

Wildcat Chronicle



West Chicago Community
High School
Volume 30, Issue 8
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Find out how the softball team did on page 12.

Oliver with a twist

By Marla D'Aversa

The musical *Oliver*, based on a book written by Charles Dickens, was performed by West Chicago students May 13-15. It starred freshman Sarah Edwards as the title character, *Oliver Twist*, and other thespians such as seniors Abby Brown, Michael Petrik, Cheryl Pruett, Carl Volk, and Jon Fraser.

Set in the 1800's, *Oliver* is a musical about an orphaned boy who is constantly in trouble and searching for a home. The musical teaches the importance of honesty and kindness.

The musical crew worked for eight weeks to prepare the performance

using the same script that was used on Broadway. It was originally picked because it "involves more people," said English teacher Mary Hafertepe, without having too many dominant roles.

"I was pleased," said Hafertepe of the general performance. "The show was strong, and I think the audience enjoyed it."

Hafertepe met a personal goal of keeping scenes and action moving throughout the entire musical. She said she believes it matters a lot

to the audience and controls the interest level at all times.

The theatre was full every night the musical ran. The audience was very diverse. Senior citizens to preschoolers were there and all enjoyed the show.

The set was a city painted to look like a sunset. The characters entered with dirty faces and torn clothing, some with patches. The



Photo by Sandy Weiss
Chris Thomas and his "boys" enliven the crowd with a song and dance.

musical began with the boys chorus and the song "Food, Glorious Food."

Widow Corney (Pruett), Mr. Bumble (Fraser), Mr. Sowerberry (Petrik), Fagin (Thomas) were among the audience favorites. The audience went wild after the musical number "That's Your Funeral" which was sang by Petrik and junior Kendra Norton. Fraser's deep voice and comedy was also popular with the audience, as well as Thomas who had an excellent stage presence. Pruett's beautiful

voice was also highly respected by the audience.

The audience clapped after every number, and seemed to really enjoy everything. "Saturday night was the best night," said Brown who played Bet, a thirteen year old girl who grew up around the bar scene, idolizing a 23-year old product of Fagin (Thomas), named Nancy (Sarah Knox).

At times the cast walked through the audience while singing and acting. At one point in the second act, some of the actors even passed out candy to some of the audience.

According to Hafertepe, the Saturday night performance was the strongest for many reasons. "I really believe the cast still continued to grow and feel the play through performing it. Also, the seniors felt as the last time on the We-go stage they wanted to do well, and the underclassmen work hard to give the seniors that success."

Hafertepe is glad that all the aults and students who mad the musical so successful and enjoyable did so in a way that made the entire experience fun and stress free.

Locker room madness

By Carrie Zeffield

P.E. students have relocated to other places to change, because locker rooms were being demolished. Physical education department chairman Coach Dan Johnson told his students that the locker rooms would have to have up to five people sharing the lockers.

On May 15, 1999 the locker rooms were closed and demolished on Saturday, May 15, 1999.

P.E. teachers have moved to room 139 for the rest of the school year.

The locker rooms will be reconstructed to have a new ventilation system, new lockers, new and bigger bathrooms, new offices for the P.E. teachers, new showers and new benches to sit on. The lockers will be metal and will be set up the same way. The P.E. teachers will have new offices, which will be larger and well ventilated. The locker rooms will not be set up the same way.

"There will be more lockers though," said Superintendent of business James Mast.

Mast also said the hallway connecting the small gym and the locker rooms will be taken out. The small gym will be connected to the locker rooms and a new hall-

way will be added in by Bishop gym. There will be a new path to get into the Bishop gym. No doors will connect to the gym from the locker rooms. There will be doors go get into the small gym from the locker rooms.



Photo by Katie Oen
Locker room demolition began May 22.

"I'm really excited," said Helen Zmerhal. "I'll be so glad when we have clean, well vented locker rooms."

Students are having trouble traveling back and forth from the fieldhouse to the gyms.

"It's a pain in the butt," said junior Helen Walsh.

The locker rooms are going to be blue, gray, and white. Mast said that the locker rooms should be finished by September 1, 1999.

Library closes early for construction

By Bart Visser

Community High school closed down the services provided by the LRC three weeks before the end of the school year to pack up all books, magazines, videos, equipment, and resource materials before the renovation of the older part of the school begins.

After May 14, students have be on unable to check out books or read and miss a quiet place to study or look for information on the

Internet.

Senior Jason Butler said, "It was a quiet place to hang out in the morning and do our homework."

Other students have had trouble completing assignments because there is no where to find information.

Head Librarian Sally Olsen did not wish to close down the library so early but she had no choice due to construction, "in the past years we have the library

available to the students from the first day of school to the last day."

With a deadline of June 8 to have every thing packed up, Olson said that everything was going on pace. Already the entire fiction section of the library is packed into 72 boxes all labeled, and ready to move. Her staff is working on finishing inventory of the biography section by the end of the week.

Olson estimated before the starting the task of inventory-ing and packing that she would need around 160 boxes and may be on pace to go over that amount.

As for now her biggest dilemma is not the packing of the boxes at all, "My biggest concern right now are all the overdue books that are still out. When we do get them, we will have to pack all those over due books in a miscellaneous box."

This is the case for their sections that have already been inventoried and packed away for shipping.

When students come back next year, they will find a completely different Learning Resource Center that will include a larger work area with the entrance moved to the doors leading to the auditorium. The doors leading to the south entrance and the cafeteria will then be a new emergency exit.

Asbestos removal planned

Please be advised that Community High School District 94 will be conducting an asbestos abatement project beginning May 24, 1999, at Community High School District 94, 326 Joliet Street, West Chicago, Illinois 60185, and continuing at various times throughout the next two years.

This project will be conducted under the standards established by the Federal and State legislative bodies and enforced by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

The District's projects are awarded to qualified asbestos removal contractors who are licensed by the State of Illinois and overseen by a third party environmental monitoring contractor to insure against an accidental release of asbestos fibers from the abatement area.

Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. James Mast, Assistant Superintendent of Business, at 293-8105, or Mr. Gary Grizaffi, Assistant Business Manager at 293-8505.

All Night Long lasts even longer

By Katie Oen

A seven-year itch that almost didn't happen did go on after Prom on April 30, 1999. All Night Long was held at Bowling Green in West Chicago after Prom from 11:30 p.m. to 4:30 a.m.

Assistant Principal John Highland said, "This year it was thrown together at the last minute by Kathy Carriers and Jan Landers." Highland said the problem was that All Night Long is a parent-organized event and no one could be found to head up the whole thing.

The post-Prom event was a place where students would be able to play games, eat, and dance in a

secure place until morning.

There were many prizes given out at the event as well. The largest prize, a 1988

Cougar, went to Stephanie Prena.

Two party goers get together to for a picture

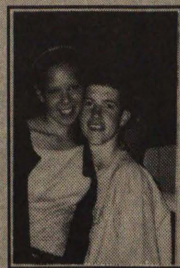
Senior Melissa Acker won a Nintendo 64 and said, "[winning the 64] made it worth the \$8.00 [admission fee]."

Junior Jenny Hahs said, "It

was fun but I ended up falling asleep by the end of the night. I won a \$25.00 gift certificate to Bath and Body Works." Senior Maggie McPike said, "It's so nice that our school has an after prom program so that everyone can spend more time dancing and hanging out on Prom night."

Senior Shannon Sperando said, "It was blast because I was with Corrine. There's a lot to do and a lot of fun. I won two AMC tickets."

Senior Vicki Sanchez, "I won two tickets to AMC. If they actually had a dance floor or room, more people would have danced."



Courtesy of Mr. Feltes

Library closes early for changes

By Dan Young

The buzzword around West Chicago High School is construction, construction and more construction and this means a couple of major changes to next year's schedule.

The school year is going to take a vastly different look than the one's of the past. School won't begin until September 7 and end on June 19, which are much later than this year's August 31 to June 8. The numbers of days are the same, but the location is much different.

Dr. Alan Jones, Principal, said, "I don't like starting late or ending late, but it will decrease the amount of interference with classroom construction. We're trying to create periods of time where that don't interfere. We want to minimize the amount of construction during school time."

Jones also said, "We want to maintain an environment that is conducive towards learning."

The year will be broken up into the usual four grading periods that end November 5, January 21, April 7 and June 19. There will only be four institute days, which are September 2, September 3, January 21 and March 3 and there will be four inservice days on October 29, December 3, February 11, April 14.

Christmas break and Spring break are during their usual days and there are five emergency days built into the end of the year schedule.

Student trip to Europe keeps getting closer

By Marla D'Aversa

The European History Tour is busy planning for their trip this summer to Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales.

The group of 23 people, including chaperones, will be gone for 16 days, including two days of travel time June 15 through June 30. They

will be seeing Dublin and London especially.

Every Wednesday night the group meets to prepare. They talk about things they need to bring and travel tips. They also learn about the places they will be seeing by studying the history of all the

countries they will be visiting. Other focuses of the meetings are the culture of the areas, and what to expect.

Social Studies teachers Steve Wroblewski and Mary Ellen Daneels are the advisors for the trip. Also going along are West Chicago

teacher Carol Wolfe and her husband. In addition, former We-Go student Brett Stark will be going.

The total cost of the trip is approximately \$2,400 per person, including an average amount for spending money.

Next year's trip is already

planned for the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Italy, France, Great Britain, and Switzerland. About 30 interested people have already contacted Wroblewski. This is only a preliminary number. Only upperclassmen are being accepted. The trip is from June 21, 2000 to July 4, 2000.

Band and orchestra concert almost too hot to handle

By Alexandra Patin

The orchestra concert was on fire during the concert May 5, during a production of their second song, "Lennon and McCartney for String Orchestra," leading to their finishing their concert outside on the front lawn of the auditorium.

"The orchestra was smoking!" said Orchestra Director Rebecca Keil as a fire alarm sounded from around 7:35-7:45, causing confusion in the auditorium. As the alarm sounded, some members of the audience stood up, however most just sat in their chairs listening to the orchestra continue to play the song.

Keil said the orchestra members were extremely surprised and confused by the sounding of the alarm. She said that she, too, was confused, and didn't know whether to go out of the auditorium or to stay where she was, and could only look to James Guter, director of bands, for direction.

When Guter did give the signal for the evacuation of the auditorium, the audience moved en masse to the front lawn in front of the school, where everyone congregated.

After a few minutes, Keil told the orchestra to quickly

go inside and fetch their instruments. The orchestra then set up on the front lawn and proceeded to give the rest of the concert outdoors.

Three fire engines, each about one and one half minutes apart, and two ambulances and came to the school. Three firemen entered the school through the front entrance after everyone in the building had been evacuated. Although most people saw the vehicles and people arrive, not many saw them leave, probably because most were paying attention to the concert now in session.

While most people were bewildered, not all felt this way. "Orchestra is like sports: anything can happen and you always have to be prepared for anything," said senior Tim Harwood. For the most part the audience was happy with the way the concert turned out, as was Guter. He originally suggested the concert should be moved outside, and he said, "I think it turned out really well." He also thinks the outside concert created a "nice atmosphere."

He said the conditions were perfect, which is what was also generally heard from

audience members after the concert. Junior Ami Godoy gave her farewell speech to the seniors in front of a backdrop of a large green oak tree and approaching sunset, which many people agreed could not have looked more beautiful with the black silhouettes of all the orchestra members. One student said, "I much preferred going outside to sitting in the stuffy auditorium."

Guter said no one knew what had happened to cause the alarm to go off.

At this time, it is not known whether a prank or an actual fire set the alarm off. Keil had her own views on the subject and said, "We're so hot we set off the fire alarm!"

Following up Godoy's farewell to the seniors, the orchestra played "I Don't Want to Miss a Thing," by Aerosmith. The orchestra then played "Bohemian Rhapsody" for their last song. This left many of the audience members saying they were in a lighter mood.

