

# The Bridge

West Chicago Community High School  
326 Joliet St. West Chicago, IL 60185  
May 26, 1989 Volume 18 Number 12

## Disciplinary actions not abused

by Anissa Garcia, Carolyn Hogan and Chris Inciso

"After a fight I had with this girl last year I got suspended for three days and she wasn't just because she was a senior and wouldn't graduate," says senior Randee Meinel.

Some students in WCCHS are angered by the authority's disciplinary actions. Authorities include teachers, paraprofessionals, counselors, deans and assistant principals. The problems seem to be misunderstandings of the school rules.

According to social worker Ronald Dow, "A fair rule is one that everyone agrees on." Dow stresses that the problem really doesn't deal with the school's rules but the way they are enforced. Dow explains, "There is a lot of stress in school." When people get all tense sometimes they say things that they don't mean. When these situations occur, the student always has the right to discuss the

problem in the office. Dow believes that it is better "to work within the system to change it" than take it in your own hands and risk punishment.

A concerned senior says, "Rules depend on each person's attitude. Students that act mature are treated fairly and students that aren't mature are treated like children."

In order for students to understand school rules, they should know what teachers expect in their classrooms. Physical education teacher Helen Zmrhal stresses respect and courtesy in her class. Zmrhal says, "A fair rule is one that has a reason behind it." Zmrhal feels that students can also be unfair. At times students will complain about Zmrhal to fellow classmates. She wishes the student would come to her first with the complaint.

Paraprofessional Wilbert Walters feels that all students are treated equally. "Students may feel they are being treated unfairly because

of their human nature or they are spoiled and irresponsible," says Walters. Walters feels that adults should enforce the rules.

Some students think paraprofessionals are unfair in the school. Junior Anissa Garcia said, "I was late to class and had to go down the stairs to rush to my class when a paraprofessional stopped me and made me go around the school, making me even later to my class." Garcia cannot understand why the paraprofessionals seem to make some situations even more difficult.

Teachers often will admit their mistakes. When Zmrhal realizes this, she says that she is only human and can sometimes make mistakes. Sometimes it is best for a student to open up to the teacher. Teachers will try to listen to the student's side of the story.

Dow states, "I don't think there is anyone in this school that's purposely abusing their authority; it's just a matter of a difference of opinions."

## Publications staff named

The editors for the 1989-90 Bridge staff include:

News	Dave Smith
Opinion	Peg Osterman
Features	Jeremy Mains
In-depth	Julie Mastro
Sports	Chris Seper
Photography	Kelly Howard
Business Manager	Liza Lenertz
Copy Editor	Bill Hein

The editors for the 1989-90 Challenge staff are as follows:

Amy Dyba	Editor-in-chief
Jeremy Mains	
Anissa Garcia	
Mike Westerhausen	
Amy Schwendeman	
Ray Hoffman	
Chau Truong	
Jeanine Bockman	
Chris Baginski	

## Mercy killing a controversial issue

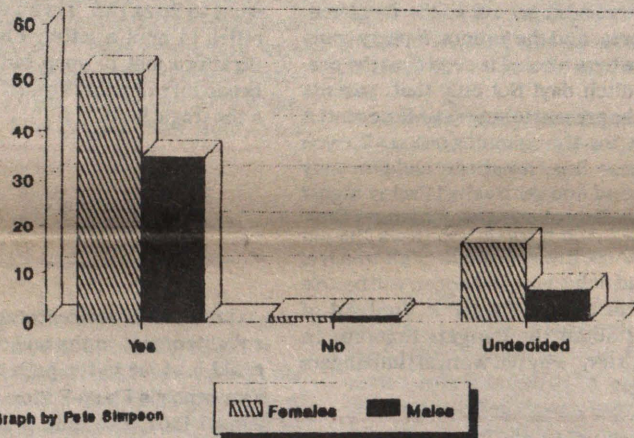
### Legalize Euthanasia?

by Michele Rittorno

Euthanasia, otherwise known as mercy killing, is a rising controversial issue. It is defined as a painless killing, especially to end a painful and incurable disease.

An example that occurred recently in the news involves a father and his son. According to the *Chicago Tribune*, Rodolfo Linares, a 23 year old father, unplugged the life-support system attached to his 15-month-old son. The son had been in a coma since August, 1988. A neighbor of the Linares, Bernice Kielb said, "He took the baby off the machine and held it in his arms." The police charged Linares with murder on April 26, 1989.

A number of people believe that the father did the right thing. WCCHS junior Julie



Mastro states, "If a person is only suffering, you must consider their feelings and the pain they are going through." Sherry Dillner, a junior, believes that killing an incurable family member should be legal. According to Dick Dougherty, *USA Today* columnist, if it is legal for pets, then why can't it be legal for humans. Pets are considered one of the family too.

Some people are against euthanasia because of their religious beliefs. Many religions view mercy killing as another term for suicide. Father Richard Prodehl of St. Luke's Parish in Carol Stream confirms that Catholics believe that suicide is taking away a life that God gave mankind. Catholics consider taking away a life a sin. They believe it should be determined by God only.

## Inkspots ...

### French leave with knowledge

On May 13 the 25 French exchange students left with a little more knowledge about life in America. "All I saw confirmed what I was thinking about Americans," said Pierre Levy. "I think that the Americans like to live. You think and pay attention to others. The people in France are more selfish," said Kati Schmitt.

### Graduation info.

The class of 1989 will hold their graduation ceremony on June 11 at 2 p.m. in the Bishop Gym.

Graduation practice is mandatory and will be on June 10 in the Bishop Gym. Seniors who do not attend the practice will not be able to participate in commencement.

The last week for seniors is June 5 to 9. Honors Night is on June 8 at 8 p.m. in the Weyrauch Auditorium. There is also the senior breakfast and picture on June 10 from 7:30 to 9 a.m., followed by the graduation practice. Seniors must complete all academic requirements and all fines must be paid before graduation practice.

### Bridge wins

The *Bridge* recently earned first place in a contest sponsored by the American Scholastic Press Association. The judge commented, "You have a fine publication. It has a clean, crisp style that is found in scholastic newspapers that have a staff, editor, and advisor who understand each other and work hard on the fundamentals of reporting and production."

### Peer listeners

Peer listeners have been chosen for the 1989-90 school year. They are Taretta Arnold, Jackie Brockman, Amy Brigowatz, Christy D'Aquila, Sandy Dawson, Sherry Dillner, Collette Dispensa, Elma Garza, Danella Herman, Dee Hesseling, Andy Johnson, Jenny Johnson, Missy King, Kim Kosatka, Jenny Kovac, Brian Kozlovsky, Jason Macek, Jeremy Mains, Sandra Marrero, Jenny McCann-Wilke, Matt Moran, Nancy Nolan, Kerri O'Neill, Ben Penafior, Gala Pierce, Michele Rittorno, Ben Seaver, Angie Spalo, Sue Stadjuhar, Bonnie Staniels, Darren Suess, Heather Wagner, Chris Wicklund, Mike Wilson, Brandi Winquist and Matt Zollner. Training for first-time peer listeners will be July 10-14 from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.

### King writes book

Brian King, a former graduate of WCCHS class of 1988, has just finished writing his autobiography called *There's Always Hope*. King was diagnosed with cancer last year. The book is about his struggle with cancer. The book has been accepted by Vantage Press Publishers from New York. King is not sure about the publishers; right now he is still looking for the best offer. There's no exact date when the book will be published.

