

# We-go students to Costa Rica for three week exchange

by Elisa Biancalana

This summer five students and two teachers will be able to experience the Costa Rican culture. They will be going to Costa Rica for three weeks, from July 8 to July 29.

The students going to Costa Rica are Junior Sarah Bant, and sophomores Anna Hayes, Candi Kairys, Julia Rodenkirch, and Adrienne Yule. They will be going with teachers Mrs. Lisa Black-Gomez and Ms. Susan Junkroski.

The exchange program to Costa Rica was started by Gomez. Gomez said, "We chose CIEE(Council On International Educational

Exchanges) then made our decision to go through the application process."

All the students and the two teachers going are all enthusiastic about their trip. Kairys hopes to visit her cousin who lives down there while on her trip. She also said, "Hopefully I'll meet a lot of people and see what they do for fun." Bant said, "I look forward to tasting the foods of the country, see the tropical jungles, and visit the beaches."

For Yule, this is the first time out of the country. "I want to see new things and I look forward to practicing my Spanish," replied Yule. "I hope to visit with the people, the

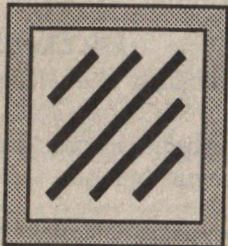
beaches, and the malls." Hayes said, "This is a once in a lifetime experience for me. I want to see everything and I especially want to see an English class in Costa Rica."

Junkroski wants to see "everything." She said, "I hope to go white water rafting and visit their markets. I would also like to learn about the history and cultural things about Costa Rica." Gomez said, "I hope to visit the archaeological ruins and visit the museums and see the colonial art."

Junkroski and Gomez feel this is a good experience for the students and themselves. Junkroski replied, "I'll be forced to speak

Spanish all the time and so will the students. It will help my Spanish and I hope to learn Costa Rican expressions." Gomez feels that it will be a good experience for the students because they will be able to experience another culture, see what their school day is like, and see how the social life for teenagers is in Costa Rica. She said, "I hope to learn about the politics of Costa Rica and how it works."

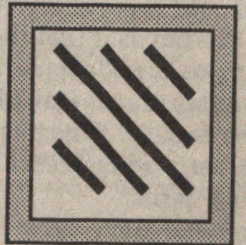
On July 11 they will see a solar eclipse. They will also be able to see the volcanoes, rainforests, and museums. Other trips have been planned for them by their host families.



## the bridge

West Chicago Community High School

326 Joliet Street West Chicago, IL 60185 May 10, 1991 Volume 20, Number 11



# Possibility of WCCHS becoming a recycling school

by Chris Seper

Quickly becoming the recycling beacon in the state of Illinois, WCCHS could be having a paper recycling program in the high school next year.

The recycling company Paper Savers Inc. is being tested in both the math and social studies departments—a total of 25 rooms—before the program is instituted throughout the high school next year. The disposal involves both ditto and copier paper in one half of the box and then in the second half only notebook paper is used. The ditto and copier paper will be collected in week to week intervals, depending on the amount removed in the school.

"We were concerned right away that we didn't have the man power," Principal Alan Jones said about the effort it would take to get all the paper out of the schools. "But the thing Mr. (business manager James) Mast was concerned about was that he didn't get involved with sorting and packing the paper."

Balled paper will not be taken no matter what paper it is and it must be removed before they are handed in to the Paper Savers collector. "There was a suggestion that student council and other groups can provide the service," Jones said of the collecting work. "I

think it's a fantastic idea, I hope it carries through."

Paper Savers company was brought into the school May 7, when the president of Paper

Savers John McInerney came into social studies teacher Steve Arnold's second hour Government class to speak about the idea. "Mr. Arnold said he was willing to supervise it and run the (math and social studies) collection," Jones said.

Arnold, who was the advisor of the Student Environmental Action Committee, is coordinating the program for Paper Savers as well as guiding students on the SEAC-spawned House Bill 097 which would require all schools to use recycled stock by 2003.

There are numerous things that cannot be disposed of in the Paper Savers Inc. program. Folders, poster board, lunch bags, napkins, plastic bags, construction paper, Kleenex, magazines, newspaper, paper towels, paper plates, whole workbooks, workbook pages, tin foil, wax paper, tape or post-it notes, notebook covers, steel spirals, neon or day glo colors, food wrappers, drink containers and cellophane wrappers are all exempt from the collection.

"The only stumbling block I see is that it won't be watched closely," Jones said. "Boxes will be rejected if not properly sorted and we don't want them lying around school." Jones also voiced concerns about existing fire codes, that could be violated if the paper program is not handled properly.



Matt Moran, Dave Vish, Claire Broido, Amy Brigowatz and Steve Arnold have been working to have Bill 097 passed. This paper will require all schools to use recycled stock by 2003.

# Seniors ready to graduate after four years at WCCHS

by Julia Hill

On June 9, the class of '91 will have their Graduation Ceremony in the Bishop Gym at 2 p.m..

Many of the students have taken on a carefree mood. "It is wonderful! It is cool! It is awesome! It is radical!" said Gayle Hofman, "(Graduation), a time for recognition for our wonderful accomplishments. It is the last day of our high school career. Memories are made!"

Jessica Walters who is going to major in Psychology at college feels that it is time to go. "I want to go to college because this school is a prison. I can go and be on my own," said Walters. Steve Majerus response to leaving school was "Get me out of here!"

"It's going to be real nice for me because in my country Mexico, I can't graduate from high school..."

Angel Leon

There are seniors who are sad and emotional about graduating. "I think I am going to cry," said Linna Lim.

"I want to get out," said Sue Thomas, "but when I think about it, it (leaving) is really sad...most of my friends, I won't see again."

Flyori Woldegabr was not quite sure what she felt, "I'm happy. I am going to cry." Kim Labelle commented that it would be fun to see everyone cry.

Graduation has a special meaning for Angel Leon. "It's going to be real nice for me because in my country Mexico, I can't graduate from high school. In this country I have a chance to graduate." Leon continued that he wanted to continue to learn English because "I want to speak it very well, writing and everything."

Discipline is going to be strict on June 9. There will be four police men to make sure the ceremony goes smoothly. At graduation "I think that we should throw up our hats!" said Liz Weibler. Her wish is not going to happen. The school board and Principle Alan Jones have said that the throwing of hats are against Graduation Discipline Policy. Majerus explained that this did not bother him because he could "see where they're coming from—a safety kind of thing," Majerus said.

This year not only the Senior class will say goodbye to their years of high school but also staff-Superintendent Richard Kamm, Marjorie Rhodes, A.V. Clerk and Dorothy Drumbrowski, Jones's secretary. Kamm does not know how he feels about his last Graduation as superintendent. "I don't know if I'm looking forward to it or not emotionally. All my feelings are mixed up with everything and the thought of doing something different." Kamm said.

# Inkspots

by Kim Derby, Julia Hill and Brian Levake

## Bathrooms locked?

The bathroom doors have remained locked.

The boys' and girls' washroom doors on the second floor were to be opened for use this year, but some problems caused them to be locked, anyway.

When students found the doors to be closed to the student population, complaints went out and an editorial was written in the Bridge.

According to Dr. Alan Jones in the article, the bathroom doors were going to be opened permanently, but they were not.

Jones cited reasons for the situation. He said that he found the cause by "going around investigating the problem." He claimed the doors have been locked because there are new custodians who "probably don't know the doors should be unlocked." He also said that the teachers may also be the cause.

"Some teachers have keys to the bathrooms and I think they lock the bathroom doors when they are done using them," Jones commented.

In order to remedy the situation, Jones plans on having a parapro check the doors each hour to make sure they are open.

## Bridge wins awards

On April 26, Bridge members brought home awards from the Northern Illinois School Press Association's spring

conference at William Rainey Harper College.

Winning honorable mention awards were Margaret Walen for news writing, Gina Lipscomb for photography, Chris Seper for sports writing, and the team of Dana Billick, Michelle May, Korigall Huthins, John Kufer, and Jamee Taylor for team in-depth writing.

Receiving a Blue Ribbon (excellent rating) was Matt Phillips for editorial cartoon. Overall, the Bridge won a silver certificate for journalism excellence.

Making the trip and accepting the awards were prospective editors for next years staff

# Students killed from Wheaton North

Two Wheaton North students were killed and one was injured on May 18 when their car struck head on with another car on North Avenue near Klein Road.

The deceased Heather Northrop driver, and Jeff Vogel, were both 16 years old. The survivor Eric Audskar (16) was hospitalized originally at Delnor Hospital.

