

Doctors Caution teens in love

by Sue Lindenmeier

Psychiatrists today feel many adolescents overuse the word "love". According to experts, many teenagers confuse their feeling with physical attraction or compatibility.

Dr. Dorothy Tennov, a professor of psychology at the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut, feels that what your friends call a crush and your parents label infatuation is really "limerence." Limerence is a word Dr. Tennov herself has invented. Limerence is the feeling that no one in the world is as important as that special person. A limerent person is someone who thinks that their "love" is perfect. Another sign of this type of romanticizing is when a couple identifies with every love song or movie ever written.

However, Tennov is quick to add that having a special song does not automatically mean a couple is infatuated. In Tennov's opinion, true love is unselfish and rarely experienced by teenagers in high school.

To support Tennov's feeling, Dr. William Schuller, psychologist, feels that few high school relationships will lead to marriage.

In fact statistics support his beliefs. Only

11% of the boys who responded to a Sorenson Company poll believed that their relationships would develop into marriage. The girls' response was a little higher with 23% of girls feeling their relationship would see marriage as a future.

Despite the fact that high school couples very rarely decide to marry, there are exceptions. Some of these exceptions are within our own school.

One girl, whose boyfriend recently graduated, plans to marry right after high school. This senior feels that "she loves him and that they've waited long enough" to get married.

Another girl says that often "people try to convince (her) to date someone else for a change." Even her parents attempted to persuade her to wait.

The odds are against these two couples and any other young couple considering marriage. Divorce among young people was up 12% in 1980. Recently, teenage divorce has become a more prominent problem.

It is the hope of psychologists that young people today will question their "love" before they react.

	Boys 14-18	Boys 14-18 Involved with a girl	Girls 14-18	Girls 14-18 Involved with a boy
Teenagers who see marriage in immediate future	9%	11%	15%	23%
Teenagers who feel true love lasts for life	69%	75%	73%	79%
Teenagers who see a physical relationship as the basis for their relationship	53%	39%	41%	32%
Teenagers who want a relationship such that each participant only dates each other	18%	21%	20%	31%

VICA delegates officers

Vocational Industrial Clubs of America (VICA), which is the work program at WCCHS is well on its way.

The students who participate in this program go to school for one half day then complete their day at work. The VICA of-

ficers for 1981-82 are as follows:

President-Kim Vogel
Treasurer-Tammy Burrows
V.P. Historian-Ruth Martin
V.P. Fund Raising-Peggy Shepard, Theresa Koehring
V.P. Social Events-Lynn Francisco
V.P. Public Relations-Lisa Walter
V.P. Community Relations-Sue Mobley
Advisors of the club are Paul Junkroski and Doug Van DeMark.

Twenty-five students recently attended a regional meeting at Wheaton-Warrenville H.S. Three out of four regional officers elected are from WCCHS. These are Lynn Francisco, Tim Pely, and Sue Mobley.

Vica has also successfully completed another great entry in the homecoming parade. Their theme was "Vica doesn't 'let' down, it works."

The Bridge

West Chicago Community High School

Volume II number 3 November 6, 1981

Students choose armed forces as career

by Ed Rahe

As a student approaches the later stages of his high school years, he may realize that it is time to make crucial decisions about the future.

These decisions usually include whether or not the student is going on to college or immediately entering the job market. After high school one alternative for students is to enlist in a branch of the armed forces.

Dave Woomer, senior, stated that he was going to enlist in the Navy because he doesn't want to go to college. He plans to have a career in the Navy and retire after about 20 years to collect his retirement

benefits. Dave also said that he "likes the military life" because of the medical and monetary benefits.

This does not mean that the military is a refuge for people who don't want to go to college. It just proves that college is not for everyone.

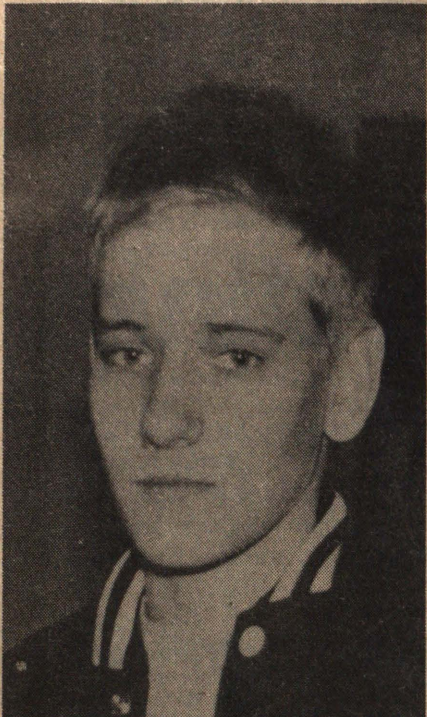
Enlistment in a branch of the armed services can also help a student go to college through governmental assistance programs. Junior, Steve Anderson, plans to join the Marine Corps, because of the excitement and challenges. Steve notes that after he is in the service for four years, his college tuition will be completely paid for by the

government. This benefit only applies to people who plan to be in the military for a number of years.

Both Steve and Dave like the military because they will receive "automatic" pay increases.

Neither of the two seemed to be overly concerned about the prospect of going into the service. Although, as Dave mentioned, "once you're in you can't get out."

Deciding whether to enlist is a major decision in a person's life. It should be discussed with parents and counselors before the final decision can be made.



David Woomer plans to join the Navy. (photo by Mike Silarz)

Anorexia victims seek attention

Anorexia Nervosa is a very dangerous problem that evolves from self-induced starvation. This leads to ill health, psychological impairments, shame, guilt, withdrawal and isolation.

Some cases begin when plump young people assume to be overweight and start eating smaller portions of food. Other cases begin after an emotional shock, however in both cases there is usually an underlying

Many victims are ... active and cheerful

and unrecognized desire for attention. Many victims of Anorexia Nervosa are active and usually cheerful.

The victim of Anorexia Nervosa may also have a strong dislike to all types of food. In fact, many days can go by without any nutrition being taken at all.

Some problems caused from this disease are dryness of the skin, caused from reduced fluid intake. Some victims suffer swelling of salivary glands, which is caused

from frequent vomiting. Also swelling and puffiness, mostly of ankles and feet, arise from malnutrition and frequent vomiting.

There have been more cases reported in women than men with an increasing number being reported in men.

Teenagers are usually known to have this disease, but the people in their later twenties, thirties, forties and older have also been victims of Anorexia Nervosa. More cases are being reported in the eight to eleven age bracket.

Anorexia is an illness which can lead to death or life long problems in the self-starver.

In order to find out more about Anorexia Nervosa write to:

National Association of
Anorexia Nervosa and Associates
Box 271
Highland Park, IL 600351
or call 831-3438.

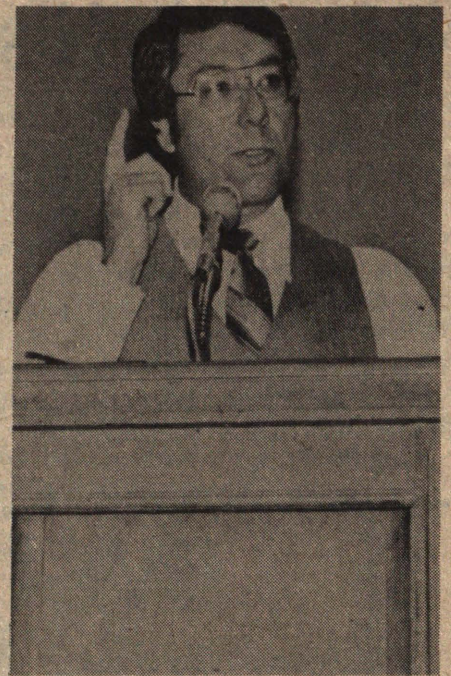
Feeling a need for more attention is one reason for self-induced starvation. This physiological sickness is a disease called Anorexia Nervosa.