### New lights

The West Chicago-Winfield-Wildcat Booster Club is planning to install a completely new lighting system on the football, soccer and track field at WCCHS. The estimated cost is \$75,000. Their goal is to brighten up the field in the fall of 1990.

## Lemkau exchanges to Germany

by Peg Osterman

Junior Gregg Lemkau will be spending next year in Germany as part of the Y.F.U. (Youth For Understanding) exchange program.

Lemkau will fly to Washington, D.C. on July 17, and continue to Frankfurt, West Germany. In Frankfurt, he will study and review the German language for one month while living with a host family. Skills learned in this month will determine where he will stay for the next ten months. Lemkau plans to return in June, 1990.

Lemkau has taken three years of German at WCCHS, and is fairly fluent. "I speak better than I write," he says, but admits his grammar "could use some brushing up."

By travelling to Germany, Lemkau hopes to improve his fluency and experience another culture. "When the German students came over here, they had some pretty strong opinions about things, but it was kind of confusing," he says. "I think that by going over there, I'll have a better understanding

of why they think like they do."

Lemkau also says he is interested in "meeting people—finding out about them." He has a general interest in Germany and explains, "I wouldn't be going if I wasn't really into it."

Previous exchange students, such as Kelly Howard and Yvonne Schlotzer, were a primary influence in Lemkau's decision. After they went on exchange, Lemkau realized, "This is a thing that could really happen to me."

Lemkau says that he won't mind missing senior year at WCCHS. "It's just gonna be another year at the same place," he says. However, he will miss his family and the "open-mindedness" he feels is characteristic of American society.

Overall, Lemkau anticipates next year to be a "good experience." However, he feels that Germans will have less "open-minded" opinions and values than Americans do, but says he "may be making judgments too soon." "Basically," he says, "I have to go over there with an open mind."

## Knutson is student of April

Student of the month for April was Tracy Knutson. She is currently serving as the Senior Class president and has been a four year member of the school volleyball team. Knutson plans to major in business when she attends Butler University in the fall of 1989.

## Choir performs

The last choir concert of the year will be on June 6 at 7 p.m. Concert choir, freshman choir, sophomore choir, swing choir and the madrigals will perform.

## Class elections

<b>Class of 1990</b>	
President	Jaret Adrian
Vice President	John Pohodich
Secretary	Kirsten Nelson
Treasurer	Randa Bascharon
<b>Class of 1991</b>	
President	Kim Labelle
Vice President	Erika Noble
Secretary	Sarah Ognie
Treasurer	Gina Lattoria
<b>Class of 1992</b>	
President	Doug Campbell
Vice President	Nikki Brockman
Secretary	Derek Schoepf
Treasurer	Lynn Ellerbroch



# It's graduation

In past years, the graduation ceremonies have been rowdy and somewhat uncontrollable. They were mockeries of an important occasion in all of our lives. Some teachers stopped coming to the ceremonies because student behavior was intolerable. The speakers could not be heard, and no one seemed to care what was going on.

In recent years, however, this has improved. Graduation has been run more orderly, and has been overall more interesting. The speakers have been interesting and it has been possible to listen to them without the disturbance of people talking. The problem that seems to worry some seniors this year is that the ceremonies may be too strict. They want to throw their hats for instance, and the administration does not want that to happen. The hats are rented, but we do not see the harm in returning anyone's hat, even if it isn't yours.

We just want a light ceremony at which we can be serious and have fun.

# Ditch day prevention is useless

by Clint Wadsworth



With the end of the year, the student body can see that the administration has once again failed to curtail the execution of "Senior Ditch Day." Besides the slew of letters which arrived at the households of seniors, verbal warnings were a common experience of many seniors. Sure, low attendance occurred on a couple of days - just what the administration warned would happen. I don't think this could be attributed to the poor organization of the event. Many seniors ditched the first ditch

other interesting aspects of "Senior Ditch Day" which were as unknown to the seniors as they undoubtedly are to the freshmen, sophomores, and the juniors. A party could happen where alcohol is served on the designated ditch day! Not only that, parents may not be present to supervise the event! A question for the administration: Do you think these fine, American children may turn around and get trashed Friday night? Or maybe Saturday night? Or maybe Sunday night? And if so, do you think the parents of these fine specimens of all which is grand and noble in an American will be able to control them? Forget it. Instead of warning about the dangers inherent in ditching a day, why not warn of the dangers of alcohol?

# 'This is not a joke'

day, May 12, because the thought of being in ISS didn't particularly appeal to them. However, this punishment didn't stop them from ditching the next Friday or the Friday after that. When asked if they would ditch another day, 23 seniors out of 26 said they would. Craig Emery, senior, said, "You don't ditch on ditch day - you ditch on other days." What are the implications of these particular statistics? By attempting to stop "Senior Ditch Day," the administration is actually disrupting the learning process. Instead of one ill-attended day, three to six were experienced. This includes ISS days, if the deans make good on their promises.

Included in the letter, reportedly "from the desk of Dr. Alan Jones" there were some

Not only can a student become a boozehound, he or she can effectively destroy his or her career as a result of participating in senior ditch day. Sound like a joke? This is not a joke, and the letters from Jones say so.

I believe the administration should be lenient when ditch day comes up next year. They are making a big deal out of a relatively trivial tradition. I am thoroughly sick of the administration's incessant trail of propaganda. If it is not obvious to them how ridiculous they look, they are more oblivious to reality than I thought. Be reasonable!

If they don't change their policy, I hope your parents are like mine. They laughed and laughed and asked me when they should call in for me.

# I'm an innocent victim

by Jim Hurlburt



Well, here it is. The end of the school year. Hooray! (How's that for a short lead?)

It also happens to be the last publication of the **Bridge** and more importantly my last column. (Go on you can say it - Hooray!)

So, today, I'm going to venture to a place where only a few million writers have gone before, the good bye column. But wait! Don't think this is going to degenerate into some sappy piece with *The Way We Were* playing in the background. No, with this last article I want to leave you, my adoring fans, with some great words of wisdom, some earth shaking ideas that will make you wish you had bothered to read some of my earlier columns when you had the chance. Only thing is I don't know where the hell to begin. (Sorry, I'm not supposed to use the H-word anymore. Just cross it out and write in the word 'heck', O.K.?)

So I sat down in front of my computer - the demon from Heck - and struck my most intellectual pose and waited for the universe to enlighten me with wisdom. Then I remembered the only way to reach enlightenment is to go on a journey, (Journey theme. Get it Dr.F.) so like a modern day Siddhartha I went to Pizza Hut. Then I went to the post office to mail a letter. Finally I went to Stratford just to shop but after awhile I began to realize that I'm just not cut out to be a tragic hero.

quility radiated from his body mingling with the thick cigar smoke that still blazed from a number of half used butts on the floor. He was a sight to behold.

"Oh great Oracle of We-go, seer of all true wisdom, please show me the path so that I may also join you in the quest..." But before I could finish my sentence the high-priest spoke.

"Yeah, yeah. You want to be enlightened to the wonders of the universe. I've heard it a million times before."

