

Wildcat Chronicle

What's going on around you?

West Chicago

District 94 will not have school Monday, Feb. 19 because of President's Day. This is unlike other school districts that have Lincoln's birthday off school, instead.

Carol Stream

The Carol Stream Public Library is sponsoring many reading programs in February. Valentine's Day is Read to Your Child Day, and there are many story times available for young children.

Around the nation

We have finally received the first ever catalogue of the human genome. This discovery will provide important information as to how human life began and where we came from. It will also help scientists discover keys to some of today's most dire diseases and, therefore, help find cures.

Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert (Rep.) is doing well after his operation to rid him of his kidney stone. Hastert will get back to work soon on Capital Hill.

Around the world

A Japanese fishing boat sunk by a United States submarine on a training mission is causing an international controversy.

The Japanese Prime Minister is calling for the U.S. to raise the vessel, in order to see if there are people still trapped inside.

The Bush administration, however, is maintaining that there is no evidence of any wrong-doing on the part of the U.S.

Napster finally closed its doors to free trading of music. The website went offline at midnight Tuesday because the court ruling ordering it to stop the free trade. The court decided the website had infringed on copyrights. Napster maintains that although the battle is lost, the war is not over, and the lawsuit is not over yet.



West Chicago Community
High School

Volume 32, Issue 4
Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Conference Champions

One Team, One Dream

For the first time since 1976, the Lady Wildcats basketball team clinches the conference title.

By Laura McQueen

"The conference championship, to me, means so much more. [Conference season] is three to three and a half months long, and you have a lot of ups and downs. This team's been able to fight through a lot of things," said varsity coach Kim Walner.

The Cats finished their conference season with a last second lay-up by senior Beth Brinn, winning against Wheaton Warrenville South 45-44 on Feb. 8.

"Alissa [Mildebrath] told me that she'd set a good pick for me and she went out and did it. I hadn't been making my shots, so I knew this one had to go in," said Brinn.

(See Conference page 12)



The Lady Wildcats.

Photo courtesy of Cathy Brinn

Forensics goes the distance: two new records

By Alexandra Patin

The We-go forensics team will be going to state on Saturday with senior Anders Walker and junior Copper Tuma leading the way with their dramatic duet acting event.

The pair acts as a couple in the process of a divorce.

The team finished off the regional tournament at Glenbard West High School with two broken records.

We-go finished fourth place overall against 13 other schools, which is the highest finish at the regional competition since 1997. This was the first time the team had scored that high.

The team also set a record for the most students to make it to the final rounds at the tournament, with 18 students.

Senior Anders Walker finished with the highest score from We-go, taking second place overall.

"I think (We-go students) performed extremely well. It was the best overall effort of the year," said forensics coach Steve Kellner.



Photo by Claribel Robles

Horticulture club member Bessie Czernick helps plant bulbs in the courtyard with the horticulture club last fall. The bulbs will bloom this spring.

Kellner also said the team members took the tournament more seriously than other tournaments, because it was a bigger tournament than most.

He also said that the team members supported each other well, which was important for team morale.

Glenbard West hosted around 250 students from We-go and the other schools.

Horticulture program recognized nationally

By Laura McQueen

Horticulture club is We-go's fastest rising celebrity.

WGN radio 720 am's talk show "Let's talk gardening" featured horticulture club adviser and teacher Carol Walksler and student Christina Campos as guests Saturday.

The interview was over the phone. "Let's talk gardening" is from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Walksler and Campos talked with host Mike Nowak for about 40 minutes about the school horticulture program and its upcoming demise.

WGN learned about the horticulture program through reading *Garden Design* magazine, which

featured the club.

WGN radio.com has added a link on their site to the school website so that listeners can write in their responses.

Pick up the March issue of *Garden Design* magazine to see the club in action. The article features the horticulture club's efforts to keep the horticulture program alive, despite adviser and teacher Carol Walksler's retirement at the end of this year.

Club president Christina Campos called the magazine earlier this year and informed them that the school will not be continuing the horticulture program following Walksler's retirement, and was

(See Horticulture page 3)

Criminal checks delayed

By Alexandra Patin

Criminal background checks and other references are not being made on some coaches or teachers before they start working at We-go, the Board of Education said Tuesday, Feb. 6.

Assistant superintendent-staff services Kathleen Benton said that coaches weren't turning in the paper-

work required in a timely manner, therefore the background checks could not be completed.

"We had a little paperwork problem," with the coaches, Benton said.

She cited the case of We-go's newest wrestling coach Eddie Valdez, whose application she hadn't seen until very recently, even though

he had already finished coaching the wrestling season.

Because of the late paperwork, reference checks and criminal background checks were not made, said Benton.

She mentioned that her solution to late paperwork and ill-timed paperwork is to either withhold pay or tell the

(See Background page 3)

Poms wrap up a successful season

By Steve Taylor
With the completion of the boys basketball season comes the completion of the West Chicago Poms 2000-2001 season.

The pom squad has spent most of their season performing at home football games, pep rallies and home boys' basketball games.

On Tuesday, the girls

showed support to their girls' basketball team by performing at the regional game.

To celebrate Valentine's Day, the poms have been selling carnations the week of

Feb. 5. The proceeds of these sales will go to support the poms summer camps.

These summer camps usually last a week, depending on the funding, and are used to teach the poms dancing techniques.

Tryouts are tentatively scheduled for sometime in March.

Sophomore Heather Goorley said, "Try out, you never know what might happen. Even if you think you are not good enough, you might be. I didn't think I'd make it, but I did."

The squad this year consisted of 11 girls, breaking down into three seniors, five juniors, and three sophomores. Senior Bethany Mummert hopes that next year's squad will be even bigger.

"I'm really sad that it's all over. I'm not looking forward to losing the friends that I've made," Mummert said.

Mummert, along with Senior Amanda Campagnoni, have choreographed a dance that will be performed at half-time of the Feb. 16 boys' basketball game.



Photo courtesy of Bethany Mummert

Wildcat poms say cheese.

German plays quickly approaching

By Amy Fenderson
German club will be sponsoring the German Plays on Feb. 28.

"German Plays give students a chance to use their language skills creatively," said club sponsor Terry Strohm.

If you enjoy these plays, you might want to consider joining the German club.

German club gives students interested in German a chance to expand their knowledge with its language and culture, said Strohm.

The German club also participates in activities such as dinners, movies, homecoming, social activities with the French and Spanish clubs, and planning an activity for the exchange students.

Members will also participate in a trip to the German restaurant Schnitzel Platz this month.

"We've had a great year so far," said Strohm. "We have many active members, and we'd like to encourage students who are learning German to join us in our activities."

Child abuse brought out of the shadows

By Laura McQueen
Child abuse is no longer something kept hidden behind closed doors. There's help out there for children who suffer from abuse and neglect.

We-go students had a chance to learn about the process of helping those who may not have been able to help themselves at a round

table conference in January at the West Chicago American Legion.

A variety of experts discussed the case of P.J. Bourgeois, a 3-year-old boy who was beaten to death by his father and his girlfriend. The two were found guilty, but were released from jail on parole only three years after their sentence.

The students attending had researched P.J.'s case before the conference, and the speakers talked about their reaction to the result of the case and the case from the perspective of their job.

The discussion also included how each speaker is involved in the process of reporting and investigating cases of child abuse. These experts included representatives from the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the Warrenville police department, Central DuPage Hospital (CDH), judge Beth Sexton and Dan Guerin from the DuPage County state attorney's office.

The purpose of the round table was to make students aware of the process of reporting incidents of child abuse and neglect and who they could talk to within the school if they knew of a problem. We-go staff also spoke on how their job involved helping students with problems with abuse and other concerns. These included a counselor, police liaison, and social worker. Principal Dr. Alan Jones was also present at a portion of the event.

The speakers told their per-

Pep club pumps it up

By Matt Neumann
Pep club sent off the girls basketball team Tuesday for regionals today with a bang during a school-wide pep assembly.

Pep club also decorated players' lockers.

"The members of pep club all work together and I am constantly getting positive feedback on what we are doing," said pep club sponsor Candice Pellitier.

Pellitier made a point to praise senior Amanda Campagnoni for her efforts.

sonal accounts of child abuse cases, and responded to student questions.

All of the panel members who had children admitted that after seeing the dangers many children face unaware, they were very protective over their children.

Patti Kozlowski's child development class, combined with other English classes attended the event. This field trip was an extension of the child abuse unit that Kozlowski's child development class studies each year. The English classes study a different topic each year. English teachers Judy Minor and Carol Wolf organized the roundtable with the assistance of CDH hospital liaison Kim Brafford.

End in sight for Mind's Eye

By Mary-Megan Kalvig
The staff of the Mind's Eye literary magazine is coming close to the halfway mark of the student magazine's production.

Feb. 28 is the last day that the staff will collect poems, essays, short stories, art, and photographs for the magazine. "It is going good so far. I am happy with the progress; we have a good selection," said Mind's Eye adviser Andrea Cipcich.

The magazine is on schedule, except they still need more short stories and artwork, said Cipcich. The staff will spend the rest of the month voting on the submissions they want to keep. On March 8 they are going to participate in Market Day. The month of March is also going to be used to type out and lay out the magazine. It will be published in April and then sold in May in the cafeteria for \$2.

"It is a little too late for people to still join because we are already in the publishing phase and we have enough people to get all of the work done," said Cipcich.

Mind's Eye consists of 15 members. There are no specific editors at the moment. They will be picked later, said Cipcich. Each member of the Mind's Eye helps layout the magazine.

Spanish club in the jungle

By Amy Fenderson
Are you interested in learning more about the Spanish language and heritage? Spanish club is a great opportunity for students to expand their knowledge with that culture, said club sponsor Susan Junkroski.

The club participates in activities such as trips to restaurants and museums, homecoming events, the student exchange program, and the opportunity to view movies in the Spanish language.

On Jan. 25 students watched the Disney movie, *Tarzan*. The club taught students an understanding of the language, with which they were able to relate to the movie, said Junkroski.

According to Junkroski, being involved with the student exchange program really introduces students to an outside world of Spanish culture.

Spanish club meets Wednesday mornings at least once a month in room 403. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Key club says "Moo" to hunger

By Matt Neumann
Key club has a busy schedule in the weeks ahead with "Buy a Cow, Feed a Village." Sophomore Melissa Heron contributed the idea that involves the school raising \$500 and sending the cow to a third world country in need.

Students can donate funds in milk cartons available in the cafeteria. Also the Kiwanis, an adult version of the school's key club, is planning a fish fry near Easter and a chili bake off for area firefighters. Key club will sell baked goods at both events.

Along with these events, the club is also responsible for handling the blood drive and other fundraisers throughout the year.

The club is always looking for members and people interested in joining can contact Ward Rau in guidance for more information.

The group meets as a whole the first Thursday of every month at 7:15 a.m. in room 186, and other organizational meetings occur every Thursday at 7:15 a.m. in Rau's office.

Orchestra has what it takes

By Marc Berry
Orchestra is busy preparing for two major events that will take place in March.

On March 3, members will perform in an IHSA contest at Hinsdale South High School. Band and choir members participate also, and will be judged and rated according to their skill.

On March 15, orchestra will hold a concert with the We-go choir. A variety of pieces will be performed, including traditional folk Irish tunes; classical pieces such as Smetana's "The Moldau;" and a selection of Baroque; (See Activities on Page 3)

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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 the majority of the staff or the student body.

Any suggestions or comments for the newspaper can be delivered to the adviser Laura Kuehn in room 320.

Letters to the editor should be signed if they are meant to be printed. The newspaper has the right to exclude any letters that are inappropriate, and has the right to edit letters for space.

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

Big plans for old greenhouses

By Laura McQueen

Plans for revamping one or both of the greenhouses are taking shape, according to assistant superintendent of business Gary Grizaffi.

"My hopes are that both of these greenhouses will remain in tact and standing," said horticulture teacher Carol Walksler.

Most likely the north greenhouse will be the one revamped, because it is in better condition than the south greenhouse.

One of the major changes to the greenhouse will be new walls. The new walls will be of corrugated polycarbonate, according to Grizaffi.

"The skin, which is fiberglass, should have been replaced about seven years ago. We've been limited as to what plants and the quality of plants we could grow," said Walksler.

The new material could be compared to a high performance fiberglass, which will provide the greenhouse with more light than the old walls and roof.

The improvements on the greenhouse are expected to be made over this summer, so the house will be ready for use next school year.

No definite dates are set for opening yet, according to Grizaffi.

The school listened to Walksler and representatives of Planters Palate Greenhouse



Photo by Jon Brown

Senior forensics captain Melissa Garcia performing her original oratory at Verbally Yours.

to make their decisions about the construction.

