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Wildcat Chronicle



West Chicago Community High School
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Sold out performances end drama season on high note

By Leslie Shambo

The musical "Fiddler on the Roof" was performed with an ounce of perfection on May 18, 19, and 20. The performance sold out all three evenings.

Director Mary Hafertepe said of opening night, "It was exciting! I'm so proud of them. They really 'got it.'"

Senior Beau Brown stated, "It was great to see we could all pull together (and stay really late) to make an awe-

some show we're all proud of."

The play opened with a prologue given by senior Chris Thomas, who played Terye, a Russian dairyman who struggles to

raise five daughters and match them with proper husbands, especially his eldest, Tzeitel, played by senior Kendra Norton.

When the butcher, Lazar Wolf, played by senior Matt Grogan, asks for Tzeitel's hand in marriage, Terye agrees. Yet the betrothal falls heavily upon Tzeitel's shoulders, as her heart belongs to the tailor, Motel Kamsoil, played by Brown.

The show including many stellar performances, many of which were from first-time actors. Senior Mario Marrero carried a sense of honesty and dignity in his portrayal of Fyedka, a Russian soldier. Senior Nick Pray delivered an outstanding solo in

the fourth scene as a Russian singer.

Many experienced actors also gave notable performances. Thomas and Brown brought the musical to

a peak with their incredible acting and singing. Senior Amy Aiello delivered an excellent representation of Grandma Tzeitel, and sophomore Copper Tuma was realistic and energetic as Fruma-Sarah, Lazar Wolf's first wife.

Junior Anders Walker was honest and charming in his portrayal of Perchik, the man who vies for the attention of Terye's second daughter Hodel (played by junior and superb vocalist Elissa Dupree).

Seniors Norton and Sara Knox (who played Terye's wife Golde) sang beautifully and acted with great emotion throughout the play.

Other excellent performances came from seniors

Anne Schullo (who played Terye's daughter Chava), Meredith Moore (Yente, the match-maker), Jesus Favela

(Mordcha, the innkeeper), and Chris Pagnozzi (the rabbi), as well as junior Chris Hendricks (Sasha, Fydeka's friend), sophomores Tony Palombi (Mendel, the rabbi's son), Nicole Patel (Shandel, Motel's mother), Chris Gerber (the constable), Luke Taylor (Avram, a bookseller), Steve Knox (Yussel, a hatter), and Anthony DeLegee (Nahum, a beggar), and freshmen Jessica Varble (Shprintze, Terye's daughter), and Monaca Thomas (Terye's daughter).

The musical could not have been complete without the assistance of the orchestra and 'the fiddler' (senior

Ami Godoy).

The orchestra, which played without a hitch, was conducted by choir director Lisa Smith, and included seniors Karin VanderNaalt (piccolo/flute), Heidi Lakics (clarinet), Amanda Hallock (bass clarinet), Mike Kostal (trumpet), Dave Toney (violin), and Brian Miller (keyboard), as well as juniors Malissa Kane (piccolo/flute), Shane Ness (trumpet), Jesse Askin (trumpet), Brian Jones (trombone), and Adam Fritz (percussion), sophomores Amanda Meilborg (violin), Beth Deutsch (viola), and Dan Godoy (cello), and freshmen James Garcia (clarinet), Joseph Wanka (accordion/keyboard), and Brad Sabathne (percussion).

Shannon Wood and Alice Graham joined the orchestra from Wheaton North.

Hafertepe added, "We accomplished our goal of providing a gift to the audience."

Thomas said, "The cast had a fun time together and the show ended up great! It was a wonderful experience to have as my last We-go production."



Photo by Henrik Muhlradt
Director Mary Hafertepe carefully applies make-up to senior Jesus Favela.

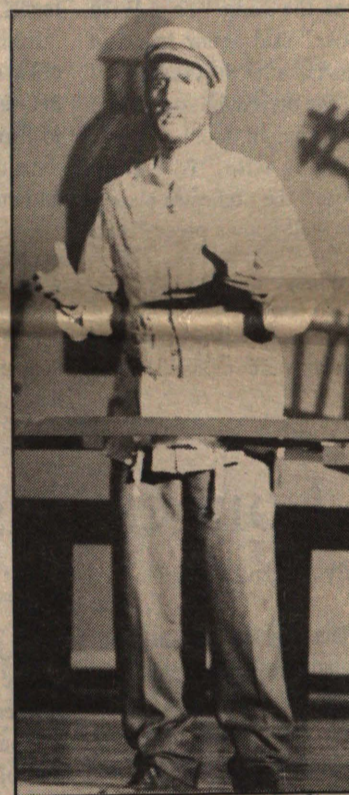


Photo by Matt Shane
Thomas pleads for answers.



Photo by Sarah Kochniarczyk
Senior Chris Thomas and junior Andres Walker steal the stage with their performance.

Final update at last

By Sarah Kochniarczyk

Hallways: There are hallways still being redone for the school in the main hallway and outside the small gymnasium. New lighting and accoustical ceiling tile will be added to these new rooms when finished.

These hallways should be done by the end of the summer. Construction is slated to be completed before school begins in August.

As for the old math hallway, nothing has been done or added to these classrooms.

Library: The new entrance to the library will remain on the west side, and any other additions to the library will be worked on next school year.

Parking: We-go will need to add more parking most likely, but as for next year, according to Assisant Superintendent Gary Grizaffi, 26 new parking spots will be added.

As for the future, they will handle that problem when the time comes.

Third Floor: The third floor was been rennovated and is ready to have classrooms set up. All new HVAC, new plumbing, some new lighting and painting, and floor finished have been added and redone. According to Grizaffi, all third floor rooms will be English classrooms.

Also, a new classroom has been designed for next

fall for publications. It will contain 15 personal computers and an office for yearbook and the newspaper.

"The south side of the third floor is currently open and there will be five classrooms occupied as of May 21," said Grizaffi. Tech panels were added to each room along with new HVAC, and all rooms will be ready next fall.

Lincoln School: Currently there is no change scheduled for Lincoln school and the foreign language classrooms will remain in Lincoln.

Summer: Construction will continue to proceed through the end of the summer. The process is running smoothly and according to Grizaffi everything is currently on schedule and on budget.

Changing ways for the school year 2000-01:

New crew for the fall

By Sarah Kochniarczyk

Math: Michelle D. Perzee- Department Chairperson

English: Patricia K. Santella- English teacher

Arts: JoAnna S. Rieger- Art teacher

Guidance: Nancy T. Douglas- Guidance counselor and chairperson for guidance department

Physical Education: Heather K. Dunlap- Physical education/health teacher

Registration dates for the fall

Freshmen: August 14, 8 a.m.-noon; 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Sophomores: August 9, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Juniors: August 8, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Night Registration: August 8, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Seniors: August 7, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

First day of school: August 23, 7:45 a.m.

Music department ends the year loud and proud

By Jamie Nadolny

Sounds of violins and trumpets echoed through West Chicago High School's auditorium during the annual 'Spring Band and Orchestra Concert' held on May 25. The concert, which began at 7:30 p.m., also featured We-go's combined choirs.

The concert opened with the orchestra performing the slow, dramatic theme from Paramount Picture's "Love Story."

The mood lightened a bit when the auditorium was filled with the familiar song of the ice cream man. The orchestra's second piece, the popular and upbeat "Entertainer," was immediately followed by the song, "To a Wild Rose."

"My favorite piece to play was the song "To a Wild Rose," said junior Jose San Roman after the concert.

"We played the song really well tonight, too."

Along with "To a Wild Rose," the orchestra played the well-known piece "Take 5."

When "Take 5" was finished, the orchestra played the song "Woodlands," which was composed by or-

chestra director Rebecca Keil. The slow song, dedicated to Keil's grandmother, won two awards.

"It was a dream for the orchestra to play my piece," said Keil. "The viola arrangement was harder than what my students are used to, and at first [the orchestra] didn't think they could play it, but they did a wonderful job. I couldn't have asked for it to be played better."

The orchestra's final song was the famous Disney number "Under the Sea."

Taking a short break before the piece, the orchestra members put on Hawaiian colored shirts, and they also attached sea-inspired decorations to their instruments.

Keil, dressed in a long, colorful robe and a lobster hat, directed the orchestra to a loud performance and a standing ovation from the audience.

Keil also announced the orchestra's scholarship winner, four-year orchestra member and senior Jeff Tilson. Tillson, who plans to attend Judson College in the fall, said, "My favorite

orchestra memory is of the Grand piano in the choir/orchestra room." He also commented about the night's performance, saying, "I think that everyone could have done a little better. No one ever plays perfect, so there's always a little room for improvement. I do think that we played "Under the Sea" really well, though, and the audience enjoyed it the most."

After a ten-minute intermission, band director James Guter called concert band onto the auditorium stage. Walking out in straight lines the band members found their seats and waited for Guter to begin their first march, "The Sinfonians."

"That is one of my favorite marches," Guter stated after the song was finished. "It's used by the [Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia] Fraternity of America, and it really is a glorious march."

The band's next piece was "Cole Porter on Broadway," and it featured songs such as "Let's Do It" and "Anything Goes."

After "Cole Porter on Broadway," the concert

band performed their third number, "Meditation from 'Thais'."

Guter introduced the song, saying, "It's hard to believe, but in the music department, we do more than plan concerts and wave our arms around while directing the band, orchestra, and choir. We're actually professional musicians, too."

During "Mediation from 'Thais', choir director Lisa Smith was featured as a surprise flute soloist. "I wasn't that nervous," Smith said afterwards. "I've played the piece hundreds of times before, and I know it well."

Smith's confidence was evident when she was on stage, because her serious performance was flawless.

The concert band also performed "At the End of the Day," "I Dreamed a Dream," "Master of the House," "On My Own," and "Do You Hear the People Sing?" from the popular stage production "Les Miserable."

Going from a sophisticated arrangement to a childhood favorite, Guter introduced the band's next song by asking the audience

not to "get up and gallop around the auditorium."

The band's rendition of the "William Tell Overture" did motivate a few students to "gallop" in their seats, however.

The band continued to bring back old memories when they played songs from the classic "Man of La Mancha." The production will also be next year's marching band theme, which will feature songs such as "Man of La Mancha," "Dulcinea," and "The Impossible Dream."

"The arrangement that the concert band played tonight will not be the same next fall," Guter said after the concert. "The music will sound differently during the marching season, but we wanted to play pieces from "Man of La Mancha" tonight so that the audience could get a feel for what next year's football games will be like."

The concert band's last song, "Battle Hymn of the Republic," also featured West Chicago's combined choirs. Directed by Smith, the choir members stood in front of the band.

"We only practiced once

with the band," said senior Sara Knox. "When the band played with us during second and third hour, there was so much sound. When all of the choirs are together with the band, it's unbelievable."

After the song was finished, the audience members immediately rose to their feet as they indicated their appreciation for the concert. "Three years ago, the music department was dying here at We-go. I think we've made great strides in three years," said Guter.

When all of the audience members had left the auditorium, and as the band members began to put away their instruments, Guter also commented on the night's performances. "Everyone was on the par tonight. I'm really pleased with the concert band, because they played well," he said, "The choir singing with the band was the best part of the concert, because the last song really appealed to the audience. The entire concert was a success."

Longest last day at We-go

By Alexandra Patin

This year will end in a full attendance day, according to Principal Alan Jones, unlike some years in the past when students would get out after their tenth hour final exams.

However, Jones said he is not expecting many students to show up.

Jones said this day is put in place because of a minimum number of days schools must be in attendance, as required by the State of Illinois. He said We-go students will be in school about 176 days, which is the exact minimum.

So what happens if the school doesn't attend 176 days? The school loses its accreditation, said Jones.

This is a problem because if a high school isn't accredited, the students coming out of that high school who want to go to college will have a harder time getting in.

Even though some people might think we go to school enough, Jones said the state legislature is looking to extend the school year to an all-year round school year.

"You're not competing with Glenbard North anymore - you're competing with

Hong Kong," said Jones, and he stressed the scores of international schools in comparison with just schools in the United States.

However, Jones said that if the school year did lengthen, the days would have to become shorter.

This would mean that students would attend school for about five hours a day.

He said that right now, students don't have enough time to pursue their own interests in school, and that if the school day did shorten, he would add more art, poetry, and music classes.

The reason we can not shorten the school day now is a cost issue, Jones said. We-go shares the buses for students with District 33.

This means that the school is cutting down on the expense of buses by prolonging the school day.

Even with a shortened school day, though, We-go would still have to be in school for 300 minutes to be in accordance with a new rule, said Jones.

Another part of this rule is that the school can't of-

fer lab sciences for under 45 minutes because it wouldn't be a true science, he said.

Jones also stated that he thinks it is unfortunate that school is looked at as a "custodial institution," and that people look on longer school days as a way of keeping students off the streets.

One perk in the next school year: we will once again have Casimir Pulaski day off.

Exam days

- Monday, June 5
senior exams 0-3 and regular afternoon
- Tuesday, June 6
senior exams 4-10
- Wednesday, June 7
freshman - junior exams 0-3 dismissal 12:45 p.m.
- Thursday, June 8
freshman - junior exams 4-9 dismissal 12:45
- Friday, June 9
freshman - junior exams 10 and periods 1 - 9 meet dismissal 1:00 p.m.

We-go adopts a senior

By Alexandra Patin

A senior citizen in need will receive a helping hand again this year because of the efforts of two We-go sophomores.

During the week of May 8-12, We-go is reenacting a "Senior Citizen Awareness Week."

Sophomores Stella Peduzzi and Jackie Walters decided to raise money through the school to help a senior citizen in the community through an organization called Humanitarian Service Project.

Their goal was to raise at least \$780, which is enough money to sponsor one senior citizen for one year.

Peduzzi and Walters collected the money by making Humanitarian Service

classrooms.

The non-profit organization raises

However, this is not the first time

We-go has adopted a senior. The



Photo by Lauren Nickelson

An elderly pair strike a pose at the Holmstad retirement home in Batavia.



Photo by Lauren Nickelson

Two kind senior citizens enjoy the evening on the patio outside.

Project donation boxes and displaying them in participating teacher's

money to meet "physical, practical needs in the community" said Advisor Mary Ellen Daneels. She helped Peduzzi and Walters with the project, and was the teacher of the Community Leadership class that the girls were in.

Every student has to do a project at the end of the year, said Daneels, and this was their project.

HSP has been working with We-go for seven years now and has adopted four children, one for each class.

The HSP helps buy children birthday and Christmas presents and school supplies.

The HSP gives the statistic that there are over 9,000 seniors in poverty in DuPage, which is one of the richest counties in the U.S.

The students who take the Community Leadership elective class receive a credit.

Student Activities

Math team

By Laura McQueen

Freshman Patrick Bauer, juniors Tom Barta and Sean Palmer, and senior Misha Shemyakin travelled to state to represent We-go in the Math team competition; however none of the students placed.

Bauer competed in Algebra one, while Barta and Palmer competed in Algebra two. Shemyakin was in the Pre-calculus and oral competition. None of the students placed in the state.

The state tournament was at Southern Illinois University on April 28, but students still were able to attend prom. Their bus left at seven a.m. the next morning for the tournament, which began at 10 a.m.

The team's advisors are math teachers Robert Gammelgaard, Rick Cazzato, Jeremy Babel, and Christine Mack.

The state tournament was the last Math team event of this year.

Any students interested in being on the math team next year should talk to their math teacher at the beginning of the 2000-2001 school year next fall.

Sophomore class

The sophomore class sold carnations on Thursday, May 25 and Friday, May 26 to students wanting to say goodbye to graduating seniors or wanting to do something nice for friends at the end of the year. The money raised from the fundraiser will be used for next year's prom.

The sophomores will also be selling class t-shirts and school bumper stickers during registration in the fall.

Individuals interested in ordering class t-shirts will be able to choose sizes when they fill out an order form at registration. The money raised from selling the shirts will be saved for next year's prom, as well.

Prom will be the class of 2002's main focus when school starts in August. They have already booked prom for May 11, 2001 at Abbington Banquets. They are also currently

Auf wiedersehen! to We-go students

By Alexandra Patin

Three students from We-go will be going on an all-expense paid trip next year to Germany through a program called Bundes-Tag.

Seniors Paul Mantz and Ross Jambi and sophomore Harold Visser were selected along with 300 other high school students from the U.S. to go to Germany, said German teacher Terri Strohm.

Strohm said that in order to be selected, the students had to fill out applications, write essays, go on interviews, and have a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

The three decided that they wanted to apply and had to have their forms and applications postmarked by December 1, 1999, said Strohm.

She said there were about five or six people from the Chicago area chosen to go to Germany, with about twelve from Illinois.

Every school was invited to participate in the program, said Strohm, and students didn't need to have knowledge of the German language to go, although she said it probably helped.

This year Robyn Leary and Liz Ribe are in Germany under the Bundes-Tag program, said Strohm, and also this year senior Lauren Belding has returned from her trip last year.

Strohm said that some students choose to graduate early so they don't miss out on a year of school.

Mantz, Jambi, Ribe, and Belding all chose to advance to their senior year one year early so they would be able to enter college upon their return to the U.S.

Strohm said We-go hasn't been participating in the program for the full 17 years it has been running, but she said it was around the mid-80s that the school got involved.

Marilyn Getlinger was the first person to go to Germany under the Bundes-Tag program.

Who's in office now?

By Marc Berry

Elections were held recently to decide student council positions for next year. The votes were tallied and the results are as follows:

Class of 2001

President: Dennis Janek; Vice president: Shannon Sterne; Secretary: Maggie Wdowriaz; Treasurer: Matt Shambo; Class representatives: Beth Brinn, Amanda Campognoni, Carrie Carpenter, Alexandra Corson, Chris Hendricks, Alexandra Patin, Nick Romanelli, Cathy Wilken.

Class of 2002

President: Jamie Nadolny; Vice president: Nelly Guerrero; Secretary: Lauren Migliorato; Treasurer: Lisa Calabrese; Class representatives: Hillary Blanchard, Berenice Leal, Sean McTighe, Jeff Raun, Kael Rewers, Michael Slusar, Jennifer Taylor, Copper Tuma, Julie Volk, Laura Wilken, and Jill Wolter.

Class of 2003

President: Kelly Sickman; Vice president: Shannon Sterne; Secretary: Maggie Wdowriaz; Treasurer: Matt Shambo; Class representatives: Sarah Assian, Patrick Baur, Jeff Cordina, Mike Doll, Jeremy Rose, Kendall Sharon, and C.J. Wostratzky.

Mind's Eye

The Mind's Eye is finishing off its activities. They recently completed their magazine and are selling it for \$2.00 in Commons. At the moment they are competing in the is a literary magazine award competition sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of English. Schools across the U.S. are competing in this national competition for high school literary magazines.

FBLA

FBLA returned from the March State competition with eleven placements. Senior Mike Kostal won second place in Business Procedures, senior Amy Fairbairn took fourth place in Job Interview, seniors Matt Borschke and Leslie Shambo won fifth place in Desktop Publishing, junior John McPheters won fifth place in Technology Concepts, junior Ken Yourek took seventh place in Business Law, junior Jenny Skrzyczynski won ninth place in Word Processing, junior Jim Demer took tenth place in Computer Concepts, sophomore Hilary Blanchard won first place in Parliamentary Procedures, sophomore Geoff Palka took second place in Economics, and freshman C.J. Wostratzky won third place in Business Math.

Kostal, Blanchard and Palka will attend the National competition, in Long Beach, California, in July.

The club is now preparing for their end-of-the-year pizza party and officer induction. The party will be held at Pal Joey's in West Chicago on June 4, from 4:30 p.m. until approximately 6:00 p.m. All old and new officers must attend, and all other members are encouraged to join in the fun.

2000-2001 FBLA Officer Board

President: Junior John McPheters
Vice President: Junior Tim Yormark
Secretary: Junior Ken Yourek
Treasurer: Freshman Matt Shambo
Parliamentarian: Sophomore Hilary Blanchard
Reporter: Freshman Kelly Siekmann
Variety Show Director: Junior Jenny Skrzyczynski
Events Coordinator: Sophomore Nicole Patel

German class going artsy



Photo by Melissa Brady

German 4 class at the Art Institute.

On Friday, May 19th, the Community High School German 4 class members took a field trip to the Art Institute in Chicago. The students had been learning about 20th century German art and architecture in class and were able to see, firsthand, some of the works they had studied.

The students commented that they found the trip enlightening and educational. Senior Keith Hassel said, "seeing the real works enabled us to see brush strokes, detail, depth and

the actual size of the works."

Senior Jenny Weichert said, "You can get a better meaning for the pictures." Senior Mike Rohr said, "everyone is entitled to their own impressions and matters of taste" when it comes to the paintings he saw.

Senior Lauren Belding said, "it is good to see how people can express their feelings in a non-violent way."

The group had a wonderful time and Frau Strohm plans to make a similar trip with her class next year.

Freshman Class

Freshman class is for students to promote school pride. Counselor Jan Muiere advises it.

The new student officers are President Kelly Siekmann, Vice-President Brian Nelson, Secretary Maggie Wdowriaz, and Treasurer Matt Shambo. The students elected them, but membership is open to all.

If you want to go to a meeting, they are usually every three weeks. If the meeting is in the morning, it is in a conference room; otherwise it is in Commons.

Students in Freshman class have similar responsibilities as Student Council. They participate in all homecoming and class events. Recently they gave cupcakes to the teachers during Teacher Appreciation week.

They also had a car wash in May. In an upcoming meeting, they are going to plan whether or not they wish to continue activities during the summer.

They are also planning on having class T-shirts for next year.

European History Tour

By Jamie Nadolny

Final preparations are being made for students attending West Chicago High School's 2000 European History Tour. They will be traveling to London, Paris, Venice, Amsterdam, Munich, and the Swiss Alps this summer.

The trip will last for over two weeks, with the students leaving June 21 and returning home July 8. They will be flying British Airways round trip.

Anticipated trips include going to the top of the Swiss Alps, climbing the Eiffel Tower in Paris, taking boat rides in Venice, and shopping at the Dr. Martens Outlet Store in London.

The students are also looking forward to crossing the English Channel from Paris to England.

All accommodations will be made in world class ho-

tels, but students going on an extra excursion will sleep on an overnight train.

They also get to choose their roommates and the extra excursions to places of interest.

The students are currently attending meetings at least twice a month to discuss travel plans and tips. Since most of the students have never traveled abroad, they also spend time during each meeting to learn about each of the countries they will visit this summer.

During first semester, the students also played games to get to know each other.

Social studies teachers MaryEllen Daneels and Barb Laimins will be chaperoning the trip, which costs \$2000. There are 25 students and one additional adult attending the trip this year.

Choir cabinet

Choir elections for cabinet will be selected on Thursday, June 1. In order to run for a position someone must nominate you in concert choir and you must be a junior.

There are four positions President, Vice-President, Librarian, and Secretary. This year's cabinet was made up

of seniors Chris Thomas (President), Beau Brown (Vice-President), Christie Palmobi (Librarian), and Meredith Moore (Secretary.)