He then proceed to sketch out a map to the old fountain in Grant Park and then he gave me a set of instructions of what to do once I have reached the destination. The list explained that once at the fountain I should drink of the dancing waters and thus my soul would be purified and I would be ready to enter into the Light.

Going as fast as my car would permit I rushed to what I believed would be the answer to all my earthly problems. As I arrived I was dazzled by the many brilliant hues that formed in the shooting spray and it seemed that the waters were speaking to me and among all the things it said it said ohm. Breaking away from the hypnotic trance the golden hues seemed to put me through I rushed to greet the life giving waters and to fulfill the last part of my quest.

I woke up two hours later. It appears that the waters were not as pure or life giving as I was first lead to believe but filled with a number of chemicals. I later found out that these were used to give the water the numerous colors that I gazed upon before passing out.

# 'Don't drink the water'

Undaunted, I decided to take my search for enlightenment to the one man who I new could lead me to the path of wisdom. Our own school's Photo Editor, the high-priest Ismael Rios. The only problem with this solution was how to reach him. You see the Editor keeps himself locked up in the photo lab where he is able to soak up the cosmic rays and inhale strange fumes from a wide variety of chemicals while chanting ohms to himself again and again. Almost needless to say he does not like to be disturbed.

As I stood in front of the door to his inner Sanctum a sense of foreboding washed over me but then a voice rang out, as clear as a bell, "What do you want Herb? If it's your Tempo you ain't getting it."

"No," I said, "I have come to seek the smallest possible piece of wisdom from you so that I may enlighten my readers."

What readers?" replied the legendary Editor of West Chicago. "Oh, never mind. Just get the heck in here."

As I entered the room the first thing I noticed was some heavenly music in the background, namely a record of Jonny Vomit's greatest hits, but then I saw Him, the Editor in the flesh. Or maybe I should say dressed in what appeared to be an old Snoopy bed sheet draped across his shoulders. An aura of peace and tran-

After regaining my strength I rushed back to the hallow halls of We-go High to give that phony swami a piece of my mind. I found him once again hidden in the dark recesses of the photo lab and began to give him a stern talking to when he silenced me with a raise of his hand.

"Ah, my son. I see that you are now ready to receive the advice that I promised to give you."

I was taken aback by this statement but decided not to let this throw me and said "Huh? You tried to poison me!"

"That was just a test I make all my faithful followers go through. I am now ready to enlighten you to the world."

"Well go ahead!" I said, getting a little peeved by all of this.

"Don't drink the water."

"What!?"

"Don't drink the water. You going a bit deaf or what?"

I was furious. "You mean to say that's it. I went through all this trouble for 'Don't drink the water.' I thought you would solve all my problems."

"Oh, there is one more thing, you owe me twenty bucks. Cash or charge."

It was then that I had finally found true wisdom for the answer came to me in a flash and as it dawned on me the editor smiled and said.

"You got it kid. Nothing in life is free."

# I've got a gripe with after school announcements

Dear editor,

I have a bit of a gripe. It concerns the announcements that are made after school. As soon as the bell rings at 3:30 pm., someone comes on and starts saying something. These things obviously must be important or else they wouldn't be said. But, everyday, all I hear is a bunch of mumbled words. What would happen if a nuclear war was about to occur and they needed to inform us? I know for a fact if they an-

nounced it at 3:30, I wouldn't hear it.

I have one simple solution to this dilemma. Start the announcements a few minutes before 7th hour is over. Most teachers have finished class by then and it would allow everyone to hear the announcements.

Thank you!  
Kerri Spoden

## 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.



# Play is 'Hobbit'-forming



by Peg Osterman

Fire-breathing dragons, fierce mutated goblins, toothless trolls, elvin magic, and "slimy creatures." Does this frighten you? How about a cast of thirty-or-so actors running a show on less than five weeks of rehearsal? Now this should scare you. It scared me.

Normally, a production takes six weeks to become anywhere close to presentable, especially with a big cast. *The Hobbit* ran on approximately four. At the matinee, the set was sadly incomplete, and director Ralph Zaffino apologized profusely for it in an uncharacteristic introduction before the show.

But the introduction was appropriate, considering that the audience consisted mainly of fifth-graders from local schools. I, too, witnessed the matinee amongst youngsters in safety-orange coats and "Pound Puppies" tee-shirts. I was expecting something really big after seeing the YELLOW shirts around school, ("Warning! Contents may be Hobbit-forming." How cute.) but I wasn't overjoyed at the prospect of being trapped with eleven-year-olds for two hours.

Surprisingly, the audience was more polite and responsive than most high-school level audiences. I was greatly relieved. But the lack of rehearsal time was obvious, as scene changes were relatively awkward and some spots were pretty bumpy. So maybe fifth-graders were the safest audience, as they were prone to overlook technical difficulties. But, despite complications, the cast of *The Hobbit* managed to swing an entertaining and lavish opening show on Thursday, May 11.

The cast contained a record-breaking 29 members, and brought many new faces to the We-Go stage. Major parts were: Diane Madden as hobbit Bilbo Baggins, Jess Nelson as wizard Gandalf, Matt Moran as Thorin, the dwarf leader, and Roxane Rose as Gollum. (No one's quite sure what "Gollum" is - the script describes it as a "slimy creature." Go figure.) Other main characters were the dragon Smaug, played by Jeremy Mains, and the Elvin Queen, played by Amy Schwendeman, who resurfaced often in the show.

Madden was impressive as the reluctant hero, Mr. Bilbo Baggins. Yes, *Mister* Bilbo Baggins. But due to a solid portrayal and realistic hobbit garb, the sex change was easy to overlook.

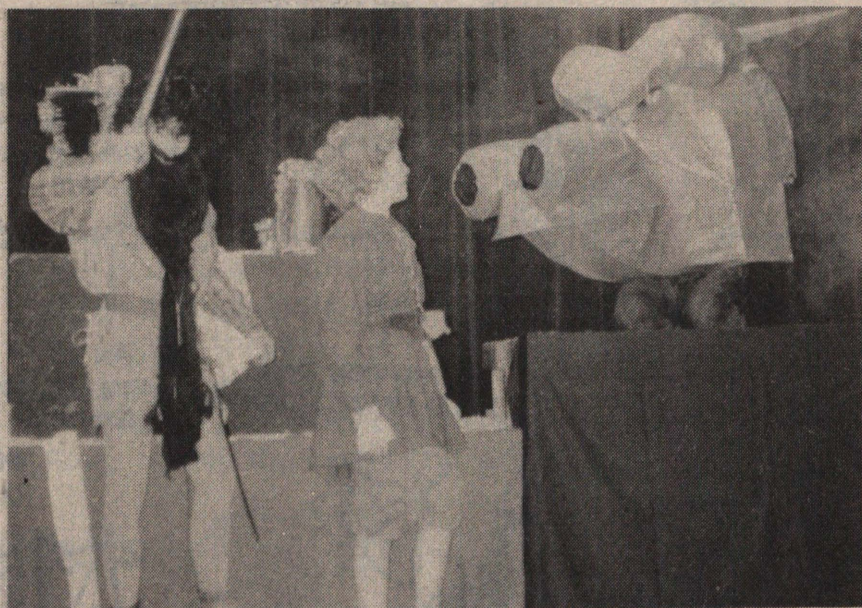
Nelson also gave a commendable per-

formance as the beard-petting Gandalf, a relic of sorcery complete with starred robe and hat. Nelson says he modeled his character after an anonymous biology sub, and if you've ever seen this guy, the resemblance is striking. His voice and mannerisms fit the character perfectly, leaving no trace of the Jess Nelson we all know and love.

