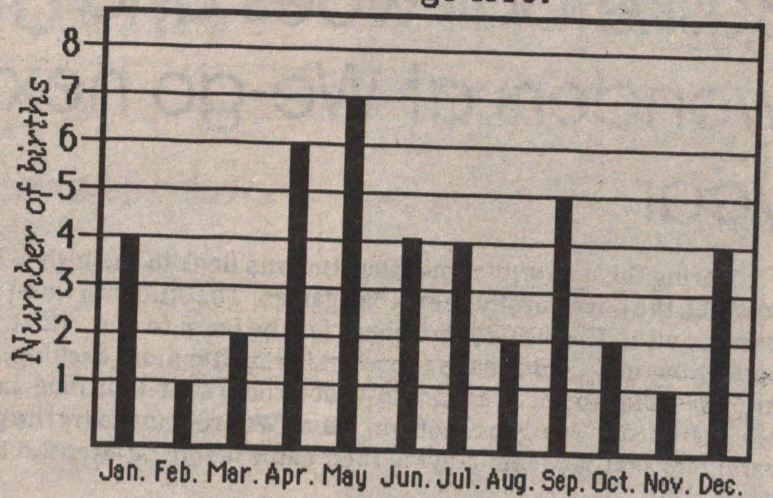


The Bridge

West Chicago Community High School
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pregnancies to girls 19yrs. and under in West Chicago 1990.



Teenage pregnancy on the rise in DuPage County

by Elisa Biancalana

Teenage pregnancy is on the rise.

According to a Chicago Tribune article written December 29, 1991, "the teen birth rate in DuPage County rose more than 10 percent in 1989."

In the town of West Chicago, in 1988, there were 334 births according to the DuPage County Health Department. Out of those births, 9.3 percent or 31 were babies born to teenage girls. In the Chicago Tribune article, "600 babies were delivered to teen mothers in DuPage County in 1988."

According to the Health Department, West Chicago is one of the towns in DuPage County which have the highest pregnancy rates. Others that rank near West Chicago are Addison, Bensenville, Downers Grove, and Hanover Park. School nurse Carolyn Pinney said, "I think it [teenage pregnancy] is a problem in every high school and even in the nation. The unplanned pregnancy changes the outcome of their high school career."

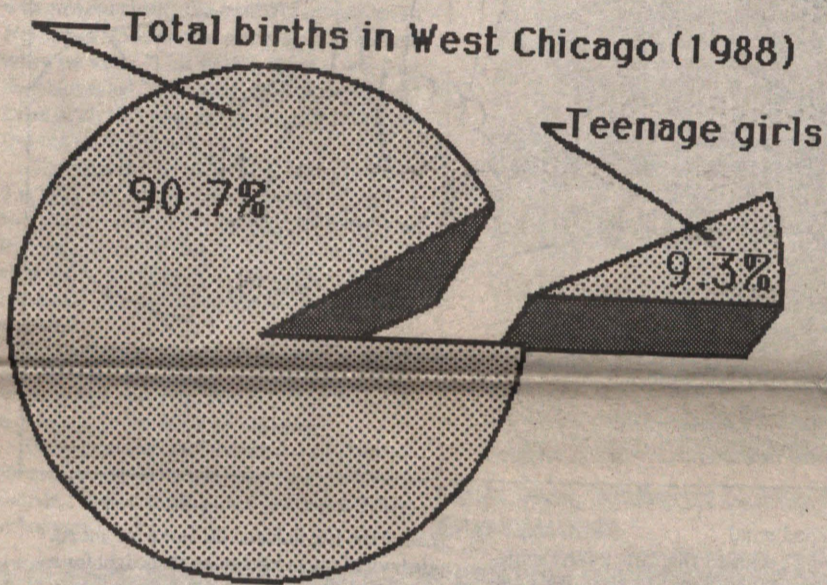
Although teens are aware of the problems of teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases (STD's), "Sixty-five percent of the nation's teenagers are sexually active. Three out of every 10 teenage girls will have a pregnancy to deal with. Sixty-seven percent of

teen mothers live below the poverty level." (Chicago Tribune, 12/29/91).

When asked if educating teens was the problem, Pinney replied, "Education and access to birth control is not the problem. A large percentage don't use birth control because they choose not to or the boyfriend doesn't want to. The girls want to please the male."

Teenage pregnancy in West Chicago has shown signs of increasing. In 1988, 31 births were reported to girls 19 and younger. In 1990, the number increased to 42 births. "Many authorities contend that birth rates may represent less than half of the whole teen pregnancy picture. These authorities say that at least the same number of pregnancies are terminated either through miscarriage of abortion." (Chicago Tribune, 12/29/91)

Although many times pregnancies among teens are not always planned, sometimes girls purposely get pregnant. Pinney feels that the reason girls purposely do get pregnant is "because of low self esteem. They want to love someone, they want someone to love, or to hold a boy. This shows women don't have a lot of self esteem. They have a lot more to offer."



Inkspots

by Jennee Caligiuri, Julianne Graczyk, and Sean Power

Works accepted

Students whose works have been accepted for publication in **The Phoenix** will be notified by letter through your English teacher, before the beginning of second semester.

FBLA to area conference

FBLA will be participating in the Area Contest on February 8, 1992 at Stevenson High School in Prairie View, IL.

Fashion show and lip sync contest at mall

Student Council is sponsoring a fashion show on Wednesday, February 5 at Charlestowne Mall. Selected We-go students will be modeling clothes and participating in a lip sync contest. The show starts at 7:00 p.m.

Winter play to be presented

The winter play **Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl**, will be presented on February 13, 14, and 15 at 7:30 p.m. in Weyrauch Auditorium. Tickets will be \$2 for students and \$3 for adults.



Express Yourself

Senior Erin Meyers "expresses herself" during her performance in the Dance Production show. (photo by Gina Lipscomb)

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Basketball woes and wonders at We-go next year

During the cold winter months students flock to the high school to watch the boys' varsity basketball games. The students along with parents sit in the stands and cheer for the team to win. Next year something new could make those Friday nights more exciting. We are not going to get the Harlem Globetrotters for half time nor is Michael Jordan going to coach our team. We are going to try the girls' varsity basketball team playing their game before or after the boys' game.

