the impression that after their performance everyone wanted to run to church and douse themselves in holy water. This came after seeing one parent gasp in terror and someone behind me say they were scared by Josh's powerful vocals. Not to mention the moment made by one of the presenters "there'll be no barnyard ritualistic offerings." This meaning what?

Some people took it upon themselves to talk, cover their ears, do horrible imitations, make disrespectful comments, and overall be just plain rude. Mind you this was not only done during their performance but during Ms. Vogan's performance too. To say the least, when asked to be quiet they wouldn't listen even when asked nicely. Unfortunately I had to listen to them throughout the show.

I was very offended because I sat through their "crew's" performance, and applauded them just like everyone else. They really showed how insolent they are. because as I recall I didn't hear anyone comment or act inappropriately during their "people's" performance. They truly "represented" what they stand for. On the contrary, if anyone would have disrespected their "homies" there would have been a definite problem.

However I believe much of us have enough RESPECT to be polite and appreciate the effort and courage of others. All in all it was terribly unpleasant and I left the show very displeased.

Mourning Star

Dear Editor,

I'm writing this letter to share how surprised I was at the way our school acted at this years variety show hosted by FBLA. I commend the people who put up with all the disrespect that was shown to the contenders who did an excellent job. I would like to think that everyone in our school knows at least some theater etiquette; such as not leaving during a performance just because your friends part is done. How would you feel if a group of people got up and left during the middle of your performance, as if the show were over? The most disturbing event I witnessed was when Katie Vogan was performing Rustles of Spring. People were being extremely rude. You would have thought it was intermission by the way some were talking yelling things out. This letter is not meant to give anyone a lesson in theater etiquette, but to open the eyes of students who do not realize how disrespectful they were being. There are many activities that go on at our school for us students to enjoy. A lot of work and effort and effort goes into making these nights such as the Variety show enjoyable. So at the least don't we owe respect to the people who worked so hard to put this show on, but also to the former students and adults whom were in the audience? I mention this because the parents in the row in front of me were periodically looking around the auditorium making comments about how rude some of the students were. We as a student body need to realize the way we act is the way others are going to remember us and our school. And I liked to think the way some of us acted at the variety show is not how we hoped to be remembered.

Sincerely,
Kari Flagg

Nothing Heads

Yes, I live in my "fake, plastic world," and yes I'm going to some "overpriced university," and yes I am going to be successful and happy. HANNAH, you have no right to insinuate that others are superficial or shallow simply because they have goals. You do not know me, and therefore you are in no position to pass judgments on others. Yes, I am a "nothinghead" and I care about myself. I know you want me and all my kind to get screwed, but I won't. I want you to succeed, but I know you will get screwed because of your attitude. So if you want to keep living in your cheap, apathetic world that's fine, but do not concern yourself with mine.

As I read your article, I thought you had some insightful comments until I realized they were not your own. As much as I liked KMFD, I would never try to pass their lyrics off as my own. Plagiarism is a crime. Next time you're writing an article, don't leave your radio on.

Anonymous

Para problems

Hello again Wildcats.

This year has been many things but mostly a blur of different para-pro's! Where do they come from and why are they always changing? At first we had that eight footer with like eight chins that sounded like Kermit the frog. He got canned for letting kids smoke. Along with him was that small slick Puerto Rico dude that got canned for dating women here! Then we had that bald black dude with a funny looking lip. He got canned for whistling! (By the way I'd say name's but they weren't here long enough to find out) There were even some that looked to be double sexed (male and female)! After the first batch of elementary school dropouts the school decided to get new and improved ones with yellow jackets that say STAFF in big letters. (They should change that to CRAP!) Talk about insulting our intelligence, they told us that we can now recognize these people cauce of the distinct yellow jackets! Wow! But how about something simple like a name tag? Are these men and women nameless? Also what is the point of these people? To protect the school from a potentially uncomfortable situation that could endanger the students from a proper learning experience! Well what's that

mean? I could slip past these people with a rocket launcher running down the hall full speed naked! This school is a potentially dangerous place. Why? Cause it constantly confuses the hell out of students with uncanny decision making. Well there has been about 10,152 para-pro's that have zipped in and out the last couple weeks. They come and go. Unfortunately I do have a complaint or more of a question about one. There was a real tall skinny one that would always tell me to slow down. (He'd yell at me like I couldn't flip him down and smack him upside the head.) I would always spite him and keep running in my typical forest Gump style. He doesn't know my name so what can he do? He doesn't know the difference in the power and volume button on the walkie! So here's to you, you tall cowboy! Ha! O.k. That's good enough! Well to finish this I'd like to say that there were a couple of good one's (not like I could name them) but they were smart enough to quit. So now what? How about nothing! That's how it started. Instead of camera's and sniperes on the roof with pen and pencil and binoculars how about nothing. Just pure and plain! Freedom! Free at last free at last the hell with the para-pro's free at last!
Bassmaster Abe Mashal

Love

Dear Editor,

After reading Brian Miller's letter in the last issue of the Chronicle, I felt compelled to submit a few thoughts of my own. As I understood it, Brian said athletes and their "preppie" group are obnoxious, arrogant, conceited, and a variety of other negative adjectives. He said they are self-seeking and unmotivated to do good for anyone but themselves. I must agree with Brian on his observations. Furthermore, I think Brian's general description of preppie character is applicable to burnouts, musicians, thespians, S.A.D.D. members, teacher and everyone else in this school, myself included.

I am not being pessimistic in this view; I am pointing out a fact far too few people are willing to admit. Let me illustrate my point. Consider the last twenty-four hour period of your existence. How often in that short span have you said something to hurt someone, talked behind a friend's back, looked the other direction when a classmate came to you for help, or thought "I, better than that person, because..." (fill in your own reason here)? I am probably guilty of all of these things, and I don't think it is because I am an athlete. It doesn't matter if you're at the head of your class, the back of our class, or teaching the class, somewhere everyone commits one of these acts.

So what are we to do then? We are all guilty of something that has hurt someone in the last day. Shall we simply continue? I say no! I will try to be a better person, and I will undoubtedly fail, but I will never give up.

What we must do is love one another as brothers and sisters. I realize it is past Valentine's Day, but this is something that applies all year round. It is the one thing you can never have too much of. Because of who we are, we can never love completely, but it is better in part than not at all. I will try. Will you join me?

Sincerely,
Tim Harwood

P.S. "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices in truth. I always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." (I Corinthians 13: 4-7, NIV)

A step too far

Anyone been involved in a sport lately? I'm starting to have a problem with the coaches. Our West Chicago coaches have to the most domineering group of people I have ever met. They have somehow gotten the idea in their heads that as soon as an athlete even expresses interest in a sport they immediately become the sole property of that activity.

Let me explain. I have a friend who was an active member of the girls tennis team. (Mind you, I am note solely addressing the girl's tennis team. I've heard the same story from almost every sport, this one just happens to be the most complete example.) Anyway, aside from tennis, she also enjoyed acting, and had hoped to take a role in the Fall play. Unfortunately, the

coach didn't like that. She told me that he said if she intended to remain a member of the tennis team, she couldn't miss practices to work on the play. At all.

Let's address this first. If a student is willing to put forth the effort to play for a sports team (which most of us aren't) and to try hard and play well, do they automatically give up the right to have a life, or to do anything else other than that sport? Are athletes given a new set of priorities, rather, given one priority, and expected to let everything else fall behind?

To continue, the girl decided she would rearrange her priorities and try to do both, which would have resulted in her missing only a few practices for tennis. The tennis coach went to the director of the

play and convinced her to make the girl play tennis first and let the play come second. Maybe it's just me, but doesn't it seem like the coach is working a little too hard to CONTROL a student's life?

I know the coaches yap about athletes giving 110% effort (which doesn't say much for their math skills) and how nothing in life is worth in unless you go all out. According to that standard, there really isn't much worthwhile in life. Almost all of us aren't going to give our all just to get to the school in the morning. Or at school. Or at work. Nothing much seems to be worth trying that hard for. Especially high school sports. They'll go down in the yearbook, and fade away into history. Why give up the 'greatest 4 years' of your life for something

you will eventually lose. Have fun. Don't sacrifice your life and all your time to something that won't be fun. Sure you get the occasional glory of winning a game. But what is that compared to running around with your friends and just having fun each day?

Anyway, back to the example. (Yes, it gets worst) Now I have to say here that this is the story I got from the girls and may not necessarily be true. She spoke with the coach, who at first agreed to let her play in matches if she could make it to all of them. When she was getting on the bus to the first one, the coach had apparently changed his mind, and asked her, "Are you coming just to watch? You can only play if you come to all the practices." Not quite what she expected.

She quit right there and then. The sad thing is, he wouldn't let her play, even though the team was several people short. They had to forfeit matches that day because they didn't have enough players! And he still wouldn't let her play. Maybe it's just me, but this doesn't seem right.

Sadly there is no moral to this story. The girl, after four dedicated years to the tennis team, never went to the last four matches. She also was never given a varsity letter for the entire varsity season she played (minus the four matches at the end). There are, of course, the numerous other examples, from our glorious football team to basketball and track. Almost all of them. Just think about it.

Letters to the editor

Responses to True Love

Religion. Hmm. Why?

In response to "True Love"

The first point to make is that school shouldn't be a recruiting ground for Christianity. We're all forced to be here, and we shouldn't even have to see it. Religion does not belong in schools. It just isn't appropriate. I figured that since the other side tried their recruiting, I might as well try mine.

What I will do is try to convince people to turn away from Christianity, try and get people to realize that it can't help them any more than they can help themselves.

My point is, no matter how much you may believe there is a higher power influencing your life, there really isn't. Christians believe only on faith. Meaning basically, they believe in something for which there is no proof.

The thing is, this belief can give you nothing. You can think it will make you a better person, you can think it guarantees you eternal life in heaven, you can even think it gives you better dental hygiene if you want. The thing is, in reality, it's you, the human being, the brain in your head, that has the ability to make those better decisions and to get a better life (or to brush those teeth everyday, if you will). God isn't doing that. Jesus isn't tapping you on the shoulder every time you make a tough decision and letting you know what to do. However much you may believe that this "higher power" is influencing your life, it all comes down to you making the decisions.