Other memorable performances were given by Moran and Rose. Moran was perhaps the most consistent character through the play, while Rose had the audience mimicking her hisses as she slunk about in flippers saying, "Yesssss, my pressscioussss." Skidding onstage in an innertube, she was a sight in black goggles which reportedly fogged up to become opaque. Despite being blind, she moved about as well as any neurotic lizard could.

Dwarves were another major part of the cast, and were adorable with their high cartoon voices, hiking boots, tights, and tunics, some bordering on indecent exposure. They were artistically played by Mark Carlberg, John Kufer, Amy Lindstrand, Linda Malec, Jeff Manning, Andrea Miller, Laura McPheters, Labrini Nicolopolou, Andy Runyan, Ismael Rios, and Steven Yuroff.

The remainder of the cast played a hodgepodge of elves, goblins, and wood elves. Many people traded roles, playing an elf in one scene and a goblin in the next. The transitions were made so well that it was nearly impossible to identify the actors from previous scenes. These characters were played by Bill Bridgeforth, Danielle Caffarello, Lisa Childs, Jennie McCann-Wilke, Joy Nevin, Lisa Riegert, Sara Rohr, Rina



Bilbo confronts the evil Smaug. Jeremy Mains, as Thorin, Matt Moran, prepares for the dragon's slaying.

celling than listening to Madden's lines.

The most impressive special effect was Smaug, the snarling, green-eyed dragon. Tolkien fan Mains strutted and roared as well as any medieval horror might, a portrayal which atoned for the fact that the dragon was only half-built. Smaug's anticlimactic slaying was somewhat disappointing, but I was awe-stricken nonetheless.

Action in this play did not remain solely on the stage. Zaffino used the aisles and the

and crew assembled at the foot of the stage to answer things like, "Why didn't the dwarves take the rest of the loot?" and "How did the trolls like to be dirty and sloppy?" The cast was stumped on a few questions, but it was an enriching experience for the kids.

*The Hobbit* was definitely the most elaborate show on the Weyrauch stage in recent history, but fell a little short on dramatic content. It was amusing, but often for the wrong reasons; pieces of the set fell over, and Smaug's green flashlight eyes went out three minutes after he died. According to Mains, "Some of it was bad, but after you've poured enough work into it, it all looks fine." It went pretty smoothly, considering we've had such a small amount of time, said McCann-Wilke, but Miller commented, "It seemed disjointed because some of the actors and actresses didn't take this seriously until the last week."

Despite cut rehearsal time and other complications, *The Hobbit* pulled through to become a well-acted and interesting show. The fifth-graders liked it, and I was well-entertained. There is so much to look at in this show, that it really needs to be seen twice to catch it all. I went again the next night. Now that has to prove something, doesn't it?

**I mean, it's not every day snarling furry things rush past me with swords.**

Saha, Amy Schwendeman, Chris Seper, Sasha Villaume, and Michelle Wandt.

My favorite characters, however, were the trolls. Dressed in various earthy clashes of plaid and tiger-stripe, they were played by McCann-Wilke, Seper, and Riegert. Belching and bickering in obnoxious Cockney accents, they were a wonderful addition to the plot, and resembled rejects from MTV's sitcom, *The Young Ones*. It was refreshing to see more memorable roles for both McCann-Wilke and Riegert, and this troll performance was Seper's best ever. The trolls had one of the more polished scenes of the show, and I would have loved to see them in another part of the play. Pity they turned into stone at the end of the scene.

For every character, it took a good ten minutes to figure out who they were. By this, I mean *The Hobbit* had the most elaborate make-up and costume jobs at We-Go since *Last of the Leprechauns* way back when. I spent the first two scenes studying my program to convince myself that these really were the dame folks I see in school every day. From dwarves in scary wigs and ZZ Top beards to goblins in random fur and skull-caps, everybody truly looked as if they had plummeted out of a Hans Christian Anderson tale, and the overall effect was charming. Bravo for the make-up crew.

Some cast members did not share my fascination with the costumes. "I look like I'm going straight to the health spa from clown class," remarked Rose. According to Vish, "the beards fall apart really easily," but Runyan said he, "finally knows how guys with beards learn how to eat." "The costumes are really hot to work in," complained Miller. But despite sweltering conditions backstage, the cast looked great, and got a chance to show off their legs in multi-colored tights.

Although it didn't include singing plants or faux human appendages, special effects of *The Hobbit* were comparable to last year's musical, *Little Shop of Horrors*. Highlights included an indoor "rainstorm," "glowing" swords, (both nifty tricks of the lighting crew) and billowing green smoke. The smoke produced a collective cough from the stage right audience, but worked well. In fact, it worked so well that the audience spent more time watching it curl to the

area in front of the first row to draw the audience into the production. A battle between the dwarves and goblins was made particularly interesting by being in the audience, including a dash through and over everyone in the third row. While it was exciting for the kids, I was a little nervous about having my legs severed by a charging goblin. I mean, it's not every day snarling, furry things rush past me waving swords.

A brief question and answer session was held at the end of the show, where the cast