The decision

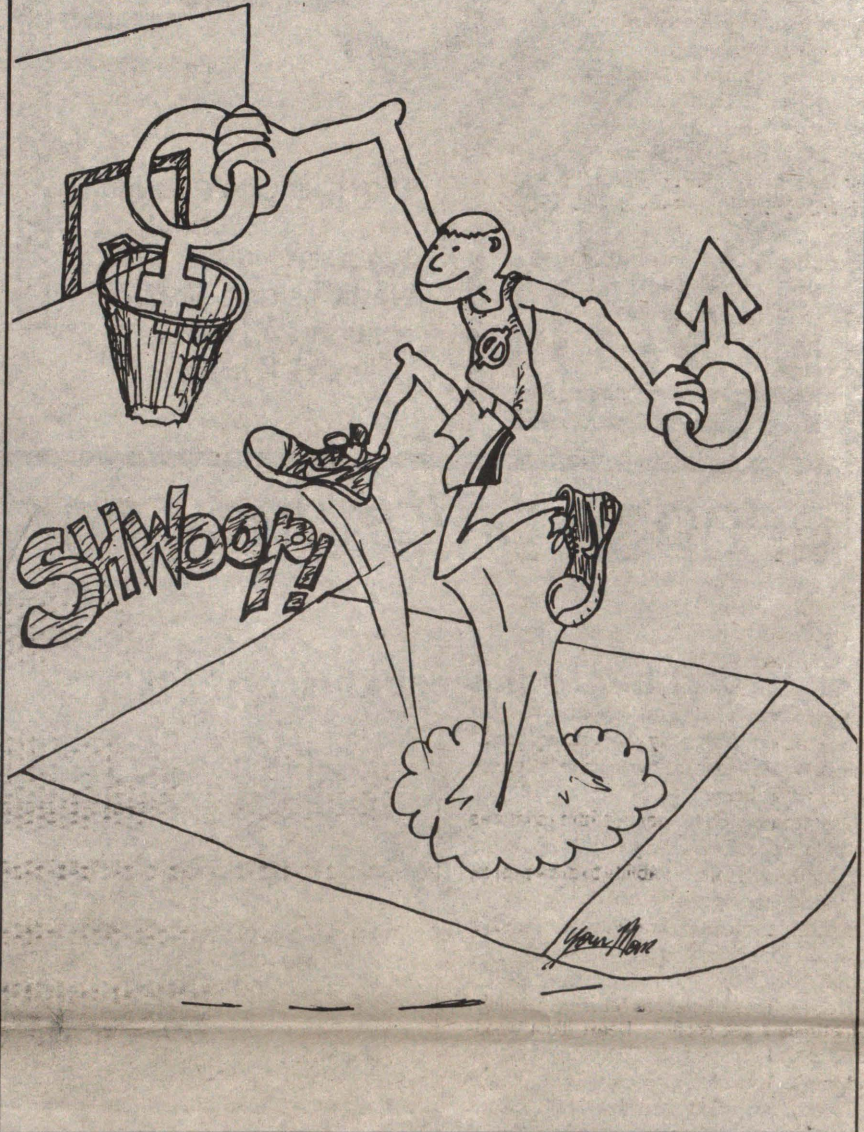
According to Butch Hansen, the athletic director, the idea of girls' playing with the boys' team is still in the "planning stages." Hansen had "No strong objections," towards the new idea. However; he was unsure whether the girls would be able to play Friday nights due to the fact the sports schedules are made up a few years in advance and making last minute changes would be hard to do.

Kim Wallner, girls' varsity coach, said, "I don't know if I agree with doing it all the time." Wallner also said she would like to have a once a year game to pack the place. She continues, "The girls are getting better and the games are exciting, but in a different way from

We encourage the school to change the sports schedules so both varsity teams could play together.

the boys' games."

The Bridge feels that the girls varsity team playing on Fridays would benefit both teams because there would be a lot of support from parents as well as school spirit. Each team can root for the other. Thus causing more enthusiasm and a greater turn out at the Friday night games. We encourage the school to change the sports schedules so both varsity teams could play together. Friday Night Basketball could take on a whole new meaning and might possibly be more fun to watch and participate in.



Pow!!!



Life on the edge

by Jamie McDole

My excursion to the Aloha State began on January 1, a new year beginning in the tropics. I left taking for granted the things that I had received from my parents and life in general. When I returned, I had lived the life on the edge, and began to see what life offered me and what I had to offer life.

I arrived in Honolulu, Hawaii at around 2 in the afternoon and knew what I wanted to do right away. I wanted to try to surf. So, I ran to Waikiki Beach and went and took a lesson. A man named Sam, (I called him King Whosabbi because he had long hair and a long white beard), took me out in the water and taught me how to surf. The more I surfed, the more I fell in love with the ocean and surfing. It was the feeling of dropping off a wave and cutting back up it that I was on top of the world. It was the feeling of walking on water.

After surfing hour after hour into the sunset I became a fairly good surfer, at least on small waves.

Satisfied with the development of my surfing ability I went with King Whosabbi to the North Shore. This is where the famous Bonzal Pipeline is located, with its' waves reaching 10 feet into the misty air. As we got to the beach, a group of people, in their twenties, came up to King Whosabbi and started to talk to him about what had been going on throughout the day. Then

the King introduced me and we went out and hit the waves, just as the surf was coming in.

I paddled out beyond the reef, and stopped to rest, for it was a long paddle out to the point where the waves were the best. A giant wave was coming so I turned around to let it go over me. Unlike Waikiki, though, the wave didn't just ride over me. It took me with it and when I opened my eyes I was riding on my stomach on this wave. Relieved to still be alive I stood up on my board, I was surfing on the Bonzal Pipeline. The 30 seconds of glory overwhelmed me. The one thing I forgot to do in those 30 seconds though, was to turn up the wave, so the white water came over the crest and pounded me down into the unforgiving

ocean and coral.

There I realized that this wasn't something that came easily. As I paddled back out I was constantly bombarded with waves. Finally, after what seemed like an eternity, I made it back out to the starting point of the Pipeline. There I sat watching the other people master the whitewater, cutting up and through the waves and riding the pipeline all the way in.

I tried for about an hour before I got the hang of it. I finally learned how to cut up the wave and ride it in. I tried to ride the pipeline and the wave introduced me to Mr. Coral again.

After a few more runs we were done for the day and we all went to shore. There I became good friends with this guy they

called the Big Kahuna (Kahuna for short). He invited me to his house that night for a party.

I made my way over to his house around 1 and his house was stacked with people, all of them surfers. It was all different to me. They all had a different way of doing things than Illinois does. In a way it was like a big Mosh Pit. I finally decided to leave at about 2:00 and went back to my hotel to get some sleep.

The next day I didn't see anyone; I just saw the sights of Hawaii. That night at about 1 a.m. Kahuna came to my door. They grabbed me and said, "Let's go surfing." We got to the Pipeline and the surfers had a big bonfire going on the beach and all the headlights to their cars pointed out into the ocean. We all took our boards and started to surf. The instant I caught my first wave I felt the air rush into my face as I was dropping off the wave. Cutting back up the wave and riding the whitewater sent a sudden rush through my body. It was an unbelievable feeling of control and freedom. I had to rely on my sense of instinct to stay up, and not get washed up on the rocks.

I realized though, while I was out in the water, sitting on my board, that these people lived their life on the edge constantly. They had no real jobs, no family. They were each others family and what they couldn't buy they made or got from the land, like food and water. The only income for most of them was teaching people how to surf.

Now I know what life is on the edge. They have nothing except a surfboard and each other. They have no luxuries like McDonald's or television or even a radio, all the things we take for granted.

I realize now how much I do have, and how I didn't take the time to notice certain things before my vacation. I'll never give up the luxuries I have now, because I like the way I'm living. My life will never be the same because of this experience, and in my mind I will always want to be back on the Pipeline, living on the edge.