Which is my main point. Make your own decisions. After all, you are probably the one most well suited to do so. Have fun with life. Don't restrain yourself by trying to live by somebody else's ideals. Jesus may have been perfect (that is, if he wasn't entirely fabricated in the first place), but what does that have to do with your life. Be you. Be unique (just like everybody else). Live your life like you want to live it. Not like somebody else wants you to.

Which brings me to the other point, Christianity has to be the

greatest form of conformity ever contrived. You agree with their ideals, or you are cast out or killed. 'In the name of the cross, more injustice has been perpetrated than any other single cause or emblem or philosophy or creed on this earth.' Anybody know that Hitler was a Christian, who actually used the Bible as reasoning for his planned extermination of the Jews? Didn't think so. How about the "ethnic cleansing" going on in former Yugoslavia. Many of the atrocities recorded by journalists, including (but not limited to) impalements, throat-slitting and rape, have been preceded by appeals to convert to Orthodox Christianity. The Serbian Christians are slaughtering the Muslims, using Christianity as their excuse, and offering conversion as the only alternative to death.

The main idea responsible for turning people to any religion is the fear about what happens after death. We don't know. We're afraid to find out. All of us. And some people take comfort in hearing that they may live 'eternally' in heaven after they die. They don't know. A 2000 year old book can't tell you. Nothing can. Because you just don't know. You may mistakenly believe that a book has all your answers, but that's just an easy escape from having to deal with those fears yourself.

I don't know what to say. It's hard to stay focused when dealing with such a big subject. I just want people to think for themselves, to live by their own creed, and to learn what to believe in, the five senses or the illogical 2000 year old book. I contend that everybody reading this is an atheist. I just believe in one fewer god than most of you do. But when you fully understand why you dismiss all other possible gods (Zeus or Brahma, for instance), you will understand why I dismiss yours.

As for all of you who intend to pray for me, that's already being done. Assuming your god (exists) listens to everyone's individual prayers, what good will the extras do?

Bill Crothers

I just love this school! It's really getting fun. And now we have the biggest joke to hit this planet people trying to recruit Christians! They claim Jesus is the most important thing ever! He's the only way to have good morals, succeed and have a good afterlife! Every other religion is a joke or a cult to a Christian but Christianity is the correct one. In other words we're right your wrong. And not only are they closed minded but very ignorant about every issue claiming that the bible has the solution to all problems. Really? I beg to differ.

If all other religions are wrong, which Christians love to shoot there mouth about then what about the 6,000,000 different sects of Christianity? They all have very different beliefs. Why the hell should I believe something that can't even agree with itself.

And when I ask a Christian about it "well they all believe in Christ so it's o.k." So I guess I can break the law but as long as I believe in it it's o.k. As anarchic as that sounds that's been the Christian slogan ever since the bible has been getting changed to fit the needs of kings and queens.

They say the bible is authentic. Look into history and find out.

And here come's even another point to bring up, Christians are getting brainwashed into believing some very weird things.

I know a homeschooled person who was Christian homeschooled who believes in some truly screwed up things. They don't except any science, they don't

except any logic, hell they don't except anything. Except Christianity. They only hire Christians to do work for them claiming that a Christian will do an honest job! Also they don't date anyone but other Christians. And if they do guess what they try to do? Convert and brainwash there boyfriend/girlfriend into a Christian. I'm not a Satanist for writing this I'm simply being real. I believe in Jesus Christ as a prophet but he is no god. In fact his spirit along with him is dead.

And all Christians will argue that you feel his spirit if you give your soul to him. Well I need my soul! And guess what Christians I can make decisions without Christ any day! And they can be fair decisions! Just cause a certain person doesn't follow the bible does not make him a Satanist. In fact I'll tell everyone who reads this that a true Christian is a dead one simply cause that's the only way to find the truth!

I will warn every non-Christian out there. Christianity is a false god that will take away your mind first, then your hear, and then after they take your mind and heart they so easily rob you! (Notice how the older the Christian the more they give!) So when people don't know about Christianity and Christians see that, watch out... They'll kiss your rear, lie to you and make you feel guilty until you give up your life for Christ. And they'll say that Christ died for my sins therefore give him my life! One question did I ask him too?!

Also Christians claim Christ

knows what I'll do every second every day! For everyone ever either past, present or future. Also he controls everything! Then why do innocent people die and guilty rule?! And if he does know all, see all and control all, what is the point of the Bible or life? If he controls us couldn't he make us do anything? And why would we give our life to someone who controls our lives anyway?

Look at the head guy's at churches. That's there only job, but they drive BMW's, Mercedes, Jaguars Lexuses etc. If your giving your money to the Church why is the pastor loaded? Hmm!? Also Christianity claims miracles all the time. Like healing and what not. Well all the things I've looked into are the following: I've known five Christians with cancer four out of five are on the verge of death one was cured. Of course Christianity claims Christ healed him!

To all who read with an open mind (including Christians) please don't take offense to this. Simply cause more people have similiar beliefs with me than Christians. Except your faults as I accept mine. Pull out of the false life and be yourself, for you can be unique and happy that way. True love does await and if hell is where I go I'd be with all the Christians anyway. So I best find the truth which I have. But that's for me only! I will not try to persuade anyone cause it's a quest that only one can find by themselves!

Why do you feel the need to cram religion down other people's throats. If I am going to find Jesus Christ as my savior, I will do it of my own volition- not because you told me to "look him up." I think it's pretty sad that you have to rely on "Jesus Christ" for support. The person you should be relying on is yourself. I'm not saying it wrong to believe in Jesus or God or Christianity in general, but I think you should believe in yourself first. No one else can give you strength; that has come from within. You need to respect the beliefs of others. There are a lot of different religions practiced by people at our school, and, to be blunt, I was offened and angered by your article. If I want to find Jesus it won't be in the yellow pages. Have some consideration; keep your religion personal. No one wants to hear it.

Liz Breiseth

These past few weeks in school, in malls, in public buildings, where ever I had gone, I was completely disgusted b the outlandish behavior of today's teenagers. It has come to my attention that we are in a point of time where everything is done because it feels good, because it's cool, or because it is in spite of the authorities. The teenagers of today have absolutely no respect for the elders of yesterday, their parents, or teachers that make their best effort to mold these young minds into a success. Teenagers today are disrespectful, rude, and let me tell you, if this is the next generation to take control of our great country, then we are in deep, deep trouble.

The change that I have noticed in today's teens has been gradual and,

for the most part, harmless, until now. We live in a day where teens base over 90% of their decisions on what is cool, rather than what is right. I have seen and heard stories of people smoking this, people smoking that, and people fighting with so and so, and frankly, it's pathetic. It is a really sad day when a teen's goal is to get his "high" at the end of the school day, instead of apply themselves so that they can, dare I say, become educated! This just is not limited to high schooler either, this also concerns all of the middle schools, and to some extent, our elementary schools!!! Just think, our brothers or sisters are killing their brains even before they are fully developed. However, the blame cannot be fully placed on

them, because they are young and naive. The major blame is to be placed on the people that drag down these young kids with them.

The latest instance of lack of respect came at the public library. I was there when a rowdy group of girls were being obnoxiously loud and had been asked by the security guard (the fact that a security guard is actually needed is appalling) to lower their voices. The girls complied, but for a time. Eventually, they started yelling right in front of him and the security guard asked her to leave, only to be denied. At one point he was told to call the police, refrained as the girl eventually left. This event should have never have happened if teens were not so caught up with themselves

and being cool, and had even an inch of respect for authority. I for one would have liked to see the police called, perhaps they would have talked some sense into the girl.

Among being rude and disrespectful, teens today have absolutely no responsibility, for themselves and for their actions, and they could not care less!!! Some days during school, after an extended weekend, I will overhear a conversation about how someone's part was "the bomb" and about how everyone got drunk and wasted. To me, this show no respect for themselves as humans, or to the ones that care about them (if there are any)! To me, respect should be earned by showing respect to authority, and

people like this receive absolutely no respect, or sympathy, from me.

I do not know whether my perspective on things will change someone's ways, but it's worth a shot. To all of those that are a part of the parties, I urge you to change, but to those of us that are decent and actually have respect and responsibility, then keep your attitude and be an example to those around you. In the long run, we will all benefit for our hard work and dedication to our studies. It is to be hoped that this will lift some eyebrows and motivate people to better their lives. I certainly hope, that if not for their sake, then for the sake of our great country, that people will take notice and change.

Bored over break?

By Carrie Zeffield

It's the season of fun in the south, Florida particularly. It's when all of your friends take a week to get away and have some fun in the sun. It's spring break. Now that it's here, what should you do? You may not have a car to vacation somewhere, or your family just wants to stay around the house, so where does that leave you?

If you are going to be staying in the Chicagoland area, there are some things happening that might spark your interest.

Concerts: If you are into the latest in alternative music, check out Third-Eye Blind and Smash Mouth at the Aragon Ballroom in Chicago on March 26. The show starts at 7:00 pm and the cost is \$20.00.

Performing on March 30 at the Metro in Chicago are the Space

Monkeys. The show starts at 7:00 pm and the cost is \$10.00 dollars. Tickets are available at all ticketmaster outlets in the Chicagoland area.

If you're into a little rock and soul with a side of pop music, check out Eric Clapton April 9 and 10 at the United Center. The price will be listed on Ticketmaster web page on March 30 at www.ticketmaster.com.

Movies: If you are wanting to take a trip down to Chicago to catch a flick, there are some nice and cheap theaters showing up to date films and some classics. Try the Vic on North Sheffield Ave. in Chicago. For a double feature the price is \$2.50 and seating is always available. If that isn't the place you want to try, then give Doc films a try.

Doc films is located on 59th St. in Chicago. The price is only \$3.00. On Saturdays, the Chicago theaters offer a special price for double flicks. Call ahead to see if and when these prices will be available. And if you can't get out to Chicago to catch a flick, try near by theaters, like the Stratford theater or Randall 14. Movies showing now in local theaters are "The Man in the Iron Mask," "The Wedding Singer," "Titanic," "U.S. Marshals," and "Primary Colors."

Chicago Activities: There are many things that you can do while you're in Chicago. For starters, try the Brookfield Zoo. The cost is \$7.00 to be in the park all day. If you are sick of the Brookfield Zoo, try Lincoln Park Zoo. The cost is free and you can still have as good

a time as you would at Brookfield Zoo. If the zoo is just not for you, try the Sears Tower, for a small price of \$3.25, or the John Hancock for the price of \$3.65. But be sure to visit on a nice clear day.