To add to the lighter mood was associate principal John

Highland who greeted the audience as they came back into the school for the band concert. There was a definite cheer in the air as he announced that the drinks were free for the remainder of the



Photo by Sandy Weiss
The new concert location.

concert.

The orchestra was also excited about their recent achievement of an excellent rating and first place at Great America in the past music festival, Music in the Park.

There was much anticipation for the band concert. Sophomore Rosa McGee said, "I feel totally psyched!" Sophomore Melissa Garcia said, "It's going to be a great concert because we're really great."

The band concert was following the orchestra concert and as the symphonic band

slowly warmed up, the audience settled into their seats. At this time a letter from Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House, was read congratulating the band on their being selected to go on the music trip to London for the upcoming millenium.

The symphonic band's first piece was called "Porgy and Bess," which was a lively piece that added zest to the performance. However, it was the second piece, an arrangement of songs from "Fiddler on the roof," which people recognized most. One student and audience member exclaimed, "I want to sing!"

Many adults also recognized the song "Gerschwin!" which was the band's next piece. This was an arrangement of the songs taken from the 1960s, which added a lively tune to the auditorium.

Another lively song that recieved recognition was "Bullets and Bayonets," was enjoyed and received a standing ovation.

The jazz band was the last to play. An encore was encouraged because the crowd was so excited about the music. The song was Mantejka, featuring senior trombone Josh Krecek and senior Jes-

sica Inch, flute. The front row of the band threw in a swing dancing move while they played, and the audience met the entire concert with great reception.

Senior Wes Skidgel was a featured soloist in the next piece that lit up the crowd, entitled "Orange colored sky." This piece was given a standing ovation by some.

The final song was introduced by Guter titled "Dancing Men," as a lively, "screaming song." This song featured five soloists: sophomore soprano saxophone Eddie Hernandez, junior tenor saxophone Chris Pagnozzi, senior trumpet Matt Bajor, senior trombone Ana Fernandez, and sophomore drums Frank Check. The audience received this piece with applause and a standing ovation throughout.

Choir director Lisa Smith said, "I left the concert feeling excited about the music program." Many others agreed including Guter, who said it was "the best concert we've done in two years."

Sophomore, Kimberly Fioroni said, "It's been a good year, and this was, I think, our best concert."

End of the year blues

By Becky Guerrero

The year is coming to an end and I think it is becoming slower. A question always sticks in my mind. Why does the year become boring towards the end? Students seem to want to get out of school faster, and maybe it's because the school year has become quite boring.

It seems like on the first week of school, students are excited and feeling comfortable with seeing old friends and meeting new ones. Teachers have class plans and group activities planned. Classes are filled with these activities and new agendas for first semester.

Now there are five days left of school and it seems like some of the teachers forgot about making plans for their classes. The end of the year gets slower because there is nothing to do in class. Some students might like the idea of sitting in a class for an hour reading out of a book and answering questions or sitting through movies more boring than watching paint dry.

There are some teachers who do not slack off and their classes end just like they started. What about those teachers that give you assignments on the last week of school? Like the stu-

dents are going to do homework the last couple days of school. I think the only work the students would do in the last week is make-up work to pass their classes.

For once, I would like to see or have a teacher who teaches all of the information they want to, but makes it fun for the students as well. I know that learning can not always be fun, but sometimes students can get a little break. We are the ones that have to sit in the chairs for about an hour.

Taking time to talk

By Katie Oen

Communication is the key to a healthy relationship with anyone.

Communication with a partner is even more important. If you are not happy or your partner isn't, what will happen? Are you able to discuss problems, including sexual ones? A majority of people I know are unable to talk about sex with their partners, but are able to have either oral sex or intercourse with that individual. If a person is in a monogamous relationship and isn't currently sexually active but is considering it, he or she should talk to his or her partner about it.

Whether you are going to be having oral sex or intercourse, they are both sex and there are many things that need to be determined or at least discussed. "Will there be protection?" or "Are you on 'the pill?'" or "What if we get pregnant?" A couple who has decided to take their relationship further should answer all these questions. If you or your partner is unable to talk to each other, you shouldn't be having sex. Talk to your partner

and be open about how you are feeling. Be open to things your partner has to say about how he or she feels or things that are on his or her mind. Your partner needs to know that he or she is able to talk to you and you will listen wholeheartedly.

Couples should talk with each other when one is unfamiliar or uncomfortable about something. Sometimes one partner may lack in experience or one has a lot of experience. There are also those couples where neither has experience or both have some experience. Each relationship is different and so are the partners. Get to know your partner's likes, dislikes, personality, family, goals, and sexual behaviors so you have some idea what you are dealing with.

In court when you testify you swear what you are saying is "The whole truth and nothing but the truth." It should be expected that a conversation with your partner is equally important and should be treated in the same manner. This is plain and simple. Some partners say they don't

want to hurt the other one with the truth about how they feel, but if they lie about their feelings, it could start to build up on their emotions. Lying hurts a relationship and it can be hard sometimes to hold those feelings in and then the truth comes out.

Be true to yourselves and talk about things before you act. Make sure you are fully prepared for the actions you and your partner are going to take. The book *Mars and Venus on a Date*, by John Gray, Ph.D., states, "...the five different stages of dating: attraction, uncertainty, commitment, intimacy, and engagement. When we feel a chemistry with a partner on all four levels—physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual—then we are ready for intimacy."

Sometimes you may feel that your body is ready for sex and the emotions are flowing inside you, but you are not mentally prepared for what your body wants to do. Don't ever be afraid to say, "I'm not ready" or "I think we should talk about this first."

You're not ready for sex

If you...

- tell yourself you have to do it because you'll lose him or her.
- question your feelings for him or her.
- think you haven't been going out long enough.
- ask yourself whether or not you really want to have sex.
- can't decide why you want to have sex.
- really believe "everyone else is doing it so I should."
- won't buy or make protection available.
- can't have a conversation with him or her.

Letters to the Editor

Anorexia, bulimia, and excessive overeating are serious diseases that can be helped and prevented. These diseases are found in the highest percent among teens. This is because today there seems to be a race between whom is the skinniest or who weighs the least. If you do not meet up to the expectations of your peers, you get put down.

Everyone reading this can think, "I do not do that," and granted, some

people do not, but it is the others around you who are.

One of the many symptoms of this pressure is eating disorders. Whether it be anorexia, bulimia, or excessive overeating, it is a problem. These disorders are NOT caused by or because of food, as many of you probably think. They are caused by a battle going on inside the person. The side effect of this battle is depression, or not being

happy or liking ones self.

The symptoms are things that everyone should know about and be aware of because you will never know when or if someone close to you or even someone you just happen to know will suffer from one of these diseases. These symptoms consist of

- Always thinking ones self as fat or over weight
- Very concerned about weight, fat and calorie intake

- Never having total control over themselves
- Constantly dieting
- Significantly underweight

So if you know of anyone or you are that someone who has an eating disorder, or just needs someone to talk to about a problem, call this toll free number 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 1-800-955-OAKS, Linden Oaks Hospital is there to help you.

Danielle Daru
(Class of 2001)

Mechanical babies?

By Heather Fenderson

What is with all of those babies that have been around the school the past few weeks? What exactly was their purpose? If you have been wondering either of those things, then you're not the only one.

Well, the baby's name is "Baby Think-It-Over," and they are supposed to do just that: make one "think-it-over" before actually deciding that they are ready for a real child of their own. The babies are programmed to cry at certain times during the day and at night. The only way to shut them up being to feed them through a keyhole in the back.

These babies also have computer chips inside them so when the students return them, the teacher can see how many minutes of crying the baby has had and the

reasons for the crying. Usual reasons are neglect and mishandling.

Well, this is all well and good, but what does this teach students about caring for a real child? Maybe the students think at the time they have the babies in their possession that they never what to have a



French exchange student Julie Vinatier takes care of her baby during government class.

children of their own. Besides that, isn't having the babies for a weekend a bit short? Perhaps as soon as they return the baby to their teacher they may never

think about it again.

The point I am trying to make is what exactly IS the point of these mechanical babies? The students may learn something from them, yes, but in the long run, it seems that there are so many pregnant students in our school that it seem obvious no one really thinks about their "mechanical babies" experience when they are about to get into bed with their boyfriend and have sex.

With all of the loopholes the "parents" have, I tend to think that it's not at all like having a real child. The students have to write a report about their experiences, and that, to me, just doesn't seem to cut it that much.

Why are sports so important?

By Alexandra Patin

Sports are everywhere in society. They are on our television sets when we get home, the radio, and in our school. But how important are they? How many people are actually going to be the next Michael Jordan? Probably not many. So why are sports put on such a high pedestal when it comes to funding in school?

The annual stipend for the highest paid advisor of an extra-curricular activity [e.c.a.] is \$2,430, after five years. This excludes the band director, but includes the Pom, Cheerleader, Speech Team, Math Team advisors and Student Musical Director. The lowest paid assistant coaches, including the badminton, cross coun-

try, golf, tennis, and strength coaches, make \$70 less per year at their maximum stipend of \$2,930.

The numbers don't match up. An assistant coach of the lowest paid sport makes only slightly less than the highest paid sponser of an e.c.a. activity.

Steve Kellner, Speech Team advisor, has been advising the team for five years. He said that on average, there are 25 to 30 students involved in the team. The team has a season of 21 weeks, including 12 tournaments held on Saturdays, which run about 12 hours each. He said he also puts in 10 hours a week of coaching members of the team, and on some

weekends there are car washes and fundraising events for which he also shows up.

Another area of concern is the pay increase of coaches and advisors. Should a coach receive a raise every two years up to 11 years and then a raise after 14 years, while advisors only receive one pay raise after five years? No. Then why is it true? The head football, basketball, track, and wrestling coaches (the highest paid coaches) all receive a 23% pay increase, counting from the minimum amount of pay to the maximum amount of pay.

(see **Coaches** on page 4)

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.

Coaches

(continued from page 3)

However, the highest paid advisors, again excluding the band director, receive only a six percent pay increase.

How is that possible? According to Brad Larson, President of the Teachers' Association, the pay increase is so that We-go can stay competitive in salaries with other schools.

Larson said he believes there needs to be more of an equilibrium in the pay increase between coaches and advisors. He said, "I certainly don't think the athletic program is more valuable than the extra-curricular program," he said, they are of equal importance. He said he doesn't believe that advisors of e.c.a. are being compensated overall for their efforts, and that there "are sponsors who wonder why coaches make more than they are."

So when did this system start? About four or five years ago, according to Assistant Superintendent of Personnel Linda Kime, who sits in during contract negotiations, at that time information was gathered from sponsors and coaches regarding their involvement in the sport or club they were leading. The decision of salaries was made based on the surveys.

There is something wrong with this system of sports being rated so highly above e.c.a. in school. While most players will not become the next Michael Jordan, many people will become successful in other areas. These areas, like jobs, won't include sports, but instead require many skills that the extra-curricular activities at We-go teach, such as public speaking or performing, math, and writing skills.

It's time that sports and e.c.a.s started leveling out, for every student's sake.

The gun debate: to own or restrict

By Alexandra Patin

The past few weeks, the issue of whether or not gun control should be strengthened has come up numerous times. My answer is that gun control should not be tightened. First of all, guns are not the problem; people are. Secondly, in some places, guns have actually helped crime rates drop significantly. Guns are only one part of a rapidly growing equation with variables including humans, and the answer comes out as violence.

Guns are not the problem in today's society. If you or I got a hold of a gun, what would we do? Probably turn it in to authority. Certainly, we would not go around shooting people just because we could. Therefore, the guns are not the problem, because normal people do not use guns as dangerous weapons just because they are there.

I say "normal people" because studies have shown that some people's brains have abnormal activity in certain sections - more specifically, the sections which tell a person when to act on an impulse and when not to. This means that a person whose first impulse was to use a gun violently were to get hold of a gun, the brain would not be able to send signals to the other section of the brain that lets people carry out actions. The abnormal brain would be acting on impulse alone. This isn't what a normal brain does. In a normal brain, dangerous impulses are stopped by other areas of the brain before they are carried out. Guns are not the problem; people are.

