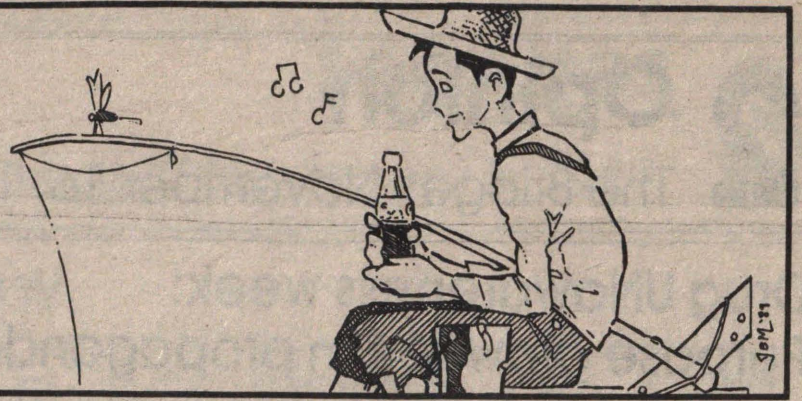


The Bridge

West Chicago Community High School
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Becoming aware of AIDS

by Michele Rittorno

AIDS, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, is a virus that is found in all body fluids: blood, semen, vaginal secretions, tears, and saliva.

The Center for Disease Control says, "You don't get it through everyday (casual) contact." There have been studies that show family members living with people who carry the AIDS virus do not get AIDS by simply living with them. There have been, however, cases of spousal transmission of the virus through sexual contact.

According to the Illinois Department of Public Health there is no evidence that AIDS is spread by the following:

- 1) toilet seats, bathtubs, or showers
- 2) handshakes or other non-sexual physical contact
- 3) dishes, utensils, or food handled by an AIDS carrier
- 4) doorknobs, linens, clothing or other articles
- 5) sneezing, coughing, or spitting
- 6) everyday contact

AIDS develops a rare form of pneumonia that destroys the immune system. The AIDS virus doesn't strictly stay in the immune system. According to the Red Cross, the

"You don't get it through everyday (casual) contact."

"virus can also infect cells of the central nervous system causing mental and emotional disorders."

AIDS is contacted through sexual contact, where blood or other bodily fluids are exchanged with an infected person.

A drug user may get the AIDS virus by sharing drug needles with an infected person.

A woman who carries the AIDS virus may transmit to her newborn child, before or shortly after birth.

The Red Cross says that the transfusion of

contaminated blood is now extremely small, but it can be a slight possibility. The Red Cross explained, "The risk of infection through transfusion has always been slight." The blood, however, must be screened before it is transfused.

AIDS can be detected through many symptoms. The following may relate to the AIDS virus:

- 1) tiredness, headaches, dizziness
- 2) fever/night sweats
- 3) loss of weight that is greater than ten pounds without dieting or increased physical action
- 4) swollen glands in a person's neck, armpit, or groin area
- 5) a heavy, dry cough that is not from smoking and is too continuous for the flu or a cold
- 6) a thick whiteish coating of a person's tongue or throat
- 7) severe breathing problems
- 8) being able to bruise easily
- 9) purple or discolored lesions (growths) on the skin

Recently, a drug has been discovered and

experimented by American Medical Researches in the battle against AIDS. Dideoxyinosine (DDI) is the drug currently being studied by the doctors at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland. Doctor Robert Yarchoan, co-leader of the research group told reporters in Washington D.C., "This is not a cure for AIDS, but it appears to control the disease."

The drug blocks the Human Immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which prevents the AIDS infected people from fighting the disease.

DDI is still being studied and experimented at this time and date. According to the AIDS Hotline, victims are currently using a drug Azidothymidine (AZT). The hotline says AZT "interacts with the virus but does not stop it."

For further information about AIDS, students should consider calling the AIDS Hotline at 1-800-AID-AIDS. Other sources of information about the virus include local libraries, the school nurse, doctors, and the Health Department.

Cleaning the bowls

by Debbie Caruso

"I feel that the bathrooms were really grimy and disgusting and it's good that they are finally taking care of this problem," said sophomore Vanessa Talbott in response to the closing of the girls' bathroom on the first floor due to remodeling.

According to James Mast, the Director of Business at WCCHS, the school will be fixing the girls' bathroom on the first floor, the girls' and boys' bathrooms on the second

"... the bathrooms were really grimy and disgusting ..."

floor near the auditorium, the boys' locker room bathroom, and water fountains in the Bishop Gym and P.E. hallway.

The price tag attached to the maintenance is \$38,980. The School Board will be re-

sponsible for paying Kohler and Sons for the remodeling job.

This year the School Board decided to remodel the bathrooms. "The sinks were not operating the way they should be. There is also the fact that throughout the school we have fluorescent lights except in the girls' bathroom," said Mast. He also feels that the towel dispensers were not in good condition.

The bathrooms will receive new sinks and mirrors. In the boys' locker room they will also be getting new mirrors and hand dryers.

Junior Chris Davidson said, "I feel that it (remodeling) is good, but we can't comb our hair after we take a shower because we can't get to a mirror." Senior Jeni Kovack said, "I feel that it's good that they are finally doing something to make the bathroom nicer, but it's such an inconvenience to have it closed."

The remodeling of the bathrooms is an addition to the work already finished on the gym floors and various other items.



Journalism linked to AP

by Danielle Caffarello

According to the fall issue of the **Advisor Update**, students in a journalism class score higher on the English A.P. exam than other students.

The Advanced Placement English exam is scored on a scale of 1-5, five being the highest mark possible. Scores of 3, 4, or 5 are often deemed worthy of college credit.

Out of all journalism students surveyed, who took the A.P. exam in 1988, 65% scored a 3 or better.

Julie Mastro, a journalism student who took the A.P. exam, said, "I think journalism helped me on the A.P. exam because my writing skills have developed much more from the extra writing. And I found out that I scored higher than a lot of other people."

On the other hand, Jackie Mari, an A.P. student who did not take journalism, said, "I

don't think taking journalism would help me score higher on the A.P. exam because all the stuff that was on the exam was in our English classes."

We-go offers two journalism courses, Journalism and Journalism Production. Journalism is an introductory course. It teaches the basic skills needed for writing and publishing a newspaper.

After completing Journalism, students can take Journalism Production, which can be taken a number of times. In Journalism Production the students put out the school paper, **The Bridge**. They do this by applying the previously learned skills from Journalism.

"Taking journalism was a really good experience for me," explains Mastro. "It not only helped me score higher on the A.P. exam, but taught me discipline and teamwork."

Getting help for college

by Melissa King

There are various methods to receive financial aid for college. However, this varies from student to student, and can depend on your family's income.

When applying for financial aid, one needs to check to see if the education costs are more than your family can afford. If so, then you are eligible for financial aid. "Most

money is available upon your need," says Jody Kettler, a counselor here at WCCHS.

The different forms of financial aid comes in grants and scholarships, loans, and work-study jobs. Scholarships and grants are not required to be repaid. They are made available through the federal government, state agencies, professional and service organizations, private foundations, and individual schools. Colleges often offer scho-

larships based on the results of your ACT scores, grade point averages, and student merit. Many clubs in our area offer scholarships to WCCHS students. These include the Rotary Vocational Scholarship, Kiwanis Club Scholarship, West Chicago/Winfield Booster Award (applies to any student involved in any extra-curricular activity), Du Page Medical Society Foundation, and 4-H Scholarships.

