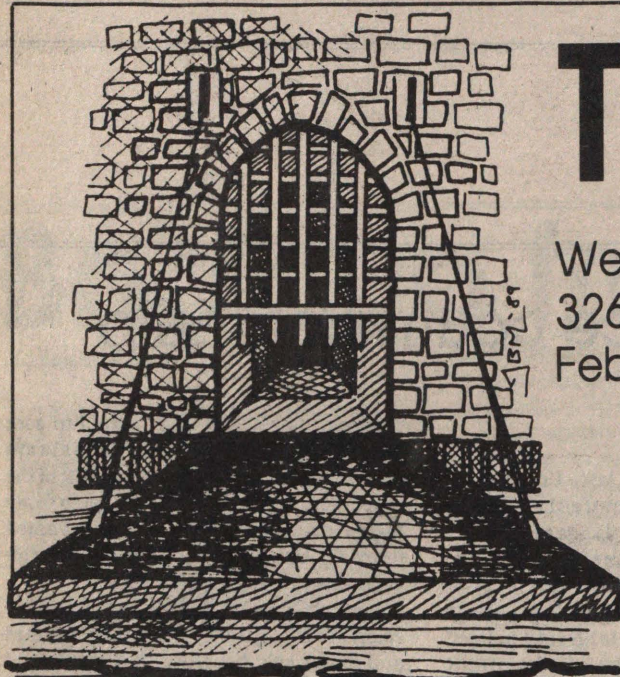


# The Bridge

West Chicago Community High School  
326 Joliet St. West Chicago, IL 60185  
February 24, 1989 Volume 18 Number 8



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## Project CHOICES a success at We-go

by Dana Netzel

"I applaud you and commend your efforts," Madeline Will, Assistant Secretary of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services of the U.S. Department of Education said at a press conference in regards to WCCHS's program for the handicapped.

On February 7, Will, State Senator Phillip Rock and Assistant State Superintendent Ed Sontag toured WCCHS facilities because it is the only school in the U.S. in which handicapped students are integrated into a regular high school community. Rock said, "It speaks well for District 94, that our school is able to integrate."

In August of 1988, the Phillip J. Rock Center came and asked WCCHS administrators if they were interested in project CHOICES, a state program which integrates handicapped students into a regular high school environment. It has already integrated 400 handicapped children into 25 statewide schools. Rock said that 13 schools will be added next year in efforts to help 1,000 handicapped students.

Superintendent Richard Kamm said that not many school districts accepted the centers offer because it's a difficult challenge to take. He said that it has taken a considerable amount of time, but no addi-

tional costs.

Project CHOICES was organized to help handicapped students become a part of the school and the community, so they are able to function as independent as possible. Will

said that there are no barriers between students, it just takes a lot of coordination to create a program. "Children with severe handicaps are difficult to serve, and are not provided with enough support." She con-

tinued, "We don't know how to serve them on a national level."

Will said "The two greatest learning experiences are observation and modeling." WCCHS is able to offer that to the handicapped students. There are currently six handicapped students who travel by bus from the Phillip J. Rock Center in Glen Ellyn to WCCHS. The students are then integrated with WCCHS students into P.E. classes, the pool, cafeteria and library.

Principal Alan Jones said that he observed students helping the handicapped students, and Kamm said "all of us have benefitted."

Will said that there are things that handicapped students can learn to do, but training staff and funding are problems of project CHOICES. The program costs \$500,000-a-year and includes teachers salaries and rent for high school classrooms. It is funded by the State Board of Education and the Phillip J. Rock Center. Rock said, "more money should be made available for this."

"We're reaching a point where there should not be a reason for separation, the question is how do you do it (integrate handicapped students) in existing schools," Will said and ended with, "There's a place and role for everyone in the school and community area."



Senator Phillip Rock (top) and instructors Patty McConnel and Madeline Will help Shawn Lewis, a student of the special education program, use the IBM computer. The Senator and other officials came to visit the program in our school which is one of the few that are located in the state. (photo by Ismael Rios)

## Former student killed

Jennifer L. Mahr, a former student of WCHHS, died in a car accident on February 12.

Mahr was a passenger in Roberto Campo's car, which was struck by a train on the Town Road tracks. Campo survived the accident.

Mahr, 18, was attending DAVEA Center in Addison studying to be a dental assistant and working part time at Pizza Hut.

## Drugs and alcohol affect SAT's

by Lori Schuermann

Over a twenty year time span, 1965-1985, Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SAT) scores dropped from an average of 480 and 490 to 445. Scott Menard of the University of Colorado, looked in to the causes of this decline and tried to uncover the reasons for them.

Menard found that the quality and quantity of education was not the reason for the decreasing scores. When there were the highest number of advanced degree teaching staff, the scores dropped. Since the blame for the decreasing scores could not be pinned on the educational quality the next step was to figure out what it was.

the stays in the system and will effect the brains ability to operate properly.

A persons social environment can effect these scores too. A person who is motivated, sets goals and hangs out with other people who do the same tend to have high scores, than those who don't. This environment can sometimes have more influence than the use of drugs and alcohol.

All of these distractions are part of another major course in the decline of SAT scores. When less time spent on homework was reported between 1972 and 1980, the scores were dropping. Mr. Hein says the effort put into doing the homework and learning the material is part of the motivation needed to succeed. "Students who want



Jennifer Mahr died in a car accident that occurred at the Town Road tracks. (Photo courtesy of Challenge)

## Oral sex transmits AIDS

by Laura McPheters

"A man apparently was infected with the AIDS virus by having oral sex with a woman, the first to be documented and a warning that even sex in this manner is not necessarily safe, researchers say" (Chicago Sun-Times).

The facts that the AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) virus is found in bodily fluids and that the AIDS virus is transmitted through sexual intercourse and intravenous drug needles has been a known fact for many years. In health classes at WCCHS and in the pamphlet mailed to United States residences recently, these facts concerning the AIDS virus have been made aware.

According to a recent article in the Chicago Sun-Times, a new breakthrough has evolved in the scientific research against AIDS. The case presented in the article serves as a warning and as Dr. Peter G. Spitzer, a physician from the Lahey Clinic Medical Center, said, "I hope the message gets through, especially to younger people in high school and college who cling to the belief that they're all right if they don't have intercourse." This recently documented cause of the AIDS virus being transmitted through oral sex is now added to the list of potential causes.

Kevin Kuhn, nurse at DuPage County Health Department, who works specifically

with the AIDS program states "Transmission of HIV (Human Immune Deficiency) virus, the virus that causes AIDS by oral sex is possible because it is sexual intercourse. It is body parts being together. It is body fluids being exchanged." He continues however, "Oral sex is not an efficient means of transmitting the virus as is unprotected anal or vaginal intercourse."

Kuhn also projects that protection/prevention of HIV being transmitted is encouraged and that "latex condoms are encouraged to be used in any kind of sexual intercourse, whether that is vaginal, anal, or oral intercourse."

