

Students questions about WCCHS answered

by Margaret Walen

The following is a list of questions compiled by the **Bridge** from the student body and then answered by Principal Alan Jones in a recent interview.

Bridge: Why do we not say the Pledge of Allegiance since we have flags hanging in the classrooms?

Jones: "I do not know. That's a good question. In the high schools I've been in, unfortunately adolescents make fun of it (the Pledge of Allegiance) at this age. I think it might be a good idea, but they (the students) may think it's juvenile."

Bridge: Why don't the guys have doors on the stalls in the bathroom?

Jones: "Every washroom I've gone in in a school has not had doors for men. Personally,

I think we should."

Bridge: Why can't we go down the math hall after the bell rings?

Jones: "What I like to see in a school is that classes begin immediately. I don't like the idea of having students in the hallways, going in and out of classrooms. The problem with the math hallway is it's right next to the library. Some students who have unscheduled periods or are leaving school are having the tendency to hang by their lockers a little bit and then go to the library. I like to cut down traffic as much as possible in the academic hallways."

Bridge: Why can't people with parking permits have off-campus lunch?

Jones: "It's strictly a liability question. If we were to permit students to leave campus during the lunch periods then what we would

become in effect is an insurer. If they're (the students) involved in any accident, to and from the school, we would be responsible. What the law says is, we're responsible for your health and well being from 8 a.m. until 3:40 p.m. and any time we release you from the school, we're responsible. Once their school day is done, that's another question."

Bridge: Why can't people go off-campus during their unscheduled hours?

Jones: "Students forget that when parents send their children to school, there are expectations that they will be in school for an entire day. We don't have the authority to start releasing you unless the parents are informed. Even if they are informed, we still have an obligation to make sure that any activity you are participating in is safe and supervised properly."

Bridge: Why aren't the pop machines opened during lunch?

Jones: There is a federal law that says that if you receive government subsidy food, which we do, when that food is served, you cannot have a competing vendor serving food-in this case, Coca-Cola. We can have it open any other time during the day except during lunch periods when we start serving food. That's the string that's attached."

Bridge: Why is juice in the lunch line 50 cents when it only costs 10-15 cents in the store and you're not supposed to make a profit?

Jones: "We're not and I checked that out. Someone told me that the other day. The vendor we're using is not selling us that juice for 10 cents. The kitchen doesn't make a profit."

The Bridge

West Chicago
Community High
School
326 Joliet Street
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Prom committee struggles because of lack of support

by Elisa Biancalana

WCCHS' junior class is having trouble raising sufficient funds for the 1991 Prom.

"Prom is going to be held in Jabaar's backyard," replied Student Council Representative, Junior Derek Schoepf. Although prom will not be held in a backyard, this was one of the places mentioned if not enough money is raised.

Prom will be held on May 31 at the Sheraton Hotel in Naperville. The cost of tickets is still undecided.

So far, there has not been enough money raised for prom. The cancellation of the Winter Formal dance was a loss of a fundraising opportunity for the Prom. Junior Class President Jabaar Murray said, "The money lost may affect the ticket prices." Student Council Treasurer, Junior Lynn Ellerbruch said, "Hopefully not much. If we don't get the money, decorations, favors, and soda bar won't be available."

There have been many ideas to raise money for prom. Student Council Representative, Junior Kelly Roy stated, "We need help with ideas. The fundraisers that do happen, all the same people are doing the work." Some of the past fundraisers that were held include the

car washes during the summer, the craft show in November, and concession stands. Since the Winter Formal was cancelled, the

Student Council Treasurer, Junior Lynn Ellerbruch said, "Hopefully not much. If we don't get the money, decorations, favors and soda bar won't be available."

money from Turnabout will also go towards prom. If enough money is raised, ticket prices should not be affected. As of now, approximately \$1600 still needs to be raised for prom.

In order to plan prom, Prom Committee meetings are held approximately once a month in the LRC classroom. Ellerbruch said, "Meetings aren't planned often because no one shows up. We are experiencing a lack of support."

Bridge and Fox to study in Germany senior year

by Julia Hill

The anticipation and waiting is over. Jessica Bridge and Tom Fox have been informed that they have both won the Budenstag Scholarship to go to Germany, as exchange students, for their high school senior year.

The Budenstag Scholarship is a reciprocal scholarship given by the American and German Governments, to support the students exchange program fees.

Being second time Budenstag scholarship semi-finalists, this was the last chance that both Bridge and Fox had of winning the scholarship. Next year they would have been too old to apply.

"I got the letter. I'm going!" screamed Bridge. Before she had made no comment about her chances of winning saying, "I don't want to jinx myself." With a smile Fox said, "It felt great that's for sure. All I wanted to do was call Terry Strohm (German teacher)."

There is stiff competition all over the U.S. according to Youth for Understanding exchange organization area representative and WCCHS' AV Aid, Marjorie Rhodes. "Only 300" from the U.S. win this scholarship every year Rhodes said. WCCHS has now had "five winners out of five years, which is extremely unusual. Even very prestigious schools don't have that," commented Rhodes.

Qualities judges look for in the applicants are: above average grades, having an open mind, patience, curiosity and a willingness to

learn and adapt. Students also must be able to express why they want to go to Germany and what they hope to gain from and teach the German community.

Both students want to go to Germany for a number of reasons. Bridge feels that after going through a normal high school program, "I don't think you know yourself as well as you should when you go to college." She continued, "Hopefully when I get back from Germany I'll be a different person."

Fox, other than becoming "interested in Germany when I could go there for free," said he wanted "to see the changes that have been made since unification, learn the German language and meet the German people." Fox also admitted, "I'm kind of sick of America. Everything is the same here. I want to be saturated, be a different culture."

Bridge conveyed that she was very open-minded and accepts change. "I'm conscious of what is going on around me. I'm willing to learn everything, anything that is offered," she said. Fox said that he wants "to see that I am the friend that I say I am. I'm friendly, I'm a pacifist..... I don't look for an argument. I think I'd adapt academically well there."

Even though the students reasons are different, they both feel that they would be good ambassadors for the U.S.

Throughout the year, Bridge and Fox both have expectations of what they hope to gain with a year in Germany. Fox hopes to gain an "understanding of German young people." He

continued to say "that Germans are not following the Nazis," and he wants "to show people that they are not."

Connecting the knowledge of the German language and what the students would learn there, Bridge said, "Hopefully knowing the German language will be a plus in whatever I do." However, she plans to major in English in college. "To be an English teacher you need to be worldly," Bridge said. Fox hopes to "work

for an American company, here or a branch over in Germany," he said.

The interview was held at William Harper College in Palatine. At the interview, "they tried to make it really comfortable and casual. It didn't really work," commented Fox.

Even though Strohm told them about the scholarship she said, "I don't feel that I can take much credit, for they've done all the hard work. I'm thrilled, they are marvelous people."



Jessica Bridge and Tom Fox were both chosen to be part of the Budenstag exchange in Germany next year. (photo by Eric Schlotzer)

Inkspots

by Elisa Biancalana, Brian Levake, Christine Pomeroy and Brian York

FBLA to Springfield

West Chicago's local chapter of Future Business Leaders of America is going to competing at the state conference in Springfield on March 22nd to the 24th.

Leitner published

English teacher Greg Leitner had three articles published recently. The **Kentucky English Bulletin** contained an article on sabbatical, when Leitner took a year off to go back to school. In the March issue of **English Journal**, he reviewed a book about teaching Literature. In the **Indiana English**, Leitner and Carol Binkley (English teacher) had an article about a workshop dealing with Advanced Placement students.

Math teachers to convention in April

The NCTM (National Council Teachers of Mathematics) annual meeting will be held in New Orleans on April 17-20. Patricia Arnold, Diane Bathje, John Carter, Kevin Gimre, Vera Sorensen, and Lee Yunker will be attending. Yunker will be speaking on Fractals.

DeWolfe released from teaching position

Diane DeWolfe, Basic Foods teacher was terminated from her position on March 12. The decision was unanimously made by the Board of Education when DeWolfe failed to remediate after a one year probationary period.