Inkspots Bridge notes

The **Bridge** was recently awarded the International Second Place Award from the International Honorary Society for High School Journalists.

The award was given to **The Bridge** as a result of scoring 854 points out of a possible 1,000. The judges reviewed issues of the paper and evaluated them in five different categories. **The Bridge** earned superior ratings in three out of five categories.

The judges commented that **The Bridge** has a "good variety of news items" and the in-depth pages "show creativity and lively writing." The judges commented, "You have established a presence in the school evidenced by a good number of letters to the editor. Kids at We-go read **The Bridge**, look forward to it, and talk about it."

Choir performs

The Madrigals performed for the Winfield Women's Club on November 10, and along with the Swing Choir performed for the West Chicago Historical Society on November 14. The Madrigals will also be performing at Cantigny Country Club on December 8.

SADD officers

The officers of SADD for 1989-90 are President John Kufer, Vice-President Jim DeLabro, Secretary Christiane Lukanisky, Treasurer Anissa Garcia, and Public Relations Manager Eileen Mueller.

In order to apply for financial aid, the student must fill out either a Financial Aid Form (FAF), or a Family Financial Statement (FFS), which cannot be filed until after January 1, due to information needed from a completed 1989 U.S. Income Tax Return. Most schools require one or the other.

For any questions or information on financial aid from specific colleges, write to the school's financial aid office. Applications for local scholarships are available through the WCCHS guidance office after the beginning of the second semester.

Drug UNawareness week: Purpose drowned in propaganda

by Jason Wold



Drug Awareness Week actually does more harm than good. For one, it makes liars out of quite a few people. I have seen people who have been kicked off of a sports team due to arrest on charges of "possession" wearing one of those cute red ribbons. But this institutionalizing of hypocrisy should come as no surprise to the observant American.

I have also seen the harm slogans in general can do. Repetition is the lowest form of learning, and when people remember a slogan, jingle, etc. they often forget the actual meaning of it. When something is repeated, it tends to get very tiring. When the same thing is repeated again and again, it becomes meaningless. Scream "kill babies" enough times, and, after your headache disappears, you will have no trouble saying "kill babies" when prompted for a means of population control. This obviously has nothing to do with Drug Awareness Week, but it does help to support my view that any propaganda, be it for or against the good of mankind, is inherently evil, because it takes away a person's ability to make their own decisions. Here is an anecdote....

Person 1: "Slogan! Slogan! Slogan!"
Person 2: "Same slogan worded differently!"
Person 1: "Hey, that's not the slogan!"
Person 3: "Commie! Let's kill him!"

This may sound ludicrous, but just watch a congressional debate on television sometime.

Even if a slogan is a good one, it is almost immediately perverted by the masses. Take Stalin's trashing of Leninism, or better yet, an example from here at school. (Ironically,

this takes place in a setting much related to Stalinism, i.e. P.E.) It occurred just today during a match of speedball. The P.E. instructor said "You can't score directly," when referring to throw-ins. He was forced to repeat this several times, due to people complaining that they got the goal directly from a throw-in. A kick was made from down field after the ball had been in play several minutes. It angled its way towards the goal, just barely missing it. Someone said, "Awww...we almost had a goal," and another person said, "No, you can't score directly." This, my friends, is a true story.

Finally, when you get past all the nit-picking, obnoxious references to totalitarianism, and tales of ignorance, you find the real harm that can be done. People are hurt. Not physically, but emotionally. Anyone who has ever tried drugs, or has a problem now, is going to feel intimidated by the mob wearing little red ribbons. "Yes, you ARE alone. There IS something wrong with you. You might as well just DIE!" Believe it or not, that is the emotional message people with drug problems are receiving. We can easily see how ludicrous that is; that is not the intent at all, but emotions know no rationality.

I personally believe that drugs are merely a symptom of a much larger problem. The problem is psychological, and incredibly complex, but low self-esteem definitely is a contributing factor to why people start using drugs in the first place. So, why drag them down more? The only ones that really need anything aren't the sober, fashion conscious who like to tell everyone what good boys and girls they've been. It's the retching and vomiting victim that we're trying to eliminate. I'd like to think we are trying to help them change, rather than just expelling them from society altogether. Thank you, administration and clown team, for damning those that falter. We'll purify the master race yet.

Wanted: drug-free peer leaders

Drugs are a potential problem in any high school, and We-go made a step toward eliminating them with "Drug Awareness Week" on October 23 through 27. For this week, the faculty and many students wore red ribbons displaying the slogan, "The choice for me; Drug Free!" The cafeteria was also decorated with a colorful banner in the same motif.

We, **The Bridge** editors, denounce the use of drugs, and feel this was a positive stride much needed. Teachers serve as role models for many students, and it was refreshing to see them take a stand. The student body, however, was another matter.

Some students wore their ribbons confidently, but many others defaced them, or changed the slogan ("The choice for me; Drugs" or "The choice for me; Drugs for free"). Others just chose not to wear ribbons, even though they were against the use of drugs. What has happened to our positive school leaders, who set an example for their peers?

Events like this can either be a week to mock the efforts of others, or an opportunity to see how our school is improving and becoming drug-free. Hopefully, these events will continue, and more students will show they stand against drugs.

Photopinion by Peg Osterman

Did you wear a ribbon on Drug Awareness Week?



Jen Slusser (Sophomore) - "For one day, 'cause I got bored in art and colored on it. Then I lost it and my neighbor's dog ate it. I didn't think it'd look too classy to wear."



Julie McDole (Senior) - "No, I didn't. I was absent on Monday and they never really made them available. I don't think it really helps or shows anything."



Kevin Otto (Sophomore) - "No, 'cause no one gave me one."



Chris Wicklund (Senior) - "Yeah, 'cause I don't use drugs, so I thought it was a good idea. Second, I liked the design of it, I thought it looked nice."

Choir dreams board-ed up

by Claire Broido



I would like to dedicate this article to Ron Benner, without whom none of us would have ever had the opportunity to try.

As the entire school probably knows, the West Chicago Concert Choir has been asked to sing at Carnegie Hall next spring. Just the thought of singing at this prestigious hall amazed everyone who did not know how hard Benner and his choirs have worked. The event was so publicized that even the Chicago Tribune printed an article about it.

Only seven choirs in the U.S. were asked to sing on May 14; West Chicago was the only choir in the state invited. Mid-America Productions, a profit-making organization, would have sponsored the choir. The School Board rejected the trip on Tuesday, October

15. Now that the board has made the decision, there are mixed feelings and a lot of disappointment in the music department, but everyone's views must be regarded.

Since the school year began, quite a few choir members and parents worked tirelessly to make this "outstanding opportunity" (as Debbie Paulsen, choir accompanist, said) possible. The students formed committees for each fund-raising event they could think of, and were trying to accomplish as much as possible without the Board's decision. Bruce Askin, Ray Blackledge, Jeanie Hessling, and Jeanie LaCour established *Voices*, and organization to promote the invitation to Carnegie Hall. The four members called each of the 63 choir parents and asked them to sign a paper allowing their child to go to Carnegie Hall. No money was actually ever required. The kids were asked to donate \$50 for the initial payment, and an additional \$300 if possible. LaCour said, "We wanted to try to get \$300 from each member only if they could, just to show the board that the parents were truly serious about the trip." She also said

the parents of every choir member were called and only one out of 63 did not want their child to go.