Whitewater excursion

by Ed Rahe

Eight members of **The Bridge** staff along with adviser Tim Courtney, travelled to the University of Wisconsin in Whitewater to attend the 18th Annual Fall Publications Conference on October 21.

The conference offered workshops for both students and advisors to learn new ideas and methods. The featured speaker was Jerry Taff, anchorman of WISN-TV, Milwaukee. Taff's presentation centered on various aspects of the television media.



Jerry Taff, a Milwaukee newscaster, spoke on the importance of mass media in today's world. (photo by Eric Brosted)

Kling critiques family restaurants

by Edward Kling

Soggy fries or a dull sandwich are the choices offered by Golden Bear and Wag's restaurants. Both restaurants are located within a half block of each other on Schmale road in Carol Stream and each operate on a fast food full service idea.

I might have imagined there wouldn't be much difference in price or quality, but there was a difference in service. The Reuban Grill ordered at Wags for \$3.95 was delivered a prompt ten minutes later by an attractive blonde (Diana) who seemed very freindly. Everything was good, except that

the fries were soggy.

The same sandwich at Golden Bear for \$3.35 didn't appear for 20 minutes. While I waited, the fun crowd came in from the bar across the street and the noise level increased considerably with the munching amature comedians. Finally my food arrived with fresh french fries! But the sandwich was very plain in comparison to Wag's. The waitress was no raving beauty either.

For 60 cents I'll give up Thousand Island Dressing and 10 minutes of my life waiting for food anyway.

FBLA paper chase

by Nancy Binzen

"A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens, will be the Thespian fund raiser for this year. The play will be performed on December 18 and 19. Thespians also put on a skit at the homecoming pep assembly and are currently working on the production of "Dracula."

Math Club won the homecoming fenceck competition this year. Besides preparing approximately 40 members for the conference and state competitions, guest speakers will also be brought in including Robert Lemon, who will talk about

computers, and Dr. Margery Steinspring, from the Womens League of Mathematics.

The Music Department held its first concert of the year on October 22. The Orchestra, under the baton of Gene Haney, along with Swing Choir, Madrigals, and Concert Choir, directed by Ron Benner, performed.

German Club held a potluck dinner on October 19, featuring German dishes.

FBLA is holding a paper drive through November 15. Contact a business teacher or FBLA member if you have papers to turn in.

Band drops pants on music's low budget

Twenty years ago, as the students of WCCHS were growing out of their poodle skirts and slicked back hairdos, and entering the age of roaring rock 'n' roll, the Band members of our school were lucky enough to be wearing new marching uniforms at the football games.

These students of yore are now moms and dads and very familiar with the Band uniforms the Band members bring home today. Meaning, the Band uniforms that our half-time show players wear, are 20 years old. Uggghh!!! Speaking of old, have you seen the piano in the chorus room lately? It looks like one of the walls of graffiti found in the subways of Brooklyn, telling the latest news and gossip, but it's so old who's to say it's the latest? If you cut off one of the legs you'd most likely find how old it is by counting the rings.

Most of the Cheerleading squads and the Pom-Pon Girls have gotten new uniforms or sweat suits, by aid of fund raisers sponsored by the Booster Club, maybe that is because they are extracurricular activities. It seems most unfortunate and unfair that our Band and Choirs, although they are in-school activities, do not receive the same special attention that the other activities do receive. Although, the Music Department and other departments within the school do have a certain budget for each school year to stay within, the Music Department's budget is hardly enough for new music let alone new uniforms or a new piano. So the next resort is fund raisers. No good. Fund raisers are not allowed within the different departments, whether it's a new microscope they're after or a new uniform. However, donations are acceptable in the eyes of the administration. Well ... since we all do not have rich aunts and uncles to donate for us, there have to be other ways not yet discovered to keep our Band Members dressed and choirs in tune. Why don't we keep our minds open to new ideas that might be suitable to our needs?

Bewildered columnist?

Dear Editor,

In response to Henry Bryan's feeble attempt to put down the facts pertaining to religious censorship: May God help you.

It is highly evident from your "column" that you are obviously confused and bewildered. Do not let this trouble you. Forget your atheistic feelings, and let God open your eyes.

God will help you in your times of trouble. God will save you. Have faith.
Mike Simpson
and 50 others

Not within His reach

Dear Editor,

In response to "poor" Henry Bryan's article, "Religious censorship, Moral Majority's quest" in the second issue of **The Bridge**, it is my opinion that God doesn't ban alcohol or cigarettes or anything else that Henry refers to. God made the flowers and the rain. God didn't create religion to be "rammed down our throats," man does that. Picture the world without smiling faces and fresh flowers. God didn't make the world bad, man did. God just gave us the ability to think and reason, man created the "ideas" Henry so often refers to.

God looks down on His earth, on His children and in general smiles, but in Henry's case He shakes His head.

Amy Zurawski

The Bridge, 1st place winners of the Columbia Scholastic Press Association and the American Scholastic Press Association. Membership include those of the Kettle Moraine Press Association, Eastern Illinois High School Press Association and the Illinois High School Press Association.

The Bridge is the student newspaper of West Chicago Community High School. **The Bridge** office is located in room 216.

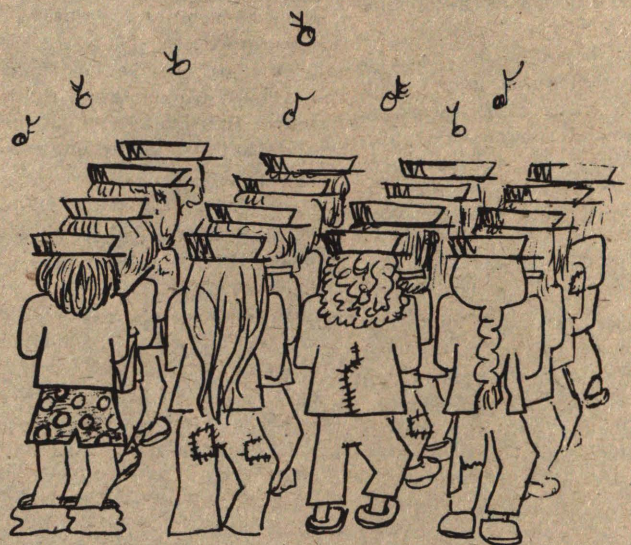
Letters to the editor are not to exceed 250 words and must be legibly signed. We reserve the right to edit if necessary, for length or libelous material.

Content and editorial policy are determined by the editors with concurrence of **The Bridge** editorial staff. The adviser acts in the capacity of a professional consultant. The opinions expressed in the paper are not necessarily those of the student body or the high school.

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WE GO (PEP) BAND



Gopher Gasser endangers students

The deadly smoke wafted through the hallways early before school spewing, from what appeared to be a smoke bomb, it's toxic gas. Students gaze and snicker wondering who would light a smoke bomb so early in the year (customarily done at the end of the school year) and all the while breathe in the putrid smoke of the Gopher Gasser.

This event took place a few weeks ago when a student unthinkingly lit the fuse of the Gopher Gasser, an aid to rodent control. The Gasser, which burns for five minutes was luckily, for the sake of students in senior and biology hall, put out by Richard DuFour, who stepped on the "bomb" causing a small explosion.

Anyone who inhaled the smoke, for any length of the time it was burning, was susceptible to unconsciousness, being quite ill, and should have been attended to by a physician if any of this occurred.