Letter to the editor

Dear In-Depth Editor,

After reading your article, "It's not really K-Mart, it's not really Flipside, we've come to the conclusion that you have contradicted yourself. In the article, you ask the readers to "do you a favor, DON'T eat at Ed's, DON'T go to the Hard Rock

Cafe, and DON'T shop Watertower," because you said they were "trendy". If you are a person who doesn't like trends, then why are you trying to set them? So, you want the suburbanites on Belmont? How do you think trends get their start? Maybe advertising?

Kelle Spoden
Addie Panveno
Jessica Gabbs
Layla Madi
Christine Verchota

The Dean of drafting students

by Karina Bite

"It was a total surprise. It was the last thing on my mind."

David Dean's reaction to receiving the R. Tim Phillip for Drafting Teacher of the Year award is what you'd expect from a reserved 36 year veteran of WCCHS. He was exhilarated and astounded by this award which he never saw coming.

Dean was born in Danville, and has a brother, George. Dean and his wife, Suzanne, have been married for 34 years. He commented, "I've got to get this one right, don't I?" They have four children who all graduated from WCCHS: Brian, Forrest, Lisa and Sharon.

Dean became interested in drafting in high school, and continued his education at Illinois State University. Teaching was the only job Dean wanted to pursue. "No, I don't think there's anything else," he said. Dean enjoys the students most of all. "I think we're fortunate. You guys don't realize how lucky we are....you're really good kids," comments Dean. He believes that the negative aspect about teaching is that 5 percent of the students mess everything up for the majority, a very small percentage.

The way Dean was chosen for the award was through people writing letters to the organization about him and his abilities. He was presented with the award at a banquet on November 15 and was completely surprised when he won. "I felt light-headed, I was just dumbfounded. Naturally you feel very good," Dean said. He keeps the award just "sitting in the corner at home."

The person who influenced him most was his high school wrestling coach. "Why? I suppose the manner, his ability to draw people, fellow students together; a most lasting friendship that's endured over 40 years," he said. He added that wrestling was "more than just a sport."

He describes himself as "sincere, usually. Sometimes I get goofy." Dean likes wood-working and camping, and enjoying the book and movie from *Here to eternity*.

David Dean reflects his own humility about his achievement. "It knocked me over with a feather, I had no inkling at all that it was going to happen."



David Dean, holding his Drafting Teacher of the Year award (photo by Gina Lipscomb)

4TH YEAR PHILOSOPHY

six-pack

by Alicia Garceau



Apathy. It is a word synonymous with ignorance and prejudice. It is also a word that aptly describes our society.

Having been born in the early 70's, I have experienced three decades. The 70's and 80's are gone, but they can not be forgotten. The problems that plagued our society then, haunt us now. Poverty, homelessness, unemployment, racism, violations of human and animal rights, and the destruction of our Earth continue all around us.

Why? Do we enjoy seeing our neighbors penniless and humiliated? Do we really want to pollute our Earth and kill off every species including human be-

We live in a society that is all talk and no action.

ings? I hardly think so. Why, then, do these problems persist? The answer to this question is simple: apathy.

We live in a society that is all talk and no action. People complain left and right about the abominable state of our nation, yet they are not compelled to correct the wrongs. We all take on the attitude of "if I don't do it, it won't matter. Some one else will do it." What if everyone thought this way?

For whatever reason, American citizens function on the belief that one person alone does not make a difference. I beg to differ. Single people who believe in themselves and their causes can band together for one common cause. Martin Luther King, Jr. inspired whole generations of individuals

Do we really want to pollute our Earth and kill off every species including human beings? I hardly think so.

to come together to end bigotry and segregation.

It is the 90's and it seems as though another generation will feed itself on the fantasy land of bubble gum television, instead of facing reality. There are so many problems in our society that could be solved if we would only realize that each person could make a difference. Now you may say to yourself that it takes much too much effort. Besides no one can single handily change the world. Wrong. How hard would it be to place a soda pop can or paper in the proper recycling bins instead of the trash cans? Would it really damage your social life to turn a deaf ear on racist jokes or have a different opinion than the person next to you? Would writing a letter to your representative, expressing your views on controversial topics such as censorship and abortion, really take too much time away from your busy schedule?

We have so much power to change all of our social ills, yet it is frightening to see how few people actually use that power. You can make a difference. If you want something changed speak up. Speak up loudly and then don't stop there. Take action.

The toilet's flooded(help)

by Brian Levake



Ever been thirsty? I mean really thirsty? You ask your teacher to let you get a drink, she lets you go and the fountain you come to doesn't work or worse yet, has some very yucky green stuff in and around the edge?

Or have you ever really had to make a bowel movement but when you get to the toilet there is already some foreign matter in there, or worse still-no toilet tissue?!

For your convenience, we at the Bridge have decided to give you our top and bottom five facilities in the school...

Top Five

1. Drinking fountains by the pool. Always an abundance of clean cold water, and on top of that, there's two different ones for height differences.

2. LRC bathroom. Incredible! It's almost always clean, is quiet, and has a non-destroyed mirror. The only problem is that it's a one person model and is often occupied.

3. Fieldhouse drinking fountains. Taste mighty good after a strenuous gym class. Water shoots up pretty high when smacked hard enough. Problem is that the water turns warm quicker than other fountains.

4. LRC drinking fountains. A nice way to complement your trip to the finest bathroom in the school. Plus, it's the only fountain that Mr. Exner patronizes, so it's got to be cool.

5. Cafeteria fountains. Didn't buy milk? No problem. These fountains will give you that "Way to go" taste in your mouth.

After you take advantage of these fine facilities, you'll probably end up having to use

some of these less than comfortable facilities.

5. Bathrooms across from Bishop Gym. It would probably be a nice place of relief, but then who would know? It always seems to be locked or closed or broken.

4. Freshman drinking fountains. This makes sense. It must be the whole seniority thing. Funny how there are never any green slimy greasballs in the seniors' fountains.

3. Main hallway bathrooms. These are entirely too pitiful. A joke. A place to do your job and get the heck out of there. Do I smell asbestos?

2. Drinking fountains in the pool. It never fails. These fountains are sure to be hot and



No, no! What are you doing? Photo by Gina Lipscomb

yucky. Thick and mushy.

1. Second floor bathrooms. The problem here is that if you've really got to go, really on your last leg, you run to the second floor bathrooms, you're bound to make a big mess because they always seem to be closed. Maybe that's why there are garbage cans in front of them.

We at the Bridge hope that you'll use this list and make it work for you.

And even if it isn't used, the Bridge is probably fun to read while on the throne.

Top ten ways to raise your grade point average second semester

by Brian Levake

10. Study really really hard.
9. Offer your teachers a "cash incentive" for successful test results.
8. Take Concert Band.
7. Eat more broccoli.
6. Wake up.
5. Evoke the Muses.
4. Dress like your favorite teacher.
3. Get a good night's sleep (whenever you can).
2. "Stay in school."
1. Tie yourself up and stare at a blank, white wall while continually repeating your favorite motivational phrase.