Kuhn suggests that if any student, faculty member or friend of a friend wants more information concerning the AIDS virus, there is information available through the health department. The telephone number for the AIDS program is 682-7400, extension 7310; or write to The AIDS program: 111 North County Farm Rd. Wheaton, IL 60187.

Kuhn also said that there is free anonymous testing of the AIDS virus through the health department for anyone age 12 or over. Kuhn talked to the faculty as part of a panel at WCCHS on the subject of AIDS in the fall of 1988. A video tape of the panel discussion is available through the audio-visual department in the LRC.

'Studies show that birth order, drug alcohol use, social environment and time spent on homework had major effects on the SAT scores.'

Studies show that birth order, drug, alcohol use, social environment and time spent on homework had major effects on the SAT scores.

The first and second children or children with many years between, tend to do better on the intelligence tests due to the fact that they pick up better skills by associating with adults rather than children their own age.

A massive use of drugs and alcohol also showed the declination. During 1980, the alcohol, marijuana and cocaine use went up and SAT scores hit rock bottom.

Robert Hein, a guidance counselor and wrestling coach at WCCHS said that an occasional use of such things should not affect the scores as much as regular usage. Although, the use of pot even periodically will do major damage. The THC in pot stays in

to succeed will do better than those who have no future planned." Hein said.

To prepare for these tests students should take college preparation courses and PSAT's to help familiarize them with the questions on the SAT's.

As a whole, WCCHS rates fairly low in the scores of SAT's, however, there has been more emphasis put into ACT's (American College Tests). This test is not designed for achievement testing, but rather as a means of evaluating a students aptitude for college work. The test is a predicament of the performance expected in college. Many Illinois colleges use the ACT as a standard for admission and is the most frequently taken test by students bound for college. In this matter, WCCHS has a higher average than the nation or state in every subject.



## Happy Time

This year, Student Council has implemented a truly philanthropic program, spreading their seemingly impossible wealth to all the needy, starving We-go clubs in desperate need of funds. Without their charity, a great number of school activities, already in dire straits thanks to an ever-stingy School Board (they're consistent, if not gracious), would be even worse off.

"It's nice to be doing something this good for the school with our excess money," commented council member Kristen Myers, one of several candidates for canonization in the eyes of any of a number of grateful WCCHS treasurers.

Fellow council representative Kurt Duval dissents, however. "It sucks. We could be the richest Student Council in the world. If it were up to me, we'd buy something really cool." With respect to Mister Duval's radical position, the editors would still like to extend their appreciation for this much needed program.

## Guidance counselors help

by Jim Hurlburt



"At last, I'm done!" I screamed as I walked out of the Guidance Center. "No more PSAT's, SAT's, ACT's, or AP tests to take. No more college forms to fill out. I'm free!"

Some of you might have a grasp as to what I'm raving about. I no longer have anymore paperwork to fill out for college. Sometimes I've dreamed that the worst mistake I ever made in life was filling in that little oval for the student search on my PSAT. Ever since my junior year, an average of 10 to 15 letters a week have crossed my mailbox from colleges across the country, seeking me to become one of their prized students. Right now, at this very moment, I have three very large garbage bags filled with these applications and letters telling me why I should consider having a good southern military education or the joys of becoming a mortician.

All of this might have overwhelmed me had it not been for the heroic efforts of our guidance center staff. First, we have Mrs. Black, you know, that little woman whose whole job seems to be to say "Sorry, your

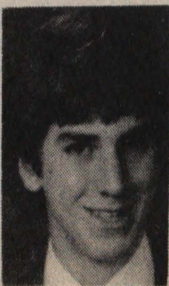
counselor is not here right now. I'm sure he'll be back in a few decades." She's always been a great help to me in my pursuit of the proper forms that will open the gates to my higher education. No matter if I wanted forms for UIC, NIU, U of J, or COD, she always came through with a smile.

Next, we have Mr. Zaffino, my own counselor. For a long time, I thought he had died and it was only his ghost that still lurked through the school because I could never find him, even though they said he was here. During the times I was able to track him down, whether it be directing some play for the school or at the horse races, he has always been very helpful and has taken care of my paperwork with great speed. When Mr. Zaffino was gone, Mr. Peterson was like a second counselor to me. It was from this man that I received all those stupid forms for those tests that colleges seem to want. Without him, I might have just decided to pump gas for the rest of my life.

What might have been a great hassle, turned out to be much smoother as a result of the counselors' help. I can easily say that without their expertise, my goal of higher education might never have been fulfilled. Without their help, the world would have lost a great future-biochemist and one hell of a guy.

## Down with the loudmouths

by Phil Riske



Broken noses, female wrestlers, and filthy mouths are what more than pollutes the modern talk show. Public condemnings of the guests leave the minorities of these shows' audiences as outcasts from the righteous mainstream.

In our low-cultured society, today's talk shows fill the needs of weak minded people who are looking for an identity to fit themselves with.

Many people are attracted to the pro-life, guns-for-everyone, super-deluxe, patriotic identity. If this makes you comfortable, then you'll like *The Morton Downey Jr. Show*. That is, if you can put up with his routine contradictions of himself in order to play the "devil's advocate" and stir controversy in the audience.

For people who would like to be an, "I love E.R.A.", pro-choice, guns are bad, war is for fools type of character, then I suggest *The Phil Donahue Show*. Being a trendy, conformist is a requirement, though, to be a Super-Duper Donahue fan.

Then there's *Geraldo*, for the good citizen of today. Anyone who's entertained by satanism, the Aryan race, or any other socially considered evil will love Geraldo Rivera. If you love to agree, then Geraldo will provide a suitable self identity that your mind can handle.

Finally, for the mind that's been melted by Z95 two hours a night for the last four years, Oprah Winfrey is the best decision. The top 40 fan probably doesn't know what to support, but that's okay because neither does Oprah, who claims that her single greatest accomplishment in life was losing 67 lbs.

Examine the types of people watching these shows. If the mediocrity of these so-called informative programs entertains you, then maybe you should examine yourself.

## Popcorn hypocrites

Dear Editors,

Tell us, does anyone believe in equality? We don't think so. What's with the popcorn in commons? We were told countless times that food is prohibited in the commons area. Of course, being hypocrites, the paraprofessionals are chowing down microwave popcorn at this very moment. In addition, rule

number three in the "Commons Rules" states, "No refreshments in commons area." Is this discrimination? It certainly seems to be.

Wondering About Equality  
Julie McDole  
David Smith

## Announcements/ Calculus

It may be a difficult thing to do, but those Scholastic Bowl announcements really suck! Even though you may be making different ones, they all sound the same. Sitting in Calculus class second hour was bad enough, but your demonic announcements really

topped that. Not only was the math incomprehensible, but so were your confusing, loud, and muddled messages. You should have taken the time to listen to yourselves through the speakers to find out how truly horrible you sound.