Only Audskar was wearing his seatbelt at the time of the accident.

The passengers in the other car were all wearing their seatbelts and are alive.

Opened and unopened cans of beer were found in the car. The cans may have been opened at the time of impact of the crash. Investigations are now being made to see if the accident was alcohol related.

The student were traveling home from a tennis meet at St. Charles.

Wheaton North secretary, Marian Novak said, "Think twice at Prom and buckle up."

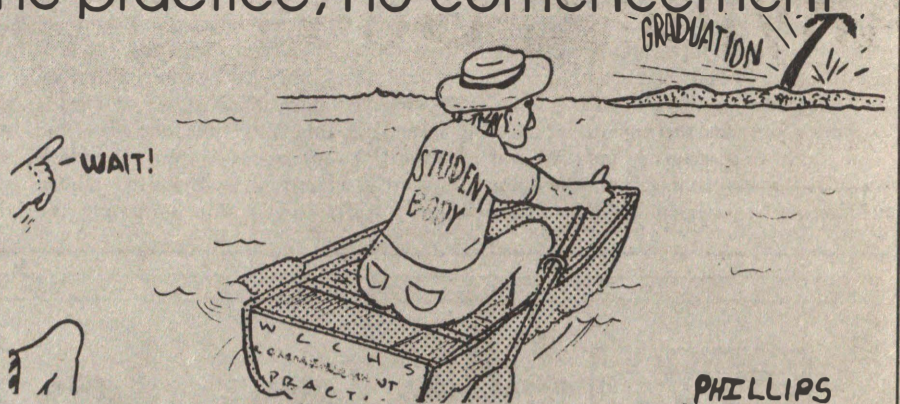
## Senior breakfast canceled and no practice, no commencement

What has happened to the good times of graduation?

Senior Breakfast having been cancelled along with the fact that if you miss graduation practice, then you can not attend commencement does not seem like a very enjoyable graduation.

According to Superintendent, Richard Kamm, graduation practice must be required of no one would come. Principal Dr. Alan Jones said, "I want it (graduation) to look like a class act." He also said that you can't attend commencement unless you go to graduation practice, or unless you go to him with a good reason. Good reasons include ACT and other such exams, death, and students in the hospital. One reason that is not acceptable, though, is work. According to Kamm, the biggest problem is jobs. Kamm said that the employer will usually give students time off.

Senior Breakfast has also been cancelled. Usually on the morning of graduation practice, all the seniors get together and eat breakfast with all of their friends. This has been cancelled this year. According to Jones, breakfast was cancelled because students wanted to get out of the practice earlier.



The Bridge editors believe that Senior Breakfast should be held again. Also, if a person comes to a dean one week before graduation practice with a valid excuse for not being able to attend the practice, they should be excused and allowed to attend commencement.

## Everything but the kitchen sink in letters to the editor

### Is solitaire a form of gambling at WCCHS?

Dear Editors,

When I am in the LRC listening to the other students talk and yell and beat on the tables, and I have nothing to do, instead of talking and yelling and beating on the tables, I enjoy playing a friendly game of solitaire.

Since January, I have been playing solitaire during fourth hour every day, and never, not once, was I ever disturbed for doing something wrong.

On May 13, 1991, while I was quietly not playing solitaire (I was doing my math homework), I was told by Ms. Barsema that my cards are illegal in the LRC. When asked why, Barsema told me that card games, even solitaire, are "forms of gambling." I guess she is worried about me losing money to myself.

Also, she told me that if I wanted to play card games, I could, only in commons. I will add that during fourth unscheduled, commons does not have a place to sit, let alone play cards. Besides, the noise level in lunch is so high that a person can't think.

My question is this: If I am not disturb-

ing anyone, (and I can attest that I am not) and I am sitting at a table by myself, why shouldn't I be able to play a friendly game of solitaire?

Sincerely,  
Liza Lenertz

### And a response to Liza's question about card playing in the LRC

Dear Liza,

When I went to ask Mrs. Barsema about the cards she declined to comment by choice.

She continued saying that the letter was not true and anyone could see that by reading it.

I also went to Principal John Highland for answers. When I asked him if cards were

illegal in the school he said no as long as no gambling was taking place. I then showed him your letter. He replied by saying that Mrs. Barsema had every right to tell you to put the cards away. He said that there is a place for

studying and learning, which is the learning center and there is a place for playing and cards which is commons. He also said that there would be no card playing in the learning center.

"...the letter was not true and anyone could see that..."

"...no card playing in the learning center..."

So remember when you go in the library, leave those cards in your locker. If they come out again you will be told to put them away.

## Thanks to all those mock trial members at West Chicago

Dear Doug Campbell, John Duvall, Jenny Johnson, Chancannica Mam, Annette Pavone, Sean Power, Charvey Snell,

To these participants in the Illinois High School Association Law Day mock trial competition and their coaches Mary Ellen Daneels and Dave Sayner, I express my admiration, respect and congratulations.

Taking on other more experienced mock trial attorneys as the only team without state tournament experience, West Chicago High School gave teams from Glenbard South (an eventual finalist) and Lake Park good runs for their money in trying the case of Wile E. Coyote vs. Acme Toon Supply Corporation involving Coyote's products liability claim against Acme for injuries suffered from a defective rocket

suit. West Chicago received the only honorable mention.

These team members took valuable after school time to prepare for witness testimony, opening statements, direct and cross-examination, making and meeting objections and closing arguments. They performed with creativity, aplomb and courage against formidable opposition and before a three lawyer panel of judges. I was surprised and impressed at their ability to think on their grace under the pressure of a trial in DuPage County courtrooms.

Teachers and classmates take note! If you challenge these apprentice lawyers, have your facts and arguments ready.

Sam Filippo  
Advisor  
Attorney at Law

## Mr. Seper is 'null and void'

Dear Mr. Seper

As defined in Webster's New World Compact and Office Dictionary, a sport is: any recreational activity; specifically, a game, competition, etc., requiring bodily exertion. According to this definition,

cheerleading is a sport, and I have a "null and void" rebuttal to your explanations.

I agree that even if cheerleaders practiced five times a week we would still not be considered a sport. But, I disagree with your facts as to why cheerleading is not a sport. You give no explanations as to why cheerleading has earned the reputation of supporting date-rape, or how current your data is. Cheerleaders and Pom-Poms play similar roles in a game. This fact allows the comparison, of the two being similar art forms, to become apparent. Challenge, FBLA, VICA, and cheerleaders do not play similar roles. Our competition schedules may be similar, but the competitions are not. Similar to what you said if FBLA at "West Chicago Imaginary High School" "kept a score every time they suited up", would they be a sport? From your Swim team example you've conveyed that is not how much they practice, but what they practice. Similarly are you saying it is not how often you compete, but in what you compete in? If so, the four activities you've mentioned can not be compared. Last, you claim the cheerleaders made it down state for "their skill in jumps and formations- not for their skill in competing in a sport." Is that not how basketball or track makes it down state; for their skills in dribbling a ball or running fast?

The cheerleaders have been denied a spot on your sports page because we are not a sport. You could never find the space to give us a compliment, but you found us a space to explain your actions. Mr. Seper, was this article an attempt to answer a question about cheerleaders, or an excuse to dodge how you really feel about us?

Sincerely,  
Julianne Graczyk

**THE BRIDGE**  
326 Joliet St.  
231-0880 ext. 268

Business Manager.....Liza Lenertz  
News Editor.....Margaret Walen  
Opinion Editor.....Jamie McDole  
Features Editor.....Dana Billick  
In-Depth Editor.....Jamee Taylor  
Sports Editor.....Chris Seper  
Art Editor.....Matt Phillips  
Photo Editor.....Gina Lipscomb  
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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.

## PADS thank VICA for donation

To: Ms. Streicher, Mr. Junkroski, and all WCCHS VICA students

On behalf of co-coordinator Brian Hendricks and all of our PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) volunteers, I would like to thank the VICA students of West Chicago High School for your generous donation of \$300 for the homeless. We are part of a network of churches throughout DuPage County who provide shelter and meals on alternating nights for homeless people from the area. The West Chicago site is open each Thursday night through Friday morning from early October until the end of April. During 1990-91, we provided about 600 nights of shelter and over 1,500 meals.

The West Chicago PADS site operates on a shoe-string budget of about \$1,200 per year. With this we buy needed food supplies and paper goods, clothes for the neediest guests, laundry detergent, and train tickets to assist guests in getting to interviews, jobs, or for those unable to work, to the next PADS site.