The Gasser contains 45 percent potassium nitrate, 45 percent sulfur, 8 percent carbon, and 2 percent dextrin. When all of these chemicals burn together, the Gasser releases a toxic gas containing sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and carbon monoxide, the last of which is lethal.

The student who did this, after finding out the seriousness of the situation confessed, which is commendable, but to consider this a prank is difficult, when so many fellow students were endangered.

This type of "prank" is the same, although more serious, as someone shooting a rubberband, or trying to trip someone in the halls, all of which endanger the students of our school. Let us hope that we can all learn the seriousness of these "pranks" and "jokes" before someone is badly hurt.

Swearing stinks

Dear Editor,

We are writing to **The Bridge** staff in deep concern for the welfare of our students. We are very upset with the tasteless remarks being exchanged between students. This type of verbal assault is very harmful to a student. We ourselves have been attacked by such language. We would like to enlist the help of concerned fellow students and also **The Bridge** staff.

Gary Hansen
Kevin Hedrick

Misunderstanding

Dear Editor,

In the last edition of **The Bridge**, an article was written about my recent football injury and the surgery that resulted. There seems to be a misunderstanding regarding that situation and the article in **The Bridge**.

When I was injured, I was "field examined" by both Mr. Parker and Mr. Tierney. The tests indicated that the injury was not serious. When the swelling occurred days later, I went to a specialist. He performed the same examination as I received on the field. At this time, there was a definite looseness in the knee indicating a torn ligament. This looseness was not apparent to me or Mr. Parker and Mr. Tierney when I was first injured. The specialist said that this injury is very difficult to diagnose. I do not feel that Mr. Parker or Mr. Tierney erred at any time in their handling of this entire situation as was implied by one of the quotations in the interview.

Rob Ream

3 Letters to the Editor

The Bridge/November 6, 1981

Think about it

Dear Editor,

This is a letter in response to Henry Bryan's column about the Moral Majority and his article "Evolution vs. Creation." Well, excuse me Mr. Bryan but, God help you!

First of all, I can't claim to know everything about God and everything that happened back then, because I wasn't there. But can you tell me that you've searched the entire universe and haven't found one clue to tell you God is here, and he loves you? Well, get help!

Tell me honestly that you sit down to watch T.V. and every 30 seconds you get "religious bologna crammed down your throat," because I myself watch T.V. but this doesn't seem to be happening on my set. Are you sure your video machine isn't stuck on the 10 commandments or "God forbid" an oral reading of the Bible? True this is your opinion and you're "bleep bleep!!!" I myself used to believe in evolution but I learned God's word and realized there's no way I could even be alive if he didn't love me.

And yes, the Moral Majority does have an influence on T.V., but so do numerous other groups of people. To single out the Moral Majority as having the only such great influence would be like saying you're the only person that watches television! Besides a lot of the censorship isn't "cleaning the tube for God," the fact is most people (even your sort) thought subjects such as abortion, alcohol, sex, smoking and RELIGION, were, and still are, very tough, controversial topics. Which, if someone aired a show for the benefit of the public viewers, then went on to say how "RIGHT" it was to have an abortion, or how many times a week you should jump in the sack, more than just a few people would be upset. That just isn't the sort of thing EVERYONE wants their children watching. I wouldn't want my brothers or my children (especially my children), growing up thinking as you do. I would set them straight while they were young. Show them the truth and read them the Bible, because it's people like you that corrupted this world in the first place, the people (person) that disobeyed and didn't believe in his strength, that turned this world into the dirty, corrupt mass of corroding bodies and wilting plant life it is now. All I can do is pray for you and hope for quick results, because I'm afraid of where your soul may end up when you die ... Which could be as soon as tonight.

Think about it!
Jeane Murray

Gorgeous oak trees

Dear Editor,

For those of you who missed it, I would like to relate my impressions of an incident which occurred Thursday evening of Homecoming Week, and which I will remember for a long, long time.

I would like to compliment the Pom-Pon squad and Cheerleaders for the job they did in "decorating" the front yard of the school. Having had many similar experiences at my home, down through the years, I'm sure that this incident was done in "good faith," to promote school spirit, and not as vandalism.

After our Marching Band practice Thursday evening, Mr. Haney, several students, and myself walked around the south end of the building, on our way home. We were completely taken aback by the lovely sight which greeted us, the full moon shining down on those beautifully decorated oak trees. Thinking of our Homecoming Theme (Hawaii) brought to mind grass skirts wafting in the breeze.

I'd also like to publically thank the Pom-Pon Squad and Cheerleaders for the fine job they did during our parade, and also during our halftime Show.

William Sargent

Fence deck fairness?

Dear Editor,

I would like to take a moment and express my utmost disappointment in the judging of this year's fence deck division:

Each club participating in the fence deck category invested much time, money and effort towards the building of their fence deck with the understanding that one would surface as a winner. Tradition has seen this to be true, and it was just taken for granted that this year would be the same. Not true. What really happened was that this year would be the same. Not true. What really happened was that the fence decks were judged, not only against each other, but against "mini-floats." That's like saying the Yankees could win the Super Bowl! It just isn't fair to compare two totally different things and judge one a winner. Come on, administration, do it right or don't do it at all.

Michele LoDestro, Vice-President, French Club
Stephie Wienecke, President, French Club
Silvia Belicke, President, German Club
Lisa Green, Vice-President, German Club

Excuse me!

Dear Editor,

This is in response to Polly Hall's response to my previous letter to the Editor, printed in **The Bridge**. Yes maam, I am aware of the high cost of music, and I'm also aware that the Pep Band is rarely thanked for their excellent work and contribution to assemblies ... so, thanxs! But I would like to know when was the last time you thanked a football player, or a Cheerleader, or even someone in the Pep Club for their contribution, or numerous other people in your own Band for playing their instruments?! Don't be so selfish! You say you've never been thanked, well if you would thank someone else maybe you'd get a good response, unless you haven't been thanked purposely.

You misinterpreted my letter to such an extent it makes me laugh (ha ha ha). I don't believe you made me out as such a villain, and got so much bad meaning out of a single short sentence. I thank you for the great response, the signatures really impressed me, but spare me the bologna. I suggest you learn several comprehensive reading skills before you try to attack someone else's letter, because you'll just be burned back (whether you're a senior or not!)

Jeane Murray

A pat on back

Dear Editor,

This letter is in response to Polly Hall's letter.

Polly, we don't see how you could misinterpret such a clearly defined letter, which Jeane Murray wrote. We're sure that Jeane's letter was not an attack on the Pep Band members. It was merely constructive criticism to give you her opinion. She didn't put any blame on anyone in particular. We the students realize how expensive music can be and we sympathize with you. You also mentioned how angry you were about not being thanked for your performance. I don't recall ever hearing the coaches: Pom-Pon girls; football players; or Cheerleaders being thanked either. They are merely congratulated as if they were doing it for themselves. We are a school, and it is for all of us, not certain individuals. We all participate even if we just watch or listen. We surely hope that this letter is clearly defined enough. And if it helps any to make you feel better — Thanks!

Colleen Duffy
Maria Monningh

Bridge opportunities

If you are interested in working in these positions, please fill out the application below and drop it off in room 216 or in Mr. Courtney's mailbox.

____ photographer

____ cartoonist

____ reporter

Name _____ Year _____

Free periods _____

7th period class _____ Room _____

**we have ...
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Men's & women's
jackets have
24 oz. wool body
with real
leather sleeves.
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schools in stock.



Brown's
SPORTING GOODS

Divorce is an ever-increasing problem in people's lives. These two pages are set up to lend insight on counseling that is available, conflict that occurs with step-families, remarriage, and how divorce affects grade school children.

Those who come from divorced parents are not alone. Hopefully these pages will lend help to those who need it.