SEAC has found absolutely nothing

Last year, a new and ambitious group was formed—the Student Environmental Action Committee (SEAC). The **Bridge** was very impressed by the intentions of SEAC, but what happened? We hardly hear from them now.

SEAC member and co-founder Matt Moran admits that the group has had a low-profile through the year. He justifies this by saying the group did not want to become “commercialized.”

Right now, the group’s energy has been focused on a bill they lobbied for in the House of Representatives. If the bill passes, paper used in classrooms will be made out of recyclable materials.

One project that failed for SEAC was the boxes in classrooms for recycling paper. The boxes were to be collected every two weeks, sorted and finally recycled. “We had a lot of trouble with boxes just because of things like man-power or time,” ex-President Moran said. Group members failed to collect the boxes regularly. When the boxes were collected, sometimes they were not returned to the classrooms.

“Another part of the reason the boxes didn’t go is because we were 25 people taking on the world so to speak. It was a lot of paper to deal with. We felt the school didn’t totally back us.” Moran said.

How does SEAC expect to receive support from the student body when they are trying to stay out of the lime-light? If students were aware of the

problems and asked for help, maybe things would be different. Box collecting would run more smoothly if scheduled times were set up for collecting and separating the papers.

SEAC’s lack of governmental structure has also caused a conflict with the group. The group started with officers, went to a board structure (all officers equal) and now considers all members to be equal with no specific leadership. Moran said the change was made so all members would feel they were an important part of the group and their ideas counted.

Ex-SEAC member Sue Stajduhar said, “We’re all supposed to be equal but we’re not, there’s a one man dictatorship.” Ex-member Julia Hill thinks there were individuals who “wanted to fit SEAC around their life but not others....I don’t feel that certain group members tried to understand others.”

The editors of the **Bridge** believe that the ideas of SEAC are good ones, but that they need to rethink their ideas and procedures. The only way support can be received is if it is sought. In addition, some type of leadership has to be established. Projects, such as the boxes are only going to work if they are well conceived and carefully planned. If SEAC expects support, they are going to have to show they are capable of following through on projects and acting true to their commitment of improving the environment.

Iraq was bad, but Vietnam was much worse

by Kim Derby



This war in the Persian Gulf was a scary one, but it is far from being as terrifying as Vietnam.

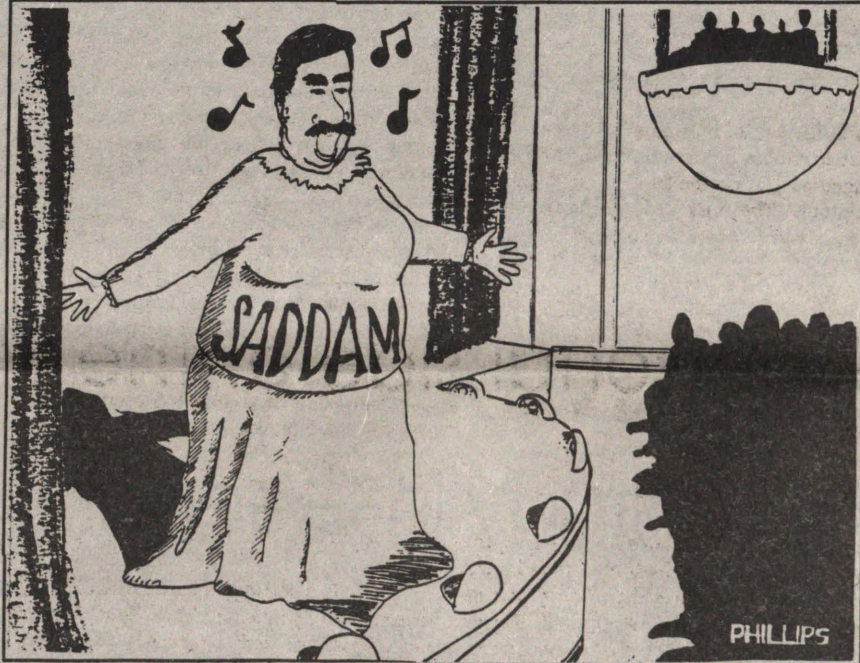
The struggle that occurred in Kuwait

was frightening because friends and loved ones went to the hot desert, facing high risks. Those risks were heat, lack of water, Iraqis, and death. Even if a person was not overseas, it was scary to think that it could be him or her who was parched and tired.

Vietnam was an entirely worse, entirely different battle. First of all, Vietnam was not a war, but a “police action.” Our purpose was to maintain order between North and South Vietnam, while trying to hinder the North from taking over the South.

Young men were shipped to Asia, and were dumped into a land of lush growth, excess humidity, and terrible heat. This climate bred bacteria, thus many soldiers were inflicted with malaria, carried to them by biting flies and large mosquitoes. The soldiers were scared, but they did not know the nightmare they were about to endure.

There were other discomforts aside from insects. Modern conveniences, such



as plumbing were left back in the United States. Instead of toilets, large barrels were used, then the human wastes were burned to try to prevent diseases.

In the meantime, these young men and women were dodging bullets from an enemy they couldn’t see. The Vietcong took advantage of the dense jungle area to shoot at

the unsuspecting soldiers. They were everywhere, yet they were undetectable. One never knew if he was going to be brutally shot one day while walking near an area of forest.

The enemy was also disguised as small children. The North Vietnamese would strap bombs to the children, then send

them to the soldiers to explode the Americans and themselves.

As a result of snipers hiding in the trees, the American government issued a defoliant commonly known as Agent Orange. Along with killing the dense foliage, it burned the men and women’s skin, and it entered their bloodstreams by way of their lungs. Thus, today, some veterans who were exposed to the poison have cancer and skin diseases.

The worst things for the Vietnam soldiers to face were the aftermath and their arrival in the United States. Peace-loving Americans in the States did not welcome their fellow citizens with open arms. Battered, bruised, and tired soldiers were shunned because of ugly rumors and the controversy of the police action. These war protesters heard stories that American soldiers were killing children. They didn’t hear the part about the children killing the soldiers. Not everyone was unhappy to see our loved ones back in the states, but there certainly weren’t yellow ribbons hung on trees.

For the rest of their lives, soldiers had to face the memories of the torture they endured. They were haunted by nightmares of exploding shells, snipers, and innocent children covered in time bombs.

Some were not as lucky. Some were shipped home in pine boxes covered with the American flag.

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The **Bridge** is the student newspaper at the 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 on 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 adviser 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.

Snow days, coaches in letters to the editor

War wonders hit We-go

Dear editors,

This letter is in complaint about the March 6 issue of the **Bridge**. The article was about seniors going into the service after high school. Don’t get me wrong, I think the article was a great idea, but in order to print an article of that context you should have done better research, and printed all of the seniors that are going to defend our country, and your rights. I leave on June 11 for the Navy, and I know I don’t appreciate that you only printed three people, and I’m sure nobody else going in the service did either. The recruits are going to be working hard to defend our country, and your rights. I’m sure you could have cut down the article to fit all the names of these people. If you don’t have enough room to write all of the names in such an article, you shouldn’t print the article. How would you like somebody to write a story about high school papers in the area and only print three high schools, and you’re not one of them. I think you would like recognition for all your hard work as well as the recruits would for theirs.

Sincerely,
Ray Hoffiman
Navy recruit

'Players or coaches' gets hit hard

Dear Editor,

I’m writing concerning your article, “Is it the players or the coaches?” in the **Bridge**’s February 28 edition. I think you argued both sides well, and I definitely think our school is capable of having good athletic teams. I know that some coaches are dedicated. I happen to live with one that spends a lot of time, effort, and money on designing uniforms, reading, watching videos, or planning strategies. He even attends a camp for coaches in the summer. I feel he is dedicated and I also feel he enjoys it.

I know of a dedicated athlete, also. (Who I also happen to live with.) My brother spends numerous hours watching videos and reading magazines on wrestling and soccer. He also spends a lot of time practicing, and even sometimes works to earn money to pay for some equipment that is needed. He, too, attends camp in the summer.