Grizaffi said no one has discussed the south greenhouse. The school is considering revamping it, tearing it down, or leaving it as it stands.

The school has not hired a construction company yet, Grizaffi said.

Background... (continued from page 1)

coach they would not be allowed to coach at We-go until the paperwork comes in.

"We have not paid Ed Valdez at all," Benton also said, because the paperwork didn't come in.

Even though Valdez claimed he had one year coaching experience at Sycamore, which is the minimum requirement of coaching experience at We-go, a reference check had not been made with Sycamore to see if this was true.

"We shouldn't say 'I was at Sycamore' and count that as experience. How can we allow someone to coach kids at this school without a background check. We shouldn't do it, period," said board member Gerald Landis.

Landis also mentioned higher liability for the school without the background checks.

Benton said the background check was expensive at \$160 per check, therefore the school wanted some commitment on the coaches' part before they performed the check.

However, Benton said she is looking into several computer systems that will allow her to fingerprint scan new coaches and teachers to check up on their background much faster than sending it through to the state police, which the board agreed was another holdup in back-

ground checks.

She said that although the school has no policy on making criminal background checks, employees are required to inform the board of any past criminal record, or face termination if they do not or if they lie about it.

Illinois state law requires a background check, but not necessarily before the employee is hired.

Benton brought up the case of one unnamed school employee who had lied to the board about his record and been terminated when the background check came through showing he had a criminal history.

Still, however, Benton said that some teachers have been

Horticulture... (continued from page 1)

seriously considering tearing down both of the greenhouses at the time.

Now the school has decided to revamp one or both of the greenhouses and continue the horticulture club as an extra-curricular activity for students who are interested.

"I think the publicity we had really had an effect. Maybe there's a chance of reinstating the horticulture program in the next few years," Campos said.

The article can be found on page 15 in the "Dirt" section and includes a photo of the club, with Walksler leading the pack.

Walksler also made the news when 1997 alumni Sarah McQueen made the cover of the January issue of *Greenhouse Product News* magazine.

McQueen won the 2001 Greenhouse Product News scholarship, and accredited Walksler and the West Chicago horticulture program for her interest in the field.

Horticulture club's latest activity was to create Valentine's day bouquets on Tuesday.

formed the part of the narrator and different characters from a short story, *The Brother's K* by David James Duncan, about a baseball game. He had a black binder, which made it look like he was reading the story when he really had it memorized. Walker illustrated his story with different expression, the highlight of his performance. Walker placed first place this season in competitions with his prose reading.

Freshman Dana Grant made the over advertising of health care into a special occasion speech. She wrote the humorous speech about a semi-special event and pretended to address FBLA.

When given a quote by Albert Einstein, senior Alexandra Patin replied with an impromptu speech. She had eight min-

utes to prepare and give the speech. She spent all eight minutes in front of the audience.

Following the impromptu speech was a humorous duet act, performed by freshman Melissa Heron and senior Jessica Willes. They performed a part of a play or movie with only the use of a table and two chairs. In the act, from the play *Harry and Sam Dialogues* by Karen Ellison, Heron was trying to tell a story while Willes kept interrupting with unimportant questions. The audience laughed at the different questions and reactions of the actors.

"I think the performances went very well, although there weren't as many people there as I expected. Overall, it was pretty good," said Willes.

Senior Melissa Garcia, who is also the team captain, performed an original oratory. In an original oratory, the performer writes and performs a persuasive speech, discussing a current topic that occurred locally, nationally, or internationally. Garcia wrote her speech on the problems involved with bilingual classes. Garcia said she came up with her topic from the fact she wanted to be a bilingual teacher and that she wrote her junior research paper on bilingual education.

Kammes returned to perform an original comedy about the process of making a reality TV show. "We were thinking of different things that annoyed us. I picked *Survivor* - and the rest is history," said Kammes. Kammes wrote and performed the different characters. She successfully spoke in amusing voices and changed postures to illustrate the different characters.

The final act of the night was performance in the round. The performers acted out different scenes from the movie *Defending Your Life*. Performers included Willes and Heron, along with freshmen Jeff Hansen, Erin Linsenmeyer, Sarah Mendez; sophomores Heather Coakley, Missi Sheme; and juniors Christine Austin and Julie Volk. The performance was a little awkward because of the different people who just sat on stage, but the overall presentation was enjoyable.

"It was a lot of fun and I think we all got along really well and bonded as a team, which in turn, makes all of us perform better," said Garcia.

Forensics is verbally yours

By Mary-Megan Kalvig

The seventh annual Forensics Verbally Yours was a hit for everyone in attendance.

"It always exceeds my expectations. I finally get to see it and watch," said forensics coach Steve Kellner.

The night consisted of eight performances from the members.

"The best part about the night is it gets us ready for regionals," said Kellner.

The night started off with a dramatic interpretation by junior Katie Kammes, who is also the team secretary. She performed a serious discussion of eating disorders while acting out different characters using different voices and postures.

Although Senior Anders Walker was not in attendance, he recorded his prose reading before he left for a choir competition in Peoria. Walker per-

Activities...

(continued from page 2)

and even a Beatles Medley.

Orchestra director Susan Young is new to Community High School this year and took over the position the week before Winter Break. She said they are "having fun learning to make good music."

With three new members and a new director, Young believes they are doing a good job of obtaining an "esprit de corps."

Young encourages all students to attend the upcoming concert.

Murals ready for display at

We-go

By Marc Berry

One would not expect a man inflicted with colorblindness to take up a career in artistry. However, in the tradition of Ray Charles and Beethoven, Timm Eters does not let his sensory limitation affect his work and ambition.

Eters is the artist responsible for both murals added to the school this year. He put the finishing touches on his latest We-go piece, Jan. 16. The mural, located in the

Bishop Gym, was the follow up to another piece located across from the school's "C" entrance, which he completed early in the school year.

The earlier mural was created as a memorial to We-go Dean of Students Vernon Johns. At the October Board of Education meeting, Karen Kostal reported that the Booster Club would like to see a mural put on the opposite wall to go along with it.

The booster club decided to have one created in the

Bishop gym, instead. Both murals present an image of a wildcat, the school's mascot. Many people would consider Etter's talent amazing on their own. But then there's that whole "colorblind thing" too.

"People usually think that's kind of funny," said Eters. "Colors are just kind of messed up. Telling the difference between red and green is the toughest part."

(See Mural on page 6)

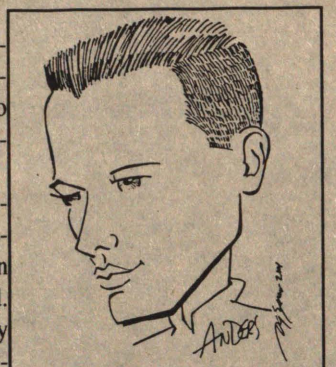
Walker sings down state

By Mike Mroz

Senior Anders Walker auditioned for and was accepted to go downstate to sing in the Illinois State Honors Choir.

"I loved the whole experience. It was a payoff of something I've been working on for a long time," Walker said. Walker lost his voice the day before he went downstate, although everyone was very encouraging. By the next day, he was ready to go.

This isn't the last big event on Walker's agenda. Walker will find out if he will sing the National Anthem at the state basketball tournament



Drawing by Dave Exner
Anders Walker

in a few months.

"I hope my experience at state can help me to remind our choir how awesome the thing we're trying to do really is," said Walker.

Amy Arroyo shows her student talent

By Stephanie Bodane
Amy Arroyo

Activities

Cheerleading (football/
basketball): 2,3,4 Captain: 2
Soccer: 1,2,3 Captain: 2
Pep Club executive mem-
ber: 3,4
Girl's Ensemble: 4

How do these activities make a difference in your and others' lives? Why did you participate in these activities?

I have met people that I normally wouldn't have talked to, and I have made some really good friends. I like being involved with school activities because I feel like I am contributing to the school. As a captain, I have helped people improve and that has been uplifting.

What was your favorite part of West Chicago High School? What are you going

to miss most about high school?

My favorite thing about WCCHS is the diverse environment we are exposed to. Everyone is so different, and that's great. I will miss all of the friendships I have had throughout high school. I most likely won't be able to see any of my friends until our next reunion. (I'll be going to college in New York!)

Have you made plans for the upcoming year? Where are you planning to attend school and what will be your major?

I have already been accepted to Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. I will major in biological sciences and go on to study animal medicine.

What was the best part of being chosen as Student of the Month?

I finally realized all I have

accomplished throughout high school. I think the honor of being chosen Student of the Month is felt inside. I am proud of myself and wouldn't care if it was publicized. Other people don't have to know in order for me to feel good.

Were you surprised when you found out you were Student of the Month?

I was completely caught off guard! I wasn't expecting that at all!

Do you have any advice for underclassmen?

You need to take fun classes when you can! I have loaded myself with tough classes and wish I had time to take more electives. Also, have fun! High school will go by very fast, enjoy it!

What was the best part about being an upperclassman?

As an upperclassman you don't have any worries. You feel on top of the world. Senior year is the best. You have so many opportunities to have fun and enjoy the last year. (Take advantage of that!)

What was the best part of being an underclassman? What is the ideal grade?

As an underclassman you get to experience all of the "firsts" in high school: homecoming, driver's ed., and an off hour. Senior year is great, but the ideal year is junior. You are upperclassmen but as a senior you're ready to move on to college.

If you could change one thing about West Chicago High School, what would it be?

I don't really know how to answer this question! I don't think I would really want to change anything. Maybe more time to take elective courses. I wanted to take art, drama, choir, and join clubs that I didn't have time for.



Photo courtesy of Amy Arroyo

Student of the Month Amy Arroyo

Rockets are more than fun and games

By Mary-Megan Kalvig

The sophomore world studies class experimented with their creativity by building rockets.

"We were all sitting around laughing. Some of the balloons never got off the ground while others surprised us," said world studies teacher Barbara Laimins.

Students were able to design the rocket any way they wanted, but they could only use straws, Styrofoam cups, and a balloon.

"By thinking in a new way, the students were told to build a rocket without being given any directions," Laimins said.

One group thought that the bigger the balloon, the far-

ther and faster it would go. Their hypothesis was wrong because the rocket did not go very far, said Laimins.

The experiment was not

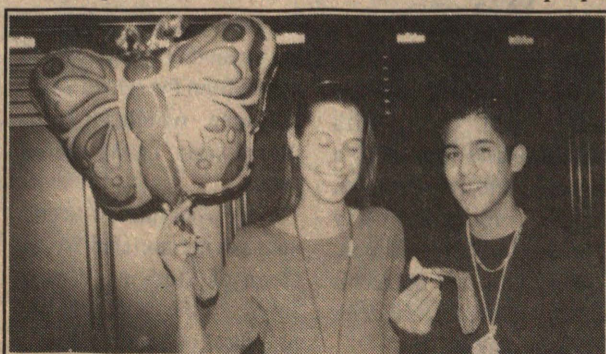


Photo courtesy of Barbara Laimins

The winners: sophomores Jennifer Mark and Tom Aguirre. They made a difference. Also, how individual thinking is affected by science, math, and art, along with other things," said Laimins.

the students needed to learn about Newton's Law, Laimins said.

"We were studying the Renaissance era and how people

February's special Pet of the Month



Matt Neumann's Leo

Photo courtesy of Matt Neumann

Leo Neumann is a 5-year-old shetland sheepdog.

With a nickname of "Lassie," Leo is an aspiring agility contest winner and his trainer, junior Matt Neumann, hopes to enter him into a contest of some kind in the fall of 2002.

Neumann said, "Although a little hyperactive, it's obvious that this loving

animal's bark is bigger than his bite."

Neumann added everyone enjoys Leo's company.

Leo is originally from Amboy, Illinois, almost an hour and a half from West Chicago.

The sheltie was picked up at only 6-weeks-old and was quickly trained to sit, stay, lay down, roll over, and

speak. In fact Leo learned the trick to roll over in approximately 10 minutes, Neumann said.

Leo is a very talented pet and member of Neumann's family. "The dog shows amazing compassion, losing his hyperactivity when members of the family are sick and even sleeping by them," Neumann said.

Is your pet special? Does it do special tricks? Make your pet March's Pet of the Month. All you have to do is put a picture of your furry friend, along with your and its name and some interesting information in the Chronicle mailbox in the administrative office by March 12.

Do you need advice? Do you have a problem that needs to be solved but don't know who to ask for help? The Wildcat Chronicle can help you. We are starting a new

Pregnant?

