

Wildcat Chronicle



West Chicago Community
High School
Volume 30, Issue 7
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End of school year comes sooner than planned

Students and teachers adjust to new schedule

By Bart Visser

On April 20, the Community High School Board of Education passed a resolution to shorten the 1998-1999 school calendar to leave more time for the renovation of the older parts of the school.

In a letter sent home to parents explaining the adjustment to the calendar, principal Dr. Alan Jones said, "We must make every effort to support a construction calendar that does not interfere with daily classroom instruction."

Many teachers feel students may be cheated, because teachers will have to make changes to their lesson plans for the last week of school.

English teacher Mary Hafertepe said, "Teachers will have to use scantrons instead of essays on the day of finals. There is no way they can grade all those papers in so little amount of time."

Several English teachers

commented that they would have to give projects or essays to do for the last week of school in order to compensate for the time they lost in the resolution.

"It's a monumental task," said Interim Superintendent Dr. Robert Rubenow, "but a manageable schedule that [the faculty is] not used to because they had more time in the past."

In past years, Community High School has had a 185 day schedule, which is five days longer than the mandatory state requirement of 180. "Our school is unique, because we add on five emergency snow days at the end of the year," said Rubenow.

Now the teachers have lost those extra days to finish grading exams and compute semester grades, to pack up,

and finish odds and ends before they leave for summer break.

But some teachers feel the same way Rubenow does. Math teacher Matt Doll said, "Teachers should be able to cope with the schedule changes."

For students, the schedule change has some positive and negative reviews.

Seniors, who will still have the privilege of taking exams before the underclass-

men, are in favor of getting out early. But in the words of junior Dave Boyle, "I think it's whacked!" in reference to the five-hour day after finals that all underclassmen will have to attend in order to meet the 180 day requirement.

Some students commented that they were going to ditch school while others are going to use the day to sign yearbooks.

One last difficulty for stu-

dents and faculty is that they will lose access to use the school's Learning Resource Center after May 14 to allow the librarians time to pack all the books, magazines, and reference materials before June 7.

Head Librarian Sally Olsen said that teachers will still be able to bring classes in to use the computers to type and individual students who are in desperate need to type papers.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
May 31	June 1	June 2	June 3	June 4	June 5	June 6
Memorial Day <i>No School</i>	Senior Exams 1, 2, & 3 <i>Regular Dismissal</i>	Senior Exams 4-10 <i>Regular Dismissal</i>	Underclass Exams 0 & 1 <i>Periods 2 & 3 shortened Seniors No School</i>	Underclass Exams 1, 2, & 3 <i>12:45 p.m. Dismissal</i>	Graduation Practice <i>7:30 a.m.</i>	Commencement Ceremony <i>2:00 p.m.</i>
June 7	June 8	June 9	June 10	June 11	June 12	June 13
Underclass Exams 7-10 <i>12:45 p.m. Dismissal</i>	Last day for students and faculty <i>5 hour schedule 2:45 Renovation begins</i>	Renovation of the older part of the school is underway				

VICA comes back with numerous awards

By Mark Kowal

Thirty-six West Chicago High School students had an outstanding performance in VICA competition, on April 14-15. Out of the 36 who did participate, 12 were recognized for their excellent achievements. Not only did they rank high but three of the students performed the best in state and won first place.

The three first place winners included Senior Kim Ellis for Black and White Photography; junior Juan Robles for Mechanical Drawing; and senior Jeremy Schmidt on Job Skill Demonstration. Senior Sarah Closser won second place in Preschool Teaching Assistant.

In addition to those four

were several students who came in third including senior Heather Fenderson for Extemporaneous Speaking; senior Amy Kush in Interior Design, and junior Adam Hamrick for Mechanical Drawing. The fourth place winners were senior Liz Ribe who also competed for Preschool Teaching Assistant. Fenderson also was

awarded again for essay writing.

Sophomore Julie Hendren came in fifth for Commercial Sewing and sixth place winners went to seniors Danielle Lureau for Interior Design and John Norton for Architectural Drawing. Some of the winners won't stop here at state but will progress to the National

competition in Kansas City, Missouri towards the end of June.

Not only did We-go win numerous honors but it also had the privilege of being granted this year's spirit award for the state of Illinois. This was quite an accomplishment since West Chicago was going against schools five times its size.

Despite the fact that some of the competitors from West Chicago thought the judging was unfair, one third of the We-go competitors walked out with awards.

Although people may think the VICA students were under a lot of pressure VICA students said it was a time to meet new people and have some fun. Lureau said, "I didn't have any pressure. I was just there to have some fun."

FBLA brings home awards from conference

On March 26 and 27, 13 West Chicago Community High School FBLA students, along with advisors Joseph Crickard and Cass Streicher, traveled to Springfield, Illinois to compete in the Future Business Leaders of America State Leadership Conference.

Second place winner sophomore John McPheters is now eligible to compete in the FBLA National Leadership Conference in Chicago from June 29 to July 2.

The following We-go students took home awards:

- Sophomore John McPheters, second place, Accounting 1;
- Junior Leslie Shambo, fourth place, Keyboarding Applications;
- Senior Craig Martus, fifth place, Job Interview;
- Sophomore Jim Demer, eighth place, Introduction to Business;
- Junior Keith Halsall, eighth place, Business Calculations;
- Sophomore Tim Yormark, eighth place, Introduction to Business Communications;
- Senior Jeff Callahan, ninth place, Computer Applications.

Musical *Oliver* in full swing; cast ready for performance night

Cast feels confident, director Hafertepe certain of success

By Marla D'Aversa

The West Chicago musical cast has been working on the musical *Oliver* for their May 13-15 performances. There are 46 students in the cast, not including the behind the scenes workers.

The musical is adapted from the book "Oliver Twist" written by Charles Dickens, who also wrote other books such as "Great Expectations," and "A Christmas Carol." The music is written by Lionel Bart.

Set in the 1800's, the musical focuses on the life of a young orphan, Oliver, who finds himself in constant trouble, and in search of a home. The musical finishes with the theme of honesty and kindness prevailing over all.

At performance time the musical cast will have practiced for eight weeks, compared to the five weeks they practiced for the fall play. The same script is being used that was on Broadway.

English teacher Mary

Hafertepe is the director. She has directed five musicals, assistant directed five, and performed in ten musicals herself.

Hafertepe believes *Oliver* is very high school appropriate because of the many featured parts that can be given to students, without one dominant role. It also has two separate groups of singers, allowing many people to also have a role in a choir.

"The performance should be exciting," said Hafertepe. "The audience will be pleased with the effort that we put into it."

The lead role of 'Oliver' was given to freshman Sarah Edwards. "She can convey youth easily," said Hafertepe, "she is also short, has a very expressive face, and is a beautiful singer." Senior Abby Brown who had the lead role in *Annie* as a sophomore agrees. "[Sarah] is doing a really great job. It is hard to have a lead as an underclassman."

Edwards has had some theatrical experience. She participated in the West Chicago play *The Deskset*, and the One Acts also. She was also in a musical as a nun called *The Sound of Music*. When asked if she ever feels scared or nervous performing in front of an audience, she jokingly replied, "No, never. I flock to it like a duck to water."

As far as this musical goes, she believes it to be a "great experience, and a lot of fun. The cast is great to work with, and Ms. Hafertepe is a good director." She likes the story, and the fun songs too. "I love that [the students at West Chicago] get to see their friends on stage, and that as an actor, I get to interact with friends."

Before she was casted for the part she agreed to cut her hair short in order to be as convincing as possible to the audience. "Now I'm not so sure that I'm ready to do it!" says Edwards. "But I'm will-

ing, it will just be the shortest it has ever been."

Senior Lisa Arnett is working as the cast dance captain. Arnett helped with the auditions for the dancing, and demonstrates moves that the director, Hafertepe chooses. Arnett was also the dance captain for the *Anything Goes*. "I can say that the dance this year is especially unique and fun to watch," said Arnett.

After the fall play *Makin' It* was such a huge success, in part due to the relevance of the play to the audience, there was some concern about the popularity of the musical because it seemed unrelated.

Arnett disagrees, "*Oliver* displays the struggle of honesty in a society in which it's hard to get by. Students can relate to the young characters in the play and the things the audience will see them go through."

As always the musical group seem to be more of a

family than a group of students at work. Brown commented that the best part of working on the musical was being "relaxed and just having a good time with friends." Relating to other cast members on a personal level helps the musical along, and the acting comes more easily.

The technical crew has started working on putting their work together. They are responsible for all of the lighting, sound, cameras, and the spotlights. They started watching the performance itself on May 3, and when Hafertepe decides on the colors of the lights that she wants, they will put a rough sketch together.

Senior Laura Gilbert is also student directing with Hafertepe, and took the job of the stage manager. "We have borrowed some of the set and props from other performances, and other people have donated things. For example, English teacher

Judy Minor's husband has done a lot for us."

There is also a Saturday crew that comes in to make props. The backdrop is a beautiful city skyline, and the sky is painted in pinks and browns, to making it a sunset.

West Chicago students make all of the costumes, and also make-up the actors. "Everything is coming together nicely, and we are definitely ready for the performance," said Gilbert.

The orchestra has started practicing with the crew at musical practice which is held after school. The group includes a piano, drums, flute, bass clarinet, tuba, cello, and a violin.

As far as performance night, everyone is sure that the musical will be ready. "We'll be ready-it always pulls together," said Brown. Arnett also encourages everyone to see the musical. "It's going to be a great show!" said Arnett.

Music Department wins big at Great America Music Festival

By Alexandra Patin

The band, orchestra, and choir attended a music competition at Great America on Friday and Saturday, April 23 and 24, coming away with a total of 10 trophies.

The competition was called Music in the Park Music Festival, and approximately 30 music groups performed from schools in the area. The total number of students was estimated at 1500 by James Guter, director of bands at We-go. We-go sent 182 people to the festival, including chaperones.

Each band, orchestra, or choir had 30 minutes to perform their pieces, said Guter. "The kids did a fantastic job," Guter said about the overall performance. More specifically, he said the bands played the best they had played in two years.

Sophomore trombone player Bryan Jones, also said he played well. "I did the best I've ever done in the concert pieces, but jazz band mauled everything silly." He said he was proud of the way the band, orchestra, and choir performed and of the results. He said the trophies were a good prize and added, "we stomped 'em good!"

He also said this will make the students at We-go probably feel more confident in the upcoming concert and generally while playing in the

band, and will make them feel better when performing.

This mirrors what senior Abby Brown choir member, said both about the trip and the time spent with other students. "It went really well. We had a lot of fun with each other and a lot of energy," she said.

She also said she will go into concert with more confidence and appreciation for the music the choir is singing and the people around her. "[We] really got to know each other well," she said about the chorus members, and recommends to next year's chorus, "enjoy the experience of singing and growing with your friends while you can."

There were twelve choirs in the competition from other schools, and both the concert choir and intermediate girls' choir took home first places. The concert choir received 97 out of a possible 100

points for their performance, which earned them a superior rating. They also received first place in the division they competed in. The intermediate girls' choir also brought home a first place in the women's division. The beginning choir received second place in the division they competed in, and an excellent rating for their performance.