You might say this is

even more cause for gun control, however, this is not so. These people do not have to be kept from having guns. A problem in the brain's chemistry can be recognized and cured if caught. Signs, such as impulsive or violent activity, can be recognized in people, and they can be cured. Then, they could lead a perfectly normal life, with a gun or without one. The people who were not recognized would be the problem, not the guns surrounding them.

Another point is that in areas where civilians are allowed to carry concealed weapons, crime has dropped two percent. The crime has dropped because guns are being used effectively, in defense, not offense. Should these citizens be labeled as wrong because they are carrying concealed weapons even though they are helping to stop crime? Women, too, are helping to protect themselves and stop crime by carrying guns. Crimes against women have significantly dropped because of protecting themselves. Gun control is not the issue; education and effectiveness of the people using them are.

This leads into the question of education about guns and their effects. There is a reality that is shaded by movies, media, and the lack of education. That reality is that guns hurt people. Guns kill. Most movies end with the person who was shot living, because he or she was the "good guy." However, as most of us know, this isn't the case in reality. The world does not work on who is the good or bad guy; guns kill or seriously injure

anyone who gets in the path of a bullet. The problem lies not in the guns or the movies that portray their effects, but in people who can not differentiate between reality and fiction.

Education about these harmful effects needs to be addressed more seriously. How many people have been educated about the effects of guns? I am not talking about the education that teaches guns as pure killing machines, I am talking about the education that teaches about the effects on society and people from guns. Have you ever been in one of those classes? How many times have you watched a movie and hoorayed because the bad guy died? Now, how many times have you thought about the person that died, and what effect his or her death would have on a neighborhood, on a family? Education about guns needs to be addressed more seriously as an effect, not just on the person who is shot, but on society. It is this education that would help people differentiate between the fiction death, and hard core reality of what guns do, and would help people become less of a problem, and not just focus on the guns.

A lawyer for many gun manufacturers said it's not the guns we need to get rid of. We need to educate and provide alternatives to guns so that people will want to put them down and not have to get them illegally. Guns should not be owned by anyone; however, they should not be controlled either, lest they become the forbidden fruit of criminals and civilians. Education and effectiveness of using a gun is the only way to stop gun violence in society.

By Carrie Zeffield

Violence is an everyday thing, no matter where you go. We hear it on the news, see it in the movies, and we as humans naturally use violence in forms for survival. But we also use violence for unnecessary reasons. From Littleton to Paducah to the silent city of Seattle, there have been many problems with this sort of violence and one major factor is the easy to get system of purchasing handguns.

Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, the alleged killers from Colorado, purchased handguns from a local gun store owner in Littleton. After purchasing them, they easily walked into their school and ended up killing 15 people. The boy from Seattle who walked into his parent's room late at night while they were sleeping and shot them both to death because of a grudge he had with them, had found the gun in his parent's room. And how about the 10 people killed everyday by a handgun, most of them being children. In 1996, about 10,000 people were killed in United States alone by handguns.

Either parents don't lock guns up from their kids, or people have motives to use handguns. Just recently, an eight-year old Chicago boy was killed by a handgun. That boy now will never grow up to see how badly this world has turned out.

Congress won't pass a handgun purchasing law for gun shows. The law says that people under the age of 21 cannot purchase handguns. People 21 and over would have to have a background check. The State of Illinois is also threatening to bring Chicago area schools

to court because they have installed metal detectors in the school.

Statistics show that handguns that are kept in a home for protection are 43% more likely to kill a member of the home and/or a friend rather than kill an intruder. And eight out of ten people killed with firearms are killed with a handgun.

Why do we want to keep hearing about the numbers of deaths each year by a handgun? I'm not saying throw out handguns all together, but at least people should try and avoid selling them to children or parents shouldn't buy them unless they have a valid purpose for using them, other than a form of protection. There are other ways to protect yourself and a handgun shouldn't be the way, unless you are a cop using it in a self-defense.

Handguns kill. We can keep hearing about children in schools being killed because kids have easy access to a gun. I guess for some it might take an incident to make them realize that handguns are not at all controlled like Congress thinks, nor are they safe. Logically, we all know handguns are dangerous and they kill. Yet we continue to allow people to sell these destructive things and we allow people to kill. If we don't allow people to kill others, why do we continue to let children and irresponsible people get a hold of handguns?

Handguns should be outlawed for those without a badge and Congress should wake up and look at the statistics of the nation and realize that without a half reasonable solution, the problems and complaining will never end.

By Katie Oen

Violence: is this society's answer to its problems?

How can we expect to live peacefully when our government not only promotes fighting, but also pays people to be soldiers and then reward for violent actions?

Society is hypocritical. People say violence with guns is wrong and should be stopped, but many people are okay with sending soldiers to other countries to fight, kill, and maybe die.

By sending soldiers to other countries to fight, we are showing children that this is how to solve problems. We use force and kill people instead of solving problems peacefully. This sets an example for children that if you have a problem you should use violence to solve it.

Our government has demonstrated its eagerness to fight over and over again with actions in Korea, Vietnam, Bosnia, and Kosovo.

In Vietnam, our military forces sent hundreds of thousands of young men to Vietnam to fight in jungle-like conditions. This

fighting went on for almost 20 years.

Since the fighting went on for so long, a draft was enforced because there were not enough soldiers available to fight. By enforcing the draft, young men in our society were pulled from their homes and sent to fight and kill in another country, many against their will.

Kosovo. Does everyone know why we are bombing over there and sending our children to possibly die? The confrontations over there have been going on for years. NATO has recently decided to come in and stop it, but why now? Why not a few years ago when Serbs first took over the city once more? We are again sending our children over to another country to fight and die.

People say that joining the military is a great thing and to die for one's country is even better. Now we have children idolizing these soldiers, wanting to imitate the soldiers' actions. It is no wonder that young kids want to learn how to use weapons to

fight and may use these weapons on others.

Some recent examples of teens using weapons would be the Colorado school shooting and a shooting in Arkansas where teens shot girls at school. In Colorado, the boys had been planning the massacre for almost a year and had the entire school wired with bombs. In Arkansas, the teens waited outside the girls bathroom and then shot the girls as they ran out. This was an ambush.

Where did these teens learn such military tactics? Teens see these ways of fighting on television and in movies. Soldiers in these movies or shows are shown as heroic. The deeds the soldiers perform are displayed as something everyone should want to do someday if they can.

Instead of just watching these movies, some young men are sent to fight against their will and shown that violence is the right way to handle their problems. When these men return, the ideas they learned about fighting will stay with them. Many mem-

bers of the military who fought in Vietnam were so traumatized they are still unable to talk about it. These military people were supposed to be defending our country, its principles and ideals.

Some of these ideals are in laid out in the Declaration of Independence which states, "All men are created equal....these inalienable rights: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." This document, which is the foundation of our entire government, makes these claims and then our government tells us to go out and kill people because we don't like the things they do or say.

We are fighting and encouraging our children to fight, too. Why can't we live in peace and try to make peace? We should live by the words of John Lennon's "Imagine" from 1970 which says, "Imagine there's no countries/It isn't hard to do/Nothing to kill or die for/And no religion too/Imagine all the people/Living life in peace...."

What do the stars say to you?

By Arlete Penafior

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Go out and look for those opportunities that you have waited for so long. Kick back and relax at the beach while you get a golden tan. Keep the eyes out of the sun especially when you meet that new hottie. Your love match is Libra and your lucky element is fire.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

So you didn't get what you wanted. Get over it already! Life goes on with or without something you really wanted. Your lucky love match is Capricorn and your lucky element is fire.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Do that thing you've been dying to do for months now but were too afraid to do it before. Don't be so jealous all the time when it comes to that special someone in your life. Your lucky love match is Scorpio and your lucky element is wind.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Things are not always as they seem. So stop tormenting yourself over whatever it was you saw. Stop leading that person on, admit you like him/her and make a move. Don't you think it's about time? Your lucky love match is Pisces and your lucky element is earth.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

Think twice before you say something, you usually say things you don't really mean. Keep the doors open in the romance department, Cupid might just strike you. Your love match is Aquarius and your lucky element is fire.

Virgo (August 22-September 22)

Things aren't always about you, don't try to make them all about you. Keep your eyes open; that special someone is closer than you think. Your love match is Sagittarius and your lucky element is earth.

Libra (September 23-October 23)

Don't make big problems out of something small and insignificant. Just let go and move on. A romantic dinner for two is a definite possibility when you meet someone new. Your love match is Aries and your lucky element is air.

Scorpio (October 24-November 24)

It takes two to make a relationship work, so put more effort into it. Take things in your life day by day. Your love match is Gemini and your lucky element is earth.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Learn to value friendships more because they are what keep you strong. Go on and adventure bound trip. You need a good adrenaline rush in your life right now. Your love match is Virgo and your lucky element is fire.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Learn to value the small things in life instead of always taking them for granted. Open yourself up more to people instead of always closing yourself up to the world. Your love match is Virgo and your lucky element is air.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Don't be afraid of changes they will be for the best. Someone's got their eye on you so don't be surprised if they confess their feelings to you in a spontaneous way. Your love match is Leo and your lucky element is water.

Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You'll hear from someone you haven't heard from in a long time. He/she will be interested in being more than just friends with you. Your love match is Cancer and your lucky element is water.

What do you plan to do on your summer vacation?

By Sarah Kochniarczyk

"Working and doing a football summer camp." - junior Matt "Dougy" Shane
"Sleeping and making some money!" - sophomore Ruth Kueker

"I'm gonna power walk with Ms. Sorsenson!" - junior Bobby "Earl" Vangorkom

"Dance the nights away!" - junior Ryan Dorn
"Be a camp counselor at Timberlee." - senior Rachel Baker

"Hanging out with Mr. Fickau picking wild asparagus." - sophomore Justin Kallas

"Sitting in my room waiting for my girlfriend to get home from Germany." - junior Sean Peterson

"I'm gonna live, be free, and try to fill my time with purpose!" - junior Tracy Jean Erickson

Fun and adventures

By Marla D'Aversa

While you are on summer vacation, spending more time with friends, working, and maybe getting ready for college, what are you teachers doing? Rarely do students really find out what their teachers plan to do over the summer. Our teachers have some pretty interesting summers lined up.

Mary Ellen Daneels from the Social Studies Department is going to Europe with the European History Tour group. She plans to study economics in college, she plans to teach economics next year. Also before the summer is over, she is traveling to Belarus with her church to help the poor.

Dan McCarthy of the Business Education Department is coaching two basketball camps this summer. He would like to participate in the Michael Jordan basketball camp, as he has in the past, but he is waiting to find out if it still exists since Michael Jordan left basketball.

Greg Leitner of the English Department usually reads a lot, and sees a lot of plays because he teaches drama classes here at West Chicago. This summer he plans to go to England to see even more plays. He will be visiting Stratford and London, and at one point stopping at the now reconstructed famous Globe

theatre.

Mary Rash of the Social Studies Department plans to be involved with her 16-year-old son David's sailboat racing. He sails a 29-foot boat out of Burnham Harbor in Chicago and is involved in the Beer Can races. Otherwise she will be taking classes, and practicing on her harp in her other spare time.

Social Studies teacher Steve Wroblewski, now finally out of school after graduating a few weeks ago, plans to spend the summer out of school and enjoying some reading. He also plans to take a few family vacations to Colorado, and a weekend in Wisconsin.

All for the money

By Heather Fenderson

What is the first thing you think of when you hear the words "Star Wars toys?" Collectability? Resale value 50 years from now? Which toys are the most collectable?

According to a local collector, the toys are not hard to find if you just look for them. "I got a lot of hard to find ones, such as Darth Maul and the Queen" he replied.