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67114 Lees Avenue Westmont, IL 60559

column called Ask Kate and we need your help to get it started. If you have any sort of problem, whether it be with a friend, school, or your job, send it to us and Kate will give you advice on how to

solve it. You can send your letters anonymously. You need to put your letter in the Chronicle mailbox in the administrative office by March 6, if you want it printed in the March issue.

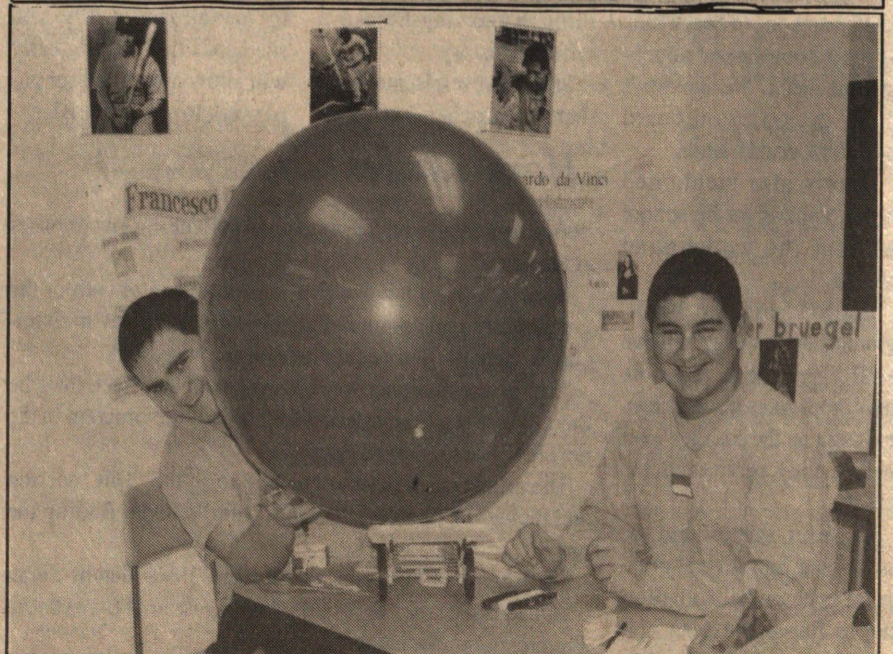


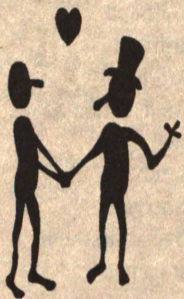
Photo courtesy of Barbara Laimins

Sophomores Adam Wickorich and Sol Maglioni show off the balloon for their rocket. Laimins came up with the idea to build rockets from the book "October Sky," by Homer Hickman, which the class had recently read. The students read the book about a young boy who designed rockets and became an engineer for NASA to illustrate how everyone, including students, can affect society.

What's in the stars for you this Valentine's Day?

By Mary-Megan Kalvig
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

The month of February has been hectic for you. Even though exams are through, you are still stressed out about school. Valentine's Day is the perfect time to relax. A new love offers nothing but fun times, so take advantage and enjoy yourself. The month of March only strengthens your love. This catch is definitely one to hold onto. Your lucky love match is Cancer. Your lucky animal is the rabbit.



Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20)

February is nothing but fun and games for you. You are constantly out partying and spending time with your friends. However, because of your after-school activities, you lose track of your schoolwork, thus affecting your grades. Therefore, the month is nothing but hard work in trying to bring up your GPA. Don't worry though, your Valentine's Day date will stand by your side. Your lucky love match is Leo. Your

lucky animal is the dog.

Aries (March 21-April 19)
Valentine's Day has never been anything important to you, but this year things will change. Things start getting exciting with the introduction of a boyfriend or girlfriend. Be careful not to let all of the romance seep into your brain. If you become too wrapped in your new love, the month of March will turn out disastrously with jealousy from your friends. Your lucky love match is Scorpio. Your lucky animal is the rat.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)
Valentine's Day will unfortunately fly by, leaving you alone in the dust. Don't waste too much time in your sorrows because March will offer you new opportunities. Your dead end job will brighten with a new employee of the opposite sex. This new worker will bring with him or her happiness in both work and in love. Your lucky love match is Libra. Your lucky animal is the hamster.



Gemini (May 21-June 21)

February is going to start off with a bunch of surprises. Valentine's Day is finally going to set you up with the person you've had an eye on for the past couple of months. Then your so-called "evil teacher" is going to lighten up his or her death grip and give the students a break. However, the fun is short lived. With the start of March, things are going to be back to the regular schedule. Your lucky love match is Capricorn. Your lucky animal is the cat.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)
The next couple of months are not looking good for you. Valentine's Day will be a disaster because of too many hopes. Your mood will then put a damper on the rest of the month. Because you feel you have failed in the love department, you put all of your energy into school, which is not bad, just not fun. When March comes around, you are too exhausted from school to have any fun. Your lucky love match is Aquarius. Your lucky animal is the chicken.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 21)
The month of February is going to be a confusing one. During Valentine's Day, you meet two people who you fall in love with. It is the diffi-

cult decision of which one to stay with, that causes extra stress in your life. It is not until March that you finally make up your mind. Be careful not to get too over your head because if they find out what you are up to, it will be disastrous. Your lucky love match is Pisces. Your lucky animal is the fish.

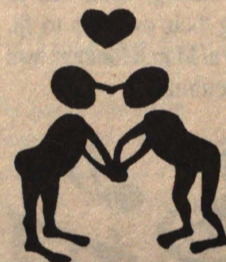


Virgo (Aug. 22-Sept. 22)
February is one of the best months you have had in a long time. Your teachers are giving you a short break from the work and a new love offers nothing but fun and games. Don't count your chickens before they hatch. Your love is not as great as he or she says. The month of March will really test your commitment towards each other. Your lucky love match is Sagittarius. Your lucky animal is the panda.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
February is going to be one of the busiest months you've had, and it is not fun and games. Your teachers will suddenly decide to pile up the homework, keeping you

away from your friends. An additional job overload also really stresses you out. It is not until the middle of March that things start looking up. Just keep your cool and pace yourself. Your lucky love match is Taurus. Your lucky animal is the goat.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 24)
February and March are some of the best months you have had in a while. For the first time in a while your teachers are finally lightening up on the workload. The holiday introduces a new love who is definitely a keeper. March offers a steady cruise back into the workload, but is nothing to stress over. Your extra time is spent with the friends you have lost track of. Your lucky love match is Aries. Your lucky animal is the frog.

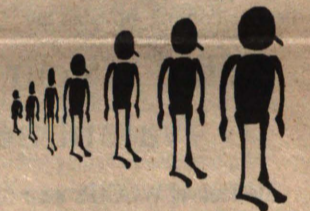


Sagittarius (Nov. 25-Dec. 21)
The next two months are going to crawl by. Without a date for Valentine's Day, you try to spend more time with your friends. However, they

are too busy in the love department to spare any time for you. Therefore, you fall into a slight depression, leaving you highly unmotivated. Have no fear, near the end of March things should be looking brighter. Your lucky love match is Virgo. Your lucky animal is the elephant.



Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
February is going to be the time of exploring new opportunities. To start off the new you, you are going to finally ask out the person you have been crushing over for the past couple of months. Don't worry about rejection because his or her answer will be yes. In March you are finally going to leave the job that has lead you nowhere, only to find one with better pay and people. Your lucky love match is Gemini. Your lucky animal is the turtle.



All-Star Band plays in Paris

By Mary Beth Selby

Can you imagine any better way of spending your winter vacation than going to see Versailles, many famous museums, the Eiffel Tower and performing for the New Year's Day Paris Parade? The Illinois All-Star Band did all of this over winter break.

"This trip was a real success for putting together something in so little time," said Director of Bands Jim Guter, "The kids did a wonderful job and got along great."

After the successful band trip to London last year, Youth Music of the World

asked Guter to put together an all-star band for a trip to Paris.

An All-Star Band is a performance band that includes many schools from a region of a country or state. This French trip is similar to the band trip to London last year, except that was a single-school band trip, not an All-Star Band, said Guter.

Guter sent out 25 invitations to different schools looking for participants. He only received six replies. This All-Star band included members from WCCHS, Bartlett, Dundee Crown, Plainfield, Yorkville, and

Streamwood. Together the All-Star Band represented Illinois.

A total of 62 people went on the trip. The West Chicago participants were: freshmen Julie Polz, Allyssa Rosalez, and Kim Rovtar; sophomores Sarah Hammer (colorguard), Melissa Lund, and CJ Wostratzky; juniors Darcie Jones (colorguard) and Caterina Marcentonio; seniors Tom Barta, Frank Check, Adam Fritz, Malissa Kane, Amanda Millard, Shane Ness, and Matt Wdowiarz.

Guter said participants were either recommended or volunteered.

In Paris, the band performed in la Concert du Chateau de Chantilly on Dec. 31 and participated in the New Year's Day Paris Parade. They played "Battle Hymn Republic" and "Everybody Everything."

This event took a great deal of planning and putting together, Guter said. When the members of the band were finally decided, there was the problem of actually playing together, Guter said. Each school had done something



Photo courtesy of Jim Guter

The All-Star Band performs in the Chantilly Parade at the Chateau.

different with each band and that was frustrating when they had little over a month to prepare and practice before the band went to Paris and performed, said Guter. The band met three times before they left for Paris, which was on Dec 26. They returned Jan 2.

Besides performing, the band did a great deal of touring while in Paris. Members of the band were split into small groups to tour Paris together. They went to the Louvre Museum, Champs Elysees Avenue, Notre Dame Cathedral, Sacre Coure, the

Opera House, Versailles, and the Eiffel Tower.

"Everything is so small," said Lund. "The cars are tiny. As we walked down the main street in Paris, we saw car dealerships in between clothes stores and restaurants. (See Band on page 6)



Photo courtesy of Jim Guter

Senior Frank Check on the trip to Paris.



Photo courtesy of Jim Guter

The Paris All-Star Band stands ready to start playing the music.

Band...

(continued from page 5)

Another difference of Paris from another U.S. city is that some people walk down the main street eating baguettes." A baguette is a type of French bread.

Wostratzky saw more than just Paris sites. "One of the other participating bands (Dundee Crown) had a tradition of duct taping a kid, upside-down, to a chair and sending him down the elevator," Wostratzky said. He saw this happen to one of the students. The boy had to stop on every single floor on the way down.

Adam Fritz had his own experiences while in Paris. He said once, while riding the subway with Check, Barta, Ness, and Wostratzky, a young boy came up to Ness and started saying something in French. Later, a woman told them that the boy was asking for money.

"It was hilarious," said Fritz.

Also, while taking a bus tour of the city, Ness said he was told where the bridge where Princess Diana died was located. Ness videotaped the bridge the bus was nearing. Then he learned the next bridge coming up was the

one Diana died at. Ness said everyone around him started laughing. Unfortunately, Ness said others thought they were laughing at Diana's death.

"I think the coolest things were walking down the street eating baguettes and viewing the architecture. The architecture is nothing like the kind in the U.S. It's absolutely amazing," said Fritz.

Wdowiarz also enjoyed the trip. "Paris had some interesting architecture and it was a lot more peaceful than being in a major U.S. city. I would really want to do something like this again if I had the chance."

This kind of trip is not something that happens every year. Guter said that he would be taking a break from doing an All-Star trip next year. However, the whole West Chicago band will be taking their own trip to St. Louis in March for their own competitions.



What's your opinion on Valentine's Day?

Students at WCCHS were asked: "Is it better to be alone or to be with someone on Valentine's Day?" The following are their replies.