These are just two examples of people who don’t want West Chicago to be “considered the blow-off team of the D.V.C.”

Thanks for your concern
Rachel Owens

'Snow days' explained even further

Dear Editors of the **Bridge**,

What are snow days for?

I asked myself this question while coming to school on March 13, 1991. The roads were horrible and I saw a number of cars that had skidded off the road during my ten minute drive to school. I always thought that snow days were for the safety of students and faculty. I hate to think what would happen if it was a bus that skidded off the road, instead of a car. Since we have to spend an extra week at the end of the year for snow days anyway, why are we so picky when it comes to using them?

Sincerely
Rachel Owens

More to come on
'Players or coaches'
next issue

Does time really slow down, or is it just you?

by Brian York



"What is the answer to number five?" the teacher asks you. You give a long drawn out reply and finish the rest of your work. You glance at the clock. What!!!!!! Two minutes have gone by? Only two minutes?

What you have just witnessed has been a dramatization. The participant was not an actor. These strange occurrences have been happening all over West Chicago and the outlying areas. Be advised of the symptoms: drowsiness, headaches, general laziness, wasting time.

Few cases have been reported, yet most the population seems to be catching this bug. Some of the reported victims gave their explanation of these bizarre happenings as follows:

Librarian Charlette Barsema — "You enter the school and the brain slows down. Then, the whole body system slows down, making the hours longer."

Senior Alan Courtin — "Certain gases in the fieldhouse floor emit foul diseases which slow down the brain."

Juniors John Hernandez and Kristie Spielman — "Some type of drug they put in the food that slows down the metabolism."

Sophomore J.J. Schwan — "Too much thorium in the water!"

Senior Dave Zeisler — "Once we enter the school building, the clocks slow down 20 percent. Time does not exist in our school."

The general consensus of the victims seem to think that their brains were slowed down somehow. Strange.

Time can be separated into different categories when at school.

English minutes — English minutes is a disease that can go slowly. Sometimes, the English minute can vary from class to class.

Lunch minute -- lunch minutes go very fast it seems like you are in the lunch room for less than ten minutes and you have to leave already and go back to class. A lunch minute is equal to 15 seconds.

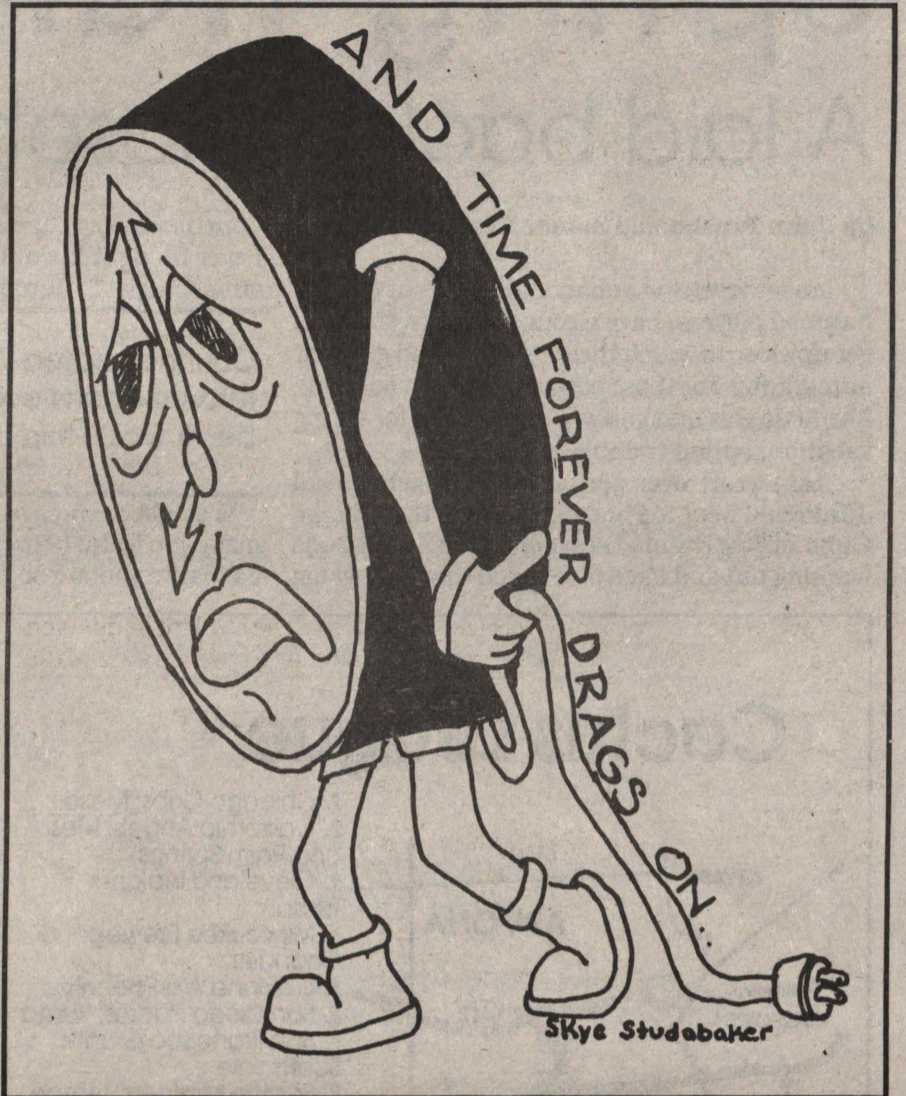
Math minutes — math minutes are slow no matter where you go in the world. There have been reports from all over the world about math minutes. There is nothing anyone can do about math minutes. Math minutes will always be there.

PE minutes — a PE minute has never been recorded for lack of clockage in the gyms.

Science minutes — to find out a science minute: divide an English minute by a math minute - then convert to moles - multiply by Avogadro's number and respect the number of significant digits.

Teacher minute — teacher minutes are the minutes that vary from minute to minute. An English teacher may have an English minute, then have a math minute, then have a lunch minute. A math teacher may have all math minutes. A PE teacher may even have a clock handy. Teacher minutes are very unstable. No cases have been reported from teachers.

Who knows? There may be a guy in a small sweat-filled room above the third floor named Vinnie that turns back the clocks when no one in the school is looking at a clock. But these instances are too numbered and can't be ignored. Be on the lookout for the above symptoms. The only way to change these minutes is to convert them all into one ideal minute.



Top ten reasons to eat lunch at school

by Brian York

10. Numerous cat fights makes an exciting way to digest food
9. Can't see the fights? Always a good seat in the cafeteria
8. Easy to play "guess the hot lunch" with friends
7. Sometimes you just gotta break the rules
6. Is there any other option...who has off-campus lunch anyway?
5. Great way to distinguish between cliques
4. Bridge editors make frequent appearances
3. The school cafeteria serves no whale meat in the lunches
2. Our lunch ladies support the troops
1. Where else can you get a free lunch for only working 15 minutes?

A personal side of the Middle East

by Brian Levake

Back in Issue six, an article was written about Andy Weldon. On January 24, Weldon left to join the United States Army. Below are several excerpts from the three letters I have received from him since then. They sort of show his side of the whole Army deal. Enjoy, and try to remember where he's coming from.

"Yesterday we took the military PFT, that's physical fitness test. I did 13 perfect military push ups. Yesterday they gave us another one and I did 26 perfect military push ups, but we are doing between 100-300 a day at least so I'll be doing a lot more before it's over.