## Try being conservative

Dear Bridge Editors,

Why don't you consider acquiring a deversified approach toward your columns? Maybe some conservative perspectives instead of constant liberalism. After all, a facist is one that censors opposing opinions of others.

Jim "High I.Q." Theisen

## THE BRIDGE

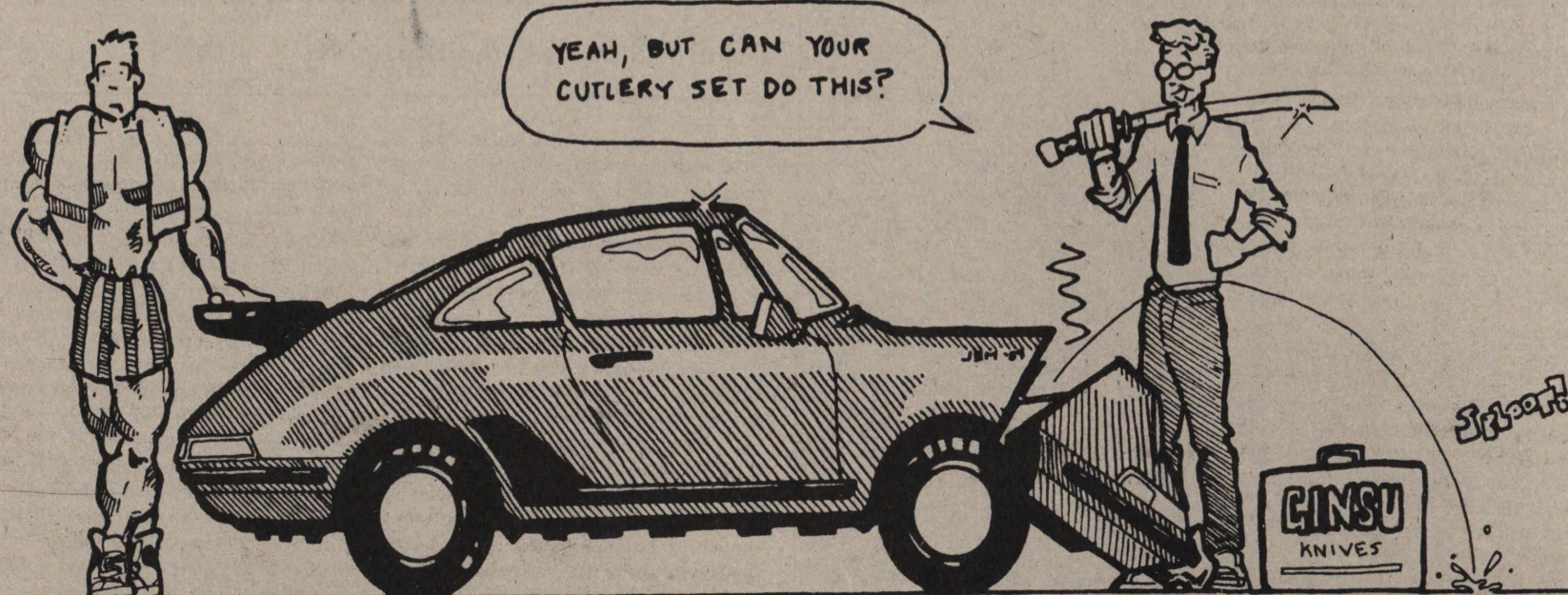
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The Bridge is the student newspaper of West Chicago Community High School. The Bridge office is located in room 216.

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and must be legibly signed, with a maximum of five names appearing in the paper. Letters will be printed as time and space permit. The editor reserves the right to edit, as necessary, for length and libelous material.

Unsigned editorials appearing in the newspaper are the opinions of The Bridge editorial board. Content and editorial policy are determined by the editors with concurrence of The Bridge editorial board. The advisor acts in the capacity of a professional consultant. The opinions expressed by the newspaper are not necessarily those of the majority of the student body or the high school.



FAMOUS LAST WORDS...



## Back up from 'down under'

by Peg Osterman

"I feel like I've been in a coma for a year, and everything's happened around me," sighed junior Kelly Howard when asked what it's like to be back at WCCHS.

Howard has spent the last year in Australia as part of a YFU (Youth for Understanding) exchange program. Staying in Crafers, she attended Seymour college, equivalent to a girls' private high school in America.

In comparing schools, Howard said that her Australian classes were harder than hers at West Chicago. "But that's because I went to a private school," she explains, "the Australian public schools were really easy compared to ours." Howard adds that there is somewhat of a rivalry between private and public high schools.

Australian schools have four terms (quarters) with two-week breaks between each term. The school year starts in February and ends in December.

Grade levels are referred to as years nine through 12, instead of freshmen through senior. Years nine through 12 are kept separate in that students from different grade levels don't take the same courses.

Howard observed there was little competition between classes because school was "more participation oriented".

About teachers and administrators, Howard says, "They were really casual about time. There was one bell at the end of class. That bell was the start of the next class, and you just came in whenever you got there." Howard also said that English teachers wouldn't test students on books read in class. Instead, it was more the student's choice to read.

However, she said, "The only thing they were really strict about was uniform." The girls' socks had to be pulled up, hats on, blazers over sweaters, and no makeup was allowed. "Your hair had to be 'tidy'," Howard said.

She explained "There, school is school. That's why you wear uniforms, that's why you don't wear makeup: you're there to do school work and that's it! School is much more social here."

According to Howard, people at WCCHS have changed in that, "Everyone's in a category. There's separate groups. They don't hang out together." She feels "people shouldn't divide themselves," and says Australians are more open with each other.



Junior Kelly Howard spent her school year in Australia last year. (Photo by Ismael Rios)

She attributes this to the fact Australia has a lower population than the United States. "They're closer because there's just not that many people around."

Howard says she has changed as a result of her trip. "I feel a lot more confident about who I am. Going away gave me a chance to think about my life at home: where I was heading and where I wanted to be."

She added that leaving "makes you realize how small everything here is. West Chicago is not the center of the earth; there are other things going on." She feels "that's really important to see because people can get wrapped up in all the little things that are going on every day," a condition she describes as "really mental."

Howard says she wanted to be an exchange student to see more of the world. She feels the trip has given her a sense of accomplishment, and was worthwhile, but "one of the most painful experiences I've ever had."

"I've realized how important it is to be a part of things. Going on exchange, I only had a year to do certain things, and I found out how much fun high school is, if you get into it." She sums up her biggest lesson in that, "Life will pass you by if you're not part of it."

## Inkspots Bridge to be crowned

The Bridge has been nominated for a crown Award. To become nominated the publications must receive a point score of 950 or above in the CSPA contest/critique.

The judging is done by experienced judges from around the country, and the winning high school publications will receive their awards on March 15-17.

## We-go hosts contest

Concert choir will be participating in the state music contest this year. The solo and ensemble will be held March 4 at Leyden High School in Franklin Park. The organizational contest will be at WCCHS on April 8. Choir director Ron Benner said that he hopes to regain the state champions title, won by WCCHS two years ago.