On Saturday afternoon, the three music groups attended an awards ceremony, which concluded the two day music festival.



Photo by Robyn Leary

Junior Chris Pagnozzi plays to the rhythm of the music with his saxophone.

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French students immersed in American culture

By Arlete Penafior

Students from Grenoble, France got to experience American culture during their two weeks staying here.

Twenty-five students attending Lycee Mounier traveled from Grenoble, France to Chicago on April 16. Accompanied by their school principal Bernard Jacquier, Catherine Chomel, this is their first time traveling with the students during a trip like this. Also Wendy Mattera, coordinator of the program in Grenoble.

The students were to be exposed to everything American life has to offer. Students stayed with local correspondent at-

tending We-go. During two weeks French students were to forget about their French culture and experience American life.

Students went on several field trips including to Navy Pier, The Art Institute of Chicago, The West Chicago Museum, The West Chicago Library, and Fermilab among several others.

We-go has been hosting foreign exchange students for 13 years now. The program began in 1986 by head coordinator Marjorie Appel as well as school officials. Part of the reason this program was started was to give students a hands

on experience to learning more about another culture as well as more about the foreign language they are learning.

"This type of program is a worthwhile learning experience. You are able to see the purpose of learning a foreign language. It also really makes learning a foreign language come alive," said Marjorie Appel head of foreign language department.

Part of the teachers goals for the students while they are here is to improve their language skills. Get to experience American culture off hand, and make lasting friendships with people

they meet.

"It was such an incredible satisfaction watching American kids and French kids all together. I felt like all my efforts paid off seeing them together. Knowing another language pays off in making friends from other countries. It opens a whole new world to people," said Appel.

Both American and French students got a chance to learn a lot from one another. Several French students were able to describe their experience in the United States an unforgettable.

"I really like traveling here. I really like American People. They are

very cool, not stressed out, very happy," said Jean-Paul Ramanich. "They also eat a lot"

"My journey here was very good. It's not the same life as France. Here school is in the morning and not in the morning and afternoon life in France," said Fabienne Bahar.

American students described the French as being more relaxed when it comes to everyday life.

"Americans are always in a hurry. While French people aren't always in a rush to do things," said junior Michelle Lasky.

American students from We-go studying French are also given an

opportunity to go to France. They are able to go every even numbered years. While French students come every odd numbered years.

Before American students are able to go they must follow a few requirements. Have at least a C average, good behavior, fill an application, write an essay, and maintain passing grades. If one of these requirements is not met students cannot go to France. While French students don't have to meet all of these requirements. For them it's just the luck of the draw. If they are fortunate enough to be picked they are able to come.

Chavez and Perez marry in mock wedding



Photo by Nicole Medina



Photo by Kim Ellis

Photo by Nicole Medina

On April 9, 1999, seniors Rosie Perez and Johnny Chavez exchanged vows in commons as a part of the Home Economics Night.

The "Mock Wedding" was a presentation by the Contemporary Life classes taught by Patti Clifford. The three classes spent weeks preparing for the evening, making invitations, a wedding booklet, speeches, vows and coordinating for the evening.

The event was started off by the Child Development classes taught by Patti Kozlowski. The students and the children they care for in the class sang songs to the parents and the crowd. There was a fashion show presented by students in the clothing class taught also by Kozlowski.

There were cookies, cake, and punch made by the Foods classes also taught by Clifford. The music for the evening was provided by the Contemporary Life classes.

German students share their success

German students here at West Chicago have been up to a lot lately.

Senior Kellie Kalish was a competitor at University of Illinois at Chicago's German Day in the category of oral interpretation on Monday April 19. She took second place out of 30 students who came from 14 Chicago area high schools.

Junior Lauren Belding won the Congree-Bundestag Scholarship and plans to spend the rest of the year in Germany this July.

Junior Robyn Leary and senior Liz Ribe have both won Congress-Bungestag Scholarships for next year. Only 300 students nationally

receive these. Leary and Ribe will be living and studying in Germany next year for free. With the scholarship the government will pay all of their expenses.

West Chicago now has a sister city in Germany. It is called Taufkirchen and is located near Munich in the state of Bavaria. West Chicago has been communicating with Taufkirchen, and plans to invite them to the city's Sesquicentennial celebration.

Fifteen students and two teachers will be traveling to Gunzenhausen, Germany as a part of this year's German Exchange Program. The group will be leaving on June

19, and plans to return on July 9. The students have been working to go on the trip since last year, getting recommendations from teachers, and writing essays, and letters to their brothers and sisters in Germany.

The fifteen West Chicago students visiting Germany this summer are holding a raffle to raise money to help fund their trip.

They are selling ticket for one dollar a piece. There are thirteen cash prizes available. The sale of tickets began on April 30 and will end on May 7. The drawing for the prizes will be held after school on May 7.

Great America's new prehistoric 3D Dino adventure

You can all but feel hot dinosaur breath on your face in the new 3-D motion simulator adventure Escape from Dino Island II 3D- Escape from Dino Island, showing at Six Flags Great America during the 1999 season.

Escape from Dino Island is Six Flags Great America's first 3D-motion simulator experience, housed in the former Space Shuttle America venue near the Park's front gate.

Passengers on this realistic, multi-sensory ride will experience the excitement and drama of a fast-paced and perilous simulated journey to Dino Island, a refuge for the Earth's last remaining dino-

saurus.

Upon entering the ride, guests will watch a brief pre-show describing their crucial mission. As they are watching a black and white sci-fi movie, it is suddenly interrupted by an Emergency Special Report from a New York TV station.

Lava from an erupting volcano is endangering the inhabitants of Dino Island...the precious remaining valuable and ferocious specimen...the male T-Rex.

During this unique ride, guests are offered the rare opportunity to jump aboard the All Terrain Vehicles to experience the exhilarating mission first-hand.

Wearing specially enhanced 3D glasses, guests buckle up and prepare for their dinosaur adventure.

This impressive rescue is filled with action, flying Pteranodons and giant dragonflies, lava and rocks bursting in the air, a quick and violent blow from a spiked Stegosaurus tail, and other eye-popping adventure.

Motion simulators have become popular attractions worldwide due to their incredible realism and their broad appeal to all ages.

Simulators synchronize hydraulically activated seats with exciting film, giving passengers a realistic moni-


tored system puts guests in the middle of the action by surrounding them with a simultaneous visual, audio and physical ride experience.

Six Flags Great America is owned by Premier Parks Inc., the world's largest regional theme park company with 31 parks, including parks serving nine of the ten largest

metropolitan areas in the United States and six locations in Europe. The company annually hosts nearly 40 million guests.

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See Page 5 of this issue for exciting Great America pictures



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Save \$5.00 off the price of a one-day, full price adult admission ticket when you present this coupon at any Six Flags Great America ticket booth now through September 19, 1999. One coupon per person. Children 2 and under free. Coupon cannot be combined with any other discount offer. Cash value 1/10 of one cent. Not valid if altered. Operating schedule subject to change without notice. This offer valid through September 19, 1999.

For Park information and hours, call (847) 249-INFO.
www.sixflags.com

MLU 23009



Year-end problems

By Dan Young

Ah yes. The end of the school year is almost here. Things are almost done and summer is almost here. It's almost time for everyone to take a huge break from school and become refreshed again...and now this. Just when things look great for everyone, the school board has decided to change the schedule. (Check on page 1)

It's not the school boards fault and it isn't like their committing murder, just making life really hard on teachers and anyone else who isn't graduating. The senior class, who were scheduled to have the final day of school on June 3, are now given the third off and are done with school on June 2. Senior exams are on both the second and the third. The honors night is June 3 and graduation remains June 6.

For everyone else, school has changed dramatically. Teachers and students who aren't graduating are going to have to come back on both June 7 and 8. Exams for underclassmen will begin on the third, fourth and then on Monday, the seventh. This idea, which would be great if it worked well, will force teachers who give written exams to sacrifice grades in an attempt to finish them on the highly suggested deadline, 4:00 p.m. Every grade must be done by 8:00 a.m. on June 8, and for teachers

who still do their grades by hand, it will be very tough to accomplish this task. Social Studies teacher Steve Wroblewski said, "It's compacted. Highly compacted. It's going to be very stressful." Barb Laimins said, "It's going to cause a lot of stress for the teachers because they have to do grades, pack, and write the finals. They ought to have done something that works out better for students and staff."

Most of the teachers in the school agree with both Laimins and Wroblewski. It's going to be really tough for teachers, who have to finish all of their grading by the deadline and have their rooms cleaned and emptied in "official" cardboard boxes by 1:30 p.m. on that day. As soon as the clock strikes 1:30 p.m., construction begins and no one is allowed back in the building until it's done.

Understandably, of course, construction needs to be done but things could have been worked out better, and students coming back on June 8 doesn't really make sense. The school board wants to get the construction done, but those students have to be in school on the eighth because? There isn't a good reason, and exams could be placed better too. Maybe this was the best proposal, but there has to be a better solution than this.

Who's to blame?

Dear Editor,

The events that took place in Littleton, Colorado at Columbine High School have left people wondering where to place the blame. Many want to place it on the parents of the two killers, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold. Others want to place it on music and television for putting the ideas in the killers' minds. Finding someone or something to blame would be a means of prevention for the future. So who or what is to blame?

Parents should be involved in their children's lives because if there is a problem, it should be addressed before it is too late. Had the parents taken more of an initiative to talk to their child, maybe this massacre could have been prevented.

Many would like to think the lyrics of modern music is what puts the ideas in student's heads, but if that were true, then why aren't crimes like this one happening on a mass scale? Thousands of students listen to the same lyrics Harris and Klebold listened to, but most know the difference between what's logical and irrational.

Television and the media display violence, but the masses of viewers don't re-inact the crimes they see.

So where can the blame be placed?

Society. From the news reports, Harris and Klebold both seemed to be referred to as losers or rejects to the school's community. They only had their small group of friends. The way some of the students were describing them, I could almost hear the insults that must have been thrown at this group. The members of the group clearly held in a lot of anger and hatred towards the community for rejecting them. They were different. I am in no way trying to justify the death and destruction that took place on April 20 in Colorado and the pain they caused to the students, community, and country was an outrageous attempt to seek revenge.

Kelly Betts (class of 1998)

Security: can it be better at West Chicago?

By Sarah Kochniarczyk

Looking into the eyes of your best friend, hear screams all around your school, having a gun put up to your throat, and being asked a thousand times "Do you want to die?" How would you react?

We all have heard about the "Suicide Mission" at Columbine High School in Colorado. We all can only imagine what a horrible experience that must have been. On the other hand, it could happen anytime to our school.

Any year, day, hour, and minute. Some person could walk into our school and plan an attack to kill you. The question I'm wondering is "Does our school have the protection that we need to stop a mission like this one?" My answer is no.

Officer Tony Quarto on the other hand feels our school is safe. Quarto said, "We follow up on every single rumor." He knows we can't stop every bad thing that

goes on, but feels by being in the halls, in the lunchroom, and being friendly with students they can stop harm being done. Quarto said, "We are proactive."