The separation of church and state

Prayer in public schools: a violation of the first amendment

by Alicia Garceau



Imagine this scenario, if you will: Just before second hour is to begin, a minister, a rabbi, or even a school administrator pipes in over the P.A. system to lead West Chicago students in a prayer. Would you freely participate, sit in silence, or openly object? Of course this situation is strictly hypothetical, but the question of separation of church and state is very real at some public high schools.

According to the United States Constitution, every American citizen is guaranteed freedom of religion. The First Amendment denotes Congress "shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting free exercise thereof." Simply put, the Federal, State, and local governments can not endorse one religion or prevent a citizen from practicing according to his or her own beliefs. This country was founded by people seeking to escape religious persecution and worship freely, so why after 200 years are we still arguing over separation of church and state?

According to the United States Constitution, every American citizen is guaranteed freedom of religion.

Religion does not belong in public schools. The public schools of America are state sponsored with citizens' tax dollars, and therefore, are considered part of the United States government. There are approximately 1,200 different religious groups in the U.S. It would be ridiculous to

suggest that a single morning prayer could touch upon, or more importantly, educate children about each different religion.

Those students who do not worship like the majority will be ridiculed and ostracized on the basis of their religion.

By allowing limited religion into the public school systems in the form of prayer, we will only teach children about religious intolerance. Those students who do not worship like the majority will be ridiculed and ostracized on the basis of their religion.

There will always be those who support religion in public schools, and claim that it is freedom of religious expression. Typically, it is only the Christian Bible that is protected, but what if the daily prayer was a reading from the Muslim Koran? What if an administrator began reciting Satanic verses over the P.A. system. Would these freedoms of religious expressions also be protected by the Constitution?

The bottom line is that a government institution can not equally represent each of the 1,200 religions that are present in the United States, and therefore, a public school would be violating the American citizens' first Amendment rights. Religion should be practiced in private homes or in proper places of worship if a person so chooses, but prayer should not be made mandatory in school.

Did you know: There are approximately 1,200 religions in the United States of America.

Giving athletes another choice- Fellowship of Christian Athletes

by Brian Levake

Athletes in this and other schools now have another choice when it comes to motivational and mental strength- Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Paraprofessional Rob Russell started the FCA chapter here at WCCHS. The group consists of between 15-30 male and female athletes. They meet Fridays at 6:45 to 7:30 am in the LRC classroom to do "a variety of different things such as videos, personal stories, and games," said Russell.

Russell feels that FCA definitely helps you on the field.

"It helps them realize that there is another aspect from just the physical aspect- a spiritual aspect," said Russell.

Russell learned of FCA while attending and playing football at Northern Illinois University. He feels that he "definitely grew" from the experience of FCA. He thinks that FCA will be an on going thing here at WCCHS.

On the issue of separation of church and state, Russell feels that FCA doesn't violate any codes or laws.

"We're not having church" said Russell. "It's Americanism, we were given a freedom of choice," he continued.

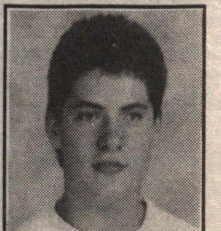
Giving athletes another choice and evaluating values seems to be the theme of FCA.

"FCA gives kids another chance to look at things, another option, which is great," said Russell.



Separation of church and state

by Tom Fox



This country was founded upon the belief that each human being has certain unalienable rights. The most important of these rights are listed in the Bill of Rights, including freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom of

Church and state

Religion and Government



by Bryan Gall

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the bureaucracy for which it stands, one nation under God, with bigotry and justice for white male land owners.

Religion and Government, a perfect melding that has brought about such great things as censorship, intolerance, violence, and genocide. Let's remember some of the better instances.

How about the Spanish Inquisition, a time of intolerance and violence in where all heathens or pagans—that's non-Christians—were persecuted, tortured, or killed in an attempt to convert them to the "true" religion of forgiveness. Thousands of Spanish Jews and Moorish Muslims suffered under this Roman Catholic policy which held individual rights in no regard. But that's not the only example, who can forget the crusades, made known to the general populous by the film **Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade**. In these often glorified military campaigns, thousands of men left their homelands to win the holyland, Jerusalem, back from the native population of Muslims. The reason for this series of wars was papal proclamation, it was the order of the pope; in effect, to these men, it was the word of God on Earth.

Or what about the Salem witch trials, a time when the religious government set about ferreting out the evil witches and warlocks of the early American colonies. With laughable proceedings, a total of nineteen men and women were tried and hung with nothing more than the word of a few erratic young girls.

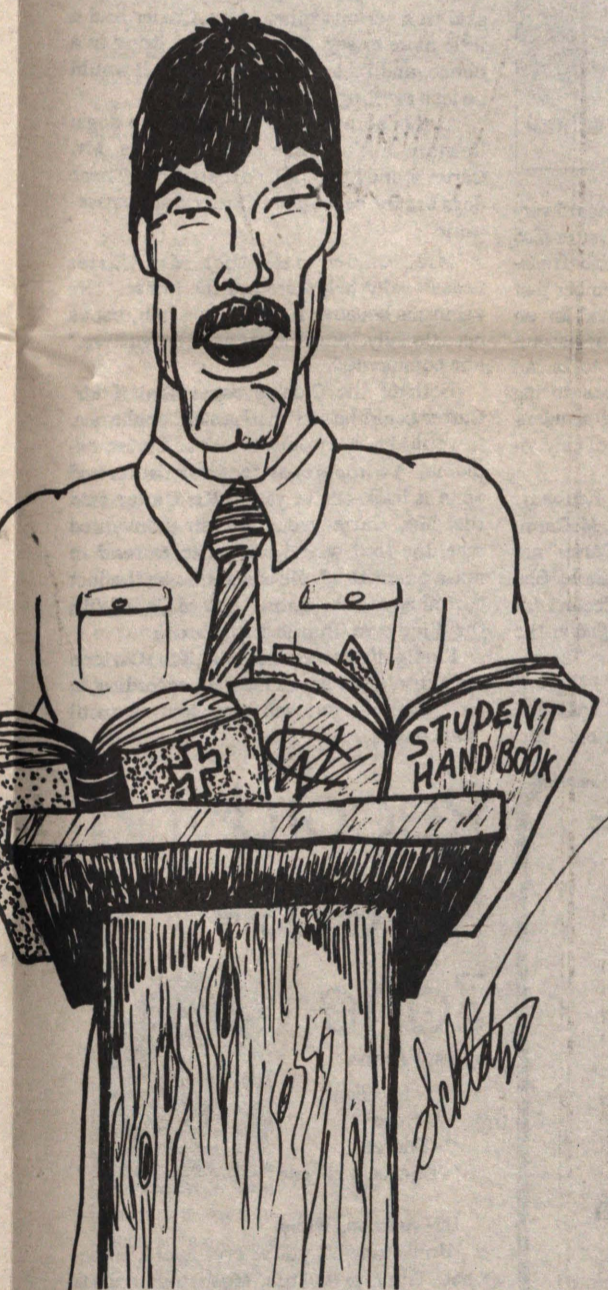
But those are just the good old days, what's happening here and now? Well how about segregation in the house of God. Such religious organizations as the Klu Klux Klan espouse their hate of different races and religions even today. A past of lynch mobs, cross burnings and terror as well as political influence which can almost win a gubernatorial election is found with this fun loving group.