Choir will perform their last concert this year on Thursday June 6 at 7:30 p.m.

Click into photography

By Lauren Nickelson

What makes a good photograph? Is it perfect composition? Is it perfect focus? Is it something that every one is drawn to? That, I'll leave up to you, the viewer.

You know how the saying goes, "beauty is in the eye of the beholder." This is photography and photography is an art to be shared with the world. Perhaps

this enjoyment and freedom is what is drawing so many students into the photography class at We-go.

The program is in high demand and has made enormous strides, considering that it is still a young elective. It seems that there is always someone carrying a camera around their neck, or there is an interesting picture to add to the diversity of the display case.

Sandy Weiss, the photography instructor, said in regards to the photography program, "I think it is real exciting, I think students like to have classes where they can create and do things with their hands and be able to take their pictures home to show friends and family. They like a class where they can get up and walk around."

Photography is a very practical and creative class for any one that is interested in documenting memories or who

would enjoy viewing something for its artistic value, or maybe you'd sign up for the class because you'd just like to know how to take a good picture.

The program has been up and running for about five years under Mr. Weiss' knowledge and photographic skill. He's seen the class grow before his very own eyes. In fact, for the first

year, the class was comprised of only photo-journalism students on the Wildcat Chronicle staff. During that year, his class met only two afternoons per week. The next few years that followed, there was a class enrollment of about sixteen students. Today, there is rarely an empty seat, and both zero and first hour classes are filled with students.

The class will make even greater changes next year when a new full-time photography teacher is added to the staff. Photography will be offered all periods during the school day rather than just zero and first hours. However, Mr. Weiss will still be actively involved in the class. He plans to continue teaching zero hours and hold open nights to use the darkroom every Tuesday.

A new dark room facility is in plans for the near future to fit the growing demand for the class. The dark room will hold sixteen enlargers and is projected to be available in the 2001-2002 school year.

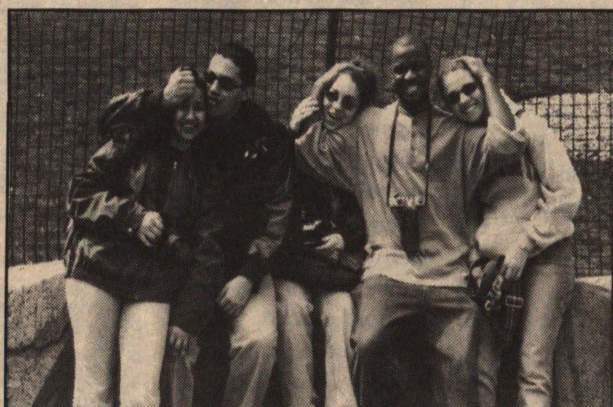
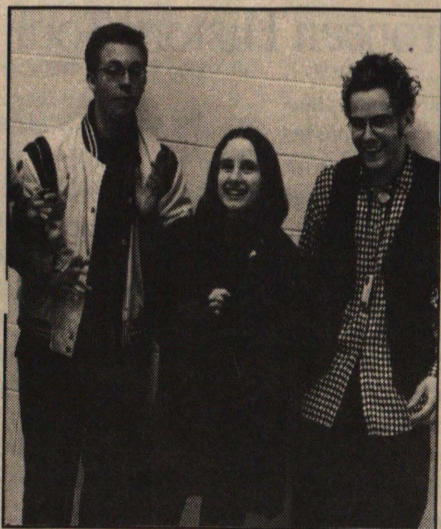


Photo by Lauren Nickelson
A small group of the photography class posing at Lincoln Park Zoo while on a field trip.

1980s back for good?

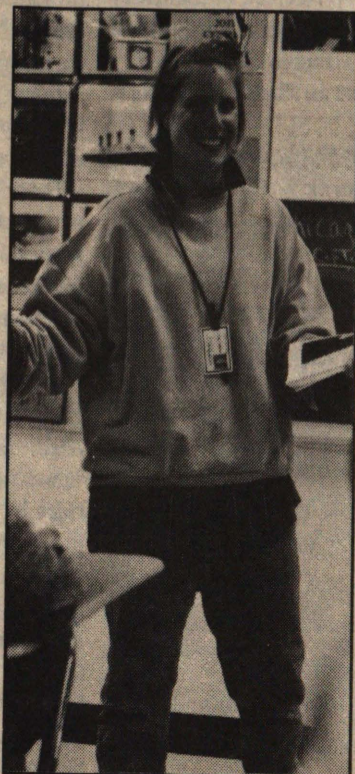


Photos by Heidi Carballo

During the month of April in Tracy Jackway's American History class, the students were given extra credit points to those who dressed or brought back the horrible 1980s fashion.

Many students got involved and did some crazy things like wear bright eye shadow, made their hair funky, wore neon color clothing, and even some students brought back the stretch pants look.

Jackway obviously deserved her extra credit, as well as these three students.



Last dance leaving many with memories

By Laura McQueen

The dance floor of Drury lane was packed with students getting down on Friday, April 28. Prom night was memorable time for all students who went.

The DJ really got everyone moving by playing a lot of upbeat songs and dancing on stage, encouraging everyone to join in. He even played a set of swing songs and danced with senior We-go student, Kristin Leitherer.

However, the DJ played the prom song, Amazed by Lonestar, twice and within a five minute period. The DJ ended prom with a different song as well leaving many of the prom goers upset.

Tickets for the event were \$40 each, and the price included dinner, dancing, a key chain, candle, and picture frame.

Doors opened at 6:30, and the dance began at 7:00 p.m.

Feltes was their to take pictures for couples with a lovely background of spotted colors and a stand with flowers on it. Couples stood in line all night waiting for their turn.

Upon arrival, students took a card with their name and re-



Photo by Sarah Kochniarczyk
Juniors Mitch Strohm and Prom Queen Ashley Link show their true feelings at prom.

quested meal to their table. The souvenirs were waiting at the table for the students.

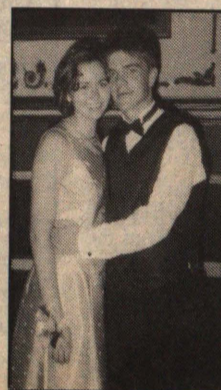


Photo by Sarah Kochniarczyk
Senior Sara Knox and her date Jerry Erickson stop to take a picture.

lection was between pasta or chicken which many seniors commented on being better food than last years. Students were pleased with the meal, which also included soup, salad, and bread.

After dinner was served the dance floor was jammed with students and it was so packed many stu-

dents got on top of the stage with the DJ to dance.

With an hour left to spare at prom the court was announced and King and Queen were crowned by last years, seniors Jeff Tillson and Sara Knox.

Juniors John McPheters and Ashley Link were crowned King and Queen and the DJ played a song which McPheters and Link danced to in front of everyone.

After prom, many students attended All Night Long, which cost \$10 and left the entire Bowling Green bowling alley open for students to do various activities.

Events included in All Night Long were free dancing, pool, hand painting, karaoke contests, and bowling.

Students also had free food and drinks. There was a cappuchino bar, bingo, tattoos and poloroid pictures.

Outside, there was sand volleyball and boxing. Unfortunately, there was a little rain that kept a few students inside.

To end All Night Long students were given each a prize ranging from calling cards, movie tickets, tvs, and even cash prizes.

West Chicago Community High School Students Represents Illinois At National LifeSmarts Competition

Five West Chicago Community High School students traveled to Minneapolis to represent Illinois at the 6th Annual National LifeSmarts Competition in April. The students representing Illinois were Jeremy Willes, Amanda Lentz, Pete Serrato, Heidi Lakics, and Dan Toboja. These students had previously won the Illinois LifeSmarts Competition which took place in March. Accompanying the students was their coach and consumer education teacher Don Zabelin.

The biggest highlight for Illinois is when they defeated Connecticut by a score of 100-95. Dan Toboja answered the last question correctly in order to win the match.

The 2000 national champion was the team from Maryland. They defeated Minnesota for the championship.

Mike Hatch, the attorney General of Minnesota, addressed all LifeSmarts participants. He spoke about how LifeSmarts instills con-

fidence in students, builds teamwork and leadership skills, and helps students gain valuable information that will help them in real life.

Life Smarts tests students' knowledge in the area of financial management, environment, health and safety, technology, and consumer rights. The competition begins on the internet. For more information, contact the LifeSmarts web site (www.lifesmarts.org), or call the national Coalition for Consumer Education at (973) 377-897.

A message to the 'popular' people: think before you act

By Leslie Shambo

Some people look back at high school and regard it as the best four years of their lives. Others consider high school to be a truly hellacious experience.

High school can be a forum for humiliation and characterization. If you have any fault whatsoever, someone in high school will not only recognize it, but will also most likely torment you for that fault.

Too skinny, too fat, too ugly, too pretty, too naïve, too stuck-up, too nice, too mean...someone will call you on it. And once they do, they'll never allow you to forget it.

Perhaps these people don't realize the effect they have on others. Perhaps they don't realize how degraded and pathetic others feel when hurtful comments are directed towards them. Or even worse, perhaps they do realize it.

When I think of rude, malicious people, some people immediately come to mind. These opinionate, loud-mouths often go out of their way to make others

miserable. They express their dislikes without regard to other people's feelings.

I have seen these people make others cry. I have seen them make commitments and then abandon them when something better comes along. I have seen them stab their own friends in the back. I have seen them judge people unfairly.

It is no secret that I have absolutely no tolerance for these people. Nor do I have any lenience for people who follow her cruel example.

It is no coincidence that most of these people consider themselves to be popular. They put others down as a way to lift themselves up. To prove that they are better than everyone else, they trample on others' feelings.

Senior Nesim Kerimi explained, "People like me have a life. You're just another face."

So I guess that just because I'm different, and I'm not "popular," I apparently don't have life. In fact, I

don't really matter at all, I'm not a human being whose feelings bruise just as easily as the next person's, but instead, I'm just a face.

A nobody.

Did he feel better after putting me down? Did it boost his diminutive ego? I hope so, because other than acting callous, he didn't accomplish anything.

What gives these people the right to infringe on everyone else's basic human rights? What gives them the right to stomp all over everyone else's feelings as though they were not as important?

These people get a great kick out of poking fun at others. They revel in their own self-righteousness.

Most of these people are also the most two-faced people I've ever met. They appear to be kind, friendly, and perhaps even pious. It is only occasionally, and to a select few, that they let their true natures show.

Because of their outward appearance, it is almost impossible to call these people on their deceit. Those who

try will never win, as everyone will side with their "dear," "popular" friend, who could never do wrong. You will look like the despicable one.

The most unfortunate part is that, when I look at these malevolent people, I can see myself. While I wouldn't call myself two-faced, I recognize that I have done and said some incredibly mean things in the past four years.

I am not going to blame anyone else for my actions. I made very conscious decisions, and unlike some other people, I have suffered the consequences for my actions.

Yet, when I search for the reason behind my spitefulness, I see these people whose attitudes and actions have shaped my personality.

I think that many seniors, including myself, have reached the point where harsh comments and cruel acts don't bother them as much anymore.

Not only have these seniors matured, but also they have learned the hard way that assertion is necessary to

defend themselves from their unyielding peers. But many others are still tormented by these antagonists.

The solution is not easy. High school has forever changed us all. There will always be people who feel they are better than everyone else. And you honestly cannot say, "don't let them get to you," because they will get to you.

Nor can you say that everyone likes these people and that to stand up for yourself would be senseless. Because I can assure you, not everyone likes these people. Standing up for yourself is the only thing to do.

I understand that we can't all be friends. And who would want to be? Life would be extremely dull if we all agreed with each other.

But certain people need to realize that *everyone* is important. Just because a person looks different or has a unique personality or opinion does not mean that they are not decent human beings.

To degrade others for their diversity or to make them feel as if they are insignificant is low and childish. Everyone deserves to be treated with respect and dignity. What did they ever do to you? You don't have to like them, but there is no need to be unrelenting. I suppose you could even say, "Love thy neighbor as thyself."

No one ever forgets those who hurt them.

I hope that I haven't wrecked this same emotional havoc upon others. If I did, I would not only like to apologize, but also say that I did so through my own immaturity. I realize that the damage has been done, and that no excuse serves as a pardon. But I hope that others learn from my mistakes, as well as the pain I endured in high school.

As Bhagwan Rajneesh said, "You may be able to rationalize what you do, you may be able to justify it, but all justifications are after the fact, once the thing has happened."

Conforming isn't cool

By Alexandra Patin

Over 300 seniors are going to leave school in June with new ambitions and with feelings that they are going to change the world in their own way.

Yeah, right.

The majority of our world is made up of conformists-people who go along with the norm to avoid conflict and to avoid being thought of as strange or unconventional.

For example, people who do things just because their friends tell them to, or people who wear clothes just because it's the trendy thing to do, are conformists.

And what does this accomplish? How many great leaders throughout history went with the flow or what other people were doing?

The answer is not many.

I first gave attention to this fact when I read the words of writer Ralph Waldo Emerson.

"To be a man is to be a nonconformist," he wrote, "and those words are the words that must guide our everyday lives."

People must not be con-

cerned about following the norm just to be "cool" or accepted by their friends. This not only suppresses people's true behaviors and attitudes, but it also leads to an enormous amount of stress because of having to pay careful attention to everything that goes on so you can follow it.

People who suppress their true attitudes and beliefs are not only covering their true selves up, but are also covering up qualities that might help them in life.

For example, if one is worried about stepping outside the norm and refuses to show off talents in some bizarre area (say, the ukulele is their favorite instrument), then there is no chance for him or her to have fun doing something or succeed at it.

In another sense, people who stay in the norm are also suppressing their views, which can be dangerous sometimes. The danger comes when, by conforming, people passively condone something in which they don't believe.

By not speaking out because of conforming and not wanting to step out of the flow, you could be passively condoning something you don't agree with. And when people don't speak out against something they disagree with, nothing gets done about it.

For example, if your friends are all saying something you don't agree with, don't stand back and take it, say something and get involved!

People need to speak out against injustices and things they feel are wrong.

If you follow your heart and do what you think is right, instead of worrying about what others will think of you, you can never go wrong.

This is what we all need to remember, especially those seniors who are leaving one stage of their lives and going into another.

Remember that conforming to the norm never helped anyone get anywhere in life, but being different always catches people's attention.

Uniforms form student 'machines'

By Sarah Kochniarczyk

Hey, I have an idea. Let's throw away student rights in school. I mean, do we really need them? No way! There is no need to have students express themselves in school at all.

We all need to wear the same clothes, have the same hairstyles, and look just like the person sitting next to us in science class.

All we need to do is start small. We could make all of the students wear uniforms in school, and if this is a success, then we can go further.

Pioneer School will start next year with having the students wear uniforms. If they start little, the only direction to go is bigger, like, hmmm.... high school.

Sooner or later, all students at We-go will be under the staff's command.

Picture it: every boy and girl in school looking alike, with no ripped clothing, no trendy logo shirts, or baggy jeans. We'll only see simple, white collared shirts and black pants.

This way we can clean up our students and our school. Kill two birds with one stone.

The parents will fall head over heels for this idea, seeing it as a way to save money. They will also have more power at home on telling their kids what to wear, considering the students will not

be able to come to school without this uniform.

Let's just shove the IDs to the side and focus more on this dress code. This way, we can tell which students go to our school. We can even put the logo of our school in the top left corner, since the kids are into that American Eagle and Abercrombie and Fitch name brand thing.

That way the students can still feel a bit trendy, but we'll call it the WC&HS instead of A&E or A&F.

I say we bring this idea to the board and as the students, just hand over our rights. I mean, do we really need to be comfortable? Do we need to express ourselves? Do we really need to have our own mind?

Obviously not, don't you think this makes a good dress code?

You know, they should just get rid of humans all together, just make mechanical people. I mean that way they all look alike, have the same hairstyles, and can wear the same clothes without complaints.

So, I say thank you for helping me see the light. I lay down my hands and hand over my rights, power to the dress codes!

Letters to the Editor

Trends vs. personal beliefs

'Electing' a new student council procedure

Dear Editor,

After the recent student council elections, I heard one candidate brush off defeat, saying, "It is all just a stupid popularity contest, anyway."

I reflected on his remark, and I disagree with his statement.

I truly believe student council is a commendable program that lets us, the students, have increased input about our school.

I also think that, for the most part, the students that vote really do think about the candidates. We vote, not for the cleverest posters, nor for the candidate who gives away the most candy, but for the individual who, to the best of our knowledge, we think will do the best job, and whose

character we respect most.

Despite all that, I don't think the elections are perfect. In fact, I am sure they could be improved considerably.

I previously stated that people vote for the person who, *to the best of their knowledge*, they think will do the best job.

Sometimes, people don't know everyone who is on the ballot. If people don't know a candidate well, that candidate generally will not receive their votes.

Also, many people do not know what the candidates will do differently if elected. Several people I spoke with before writing this letter didn't even know what the student council *did*. This, of course, impedes

the election process.

The current situation could be vastly improved with little difficulty.

One possible solution is to have class assemblies, with each candidate giving a brief speech about why they want to be elected, what they would do in office, why they think they would do a good job, and so forth.

Each class could miss one period, and get to the auditorium or a gym for the speeches. This would also give the candidates a chance to show that this is something they really care about, and that they are serious and would be dedicated to their jobs.

I personally don't think that missing one class period would be a problem, but the administration might view the matter dif-

ferently.

In that case the candidates could write a paragraph or two, what they would want to say in a speech, to be published in the issue of The Wildcat Chronicle directly prior to the elections.

This is another way for students to learn more about what their council does, and why they should vote for each candidate.

A student council is a great thing, and I am glad we have one here in West Chicago.

I merely think that better informed voters could make even more insightful decisions.

Sincerely,
Geoff Palka
Class of 2002

Where are you headed? Life with religion

Dear Editor,

With each new life comes the shadow of the inevitable, the shadow that follows each of us, not at high noon, but in the dark of our minds.

This shadow is constantly stalking us as it waits for its chance to attack. It longs to surround you in its blackness, its emptiness.

Each person, whether they be man, woman, or child, has a fear of this emptiness. Some may fear it greatly, some not so much, and others may say that they are not afraid.

And yet each of us, yes even those that say they are not afraid, know that it is coming, aware that it awaits us, ready to capture us at anytime, maybe soon.

This emptiness, this darkness, is the shadow of death.

Yet, what is there to fear? Is it that we fear losing our friends, our family, our personal belongings, or our fun?

Maybe you fear how you will die.

Are you afraid of going through a painful, torturous death?

It might be that you don't want your loved ones to deal with the anguish and pain from losing you, someone they loved.

Or is it that you don't understand the finite details of what awaits you after this life, that you don't know your final destination?

Do you fear that you might go to hell?

One may never know exactly why the human brain fears death, maybe for some or all of the reasons above, maybe for other reasons, but the fact remains that life eventually gives way to death.

Now for the main question: Is there ever a time to die?

I'll rephrase that: Is there ever a point where all your fears of death diminish because the love you have for something is stronger?

Is there a circumstance where you would give your physical life away, forever, to save someone or something?

Do you believe in something so strongly that you would die for it?

Maybe for you there is, or maybe not, but I know who willingly died for what they

believed in.

On April 20, 1999, students at Columbine High were shot and killed.

Some were shot for believing in something that the stupid kids in trenchcoats carrying guns didn't approve of.

These victims believed in Christ. They decided that death by a bullet to the head execution style would be better than denying their Jesus and saving their own lives. They were martyrs of the Christian faith.

Those martyrs believed that roughly 2000 years ago, an innocent, faultless man died for me, for my sins, for my wrongdoing.

They believed that His fears of death disappeared because He knew what His cause was. He was out to save the world and He did, at least for those who accept Him.

And why did those victims believe?

Because He was a hero? Because He saved lives? Because He healed people? Because He loved people with an incomparable passion?

Those Columbine victims are basically telling me that this Jesus is God and that He died for me.

How can they tell me this? What right do they have?

I'll tell you what right they have. Those students have the right to tell me this because they are just telling me the truth.

Jesus is the truth. He died for me, for you, and for the whole world and because of this He deserves my respect, your respect, and the whole world's respect.

In fact, Jesus deserves our lives. That's a fact.

Those Christians murdered at Columbine had their destinations set for them from the moment they accepted Jesus, and so do I. They were strong enough in their faith to die for Him as He died for us.

I pray daily that I could someday have that strong of faith.

We all have a time to die, each of us knowing that it awaits us, ready to capture us at anytime.

ANYTIME.

Where are you headed when your clock stops ticking?

Sincerely,
Jesse Askin

Dear Editor,

Recently there have been a growing number of people who have somehow managed to turn Christianity into a fad.

It's amazing that I can walk down the hallway and hear racism and intolerance coming from people- many of whom are wearing WWJD bracelets and "Fellowship of Christian Athletes" lanyards!

I am appalled.

Perhaps during one of your Bible-banging sessions the entire New Testament fell out-so I will enlighten you by simply summarizing; tolerance, love, forgiveness.

I realize such things may seem foreign to the ignorant and self-righteous, but if anyone reading this possesses such qualities, I ask you to simply listen.

Who gave you the right to try to dictate someone else's faith? How can you justify condemning your fellow man simply because he or she doesn't believe the same thing as you?

One does not have to *believe* in Christ to live like a Christian. And to proclaim that one should is not only the opposite of what Jesus of Nazareth taught-it makes you look ridiculous.

America was founded on the principle that everyone has the right to worship as they please, perhaps you've heard of it, it's called freedom of religion. Now many religions are monotheistic, the same basic idea as Christianity does name really matter? Allah, Krishna, God, Vishnu, Manna, Ganesh... who cares!

Does it bother you so much that you feel the need to convert everyone? Have you forgotten what a useless endeavor the Crusades were? Isn't it ironic that the Moors were the most technologically, medically, and socially advanced people in those conflicts?

They believed in one god, but apparently not the right one, because they were referred to as savages. My how far we have progressed in a thousand years. Look, no one is forcing his or her faith upon you; it would be only fair to extend the same courtesy.

If you think that you have found the one true God, if there even is such a thing, you are free to worship that deity. But by condemning someone else for something they are doing in the privacy of their church, synagogue, or even their backyard, makes you, as a Christian, look like a hypocritical fool.

My suggestion to you is practice what you preach, lie and let live. Mai qa mashma lan.

Sincerely,
Helen Walsh

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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 230.

Letters to the editor should be signed if they would like 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.

What are adults *really* teaching teenagers?

By Jamie Nadolny

Picture this:

It's a Saturday afternoon, and you're out with your friends, expecting to have a good time. While laughing about an event that occurred during the school week, you turn around to see an adult couple making sexual advances towards each other in the middle of the sidewalk.

Picture the adults grotesquely putting on a public display of affection in plain sight. Picture them not knowing what damage they are doing to children inadvertently watching as their X-rated show hits broad daylight.

Is it something you wouldn't want to see?

Prepare yourself, because it's reality.