According to Heidi Waltenbaugh, the manager in training at FAO Schwartz on Michigan Avenue, when the toys came out earlier this month FAO Schwarz started selling them at 12:01 a.m., they sold out almost immediately. Waltenbaugh said the store receives a new shipment almost every week. However, it was a different story at the Toys R Us on Army Trail Road. Toys R Us Manager Karie Diaz said that "Although some of the more popular characters sold out, we had a lot of stock and did not sell out the first night."

As for the most collectable, Waltenbaugh says that would have to be the red-faced menace named "Darth Maul." "Basically anything with his [Darth Maul's] face on it sells quickly," she said. "He

seems to be a very popular character." Diaz at the Toys R Us agrees. "Darth Maul is the very popular character right now. He was one of the first new characters to be announced, so people are very interested in him." Diaz

cheap, but each standard "Episode I" action figure with the COMMTECH chip retails for just \$8.99

It isn't just kids buying those figures, either. According to Waltenbaugh, "the main consumers tend to be young adults in their mid or early twenties." Young children buy too, but they come later on in the day, according to Waltenbaugh.

Diaz added, "Usually the children come after school, but we have a combination of both kids and adults at night."

There is a limit at the store of how many toys you can buy.

"Consumers are only allowed to buy a full set of only two of the characters," she said. At the Toys R Us in Bloomingdale, though, there isn't a limit. "We had the authority to apply one, but we did not think that one was needed." Said Diaz.

With the new movie, FAO Schwartz is gearing up for another major sell-out. Said Waltenbaugh, "We are doing well, and are hoping that the toys will continue to sell well while the movie is out."

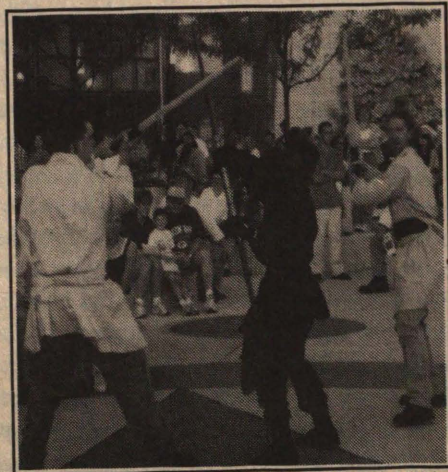


Photo by Sandy Weiss

Fans show just how much the force is with them at the premiere of *Star Wars Episode 1: The Phantom Menace*.

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The end...or is it?

By Daniel B. Young

The end has come. The last time I will walk these hallowed halls is now approaching, and the time for me is almost finished.

Just like other senior classes around the world, we'll continue to tread where our ancestors have tread. We'll move into the real world and narrow down our selections on who and what we want to become and little West Chicago will become lost in our vastly expanding minds.

And yet, this idealism will never occur, with all of the things that We-go has become to us over the last few years. It's just a building, right?

That's what I thought when I came here, a long time ago. That was way back in 1994, when I was much younger, much more impressionable and totally freaked out of my mind. So many things ran through my head at that time. Would I get beat up? How many times would I get beat up? What would I do during school? Would I make lots of friends? Would they beat me up?

Now I'm a senior and my thoughts have changed just a bit. It's no longer "Would I get beat up?" but now "When does it end?" I'm not talking about the beatings I might get, but when will school end.

It's almost over, tomorrow in fact, but I'm still wondering that same question. "When will it all end?" That's what all of us are asking. You can admit it freely. You don't have to hide and say you don't want to go. There are some people who don't want to go, but there are a lot more who would be more than happy to leave. So when does it end?

The answer is never. It will never end. The learning experiences that started in Winfield, Carol Stream, West Chicago (and anywhere else in the world) and that we have continued here at little ol' We-go is never ending. That's right: never ending.

For those who sit and complain about getting out of high school so they don't have to deal with it anymore, well, get ready to deal with it. It doesn't end here and it doesn't get easier in college: you've got fewer classes to attend, but they are lot tougher and there is more homework too.

Everybody thinks they've had it tough, especially with all of the fake

problems we've had this year: our only real problem is parking. We only have to worry about what we are going to eat next and wonder if we are going to have homework tonight.

What if you lived somewhere where it wasn't what you got to eat, but when you got it? What if you didn't have a house, or a school? What if, what if, what if...I could go on for days. Things aren't as bad as we think they are and that's what I've really learned here. I now understand that I've been blessed by the powers that be.

What this school offers you is a sanctuary, a place to voice your opinion. A place to live and learn and a place (perchance) to find yourself and someone you want to spend your life with...but that isn't likely. Odds are you won't marry your high school sweetheart. But that's what this place is really for. To meet your friends and maybe something more, to find out what you are looking for in life and to experiment with people.

It's for you, the student, to learn just a touch of life, to deal with problems and find out what life is like in a small environment. And it's a place for experiment, not only for students but also for the world of learning. We have it lucky because we've got a government simulation and we've had a C3 program along with World Studies and American Studies. Why are we lucky for these? We don't have to fit into whatever specific courses the average high school offers. We actually have a choice, a chance to express what we want and choose our own destinies rather than have it forced upon us. Now that's luck.

Basically, we're one of the luckiest schools around with the privileges and experiments that go on around here. With everything we've been blessed with, we lost some things along the way (like a winning football program, but they're trying to get that back). With all of these privileges come the expectations of more and we've grown a bit selfish.

I think it's time we all realized just what we've got here and be thankful for once because the fact of the matter is I've survived, and thrived, for four years at a blue ribbon school.

Right then and there I wondered if I was ever going to make it through high school. Well I made it this far, only a couple of days from graduation.

There are people who can actually say high school are the best years of your life. How can that be when they still have to experience the rest of their lives?

I've got my whole life ahead of me to actually come to that conclusion. Sure I enjoyed high school to the fullest, and I don't think I would change anything about my four years here.

So many memories

Kerry Herbert,

You are the wind beneath my wings!

Love, Mom

Nicole Medina,

Thanks for the memories.

Mrs. Mosson

Liz Herandez,

Thanks for the memories.

Love, Mrs. Mosson

Congratulations Joey,

Good Luck at Western!

Love, Mom

and Dad



To all Seniors ever in my classes:

Thanks for your part in filling my four years here with great memories. I'll miss you! Buena suerte en todo!

Senorita Allen

Congratulations Jeff,

We're so proud of you. Keep up the good work. We wish you much success and happiness.

Love,

Mom, Dad, and Gwen

Suzanne, Amy, Trish,

Melissa,

You all have impacted my life in many ways. I love you all and I'll never forget you. Thank you for the memories and lessons. Good luck in your futures!

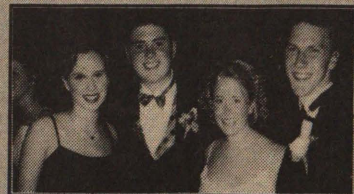
Carrie

Congratulations Shanks,

New Life, New Job, New Friends, and New Jeans.

Carp

Jon, Abby, Micahel,



Times we had make me smile Knowing you're leaving all the while

But I'll flip the pages of my mind

And pictures of you I will find

Good luck to you in all you do

Please don't forget, Mer-Mer loves you!

Smooch

Oh my love!

P.s. Think of me

Classes of 1999, 2000,

Thank you for an unbelievable first 2 years.

Good Luck to all of you!

You'll do great!

Sean Armstrong

Josh,

I am going to miss you next year.

Congratulations on your Graduation.

Good luck to you in the new world.

I love you

See you over the summer

Bye!

Love, Melissa

Melissa B., Amy E., Trish

W., Suzanne S.,

Congratulations!

You're finally out!

Keep In Touch

See you girls later!

From, Melissa

J.J. Walters,

Let's take this outside. Bring it on!

Katie Oen

Ty,
Have fun going away!

Keep in touch!

Good-bye!

Melissa

Funkbunnie, Gidge, Jello,

Snmnsr,

Keep in touch. I'll miss you all.

Mytime

Senior Class,

We came... We saw... We partied

Jeff Powell 1999

Aric,

Congratulations! You

Finally made it! Have a

great time at Devry! Lina

Inverse would be proud of you!

P.S. OAF, yeah!

NQSerenity

Jamie,



No doubts, friends forever.

Karen

Eric Munoz,

Do your best and succeed!

Mrs. Mosson

Erin Ryan,

Enjoy your life!

Love Mrs. Mosson

Meine lieben Seniors!

Vielen Dank fur die letzten vier Jahre!!

Ich werde euch

vermissen!!!! L

Vergesst nicht, mich zu

besuchen!!!!

Frau

To all Seniors Thespians:

May you have a lifetime of "broken legs."

Ms. H.

A time to say goodbye

By Arlete Penaflor

It's hard to believe I'm only a couple of days away from graduation. I can still remember my first day of high school as if it were yesterday, walking through the cafeteria doors and thinking will I ever make it?

I was so nervous seeing all those strange people. I remember hoping I wouldn't get lost, but that didn't help since I did get lost. I was twenty minutes late to my first hour class, World Geography, because I got lost.

Right then and there I wondered if I was ever going to make it through high school. Well I made it this far, only a couple of days from graduation.

There are people who can actually say high school are the best years of your life. How can that be when they still have to experience the rest of their lives?

I've got my whole life ahead of me to actually come to that conclusion. Sure I enjoyed high school to the fullest, and I don't think I would change anything about my four years here.

Everything that happened to me in these four years happened to me for a reason. And if things in my life were meant to have gone differently, they would have.

Now that I think about it, I would actually change something. My freshmen year I broke both of my ankles when I fell down the stairs. I wish that would have never happened to me because it was embarrassing as well as painful.

To me high school has been just a glimpse into what the real world is all about. I still have so much more

to experience to really make it out there in the real world. In the real world, you won't have your parents to get you out of problems all the time. You'll have to be responsible for your own actions, because you won't get second chances. From now on things actually count, whether you make it out there or not.

In my four years here I've learned to appreciate those people who have helped me make it through high school.

I've learned to cherish every moment I spend with those people who

actually mean something to me. Also, sometimes without even realizing it those who once were your friends become just another face in the crowd. I've learned to appreciate my teachers more, even those I never really got along with, because it's not easy to get up in front of a class and teach, teach you something you might have to use when you're older, whether you believe it or not.

I've also realized that just because we're teenagers that doesn't mean we don't know what we want.

so many goodbyes

Once again a freshman

Marla D'Aversa

Oh, this is scary. That is what I keep thinking. I have one summer left until I begin the first real steps of my life. I can't stop thinking about the things I want to do before I go to college and leave this place, the only home I've ever known. All of my friends are going different places. What if we don't stay in touch? What then?

Oh, it used to be scary when I first came to Community High School. Everyone was bigger than me (and still is but I try not to think about that - 5'3 is perfectly respectable) and that was overwhelming. It's funny to think about the way we felt as freshmen when we first walked in the doors here on our first day? It's funny because we see other kids going through it in the halls. And face it, there is nothing funnier than a lost freshmen. But like those freshmen, we all found our way, our niche. Now I can look back and laugh about being so scared, because everything turned out alright. How could I think that it wouldn't? But it is also funny for another reason. I feel the same today that I did back then. I feel like a scared freshman....again. But just like before, I'm sure that in four years when I graduate, I can look back on my college career and laugh about how I feel today.

Life will change, and change is hard. Duh. No one has to tell you that. It's how you handle the change that matters (I hate change, I'm a republican). Speaking of change however, I wouldn't change a single moment of high school. Unlike others, I liked going to this school. I like that I've met so many interesting people and learned a lot, especially about myself. Thank you to everyone I've come to know and love--you know who you are.

A freshmen again. It's beginning to feel as though the cycle never ends. But in a way, it seems to be getting over way too fast.

Good luck to everyone, and be safe. Hold on tight, and don't be scared. "Just one great idea can revolutionize your life." Earl Nightingale

Learning for life

By Katie Oen

The more I'm here, the more I want out.

What has high school prepared us for? Life? The real world? College?

I think the only thing high school prepares you for is.....nothing, other than more school work. Sure, I learned how to dissect things, how to solve mathematical equations, how to use Parliamentary procedure properly, how to process and develop photographs, and how to write an essay, a research paper and newspaper articles. But where am I going to be using most of these things again?