For graduating seniors who plan to remain in the area and next year's seniors turning 18, I would just like to mention that we always have openings for volunteers. There are a number of varied jobs required to open up, operate, and close down a shelter site each week. Perhaps the most important service volunteers provide besides food and shelter includes conversation, listening, and words of encouragement.

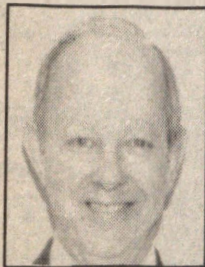
I think it is very fitting that an organization devoted to learning about job skills and the world of work chose to give to the PADS program. People become homeless for many reasons, but a lack of job skills and self-esteem are often part of the reason. You are to be congratulated for wanting to share something important that you have gained through the VICA program. Thanks again!

Sincerely,

David Unnewehr, Co-Coordinator  
West Chicago PADS

## Anything Goes lights up WCCHS stage

by Kim Derby



I had "hot pants" for **Anything Goes**.

This year's spring musical was the perfect way to end the year.

The acting was wonderful. Everyone in the play, including the extras, acted out their part thoroughly, which

made for a very enjoyable play. All the actors contributed funny lines, and at the same time, they were good singers.

Dave Vish, who played Moonface, the thirteenth most wanted criminal, seemed to have the job of keeping the atmosphere of this musical light.

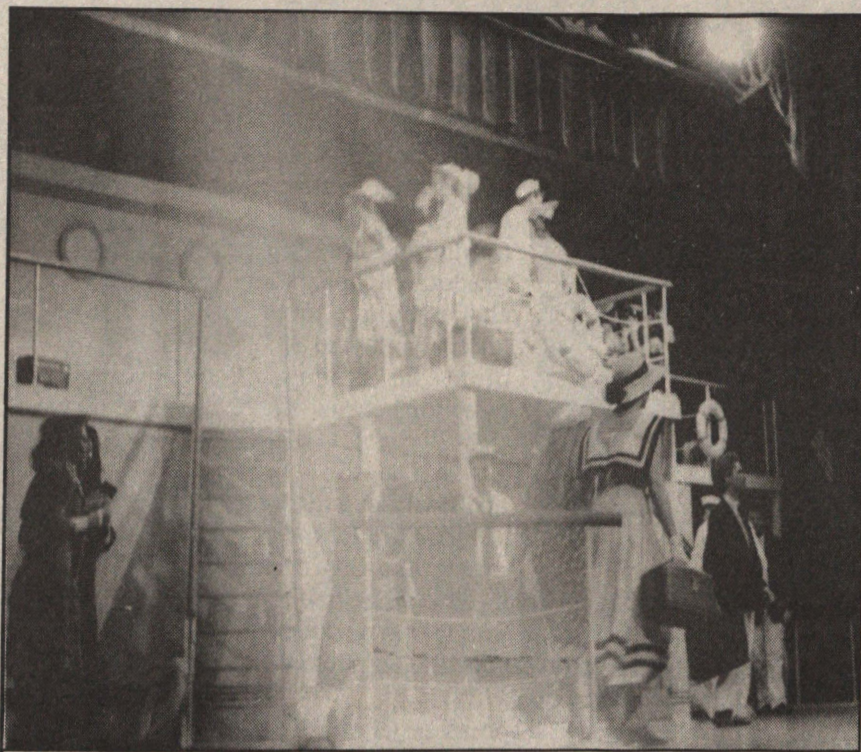
Moonface was proud of the fact he had made it to thirteenth most wanted, but at the same time, he was perfectly harmless.

He was a New York gangster who carried around a machine gun in a violin case. His Brooklyn accent was hilarious.

Moonface's partner, Bonnie (played by Jessica Bridge), also made the musical more enjoyable.

She was the perfect "gangster's girlfriend" with her loud, piercing voice and accompanying New York accent.

Bridge did amusing sight gags and jokes such as hang upside-down in front of Moonie and Billy's (Matt Moran) room when they were in jail. She was being held by the ankles by



Anything Goes cast in the opening scene of the musical. (photo by Gino Lipscomb)

some sailors, who supposedly were trying to see up her dress.

Another amusing character was Sir Evelyn, portrayed by Brian Gall.

He was a prissy English nobleman who

had no knowledge of American phrases. When he was confronted with a saying such as, "I have hot pants for you," he took it literally. Then, when he learned it meant he was liked, he turned around to Moonie and told him, "I

have hot pants for you."

This phrase had many people rolling on the floor, including myself.

The singing in **Anything Goes** was simply great. Judging from the performance of the actors, I could see that whoever conducted auditions picked only the best vocalists. If there were any wrong notes anywhere in the songs, they were very well hidden.

One person whose voice completely surprised me was Matt Moran, who was Billy, a Wall Street businessman.

I knew he was in chorus, but I had never heard him sing a solo before the night of the play. He had a very clear voice, and all of his songs sounded beautiful.

The female voices in this musical were also very good. Two who stick out in my mind as being exceptional are Lori Schuermann (she was Hope, who was engaged to Sir Evelyn) and Kim LaBelle (Reno, the leader of a group of eight performing ladies).

One part of this play that made it so enjoyable was the plot. It reminded me of a soap opera, only the characters sang, and it was set back in the thirties.

Hope was engaged, but she was secretly in love with Billy. Billy was not supposed to be aboard the ship they were on, so he had the ticket and passport of the number one most wanted criminal in the United States. Reno was in love with Sir Evelyn, but Sir Evelyn wasn't sure what love was.

I loved watching the play go from running from the authorities to everything turning out right, resulting in a happy ending.

**Anything Goes** was a classic.

## Go home Cheeseheads - a tribute to Wisconsin

by Brian Levake



Boring day. Yep, not much happenin' here in Wisconsin.

I mean, why did I have to be born here?

Hi, my name is Joe Average Wisconsin Resident Guy. Jeez, I wish were twenty-one

so I could buy beer. Yep, that's something to do.

Gosh, maybe I could go to the Dells, but I have a better use for \$5,000 dollars and I really couldn't sit through "Tommy Bartlett's World of Fascinating Robots" again. And is it just me, or is every single water slide in the Dells the exact same thing, the **greatest money making scam in the universe?** Yes.

Yes kids, living here in Rippon, Wisconsin does have it's advantages. For instance, we

have lots of free firewood. And milk. We got lots of that too. Just this morning, I snuck out into old Farmer Wienerman's cow pasture with my bowl 'o corn horns and got me some moo juice straight from the udder. It was kind of warm though. And we also cheer for our favorite sports teams, the Brewers and the Bucks. But the team we really like is the Packers, and especially that new quarterback they got. What's his name again? Mitch Thomsacked?

Winter is also a good time. Funny how all snow mobile trails lead to a tavern, though. Wouldn't it make more sense if they lead to gas stations? I don't suppose so. Sure, it's all fun and games until someone's snowmobile runs out of gas in the middle of the most remote forest ever!

Yes, Wisconsin isn't for everyone, but if you have a passion for cheese, beer, or fairly unsuccessful sports teams, wander Wisconsin.

And stay away from snakes!