Living with the hurt

by Teresa Evans

Divorce means, to dissolve the marriage bond between two people. Bonds to be dissolved are often the house, car, furnishings and many times the children.

"I've had to get all my parenting from my mother, so we're really close," remarked one senior girl, this story will name Sue. "There is a loss of not having a father, a hole which will never be filled."

"When they were first divorced I was glad, it ended fighting that was destroying our family. My mother stuck it out for a long time".

Another senior girl this article will call Erin, described her parents' divorce. "I depended on my mother and clung to her. She helped me to understand the situation. I resented my father for being an alcoholic. My father and I still talk and write letters. I try to pretend he doesn't exist but when the letters come, I must face the reality of him and his problem."

"I can't relate to my father," stated Sue. "I see him once every two months but don't put much energy into the relationship. I end up getting hurt or rejected because he doesn't meet the needs I expect from him, like love. I do go through phases when I want to see him though," declared Sue.

Erin's mother has since remarried. "He wasn't like a father at first," reminisced Erin about her new father, "but someone living in our house. He'd enforce rules and I'd think, 'you're not my dad so how can you punish me?' but now he's like my real father."

As for marriage, both Sue and Erin have definite ideas. "My mother married for all the wrong reasons. She was driven out of the house, into marriage by her father," explains Erin. "I will never marry young but live independently before marriage so I know I can survive on my own."

"I will know the man I marry inside and out," said Sue. "He must have had a good family life, because the way he was treated will carry over into his family".

Divorce stats

In 1978:

2 million couples married
1 million couples divorced

60% involved children

	1976	1977	1978
Divorces jumped	8%	3%	1%

Average age couples were married:

	1968	1978
Men	22.8	24.2
Women	20.3	21.8

Changing family life

Divorce rate skyrocketing

by Silvia Belicke

Twenty years ago it used to be that if you knew somebody whose parents were divorced, you knew someone really special. Nowadays, however, more children come from broken homes than is realized.

The divorce rate has tripled in the last twenty years. Now at least one out of every three marriages ends in divorce.

One of the reasons for every-increasing marriage break-ups is a couple's inability to talk honestly with each other, according to attorney Herbert Glieberman. Glieberman has been specializing in divorce and family services for 28 years. They can't... bare their souls and treat each other as their best friend," Glieberman stated.

He explained that he's seen people play games with each other when they were dating and put their best foot forward. They talked mostly about superficial things in order to impress one another.

However, after the wedding was over, those couples found it hard to talk and to lay out a week's plan, let alone a life's plan. They failed to anticipate that they would change with age and their interests and ideas would also change.

He also found that too many people talk through each other rather than to each other — especially when it comes to anything important. The lack of communication Glieberman feels, "... brings on drinking, infidelity, or physical or mental abuse."

Other adjustment skills such as lack of tolerance, inability to bear discomfort and to recognize that they're not perfect and neither is their mate are all contributing factors to divorces.

Another heavy impact is the growing trend toward two career families. Glieberman feels our society hasn't evolved

to the point where two people can handle the strains such marriages entail. Only the last 10 years have women come into their own careers.

Problems often center on the unwillingness of many males, particularly those 40 and over, to pitch in with household chores they believe are the responsibility of women — such as washing dishes, starting dinner, diapering or taking care of children. Younger men may be more flexible in that they, "... may not be as burdened with the old philosophy that the women's place is in the home."

The biggest rise in the divorce rate has been among couples married 10 years or longer. It's not uncommon today for couples 25 and 30 years into their marriage to seek and obtain a divorce. That long into marriage the problems of just growing tired of one another and tired of the relationship contributes to the break-up.

Currently the United States leads all nations in numbers of divorce. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that more than six million kids below the age of 18 live in a home with a step-parent. That's one out of every 10 young people.

Despite the high statistics of divorces, the institution of

... the lack of communication Glieberman feels, "... brings on drinking, infidelity, or physical or mental abuse."

... too many people talk through each other, rather than to each other especially when it comes to anything important.

marriage is still a popular institution. More people who simply live together are breaking up those arrangements and marrying, nor does divorce deter the urge to remarry. About four out of five people who have been through a divorce marry again, usually within three to five years.

The major change in divorce settlements is in child custody.

Laws of many states have been changed so fathers have an equal opportunity to gain custody of their children. Custody is determined by what is in the best interest of the children. With so many two-income families, many wives spend no more time with the children than the husband. It's no longer presumed that the mother is more qualified than the father to be a parent.

Almost 1.2 million children joined the ranks of youngsters under the age of 18 who have divorced parents.

But the future may not be as bleak as it seems. Glieberman thinks the divorce rate is beginning to level off and will probably drop in the next year or two. The tight economy has made it more difficult for couples to handle the cost of setting up separate households. He ended with, "... people seem to have a greater desire to create stability in their lives."

There were over 47,000 divorces in Illinois last year. These divorces don't only affect the couple, but their children as well.

"When both parents say I want you to come live with me it's a tough decision to make. Sometimes the kids just need someone to talk to", said Kirby Strohm, social worker for our school. Family Services in Wheaton have counselors who talk to the kids and their parents together and separately to discuss things that are bothering them. They also provide seminars for parents and their kids on how to deal with the divorce.

Some schools have programs for kids once a week. It's a chance for them to get together and talk about problems surrounding their parent's divorce. Some churches also have groups for parents and their kids to discuss their problems.

Area group offers counsel

By Val Zarndt

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Divorce breaks up more than just couples. (photo by Mike Sitarz)

Coping with step-families

By Debbie Hookham

"I've never known anyone besides him, so it's like he's my real dad," explains one junior girl.

"The only reason we ever talk is for a lecture or a complaint — we just can't communicate," adds a senior.

These students are giving their versions of coping with a common element in their lives — step-parents. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, over six million, or one out of every 10 kids below the age of 18 lives with a step-parent. Five out of every six divorced men and three out of every four divorced women get remarried, usually within three years after their divorce.

One aspect of step-families the kids have to deal with is step-brothers and step-sisters. Many times there is tension about being accepted or rivalry for parents' attention. However, many times step-children work out their problems and become the best of friends, even when the marriage doesn't last.

When asked about half-brothers and half-sisters, one girl said that she didn't realize that her little brother was her half-brother until she was older. "Even though it didn't mean that much ... I don't think of him that way," she said.

When asked if they ever see their real fathers, one person replied "No". Another spends time with her father who has remarried. Sometimes visiting the other parent causes problems. Parents use the children as messengers back and forth when they cannot communicate with each other. They make remarks in front of the children about what the

parent is doing, what they're buying, how much time they spend at home, etc. As one girl explained, "Every time I come home, it's questions like, 'How was it?', 'What went wrong this time?'". She also said that her stepfather, who she lives with, is always putting down her real father. She can remember an incident when she was younger when she lied to her stepfather said, "You're going to grow up like your father and lie all the time." Another girl said that her mom didn't want her to have bad impressions of her real father, who she has never seen, so she tries not to say anything against him.

One girl felt that she received many gifts from her real father as an act of love. His goals were to be a success and to give a lot of material things to his family.

However, students also recall the good experiences they've had with their step-parents. "She's like an older sister that I never had," says one girl describing her stepmother. She went on to say that "I learned a lot of values from them ..." referring to her stepmother's family.

Church offers advice to engaged couples

by Debbie Hookham

All over the country, young, engaged couples are meeting to talk about marriage. More than half of the 162 Catholic dioceses in the United States have mandatory pre-marriage classes, according to an article in the October 18, 1981 issue of the Chicago Tribune.

One program in Connecticut includes group sessions to discuss common problems, a questionnaire, and at least four meetings between the couple and priest. In the group sessions, the couples discuss hypothetical problems in marriage that could be encountered. Talks are also given by happily married couples on problems they had and how they solved them.