A place I learned more than I ever imagined was my job. The car business. This is a place where I meet people from all walks of life who work together to achieve a common goal of customer satisfaction. There are so many people involved in this business it is important that people communicate and help each other out.

While helping people out, I realized I was picking up things books can't teach you. These were "hands-on" experiences, such as dealing with angry customers and how to talk to a manager about things I needed or wanted. I learned these things by being a cashier and working in the main office.

I learned patience and how to communicate with the other salespeople and service representatives. Sometimes there would be someone who would be running around yelling everywhere and I would have to find out what was going on and help them calm down.

I learned problem-solving strategies as well as prioritizing from service writing. I have to keep track of vehicles being worked on and call customers about their cars, as well as take in new vehicles for service.

I have to be able to do multiple tasks at once and keep it all under control. I learned how to deal with the pressure and stress of many things going on at once and still being able to think clearly to help customers.

I learned the customer comes first and if he or she is not pleased, then you must do everything you can to find out why they are unhappy. Once you find this out, you can go about trying to make them happy. Most of the time, customers don't understand what was done to their vehicles or why it had to be done. Some customers just want someone to listen to them and this will make many people repeat customers.

By working with adults and customers, I have prepared myself for other jobs as well as college. Dealing with an angry customer makes me realize how easy it is to talk with teachers, even intimidating college professors.

I learned how to help customers on the phones and use my computer to tell them if their car was ready or answer a few questions if someone was unable to help them. I learned to type faster and to use different typing techniques with license and title work and accounts payable/receivable.

I am more confident in myself and what I think I can do because of all the responsibilities I have at work. I never would have thought I could do so much as I have done with financing and service writing.

I feel I can do almost anything if I just try as hard as I can. I am not afraid of making a mistake because I have learned that bosses expect you to make mistakes, but they also expect you to admit them and learn from them. They love it when you ask questions, because it makes them feel like you care about what you are doing. It is this openness that makes me unafraid to talk to my managers and bosses. If I couldn't do that, how could I tell them when things are confusing or when I have a problem and need their help?

These things are things that can not be taught. They can only be learned from the actual experiences of working with other people. Little jobs that you think are not helping you to succeed in life may actually be teaching you more than you think.

With pride, Anthony Carbonari celebrated early Graduation from WCHS

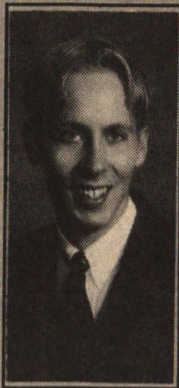
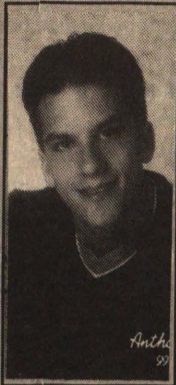
Jan. 21, 1999.

Since then attends COD as a full-time student and works part-time at First Chicago Bank, Winfield, IL.

To my 1999 WCHS classmates, see you at Commencement June 6, 1999.

Congratulations Courtney and best of luck at W.I.U.

Love, Mom and Dad



Brian

We are proud of you graduates...

your enthusiasm for life, your involvement in school/community, your growth and maturity over 4 years...

We are grateful for your teachers, administrators, coaches, counselors...your good counsel, role-modeling, availability, thoughtfulness, commitment...

We are excited about new/updated facilities, Dr. Rieck's leadership, a dedicated staff...

We've been privileged to pray for you all weekly for the last 4 years. As you graduate,

GO MAD (Make a Difference!) in our world!

Moms,

Diane Christopherson

Helen Walker

Jan Barclay

Donna Brown

Karen Winter

Jeff, Dan, Arlete, Katie, Bart and Marla,

Thanks for your terrific work all year long. Good luck and next year - you buy the pizza.

Ms. Mo

Everybody,
The End

Chris Hedberg

Students,
It's over

Oaf

Dear Brandon,
Dream big, work hard, play harder, enjoy life, have faith, love yourself, and others as much as we love you.

Congratulations with all our love,

Mom, Dad,

Jeanette Rose,

Thanks for all the fun you have provided us the last 4 years.

Love, Mom and Dad

Good Luck Seniors!

Come back and visit us! From your West Chicago Guidance Team:

Mrs. Alcala,

Mrs. Aronoff,

Mrs. Bazukas,

Mrs. Brafford,

Mrs. Bridges,

Mr. Rau, Mrs. Brandt,

Mr. Chambers,

Mr. Egan, Mrs. Geiger, Mrs.

Walsh, Mr. Hein,

Mrs. Jacobucci,

Ms. Semanske

Farewell senior peer helpers!

Be good, work hard, and remember...

There's nothing in life that can't be made a bit better by a piece of candy.

We'll all miss you- keep in touch!

Mrs. Brafford

The other side

Ann M., and Rachel B.- Shine sisters,

Stay in touch, I love you sisters, in my prayers!

Sister in Christ-

Sarah Kochniarczyk

Abby,

Plain and simple, I love you.

You are the most encouraging and strong person I've ever met.

Thank you for bringing countless smiles and undescrivable joys to my life. I love you.

Jeffrey

Ish,

I wish you the best in college and I know you'll succeed!

Stay a cool brother and never change.

Your lil' sis',

Annabelle Gonzalez.

Attention Students,

As you know, many of us are graduating, which means we're free and you're Not!!

You get the privilege of finishing out your sentence at We-go High. We as

Seniors, had to go through many hardships such as No

parking, freezing classrooms in winter, boiling classrooms

in summer, and stepping over tiny freshmen in the

hallways. For the rest of your sentence, you get your

precious little addition with parking. We are not bitter

because we are no longer jailed, feed stuff they call

food, or dealing with the para-pros. Have a nice

sentence. Maybe they'll let you off early for good

behavior!

Peace, love, empathy,

People can't just pretend we don't have minds of our own. Everyone has different opinions on things. We all have to respect that because we don't all experience the same things.

Adults say teenagers complain over dumb things that are insignificant. What makes adults ideas so much more important? They're people just like us, so why should age make any difference to what idea or opinion is more important?

I've learned to value the friendships I've made throughout school, especially now that I might never

see any of these people again. After high school everyone takes their own roads, the ones that fit them and they forget about everyone else.

I hope I can always remember my friends with the deepest affection, because they were there in the best of times and in the worst of times. From all of them I've learned so much. I think I've learned from everyone I've met. Everyone is so different and you can't judge people before you actually get to know what they're really all about.

Everyone has different perspectives

on what these four years meant to them. I don't regret anything I did these four years because I did them for a reason. I take with me the memories of all the great times I had here. And the memories of all of the great people I met who I will never forget.

I wish everyone the best of luck in the future. Life is short, so live life to the fullest and take advantage of every opportunity that comes around, because they only come around once in a lifetime.

99 things seniors learned here at We-go

"Don't give in to senioritis...always do your homework" - *Cassie Mitchell*
 "Be kind to animals, give a liberal spare change" - *Doug Fisher*
 "Don't trust anyone!" - *Mike Bolt*
 "Be nice to everybody, even if they are the meanest person to you." - *Lisa Mendez*
 "Don't be so uptight. Take it easy." - *Jeremy Schmidt*
 "West Chicago has a lot of people who don't bathe often." - *Dann Taylor*
 "Not to let anything get to you at the end of the year otherwise you're in big trouble." - *Nicole Medina*
 "I learned not to let any one touch your head while connected to a Van De Graff generator." - *Anthony Castiglia*
 "I love school...except the work part about it." - *Ken Dedic*
 "All high school tries to do is Betty-Crocker the girls and John-Wayne the guys; be a good and lowly consumer; get sucked into their system." - *Grant Wheaton*
 "How to be a leader. How to do it the right way." - *Jessica Inch*
 "A lot of teachers are hypocrites. They won't accept excuses, because excuses don't work in the real world; yet they give lame excuses all of the time." - *Renee Altman*
 "I learned that it's easier to get off campus than it is to get back on campus." - *Jake Knaak*
 "Life's a b—— and then you die..." - *Phil Roberts*
 "That the ideal job is to be a school security guard. You get paid to do nothing." - *Melissa Birch*
 "Never give up. Always believe in yourself." - *Erick Munoz*
 "Don't expect things to go the way you want them to." - *Ana Fernandez*
 "You make things fun for yourself." - *Jeanette Arroyo*
 "Take advantages of things before they're gone." - *Autumn Planek*
 "No matter how much you want to break free of the walls around you, you'll miss them when you're gone." - *Cheryl Pruett*
 "You don't realize what you have until you lose it. Don't take anything for granted." - *Heather Hendricks*
 "The tail wags the dog." - *Rick Williams*
 "Nothing beats the power of sleep." - *Derek DiPietro*
 "It's not as much fun as it used to be." - *Melissa Miller*
 "Nothing comes without hard work." - *Mike Schneider*
 "I gotta get up on time." - *Justin Vajgert*
 "People change." - *Jake Reiner*
 "You become friends with people you'd never thought you'd be friends with." - *Andre Garcia*
 "Don't mess with upperclassmen." - *Tim Harwood*
 "You may not learn with your mouth open, but you have a lot of fun." - *Brian Krawczykowski*
 "You realize who your true friends are." - *Jami Shanks*
 "The system screws you over repeatedly, no matter if you follow the rules or if you don't." - *Jeff Stogis*

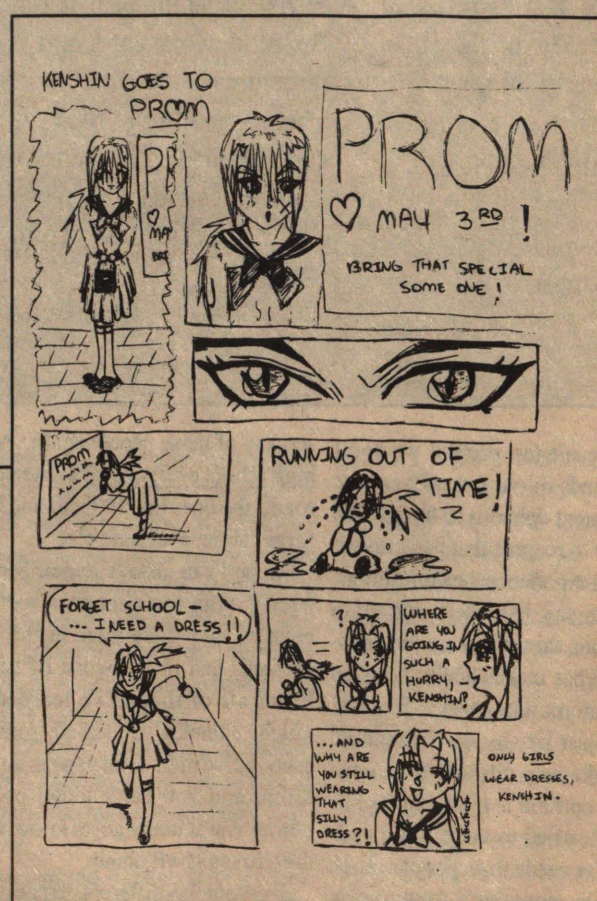
"Friends are the best: thanks to all of my friends." - *Jennifer Lull*
 "You shouldn't let others discourage you." - *Kristen Opazewski*
 "Carpe diem." - *Maggie McPike*
 "Don't let your emotions be dependent on other people's actions." - *Abby Brown*
 "Your true friends may not be the ones you suspect at first." - *Michael Petrik*
 "Caution when you walk through a group of people, especially if you're tall." - *John Norton*
 "Each day is a new day with challenges to overcome." - *Vanessa Ruetsche*
 "Do as much as possible." - *Corinne Duffy*
 "If you can control a group of teenaged girls and still be friends, you can do anything!" - *Shannon Spernando*
 "You learn they're the best years of your life, when you look back." - *Liz Hernandez*
 "Live your life to the fullest." - *Kim Chau*
 "How to stay out of trouble." - *Johannique Chew*
 "How to keep my cool." - *Antoine Booker*
 "Everything I need to know that will help me through life." - *Zahn Gamble*
 "You have to live life for yourself." - *Lisa Arnett*
 "Four classes is a heck of a lot better than having a full schedule." - *Jon Fraser*
 "When the library beeper goes off just yell 'Freshman!'" - *Nicole Sullivan*
 "That four years go by really fast." - *Evelyn Garcia*
 "That high school is the only time you can really be a kid before you have to grow up." - *Vicki Guevara*
 "Not to judge people by their cover. Get to know their personalities." - *Neli Garcia*
 "Not to park in the teacher's parking lot." - *Joe Leli*
 "How to get off campus and not get caught." - *Leah Matejka*
 "More than one pack of shock tarts a day gets dangerous." - *Kellie Kalish*
 "That people aren't always what they seem to be." - *Amy Bajor*
 "That men suck, and to get here after first period to get a good parking spot." - *Kim Charbonneau*
 "You should smile, don't be sad." - *Monica Garcia*
 "It's not about girls....wait, never mind." - *Jeff Brozek*
 "How much something can suck." - *Tony Barone*
 "I learned a lot about gangs, drugs, and sex. Freshman year I learned about what a hermaphrodite was." - *Ben Walters*
 "In high school you can not achieve anything without an education." - *Liz Hernandez*
 "I learned different experiences from different classes." - *Erica Ballines*
 "You don't have to do your homework to get good grades." - *Ellen McLoughlin*
 "Don't trust the 'Pretender.'" - *Mark Doeseckle*
 "Peace, pot, microdot,
 Jesus loves you, stoned or not." - *Liam Doyle*