## In-touch clowns give message

On March 14 and 15 the In-touch clown team is performing in a variety show at Lincoln School. The clowns: Sarah Rohr, Rachel Sedlacek, Samantha Newley, Jamie Warner, John Duval, Ray Hoffman and Sue Stadjuhar are sending the message "Say No to Drugs" to grades K-6. The team will travel to other elementary schools in April and May.



Editors listed left to right, Kelly Day, Karen Getlinger, Kurt Duvall, Andy Behrens, Teri Blum, Ismael Rios, Dana Netzel, Matt Szesny and advisor Tim Courtney. Not pictured, Kelly Lee, Kerri Spoden and Laura McPheters. (Photo by Steve Yuroff)

## Students write test

Twelve students from WCCHS will be taking a written qualifying test at Lyons Township High School on February 25. In this competition, students who place in the top 25 percent in state competition will qualify in VICA Skills Olympics in Springfield, IL on April 20, 21, and 22.

## Band competes

On March 2 the WCCHS band is participating in a competition with other schools. It will be held at the University of Illinois at 9:30 a.m. "We have been preparing for this for a long time," band director Carol Houston said.

## Variety show sponsored

FBLA will be sponsoring a variety show on March 2. Previews for the show were held January 23-26 and will be held again the week of February 6-10 at 3:30 p.m. in the choir room. Proceeds from the show will go towards the American Cancer Society and the Sharon Bokker Memorial Scholarship. The show is open to all students and there is a sign up sheet in the office for all those who are interested. So far there will be approximately 10 acts. For more information, talk to Don Zabelin in room 302 before or after school.

## Scholastic bowl prepares

Scholastic Bowl is preparing for two home meets. First match will be held on Feb. 27 at 3:45 against Wheaton Central in the LRC. March 20 is another match that will be held in the LRC at 4 p.m. against Naperville North.

## Student of the month

Student of the Month for January is Matt Schuster. Schuster is an Advanced Electronics student who is the first person who is able to operate the CAD System, (Computer Assisted Drafting) here at WCCHS. Involved in the VICA Program (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America), he has done well in regional and state competitions. Schuster carries a 3.62 GPA and is ranked 17 in the class of 320. Future plans for Schuster are to major in electrical engineering and pursue his education at DeVry Institute of Technology.

## Not 'all fun and games'

by Mike Moffatt



Freshmen Jenny Rose described her future senior year as, "all fun and games." Yeah, right; join the real world. Geoff Spurny described his senior year as "lame." He knows from experience. Unfortunately, some seniors have met the cold

harsh reality; this year "stinks," as senior De Duval puts it. She said, "I knew it would stink, and it does. And, I can't wait to get out of here!" Nice attitude, De, but I'd rather be more optimistic.

Admittedly, I was once a naive Freshmen myself, who had watched too many of the High School cliché movies. But, while being as level headed as possible, I still figured it to be more exciting than this. Many people may not agree with the notion that this senior year is "lame," and I hope so, but for those that do, loosen up! and listen:

There are consolations to the people who are having trouble with their senior year.

1. For those that feel they are doing too much work remember that it will one day pay off.
2. For those who feel they are under the tyrannical rule of parents, teachers or administrators, remember that one day soon you will be on your own.
3. Lastly, for those that want to rock... go to Western.

Perhaps if seniors would knock their expectations down a notch and concentrate on how much progress they have made in the last seven semesters they could enjoy their last semesters to a greater extent.

I follow a strict regimen that allows me to enjoy my senior year more fully. It includes eating a vegetarian diet, going to bed before 9 p.m., meditating before and after meals, waking up before dawn, brushing my teeth, and taking the time to smell the roses. Oh yeah, as teacher Robert Lemon always says: "Remember, these are the best days of your life." Ha! Ha! Ha!

## Teen-age suicide rates increase

by Danielle Caffarello

Last year there were more than 400,000 attempts of suicide in adolescents, 7,000 completions of suicide in adolescents, and researchers say the numbers are rising.

Suicide can happen in any age group and in any town, including We-go. On January 21, a 16-year-old apparently committed suicide by hanging himself. He was pronounced dead at Central DuPage Hospital at about 11:30. The teenager had recently moved to West Chicago, and he was going to start school on January 23.

There are many reasons that make teens turn to suicide. According to Ron Dow, the school social worker, "One of them is depression, the victim is usually very, very

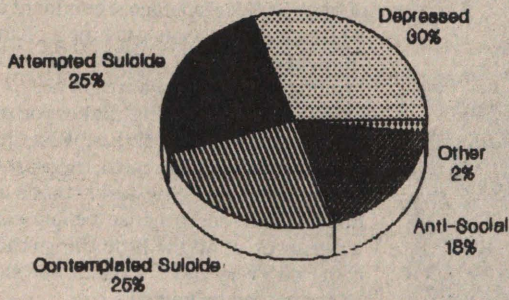
depressed, and at that time everything looks negative and gloomy. It seems like there is no way out."

Some warning signs of adolescent suicides are changes in personality, the giving away of a prized possessions, neglecting personal appearance, unwillingness to communicate, withdrawal and rebelliousness.

The following are some suggestions to help a potential suicide victim. Don't be afraid to say something like, "Do you really feel bad enough to try to kill yourself?" Never assume that the victim is faking it or going through a phase. It is also important not to act like a psychiatrist; instead listen to the victim and encourage him to see a trained specialist.



## OUT OF 100 RUNAWAYS



Statistics by Newsweek & Current Health

Graph by Pete Simpson

1 million children run away each year.  
 300,000 become street kids.  
 70% of the kids that come to shelters have been severely physically or sexually abused.  
 500,000 of these million are buried in unmarked graves each year.  
 80% run away within 300 miles of their home.  
 40% had their parents actually ask them to leave.

Statistics provided by Newsweek

# Runni

## A real journey

by De Duvál

Editors note:

The people who have been interviewed for this story are all students of WCCHS. Their names have been changed to protect their identities.

Some people believe that when you runaway you're set for life. You've got a place to stay, money in your pocket, and food in your stomach. But when reality hits, you usually find cold sidewalks to sleep on, food that you scrounge out of a garbage can, and you beg for money. "Most people think it's a Highway to Heaven, but it's not, it's a Highway to Hell," said Joann, when asked if it was at all what she expected.

Joann was 13 years old when she ran away. She stayed in New Orleans for three weeks. "I ran away because my dad was gone and my Mom didn't like me." She came back because she was homesick and "running away doesn't solve anything. It just gives you a police record." In giving advice to a possible runaway, Joann says, "Don't tell anyone, and just don't runaway, it's stupid, you live on the streets, and you can not take a shower and you end up smelling."