When I come to school every morning I walk through the doors to commons, and I never have to show my I.D.

It doesn't matter when I get to school, 7:00-7:30 a.m., I still never am asked to show my I.D. When I come to school from an appointment once again I never need to show my I.D.

The lunchroom is also a place anything could happen and again I feel not enough attention is paid to what is happening. When I go to lunch and sometimes I forget my I.D., I use my friend's I.D., and they don't check it.

I don't understand why we carry I.D.s if no one checks them. If no one takes the time to look at the I.D. then anyone could just walk into school. Isn't that a scary

thought?

I do feel in the past few years that we have gotten better with our school's protection, but we can always improve. Sophomore Ashley Link disagrees and said, "I feel protected because until now we've had no problems to make me feel unsafe."

Look at the kid next to you on either side, and is he/she carrying a backpack? Do you know what's in there? Think about it. There could be a gun, bomb, or even a knife. Junior Erin Lichtfuss said, "I feel unprotected because our security isn't adequate. If someone wanted to walk in with a gun, no one could or would stop them."

Do we know what people bring in our school? No we don't, but we could. The school could get metal detectors and to prevent someone from bringing in a weapon of some kind. Or we could make it really safe by just not being able to use backpacks.

Protecting students can get very expensive, but aren't you willing to spend the money for your own safety?

I know there are so many ways our school fails to protect the students, but there are so many improvements too. I would just like you to take the time to think about every kid you might know, and think "they could be like those two boys."

I just wish everyone would take this horrible incident seriously, and start to ask yourself "Is our school doing their best to protect us?" We need to stop ignoring what happened and start believing it can happen at West Chicago High School.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In recent weeks, two articles have been written about the future of West Chicago in the DuPage Valley Conference (DVC). One article was from the *West Chicago Press* and the other from the *Daily Herald*.

The DVC is one of the top conferences in the state for both boys' and girls' athletics. Every game, match, or meet is challenging and competitive. There are no easy victories for We-go teams. Nor are there for any other high school in the conference or state. Every team, whether their school has a successful sports tradition or not, must work together and execute their team's goals to earn a victory. Changing conferences does not ensure victory nor does it make it easier. West Chicago should not leave the DVC.

We-go athletes and teams can be successful and have been in the past. The following teams have experienced success, and by no means is this a complete list. This year the girls' sophomore basketball team won the DVC. The boys' cross country team finished second in the DVC and seventh in the state. Last year the boys' soccer team was regional champions and sectional finalists. Since 1989, the softball team has won five conference championships, including last year.

West Chicago has been and can continue to be competitive and successful in all sports. West Chicago may not consistently other DVC teams non-DVC member Glenbard South, or any other high school. Each school has successes and failures.

West Chicago athletes, just like other DVC athletes, must be physically and mentally ready to accept the challenges of competing in the DVC. It can be done.

Kevin Gimre, Bob Owens, Lisa Willuweit

Dear Editor,

I want to be six again! Yes six! And I'll tell you why. I want to go back to the time of Saturday morning cartoons. Where Sunday dinner was a family affair, and you were served steak and mashed-potatoes. A time of eggs, bacon, toast, milk, and juice for breakfast every morning before school.

I want to live in a world where our parents were GODS! And what they said went, instead of some liar in the White House. I want to live back in the time here every one no matter who they were had to say the Pledge of Allegiance. Do you even remember our Pledge? We don't live in those times anymore. We live in a time of hate crimes and reverse hate crimes. Where every Joe Shmoe can obtain a gun and blow away any one who pisses him off. I don't want this kind of life for my children. I want them and me to feel safe sending them to a public school. And not have to fear that one of their fifth grade classmates will start shooting at them.

I want my children to say the Pledge of Allegiance. I don't want them learning the new pledge. *I Pledge Allegiance for a price to the United States of America, Mexico, Europe, England, and to other countries. For which we fight one nation under the government (will be and can be divided) with relief and freedom for some.*

I want you to stand up right now! Yes, stand up. Put your hand over your heart, and show the pride and respect this great US of A deserves. And say the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

Michael W. Rohr (class of 2000)

Only in my dreams

By Heather Ferguson

Oh, the days
Go by my darling
I miss you so
My heart

I'll be with you
Always
And you
With me

Only in my dreams

"This poem symbolizes a love that can only be true in two lovers' dreams."

Wildcat Chronicle

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

Any suggestions or comments for the newspaper can be delivered to the advisor Carrie MocarSKI in room 319.

Letters to the editor must be signed to be printed. The newspaper has the right to exclude any letters that are inappropriate or will not fit in a particular issue.

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

Roller coasters roaring into the future, rising out of the past

By Alexandra Patin

What keeps people coming back to roller coasters every year?

The wind rushing through your hair and the feeling of weightlessness as you rush down the first valley of the roller coaster. That's exactly what roller coaster historian Paul Ruben enjoys about roller coasters.

Ruben has ridden on nearly every coaster in North America. He has covered over 4,000 miles on roller coaster tracks and has been on over 500 roller coasters.

It's true, people love roller coasters. But why? "People love a safe thrill," Ruben said. And that is what the roller coaster industry is responding to, he said. This year there are 403 roller coasters in the United States alone. Even with all these roller coasters, 100 new coasters are being introduced around the world this year.

So what started this roller coaster craze?

The first roller coaster was hardly a roller coaster at all. In fact, it was made out of ice. This coaster was built nearly 400 years ago in Russia and was made when wooden boards slid down a slide of ice.

Catherine the Great enjoyed riding so much that she ordered wheels put on the boards so she could ride in the summer.

This idea didn't really surface again until some mules were hauling coal down some hills to take from the coal mines and onto barges. One coal cart was always left empty at the end of the coal train for the mules to ride in down the mountain.

This mountain was called Tsigih, between Philadelphia and Scranton, Pennsylvania. In 1873 when the coal ran out, the miners found a new use for the idea of riding in the coal carts.

This idea was called the Mauch Chunk Railway and was built on a mountain. This 18-mile long, figure-eight track went almost 60 miles an hour. Passengers rode in cars with no lap bars or seatbelts and were not injured surprisingly enough.

Soon imitations of the railway rose with cars built on wheels on conveyor belts that would allow the cars to coast along a track. Thus, the name roller coaster was given to these rides.

Perhaps the most memorable roller coaster from that time was built by Lamarcus Adna Thompson.

Thompson built two towers, each 45 feet high and 250 feet apart. Between them he built a U-shaped track. Riders would pay a nickel to get on at one end and ride to the other end of the track. Men would then switch the roller coaster to another track so that it could go back to the original station.

After just three weeks, Thompson had made enough money to pay off his investment. He went out and built 24 more roller coasters, and became known as "the father of roller coasters."

Soon after those first roller coasters, two improvements were made, according to Ruben. The first was a powered lift to carry the roller coaster up the hill, and the second was a continuous layout of track. All the roller coasters up until that point were layed out in a non-continuous track, so the roller coaster did not go in a full circle.

With these two improvements, approximately 3000 roller coasters were built worldwide. Both financial difficulties resulting from the depression and more concentration on the war instead of coasters caused a wide neglect of roller coasters. By 1979, the number of roller coasters in America had dropped from 1,500 to 145.

Even with their history slightly dented in the past, roller coasters are making a comeback, according to Ruben. Newly built roller coasters are paying for themselves within two years, showing their popularity by the number of visitors they draw into theme parks every year.

Faster, higher and more thrilling roller coasters are being built as well. The

world record for the fastest roller coaster is held by Superman: The Ride, which reaches a speed of a breathtaking 100 miles an hour, and is in Six Flags Magic Mountain.

This steel coaster is not a continuous track, and instead catapults the riders upward from a horizontal track, so that the ride itself looks like a "giant L" from the side, said Ruben. This is Ruben's favorite roller coaster, and "for 6 and one half seconds you are weightless." Then, the rider drops backward, again reaching the speed of 100 miles an hour.

Even though that coaster holds the record for being the fastest, there are three continuous coasters that hold the record in a three-way tie for being the fastest in the category of a continuous track. These three roller coasters all go 82 miles an hour. One is in Tokyo, Ja-

pan.

Another is at Buffalo Bill's Casino in Primm, Nevada, outside of Las Vegas. The last is in Kennywood, Pittsburgh.

So how much faster can a roller coaster go? Well, the fastest roller coaster goes 100 miles an hour. But why not build one that goes 150 miles an hour, or even faster?

"The technology is in place to build a 200 mile an hour roller coaster. The only real limit is the size of the park's purse," said Ruben. According to Ruben, a roller coaster, like one at Great America, costs about \$1000 a



square foot.

However, that is the starting price. If a roller coaster is to have any hills in the ride, the cost dramatically rises with the speed of the roller coaster.

If a park wanted to build a roller coaster that could go 200 miles an hour, the roller coaster would need a 1,600 foot drop in order to get the momentum to carry it that fast. Therefore, the cost of track would be enormous. Aside from the cost, another limiting factor is the G-forces the rider is being subjected to. The average for a roller coaster right now is 3-4 G's, and this is only for a couple of seconds during the ride, according to Ruben. A rider can not experience G-forces that reach past 6 G's, since this is the force at which "astronauts begin to black

out," said Ruben. Even with the limitations on speed, roller coaster designers are coming up with new and inventive ways of building coasters. An example is the Raging Bull, a new ride at Six Flags Great America. This roller coaster is the first of its kind, known as a mega-twister. It reaches "very high speed with darting turns," said Ruben. This coaster is a combination of mega coasters (which are the bigger coasters) and a twister (which is more compact) and does many twists, loops, and turns.

It is this inventiveness that keeps the roller coaster designers coming up with different ideas on how to propel a coaster in a shorter distance and time. More specifically on the designers' minds are the coasters that will frighten and thrill roller coaster riders.



Hot rides at Great America

By Jeff Goluszka

With summer just around the corner, one of the most popular hot spots in the Chicagoland area is now open. Six Flags Great America, located in Gurnee just off I-94, kicked off its season with the Q101 Opening Night on April 30.

Since many teenagers and students will be making their way to Six Flags this summer, here's a breakdown of the park's eight roller coasters:

Raging Bull, which debuted this year, is one of the best. Located in the Southwest Territory, this purple and orange monster begins with a 250-foot, gut-wrenching drop nearly perpendicular to the ground. This ride continues at speeds eclipsing 70 miles per hour with numerous loops and twists. The Raging Bull also features turns banked at up to 50 degrees.

Shock Wave, located in Orleans Place, is known as one of the scariest roller coasters in the park. Its seven loops, sudden drops and quick turns will likely leave you stumbling dizzily off the ride.

Iron Wolf is one of the more exciting coasters, although the ride is somewhat short. This is the only coaster in which riders are standing up the whole time. Loops and corkscrews make this ride a fun one.

American Eagle, located in the County Fair section near Iron Wolf, is one of the more popular rides in the park. This wooden, dual-track coaster features a large drop not for those with weak stomachs. Overall it is an exciting ride with plenty of sudden turns and drops.