I had to witness firsthand what happens when adults lose all self-control a few weeks ago. After going to a concert in Chicago, a few friends and I took the train

home. Excited about the concert, we climbed to the upper level while discussing how great the music had been.

After a few minutes, a businessman and a businesswoman took seats diagonally below us, and they immediately began to engage in sexual behavior. Without any concern towards the passengers around them, the man and woman proceeded to make out and touch each other in a sexual way.

I wouldn't have had any problem with their sex scene if they were in the privacy of their own home and if I did not have to witness their intimacy, but I did not appreciate the fact that I had no choice but to close my eyes and wait for them to finish their episode. I didn't want to watch as their PDA became inappropriate and graphic.

Not one adult on the train told the couple they needed

to tone down their actions, the conductor didn't yell at them to stop groping each other in public, and they didn't listen when my friends and I loudly complained about their behavior.

We've always been taught that adults should be our role models, and as much as we hate to admit it, we look up to anyone who is of legal age.

There are times when our parents get on our cases, times when our teachers give us too much homework, times when adults treat us as if we are two years old. However, the truth is, we respect them and want to be just like them later in life.

When adults make mistakes and initiate inappropriate behavior, it's easy to lose the respect we try to give them. How can we look up to our elders if our elders are being destructive and inconsiderate?

Adults teach us about pu-

berty and about how sex should wait until marriage, but when they don't follow their own rules, it makes it hard for us to follow them, too.

Don't get me wrong, I fully believe that intimacy should be taken seriously, but I think adults are being hypocritical.

Teens are constantly being exposed to sex in the media. Lately, we've been forced to look up to parents and adults instead of our former celebrity role models. What are we supposed to do when those adults fall into the media's trap, as well? Who do we look up to then?

Students should see this as a warning that teens can't always follow the examples that adults set for them. We should learn to set dividers between what we could learn from adults and what we should ignore. In cer-

tain situations, we should stand our own ground.

For example, think about many of the adult role models that we see on television. Britney Spears, Robert Downy, Jr, John Rocker, Bill Clinton... they all have one thing in common: They're all legally adults whose examples we should not follow.

I also hope that adults will realize that they need to be more concerned about what they are actually showing teens and children. I'm not trying to tell adults that they are appalling people, I'm telling them that they need to think about why we don't always listen to what they say. They should just choose their actions carefully.

Adults often tell teenagers that we don't know the true meaning of love and that we use it loosely in the relationships that we have with our peers. In my opinion, these

supposedly "mature" adults should focus on controlling their own sexual impulses.

Don't get me wrong, senior citizens who hold hands while walking down the sidewalk are cute, and parents who whisper "I love you" before leaving for work are adorable. But adults engaging in sexual activity while sitting on train seats in public view are disgusting.

Bad habits are sometimes hard to drop, but adults who have trouble keeping their hands to themselves should learn about respect. They need to be taught how to respect themselves, the people they are intimate with, and most importantly, the fact that teens and children don't want to see it.

If adults don't think it's acceptable for teens to osculate in public, maybe they should take their own advice.

The truth about tanning

By Laura McQueen

She was only 17. Summer was coming, and she was behind on her tanning, and decided to go to the local tanning salon for a few minutes. She left the salon feeling a little queasy, but she didn't give it much thought, until the pain got so bad that she passed out at the dinner table that evening.

Her parents rushed her to the hospital as quickly as they could, but it was too late to save her. The cause of death was revealed in the autopsy the next day. The girl's insides had been microwaved by the tanning bed lights.

Does this story sound familiar? While this urban legend is false and an extreme exaggeration of the dangers of tanning bed use, there are many things that people should know before getting between the sheets of these particular beds.

I've noticed that there are many students at our school who have turned to tanning salons to get the perfect summer shade they desire. Unfortunately, many of these people know neither how a bed works, nor what kind of risks they are taking by using them.

A tan is the result of melanin in the skin responding to exposure to the sun's ultra-violet radiation. The sun's rays can get to the skin

through direct exposure as well as reflected Ultra Violet light.

Sunlight contains two kinds of UV rays. One is Ultra Violet-A rays, which are shorter and cause most sunburns.

Tanning beds usually rely mostly on UVA rays. UVA rays penetrate deeper and can pass through even window glass.

Tanning lamps emit two to three times as many UVA rays as skin is exposed to outdoors, and the average 15-20 minute visit to a tanning bed can be about equal to an entire day at the beach.

When skin is over-exposed to these sunrays, it is damaged, or sunburned. The skin tans to protect itself from further burning, which is why tanner, darker skinned people burn less than fairer skinned people. Yet constant exposure to this kind of radiation can cause both short and long-term consequences for the skin.

Short-term consequences of tanning bed use are red, itchy, dry skin, and sun and eye burns, mostly attributed to Ultra Violet-B radiation. The beds have also been associated with infections, warts, and sun poisoning.

Long-term results include leathery, saggy and brown-spotted skin, caused mostly

by UVA rays. Over-exposure also induces photoaging, which is when skin ages prematurely.

Even more serious danger from using tanning beds is the increased risk of cancer. UVB rays may have a role in non-melanoma skin cancers such as basal cell, carcinomas, and squamous cell carcinomas, which are often treatable, but dangerous nonetheless. More than one million new skin cancer cases are anticipated for this year.

Using tanning beds to get some color is not a good idea. Before students get under those lamps, they need to know the risks and understand what they could be doing to their bodies.

Better, safer options include using sunless tanning lotion and remembering that a little real sun is healthy because it can help the body produce vitamin D, which helps prevent many cancers.

People need to know the risks that they are taking by excessive use of tanning beds. It's just a stupid risk that shouldn't be taken. Your health shouldn't be compromised for a little color.

No one's insides were ever microwaved by a tanning bed. But the risks of cancer and skin damage are real.

Think about that next time you head for the bed.

Graduation location isn't 'in' favor

By Sarah Kochniarczyk

We now end the senior year of high school in a hot sweaty gym, with hundreds of people in one room, trying to fit each and every one in the family on one bleacher. Yet, many seniors are asking, "Why couldn't we have graduation on the football field?"

I'll provide three reasons the students at We-go are told every year as to why they can't graduate on the football field.

1) There is no need to ruin the field with the chairs and shoes worn by each graduating senior.

2) There is a chance it might rain and therefore we'd have to have the gym set up as well. If it does rain who has to stay outside because there aren't enough seats?

3) There are rude people in the world; they may drive by during the ceremony, screaming, playing loud music, or saying obscene words during the ceremony.

Now I'll provide three responses as to why these "reasons" are lame.

1) During every football game the players wear cleats which mark up the field, even more when it rains. So how can chairs and shoes, without cleats, make a big difference? It doesn't. We are responsible. I think we'll be careful enough and treat the field with great kindness.

Other high schools have their ceremonies outside, and they have bigger classes than we do, such as Naperville Central, Wheaton Warrenville South, and St. Charles. If these schools can have their ceremonies outside on the field, control the area, and set up inside and outside, than why can't we?

2) If it does rain we can have the students help set up the gym. If they want to have their ceremony out-

side so badly then they should be willing to help set up inside as well. By all means, I'm sure every senior would help out. Honestly, most seniors aren't lazy. And don't forget, there is the chance it won't rain.

As to who will be allowed to enter the gym if it does rain, the administration can still give each student four tickets so four family members may sit in the gym. Each family will be notified that in case of rain, they will only be able to use those four tickets, and therefore they can not be upset if only a certain amount of people are allowed into the gym.

3) There are "rude" people in this world. They are right; argument settled. However, we could block off the street for a mere three hours so the "rude" people won't disturb the ceremony. Block parties do that with streets for longer than three hours, so I see no problem with the high school doing it for graduation. According to Jones, we would have to block off Wood Street and according to Officer Theodore it can be done with a simple process.

These reasons the school feeds the senior class every year troubles me, considering it doesn't seem to be such a hassle.

However, if the school administration doesn't want to put forth all this effort once a year, then I'm sorry seniors. Graduation will take place in the hot, small, sweaty gym instead of outside where the students can have their whole family there, not just four people, and still be comfortable.

It seems this conflict will be approached every year, and every year the senior class will be turned down with a flat no!

Due to this decision, seniors should fight back every year. Who knows, maybe it'll pass sometime for some class' graduation.

Features

Your stars for June

By Sarah Kochniarczyk

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

The year is over with; the stress is gone for good. Make sure this summer is one you never forget, as many friends go on their way to college. Every moment is precious and each day counts. The summer fades by fast.

Take time out to grow in friendships and to renew those that have been a struggle all year.

The animal you are most like is a tiger and your lucky number is 5.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

The heat is coming and the scent of summer leaves is lingering.

As long as you are honest with yourself this summer, things will go as planned. You'll end up with a summer of silly pictures and fun memories to discuss all through the next school year.

Treat yourself right and this summer should be a smooth one.

The animal you are most like is a zebra and your lucky number is 13.

Leo (July 23-August 21)

No need to be sad about losing your crush this past month; summer is ahead and crushing will be your "job." As long as you know

your limits, people will respect you.

Just because you don't have someone to hold hands with right now doesn't mean loneliness will follow you all summer.

Someone will come along and when that person does, be yourself!

The animal you are most like is an eagle and your lucky number is 8.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sept. 22)

Lately your parents have been on your case about getting a job and you've put it off long enough. You need to get out there and find a job you enjoy and care about.

There are plenty of jobs willing to take on people, so don't be afraid of rejection.

You need to get on the ball and find a job before your parents start to take away your privileges.

The animal you are most like is an elephant and your lucky number is 22.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

The summer is just waiting for you to let loose and relax. You've been tense with the end of the school year and finals. You need a break!

Take things slowly and let plans fall together; be spontaneous. Don't feel as

though you have to do something every night or weekend. This is your time off; use it how you'd like to.

The animal you are most like is a panther and your lucky number is 28.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 24)

The school year has come to an end and all the stress has left your body, making you feel so much better. Yet, you may tend to stuff your face with goodies and sweets, which isn't bad, as long as you can control yourself at the same time.

If you tend to pick up this habit, make sure you workout. Bring a friend along to keep pushing you daily.

The animal you are most like is a wolf and your lucky number is 16.

Sagittarius (Nov. 25-Dec. 21)

The beginning of the summer doesn't look good for you. There will be a lot of fighting between friends and confusion between crushes. The first month may start out a bit slow, and frustration will follow you around.

However, by the end of June, things and people will start to shape up and the rest of your summer will be full of fun times!

The animal you are most like is a giraffe and your lucky number is 3.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Money is your problem lately and this will be something to work on for the summer. You don't seem to manage your money very well and your parents are sick of just handing over dollar bills.

You need to set some money aside when you get your paycheck and save for more important things that will happen in the future.

The animal you are most like is a dolphin and your lucky number is 12.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Time is wasting and you have very little time to get your act straight. Very important things will happen this month and you'll be shining. People will start to notice you more, but only if you get rid of that attitude of yours.

If you choose not to shape up, plan on bad luck and rainy days.

The animal you are most like is a lion and your lucky number is 15.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

Everybody seems to be head over heels for someone, except you! You are feeling a bit lonely, but the reason you have no love is because you tend to be picky. That isn't a terrible thing, but it isn't bad to be open either.

Try to get to know someone before you date him or her. That way you'll see if things click! Hopefully you'll spark a relationship with someone very special.

The animal you are most like is a piglet and your lucky number is 24.

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Looking for a job has been troubling this past month because every job you apply for either shoots you down or seems boring. You can make this search a lot easier by taking a look on the Internet. This will help narrow your selection down and you may even be able to apply on the computer.

Soon you'll have a job you love and you'll be bringing in the money.

The animal you are most like is a polar bear and your lucky number is 29.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You can't wait to break through those high school doors but you still have a few more days. With these few days left, make your way around and mend those friendships or even spark some new ones.

People will be more than overjoyed that you made the first step, so get out there and greet!

The animal you are most like is a baboon and your lucky number is 11.

*Whisper
in the
Wind*

Years went by
Like the wind
Blows away sand.
Spreading me thin
Over this great land.
Time never meant

Anything to me.
I saw time slipping
Away from me!
Time was no more.
Then nothing.
A word lost in
Time its self.
Love never had a plan;
A plan for me.
Love just
Left me alone,
It's plain to see.
Life is a river.
A river I'm on.
The river is
Not yet charted,
Yet I float on.



Death is coming,
Not here yet.
Death is coming,
And that is a fact.
I can't hide,
I can't run away.
Death will find me
Whichever way.
Hate is something
I have deep
Within me.
A demon I
Gotta fight.
A losing
Battle inside me.
Hope is something
You can't really see.
Hope is a peaceful
Pond hidden
Away in the trees.
Despair is the evil
That hates
You and me.
Dark, cold and
Alone... is that
Where you wanna be?
So I leave you with
These words
I have to say.
Without hope
There is despair.
With life
Death will come
Time makes the years go
by.

Where hate is love,
Is close by
A whisper in the wind,
Please don't cry.

-Anonymous-

Congratulations to Ms. Mocarski on the news of her twins!
From the staff of the Wildcat Chronicle

Make way for the freshmen

Laura McQueen

You're walking along in a sea of people, trying to get to a class (the location is a mystery to you). Finally, you enter the right classroom, five minutes tardy. You look around, and you don't see anyone you know in the room.

Remember your freshmen year?

West Chicago is expecting about 600 freshman students next year, and just like freshmen of years before, they don't know what to expect.

We-go counselors have been putting forth all their effort to make the transition from middle school to high school as easy as possible for the incoming students.

In January, the high school hosted an open

house for all newcomers and their parents. Later in January, the counselors traveled to the middle schools to meet with students and their parents for course selection and orientation.

Peer helpers have also been working to help the incoming freshmen. They went to the middle schools to give presentations on what We-go is like. The students

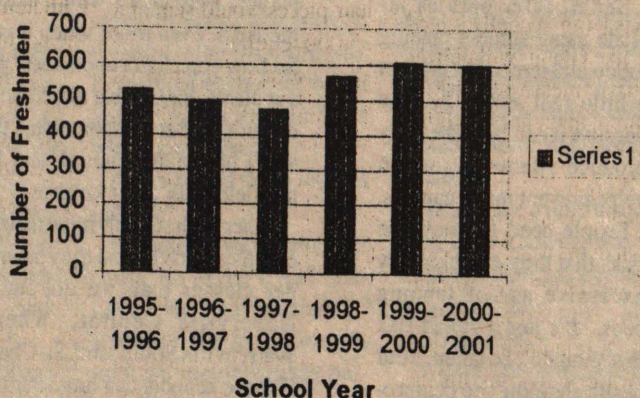
watched a video on how to make the most of their high school experience. The peer

helpers also invited all newcomers to a summer tour of the school.

"It's a big change," said Guidance Department Chairperson

An additional accommodation for the new class is the freshman survival guide they will receive at the beginning of

Freshman Enrollment



Maura Bridges, "We want to make it as smooth as possible for them."

the school year. It review the school's credit system, clubs and teams. It also explains the places stu-

Home Ec teacher hopes to inspire others

By Sarah Kochniarczyk
Mrs. Patti Kozlowski

Have you always wanted to be a teacher? If not what did you want to be or do? Yes, in some form. My dream was to be a choreographer on Broadway, teaching dances for the musicals. I have taught dancing from age 10 to present.

What is your goal for your students every year? To find a skill or goal in life they can work towards. Without a plan it's difficult to know what direction to go in.

What is your favorite memory from West Chicago High School? When you've been teaching 27 years there are many. I enjoy the friendships I've developed with my students throughout the years. I've made their wedding dresses, visited their homes, taught their children and worked with them in the community. Two important memories: first, a student I failed early in my career pre-

vented her from graduating. It tore me up, but I felt I needed to be honest with her. Years later she returned and thanked me for failing her. She said I was the only one who stood up to her and told her that she needed to change her life and be responsible for her actions. She went back and got her diploma and continued until she achieved a master's in business education. I never regretted failing a student again. Failing doesn't have to be the end but a new beginning and direction in life.

Another student who was heavy into doing and dealing drugs returned years later to tell me he had cleaned up his act and was Vice President of a company. He has been clean for five years now. I try to stay in touch with my students. It is an honor when they come back to say hello and let me know how they are doing.

If there were one thing you could change about WCCHS what would it be? Get all students interested in life and away from drugs. This is a problem in all schools and communities, not just here.

Where did you attend college? Illinois State University, Northern Illinois University, and University of Illinois.

How do you feel knowing that your students and fellow teachers selected you for Teacher of the Month? There are many teachers here I admire and [they] have helped me in so many ways. I think the respect and gratitude is mutual.

The students were supportive, sensitive and understanding this year when my mother passed away. Their mature and cooperative behavior was more precious than any award or material gift.

What inspires you daily to keep doing your job? I love my students, even the ones that challenge me to find a way to get them interested in life. I enjoy helping a student who has low self esteem and teaching them how to help themselves and stand up for their rights.

If you could tell the senior class one thing about the world [what's out there] what would it be and why? You will have many choices to make in life. Make sure the choice you make allows you the ability to have more choices in life for a healthy future.

There is one thing I would like to compliment the students of WCCHS- In our diverse community I have observed a more caring attitude of one another.

P.S.: For these of you who have helped me bring in groceries, thank you.

Three words to describe Mrs. Kozlowski:
 "Energetic, caring, and sensitive." Social Studies teacher Barbara Laimins.
 "Caring, humorous, and dedicated." Business Education teacher Joseph Crickard.
 "Spontaneous, creative, compassionate." Business Education teacher Cass Streicher.
 "A people person." Mechanical Arts teacher Paul Junkroski.
 "Caring, funny, can relate to her students on levels, and enthusiastic." Social Worker Diane Alcalá.
Craziest or funniest thing you've seen Mrs. Kozlowski do:
 "Has to do with a guest speaker," Laimins.
 "The splits in front of the staff at a luncheon." Crickard.
 "Many humorous stories are unprintable as Mrs. K. has an uncanny knack for being totally open and candid and sometimes being misconstrued. Most of the hilarious stories stem from when she taught the 'facts of life' in Contemporary Life," Streicher.
 "Get her car towed because she was parked in a No Parking zone," Junkroski.
Best quality about Mrs. Kozlowski:
 "Her love of people and teaching," Laimins.
 "She always puts the students first." Crickard.
 "Considers each student as an individual. Tries to find the good in everyone," Streicher.
 "Dedicated to students," Junkroski.
 "Dedication to her students," Alcalá.

Ben Glenn continues to draw attention

By Marc Berry
Ben Glenn's days seem to be getting longer and longer.

In the six years since he took up his current line of work, his popularity has grown so much that he is now doing around 360 shows a year. He displays his talents at schools, churches, and youth conferences all over the country.

For those who didn't have the opportunity to see him during his visit to We-go, Ben is an inspirational speaker who creates amazing chalk drawings to go along with his messages. He constantly displays his humor and creativity, making for a very entertaining presentation.

According to Glenn, he got his inspiration from a man named Bill Leach, who worked for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Leach would also perform live drawings and did so for fifty years until his death in October 1994. It was then that Glenn decided to take over his work.

He became president of Living Art that same year and soon took Leach's work to the next level. He placed a larger emphasis on the speaking part of the presentation and also added electronic enhancements to his drawings with his laptop, making them come "alive."

Glenn said, "I wasn't sure how far it would go. I knew God had a plan for me, and I just prayed that he would

lead me in the right direction."

Glenn started off his career only doing Christian messages, but after a couple of years, he expanded his topics to include more secular messages as well.

He began to present drug awareness to various schools using his unique method and soon discussed topics such as overcoming obstacles, individuality, and more. He continues to think up new topics and create new artwork to share with his audiences.

Recently, Ben finished writing his first book, *Big Enough: Finding Faith that Moves Mountains*. In it, he tells of his life experiences, trials, and the large part that his faith in God has played throughout his life.

He was successful in having it published, and it was released five months ago. It can be found in various bookstores as well as purchased on Amazon.com "...which is pretty big," said Glenn.

What makes this even more incredible is the fact that Glenn has a mild case of dyslexia, and has been labeled with a learning disability. In his book he writes, "Letters and words would somehow get mixed up in my head, and that made it very hard to read."

However, Glenn has overcome his disadvantage and successfully put to use the gifts that have been given

to him. He uses his story of growing up with, and overcoming the disease as a message of hope, and his book is physical proof that he has truly defeated it. Amazon.com calls it a "triumph."

Currently, Glenn is working on new poster projects, along with his second novel. "It's tougher than the last one," he says, "but it definitely has some good content in it." He did not want to give away too many details about it, but he hopes to get it into mainstream bookstores and expects it to be out by next fall.

When he's not traveling around the country performing his work, he resides in Indianapolis, Indiana with his wife and three dogs.

His company, Living Art (also stationed in Indianapolis), is continuing to grow. A new chalk artist named Travis King, recently joined and, like Glenn, will deliver positive messages, while stunning audiences with his artwork.

It is clear that the sudden demand for Glenn has not gotten to his head, as he still goes out of his way to help others. He continues to be a positive role model for others, while delivering his inspiring presentations.

"I just want people to stay encouraged, make good decisions, and continually seek the truth," he explained, "because it's out there."

The most beautiful gift of all

By Leslie Shambo
After growing her hair out for three long years, freshman Heather Ferguson cut eight ponytails ranging from 10" to 18" - totaling 118."

Ferguson didn't cut her hair to make a fashion statement. Instead, she donated the ponytails to a non-profit organization known as Locks of Love.

Locks of Love is dedicated to providing hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children under the age of eighteen who suffer from alopecia areata. Without the help of volunteers and donations, these hair pieces would start at a \$3,000 retail.

Each year, children across the world are affected by alopecia areata, a disease that has no known cure or cause. It is a medical condition that results in the loss of hair on the scalp.

In alopecia areata, the affected hair follicles become very small, drastically slow down production, and grow no visible hair above the surface. Some people develop only a few bald patches that re-grow within a year. In others, extensive loss occurs, and in a few, all

scalp hair is lost. In all cases, the hair follicles remain alive, and await the appropriate signal for re-growth. However, in many cases, the hair does not re-grow for several

wig. Most girls want hair 12-14" long, requiring donated ponytails of 14-16". Of course, ponytails that are less than 10" in length can be donated, but they will most likely be sold to help offset the at-cost manufacturing of hairpieces for children. Donated hair must be bundled in a ponytail or braid. The hair cannot be chemically damaged. Finally, it must be clean and

dry. Being different is difficult, even with hair. The fitted prosthetics offers children who suffer from alopecia areata a sense of self-esteem and confidence.

A mother in Columbus, Mississippi wrote to Locks of Love, "She wants everything to see her new wig! Thank you so very much for everything you're doing for [my daughter] and all the other children."

Another mother wrote, "The confidence and self-esteem [the Locks of Love hairpiece] gives her is unbelievable! As difficult as her situation has been, this has eased her pain so very much."