Bud and Blood on the other hand said "It is not a job, it is an adventure." They also said that it was much more interesting than they expected it to be. "Getting drunk, smoking dope, and getting into fights every night was how they described it." We left because Buds parents were being jerks and I got kicked out," said Blood. Bud said that they slept in a boiler room in Chicago for two weeks. And the only advice they would give is to have lots of money and a friend.

"My parents were not treating me fair, they treated me like a little kid and my little brother got more privileges than I did. It was totally unfair," said Jane when asked why she ran away in eighth grade. Jane said that she tried to talk to her parents but they would not listen, so she ran away. And when she came back things still were not good, so she said that she never should have come back.

Not everyone runs away because of their parents. Ford ran away because she got kicked out of school, and she thought that her parents would lock her up. Ford also traveled on the "Highway to Hell" getting hooked up on coke she says that she regrets doing that. Some advice Ford gives is "watch out it is not 'oh yeah I am home free', once you are in you can not get out."



## I was a runaway

by Julie Mastro

The every day dull, boring routine of school and work was getting to me. I, Julie Mastro, was living the typical crappy life of a teenager but I was not satisfied with it. I wanted more so I did what I thought was right at the time, I ran away.

My two companions (I will call them Dick and Larry) and I were all in the same boat. None of us had a bad family lives, substance abuse problems, or medical problems, but we all were bored and we wanted to see a little bit of the country and go on an adventure to break the habit of hell. On Wednesday, November 16, 1988 at approximately 1:30p.m. we decided to begin our journey into the "real world." Since I had already ditched some of my classes returning to school was something I was not looking forward to.

We went to our houses and packed up some stuff to take with us. Larry and I left notes for your parents telling them we needed to "get away" and we assured them we would keep in touch. My trusty Oldsmobile was going to be our getaway car so we filled it to the rim with our clothes (my whole wardrobe) and our most prized possessions, Dick brought his guitar, Larry his yearbook and I brought a book and a set of playing cards.

The interstate was long and dark ahead of us. In my mind I kept wondering what the reactions

on my friends and family would be when they found out I had left. I wanted to believe I would not be hurting anybody I knew I would. I just hoped in time everyone would understand. Only a couple of close friends knew about our plan because we did not want the police bothering anyone. I knew that we would be coming back soon because we only had \$400. Dick, Larry and I could not survive for long on \$400 so we thought that we would just drive to Colorado to see the Rocky Mountains and then come back home. I had never seen them before and I heard they were gorgeous. That would allow us enough time to sort out our thoughts and Larry had some relatives that we might be able to stay with. I was planning on calling my mom on Thursday night to let her know I was all right.

Wednesday night Dick and Larry took turns driving while I slept or talked to Dick who was my boyfriend. He assured me that everything was going to be all right and that he would take care of me. As I relaxed in the Cutlass, I thought back to the feelings of desperation I had before I left. I wasn't getting awful grades or anything like that, so there was not any real reason for me to leave but like I mentioned before, I was bored and believe me, there is a point when boredom can become overwhelming and even depress-

ing. The one thing that bothered me most was that I was not happy with my life in general and

I did not want to be stuck leading a life that I hated.

Iowa and Nebraska are not the most ideal states for sight-seeing. All I had seen over the past few hours was corn and snow. After realizing the scenery was not going to get better, I let the wheels rhythm lull me to sleep. We pulled over at a rest area somewhere in Nebraska at 5am so Dick and Larry could get some rest. At 6:30am we woke Larry and told him it was his turn to drive and he was not too excited at that but he drove quite fast. I drifted back to sleep and woke up to hear Larry mutter "shit." We were busted!! After issuing Larry a speeding ticket for going over 100mph, the office informed us that there was an all points bulletin out on us that had been issued by one, if not all, of our parents. The officer advised us to lock up the car and get into his squad for the ride to the police station where our parents would be notified of our capture. Ironically, we were stopped just three miles short of the Colorado border.

At the station our parents were called and when my mother called she asked to speak to me. "Hi honey," she said to me. "You did not make it too far did you?" I was glad she was laughing at the time because at the time I did not think it was too funny. I just hoped she would still be laughing after the 16 hour drive to the North Platte Juvenile Detention Holding Facil-



# Running Away



## Running away is not a crime

by Michele Rittorno

One million children are reported missing each year. This million is made up of various cases and out of that approximately one hundred and fifty thousand are runaways, 80 percent are from white American middle class families.

According to WCCHS social worker Ron Dow "Running away is not a crime." It is considered as 'Minors Requiring Authoritative Intervention' and it is handled by the Juvenile Court.

When an adolescent has runaway, there is a four step procedure that occurs. After a 24 hours the parents report a missing person to the police. The police enter it into a nation wide computer that the adolescent is missing along with information about the adolescent. When the adolescent is found they are brought to the police station. A crisis counselor is called to talk to the student.

Dow says that there is a meeting set up between the adolescent and the parent. If the

student refuses to go back home then they find another place to live at that everyone agrees on. If no place is agreed on then the student is placed in foster care until it goes to court.

Since running away is not considered a crime it is not placed on their criminal record and avoid court involvement.

When a student is found from out of state years ago they would be placed in a jail until a parent or guardian came. Today they are placed in a shelter home where authorities watch them or the adolescent is placed in a foster home.

The average age that a student runs away from home is 15. Students who are abused or neglected are not the only people who run away. Some run away for such reasons as curfews, arguments over clothes, music, friends, or a bad report card.

Running away may lead to such things as crime, violence, drug abuse, or prostitution. Many of these occurrences take place due to the low number of halfway houses. Dow states, "We have some but not as many as we need."

## A shelter from home

by James Hurlburt

Have you ever thought about running away from home if you have then you are not alone. Patricia McGrath, a superintendent at the DuPage County Youth Home says that the percentage of teenage runaways has increased drastically over the last few years and is still climbing.

McGrath said that when it comes to runaways their job is just to hold on to them until they can unite them with their families. "Unfortunately a large percent, almost one half, are repeaters and come from homes that are less than ideal."

Most kids don't understand what they are getting into when they leave home and don't know what to expect when they hit the streets. "When a kid is brought to us after being on his own for awhile we give him a chance to get into normal everyday life," said McGrath. Normally a runaway will stay at the Home for only a few days or just overnight until the proper people can be reached for the child's care.

Upon coming to the Home most of the youth do

not know what to expect. They are either "very frightened, withdrawn, and scared or very aggressive and act as tough guys." The youth range from the age of 11 to 17. McGrath also sees juvenile delinquency on the rise and that it is "more serious now than I have ever seen it."

Illinois Government Hotline Springfield Center for Independent Living 1-800-642-3112

National Runaway Switchboard (This hotline is used to relay messages from the runaway to relatives, and it is used for counseling the runaway.) 1-800-621-400

Youth Network Counsel/Temporary Hotline (312)427-2710

Illinois Child and Family Service (312) 844-3237

Home-Run-Runaway Hotline 1-800-448-4663

At the Home youth follow a strict schedule and most of the things people take for granted in their every day life are closely monitored at the Home. Jerry Taylor, a security guard at the Home, said that a normal day would begin with breakfast at eight in the morning then school from nine to three. After school the students are given an hour in their room after which they have dinner and a free period until curfew at eight.