"I've learned how to live, to love, to forgive, not to forget, and most importantly, how to dance half naked in a black leather tutu." - *Cathal Walsh*
 "You never live down anything." - *Chris Hedberg*
 "The Cam pan can!" - *Adam Klintworth*
 "Don't take anything for granted. You never know when it's going to be gone." - *Courtney Czeck*
 "Education is the key to success" - *Jason Stubbon*
 "Nobody is here to help you. They are here to hurt." - *Tim Augustine*
 "School is what you make of it. Make it a priority and you will succeed." - *Arty Abarca*
 "Individuality." - *Jason Aramburo*
 "Not to trust everyone you think is your friend." - *Francis Delgado*
 "How to be a better person." - *Jim Spelman*
 "How to have fun." - *Brandon Clairmont*
 "Nothing." - *Aric Hyde*
 "Don't take people for granted. They might not always be there." - *Sara Closser*
 "You need priorities in your life or you won't get anything accomplished." - *Kerry Herbert*
 "That you don't have to work hard to graduate." - *Adam Morrissey*
 "You can blow off three quarters of your senior year and still graduate." - *Adam Mertz*
 "If the score is less than 50, consider it a win for We-go (football)." - *John Melone*
 "Not going to gym for 4 1/2 weeks is a bad thing." - *Kelly Mestek*
 "Don't take swimming as a gym, because you don't have to." - *Samir Patel*
 "The administration has been like a Big Brother to us." - *Lara Earhart*
 "School, what a concept. If I get homework I don't understand, I don't do it." - *Will Geronimo*
 "How to get out of trouble." - *Josh Wetzel*
 "Always find out why certain things happen. Ask questions. Be curious. Don't just settle just because people tell you things. Always figure out why you believe what you believe." - *Rachel Baker*
 "How to cut down on fun and get to work so I could pass senior year." - *Andy Spalo*
 "To have fun." - *Marco SanRoman*
 "Save water. Drink beer." - *Ryan Steinhofner*
 "There's a time and a place for everything. It's called college." - *Megan McDowell*
 "I have to come really early to get a parking space." - *Allison Weir*
 "That I'm sooo free!" - *Jake Kueker*
 "To be more independent. Not to have to depend on anyone but myself." - *Jerry Jeron Evans*
 "That computers don't work very well in this school." - *Cindy Wilson*
 "To take it easy." - *Dave Mehrman*
 "Not to take friendships for granted." - *Jeff Belokin*



Check out this comic by Amy Fenderson

How about this one by Dave Conaway



New *Star Wars* film worth the wait

By Mark Kowal

It's finally here: the moment we've all been waiting for, *Star Wars Episode I*.

With the hype of the release of *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace*, the film deserves all the glamour it has received and more.

The movie starts out in a spaceship outside the planet of Naboo where Qui-Gon Jinn (Liam Neeson of *Darkman*), a venerable Jedi knight, and the young Obi-Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor of *Trainspotting*) are attempting to make trade deals with another planet.

Instead of making negotiations, they run into trouble and get caught in the middle of an invasion. While on the planet of Naboo, they meet Jar Jar Binks (Ahmed Best), a clumsy alien who was banished from his colony.

While the planet is being invaded, the Jedi knights try to attempt to

save Queen Amidala (Natalie Portman of *Mars Attacks!*) from the droid attackers. They succeed, but run into some trouble on their way out with the invading ships.

They finally end up on a gangster planet where they meet a young boy named Anakin Skywalker (Jake Lloyd). Qui-Gon Jinn notices that Anakin has Jedi talents and wants to get him off the gangster planet so he can train him to be a Jedi Knight.

For the rest of the movie, Qui-Gon Jinn continues his quest to train Skywalker.

From its special effects to the fighting scenes, *The Phantom Menace* keeps you on the edge of your seat until the very end of the movie.

The Queen's eccentric costumes and the spectacular life-like scenery make you realize how much time and effort was

spent on this movie. *The Phantom Menace* included nine huge explosions, over 30 new alien species, eight costume changes for Queen Amidala, and 32 references to the *Star Wars* mythology.

There were six characters from Episodes IV, V, and VI, including Jabba the Hut, Yoda R2-D2, C3PO, Obi-Wan Kenobi, and Anakin Skywalker.

The only unpleasant part was the clumsy alien Jar Jar Binks. Throughout the whole movie he was making annoying comments, corny jokes and was a disgrace to the movie. When you finally get to the end you wish he just would die, but unfortunately he doesn't.

All in all *The Phantom Menace* is definitely worth seeing even if you're not a *Star Wars* fan. The special effects and fighting scenes are worth your time. ★★★

The trendiest Election of them all

By Alexandra Patin

Unconventional, yet interesting and humorous could have been the slogan of *Election*.

Starring Mathew Broderick and Reese Witherspoon, this was a clever film with a dark side to its humour and many stories intertwined into one.

The movie starts out with high school student Tracy Flick (Witherspoon) petitioning for student body president. She sees one of her teachers, Jim McAllister (Broderick) and the uneasy chemistry between the 'go with the flow' Jim and the 'over-achieving' Tracy is apparent, but not blatantly obvious.

The movie follows Tracy and Jim through the days leading up to the election, in which the two stories of the characters' history and feelings for one another are told through a series of freeze frames in which one character talks about the other. In Tracy's eyes, Jim is pathetic and conventional. To Jim, Tracy is a force to be stopped in the election, which in

Jim's eyes is just a small stepping stone to her plans to take over the school, then the world.

With Tracy as the only candidate for class president and Jim getting anxious about her victory, he convinces ex-football star Paul Metzler (Chris Klein) to run against her. However, Paul's sister, Tammy Metzler (Jessica Campbell) has just been dumped by her supposed girlfriend Lisa, who thought Tammy and she were just experimenting with sexuality.

Tammy needs some way to get back at her popular brother and at Lisa, who has now become Paul's girlfriend (without his knowledge of her previous sexual encounters with his sister). Now Tammy's in the election.

This movie was great because of the twists it had in it. *Election* could have been very confusing with all of the highlighting of different characters off and on, but instead made for an interesting story line that had one character mesh well with the others.

The acting was also another highlight of the movie. The stars, mainly Witherspoon and Broderick, did a good job of keeping the actions low key, but the tones of their voices spoke volumes. Campbell gave a hilarious performance. She played a high school sophomore, but in real life she is only a freshman.

Many close-up shots were used in this movie, causing the character's eyes to become very important in letting the audience know what was being felt at a certain moment. This was probably very hard for the actors to do; however, they did an excellent job of making it easy for the audience to pick up on their emotions.

The comedy was wonderfully hidden inside the ironic plot, therefore corny jokes were not necessary to squeeze a strained laugh out of the audience. Writer/Director Alexander Payne did a good job of making this satirical movie successful and not just a lame movie about some dinky election. ★★★1/2

Young violinist captures new audience

By Bart Visser

Blink your eyes again in disbelief, but do not look away just because this is an article about classical music. A new force on the music scene is a 19-year-old woman who truly knows and understands what it means to be a musician.

At the age of eighteen, Hilary Hahn had already achieved recognition around the world as a major musical talent as a violinist.

In her second album under Sony Classical Records, Hahn teamed up with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (directed under David Zinman) to perform Beethoven's violin concerto and the Bernstein Serenade.

Hilary said in the CD liner notes that she chose to perform the concertos because

they both fascinated her. "The Beethoven is, for me,



Hilary Hahn

one of the supreme compositions written for any instrument, and its seamless combination of high lyricism and dramatic depth has appealed

to me since the first time I heard it," said Hahn.

You can visualize this feeling as you listen to this exceptional musician play Beethoven with vibrant and precise notes; she's simply captivating.

"The Bernstein Serenade is quite different. Brilliant and mercurial, it strikes me with the freewheeling force of a sophisticated street argument," said Hahn.

When I thought of Bernstein's concerto, I did not really think of a street argument myself. I thought it was a perfect piece to drift away to when you are exhausted and want to collapse.

All in all, this is good CD and I'd recommend it to anyone. ★★★

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Entrapment: a shocking thriller

Connery proves he's still one of the best actors around

By Jeff Goluszka

Sean Connery's latest attempt at an action thriller, *Entrapment*, was supported by a creative plot, but boringly dragged along with dull scenes and choppy transitions.

Connery, who has previously starred in *The Rock* and *The Hunt for Red October*, plays Robert "Mac" MacDougal, an elderly and experienced thief. Catherine Zeta-Jones (*The Mask of Zorro*) plays his "partner," Gin.

The film begins as Gin is breaking into a heavily secured building to steal a multi-million dollar Rembrandt painting.

However, she has two motives; in addition to being a thief, she is an insurance agent under the direction of Hector Cruz (played by Will Patton of *Armageddon* and *The Client*). Cruz assigns her to keep tabs on Mac and hopefully capture him.

The film acquires its namesake shortly thereafter when Mac blackmails Gin and she insists it's "entrapment." He now has complete control over Gin.

The couple plans for the next "job," stealing The Mask, an ancient Chinese artifact. They train for weeks for the barrier of alarmed lasers guarding The Mask. Soon they have exactly what they will do down to the last second.

The job is orchestrated to coincide with the millenium, so that at 12:00 a.m. on January 1, 2000 the security system will temporarily allow them to gain access to the room that holds The Mask.

In the middle of all this, Mac and Gin are hassled by Thibadeaux (played by Ving Rhames of *Pulp Fiction* and *Mission: Impossible*) who supplies their equipment.

Throughout the rest of the

film, Mac, Gin, Thibadeaux, and Hector secretly plot against each other and eventually reveal their previously undetectable secret identities.

In addition, the young, fit and beautiful Gin is openly attracted to the old and gray Mac (even though they have about a 40-year age difference) even though he persistently disapproves and rejects her.

Even though Connery and Zeta-Jones are complete opposites, their comedic banter makes them a great team. Connery did an excellent job (as usual) in his traditional action/thriller role.

Zeta-Jones also did a great job in her major motion picture debut. Her seductive, yet innocent demeanor gives her a mental edge over her counterparts.

She clearly stood out in this film as a talented new face in the world of entertain-

ment.

Rhames was perfect for his role; many remember his big, dark, muscular appearance from his role in *Mission: Impossible* alongside Tom Cruise. His commanding voice and appearance complement the story line well.