Batman The Ride was by far the most hyped-up ride when it debuted a few years ago. It is unique in that riders sit in a seat while their feet are suspended. The track is actually above the seats, allowing for many unseen turns, corkscrews, loops and drops.

Viper has been known to leave more than a few sore necks. Located in the Southwest Territory, this wooden coaster's speedy turns and jerks could leave you grabbing for a bottle of aspirin.

Demon is another exciting ride. It includes two vertical and two horizontal loops, an underground tunnel and very high speeds. It is located in the County Fair area.

Whizzer is the least entertaining of the eight coasters. Located in Hometown Square, it is more for those who do not like loops or steep drops, because it does not have either. If you've never ridden a roller coaster, this is a good place to start.

Water Rides: When it's 85 degrees and sunny, it's hard to say no to one of Great America's five water rides.

Splashwater Falls is probably the most popular. Riders climb into a raft with bleacher-like seating, and head slowly up to the top. And you know what they say, "what goes up must come down." In this case, it's down into a pool of water. I have yet to see someone come off of this ride less than partially soaked. To get wet, you can find this ride in the County Fair area.

Roaring Rapids, located in Orleans Place, is a top-of-the-line experience. About ten people are crammed into a circular rubber raft, then sent down the rapids. The ride features a waterfall, and if you get stuck under there, it's just like a shower, but with much more water. Roaring Rapids can get bumpy at times, and you will probably get wet.

Yankee Clipper is similar to a roller coaster, except instead of a track you ride on about 18 inches of water. The Clipper, located in the Yankee Harbor section, features a 60-foot drop as well as some quick turns with high banks.

River Rocker involves a ride in a canoe down wavy waterways. This is a pleasantly refreshing ride.

Logger's Run, located in the Yukon Territory, is a traditional water ride. It's not too exciting, and doesn't include anything special.



Ray Stevens comes ramblin' back to We-go

By Katie Oen

Have you ever thought that growing up in a small town like West Chicago would you do for your career choice?

US99 radio DJ Ramblin' Ray Stevens grew up in West Chicago and was a member of the Class of 1982. Stevens has been at US99 for 10 years. He said he tries to stay in touch with the fans. He said it was easy to do this because he still lives here with his wife, Gina, and two kids, Cheyenne Rose (age four) and Conor Raymond (5 months). Stevens said he thinks that Conor rocks.

Stevens said, "[Famous stars] are just like everyone else. Some need attention and are picky and others like Neil McCoy, Garth Brooks and Billy Dean are down to earth. McCoy is a friend and Dean is a friend of the family. To them [the stars] it's incredible the things they do. Garth stands out."

Stevens said, "I have a TV show coming out in May on channel 26 with Trish Biando. It'll be videos and information and on at 12:30 p.m. on Saturdays."

Stevens said, "We raised almost \$1 million this year [for St. Jude's Children's Hospital] and have raised millions over the years. Randy Owen from Alabama is really involved. I also do MVA walk on May 2." He said he also does a Marklund golf outing. Throughout the year the fundraising is done.

Stevens said, "Starlight Foundation tries to help by granting wishes to sick and dying kids. Kevin Shays was dying and wanted to try singing. Now he is a [country] singer."

Stevens said he was active in high school being involved in cross-country, swim team, downhill skiing team and basketball. American History teacher, George Strecker, said, "He was friendly, personable. I can see him as a radio personality, always full of jokes."



Ray said, "I used to listen to Marshal Tucker and Alabama at high school parties. Listening to US99 my junior year in my truck I would have never guessed that I'd be here doing this. In 1979 at the Kane County Fair I saw Alabama and would never thought I'd be friends with the guys in the band."

When Stevens was attending We-go, Assistant Principal, John Highland, was a dean. Highland said, "[Stevens] wreaked havoc and was always on the edge. He had a tremendous personality and was cracking classes up. He was the type of person you'd want to have around." Highland said Police Liaison Officer Tony

Quarto and Stevens were partners in their jokes. Quarto said he and Stevens were friends during high school. Stevens said Quarto kept everyone in line. Stevens said, "He was a maniac."

Stevens said, "People were always trying to get me to do pep rallies at school. I knew I could do radio but during my first spring break in Florida from col-

lege (COD), a beer company was having a beach party and the DJ never showed. I said I could run the party and made a lot of money for two weeks and stayed there.

Stevens said at COD he started out in Business Administration, "That's what everyone went into that didn't know what they wanted to do." After that he dropped out of COD and enrolled in Columbia College in Chicago for a few months.

Stevens said his first radio job was when he was 19 at WAUR in Aurora. He said it was pop music.

Stevens said, "People want to work here [in Chicago]. It's the best radio city in the world. On radio, this is the

town to be in. Mancow is the biggest farce to hit the radio. If you're not in it [radio] to be the best, you shouldn't be here."

Steve Arnold was involved with the school ski team and taught Psychology. Stevens said he went on ski trips every weekend and they went to Colorado several times. Stevens said that he had his mom call him in on senior ditch day and he and seven guys went to Jacksonville, Colorado for seven days. Stevens said he only had to make up PE class.

Stevens said he took Drivers Education and was taught by Dick Howard. Stevens said his favorite driving memories were when Howard had them drive to his girlfriend or wife's house to deliver a letter and when one of the students spun out a car and ended up on a front lawn.

Stevens said he thought of himself as a leader throughout the years. He also said, "I had the most fun in high school and was never in trouble."

Stevens said, "When I went to high school, we didn't have security cameras. We had paraprofessionals. It was never anything like the shooting [Colorado incident]. We loved high school. Mom and dad got smarter everyday."

He said his favorite songs in high school were Charlie Daniel's "Legends of Willie"

and Led Zeppelin's "In Through the Out Door" and right now is favorite song is George Strait's "Amarillo by Morning."

Stevens said, "If I was not here, I would be in entertainment or reporting. I would want to win the lottery and be a philanthropist to help kids. I've been to the hospital [St. Jude's Children Hospital] three times in the past five years. It makes you see how lucky you are and makes you want to do something."

Stevens said he misses

doing the Hometown Handshake. Stevens said, "It was originally my idea to see the people. As long as people are out there, thank them. It's all about who's listening. I am thankful everyday [to be doing this]."

Stevens said, "[about being famous] no one plans it and if it comes along, go with it. To me the best definition of a star is a ball of gas that burns out. All I want to be is a good father, son and husband."

Getting personal

Favorite Holiday? Christmas. It's a tradition to go to our summerhouse in northern Wisconsin.

Favorite movie? Pulp Fiction, nobody understands it that's why I love it.

Favorite food? Pal Joey's Pizza

Favorite color? When you see a Corvette, who cares what color it is?

Favorite sport? Barefoot water-skiing. Wherever there's water, I'm there.

If not on radio? I would be working for a snowmobile or boating manufacture. I like to go on Lake Michigan on my off shore racing boat.

Words that describe you? Very charitable, driven, motivated, and a family-oriented guy. You live life and it ain't about you. Give back to the community.

Who would you like to meet, that you have not yet? Jack Nicholson, to see what the guy is thinking.

Dreams really can come true

By Carrie Zeffield

Wonder what your dreams really mean? Some say that dreams are the main focus to life and reveal what is in store for a person's future.

Take for example a re-occurring dream of flying. According to "The Dream Encyclopedia" by James R. Lewis, this type of dream tells a person that he/she is or has experienced anxiety and stress. This dream keys in that a person needs to let go and relax.

Another type of dream is falling. Falling can mean different things, depending on when a dream is occurring and what happened that day to cause this type of dream.

Falling is symbolic of failure or a time when one has fallen down in life, or when a person feels life is out of control. The person may also feel overwhelmed and stressed by daily projects.

Dreams of nudity are very common. A dream of nudity can mean different things. In general, dreams of nudity at a young age mean that one is growing out of a "nude

stage" as a child.

Young adults experience nude dreams because they are in a period of growth and self-discovery. Nudity can also be a sign of fear of exposure and low esteem about sex. Thus, the intensity of the feelings in the dream about nudity and sexual encounters depends on the dreamer's feelings towards the subjects.

Out of body experiences are not as common as other dreams. An out of body experience (OBE) may occur when the dreamer is in a deep state of sleep. The dreamer will see his/her body in its physical state and will be able to travel in or around the area in which the body is lying.

There are unknown reasons as to why a death dream occurs. A dreamer will have a death dream due to problems in a relationship, school, vocational changes, or the approach of death itself.

There are five kinds of death dreams: a repression of death, which shows a person's refusal of death; a kill-

ing, which shows the dreamer is coming to terms with death; demons and death, which contain mythological components; a cemetery, which shows the love of death; and dreams of developing a death, which shows a dreamer's maturing personality.

Dreams also have symbols in them, which tell dreamers what their dreams meant.

Pain: reflects pain in life or a pain the dreamer is having while asleep.

Abandonment: reflects a situation happening at the time. Also reflects emotional pain.

Animals: symbolize a need to be one's self.

Blood: occurs when a person is going through emotional upheaval.

Candles: symbolize spirituality.

Coffin: symbolize restrictions from freedom.

Darkness: symbolizes feelings of loss and abandonment.

Ice Cream: symbolizes childhood.

Who really gets PMS?

By Becky Guerrero

Each teenager is an individual with a unique personality, specific interests, and different likes and dislikes.

There are many issues that teen's face. These issues could determine how boys and girls cope differently with their self-control.

In a poll, three out of every five students said girls have more self-control. "Girls are more mature," said sophomore Meghan Burlinson. According to a study in "Crime Times," male hormones (androgens) may be linked to conduct disorder in males.

When dealing with negative attitudes, eighteen people said girls have a bad attitude, one said boys, and one said undecided. "In this school, some girls are stuck up," said junior OJ Hargrove. In a negative situation, freshmen Latanya Hollister said, "Boys would react faster and

more negative, because they have more of a temper." Many people react to situations differently.

Many students said girls handle bad situations by talking behind peoples backs, giving dirty looks, yelling, and fighting. On the other hand, students say boys yell back, and fight. Sophomore DeAngelo Hanson, said "When it comes to tempers, black boys, can control our temper better. We have less problems with things."

Junior Carl Thoemmes said, "It's not related on sex, but personality types in general." Judy Farnell a guidance counselor on the healthy relationship web page says a healthy relationship is the cure to a happy life. "One partner may think they have more power by telling the other what to do," Farnell said.

"Attitudes should be

formed after learning stuff about the other person." Dr. Richie a man who participates in helping teens with healthy relationships says, "It's critical that young people in our programs address these issues to prevent violence." Issues such as drugs, depression, gangs need to be addressed. These can easily destroy teen lives and lead to other adolescent psychiatric problems.

Teenagers experience stress daily, and can benefit from learning stress-managing skills. Sophomore Amanda Czech said, "Taking time in reacting with everything, would help someone learn to control his or her temper and aggressiveness." Many other ways are psychologists, social workers, activity therapists, nurses, family and friends.

Conservation making a world of difference

By Marla D'Aversa

When it comes to the environment, usually all that you hear is how we are destroying the earth at such a rapid rate. Well, in celebration of Earth Day this year, I would like to focus on the positive. In the fight for conservation, a lot is being done, and more is done everyday.