"It is better to be with a girlfriend. Valentine's Day is supposed to be romantic, and you can't be romantic with yourself." -Senior Josh Swanner

"I've long forgotten what it's like to not be single." -Senior Chris Buckles Haley

"Chicks ignore me...on account of the ugliness and all." -Senior Ken Yourek

"I think they should be together on Valentine's Day but they should not commit immoral deeds." -Senior Omar Gladwin

"With someone because then you wouldn't feel like a loser because you didn't have a significant other." -Senior Lilli Szafranski

"It is better to be alone. If you are a Christian, it's hard to focus on God. With a boyfriend people tend to go out with people they should stay away from." -Senior Tracy Yednock

"If you have someone that brings out the best of you, then it's better to have someone any day of the year." -Junior Hilary Blanchard

"Single- you can be creative with what you do and who you do it with." -Junior Jeff Raun

"It is way better to be with someone on Valentine's Day." -Junior Stephanie Opel

"Valentine's Day is a day you should spend with someone you hate." -Senior Amanda Campagnoni

"With someone, so you aren't alone." -Junior Chris Holguin

"With someone who you can spend meaningful time with." -Junior Josh Winquist

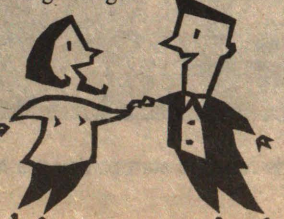
"It's better to be alone because Valentine's Day is just another day." -Sophomore Missi Sheme

"It depends on the way you look at it. If you are going out with someone, then you should get something, but then you have to spend money." -Senior Malissa Kane

"Why does it matter? It's just another lonely day in our existence." -Senior Chris Salutric

"It is better to be with someone." -Freshman Brian Skala

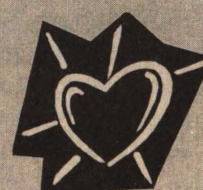
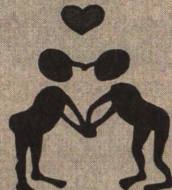
"It's better to be with someone because Valentine's Day is a time to spend with someone you love." -Junior Margot Reges



Find these romantic words in this Valentine's Day word search

G	Q	D	L	E	R	B	R	T	G	N	I	T	I	S	V	R
I	O	R	O	M	A	N	C	E	A	M	R	O	S	E	S	M
R	F	T	V	I	C	G	Y	F	E	A	K	K	S	T	E	K
L	R	D	E	R	A	U	E	G	E	T	R	X	C	A	A	G
F	A	N	A	D	N	V	P	H	V	N	U	E	H	D	H	L
R	T	S	T	O	D	K	T	I	G	S	T	R	Y	A	C	U
I	T	E	F	N	L	E	R	S	D	A	A	B	S	A	S	Q
E	S	L	I	K	E	D	G	W	L	S	A	E	D	R	L	S
N	U	P	R	W	L	Y	B	O	D	O	L	H	U	G	S	T
D	K	R	S	L	I	L	C	O	W	E	P	A	A	A	E	R
N	S	Q	T	K	G	O	R	J	O	S	I	S	O	H	B	A
E	Z	N	S	N	H	P	I	H	S	D	N	E	I	R	F	E
I	G	U	I	C	T	B	O	Q	S	I	K	R	M	V	L	H
R	T	P	G	H	L	S	W	X	C	N	N	O	D	B	G	N
F	N	E	H	R	G	D	E	A	H	N	V	G	S	E	N	O
Y	U	H	T	S	H	N	R	M	R	E	E	N	V	L	I	I
O	E	S	T	S	P	D	O	E	Y	R	U	I	U	O	J	T
B	M	E	S	E	S	D	N	Z	T	G	A	C	S	P	T	A
C	I	S	U	M	O	I	S	D	E	D	A	N	E	R	E	S
J	T	S	E	A	T	N	C	T	O	C	O	A	D	T	U	R
M	T	I	E	N	N	H	V	R	R	W	T	D	A	R	Q	E
O	E	K	E	T	E	G	F	L	F	A	G	P	T	O	U	V
D	N	L	A	E	Q	J	I	O	T	N	E	M	S	N	O	N
F	A	H	P	P	O	D	U	V	U	S	F	H	G	R	B	O
V	O	L	T	U	L	O	S	E	S	I	R	P	R	U	S	C

- Valentine
- Hearts
- Roses
- Red
- Pink
- Romance
- Friendship
- Love
- Kisses
- Hugs
- Cards
- Dates
- Dinner
- Bouquet
- Sweetheart
- Candlelight
- Music
- Serenade
- Boyfriend
- Girlfriend
- Surprises
- Conversation hearts
- Dancing
- Cupids
- Chocolate
- Love at first sight
- Pet names



John McPheters is December's Student of the Month

By Jamie Nadolny

and President)

Volleyball- 1,2,3,4

Waterboy- 1,2,3,4

John McPheters

When did you find out that you were going to be December's Student of the Month?

I found out during my lunch period.

Were you surprised by the fact that you were chosen as Student of the Month?

Oh yes! Who would have thought that I would have been pulled out of my lunch hour to talk to Ms. Aronoff?

What was the best part about being chosen as Student of the Month?

The best part was the recognition of having done so well.

What types of activities are you involved in at WCCHS?

*Spanish club- 1,2,3
FBLA- 1,2,3,4 (I have been Treasurer, Vice President,*

ACT advice

High school juniors taking the ACT Assessment in April should take advantage of the career questionnaire called the Interest Inventory, which is included in the ACT.

Results from the inventory show which careers best fit the person's interests.

Students are advised to read and use the information from their ACT results.

The results define the students' academic skills they already have, and what careers match their abilities and interests.

Even if the student receives a low score, the score report explains what the numbers mean and how to build on knowledge and skills.

Why do you participate in the activities listed above? How do they make a difference in your life and in the lives of others?

They teach me the importance of getting along with and working with others.

What has been your favorite part of West Chicago High School? What are you going to miss most about high school?

My favorite part has been the education. I will miss most all of the friendships I have made.

Have you made college plans for next fall? Where are you planning on attending school and what will be your major?

I plan on attending either St. Louis or Marquette Uni-

versity. I want to major in biomedical engineering.

Do you have any advice for underclassmen that would like to set a good example at West Chicago High School?

Stay away from seniors!

What do you remember most about being an underclassman? What was the best part about being an under-

- You love me**
- Kisses
 - Dinner
 - Box of chocolate
 - Italian food
 - Perfume/cologne

classman? Would you rather be a senior?

Seniors rule, but being an underclassman was fun, too!

If you could change one thing about West Chicago High School, what would it be?

I would change the teachers. I wish they would trust the students more.

Is your relationship over?

The following are lines to know when your relationship is definitely over. You're such a good friend. Your best friend's pretty hot. We should see other people. I've changed.

It's not you, it's me. I need to explore other options. You're a great friend and all... I think we're getting a little too serious. Let's just be friends.

"The Dining Room" opens at We-go

By Marc Berry

We-go's annual winter play will be held Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in the Weyrauch Auditorium. This year's play is a comedy/drama by A.R. Garney titled "The Dining Room."

Tickets can be bought at the door. They will cost \$3 for adults and \$2 for We-go students with an ID.

The play will have one set and the entire story revolves around experiences in a formal dining room.

The cast includes Seniors Tim Axelrod, Carrie Carpenter, Alex Corson, Katie DiNicolo, Chris Hendricks,

Audrey Sebastiano; juniors Steve Knox, Tony Palombi, Nicole Patel, Kael Rewers, Jeff Raun, and freshman Dawn Barzso.

The original script called for three men and three women, each of whom would play various characters throughout the performance. However, six males and six females were chosen for the

We-go production to lighten each cast member's load.

"Still, it's a difficult play," said Hafertepe, "[Production] is always a process. We need to keep building and improving."

Because the actors and actresses will be changing roles, costumes and props are an important part of the play, said Hafertepe.

Murals...

(Continued from page 3)

After Etters completed the mural, he traveled to New York, where he will be spending the coming months work-

ing on another mural which will be put up in Long Island at the EAB Plaza cafeteria.

If you would like more information on Etters, go to www.OdysseyCreations.com.

Valentine's Day Special

Romantic movie classics: the key to Valentine's Day

By Mary-Megan Kalvig
There is nothing more romantic than curling up with a loved one to watch a love story. Watching one of these 10 movies will strike the spark in your relationship this Valentine's Day.

Casablanca

This classic stars Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman.

Rick is an American expatriate and war profiteer in WWII Morocco who now runs the Café Americain. A former love unexpectedly returns with her husband as they flee from the Nazis. It is then up to Rick to help the two escape, but won't until Ilsa reawakens something inside that he has lost.

Dirty Dancing

This hit stars Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey.

In 1963 the last thing Baby wanted to do was go to the Catskills with her parents. Her summer mood suddenly turns around when she meets Johnny, the hotel dance instructor. Even though her father, who she is very close to,

does not approve, the two become partners in both dance and love.

End of the Affair

The movie was originally released in 1955 starring Deborah Kerr and Van Johnson. In 1999 it was remade starring Ralph Fiennes and Julianne Moore.

Sarah Miles is stuck in an unhappy marriage and decides to have an affair with William Bendrix. After an air raid disturbs their meetings, Sarah breaks up with him. Once the war is over, he hires a detective to follow her. The answer makes both of them question true love.

My Fair Lady

This musical stars Audrey Hepburn and Rex Harrison.

It all started with a bet. Professor Henry Higgins bets he can turn the local flower girl into a sophisticated lady. Eliza Doolittle agrees to the bet and learns how to behave properly. After a bit of rage between the two, she leaves. Higgins then realizes he has fallen in

love with her and really needs her.

Pretty Woman

This classic stars Julia Roberts and Richard Gere.

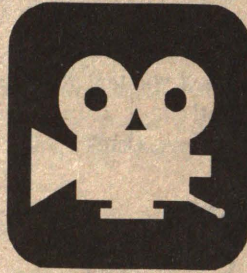
Vivian is a girl who dreams of making something of herself but works as a prostitute. One night she hops into the car of a corporate raider. Then, instead of a one-night stand, she stays for the whole week. Though neither of them wanted it, they fell in love. Only they question whether it is the right thing to do.

Sabrina

This movie was originally released in 1954 starring Audrey Hepburn and Humphrey Bogart. Later in 1995, it was remade starring Harrison Ford and Julia Ormond.

After a trip to Paris, awkward Sabrina returns with a new look and steals the affections of David Larrabee, who is planning on getting married. David's brother Linus is then determined to keep the engagement in hopes of a business deal and

feels the only way to do so is to distract Sabrina. His plan however backfires and the two fall in love.



Say Anything

This movie stars John Cusack and Ione Skye.

Lloyd is your typical nice guy who wants to date the high school beauty, Diane. However, they are complete opposites, she is a brain and he is just there. Diane then surprises everyone by accepting Lloyd's invitation to a party. The two soon start on an unexpected romance.

Sleepless in Seattle

This hit stars Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks who reunited in the 1998 movie *You've Got Mail*.

After the loss of his mother, a young boy calls a radio station to help his dad find a new love. His story touches women across the nation and is an instant hit. He deeply touches one woman, who plans on meeting him on Valentine's Day, where they both find something that has been lacking in their hearts.

The Sound of Music

This true-story musical, stars Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer.

Maria is a nun who has just too much energy. She soon becomes the governess of the seven Von Trapp children. At first the father feels she is too stubborn, but with the help of the children and songs, he softens up. Later, he falls in love with her and they are married, but are forced to run away because of the Nazi rule.

When Harry Met Sally

This romance stars Billy Crystal and Meg Ryan.

Harry and Sally both shared a car ride and asked the question, "Can a man and a woman remain friends without sex?" Over the next 13 years the two constantly keep meeting coincidentally. Soon the two start sharing secrets and tender moments, only to fall in love in the end.



Dinner for two can be hot

By Alexandra Patin

Tonight's the night when many couples will celebrate their love. Tonight's also the night many singles will celebrate their freedom. Below is a recipe for friends to share when they get together on Valentine's Day. Beware, it can be extremely spicy if you don't use the proper amounts of ingredients.

Extremely Spicy Feisty Fajitas for Friends

First, slice up two red bell peppers and two medium-sized onions and put aside.

You will have to start with the chicken. Cut up two chicken breasts into thin strips. In the bottom of a large, cast iron pot, make sure you put about a tablespoon of olive oil. Put your chicken slices in the pot. Take a small amount of paprika—about half a teaspoon, and sprinkle it into your pot with the chicken. Make sure to completely cover the chicken with paprika—this will give you a nice red coloring, although it will not be blinding. (If you wish to have it redder, just add some red food coloring when you are finished cooking.) Do not add any more paprika, as this will make it too spicy.

Next, add about a quarter teaspoon of red curry powder to the mix. Stir this like you did with the paprika. At this time, you should turn the heat on the burner down until it is about half way, to avoid burning. Let the chicken rest, stirring occasionally until it is almost cooked.

When it is just about finished (this will be in approximately 20 minutes), add your red bell peppers and your onions and cook for another five

minutes. They should be stirred in until the chicken is completely cooked. Turn the heat off.

Now, you are ready to put the chicken on your fajita shell (flour shells work better for the presentation). Make a relaxed looking wrap. This is accomplished by taking about two large tablespoons of chicken and placing them into the middle of your fajita shell. Then, fold one end of your shell up over the chicken.

Bring the two sides in so they form a roof and cover the end, leaving the front open. This can be varied if you wish to create Fajita pillows, for which you simply fold both ends over and then the sides, creating a box.