For more information about Locks of Love and how you can help, visit: <http://www.locksoflove.org>

It'll grow back. But somewhere there is a child that cannot say that so easily. She can have mine
 -Heather Ferguson

BOYS vs. GIRLS

By Sarah Kochniarczyk
From time to time we all wonder what we want in a relationship. Here are some qualities We-go students look for in the opposite sex.

She says...

What do you look for in a guy, personally wise?

Senior *Lauren Belding*: That he can laugh at himself and that he's romantic, and can keep his priorities straight.

Senior *Jenny Wiechert*: He has to be funny. He also has to be nice.

Senior *Andrea Enger*: A guy who likes to have a lot of fun and who cares about others beside himself. Also, someone who makes God a huge part of their life.

Are looks important? Why or why not?

L.B.: Yes! Looks are extremely important! Not everyone has the same taste in looks. I'm sorry but why would I waste my time dating someone I'm not attracted to?

Senior *Erin Lichtfuss*: Looks are usually what first attracts you to someone, but in the long run, they are overshadowed by the personality.

Senior *Tracy Erickson*: I believe it is important to be attracted to your partner, but looks aren't important in the sense that it's all you look for, it's about their heart.

What is a turn on?

L.B.: 'Gravity' cologne.

E.L.: Someone who looks you in the eye when you're talking to them because you know they're really listening.

J.H.: When guys dress nicely.

What is a big turn off?

L.B.: When he only talks about himself.

A.E.: When they make fun of you, but they think they're being funny.

T.E.: When a guy is selfish or easily angered.

Most romantic thing a guy has done for you?

L.B.: Rode his bike 5 miles in the rain just to come and see me.

J.H.: No guy has ever done anything romantic for me. I think that if any guy ever did I wouldn't know what to say or do.

A.E.: Wrote me a poem and made me a CD.

Do you like when guys act macho around their friends? Why or why not?

E.L.: No, because they should be confident enough in themselves and their friendships that they shouldn't have to impress their friends.

A.E.: No, it seems like they try to impress you, but they really don't. It's annoying when they act one way around you, and then the total opposite around their friends.

T.E.: I like it when guys are real, not when they have to try and impress (of all people) their friends.

What would be your dream date?

J.H.: I don't care where we go, or what we do, just as long as he would treat me like a queen.

T.E.: Chinese dinner on the beach as the sun is going down, and walking along the beach under the stars.

What type of clothing would you prefer on a guy?

L.B.: Clean, thank you.

J.H.: Anything except black gothic-type clothes.

A.E.: Not tight clothing, but loosely fit clothes. Nice clothes not T-shirts everyday.

He says...

What do you look for in a girl, personally wise?

Senior *Juilo Gomez*: Not insane.

Senior *Ross Jeanbey*: Ability to laugh.

Senior *Bob vanGorkom*: Most importantly, a passion for God, and a desire to push others in their relationship with Christ, too. I also love a sense of humor.

Are looks important? Why or why not?

J.G.: Of course. The saying "You can't judge a book by its cover" is true to an extent. You can't judge just based on looks, but looks are what spark an interest.

Senior *Andrew Vock*: Yes!!!

What is a turn on?

J.G.: Long nails and soft hands.

B.L.: Neck and back scratches.

What is a big turn off?

J.G.: Feet.

R.J.: Girls who have been around the block.

B.L.: Bad hygiene/lack of personal care.

Most romantic thing a girl has done for you?

R.J.: Bought me a Gumby and Pokey patch for my backpack.

B.L.: No girl has ever pursued me romantically-ever!

When girls wear lots of make-up do you like it? Why or why not?

J.G.: No, beauty should be natural. Don't fake it.

R.J.: No, it's not real. I hate superficial girls.

B.L.: No, I think natural beauty is the best way to go. But, if you're butt-ugly, you should probably wear some.

What would be your dream date?

J.G.: Quiet evening at home.

A.L.: Britney Spears in the Confectionery.

Do you like when girls wear tight clothing? Why or why not?

R.J.: If she was my girlfriend no, I wouldn't want to share her with the world.

B.L.: As long as she has a nice body, but most (not all) girls who do that aren't people you want to make a commitment to. Guys view those girls as just objects of pleasure. If you want respect you need to cover up.

Where do these crazy ideas come from?

By Leslie Shambo

Many people are superstitious. Some people fear Friday the 13th, others avoid stepping on cracks in the sidewalk. Baseball players might wear the same lucky socks during the Playoff season.

Whatever the superstition may be, it originated from somewhere. The following are some of the theories behind certain superstitions.

Friday the 13th- Friday the 13th is always thought to be an catastrophic day. In fact, the number 13 is believed to be so unlucky that many buildings refuse to have a 13th floor; they just skip right to the 14th. There are numerous reasons why Friday the 13th is considered unlucky.

According to the book *Dungeon, Fire, and Sword*, by John J. Robinson, on that day, many moons ago, the King of France put the Grand Master of the Knights Templar, Jaques DeMolay, to the stake and burned him alive with the other Knights. Believing them to be Satanists, the King had his Anti-Pope excommunicate them and condemn them as heretics.

As he was burning in the flames, DeMolay cursed the Pope and the King of France. They died within the next year.

The Babylonians thought the number 13 to be unlucky because it was a Prime number. The Christians believed it was unlucky because there were 13 people at the Last Supper when Christ was betrayed.

Friday was thought to be unlucky because it was the most common day for people to be hanged in the Middle Ages. Thirteen pence halfpenny was the wage to be paid to the hangman.

In the Bible, Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden on a Friday, the flood that Noah built an arc for began on a Friday, and Christ was crucified on a Friday.

Early Christians also believed that Friday was the day that witches held their satanic ceremonies. They believed that twelve witches and the devil would meet every Friday, making the number 13 and Friday a cursed combination.

Breaking a Mirror-

Many people believe that if they break a mirror, they will be cursed with seven years of bad luck.

This derives from ancient Rome, where people had gazing pools in their gardens so that they could look at themselves. Since they had little scientific knowledge, the ancient Romans believed this reflection to be of their soul or other self.

They believed that any interference would injure their soul. Hence, if the water in the gazing pool stirred, they thought that their other self had been harmed.

The Roman belief was that life renewed itself every seven years. Since a wave in the gazing pool, or later a broken mirror, meant "broken" health, it was thought that the person would need seven years to recover.

Spilling Salt- Many people immediately throw salt over their left shoulders if they accidentally spill it.

In the Middle Ages, salt was a very precious commodity, commonly used for medicinal purposes. If salt was spilled, the person must immediately throw it over his or her left shoulder to strike the nasty spirits in the eye, thus preventing sickness.



Four-Leafed Clover-

Finding a four-leafed clover will supposedly bring good luck.

According to *The Complete Book of Amulets and Talismans*, the four leaves represent good luck in fame, wealth, love, and health.

When Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden, Eve took a four-leafed clover to remind her of the happy times she spent there.

However, the first to believe in its luck were the Druids, who believed that possessing a four-leafed clover would allow them to see and avoid evil spirits.

Sneezing- When someone sneezes, it is considered proper to exclaim, "God bless you."

During the sixth century, it was customary to congratulate people who sneezed because they were supposedly expelling evil from their bodies.

Later, when the bubonic plague took hold of Europe and people began sneezing violently, the Pope passed a law. Since sneezing meant that the person would die of the plague, others were required to bless the sneezer.

The actual term 'bless you' came from ancient Egypt. Tyberius Caesar would roam the city and bless all those with illness.



Lucky Horseshoes- Most people believe that because the horseshoe is shaped like a crescent moon, wearing one will bring prosperity and good fortune.

Yet legend says that the Devil called upon St. Dunstan, who was skilled in shoeing horses. St. Dunstan recognized the Devil and fastened him to a wall, then began to shoe him until the Devil roared for mercy. St. Dunstan turned the Devil loose after making him promise never to enter a house where a horseshoe was fixed.

Rabbits Feet- Keeping a rabbit's foot is considered to bring good luck.

Like many superstitions, this one dates back to the Middle Ages. It was believed that a witch could transform herself into a hare to disguise herself when being pursued. While in the form of a hare, she would suck the milk from nursing mothers.

Therefore, mothers would carry a hare's foot as a warning to other witches that they would meet a similar fate should they try such an act.

Knocking on Wood- Today, many people knock on wood if they say something they *do not* wish to happen, as it gives listening spirits naughty ideas.

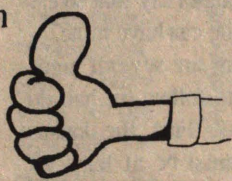
The custom originated with the Druids, as a way of communicating with the dryads, or tree spirits. When a Druid said something good about himself or his luck, he would also knock on the wood of a nearby object as a way of *making sure* that the dryads heard the comment.

The Druids believed that the dryads would then be in their favor, and would grant them that prosperity.

How or why the custom changed is unknown.

~ To getting a spot in student parking

~ To a successful Senior Ditch Day



~ To Prom...\$500 later you'll remember it as the time of your life!

Thumbs

~ To waking up at the crack of dawn to get that spot



~ To handing out detentions to seniors who ditched

Jekyll and Hyde Club

Are you ready for a scare? Creep downtown to visit the Jekyll and Hyde Club!

Located at 51 Ohio Street between ESPN Zone and Disney Quest, the Jekyll and Hyde Club is an exciting new theme restaurant based on Robert Louis Stevenson's novel "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde."

Upon arriving at the club, guests are led through a dark, mysterious hallway (where the walls are not as they seem) and into the social club.

While enjoying their food, which might include a batty burger, chop 'em up salad, or a monster sundae, guests will be invited to interact with the characters (like insane laboratory assistants or talking statues), and may even be whisked away to Dr. Jekyll's lair.

The Bizarre Bazaar offers various gifts, from syringe-shaped pens to edible goo.

While the food is not exactly delicious (it's like Applebee's but more expensive), the restaurant is innovative and different, and definitely a great place to visit for guinea pigs of all ages!

It is open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 11 a.m. to midnight on Friday and Saturday, but parking is sparse so plan to arrive early.

SUMMER FUN JUST A SHORT DRIVE AWAY

Titanic Exhibit

You've watched the movie, heard the song, and read all about it. Now you have the chance to see the real deal at the Titanic exhibit in the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.

The exhibit, which runs until September 4, is open on weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on weekends from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. However, the exhibit will be open everyday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. after May 29.

One of the most magnificent and important pieces of the exhibition is a part of the hull of the ship, measuring 20 by 26 feet. It is the largest piece of the Titanic ship that will most likely every be recovered from the wreck.

Museum-goers will also be ecstatic to find a life-size remake of the Titanic's grand staircase. The staircase was built with wrought iron skylights and intricately

carved woodwork. They will also find re-creations of bedrooms and dining areas.

The Titanic exhibit contains over three-hundred authentic artifacts recovered from the ship's wreck site in the Atlantic Ocean, including a navigational compass, a complete bathroom sink, eyeglasses in their case, dinnerware, jewelry, and more.

Finally, tourists entering the exhibit are given boarding passes with the name of a real-life traveler. At the last station of the Titanic exhibit, they can find out if their "person" was a member of the crew or a first, second, or third class passenger and if they survived.

Tickets, cost \$17 each for adults, but due to high demand, they can not be purchased at the door. Tickets can be purchased online at the museum's official website, <http://www.msichicago.org/tickets/index.html>.

Gameworks

Imagine a place where you can go to just wind down, grab a bite to eat, and have some fun, all while taking in great music and other forms of entertainment.

If you're looking for somewhere to go to have a good time and relax, look no further than Gameworks.

This chain, owned by director Steven Spielberg, is a great place to go to have dinner, listen to music, play video games, and indulge in other various types of entertainment.

A large part of the building is an arcade where you can blow your money and have a good time doing so, but that is far from all there is to do there. They promise the latest arcades and some original games available only at Gameworks. Some

of the latter are interactive, virtual-reality type games, where you can skydive, build and ride a roller coaster, and more.

Gameworks has a large selection of appetizers, hot sandwiches, and drinks. While you're eating, you can often listen to live music. In the past, live performances have been put on by Beck, Save Ferris, and Smashmouth, to name a few.

The nearest Gameworks is located in Schaumburg at 601 N. Martingdale Rd. #115. They are open to everyone Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

For special nights, offers, and other information, call (847) 330-9675 or visit <http://www.gameworks.com>.

KLEIN CREEK FARM

Winfield wasn't always full of people, stores and fun things to do. This area used to be farmland, where families lived off their land.

Klein Creek Farm in Winfield offers great insight to daily life in the 1800s. The farm began as a log cabin in the 1830s, and became a working family farm around the 1860s.

The farm was first opened to the public in 1984 as a realistic DuPage County working farm of the 1890s.

Attractions available at Klein Creek Farm include a self-guided tour from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on select days.

There is also livestock and re-creations of life on the farm. Klein Creek Farm is open Thursday through Monday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The latest activity at the farm is the sheep shearing.

Look for their next featured event to be posted outside of the entrance on County Farm Road north of Geneva. The phone number is 876-5900.

Dunes

A nice way to travel during the summer and still be able to afford it is by taking a road trip to the Indiana Dunes, located approximately 50 miles southeast of Chicago.

The national lakeshore runs for nearly 25 miles along southern Lake Michigan. The park has tons to do in the water or on the sand.

You can play sand volleyball, football, throw a frisbee around, lay out and get a tan and have chicken fights in the water with all your friends.

Wisconsin Dells

If you enjoy sleeping under the stars, going to arcades and riding water-slides all in one trip, then Wisconsin Dells is the place for you. Activities of all sorts await your discovery, and people of all ages can join in the fun.

The Dells is affordable and close. Water parks like Noah's Ark are only \$24.99 a person (\$19.99 for seniors, 2 and under is free) for unlimited use of the park. There are also arcades littering the Dells, such as Game Zone.

There are restaurants galore for your dining needs, including the well-known "Cheese Factory Restaurant," which the Chicago

Tribune complemented as having "first rate upscale family dining." And what trip to Wisconsin is complete without getting a little cheese?

A trip to Wisconsin Dells can be made into more than just a day's entertainment. Hotels and campsites are available for you to stay in for a several day vacation. Among these is Yogi Bear's Jellystone Camp-Resort. The price varies greatly; from July - August it's \$19 - \$49 during the week and \$29 - \$59 on the weekend. September-June it is \$15 - \$30 during the week and \$15 - \$30 on the weekend. These rates are for four people, per day, and equip-

ment can be rented with a \$100 security deposit.

Whether you want to beat the summer heat or take your friends or family camping, Wisconsin Dells is the place to go. And it's closer than you may think. Go west on I-90 until you enter Wisconsin, then head north-west on I-90 to exits 92 - 85. It's a distance of 188 miles and should take at least 3 hours to get there. Getting lost shouldn't be a concern, because when you get near the Dells there are billboards all over the highways telling you how to get there.

For more information on the Dells, call: 1-800-223-3557.

Two recipes to beat the heat

Summer is here and so is the sahara weather.

Hot weather and heavy food certainly do not mix, so if you are looking for recipes, you need something lighter to fill you and your guests, while still being easy to eat in the hot sun.

These two recipes are very good for being light and good in the hot weather, and they are easy to make too.

Both recipes from Gwen Geiger

Aunt Ann's German Pancake

- Ingredients:
2-3 tbsp. butter or margarine 2 eggs
½ cup milk ½ cup flour
2 tbsp. sugar Dash of salt
- For on top of the pancake:
Cinnamon Nutmeg
Sugar (powdered and granular)

* if you want to make a larger pancake, double all the ingredients except the butter or margarine

How to do it:
Preheat the oven to 425 degrees.

Melt the butter in a pancake pan. Beat remaining ingredients with a whisk, and pour batter into the pan. Bake at 425 degrees for 10 minutes, then reduce heat to 375 degrees and bake for another 5-10 minutes or until puffed and light brown. (Increase time slightly for larger pancake.)

Shake cinnamon, sugar, and nutmeg on top. Shake on powdered sugar. Drizzle with fresh lemon juice if desired.

Chinese Chicken Salad

- Ingredients:
2½ cup shredded iceberg lettuce 1/3 cup raisins
2 cup chopped chicken breast (about 1 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breast)
2 green onions, sliced 2 tbsp. water
2 tbsp. low- sodium soy sauce 1½ tsp. white wine vinegar
2 tsp. dark sesame oil ¼ tsp. pepper

How to do it:
Combine the first four ingredients in a large bowl and toss gently. Combine water and remaining ingredients, stirring well. Add to the chicken mixture, tossing to coat everything. Serve immediately.

Billie Goat's Tavern

There are tons of places in Chicago to go: the Art Museum, Navy Pier, the Sears Tower, et cetera. But there is one place that isn't so well known by many.

Located at 430 N. Michigan Avenue, Billy Goat's Tavern and Grill is a small restaurant tucked away under the iron-work of the streets. It's famous for the "cheezeborgers" and has attracted such people as Mike Royko and many other reporters over the

years. The namesake of the restaurant is just as interesting as the place itself. In 1934, William "Goat" Siemis posted a sign on his stall at a Cubs game saying, "No republicans allowed!" He caused a great controversy, and the restaurant is just as unusual, and it's worth a visit.

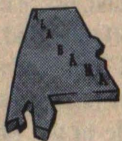
This place is open 7 days a week, from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00p.m.

Class of 2000

What was the most important lesson you learned in high school? "I am responsible for my future," Gabrielle Long. "Not everyone gets the recognition they deserve," Neal Fuchs. "Work hard for your goals," Nick Chapman. "You can run from the guards," Patrick Murphy. "Not to worry about the little things so much because it's the big picture that matters," Crystal Adams. "You really don't have to read any books to get a good grade in class," Jennifer Wiechert. "To try to enjoy things even when it doesn't seem possible," Heidi Lizyess.

Where are they going?

Alabama



Troy State University
Rich Belcher

Colorado



Colorado State University
Ami Pirela

Florida



AMI
Doug Strock

Florida State University
Emily Mueller
Jocelyn Schineller

Illinois



Augustana University
Rachel Altergott
Chris Thomas
Jared Winkvist

Aurora University
Sean Peterson

Bradley University

Beau Brown
Allison Fick
Emily Giermann
Mercedes Koch
Stephanie Shalek

College of DuPage

Jenica Aason
Adrianna Antonio
Ashley Arlington
Lori Balsitis
Amanda Baum

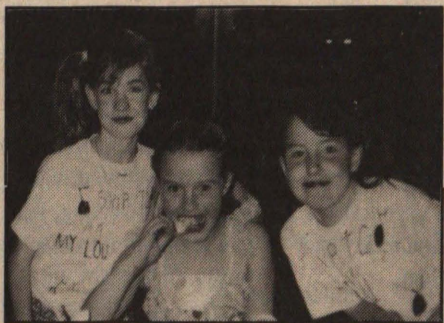


Photo courtesy of Rachel Altergott
Laura Winter, Katalin Larm and Rachel Altergott after a Talent Show performance in the first grade.

Brenda Lee Berenson
Jeff Beutjer
Adam Blossfield
Michael Boes
Jason Boswell
Melissa Brady
Michelle Brady
Consuelo Chairez
Diana Chavez
Lauren Chronowski
Kristine Cleveland
David Conway
Randy Dieter
Janet Drenth
Maria Duran
Jordan Eash
Ben Falk
Dinorah Flores
Noemi Flores
Dan Fortier
Krystal Fuller
Bertha Garcia
Claudia Gentile
Nicole Gerleve
Aydé Gil
Sarah Grammer
Isabel Guerrero
Tiffany Gunther
Rog Guzman
Josh Gwyne
Eric Hansen
Brian Hodge
Garrett Hofmann
Connie Jester
Jonathan Jones
Nesim Kerimi
Rachel Lawrence
Kenny Leonard
Bridget Leonhardt
Heidi Lizyess
Katie Lundgren
Lisa Mari
Nicholas Mieborg
Don Meyer
Joshua Meyers
Marian Moscicke
Jeff Murrell
Stefanie Nadolny

Shannon Nelson
Jessica Ocampo
Teresa Olvera
Ann Outcalt
Katie Owens
Kathleen Pappas
Leena Patel
Cristina Pavone
Leticia Perez
Nick Pray
Ruby Rayes
Marisela Robles
Michael Rohr
Chris Radousky
Chris Reed
Peggie Sable
Diego Sanchez
Nicole Schafroth
Maureen Scheitler
Lydia Schroeder
Anne Schullo
Jaclyn Scott
Emily Sewell
Andy Sinetos
Michelle Skala
Wendi Slottke
Becky Smith
Sabrina Soto
Shannon Spohn
Ben Stevens
Matt Strike
Samantha Szeszycki
Blanca Tena
Alejandra Terrazas
Alex Vergara
Theresa Visser
Nicole Walsh
Rachel Watson
Kristin Weiser
Eric Wood

Columbia College

Demir Elmaz
Chris Pagnozzi
Manuel Robles
Francesca Smith
Devin Vassar

DePaul University

Robyn Leary
Neha Soneji

DeVry Institute of Technology
Carl Thoenmes

Eastern Illinois University
John Millner
Dan O'Hara
Laura Winter

Elgin Community College
Dan Barzo

Elmhurst College
Abbie Chillemi

Greenville College
Justin Hall
Bobby Holguin
Kendra Norton

Illinois State University
Dayna Catenacci
Greg DuBose
Alexandria Feller
Courtney Ksepka
Jim Lelito
Meredith Moore
Christina Payton
Karen Shockey
Jennifer Wiechert

Judson College
Tracy Erickson
Alicia Feistamel
Jeff Tillson
Bob vanGorkam
Greg Wheaton

Lewis University
Tracey Drzal
Missy Krueger

Loyola University
Diane Caruso



Photo courtesy of Leslie Shambo
Jackie Wood, Leslie Shambo and Michelle Lasky dress up for Halloween in the first grade.

North Park University
Julio Gomez
Erin Lichtfuss

Northern Illinois University

Crystal Adams
Amy Aiello
Angela Debartolo
Sherri Grin
Drew Koslow
Thomas Merrion
Jessi Oliver
Michael Orseno
Christie Palombi
Pete Serrato
Karen Tuegel
Helen Walsh

University of Illinois-Chicago
Alma Martinez
Nishil Patel
Cherrrie May Ortiz
Natalia Seinkowicz

University of Illinois-Champaign-Urbana

Humza Azam
Greg Belding
Katy Coffman
Michelle Grove
Eddie Hernandez
Mike Kostal
Kristin Leitherer
Mario Marrero
Adam Miller
Sheetal Rami
Arti Talati
Jessica Tonchick
Beth Warren

Waubonsie Community College
Evan Ferguson

Western Illinois University
Jennifer Briggs
Eric Chorobik
Sarah Kochniarczyk

Westwood College
Amanda Lentz
Juan Robles

Wheaton College
Ami Godoy
Michelle Lasky
Brian Miller

Indiana



DePauw University
Dan Toboja

Olivet Nazarene University
Karin VanderNaalt

Rockford College
Megan Konewko

Southern Illinois University
Amy Fairbairn
Jennifer Hahs
Jenny Rugaard
David Toney
Carrie Zeffield

Triton College
Ryan Miller



Photo courtesy of Katy Coffman
Brownies Lindsey Blint, Tracey Drzal, Katy Coffman, Robyn Leary, Tracy Erickson, Cheryl Hitzeroth, Nicole Walsh, Mercedes Koch, Emily Mueller and Nicole Sells in the first grade.