Recycling saves enough energy each year to provide heat and light for 400,000 homes. In 1996 Illinois residents recycled 3.4 million tons of material, or 582 pounds of waste per person. Last year, Illinois residents recycled 618,000,000 glass bottles, or 54 bottles per person.

The United States Government does a lot to help the environment today. Currently there are many bills to regulate business to protect the environment, such as the Clean Air Act, which will decrease the amount of ozone pollutants. The writer of the bill, Senator Diane

Feinstein, worked on other environment bills such as the Solid Waste Disposal Act, and another bill to increase funding for the Land & Conservation Fund.

This year, Earth day was on April 22. Even though World Environment Day, held June 6, is increasingly popular, many projects were planned.

In 1989 for the 20 anniversary of Earth, over 200 million people around the world from 141 different countries celebrated Earth Day. In 1994, in the United States alone, one million people attended Earth Day events and thousands participated in projects in all 50 states. In 1996, Illinois had a statewide recycling rate of 24%.

The first Earth Day was in July of 1969. Four United States senators accompanied the President, John F. Kennedy, on a national tour in an effort to make the environment a political issue.

Many anti-Vietnam pro-

tests were being held, and the way to communicate information was to rally people together and speak to them. That was what they did.

The response was incredible, and an office in Washington D. C. had to be opened to deal with all the public. On the first Earth Day, an estimated 20 million people peacefully participated in a demonstration to get a message to the politicians- they wanted them to wake up and help us save the environment.

The rest of the work is up to individual people. Private organizations offer suggestions to help conserve just a little more every day. Donations are accepted, and always welcome. To contact your government officials use <http://www.popularis.com/> to voice your opinion and be heard.

Suggestions for conservation *recycling facts*

§ Buy recycled paper for stationery, envelopes, and folders

§ The average person uses 150 gallons of water per day, and 75% in the bathroom.

§ Shut off your computer and monitor when you aren't using it.

§ Recycling 1 ton of office paper saves 17 trees.

§ Keep water in the refrigerator so you don't have to run the water for it to cool.

§ Powering the world's PC's requires 23 million tons of coal per year.

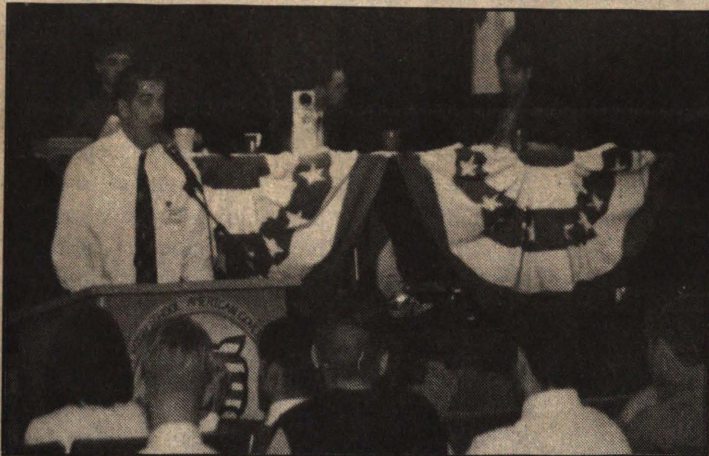


Photo by Patty Correa

The senior government simulations took place on April 29, 1999, in the auditorium. Senior Derek DiPietro shares his views on condom distribution in schools, while his fellow representatives listened. All together 22 bills were introduced in the full session. The bill barely passed later that day. 13 bills were passed all together during the full session including DiPietro's.

Is We-go ready for the Y2K?

By Daniel Young

With the year 2000 just around the corner, the world holds it's breath in suspension of the supposed Y2K bug and all the problems that will come along with it. Will all of the computers crash and will all of the memory of the world's computers be erased?

The world seems to rely upon computers now, with everything from bank accounts and the stock markets to cattle herds and government records and schools. But We-go's Dr. Alan Jones has thought through this problem, hiring a consultant to make sure the record systems (the systems that keep all of the student records, employee records, etc.) are compliant.

Technology specialist Andy Glowaty, along with his assistant Mike Stoner, are currently going through all of the computer systems to make sure they are Y2K "ready."

Jones said, "Mr. Glowaty and Mr. Stoner have been working very hard to make sure those computers are ready for the Y2K problem. They have set the goal of having the computers ready by the end of this year, so we should be ready as a school for this problem."

Senator Patrick Moynihan (D-NY) discovered the Y2K bug back on July 31, 1996. On that day, Moynihan wrote a letter to President Clinton in which he informed the president about the Y2K bug.

The problem is that a computer reads today's date as 99-05-05 and when the year turns to 2000, the computer will read the date as 00-01-01, which will be January 1, 1900. The premise of the scare is that computers will decide that the year 1900 has already happened and will revert all of the their information to what it was at that time; thus deleting all of our current information.

Some people believe there won't be any power because it will be shut off and others believe the nuclear codes won't work either. Some people even say that cars won't start on that fateful day, but until

the day occurs, nobody knows.

Glowaty said, "So far, we've started going through all of the computers and checking the hard drive. The manufacturer produces an updating disk and it upgrades a chip so the operating chip inside the computer is compliant. For the internet, we have to do a complete upgrade of that system and we need to get a service pack."

"The internet system upgrade is planned for the fall, where we'll take the network down and fix it then. Microsoft will provide a service pack that will take about a day to work. It will upgrade the server's operating system and we plan to do it when the students aren't in school," said Glowaty.

Glowaty also said, "We had a programmer come in over spring break and he redid the entire system code. That entire thing has been fixed and it is now Y2K compliant. The older Macintoshes, believe it or not, are all Y2K compliant, as is any Macintosh."

The Glowaty/Stoner efforts might be slightly setback by the software in the computers. Glowaty said, "We're hoping this won't affect the schedule. The software might not be one hundred percent compliant. The initial goal is for the computers, the servers and the hardware to be compliant and the software is second."

"We intend to get the software during the late summer or earlier fall and it will take some time if we are required to upgrade. If we need to upgrade, we'll contact the companies who produced the software and see about getting the disk or service pack to correct the system."

The Y2K bug is definitely a problem, yet the school seems as prepared as it can possibly be with the actions taken by Glowaty and Stoner. While the world holds it's breath and waits for the endless possibilities that the Y2K bug offers, nobody can fathom how prepared everyone actually is. We'll just have to wait and see how well the administration, school board, Glowaty and Stoner are ready for it.

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The older Macintoshes,
believe it or not, are all
Y2K compliant.

Andy Glowaty

Life not worth watching

By Becky Guerrero

There is no explanation for the ups and downs of the friendship Ray Gibson and Claude Banks have. The two are total opposites. Gibson an obnoxious, loud pick pocket who is anything but shy is played by Eddie Murphy (of *Nutty Professor* and *Boomerang*). Banks a quiet banker is played by Martin Lawrence (of *Bad Boys* and t.v. show "Martin"). The two partner up and combine their comedy techniques for the movie *Life*.

It's 1932 and integration wasn't in existence yet. Manhattan, New York is the setting where the two meet. The movie begins with a flashback of a man named Red.

Personalities get them kicked out of a club by Spanky, coincidentally a hustler. Gibson tells Spanky he'll bring him 36 cases of beer from Mississippi, instead of the two losing their lives. Spanky agrees and gives the men a second chance.

The men realize they're opposites on the ride down

to Mississippi. Gibson speaks of his dream to open his own club called, "Ray's Boom Boom Room." The movie drags for a while until a poker game takes place.

This is where the comedy starts to happen. While Banks meets a provoking woman in the bar and spends their last two dollars, Gibson tries to hustle in a game of poker. Gibson has a watch his father gave to him before he died, and loses it. He then found out the waitress was helping one of the men cheat during the game.

Outside the hustler is murdered by a Mississippi police officer, and Gibson and Banks are at the wrong place at the wrong time. The two men are wrongly convicted of murder and sentenced to life in a Mississippi Penitentiary.

During their stay, Gibson gets into a fight over cornbread and Banks gets in trouble for stealing a pie. 60 years go by, and the men witness friendship, despair, anger, and deaths. One of the characters, Biscuit, is killed

for crossing the gun line. Biscuit had a release form, but crossed the line, because he felt his mother wouldn't be able to see him that way.

Gibson has his shares of lies throughout the whole movie. The two men end up running into the policeman who accused them of the murder that he committed. In their defense, the superintendent, Mr. Wilken, kills the policeman. Gibson was given the watch back, because the policeman had stolen it earlier in the movie.

Their humorous way of looking at life goes further as their friendship deepens. They never lose hope that one day, they will walk outside the prison walls.

This isn't a major comedy that would have viewers laughing hysterically, but a comedy that has its morals. The actors do a great job with the script with expressions, but the dialogue isn't very good and the plot doesn't flow. It also loses its viewers attention, because the story drags, but the end is worth it.

★1/2

10 Things... classic comedy

By Sarah Kochniarczyk

One of Hollywood's latest innovations has hit again. Yes, William Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew," has turned into a teenage version of the 90's. Surprisingly the movie was entertaining, but the ending was another happy ever after ending.

Director Gil Junger whose first film is *10 Things I Hate About You*, has this romantic comedy going in circles. Cameron James (who is played by Joseph Gordon-Levitt) falls head over heels for Bianca Startford (played by Larisa Oleynik of "The Secret World of Alex Mack.") Bianca plays the sixteen year old sister who is perfect in every way.

Cameron finds out that Bianca can't date him until her older sister, Kat (played by Julia Stiles of *The 60's*) starts to date. Kat has a reputation as being the meanest, and most obnoxious girl in the school. The exact op-

posite of her sister.

Cameron and his nerdy friend convince the stuck up, rich, arrogant, model wanna-be Joey Donner (played by Andrew Keegan of *Camp Nowhere*) to find some guy in school who can put up with Kat. This way Joey can fork over his dough to the guy who tries to date Kat and Cameron thinks Bianca will go for him. However, Joey will fight for Bianca, too.

Joey convinces Patrick Verona (played by Heath Ledger) to go after Kat. Patrick is the social misfit with a smarmy reputation, perfect for Kat's character. Patrick tries to get Kat to date him, but she's stubborn and refuses to even talk to him. After the first few weeks of trying to date Kat, Joey goes even further and pays Patrick to bring her to prom. Only so Joey can bring Bianca.

The movie repeats itself twice with Kat finding out that Patrick is in it for the money, how-

ever, as the movie progresses Patrick ends up falling in love.

The acting is good for the most part. The actors were mostly new, but Stiles and Ledger stole the show. Even though Cameron was the one to begin this whole love triangle, the main focus of the movie was on Patrick and Kat and whether or not Patrick could get her to open up to a boy.

This romantic comedy has a similar ending like every romance movie. However, this movie was easy to follow and always stayed on track.

For directing his first movie it wasn't too bad. However, too much fighting over the girls, but that's mainly what the movie is about. Kat and Patrick make the movie and these two will be bringing in the viewers for this movie.