The DuPage County Youth Home has over the years proven itself not to be a dumping ground for troubled youth but rather a therapeutic facility where misguided youth can get help.

ity where she had to pick me up. For some reason I seriously doubted it.

Now I was scared. When they said Holding Facility, I was expecting some big building with no windows, filled with juvenile delinquents who considered it a good time if they could make you bleed. But then, I stopped and thought about it. I guess that is where I belonged anyway, after all, I was a delinquent now too.

After being interviewed by a psychologist about my relationship with Dick and my experiences with drugs and alcohol, we were sent to the Holding Facility. To my surprise, it was a little house with two bedrooms, two bathrooms, a TV room, microwave, refrigerator, and a small office. We were the only kids in there. The three of us were each given a person to watch over us because they had to keep an hourly log on what we were doing. To make a long story short, the night we spent in the Holding Facility was the best part of the trip. We met a guy named Mike who taught Dick and Larry some card tricks. There was also a lady named Jan who was the coolest lady over 35 that I had ever met.

My parents picked me up the next morning and my Mom was happy to see me but my stepdad looked less thrilled. We went to the police station where my car was parked and my stepdad informed me that they had decided that my car was to stay in Nebraska and be donated to a poor family. I was not pleased with their

decision, but I patiently stifled my temper. So I had no choice but to unload my car and put my luggage into my mom's car. Considering the difference in the sizes of the two cars, I suffered a very uncomfortable ride home with Dick's guitar on my lap. Occasionally I strummed a few chords.

My parents did not lecture me or yell at me but they said that I should plan to be grounded for the next month or so. If that does not sound like a lot of punishment, remember my car was given to some corn grower in Nebraska. I finally explained to them why I had left and all my Mom said was "Julie, if you stay at home until high school graduation, then I will support your decision to travel. Just don't run away again." I knew I had no intention of doing it again and actually I was relieved to be home where somebody could take care of me. My parents yelling had given me time to think about what I had done. Now when I look back at my trip, I realize that my running away was a learning experience and that I was a lot more fortunate than a lot of other runaways because I came out of it alive and maybe even smarter. If I had to I'm sure I would do it all again. I am now saving for a new car with all the money I'm not spending on the Cutlass. Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that running away solves all your problems, I just got lucky. For me, it was just something I needed to do.

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## Want tasteless trash? Go to the Judge

by Brian Stieglitz



Today's court shows have become the soap operas of the 80's. It all started, of course, with **The People's Court**, starring our hero, Judge Wapner. What made the show work then and what makes it work now is the fact that these

people are not actors, and the cases presented are everyday conflicts which some of us can relate to.

Following the success of **The People's Court** came other similar programs, including **Superior Court** and **The Judge**. These had a little more Hollywood thrown in. Rather than have real people, these shows use actors. Cases are usually very traumatic and an unwritten rule states that there has to be at least one lady bursting into tears per show, which guarantees a lot of laughs for the viewers. Unfortunately, there is no Doug Llewelyn character to say "Don't take the law into your own hands-you take them to court."

Narrator Chuck Riley opens **Superior Court** (weekdays at 3:30 p.m. on Channel 2) with the following. "In this courtroom, it is brother versus brother, husband versus wife, cop versus criminal. One man stands between them. One man stands for justice. He is Judge Clayton C. Thomas...."

Another **Superior Court** involved an alcoholic woman who is six months pregnant. After being charged with DUI while on probation for a similar offense two years before, the state is taking her to court. Midway through the testimony of her sister the defendant's husband stands up and says "For God's sake, stop covering up for her! She's an alcoholic!" This brought a look of anguish to the defendant's face. The husband goes on to testify against her, saying that he would rather have the baby born behind bars than born in a hospital with a blood alcohol level.

After a little encouragement from Judge Thomas, she tearfully admits that she is an alcoholic. "For the safety of your baby," Thomas says, "I am having you tested for alcohol three times per day. If any trace is found in your blood, you will go to jail for six months." Once again, Narrator Chuck tells us what we're dying to find out—she had a healthy baby boy.

A program that pales in comparison is the generic offering called **The Judge**. Pathetic is a better word to describe this. Apparently the people at Channel 5 felt the same way,



A spectator comforting the emotionally shattered Ms. Valdez. (Photo courtesy Time/Life)

having moved this ratings monster from 3 pm weekdays to 1:30 am on weekday mornings.

We begin our show with the friendly neighborhood judge getting up in the morning, putting on his watch, and hopping into his Town Car while waving at his children. Bob Shield, in what has to be his most challenging role, stars as Judge Robert J. Franklin, who "chose the law as my way of serving my fellow citizens. As an elected judge in the family court, I pray each day that God will give the wisdom to always render justice with mercy." Touching words, Bob, but just what is the family court?

In a case titled "Neighborhood Witch," an old woman can't take care of her work around the house for two years after her husband kicked the bucket. Both the inside and outside of the house are deteriorating. Obviously, this doesn't do much for property values in the area. The leader of the neighborhood decides to take her to court and

shook her head from side to side.

In the end, the "witch" makes a heartfelt commitment to fix up her shabby little flat. The judge decides in her favor, and we see those pearly whites we've been waiting for, and now I can go to bed knowing that she's not such a witch after all.

The custody of a child is in the air when Judge Franklin presides in a case called "On the Border." The defendant, Anna Valdez, was a live-in housekeeper for the Barbers, the plaintiffs. Anna's baby, Miguel, is receiving more care from the Barbers than from his mother. While our one night at a bar, Anna is arrested, and it is discovered that (surprise!) she is an illegal alien.

Bob Shield then shows us his acting talent by wishing Anna good luck in Spanish. What a guy!

When Mr. Barber takes the stand, he tells of all the times Anna has left Miguel alone. Anna pulls a "neighborhood witch" by screaming, "Tell the truth! Tell the judge!" while attacking Mrs. Barber. She is promptly escorted from the courtroom by the bailiff (who did a fine job—he may be a possible replacement for the famed Rusty of **The People's Court** should he retire).


Anna returns to give her emotional testimony, including the story of how she got from Mexico to America (it sounded vaguely similar to the movie **Born in East L.A.**). Judge Franklin decides in Anna's favor. She can stay in the United States on a temporary work permit since she is the only one to care for little Miguel. Bob Shield then shows us his acting talent by wishing Anna good luck in Spanish. What a guy!

Well, there you have it. This new breed of court shows, although quite different from the originals, is both revolting and mildly entertaining at the same time (if that is possible). If NBC ever decides to add a laugh track to **The Judge**, which I strongly suggest, you could be seeing it between **Diff'rent Strokes** and **Three's Company** on Channel 32 in a few years!