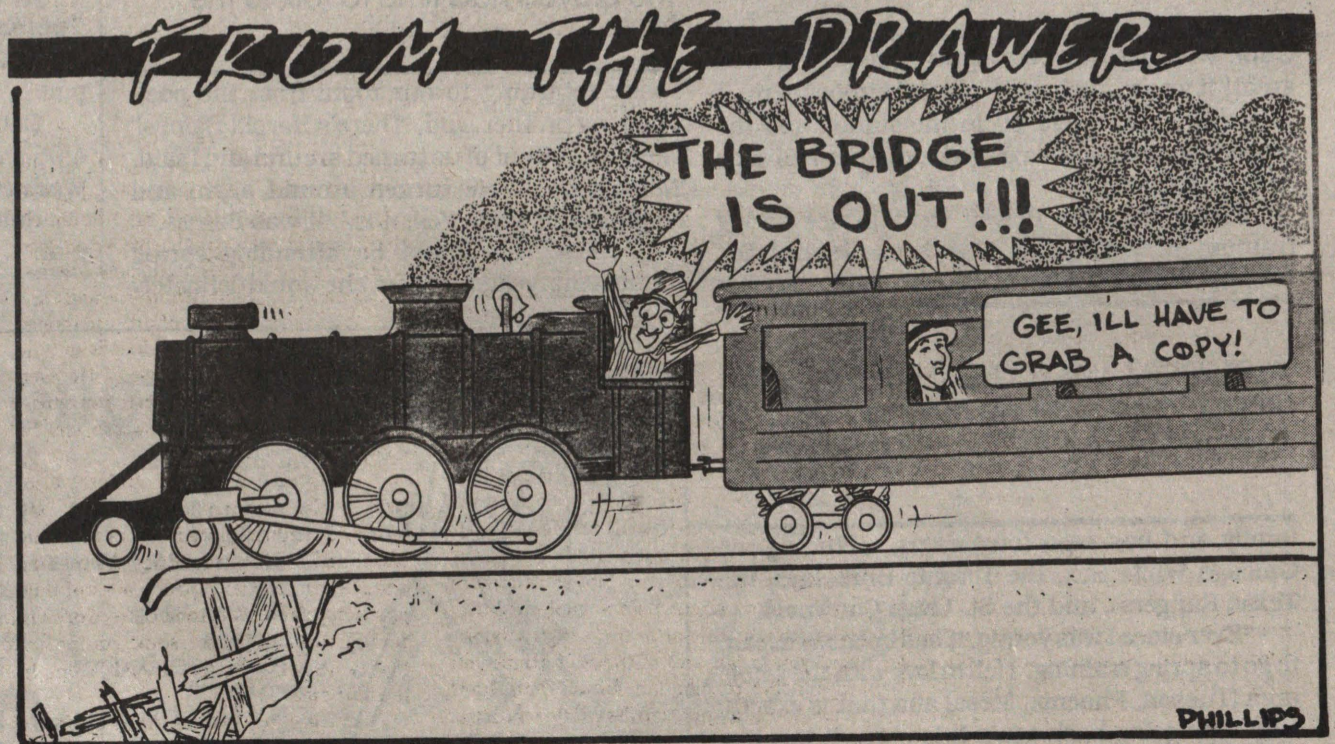
"There is some weird stuff around here. The guy three bunks down on my right is a satan worshipper and has all these tatoos and stuff. Our drill sargent also took us aside and told us when on guard to watch this guy a little extra because he's been pronounced boderline psychotic.

"There is a one in 50 chance that I'll draw leave before I go (to the Middle East). Well, I really should go and shine my boots. Shine, shine every boot is shined, do this, do that there ain't no more shine.

"Oh wait, this is funny, two guys one bunk down from me are fighting about religion. It's pretty funny, a born again Christian and an Atheist fighting over religion on a Sunday. It's really funny.

"Well, we had our first of many hand-to-hand combat classes yesterday. All I can say is that next time four guys say to us 'you got a problem,' they are in for a serious hurt. Well, I'm running out of paper and out of time but me and you are going to pick a fight with someone when I get back and I will show you the benefits of basic training.

"Today it hit me that I'm in the Army. I was sitting in the field with my chow in my lap, my kevlar on my head, rifle slung over my shoulder, laughing about an incident we had with an officer earlier that morning. I looked down at my boots and I couldn't remember what it looked like or felt like when I had my Con's on. It was really weird."



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Spring training

A laid back atmosphere

by John Prusko and Jamee Taylor

Imagine getting a chance to meet your favorite baseball players, have a conversation with them, get up close to watch them practice, and get their autograph? For those of you out there who would like to do this and go away somewhere for spring vacation, spring training is for you.

Last year, over spring break, teacher Paul Junkroski went to Phoenix, to watch the Chicago Cubs' spring training sessions. He saw the Cubs working out and liked it so much that he is going

Courtney stated, "It was just more relaxed than I ever thought it would be. It was a laid back atmosphere." Junkroski said, "...everything

Courtney stated, "It was just more relaxed than I ever thought it would be. It was a laid back atmosphere."

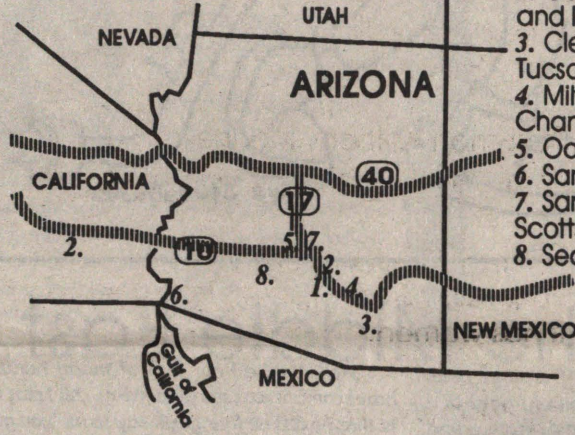
was smaller compared to the big city parks. It made you feel at home. Over here, at the big city ballparks you are so removed from the players

and over there at training, you are up close."

Another surprising fact of spring training is the prices. "The prices over at the ballparks are not that expensive," said Junkroski, "The most expensive seats there were the box seats, and they cost \$5.50. A general admission seat 28 rows from the dugout cost only \$4 and left field bleachers cost \$3."

Another fringe benefit of going to spring training is that you may run into some of the players after they are

Cactus League



1. Chicago Cubs: Mesa
2. California Angels: Mesa and Palm Springs
3. Cleveland Indians: Tucson
4. Milwaukee Brewers: Chandler
5. Oakland A's: Phoenix
6. San Diego Padres: Yuma
7. San Francisco Giants: Scottsdale
8. Seattle Mariners: Tempe

This map represents the Cactus League and where the teams above play.

again this year. "It was fun. I saw the Cubs and Giants (San Francisco) practice," you could walk in free of charge (to the training sessions). I enjoyed it and could have sat there all morning. I found it amazing how early they (the players) got there. I got there about seven-thirty in the morning and most of the players were there."

English teacher Tim Courtney went to Mesa, five years ago to watch spring training with the

"I enjoyed it and could have sat there all morning," said Junkroski.

Cubs working out over spring break. "It was great! It was a much more relaxed atmosphere. It was much more relaxed in the stands and the players were more relaxed. The players had time to talk to the fans."

Senior Jennifer Bowen went to see spring training in 1989, and also has attended the training in the years past. She went with her

"Ever since I was young, it has been my dream to go to spring training," said Junkroski.

family and has seen four teams, including the Chicago White Sox, the Toronto Blue Jays, the Texas Rangers, and the St. Louis Cardinals.

"Ever since I was young, it has been my dream to go to spring training. I fell in love with the whole area (Tucson, Phoenix, Mesa) and that is exactly why I am going back again this year. It was like I was a little kid when I got there. It was so relaxed," said Junkroski.

Probably, the most surprising thing to people who go to spring training is the relaxed atmosphere.

done practicing. Junkroski ran into Cubs' player Kurtis Wilkerson in a restaurant and later got his autograph.

"I got the autographs of the following players: (Cubs) Ron Cey, Billy Williams, Scott Sanderson and Manny Trillo," stated Courtney. Junkroski and his son got autographs from Cubs players Mark Grace, Jimmy Piersall, Mitch Williams, Damon Berryhill and Giants' player Brett Butler.

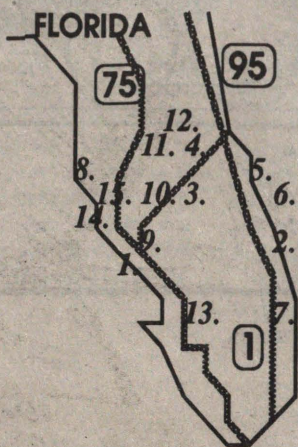
Bowen's most memorable experience was in 1989. "We stayed at the same hotel where a lot of the Sox players were staying. My brother and

The players had time to talk to the fans.