This group was planning fund-raising activities, although nothing could officially be done until the School Board had accepted the trip. *Voices* planned to raise funds through donations and sponsorships. Six hundred corporations were approached throughout DuPage County, and if the Board accepted the bill, *Voices* was ready to make the follow-up phone calls.

In the view of the West Chicago Board of Education, this trip was not feasible. There is a strict policy against the solicitation of students by a profit-making organization. The Chicago Tribune stated, "School Board officials questioned just what kind of honor was being bestowed upon the choir, when each student was being asked to pay \$843 so that Mid-America Productions could profit." The estimate made by the School Board was \$1000 per student for the four-day trip.

In addition, the Board applied to the ISHA (Illinois High School Association) which screens various activities about this trip. They didn't approve it because of the great distance and cost. Another similar association objected to the trip, because the Choir would miss school days. The IHSAs forbids students to miss more than one school day for any activity. In this case, the students would be missing three. The fact that two major associations dealing with student exchange felt this trip was contrary to their guidelines affected the Board's decision.

"Liability was not the deciding factor," said Superintendent Richard Kamm, "it is a moral responsibility to be able to assure student safety." The Board would be responsible if anything went wrong on the trip.

The Chicago Tribune inferred in its article that, had this been a sports team receiving an opportunity such as this, they would have been allowed to go. Kamm said this was not correct.

"In the final analysis," said Kamm, there are "seven intelligent board members, all of whom had every piece of information possible, and they all came to the same conclusion." The vote was unanimous against the trip. "There is a message there," said Kamm.

"We are missing the opportunity of a lifetime," said choir member Kim LaBelle. Paulsen said, "Carnegie Hall is the epitome of music people's dreams." "It would have been an unforgettable experience," said student director Gina Chamberlin.

Throughout all of these problems, Benner has remained quite calm. He said, "The decision against the trip can really bring the school down. I don't want that to happen." He thinks that just being asked to sing at Carnegie Hall is a distinguished honor. He would like the Choir to remain optimistic. Pointing to the list of events on the wall of the choir room, he said, "Just look at the things we've done already."

Benner also stated, "I don't like what happened, but in order for this to work, we needed an agreement between everyone." Unfortunately, this agreement never occurred.

Letter to the editor

Dear Editors:

Granted, the **Challenge** staff was hoping for a higher turnout of students from the class of '89 at our yearbook signing dance, but we stand firm in our belief that the dance was well worth the time, effort, and money. First, we believe that a yearbook signing dance is a tradition worth establishing here at We-go. Frankly, we weren't surprised by the small number of '89 grads in attendance, considering that this was the first year for such a dance. Second, yes, we spent some time planning the dance, but the students at We-go are assured that we are spending even more time putting together a

quality yearbook of which we can all be proud. Finally, our profits from the dance greatly outweighed the cost of the letters to the grads. More importantly, money made from that dance will help pay for membership fees, field trips, etc. The yearbook has a right and a responsibility to raise money like any other organization (such as **The Bridge**, et al.)

Please don't condemn our efforts to establish another fine tradition at We-go; rather, give us a chance to let the tradition take hold.

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THE BRIDGE

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Triple wham restaurant review

Local alternatives to fast food

by Jess Nelson

It was a Saturday afternoon in the lovely and peaceful town of West Chicago. I, with my camera, pen, notebook, and casual attire decided to make (or break) a few local restaurants; the Maine Restaurant located on Main Street in West Chicago, the Ho King restaurant located near Little Caesar's in West Chicago, and Van Lang Restaurant located on Main Street in Wheaton.

Being the master critic of restaurants, I proceeded to my destinations, of course taking a long, hot shower first.

The Maine doesn't look like much on the outside, but when you enter you get a slight feeling of a Mexican restaurant. There were fake vegies hanging from the ceiling (don't try to eat them without salt), Mexican oil paintings, and a turkey pinata. Apparently this restaurant is where the Mexican colonists had their Thanksgiving.

My associate and I sat in a corner table and were served a small complimentary bowl of chips and water. They were good, but a little corny (ha). The cokes were tall and thin and tasted like cokes. A majority of the customers were Mexican. This was a good sign that the food was authentic.

After looking at the large variety of choices on the menu, we ordered what we thought really represented Mexican food. A taco, enchilada, tamale, burrito, and two cokes, all for about \$8. I'd say the food was very reasonably priced.

We waited for about five minutes before we got our food. A short wait that gave us time to scan for chicks- there weren't any. Not a good mark in my book.



The master critic Nelson and assistant Matt Moran discuss politics with the waitress at Van Langs.

The taco was large and stuffed with lots of lettuce, cheese, chicken, and beef. Very tantalizing. The burrito was filled with chicken and beef smothered with cheese. It was also very good. The tamale and enchilada looked like a blended mess (I wouldn't hang a picture of it in my room), but they were spicy and I liked them.

The whole meal was satisfying and was definitely a lot for a low enough price. And besides, the very intelligent and cooperative

manager treated us to this meal, for which I thank him. If you have the time and are looking for a good Mexican restaurant, I recommend you go to the Maine.

Warning: be careful while you cross the street to the Ho King Restaurant. I almost got killed on my way to our next spot.

The Ho King was our second destination. But put away your thumbs and read carefully. It was around 2:00 and empty. There were palace lanterns and fans, giving the restaurant a swell Oriental touch. The menu had a huge selection and many of the items were not very expensive. The cokes were again tall and thin.

We ordered the lunch special for \$3.75 and the sweet and sour pork for \$2.95 (with won-ton soup). The soup was thin and delicious and the won-ton was stuffed with onions and pork. Practice before you eat though- it has a tendency to get away from you.

The manager was very cool and ready to serve us. The food came after a short wait, and when it did come it was well worth the time waiting. The sweet and sour pork looked great (I would have hung a picture of it on my wall). It had a red glaze over the pork, pineapple, and green peppers which were also sprinkled with seeds. White rice also came with the entree.

The lunch special looked and tasted just

as delicious. The egg roll was packed with lettuce and cabbage. It was the best egg roll I have ever had. Unfortunately, there were no chicks in this restaurant either.

The fried rice was good, but the chicken kau was the best. There were saute'd vegetables and peapods with bamboo shoots. There was also tender chopped beef and chicken coated with a mild and delicious sauce. This meal was enormous and well worth the price. When my fortune came it said: Forget not your tip, for divine tipping leads to eternal bliss. Hmmm. Suspicious.

Anyway, I give the Ho King a thumbs up as well. If you enjoy Chinese food, or are just in the mood for something besides a burger or pizza, this is a great spot to go.

Our last stop was made a week later at the Van Lang restaurant in Wheaton. The inside didn't give much of a Vietnamese impression by the looks, except for the plaque of Vietnam on the wall and the flower and bird water color paintings.

Water was served along with a setting of hot, soy, and Vietnamese sauce. The waitress was very polite and probably would have jumped off a bridge if I had asked her to. But I didn't.