Museums: Alder Planetarium charges \$4.00 for adults and \$2.00 for kids. On Tuesdays, admission is free. The museum gives you a closer look at our world, space and the new things occurring at NASA. If you're into art, try the Art Institute of Chicago. The Art Institute charges \$3.25 for admission. Another place that might be interesting is the Museum of Science and Industry. The cost is \$5.00 for admission. While you're there, try the Omnimax theater. The shows take you inside the world of the sea and you explore the world of sci-

ence and development. While the Museum of Science and Industry offers movies, the Museum of Holography offers different kinds of holograms like 3D insights of the holograms. The admission price is \$3.00.

Friends: If you absolutely can't get out of the area over Spring Break, then spend time with your friends. Throw a party, have a few get togethers, go to the mall, take in a movie, take a day trip to the zoo, talk on the phone, play some sports, spend some quality time with your boyfriend/girlfriend, drive around (if you have a car), or spend numerous hours on the internet.

If none of these ideas spark a flame in your Spring Break, be creative. There is always something to do.

March Madness grips We-go

By Dan Young

One of the most anticipated events in all of human history is back again. No, it is not Christmas or your birthday, not even St. Patrick's day, although it might fit. It is March Madness and it is back again.

You hear it over the radio and on the news. You see photos of college guys celebrating and yelling out "we are going to the big dance." College basketball is ready for another March of crazy action, upsets and blow-outs and some of the best basketball around.

The four teams left in the tournament are North Carolina, Stanford, Kentucky and Utah. The finals are set for Monday, March 30 with the final four happening this weekend in the Alamodome in San Antonio.

Parents come home with office tournaments, which cost a few bucks to get in and often the winner takes all. ESPN holds a tournament over the internet with prizes to the winners from each area.

All you need to do is log on at www.ESPN.SportsZone.com and check into the Pizza Hut tournament challenge. You fill in who you think is going to win, then submit the information over the internet. When it is done, you have entered the challenge and have a chance to win a lot of pizza and tickets to the final four for next year.

The games have already begun. The excitement from the tournament is boiling over as students talk about their teams and who won or lost last night. Only North Carolina is left out of the number one ranked seeds as Duke, Arizona and Kansas all lost to other teams.

The teams are ranked by the NCAA out of the 16 teams in its bracket. From there, the number one plays the number 16, the two plays the number 15, the three plays the 14, etc.

The tournament is set-up so that the number one team has the easiest trip to the final four and the second ranked team has the second easiest trip to the final four, etc.

The tournament has a beginning of 64 teams. The teams are selected by the NCAA committee and then are ranked according to their record and the teams they play against. This is why a team like Florida State can get into the tournament when other teams might have a better record than Florida State. Florida State had a very difficult schedule.

This is the craziest time of the year. This is also the only time where you can see a basketball games on from noon to midnight and there are 32 games in two days and 48 games in four.

It is totally nuts and upsets reign like in no place else. One bad game and your team is gone. No second chances like in the NBA. Any team can come out of nowhere to take the crown of national champions and this tournament has given each team a fair shot at knocking another out.

The NBA finals are a lot different than the NCAA finals. First of all, there are only sixteen teams in the NBA playoffs, and each team has to win three games in the first round and four times in the second to last round to advance. The teams are forced to play in their own division instead of where ever the tournament takes them.

Often in the NCAA, there are many teams who don't deserve to win but could be hot when they beat the other team. This creates the upset effect. Any team can be upset, as seen in this year when Arizona lost to Utah.

The final four is coming up this weekend and the excitement is just beginning.

ATTENTION PHOTOGRAPHERS!

Challenge, West Chicago High School's yearbook, is looking for people with experience in photography to join next year's staff.

Challenge Staff Photographers will cover a variety of school events for inclusion in the yearbook. In addition, they will learn valuable journalism and publication design skills.

Challenge meets first period every day and counts as 1/2 elective credit. You can still join the staff even though you've already registered for next year's classes.

If you are interested in applying to the **Challenge** staff as a photographer, cut out the slip below, fill it out, and turn it in to Mr. Larson's mailbox in the main office or to the envelope on the wall outside room 317.

Yes! I'd like to apply to be a **Challenge** photographer!

Name: _____ YIS: FR SO JR

What would you like to see in upcoming issues of the *Wildcat Chronicle*? What kinds of things are you interested in? The *Chronicle* is looking for your suggestions. Please put your suggestions in the *Wildcat Chronicle* mailbox in the main office or let one of the *Chronicle* staff members know.

What's the deal with Seinfeld quitting?

By Dan Young

And then there were none. The television gods claim another one of life's little pleasures. This time, millions of television viewers will see the effect of one man's decision.

Yes, the best show on TV will be no more, with Jerry Seinfeld calling it quits. Seinfeld feels he has had enough, yet millions of people are begging for more. Saying goodbye to Jerry, Elaine, George and Kramer will be tough, like losing a group of friends.

How often do you talk to your friends about past episodes? Everyone has done it; it is a great conversation starter. People talk about it all the time. It owns a place in many people's hearts. People like to say they watch every show and everyone has an opinion on which is their favorite.

The show appeals to everyone. There is a grown-up subplot to

follow along with, and something about Superman in every episode. There are also many funny scenes and lines which parents don't get, but younger people do.

For example, on Thursday, February 5, the show had a poor man as Elaine's boyfriend. There were comments about "Lois Loan" instead of "Lois Lane" and there was some comment about her new boyfriend being a super hero. This makes the superman idea come through and it also fills in the idea that Elaine's boyfriend was hard to understand. No one knew he was poor until later on in the show.

Each episode is different and has a message to be taken away when it finishes. One episode is about casting for a new show called "Jerry." In the episode, the show teaches togetherness and the drive for love. One man loves Elaine so much he joins a group who fights against

whale hunters. It teaches togetherness by making Seinfeld rely on his friends and they on him.

The show attempts to cover everything possible and it isn't based on Seinfeld's opinion. Seinfeld doesn't always win. One show, there was a lady who based her whole comic routine upon the fact that Jerry Seinfeld is the devil.

This show will be missed, mostly because the humor it provided. For example, Kramer walking in to Jerry's apartment in usual style will disappear. No more candy bar line-ups or phony foundations like Kramerica or the Human Fund.

Kramer does some of the craziest things. One time he bought a safe to keep his valued possessions in and he hid the key in Jerry's apartment. Unfortunately, Jerry found the key very easily. It was hidden in the pocket of Jerry's coat, then Kramer removed the key and re-

placed it in the drawer under a spoon. Kramer's reactions are what makes this funny. During the time that Jerry was in his apartment, Kramer kept acting like Jerry was looking for the key or something and he tells Jerry that "this isn't hide and go seek."

However, Seinfeld also goes beyond the limits set by previous television shows. The show creates a holiday called Festivus and has all of its members attend the ceremony. The ceremony involves a ten foot aluminum pole and the rights of Festivus, which is George's dad complaining to everyone. Then George has to wrestle his father.

The show created a new level for other TV shows to attain to. Seinfeld has dominated Thursday nights like no TV show before or after. There was an entire episode that was backwards and no one knew what was going on until the end, or the begin-

ning. It was very confusing but hilarious.

Despite valiant efforts of magazines and newspapers, Seinfeld is finished. People magazine ran a cover story on the show when Seinfeld announced he was through. Popular stars made comments about their favorite episode and People interviewed the cast and producers. Everyone felt bad about losing Seinfeld, but Jerry is tired of the creating the show.

Seinfeld feels there is nothing more to do with his show and he has decided to step back from the TV eye. It will be a sad day when there is no more Seinfeld.

Seinfeld is all about creative ways to make you laugh and displaying fictitious lives. Both of these are interesting and funny, and life will be different without them. Seinfeld is a great show and it is a sad day when it has to close.

Music department performs spring concerts

Band plans trip after successful concert

By Dan Young

Halftime shows, parades and concerts. It's what the band does during a routine year.

The band had concert on March 5th which included solos by juniors Wes Skidgel and Jessica Inch, and a trio performance by seniors Trisha Tinnes, Darcy Wostrazksy and junior Jessica Weiss. Skidgel said, "I wasn't really nervous before my performance because the crowd was great and they gave me a great response."

The band was also thankful to be able to pull off "Jubilance." Junior Jeff Stogis said, "We couldn't have pulled it off last year."

Jazz band also performed yesterday, March 24. However, there was no way to attend the event due to deadline.

The band is always looking for students to join. To do this, find Mr. Guter in the band room or talk to any members of band. Of course, there are extra bonuses for joining

band. You get to attend sports events and march in parades.

There are also academic bonuses for joining band. The three courses which are offered by the music department are "music technology," "music theory," and "music appreciation." However, "music theory" is only going to be a one semester course next year.

The band is going to St. Louis in May and selling candy to help pay for the trip.

The band got a new director over the past summer. Daniel Harrison resigned and Mr. Guter took over from there. Skidgel said, "He has a better idea on what he wants to do." Stogis said, "He also has better focus than Mr. Harrison."

Band is really looking forward to next year. "I can't wait for next year," said Stogis. Skidgel agreed, saying, "I am really excited about all of the improvements in the band for next year."

Combined concert provides variety of music

By Kelly Kaylor

Despite the cancellation of the March 9 concert, the Community High School Choral Department combined with the Orchestra Department provided an assortment of music for audience members Thursday night.

Originally, the orchestra concert was planned for March 19, but due to the March 9 snow-day the choir was forced to perform on the same evening.

The orchestra performed their "Winter Concert" under the direction of Larry J. Van Masbergen began at 7:30 p.m. in Weyrauch Auditorium.

They began the night by playing "The Prince of Denmark's March," by Jeremiah Clarke and arranged by Henry Wood. Sophomore Wes Skidgel accompanied the symphony orchestra on the piccolo trumpet during the piece.

After three other pieces, the group concluded their portion of the night with themes from "Also Sprach Zarathustra" by Richard Strauss and arranged by Jerry Lehmeter.

The Jazz Choir comprised of 19 students from freshmen to seniors

opened the night with two "swinging" songs.