I were returning to our room from the pool, when my brother said, 'There's Harold Baines!' The man in front of us turned around and I said, 'No, it's not.' He turned around again and laughed and said, 'Yes, it is.' It was Baines."

Bowen will not be attending spring training this year, however, she would definitely be willing to go again.

Grapefruit League



1. Chicago White Sox: Sarasota
2. Atlanta Braves: West Palm Beach
3. Boston Red Sox: Winter Haven
4. Houston Astros: Kissimmee
5. Los Angeles Dodgers: Vero Beach
6. N.Y. Mets: Port St. Lucie
7. N.Y. Yankees: Ft. Lauderdale
8. Philadelphia Phillies: Clearwater
9. Baltimore Orioles: Sarasota
10. Cincinnati Reds: Plant City
11. Detroit Tigers: Lakeland
12. Kansas City Royals: Baseball City
13. Minnesota Twins: Ft. Myers
14. Pittsburgh Pirates: Bradenton
15. St. Louis Cardinals: St. Petersburg

Spring schedule for

Saturday, March 23

Chicago White Sox vs. New York Yankees in Ft. Lauderdale at 1:05p.m.

Chicago Cubs vs. Oakland at Phoenix at 3:05 p.m.

Sunday, March 24

Baltimore vs. Sox at Sarasota, FL at 1:35p.m.

Cubs vs. San Francisco at Mesa, AZ 3:05 p.m.

Monday, March 25

Sox vs. Boston in Sarasota at 1:35 p.m.

Cubs vs. Cleveland in Mesa at 3:05 p.m.

Tuesday, March 26

Sox vs. Pittsburgh in Bradenton, FL 1:05 p.m.

Cubs vs. California in Palm Springs, CA at 4:05 p.m.

Wednesday, March 27

Cubs vs. California in Palm Springs at 4:05 p.m.

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We-go off on spring break

by Dana Billick

The question on everyone's mind lately is "What's going on for spring break?" Here are some typical answers from around WCCHS.

Spring sports are starting up, so many students are remaining in West Chicago for practices. Many share the plans of Senior Cheryl Greenwalt, "Absolutely nothing, I'm playing softball." Senior Jessica Walters agrees, "Softball, softball, and more softball!"

Travel is also a popular activity planned for spring break. Senior Doug Sawyer is "going skiing, golfing, and swimming in the ocean," on

his trip to California. Sophomore Ashley Yule has plans for the sun and surf at Daytona Beach, FL. A Caribbean cruise might be your dream and that's what senior Jamee Taylor is doing on her spring break. "I'm going to Jamaica, mon."

However, the most popular idea for this year's spring break is to stay home and relax. Senior Amy Schultze says, "I need a break!" Others, like Senior Craig Baldwin "don't know yet," but they are sure they'll have a load of fun. One thing everyone agrees on is that this year's spring break is definitely well deserved.

Dream Vacations

If you could go anywhere on spring break, where would you go?

by Jenny Dogget

Junior Cherie Oskerka
"Missouri, cause I have a friend down there who is a total party animal."

Junior John Hernandez
"HAWAII!!!"

Sophomore Derek Barton
"I'd go to some far off island with topless women."

Senior Alan Courtin
"I'd go to Cabo San Lucas Mexico and spend all my waking hours in the Cabo Wabo Cantina."

Sophomore Thea Hopkins
"I'd go on a cruise to the Virgin Island's because of clear water, warm weather, and white sand."

Sophomore Julie Hahne
"The Caribbean"

Freshman Anthony Mennella
"California, because it is warm."

Freshman Steven Stephan
"Hawaii, it's warm, it has beaches, and it has women."

Freshman Gail Organ
"California because it's warm."

Senior Pat Quane
"Either Paris, London, West Chicago, or Rome."

Junior Brian Levake
"Old Comiskey"

Senior Vashon Hayes
"Somewhere far from here."

Cubs and Sox

Wednesday, March 27

Cubs vs. California in Palm Springs at 4:05 p.m.

Thursday, March 28

Cubs vs. San Diego in Yuma, AZ at 3:05 p.m.

Sox vs. Minnesota in Sarasota at 7:35 p.m.

Friday, March 29

Sox vs. Toronto in Dunedin, FL at 1:35 p.m.

Cubs vs. Milwaukee in Mesa at 3:05 p.m.

Saturday, March 30

Sox vs. Kansas City in Sarasota at 1:35 p.m.

Cubs vs. Milwaukee in Chandler, AZ at 3:05 p.m.

Sunday, March 31

Sox vs. Houston in Sarasota at 1:35 p.m.

Cubs vs. San Francisco at Mesa at 3:05 p.m.

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Siblings who look alike, act alike - or do they?

by Kim Derby

Siblings who look alike do not always act alike.

For instance, senior Dave Zeisler said he and his brother, Brian, have "completely different personalities." While Dave likes to run, sophomore Brian enjoys watching television, and spending more time indoors than his older brother.

Twin brother and sister Tim and Melody Benson differ in personality. While Tim is

"laid back" and likes to take it easy, Melody works hard and is happy when she is involved in varying activities.

Freshman Julie Kramer is "a lot quieter" according to older sister, Jennifer.

Malia and Chris Leck claim they disagree on quite a bit. Malia feels Chris has a better sense of humor, and Chris thinks his sister "is weird".

Life in the homes of siblings with similar appearances is not always a conflict. John and Chris Seper "have the same personalities and beliefs."

They share many of the same friends despite their two year age difference, according to younger brother, John.

The Kramer sisters both play sports. At school, they both play volleyball and basketball.

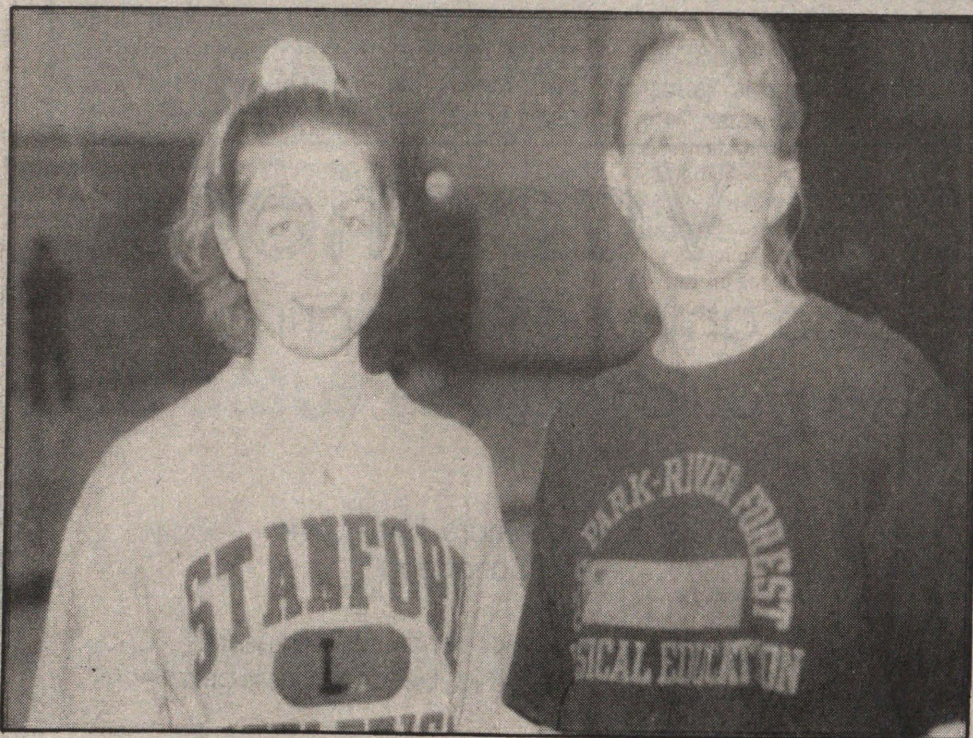
Even though the Zeislers feel they are very different, they find time to share extracurricular activities. The brothers go out and "waste money at Galaxy World".