Then there's that barrel of laughs, the fuehrer himself, Adolf Hitler. The man behind the scenes of the holocaust, the systematic extermination of European Jews during World War II. His goal was the creation of the master Aryan race for the glory of God. And if that entailed the genocidal slaughter of millions, hey, it was in the name of God.

Isn't it just wonderful what the church and government can accomplish together if they try?

WHAT IF?...

Let us Pray...



Church and state has gone too far; prayer should be allowed in public schools

religion.

The latter is one of the most recently controversial of these rights. The separation of church and state has become a hotly debated issue in the past few years. Must religion become a hidden behavior; permissible only in the privacy of our own home? How far are we willing to take freedom of religion? For example, is the illegality of murder infringing on the rights of those who would commit human sacrifice for their religion? What are the limits we place on this freedom? The United States of America was not called "one nation under God" for no good reason. There is

a difference between prayer in school and an oppressive and offensive demonstration of religion.

No one is saying that religion should be forced upon anyone. This would certainly contradict with what our forefathers intended. Each person should be allowed to practice any religion, as long as that practice is law-abiding and peaceful. Some might say that a voluntary prayer before school or a benediction at a graduation ceremony is interference, but is it really? The writers of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights sought to involve God in the lives of Americans. In essence, no one is forcing anyone to do anything. Some of the most liberal politicians act like prayer in

schools is the most oppressive religious policy since the Spanish Inquisition!

Until the Bill of Rights is stricken down, there is no reason that prayer in schools should be forbidden. To achieve the "kinder, gentler nation" that President Bush speaks of, we must learn to accept others—and that works two ways. Christians and non-Christians must accept each others' beliefs.

The fathers of the Constitution did not foresee the controversy that the policy of freedom of religion might create. The United States of America was founded as a nation of God and it should remain that way.

Working wedlock, John and Dorothy Carter

by Julianne Graczyk and Karina Bite

What would it be like to work at the same school as your spouse? Would you walk each other to class or perhaps eat lunch together? Teaching at WCCHS has not affected the only married couple at this school—John and Dorothy Carter.

John Allen Carter was born in May of 1965 in Kankakee, IL. He has three brothers: Dan who is 39, Tom, 30, and Matt, 24. His parents' names are Betty and Alvin, "You know, like the chipmunk," said Mr. Carter.

Dorothy Ellen Carter was born in Peoria, IL in 1964. She has only one sister, Rosemary, 30. Her parents are Hilde and Joe Virant. The Carters met at University of Illinois where they were both resident advisers of their dormitories. Because of this, they had to spend a lot of time together. Mr. Carter said, "She didn't even like me when we first met. She thought I was a nerd." After Mrs. Carter graduated, a year before Mr. Carter, she got a job at We-go. They kept in touch through letters, and she let him know about an open position at We-go. After that, Mr. Carter said "they fell in love," and were married on June 17, 1989.

"We don't see each other very much at school," said Mr. Carter. Yet, sometimes they do drive to school together. Mrs. Carter said that she enjoys teaching at the same school because "it's fun when we know the same students." But they hardly ever help each other with school work. Mr. Carter believes that Mrs. Carter does not like to grade his papers. Mr. Carter knows that he's "not qualified to grade her papers," although sometimes they will share ideas. Mrs. Carter gave Mr. Carter a lot of ideas of how to use English skills in mathematics, but Mr. Carter did not get Mrs. Carter any more interested in math. She opened her eyes wide and exclaimed, "It would take more than Mr. Carter to do that."

Mrs. Carter did not always want to be a teacher. In college she wanted to be a journalist. She explained, "I was not competitive enough." Contrary to this, Mr. Carter wanted to be a teacher since sixth grade. Due to his father's influence and money, in college he started in engineering. Once he received scholarship money, he could pursue his teaching career.

The most important thing about Mr. Carter's job is his interaction with students. Mrs. Carter said that she simply enjoys her students, but is bothered by their apathy and lack of dedication. Similarly, Mr. Carter explains, "Many students don't have desire to learn and obtain knowledge. They think they know all there is to know, but there is always



John and Dorothy Carter, the most married teachers in the whole school (photo by Gina Lipscomb)

more to learn."

The Carters share many of the same interests. They agree that their favorite food is pizza, probably Campagnos. Shopping is also a joint hobby. Mr. Carter realizes that most husbands do not like to shop, but he enjoys sitting outside the stores with "the old men" while Mrs. Carter goes into women's stores. Although their taste in literature is very different, they share the love of reading. While Mrs. Carter's favorite book is *To Kill a Mockingbird*, she concluded that Mr. Carter's would have to be *The History of Math*. Mr. Carter disagreed with both choices, signifying that his own favorite is *The Brothers of Karamazov*, and Mrs. Carter's must be *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Mr. Carter also added that he belongs to the Math Book of the Month Club.

If by some chance, the Carters won the Lottery, they would go out and buy a big house. Mrs. Carter would want to take one or several trips. The rest of the money would be

shared with their families.

"Mrs. Carter doesn't get embarrassed very easily," Mr. Carter laughed. Mrs. Carter also could not think of any of her own embarrassing moments. Mrs. Carter did remember that in Mr. Carter's first year, he waited for an announcement to bring his class to an assembly. There was never supposed to be an announcement, so he kept his class during the assembly. Mr. Carter recalled accidentally explaining the multiplication of polynomials with "sexual connotations."

"Martin Luther King, John F. Kennedy, Mel Gibson, Mrs. McDonald, Mr. McCann, Mr. Carter, of course, and Jimmy Carter" are some of the people Mrs. Carter idolizes. She feels bad, however, that her list doesn't include any women. Mrs. Carter giggled at the thought of Mr. Carter's influences. She explained, "I don't know, the Pope - I think it would be." She also predicted that Mr. Carter's idol would be Isaac Newton. Mr.

Carter's older brother fit this category. He respects his intelligence and "...like my father, did everything first."

Mrs. Carter would like to live in the 1800's, but Mr. Carter thought she'd pick the late 1950's and early 1960's because of the Civil Rights movements that took place then. He was on the right track considering the people she idolizes. Mr. Carter chose the Renaissance because of the incredible growth in the amount of knowledge and how it is use increased knowledge. Mrs. Carter conversely thought Mr. Carter would be more at home whenever calculus was discovered. She declared, "Math is his life."

Funny and caring are two words used to describe Mrs. Carter. Mr. Carter said, "She will help anyone." Mr. Carter is dedicated and deliberate. He claims that he does everything to the best of his ability.

If Mrs. Carter could change her husband, she said that she would change "his... inability to put things away." She also said, "He has little stacks of activities here and there - it makes me crazy." Mr. Carter had a different idea in mind. He would manage his time better "and be able to do everything I want to do."