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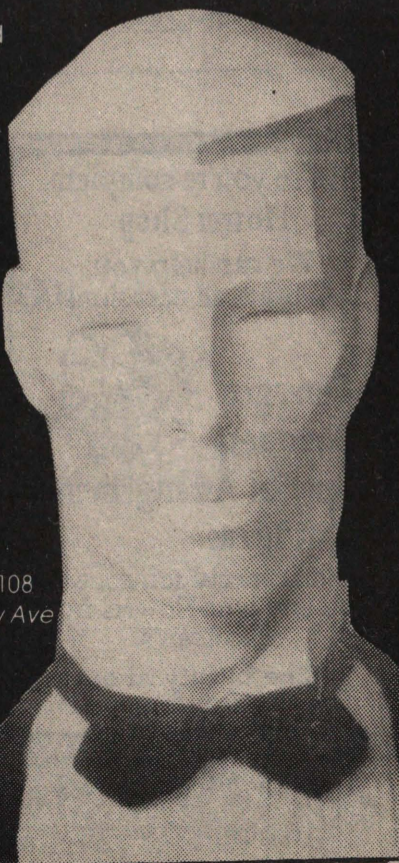
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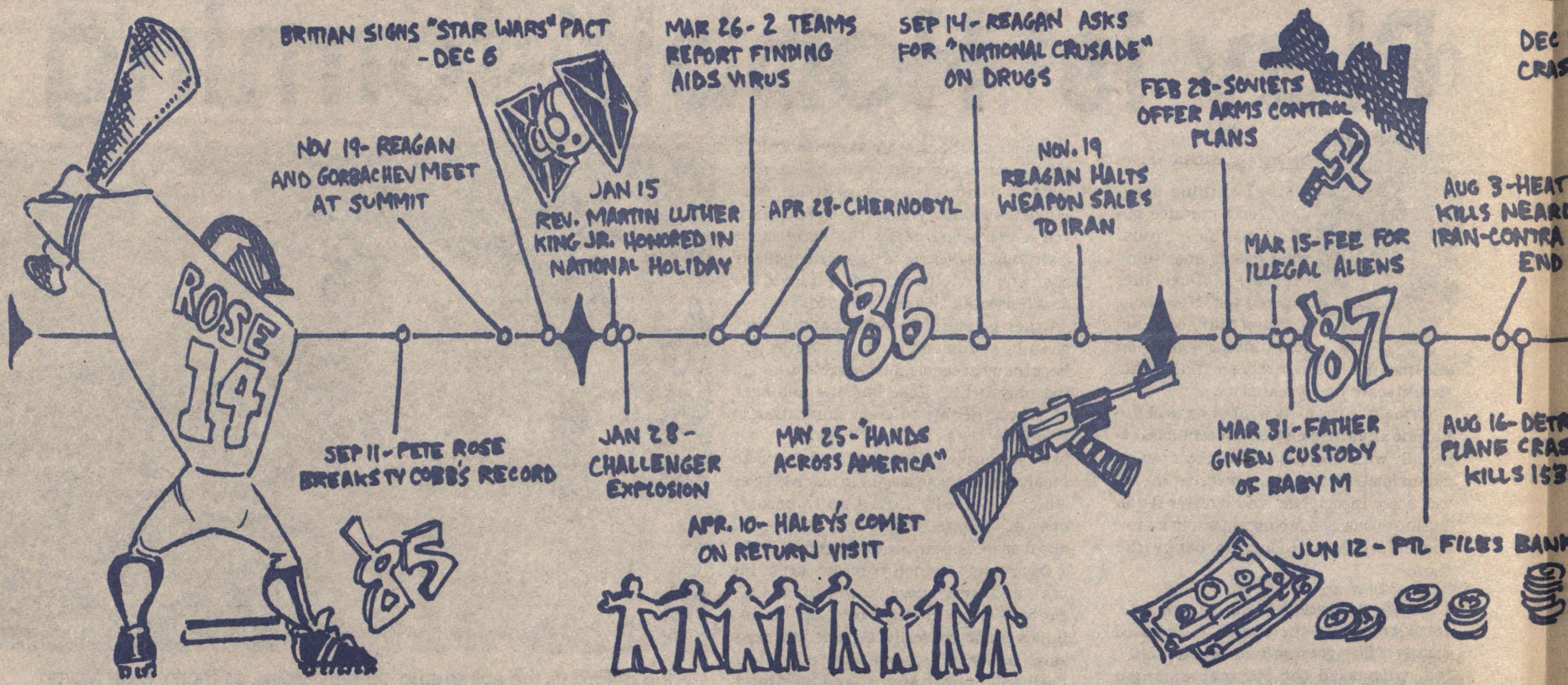
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Bilbo Baggins, Diane Madden, and Galdolf, Jess Nelson, discuss the possibility of a fine adventure. (photos by Kelly Howard)







## Changing the faces of media

by Clint Wadsworth

Most American teens dedicate their adolescent years to the pursuit of entertainment. The entertainment industry, mainly television and the movies, has a major role in the formation of viewers' opinions. Many things have changed over the last four years in the industry. Fads have come and gone. However, there have been basic, noticeable changes in television and film.

The average teenager opts for the television over schoolwork almost every time. According to *TV and Teens*, most teenagers watch over 23 hours of television a week. Yet at the same time, they only spend about four hours on homework a week. Indeed, Sunday is generally regarded as the proper time for homework.

What is the effect of an adolescent's relationship with TV? Hopefully, it is not the foreshadowing of a massive, servile army of couch potatoes whose brains have been subdued by the boob tube. Television is increasingly seen as a champion of equality for such causes as women's rights.

Senior Dave Keding said, "Television has changed somewhat over the last four years. The equality of minorities, especially women and blacks, is a popular theme."

Certainly, the bigotry of *All in the Family* is gone, and the ignorant stereotyping of *Sandford and Son* and *Good Times* is no longer prevalent.

This change has happened because many believe that Americans are becoming more informed and are throwing away their prejudices.

But some, like senior John Barstad, think that viewers do not want to see the truth on the screen. Barstad said, "This trend (of equality) does not result from the kinder, gentler heart of television, but from the viewers' desire to see happy endings. That is, equal rights are in vogue."

Regardless of the intentions of the television industry, the images which it gives us are changing. With smart shows such as *The Cosby*

and *L.A. Law*, the teenage viewer sees an America of equality.

The movie industry, like the television industry, has changed over the last four years.

Keding said, "I think the movie industry is becoming more liberal after all those conservative years." Keding went on to mention films which deal with Vietnam, such as *Platoon*. He also mentioned that *Rain Man* could change many peoples' opinions.

Many voiced Keding's sentiments about films of the last four years. However, some felt that the quality of films has declined.

Senior Carrie Bayliss said, "I think it (the entertainment industry) is getting trashier, especially movies." She wonders how many times the dashing hero has saved the damsel in distress.

But people want to see this. Barstad claims, "Cinema is the opium of the masses. That is, it's a form of escapism for weak-hearted individuals that live insignificant, lackluster lives."

Nonetheless, the movie industry has changed many attitudes. Some cliches do exist in the film industry, but many positive changes have changed in its stance on minorities, Vietnam and other social causes.

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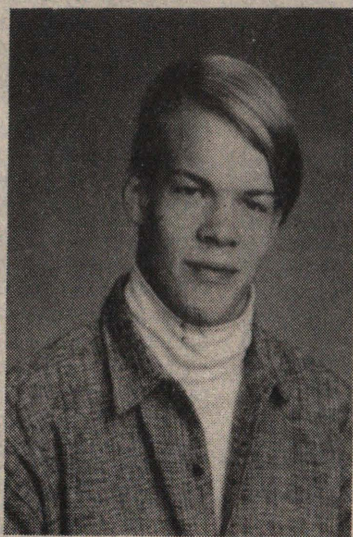
## Photopinion

(photos courtesy of Challenge)

"What was the best/worst thing you remember about Senior year?"



Tara Brooks -89-  
Worst: "Mr. Getz and taking attendance for P.E."  
Best: "Being accepted to all the colleges that I applied to."



Steve Geick -89-  
Worst: "My senior year."  
Best: "Hal"



Kristell Huber -89-  
Worst: "Institutional meals"  
Best: "You can say and do what you want."