Their first number, "Hit That Jive Jack" had all members aligned on the front of the stage dressed in matching vests. For their second and final number the group performed "Blue Skies" accompanied by junior Katie Vogan on the piano, Skidgel on the trumpet, and sophomore Jeff Tillson on the double bass.

The beginner choir then took the stage for their four song performance which included short song descriptions prior to each piece.

The group made up of all freshmen started off with a song from the Disney film Anastasia, Stephen Flaherty's "Journey From the Past." In their piece "A Great Big Sea" they were accompanied by violinists sophomore Kendra Norton and junior Heidi Fuoss.

After their final song the intermediate choir took the stage. Director Lisa Smith praised the group for their performance at the Flower and Garden Show at Navy Pier on Saturday, March 14, and also commended their improvement in re-

cent months.

Their songs for the night ranged from a Guatalupe folksong to "Zion's Walls" a Revivalist song.

For the final part of the show the Concert Choir performed. Accompanied by retired choir director Mr. Ron Benner on the piano, Director Smith led the vocalists in three spirited songs.

They sang "Jabula Jesu" by Stephen Hatfield. This piece was sung almost entirely in an African language, requiring a translation in the program. Senior Amie Weidner was a soloist in that performance.

Freshman Christina Droho said, "[Concert Choir] really got into it and they had some really cool songs to sing." Director Smith chose both unusual and creative pieces for each separate choir to perform, offering something new and different to the audience.

Upcoming events for the choral department include the April 25-26 Fox Valley Music Festival, which requires contestants to be selected prior to competing.

Their next group concert will be their Spring Choral Concert on May 28th.

Setting off alarms all over Chicago

By Kelley Betts

The Rube Goldberg Machine. The name fills the mind with creative or absurd ideas as to what this contraption could be. Maybe something that will do homework or send you through time. Wrong. A Rube Goldberg machine is right here in our school, and, with the careful work of seven juniors, it turned off an alarm clock.

Laura Caligiuri, Derek DiPietro, Renee Altman, Bart Visser, Lisa Arnett, Courtney Czech, and Brian Krawczykowski participated in The Rube Goldberg Machine Contest that took place at Navy Pier on March 20 with science teachers David Perrel and Patricia Carrow.

The group made the machine, entitled "Around the world in nine minutes," run once successfully, but couldn't set it up on time for a second run.

They were all hoping to make it run twice, according to Perrel.

We-go received honorable mention for their machine.

A rube goldberg, by definition, is a series of complex steps that could be accomplished very simply. This

year's contest was to turn off an alarm clock.

Every machine must have had a total of 20 steps.

These seven students designed a rube goldberg machine that was in total, six feet by six feet by seven feet. It was strictly a volunteer effort, and none of the students recieved extra credit for this project.

They started meeting before winter vacation to brainstorm ideas. In order to build the machine, We-go recieved money from Argon National Laboratories and gift certificates from hardware stores.

"We mostly used common household junk," said DiPietro.

12 Chicagoland high schools participated in the contest held at Navy Pier. It was sponsored by Argon National Laboratories and Perdue University. It is the third in the area for high schools.

The popularity of this contest has increased, says Perrel.

"It's really neat to see students use physics ideas and terms. It's a good representation of ideas learned in class," says Perrel.

Skaters look for new site

By Dave Mehrman

Skateboarders and rollerbladers have always had it hard in West Chicago. Police have issued tickets. Business owners have prohibited them from their property. The skaters in West Chicago have almost no place to go. Recently, the West Chicago Park District started to consider building a skatepark.

Officer Tony Quarto said, "its a great idea."

The proposed spot was at Reed Keppler park on the corner of National and Yale, where the tennis courts used to be. Right now the area is torn up and thorium is being removed.

The Park District has said they won't be done taking the thorium out of the ground until the summer

of '99. So the park will not be ready until at least then.

Junior Marc Doerr, who has been skateboarding for about three years, said, "The idea of a skatepark is cool, but I don't think it will ever happen."

Junior Josh Wetzel who has been skating for four years said, "If they get their act together, I think it'll come together."

Right now if someone wants to go to a skatepark, the closest is a half hour away. It's called SCRAP, in Hoffman Estates.

The cost is \$7 for a four hour session, all equipment (helmet, elbow and knee pads, and wrist guards) must be worn, and they

don't rent equipment out. SCRAP is one of the few skateparks in the area so it is usually very crowded.

The Park District has allowed the skaters to put ramps and rails in their parking lot for the past two years.

The Park District says one way to get the skatepark is to keep where they skate in the office parking lot clean when the skaters skate there. If they can show they can handle what they have now, then it will show the Park District they can handle a bigger place.

If you have any questions concerning the skate park, you can contact Park District Director Dave Thomas. The number for the Park District office is 231-9474.

DiCaprio dually talented

By Jeff Goluszka

Leonardo DiCaprio now has a new role. This time he is a tyrannical, selfish, seducing, using and abusing bully, in the new film *The Man In The Iron Mask*.

Fresh out of the record-breaking waters of *Titanic*, the former "Growing Pains" teen is thrust into 17th century France as the hated King Louis XIV. Close to Louis during his attempted totalitarian rule is none other than the Three Musketeers, Athos, Porthos and Aramis, played heroically and magnificently by John Malkovich (*Seven*), Gerard Depardieu (*Green Card*), and Jeremy Irons (*Die Hard With A Vengeance*). As the final piece in the star-studded cast, Gabriel Byrne (*Point of No Return*) plays a musketeer and Louis' confidant and advisor, D'Artagnan.

In a new challenge for DiCaprio, he plays a double role, portraying not only the king, but also his long-time secretly imprisoned twin brother, born mere minutes before the king.

When the Queen unexpectedly delivers twins sent the king and apparent father into a quick decision of exiling one son, given the history of past sibling heirs and their fatal quarrels. So, one son was chosen at random to stay and be the heir, and the other was chosen to leave.

D'Artagnan explained this story to Athos, Porthos and Aramis: after the twins were

born, one son grew up to be King Louis XIV, and the other had been living a quaint life in the country, when one day he was taken away for no reason known to him, by a man in black. He was placed in a locked and fitted iron mask which engulfed his entire head. He lived in a prison cell, and inside the iron mask, for over six, terrifying, unbearable years.

The Man In The Iron Mask begins outside the castle which houses Louis, D'Artagnan and the musketeers. There, a man named Raoul (Peter Sarsgaard), who happens to be the son of Athos, is about to become a musketeer in the very near future. At this point, he is about to propose to his girlfriend Christine (played extremely well by Judith Godreche) at one of Louis' parties. When Louis catches a glimpse of Christine, he decides he must have her.

Louis is known to use women. He has his way with women, as no woman can turn away the royal crown. As soon as he gets what he wants, he sends them away.

He creates a diversion, then runs into Christine, the two of them alone. He tries to win her, but she turns away, explaining she is already taken. Louis, the ever-persistent one, says that that means nothing, and she should come to him.

She refuses, and then ironically, an assas-

sination attempt against Louis by an angry Jesuit is thwarted by D'Artagnan, allowing Christine to escape with her Raoul.

Soon the determined king takes action and sends Raoul to battle, setting him up where he will undoubtedly be killed. After hearing of Raoul's death, Louis invites Christine to stay with him, and they begin to live together.

Rioting in Paris continues to worsen due to food and job shortages from a struggling economy, and there are many calls for Louis' head. Now the Three Musketeers and D'Artagnan meet secretly, and one of the four reveals himself as a traitor and secret Jesuit leader, automatically the arch enemy of Louis.

This meeting leads to the man in the iron mask. His identity is revealed to Athos, Porthos and Aramis by D'Artagnan, and all but D'Artagnan go to the prison to take the man in the iron mask, named Phillippe.

Now, the real action unfolds as Louis calls for the heads of the now-missing Athos, Porthos and Aramis. Then the film speeds up to non-stop excitement leading to an unbelievable conclusion containing a few battles, and depicting courage, valor, iron will, and revenge.

In the final clash of this mega-star cast, some are left standing, some are not. Which

heir will go on to take the throne?

That is one of the great things about this film, the story shifts so much, the limited foreshadowing does not allow you to know the conclusion in the middle of the movie. This film is very unpredictable.

DiCaprio gives a great performance, one minute as the stern and arrogant king, the next as a wonderful, kind and giving twin, Phillippe. The transition he makes is phenomenal.

Not to be lost are the performances of Irons, Malkovich, Depardieu and Byrne, though. They all add tremendously to this film, with Malkovich adding in short-temperredness and a careless mentality, Irons and Byrne bringing seriousness and smarts, and Depardieu tossing in hysterical one-liners and bits mixing comedy with action and adventure.

Overall, writer/director Randall Wallace brings us another action film set hundreds of years in the past, as he did with *Braveheart*. This is a very successful film, with a very successful plot.

This movie was based on the book that was the sequel to the original "The Three Musketeers," by Alexander Dumas.

In the end, Three Musketeers, two DiCaprios and one great physically produced

Fox catches a Moon Hut

By Kelley Betts

Singer songwriter Kim Fox is leaving an impression on the music industry with her soft music and calming voice on her debut album *Moon Hut*

Fox is not just another female artist. Her music stands out above the rest with the variety of instruments she and others play on her album.

She wastes no time introducing instruments into the album by featuring spoons on the first track, "I Wanna Be a Witch." Her talent for the piano is also prominent as the soft sound rings through the music. Unlike some artists, she doesn't just pound on the piano. The other instruments seem to follow the lead of the piano including violins.

"Could Have Been a Saint" has a blues touch to it with the lead guitar and Fox's acoustic guitar along with the drum beat. She also plays the piano and organ in this track. This is a unique and catchy tune.

The acoustic guitar rhythm gives the song a peaceful, happy sound.

Fox goes solo in "Jen," playing piano and singing. This is a soft ballad showing her Tori Amos-like talent for the piano. She sings softly about someone who seems

like a role model. It's a beautiful track set apart from the rest of the album with the piano as the only instrument.

Moon Hut is a change of pace from the mainstream of music. Fox proves she's multi-talented by playing a variety of instruments not normally heard in pop alternative music. The concertina which is featured on "Cowgirl's Lament" and the glockenspiel on "Say Anything." (The glockenspiel is a percussion instrument played with two hammers.)