Siblings who feel they share no major differences are the Bensons. The brother and sister sit next to each other in the trombone

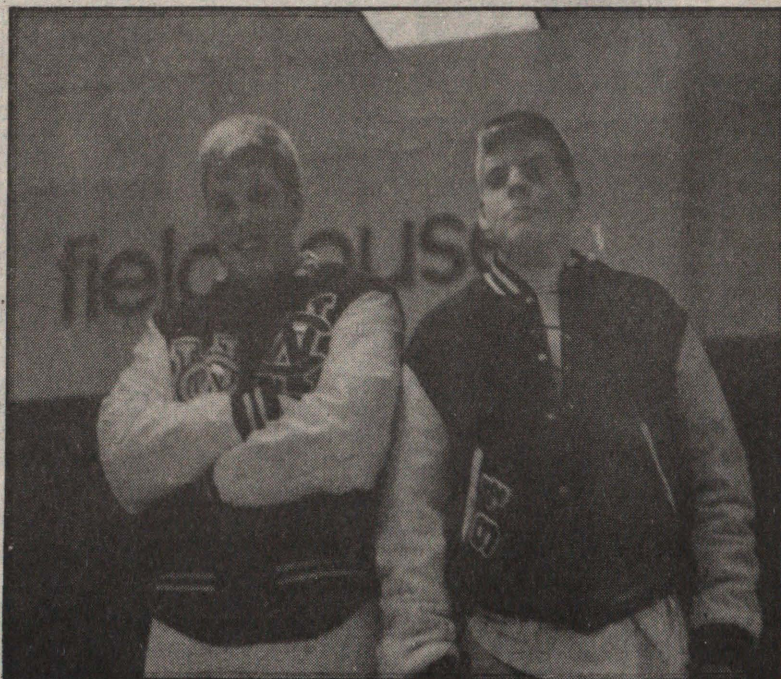
section in the school band. They also say that they share shyness, a talent to get along well with others, and a good sense of humor.

The Lecks enjoy going out with their friends and having fun, according to Malia. She says they don't agree on much else. Chris agrees they like going out, but they do not get along "when it comes to salad dressings".

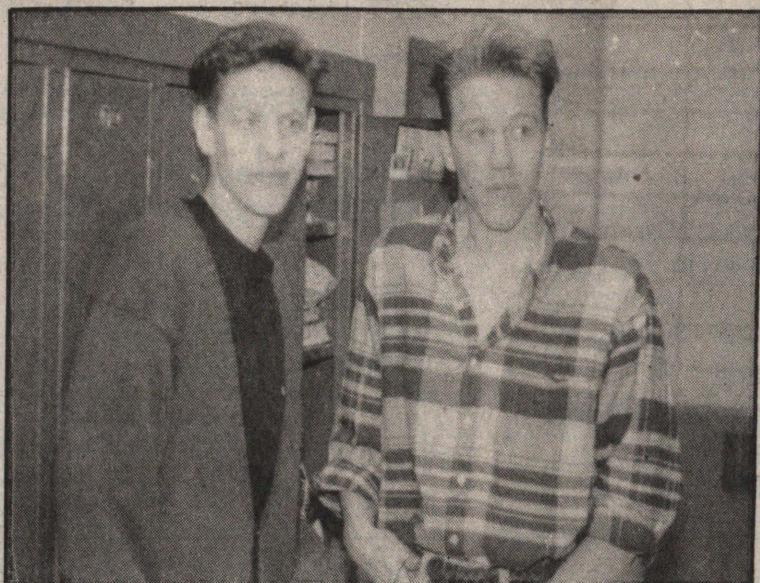
Even the closest siblings disagree on things. The younger Seper, John, said one thing he doesn't like about Chris is, "He thinks Jim Morrison screwed up his life."



Heather and Courtney Adams working out in P.E. (photo by Gina Lipscomb)



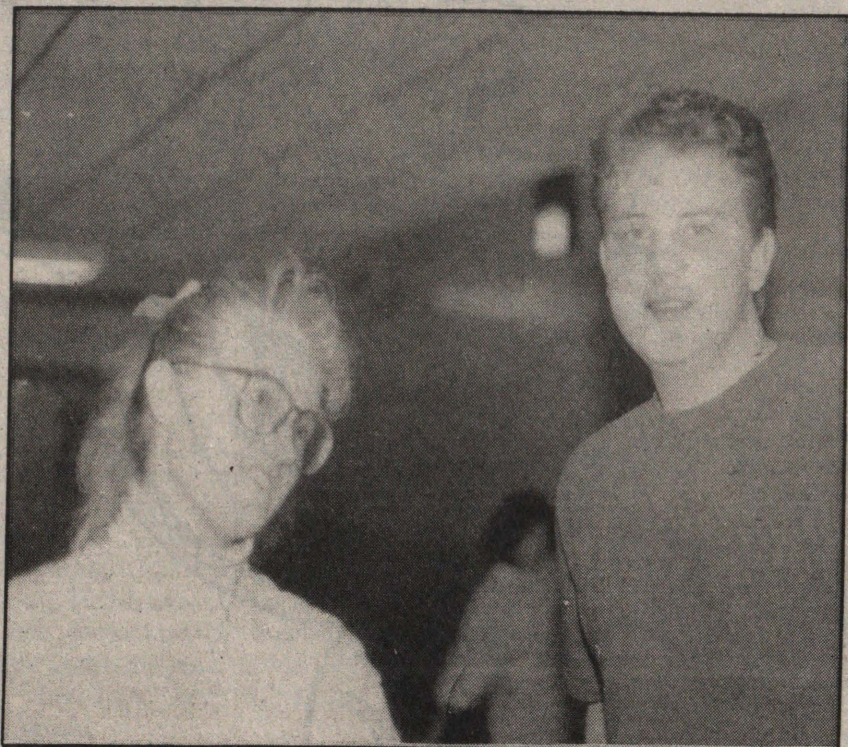
Kurt and K.C. Gulbro are often asked if they are twins. (photo by Gina Lipscomb)



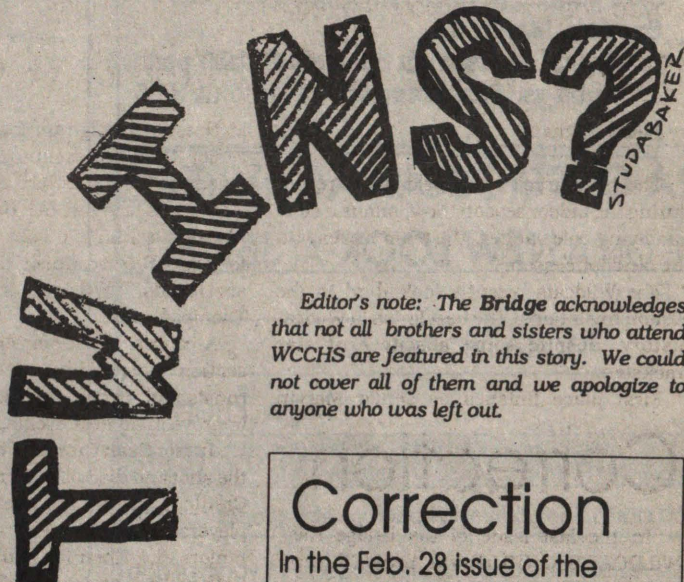
Twins James and Jeremy Mayhom hangin' out in the halls. (photo by Gina Lipscomb)



While Claire and Steve Broido don't look alike, they share many common interests. (photo by Gina Lipscomb)



Malia Leck and her "little" brother Chris. (photo by Gina Lipscomb)



Editor's note: The Bridge acknowledges that not all brothers and sisters who attend WCCHS are featured in this story. We could not cover all of them and we apologize to anyone who was left out.