The Carters both agree that life would be much lonelier if they weren't married. Mr. Carter believes that he wouldn't do as many things. "I enjoy doing things with her," he said in a serious tone. Mrs. Carter had a little more to say. "I wouldn't be living in a house, and I'd only have one dog. It would be less exciting," said Mrs. Carter.

At this point the Carters have two dogs: Newton, a Yorkshire Terrier who's Mr. Carter's, and Mrs. Carter's mutt, Fred. These dogs are the reason Mr. Carter does housework.

Mrs. Carter said that Mr. Carter occasionally helps around the house. "He vacuums because he hates dog hair, cooks occasionally, and clears out the gutters," she commented.

Both of the Carters agree that if Mr. Carter could be any mechanical appliance, it would be a computer. Mrs. Carter explains, "A computer stores information and spits it back out at you." Mr. Carter said that Mrs. Carter would be "an uninvented machine that would allow her to read in mass quantities." He based this on the fact that she read the entire book of *Gone With the Wind* over Thanksgiving break.

Finally, if you are wondering if the Carters are planning to have children, according to Mrs. Carter, you will have to wait until "someday."

Weird photo of the month



Issue six is "you decide" month (photo by Eric Schlotzer)

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February 14
(Valentines day, how tootsie)

Record Release Zone

by Paul Abella

- ****- Excellent!
- ***- Good
- **- Snoozer
- *- Bucket 'o cheese



U2- Achtung Baby
Unlike any U2 you've ever heard, somewhat. This is great stuff. *Mysterious ways* is brilliant as is *The Fly*. Nice packaging, too. ****

Jethro Tull- Catfish Rising
Jethro Tull for the 90's. Summer. They sound like a modern band writing modern songs. It worked in 1970, but not in 1992. One really great tune, though, *This is Not Love*. If it gets any airplay, it'll be a hit. **

Chrissy Steele- Magnet to Steele
She sounds less confined live, but the material on this first album still rocks. *Armed and Dangerous* and *Magnet to Steel* are awesome. Worth every penny. ***

Aerosmith- Pandora's Box
A very expensive greatest hits, collection with at least half of it previously unreleased live stuff. Pretty good, but for the serious Aerosmith fan only. ***

2 light weights; 2 good, 2 much for opponents

Russ Gurrero and Isreal Castro lead way for Cats

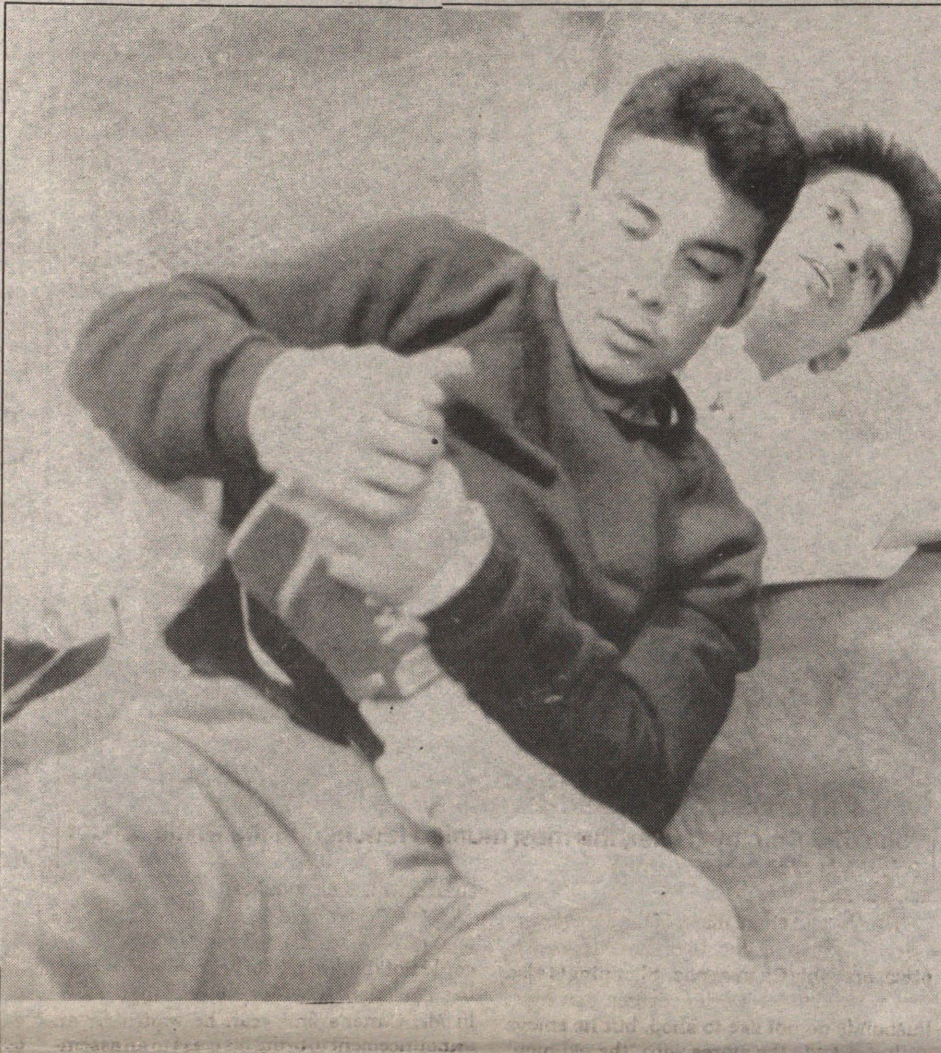
by Dan Ventrelle

As the winter sports season progresses the stars of two outstanding Wildcat wrestlers shine brightly. Isreal Castro and Russ Gurrero have dedicated themselves to improving their wrestling ability. This dedication has paid large dividends as both wrestlers have mounted impressive records in their respective campaigns.

For Russ, wrestling at 103 pounds, this season has been one which can certainly be viewed as successful. Currently, Gurrero boasts a well earned 13-0 record. Unfortunately, beginning around new year, Russ has had some difficulty maintaining his wrestling weight. Russ missed the big tournament at Hinsdale Central, because of illness and weight problems. Gurrero entering the tournament with his undefeated status was favored to do very well in the 103 pound weight class. This, however was not to be. This would only be the beginning of his problems.

After recovering fully from the illness which prevented his participation in the Hinsdale tournament, Russ was scheduled to wrestle in a meet involving Plainfield and Naperville North. Again, being expected to do well, Russ was unable to participate. On this occasion, however, weight, not illness stood in his way to participation in the meet. Before the meet, Gurrero weighed in at well over his 103 pound limit. Russ weighed in, according to head wrestling coach Bob French, "at one point, around thirteen pounds overweight." This problem also prompted his inability to compete in a meet involving Geneva. Overall, between illness and the weight problem which has recently surfaced, Russ has missed eleven matches which has brought his probable 24 and 0 record to 13-0.