If you could not find large fajita shells, it's likely that your wrap will not stay wrapped. If this happens, just smear some olive oil from the bottom of your pot in between the sides to give them a bit of adherence.

Finally, take the curry and VERY lightly sprinkle it over the plate and the shell to give it a final red garnish finish. This is your Valentine's dish to share with friends. If you are able to find some red pansies or narcissus petals at the store, feel free to sprinkle those around the plate. Be creative. This will give approximately four to five fajitas.



Valentine's Day: what girls and guys want

By Steve Taylor and Stephanie Bodane

Whether you are single or in a relationship and whether you are a guy or a girl, there is always something to do on February 14. When you are single, things happen differently when there isn't someone to share the night with.

But there is no reason to get down on yourself. Valentine's Day is a holiday for singles as well as couples. More often than not, the idea of a perfect day differs between sexes.

WHAT GUYS WANT FROM GIRLS:

Some guys may like the idea of taking out a girl for a wonderful night. This often ends up as a wonderfully expensive night for the guy and he is left broke as a joke. So in these constantly changing times that we live in, what would be so wrong with the girl spending money on the guy?

Girls, why not take your guy out to a nice restaurant for a hearty meal? A good place that will get any guy's attention is the Outback Steakhouse. A 20-ounce slab of steak is hard for any guy to turn down.

If the Outback is not available to you (the restaurant does get very crowded very often), then there are other suitable steakhouses. LoneStar Steakhouse gives

you virtually the same meals and prices of the Outback, without the Australian décor.

For those of you who are looking to spend a lot of money on some good meat, then a possibility is the Viking Steakhouse located on Roosevelt Road in Winfield.

Sometimes, however, a guy is not in the mood to go out. On Valentine's Day, most everyone is thinking about which restaurants to go to. Therefore, chances are those places are going to be very crowded.

You might want to try your luck at simply staying in for the night. You could order out or make something special from your own kitchen. Food won't matter too much to a guy, as long as he is with that special girl.

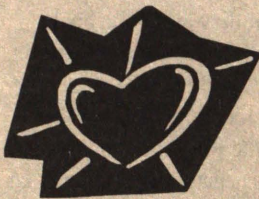
Whether you go out to eat or you just stay at home, you can still have fun afterwards. A guaranteed good, and inexpensive time, is renting movies. Go to your local Hollywood Video, Blockbuster Video, or Video Images, rent a few videos, and come back to your house and enjoy.

If you have the right movies at your house already, you might not even have to spend a dime. Just pop them in sit back and enjoy. Whether it's a comedy, a drama, a horror, or a good old

action flick, you can't go wrong with a movie.

SINGLE

Just because you don't have a loved one to spend



Valentine's Day with, doesn't mean you won't have any fun. The idea of renting a couple of movies applies to the lonely-hearts as well.

Get a bunch of dateless people together and rent some funny movies. They don't have to be comedies, but any movie that will keep you in a good mood. They might just be really bad movies. If it's starring Eric Roberts, it's usually a dead giveaway.

If you are tired of being single, then chances are there are ladies out there who feel the same way. So go out and find them.

Go to a local bowling alley with a couple of friends and bowl a couple of frames. Start talking to the girls in the next lane and see where it goes from there. If nothing happens, then put them behind you and just bowl that perfect game you've been waiting for.

WHAT GIRLS WANT FROM GUYS

Pick up your girlfriend in

style. Go to a local flower shop or stop by a Hallmark store and get a bouquet of flowers and a romantic card. Present them to her as she comes to the door, or you can walk her to your car and have them placed nicely in the passenger seat where she is about to sit, the smile on her face is sure to be a great reward to you.

On Valentine's night hit the restaurants. Pull out those nice clothes and shiny shoes. Dinner is the perfect way to start an evening; the Olive Garden in Bloomingdale on Army Trail Road offers a quiet and romantic atmosphere.

Or if you're really in love, then take your girlfriend to an expensive restaurant with taste, The Viking in Winfield on Roosevelt Road is a great place to spend a romantic night. Your girlfriend will love the feeling of being pampered and treated to a nice night out.

After a great dinner of romantic conversation and tasteful food, your date can end with a grand finale. Bring your date home to your house and break out the ice cream! Make the night special by making it personal and doing something you can do together. Make each other ice cream sundaes and sit down to a romantic movie and cuddle with the one you (Valentine's continued on page 8)

Valentine's Day Special

Valentine's...

(Continued from page 7)
love. You'll win her over while she's in your arms.

Finally, end the perfect night with a kiss and hug goodnight and a small teddy bear so she has something to hold onto even after she is home. She'll be sure to sleep with dreams of you and her and the perfect Valentine's Day.

SINGLE

This Valentine's Day (because you are happily single) treat yourself to a girl's night out. Go out to dinner, but avoid those romantic, expensive restaurants. Stick to places like Bakers Square on Geneva Road or hit the fast food places.

Once you've had a non-sappy dinner, rent some comedies and some scary movies. Who needs that romance, you're single! Have a great time, cutting back, relaxing with some friends, and laughing hysterically.

When everyone has retreated back to their houses, make yourself a nice relaxing bubble bath and listen to some good music. Nothing can beat this home remedy. Lay back and be thankful that you had a good night, and that you are single this Valentine's Day!

So make this Valentine's Day great even if you're single. There is so much to do out there. Make your reservations, and have a great Valentine's Day!

Valentine's Day messages for loved ones

Dear **Alaine**,
I want you to be my Valentine and my love forever.

Love, Dee



Dear **Jessica**,
I just wanted to tell you I love you.

Love, Mike



Dear **So-and-So**,
Scrumble my Outums!

Love, Mike Pesola

Dear **Everyone**,
Spreading huge B love to everyone. Happy Valentine's Day!

Love, Jenny and Alaine

Dear **You**,
Yo!
Anonymous

Dear **Katy**,
When I'm not with you I miss you a lot, I just want to tell you that you're really hot!

Love, Derek



Dear **Lady Of My Fantasy**,
For you there are emotions I cannot profess,
With you there are passions that there is always excess,
But my awe of you I feel I must confess,
To the one I like to call my princess

Love, Matt Neumann (II)

Dear **Haggis**,
Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!
Love, Jimbus
"Scabs" McNeeley



Dear **Matt**,
Happy Valentine's Day! You're awesome! Oh yeah happy six months!
Woohoo! **I love you!**
Love, Angie

Dear **Sergio**,
Happy Valentine's Day, sweetie! I love you!
Love always, Maggie



Dear **Schnookums**,
Will you marry me?
Love, David



Dear **Sweetie**,
Sweetie
You hold my hand,
And talk to me,
You are the only one,
Who truly knows me.

We talk all night,
While we are alone,
Until we are so tired,
We cannot hold onto the phone.

We met by luck,
I was told to choose,
Out of all the girls,
I choose you.

Ever since then,
Our feelings grew,
Until we finally said,
I LOVE YOU.

With these three words,
We know it is true,
We will be together,
Through and through.

I call you sweetie,
Before I say goodbye,
No one will ever know,
Or understand why.

I stay with you,
For all this time,
And be so proud,
To call you mine.

I LOVE YOU SWEETIE
Love, Scott

Underrated romance novels

By Alexandra Patin

Few romance novelists can write novels where the reader's heart pounds because they feel as if they are really there.

Christina Dodd is one of these romance novelist. Her novels are longer than others, however, they often make for better reading. For example, *Someday My Prince*, a novel about a princess who finds herself alone every night and is trying to find a husband, is one such novel.

In this story, Katherine, the princess, decides to marry in order to fill the void in her life, but she can not find anyone worthy of marriage. This may sound a bit clichéd, but the ending is unexpected, yet still fills the same fantastical image of the rest of the story.

Dodd's one downfall is the titles of her novels, which turn many people off because they sound very much like a stereotypical romance novel—one that is filled with a attempt at a plot and tons of heart-thumping scenes. However, whichever novel, it is sure to have more than the reader bargained for.

Another lesser known, older author is Elisabeth Mansfield. Her novels are less racy, and they are more plot-filled than many of the other authors.

One such novel is *Love Lessons*. In this novel, the main character is brought up in an environment where none of the common social graces are taught. When she wants to learn, she goes to London and spends time at a school until she comes back—this time in love with someone she can not approach.

This novel is rather predictable ending is on a downside, but it is a good read nonetheless.

These two novels are great for first time readers, as well as for people who have been reading romance novels for years. For first time readers, these two authors prove that not all romances are bad writing and soft porn, but that they often have quite intricate and enjoyable plots.

Today, this romance can be even more enjoyable whether you are single and enjoying it or about to go on a special date with your boyfriend or girlfriend.

By Mary-Megan Kalvig
Best-seller Nicholas Sparks does it again with his new romantic release, *The Rescue*.

The novel starts on a stormy night when Denise Holton is in a car accident and her son runs away. During the search for her speech-impaired son Kyle, a man named Taylor McAden enters their lives, making a lasting imprint.

Denise and Taylor soon start a romance that seems to be heaven sent, only to be torn apart by Taylor's guilty memories of the past. It is not until he finally comes to grips with his memories that he can move on with his life.

Sparks has a great way of holding the reader's attention with a mix of romance and suspense.

The book begins with the storm that brings the two together. The reader can picture and feel what Denise is going through as others search for her son by the amount of detail and emotion that Sparks writes in the scene.

Later in the book there are two fires that really hold the reader's attention. The reader can sense the tension and fear as Taylor risks his life to save

others. Sparks has a way of describing every minute and emotion so the reader feels as if they are in the book.

However, the car accident and two fires take away from the romantic part of the book. Some people might see that as a negative aspect, but I find it a strength. If you have too much sappy love, it makes the book boring and predictable. The suspense is not something the reader would expect in a love story. It really adds excitement and makes the reader want to continue reading.

Sparks is creative in making Kyle speech-impaired. The handicap is an addition that really helps illustrate the romance between Taylor and Denise. During the four years with Kyle, Denise became extra critical of the people she meets. Kyle, in the story, is a real deciding factor in their romance.

I am not a big fan of gushy, predictable romances, but this story has more to it than the typical love story. The novel is a bit mysterious describing Taylor's secretive feelings.

Near the end of the book, Taylor finally explains why he acted the way he did. That

confession is one of my favorite parts of the book. His descriptive memories add to the drama.

Another enjoyable aspect of his memories is the mixture of emotions the reader goes through. The reader experiences fear as they realize someone is going to die; anticipation while they wait to see what is next; sorrow when someone special dies; and happiness when he takes the step to share his inner feelings. It takes a special book to offer those four different emotions all in one scene. This novel also has good character development. Something important happens to Mitch, Taylor's best friend. Without giving away too much of the ending, the scene really affects Taylor.

Mitch, however, is not a major character. But because of the character development the scene has a good deal of emotional affect on the reader. I think it is a well-written book if a minor character can pull at the heartstrings of the reader.

The Rescue also has lessons inside the romance. Taylor really struggles with commitment because of a past experience. He learns that

sometimes you need to let go of the past and get on with your life. The lesson in the book is a major theme throughout the book.

Nicholas Sparks's new novel, *The Rescue* is a must read for someone looking for a heartfelt romance. It is definitely a book you won't be able to put down.

Thumbs Up Thumbs Down

Thumbs up
Surprising your valentine with a small gift or card.

Taking time for all of your friends and loved ones for Valentine's Day.

Remembering that any day is a good day to show someone you love them.

Being spontaneous and original.

Roses and chocolate.

Thumbs Down

Spending a ridiculous amount of money on a huge present.

Taking time to blow off your solo friends while you enjoy a romantic fun-filled night.

Spontaneously grabbing a quick bouquet of flowers and some M&M's on the way to your date.

The Rescue sparks new interest

College conjures up different emotions in all areas of life as seniors reflect

By Alexandra Patin

In the midst of February, many seniors are not just watching out for Valentine's in their mailboxes.

February is the month of one of the first waves of acceptance letters and rejection notices from colleges. For most, it's a time of stress and arduous waiting for that envelope to reach them.

But why are we so concerned about which colleges will accept us? Many students believe that if they do not get into their first choice college, it is the end of their education.

Yet this is simply not true. Students need to realize that just because their first choice college may not hold us in the same light, this is not the worst thing that could happen.

First of all, the most prestigious university may be on a par with the not so glamorous (and not so far away) state school.

Some may laugh at this notion, but it is true that many schools that are not granted the same prestige as others are just as good academically.

For example, Northern Illinois University may not sound as great as Harvard University but it has one of the highest ranked international business schools in the country. It is undoubtedly in the same league as Harvard's business school, and for the fraction of the cost.

This cost factor is another reason people must not get so stressed out not being accepted to the college of their dreams.