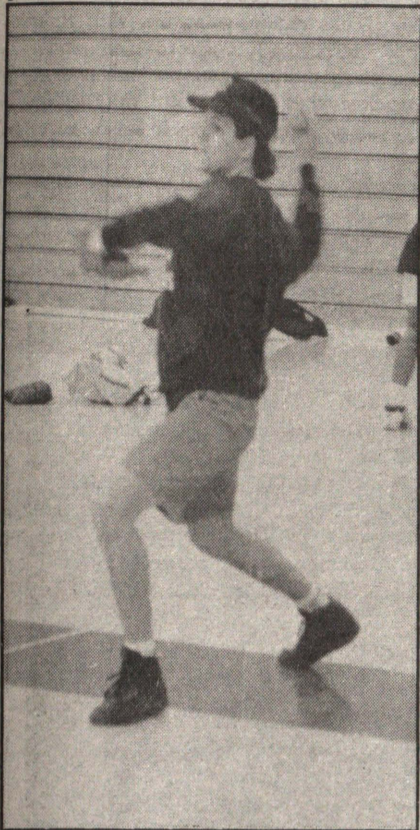
Correction

In the Feb. 28 issue of the Bridge, a photograph of a SASSED student was incorrectly identified. The correct student was Jeff Manring.

Question mark players to make or break baseball

by Chris Seper

Often the weight of a season is put on the shoulders of the newcomer, the unknown person who could make or break a season.



Shelby Dean leaves little question in the mind of Coach Tim Courtney that he will be one of the top players in the DVC this year...

In the case of the 25-player Wildcat baseball team, the weight of the season will be put on the shoulders of these unknown newcomers—all 20 of them.

The Wildcats will be entering this season with only five returning seniors, who will be joined by two sophomores, 12 juniors, and six players that have either transferred, not played since their sophomore year or have never played high school baseball—all of them new to the varsity squad.

"The only thing I feel is, who knows?" Wildcat Baseball Coach Tim Courtney said. "I see all good things and I hear all good things but that means nothing until I see them on the field."

Two returning starters for the Cats are seniors Shelby Dean and Pat Quane. The pair of honorable mention all-conference picks are Courtney's choices to lead the team.

"We expect big things from them this year. We expect Shelby to be one of the best pitchers in the conference, if not the best. We expect Pat to be one of our best hitters."

Last season, Dean closed out the year with a 4-5 record, with one save and an E.R.A. of 1.46 while batting .282 with two home runs and 13 RBI. Quane, who hit higher in the lineup than Dean, batted .313 with 13 runs scored.

But for the pair of answers to Courtney's worries in Dean and Quane, more questions are handed to the second-year Cat head coach. The dilemma of who to start in the infield and outfield bears heavy in Courtney's mind.

"I could write two completely different lineups with completely different players," he said. "All could have a chance to start. None of the 18 names would surprise me. I think we have a good group of players. Who will be the starters? I don't know."

Infielders and outfielders are plentiful for Courtney as is speed. Former track star, senior Eddie Gonzalez, leads a host of quick outfielders like seniors Jim Gayton and Ed Pagan and sophomore Scott Westman that may be fighting for two spots in the outfield if Dean returns to last season's spot in right field. While Quane will be a facet in the infield, the rest of the three remaining spots will be fought over by at least seven players.

"There is a chance of three non-seniors in the infield," Courtney said. But the Cat coach looks towards a pair of players not only due to their infield prowess, but their improvement since the previous season.

"Jamie McDole looks like a player," Courtney said. "Last year he looked like a kid who could hit but couldn't play the field. Joe Wagenaar is bigger, stronger and more aggressive at the bat and on the mound. He may be one of our pitchers."

One Wildcat question mark that will remain unanswered is the status of Fenwick transfer Dan Boyle. The senior pitcher, who in his last season with Fenwick pitched 16 innings in two games, notching 28 strikeouts and 12 walks while giving up 12 runs, eight of them earned for an E.R.A. of 3.50, had a 2-0 record in two complete games until breaking his hand in early May. The status on the newest Cat prospect is currently unknown, however, as Courtney has opted not to comment on Boyle.

Pitchingwise the Cats will be starting nearly from scratch—with Dean being the only returning pitcher. Along with Dean, Boyle and junior Jamie Mackert (summer league record 1-2, 4.41 E.R.A.) will lead a host of newcomer candidates that Courtney claimed could turn this possible weak point into a strength.

But between the could be's, might be's and

hope to be's is one question—what happens if all these question marks turn negative?

"If they don't get answered we'll have a losing record," Courtney said. "That's what will happen if they don't come through."



...but will numerous newcomers, like Fenwick transfer Dan Boyle, be able to answer the call for a solid team? (photos by Chris Seper)



Shuttlecocks away!

Junior Seema Patel is one of many faces on this year's badminton team. Badminton season has just gotten under way for the spring season. The team has had three meets so far, with a record of 1-3. (photo by Gina Lipscomb)

Boys' lose Gonzalez, looks towards outdoor

by Patrick Quane

The boys' track team held a 7-5 record during the indoor season. Now, minus a state qualifying pole vaulter, the team moves into the outdoor season.

The Wildcats recently took third in the Fenton Invitational, the best finish in Wildcat history, despite some absences of star tracksters.

First place finishes by senior Marvin

McNeese in the high and low 55 meter hurdles, senior Brad Doerschuk in the high jump aided the Cats to a third place finish.

"Brad is jumping 6-1, 6-2 consistently but in order for him to qualify for state he needs to jump 6-5 or finish first or second in sectionals," Wildcat track Coach Bob Thompson said.

A concern to Thompson is, with the exception of Doerschuk, no one is winning consistently in field events. "We really need to improve in all field events," said Thompson.

Junior Sean Cronin is expected to help in the shot and discus, according to Thompson. Cronin is one of the three varsity basketball players out this year for track, the others are juniors Rick Eberman and Travis Sullivan. Both will run sprints and Sullivan will do the triple and long jump.

The Cats may have suffered a major blow with the loss of senior state qualifying pole vaulter Eddie Gonzalez due to disciplinary disagreements.

"I feel the loss of Gonzalez will not hurt the team, if anything it will hurt him," replied Thomson. Last year, Gonzalez took a trip down to the state meet after jumping 13-6.

Another concern for Thomson is the overall attitude of the team so far. "Our overall attitude is not really good, we are too relaxed," said Thomson.

One of the problems for Thomson is that he has a couple of people on the edge of being suspended for absences and tardiness. However, he feels that most of his players do work hard.

At the DuPage Valley Conference meet Saturday March 16, the Cats placed sixth with 30.3 points. The only first-place finish was earned by senior Rick Montalvo in the two mile with a time of 9:51. Montalvo has now won a two conference championships, the other being in cross country.

A second-place finish was won by Doerschuk, who jumped 6-2. Doerschuk's jump was the same as the winner's, but he had used one more attempt on the day.

In the oven

by Chris Seper



Boys' v-ball joins sports graveyard

It was a flash of light, a brilliant idea. Heck, it was the best thing to hit West Chicago since the invention of swimming. What ever happened to boys' volleyball?

The new sport was seemed assured to begin competing with schools like Wheaton and Naperville Central. But after an enthusiastic year of hoping, boy's volleyball has been spiked, for at least a while.

"No one has come forward with any concentrated effort," Athletic Director Ron Hansen said.

Will West Chicago have to go without? Unfortunately, boys' volleyball is just another of several sports that the DuPage Valley Conference offers that West Chicago doesn't.

For those who have stayed unaware of the high mortality rate of new and rarely used sports at West Chicago, here is a sobering tour of the Wildcat graveyard, a resting place for sports that made it every place but here.

Gymnastics: 1973-1981. The oldest and most shameful member of the graveyard. A team at every other DVC school but ours gets a chance to compete in an exciting and different sport that even features a DVC meet at the end of the season. A DVC meet, that is, without West Chicago.

Hockey: dead on arrival. Although not as embarrassing as gymnastics is to this school of 1400, hockey is seen in half of the schools in conference. Interconference play is coupled with competition with other schools like St. Charles that also has a hockey program.

Now a new inscription lies in the graveyard. Boys' volleyball: died unborn—Although it is the most recent, it is by no means the first.

Will they all stay dead forever?