The 143-part questionnaire (filled out by each partner individually) tries to point out areas of possible disagreement. The couple and priest can then discuss the problems before they come up.

The response of 38,000 couples have been analyzed and the most controversial issue seems to be the handling of

Adverse effects seen in children

by Lauren Vogt

Divorce affects everybody in different ways. Many grade school children rebel against the situations happening at home.

Gretchen Courtney, a grade school teacher at Clow Elementary School has noticed that children of divorced parents are more disruptive to the class because they are searching for more attention. She's been in the teaching field for five years and claims she can single out children of divorced parents after about one week of observation, before checking their charts. She said, "a lot of children cause fighting and get into trouble so someone will notice them." The children feel that a lot of the trouble that's happening at home is caused by them, so they act up in school. "It's only their form of seeking help," Courtney said.

Susan Steagall, a fourth grade teacher at Green Run Elementary School in Virginia said that double parents of children in her class are a minority. Out of the 16 kids she teaches, four of them have double parents. Many of her students have disciplinary problems and are what she calls "trouble children." "Sometimes they get so out of hand that we have to send them home," Steagall said. One of her students was normally a very quiet boy who got high grades on all his work, before his parents had marital problems. After the divorce, this child would talk back to Steagall and disobey any of her requests. The boy would walk out of the classroom and refuse to come back in. His grades dropped to failing level. Steagall couldn't believe the total change in the child. She spent many hours in counseling with him before he straightened up.

"One of the girls in my class would break into tears several times a day for no apparent reason," she said. No reason, except that her parents were involved in a legal battle over who would get custody of her.

According to Dr. Vivian Skanski, a child psychiatrist, children blame themselves for their parents splitting up. They feel they are unloved and did something wrong to make their parents stop caring about each other.

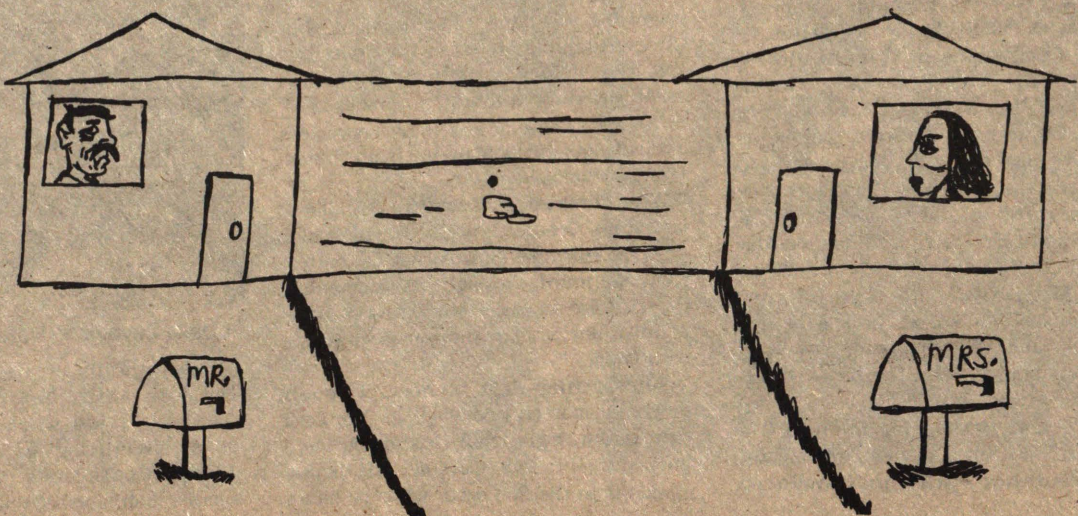
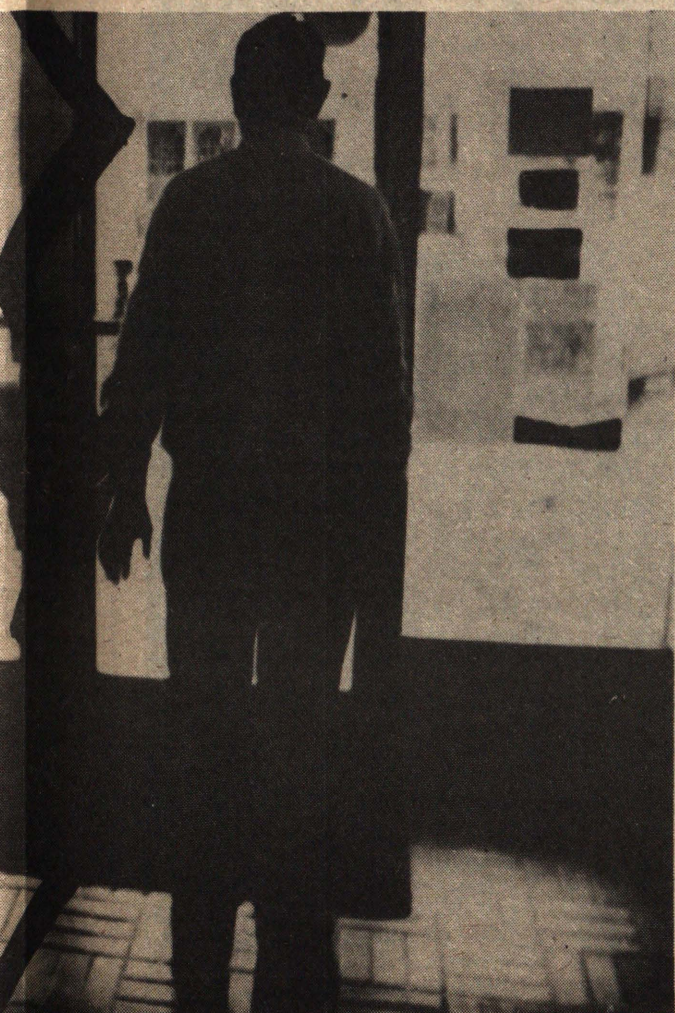
"Children react in so many different ways," she claims, however, that most grade schoolers take their frustrations out on themselves and fellow school mates. Most youngsters whose parents are separated have a very low opinion of themselves. "It's a shame to put a child through the kind of situation," Skanski expressed. "Children were meant to be loved, not hurt."

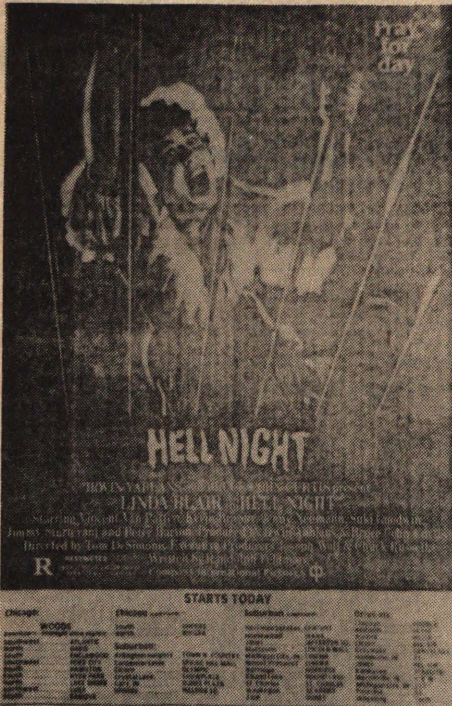
finances. Couples also worry about their negative feelings toward the personal habits of their partners.

One reason the program has become mandatory is the rising divorce rate. This rate among Catholics is now rising as fast as in the general public. Approximately thirty-one percent of "non-active" Catholics who have been married since 1960 were divorced within 10 years. This compares to 37 percent of non-active Protestants. Many Protestant churches also have pre-marriage programs.