Instead I ordered the crab meat and bamboo soup for \$1.95 and the shark fin soup for \$2.25. The crab and bamboo soup was a creamy colored thick substance with small slices of crab and bamboo. It was basically a delicious soup, if you like oriental-tasting seafood.

The sharkfin soup was a pea green color and tasted great. It even had shark fins swimming in circles inside the bowl (I'm still wondering how they did that).

Then came the Van Lang Squid Delight for \$7.95. It was on a medium plate with saute'd vegetables (onions, celery, tomatoes, pineapple), and was topped with clover leaves. The squid meat itself was delicious and chewy.

There was also the rice paper wrapped grilled beef for \$7.95. This came with a heaping plate of lice (I mean rice), and a plate of thin rice wrap. A large plate which contained bean sprouts, cucumber, clover, onions, noodles, and beef with sprinkled nuts was what you stuffed into the rice wrap to make your own roll. It even came with a sweet carrot sauce with little slices of carrot.

In total, a delicious meal well worth the money. I suggest you try this restaurant when you get the chance, but not after seeing Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom. Your date might faint.

Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

by Sarah Rohr

When Ulrike Grund was notified that she would be coming to the United States as an exchange student from West Germany she said she was "very happy. I wanted to leave right away. I got the news in February, but had to leave in August. I could hardly wait."

Grund attends a school in West Germany called Gymnasium. She said that West Chicago differs from her school in Germany, because the days are longer here. "In Germany," she said, "school starts at 8:00 and gets out at 1:00, and two or three times a week the students are required to come back at 2:20. Also, students go to the high school for 13 years instead of 12."

When asked about the differences between the teenagers of West Germany and the United States, Grund replied, "We all listen to the same music, we party, and we

people in Germany don't like fast food, so we do other things."

Grund is currently staying with Don and Marge Rhodes (Rhodes is a librarian here at We-go). Grund said, "They (the Rhodes) are really nice, friendly, and open with me. They made me feel like a part of their family." If she were given the chance to stay in the United States or go back to West Germany, she admitted she'd "rather go back to West Germany so I can be with my family and friends, because I really miss them."

Grund is scheduled to leave for Germany on July 11.



Ulrike Grund, from West Germany, is one of four exchange students.

Grund replied "... We party, and we love to dance."

love to dance." There are differences also, as Grund pointed out. "We don't have any school related teams for sports. If we play, we do so on our own time."

Grund also mentioned that our holidays differ too. She mentioned one holiday that is celebrated a few weeks before Christmas. "In Germany, young children celebrate Nicklaus Day on December 6. They set their shoes outside and when morning comes they find candy in their shoes if they were good, or occasionally they get a switch made out of wood. We celebrate Christmas also."

Grund talked about their past-times saying, "In West Germany we usually take walks in the woods or drive to the city." When told that one of the favorite past-times of American teens was eating at fast food restaurants, Grund replied, "Most of the

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West Chicago's 'hot spots' issue

by Anissa Garcia

For many years West Chicago has been plagued by the Kerr-McGee issue. The Kerr-McGee factory site has become a radioactive dumping spot of thorium.

Kerr-McGee is located on Factory and Ann Streets and is close to the West Chicago Community High School and Pioneer Elementary School. The factory, built in the 1930's, was first operated by the Lindsey Light and American Potash companies. Those companies manufactured mantles for gas lamps in which thorium would be used. In 1967, Kerr-McGee acquired the West Chicago factory and continued the manufacturing of the mantles for gas lamps and also produced thorium and other rare materials which the Department of Defense used.

Thorium is a radioactive, chemical element that is soft and looks silvery. Thorium changes to Uranium-233 when it is barraged with neutrons. Uranium-233 is a nuclear fuel that is used in nuclear reactors and in bombs.

In 1973, Kerr-McGee closed down because the market for mantles was not in demand any more. Since then, the factory has been dismantled and the materials have been left behind, buried at the factory site.

The fact that radioactive materials are buried at Kerr-McGee is a health and political issue at West Chicago. The people of West Chicago are fighting to move the thorium to a safer place than in the middle of a residential area.

Barbara Steffens, a West Chicago resident, has strong feelings about the Kerr-McGee issue. Steffens said, "I don't think it belongs in any residential area. It belongs someplace like in the middle of the desert away from a residential area and I think we should keep fighting to get it out of here."

Marion Zarate, library aide at the West Chicago Community High School, has lived near the factory site all her life and believes something should be done about it. "I would want it out of here. It's probably not going to affect me, but what about the future generations and the water lines?" Zarate fears.

It is true that many don't know what's going to happen in the future with the thorium being stored at the factory site. Steffens can see the hill and only wonder if the radioactive material is going to cause harm to residents in the future or not.

Gail Wallace, news reporter for *The Press*, has been covering the Kerr-McGee issues exclusively. She called all over the country to try to get information about thorium and how it could be threatening in the future. Wallace stated that it can be harmful if eaten or breathed in very large doses which could lead to internal cancer. So far, there have been no successful cases in which residents have proved the thorium storage was causing their illnesses.

Recently, many thorium deposits, also called "hot spots" have been discovered around West Chicago, bringing about many arguments dealing with the storage of the thorium. A house on Pomeroy Street, in unincorporated West

The destruction



Chicago just finalized a law suit with Kerr-McGee against the city of West Chicago. The owners of the house along with Kerr-McGee wanted to move the contaminated soil and store it at the factory site, but the city doesn't want to truck the radioactive material through the city just to place it at a residential part of the city. The city passed an ordinance prohibiting the transportation of contaminated earth through the city and dumping it at the Kerr-McGee storage site. Kerr-McGee and the owners of the house won the Federal Court battle and received a temporary restraining order so they could continue the excavation of the "hot spot." Kerr-McGee dug up 18 inches below ground level of the yard and trucked 20 to 30 truckloads of the radioactive material through the city and stored it at the Kerr-McGee factory site along with the rest of the contaminated soil that has been found over the years. The hill Steffens says she can see right out of her kitchen window just keeps growing. Of the 27 acres of factory land, about 400,000 cubic yards are used for the storing of thorium, some of it dug from homes in West Chicago.

Three other houses along the 400-500 block of Mellolane Drive, south of Route 38 have been discovered as having "hot spots" also.

It has not been announced what will be done about those houses yet. Wallace said, "There is no state or federal agency that can force Kerr-McGee to move all the materials on site, off site and store it another place, like out of state."

Arguments are scheduled sometime this

month in Federal Court. The city of West Chicago and the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety will fight to move the thorium collected out of state and Kerr-McGee along with the Federal Regulatory commission (NRC), will fight against them. Kerr-McGee's Manager of Media Relations, Annita Bridges, explained that Kerr-McGee and the NRC have a plan to clean up the factory site and bury all the waste. They will build a clay well made of various layers of sand and other materials for safety.

Zarate believes, "The big problem is the money and it's a very political issue in West Chicago. We have to be very alert about this." Wallace estimated that Kerr-McGee would have to pay up to \$80 million to move the material.

So far, 114 homes have been found having "hot spots" and there are up to 211 more sites that have to be dealt with. Many people are concerned and have been affected by the Kerr-McGee issue. Nobody knows what the answer is. It will take time and lots of political battles to bring this issue to its final solution.