The lyrics of the songs are not depressing or those of complaints. They are poetry set to music about everyday life.

If the words were taken away from the music, the same feeling could be heard.

When she sings softly, a violin will play or when she sings loudly, a guitar will be heard.

Fox was raised in Manhattan, moved to Bloomington, Indiana, where she was discovered. She says moving from a big city to a small town was hard for her, but she adjusted quickly, because she enjoyed small town life.

She attended Vassar College where she studied classical voice and opera. She

decided to use a more contemporary style of singing in her spare time. In 1994, she signed a contract with BMG publishing. At that time, performing was something Fox hadn't had much experience in.

After adjusting, she made a demo, *Trouble Bustin' in from Outta State*, which followed with a deal with Dreamworks Records. In 1996, she began performing in midwestern cities like Louisville, Cincinnati, Dayton, Milwaukee, Madison, and Bloomington. In September of 1997, she released *Moon Hut*.

Fox says she has always loved orchestral music more than the popular rock music. This interest comes through in the variety of instruments used in her songs.

She tries her hand at pop alternative and is quite successful.

The interesting fact about *Moon Hut* is that all the instrumentalists were local people. She pointed out that they played because they had a love for music. In other ways, she adds the creative non-mainstream instruments that make her music unique.

The songs themselves are generally positive.

Moon Hut is a must have for those who love soft, peaceful music.

Take the... Challenge

Challenge is West Chicago High School's yearbook. We're looking for people interested in joining our staff for next year.

•••NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!•••

- Qualifications:
- interest in being involved
 - willingness to learn
- Benefits:
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 - experience in journalistic writing
 - development publishing design skills
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 - opportunities to work closely with others toward a great product

Challenge meets during first period every day. You can still join the staff even though you've already registered for next year's classes!

To apply for a position on the Challenge staff, cut out the slip below, fill it out, and turn it in to Mr. Larson's mailbox in the main office or to the envelope on the wall outside room 317.

Yes! I'd like to apply to join the Challenge staff!

Name: _____ YIS: FR SO JR

The Bears who won't die

By Carrie Zeffield

As the Poo Bears enter their second year together, they seem to have no worries about where the music is

going to take them, especially when there are four teenagers working together to make a dream come true. As their first CD *Vedem* drifts above the water, it seems that not everyone knows who West Chicago's beloved and talented band is.

Throughout '97, the Poo Bears played live shows at the VFW, Riley's Rockhouse and Synergy. After each show, 10% of their earnings are given to Chicago and area charities. The Poo Bears recently sent in music for the Q101 new music CD. Rock 103.5 played "Ritard," a song off of *Vedem*. They claim that for right now they're happy because they have gotten recognition over the radio and are improving their sound and quality.

The Poo Bears (the name came from a pooh bear doll that Briggs's dog was playing with one day) started one

and a half years ago. Founders' sophomore Jacob Briggs and sophomore Jason Mackniskas pulled senior Chris Shern and sophomore Ryan Hammer together to create a sound that has become diverse from all the typical 90's bands, practicing three times a week and creating their own sound to include rock, pop, jazz and funk.

Things haven't always been easy for the Poo Bears. After a half a year of the band being together, Shern and his family got startling news about his brother Birdnell

His kidneys failed one year ago, leaving him on a waiting list and dialysis three times a week. Shern said that his brother has inspired the band in every way possible. "He is very supportive and comes to every show." The band wrote a song for Birdnell calling it "Burn Mans Vision."

Even with Birdnell's condition, the Poo Bears still continue to practice and improve

the quality of their playing.

With Briggs playing guitar for only two and a half years, his playing has developed into a sound that is unique and creative, with much talent being shown throughout his playing, and some inspiration has come from his brother. But don't expect Briggs to compare himself to any good or bad guitarist. "I wouldn't compare myself to anyone. I just want to be me and not be known as anyone else," said Briggs during an interview.

Hammer had a slightly hard time finding his place in the band. "It started out that I was second guitarist, but that didn't work out quite well. So instead of getting kicked out of the band, I brought up the idea of having a bass guitar. The thing that sucked was I had to pay for my own bass and lessons." Shern claimed that without Hammers bass sound, they wouldn't have quality music.

Lead singer Shern made his way into the band without

a problem. "I heard Jason talking about putting a band together and so we put one together. I became singer, because I like to sing."

"We made him singer because he is so enthusiastic, he really disciplined us. He made us and formed us," said Briggs and Mackniskas.

Mackniskas is the bands drummer. "I got a drum set for my birthday and I've been taking lessons for about seven months now. I enjoy playing the drums and I would never give it up." His playing is what created the music the Poo Bears are known for playing. And with his dad as the bands manager, the band has something going good, at least for their first CD release.

The Poo Bears have never been afraid to try new sounds. They stress that there isn't one type of music that is being made. "We want to be right to the point. We want people to be confused about the sound because there is no one sound. And we aren't

afraid to try new sounds. There are no limits."

The band has ideals that keep them going everyday, reminding them that there is place in the music world for them. As a band, they idealize Led Zeppelin, The Smashing Pumpkins, Jimi Hendrix, Trent Reznor, Scott Weiland, Tool, Greenday, and Charlie Parker. Shern claims the music just all fits together.

Even though the Poo Bears are optimistic and hopeful of their future as a band, they also have some fears, fears of failure and surprisingly success. "I fear success because success can change you and your life. When a person becomes successful, they shouldn't get caught up in it and that is usually what happens. But we are dedicated to what we do," said Shern.

The Poo Bears also had some advice to offer about achieving a goal. "Dedication, practice and hard work, lots of hard work. You have to do the right things and be responsible." replied Shern.

"You have to eat, sleep and drink your work if you are dedicated enough. Our band is a job and we try and do our job right. And not using drugs has also helped us in our band."

They claimed that '97 was a hard year, but their work paid off. Live shows and their new CD *Vedem* shows the talent and dedication this band has to offer. But in '98, they are looking for other things to accomplish, like playing more live shows, possibly putting out a new CD by late '98 or early '99. They are also hoping for a big break and a record deal. "If we do get a record deal, we will make a few music videos and definitely play more live shows. But for right now, we are comfortable at where we are."

On one last note, the Poo Bears have a message for all to hear. "We are good live. Give one of our shows a chance and for sure you'll be back. And we guarantee, we aren't going anywhere."

Bringing the street sound

By Joe Leli

Learning off experience. That's what the rap group formerly known as the warlox let the three letters of their name stand for in their more common name, the Lox.

Sheek, Styles, and Jadakiss, the three talented lyricists of the group were discovered by R&B singer Mary J. Blige in the streets of the Bronx-Yonkers, New York. She brought their demo to the always ambitious Sean "Puffy" Combs soon after the release of the Notorious B.I.G.'s first album *Ready to Die* in 1994. Their success definitely did not come overnight though.

The three talented rappers paid their dues while waiting patiently for their time to shine, and put in work in the underground scene by getting in to the studio as much as possible and recording as many lyrics as they could. By performing live in local hip hop night clubs and just putting their name out on the street the Lox's name became more wide throughout the New York City area. Finally these charismatic MC's became the toast of New York. Although now Puff Daddy did sign them to Bad Boy. Putting out their own music would still take time.

Soon after Biggie's death, his album came out and The Lox appeared on the track, "Last Day" that definitely had the raw beats and lyrics of future Lox songs to come. Puff then released the slamming hit "It's All About The Benjamins", which features hot lyrics from Sheek and Jay, and fitting to the tribute of the late Notorious B.I.G.. "We'll Always Love Big Poppa." It also included a sentimental video with a lot of cameos including, Puffy, Jay-Z, Salt 'n Pepa, Faith Evans Wallace, and many others. Now with more pop party time rapper Mase already topping billboard charts, the Lox are stepping out of the shadows and in to the light for the 1998 rap season.

The new record entitled "*Money, Power and Respect*" includes its fair share of songs that do not exactly describe Bad Boy entertainment. The album was produced by none other than Sean "Puffy" Combs and the Hitmen, which include Deric "D-dot" Angelette, Chucky Thompson and others.

The Lox's lyrical performances shine over less than average beats on tracks like, "Let's Start Rap Over." Relying less on Puff Daddy's usual sampling craze, the songs are more subtle which makes the voices sound more rugged. More than half of the CD matches perfect rhymes with perfect beats, which gives them the street feel they are known for.

The first single of the album, "If you think I'm Jiggy" includes a laid back club beat along with a catchy sound from an early Rod Stewart track. Other street-tempered songs include "Livin the Life" and "The Heist" it includes the three members simultaneously rapping. About holding up a bank and also contains sounds of the story they are telling, such as, whistles, police sirens and anything else you could imagine about a heist. Get your dance on with the party mix song, "So Right." The next single off the album is the title track and features the hard-core Lil' Kim and the new ripping street rapper from Yonkers, DMX. The song includes a screeching hot beat with Lil' Kim doing the chorus and The Lox then rap about the only three essential needs in life are Money, Power and Respect and finishing off the last verse is the unique lyrics and style of DMX leaving you stunned by the talent of the featured five young gifted rappers.

The Lox have learned a lot off their experiences all the way from the underground rap scene to the giant hip hop scene where they are surely gaining money, power and respect for Bad Boy Entertainment.

The group takes the phrase of "money, power and respect" very seriously and sees it as the three essentials for life in the real world. Styles makes it clear on an interlude on track number four the no matter where you go and no matter what you do in life you need money, power and respect, all the way from kindergarten to becoming a rap star. At this point after appearing on other various artists albums and making their own album, the Lox know they have a little bit of money, a little bit of power and plenty of respect so far in the hip hop entertainment industry.

Whats in the stars for you

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You might have a little trouble with your parental units, so bear with them and see if you can work out a compromise. You will find that lost item hidden in your closet, so start that spring-cleaning as soon as possible. Your lucky color is blue and your love match is a vibrant Virgo.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Be wary of any advice given to you this month. Be sure you are making the best decision possible before you jump into anything. The stars are aligning in your favor, so now is the time to ask out that special someone. Your lucky color is green and your love match is a lucky Libra.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)

This month you will stand up to that obnoxious friend and tell him or her to treat you with more respect. You deserve to be happy. Your popularity will soar, so be ready and don't let it go to your head. Your lucky color is red and your love match is a caring Cancer.

Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19)

You have been patient and this month you will receive your reward. You will feel a little daring this month. so try something new, like dying your hair blue. Your lucky color is yellow and your love match is a generous Gemini.

Taurus (Apr. 21-May 20)

The past few weeks have been

a time of fun and games, but now it is time to get serious. You need to rethink your priorities. Let spring break be a time of spiritual renewal. Try some herbal shampoo and scented candles. Your lucky color is magenta and your love match is a stunning Sagittarius.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

It is time to tell the truth and let your true feelings be known to that special someone. No not leave them in suspense any longer. Make sure to spend some time with your family. While they may be annoying, they still love you, and you owe it to them. Your lucky color is jade and your love match is an amazing Aries.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

You could use a break from all of your hard work. Plan a party for spring break and it is sure to be egg-citing. Try looking for job over break to ensure a steady flow of money into your pocket-book for the month of April. Your lucky color is khaki and your love match is a perfect Pisces.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

Now is the time to get in shape. If you do it now, chances are you will stick with it and feel great. Don't shirk your responsibilities, what may be insignificant to you may be important to others. Your lucky color is black and your love match is

a super Scorpio.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

This past month has been a time of change for you. Try to remember who your real friends are and make sure to keep in touch with them. This month words are more powerful than actions, so be cautious of what you say. Your lucky color is white and your love match is a captivating Capricorn.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Spend this spring break getting to know someone new. Branch out your circle of friends while still holding on to your other friendships. It is time for you to break out of your shell and have some fun. Your lucky color is orange and your love match is an astounding Aquarius.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

You are a natural born leader and your skills will soon be put to the test. Keep your wits and you'll do fine. You will come head-to-head with some opposition, but in the end you will be victorious. Your lucky color is purple and your love match is a loving Leo.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

A new love interest will walk into your life over spring break. Keep your eyes open, or you might miss your chance. Go on a shopping spree over break and add some color to your wardrobe. Your lucky color is pink and your love match is a terrific Taurus.

Lureau places 5th at state

By Jeff Goluszka

The West Chicago boys swimming and diving team did not have a great season, but one bright spot was freshman Joe Lureau, who won sectionals at St. Charles high school, and advanced to the state finals.

At sectionals, Lureau won the 200 IM, which is a mixture of the fly, back, breast and front strokes. He also won the 100 meter breast stroke.

At the state finals, which were held in Evanston, Lureau swam in the 200 IM and 100 meter breast stroke. In the 200 IM, he finished in 14th place out of 40 swimmers, and he finished fifth out of 40 swimmers in the 100 meter breast stroke.

The team did not fare as well as Lureau. He is the only one that made it to state, as the team was small, only eight swimmers, and did not do well during the regular season.

The Cats won three of their first four meets, but then lost the next seven to finish the season 3-8. We-go ended the season with four losses following the sixth place finish in the Lyons Township meet. The Cats lost to Oswego 98 to 78, were defeated by IMSA (316) and Oswego (215), with We-go scoring 194 points, lost to brand new Neuqua Valley 116 to 66, and were out swam by Streamwood in the season finale 95 to 78.

Next year looks brighter for the Cats, as there are seven freshmen coming up next year, ready to swim for We-go. They are all "experienced swimmers that are pretty good," said Lureau.

This year's team only loses three seniors, in Alan Ahlgard, Scott Hamlin and Jacob Macpherson. Next year's projected 12-man roster will be a "really good team," said Lureau.

The team for 1998-99 is a team of the future, as next year's roster will include seven freshmen, three sophomores in Lureau, Joseph Hamlin and Justin Hilt, and two seniors in Mark Gottlieb and David Marino.

Wrestling finishes season; coach Hein resigns

By Arlete Penafior

The wrestling season finally came to an end this year, after having 5 wrestlers advance to Sectionals including juniors Ben Stevens and Luis Aguado, and seniors Jason Osterkamp, Marvin Boorsma, and Steve Pastore.

Although no wrestlers qualified at the end, head coach Bob Hein feels satisfied with this year's performance. Especially with the performance of those wrestlers who stuck together until the end. "I had hopes of a better season than we did, but I'm happy with the overall performance of the wrestlers. I sort of have mixed feelings about this year's season," said Hein.

As the season came to an end one of the team's on-going goals was to have more wins than losses, and to place in the upper half of any tournament. This might not have been the case in every tournament, but the wrestlers always kept this in mind as they went into a meet.

"Success isn't entirely measured in your wins over your losses, but in how hard you try," said Hein.

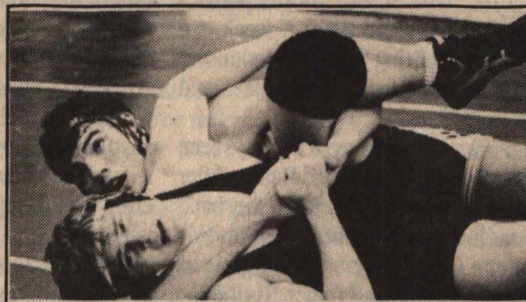
This year's team lacked some of their old wrestlers, they had to get use to working without some people

make the best of it," said Hein. Recently Hein informed the school that he would not be the head coach of wrestling next season. He feels that after having coached for over 30 years it was time to move on and have someone else fill his position. "I feel that there is a lot of more work to be done to make the program competitive, there is also a lot more time commitment to be put in," said Hein.

Next year the team will have to get use to a new coach and probably a whole new way

of looking at things. Hein doesn't feel this will be a problem, and that the team will quickly get use to the new program.

"Hopefully, next year there will be someone who will generate a whole new enthusiasm and be very successful, there is a very good chance of this," said Hein.



Senior John Svast looks to his coach to advice

Photo by Sandy Weiss

because of this they had to fill many positions by new inexperienced people, who quickly got the hang of what they had to do. "This year we had several wrestlers who didn't come back, they could of really helped us out because they were of varsity caliber. This is always a disappointment for us but we had to

Cinderella story ends in West Aurora

By Dan Young

There is a saying which goes, "If the shoe fits, wear it." The West Chicago basketball team took the saying to heart.

It was too bad the glass slipper that the Wildcats found wasn't a durable, comfortable Asic shoe. The Cats went into the regional game on Friday, March 6 to play West Aurora. There was no magic left in the Cats hands, as they shot a cold percentage from the field in a devastating 77-43 lose.

However, coach Dan McCarthy pointed out, "West Aurora is a better team than we are. They have that historical background with basketball and they finished second in state last year. We knew we would have to play well to stay in the game and our shots weren't falling."

Indeed they weren't. However, it is not like the Cats were beating West Aurora in every other phase of the game. The Cats were simply outplayed. They were not getting the rebounds that West Aurora was. The Wildcats lost the rebound battle 41-20.

McCarthy said, "I would have like for our guys to play better. It was really disappointing. It was a 180 degree turn from the game at Wheaton Warrenville South. It is tough to end the season on a major downer like that. I wished the guys

could have ended with the game at Wheaton-Warrenville South, but we advanced to West Aurora."

McCarthy continued, "It is a tough pill to swallow. I am really proud of the chemistry of this team and it's 'never say die' attitude."

Such a down fall from ecstasy to depression is tough to take. The Cats defeated Wheaton Warrenville South on Wednesday, March 4 at Wheaton Warrenville South. In the game, the Cats came from behind to snatch the game away from the jaws of defeat.

After the Cats were winning with about a minute and a half left, they knew it was over and that they had won. Junior Brian Raymond was a key element in the win with some great defense in stopping All-Conference player Eric Channing of the Tigers and senior Martin Filippson tossed in 14 points in the victory.

McCarthy said, "We did what we needed to do down the stretch to win. We really played hard and now we have something to show for our season. I always told them

something good would happen and now they have it. They will never forget this game."

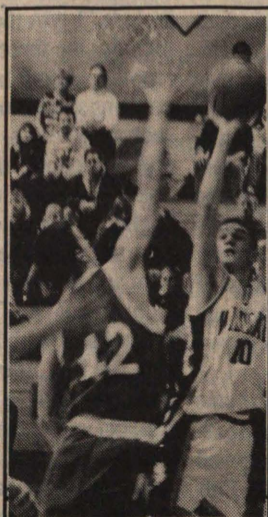
Defence was the key element from the Wildcats upset of Wheaton-Warrenville South. Channing was held to one of eight shooting in the second half and he didn't get the ball enough to make a huge impact. McCarthy said, "We denied him (Channing) the ball and we didn't foul. That is why we won."

Junior Chris Grin kept the Cats in the game in the third quarter as We-go chipped into a five point halftime deficit.

The Cats really didn't make a lot of goals for the beginning of the year. McCarthy said, "We just wanted to play hard every game. We wanted to be competitive. We knew we weren't going to win conference, so we wanted to compete with the other teams in the DVC."

McCarthy was "satisfied" with the Cats play during the year. He wanted to thank the players for the season. He especially remembers the Wheaton North game at home when the Cats won by 27 points and the Glenbard North game when the team shut down Mark Johnson and won by 13.

The team also beat Oswego who won about 20 games and avenged a loss to Geneva during the regular season. McCarthy said, "This team had great chemistry. When people become upset during the season, it is tough to live with. However, the players were a great group. They were a pleasure to be around. They always played hard and never griped about playing minutes."



Senior Jeremy Adams shoots down the base line

Photo by Sandy Weiss

Fourth quarter run not enough for victory

By Jennifer Lasky

The Ladycats basketball season ended with a 48-45 overtime loss to Wheaton Warrenville South on February 19. The game was a heart-breaker for the Cats, especially with three starters fouling out near the end of the game.

The game went into overtime with each team having 41 points. Senior center Leslie Harlson and sophomore Kelly Bolton both fouled out in overtime, and junior Kim Ellis and sophomore Missy Krueger came in to replace them. Harlson was the high scorer for the Cats, having 19 points, junior Molly Saul had 9, senior guard Andrea Beutjer had 6, and sophomore guard Kim Olson had 5.

By halftime, the score was 16-27, the largest lead for the Tigers in the entire game. In the fourth quarter, Saul tied the game with a three pointer, then the score continued to bounce back and forth. Beutjer says, "the game was upsetting, but the intensity level was high and she knew every single one of them had played their hardest."