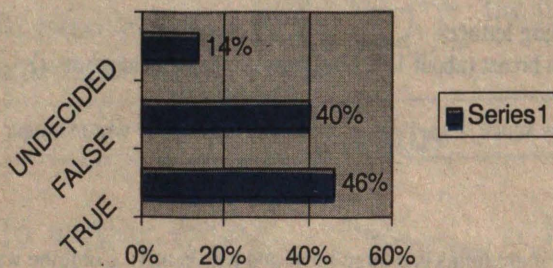
Millikin University
Edercy Abante
Jeff Griffin
Donna Walker

Moody Bible Institute
Nata Greer

Monmouth College
Kim Olson

North Central College
Amanda Hallock
Terri Jensen
Ken Schuda
Adam Valadez

High School: Best Experience?

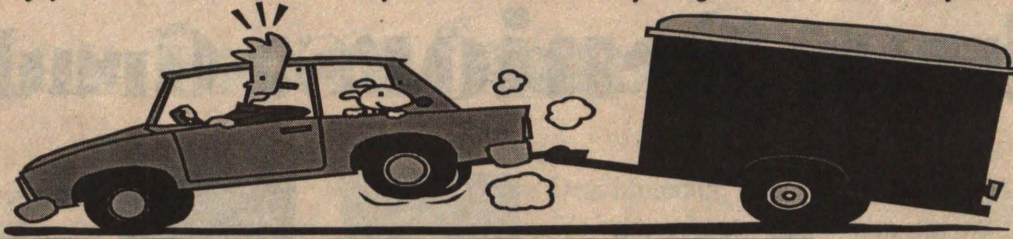


"Just because you're Christian doesn't mean you're godly," Lauren Belding. "Don't say anything you don't want everyone to know," Pete Serrato. "We are all the same," Krystal Fuller. "To enjoy life before you have to grow up,"

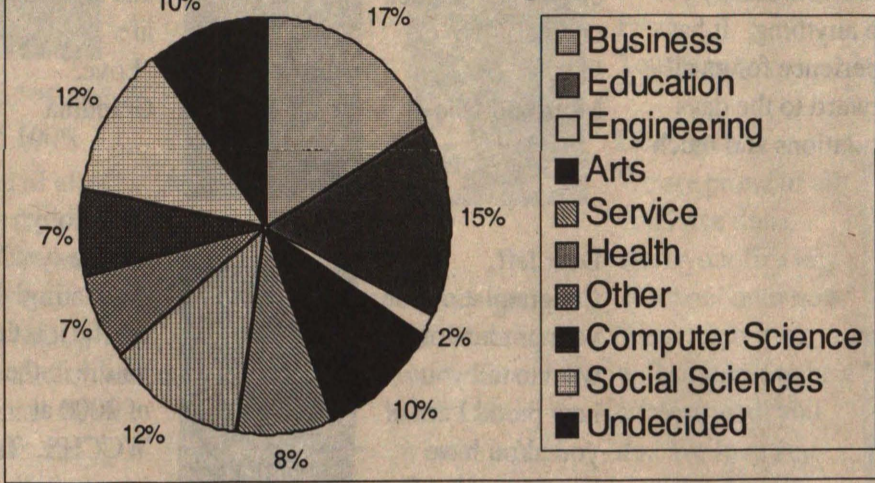
"You can run from the guards," Patrick Murphy. "Not to worry about the little things so much because it's the big picture that matters," Crystal Adams. "You really don't

Class of 2000

"People talk a lot of smack, but all it is is talk, so let it go," Ed Radausky. "If you are given an opportunity, take it, don't worry about what others will think of you," Karen Shockey. "Enjoy your time here, The people we meet, friendships we develop, and memories we make should never be forgotten. If I could do it all over again, I would," Chrissy Gonzalez. "Listen to other people. No matter what the issue/context/etc., you can't accomplish anything if you can't listen to what others have to say," Allison Brown. "Don't take school so seriously because in the long run it won't mean jack," Jeff Tillson. "You need to appreciate the ones who care, not be disappointed in the ones who don't," Brenda Berenson. "Try to make the best of anything that comes my way and having a good attitude makes life more joyful, even in hard trials," Tracy Erickson. "Your only obligation is to be true to yourself," Leslie Shambo.



Senior Majors



Remember when?

- snap bracelets were always getting you in trouble at school
- friendship bracelets were ties that couldn't be broken
- you knew all the words to "Ice Ice Baby" and "Hammer Time"
- french rolled pants were stylin'
- you wore multiple pairs of socks in the middle of the summer just so you could be "hip"
- you puff painted your own shirt
- you knew what Willis was "talkin' 'bout"
- Nintendo was a state of the art video game system
- you spent hours in the basement building and re-building Lego cities
- do Polly Pockets, Glowworms or Popples ring a bell?
- you wanted to be "The Hulk" for Halloween
- you had a crush on one of the New Kids on the Block
- big wheels and bicycles with streamers were the way to go
- you stayed up all night listening to Teddy Ruxpin
- you owned a hair crimper
- fanny packs (need more be said?)
- you thought you were on your way with your Easy Bake Oven
- you wanted to be on Star Search

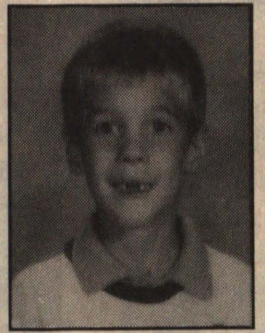


Photo courtesy of Leslie Shambo
Greg Wheaton in the first grade.

Purdue University
Matt Borschke
Abby Grant
Keith Halsall
Bryan Kelsey
Matt McKenney
Patrick Reynolds
Andrew Vock

Taylor University
Gabrielle Long
Taylor Long
Toby Siefert

University of Notre Dame
Misha Shemyakin

Valparaiso University
Matt Grogan

Iowa



Clarke College
Chip Ault
Katalin Larm

Drake University
Nick Chapman

Iowa State University
Adam Hamrick
Matt Shane

Loras College
Andrea Enger
Regina Oroni

University of Iowa
Stefanie Prena
Jackie Wood

Massachusetts



Hampshire College
Lauren Belding



Photo courtesy of Sarah Kochniarczyk
Mario Marrero in preschool.

Michigan



Michigan State University
Amanda Bina

Western Michigan University
Patrick Murphy

Minnesota



Bethel College
Ryan Dorn

Missouri



Truman State University
Sean Morris
Rob Rohrback

New York



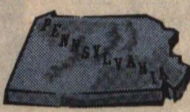
Gemological Institute of America
Linda Xiong

Ohio



Miami University
Chris Batty

Pennsylvania



Grove City College
Sara Knox



Photo courtesy of Leslie Shambo
Amy Aiello takes a ride at Little Caesar's

Utah



Brigham Young University
Katie Holt

Washington



University of Washington
Nicole Wigder

Wisconsin



Carroll College
Heidi Lakics

Carthage College

Kelly Bolton
Neal Fuchs
Brian Jones

Lakeland College

Christine Weisse

Marquette University

Mary Helen Kovacs
Michael Penafior
Leslie Shambo

St. Norbert College

Katie Saul

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Tim Keller

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Lars Higdon

Airline Academy
Grace Moreno

Military

Jesus Favela
Andrew Hartigan
Freddy Lopez

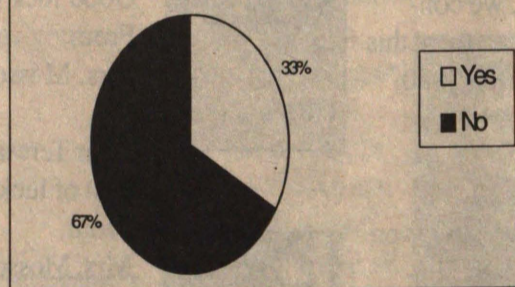
Germany

Ross Jeambey
Paul Mantz

Top 10 Things You'll Miss About High School

10. The cafeteria food
9. Beating up the underclassmen
8. The parking spots
7. Getting out of class for pep assemblies
6. The sweat you work up in PE.
5. Lockers
4. Prom
3. All those exciting fire drills
2. Teachers who actually know your name
1. All your high school friends and memories

% of Seniors who Received Scholarships



We-go's Top Teachers

Seniors gave special mention to these We-go teachers:

- Barbara Laimins
- Judy Minor
- Steve Arnold
- Patti Kozlowski
- Mary Ellen Daneels
- Beverly Kilgallen
- Greg Leitner

Words to describe our favorites:

Crazy, fun, genuine, kind, weird, sassy, encouraging, understanding, helpful, interesting, supportive, concerned.

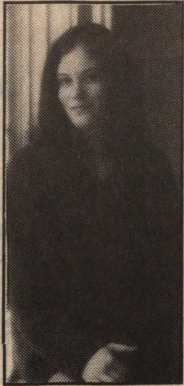
because in the long run it won't mean jack," Jeff Tillson. "You need to appreciate the ones who care, not be disappointed in the ones who don't," Brenda Berenson. "Try to make the best of anything that comes my way and having a good attitude makes life more joyful, even in hard trials," Tracy Erickson. "Your only obligation is to be true to yourself," Leslie Shambo.

"People talk a lot of smack, but all it is is talk, so let it go," Ed Radausky. "If you are given an opportunity, take it, don't worry about what others will think of you," Karen Shockey. "Enjoy your time here, The people we meet, friendships we develop, and memories we make should never be forgotten. If I could do it all over again, I would," Chrissy Gonzalez. "Listen to other people. No matter what the issue/context/etc., you can't accomplish anything if you can't listen to what others have to say," Allison Brown. "Don't take school so seriously

Class of 2000

Goodbye Seniors: Graduation

Dear Diane,
Wow! You have made us very proud! All your hard work and total dedication to doing the best (and beyond) that you can has paid off! Watching you is AMAZING! Success is definitely in your future!
From,
Dad and Mom



Dear Dan,
Congratulations, great job in the last four years. All the best, in the next four years and beyond!
Love,
Dad and Katie



Dear Linda,
Dad and mom are so proud of you. Life together is short but memory is forever. Being the last child in high school, we congratulate you at this graduation 2000.



Dear Nick,
Congratulations on your upcoming graduation! We are so proud of you and your accomplishments. We wish you continued success and a lifetime of happiness!
Love,
Mom and Dad



Dear Maggie Mastick,
Congratulations! You are totally awesome and we are sooooo proud of you! You're going to be a fantastic professional photographer! We love you!
Love,
Dad and Beth

Dear Crissy,
We are so proud of who you are and of how you have succeeded in your goals. You have proven that if you believe in yourself and try your best, you can do anything. It has been a great experience for us all and we look forward to the days ahead. Congratulations and much happiness!
Love,
Mom and Dad

Dear Sherri Grin,
You are special!
From,
Mrs. Mosson

Dear Jessie Whitaker,
Have a great life!
From,
Mrs. Mosson

Dear Melissa Brady,
Best of Luck!
From,
Mrs. Mosson

Dear Consuelo Chavez,
Best of luck!
From,
Mrs. Mosson

Dear Hans Trujillo,
Good luck in your future!
From,
Mrs. Mosson

Dear Teresa Olvera,
Best of luck!
From,
Mrs. Mosson

Dear Dan Toboja,
Best of luck!
From,
Mrs. Mosson

Dear Diana Chavez,
Have a great life!
From,
Mrs. Mosson

Dear Jenica Aasen,
Thanks for your help!
From,
Mrs. Mosson

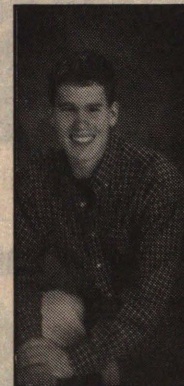
Dear Megan Konewko,
Best of luck!
From,
Mrs. Mosson

Dear Kristy Reser,
Best of luck!
From,
Mrs. Mosson

Dear Amanda,
We are very proud of you. Good luck on finals!
From,
Mom and Dad



Dear Jeff,
Congratulations on your graduation! I want to tell you how proud I am of you. You have become such a fine young man, and I think God for you every day.
Love,
Mom



Dear Sean Morris,
Congratulations on your graduation and much happiness and success in your college endeavors. You have made us very proud.
From,
Mom, Dad, Ryan, and Aron

Dear Nick,
There were times when we thought we'd never see this through, but you've finished and we're very proud of you. Happy graduation! We're going to miss you more than you'll ever know. We'll love you forever...
From,
Mom and Dad



Dear Sarah,
Congratulations #5! We are all proud of you. Your determination and caring spirit will help guide you through the next four years. Your family is always behind you.
Love,
Mom, Dad, and Suzie



Dear seniors,
Some of you I will see next year. Some of you I will never see again. I hope I gave you a little something that will help carry you all of your life.
"Love,"
Grandma

Dear Toby,
Yippe- you're graduating! How terrific it is that you're in the class of 2000 at WCCHS. Take joy in your high school accomplishments. Remember, sometimes in life it's tougher to look than to leap. But always in life move forward by faith not by sight.
From,
Mom and Dad



Dear Diana Chavez,
Thanks!
From,
Mrs. Mosson

Dear Shannon Hitchcock,
Have a great life!
From,
Mrs. Mosson

Dear Nicole Schafroth,
Have a great life!
From,
Mrs. Mosson

Dear Theresa Visser,
Thank you!
From,
Mrs. Mosson

Dear Sara,
On your first day of school, our hopes, dreams, and prayers went with you. Now on your graduation day, we see all of these realized. Remember who loves ya babe.
Love,
Mom, Dad, and Steve



Class of 2000

messages for a formal farewell

Dear Chris,



Whether you were "Billy," "Fagan," or "Teveye," you put forth 100% effort. We are very proud of all of your accomplishments in the past four years at WCCHS. You have always been great to your friends, and we know you will definitely have an impact on the people's lives that you touch at Augustana. May God always be in your life, and know that we love you.

Love,
Mom and Dad

Dear Matthew,



We are so proud of you. We hope for the best for you as you continue your education and begin your career. We love you.
From,
Mom and Dad

Dear Graduating Peer Helpers,
Congratulations and good luck in the future. We'll miss you!
From,
Ms. Alcalá and Mrs. Brafford

Dear Ginger,
Imagine there's no homework,
It's easy if you try
No bells or deadlines,
No more ALUMNI
Imagine graduation,
Going out into the world
You...
May say I'm a dreamer
That's what mummy dears are for,
But you can live in my house
'Til you're 64
From,
Crème Tangerine

Dear B.J.,

We are so proud of all your accomplishments. All your hard work has paid off. We hope you make all your future "goals."

From,
Mom and Dad



Dear Jennifer,
You've brought us so much pride. So many times through the years... the first steps you took, the first word you spoke... were special times that will always be treasured.

Watching you grow to become the special person you are today has been a constant source of joy... and sharing with you this very special occasion brings so much pride once again.



We wish you much happiness and love on your new adventure, follow your dreams. Congratulations!
All our love,
Mom, Dad, Julie, and Eric

Dear Justin Hall,
Wow! You are already going into college! I'll miss you. You've had a good life, and I'm glad you're a Christian brother! Happy Graduation! I hope you have a great rest of your life. I love you! Have fun in college. I am grateful you are my brother. Not many people could find a big bro like you! You're awesome. I love you!
P.S. I had some great times with you. I love you.

P.P.S. Let's write
From,
Jordan

Dear Ryan Dorn,
You've changed a lot through the years.
We've shared much laughter and shed a few tears.
The young man you've become makes us proud and gives us great joy.
But in our hearts, you will always be our "little Ryan Boy."
From,
Mom and Dad

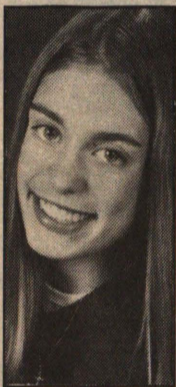


Dear Meredith,
We believe in you and love everything about you. (Do you hear a song coming on from those words via Daddy Waddy?)
From,
Your family

Dear Abbie,
We are proud of all you have done since your first day of school until now. We are sure you will continue to be a success in all you do. We love you. Congratulations!
From,
Mom and Dad



Dear Terri,
You have been a student to be proud of since you started kindergarten. Time passes way to fast, and we can't believe you are graduating. We know you have worked so hard for everything you have achieved.
T-Bird, you are a great kid, and we love you. Congratulations-you are the best.
P.S. I said hi!
Love,
Mom and Dad



Dear Jennifer,
Thank you for being a wonderful daughter. We're very proud of you. Congratulations!
We love you!
From,
Mom and Dad



Liebe Deutsch 4,
Ich werde euch vermissen. Ess-zet Lieb'!
From,
Eure Frau

Dear Bimmers,
Within your power lies every step you ever dream of taking. You go, girl! We love you!
From,
Mom and Tom

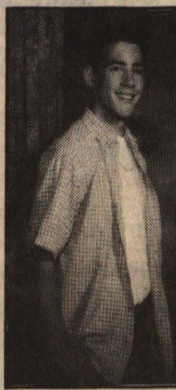


Dear Katy,
It is for us to pray not for tasks equal to our powers, but for powers equal to our tasks, to go forward with a great desire forever, beating at the door of our hearts as we travel towards our distant goal.
-Helen Keller

Never lose your enthusiasm, Katy. Go out and blaze a trail.
Love,
Mom, Dad, Richie, Jim, and Cory



Dear Beau,
Congratulations on all of your high school achievements. We know you'll continue that success next year at Bradley. You are a wonderful son, and have made us very proud. We love you!
From,
Mom and Dad



Dear Drew Koslow,
We are very proud of you for completing high school and being on the honor roll all four years. You're the nicest and most thoughtful person we know. Hope all your goals in life come true. We will always love you. Good luck in college.
Love,
Dad and Mom



Dear Stefanie, Jackie, and Courtney,



Doesn't seem that long ago
The three of you were all aglow
We wish you much success in your Future and remember
As this chapter of your life ends
You girls will always remain friends
From,
Mr. and Mrs. Prena

Class of 2000

Best wishes to the Class of 2000

Dear Lars,
The sky's the limit!
Keep reaching for
your dreams!
From,
Mom and Michael



Dear Challenge Seniors,
While we're still behind on this
year's destination, I have confi-
dence in every one of you that
you'll do great. Just remember
every once in a while it is very
good to break out of the daily
routine and pursue an unknown
destination!

From,
Mr. Larson

Dear Baby Heidi,
On September 11, 1982 very early
in the morning our lives were
changed forever. On that sunny
September day,
God sent a little
blessing into our
lives. She had
bright green eyes
and a head full of
little red curls; she
was nothing short
of perfect.



Many years have
gone by, and now
you're 17, time does go by too fast.
In a couple of weeks that same little
girl who used to walk around the
house in her pigtails dragging her
Scooby-Doo doll around will be
graduating. We are so proud of
you, Baby! In our
eyes you will
always be that same
sweet little baby girl
who will always
continue to make us
proud.



Congratulations on
your graduation!
We are very proud
of you, Heidi!
YeahBabyYeah!
Love,
Mom, Dad, Peter, Mariel, and Ren
Too

Dear Adam,
Congratulations on all your accom-
plishments. We are all very proud
of you. Remember your hard work
and dedication to your goals will
take you wherever you want to go
in life.
Love,
Mom, Jim, and Steve

Dear Tracy,
Thanks for everything. Good luck
next year!
From,
Sarah

Dear Ben,



We celebrate your achievement!
You are the best. Continue to
shine!
Love,
Dad, Mom, Luke, and Sara

Dear Mario,
I just wanted to say
thanks for being a
great brother! I
love you and will
miss you so much!
From,
Carla



Dear Rachel and Katie,
I hope you had as much fun on the
soccer team as I did. Good luck
with whatever you do after you
graduate and don't forget all the
cool times we had. Miss you
forever!
From,
Arlene

Dear Graduating Thespians and
Theater Buffs -
You have been such a special joy to
me that I can only say, break both
legs!
Wishing you long and happy lives,
With love,
Ms. H

Dear Brian,



I just wanted to write and let you
know how great it was being able
to go to school with you and see
you everyday. I'm going to miss
not seeing you next year but I'll of
course still be thinking of you.
Love you tons.

From,
Heidi

Dear Seniors,
Congratulations and good luck
seniors.
From,
Lexie Feller

Dear Erik & Sarah,



The drummer from Def Leppard's
only got one arm.
From,
Nora

Dear Jeff,
Hey, Mr. Sexy himself! I'll miss
you a lot next year! Have fun and
you'd better come back and visit.
From,
You Know Who

Sarah Beth, Leslie and David,
You have done a fantastic job this
year and created a newspaper that is
truly memorable. Thanks for
making my last year a blast!
Ms. Mo

Dear Rich Belcher,
We are so proud of all your accom-
plishments. You had success in
ever endeavor you tried. Remem-
ber your strength is in God, not self,
and you will continue to succeed in
college, too. We love you!
From,
Mom and Dad

Dear Wildcat Linemen,
Fortune favors the bold, so work
hard, take chances, and have fun.
From,
Coach Chambers

Dear Bryan,
Keep "riding"
towards your
dreams. Go
Boilers!
Love,
Mom and Dad



Dear Nick,
Words can't begin to describe the
memories we have chronicled in
our minds. From the time they put
you in my arms, the day you were
brought home, survival of broken
limbs, every lullaby sung, listening
to you sing about horsies and trees,
your Uncle John stories, every slide
into home plate, every stolen base,
building pinewood derby cars,
piano recitals, watching you learn to
ski, every soccer goal, every run for
the goal posts in youth football
every tackle in high school, watch-
ing you fall into the lake in Quetico,
every hug and to every kiss you
have ever given us but most of all
just hearing you call us mama and
dad. Grandma gave us a saying
once that said that "children are not
ours that they are on loan to us from
God." We are just there to take care
of them, watch them grow, insure
their safety and then let them go.
We feel so incredibly privileged to
have been given a child like you
and we are so tremendously proud
of the young man you have be-
come. Here's to your bright future!!
Go Bulldogs!!!!
As Always and Forever,
Love Mama and Dad

Dear Alicia Feistamel,
Congratulations on a job well done!
You have worked
very hard. We
know you can do
anything you set
your mind to. We
are very proud of
the person you have
become.
From,
Mom, Dad and
Christina



Dear Willowhawk,
Now is your time to soar.
All our love,
Mom and Dad

Center Stage raises the barre

By Leslie Shambo

Center Stage waltzed into the box office on May 12, earning \$4.8 million. The energetic drama looks at the hopes and dreams of a tight-knit group of young dancers, enrolled in the country's most prestigious ballet academy, competing for a place in one of the world's top ballet companies.

The movie follows the lives of six promising ballet dancers enrolled at the American Ballet Academy (ABA) as they prepare for the performance that will either make them or break them.