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by Julie

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Exxon proves oil and water don't mix

by Chris Seper

Try to imagine 900 square miles of anything. Now try to imagine those 900 square miles totally obliterated.

What you have just imagined is the same thing that happened to 900 square miles of water in the Prince William Sound. The destructor? Exxon and 240,000 barrels of oil. The ecosystem in the area has been crushed by the tremendous influx of oil. Although the Exxon spill was not the only one, it is arguably the most well known and devastating.

Although the magnitude of Exxon's mistake has not yet been felt, these facts are known: Almost 10,000 sea otters have been destroyed, thousands of water fowl have perished, countless fish have died, and many fishermen have lost huge amounts of money. The beaches now

contain pools of oil where pools of water once were, and the rocks that cover the shores of Prince William Sound are oil-slicked.

It is estimated that it will take three to ten years for Prince William Sound to return to normal. The clean up included spraying an oil eating chemical and a fertilizer that increases the potency of the chemical (both hazardous to human consumption), wiping off any spared animals, and cleaning off each rock with paper towels. But now the date for the finished clean up isn't known. Exxon has decided to stop the clean up because of the large amount of money that it would take.

Groups like the Environmental Protection Agency, Greenpeace, and a group that live by Prince William Sound are now petitioning the government and the courts to force Exxon to continue the clean up.

Destruction of ozone rages on

by Julie Mastro

A layer of ozone gas 10 to 25 miles above the earth protects it from damaging ultraviolet rays of the sun. This layer is slowly being destroyed by us, and the results are extremely dangerous.

After decades of debate scientists have finally agreed that the ozone layer is being attacked by a class of chemicals called chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) that are used in various products. These chemicals were once considered harmless, but are now the ozone's greatest threat. CFCs are found in aerosols, coolants of air-conditioners and refrigerators, foaming agents in foam products, dry cleaning, fire extinguishers, packaging and cushioning, and sterilants that hospitals use to sanitize medical instruments.

In 1984 a hole the size of a continent was discovered in the ozone shield over the Antarctica. Ozone holes have mostly just been found over the Antarctic, however a small amount of holes have also been found over the Arctic. But recent studies have shown that the ozone layer has already begun to deteriorate over other parts of the earth. It is obvious action must be taken to save the ozone, but is it already too late?

The timber industry in Finland is in danger because Finland is located so close to the hole in the ozone. Food crops in warmer countries are already threatened by lack of protection that the ozone should be able to give. Luckily for now, the earth is only threatened by the extreme danger of losing the ozone layer's protection. However, the results of these threats are too scary to be playing games with. For every one percent reduction in the ozone layer, as much as a six percent increase in skin cancer is expected to occur. At the present time there are already millions of cases of skin cancer every year due to a reduction of protection in the ozone. Prolonged ultraviolet exposure can cause temporary inflammation of the cornea. Lifetime exposure to ultraviolet rays contributes to cataract development. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates 17 million additional cases of cataracts caused by CFCs damage to the layer.

Awareness and understanding of the problem in the ozone layer is necessary in order to do something about it. The earth and its atmosphere is suffering from the results of man's inventions. Until man can learn to control the results instead of becoming victims of them, the planet will remain under siege.

Stars rise above fame to help Greenpeace

by Michele Rittorno

Greenpeace is an organization that consists of volunteers who help prevent the destruction of the earth. Many famous stars have recently recognized Greenpeace by supporting the group and their actions.

A double album called **Rainbow Warriors** was developed by western rock stars in order to increase awareness and raise money for Greenpeace. Peter Gabriel, Annie Lennox, and Chrissie Hynde were just a few of the stars to perform on the album and in concert. They released the album in the Soviet Union also, in order to finance the opening of a Greenpeace office there.

One of the situations that Greenpeace is involved in is located in Antarctica. They are stationed there to observe many environmental areas. At the present time their main concern deals with the dumping of raw sewage and garbage into the sea.

According to **Rolling Stone** magazine REM's lead singer has been a guest speaker in the Carolinas and Georgia about the government putting an end to the production of nuclear weapons material. The federal government has a plant located near Aiken, South Carolina called The Savannah River Plant (SRP).

After 35 years of production the reactors were closed down last year. But the area's soil and water are still contaminated from the radioactive and toxic wastes. Greenpeace and REM are trying to prevent the government from starting the reactors at SRP up again.

Greenpeace doesn't only take stands in the environment, but they also fight for the protection of wildlife. Should anybody be interested in Greenpeace you may contact them at the following address.

Greenpeace U.S.A. 436 U Street NW Washington, D.C. 20009

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The good, the bad, and the lemons

by Jeff Hynd

An ominous cloud of black smoke rises from the hood of one incredibly sad looking car. A bewildered student coughs up a lung as he gropes his way from his car to the school.

This not-so-unfamiliar scene has become a daily tradition for many students. The select few who honor this prestigious ceremony every morning are the owners of some of the most loathsome pieces of junk since the Edsel. What possesses a person to own an automobile that looks like the leftover from several thousand demolition derbies?

Why would someone want to drive a car that makes the old Drivers Education cars look good? (Well- almost.) It boggles the mind, but for whatever their reasons, they seem to prefer vehicles proven hazardous to your health. The question still remains: who would be so bold as to drive one of those rusted-out hunks of steel and bondo?

Senior Jenny Johnson is one of the lucky few. "I have a brown 1976 Chevy Nova that is a total beast", Johnson explained. "It has huge dents in the back and looks lopsided from the rear." When asked how she felt about her junk-heap, Johnson replied, "My friends and I are embarrassed to be seen in it. But hey-I hate to walk." Johnson's list of priorities does not include living past the age of eighteen.

One of the most popular beaters in town is the Ford Fairmont, circa early eighties. These rolling death traps are the rage with some students. Two daring individuals in this school, senior Jeff Krawzykowski and an anonymous junior, (it is very understandable why she doesn't want her name mentioned), are the proud owners.

It seems that the Fairmont has a very interesting exhaust system; the kind that disintegrates without warning. "I was driving to a party", Krawzykowski said, "when I heard this snap of metal. My muffler fell off." What did he do? Krawzykowski gave a great smile and said, "I kept right on driving."

"That's nothing," replied the nameless junior. "When my muffler came off it mangled my tire and I almost slammed into a police car! He gave me a ticket for reckless driving!" How's that for service?

It may be disgusting to think about the junker's condition, but what is truly scary is the price people payed for them. Senior Steve Weber remembered. "I paid \$400 for my 76 Olds Cutlass. I can't believe it!" It is very doubtful anyone else could either. Greg Harper bought his 76 Olds Cutlass for \$175. (First Fairmonts, now Cutlasses. Must be a trend.) "I'd sell it now for \$250." Is anyone truly that gullible, Harper? "They sure are!"

What everyone must be wondering by now is who owns the most gut-wrenching



One of the more colorful vehicles on campus, Clay Turner agreed only reluctantly to have his car shown here.

piece of sludge in this school. Well, that prestigious honor goes to senior Mark Carlberg and his 1976 Mercury Monitgo. "It weighs about two trillion pounds and is three blocks long," said Carlberg. "Every time I try to back it into a parking space I nail the car next to me." Why does Mark keep the beast? "Heck! I couldn't pay someone to take it off my hands!"