Whenever something was said that she didn't agree with, her mouth opened wide,, and her eyes bulged out.

have her evicted.

The woman gets so emotional during the plaintiff's testimony that this **Bridge** reporter found it difficult to keep his composure. Whenever something was said that she didn't agree with, her mouth opened wide, her eyes bulged out and she slowly



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## We' don't get no R-e-s-p-e-c-t!

by Kerri Spoden



With spring just around the corner many things happen. The snow melts, the birds return from the south, and spring sports start practicing.

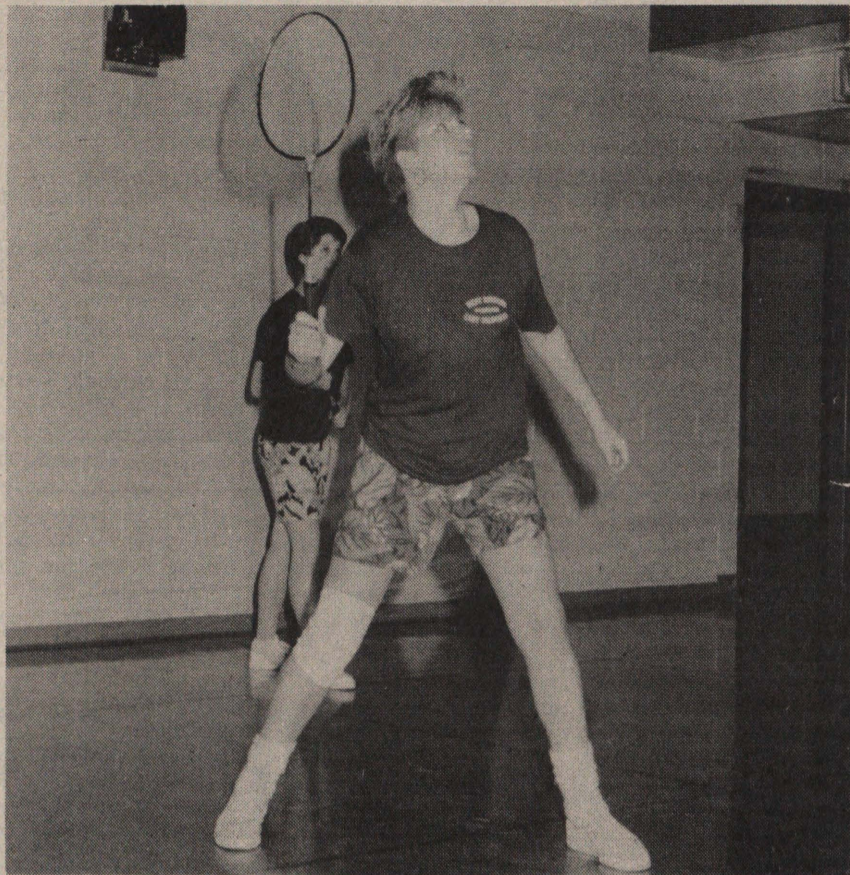
There are many spring sports but I would like to direct your attention to one of them that gets no respect - badminton. I know, many of you are laughing and saying "ha, badminton is not a real sport." I've heard people say "Gee, all you do is hit a bird back and forth. Whippie doo!" and "Oh, I could beat you any day." (You know who you are Mr. Wicklund). I'd like to shed some light on the sport.

Badminton involves two (or four) people using racquets to hit a bird across the net being sure to keep it from hitting the ground. Sounds easy, right? WRONG! In order to be a halfway decent player, you must know the

Does that sound like an easy thing to do six times a week?

An example of hard work and dedication that paid off is 1988 graduate Mindy Bert. Two years in a row (1987 and 1988), Bert went to state-the only player from We-go to do this. In doing so, she brought some recognition to our school. Doesn't that make you feel proud? Maybe, maybe not. Whatever the case, it shows that even the "wimpy" sports have talented people. The only person from this school to beat Bert was her doubles partner Kim Giller (1987 graduate) and Singleton. Believe me, many people have challenged and felt the wrath of a talented player.

Believe it or not, people do get injured playing badminton. This is another thing that may make you burst into laughter, but it's true. You can acquire injuries many ways. For example, if you are hit hard enough with a racquet, you can break a bone. Or, if a bird hits you in the eye or facial



Dream Team, Kerri Spoden and Peg Osterman practice their badminton techniques while setting their sights on state. (Photo courtesy of Challenge)

## Even the "wimpy" sports have talented people

techniques. Learning and developing skill takes a lot of practice and hard work. Once you have these skills down, you must develop your stamina and speed. Why? Because you need to get to the bird quickly or else you will hear it from coach Singleton. Your stamina is important because a match consists of the best out of three games. If your opponent is at the same skill level as you are, the match may last up to 45 minutes or longer. Other times, the match can be over within 15 minutes. To create a more vivid picture, imagine running in a 5k marathon or swimming non stop for two hours. This is how exhausting playing badminton can be. It's not just fun and games.

Another thing-the practices. They last for two hours everyday and usually three or four hours on Saturday. During these hours, we do many various drills. These range from wind sprints to lifting weights. We also play challenge matches against one another.

area, you could even go blind. Also, if you twist away from part of your body or stretch too far, you can pull or tear a muscle. Although they are not true injuries, hyper-ventalating and dehydration are common incidents.

One reason badminton isn't recognized as a "real" sport is because only a few choice colleges have teams. Yet, it is on its way to becoming an Olympic sport. If you want to see some real badminton players, watch the tournaments on ESPN or Sportsvision. The bird moves so fast sometimes you can't even see it. Try playing like that sometime.

If this has sparked some interest out there, stop by after school after February 27 and watch a match or two. Although we don't quite pack the small gym yet, you can be sure to see something exciting. Also, if you are interested in joining the team, contact coach Singleton or come to practice February 27.

## High hopes after high school

by Carrie Ryan

One of the most outstanding athletes at WCCHS has achieved many accomplishments, although only a junior.