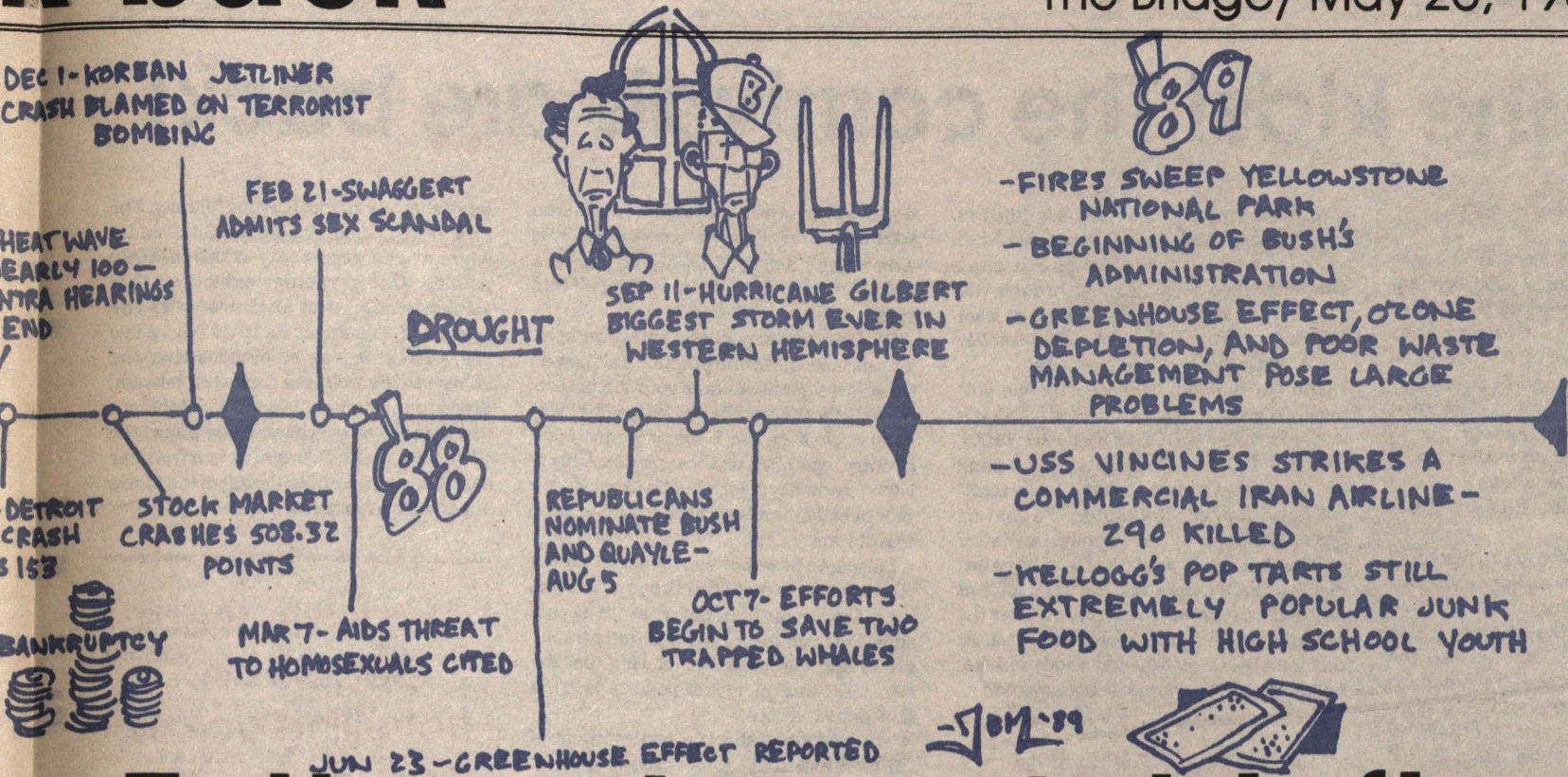
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# Exit — stage right, finally

by Mike Moffatt

This article is dedicated to three things: 1) helping those who have to crawl back into this hole next year; B) providing an outlet for students to gripe; C) pointing out the good aspects of certain students' senior years.

Kristen Myers gripe is ironic. As cases of senioritis become more severe, she believes that a teacher assigns more homework to compete with this apparent lack of industriousness. She likes the freedom of having sixth and seventh hour off, which helps her deal with the increased homework load.

The universal problem this year seems to have been a lack of parties. Mark Hall said, "The year went too fast and there were not enough parties." For Hall, the lack of enjoyable activity on the weekends was offset by sports. He said that he enjoyed being a part of a good basketball team.

Brian Vanzenten's peeve is snow in May. He said, "Being from California, it never snows." Vanzenten looks on the bright side; this year is over and the summer is here.

Did you get a letter from the school about Senior Ditch Day? Bette Purnell did. She thought that it was ludicrous and would not prevent students from the traditional ditch. The best part of her senior year was winning the regional volleyball tournament. She said, "It showed the guys what it takes to be a winner." Ouch!

John Barstad and Mike Williams made a list of demands that would have to be met in order for them to come back next year. Needless to say,

this is fake and they would not come back if paid a million dollars. At the top of the list is tenure and absolute power. The next item is one of the more practical on the list, black chalk and white chalk boards. Less practical, but still a necessity for a quality education, is a 20 year old blonde librarian.

To help Student Council finances, Barstad and Williams plan a pie throwing contest with Alan Jones, John Highland and Richard Kamm as targets. This contest would be held during homecoming week and a minimal fee would be charged, of course.

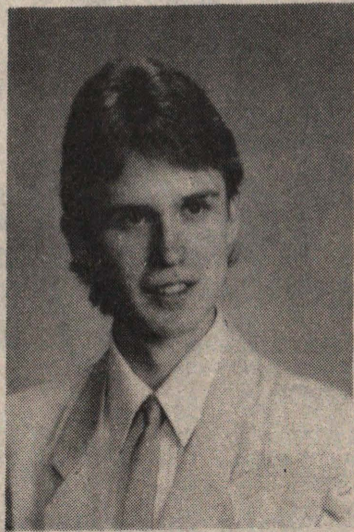
Perhaps in an effort to liven up the school day, Barstad and Williams request a three martini lunch, with adequate time to consume these beverages without being unmannerly.

Seniority in school should have its privileges, such as the ability to cut through the lunch

lines, like teachers. Along the lines of privileges come certain amenities necessary for the aspiring student who wants to become more than just another fifth year senior. These amenities include carpeting in every room and hallway, wallpaper in rooms, Craftmatic reclining seats, and elevator music permeating the hallways during passing periods, according to Barstad and Williams.

Perhaps on an autocratic whim, Barstad and Williams demand that underclassmen worship and make sacrifices to upperclassmen.

Perhaps this list of demands is not what you had in mind. Perhaps there would be less of a chance for you to come back in the fall as there would be for Hell to freeze over. A reminder: Freshmen have 566 days left; Sophomore have 381 days left; Juniors have 196 days left; Seniors have 8 (darn close to zero).



Dave Keding -89-  
Worst: "The past seventeen years."  
Best: "The thought that I'm getting out of here."

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## Hide the kids! The carnivals are back!



by Brian Stieglitz

Summer is nearly upon us. A good sign that it has begun is either A) kids in Chicago have opened up fire hydrants, B) George Steinbrenner has fired the current Yankee manager, or C) dozens of carnivals open up in the area. A carnival is an annual American tradition that we don't know whether to be proud of or ashamed of.

The wide variety of rides are either small kiddie things that go in endless circles or death machines accompanied by loud music. There is always that one ride that is only run for an hour at a time because the bolts holding it together have all come apart.

The names of these entertainment monsters are worth the price itself. The "Salt and Pepper Shaker," "Pirate," and "Tilt-a-Whirl" are some of the all-time great names. I can imagine some weird, sweaty guys sitting around in a mobile home somewhere on their carnival tour trying to think of some names for their rides. *Scummy Guy* (takes a long drag on his Marlboro)- "Well it kinda tilts around and then whirls at da same time, ya know?"

My personal favorite was "The Himalaya" because of the fine DJ/throttle man running the thing. The guy would urge you up on the rickety floor surrounding the cars. His voice is like a young Casey Kasem, only he isn't playing top 40 on those cheap speakers that should have been trashed by Pete Townshend 20 years ago.