This problem with Gurrero failing to comply with the 103 pound weight limit creates more difficulty than is originally thought. As a result of the substantial amount by which Gurrero exceeds his ideal wrestling weight not



Isreal Castro practices his form in the Wildcat wrestling room. (Photo by Gina Lipscomb)

only is he unable to wrestle at the 103 pound weight classification, there is not a preponderance of places in other classes where Gurrero could function as an effective competitor. If this raise in weight becomes permanent, Gurrero would be forced to move up to 112 class. This presents a problem because Isreal Castro, another undefeated Wildcat wrestles in that position. If Russ were to take a substantial leap to 119 pounds, coach French feels that he would be unable to dominate that class as he did at 103 because this would not be his ideal wrestling weight.

Originally, the goal for Gurrero was to dominate his weight class and to hopefully place in the top six at the state tournament. Coach French feels that there is no reason why this is still not possible and he hopes for Gurrero work hard to regain his weight and fulfill this aspiration.

Another Wildcat wrestler which has dominated the competition on route to a 19 and 0 record has been Isreal Castro. In this striking 19 and 0 performance, Castro has compiled eight pins and 3 technical victories which occurred when a score of 15 to 0 was reached in Israel's

favor and the match was promptly stopped awarding him the victory. Similar to those for Russ Gurrero, Israel's expectations were high upon embarking upon this wrestling season. The coaches felt that, realistically, Israel could take command of his 112 pound weight class and place among the top six competitors in the state tournament. Castro is well on his way to possibly surpassing this expectation.

A major portion of the victories which Castro has accumulated have been as parts of major tournaments. The first of these was a tournament held at home, in West Chicago. In the Wildcat invitational, Castro assembled four consecutive victories on his way to a first place finish. Similarly, in the recently held Hinsdale Central tournament, Castro's hand was raised in the victory on three occasions once again placing first. With these two tournament achievements under his belt, Castro is expected to fair very well in the upcoming Naperville Central tournament.

While tournaments comprise many important matches of the season, for Israel the most difficult matches which he will encounter will come away from the tournament circuit. Coach French has anticipated that the most difficult matches in Israel's very near future will be against two very worthy competitors, one of which Israel has wrestled previously. The first of these matches will occur against Waubonsie Valley rival Jeff Cereface whom Israel wrestled a year ago. Although Castro won impressively in their last meeting, Cereface has greatly improved and now poses a greater threat to him. The other match, and probably the more prominent of the two is opposite Mike Renalla of Naperville North. This is a match of great significance according to Coach French. He receives that a victory for Castro over Renalla would be a considerable "feather in his cap." Coach French stated, "Israel hates to lose and if he does lose, it will only make him work harder to win next time. If he wins, it will do the same because he'll want to win again."

It is rather unusual that a school possess two athletes which dominate their sports as do Isreal Castro and Russ Gurrero. Their tremendous effort and dedication have led to undefeated records for both Russ and Isreal respectively. The most interesting concept which the constant domination of their weight classes brings to mind is what great achievements the future holds for Wildcat wrestlers Isreal Castro and Russ Gurrero.

Boys swimming look to state

By John Presko

One of the most intractable happenings to any team, no matter how good or bad is graduation. It happens to the best and this year boys swimming team is no exception.

To offset the effects of graduation the Cats have a new coach. Mary Beth Eaton replaced former head coach Denise Sahley. Senior Brian Levake, Freshmen Corey Johnson, Steven Petusky, Junior Dave Flatter and Senior diver David Vallencourt are going to have to step into the shoes of Ryan Grant, exchange student Louis Barres, and most of all 100 breast stroke state qualifier T.J. Weigand. "The loss of T.J. has hurt the team a little," said Eaton. "T.J. was a hard worker in practice. Now were looking for someone to take the lead in practice and become the team leader. The losses of Grant and Barres has hurt us in the way of depth," said Eaton.

Right now their best events are the Individual Medley, breaststroke, butterfly, and they have Vallencourt for their diving team. "We have a pretty strong medley relay," said Eaton.

Eaton's goal for the team is to see them get better. "I would like to see everyone improve. At the beginning of the season, I sat down with all the swimmers individually, and they gave me times they wanted to beat. I would like to see them reach those goals. This year I am looking at more individual goal success, then wins and losses."

One of the main problems, besides graduation affecting this year's team is their lack of numbers. Eaton said, "This year we have to get the numbers up in order to improve. Last year we had a lot of swimmers to start, but as the season progressed we lost them." Eaton blamed the loss of numbers on practice. "This year we have to adjust our work outs so we don't burn everyone out," said Eaton. "We can't lose swimmers to injury because of over strenuous practices." Eaton added, "I look at the meets to see what we need to concentrate on in practice. Right now we have improved a lot, I can see a definite difference. After the beginning of the season, I see what adjustments have to be made, and the team is working on making them."

As far as goals for state competition are concerned Eaton said, "I'd like to see the medley and 200 freestyle relay teams qualify for state. Right now they are three seconds from the (state) qualifiers time." Vallencourt over the summer dove at the Mission Viejo Camp in California. "He was there for two weeks, which really helped him," said Eaton. "He has learned a lot of new dives." Eaton added, "The camp will help him this season."

The season success will be measured a lot on the work the cats did over the summer. The kids competed on the state and national level, swimming with the Sharks club of West Chicago.

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Double Troubles

by Jason Mummert
Trouble.

This seven letter word that sums up well the 91-92 boys basketball season so far. The Cats currently have a 7-8 record, and play Naperville North and Wheaton North this weekend. Guard Mark Miller quit the team earlier this year, and many players say they are unhappy with coaches, playing time, and above all the teams record.

More troubles come from the Sullavin brothers Travaris and Wallace.

What are these troubles? Forward Danis Osis and guard Eric Lasky each refused to comment to **The Bridge** on account of getting into trouble.

Guard Travaris Sullavin is probably the key to any success that the Cats have, and if you watch him in action you can see this 15 ppg star has determination on his face. But theres something else there. Frustration?

This may stem from T's being acidemacly ineligible earlier in the season.