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## Teacher tidbits



by Julie Loek

**Name:** Donald Zabelin

**Occupation:** Business teacher/ director of evening adult education program.

**Birthdate:** July 13, 1954

**Birthplace:** Chicago, IL

**Current home:** Aurora, IL

**Marital status:** Married

**Children:** Michael, 8, Richard, 6, and Allison, 2

**Car:** A 1983 Buick and a 1986 Buick

**Last movie seen:** "Home Alone"

**Last book read:** I read several books to my kids. The last one I read Mr. Monday and the Space Creatures.

**Nobody knows I'm:** Nervous before a pep assembly.

**Worst job:** Washing dishes in a university commissary.

**Prized possession:** A 1954 Ernie Banks baseball card.

**I'd give anything to meet:** Ernie Banks.

**In high school, people thought I was:** Enthusiastic.

**Favorite pigout food:** Oberweiss ice cream (any flavor.)

**Favorite childhood memory:** My father teaching me how to read stock market quotations.

**Worst time in my life:** The stock market crash of '87.

**Three words that best describe me:** Fortunate, understanding, and proud.

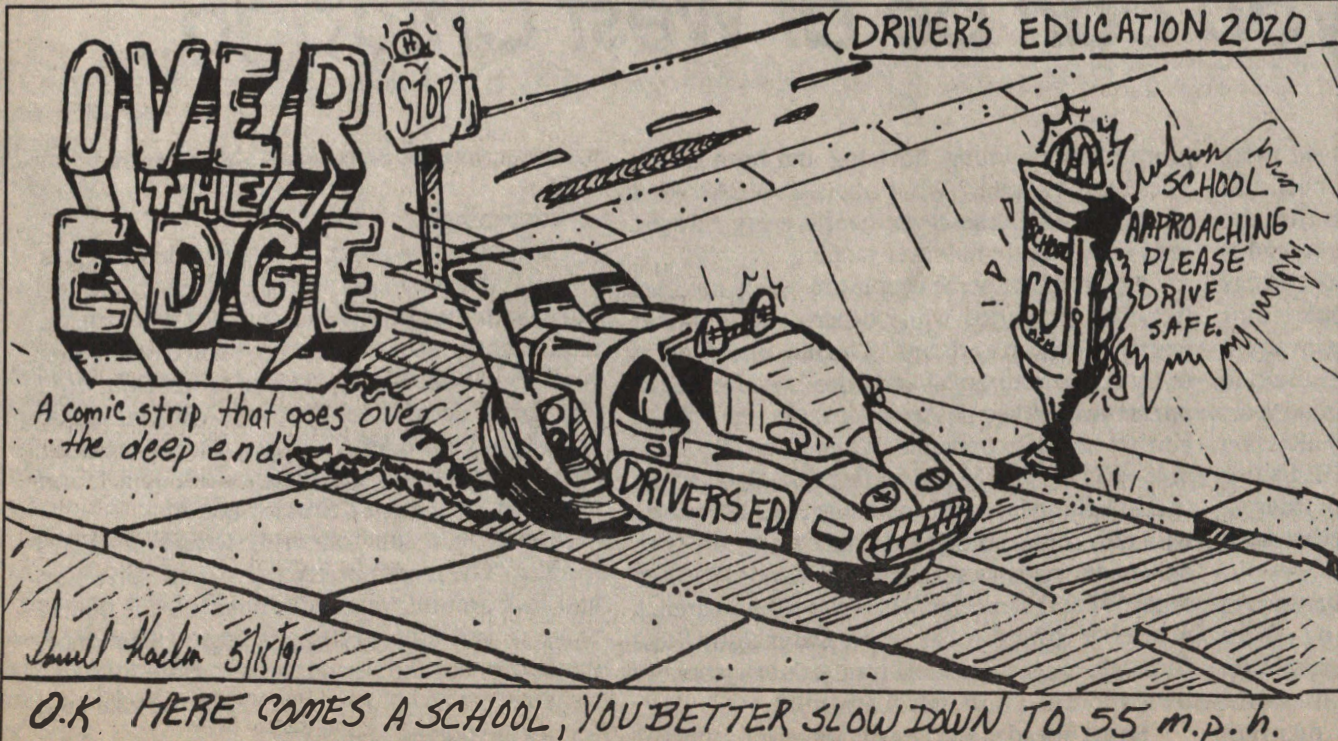
**Most irrational act:** Buying many shares of stock the day before the crash.

**What I fear the most:** Not living to see the Cubs win a pennant.

**If I weren't a teacher, I'd be:** A bleacher bum.

**Students think I'm:** A good consumer.

**My favorite high school subject was:** All the business classes.



A comic strip that goes over the deep end.

David Koehn 5/15/91

O.K. HERE COMES A SCHOOL, YOU BETTER SLOW DOWN TO 55 m.p.h.

# Senior editors hand out their

## Personal Advice

## Choose wisely

by Chris Seper—sports editor

by Dana Billick—Features editor



Ah, senior year. The year everyone waits for. The year of surprises that no one ever tells you about. Overall, it's been a great year. I think I was most surprised at myself. My advice to underclassmen? Here goes.

Take Drama class sometime in your four years. Even if you can't act, this is a wonderfully entertaining class. You are allowed to show off and you might even say "wedding" in the wrong place.

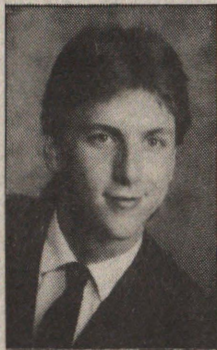
If you haven't already figured it out, beware of the cafeteria. Most of the time, food fights are easy; canned peas work well when flipped from a spoon. Avoid Jonny Mozzetti and always check your silverware for foreign particles.

Don't hesitate to take a day off now and then. Go on a college visit, attend field trips, or just call in for yourself. By senior year, you deserve it.

And lastly, realize that by senior year, your very best friends have been established. These friendships mean so much. These are the people you love, hate, trust, worry about and dump on more than anyone. These are the friends with whom you'll return to your room to discover everything missing, who will invade your house until all hours of the night to play pool, who will break your lamps, who will many times show you magic,

who you'll ditch for Turnabout, who you'll get arrested with at the drive-in, who'll give you back massages, who you'll go downtown and get picked up with, who'll get you up at 6 a.m. for breakfast, who you'll spend the summer playing beach volleyball with, who "you'll be a damn secretary for", who you'll throw cards at, who you'll eat cakes with, who'll keep your secrets, who'll tell your secrets, who you'll have infinitely many inside jokes with, who'll harass you to no end, and who you'll party with every weekend. They're also the friends you can talk to about anything. Your best friends are what you'll miss the most from high school.

And for my best friends, who I know will understand anything - I love you, I'll miss you, call me when you're through, take care of you.



Let me first begin by saying that I have always been a big believer in the freedom of choice, but in that freedom of choice there are choices that are totally right for everyone and some that must be made in one direction because that is the right decision.

This is the way I feel about Christianity.

It's hard for me to do an article like this because of my belief that everyone should be free to choose the path they want. But, is this no different from any other opinion article that I or anybody else in the **Bridge** has done?

There is a widespread belief that if you have not accepted Jesus as your savior and follow his teachings, you will not be allowed into heaven. In Matthew 28:16-20 in the St. Jerome edition of the **Holy Bible** it quotes Jesus as saying "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned."

Check any edition of the **Bible** you want, it will say the same thing. That is why I cannot pass this opportunity up to ask you to become a Christian.

Jesus does exist. Even if you do not believe the **Bible** as a guide to life, you still must at the least take it as a sort of reference book. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John followed Jesus and kept records of what he did and what happened in the years of his life.

**The Bible** and the rules of Christianity are not rules and restrictions to life, it is the life. The feeling for God is in all of us—the feeling that there is a kind of eternal bliss or continual joy that you get now for a few moments from a great victory. That is the holy spirit and can only be found through the acceptance of Christ.

I know I'm sounding like a Bible banger or a Jesus freak, but maybe that's what I am. What would you do if you were told that more than 20 percent of the earth was going to be thrown into a pit of despair for all eternity if they didn't do this one thing. Would you stand up for it or back down?

There are Christian students and teachers in almost every area of this school. I urge you to go up to any of them and talk to them about Christianity. If they are truly Christians they will either talk to you or get you to somebody that can. Choose wisely.



## A hard hit — —

by Liza Lenertz—Business manager



I'm supposed to tell you all a final goodbye to West Chicago. So, goodbye. There, that was easy, now comes the hard part, trying to keep you entertained for the next 250-300 words.

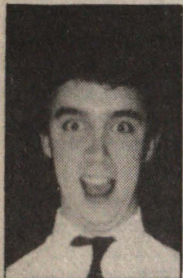
Many things hit you your senior year. To suddenly you wake up to the fact that there IS life after high school and you're not ready for it, it's a scary

thing. Am I going to college? Can I find a job? Then your parents start bugging you one way or another and treat you like you're still five years old but you're really 17 or 18. ARE YOU READY FOR THIS JUNIORS? Sure you are. Just do what you want, don't let them get to you, and leave the house as often as possible. It worked for me.

Junior year is almost as bad. Everyone is running around telling you which college is best and why you should go there. And this parents

# Be all that you can be at West Chicago

by Matt Phillips—Art editor



This year I missed more than two weeks of school, and the best part of it is that the administration encouraged it!

Yes, I speak of the fringe benefits of extracurricular activities and getting involved.

Many people are afraid of failure. I was. Freshman year, I quit Cross Country after two

whopping days. It was quite a season. But since then, I have learned that pursuing any interest can be a great learning experience, whether it's a school activity or not.

Many schools lack the funds to begin a sports program. WCCHS has everything from extracurricular football, swimming and badminton to art, dance and foreign language to math, business and government. (Not to mention

journalism, clowning, advising and ham radio!) These don't appeal? What about DAVEA? What about VICA? These cover nearly every interest area except nude pine tree scaling.