Jody (Amanda Schull) wants to be a great ballerina, but lacks

the turnout and right body type. Street-wise Eva (Zoë Saldana) has the technique but too much of an attitude problem. Their roommate, Maureen (Susan May Pratt, *10 Things I Hate About You*) is the best dancer in the school, but lacks the passion.

As the school year begins, most of the young ballerinas fall in love with Charlie (Sascha Radetsky), a new student and strong dancer. But not Jody. After her first meeting with the company's star, Cooper Nielson (Ethan Stiefel), she's fallen head over heels in love.

Cooper has just returned from London, where he spent a year recuperating from a heartache brought on when ABA's director, Jonathan (Peter Gallagher, *While You Were Sleeping*) married Cooper's long-time dance partner and lover. Now, Cooper chooses to toy with young ballerinas like Jody, who mistakes his advances for love.

Meanwhile, Maureen meets a handsome pre-med student, who shows her that there is more to life than ballet and bulimia. Maureen realizes that she is not living her own dream, but rather her mother's. And Eva learns that her talent will not be recognized if she cannot learn to control her quick tongue.

Center Stage comes from Nicholas Hytner, the acclaimed director of *The Crucible* and *The Madness*

of *King George*, and Academy Award nominated producer Laurence Mark of *Jerry Maguire* and *As Good As It Gets*. Carol Heikkinen (writer of *Empire Records*) signed on to write the original screenplay.

Starring actual dancers, rather than actors, *Center Stage* adds a bit of reality to the movie industry. Jody is played by Amanda

Bolshoi Academy under world renowned men's teacher Pytor Pestov. He has been selected as ABT's representative in the prestigious Princess Grace Awards for Dance Competition.

Using actual dancers as opposed to actors gives the movie a fantastic array of dance footage, ranging from ballet to jazz to salsa.

The dance scenes are beautiful, seductive, and stunning.

The movie also highlights the pain and hardships of dance, on and off the screen. All the professional dancers in the film, including Schull, Radetsky and Stiefel, took class every day before the filming began, sometimes at

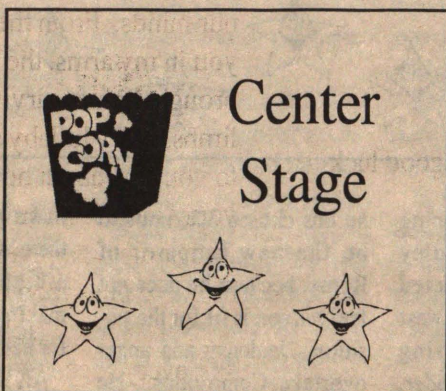
5:00a.m.

Hytner said in the film's production notes, "Ballet is a tough, tough world. It's unbelievably hard. Talk to Sascha Radetsky about the year he spent studying dance in Russia. In Moscow, instructors were still walking around whopping bad legs with sticks. Ballet is a brutal career. It involves enormous sacrifice and physical pain."

Schull added in the production notes, "Jody's situation in the script pretty much parallels what I'm going through in life. I can relate to her problems and all the hard work she has to do."

Center Stage is the perfect blend of dance and drama. Like a classical ballet, it prances onto the screen with the standard vicious villain, the innocent ingenue and the handsome hero. Fortunately, it contains many complex characters that manage to make the film a seductive and breathtaking masterpiece.

Producer Laurence Mark said in the film's production notes, "Some people like living by the rules; other people just want to go crazy. It all shows in how they dance. Dance expresses personality. The movie will hopefully be surprising in the many ways it features dance and in showing how completely joyful and sexy dance can be."



Frequency a fun movie, logic aside

By Marc Berry

Time travel has been a common theme in movies for years. However, it has never been portrayed as it is in *Frequency*. The characters in the movie are able to change different time periods without actually entering them.

Like any good movie, it immediately introduces us to the main characters, Frank Sullivan, a firefighter (Dennis Quaid, *Any Given Sunday*), and his son, John Sullivan, a cop (Jim Caviezel, *The Thin Red Line*).

However, they are living in two different years. While Frank is living in 1969, John is living 30 years later in 1999. We soon find out that in John's time, his father is dead, having been killed while attempting to save someone caught in the middle of a warehouse fire - 30 years ago. John was only six years old at the time of the incident, but he has missed his father all his life.

The night before the anniversary of his father's death, the son of a visiting friend comes upon the old ham radio that belonged to Frank. They are able to get the old machine working but aren't able to pick any signals up.

Soon after his friend leaves however, John hears the voice of a man over the radio. They talk for a while, until John notices something strange. In the background, he hears the man calling his son, "Chief" - the same thing John's dad used to call him when he was young. The man is also apparently awaiting the 1969

World Series. John is skeptical at first, but he soon begins to realize that there is no way it could be somebody pulling a joke. Even though Frank thinks he is crazy, John quickly tells

changes something new in the present.

The whole premise is very clever, but it cannot be thought about too deeply, as the film creates its own logic. An example would be hard to give without giving away big plot points, but you'll constantly be thinking about the paradoxes that come up throughout the movie.

It starts to make your head hurt after a while, and the movie is a lot more enjoyable if you just take it for what it is. Either way, the

movie holds your interest the entire time and keeps you wondering how time will be changed next.

Quaid and Caviezel put on great performances and make you believe that the characters are really amazed at the phenomenon that is taking place. The dialogue is also well written, but what really pulls you in is the suspense and unpredictable nature of the plot.

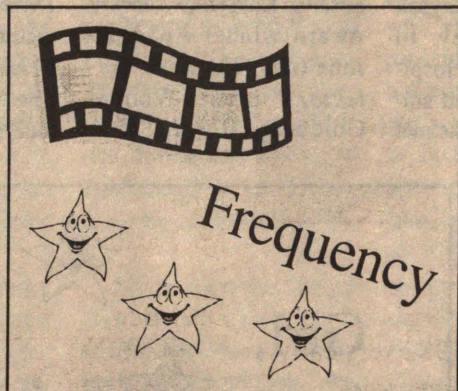
Although it is director Gregory Hoblit's first movie in this genre, his work is known for their great plots and high suspense levels (*Primal Fear*, which earned an Academy Award nomination for actor Edward Norton, and *Fallen*, along with TV shows such as "Hill Street Blues," "L.A. Law," and "NYPD Blue"). He doesn't break that reputation with this one.

Overall, *Frequency* should give most people their money's worth. It offers an entertaining two hours of excitement, thrills, and even some humor, all the way up to the excellent showdown at the end. The movie is a nice ride all the way through.

After Frank discovers that John was right, he begins to trust in him, and he stays up late talking to him over the radio, catching up on everything that has happened to John over the years. All is not right, though. In John's time, Frank is still dead, having been overtaken by lung cancer ten years earlier. Worse yet, other drastic changes have occurred that affect both father and son.

The two soon realize that what has happened is a result of their tampering with the past. Somehow, Frank surviving that day changed more than they had expected. Together, they must figure out what exactly Frank did to cause these new events and, more importantly, how to fix it.

From here on, the movie constantly switches back and forth between the two men and the years they live in, as they try to make things right again. This sets the stage for some interesting scenes, as whatever Frank does in the past



Coming Attractions

June 2000

- June 2- *Big Momma's House* starring Martin Lawrence
- June 9- *Gone in 60 Seconds* starring Nicolas Cage and Angelina Jolie
- June 16- *Shaft* starring Samuel L. Jackson and Busta Rhymes
- June 28- *The Patriot* starring Mel Gibson and Heath Ledger
- June 30- *The Perfect Storm* starring George Clooney and Mark Wahlberg

July 2000

- July 7- *Scary Movie* starring Carmen Electra
- July 14- *The X-Men* starring Patrick Stewart and Rebecca Romijn-Stamos
- July 19- *The In Crowd*
- July 21- *Loser* starring Jason Biggs and Greg Kinnear
- July 28- *The Nutty Professor II: The Klumps* starring Eddic Murphy

August 2000

- August 4- *The Hollow Man* starring Kevin Bacon and Elisabeth Shue
- August 11 (tentative release date)- *Bedazzled* starring Brendan Fraser and Elizabeth Hurley
- *Godzilla 2000*
- August 18- *Bring It On* starring Kirsten Dunst and Blaque
- August 25- *The Replacements* starring Keanu Reeves and Gene Hackman
- *Steal This Movie!* starring Vincent D'Onofrio and Jancane Garofalo

Girl, Interrupted questions insanity

By Leslie Shambo
"People ask how we got in there. What they really want to know is if they're likely to end up there as well. I can't answer the real question. All I can tell you is ... it's easy."

In 1967, Susanna Kaysen was whisked away to McLean Psychiatric Hospital after a half-hearted suicide attempt. There, she met a group of eclectic young women who not only became her best friends, but lit Susanna's path back to someone she had lost...herself.

Twenty-five years later, Susanna Kaysen wrote "Girl, Interrupted," based on her experiences at McLean Hospital. The book instantly became a best seller. It has been likened to

"One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," "I Never Promised You a Rose Garden," and "The Bell Jar."

Eloquently written, the book is filled with bursts of humor, sadness, honesty and insight. It proves how unanswerable the question of insanity really is. Susanna's thought process is incredible to witness, and it leaves the readers questioning themselves.

The novel caught the eye of several Hollywood producers, as well as actress Winona Ryder (*Edward Scissorhands*, *Little Women*), who at the age of 20 checked herself into a mental hospital after suffering from anxiety attacks. On the official *Girl, Interrupted* website, director Jim Mangold said, "A lot of movies have been made about people in mental distress and most of them relied on some kind of 'Rosebud the Sled.' Susanna's story, on the other hand, is even more frightening. It suggests people can find themselves in a wasteland of confusion and, even after years of therapy and 'recovery,' remain unclear as to how they got there. The

only thing they've discovered is that there is no simple answer."

In January 2000, the movie *Girl, Interrupted* was released in theaters nationwide. It contains a powerful cast, including Ryder (as Susanna Kaysen), Academy Award winner Angelina Jolie (*Gia*, *The Bone Collector*) and Whoopi Goldberg (*Ghost*, *Sister*

She's All That, *Can't Hardly Wait*), a compulsive liar, Janet (Angela Bettis), an anorexic, Daisy (Brittany Murphy, *Clueless*, *Drop Dead Gorgeous*), an incest victim, and Polly (Elisabeth Moss, "The West Wing," *A Thousand Acres*), a burn victim. The group, headed by Lisa, has a knack for getting in trouble. This aptitude eventually sends Lisa to maximum security.

The entire group is shocked when Daisy is released from Claymore. Daisy is clearly not well; she stores rotting chickens in her room and has an addiction to laxatives. When Daisy is released, the girls are confused as to what makes Daisy sane and the rest of them crazy. Daisy's

'apparent sanity' and Lisa's absence burden Susanna.

She begins to write in her journal and meet with the head psychiatrist. Yet, the night before her release her entire future and life is jeopardized.

The movie is filled with humor, depth and suspense. Jolie gives a dynamic, unsurpassed performance that draws the viewer into the movie. The other young actresses are very natural and raw, portraying their characters with experience not often seen in Hollywood. The movie is very realistic and honest.

Yet, one must wonder how such a variance between the novel and the movie occurred. Not only does the movie seem more organized, but it gives the idea that Susanna "recovered" after her two years at Claymore, whereas the book makes it seem like she had not improved at all. The "happy" ending of the movie leaves the viewer with a satisfaction not obtained through the novel. However, both versions are excellent.

Rent *Girl, Interrupted* or buy the book this summer!



Act). The movie is very different from the book; it follows a definite structure, whereas the book has no evident frame.

On the website, Mangold explained, "It was a very tough adaptation. The book has an episodic structure that could not translate into cinematically."

It is because of the developed structure that the movie is so strong. The novel deals with Susanna's thoughts, while the movie showcases her interactions with the other teenage girls at the hospital.

In the movie, Susanna arrives at Claymore Hospital after overdosing on aspirin, with the impression that she has no bones in her hand. She is diagnosed with Borderline Personality Disorder.

A few days later, a young girl bursts into Susanna's suite, screaming. The angry girl is Lisa (Jolie), a sociopath who constantly tries to break the barriers. Susanna and Lisa quickly become friends, as Susanna continues to fall into a downward spiral.

Susanna also befriends Georgina (Clea DuVall,

The "sword and sandals" epic returns

By David A. Conaway

Imagine an army of thousands of Roman soldiers, fully clad in armor, advancing through a forest towards an army of Germanic tribesmen. Overhead cauldrons of burning oil are launched towards the Germanic tribe from catapults, and flaming arrows streak through the air, fired from rows of hundreds of Roman archers.

This is just the opening scene of director Ridley Scott's (also directed *Thelma and Louise*) newest film *Gladiator*, starring Russell Crowe (*The Insider*, *L.A. Confidential*) as a fictitious Roman general named Maximus.

The movie takes place at the end of Marcus Aurelius' (Richard Harris, *First Knight*) reign as Rome's dictator, just as the Romans wipe out the last Germanic

tribe standing against the Empire. Marcus Aurelius tells his son Commodus (Joaquin Phoenix, *8MM*, *Inventing the Abbotts*), that

to find a way to get back at Commodus.

The battle scenes in the movie are extremely realistic and violent - you'll find yourself holding your breath through half of them.

The violence is not without purpose though. It makes the film very real, and the cries of the crowd in the coliseums



he has chosen Maximus to be the new Emperor of Rome, because he does not feel his son is fit for the position. Jealousy and anger overtake Commodus. He murders his father and arranges to have Maximus killed.

Maximus escapes however, and is taken as a slave, forced to fight in the gladiator tournaments. The tournament eventually comes to Rome where Maximus tries

make you feel like you're there. Crowe's acting is also a high point in the film, making you care very much for his character.

All in all, this movie is surprisingly good, matching up in quality with the classic movies of the Roman Empire such as *Ben-Hur*. Even if you aren't a fan of these kinds of movies, *Gladiator* is still worthwhile. The film is an excellent epic of a man facing impossible odds.

"Final Fantasy IX:" the end of an era?

By David A. Conaway

"Final Fantasy IX," the latest installment in the Final Fantasy series, looks like it may finally start piecing the series together, after several games which seemed to have very little in common.

Squaresoft, the makers of Final Fantasy, is calling this "the final work in this era of the series." No one has been able to figure out quite what is meant by this, but the "crystal" (seen in the first games), which Squaresoft says can be viewed as the "origin, or starting point" of the series is being restored.

The game heads back to the "old-school" style Role Playing Game (RPG). No more confusing junction systems or materials here (in which items needed to be equipped to use magic), just classic Hit Points (HP) and Magic Points (MP).

Once again there are four characters at a time in your party, rather than three, and the job system has also been restored. Although there aren't any details on it, there will also be some sort of

summoning system in the game as well. Concerning the world of "Final Fantasy IX," Squaresoft says the game will have a "familiar setting that no one has yet explored."

The cast has also just recently been announced by Squaresoft, and it's as unique and colorful as any other Final Fantasy game: Zidane Tribal, the main character and a young member of a thief's guild, Vivi Ornitier, a 9-year old black mage, Garnet Tail Alexandros, the princess of the royal family, Edward Steiner, a 33-year old knight sworn to protect the princess, Flyer Crescent, a powerful warrior with a mysterious past, Salamander Coral, a powerful and egotistical warrior, Eiko Callier, a 6-year old genius, and finally Kuina Quen. All that is known about Kuina is that he likes to eat - a lot.

Anticipation will build as the game gets closer and closer to its release date, and Squaresoft will more than likely keep leaking out in-

formation little by little to keep the interest high. Even Coca-Cola has a commercial that aired in Japan on April 1, featuring the "Final Fantasy IX" cast.

How will the game itself be though? Squaresoft hasn't let much information out about anything but the story line and a few other little facts.

From various screen shots, it looks like the graphics are a cross between "Final Fantasy VII's" anime style look and "Final Fantasy VIII's" realistic look. With the return to HP and MP, one can assume that summons will not play a huge part in the game as they did in "Final Fantasy VIII," which several gamers have voiced their disapproval of.

As with any Final Fantasy game, it will undoubtedly be compared with "Final Fantasy VII" upon its release. "Final Fantasy VII" has been called the "greatest game of the 20th century." Only time will be able to tell how well "Final Fantasy IX" does.

Riddles!

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. With thieves I consort,
With the vilest, in short,
I'm quite at ease in depravity;
Yet all divines use me,
And savants can't lose me,
For I am the center of gravity.
What am I? | 2. What is the pattern in these two lines?
A. II
B. ABCDEFGHJKLMNPOQRSTUVWXYZ |
|---|---|

Answers: 1. The letter 'v'. 2. A. Letters of the alphabet that are dotted in lower case. B. Letters of the alphabet not dotted in lower case.

Catatonia proves weird but worthy

By Leslie Shambo

Are you ready to hear something weird? Go no further than the nearest record store.

Atlantic Records introduced Catatonia to America in March with the release of the Welsh pop quintet's third album "Equally Cursed and Blessed."

Catatonia first surfaced in 1993, when they released their debut jingle, "For Tinkerbelle," which received instant acclaim in the United Kingdom.

The band followed with "Way Beyond Blue" in 1996, an album with four honored singles, including "Bleed," "Lost Cat," "You've Got a Lot to Answer For," and "Sweet Catatonia."

The band scheduled concerts in New York, L.A. and Austin, Texas, but after record company intervention, the album never reached the United States.

Catatonia's second album, "International Velvet," debuted on the UK charts at #11 and quickly reached #1 in 1998. It was eventually named "Album of the Year," by *Melody Maker*. The headlining tour that ensued was completely sold-out.

"Equally Cursed and Blessed," featuring bassist Paul Jones, guitarists Owen Powell and Mark Roberts, drummer Aled Richards, and vocalist Cerys Matthews,

features several slow ballads, as well as many quick tempo songs, all equally unusual.

Hailed by *Melody Maker* as "one of 1999's most accomplished albums," "Equally Cursed and Blessed" is a mixture found no where else.

The first song, and possibly the best on the CD, is "Dead From the Waist Down," a slow ballad with a beautiful melody. Matthews sings in a child-like voice, "The sun is shining/We should be making hay/But we're dead from the waist down/Like in Californ-i-a." She then shouts an unusual message: "Make hay not war!"

The song is fun and different. It quickly made the UK Top Ten, paving the way for the album's #1 chart debut.

What makes the song so good is obviously not the lyrics, but the beautiful use of the piano and the wonderful drum performance.

There are only a few tolerable songs on the entire CD, the first being "Londinium." The song takes a negative approach towards the city of London, featuring police sirens and traffic noises. Matthews sounds bitter and emotional when she croons the lyrics, "London never sleeps/It just sucks/The life out of me."

The only other song worth listening to is "Road Rage."

The song starts slowly, but the chorus is sharp and energetic. Matthews yells, "You could be taking it easy on yourself/You should be making it easy on yourself/'Cause you and I know it's all over the front page/You give me road rage/You're losing your mind."

Yet many of the songs on "Equally Cursed and Blessed" are boring or awful. Several of the songs, like "Bulimic Beats" or "Valerian" have no chorus at all, making them extremely dull.

Other songs, like "Storm the Palace" and "Dazed, Beautiful and Bruised," are almost painful. They sound as though they belong in an Andrew Lloyd Webber production rather than an alternative-pop CD.

To enjoy the CD is challenging. It takes a good deal of time to get used to the music. Overall, "Equally Cursed and Blessed" is fun but irritating, energetic but boring. It is a mixture of Garbage, The Cardigans and Bjork all together, creating a sound that is unmatched by any other group.

Matthews said in a recent interview with Atlantic Records affiliates, "I've got absolutely no expectations. Two or three years ago, I wanted to come here and mesmerize everybody. But it's a big country. It's mad, but hopefully we'll fit in. I just want to enjoy it."

Five Iron Frenzy hits the ska scene

By Marc Berry

In the late 90's, the musical style ska made a comeback, with several new ska bands hitting the music scene.

One of the premiere bands who have gone unnoticed in the mainstream market, was Five Iron Frenzy. The eight-piece band has a style that stands out from the crowd. They include many ska elements into their albums, but never sound quite like "full-blown ska," creating potential appeal from those who like or dislike the genre.

Having released their new album, "All the Hype That Money Can Buy" on April 25, they continue their tradition of seamlessly mixing punk and ska while delivering messages that apply to everyone.

Their first album was released in 1996, and since then they have released two more original full-length albums (including "Hype"), one EP, and a concert album.

The Colorado-based group started out as an industrial/thrash band, but when they realized they were going nowhere, they decided to change their style.

Three new members joined the group, playing the trumpet, saxophone, and trombone, and Five Iron Frenzy (FIF) was born. Soon after, they were signed

to record label 5 Minute Walk, released their debut CD, and began touring across the country. They gained a large fan following, and have become known for their energetic concerts, where they show their sense of fun and humor.

The band is not currently touring regularly, but they performed at Benedictine University in Lisle on April 30. They will resume touring in June to promote their new album and will be in Bushnell, IL at the Cornerstone music festival on July 8.

"All the Hype that Money Can Buy" closely resembles their first CD, "Upbeats and Beatdowns," but has a flavor all of its own.

The tracks never run together and each has a fresh feeling. As always, the horns are nicely blended into each of the songs and are a large part of FIF's unique sound. Lead singer Reese Roper continues to write and belt out lyrics that can be related to by many.

He sings of peoples' intolerance for others ("Fahrenheit"), the growing dominance and effect of major corporations ("Giants"), and other relevant topics to today's society.

"A New Hope" speaks of the Columbine incident last year and being able to find peace after tragedy - "Peace fills us/By hope we steer/Our dark hearts salvaged/We live without fear."

The band also puts emphasis on their faith throughout several of their songs. However, they do not make Christianity out to be a bunch of fluff and don't want to give people a stereotype image of Christians.

In an interview with *Bandoppler.com*, Roper explained, "I have a problem with writing songs with a particular formula or agenda beforehand. When we write our songs we are trying to be authentic, and let people know that yes, Jesus is our savior and we love him with all of our hearts, but we still struggle like anyone else, especially with things like life and faith. I hope that our music is good enough to appeal to everyone."

"Hype" marks the first album with new guitarist, Sonnie Johnston, but former guitarist Scott Kerr makes a guest performance and co-wrote one of the songs.

There are several other guest musicians who also lend their talents throughout the CD, including members from the swing band the W's, Karl Perazzo from Santana on percussion, and others.

"All the Hype That Money Can Buy" is probably FIF's best album to date. There is no good reason not to check it out, as each song is memorable and stays with you. The upbeat style and flawless mixture of funny and serious lyrics makes for a great hour of catchy tunes.

Playing it again with Moby

By Leslie Shambo

Since bursting onto the electronic scene in 1990 with the underground sensation "Go," Moby has been a magnet for strong opinions.

A complete vegan and descendent of Herman Melville ("Moby Dick") known for his self-professed arrogance, Moby has rubbed many people the wrong way. Others are captivated by his emotionally uplifting, eclectic music.