Coach Kim Wallner felt the Cats had not played as well in the last couple games of the regular season as they could have, but they played well in the regional tournament "After the game, there was a lot of emotion in the locker room. It was apparent how much of themselves they had put into the game," says Wallner about the Wheaton Warrenville South loss. Senior forward Janine Morris says, "we lost, but they didn't beat us."

The Ladycats began regionals on February 17 with a game against the Batavia Bulldogs. The game kicked off with Morris singing the national anthem. The Cats led the Bulldogs the entire game, defeating Batavia by a score of 49-35. Harlson led the Cats scoring with 22 points, with Olson scoring 14 points, and Morris had eight.

Batavia went into the game with a 19-6 record and a game plan to keep Harlson from scoring. The Bulldogs used a full-court press to try to stop the Cats. The Cats were defeated by Glenbard North on February 12 by a score of 37-43 because they could not defeat the press.

Coach Kim Wallner says keeping composure is the key with a press and Beutjer did just that. Beutjer scored only two, but Wallner says her defense won the game. Wallner, Olson, Morris, and Harlson all felt Beutjer was the most valuable player in this game.

Wallner felt all the players stepped up and played hard. She says Bolton mixed things up and did good things, Beutjer had a great game overall, Saul does 3's best, and Harlson is a major part of defense, bothering almost every shot.

The Ladycats finished the season with an overall record of 13-15 and a conference record of 6-8. Wallner hopes her seniors enjoyed their season and can walk away feeling good about it and hopes the young players learned from the seniors and use what they've learned next year.

Egg-static for upcoming season

By Carrie Zeffield

As a new season starts for the boys baseball team, not only are the players expecting a better year, but the coaches are eager to see what the team has to offer for the '98 season.

The boys varsity team has their first doubleheader game on March 28 with 33 other games to follow. Last year the varsity team started a nice winning streak with their first three games against St. Francis, a doubleheader, and Marquette. After that, the varsity team ran into some bad losses against Glenbard North, Geneva, Wheaton Warrenville South, Waubonsie Valley and Glenbard South. That's just to name a few of the losses that the Wildcats had to suffer.

This season there are some things that the team will be working on, said assistant coach and math

teacher Kevin Gimre.

"This year the players are going to be working harder on their pitching, hitting and working like a defensive team," said Gimre.

The varsity team includes many returning players including: seniors John Brigowatz, Jim Callahan, Jon Hall, John Jensen, P.J. Leitherer, Justin McLoughlin, Brian O'Hara, Eddie Palombi, and Todd Yormark and juniors Jeff Callahan, Chris Grin, Adam Morrissey, Jeff Powell, Brian Raymond, Mike Schneider, and Joe Swantek.

Last year the varsity team made it as far as the regionals, playing three games and losing their last game to the St. Charles Saints, 2-13.

The overall record for the varsity team was 11-24. Their conference record was 3-15.

While the varsity team is working

on places to improve, the sophomore team also had some bad games in the '97 season. Games were lost to Fenton, Glenbard South, Glenbard North, Wheaton North and Naperville Central, just to name a few. The sophomore team made it to 18 conference games, winning 7 out of the 11 games played.

Their overall conference record was 7-11. Their overall record was 11-15.

This year the coaches are looking for more in their players.

"Things don't always go our way, but this year, the players can't lose confidence in themselves and I think that is why we had a bad year last year," said Gimre.

This year the team is looking for a better start in the season. Only the hard work will determine how the season goes.

Kicking off a new season

By Arlete Penafior

The girls soccer team is ready to kick off another season, beginning with a game on Wednesday, March 25 against Wheaton Academy.

The team feels that they have a strong team ready to take anything head on. "I feel very confident about our team this year and if the team keeps this confidence until the end I think we will do okay," said junior Nicole Medina.

"We have a lot of positive thinkers on the team this year who are looking forward to the season. Hopefully we are up for some good competition this year," said sophomore Kristy Reser.

Their upcoming game against Wheaton Academy is a game they are looking forward to. "I'm very

confident about this game and I feel that we are going to do great because we have a lot of talent on our team this year," said senior Marisa Alfaro.

The players on the team have many goals that they hope to accomplish this year. Among them is to have a winning season. "One of my goals is to at least win ten games this season, and to put in all of my efforts," said junior Vicky Guevara.

"One of my goals this year is to try to win and defend as many games as last year maybe even more," said Reser.

The girls soccer team is looking strong as they prepare themselves for their upcoming games. They feel positive about their upcoming

game and hope to beat Wheaton Academy as they did last year. "We beat them last year, we might do just as well although I heard that they have very good players this year," said Reser.

The team also feels that the coaches this year have improved a lot. They motivate the team more towards their good points and not so much on the negative. "They really have improved a lot, and are a lot better than last year. They start from the bottom and motivate us to move up not down which is really going to help us," said Reser.

"The coaches are great and are very talented people," said Alfaro. Upcoming games include St. Francis at home, and Bartlett.

Winter sports celebration

By Jennifer Lasky

There were three all-conference athletes for the winter sports season. Jon Hall and Leslie Harlson were unanimous choices for basketball, and Joe Lureau was all-conference for boys swimming.

Twelve scholar athletes were recognized, each one having a 3.5 GPA or higher and belonging to a varsity sport. This award was given to seniors Jim Callahan, Janine Morris, Martin Phillipson, Harlson, juniors Molly Saul, Mark Doeseckle, Andrew Merrick, sophomores Kelly Bolton, Kim Olson, and freshman Joe Hamlin and Joe Lureau.

President of the Booster Club Ruben Campos and Amy Kaylor, co-president, recognized 24 athletes who earned academic honor, maintaining a 3.0 or higher.

There were four fall scholar athlete awards given to freshmen Dennis Janek, Jennifer Ciwak, Shannon Stern, and Catherine Wilken. These awards could not be handed out at the fall sports awards night because the GPA's of these freshmen had yet to be determined.

Campos and Kaylor also handed out awards to athletes who had been involved in their sport for four years.

Girls basketball coach Kim Wallner spoke, complimenting her team on their season. She announced the Most Improved Player to be Janine Morris, Defensive Player of the year to be Jeanette Arroyo, despite her injury, and Most Valuable Player to be Harlson.

Boys swimming coach Chris Hall also spoke, talking about his expectations coming to We-go this year, the workouts his team put in, and how Lureau competed at state. Lureau was the first freshman in 67 years to place in the top five in an event at state. He finished fifth in the breast stroke.

Badminton begins winning season

By John Williamson

The year's flown by like a birdie and spring has quickly arrived which means warmer weather, vacations, eggs, and for the members of the We-go girls badminton team, many competitive matches.

The team has many new faces including assistant coach Judy Becwith from Streamwood.

"Even though we have quite a few new team members, we hope to still finish within the top five in the DVC and create a new interest in the sport," said senior Lara Heinz, the team manager. Despite only having two weeks of practice before their first match at Riverside Brookfield, the varsity came on strong, swept in doubles, and

brought home a 13-2 victory.

Winners included senior Tanya Austin and junior Dana Mourning in doubles, sophomore Linda Xiong and senior Liz Murphy in doubles, and junior Jessica Inch and sophomore Mary Kovacs in doubles.

The junior varsity team wasn't as lucky, losing 5-10.

Their home opener was the next day against York. The results were similar, with the Varsity winning 9-6 and JV losing 5-10. Winners included senior Monica Acker in singles and Inch also winning in singles.

The next match is against Downers Grove South at home on March 20.

Spring Sports Schedule

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Badminton
Wednesday, March 25 - DeKalb
Monday, April 6 - Larkin
Tuesday, April 7 - @ Naperville North
Thursday, April 9 - Naperville Central
Tuesday, April 14 - Wheaton North
Thursday, April 16 - Wheaton Warrenville South
Tuesday, April 21 - Glenbard North
Baseball
Saturday, March 28 - @ St. Francis - doubleheader
Saturday, April 4 - Waubonsie Valley - doubleheader
Monday, April 6 - Batavia
Wednesday, April 8 - @ Plainfield
Thursday, April 9 - Geneva
Saturday, April 11 - @ Fenton - doubleheader
Monday, April 13 - @ Glenbard South
Tuesday, April 14 - @ Wheaton Warrenville South
Thursday, April 16 - @ Wheaton North
Monday, April 20 - Naperville North
Wednesday, April 22 - @ Glenbard East
Softball
Saturday, April 4 - @ Waubonsie

Valley - doubleheader
Saturday, April 11 - Elgin - doubleheader
Monday, April 13 - Geneva
Wednesday, April 15 - Oswego
Thursday, April 16 - @ Bolingbrook
Saturday, April 18 - @ Larkin - doubleheaders
Monday, April 20 - @ Wheaton Warrenville South
Wednesday, April 22 - @ Wheaton North
Girls soccer
Wednesday, March 25 - @ Wheaton Academy
Monday, April 6 - St. Francis
Tuesday, April 14 - St. Edward's
Thursday, April 16 - @ Wheaton Warrenville South
Monday, April 20 - Streamwood
Tuesday, April 21 - @ Elgin
Boys tennis
Monday, April 13 - Streamwood
Tuesday, April 14 - Hinsdale South
Friday, April 17 - Larkin
Saturday, April 18 - @ Geneva - Varsity Tournament
Wednesday, April 22 - @ Glenbard East
Boys track
Monday, April 6 - Outdoor season starts
Tuesday, April 14 - @ Wheaton North w/ Glenbard South

Saturday, April 18 - @ Geneva - Co-ed invitational
Warrenville South & Glenbard North
Girls track
Thursday, March 26 - Plainfield - Indoor track season ends
Monday, April 6 - Outdoor track season starts
Tuesday, April 7 - Naperville North; Rosary
Tuesday, April 14 - @ West Aurora w/ Wheaton North
Saturday, April 18 - @ Geneva - co-ed invitational
Tuesday, April 21 - @ Wheaton Warrenville South w/ Glenbard North
Boys volleyball
Tuesday, March 31 - St. Charles Friday & Saturday, April 3-4 - @ Hoffman Estates - Varsity Hawk Invitational
Tuesday, April 7 - Illinois Math and Science Academy
Thursday, April 9 - @ Wheaton North
Monday, April 13 - Naperville Central
Wednesday, April 15 - @ Schaumburg
Monday, April 20 - Wheaton Warrenville South
Wednesday, April 22 - Lake Park

Distance carries boys track team

By Jeff Goluszka

The boys track team finished eighth out of eight teams in the DVC Indoor Conference meet.