Entrapment was co-written by William Boyles, Jr. (*Apollo 13*) and Ronald Bass (*My Best Friend's Wedding*). What this captivating script lead to was an eye-catching film with great camera angles, but also a slowly progressing tale that led the viewer to thoughts of drifting away to sleep.

One began to wonder when this two-hour film would come to an end, but when it did it was unsurprising.

Although *Entrapment* was clever and tricky, it was still choppy and somewhat disappointing. ★★1/2

Moffatts may be makin' it

By Sarah Kochniarczyk

A young band with a taste of Hanson and a dancing beat like Backstreet Boys: it's the Moffatts, and this band isn't so bad.

The Moffatts are releasing their first CD called *Chapter 1: A New Beginning*, which includes upbeat songs, love songs and rock and roll tunes.

The band is from Vancouver, Canada. The new hip band has four talented boys behind all this music. Robert Moffatt does vocals and plays the drums. Robert is the middle triplet who was inspired by groups of all areas of the music business such as Metallica, The Beatles, The Beach Boys, and Garth Brooks.

Clint Moffatt plays the drums and he is the oldest of the triplets. Bryan Adams, Michael Jackson, and Silverchair have inspired Clint. The youngest triplet is Dave Moffatt (keyboards). Dave was also inspired by The Beatles.

The oldest brother (not part of the triplets) is Scott Moffatt who handles vocals and guitar. Scott listens to a wide array of music including Nirvana, the Doors, Bon Jovi, and Elvis Presley.

The CD has a few good songs. "I'll Be There For

You" and "If Life Is So Short," are two of my favorites. The lyrics are what really captures me. It surprised me, because they are so young. However, they seem to express people's emotions very well.

"Until You Loved Me," is one of their big hits. It appears on the soundtrack to the new Drew Barrymore film, *Never Been Kissed*.

The Moffatts have already put out three albums, played more than 1,200 shows around the world, including a performance at the White House, gone platinum in numerous countries, been written about in *USA Today*, *Entertainment Weekly*, and appeared on national T.V. and radio shows.

The Moffatts began by playing country music. However, this album has changed their music style to hip-hop rock, and out of country-style music.

This CD surprised me; I wasn't expecting to hear some good music. However, the Moffatts could be the new hit for the next year. Keep your ears peeled for hearing their songs on TV, radio, or in the next music store you walk into. The Moffatts have a future of sticking it out in the music business. ★★1/2

Simon Says what?

By Dan Young

Loud guitars, decent lyrics and really annoying interviews: this is the stuff that legends are not made of, yet the newest group on the scene, Simon Says, has a shot at making it to the big time.

The band is comprised of Matt Franks (lead singer), Zac Diebels (guitar), Michael Arrieta (bass), and Mike Johnson (drums). Their songs range in themes from crowd-following to making a change for the better.

Simon Says issued a sampler tape with three songs from their album *Jump Start*.

The first song on the sampler tape is called "Slider" and is quite heavy. It's tough to understand what Franks is trying to say, but the heavy guitars are quite powerful and follow the logic of all heavy music artists.

The group is straightforward and the artists

explain themselves during an interview between each song.

Depending on the question, a different member of the group would answer. Johnston adds a bit of humor to the dull interviews when he is asked, "Do you have anything to add to that

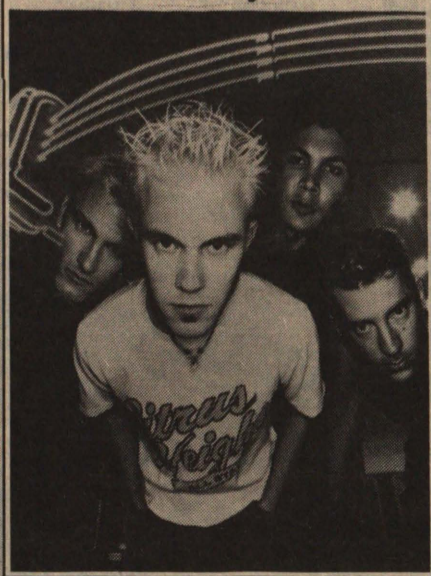
bers of the band are into heavy music and they couldn't see themselves doing anything other than that. The song is difficult to understand as the guitars undermine whatever Franks was trying to say.

The third song, "Life Jacket," is near the other two after a nifty intro riff and the lyrics are more understandable. The guitars often overpower Franks' singing, which is something the band might want to address in the future. The band isn't looking for huge stardom, like a Pearl Jam, but they just want to make their living doing what they love to do and that's to play powerful music.

This isn't a bad sample and the band might actually make it someday, if they want to.

The microphone needs to have its volume increased but other than that, they are a pretty good band. The future looks bright for Simon Says. ★★1/2

simon says



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Trippin' with your friends

By Becky Guerrero

Featuring the stars of today, *Trippin'* tells the story of Gregory Reed played by Deon Richmond (of TV sitcom "Sister Sister").

The film starts with life through what he Reed is imagining. Donald Adeosun Faison (*Clueless*) plays June, one of Reed's best friends. He is basically a sweet talking player.

Another one of Reed's best friends, Fish (played by Guy Torry), is a video fanatic, an African pride believer and sort of follower, showing up in ironic places.

The setting takes place mostly at Dubois High School where the students seem to be getting a good education, except for Reed, June and Fish who have blown their way through

high school. Into their final months of high school, Reed's idea of planning the future is trying to figure out how he will pay for prom.

Working in a fast food joint, his parents agree to help him with money if he fills out college applications.

This is where the title *Trippin'* comes in. His fantasies take over him, and he daydreams constantly, leaving him doing obnoxious and embarrassing things in public.

He's also struggling with Cinny (played by Maia Campbell), the love of his life.

Reed has many goals set for himself, including getting money for prom, getting into a college, and getting a date

with Cinny. Since she doesn't even know he exists, he has a lot of proving to do.

By lying and cheating, Reed eventually gets most of the things he wants. Of course, nothing is perfect and many things backfire against him.

Through many lessons and finding his one true love, he has to realize the difference between his real life and his fantasy world. It is now his time to prove himself to everyone, make up for his mistakes, and most of all get Cinny back.

Trippin' is a movie you would have to see with friends. It's a good comedy with a great plot that gets to the point in a running time of 100 minutes. ★★★

Boys tennis

We-go finishes on high note

By Jeff Goluszka

The We-go boys tennis team concluded their season at sectionals on May 22, 1999 with losses to Geneva and Wheaton North.

At sectionals, the doubles tandem of seniors Andy Spalo and Christian Vigsnes were defeated by Geneva 0-5, 2-6. The second doubles team of junior Mike Kostal and sophomore Garrett Hoffmann played competitively, but lost to Wheaton North 0-6, 5-7.

In singles action, freshman Matt Neumann was defeated by Geneva 1-6, 2-6. Also, junior Mike Boes lost to Wheaton North 0-6, 1-6.

Head coach Sione Moeaki said, "We have improved a lot comparing to the beginning of the season."

One of the Wildcats' most successful contests was at the Glenbard North Quad. The doubles team of Spalo and Vigsnes held court at the Quad by defeating all three other teams.

Spalo and Vigsnes defeated seniors Puneet Leekha and Brandon Pouch 6-2, 6-0. They also defeated seniors Mohammed Adenwala and Rishin Pardayou of Streamwood 6-2, 6-0. Finally, Spalo and Vigsnes beat Viraj Patel and Fran Macchiarella of Addison Trail 6-0, 6-3.

We-go's lone other victor was the doubles team of Kostal and Neumann, who defeated Samir Shah and Smiresh Shah of Streamwood 7-6, 6-3.

Spalo and Vigsnes lost a few matches in the middle of the season, but finished off strong with four straight vic-

tories.

On May 10, Spalo and Vigsnes defeated junior Mike Alderson and senior Andre Petzold of Plainfield 6-2, 6-2.

At the same contest, We-go's three doubles teams swept Streamwood in three matches. In addition to Spalo and Vigsnes' victory, juniors Dan Toboja and Mike Boes defeated junior Dan McMillin and sophomore Chris King 6-4, 7-5. In We-go's third victory, Kostal and Neumann won 6-2, 6-1 over junior Isaac Kleefisch and sophomore Bob Garbold.

We-go's best doubles tandem continued with a second victory over Leekha and Pouch of Glenbard North 6-3, 6-3.

As We-go played its third game in three days, Spalo and Vigsnes defeated Chris Gioia and Chris Hack of Glenbard South 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 on May 12. Kostal and Neumann were also victors over the Panthers with a 7-5, 6-1 win against juniors Paul Tayaban and Ariel Salazar.

The next day Spalo and Vigsnes were victorious in a 6-2, 6-1 victory over sophomore Matt Bing and senior Jon Constantine of Oswego.

In other matches earlier in the season, Kostal and Hoffmann defeated Ben Collins and Jay Stonebing of Batavia 6-3, 7-6.

Spalo and Vigsnes were also victorious against St. Francis in a hard-earned 7-6, 7-5 win over seniors T.C. Jackson and Tom O'Brien.

Moeaki commented on We-go's eighth place finish

in the DVC as he said, "We were successful at the end of the season. All we wanted to do was improve from the beginning. All we can do is improve."

Moeaki mentioned that Spalo and Vigsnes showed the most leadership on the team, and added that they are "very mature and experienced."

As for the most improved players, Moeaki said, "Kostal, Neumann, Boes, and Hoffmann have improved the most since the beginning of the year."

Moeaki also added, "Most of the players displayed a good work ethic; they always attended meetings and practice."

Many of the Wildcats will continue to play tennis, said Moeaki. "Many of them take lessons and play in tournaments over the summer."

As for the outlook on next year, Moeaki said he looks to Neumann, Kostal, Hoffmann, Boes, and sophomore Mitchell Strohm to be the top players next year.

Moeaki concluded with, "I hope the kids continue to prepare for next year. It'll make a difference."

Girls soccer

Looking for commitment

By Arlete Penaflor

The girls soccer season finally came to an end on May 21, 1999, with more losses than wins.

After a long season, both the varsity team and the junior varsity team faced the end of their season with the varsity having an overall record of 1-6-3 and a conference record of 0-3 (as of Friday, May 14). The junior varsity team ended up with a record of 1-9-1 and a conference record of 1-5 (as of Friday, May 14). The freshmen team had a final record of 1-8-0 (as of Friday, May 14).

All levels faced a disappointing season this year, as they lost most of the games they played. However, several people on the soccer team thought that this year they were able to work more as a team.

"I think this has been my best year ever, only because this year we were all able to come together as a team since the beginning. We all stuck together until the end, unlike last year," said senior Nicole Medina.

This year the varsity team will only be losing four senior players since the rest of the team is new.

"I think next year the team is going to do really good because they are all young girls who got a lot of experience playing this year. The team will only be losing four players this year," said Medina.

The junior varsity team faced some commitment problems this year, which is something that really hurt them during the season.

"This year we struggled quite a bit. We had a lack of commitment to the game, attitude as well as commitment to the program," said junior varsity head coach Antonio DelReal.

DelReal said the junior varsity team was strong enough to have a winning season. "When we had a full team we were capable of competing. The lack of commitment from the girls really hurt us. One example is at the end of the season when we had a game against East Aurora we only had 12 players and the next day against Naperville North we had 24 players. Things changed from one day to another the girls just had to show up," said DelReal.

The junior varsity team lacked participation in games as well as practices.

"I hope that next year the whole team would participate in practice. That people try harder, as well as that we have more experienced soccer players," said sophomore Marsela Robles.

The soccer team has several goals next year. One is to have more commitment to the soccer program, while another one is to be stronger as a team to win more games.

"We need people who can make a commitment to the whole soccer season, not only during the season but the year round. This will help them maintain their skill and improve on their skills. Also for them to spend some time learning the basics of soccer playing this would help us out a lot," said freshmen head coach Robert Owens.