However, even those who have let their personal opinions of Moby sway their opinion of his music have been swept up by the brilliance and sophistication of "Play," which some people have already labeled the best album of the year.

"Play" embraces both hip-

hop syncopation and early twentieth century African-American folk music to create a stunning set of time-traveling funk. The album is perfect for this day and age, where people are torn between nostalgia and the future.

The song "Why Does My Heart Feel So Bad?" elegantly combines beauty with pain. Amidst the anguished cries of the Shining Light Gospel Choir and the melancholy hum of the piano, Moby asks, "Why does my heart feel so bad?/Why does my soul feel so bad?"

The song also features Alan Lomax's 1930 recordings of African-American field workers, mixing sorrow with grace.

"Bodyrock" simultaneously suggests Fatboy

Slim and Prodigy. It is not the lyrics that make this song, but the electronic beats of 1980s Detroit.

The song contains a sample of "Love Rap" as performed by Spoony G and Treacherous. It is a fun, techno dance song unlike the more mature songs on the "Play" album.

"Natural Blues" is a fabulous combination of gospel and pop. The tune features extracts from the Vera Hall recording "Trouble So Hard." It is a truly innovative and mature song not often heard on radio stations today.

The African-American folk music can be sensed most prevalently in the song, "Honey," which features Bessie Jones' blues vamp "Sometimes" amid a tinkling piano and shuffling

funk. The song "Run On" resembles a barbershop quartet with the use of Bill Landford and The Lanfordaires song "Run On For a Long Time." These two songs are more irritating than admirable.

Many of the other songs on "Play" are more industrial, like "Machete," while some are just scary, like "7," which sounds as though it belongs on the "Blair Witch Project Soundtrack."

Perhaps the best song on the album is "Porcelain." It is certainly the most beautiful and stunning combination of indie rock and techno ever.

Moby sings, "In my dreams I'm dying all the time/Then I wake it's kaleidoscopic mind/I never meant to hurt you/I never meant to lie/So this is

goodbye." The song is genius and grace tied together.

The ebb and flow of the 18 concise, contrasting songs on "Play" write the story of Moby's conflicted interior world.

Born in Darien, Connecticut, Moby played in a hard-core punk band called the Vatican Commandos as a teenager. After dropping out of college, he began working as a DJ in dance clubs. In 1991, he set the theme for David Lynch's television series "Twin Peaks" to the house-derived rhythm called "Go," which became a Top Ten hit in Britain.

He released his first album, "Moby," in 1992, followed by the 1993 single "Thousand," which has been named by the

Guinness Book of World Records as the fastest single ever, clocking in at 1000 beats per minute.

In 1995, Moby released "Everything is Wrong" under Elektra Records. Although the press embraced the album, it was not a commercial success.

The following year, Moby suddenly abandoned techno music for heavy rock with "Animal Rights." "I Like to Score" followed in 1997, but neither album was successful.

Finally, Moby has hit upon the right mixture of techno, gospel and hip-hop. With "Play," Moby is free of the pretentious edge that often plagues his material. It is his most powerful and insightful album to date.

Bottom Line: This is a must-have CD!

Lil' Zane: UP AND COMING ARTIST

By Laura McQueen

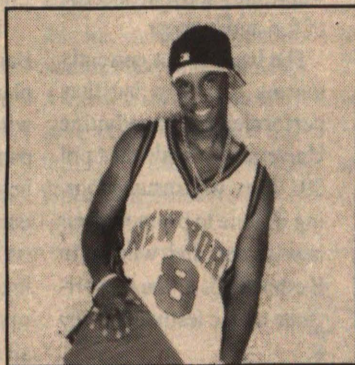
Take a good look at this handsome face. You may be seeing a bit more of it pretty soon.

Lil' Zane is a hot new hip-hop artist who is quickly making his name known in the music industry. At the age of 17, Lil' Zane has already been featured in the popular 112 song, "Anywhere," as well as having his first single, "Money Stretch" showcased on the soundtrack to Ice Cube's recent movie, *Next Friday*.

"Money Stretch" is a mel-low rap song with a style similar to many Will Smith tunes. The beat is a steady one that is easy to groove to, but by the end of the song it gets a little monotonous. The words blend well with the beat and overall it is a smooth rap song. It's not as offensive or hard core as many other rap songs such as those by Master P or Eazy E.

The song was surprisingly

well done considering that Zane is a new and unknown artist. I was also taken aback because even though I don't listen to a lot of rap, the rhythm was enjoyable. It not only passes the test, but is



not new to serious rap fans.

Lil' Zane writes most of his own lyrics, but his debut album, to be released June 6, also has songs written by Sean "Puffy" Combs. The album is called "Young World: The Future," and it features guest appearances by many upcoming rappers and the group 112.

Lil' Zane's first big break with 112 was a credit to many years of work. Zane was born in New York, but

he was raised in Atlanta, Georgia. He first became serious about a career in hip-hop when he was 10 years old. He entered many local talent shows before meeting the owner of Worldwide Entertainment, Kevin Wales, who got him moving in the right direction.

Lately, Zane has also been busy showing off his skills on many familiar TV shows. He has performed on BET's "Live From L.A." and "Teen Summit," as well as the TV sitcom "The Parkers,"

plus appeared on "Soul Train," and various MTV shows.

He has been featured in many magazines including *The Source* and *Teen People*. He's also going to be in the upcoming Sean Connery film, *Finding Forrester*.

Lil' Zane is a new rap artist who may hit it big anytime soon. Check out his upcoming CD if you're into rap or think you'd like to try a change in music styles.

Crowds hunger for more after 'Jamboree'

By Jamie Nadolny

Imagine yourself being crowded by thousands of screaming fans, all standing outside in the heat, drenched in sweat.

Imagine yourself surrounded by screeching guitars and loud, honest lyrics.

Imagine yourself spending forty dollars for a T-shirt that boasts the name of your favorite band.

That's what it was like at Q101's annual Jamboree Concert.

Alternative music lovers flocked to the New World Music Theater in Tinley Park on May 20, 2000 to watch their favorite bands put on a show. Jamboree tickets cost \$32 each, not to mention a headache and a sunburn. However, the production was an intense, provocative success.

The show, hosted by the station for almost five years now, included groups such as 311, Bloodhound Gang, Suicide Machine, Eve6, Everclear, Goldfinger, Long Beach Dub Allstars, Mighty Mighty Bosstones, Moby, Third Eye Blind, and Travis.

The sold out concert, which started at 1:00 p.m., opened with a performance by the Long Beach Dub Allstars, formerly named

Sublime. The band played songs off of their new album, "Write Back," and desperately tried to get the crowd pumped up, saying, "Wake up, Chicago!"

Despite their unenthused audience, the group's performance was flawless and energetic.

After the Long Beach Dub Allstar's debut, fans eagerly made the trip to Q101's second Dr. Martens stage in order to watch the Suicide Machine perform songs off of their latest self-titled CD.

When the Suicide Machine stepped onstage, they offered one fan a \$100 bill if she could drink an entire case of Dr. Pepper during their set, and they even sent bassist Evil Jared off of the stage to crowd surf across the lawn.

Members of the Bloodhound Gang also invited everyone in the audience onto the stage during their performance, causing physical confrontations between park security and the hundreds of screaming teens trying to get past stage gates.

Later in the evening, LA punk rockers Goldfinger seemed to copy the Bloodhound Gang's liveliness by inviting everyone onto the smaller Dr. Marten's stage. A few fans were even injured in the intense mosh pit as

the group performed hits from their uncompromisingly honest CD, "Stomping Ground."

Groups of clamer alternative music fans waited around the main stage to see Everclear perform the smash hits off of their current CD, "So Much for the Afterglow."

One of the best performances of the night was given by Third Eye Blind, who opened their stage show with the song, "Anything" from their sophomore album, "Blue." Lead singer Stephan Jenkins nabbed the crowd's attention by boasting, "You know, we always have the best fans in Chicago."

The last appearance of the evening was by the alternative group 311.

The 12-hour Jamboree Concert ended with fans reluctantly returning to their cars, loudly discussing the day's best and worst performers.

The smell of smoke, alcohol, sunscreen, and hot dogs lingered through the air as the concert goes dodged empty bottles and paper plates. However, Q101 lovers didn't notice the mess. Instead, most were too busy predicting next year's concert line-up.

Train delivers perfection

By Leslie Shambo

Train gave a provocative performance at the House of Blues on Monday, April 24. Clad in tight, velvet pants, lead-singer Pat Monahan left the audience clinging for more in the all-too-short concert.

The sold-out concert, which was open to all ages, featured songs from Train's 1998 self-titled debut album, and two previously unreleased songs, including the rapturous ballad called "She's on Fire."

Monahan had a distinct charisma to accompany his sultry smile. He captivated the audience as he danced seductively across the stage, singing with his heart and soul.

Drummer Scott Underwood delivered a strong and energetic performance, one which wouldn't have been complete without Train's incredible guitarists, Jim Stafford and Rob Hotchkiss, and amazing bassist, Charlie Colin.

The highlight of the concert was undoubtedly the chart topper "Meet Virginia," in which the ecstatic audience gave its full participation.

As the band began to leave, the audience shouted for more. Only thrilled to oblige, Train returned to stage crying, "We love Chicago!" and played two more songs, including the smash hit, "I Want You to Want Me."

Yet the crowd hungered still, and Train returned for one final sultry love song, proving their strong devotion to their fans. The performance was sheer brilliance.

The often overlooked band known as Stir opened

for Train at the April 24 concert, in a brief but illustrious performance. Singing songs from their 2000 release titled "Holy Dogs," including the animated hit "Grounded," Stir successfully provoked the audience, thanks to the energy and allure of lead-singer Andy Schmidt. The band delivered a solid and illuminating opening.

After the concert, bassist Kevin Gagnepain was open to conversation and numerous handshakes.

As seductive as their live show may be, it is essential to remember that it has been a slow ride to the top for Train.

Often deemed as "the little engine that could," the San Francisco quintet began performing in coffeehouses after nearly every major record label passed them up.

Eventually, Columbia Records stepped in and offered to give the album a major label push (after initially passing on it).

In 1997, one year before their debut album hit stores, Train went on tour, opening for Blues Traveler, Barenaked Ladies and Counting Crows. They had tracks on "Dawson's Creek" and "Party of Five."

Yet Train knew they had arrived when, nearly a year after the album was released, "Train" went platinum.

Monahan said in an interview with VH1, "I think when we first signed to Columbia the plan was to try to sell 10,000 records, because we had already sold a few thousand in the Bay Area. But then it just started to get more and more crazy - and then it really got nuts."

So what's next for Train? Monahan said to VH1, "After two years of touring, we're giving ourselves a chance to write and finish some things."

Hotchkiss agreed, "Now that we've had five years to work together, we know each other a lot better. We're always evolving and we never know what the end result will be."

Unlike Train, Stir did not face a slow start. Instead, the St. Louis trio composed of Schmidt, Gagnepain and percussionist Brad Booker suffered from poor timing.

Although their first single, "Looking For," off their 1996 self-titled album received major airplay, Stir failed to really open eyes with their CD, which had the misfortune of being released just before Matchbox 20 and Third Eye Blind opened up the charts for guitar-based pop/rock.

Their second album, which hit stores in March, has been compared to Tonic and Verve Pipe. It features emotional songs like "Climbing the Walls" and "Only a Dream," as well as laughable songs like "Spaceman," which sounds incredibly shallow.

The band is geared toward success, and their album is remarkable, yet Stir does not receive the attention they deserve.

Both bands toured throughout May to promote their albums. Train stopped in Cincinnati, Ohio on May 17, Memphis, Tennessee on May 18, and Greenville, South Carolina on May 26. While Stir joined Creed's "Human Clay" tour in Pensacola, Florida on May 12.

Upcoming Concerts

'NSync @ Route 66 Raceway on June 25
Time: 7:30p.m. Tickets: \$39.75-\$49.75

Dave Matthews Band @ Soldier Field on June 29-30
Time: 6:00p.m. Tickets: \$45.00

Red Hot Chili Peppers w/ Foo Fighters @ Mark of the Quad Cities on July 1
Time: 7:30p.m. Tickets: \$35.00

Ricky Martin @ United Center on July 1
Time: 8:00p.m. Tickets: \$75-695.00

Britney Spears @ New World Music Theatre on July 7
Time: 7:30p.m. Tickets: \$22-37.00

Dixie Chicks @ United Center on July 13
Time: 7:30p.m. Tickets: \$34-41.50

Santana @ New World Music Theatre on August 19
Time: 7:30p.m. Tickets: \$24.50-57.00

West Chicago to stay in DVC

By Marc Berry

The School Board finally made the decision to remain in the DVC after much discussion and speculation at their meeting on Tuesday, May 16.

The motion to be removed from the DVC and placed into the Suburban Prairie Conference had recently been the source of controversy around West Chicago. Those on both sides of the dispute have very strong opinions as to what should occur and why.

The importance of this subject to We-go athletes was clear at the meeting, when many students attended to voice their opinions. Parents and coaches spoke their mind as well, supporting what they thought was best for the student population.

The majority of public participants felt that West

Chicago should remain in the DVC. However, two attendees believed that it would be better for everyone involved if the change were to be made.

Both parties expressed their feelings and tried to convince the board members into their line of thinking.

Those opposing the motion presented many arguments throughout the night. Some of these arguments were that because of the abolishing of "B teams" in many sports, fewer people would be able to participate; games at other schools would be much further away; and We-go's standards would be lowered.

"The DVC pushes us to the limit," said freshman Melissa Sheme. Many agreed, but not everyone shared her views.

Supporters of the motion

to change conferences defended it, saying that We-go would be better suited in a new conference. Junior Sam Mashall stated, "The plain fact is that we are losing... I want to have a chance [to win] every game I play."

Athletic Coordinator of the West Chicago Park District Larry Adamczyk said it was unfair that people thought switching to another conference would be degrading.

"Those kids [in the SPC] try just as hard as we do. They cry just as hard after a loss and are just as happy after a win," he said.

Later, just before the vote was taken, board members had the opportunity to share their perspective on the matter.

Board member Karen Kostal commented that she was against the removal of

WCCHS from the DVC, and explained she believed that coaches and students should have high expectations. She said she would also like to see the feeder program given a chance.

Board member Gerald Landis explained why he thought changing conferences would be a good idea, and said he wanted We-go to have the opportunity to win.

Board member Deborah Skidgel said that staying in the DVC would be better. She added that academics should be the school's number one priority and that students would have less time to focus on this because they would be getting home later from their games.

Richard Nagel, We-go's Board President, took his reasoning a step further by putting together an unsci-

entific chart focusing on the advantages and disadvantages of leaving the DVC, and showed that there would be more advantages in staying.

Before the vote was made, Nagel stated he was very pleased how the matter has been handled.

"The board acted very professionally," he said. He also said that both sides of the argument were respectful to one another, and no matter what the turnout, he was very appreciative of the attitudes.

The motion to change conferences was rejected by a vote of four to three. Karen Stott, Patricia Davidson, and Landis voted to pass the motion while Maria Owens, Nagel, Skidgel, and Kostal chose not to change.

Afterwards, a round of applause was given for the decision made, and the room quickly cleared out.

Sports schedule wrap up

Baseball

June 3 Sectionals
June 5 Sectionals
June 9 State Finals
June 10 State Finals

Soccer

June 2 State Finals

Softball

June 3 Sectionals
June 5 Sectionals
June 9 State Finals
June 10 State Finals

Volleyball

June 2 State Finals
June 3 State Finals

As sports end, summer camps start up

The issue of feeder programs has been brought up many times in District 94, especially surrounding the controversy over whether or not to change conferences. This is in part because of the size of the teams at We-go compared to other schools and level of playing ability on entry level and varsity teams.

This summer, as in previous summers, sports camps are being offered for kids who will feed into We-go and also for current students of We-go.

These camps both give experience to incoming students and offer a fun time during the off season of summer so the athlete can come into the school year already toned up and ready.

If you have any questions about the whereabouts or anything else concerning these summer camps, contact Dan Johnson at the Athletic Office at 876-6290 or 876-6280.

Boys Basketball

Grades 4-6
June 19-23 and/or June 26-30
12:30-2:30
M-F
\$40 for one week, \$70 for two weeks

Grades 7-9
June 19-23 and/or June 26-30
9:00-12:00
M-F
\$45 for one week, \$80 for two weeks

Grades 10-12
June 19-23
3:00-6:00
M-F
\$30.00

Girls Basketball

Grades 4-6
June 19-23 and/or June 26-30
12:30-2:30
M-F
\$40 for one week, \$70 for two weeks

Grades 7-9
June 19-23 and/or June 26-30
9:00-12:00
M-F
\$45 for one week, \$80 for two weeks

Grades 10-12
July 5-21
8:00-11:00
M-F
\$50.00

Boys Soccer

Grades 9-12
June 13- July 21
5-6:30
M, W, T
\$45.00

Football

Grade 9
July 10-28
10:00-12:00
M-T
\$50.00

Grades 10-12
July 10-28
7:30-9:30
M-T
\$50.00

Football Weight Lifting

Grades 10-12
June 20- July 28
8:00-10:00
M-T
Price included in football camp

Cross Country

Grades 7-12
July 3-28
7:00-9:00
M, W-F
\$15.00

Weight Training

Grades 9-12
June 19- July 14
6:00-7:30
M-T
\$40.00

Pom Poms

Grades 10-12
June 21- July 28
9:00-12:00
M-T
\$40.00

Baseball- summer league

Grade 10
June 12- July 21
Late afternoon/ early evening
M-T
\$80.00

Grades 11-12
June 12- July 21
Late afternoon/ early evening
M-T
\$100.00

Golf Lessons

Grades 9-12
June 13- July 25
10:15-11:15
Tuesdays
\$40.00

Cheerleading

Grades 9-12
June 19-July 28
8:00-11:00
M-F
\$40.00

Swimming

Spring Stroke Camp
Grades K-5
April 3-20
5:00-6:30
M-T
\$25.00

Spring Stroke Camp
Grades 6-12
April 3-13
4:00-5:30
M-T
\$25.00

Competitive Swim
Grades K-2
May 1-June 12
5:30-6:30
M-F
\$TBA

Competitive Swim
Grades K-2
June 13-July 15
9:30-10:30
M-F
\$TBA

Competitive Swim
Grades 3-6
April 24-June 12
5:30-6:30
M-F
\$TBA

Competitive Swim
Grades 3-6
June 13-July 15
8:30-10:00 am
M-F
\$TBA

Competitive Swim

Grades 7-8
June 13-July 15
5:00-6:30 pm
M-F
\$TBA

Competitive Swim

Grades 7-12
April 17-June 12
5:30-7:00 am; 3:30-5:30 pm
M-F; M,W,F
\$TBA

Competitive Swim

Grades 7-12
6:30-8:30 am
M-F
\$TBA

Competitive Swim

Grades 9-12
June 13-July 15
6:30-8:30 pm
M-F
\$TBA

Volleyball

Grades 3-7
July 24-28
1:00-2:30
M-F
\$35.00

Grades 8-9

July 24-28
8:00-10:30
M-F
\$45.00

Grades 10-12

July 24-28
10:00-12:30
M-F
\$45.00

Wanted: Student, friendly, and loves sports

By Sarah Kochniarczyk

As We-go begins to make its way to the summer and almost next fall, Tate Knutson, the athletic trainer, will need student athletic trainers to help him out. The past few years seniors Matt Shane, Janet Drenth, and Amanda Hallock have been at Knutson's side ready to learn how to be professional sports trainers and becoming good at their work as well.

However, because these three are seniors, Tate will need new student athletic trainers as soon as possible. If you are at all interested contact Knutson and he'll be able to help you out.

If you aren't sure what this job consists of, if you'll have time, or what you'll be getting into, below Hallock and Drenth have commented on their experiences as athletic trainers.

What is the best thing about being a student athletic trainer?

"I think the best thing about being a student athletic trainer is being able to get to know people and help them out," Hallock.

"You get to travel to the games and help out with injuries. You also learn a lot about the medical field," Drenth.

Are you going to continue looking into becoming a professional trainer? If so, what will you do?

"Yes, I am going to North Central College to major in athletic training," Hallock.

"If I decide to go on I would become a athletic trainer," Drenth.

What qualifications would you say someone would need to be a student athletic trainer?

"I think you have to be willing to work and help people out. All of the skills you pick up along the way," Hallock.

"They have to be willing to work with a lot of people, and to learn how to tape and deal with injuries," Drenth.

One thing you'll never forget from your experience with other student trainers, Tate, or just working as a student athletic trainer?

"There are a lot of inside things that are unforgettable between all of us that no one else would understand so I would have to say the friendships and bonds I have made are unforgettable," Hallock.

"The football games, and being able to be there up close and ready to help someone out," Drenth.

A We-go teacher takes action:

A life changing experience for her and the people whom she will help

Dear Friends and Family:

In just a few weeks, I'll be participating in a very special and powerful event to help fight the battle against AIDS.

In July, 2000, I'll take six days out of my life to ride my bicycle 500 miles from Minneapolis to Chicago with over 1750 other people in an event called Twin Cities—> Chicago AIDS Ride 5 Presented by Tanqueray (www.aids.org). We're riding to raise awareness and to raise money for six Chicago not-for-profit service organizations. Together, we hope to raise more than \$5 million for individuals living with AIDS, and important AIDS prevention programs in Twin Cities, Wisconsin, and Chicago. One of these beneficiaries, Canticle Place, is located just a few miles from my home in DuPage County.

I've agreed to raise at least \$2,300 in pledges between now and the beginning of the Ride on July 10. I NEED YOUR HELP!! Would you please make a pledge to help me meet my goal? If you can help please see me and talk to me about making a donation. Please keep in mind how far I'm riding, the commitment I've made, and how long I'll have to train for this event (I'm not a cyclist)!

It's estimated that over 33,400,000 people worldwide are infected with HIV right now. AIDS has affected nearly all of us, having taken more than 410,800 people in the United States. That's seven times the number of American fatalities in the Vietnam War. With your support, I hope to avert any more deaths caused by this epidemic and to help those men, women, and children who are ill and in desperate need of care and intervention.

Thank you in advance for your generosity. It means a lot to me!! :-)

With best wishes and lots of love,
Melissa Cree a.k.a on July 10—> Melissa Bortnick rider #2170

P.S. I'd love to see you at the Minnesota send off July 10 or at the closing ceremonies July 15 at 6 pm downtown Chicago.

Melissa Cree is a science teacher at We-go and if you would like to give her any support for her ride, see her.

Five student athletes attract attention

Jessica Tonchick- girls track

Do you plan on doing track in college? Why or why not? No. I just did track for fun in high school.

How many years have you been in track? 3 years.

What is your best memory from track? There are too many memories to pick just one! Everyday something funny happens.

When you walk away from this season, what is the one thing you want your teammates to know or remember about you? If it weren't for the friends I made, I would have quit. Appreciate your teammates now, because they won't be there forever.

Do you have any superstitions? I have the same warm-up before every meet.