★★★1/2

The fight for the future

By Jeff Goluszka

Could it really be possible that the world we live in is nothing but a fake? Just a shield to blind us from the truth? Could the real world be one that is technologically generated by our own computers with minds of their own?

The visually stunning film *The Matrix* tackles this issue with an alarmingly viable plot backed up by seemingly implausible, yet possible scenes and events.

The Matrix is based in the future, in a time roughly 50 years from now. The plot revolves around the creation of computers with full artificial intelligence. What these smart computers actually did was create a false world for the human race; shielding it from the unimaginable truths of the deranged real world.

This world does have a name, however: the matrix. This matrix is genuine, but is based totally on computers through computer programs.

So the matrix isn't totally authentic, but it has an authentic feel with many secrets and indescribable things to reveal.

The Matrix stars Keanu Reeves (recently in *The*

Devil's Advocate and *Chain Reaction*) as Neo, a computer programmer by day and hacker by night. Rebels against the matrix recruit Neo to help them. Morpheus (played eerily, yet forcefully by Lawrence Fishburne of *Higher Learning* and *Event Horizon*) leads them in their goal to destroy the matrix.

Neo is trained by the rebels and they eventually bind together to fight against the overpowering rule of the matrix.

They are directed by Tank (played by Marcus Chong of *Up In Smoke*) who gives them what they need (guns, etc.), tells them how to get where they need to go, and controls transfers to and from the matrix.

Trinity (Carrie-Anne Moss of T.V. series "Dark Justice") and Cypher (Joe Pantoliano of *U.S. Marshals* and *The Fugitive*) complete the crew of rebels.

There is one thing the rebels need to worry about in the matrix: agents. The agents (clad in FBI-type apparel) will kill the rebels at any cost. They are led by Agent Smith (Hugo Weaving of

True Love and Chaos), and their goal is to wipe out the rebels.

The plot of *The Matrix* is quite enticing, but that's not what makes this movie a great one.

The mind-blowing special effects of this film will leave you speechless. They don't appear computer-generated and they look so authentic that they are actually believable.

As for the acting, Reeves and Fishburne were perfect for their roles. Reeves' vocal deliverance of his lines was not the greatest, but his physical appearance and performance mesh with Neo's in a superb way.

Fishburne's deep, creepy voice adds to the dark side of this film.

Moss did a very credible job in her first major motion-picture appearance.

Overall, the eye-torching visual effects, the mind-bending, fascinating plot, and the clever acting combine to lift this film into the class of movies like *Terminator 2* and *The Rock*.

The Matrix is definitely a must-see, especially while it's still in theaters.

★★★1/2

Cruel Intentions with a twist

By Katie Oen

The game is simple. The bet is to be romantically involved with an innocent girl. The intentions are cruel.

What starts out as a simple bet turns into a web of lies and deceit between Kathryn (Sarah Michelle Gellar, of T.V. series "Buffy The Vampire Slayer") and her stepbrother Sebastian Valmont (Ryan Phillippe).

The woman involved in the bet, Annette Hargrove (Reese Witherspoon), has written a manifesto about waiting for sex until she was in love.

Not only is she going to be hard for Sebastian to romantically persuade, but the glory will be even better knowing

her father is also going to be the new headmaster at the school that they will all be attending.

This movie was directed and written by Roger Kumble, whose writing credits include *Dumb & Dumber* and *Kingpin*.

Cruel Intentions is a timeless story that can be connected with adults and teenagers with the same principles.

The music in the movie was excellent and the scenes were superb as the actors moved from downtown Manhattan to the far away country scenes. The actors, while primarily up-and-coming, were convincing in their roles in

comparison to that of the older actors.

While some people in the theater commented about not liking the ending and a few other scenes, the movie did project a point to the audience. The theme of *Cruel Intentions* was "what goes around comes around." This movie comes together and proves it to be true.

This movie also stars Christine Baranski (of T.V. sitcom "Cybill") and the movie *Birdcage*) and Joshua Jackson (of T.V. sitcom "Dawson's Creek").

If the phrase "what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive" is intriguing, then this one is for you. ★★1/2

Suspend Living End

By Mark Kowal

The Living End, a band that came unexpectedly out of nowhere, has produced a new self-titled album. They released the album on February 9 and have been touring the country promoting their new CD.

On this album lead vocalist Chris Cheney and his Australian band have produced fourteen tracks of mediocre punk rock.

Cheney sounds similar to Daniel Johns, the lead vocalist of Silverchair, because of his Australian accent. The rest of their music sounds similar to Green Day, with similar chords they use and the beat they have.

Take those combinations and give it a sort of punk rock twist and you have Living End. The band has gained more

popularity with their latest album.

While some might think that this would be a good combination, it doesn't sound too pleasant when actually put together. The only song that has gained them any glory was their popular radio hit "Prisoner of Society," and once you get past that song the rest of the tracks are painful to listen to with Cheney's annoying lyrics.

The band started playing as teenagers in Melbourne. As time went on they gained their popularity in Australia and went on tour with Green Day in 1996.

While on tour they released their first CD entitled *Hellbound* and released their second album *It's For Your Own*

Good following the tour in 1997.

Coming to America in 1998, Living End joined the Warped tour and played a few gigs in Los Angeles. While in America they improved their music with the aid of mixer Jerry Fin. The band is presently on tour with The Offspring and just performed in Chicago with them on April 14.

If you are a Living End fan you can see them perform on tour at any of the Offspring concerts this year. All in all, Living End's new self titled album consists of one mediocre minor hit with thirteen additional dull songs. ★

Flick it in the trash

By Katie Oen

Picture a flame on a candle in the wind. This band may not last longer than that. Sounding like a dead group, Flick sings songs to the same melody throughout their CD, *The Perfect Kellulight*.

The second song on the CD, "Drag," is the only song I see with a possible chance at being a hit. Vocalist Trevor Thornton's dark vocals make the music depressing.

Flick just recently finished touring the country with *Stabbing Westward and Placebo*. This was their first tour. It lasted six weeks and stopped in Chicago on April 3. They visited many other big cities, including St. Petersburg, Washington, D.C., Milwaukee, Los Angeles, Denver and Philadelphia.

This is the debut CD from this young band from Stockton, Missouri. Coming from a town that questioned a person as to what they did if it

wasn't football, Thornton and his brother Oran (guitarist and songwriter), decided to try something different. They formed their own band along with basist Eve Hill and drummer Adam McGrath.

The music sounds like a mix between Everclear, Oasis and a garage band. Sometimes it's hard to tell the difference between the songs, and after hearing it, it won't matter who they sound like because this band sounds horrible.

The Thornton brothers got into music early in their lives. Oran was given a guitar and taught a few strings by his older brother, Brad, an aspiring musician. To Oran's horror, Brad died in a car accident when Oran was 11.

At 14, Oran formed a band with local musicians called Johnny Q. Public. Trevor, 11, would open for his

brother as a solo songwriter. Soon the brothers were playing at coffeehouses, clubs, and colleges near Springfield, Missouri.

In 1996, Flick performed as the opening act for Duncan Sheik at the Juke Joint in Springfield. Sheik was impressed by the band and told many people about their talent. In the band's first year plus as a band, Flick has been on stage with musicians like Meredith Brooks and the Cardigans.

The Thorntons were raised with all types of music, ranging from blue grass to hard rock. The brothers credit Pink Floyd and the Beatles for making the most impressions.

This CD might do for anyone in a mellow mood where the music drowns out the vocals and leaves you in a quiet mood. Zero Stars.

What's in the stars this



month?



By Arlete Penaflor

Aries (March 21- April 19)

You are known for your charm and honesty, keep things that way. Why start lying about who your really are now? Don't be afraid to do something out of the ordinary. Go out of your way to help others, like they have helped your in the past with problems. Things have never been better between your and your honey bunny. Things will run smoothly between both of your for a while. Your love match is Pisces and your lucky number is 10.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

Get out and so some exercise. Your body has never needed it more than it does now. Don't be so hard on yourself all of the time. Give yourself some credit, especially when you do something good. Be more aware of how you spend your time. Try to use it more wisely, instead of spending too much time on insignificant things. Get ready to experience a new romance. Your love match is Libra and your lucky number is 2.

Gemini (May 21 - June 21)

Stop being a total Scrooge, when it comes to spending money. Spending a dollar on someone besides yourself won't leave you poor. Try to be more adventurous, it's

about time you got out and had some fun. Leave things the way they are with that certain someone. The relationship is based on being different. Your love match is Capricorn and your lucky number is 5.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22)

Spend more time on your schoolwork. Spending 20 minutes doing your homework won't kill you. Make up your mind already. You can't keep playing games with him/her, because he/she's going to get tired of it. Live everyday to the fullest instead of taking things for granted all of the time. Your love match is Aquarius and your lucky number is 7.

Leo (July 23 - August 22)

Be who you really want to be, not the person everyone else wants you to be. Now is your time to shine, do things you thought were impossible before. Take the initiative and ask that special someone out already. Don't you think they've waited long enough. Your love match is Scorpio and your lucky number is 1.

Virgo (August 22 - September 22)

Spend more time with your loved ones. They've been feeling left out a little by your busy schedule. Make serious future decision instead of jumping from plan to plan all the time. Try to schedule

your time wisely so you won't be late all the time. You'll start a relationship with someone new you meet. Your love match is Sagittarius and your lucky number is 9.

Libra (September 23 - October 23)

Take things in life the way they are. Don't try to change everything in your life all of the time. Get out and party with your friends some more. Instead of always being locked up in your house. Don't forget to change your paycheck they day you get it, or you might lose it when you least expect it. Your love match is Taurus and your lucky number is 13.

Scorpio (October 24 - November 24)

Get out and catch that new flick you've been dying to see. Don't go alone though take that person you've been wanting to ask out for months. Budget your money more wisely, especially with all of the big things your have coming up. Your love match is Leo and your lucky number is 18.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)

Solve things right away instead of putting them off all of the time. Especially is they are big problem they're just bound to get even bigger. Get out and do some

shopping it's about time you get a new wardrobe. Your love match is Virgo and your lucky number is 24.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)

Someone will prove their friendship to you when they help you out of a sticky situation. Take some time out and relax. You've been under a lot of stress lately that you could really do without. Try to save some money instead of spending it all of the time. Your love match is Gemini and your number is 26.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)

Except things for what they are there is nothing you can do about it anymore. Be prepared, a pleasant surprise is in store for you. You'll meet someone new when you least expect it, so keep your eyes open. Your love match is Cancer and your lucky number is 26.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20)

Try to get out some more people are forgetting what you look like. Hit the party scene, you'll be the life of the party. Be more aware of who you trust not everyone is your friend. Say yes to that certain someone it is well worth it. Your love match is Aries and your lucky number is 19.

Rating your entertainment

★★★★ - It doesn't get any better than this.

★★★ - Definitely worth your time and money.

★★ - It's something to do.

★ - Low-quality entertainment.

Zero Stars - Absolutely terrible.

Say goodbye to the Class of 1999

WHO:

Any We-go student, family member, or community member can write a message.

WHAT:

Special graduation messages for We-go seniors.