The Census Bureau estimates that the average length of a marriage is now seven years, and forty percent of all marriages end in divorce.

Another reason pre-marriage courses were made mandatory was the lack of attendance and interest. According to the article, most couples were more interested in the material aspects of their marriage and were using the church because of tradition. However, the overall response to the program has been favorable, and the couples agree that they are better prepared for their life together.





Ad for *Hell Night*: a typical rip-off ad for a rip-off film.

Hell Night should get slashed

by John Watanabe

The oh-so scary newspaper advertisements for *Hell Night* try to impress the average sucker on the streets with the phrase "Pray for day." Well, listen up movie industry — I pray that someday you'll put a definite screening halt to these moronic mad slasher turkeys. During the summer of this year, the staggering popularity of such

Movie review

films gradually died out. All the maniacs, student bodies, and silent screamers who pop out of their graves on Friday the 13

finally seemed to be dead and buried. But no.

Linda Blair, the pea soup girl in *The Exorcist*, plays one of a group of kids who must spend the night in a creepy-looking mansion as part of a frat house initiation. Rumor has it that a man, who killed his family and himself in the past, has sprung back to life in demonic monster form, and may still be living in this haunted house.

From then on, all is predicatable and disgusting, featuring the lumbering madman (with the camera following in his footsteps and accompanied by that corny synthesizer music) killing the kiddies one by one via bloody slashings or hangings. The flick becomes really ridiculous when Linda Blair does an idiotic "Oh no, Mr. Bill!"-type routine, running around screaming herself

silly while bouncing up and down for the camera in her low-cut dress (wait a minute, guys, the movies STILL isn't worth seeing).

Hell Night will probably, and hopefully, vanish from movie houses in a short time; you can tell by looking at the newspaper ad. The film opened in over 40 theaters in the Chicagoland area, mainly a lot of drive-ins and scuzzy Chi-town houses (like the Woods and the Luna). Your average high-class, commercially successful picture, like, say, *Body Heat* or *Continental Divide*, would open in 15 or so area theaters, including only two major downtown Chicago theaters. Also, some individual theaters have publicized the film using the rip-off line: "Linda Blair, star of *The Exorcist*, in — ." Let's hope that we can exorcise trash works like *Hell Night* and drive them out of existence.

Rating for *Hell Night*: one star.

P.S. — For a weekend pick a good local entertainment, I highly recommend that you see *Dracula*, the eerie, much better made drama, right here at We-Go High.

Be a pepper

by Sheila Hodges

Who plans them? How do you pick the groups? What's going on???

All of these questions have been asked by students, administration, and faculty.

Geri Armitage, the pep club advisor, feels that the main idea behind a pep assembly is for people to cheer. Their goal is to have a "pep assembly." She also feels the students should try to be more involved. "I think it should concern the students more," sighs Armitage.

The pep assemblies are usually planned during seventh hour a week before the event. Ms. Armitage, Terry Lemberg, Louise Hinners, Ann Hein, and Richard Waterhouse attend (unless previously committed).

Occasionally some cheerleaders and pom-pom girls attend also, but the attendance on the students part is very low. Mrs. Hein feels it can't be blamed on the faculty advisors. "This is supposed to be run by the kids and it's not like we haven't given them a chance. They've shirked their responsibilities," states Hein.

Both Mrs. Hein and Ms. Armitage feel the cheerleaders should teach the students some cheers at the pep assembly so more can be involved. Mrs. Hein also believes a faculty emcee might help keep the event moving.

Mrs. Hein ensures "the more people you get involved (in an assembly) is better."

'Confessions' is truly boring

by John Watanabe

There is one honest and sorry confession I have to make about a recent happening: this writer wasted precious time, money and auto fuel by seeing a truly boring cinematic experience called *True Confessions*. Easily one of 1981's long-awaited but most disappointing (and overrated, by most critics) motion pictures, *True Confessions* wastes the talents of two of our finest actors, Roberts DeNiro and Duvall.

True Confessions was directed by Ulu Grosbard and written by John Gregory Dunne and Joan Didion based on the John Gregory Dunne novel. The setting of the picture takes place in 1947, complete with old-fashioned cars, dark streets, and bits of old jazz tunes. The '40's-style look has enhanced a handful of recent good films, like Martin Scorsese's *Raging Bull* and Woody Allen's *Manhattan*, both of which were filmed in black and white. Perhaps the comparatively dull Ulu Grosbard film would have been more alluring if it had also been shot in black and white.

DeNiro and Duvall play brothers who each make a living through two very different jobs. DeNiro a priest and Duvall a cop,

This land is their land, too

by Amy Zurawski

Attending school here at West Chicago this year are two exchange students, Jan Matthysen from Holland and Hanna Nielsen from Denmark.

Jan, a senior, plays the bassoon in the band and orchestra, sings in the Concert Choir, and is involved in the fall play; he's *Dracula*. Hanna, also a senior, is on the



A varsity volleyball starter, Hanna takes time to study her speech for class. (photo by Eric Brosted)

volleyball team, plays the trombone in the band and orchestra, is a member of Concert Choir and German club.

Both students find the schools here much different and much stricter. "You don't need any passes to go anywhere in my school," says Jan. "It's your decision to go to school or not. You have more responsibility and more decisions to make."

The food we eat here is good according to Jan and Hanna, but they say we eat here all the time. In Europe they eat only three meals a day: no more, no less. Hanna says, "The food we eat here is good but, not necessarily good for your body." Hanna especially likes Dunkin Donuts. When I asked her what kind she likes the best she told me they were all good and couldn't pick a favorite.

In Europe they watch soccer like we watch football here. Hanna saw her first football game here and enjoyed it very much. The only complaint she had was it was too cold to stay outside and watch it. Jan enjoys football much more than soccer. He says soccer gets much more violent than football. "The good soccer clubs always have fights,



Jan will appear as Count Dracula in the fall play this weekend. (photo by Eric Brosted)

not many people go to the soccer games because of the violence," states Jan, "it's safer to watch it on TV."

Overall it seems that the exchange students are enjoying their year's stay here. They are impressed with our country and they call the USA theirs too.

Genesis turns it on again

by Rick Cesario

If you're not already a fan of Genesis, then shame on you. Also shame on me, since I was not previously a big fan of the English progressive rock band.

Most everyone became familiar with Genesis after their last album *Duke (Misunderstanding, Turn It On Again)* reached high on the charts. Now this three man band has again put together a great album. *Abacab*, Genesis' newest release, should

definitely not be misjudged by its cover, which looks like a kindergartner's painting assignment with a few splotches of red, yellow, and black paint on it.

Once more let me say, this is an excellent album. All of the songs on *Abacab* are ones which would get anybody's fingers and feet tapping to the rhythm. There is a perfect combination of fast and slow tempos within each song. I can't really say there is a best song on the album because all nine tunes

are quite fantastic. However, out of the songs, one, *Who Dunnit?* stands out as the worst of the best. It's a strange song, which sounds like a broken record almost as a detective asks his famous question, "Who...?" All ills are quickly forgotten though with the next song, *Man on the Corner*, an engaging song with a simple beat that sounds like an African native drum throughout its four and a half minutes. *Man on the Corner* along with the rest of the songs, besides *Who Dunnit?* really fits together well on this album. I definitely recommend *Abacab* to anyone.



Roberts Duvall and DeNiro star in the truly disappointing *True Confessions*.

up his garments and hat in a closet. As for Duvall, he doesn't display a whole lot of his talent as he just walks around in baggy suits while uttering a few cuss words.

True Confessions could have been another distinguished work of art featuring

two Oscar-caliber performances. Unfortunately, it turns out to be more like the mediocre fluff that looks almost good on the late, late show.