In this world of glamorous sports cars and lavish luxury vehicles, there are still those who defy the norm. These poor souls are the brave owners of some of the most dangerous weapons on earth. As Krawzykowski put it, "Nothing can separate me from my Lemon!" Nothing that is, except for perhaps a book of McDonald's gift certificates.

What's hip — what's not in locker decor

by Ann Shim

Ring! The period's over and it's back to our lockers again. We all have mostly the same things in them; books, notebooks, pens—maybe a mirror or a little hairspray. But something everyone has different is their locker decorations.

After going through the halls, this reporter got a good look at what West Chicago lockers look like. Besides seeing how incredibly messy some were, there were many different varieties of decorations. The lockers don't tend to vary much from class to class, but they are different between guys and girls.

Girls' lockers mainly have the same decorations in them. According to Todd Evans, senior, "They all have the wrapping paper

Trinette Co said, "It's disgusting and shows a typical guy." Matt Haverly, sophomore, said, "It's really none of my business. It's up to them what they want to put in their lockers."

Probably the more boring lockers are the empty ones. Freshman Scott Westman, owner of a plain locker, said, "I haven't had time to decorate it." Tiffany Smith, freshman, said, "I haven't had time, but I've got the stuff to put on it." People must want to decorate their lockers, but are too busy to get around to it.

Locker decorations tell a lot about a person and their personality. A locker has what they like and are interested in. If it has humorous cartoons on their lockers, it shows the person has a good sense of humor and likes to make people laugh.

Look at it this way. Your locker is like your bedroom, you have it just the way you like.

"They all have the wrapping paper with pictures of friends, and they're all over-done."

with pictures of friends, and they're all over done." Freshman Steve Broido said, "Lots of them have those New Kids on the Block pictures..."

The typical guys' lockers have many varieties of styles. Kirsten Nelson, senior, said, "They're either plain, have pictures of naked women, or beer." Nikki Thomas, freshman, said, "They have pictures of girls in their underwear and pictures of basketball players."

A more interesting locker is that of Porsche Willenbring. Plastered with pictures of music stars and people with wild hairstyles, her locker is weird and very eye-catching. Willenbring, sophomore, said, "It fits my image and it makes me feel at home."

Another locker had sheets of music on it like wrapping paper with funny sayings and little ads. Not only did it show the person has a sense of humor, but also that they enjoy music.

The most disgusting lockers (guys') contained pictures of naked women. Senior

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Volleyball yields regional success

by Kate Jemsek

Fourth in the DuPage Valley Conference, regional champions, honorable mention all-conference for Cyndi Carroll and Melody Benson, and all-conference for Karen Getlinger. These are some of the accomplishments of the West Chicago ladies' volleyball team.

For the second year in a row, the Ladycat volleyball team has been regional champions. But, for the second year in a row they have not gotten past sectionals.

In regionals, the first game was played against Lake Park High School and the Ladycats took the game by the score of 15-3, 15-4. In this game the Ladycats showed their defensive skill by coming up to the net and stuffing their shots.

The championship game was played against Glenbard North. The Ladycats took this match in three games; 10-15, 15-11, 15-10. Here they had a tougher time with their DVC rival Panthers as Head Coach Gail George described the game as, "A hard

win that should have been easy.

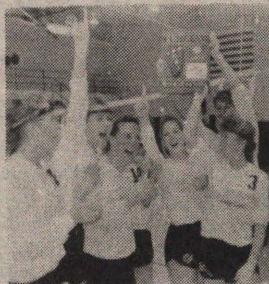
Player Jennifer Walters commented, "We played hard. But we lacked communication even though we were psyched (about the game)."

At sectionals, the Ladycats were shut down by DVC rivals Naperville Central and lost 15-1, 15-12.

Only two of the varsity players will not be returning next year. Seniors Karen Getlinger and Angie Webb were the lone seniors on this year's squad. Also, there was only one other senior on the junior varsity team, Kirsten Nelson. All the rest of the players, except for two sophomores, on the varsity and junior varsity squad are all juniors.

This year's season had WCCHS as high as second, and a low as fifth. The winner of the DVC was Glenbard East who had on their team one of the 1992 Olympic volleyball players. During the off-season, some of the

junior varsity and varsity players will be participating in a "jump camp" so they can get better at blocking shots at the net and spiking.



The volleyball team celebrates after defeating Glenbard North in the Regional Championship. (Photo by Chris Seper)

Ladies' basketball takes its shot

by Tricia Blum

Change will accompany the girls' basketball team this season.

This year's Wildcat Girls' Basketball team has high hopes for the team. Their goals are to do well in all the tournaments and to finish in the top four teams in conference. Another goal is to better the team record, last year, even though they won regionals, they had a record of 2-12.

Last year, the Ladycats had three levels to play on. There was freshman, junior varsity, and varsity. This year they are trying for four levels instead. They have added a sophomore level. The freshman coach is Paul McLeland, sophomore coach is Dave Sayner, the junior varsity coach is Tom Rivan, and the varsity coach is Kim Wallner.

The purpose of adding a sophomore team is to provide more time for girls to prepare for varsity. On the three lower levels they focus on becoming more physical and more aggressive and to have some practice at defense and offense. They also encourage the girls to shoot more to prepare for the varsity level.

At these levels the girls will experience some winning but basically the coaches want the focus on the fundamentals of the game.

The varsity team is mostly of juniors. The team is senior Jessica Andrews, juniors

"... we have to play hard as a team."

Melody Benson, who was most improved last year, Heather Jardis, Jennifer Kramer, Kelly Mathews, Danielle Potts, Sue Thomas, and seniors Melissa Vega and Angie Webb. For now this is the team but Wallner said that there will be changes for the first week or two.

The varsity team hopes to be one of the top four teams in the conference. "To do this we have to play hard as a team," Andrews said.

Another problem has been height. "The team overall doesn't have the height we would like," Wallner said. The average height of the girls is five feet eight inches. They lost two six foot players last year to graduation, Michele Lubinski and Carrie Ryan. But to make up for this lost height Wallner plans to do more outside shooting, rather than taking the ball inside like they did last year.

"To be better than last year means we have to shoot more," Wallner said. "They (this year's team) have to average 40 to 50 shots a game. Last year we averaged only 40 shots. We have to be more willing to shoot more."

Wallner feels that this year will be better than last year. "There are more people in the program to work with," Wallner said.

Weightlifting: Inside and out

by Joel Ragsdale



Many people at the high school level look to some kind of sport to excel in for either some recognition, or to build themselves up a little and lose a couple excess pounds. But joining a sport is only one of many ways to achieve this goal.

Another way it could be done is through some type of weight training. Weightlifting is a sport recognized worldwide for its varied styles and levels of competition.

For the person just starting out, weightlifting will probably seem boring and time consuming. Mind boggling strength and size won't happen overnight, but if you stay dedicated, you'll eventually notice some change. A starter should stick with the basic strength movements such as some type of arm curl (for the biceps), the bench press (for upper chest strength), and tricep extensions (for the tricep muscle) for the upper body. Lower body strength movements would include some type of leg extensions or squat for thigh (upper leg) strength, and a basic exercise for calves, such as running on the front part of the foot without letting the heel touch the ground. Once you get the feel for these exercises, you can start doing different exercises and add weight progressively.