Why is it that some people are highly involved in school activities while others would rather watch afternoon cartoons? The few who decided to try an assortment of activities have found the opportunities they possess: most are free, and let you get hands experience. When else will you be able to fly to New Mexico for free (The Bridge)? Go to Disneyland for nearly nothing (FBLA)? Perform with only three months experience for more than a thousand parents, teachers and friends (Theater, Music)? For that matter, when else will you drench a teacher during a car wash water fight (Miss Blume!!), or send five screaming girls to a teacher's hotel room at 1 a.m. (Mr. Larsen!!!)?

So get ahead of the crowd! Make your mark in

whatever you do! Be different..be creative!

for example.

If there isn't a group that has to do with your interest, start one. Last year, Kelly Howard started SEAC with the vision of helping the environment, and teaching others to do the same. Before last year, there was no discussion of an art club, until Mr. Exner decided to start one. And, also last year, I convinced Mr. Courtney that The Bridge needed someone to specifically work on art, and I became The Bridge's first art editor.

Remember the immortal words of Ferris Bueller: "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around, you might miss it." The point I make is: you only go through high school once, (hopefully) so take advantage of it. Have fun! And remember: this is your only chance to make high school memories. Live it up!

# final words of wisdom to WCCHS

## It has been a blast, see ya

by Jamee Taylor— In-depth editor



Yes, it's about time. Ever since I became the In-Depth editor, I have waited for this issue, the issue that I didn't have to think of a topic, and that was worth spending two pages on. I also didn't have to look high and low for willing reporters, although the senior editors were not

too excited with the idea of writing a story.

But now, the point of my story. How many times have you been down on life and people told you that "These are the best times of your life"? Well, I don't know about you, but I have heard it many times, from parents and relatives. Do you believe them?

As an underclassmen, and also as a junior, I

"These are the best time of your life."

didn't take the statement seriously, but now as the big day comes closer (and for those of you who are wondering the BIG DAY is JUNE 9,

GRADUATION) and I am contemplating college, I am beginning to understand this statement.

While in high school, you are told that you must attend every class or you will serve a punishment, but once high school has finished, you take total responsibility for yourself. If attending any kind of school after high school, no one makes sure that you go to every class, and no one seems to care if you do your homework. Your life is left for you to control. And that really scares me.

I really only have one word of advice to the rest of you who will be returning to this school next year. Take advantage of the free schooling. (It's not really free because your parents pay taxes, but it is not near the cost of college.)

At graduation, I am sure that many will be shedding their tears, not only the parents, but the students. I'm sure many of the seniors are as anxious as I am to graduate, but in time, many of us will be sorry that high school flew by so fast. I'm looking forward to seeing all of my fellow classmates at graduation and our first class reunion. Thanks, it's been a blast and I'll never forget you guys, you're the best.



## Senior year

thing: they constantly bug you about where you are going, why you are going there, and will it help you get into a "good school." Sophomores, prepare your defense now, (you might not be able to get out of the house next year as easily as the seniors will), again, ignore the parents in this situation and you'll do fine. My motto: "In one ear and out the other."

Sophomores know everything. You will understand what I mean when you are seniors are looking back. have fun this year, I know I did. It's really easy to have fun in your sophomore year, you're not freshmen any more, yet you don't have to work as hard as the juniors. Your parents shouldn't get on your butt sophomore year because you don't have to worry about your "future" yet, BUT KEEP YOUR GRADES UP, otherwise they'll be on your butt FAST! FRESHMEN, LISTEN UP, keep your attitude in check next year, a nasty attitude just brings trouble.

To sum it all up, I would just say, ignore your parents till you are at least out of high school. Maybe someday we'll understand what they mean.

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## Words of inspiration to those returning students of West Chicago

by Margaret Walen



See ya!

The year is almost over and this is our final issue of the **Bridge**. Jamee has been bugging us since August for us to write for her this issue, so here it goes. These are my words of inspiration to those

who will be returning to WCCHS next year. First of all and most importantly, get involved. There are so many activities here with advisers who care. Take advantage of what the school has to offer. After all, you're only in high school once, and you want to make it memorable don't you?!? In addition, getting involved is also a great way to meet more people.

Sophomores, beware of next year (Juniors, you know what I'm talking about.). A lot of

pressures seem to come with Junior year. There is the ACT, the SAT and the endless pile of college applications to fill out.

Just take it slowly, and do not leave everything to the last minute. If you are planning to study for the ACT or SAT, do not wait to cram three years of knowledge into your brain the night before the test. Believe me, it's not worth it. Remember, no matter how well (or not so well) you do on these tests, your scores are not the only things colleges look for.

As for applications, make sure you do not wait for the last minute on those either. They can pile up quickly and become a pain in the butt.

It's hard for me to believe that in three months I'm going to be six hours away from West Chicago with a new home. College has always been way off in the distance, out of grasp, and now it's right

around the corner.

Although seniorities has hit big time and I want to graduate, there is going to be something I'll really miss. That something is seeing my WCCHS friends.

I have made some first class friends here. I'm going to miss you guys so much.

If it weren't for these friends, I never would have had the memories of senior year that will stay with me forever. Even though "five percent" is left unsaid a lot, I want you guys to know I love you and I think you're all the best.

To everyone else, I have one final thing to say. As you go on in life, make sure you're not following a "damn horse," because you won't get very far.

Thanks We-go for the great times-I'm outta here.

## New bridge editors roll onto the scene

by Jeanine Murphy and Elisa Biancalana

The editors of the **Bridge** have been determined for the 1991-92 school year.

They are as follows: Brian Levake, a junior, will be the new feature editor for the **Bridge** next year. His reason for wanting to be editor is because "Andy Behrens was my idol and I have the ability to find anything I want." Levake plans to do "whatever Dana did but 10 times better." Levake thinks the strength of the **Bridge** has been "Chris Seper" and the weaknesses have been "the type of paper the **Bridge** is printed on—it has the consistency of toilet paper and the ink comes off on your hands."

Aaron Owens, a junior, was picked to be sports editor. Owens said the reason he wanted to be editor was because "I think I can do good things for the paper." He plans to "have a lot more people write for sports and hopes to keep the opinions column." Owens also said that the weak points of the paper are "the school is not involved as a whole and it would help if we got more writers, and the strengths are that we have experienced writers coming back."

Elisa Biancalana, a junior, will be the news editor. She wanted to be the news editor because "it will give me good experience and it will help me in case I want to pursue a career in journalism." Biancalana fears "not being able to keep up the quality of the **Bridge**." Biancalana "plans to keep the **Bridge** an award winning paper." She says the weak points of the paper are, "not everyone gets a chance to have their name printed in the paper," but the strengths are that "they win lots of awards."

Jamie McDole, a junior, the opinion editor,



The new **Bridge** editors (from left): Jamie McDole, Jeanine Murphy, a happy Gina Lipscomb, Brian Levake, Elisa Biancalana and Darrel Kaelin. They will control this paper next year. (photo by Julia Hill)

said he wanted to be editor because "it's fun and you get to travel to many places." McDole said the weaknesses of the paper are the "photos" and the strengths are the "number of writers—it varies the styles of stories." He plans to write opinions on current events and write articles that make people think." McDole

fears that "the people will realize the job I'm doing."

Darrell Kaelin, a sophomore, will be art editor. His reason for wanting to be art editor is to "prepare for future things relating to art." Kaelin hopes to "accomplish what Matt Phillips has done this year." Kaelin also thinks that

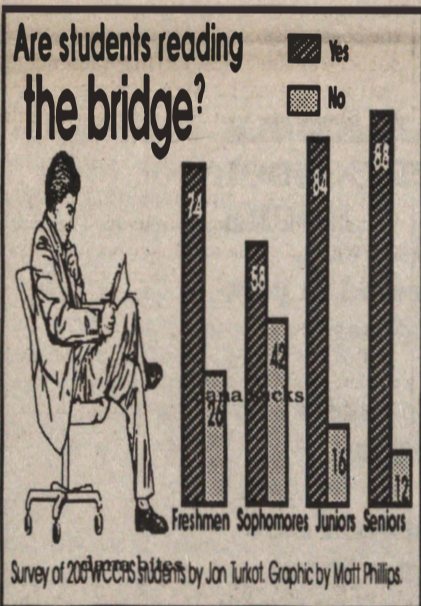
the **Bridge** has "no weak points." His fears are that "I may mess up" but he "hopes to overcome those fears."

Alicia Garceau, a junior, was picked to be in-depth editor. She said she wanted to be in-depth editor "because I enjoy writing" and she looks forward to "writing for a career." Garceau plans to have "new ideas" for in-depth next year. Garceau thinks that the "sports section is good," but the "photos" are probably the weak point. Garceau also thinks the **Bridge** is a "pretty good paper." Her fear is that she'll "print wrong information that might hurt someone."