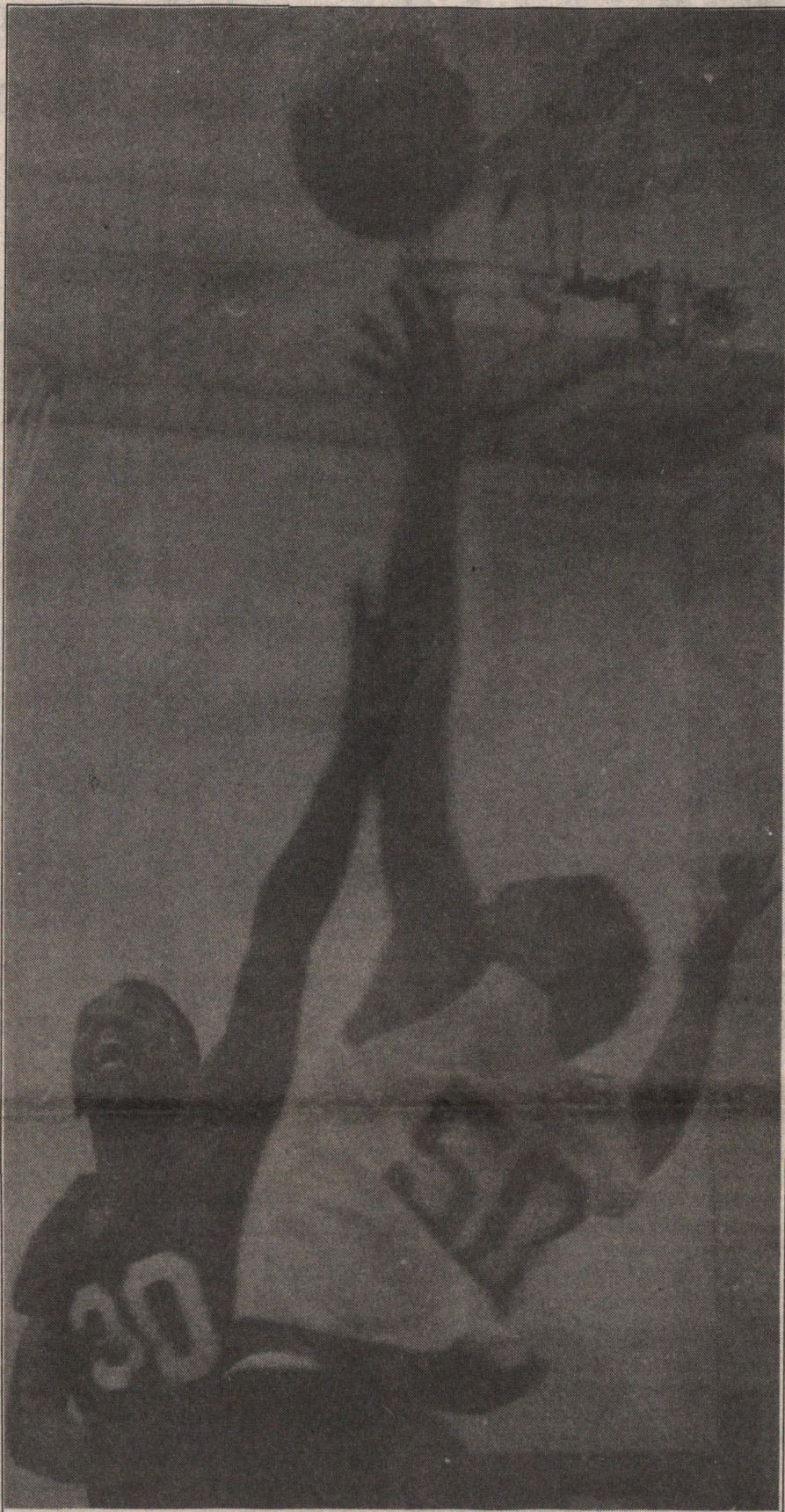
Wallace, who is at about 10 ppg, has quit the team and then rejoined the team. He says that he usually likes playing with T, but "...I don't like to play with him when were arguing, but when were not arguing, we play together better." It can be assumed that those problems come not only from his on-court relationship with Travaris, but also with run-ins with Coah Majekowski.

A similar situation is that of identical twins annd NBA stars Horace and Harvey Grant. In a recent interview on **WGN's Bulls Eye**, Harvey stated that there was the family bragging rights. This resulted in Harvey transferring to Oklahoma while Horace stayed at Clemson.

On how they play together, Wallace stated that he didn't feel anything 'special' about playing with Travaris. Players on the team say that they are usually friendly to one another, but don't think of it as anything to get excited about. "They don't even act like brothers"

People in West Chicago have a problem with looking at a persons troubles and shortcomings. Should we, the student body just watch the games and let the team, including the Sullivans, play? Said one Wildcat guard "I don't think it really matters."

One thing does seem certain-T and Wallace are to important to the team to lose them. So let the brothers play.



Wallace and Travaris Sullivan show a little family rivalry in going up for the ball. (Photo by Gina Lipscomb)



The Kitty Litter

by Aaron Owens

West Chicago vs. WHO?? Wildcat Rivals turn out to be almost all of DVC

The Chicago Bulls-Detroit Pistons, the Chicago Bears-Greenbay Packers, the West Chicago Wildcats-?

Rivalry, is a big time thing in all levels of sports today. It seems as if all professional sports teams have their own little feud with their most hated adversary. Take for instance the Chicago Bears, they are currently in the most publicized rivalry with the Green Bay Packers. They

are just not playing to win the game, but also lay claim to the pride that the winner earns. I watch the Chicago/Green Bay games and cringe at the sight of the hits and blows the players put on each other. Even though the Bears have been the clearly superior team .record wise, in the last few years the games have always been close. The Packers raise up a level and compete with the Bears no matter what the difference in skill level is.

The Bulls also have a rivalry with the Detroit Pistons. After years of being second to the "Bad Boys", the Bulls finally took over the number one spot in impressive fashion. We all remember when the Bulls swept the Pistons in the conference championship, and we all saw how Detroit reacted. The refused to shake hands, and stared at their foes with hatred in their eyes. Detroit were truly bad sports, and I loved every minute of it. That is the meaning of rivalry, its just not the competitiveness on the court, but also something extra, something personal.

Who is West Chicago's rival, which school do we hate more than any other? After thinking this question over I have come to conclude their is no one answer. Of course, people may argue that Naperville is definitely our rival, but that is not true. They may be our rival in such sports as soccer, and basketball, but they are not a overall school rival.

I have found that there really is not an overall school rival, our sports team kind of pick and choose who they want to battle. Usually, the Cats most hated foe is a conference rival. According to some players, football loves to hate

Wheaton Central. Unfortunately in the last few years, we can not compete with the football powerhouse, but West Chicago always put forth a valiant effort. Basketball likes to play Wheaton North, it is in close proximity to our school and we always have about the same skill level. According, to head baseball coach Tim Courtney, the Napervilles are their biggest rivals. "We love to beat the Napervilles," said Courtney. "They hate to lose to us."

Soccer's rival is one which doesn't exist in conference play. For a span of eight years the Wildcat and St. Charles Saints staged some epic battles in the regional championship game. Unfortunately, the Saints happened to always come out on top, and that could be a big reason we hate them. With the new seeding system, it does not necessarily mean the Cats and Saints will be in the same regional. Some believe this will cause the rivalry to die down a bit, but I think it will still remain strong, in the form of regular season battles.

Who is West Chicago's rival? Its simple, who ever you want it to be. **JUST PLAY HARD.**

Aaron's Top Athletes

Basketball

Erin Porter

- The Wildcat guards passes and all around play helps the cats survive in the rough DVC

Wrestling

Isreal

Castro

-Castro has lost only one match of 24 to get the Wrestling Cats always off to a good start

Girls B-ball

Vicki Smith

-The lady in the middle puts effort in offense and defense

Boys

Swimming

Brian

LeVake

The senior is a team leader and excels in both the backstroke and breaststroke