This type of weightlifting can be used to help in many school sports. Football players can lift as much as they want for the whole body because added strength is always a plus. Wrestlers with good arm and leg strength will succeed when lunging and holding an opponent in a move. Both girls

and boys can lift for such sports as track and basketball. Added leg strength could help your vertical jump, and some added upper body strength could help with three point shots in basketball, and the shot put in track. The possibilities are practically endless.

Once you start lifting and your mind is make up that you like it, then it's time to decide whether you want to stay where you are or actually gain something from all your work. One can gain in many different ways, whether it be confidence, ego, strength, proportion, or all of the above. Body building is one choice that centers more on building up the muscle for size rather than exceptional strength. To achieve "quality" in a physique using body building, means doing many sets (a series of repetitions of one exercise) of a great variety of exercises, so that every aspect and contour of a muscle can be brought out and developed, and this means not only isolating individual muscles, but specific areas within a muscle as well.

Power lifting is another choice that centers more on the amount of weight one can lift, especially in specific lifts such as bench press, squat, and dead lift. There are other exercises included here called "assistance exercises." What this means, for example, is to do lots of specific tricep work such as tricep extensions where a barbell is brought down to touch the forehead while keeping your arms close to your body and bending only at the elbows, then, pushing up again. Since bench pressing involves lots of tricep work, these assistance exercises are designed to help your overall bench total go up.

You may decide you like none of these styles of weightlifting and just want some

muscle endurance. This can be achieved with lots of repetitions (going through the motions until no more can be done, this constitutes a set), using a moderate amount of weight. The point is, you should have some goal in mind when you lift, not just floating from exercise to exercise doing a few meaningless sets and then leaving.

One of the many feelings a beginning lifter will usually experience is muscle soreness. This soreness can be one of two types. Either it's from a productive workout and you've just done more work with weight and repetitions than the muscle is used to, or you did too much and actually did hurt the muscle in some way. Regular muscle soreness usually will diminish enough within 24-48 hours to work the muscle again. An actual injury to the muscle such as a bruise or a pull should probably be looked at by a doctor, and you will usually be told to lay off lifting for a while and even after that to take it easy.

A weightlifter is always looking for improvement, and the best way to keep track of this is through a journal, noting exercises, repetitions, and weight used. This method is the best because everything is in writing and you know your improvement for sure. There are other ways to check progress though, such as a tape measure, which may not always be accurate, or even a mirror. When someone sees you flexing in front of a mirror, they'll probably tell you to get off your high horse, but let's examine the situation. A sprinter checks their progress with a stop watch. If the run is a few seconds faster, then they have improved. Well, a weight lifter will use a mirror on the same principle. If there's some improvement, a mirror will tell you, and if there's a weakness, it's noticeable also.

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Home sports schedule and playoffs

Ladies' swimming		
Nov. 17, 18	State Finals	TBA
Boys' basketball		
Dec. 1	Glenbard East	7:30pm
Dec. 9	Geneva	7:30pm
Ladies' basketball		
Nov. 30	Schaumburg	6pm
Boys' swimming		
Dec. 9	Wildcat Relays	5pm
Wrestling		
Nov. 25	We-go Wildcat Invit.	10am
Dec. 2	Elgin, Hoffman Estates, Batavia	1:30pm
Dec. 8	Naperville North	6:30pm
Dec. 9	East Aurora, Sycamore, St. Charles	10am

Cross Country 13th at state

by John Prusko

For the first time in 15 years, the boys' cross country team has qualified for competition on the state level.

At the state meet on November 5 in Peoria, the team as a whole placed 13th in state. Rick Montalvo placed 22nd with a time of 15:06 for three miles and Nicole Horyn placed 29th with a time of 12:36 for two and one tenth miles.

The seven man state team for We-go were Montalvo (22), John Jakubowski (82), Mike Callarman (96), James Zimmer (128), James Stuart (178), Oliver Koriath (183), and Dave Zeisler (184). The top five runners combined for a score of 377 points for the 13th place finish. Placing in the top 25 gave Montalvo all-state honors for the second year in a row.

Thompson summarized the season like this, "We had a goal at the beginning of the year to make it downstate. We didn't have any opinion as to what place we would finish. We just wanted it to be our goal to be there. We accomplished that goal."

Thompson summarized the season like this, "All in all just to get there is a major, and I mean major accomplishment in itself!

To say that you're the 13th best team in the state is quite an accomplishment."

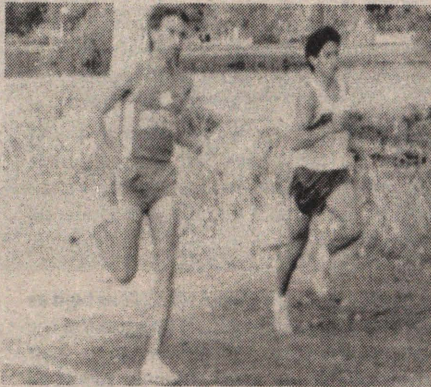
Horyn said, "My goal was to place in the top 25. I really got excited about it (state competition). I don't think I ran my best, but I did knock a few seconds off my personal best." Horyn later said that she felt depressed that she didn't get all-state honors (placing in the top 25), and that she missed it by a little bit. Horyn did say that she did finish better than she expected.

The entire cross country team qualified for state at sectionals on October 28. Two individuals, Nicole Horyn and Rick Montalvo both qualified for state with times of 12:11 and 15:20 respectively. Our top five boys in sectionals were Montalvo who was third, John Jakubowski who was 36th, James Stuart who was 42nd, James Zimmer who was 62nd, and Mike Callarman who was 76th. Top five all around for the boys was Dan Nolan, Brian Veracrucse, Montalvo, Jerry Parkinson, and Nick Theil.

Montalvo said, "I feel pretty happy. I beat Nick Theil, who I've never beat before. I was favored to place third with a good ten

seconds." Montalvo also beat Parkinson. Parkinson and Theil both defeated him in the DVC race. Montalvo said that just the competition like Nolan, Veracrucse, and Theil motivated him to work harder in practice.

An ankle injury to the Wildcat number two man Callarman hampered the team's performance. Callarman, who was all-



Rick Montalvo passes Glenbard South's Jerry Parkinson in sectional competition. Montalvo was third there and 22nd at the state. (Photo by Kelly Howard)

conference, would have statistically placed 10th in the race and qualified for state individually. Head Coach Bob Thompson said, "We wouldn't have made (state) without him. He definitely made a difference. In regionals he made a negative effect but in sectionals a positive one." Montalvo said "If it wasn't for him (Callarman) we wouldn't have made it. He gave us 23 points we needed to make fifth." Callarman said he didn't know how he injured himself, but he did say it did hurt before he ran in practice. Then he ran the whole workout. "After the workout it tightened up," Callarman said. "I ran across the track and ripped it (muscle)."

Nicole Horyn qualified for state with a time of 12:11 and finished 11th. We-go's top five girls were Horyn in 11th, Yvette Contreras who was 50th, Ann Zimmer who was 103rd, Kelly McGlooin who was 124th, and Amy Koslas who was 128th. The top five runners overall were Tracy Tellin, Tina Stec, Ericka Chesny, Julie Klingberg, and Kathy Lowder.