Junior Jeanine Murphy will be the business manager next year. She wants to be editor next year because "I think it's interesting and I plan on having a degree in journalism." While being an editor she hopes to improve her writing and "to do as good a job as Liza Lenertz has." She fears that she's going to mess up. Murphy feels that the strong points of the paper are that "we have really good writers and we all get along."

Junior Gina Lipscomb, photo editor, wants to be editor because "I like photography." She plans on "taking better pictures next year."

Eric Schlotzer, a junior, will be the assistant photo editor. He said the reason he wanted to be photo editor was to "broadcast my opinions." He said that he "wasn't happy with the job he had done this year." Schlotzer thinks the weak points of the **Bridge** are the "photos" and he doesn't like the layout. Schlotzer does think that "we do have a good staff for next year." He hopes to "spend more time on layout." fear is that "the **Bridge** will have a dead end issue with a bad layout and bad pictures."



## We-goites go nutty in the summer

by Elisa Biancalana

Summer of 1991 nearly is here! So, what will West Chicago High School students occupy their summers with?

Many of the sports oriented people will be practicing their sports this summer. Sophomores Brett Siglin and Ben Stieglitz and juniors Eliot Papadakis and Mike Callerman will be running in Wisconsin Dells but also cooling off at the water parks. On the other hand, many students will be improving their competitive edge by staying around here and going to camps. Freshman Jolina Kobalik is a perfect example of this. She will be attending both volleyball and basketball camps this summer.

Whilesome may be practicing their sports, others will be visiting their favorite vacation

spots. Their vacations range anywhere between California and Florida. Junior Brandon McCauley plans on going to Michigan. He said, "I plan on celebrating the three peat championship with the world champions—the Detroit Pistons. On the other hand, Junior John Mazzola is going to visit sunny California. "I'm going to the beach and party in California," replied Mazzola. While vacationing in California, Junior Samantha Newby is "going to visit her penpal."

Money is one thing students will be working hard to earn this summer. During his vacation, Senior Chad Day will be working full time as a carpenter. When he's not working, Day plans to "go to concerts, the beach, and party." Saving money for college is also important for many. Senior Amy Schultze said, "I want a job that pays good money, after all college is expensive." Senior Andy Runyon

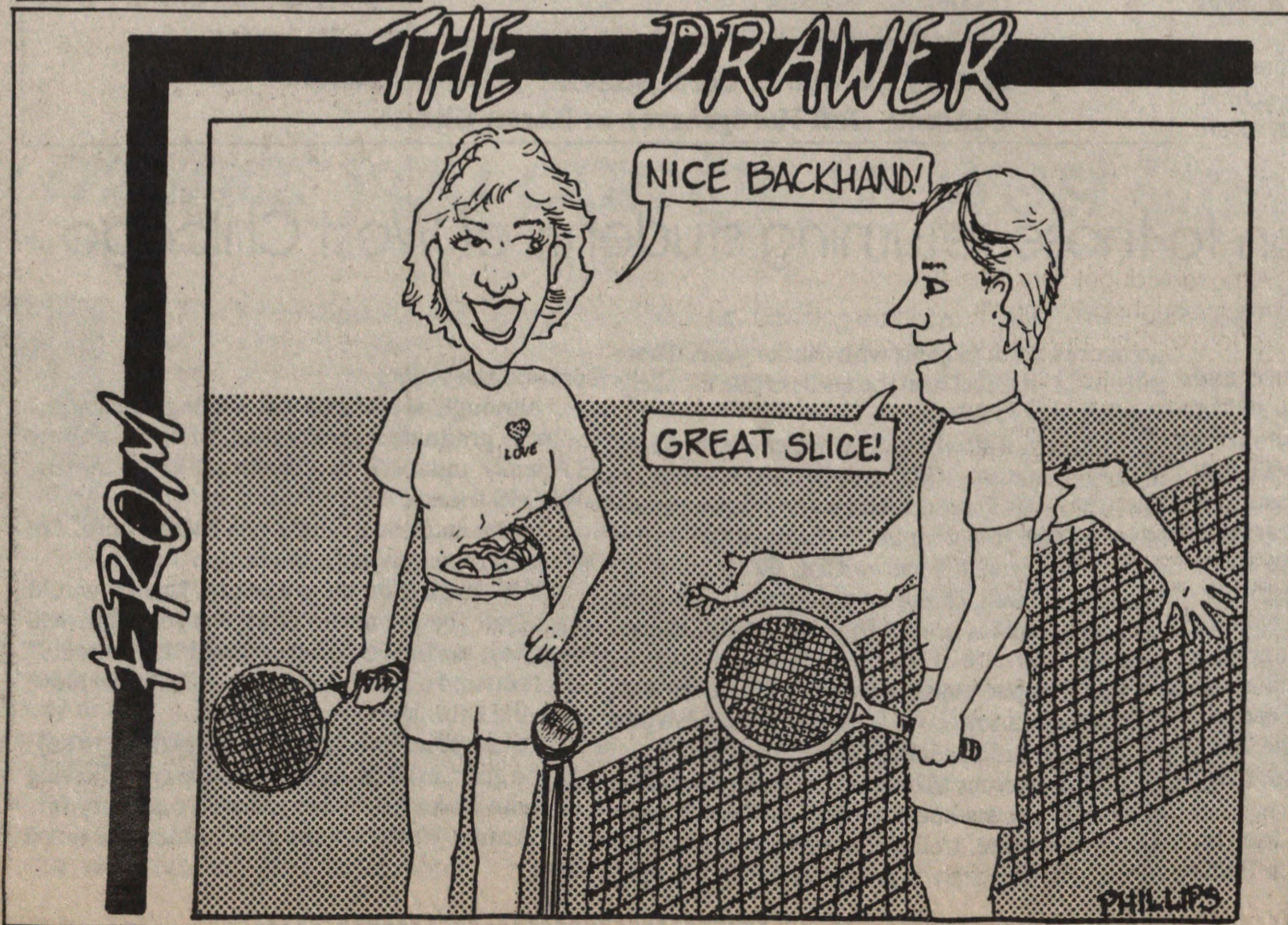
is also "going to save for college."

Others still have many other ideas for their summer. Senior Brian Jarmy will be going for basic training in Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Junior Natalie Baker will be going to summer school for government.

## The final top 20 list, and wow it's a doozy

by Matt Phillips and Brian York

20. Spell sophomore with an "o" in the middle.
19. The LRC is a quiet study place.
18. 25 minutes is plenty of time to eat lunch.
17. Jenny can be spelled 34 different ways.
16. 23% of 92 is 21.16.
15. Stay away from the blue chicken.
14. Mr. Arnold (government teacher) and Mrs. Arnold (math teacher) aren't married.
13. The halls are alive with the sound of music.
12. Ignore the trackside construction.
11. West Chicago spirit + sports = Excitement!!!!!!!!
10. It's never too late to start "Freshman Hell Week".
9. Our school song is in rhyming couplets.
8. Kids with toilet paper run faster than janitors with flashlights.
7. Cheerleading is not a sport.
6. Parapro's will let you off if you call them by their first names.
5. Many book covers are more entertaining than the book itself.
4. The **Bridge** editors never make errors.
3. The auditorium arm-rests are of the highest quality.
2. Elevator passes aren't \$10.00, they're only \$5.00.
1. Winners make it happen, losers let it happen.



## Tennis sends three to state tourney

Both teams win one match each at state

by Chris Seper

It was a new position for the singles players gone teammates Jon Martin and Clay Turner, as well as a new position for top sectional seed Kai Martin—as he was hit with a severe wrist injury.

Nevertheless, the trio of Wildcat tennis players entered the St. Charles sectionals and came out state qualifiers, with Jon and Turner taking third and Kai taking fourth. The top four qualify for the state tournament.

"I'm very pleased with the performance of those three," Wildcat Coach Sione Moeaki said. "It's too bad Kai didn't play his best and just enough to qualify and take fourth."

At state, both Kai and the doubles team wound up losing their first matches—with Kai falling to the fifth seeded Marty Engel of Glenbard West. Both did win their second matches and then wound up getting eliminated in their third match in the double elimination tourney.

Kai injured his hand during the finals of the DuPage Valley Conference tournament where he took second—forcing him to use underspin only and no overhand serves.

"He had to use slice and underspin only," Moeaki said. "He was unable to use an overhand serve because he was hurt. That's one of the advantages of being seeded number one. He had two easy matches because of that." Kai breezed through his first two matches qualifying him for state, then defaulted his next two to rest his wrist.