The team had had a goal of finishing in the top four, said senior Arturo Robles.

Individually, Robles had hoped to clear thirteen feet, six inches in the pole vault, and sophomore Tim Keller had hoped to finish in the top three in the 3200 meter run at the DVC meet.

Keller finished the 3200 meter run with a time of 9:56, winning the conference championship to the unexpected delight of the We-go boys squad and their fans.

Robles, on the other hand, did not fare as well, as he only pole vaulted to eleven feet, a foot and-a-half below his personal best.

Junior Dan Young had said "We always ant to improve. We've been the [DVC] doormat for four or five years now."

Varsity head coach Paul McLeland had expected to place near the bottom, since We-go is severely hampered by lack of turnout for the team. We-go has just over 40 athletes on their squad, while other schools like Wheaton-Warrenville South and the Naperville schools have over 100 athletes on their boys track teams.

One advantage to this year's team is that there are only six seniors on the 42-man roster, meaning this is a team of the future.

This year, the Cats are trying to recover from heavy losses to graduation. Missing from this year's team include Dan Horyn (mile), John Stogis (sprinter), Dave Blozis (triple jump), and Jake Meyers (long jump). This squad has been hit hard in those areas of sprinting and jumping due to those losses.

"Those losses were huge. Each of those guys [participated in] four

events [each]," said junior runner Dan Young.

Trying to pick up the slack in the sprinting and jumping areas include junior sprinters Bryan Franckowiak and Josh Slattery, and jumper Jason Butler (junior).

"The distance team was hurt by those losses, but the new team is good, [junior Wes Skidgel, Young, Keller and sophomore Rich Belcher] and Jake Meyers [will be tough to replace]," said Keller.

"We lost our major point scorer in Dan Horyn [who graduated last year]," said Young.

Also, the overlapping basketball season is hurting the Cats. "[The team is] not doing so well because of basketball...[players like junior] Bryan Franckowiak," said Keller. Basketball players are not as well prepared for the track season, since they will start later.

The team's best overall perfor-

mance this season came at the 22nd Annual Jim Spivey Indoor Classic, held at Fenton high school on the last day of February. We-go placed third out of eight teams by totaling 69 points.

At that meet, the pole vaulters contributed 18 points for West Chicago, led by Robles (twelve feet, six inches) and junior Mark Blozis (ten feet, six inches) who finished first and second, respectively.

Currently, Robles is in the Top 20 in the state, and is only one foot away from the state qualifying height of thirteen feet, six inches, said McLeland.

One advantage for Robles is pole vault is the only event he competes in, so he can concentrate on it more.

We-go also scored ten points by winning the two-mile relay, featuring Bart Visser, Dan Young, Jeff Stogis and Wes Skidgel, who combined for the winning time of 8:55.1.

The two -mile relay team is currently in the Top 25 in the Illinois Prep Top Times, said McLeland.

Another highlight of the indoor season was the Rolling Meadows meet, in which during the 3200 meter run, sophomore Tim Keller set a field house record with a winning time of 10:08.9, which was an astounding 22.5 seconds better than the next finisher.

Keller is happy with his performance. "I'm ten seconds away from my outdoor personal best, which is good since I ran it indoors," said Keller. He also hopes to qualify for state, and finish in the Top 20 in state.

Keller is also in the Top Times, said McLeland.

The team will now look forward to the upcoming outdoor track season, which begins on April 14 at Wheaton North against Wheaton North and Glenbard South.

Individuals excel in indoor season

By Allison Taylor

The lady Wildcats competed in the indoor conference meet at Glenbard North on Friday, March 20 placing seventh out of eight teams.

Senior Janine Morris placed second in the high jump as We-go's top placement in the meet. Sophomore Jocelyn Schineller placed third in the shot put and senior Shannon Baker placed fourth in shot.

The conference meet was the first time West Chicago has seen all of the teams in the DVC. Up until the meet, they saw mostly non-conference teams.

The next meet is on Thursday, March 26 at home versus Plainfield. This will be the last meet of the indoor season and then the outdoor season will begin with a home meet versus Naperville North and Rosary on Tuesday, April 7.

On March 14, the team placed second out of eight teams in the Fenton Indoor Invitational.

Sophomore Fran Smith placed first in the 50M dash with a time of 6.6 seconds; sophomores Teri Jensen, Kristine Cleveland, Smith, and senior Lexie Nussbaum placed first in the 4-lap relay with a time of 1:11.2; Smith, Nussbaum, sophomore Michelle Lasky, and senior Lindsay Leckner places first in the 8-lap relay with a time of 2:32.9; Nussbaum, Lasky, Leckner, and sophomore Crystal Adams placed first in the 12-lap relay with a time of 4:11.1.

The team took first in the Rolling Meadows meet on March 7 with five people placing first, including Morris who tied the state qualifying height for the high jump.

"I didn't think I could accomplish it [state qualifying height] so soon in the season," said Morris, who jumped 5'3". "Now I think I can go higher," she said.

Morris's jump set a new fieldhouse record for indoor track. She was egg-cited to break the record, formally held by We-go graduate Marisol Garcia, because Morris used to jump with Garcia. Morris felt she has improved sig-

nificantly throughout her four years, and proved it to herself by breaking Garcia's record.

Also placing first at Rolling Meadows was Jensen in the long jump and triple jump with jumps of 14' 6 1/2" and 30' 5" respectively. Nussbaum won the 200M with a time of 24.7 seconds, Leckner won the 400M with a time of 98.3 seconds, and Smith won the 55M in 7.83 seconds.

The team has done well throughout the beginning of the season, with people achieving personal bests on a frequent basis. "Everyone has been improving both mentally and physically," said assistant coach and science teacher Aaron Carper.

Carper feels the girls are supportive of one another and they work well as a team. Morris believes this as well, saying everyone cheers for everyone else. "Out of my four years this is the most team-oriented atmosphere," she said.

This season is Carper's first experience as a coach. He has a strong background in track having competed in cross country, the steeple chase, and the decathlon while attending North Central College in Naperville, IL.

While training for the decathlon his junior and senior year, Carper would spend up to 6 hours a day practicing. The decathlon allowed Carper to gain knowledge of many events which has helped in his coaching techniques.

"He's got experience in events that the other coaches don't have," said Morris.

In addition to being a first-time coach, this is also his first experience working with a girls track team.

"I didn't know what to do at first," said Carper. "It's a little different, but I'm liking it just as much [as boys' track]," he said.

Carper believes the best part about coaching is knowing that he has made a difference to someone on the team. He enjoys watching the team improve and helping them learn new skills.

Softball prepares for stellar season

By Kelley Betts

Ladycat softball is ready for this season with their first game less than a month away. On April 4, the Ladycats will take on Waubonsie Valley, despite losing a significant number of players to graduation.

"Hitting is looking good. We have powerful running at the top and bottom of the roster and power in the middle. The hitting is improving for the start of the season," says varsity coach Jim Schaudt.

Pitching is a strength this season having juniors Anna Fernandez and Krissy Dabbert and freshman Megan Leston who will be pitching part time for junior varsity and part time for varsity. The strong pitching team of Angela Barnes and Tracy Morris is no longer with the Cats, but the pitching this year is looking like they can step up to the position with ease.

Senior Candi Widerski will be

playing first base along with junior Melissa Acker. Widerski had experience as first base player having played it last year on varsity.

Sophomore Kelly Bolton and junior Courtney Czech, who are both newcomers on varsity, will be playing second base. While junior Jenni Hoffman plays short stop. Senior Jessica Leston is on third base, while senior Jenny Mullaney and junior Angela Valdez are catchers. Outfielders are senior Darcie Wostrazky, sophomore, Kelly Bolton, and juniors Missy Kreugar, Molly Saul, Ellen McLauchlin, and Autumn Planek.

Captains are Leston, Widerski, Wostrazky, and Mullaney.

Practices started on March 2, but the players have kept up with training all year round by attending weight training and special batting practice.

Newcomer to the DVC, West Aurora seems to pose some competition for the Ladycats, but they don't seem to be too worried.

"West Aurora has a good softball team. They are about the same as Glenbard South, who left the DVC. They should keep it competitive," says Schaudt.

Ladycats did lose a lot of key players to graduation, eight in total. They also lost their MVP Nicole Winkler.

Short stop Emma Cortez was also lost to graduation.

Last year Varsity placed fourth in the DVC with a record of 5 in 7, and 20 in 11 overall. We improved our overall record.

"We hope to play hard for conference champs and to win regionals. We also hope to get better with every game," says Schaudt.

Senior starters lead boys volleyball team

By Joe Leli

The Wildcat boys volleyball team looks to be very successful for the upcoming 1998 season.

Returning seniors Mitch McCabe, Mike Herzberger, Derek Scott and Evan Larson intend on causing some serious damage to fellow DuPage Valley Conference Schools and also hope to go very deep into the postseason.

"I can't wait for this season to start, I'm so hyped. Plus the practices are going great," commented McCabe, a returning Wildcat starter who is a very large part of the Wildcat volleyball organization. "I have a feeling we won't lose any games."

With his fellow teammates keeping an optimistic outlook on the upcoming season, McCabe's pre-

dictions may be accurate.

The team is taking every aspect of the 1998 season seriously, all the way from practices to the actual games where the squad seems to have a very strong chemistry about them. Unlike different boy's volleyball teams in the past, this particular group wants to be taken much more seriously and asks for the support of the school to help carry them as far as their patented skill will take them.

"We want everyone to come and watch. As long as people come to support us at our home games, we'll be fine," said Larson. "Once we get all of our starters on the floor at the same time, I think we will be a force to be reckoned with."

Even if the fans do come to sup-

port the Wildcats, the team still will also have to deal with it's share of obstacles, with Scott out on suspension only for the beginning of the year.

Overall, the team gets along extremely well on the court as well as off and their outlook on this year is very promising, but still is a long road.

Head varsity coach is Kris Hasty and this year's freshmen volleyball players now have their own team which is coached by P.E. teacher Tony Neverly. Try outs for this squad, sophomore and varsity levels have all taken place already and the first practice began on March 9 which also marked the first day of the season. The first match for all levels is on March 24, beginning at five against St. Joe's.