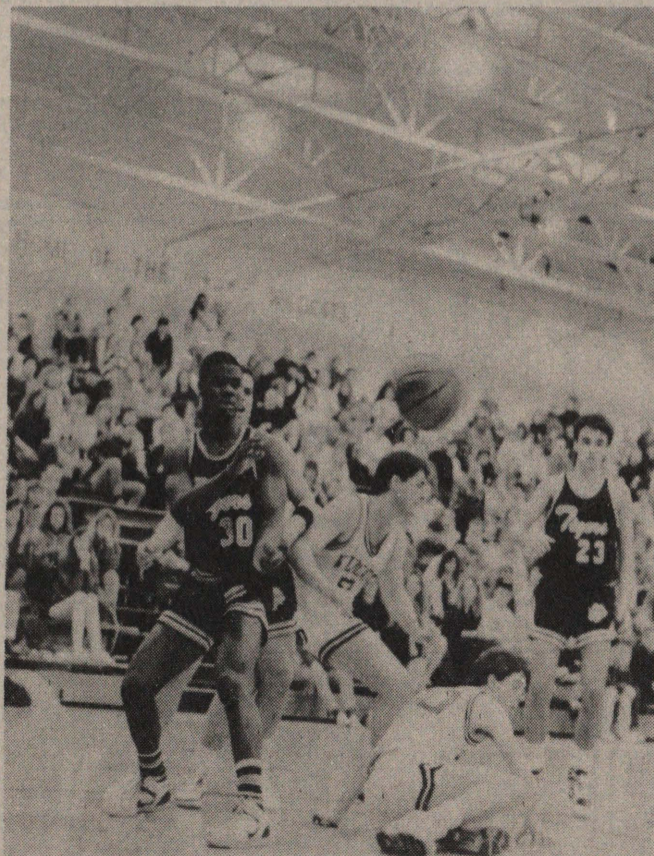
Angie Webb, 16, has been playing in many different sports since she was young. In seventh grade she started out with cross country and soccer, but as she proceeded on to eighth grade she took an interest in volleyball. "I always watched my mom play and I learned to love it," commented Webb. In her first year of high school, Webb played on the freshman team. But, as a sophomore, half way through the season Webb was moved up to varsity and has continued to aid the varsity team since. She plays as a middle hitter on the court. While Webb continues to play volleyball, she thinks of Steve Timmons, Olympic volleyball player as her idol.

During the winter, Webb plays basketball. She played with her next door neighbor as a kid and since then she has developed a good shot. She started in seventh grade and

has played ever since. She currently plays on varsity, and the team can look for her to shoot her three pointer in crunch situations. This year she was named Honorable Mention (All-Conference). During the summer she works hard at high school camp coached by Kim Wallner. Webb described as a very aggressive coach who looks to improve individuals. As a senior, Webb hopes to get the team to play together and keep a good positive attitude.

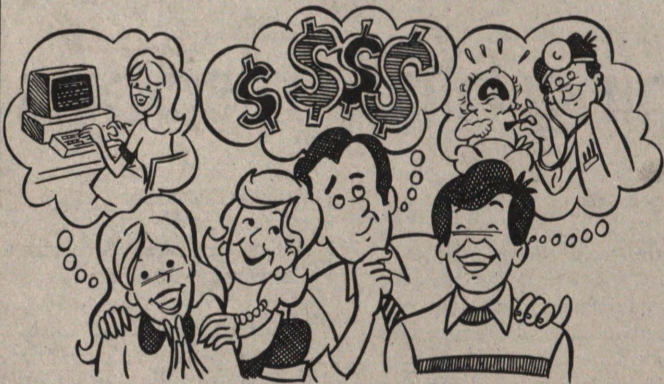
Rounding up the school year, Webb nails softballs out of the park, and plays short-stop. As a freshman, Webb was named Honorable Mention All Area by the Daily Journal. As she continued to play she earned designated hitter All Conference and All Area Utility, Second Team. Webb became such a good player through hard work and practices and working in the off season.

In the future she wants to play either basketball or softball, maybe volleyball if her jumping ability increases. She wants to attend a Big Ten School.



Senior Mark Hall stumbles after a made lay-up against Wheaton Central as teammate John Belli returns to the defensive position. (Photo by Steve Yuroff)

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## "Athletically Bound"

by Kelly Lee

Pursuing her career in swimming at West Chicago High School is what Carrie Ryan has on her mind. Ryan was offered scholarships at Illinois State University and Northern Illinois University.

Ryan has been on Sharks Swim Team for five years and four years of the high school team. She has also been on winter Sharks for two years.

"My mom has pushed me a lot," replied Ryan. Swimming allowed her to meet different people and travel to different places. "I find myself reaching many goals and seeing the outcome," stated Ryan.

At the end of 1985 Ryan had a knee operation so she started swimming to rebuild her knee. She swims the 100 backstroke, with a time of 1:06, 50 freestyle 25:70, 100 freestyle 56:00 and 50 backstroke 29:00. She has earned four years of varsity letters in swimming.

Swimming is just one of Ryans' sports. The girls' basketball team is her second favorite sport. Ryan has participated on the girls' basketball team for, four years. She has earned one junior varsity letter and two varsity letters. Ryan started playing basketball in the seventh grade for the West Chicago Junior High. Michael Jordan is her ideal in the sport of basketball.

Junior year she went out for track to improve her speed and strength. Coaching means a lot to Ryan she feels if you have a well organized coach that is not only criticizing but complimentary you will feel better and improve faster, and Coach Dan Johnson does just that according to Ryan. He has given Ryan confidence and helped her succeed the way she has leading her to the state swim meet her senior year.

Practices for both swimming and basketball consist of long distance and short distance sprints. Basketball includes running, drills, fundamentals, and half court scrimmages.

"I feel I am at my best when I help the team

succeed. I have always learn you can achieve whatever you want as long as you try," said Ryan.

Swimming has a lot to do with Ryan's life and future plans. She plans to swim in college, and either attend ISU or Purdue. "I feel best when I improve my times and, win against a swimmer who has a better time than me and have wanted to beat for a long time," stated Ryan.

Ryan has attended a Doug Bruno Basketball camp three years and also high school camps. "I am always looking to improve myself," stated Ryan.

## We-go athletes in action



Junior, Chad Busse rebounds against Wheaton Central at West Chicago Varsity game. (Photo by Steve Yuroff)



West Chicago vs. Glenbard East at West Chicago. Tyrone Parks rebounds while two opponents stretch to their ability. (Courtesy of Challenge)

## Aiming high in sports

by Randa Bascharon

"The first real team I played on was in baseball when I was seven I was called the White Sox." Junior Chris Nippert has played football, basketball, and baseball during his high school years. He was team captain for both football and basketball during his freshman and sophomore years. When asked about this he said, "I do not like to captain for the name. I like it because I like to motivate people and get them psyched up. I like to help in more ways than just playing." When asked about self goal he said, "A lot of people like to be conference champs, and yes that would be nice, but I'd rather see us win a regional or a play off. That way the whole team benefits plus theres alot more chances for people to be at conference".

When not playing sports, Nippert works on his computer, listens to music, and goes out with his friends. During the summer he plans to attend two to three football camps out of state and maybe go to basketball camp. His college goals are to make it into Stanford or MIT. All of which "would make him extremely happy."

by Randa Bascharon

When senior Mike Waterhouse was asked what his biggest blunder in sports was, he answered "When I was in seventh grade I shot at the wrong basket...but I didn't make it." Waterhouse has played football and basketball throughout his high school years. However, he isn't planning to play sports at Northwestern, the college he plans to attend. He hopes to transfer to Arizona State after a few years.

Waterhouse's self goal is to be the best in everything and "to be the best ever." This also includes sports. The first real team he

"To be the best ever"

ever played on was a basketball team when he was ten. But, this isn't as important as what he does in his free time which is the Nation's favorite past time- watching t.v.

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