"Kai's strategy was to play a very patient and consistent game and get the ball in," Moeaki said. "It was exciting to see. I think Kai learned a lot of lessons about being patient and consistent."

The duo of Jon and Turner came in an unseeded team, but still had Moeaki's confidence that they would be in the top three and be seen at state. "I fought hard for them [at the



After playing both varsity singles and doubles, senior Brian York will join three other tennis team members—including state-qualifier Kai Martin in graduation. (photo courtesy of Challenge)

seeding meeting)," Moeaki said. "All the coaches voted and they decided not to seed them. I told them that my kids would take top three in doubles. They said, we'll see what happens Saturday."

The third-place finish took the unseeded Wildcat right through top seeded Wheaton North, who wound up being unceremoniously dumped by Jon and Turner 6-4, 6-4.

"This is the best I've seen Jon and Clay play all year," Moeaki commented. "They were focused and ready to play tennis." Turner was one of few Wildcat tennis players who did not encounter problems in the season, as he finished third in the third single position at the DVC meet. Jon, on the other hand, was forced court-side most of the season, only to

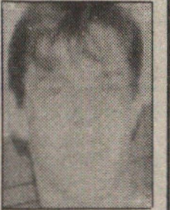
face disappointment in the DVC meet at second singles—a position he was favored to win.

Although the Wildcat netters were unable to reach their goal of a top three finish in conference, finishing sixth, Moeaki casted a favorable review over the year's happenings and looked forward to next year.

"I still see a decent team next year," he said. "If they work now for next year, then we will have a good team. Those kids Matt Haverly, Sean Odell, Nick Streams and Eric Refet. If they're working hard we will have a solid team." The only players not returning for the Cats next year will be Kai, doubles players Steve Carboni and Brian Ohins and varsity journeyman Brian York.

## The Cat box

by Aaron Owens



## Dedication: the name of the game

People ask why West Chicago can't compete with the big guns of the DuPage Valley Conference. "It's the coaches." "It's our size." "It's our competition."

Bull. What we're missing is a necessity called dedication.

"I think team pride has everything to do with dedication to a sport," said junior Brian Levake, a member of the Wildcat swim team. "But when a team is unsuccessful, it becomes harder to do the best job you can."

Last week, I walked into Glenbard North's weight room. I was looking for a coach, but I couldn't find him because there were so many athletes in the room. In an open wrestling session at the College of DuPage, there were about 40 kids there and 36 of them were from Naperville North.

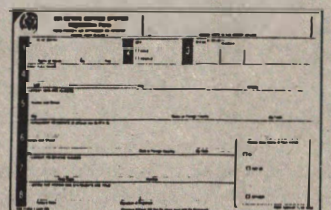
The point: The Napervilles, Wheatons and most Glenbards have dedicated teams. West Chicago has dedicated individuals.

West Chicago has coaches and facilities that are just as good as the "big guns" of the DVC, and the teams that do play and practice together year round are the successful ones. If you look you will see some of West Chicago's teams near or at the top of the conference. Lady Cat softball tore through the conference this season, as did the boys' cross country team and the boys' soccer team finished third in conference as well as top 20 in the state. Swimming has the Sharks as a feeding program to help them be successful year after year.

Why? Because these are the teams of West Chicago Community High School that show dedication as a team. These are the teams that have off-season programs that most, if not all of the team shows up at. These are the teams winning for West Chicago High.

I do realize that West Chicago has many athletes that are dedicated to their sports. But the trick for having a winning team in the DVC is not to have a few dedicated individual athletes, but rather a whole dedicated team.

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## Six Wildcats earn state qualification

by Chris Seper

Wildcat track stars Mark Benja, Rick Eberman, Marvin McNeese, Rick Montalvo, Felix Villa and Wallace Sullivan closed out a 75-26 track season downstate as they helped give the boys' track team their best sectional finish ever.

"I'm proud of Rick (Montalvo), Mark and the relay," Wildcat Coach Bob Thomson said. "I'm proud of the whole group that made it down and the whole team in general. The season was a real quality season for a change. The kids understood what competing on a consistent level was."

The Cats were 65-15 in outdoors, as they took third at the Glenbard West sectional and sent the most qualifiers they have in years to the state meet at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston.

Even though Thomson admitted he was disappointed in the finish of his runners at state—none of the six were able to score top eight—he refused to take anything away from them. "I'm not on anybody for misperforming. They worked hard all season. Whatever place they got, if they learned from it and if they can come back and learn from that that's great."

The two events the Cats had the best chance of finishing high in—the 800-meter race run by Benja and the 400-meter relay team of Eberman, McNeese,—wound up finishing a respective second and third in top Wildcat finishes. The 13th seeded 400 relay, after finishing second at sectionals, finished 24th at state in a time of 44.3. Benja, who was seeded top ten at the start of the race also failed to get to the final heat placing 15th with a time of 1:56.7.

"I don't blame any of them," Thomson said about the relay—which dropped a second off their sectional time. "It's the first time we've ever had a relay downstate. The four by 100 is a real crap shoot event. To get to the finals you need to have four quality studs who won't have the slightest flaws in their handoffs. It



Although caught here by a Bridge camera, senior Mark Benja was rarely caught by competitors in the 800-meter run until the state meet. (photo by Gina Lipscomb)

has to be so smooth and fast.

"Mark in his heat was fifth, and three of the four kids in front of him finished one, three and four," Thomson explained of Benja's tough competition. "He was in good company." Benja missed the finals by nine-tenths of a second.

The high school career of Montalvo came to a bittersweet ending as he finished 13th in the 3200-meter run with a time of 9:39.3. The three all-state cross country runner and two-time 3200 state qualifier was two places off his finish of last year but was still the highest finish in the race. "I think Rick was a little disappointed," Thomson said. "He did end up beating the two kids in his sectional. If there was a good sign that was probably it."

"There was quality kids in that race," Thomson went on. "There was definitely a chance of Rick finishing in the top five. You've got to let the kids that can beat you go on and

you've got to stay with the kids you normally can stay with. I don't know if Rick will feel like he did."

The senior McNeese made the Cats only improvement in seeding as the 43rd seed of 44 hurdlers beat one person in his preliminary heat and finished 35th with a 15.08 in the 110-meter high hurdles.

"This is Marvin's event," Thomson said. "Marvin loves the high hurdles. He certainly has the speed and the quality it takes to be in the high hurdles and a good form and understanding of the event."

Recently after the state meet, Thomson announced that he would not stay on as coach of the track team next year. Although he will stay on to coach the cross country team next season, Thomson cited personal reasons for his departure.

# Seniors say farewell as Lady Cats 3-peat

by Chris Seper

In a way, the 2-1 no-hit loss to the St. Charles Saints in the regional semi-final was the end of the beginning for the Lady Wildcat softball team.

"These seniors were the beginning of what West Chicago softball stands for," Lady Cat Coach Lee Maciejewski said of soon-to-be graduates Melody Benson, Laurie Davidson,

Kelly Matthews, Rachel Sedlacek, Sue Thomas and Jessica Walters. All of whom, with the exception of Sedlacek, were on all three of the Lady Cats consecutive DuPage Valley Conference championship teams.

"They were part of the first one," Maciejewski went on. "They were the ones three years ago who were led by seniors. They must have set a good example because when it was their time to lead they were there. They

were very diligent and worked very hard."

At the end of the Lady Cats best DVC-conquering season yet—posting an overall record of 25-5, 14-0 in the DVC (the first undefeated conference champ in six years)—Maciejewski had fond memories of the group.

"They knew when to enjoy themselves and they knew when to take care of business," Maciejewski said. "The thing I feel fortunate about is to have kids that when they were

watched they worked and when they weren't watched they worked. They gave themselves a goal and they gave every bit of time they could to give everything of themselves."

The payoff individually, as well as teamwise, was there for the Lady Cats as Benson, Davidson, Matthews and Thomas joined junior teammates Liz Germand and Fiona Guane as they earned first-team all-conference and Walters second-team all-conference. Maciejewski also hinted that this conference championship was the sweetest.

"It was the first time we got out in front and stayed out in front the whole way," he said. "The kids earned it. We had some close games and they came through with some clutch performances." Maciejewski referred to games like the team's first matchup against Glenbard North, when they had to rebound twice to finally take the lead for good. Also, against Wheaton Central, the Tigers already were wearing "We beat West Chicago" t-shirts underneath their jerseys ready to celebrate. The Lady Cats turned them back as well.

In the total dominance of the season, Maciejewski saw talent, character and experience as the top three reasons for the three-peat.