WHEN:

Messages will be printed in this year's final edition of *The Wildcat Chronicle*, which will be distributed in all lunch periods on Tuesday, June 1, 1999.

WHERE:

Messages can be purchased in all lunch periods from Monday, May 17 through Friday, May 21.

Messages can also be sent to:

Carrie Mocarski
c/o *The Wildcat Chronicle*
326 Joliet Street
West Chicago, Illinois 60185

WHY:

To say goodbye to West Chicago Community High School's Class of 1999.

HOW:

Each word in a message costs 10 cents.

Appropriate photos or pictures can be printed for \$2.00.

Please include payment upon delivery of the message. The staff of *The Wildcat Chronicle* reserves the right to reject any message and refund the author.

Not your traditional cop

By Heather Fenderson

A cop rushes down the street, chasing a bad guy. Behind, his partner races frantically to keep up with him. Sound familiar?

Not when the cop is a super-sensitive sentinel who can hear a whisper from eight miles away, or smell the scent of blood on bleached clothes.

His partner's no ordinary guy either. Constantly training the cop to use his senses for the use of justice, the two men make an extraordinary team.

The name of the show is "The Sentinel," and it has inspired a wide following of fans, stories on the Internet and worldwide conventions. Taken off the air from UPN last year, the show was put back on as a UPN mid-season replacement due to a massive fan-support campaign. "We were thrilled to have all of the fan support," said "Sentinel" actor Richard Burgi.

"The Sentinel" chronicles the adventures of Jim Ellison, a former US army soldier who was abandoned on a mission in the jungles of Peru.

Jim's fight for survival in the jungle resulted in heightened senses, much like the ancient Mayan tribesmen who were called sentinels. When Jim returns from the army, he rejoins the police force he had previously been a member of.

Unable to cope with his new-found powers, Jim is unable to work efficiently in the police force at first. On a routine police mission, Jim meets Blair Sandburg, a college grad student researching ancient and recent myths of the people called sentinels.

Blair tells Jim that he must be the real thing, a real live sentinel. Blair then persuades Jim to let him join him in his everyday life, both to help Jim with his new-found powers, and to help himself write his thesis paper for his college final.

Blair gets a special license to follow Jim around on the job, and a new cop team in born. Jim learns to use his senses to help others in need on the job, and he becomes the key to justice in his city.

Creator and writer Danny Bilson said "The Sentinel" is best classified as a Sci-Fi-cop

show. While not writing scripts for "The Sentinel" Bilson writes movie script and plots. Some of Bilson's pre-Sentinel works in included the 1992 movie *The Rocketeer*, which he then sold to Walt Disney Pictures for a theatrical release.

Many fans watch the show for the men on it, but they also watch it for the action. A recent estimate from "The Sentinel's" budget shows that the directors spend over one million dollars a year on pyrotechnics alone. That means there are many explosions and the action never stops.

Even if you haven't heard of the show before, it's not hard to get into. "Men will like it for the explosions and shoot-outs, and women will like it for the cute guys," said longtime fan Linda Yokish, at a recent Sentinel convention.

All in all, "The Sentinel" is a great show that has a wide underground fan following. This could be the next "Star Trek." So go ahead and give it a try. After all, super-sensitive cops have feelings, too. ★★★ 1/2

This Kiss was killer

By Katie Oen

Known for her upbeat, country music, Faith Hill kept her crowd in the mood during her performance at the Rosemont Theater on Thursday, April 15, 1999.

Hill opened the show with "Someday Baby" and the crowd went wild and jumped to their feet. Hill danced around on the stage and enjoyed entertaining almost more than the fans that were there.

Promoting her new CD, *This Kiss*, Hill sang songs off that CD, "Let Me Let Go," "Love Ain't Like That," and a recent number one on the country charts, "This Kiss." At one point the entire band got chairs and sang songs that were inspirational to them. These songs were "First Cut is the Deepest," "Time After Time," and "Chain Chain Chain."

Hill performed in a way most artists don't. When people sing with a song, they usually make hand motions and gestures and frolic around, like on a dance floor. Hill danced around and had a smile consistently on her face. She performed in a relaxed and informal way unlike many musicians who try to look professional all the time.

When the mood slowed

down for a song, her voice could be heard and she combined with the melody beautifully. It was breath taking. The crowd could be seen lip-synching the words she sang mimicking the movements she made.

The concert was not all fast beat and high tempo, but it was cool. Even when those slow songs came on, Hill was far from being boring. She kept the crowd happy and she appeared to be very happy.

This Kiss is the third cd for Hill, who is married to singer Tim McGraw. Hill and McGraw have numerous duets together and McGraw was back stage but never came on. Some felt it was to not take away from her show. McGraw was backstage with their two daughters who always travel with Hill. US99 announced that McGraw is currently on tour on the weekends with George Strait. Hill said on US99 the morning of the concert that McGraw tries to be with her and the kids during the week.

Young kids are attracted to Hill as shown by a boy who gave her a card asking, "Can I get my picture taken with you?" to which Hill responded yes and brought him onstage.

Hill has formed an organization, Faith Hill Family Literacy Project, and collects children's books at her concerts. They can be new or used, the goal is to collect them and give them to the community, like libraries, schools, and hospitals.

Hill said, "[I will continue my fight for this dream] that someday every American will be able to read." Personally affected by illiteracy, Hill's father had a reading ability of a fourth grader and this inspired her to help others while she toured. Radio station US99 promoted the event on the radio whenever the concert was mentioned. There was a great turnout of books from people who heard about it on US99.

US99 disc jockey and emcee for the night, Ramblin' Ray said, "Faith is elegant and energetic. She has a brilliant way to communicate with the audience, especially young kids."

Opening for Hill was The Warren Brothers. With only two hits, this band tried to move the crowd and prepare them for Hill. Ramblin' Ray said, "They are brilliant instrumentalists. They are high energy and great performers. They're gonna be big." ★★★

See from The Mind's Eye

It's that time of year again!! West Chicago's literary magazine, The Mind's Eye, will go on sale during the last two weeks of May. This year's issue has tons of artwork and poetry, all by We-go students! The cost of the magazine will be \$1.00. It will be sold in the cafeteria during all lunch hours and in room 246 before and after school.

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Boys tennis

Individuals cranking it up

By Jeff Goluszka

The West Chicago varsity boys tennis team has stumbled out of the gate, losing their first six contests.

"We do the best we can as a team," said head coach Sione Moeaki.

In We-go's opening match against Streamwood on April 12, the Wildcats lost by a score of 6-1.

Junior Mike Kostal achieved the Cats' lone victory. Kostal defeated Paul Jung 6-3, 6-8, 6-4.

Freshman Matt Neumann played competitively, but lost to Smreso Shah 4-6, 7-5, 4-6.

On April 16 the Wildcats were shutout by Larkin 6-0.

Glenbard East defeated We-go on April 20. In their 6-1 loss, We-go's bright spot was Neumann, who defeated Minesh Valera 6-7, 6-3, 6-4.

Six days later the Wildcats

played better but lost at Yorkville 4-2. Neumann overpowered Brendon Gerrick in a 6-2, 6-2 victory. We-go's other victor was senior Andy Spalo, who defeated Pete Ratos 7-3, 6-4.

"[Neumann] has been playing well. He's improved since the season started," said Moeaki.

We-go continued its season on April 29, losing 7-0 to Naperville North.

On May 1, the Wildcats participated in the Glenbard North Quad, featuring Glenbard North, Addison Trail, Streamwood, and West Chicago.

We-go won four matches, but finished in last place. Streamwood took third with five victories, Addison Trail won second with seven wins, and the host Panthers took the title with eight victories.

As for We-go's sub-par play, Moeaki said, "[We've] just played

poorly."

During the rest of this season, the Cats' goals include winning 65% of their matches and finishing in the top half of the DuPage Valley Conference. Last year We-go finished eighth in the DVC.

At the conclusion of this season, We-go hopes to send someone downstate. Moeaki said, "I'm optimistic that Spalo and [senior Christian] Vigsnes could make it."

Results from We-go's May 3 match versus IMSA and May 4 match against Wheaton North were unavailable at press time.

The Wildcats will continue their season today by visiting West Aurora at 4:00 p.m. After three days off, We-go will play three games in three days, including May 10 at Plainfield, May 11 at Glenbard North, and May 12 hosting Glenbard South.

Girls Track

Running on empty?

By Katie Oen

With DVC scheduled for Friday May 7, 1999 at Naperville North, the girls track team will have to work hard as their season comes to an end due to recent scores at their last few meets.

On April 30, 1999 the girls track team faced 13 other schools in an invitational at Wheaton Warrenville South. We-go girls placed last with zero points, and there were only 7 girls competing in the events. The reason for the small numbers of girls was Prom.

Freshman Linnea Caputi jumped 4 feet 4 inches in the high jump. Freshman Hilary Blanchard jumped 12'9 1/4" in the long jump. In the 200 meter run, Caputi ran in the time of 32.12 seconds, just behind Blanchard who had a time of 30.94.

Freshman Angelica Garcia had a time of 56.06 in the 300m hurdles, just behind freshman Sarah Walter with a time of 55.84. Walter set a personal record in that event.

The 1600m run had three runners with very close times from We-go. Freshmen Erin Kirby with 5 minutes 41 seconds, Meghan Young 5:43, and Jenny Boyd 5:44. Coach Aaron Carper said, "They all had a great race and are on their way to becoming a

power pack in the conference in the next 2-3 years."

On April 29, 1999, the junior varsity team had a meet at Glenbard East. Junior Jessica Tonchick placed second in the discus with 76 feet, a personal best.

The girls placed first in the 3200m relay (4x8). Young said, "I didn't run as well as I wanted to but Erin ran extremely well."

Coach Kelly Kolasa said, "I think they did really well. The 4x8 had the best time all year, varsity and jv, at 10 minutes 48 seconds and they were jogging."

Kolasa commented that these junior varsity meets were good experience for the younger runners and also a chance to receive ribbons because it was an invitational. She also said she didn't think the team would do well on Friday because

of Prom. She said she was letting the girls go and it was the first time Prom fell on a date that it wasn't Sectionals or State.

Kolasa also commented that this was the first time she had 3 freshman mile runners near each other in time. Kolasa said, "I've never had 3 mile runners at about the same time."

On April 24, 1999, the girls had a meet at the Geneva Co-Ed Meet. Junior Jocelyn Schineller threw a personal best in discus with 125'4". Schineller said, "I can't believe I did it. My previous throw was three inches lower and the meet record was 125'3" and I knew I could beat it. Kolasa said, "They [the team] didn't step up well. They could have done better. Next time we're going to Conference without a good one under our belts."

On April 20, 1999, the varsity team placed third with 26 points against Rosary, 35, and Naperville Central, 120. Young placed first in the 3200m run with 12:39.71. Kirby placed first in the 1600m run with 5:56.12. We-go placed third in the 800m relay with 2:06.78. Senior Jami Shanks placed fourth in the shot put with 28'2".



Photo by Katie Oen

Beth Brinn runs down the stretch.