After the powder-blue cars are filled to capacity and the DJ's two assistants have strapped you in with a chain that Grandma's poodle could break through, you are ready for the ride of your life (or at least that night). Lynyrd Skynyrd's *That Smell* is throbbing out of the tired speakers.

The DJ bellows "Heeeeeerrre we go!" Slowly the circle of cars starts to squeak its way forward. "OOOOOOOHHH THAT SMELLLLLL!" Now the DJ gets into it, telling all riders, "If ya wanna go faster scrrrrream!" "LLLLLlouder!" "Faaaster, Faaaster, Faaaster!" "Go, Go, Go Machine Go!" (after five years I still don't know what that means). Sirens, bells and horns go off, but under all that noise you can faintly hear the sound of metal grinding against metal. At this point the DJ slows it down and the metal fatigue ends. "Ya wanna go backwards?"

**After latching the cage with a piece of dental floss, he sends you on your way.**

Another one of my favorite rides is "The Zipper," which I guarantee will make you lose something; if not your lunch, then all the change in your pocket. Again, the wonderful man running the ride is often the highlight. As you are seated in the casket-like cage, he slams the door numerous times until he pronounces it closed by mumbling "yeah" (or something similar). After latching

it with a piece of dental floss, he sends you on your way. Every time you pass the guy he is either taking a drag on his cig, sipping on a unknown beverage, or just staring off into space.

While on the subject of carnival workers, let's discuss these fine people. First, how do these guys qualify to take your life in their hands? By the number of tattoos he has? And while they are travelling across the country, how often do these people shower? I don't know about you, but I'd like to have a pair of clean hands give me my crispy Elephant Ears.

I also love how they conveniently lay out the carnival so that all of the popular rides are placed as far from the entrance as possible. Between these rides and the entrance are a long line of games offering fun, excitement, and plenty of posters bearing half-naked women.

The basketball shooting contest is one of the most impossible games around. The rim is stiff and smaller than the regulation basket. So unless you swish every shot, you cannot win. Should you happen to pull it off, Mr. Tattoo will give you a choice between a purple panda the size of your hand, a green dog the size of your hand, or a pink ball with arms and legs which is smaller than your hand. Should you happen to win a few more of these tiny treasures, you can trade up for a blue bear the size of your arm. So, basically, you end up spending twenty bucks to win something that probably cost some company in Taiwan two dollars to make.

One final feature of a carnival, and the one that has to be the most shameful of all, is the

freak show. I can recall seeing "Jimmy, The Frog Boy," "Gina, The Snake Girl," and a woman who reportedly weighed 1000 pounds. One particular exhibition that sticks in my mind the most was the "Werewolf Woman" at Railroad Days a few years back. It was so obvious that the change to the wolf was done with mirrors. When the kid in front of me pointed this out five minutes after everyone else knew, the "Werewolf Woman" lunged at him from her cage, causing all under the age of ten to run out of the tent in horror.

**And while these people are travelling across the country, how often do they shower?**

So, I don't know, maybe carnivals aren't so bad. They are an institution in our country. Of course, what does that say about us as people? But I know one thing; if I see a carnival this summer I'll be sure to stop in and take a ride on the Himalaya. I can hear my DJ buddy now - "Faaasster, Faaasster, Faaaaasster..."

## Stuff youse should know

Six reasons to say "dude":

1. Your fingers are caught in a bowling ball.
2. You're teaching a bird to talk.
3. In light of the fact that you can't remember the school song.
4. Renee Manning.
5. You work on a ranch.
6. Having to say "Vice-President Pohodich" for the first time.

Three things Elvis would be doing if he were alive:

1. Duets with Axl Rose.
2. Crack.
3. Cannibalism.

## Dante creates WCCHS bathrooms

BY Chris Seper, Jon Schlenker, Clint Wadsworth

"It was almost close to hell." This was the reaction of sophomore Mark Benja to the state of the bathrooms at WCCHS. The bathrooms that Benja was speaking about are the only bathrooms open in the hall and accessible to students. "We have gone to keeping the large one's open," explained Superintendent Richard Kamm. When asked why he has gone to that system, Kamm said, "Because every time we open the bathrooms they're torn up."

Last year, the boys' bathroom on the second floor, adjacent to the study hall room, was set on fire. Every bathroom checked had some sort of graffiti on it or cigarettes contained somewhere inside the washroom.

"I walked in there (bathroom) and it smelled like smoke," Benja continued. "Plaster of Paris was everywhere, the lights were dim, it smelled like a tobacco factory, smelled like Marlboro." Benja was so concerned about the state of the washrooms that he gave a speech in front of Kamm in his English class. Senior Teri Blum described the girls' washrooms as "disgusting."

Although there was no sign of dim lights or plaster of Paris in the bathrooms, the smell of smoke and the disgusting parts held firm. The scratched mirrors, the cigarette butts, the writing on the walls and the flooded bathrooms were just some of the things witnessed.

Kamm's reply to this was that he cannot afford to replace/repair everything in the bathroom.

As evidence by the cigarette butts in the bathrooms, smoking has been a problem. Since there is no designated smoking area available to students, some of them have used the washrooms as their own "smoking area." This is not only bad for the health of the students and against the law, but also against school policy.

"You can't supervise a bathroom from far away," Kamm said. "Every parapro is one sex, and every pair of bathrooms is two sexes (one women's, one men's)." Kamm also said that there are fewer women parapro and this makes the job of supervising bathrooms harder because, "Girls are worse."

There are five bathrooms for each sex in the hallway, but only one set is open. Kamm is prepared to compromise, "We'll open the one's (bathrooms) on the third floor. If people take care of them, we'll leave them open. If they're torn up, we'll close them." After further investigation, it was found that these bathrooms were not open. Kamm also said that the mens and womens bathrooms on the first floor diagonally across from the Bishop Gym are open for students as well. On further investigation, they were also closed.

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## Cycle or die!

by Bill Hein

Cycling is a sport that not only provides good fitness but the sense of "going fast under your own power", says bicyclist Brian VanZanten.

The growing popularity of bicycling today is partly due to the general trend towards safer exercise. One study said that it was equal to running for developing cardiorespiratory fitness, but had a much lower stress injury rate. It even performs isometric exercise on the arms and shoulders due to the gripping of the handlebars.