Rating for *True Confessions*: two stars

7 Photography —

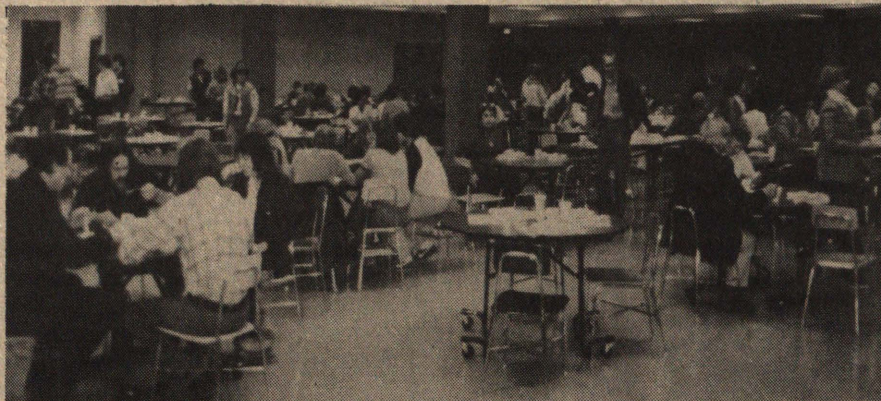
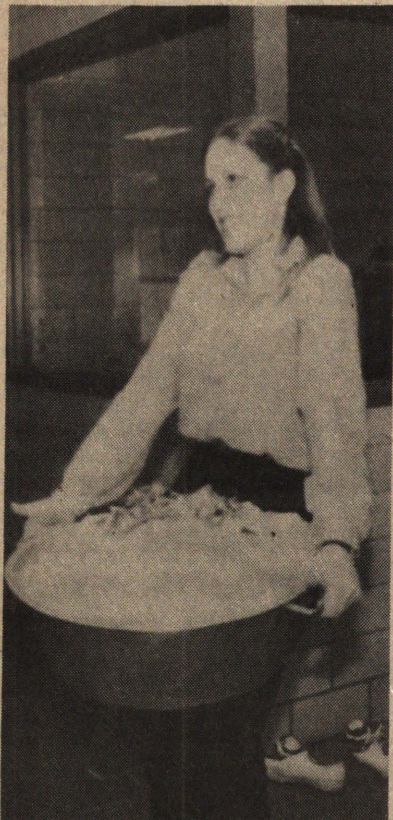
THE BRIDGE/November 6, 1981



Clockwise: Sharon Mosson and Debbie Rathjen make up a new routine while they work. The daily meeting under the TP tree. Lisa Holmes practices her part as a Hawaiian Santa Claus. Karen Ream has big plans for the future. Robin Weatherford shows how the Charmin squeeze test works. Everyone does their own thing when a camera is around.

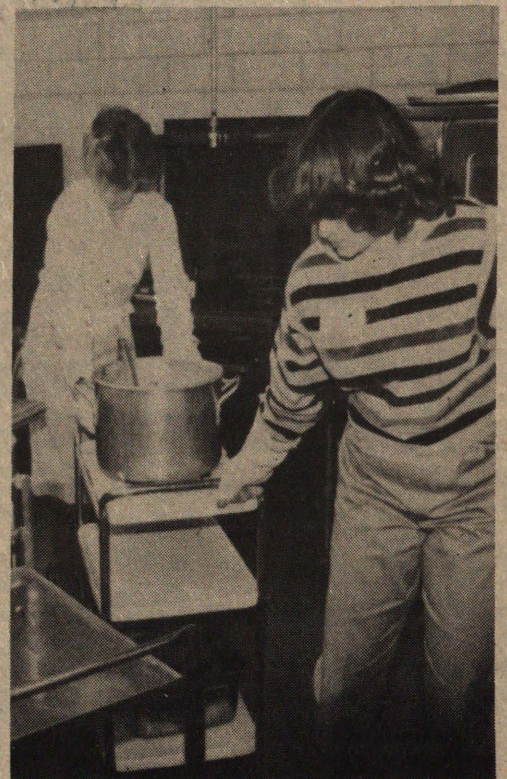
Homecoming Week 1981 will be one long remembered. Seniors took first place in three out of seven events. They took top honors in the tricycle race, pie eating contest, and hall decorating competition. The Class of '83 once again won the float competition and window painting contest while the Sophomores won t-shirt day. Varsity cheerleaders painted the football player's numbers on parking spaces in the front lot and also painted a large "WILDCATS" to help promote spirit. This spirit was dampened when students painted "WOLVERINES" in the parking lot and on the building's walls. Once again these faithful workers, along with the Pom-pon girls, tried to get the spirit aroused in the student body. They decorated the front of the school with toilet paper in hopes of reaching their goal. They hoped to leave it up for the parade but were forced to take it down before classes started. All in all, according to Beth Walz, "It was a riot!"

Photos by Mike Sitarz



The spaghetti dinner, sponsored by the We-Go Pom Pon girls, collected \$1,800. This money will be used for summer camp expenditures.

Top left: Sharon Sackett gets ready for lunch. Bottom left: Lynne Barlass and Brad Gary present their dinner hour show. Top center: The spaghetti dinner drew large hungry crowds. Center: Brenda Rathjen, Tracy Leonard, and Teresa Evans all enjoy their new positions as head cooks. Bottom center: Will too many cooks spoil the brew? Below: Deanna Rubin helps bring out the grog.



Football rule changes 'a step too far'

by Bill Recchia

Two rule changes were made in football this year to reduce injuries to the knees, ankles, head and neck.

The first rule is for the protection of the player's ankles and knees. This rule states that blocking below the waist is permitted only in a specified zone. This zone has been established as four yards each side of the ball on the line of scrimmage, and three yards off the ball in front of and behind the line of scrimmage (see diagram).

An offensive player may only block below the waist if a part of his body is in this zone when the football is snapped. The offensive player may not enter the zone and block below the waist if he was not initially in the zone when the ball was snapped.

The second rule change applies to the injuries to the neck and head. This rule says it is illegal for a tackler to place a finger or fingers in any open area (including the facemask) of the ballcarrier's helmet.

When asked why these rule changes were

made now, Jim Flynn, a member of the IHSA National Federation of Rule Changes stated, "It's for the concept of safety."

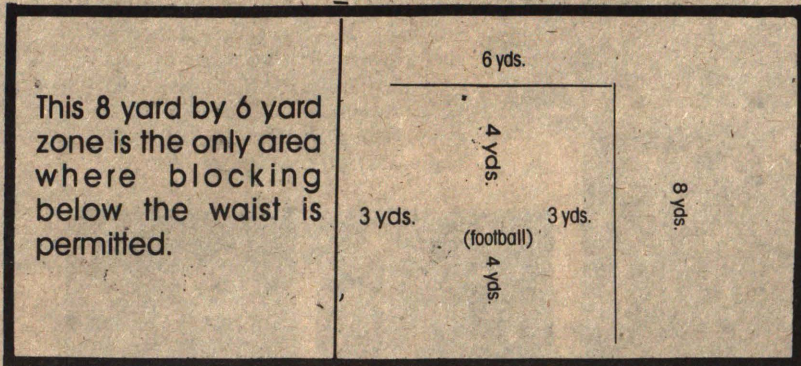
He then added, "These rules are not only for the safety of the player receiving the blow, but also of the player making it."

Head varsity football coach, Larry Parker claims the new rules are not being enforced. "This is not the fault of the officials, though. They have enough to worry about, and this is just an added burden. I think they (I.H.S.A.) went a step too far."

Sophomore head coach Butch Hansen added, "I've seen no change in the number of injuries this year due to these new rules."