Colleges are increasing their tuition prices more and more each year, and for anyone who has done an ounce of college searching, the price of attending one year at a university can be astronomical.

This is especially true when people consider their "dream college." In most cases, that school is one of the high-rank-

ing schools, is very prestigious, and looks very pretty on the outside.

When they compare the cost of attending this school to the cost of attending another school, perhaps not their first choice, the difference can be huge.

This, again, is another reason people must not stress about getting into their first choice college. The cost of that college may end up being so above the other choices that they did get into, that nothing could justify the extra several thousand dollars per year.

Finally, we must not stress about not getting into our first choice because there's nothing we can do about it anyway.

For many seniors, the past four years have been spent in preparation for these days.

Advanced placement classes have been filled, (most) homework has been finished, teachers have been buttered up for future recommendations.

We have worked as hard as we have wanted and as we thought necessary for the decision colleges will make or have made.

This decision is now in the hands of the admissions officers who will scrupulously pour over every application and decide the fates of seniors around the country.

If you do not get into your first choice college, you can live with the knowledge that you have worked and sweated for this decision, and there is another college out there waiting for you.

And, if by the end of the year, you still are absolutely miserable at the college you end up attending, you can always try again with the admissions officers of that dream school.

Who knows, maybe next time you'll make it.

By Mike Mroz

It's about the middle of the school year and many seniors have either sent in college applications and/or received them back. Soon enough we will be packing our bags, saying goodbye to loved ones, and heading off to a wonderful place called college.

I think it is almost inevitable that many of our high school friends will be forgotten as we leave for college. Many of us will experience the same situation: a group of friends all going off to different schools, and slowly but surely forgetting about one another.

Some high school friends stay close for about the first two years of college, and then for some odd reason just lose touch. Maybe they lost each others' numbers, or e-mail addresses, or maybe they just don't have time to get together anymore. In short, it takes a true friendship to withstand the obstacle of college.

The college experience definitely changes a person, sometimes for better, sometimes for worse. This is sometimes why friends drift away from each other; they are away from the medium that once held them together—high school. Our friends will adapt to a whole new atmosphere, which means new friends. They will gain new personalities, they will experience new things, and they will come closer to learning who they are.

For many seniors, going away to college will be sad, because we know that we will undoubtedly be losing some of our high school friends. On the other hand, we will be experiencing all of the excitement of college. I think we just have to keep in mind who we really want to keep in our lives. Keeping this in mind, we will be able to have the ultimate college experience, while maintaining a few meaningful high school buddies.

Internet more prevalent in society- for the better?

By Mary-Megan Kalvig

Families across the world are connected to the Internet through their computers. In order to survive in school and business it is necessary to have a computer.

People who do not have one are labeled old-fashioned and out-of-date. However, is it a good thing to run your life by a computer screen and phone line?

People like to argue that a computer does not run their lives. How do these people then explain the fear of Y2K?

While it is old news, you cannot ignore the influence the Internet and computers have on society.

Last year a man did an experiment to see if he could survive without leaving his house. His only link to the outside world was the Internet.

Through the Internet he ordered clothes, food, and met people. On the day he finished his experiment, he asked a woman he met online to marry him.

This story illustrates my point that the Internet can run peoples' lives. Is it a good thing to say that a computer can handle someone's everyday activities?

If people run their lives around the computer, there will be less human interaction.

Pretty soon, if more people start living off of their computer, there won't be any hu-

man interaction. Without human interaction, people will become cranky old hermits. People need each other to blow off steam.

"But there are chat rooms," you might argue. However, isn't it easier to argue in person than it is to type out your feelings? People can also say it might be the end of the human race because without actual human interaction, there won't be anybody getting married and having children. By living off of the Internet, the only people someone actually interacts with are the deliverymen. It is doubtful everyone is going to want to have children with the deliveryman.

Another bad thing about the Internet is what on-line shopping does to stores. A new technology introduced a way to make Internet shopping better. If people go to certain stores, their body will be scanned. People then take that scan, which finds their dimensions, and go to their computer. They are then able to try on clothes without entering a store. The scanned picture gives you a perfect fit, so finding clothes is even easier.

During January, Montgomery Wards went bankrupt and was forced to close. Also, JCPenney and Sears are both closing stores and laying off people.

People can't help but wonder if the Internet had some-

thing to do with it. Because of the Internet, people do not need to go to stores. Without people entering the mall and stores, stores could bankrupt and close and then multiple people are laid off.

During January, there were two news programs about adoption over the Internet. In one case, four different families e-mailed a mother to adopt her twins. She agreed in all four cases.

Another story was about different families who adopted another child on the Internet, only they never received the baby.

The Internet has made such an emotional experience of adopting a child into catalog shopping. Now instead of the critical look to make sure the child is put into a healthy situation, families start bidding on a human being. Then, when the child isn't delivered or is not what they were promised, lawsuits start.

If they had just done the adoption the normal way, these problems probably would not have occurred. In a normal adoption, there would not have been four different families promised the same child. It seems as if the women just wanted the money.

Families also no longer need to live nearby thanks to the Internet. Now people can keep in touch by sending pictures and letters via e-mail. It

really shows family values.

Yes, family members are going to move away because of retiring, school and jobs, but this complaint is addressing people who feel it is okay to move away across the country because they feel like it. People are going to say that it is not a bad thing to live away from your family, but family is important. It is not the same thing for grandparents to watch their grandchildren grow up in pictures as it is to literally see them grow up. It is not good for grandparents to see their grandchildren only on Christmas and Easter.

If family is important, then people will stay close together, it is the only way to really keep in touch.

After all, how many people are going to really send a picture every time something happens? E-mail is not as personal as an actual phone call.

This might be an old-fashioned observation, but the Internet is not a good thing.

Most people have lived most of their life without it, and probably could spend the rest of their life without it. There is nothing the Internet does that people could not do the traditional way.

People are capable of shopping for food and clothes without using a computer to do so. The Internet has been nothing but trouble.

False fire alarms nothing to laugh about

By Laura McQueen

Everyone loves to go outside in the middle of the school day and freeze his or her butt off for 20 minutes. These false alarms and fire drills have been the highlight of the school year—all 10 of them.

Some students and teachers are blaming the construction for the false alarms, and some are blaming the alarms themselves, some of the alarms have even been the practical jokes of students. So what is getting done to prevent 10 fire drills this semester? It's going to take a little from everybody.

First, the cause of the alarms needs to be determined. Out of the 10 alarms last semester, two of them were planned fire drills; two were attributed to construction; and two were student pranks.

Ha, ha what a funny joke. The entire school congratulates those students who were brave enough to achieve this clever and original practical joke. Their timing was perfect—right in the middle of school, who'd have thought? And they sure had everyone fooled. I feared for my life thinking the whole school was about to burn down right before my eyes.

But that's where false alarms become dangerous. The fire department probably had no rush coming to We-go for the third time in four weeks. There were quite a few people who didn't even leave the school.

So what is everyone doing to help ease the situation?

The school is doing its part to cut down the false alarms. Construction is ending so it will no longer factor into tripped fire alarms. There were also four legitimate fire detections, said assistant superintendent of business Gary Grizaffi. These were set off by steam from a dishwasher and by smoke in the foods classrooms. The school has since serviced the dishwasher and replaced the fire alarms in the home economics department with heat detectors.

"The new fire detection system is much more sensitive and comprehensive than the old one. The old alarm system was definitely outdated," said Grizaffi.

The students must also take alarms seriously. Take every fire drill seriously and remember that pulling false alarms is not funny or safe.

False fire alarms are a hassle to everyone in the school and the fire department. They're also a danger because no one takes alarms seriously anymore. More importantly, nobody enjoys dropping everything to freeze outside waiting for nothing.



Photo by Ryan Begy

Freshman Refe Tuma (guitar) and seniors Joe Mandrino (guitars/vocals), Mike Mroz (drums), and Mitch Strohm (bass/vocals) make up the West Chicago High School-born band Forever in a Day. The group's style is described as melodic indie rock with a hint of emo. "We try not to fit into any specific genre, although it is hard not to. We try to please everyone with our sound, but we also try to please ourselves first," said Strohm. Forever in a Day may be releasing a two-song demo called *Fear of Vibrato* at their next show Feb. 23. The show will start at 6 p.m. at the American Legion Hall in Roselle, and the cost is \$3. Feel free to join the group in their traditional trip to Denny's afterwards. Together for over a year now, the group has gained local attention by playing at local venues and releasing the EP *Torments of a Teenage Heart*, which sold over 100 copies in the first few weeks of its release. Forever in a Day is planning on recording a full-length album sometime later this year. Students interested in learning more about Forever in a Day can log on to their website: www.geocities.com/foreverinaday77

At the Drive-In: not quite mainstream

By Mike Mroz

At the Drive-In's new release, *The Relationship of Commands* is by far one of the most creative and brilliant pieces of music released in a long time.

With their wall of guitar sound and their complicated, odd timed drum patterns, At the Drive-In's musicianship really shines through on this record.

The Relationship of Commands is the band's eleventh release and second full-length album.

While listening to this album, many musical influences can be heard. Everything from U2's chorus and reverb effects; the Beatles later vocal melodies; Rage Against the Machine's fervent rapping; and the energy of the Get Up Kids add to their music.

The band takes all of these influences and molds them into a plethora of complicated "noise rock."

Cedric's vocals sometimes tend to sound similar to Zach DeLaRocha, the ex-vocalist of Rage Against the Machine, which basically consists of white boy rapping and spoken word.

Other times Cedric resorts to old school, hardcore screaming and passionate shouting.

The ingenious creativity of guitar work definitely stands

out on tracks two and nine.

The production of this album was far from an "indie sound" like many of their other demos. *The Relationship of Commands* was produced by the infamous Ross Robinson.

Robinson can account for countless works, including Vanilla Ice's hilarious come back, *Hard To Swallow*. He also made Limp Bizkit sound decent on their debut album *Three Dollar Bill Y'all*, which is quite an amazing feat.

The production savvy man really defined the band's sound on this record. It seemed as though his goal was to clean up a few rock clichés, while keeping their sound rough around the edges, and leaving their underground spirit-filled punch.

Cedric said that Robinson's main goal was to capture what the band does live. This is a very difficult task to accomplish. Many band's recordings simply sound like they are in the studio. While listening to this record, their stage presence is easily imagined. You can almost see the guitar players flailing around aimlessly, and Cedric convulsing while swinging the mic over his head.

All in all, this album receives a lot of credit for creativity, musicianship, and

production.

An awesome future is ahead for these five skinny kids from El Paso. It does not mean being top 10 on the Bill Board charts.

However, At the Drive-In creates music that will be pleasing for the appreciative, educated listener.

The Relationship of Commands gets a seven out of 10.

Top 10 songs to play during a first date:

Valentine's Day does not have to be spent with that "special someone." If you're planning on going out on a first date on Feb. 14, make sure to play these songs to set the mood:

10. *Nobody Wants to be Lonely* - Ricky Martin & Christina Aguilera
9. *Come Dance with Me* - Deborah Morgan
8. *It's Gonna Be Me* - N'Sync
7. *Come on Over* - Christina Aguilera
6. *Calculus* - 2Get+Her
5. *It's My Life* - Bon Jovi
4. *If I Am* - Nine Days
3. *Can't Fight the Moonlight* - Leanne Rimes
2. *Crazy* - K.C. and JoJo
1. *Crazy for this girl* - Evan and Iaron

TapRoot digs up an innovative style

By Jamie Nadolny
Hard rock music lovers looking for a neurotic group with raw talent and introspective messages, beware.

There's an intriguing act on the alternative-rock music scene, and they're out to reform ordinary hard rock bands.

The newly formed group is called TapRoot, a mix of four talented musicians who have created a new-age sound unlike that of most other bands.

Youthful and articulate, vocalist Stephen Richards, guitarist Mike DeWolf, bassist Philip Lipscomb, and drummer Jarrod Montague combine distinctive rhythms with assertive lyrics.

Friends since high school, DeWolf and Richards started

playing in death metal bands that were going no where.

While attending the University of Michigan, they met Lipscomb and Montague who were also looking to put together a new group.

The quartet immediately began exchanging ideas and writing music. With inspirations ranging from Tool to Bone Thugs-N-Harmony, the band's diverse style caught the attention of a few local students and friends.

Fans became more familiar with TapRoot's music with the help of the Internet.

In April of 1998, the group took over a fan's website and began to make a more profound connection with the hard rock community.

"The Internet was a huge

help in getting the positive reaction we got early on. We're up to 90,000 hits now. We're able to reach thousands of kids in a split second. You can't beat it," said Richards in an interview with Velvet Hammer/Atlantic Records.