Hockey

Wildcats on winning streak

By Mark Kowal

The We-go Hockey Club is on a four game winning streak including one tie. They started their winning streak on May 2 against Naperville North. Then they went on to win the second game against Fenwick on May 9 with a win of 5-1. Then they shut out St. Joe's on May 16 with a score of 7-0.

Then on May 23 they came to a tie against Schaumburg with a score of 1-1. There wasn't much the hockey team could do with over 35 shots on goal the last game when they only were shot at five times. It's a turn-around for the team after they were on a long losing streak before their recent winning streak.

They started their losing streak versus Bartlett on April 17 then on April 18 they lost again to Nequa Valley then they lost the following week to Naperville North. The Wildcats did a complete turnaround since they got on their winning streak.

Sophomore Russ Downs said, "It sure looks like we were getting better hopefully we can keep it up."

It doesn't matter if they won or lost those games, because the spring season is more like a preseason. To the hockey team, the games are used more for practice and skill improvement rather than competition to be the best in the league.

Since the spring season is more like a preseason for next year the team is working on getting the kinks out of their team and trying to work out their problems so they won't repeat them next year.

It's still not over yet; the Wildcats still have three more games to play including Leyden on June 5, Lakepark on June 6, and their last game versus Nequa Valley on June 11. You can see the Wildcats play all these teams at Blades Ice Rink in Addison.

Boys volleyball

We-go wraps up season

By Heather Fenderson

The boys volleyball team ended their season with a happy ending. The final overall record was, 18-18. The boys varsity team, lead by coach Kris Hasty, enjoyed one last final victory, winning two out of the three games against Glenbard East.

In finals Hasty replied, "We were 3 and 9. We hoped to get a few more in though." Hasty also commended her setters, saying that they really were able to work together, pointing out senior Kevin Rugaard and sophomore Mark Lasky as her "star" setters.

The varsity team ended with a record of 16-18 and the freshman/sophomore team record of 8-10. Both teams "put a lot of effort into the game" according to freshman/sophomore coach Tony Nevrlly.

Putting a season into perspective isn't always easy to do. Commenting on the season, varsity player sophomore Jesse Salazar commented "We didn't exactly make our year long season goal. We need to learn to hit smarter and work together." Lasky added that while they didn't quite make their year long goal, "I'm really looking forward to next year. I'm ecstatic."

Hasty, also looking forward to next year said, "We had a great year and a lot of fun. The team is young and there will be a lot of players returning, so we hope to have an even better season next year."

Volleyball camps will be taking place this summer, from July 19-24.

Lasky commented, "I hope there'll be a lot of people playing club next year."

Salazar added that he, "Would like to say goodbye to all of the seniors. Next year is going to be a very exciting year."

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Girls track

Schineller wins fifth at state

By Katie Oen

For the first time in years, a member of the girls track meet was named an All-State Athlete. Junior Jocelyn Schineller received this honor with a fifth place finish in discus, with a throw of 129'8" on Saturday, May 22, 1999 at Eastern Illinois University. Coach Kelly Kolasa said, "It couldn't have ended any better with Jocelyn finishing All State."

Schineller qualified the day before in the preliminaries for discus with a throw of 125'3." Schineller also threw 33'7 1/2" for shot put but did not advance to the finals. Only the top 12 throwers advance in both events. Coach Stephen Draminski said, "I was very pleased. She looked very well technique-wise. I think she's got more in her, lots more for next year. She's a major contender for next year."

Members of the team competed in the Sectional meet to go down state on Friday, May 14, 1999 at Naperville North. Schineller qualified for State in the shot put on her first throw of 37'7." This throw was a two-foot personal best.

Afterwards she said, "It's not even sinking in right now. Discus is what I'm worried about right now. I've gotten so many hugs and the team has been so encouraging. I just hope I can get my first throw out there so I won't be nervous just like in shot."

A few minutes later, Schineller threw her first throw in discus and once

again she was qualified for state competition with a throw of 128'10."

Draminski said, "All year we've been working up to this and she's been very con-

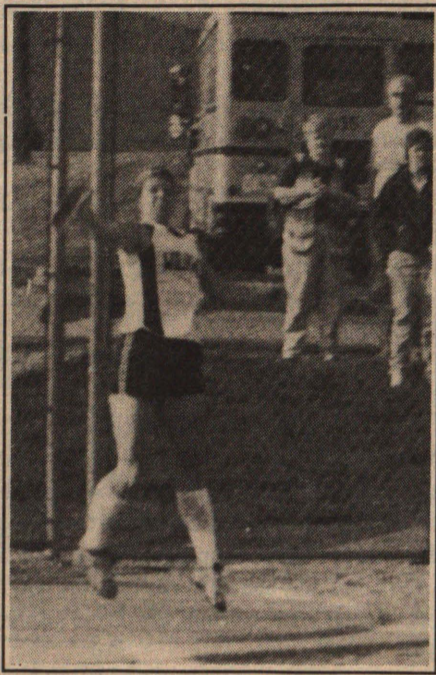


Photo by Katie Oen

Junior Jocelyn Schineller makes her state-qualifying throw of 128' 10" at Naperville North on May 14.

sistent. Having the shot [put] first and having her do well gave her much more of a psychological boost. I've always been taught to peak towards the end of the season and she's peaking and is at the top of her game."

Coach Aaron Carper said, "Jocelyn had an incredible performance. She did awesome."

During the rest of the meet, freshman Meghan Young ran the mile in 5:40 seconds, almost two seconds faster than at the DVC meet a week ear-

lier. Meanwhile, senior Jami Shanks threw 32'10" in shot put, a personal best.

The team competed in the DVC meet on Friday, May 7, 1999 at Naperville North.

The varsity team took eighth place with fourteen points. Competitors and points were:

Glenbard North, 155; Naperville Central, 126; Wheaton North, 91.5; Naperville North, 61; Wheaton Warrenville South,

53.5; West Aurora, 39; and Glenbard East, 20.

Schineller placed second in the discus with a throw of 132'2 1/4." She also took fourth in shot put with a throw of 35'2." Junior Christine Cleveland took fifth place in the high jump with a jump of 4'8."

Kolasa said, "I was very pleased. Varsity managed very well. Shanks threw 98'10" in discus, which was a season best. Jocelyn [Schineller] threw 132'2 1/4", which was a PR [personal record] of seven feet. She also threw shot at 35'2" which puts her third in the state. Every throw is over state qualifying."

At the junior varsity level, the team took fifth place, earning 33 points. The team took second in the 3200-meter relay with a time of 10:22.4 seconds. Kolasa said, "The 4 x 8 [3200 m] team took second and missed first by a second. The team improved by 28 seconds. All PR's of 6 seconds or more."

Freshman Jenny Boyd took sixth in the 800 meter run in 2:41.2. Young took first in the 1600 meter run in 5:41.9. Sophomore Angela Hanson took first in the high jump with 4'8."

The runners and throwers had things to say about what they had done. Junior Terri Jensen said, "I PR'd with 32' in triple jump finally this year. Today was great for everyone. There were a lot of PR's." Shanks said, "Laura [Wilken] PR'd by 12' in discus. Schineller was awesome today. I PR'd by 9' in discus." Junior Michelle Lasky said, "I was pleased with my performance but I could have done better. There's room for improvement. Thanks to the help of Terri [Jensen] and Kathy [Brinn] calling out my time helped me push myself."

This is last Sectional meet for Kolasa as she has decided to resign for personal reasons.

Girls softball

West Chicago conquers DVC

By Jeff Goluszka

The West Chicago girls softball team had an amazing year, winning 18 of their final 20 regular season games.

After stumbling out to a 4-6 start, they closed out the season with an 18-2 run to finish with a record of 22 wins and eight losses.

The Wildcats had an incredible season. Not only did they win 20 games, they won the DuPage Valley Conference title.

"At the beginning of the year, our goals were to win 20 games, win the DVC, and win regionals," said varsity head coach Jim Schaudt. "So far we've achieved two of those three."

On May 27, the Cats were preparing for their first regional game against Oswego. If the Cats were to win, they would face the winner of West Aurora vs. Neuqua Valley.

We-go is a highly touted team, as they are ranked in the Daily Herald Top 10 and the Chicago Sun-Times Top 25.

"We've done as well as we expected. There's been some really good competition in the DVC this year, but we took care of business," said senior catcher Angela Valdez.

This year's varsity squad is used to victory, as they have won the conference title during all four levels playing together.

As for the success this year, Schaudt added, "[Senior pitcher] Ana Fernandez and [senior third baseman] Jenny Hoffmann stood out. Fernandez and Valdez also displayed great leadership."

Senior right fielder Jeanette Arroyo, Valdez, junior center fielder Missy Krueger and junior shortstop Kelly Bolton all were selected to All-Conference teams this year, according to Schaudt.

"Angela has been hitting really well this year," said senior Molly Saul.

"[Senior second baseman] Chrissy Dabbert has soft hands, she's got a golden glove," said junior Kristin Leatherer.

As for next year's team, the Wildcats will lose ten seniors to graduation.

"We'll be looking to Krueger, Bolton, [sophomore] Megan Leston, and [sophomore] Tonya Peccararo to be top players on next year's team," said Schaudt.

"We've had a great year and I've had a great time with the kids," added Schaudt.

Boys track

Running for a victory

By Marla D'Aversa

The boys track team is finishing off a great season with state. Five boys headed to state: junior Tim Keller, and seniors Wes Skidgel, Dan Young, Jeff Stogis, and Bart Visser.

Keller, after his record-breaking performances all season will be All-Conference for the 3200 meter run. He is currently placed fourth, and the outlook for Keller to come home with something is very good. Senior Ed Torres of Wheeling is seeded first with a time of 9:15.2. Junior Donald Sage of Elmhurst and senior Mike Cropper of Hoffman Estates are seeded second and third with times of 9:18.0, and 9:19.3 respectively.

Skidgel, Young, Stogis, and Visser are participating in the 3200 meter relay, which is ranked sixth out of 42 teams. Only twelve will be allowed to go on to the finals. Pontiac is seeded first with a time of 7:53.3, and our time is 7:57.4. Other schools seeded between first and West Chicago, are in order, Crystal Lake, Evanston, Downers Grove, and Glenbard West.

State results will not be ready in time for publishing, but check the announcements Tuesday.

For the overall outdoor track season highlights, the boys took second out of nine teams at the Willowbrook Invitational. At sectionals, the boys took tenth place out of 17 teams. The Indoor track season saw another second place at Glenbard North Panther Invitational which had nine teams attending.

Boys baseball

Wildcats point to missed opportunities

By Sarah Kochniraczyk

"We should have been second or third in conference," said junior Sean Peterson. However, West Chicago's varsity baseball team ended their conference season with a record of 6-15, overall record 13-18. Although not quite making second in conference, Peterson said, "We can win our regional if we beat St. Charles."

The We-go Varsity team had Peterson batting an average of .423 making All-Conference, and senior Brian Raymond, and sophomore John Kolodick making honorable mention. Peterson said, "[All-Conference] it was one of my goals this season."

This year's team had their ups and downs, but overall the season didn't go too badly. Coach Kevin Gimre said, "I strongly believe we are a better team than our record indicates. We had a bad stretch of games in the middle of our season when we could not come up with a big play or hit."

Now that the conference season is over the team will be

focusing on regionals. Gimre said, "We have a great opportunity to advance past the first game and play a strong St. Charles team." West Chicago will be played their first regional game on Thursday, May 27, 1999 and results were unavailable at press time. If they won, they will play Saturday, May 29, 1999, and if We-go wins on Saturday they will continue to play on Monday, May 31.

Although the Wildcats have regionals left, what will next year be like? They will be losing many talented seniors, including Raymond who accepted a scholarship at University of Illinois. Peterson said, "We'll be losing middle in field, but sophomore Joe Lureau and junior Lars Higdon are solid." Kolodick has also been doing a good job in the field. Showing his talent by making Honorable Mention in conference.

This year's varsity baseball team didn't clench second or third place in conference, but they have a chance in regionals.