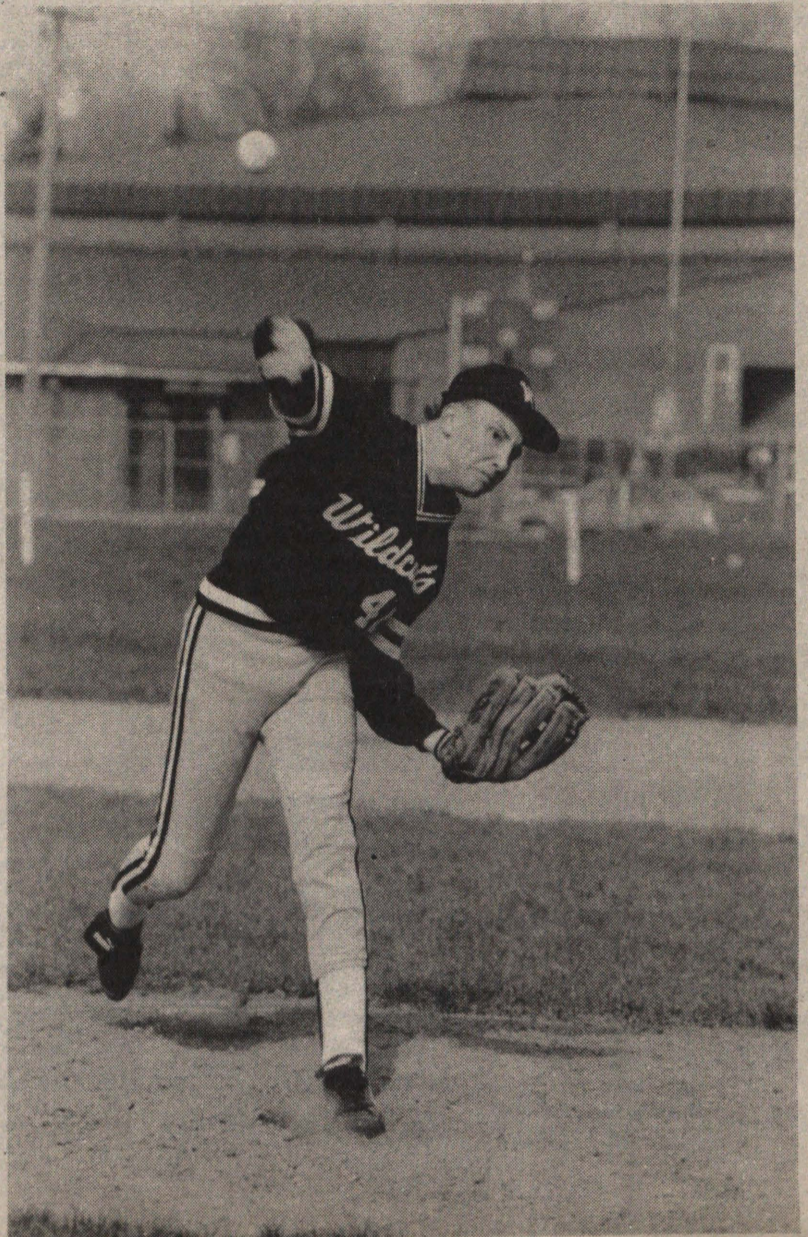
To some of the cyclers at this school, it provides much more. Senior Steve Yuroff said it gives him "the freedom to go real fast" and an opportunity to get away from everything. Chris Neal, junior, said it's fun and "just something to do".

Some riders build their own bikes to satisfy their personal specifications. Although

it can cost \$800 or more, it is considered ideal. Yuroff says that Campagnolo, an Italian company, is "the best" when buying parts. Steve Lingenfelter, junior, is also building a lightweight bike for "quality and looks".

The regimens of some bikers can be considered demanding. Chris Gola, junior, rides five to six times a week, alternating 40-70 mile trips with sprints and hillwork. Lingenfelter cycles about 200 miles a week. Over the summer Yuroff plans on riding five days a week for upwards of 30 miles each time.

Training is in preparation for the racing season, which reaches its peak in the summer months. Four different types of races are held. There is the road race, time trials, circuit, and criterium. A circuit race is usually made up of laps that are longer than a mile on an irregular course. A criterium consists of laps on a shorter, seven-tenths of a mile track.



Senior Steve Deason lets one fly in a game last week. This season, the Wildcats finished 7th in conference with a 10-18 record. (photo courtesy of Challenge)

"When I ran I didn't think of winning. I just wanted to qualify," said senior Tom Poskocil when asked about qualifying for state in the 800m run. (Photo courtesy of Challenge)

## Poskocil running at State



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## Summer specials at health clubs

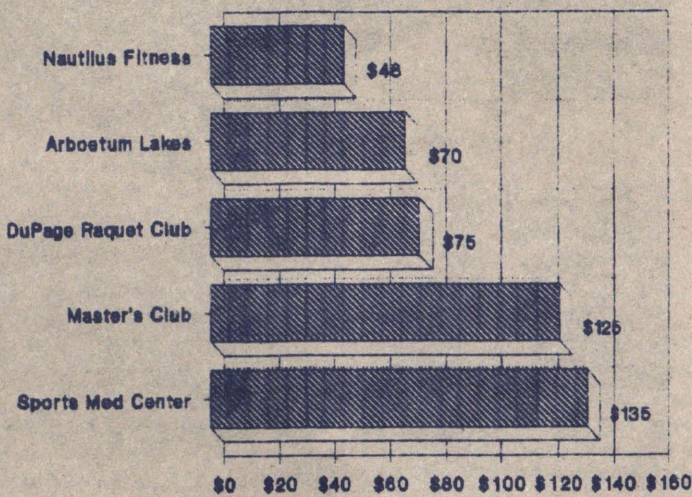
by Sheila Hutchins

Summer break is just around the corner. If you want to start a physical fitness program you may want to join a health club. There are numerous activities to do at health clubs: olympic style pools, indoor jogging, racquetball, specialized aerobic classes, body building training, and even personal programming and instruction.

Membership fees and the location of some

clubs may be a problem. Mainly because health clubs can be expensive. If money is not an object you may want to check out some clubs and find one that will be good for you. With summer approaching many clubs are having summer specials for high school and college students.

These are just a few clubs with special rates for students. These specials include all of the fitness programs such as sauna, swimming, racquetball, and others.



Graph by Pedro Simpsoni

## Summer camps at We-go

### Baseball

Dates: June 5 - July 29 Time: TBA Days: TBA  
Fee: \$50.00 Grades: 10 - 12

### Boys' basketball

Dates: June 26 - July 14 Time: 12:30 - 3 pm Days: Monday - Friday  
Fee: \$30.00 Grades: 9 - 12

### Girls' basketball

Dates: June 19 - July 19 Time: 1 - 3 pm Days: Monday - Friday  
Fee: \$25.00 Grades: 9 - 12

### Football

Dates: June 19 - July 28 Time: 3 - 6 pm Days: Monday - Friday  
Fee: \$35.00 Grades: 9 - 12

### Pom Poms

Dates: June 19 - June 30 Time: 3:30 - 5:30 pm Days: Monday - Friday  
Fee: \$30.00 Grades: 9 - 12

### Boys' and Girls' soccer

Dates: June 19 - July 28 (No classes 6/30, 7/7, & 7/14) Time: 5 - 7 pm  
Days: Monday - Friday Fee: \$35.00 Grades: 9 - 12

### Boys' and Girls' swimming

Dates: June 15 - July 28 Time: 6:30 - 8 am Days: Monday - Friday  
Fee: \$20.00 Grades: 9 - 12

### Girls' volleyball

Dates: June 15 - June 22 Time: 9 - 12 noon Days: Monday - Friday  
Fee: \$20.00 Grades: 9 - 12

### Boys' and Girls' cross country

Dates: July 5 - July 28 Time: 7 - 8:30 am Days: Monday - Friday  
Fee: No charge Grades: 9 - 12

### Cheerleaders

Dates: June 19 - July 21 Time: 4:30 - 6:30 pm Days: Monday - Friday  
Fee: \$30.00 Grades: 9 - 12



Sophomore Kelly Matthews rears back in a DVC softball game. Matthews led the Lady Wildcats to the DVC championships pitching every game. (photo courtesy of Challenge)

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