What runs through your mind before you perform in your event? I try to focus on one thing that I need to improve on.

Sean Peterson- baseball

How many years have you been playing baseball? 12 years.

Do you plan on playing in college-why or why not? Yes, I love to play and someday I hope to get drafted.

What area do you think your team has improved on this season? We need to make the routine plays routine.

Any superstitions? I pull my pants up to my knees and if I am in a slump I pull them back down.

Best memory from baseball? Coach Mac and Coach Walter's sayings.

What do you like most about baseball? Hitting a homerun.

What do you like least? Losing.

Katy Coffman- soccer

How long have you been in soccer? I played park district soccer for 4 years and in high school I played soccer for three years. (Freshmen year I played softball.)

What is it about soccer that makes you want to play? I love working as a team and the thrill of competition. Soccer is also a lot of fun to play.

Do you plan on playing soccer in college? Why or why not? I plan on playing intramural because I am going to a Division I school and I want my studies to come first.

What is the hardest thing about soccer? When one person is having a bad game it can throw the entire team off.

Any superstitions? No.

Best memory from soccer? Our rainy day games that we put mud on our face like wet paint and all of our bonding time on the bus.

Drew Koslow- tennis

How many years have you been playing tennis? One year.

What do you like best about tennis? It's fun and you can go out compete without much experience.

What do you dislike most about tennis? How people look down on it just because there is no contact and because it's not a major sport.

Do you plan on playing tennis in college? Why or why not? No, because I'm going to a Division I school and I don't have the time to commit to a full time sport.

Three words to describe tennis? Fun, exciting, and hilarious.

What have you improved on most this season? Just about everything because it was my only year playing.

Amanda Bina- badminton

How long have you been in badminton? Four years.

Describe badminton in three words? Quick, physically challenging, and mentally challenging.

Do you plan on playing badminton in college-why or why not? No, I don't think my college has a badminton team.

What do you like most about badminton? I like how it is both an individual and a team sport.

What do you like least about badminton? I don't like all the down time involved.

What have you improved on the most this year? I improved most on my smash shots and anticipation of my opponents next shot.

Some advice from people who know

By Jamie Nadolny

With unlimited access to the television remote during summer vacation, it's hard to stay in shape during the warmest months of the year. However, when the first days of school mark the beginning of the fall sports season for student athletes, working out when school is out is a must. These are a few ways that West Chicago athletes build strength and stamina during the summer months:

"I usually go to camps to condition for the season. Also, I work out with friends to stay in shape during the summer, too." sophomore Jennifer Payton

"To train for football season, I usually go to football

camps and lift weights. Also, a lot of kids join summer leagues for the sports that they play. You can't just slack off during the summer. You have to work if you want to play good." junior Matt Jermstad

"Working out in the summer guarantees a good season. Usually I run a lot." freshman Greg Moore

"To stay in shape over the summer, I usually join basketball summer camps. The school offers camps for students who want to improve their skills. Also, I go on bike rides. You can have fun but still stay in shape." sophomore Cori Drake

"We play pick up games. As long as you play hard and

concentrate, you can still benefit. We go to football camps, too. We run, practice plays, run more, and it gets us in shape." sophomores Kevin Cieslewski, Jason Worrel, Tyler Belding, Alex Kochick, and Tino Aalfaro

"In order to stay in shape, I go to the weightroom." freshman Dan Deutch

"I usually sleep... no, just kidding. You have to stay active. If you don't practice, you lack endurance, and it's easy to tell. I go and lift weights." freshman Joe Klingberg

"Pick up games can help you stay fit, but playing horse just doesn't cut it. You have to get into the game if

you want to actually benefit from it. Last year, I joined a summer league at the Glen Oaks Center to play volleyball outside of the school season. I gained a lot of experience, and the more experience you have, the better." junior Brian Kerr

"Camps and tournaments can help you prepare for the fall season before school starts. Joining summer leagues helps you stay in shape, and it's also a way to have fun." freshman Rachel Kuna

"For football, we have summer camp. If you slack off, you miss out, and if you work out, you build strength and stamina. Pick up games are a way to stay active, because they add skill." senior Jeff Griffin

Volleyball finishes an improved but disappointing season

By Laura McQueen

Boys volleyball ended their season with a loss in the regional game against York High School on Wednesday, May 24.

"I was disappointed in the last game. We could have played a lot better," said head coach Kris Hasty.

York was the first seed in the regional and West Chicago was the ninth seed.

The team lost in two games with the score 15-6 and 15-7.

The Wildcats did win their first regional game against Addison trail, the eighth ranked team, on Monday, May 22. It was a three-game victory with scores 15-6, 13-15, and 15-12.

The Wildcats had a record of 6 wins and 8 losses in the DVC, and an overall record of 18-18.

"This year was one of the best," said Hasty, "I was very happy about this season. I was real pleased to see how hard the guys worked."

Hasty recalled a lot of great games against tough teams like Wheaton Warrenville South and Naperville North, though they lost the matches.

"We're really gaining on some teams," said Hasty.

The highlight of the season for many of the players was the home win against Naperville Central, with scores of 15-2 and 15-7. We-

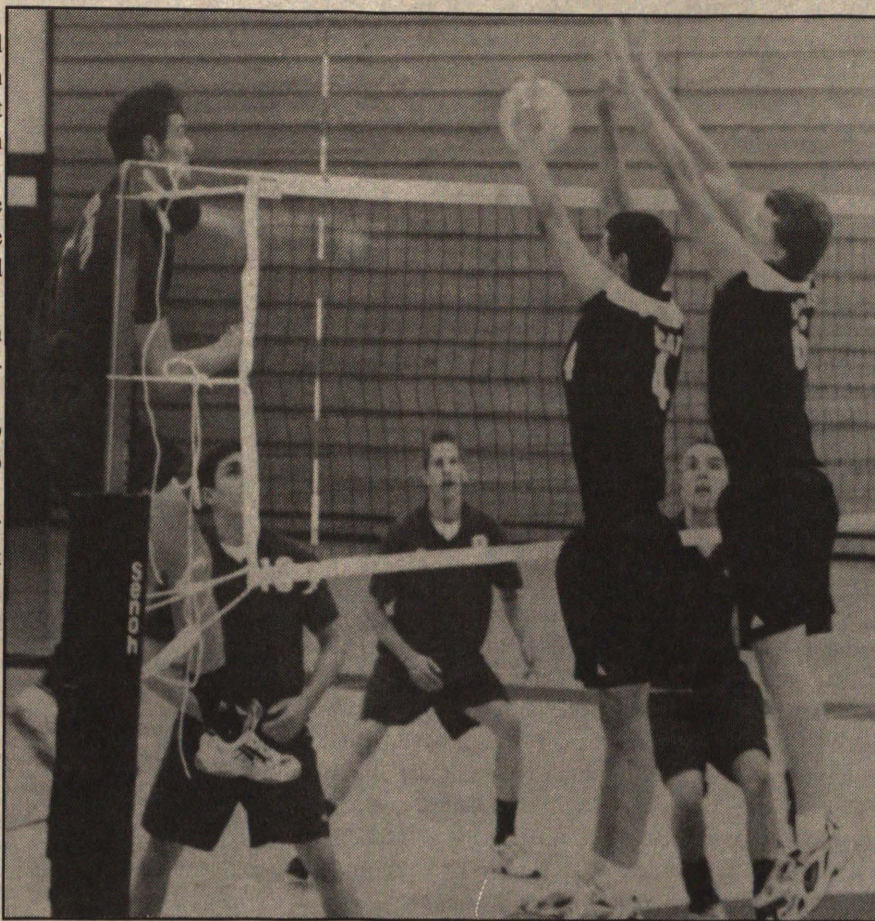


Photo by Matt Shane
Junior Jesse Salazar (left) and senior Jeff Griffin (right) show team work as they jump to block the spike by the opposing team during a volleyball match.

go beat Central twice this year.

"They had a lot more confidence this year, and high expectations," said Hasty.

"The team's strength this year was blocking- it can be very devastating when it's on."

Varsity Captain senior Jeff Griffin said the team's biggest problem was "many times we couldn't find a way to motivate ourselves

before big games."

However, he added that this year "we were about three times better than last year."

Junior Mark Lasky was voted All-conference and All-area player, and junior Brad Olsen was also an All-conference player.

All-conference special mention was awarded to senior Chip Ault.

Next year the Wildcats

will lose the three team captains: Griffin, Ault, and Juan Robles.

The Cats are still looking positive, though. "Next year will be even better than this year. We're setting our goals really high," said junior Jesse Salazar.

"A lot more kids are trying our for club teams," said Hasty concerning the outlook for next year.

Baseball's short stop: Wildcat baseball team stopped by St. Charles in regional semi-finals

By David A. Conaway

The Wildcat varsity baseball team ended their season with a 15-19 record, being stopped in the regional semi-finals by St. Charles with a final score of 9-3 after a slight rain delay on Saturday, May 27.

This comes after a good start in regionals when the Wildcats defeated Oswego 5-1.

"The seniors stepped up when it counted," Coach Walters commented.

When asked about the St. Charles game, he said although they would be tough,

he felt they had a shot at winning.

Unfortunately, St. Charles jumped out to a very early lead, getting 7 runs in just the first few innings, which would be the beginning of the end for the Wildcats.

The Wildcats started to play better through the game, but because of the early lead, they could not catch up.

Walters is not disappointed in the team, though. When asked how he felt about the season, he said, "I'm proud...of the kids."

West Chicago's hockey team closing a good season

By David A. Conaway

The West Chicago hockey team is wrapping up a good season with 2 more regular season games to go and a 5-1-2 record. They have been ranked 8th out of 32 junior varsity teams so far. The team is managed by Nancy Baumrucker, the head coach is Jeff Mederich and the assistant coach is Bill Glass.

Unfortunately, the season has not been without its down side. The team's biggest fault, said Baumrucker, is their wide range of skills, which range from people just starting hockey to those who have played since they were much younger. This makes it very hard to coach, and also makes the players frustrated sometimes.

Questions about what the team shall do next year are also being asked. In this league, schools can combine their teams if they don't have enough players, which is what may end up happening if enough people don't sign up for next season. Which school? Possibly Wheaton Christian, another small school team.

However, that's all in the future, and the team still needs to finish this season. Their next game is June 10 against Morton, and after that June 14 against Bartlett. Playoffs are June 17 and the championship is on the 18.

Baumrucker said the team will just have to "play it by ear."

Boys tennis desperate for some improvement

By Alexandra Patin

The boys tennis team finished the season on May 13 and 14 with a record of 5-15.

Lack of experience was the main reason for the low record, said Coach Sione Moeaki. He said he would like to see the players continue playing for the summer through a tennis club or through the park district travelling team.

"If we had more experienced players" the team could start the season better, said Moeaki.

He stressed if the team had 10 to 15 players who had experience, the whole team would be better.

Moeaki also said the doubles teams were the best because he put his best experience in those teams, and the doubles placed fourth in the DVC.

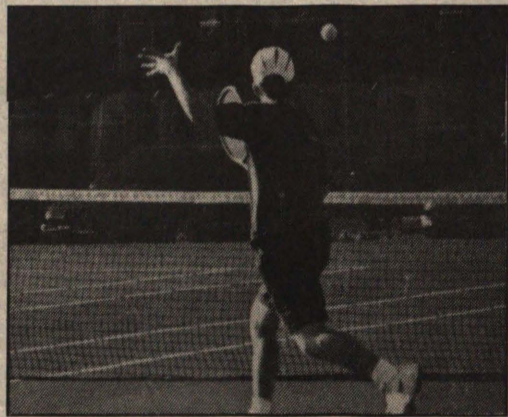


Photo by Heidi Carballo

Sophomore Matthew Neumann's quick reflexes won't let the tennis ball pass im up.

Senior Mike Kostal was one of the first doubles, while seniors Drew Koslow and Garrett Hoffman made up the second doubles team. Moeaki said sophomore Matt Nuemann and those three players were his stars this season.

The open gym will start next week with tennis, said Moeaki. He also said he wants the players to compete in the United States Tennis Association (USTA) tournaments that run all through the summer in order to gain the much needed experience.

Girls soccer finishes a mediocre season

By Leslie Shambo

The girls soccer team lost the May 19 Regional game against Glenbard South 4-1, although West Chicago dominated throughout the first half.

Senior Kim Olson scored the only goal for We-go, just before she received a yellow card for arguing with the referee. Coach Julio Del Real also received a yellow card for arguing with the referee, and senior Stefanie Prena received one for fouling another player.

Though the Regional game proved disappointing, the team brought in many victories for West Chicago. Olson and Prena were named All-Conference, and Prena was also named All-Sectional.

Not to be short-handed,

Olson received Wheaton Warrenville South's prestigious award for Best Sportsmanship. Overall, West Chicago was second in the DVC for Sportsmanship.

Olson said after her impressive season, "It was a memorable senior year. We had a lot of team unity and togetherness. We would have liked to have won a few more of our close games, like Glenbard East and West Aurora. The best experience was beating Glenbard North 3-2 in the last five minutes of the game."

To note, Olson scored one of the goals against Glenbard North, and Prena brought the team to victory with two goals.

Sophomore Jacky Prena said, "We were young and inexperienced this year, but

we progressed well. We should have more opportunities in coming years, even though we are losing several key seniors."

Senior Katy Coffman stated, "Our season went well, though we didn't fully accomplish our goals. Our goalie was injured with three weeks left in the season, and Natalia Sienkovic and Kim Olson both stepped in to help with that position."

Prena added, "Our overall season was a learning experience. Our team, as a whole, learned a lot throughout the season and got better every game. Over the next four years, the We-go girls soccer team will surprise many people and schools, and I only wish that I could be here for it."

Keller takes award winning finish at state

By Marc Berry
Senior Tim Keller placed second in state in the two-mile on May 26 and 27, with a time of 8:56.24.
According to Assistant Coach Eric Lasky, Keller's main goal was to do well in the 3200 and put whatever energy he had left into the 1600, in which he placed sixth with a time of 4:16.94.
Keller and senior Dave Boyle qualified for the state competition, with Keller competing in the 1600 and 3200, and Boyle competing in the 200m dash.
"It was an intense race," said Lasky, "no one in the crowd really realized how big it was, until the announcer said that Donald Sage from York High School and Tim Keller were second and third in the state respectively for this event. The crowd became much more excited after that."
Keller was in the lead throughout the first seven laps, but Sage passed him up in the last one. Lasky said he admired the effort

that was put into the race.
"People don't realize how much work it takes to become as good as Keller. Many think his talent comes naturally, but Keller works extremely hard for it. He runs every day and pushes himself to the limit. Very few have that kind of will power," he said.
Boyle did not rank as well in his event, but Lasky noted that it was still a big deal making it as far as he did.
Keller qualified at

Boyle had to drop two-tenths of a second in order to do qualify in the 200, and ended up with a time of 22.1.
Other strong sectional performances were made in

Also, the 4x400 relay team of senior Eddie Hernandez, Raymond, Chapman, and Brian Howard, tied a school record. Both teams placed sixth.
Sophomore Corey Coleman improved his triple jump distance by more than two feet and placed fifth. He was originally ranked eighteenth.
Sophomores ran in the Falcon Invitational on May 15. Sophomores Park, Joe Caniano, Mike Nubie, and Jon Lim earned a time of 1:36.2 in the 800m relay. "They deserved it," said Lasky, "they worked hard for it all year."
The team participated in the DVC tournament on May 12, where they placed

last out of the eight schools. According to Assistant Coach Matt Doll, the team ran well, but the competition was extremely tough. "It's frustrating after doing so well in the indoor season," he said.
However, there were three junior varsity conference champs. They included sophomore Tad Netzel in the pole vault; Nubie in the 300 intermediate hurdles; and freshman Wyatt Schayler in shot put.
The team also competed on May 5, at the DuPage County Meet at Wheaton Warrenville South High School, where they placed seventh out of nine teams. The competition was fierce there, as well, according to Doll. Wheaton Warrenville South was first in state last year, and York High School, who also attended, was first the year before.
April 28 saw We-go facing off in the Crystal Lake Invitational. They finished

last out of eleventh teams. "The meet was held the day after prom, and the team was not at full strength," said Doll.
However, the team did very well on April 22, at the Willowbrook Invitational. Out of ten schools, they took first place by a large margin.
"Overall, it was a very good season," said Lasky. "[Head coach], Mr. [Paul] McLelend won his first invitational as coach of the team, and the student leadership was great.
"The captains of the team, Tim Keller and Dave Boyle seemed to take control of the team, and it was fitting that they were the two that made it to state.
"Everybody worked hard and never gave up. We can only hope that the same dedication, support, and enthusiasm will be seen in next year's team."

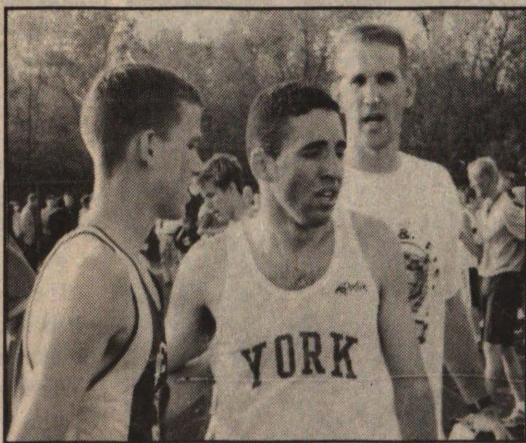


Photo by Dave Toney
Senior Tim Keller and York's Don Sage talk after running the 3200 (2-mile) at the county meet on April 31.

sectionals on May 19, where he ran a time of 4:18.1, in the 1600 and a time of 9:13.4 in the 3200. He took first place in both events. He is ranked second in the state in the 1600 and third in the 3200.

the 4x200 relay, in which a school record was broken. The team consisted of seniors Nick Chapman and Boyle, junior Matt Raymond, and sophomore Joey Park. The team barely missed qualifying for state.

Mike Nubie, and Jon Lim earned a time of 1:36.2 in the 800m relay. "They deserved it," said Lasky, "they worked hard for it all year."
The team participated in the DVC tournament on May 12, where they placed

Schineller shot high and set school record

By Jamie Nadolny
Senior Jocelyn Schineller placed sixth at the girls track and field State meet, which was held on May 20. She also finished her season with a personal record in the shot put with a throw of 40'3", and now holds the school record in both the shot put and discus.
"It was really exciting when I threw a personal record in the shot put at state," Schineller said. "I had been throwing around 40 feet at practices, but I could never throw that far when we had a meet. Finally, I was able to throw the best that I could in a meet."
The girls track team finished fourteenth out of nineteen area teams at the sectional meet on Saturday, May 14.
The meet began around the discus ring where Schineller threw 145'9". Schineller also threw 21' farther than the second place throw, which made her a state qualifier. She also qualified for state in the shot put when she placed third with a throw of 37'8".
She finished off her last year of track and field at We-go with a five-time state qualifying record in the discus and the shot put.
Senior Jessica Tonchick ended her high school career with a personal record of 80'9" in the discus event. Tonchick ended her high school career with a 29'2" shot put throw this season,

as well.
Sophomore Lauren Openshaw tied for sixth place in the high jump competition on May 14. She set a personal record of 4'10" in the high jump this year, and she also set a personal record in the triple jump at the sectional meet.
Senior Terri Jensen set a personal record in the long jump with a jump of 32'4.5" at the sectional meet.
Freshman Aimee Beutke set a personal record by over a foot in the long jump. Her jump of 16'5.5" was only six inches from sending her to state and only one inch away from the school record.
In the sprints, junior Kathy Brinn earned a personal record of 26.2 seconds, which sent her to the finals at the sectional meet. She finished fourth overall

in the 200m dash. Brinn also set a personal record in her part of the sprint relays.
Other personal records were set by the 3200m relay team consisting of sophomores Erin Kirby, Jenni Boyd, Meghan Young and



Photo by Jenny Cwiak
Junior Kathy Brinn hands off to senior Michelle Lasky.

senior Jenny Weichert. Boyd also ended the year with a personal record in the 2-mile with a time of 12:53.
Freshmen Jenny Cwiak and Krystal Muhlberger also set personal records in the 100m dash with times of 13.44 and 14.39 respectively.
The sectional track meet held on May 14 was origi-

nally scheduled for Friday, May 13, but the meet was postponed due to the weather.
The girls track team will lose many talented seniors next year including shot put and discus winner Schineller.
Senior Edercy(DC) Abante set personal records throughout the season, but her bests include at 29.1 second slit in the 200m relay and a 1:03.3 split in the 400m relay. She also set a personal record in the 400m dash with a time of 1:03.7.
"I've been in track for three years now, because I took off a year during my sophomore year of high school," she said at the conference meet on May 5. "I think the team is doing really well as a whole, but the relay teams have had continuous problems with their handoffs. Still we manage to place, and we're working hard."
Senior Rachel Altergot worked hard throughout the year in sprints and distance events. She set seasonal personal records in the 400m dash, 800m run, 1600m run, and 3200m run.
Senior Michelle Lasky had outstanding performances throughout the season, setting personal records in all of her events. She set a personal record in the 300m low hurdles with a time of 51.5 seconds, putting her only one second away from a school record.

Badminton takes its place at state

Laura McQueen
The Wildcat girls badminton team sent senior Linda Xiong to state at New Trier high school in Winnetka on May 12. At the state tournament, Xiong lost her first game to Deerfield, with a score of 4-9. The Deerfield player was seated 5-8. The second match was a tough match that she lost in three games against Oak Lawn. The first game was 11-13, second was 13-8, and the third was 11-13.
The badminton doubles state champions were Sarah Harris and Abby Kalal from Downers Grove North. Erin Hols of Downers Grove South took first in singles.
Xiong was seeded fifth in the state tournament. She was in the top half of the bracket, where the competition was a lot harder. Overall there were 64 doubles players at the tournament and 64 singles.
To make it to the state tournament, Xiong first had to go to sectionals at Naperville North high school on Thursday May 4. Xiong placed second at the sectional tournament.
Other players who also went to sectionals were seniors Michelle Grove with Amy Fairbairn and seniors Mary Kovacs with Emily

Gierman who played in the doubles competition. Singles competitors were junior Amanda Millard and Xiong. To qualify for Sectionals, players tried out for the sectional team during practice. Head Coach LaVora Singleton picked the team sent.
The West Chicago badminton team finished in last place at the DVC tournament, although before the tournament they were only 2.5 points away from fifth place. "There's no easy sport in the DVC," said Singleton. The tournament was the day after prom, and missing players hurt the teams scoring. "We expected to do much better," said Grove.
Varsity's overall record was 5-9, and their conference record was 1-6. JV's overall record was 4-10 and their conference record was 0-7. "We had our ups and downs. Overall we just didn't pull in enough team points," said Singleton. "Every body had a lot of close games, but overall we just couldn't pull it out," agreed Grove.
The team will be losing many seniors this year, and next year the team will be very young. "My last season here at West Chicago after four years was by far the hardest," said Kovacs.