Hockey

Starting over: Cats on ice

By Mark Kowal

Hockey started out the spring season with a bang winning their first game on April 10 against Downers Grove South. Not only did they win but they did it in style, shutting out Downers Grove South 7-0.

All the points were contributed by six hockey players including freshman Matt Baumrucker with two goals, freshman Kyle Wolf, sophomore Eric Mederich, freshman Justin DeLeon, sophomore Russ Downs, and sophomore Beth Baumrucker all have once goal apiece.

Although the Wildcats got off to a good start, they didn't keep it up. The Wildcats lost

their second game on April 17 to Bartlett with the absence of the hockey coach due to miscommunication. Then the hockey team lost their third game of the season the next day to Nequa Valley. In addition to the two losses the Cats came to a third loss the next week on the 25th to Naperville North.

There really is no one explanation for the Wildcats losses: one day the coach didn't show, and other days the players weren't prepared.

No matter what the reasons for their losses are, it really doesn't matter if they won or lost those games because the spring season is more like a pre-season.

To the hockey team the games are used more for practice and skill improvements rather than competition to be the best in the league. Since this season is more like a pre-season for next year, the team is working on getting the kinks out and trying to work out their problems so they won't repeat them next year. Baumrucker said, "It may look like were bad now but its only our pre-season so we have time to improve on our game."

The hockey team plays at Blades Hockey Rink. Hopefully they can get off their losing streak on May 8 at Blades in Addison.

Girls soccer

Youth, teamwork on Cats side

By Arlete Penafior

Having a younger and more aggressive team has paid off for the girl's soccer team as the season begins.

After several games against St. Charles, Elgin, Wheaton Warrenville South, and recently Streamwood, they

have begun to work as a team. One of their goals at the beginning of the season this year was to learn how to play more as a team. The team has noticed a big change from the past.

"I really feel that we are doing good. The team looks good, and we are working

more as a team this year unlike last year. Last year we didn't really play as a team," said senior Blanca Ruiz.

Having new faces has helped out this year. The new players are getting used to working with one another as well as with coach Julio Del Real. This year more is expected from them performance-wise. They must meet practice requirements if they want to improve their playing abilities.

The team has had to get used to the idea of losing some players to injury.

Junior Kristy Reser is out with a knee injury.

The junior varsity is also to a good start from last season. At their last home game against Streamwood, they tied. The team looks like they are off to a good start this year.

"I think the team is doing really good. The girls are playing well," said senior Evelyne Garcia.

Some of their upcoming games include Glenbard North at home on Thursday, May 6.

Boys baseball

By Sarah Kochniraczyk

"Pitching has really come alive the past couple weeks," said junior Sean Peterson. Something must be missing because the boys team has been slumping.

The varsity teams record is 4-6 in conference. The team had been on a winning streak but after Saturday's performance, they haven't been doing too well. Losing their

double-header to Wheaton Warrenville South, seven to five in the first game, and in the second game the Wildcats lost, fourteen to four. The team put up a good fight, but their hitting wasn't coming through.

Also they lost a few players in these two games. Senior Bryan Raymond played the first game and half of the

second as did senior Chris Grin. Senior Adam Morrissey was gone all weekend. Not only did they lose three good players junior Bryan Kelsey and senior Jeff Powel both got thrown out. Kelsey was thrown out because he had made some rude comments, and Powell had argued with the umpire. Needless to say the umpire

thought he was right.

On Monday, May 3, they played Wheaton North, and once again they battled for the win, but lost nine to five.

Kelsey is happy with their performance, but he has his thoughts on improving in areas. Kelsey said, "We need to score more runs than the other team!" Base running is a big key in this sport, and

our Cats are lacking in that area.

Coach Kevin Gimre has said their defense has improved in areas. Gimre said, "I'm happy with Raymond's production and the catchers have been doing a good job."

West Chicago's defense is doing very well, however offensively they're struggling. Kelsey said, "Outfielders

have become much more consistent."

On Tuesday May 4, the Cats will play Wheaton North, and on Thursday May 5. Hopefully their hitting will pull through for some wins.

Junior varsity will be playing on Thursday May 6, against Glenbard North, and Tuesday May 11, against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Girls softball

Reclaiming championship

By Bart Visser

In winning three conference games last week and a tournament the weekend before, We-go's softball is on an eight game winning streak and moving towards reclaiming their conference championship.

The Cats seem to be unstoppable after taking five straight to extend their conference record to 5-1 after losing their first conference game to 1-0 against Wheaton South. In the past week, West Chicago skimmed past 1-0 win over Glenbard East, and then poured on the offense in a 7-1 victory over Naperville Central.

On Friday the Cats finished up the week

against Wheaton North with a 3-2 victory.

At the Larkin tournament on Saturday, April 25, strong pitching by senior Anna Fernandez and sophomore Megan Leston along with a productive offense allowed We-go to dominate the opposition in fine style.

In an amazing performance in the first round game, Fernandez struck out 12 batters and only allowed two hits and two walks in a 4-0 shutout against Zion-Benton to advance to the semifinals.

After pitching a complete game the day before, Leston allowed four runs

against Larkin, but made up for it with her offense as she went 3-for 4 and batted in

two RBI's. Adding to the 8-4 win over the home team, senior Jenny Hoffman went 3-for-3 with a triple and threw in two more 2 RBI's.

To finish off the tournament, We-

go's softball team pounded a 9-0 shut out against Rockford Harlem in the finals. Fernandez in her second outing of the day struck out ten batters and allowed only three hits with just one walk.

The next games for the team is at Wheaton North on Friday, May 7, and at home against Larkin May 8.



Jeanette Arroyo swings for the big hit.

Photo by Sandy Weiss

Boys volley into top 10

By Heather Fenderson

The boys' volleyball team continues to do well competing, beating out last year's record of 7-28. Currently the varsity team is



Daryl Spohn slams it down.

holding a record of 8-12, with about 20 games left in the season and a conference record of 0-4. The varsity team is led by coach Kristi Hasty.

So far the year has been great for the varsity team. They have won one conference game so far.

They had a game against Naperville Central with scores are yet to be announced. Key players in the May 4 game are senior

Kevin Rugaard, sophomore Brad Olsen, and sophomore Jesse Salazar.

Salazar was placed on the varsity team this year according to Hasty. This is his second year playing on the boys volleyball team and is seemingly doing very well.

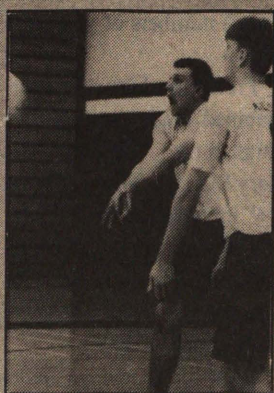
Other players who have been on the teams for a few years are junior Matt Shane, Jeff Griffin, Chip Ault, and senior Kevin Rugaard.

"This is a young team," said Hasty, "But we are doing good. We have four sophomores on the varsity team, so we may be a little inexperienced. But hopefully, it will benefit for the next two years to come."

Freshman/sophomore team member, sophomore Mark Lasky said, "We seem to be doing better than usual right now, but we still need some improvement." Lasky then added, in order to improve, "We need more of a team effort, instead of individuality." Coach Nevrlly also added, "Everyone on the

team is always trying to do their very best."

We-go is seated nine out of 16. They have 15 matches until their regional games which start Monday, May 24. A time is yet to be announced. The game will aganist Glenbard East. The winner then takes on Naperville North, who is seeded first in the DVC. That game will take place Wednesday, May 26. A time is yet to be announced.



Daryl Spohn digs a serve.

Fans continue to support the team as well. Long-time fan Aric Hyde said, "I just can't wait to see the boys play again, and I wish them the best of luck."

Boys track

Runners take off

By Marla D'Aversa

At the first outdoor varsity boys Track event West Chicago took fifth place out of ten teams with a total of 55.5 points at the Geneva meet. Eighteen of points were won by senior Dan Young who obtained the most points out of everyone else. Senior Wes Skidgel won 17 points to have the second most points won for the team.

Junior Tim Keller had his usual stellar performance during the 3200 meter run with a time of 9:26.8. This time broke the Geneva track record. The past record, held by Jesse Barnes of

Batavia, dated at 1997 with a time of 9:27.3. At the first indoor track meet of this season, Keller ran the 3200 meter run in 9:34.5, which was a fieldhouse record for Rolling Meadows. Second place Geneva runner Charlie Connor had a time of 10:10, or 24.5 seconds behind Keller.

The 3200 relay team also nabbed first with a time of 8:14. The runners, seniors Jeff Stogis, Bart Visser, Dan Young, and Wes Skidgel broke the Geneva trade record with this time. The previous record was held by

Fenton and dated back to 1997 with a time of 8:15.7.

Young and Skidgel both did very well in the 1600 meter run coming in second and third place with times at 4.34 and 4.36.

Senior Mark Blozis slashed his other scores for the pole vault at this meet. He had been jumping around 11', but he cleared 11'6.

Other records were broken by Rocky Bounds of Rich East in the 110 High Hurdles, and the Triple Jump. D. Rush of Luther South broke the 100 meter dash record.

Sports Schedule

Sping Awards Night - June 2 - 7:30 p.m.

Badminton

May 7 - Sectionals
May 14 - State Finals

Boys Baseball

May 6 - at Naperville North - 4:30 p.m.
May 7 - Home vs. Naperville North - 4:30 p.m.
May 8 - at Ottawa Township - 10:00 a.m.

May 11 - Home vs. Glenbard East - 4:30 p.m.
May 13 - at Glenbard East - 4:30 p.m.

May 15 - Home vs. Naperville Central - 10:00 a.m.

Girls Soccer

May 8 - at St. Francis - 10:00 a.m.
May 11 - at Immaculate Heart of Mary - 4:30 p.m.
May 13 - Glenbard East - 4:30 p.m.

May 14 - at Naperville Central - 4:30 p.m.

Girls Softball

May 7 - at Wheaton North - 4:30 p.m.
May 8 - Home vs. Larkin - 10:00 a.m.
May 10 - Home vs. Naperville North - 4:30 p.m.
May 12 - Glenbard East - 4:30 p.m.

May 14 - Home vs. Naperville Central - 4:30 p.m.

Boys Tennis

May 6 - at West Aurora - 4:00 p.m.
May 10 - at Plainfield - 4:30 p.m.
May 11 - at Glenbard North - 4:00 p.m.
May 12 - Glenbard South - 4:30 p.m.
May 13 - at Oswego - 4:30 p.m.

May 14 - DVC Tournament at Naperville North - 4:00 p.m.

Boys Track

May 7 - at Wheaton Warrenville South - 4:30 p.m.
May 14 - DVC Tournament at Wheaton North - 4:30 p.m.

Girls Track

May 7 - DVC Tournament at Home - 4:00 p.m.

May 14 - Sectionals

Boys Volleyball
May 6 - at Wheaton North - 5:00 p.m.
May 8 - at Addison Trail - 8:30 a.m.
May 11 - at Wheaton Warrenville South - 5:00 p.m.
May 13 - at Glenbard North - 5:00 p.m.
May 14-15 - at Willowbrook - 5:00 p.m.