"You don't win without talent," Maciejewski said. "I don't care how good a coach you are, how much spirit you have or how much character you've got. If you don't have talent you're not going to win. The second thing is we had character. When the chips were down I knew we knew we could count on (each other). We had a lot of experience. When you're in a situation and you know what has to be done being in that situation before, that's something that can't be measured."

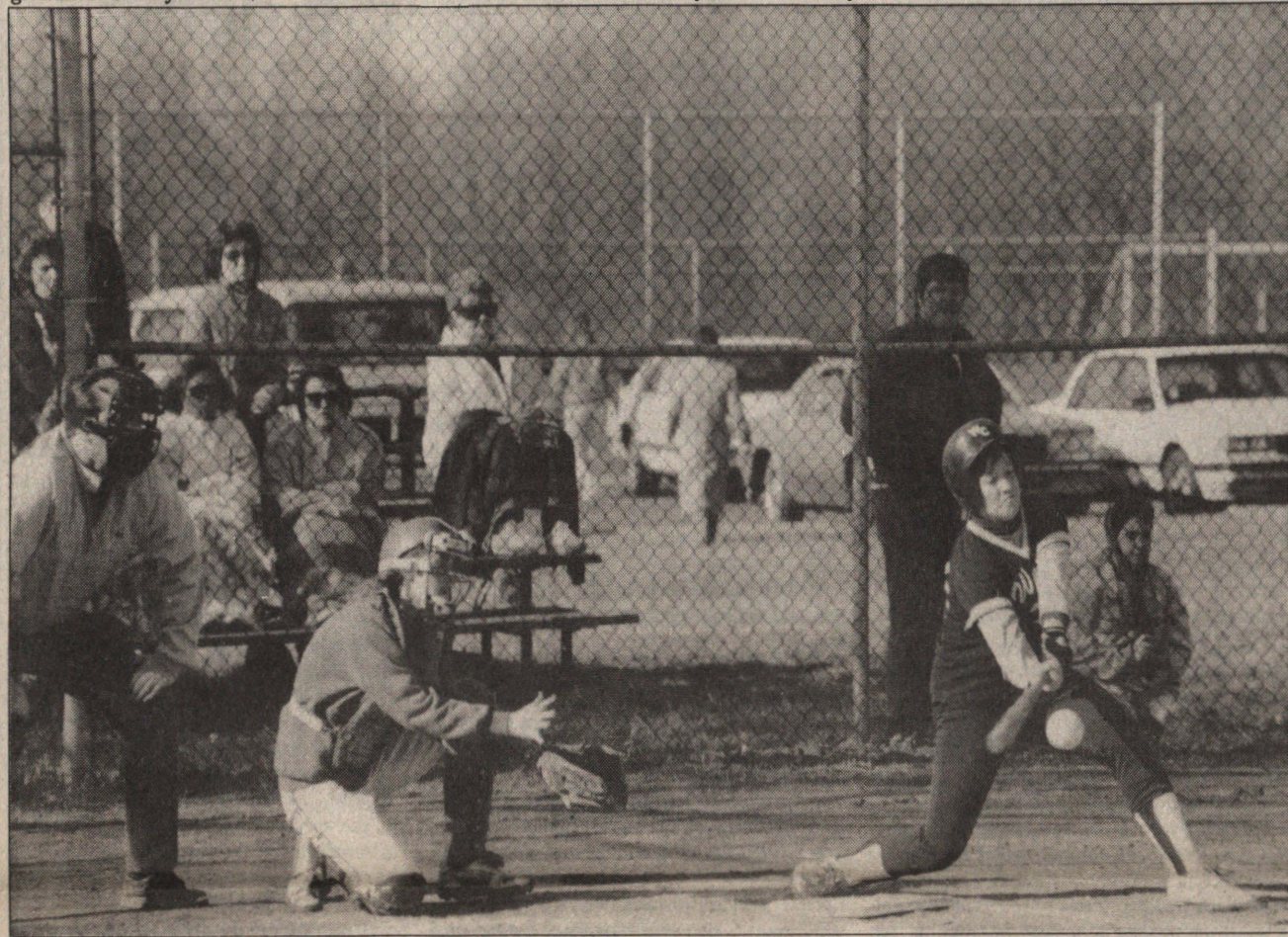
Maciejewski also saw a change in offensive strategy from last season. According to Maciejewski last year, the Cats depended often on the big bat of all-area player Angie Webb. But this season, offensive assistance came from everywhere.

But with the third straight conference crown, came a third straight regional disappointment. The Cats' bats went south as the Saints pitcher threw a no-hitter and allowed only one run off a seventh-inning sacrifice fly by Sedlacek. "It was disappointing to lose to St. Charles, but it would have been disappointing to lose to anybody," Maciejewski said. "St. Charles is no fish, they had 21 wins (21-13). We were pretty evenly matched. They got a break and capitalized on it."

As far as next year goes, the Cats look to return five regular starters in the lineup in Germand, sophomore Katie Lootens, sophomore Shannon Mason, Guane and sophomore Tiffany Smith as well as injured starters juniors Gretchen Austgen and Kristie Spielman.

"To have seven starters coming back is unique," Maciejewski said. "I'm excited about the future and the kids coming back have a lot of talent. They'll try to pick up where the seniors left off and try to do the same type of thing. I honestly believe they can do it."

Along with the seven starters, Maciejewski inherits a junior varsity, sophomore and freshman team that have also won its respective DVC crowns.



Sophomore third basemen Tiffany Smith will be one of seven starters that will try to make it four DVC titles in a row for the Lady Cat softball team. (photo courtesy of Challenge)

## Benson, Matthews are 'dynamic duo'

by Jon Turkot

For seniors Melody Benson and Kelly Matthews, winning is just a way of life.

Both Benson and Matthews played on every one of the Lady Wildcat softball team's three DuPage Valley Conference championship teams.

For Benson, it was a "great accomplishment" winning three DVC championships in four years of varsity play. "It was great because no other team has done it before," said Benson. "Anybody can win one time but proving you can do it over and over again—it just means more."

Matthews, on the other hand, got her first taste of victory her sophomore year when the Wildcats won their first DVC

title, when she pitched every game in the season.

"My sophomore year was special because it (winning a DVC title) hadn't been done before," Matthews said. "But my senior year was the most special because we went undefeated and everything. It was special."

Not only have the "Dynamic Duo" won DVC championships, but they have also reached personal goals. Benson has steadily improved her batting average each year, starting with a .111 batting average as freshman to a .385 average as a senior. Benson also has been the top RBI producer for the Lady Cats this year as well as leading the team in triples with seven.

Matthews has also improved drasti-

cally as a pitcher winning 15 games as a sophomore to 25 games as a senior as she has pitched nearly every softball game for the last three years.

Both complimented each others play.

"She has the most experience on our team," Matthews said about Benson. "She has a strong arm and she is the person to count on when she's batting."

"She's an awesome pitcher and has improved a lot," Benson said, returning the compliment. "I know I'm most confident when Kelly is on the mound. I'd be afraid to bat against her!"

Both players plan on attending college in the fall and to continue to play softball. "It's something I want to do," said Matthews. "I think it will be a good experience for me."

## Three Lady Wildcats finish the track season at state

by Pat Guane

The Lady Wildcat track team was able to boast of three state qualifiers in senior Nicole Horyn, senior Heather Jardis and sophomore Sarah Meyers.

Horyn, who ran a 2:20.3 in sectionals, only three seconds of second place, once again broke her school record in the 800-meter run. However, a nagging injury slowed Horyn down a state where she ran a 2:29.7.

"It was a little disappointing because she was who expected to do well at state," Lady Cat Coach Wilbert Walters said.

Jardis qualified in the two-mile run with an 11:40, finishing sixth at the sectional and beating her former best time by nearly 20 seconds. Jardis had been on the edge of qualifying before the race with a time of 11:59. At state, Jardis ran an 11:57.

"Heather is an inspirational leader who is

always working hard," Walters said.

Meyers, who qualified with a 5:24.2 in the 1600-meter run flew by her personal best of 5:37, placing her seventh at the Downers Grove North sectional. Walters classified this year as a learning experience for Meyers and expects her to be one of the leaders next year along with fellow sophomores Adrienne Yule and Ann Zimmer.

As for the Cats future, it looks pretty well. According to Walters the team has four star freshman in Catalina Garcia, Peggy Kosman, Carrie Netzel and Colleen Otto and says these girls could run in events like the high and low hurdles as well as relays.

"This is the best group of girls I've had since I've been here," Walters said. Also, according to Walters, junior Samantha Newby and Zimmer have improved their times in the 800 and the mile, respectively.

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