In the fall of 1998, TapRoot released their first independent CD, *Something More than Nothing*, which sold 10,000 copies.

Although not very successful, the CD helped TapRoot gain more recognition in the alternative music industry.

Shortly afterwards, Richards sent a demo tape to lead singer Fred Durst of Limp Bizkit. Durst promised to sign and produce TapRoot, but the group signed with Velvet Hammer/Atlantic Records when Durst failed to make a contract.

TapRoot re-released their old album with a few new songs and a new title.

Now called *Gift*, the album has already made an impact on the alternative music charts.

The CD's provocative, pensive sounds go from edgy to exciting in a matter of seconds. Often energetic and aggressive, the 12 tracks on *Gift* are unlike songs by most other hard rock bands.

"I've had people tell me that listening to my lyrics, understanding where I'm coming from spiritually, and glean a bit of my overall outlook on life kind of helps them cope. It makes them feel good about themselves again, like they're not alone. We love that," said Richards in an interview with Velvet Hammer/Atlantic Records.

Individuality and eccentricity surfaces in songs like "Emotional Times" and "I," which are about developing a true personality and learning from life's hardships.

In "I" Richards sings, "I've made it through those lies and deceit/I think what's done is done/and I can't complain anymore/I'm sure/Now that I've found myself again it feels great/I can't believe I've lost control of my fate."

TapRoot's perspectives about life and relationships are apparent in songs like "Dragged Down," when Richards belts, "I can't believe you drag me down/Again/Just when I think I'm fine/I always then realize that/I am the only one to turn to me inside."

The members of TapRoot create a new alternative sound that is unmatched by other hard rock bands.

Gift is an ingenious album that combines edgy lyrics with impulsive backgrounds. This album is an eight out of 10.

Crazy: a carefully crafted perspective on adolescence

By Jamie Nadolny

Finally, there is a novel that relates the incongruous, isolated, and naïve feelings that adolescents frequently experience.

An astoundingly true perspective on realism, the author teaches young adults how to survive high school experiences and conflicts involving family, friends, and self-doubt.

Crazy makes a scandalous debut in American fiction, and it also hits home. This book is a must read for all students who sometimes feel as if they do not fit in.

The book was written in 2000 by 18-year-old German native Benjamin Lebert, who creates a significant coming of age story that will teach you how to develop your emotions.

Lebert formats the story with a series of semi-autobiographical chapters based on a character named Benni. The short novel combines all of the characteristics of a good read.

From the beginning, Benni's identity as an outsider is clearly established. You learn that he was born paralyzed in his left side and labeled a cripple in early childhood. As a result, he suffers from a severe lack of confidence.

At the age of 16, Benni has already been expelled from four boarding schools and forced to attend the fifth, Neuseelen. Soon Benni finds a satisfying social group, however, made up of several outcasts and individualists.

New found friends Fat Felix, Skinny Felix, Janosch (the instigator), Troy (the bed wetter), and Florian (a.k.a. "Girl"), continuously question life and the ideal high school experience.

Set in the late 1990's, Benni, his friends, and his family are all outrageously authentic. Benni's new best friends introduce him to a society filled with sex, drugs, and strip clubs. We watch Benni and his friends change from innocent and carefree teens into mature young adults.

In the novel, Benni and his friends decide to go on an expedition to discover the meaning of life, but the group finds themselves running from school officials and dodging police.

To top off Benni's problems, his only sister is a lesbian and his parents are constant arguers and controlling hypocrites. Through all of this, Benni develops into an observant wallflower.

By the end of the novel, we see Benni maneuver through these obstacles while trying to decide whether his life is, in fact, truly crazy.

Benni learns a passion for life, narcotics, camaraderie, and dependability. In *Crazy*, Benni deals with the challenges that his disability brings him and the struggle to fit in, while going through a roller coaster of emotions.

Lebert has created an innovative novel that all students can relate to. It is a book essential to any teenager who suffers with trying to find his or her own identity and realize the meaning of life.

Although sometimes crazy, the book is indubitably ingenious. Both well written and carefully crafted, *Crazy* is an anticipating page-turner that will lure you in and keep you hooked.

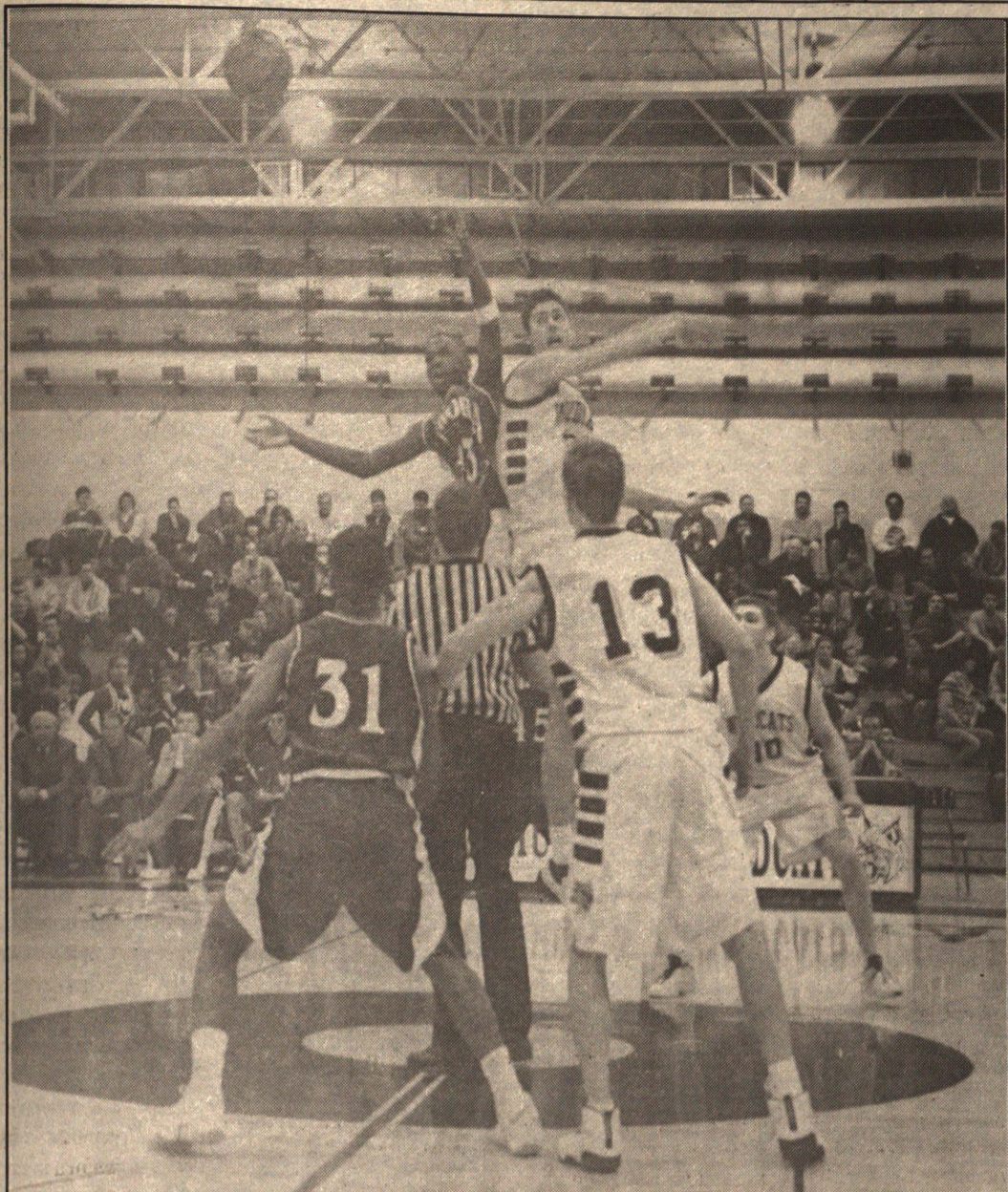


Photo taken by Adam Turner

Junior Andy Hein struggles to get his hands on the jump-ball at a game against West Aurora on Jan. 30.

Valdez joins the We-go wrestling crew this season

By Steve Taylor

Young men shout in pain and agony as they are put through some of the most intense physical pain of their young lives. They all wish they could stop, but if they do, they know that more pain and ridicule is in store for them.

These are not the conditions of a military boot camp, although at times it may seem like it. This is the atmosphere at a West Chicago High School wrestling practice. One of the men most directly responsible for this environment is new assistant coach Eddie Valdez.

Valdez, 22, was hired this year as assistant coach on the wrestling staff. In attempts to rebuild the staff and, consequently, quality of the West Chicago wrestling program, entirely new coaching spots were given at all levels. Long time assistant coach Bob Guerrero, was promoted from assistant to head coach and given the responsibility to hand-pick his own coaching staff. That was when he decided on Valdez.

"Yeah, Bob just kind of called me up one day and said, 'Hey, you wanna be a coach?'" Valdez said.

A long time resident of West Chicago, Valdez attended West Chicago High School for freshman year only. After completing the ninth grade, he moved to Sycamore and attended Sycamore High School.

"I had known Bob from Park District wrestling as a kid. All the families of wrestlers kind of all know each other. We all share a common bond," Valdez shrugs. "I guess Guerrero had liked the way I handled myself [in matches] and thought I would be good for the kids."

Valdez had been a four year varsity letter winner for wrestling, starting at the 103 pound weight class his freshman year. He was also an accomplished two-year letter winner in football, gaining over 1,000 yards rushing at tailback both his junior and senior years. He also gained all conference honors in those same years.

Valdez enjoyed his football years. "I always liked playing football more than wrestling, always. Oh, I loved it. It was so much fun. But I was too small to go on. Nobody wants a 5'5" 125 pound back [in college]," said Valdez.

"That's what's best about wrestling. There's always a spot for you, unless you're over heavy [275 pound weight class]. And they'll all be the same; no one is bigger than you," said Valdez.

Early in the season Valdez was optimistic about this year's wrestling season despite less than perfect records from West Chicago in the past, he said.

"I think these kids got what it takes. I'm teaching them everything I did, the way I acted before a match. I always went out there knowing I was going to win; I never thought I'd get beat. Most of the time it worked. I'm trying to get them to act the same way. It's all mental, it's a mental sport," Valdez said.

Valdez lives with his parents in Sycamore. He works during the day with his dad at an insurance company.

Boys basketball looking to end season on high note

By Jamie Nadolny

The West Chicago High School varsity boys basketball team record is 1-11 in the DuPage Valley Conference and 7-14 in the non-conference division.

We-go's varsity team played Naperville North on Feb. 9. Senior Brian Howard was unable to play in the game due to a recent leg injury. Howard is expected to be out for the rest of the season.

The score was tight throughout the entire game and We-go trailed by three points at the end of the fourth quarter.

With less than twenty seconds left on the clock, the Wildcats attempted to tie the score with a three point shot by senior Josh Rodgers. The ball bounced off of the rim just as the buzzer went off to end the game.

The 49-46 loss ended the game with another conference defeat for West Chicago.

The varsity team played Glenbard North in an away game on Feb. 2. Although the score was close throughout the entire game, the Panthers pulled through with a victory 61-52.

The Wildcats started off slow during the first quarter but managed to cut Glenbard North's lead to 13-11 at the beginning of the second quarter. In the first few minutes of the second quarter, the Panthers scored nine consecutive points.

With help from senior Steve Gilbert who scored six points before the half, West Chicago managed to pull the score to 29-23 at the start of the third quarter.

We-go played strongly during the third quarter, with Howard making a three-point play and cutting the Panther lead to only two points with a breakaway dunk. Juniors Andy Hein and Jim O'Hara also played well defensively.

"The team started out sluggish during the first quarter, but they came out with a purpose after the half. Everyone played intensely during the third quarter and the Panthers only trailed by six points at the start of the fourth," said varsity coach Dan McCarthy.

West Chicago managed to tighten the Panther lead to two points during the fourth quarter, but the game ended with a series of free throws. Although the Wildcats made 22 of 26 free throw shots, the team didn't follow through during clock time.

"Both our team and North's played very inconsistently all night. We played hard, but we made a few bad decisions at the end of the game and fouled the Panther's best free throw shooter. We tried our best to pull through at the end, but it was a disappointing loss," said McCarthy.

The team's season is quickly coming to an end with only three games left in the season. We-go is scheduled to play Glenbard East in a home game on Feb. 16 and also Wheaton North on Saturday, Feb. 17.

"We have an advantage considering the last two of three games are at home. The next few games are crucial in gaining momentum into regionals. The team is really trying to focus on playing well in the game Friday," said McCarthy.