According to football official Jim Lapetina, "the rules are working effectively and being enforced well. You have to see it though, and that's the tough thing," he added. "I've made a call concerning these rules only three times this year," Lapetina said.

"We (the officials) aren't seeing much of these penalties. The reason for this is because the kids are being coached well. They (the coaches) are doing a fine job."



Tomas managing well

by Dave Barry

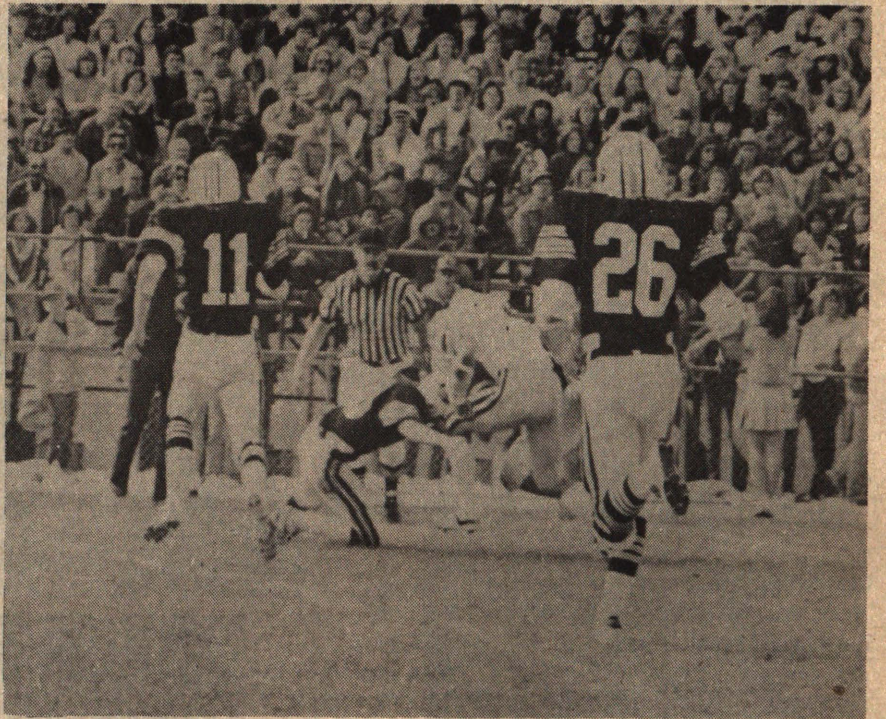
Tomas Aviles' strong desire to manage athletic teams at West Chicago is hard for many students to understand. How can he put so much time and effort into something which appears to have such meager rewards?

This year, Tomas is manager for the soccer and track teams as well as the sophomore basketball team. He begins to explain his obsession with managing by simply saying, "I like it. It gives me a chance to do something with the school and to get involved. It's a tough job though," claims Tomas. "There's always something to do."

tapes up an injured player.

Tomas is often asked why he prefers to manage instead of going out for the team. "Sometimes it makes me mad watching those guys out there running around," says Tomas. "But I've always been afraid of not making the team. This way I'm pretty sure that I'll always have a place."

Tomas began his managing career in junior high as manager of the basketball team. He has always enjoyed "the control I have over the players. I always get along with them pretty good too," he adds. Tomas plans to continue managing all through high school "unless something comes up." He



The officials feel the new rule change in blocking is effective and necessary. Coach Parker, however, thinks it is "just an added burden."

Volleyball set for victory

by Zach Myford

At the midway point of the season the We-go varsity volleyball team was sitting on a 6-6 record.

"The conference is so tough and competitive," said Gail George, "that the top seat is up for grabs. The 6-6 record at the end of the first half is no indication of who would or wouldn't be in the top seat at the end of the regular season."

Laura Finnegan, co-captain of the team, feels that if they could have played a little bit better team ball they might have been able to squeeze a victory or two more out of the season. Leslie Anderson, co-captain, agreed that improved teamwork could have improved their record.

Coach George noted Finnegan and Anderson as "among some of the finest players

I have coached." The players went so far in their praise of George to say that she may be the finest in the DuPage Valley Conference.

Coach George said that next year's team can be a winner. "The girls for next year will be small and fast, but it will force them to play a more defensive-minded game."

The lack of experience last year is what really gave some of the other teams an edge. But overall they had a good year, ending the regular season with a 12-8 record.

The Wildcats begin their districts tournament on October 27, at St. Charles, where they played Wheaton-Warrenville. We-go has beaten the Wolverines twice in the regular season this year.

Coach George thinks Glenbard North is probably the toughest team to beat in this district. She also feels the team's chance for a first place finish in districts is excellent.

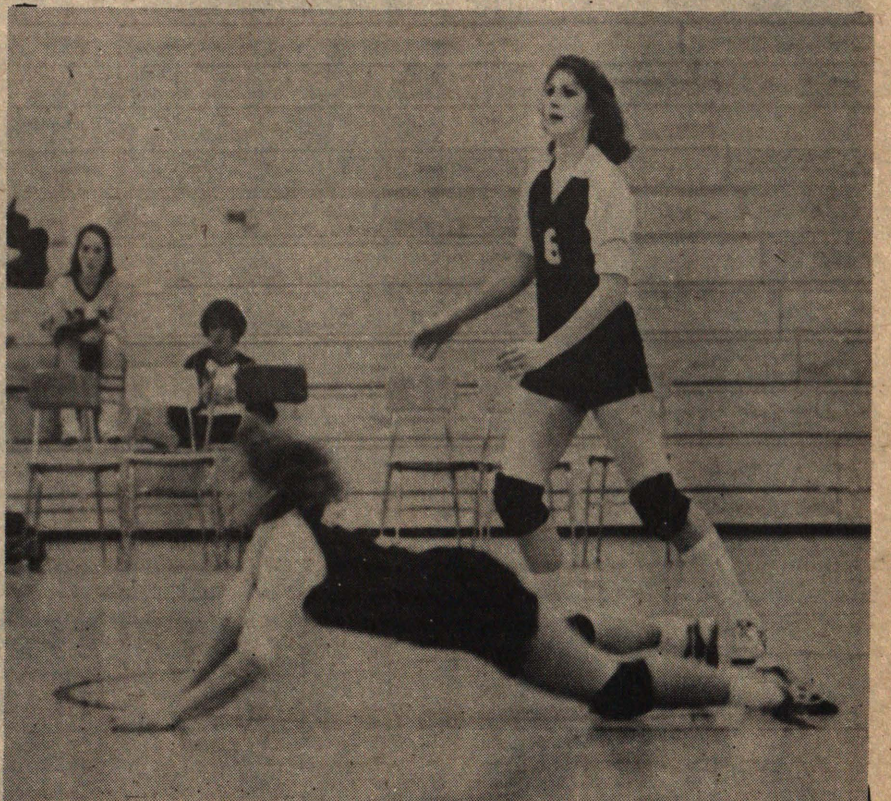


Tomas' job as manager of We-go's soccer team takes up almost all of his spare time.

His list of assorted duties rambles on endlessly. Tomas' job as varsity soccer manager actually requires more time than the players put in. He is responsible for many menial tasks like filling up the water bottles and keeping all of the balls at the correct pressure. He must also pass out uniforms before the games and occasionally

also hopes to manage sports team at the college he attends, which will probably be C.O.D. "unless I get rich all of a sudden."

Tomas will receive a varsity letter for his effort at the end of this season. "I guess that's enough," he sighs. Tomas doesn't seem to miss the glory and recognition the players receive — not too much anyway.



Leslie Anderson watches on as Sue Beedle dives for the ball. The varsity beat Wheaton-Warrenville as expected but were unable to advance farther.