Correction

In the last issue of the Bridge the WILDCAT SPORTS TRIVIA ANSWER was incorrect. The question was, have there been any four-time state qualifiers. The answer in the February 28 issue was no. There have been several four-time state qualifiers at West Chicago in swimming, one of which is senior Carol Petusky.

Softball makes a run at third DVC crown

Eight starters return to fuel 3-peat quest

by Jon Turkot

Lady Wildcat softball Head Coach Lee Maciejewski has an optimistic outlook on the season.

"I'm very optimistic," Maciejewski said. "We have eight out of our ten starters back. We have experience returning with enthusiasm."

Along with all-conference players pitcher Kelly Matthews, Melody Benson, Laurie Davidson, and Sue Thomas; junior second baseman Liz Gernand, who received honorable mention all-conference honors last year, will once again join the Lady Cats.

To add to the list of all-conference stars,

junior pitcher/designated hitter Gretchen Austgen, sophomore outfielder Shannon Mason and senior first-basemen Jessica Walters finish the Lady Cat returnees.

Both Matthews and Benson share a similar outlook on the season. "We have good players at all positions," said Matthews. "They have a good attitude toward the season."

"The whole team feels good," Benson said. "We need to work hard to have a lot of success. Everyone needs to back each other up."

According to Maciejewski, the Lady Cats have their work cut out for them if they want to repeat as the DuPage Valley Conference champs for the third year in a row.

"I think we can do it," he explained. "It's never easy. We just have to think all the time. When you don't think, you're suspect to your opponents."

Maciejewski also said that weak points on this year's team are few. "I worry about hitting," said Maciejewski. "But we have all the ingredients to be a great team."

To compensate for the lack of hitting, Maciejewski said he will try to find holes in the

opponent's defense. "We're going to work on bunting," Maciejewski said. "We're going to try to steal a lot of bases and do a lot of aggressive running." Davidson, the number two hitter in the lineup, played the role of a designated bunter last year, and may do so again this time around.

The strength of this year's team is the trio of pitchers the Lady Cats have. Austgen, the all-conference star Matthews and junior Kristie Spielman make up the bulk of the Wildcat defense.

"It's nice to have them there," Maciejewski said. "They have no reason to save themselves. I want them to give it everything they've got all the time."

But the key to the Lady Cat's offensive success is, according to Maciejewski, the team's quickness. "We're very quick," Maciejewski said. "We have good speed and good bunters. We can play for one run at a time."

But the loss of two key players—all-area star Angie Webb and senior graduate Missy Vega, leaves the team at a loss for leaders.

"They were the two players that the team looked up to," said Maciejewski. "If there was something that needed to be done (on the field), those two could get the job done."

"With seven seniors on the team, it's not as critical," Maciejewski continued. "Anybody can stand up and get the job done. They all can play."

Even though the Lady Cats have been praised for their DVC accomplishments, they have been ridiculed for their poor regional play, losing in the final round in each of the last two years.

"Last year, the younger kids were too tight," Maciejewski said. "We weren't ordained to win last year. The better team wins or the luckier team wins."

"Execution is the key this year," Benson said. "We just need to be focused."

As for team goals, Maciejewski says he would like to be DVC champs again. "It would mean more to me (than regionals)," Maciejewski said. "To be DVC champs, you have to win twelve or thirteen games. To be regional champs, all you have to win is three!"

Martin brothers return to give tennis high hopes

by Aaron Owens

The Wildcat boys' tennis team has its two top players back in senior Kai and sophomore brother Jon Martin. Kai will take his place at first singles for the third year in a row—he placed fourth in first singles in the DuPage Valley Conference last year—and Jon will return to second once again where he took second in the DVC last year.

But who will fill the third singles position? Wildcat Tennis Coach Clone Moeaki is looking forward to a very good season from his team. Moeaki said that the definite strength is in their singles players. He believes that both Jon and Kai have a good chance at making it to Champaign this year—the location of the state tournament in tennis.

"With the sectional taking four singles and four doubles players we have a real good chance of getting someone down this year," Moeaki said.

The best chance may be in the senior Martin, who after his first place finish was eliminated in the sectional last year. Moeaki has nothing but good things to say about his first-singles player, who is team captain this year.

"Kai is doing a great job as captain, leading the team in warmups and training," Moeaki said.

With Jon again retaking his second singles position and again getting a shot at the DVC championship at the two position, the question is, who is going to be in third singles?

Moeaki is looking toward junior Clay Turner to fill the spot. Moeaki believes that Turner, who played in both singles and doubles competition at varsity last year, will not only be used at third singles but possibly at first

singles as well.

Although most of the varsity players have left, the two doubles teams do have some returning players. Although not as predictable as singles, there are many players that Moeaki said can do a great job.

Along with sophomores Pete Chadraha and Kurt Hesterman, the two leading candidates for a spot in varsity doubles. Moeaki said there are at least eight other players competing for spots in the doubles lineup. Moeaki said that he's trying many different combinations to see who plays well with whom.



Kai Martin will again take hold of the first singles position for the third year in a row. (photo by Chris Seper)

Girls' track heads to outdoor season

by Jim Stanicls

Coming back to this year's girls' track team was the entire two-mile relay team. But the relay team was broken apart this year to strengthen the team overall.

The state qualifier squad of senior Nicole Horyn, senior Heather Jardis, sophomore Sarah Meyers and sophomore Adrienne Yule, although certain members will sometimes compete in the relay, they have broken down into individual events.

The entire track team has finished the indoor season and is heading into outdoor. The indoor record is 11-7, 0-1 against DuPage Valley Conference. The loss came against Glenbard North.

"So far the season has been very successful," Lady Cat Coach Wilbert Walters said. "Our major win so far is winning the Fenton Invitational." The Lady Cats scored 93 points for their first ever victory in seven years at the eight-team event.

Horyn is currently ranked second in the state in the 800-meter run and is ranked number five in the one-mile race. Horyn is ahead of both of her times from last year and has earned several personal best during the indoor season.

Jardis, who came to track directly from girls' basketball, is currently sixth in Illinois in the two-mile. In a meet against Geneva and Oswego, Jardis came in first in the two mile, over two laps ahead of her

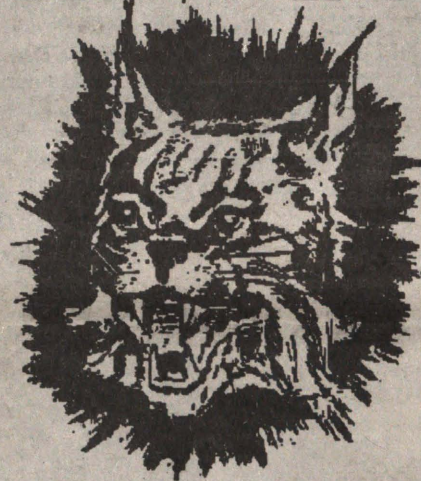
closest contender. At the same meet, Jardis got a second in the mile behind Horyn.

Meyers is running in both the mile and the 400-meter run. She is running the mile in 5:48 and running the 400 in 65.5. Yule is getting off to an agonizing start due to lack of practice but has competed in numerous relays and individual events.

In the final indoor meet of the season, the DVC indoor meet at Glenbard South on March 16, the Lady Cat team placed seventh out of the eight teams with 15.5 points.

The Wildcats earned only one first-place finish—that being in the 800-meter run by Horyn who earned a time of 2:21.5. Naperville Central won the meet.

WINTER SPORTS AWARD WINNERS



Most Valuable Player

Boys' Basketball: Gary Barnes
Girls' Basketball: Heather Jardis
Boys' Swimming: T.J. Weigand
Wrestling: Doug Sawyer

Most Improved

Boys' Basketball: Kevin Baldus
Girls' Basketball: Laurie Davidson
Boys' Swimming: Luis Barros
Wrestling: Jason Nourie

Specialty Awards

Boys' Basketball, Best Defensive: Rick Eberman
Girls' Basketball, Best Defensive: Melody Benson
Boys' Swimming, Rookie of the Year: John Adamo
Wrestling, Most takedowns: Israel Castro

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