Despite the near-end of the season, the Wildcats are still trying to focus on improving their technique.

"Offensively, we have been playing really well. However, defense could improve on turnovers and rebounding. We're trying to correct little mistakes

so that we can focus on playing strongly during the rest of the season," McCarthy said.

West Chicago's fans have also helped the varsity team build up their confidence near the end of the road.

"We have the best fans in the DVC. They make us want to play as hard as we can even if we're lacking points," said senior Jerry Coleman.

"It's been a challenging year for the team, and it's tough to support a team that isn't winning. I think that the fans have been especially great throughout the season and I want to compliment them for their support," said McCarthy.

Winter sports season starting to wrap itself up:

Sports schedule shows what's new on the Wildcat playing field

Boys Wrestling

Friday, Feb. 16	V	Individual State Finals
Saturday, Feb. 17	V	Individual State Finals
Tuesday, Feb. 20	V	Team Sectionals
Saturday, Feb. 24	V	Team State Finals

Boys Swimming

Saturday, Feb. 17	V	Sectionals
Friday, Feb. 23	V	State Finals
Saturday, Feb. 24	V	State Finals

Girls Basketball

Thursday, Feb. 15	V	Regional Finals
Monday, Feb. 19	V	Sectional Semifinals
Thursday, Feb. 22	V	Sectional Finals
Monday, Feb. 26	V	Super Sectional
Friday, March 2	V	State Finals
Saturday, March 3	V	State Finals

Boys Basketball

Friday, Feb. 16	S/V	GLENBARD EAST 6:00/7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 17	S/V	at Wheaton North 6:00/7:30 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 23	S/V	WHEATON WARR SOUTH- Senior Parent Night 6:00/7:30 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 26	V	Regional Quarterfinals
Tuesday, Feb. 27	V	Regional Semifinals
Wednesday, Feb. 28	V	Regional Semifinals
Friday, March 2	V	Regional Finals
Tuesday, March 6	V	Sectional Semifinals
Wednesday, March 7	V	Sectional Semifinals
Friday, March 9	V	Sectional Finals
Tuesday, March 13	V	Super Sectionals
Friday, March 16	V	State Finals
Saturday, March 17	V	State Finals

We-go athletes tell all

Athlete Profile: Wrestling, Gus Detrick

Three years in a sport doesn't seem very long. But when it's three years of dedication and hard work, it can go a long way. Wildcat wrestler junior Gus Detrick is living proof of that.

What do you like best about the team?

How it brings everyone together and you know everyone better.

What is the best thing about the sport?

It's one-on-one and it's all on you whether you win or not.

What was the highlight of your high school wrestling career?

Beating Glenbard North in conference.

What is something you continue to work on as an athlete?

My overall condition.

What advice would you give to younger aspiring athletes?

Keep with the sport because it gets easier.

What do you think took you this far in your athletic career?

Good coaching.

What is the most important lesson you have learned from playing a sport?

That not everything comes easy in life and you need to work for it.

Athlete Profile: Boys Swimming, Joe Hamlin

Senior Joe Hamlin began swimming when he was 6-years-old, and has remained faithful to the sport ever since, competing at the varsity level in the 100 fly, 100 free and 200 IM. Here's his take on swimming:

What do you like best about the team?

The comradery and the enthusiasm toward others.

What is the best thing about the sport?

I like to shave everything at the end of the season.

What was the highlight of your high school swimming career?

My senior season.

What do you continue to work on as an athlete?

Refining my stroke.

What do you think took you this far in your athletic career?

Many hours of early morning practice.

What do you see in your future as an athlete?

Hopefully swimming in college.

What challenges you most in swimming?

Doing insane threshold sets.

What is the most important lesson you have learned from playing a sport?

Every second counts even down to the hundredths.

Athlete Profile: Girls Basketball, Sarah Coiley

Senior Sarah Coiley has played basketball since fifth grade, and has played here at We-go for three years. Here's her outlook on the game:

Who/what inspired you to become an athlete?

When I was younger (second grade) I used to watch the older girls play. When I saw them I knew I wanted to play. My family is also very athletic.

What is the best thing about playing basketball?

Winning is always a great feeling, but I think the support from my family when I play is the best. I love playing for my family and making them proud.

Looking back now that you're a senior, what was the highlight of your basketball career here at We-go?

Coming back junior year because I didn't play my sophomore year because of personal problems. I got a lot of support from the team. That was a very hard time for me and they welcomed me back with open arms.

What advice would you give to younger aspiring athletes?

To never give up and always work hard at whatever you do.

What is the most important lesson you learned from your experiences as an athlete?

With God anything and everything is possible because without him I wouldn't have gotten as far as I did.

Boys track begins indoor season, looks to outdoor

By Marc Berry

The We-go boys indoor track team participated in their first meet of the season Friday at Rolling Meadows, where they competed against the home team, Maine East, and Elgin. The varsity team came in second while junior varsity came in first.

The team performed well all-around, according to assistant coach Matt Doll.

"There are some things we still need to work on, but I'm hoping we can focus on our strong events now... and improve on our weaker areas for the outdoor season," said assistant coach Matt Doll.

The season started Jan. 15. According to head coach, Paul McLeland, they have a large team this year, with the largest number of people attending practice being 70.

He believes this number may grow, however, when swimmers and basketball players finish their seasons. "We're working hard. We're going to be as good as we can be."

"We have a lot of people, but I always tell them 'quality beats quantity,'" said McLeland.

The largest class on the team is the juniors, which McLeland believes is a good thing because of their

performance last year as sophomores.

So far there are no captains, but McLeland believes the leaders of the team include juniors Ed Abante and Joe Park, and senior Matt Raymond.

Returning varsity letter winners include seniors Jon Brown, Brian Howard, Raymond, and Chris Salutric; juniors Joe Caniano, Corey Coleman, Jon Lim, Mike Nubie, Park, Adam Selcke, and Tom Wojcicki; and sophomore Wyatt Schuyler.

Junior Joe Caniano said, "We're going to tear it up this season."

"We're going to take the

DVC by storm," said junior Tyler Belding.

McLeland said his goal for the season is to get as many people to the state competition as possible. Some individuals he believes have a good chance include Coleman, Schuyler, and Howard, in triple jump, shot put, and high jump respectively.

McLeland believes sprinting is the team's strong point and that they owe it to sprint coach Doll who is in his seventh year of coaching. Randy Zeitler is acting as shotput coach, while a friend of Doll's, Jerry Gozum is hurdler coach.

Girls track starts season off indoor season with a win

By Marc Berry

The We-go girls track team participated in their first meet of the indoor season Feb. 7 at home against Bartlett. We-go outperformed the visiting team and took home a win.

Sophomore Missi Sheme tied the school record of 5 feet 4 inches for the high jump.

As it was only the first meet of the season, head coach Katerina Bovis said she believes Sheme can break the record by the season's close.

Their next meet is Thurs-

day at home against East Aurora and Larkin.

The season started Jan. 15, with new English teacher Bovis acting as head coach for her first year at We-go.

She coached girls cross-country earlier in the year, as well. She said she is hoping for a good season.

"We want to get as many girls to state as we can [and] improve our standing in the DVC," she said.

"If everyone puts in a lot of effort, we'll have a good

season," said junior Erin Kirby.

Last year We-go had alumni Jocelyn Schineller qualify for state for shot put, and they placed seventh in the DuPage Valley Conference.

"There are some sprinters and jumpers I think have a good chance of qualifying for state," Bovis said.

There are about 40 girls on the team and only one senior. As of now, there are no team captains.

Bovis said she expects to see the team grow, as winter sports come to an end.

There are still some things the team needs to improve on, according to Bovis.

"We need to work on the technical aspects... starts, relay exchanges, hurdles. We also need to run to our potential," Bovis said.

The outdoor season will begin in April.

"The indoor season is basically practice for our outdoor meets," said Bovis.

Conference... (continued from page 1)

The team was down at half time and trailed Wheaton South throughout the third and fourth quarters, at one point being down 44-35.

The Cats finally came within one point of South's lead when junior Sarah Bass hit a shot and brought the score to 44-43, but the girls were still down with less than a minute left in the game.

The Wildcats got possession after a rebound and called a time out. The Cats made an out-of-bounds play with only three seconds left, to win the game.

Senior Jaymie Schmidt said never doubted her team.

"We've been in that position before and we've come out on top before. You've just got to go out and do it," said Schmidt

"Wheaton Warrenville came out and played a wonderful game. They gave it their all and all," said Walner.

Their last game determined whether the Cats would share the conference title or not. Now that the girls are alone

as number one, they are ready to move on to greater things. Regionals began for the Wildcats on Tuesday against West Aurora, in the Bishop gym.

"After conference it's a whole new season. Everyone starts over 0-0. We've had different players step up at different times throughout the season.

"We want everyone to step up and play their best in the regionals. That's key," said Walner, who wants the team to use their experience to benefit them in the regional season.

"Once we won a few games, the confidence rose and now there's a belief in themselves and each other," said Walner. The team had a lot of high

expectations at the beginning of the season, and now they've learned to play together, said Walner.

"I have confidence in my team. I feel great about how our team has stuck together" Senior Cathy Brinn said.

The Cats had two victories against Wheaton North 56-37 and Glenbard East 52-37.

There was a chance that the Cats would share the conference title with Naperville North, because of a loss to the Huskies 39-34 Jan. 25.

"We just didn't take enough good shots," said Mildebrath.

The Cats quickly bounced back from their loss, and Naperville North lost Feb. 1 to Naperville Central, leaving the fate of their conference reign back in their own hands.

The Wildcats also defeated Glenbard North, one of the only conference teams that had beat them this season, winning 47-41.

The girls' overall record stands at 25-3 and their conference record is 12-2.

Over holiday break the Cats dominated the Benet/Naperville North invitational, beating Wheaton Warrenville South, York, Nequa Valley and Naperville North.

The team won second place in the tournament, with their only loss to Benet 55-36.

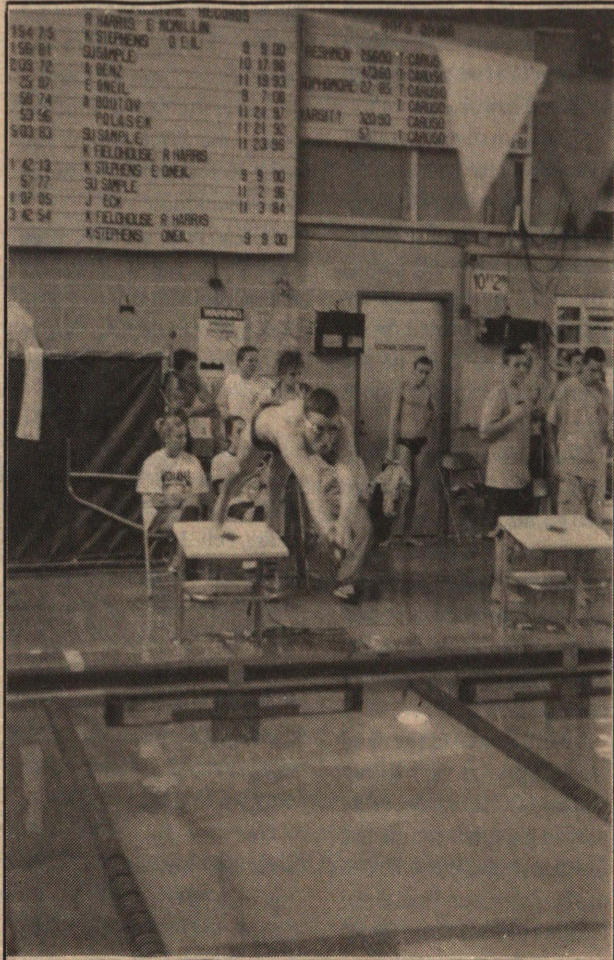


Photo by Joe Hamlin
Junior Billy Rocca takes a dive beginning his attempt at the 100 yard freestyle.

Boys swimming takes third in DVC

By Mike Mroz

The boys swim team finished third in their first DVC conference competition, Saturday, Feb. 3.

"We rocked," said senior Joe Hamlin.

Senior Joe Lureau and Hamlin earned school

records and made state cuts in the breaststroke and the butterfly respectively.

In the past few weeks the team received second place at the Wildcat Relays, and second place at the Lyons Township meet, which were both an all-time best place-

ment in the history of the West Chicago's team.

Sectionals take place on Saturday, and state finals are held on Feb. 23 and Feb. 24.

"I'm looking forward to shaving my body and swimming really fast," said Hamlin.