Horyn said that she felt surprised and happy after winning regionals. "My mind was set on qualifying," said Horyn. Horyn said that she accomplished her goal of qualifying for state.

Fall athletes honored

by Chris Seper

Athletes from six fall sports were honored at the annual fall sports award night at the WCCHS Bishop Gym.

Boys' cross country was second in the DVC race, third in regionals, fifth in sectionals, and at state, they finished 13th.

Ladies' cross country, established for the first time in three years, placed second in regional competition, and at sectionals they finished 13th out of 23 teams.

Most valuable player honors were given to juniors Nicole Horyn for the ladies and Rick Montalvo for the boys. Horyn was eighth in the DVC race, was named to the all-conference team, won regionals, placed 11th at sectionals, and was 29th in state.

Montalvo was fourth in the conference race, named to the all-conference team, won regionals, placed third in sectionals, and was 22nd in the state, where, for the second year in a row, he was named to the all-state team.

Most improved awards went to Mike Callarman and Ann Zimmer. Callarman placed seventh in the DVC race and was named to the all-conference team. John Jakubowski was honorable mention all-conference.

Ladies' volleyball was fourth in the DVC rankings. The ladies won the regional tournament, beating Glenbard North in the finals. This was the second year in a row where the Ladycats have won the regional tournament. They lost the opening round of sectionals to Naperville Central.

Individual honors went to All-conference player Karen Getlinger for being the most valuable player on the team. Getlinger, along with Angie Webb, are the only two

seniors on this year's varsity team. Juniors Melody Benson and Cyndi Carroll were both named honorable mention all-conference. Benson was also named most improved for the year.

Soccer was third in the DVC, posting six shutouts on the year, and won the Batavia soccer tournament. Soccer won their first game of regionals, but fell to St. Charles 2-1.

Todd Evans was the soccer most valuable player on the team. Caspar Arias was named most valuable on offense while both Jose Perez and Dan Peterson were the most valuable for defense. All-conference awards went to Jeff Showalter and second team all-conference went to Orlando Vasquez. The coaches' award was given to Carrie Lancaster.

Football had Chad Busse as all-conference linebacker, most valuable player for defense, and most valuable player all-around. Most valuable on offense was Eddie Gonzalez, and most improved for the team was Mike Zielinski. The winners of the Randy Jacobs award for academic and athletic excellence were presented to Chris Nippert and John Winterhalder.

Golf had Kate Jemsek as their only sectional qualifier. Jemsek placed seventh in regional competition and missed going on to state by three strokes. Chad Landis and Jon Turkot won most valuable player awards and Chad Hansen won the most improved. Hansen improved 13.5 over last year.

Ladies' tennis had New Zealander Melissa Stratford as their most valuable player. Stratford has held the first singles position since the start of the season. Most improved on the team was Heather Adrian and the coaches' award was presented to Trinetta Co.

Stop the corruption

by Chris Nippert



It seems like everyday I see on television some sort of corruption or scandal going on in college sports. Even with stricter NCAA regulations, such as the "Death Penalty" (given to colleges for breaking recruitment rules) which calls for the termination of a particular sport and recruitment scholarships for two years, the problem still exists, and I believe it is only getting worse. The question is why do colleges take such risks?

I believe that the answer is because the world of intercollegiate athletics is a big business arena. First of all, take a typical college stadium which holds anywhere from 50,000 to more than 100,000 people. The institution then sells tickets to make a \$2 or \$3 profit, and already the school has made an enormous sum of money for just one event. Then, if one out of every 100 fans buy something in way of refreshments or souvenirs then a "few" bucks are made that way. Lastly, if the team is good enough the college enters the arena of really "big" money where the network television stations pay millions to broadcast that crucial Top 20 match-up or the game for the national championship.

However, in order for a university to have a successful athletic program, it must produce the horses to play the sports. This in itself is not an easy task. There are some institutions right now that are "cheating" in the recruitment process, and other colleges

feel that they must do the same in order to keep pace with these schools using illegal means. After all, wouldn't you want a car and some spending cash to go along with your free ride to college? This in effect produces a "domino effect" in which after one school begins the process, it is hard to stop the others from doing the same.

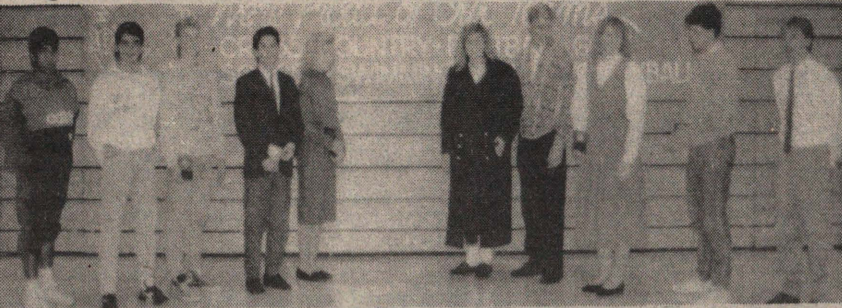
Then there are the "extra" incentives given from such groups as alumni funds and scholarships only through the athletic department. This is why many colleges do not even know of the corruption in the system before it is too late. This is unfortunate not only for the institution but also for the athletes who decided to continue their athletic career at this school. Transferring colleges means losing at least one year of eligibility to the athlete, possibly two if the athlete transfers into the same conference.

What is the proper way of ridding colleges of corruption? That obviously is the question that many colleges are addressing at the present time, but they do not know the answer. Yet, I do believe that I have a few places to start from. First, pay the athletes. They are the people who are bringing in the money in the first place. Second, have a "watchdog" system which keeps a closer eye on what and how special funds (alumni funds) are being put to use. Third, make an NCAA fund which gives money to athletes who demonstrate financial need that would be unable to continue their academic/athletic careers otherwise. Finally, put some of the money that the university is making off the athletic events into the general scholarship programs and education. After all, that is why the athletes are going to school in the first place (or at least I hope so). This will allow students who want to further their education to do so without the threat of not having enough money to pay the expenses of college.

This problem is much more complicated than just a few minor corrections. Many schools are trying to put an end to this corruption, but it is still a problem that seems to be increasing instead of declining. This is the unfortunate reality that all institutions are facing right now. There are no quick and easy solutions to this problem.

Don't get me wrong, I enjoy watching college sports just as well as the next sport fanatic. Also, not all colleges are corrupt. In fact, most colleges are fighting this problem tooth and nail. Yet there are still those universities that aren't doing a single thing to combat this problem.

Consequently, their failure to solve the problem affects all of the colleges and athletes across the nation. I only wish that these institutions would put as much emphasis on academics as they do in sports. Then we might start catching up to countries such as Japan in the world of business and technology, instead of only getting further and further behind.



MVP's from the fall sports smile for the camera. (Photo by John Kufer)

WILDCAT SPORTS TRIVIA

Who is Memorial Field in memorial of?

(Last issues answer: Candy Clauson 1979-80 and Marla Jemsek 1985)

This issues answer: "This memorial is dedicated to the sacred and cherished memory of the sons and daughters of the community of West Chicago who gave their lives and of their lives in defense of our country. They sacrificed and served to protect our liberty and maintain our principles of equality, freedom, and justice for all."

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