

The Bridge

West Chicago Community
High School
326 Joliet Street
West Chicago, IL 60185
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Booths to be set up for school participation

by Cathy Mattson

New ideas for increased school participation are in the making. Assistant principal John Highland may have come up with an idea to solve West Chicago's lack of school spirit. Next year at registration there will be booths representing each school activity. "Our goal is 100 percent participation in school activities," Highland said emphatically. When Student Council approached him about the school spirit problem, Student Council and Highland brainstormed and finally Highland came up with having booths at registration. Students involved in each sport or club will be in charge of running a booth. To further promote interest in school activities, Highland said, "Brochures and pamphlets will be handed out as well. The booths will help students to find the activity that is most interesting and well suited to them."

The booths will be present for the registration of all four classes, but the incoming freshman class will be stressed the most. As reinforcement for the booths, representatives from the various sports and clubs offered at WCCHS will visit the freshman study halls during the first few weeks of school. There they will discuss the activities and their experiences in them to encourage involvement in school programs. Also, counselors will be asked to urge students, especially freshman, to become involved in at least one activity. "There is a lack of spirit because a large amount of the student body is not involved in school activities," Highland explained. He hopes the student reaction will be positive, but students will not be forced to participate in the activities. Highland feels this plan will benefit students at WCCHS by "helping them feel involved with their peers and school." It is hoped that students will develop pride in themselves, school, and their community.

French culture to be experienced over break

by Elisa Biancalana

Fifteen West Chicago students will be able to experience French culture during spring break. They will be leaving for France on March 28 and will be gone until April 8. They will be arriving in Paris and will then take the TGV (train a grande vitesse), the world's fastest passenger train which goes almost 200 miles per hour, to the city of Grenoble. Grenoble is located near the French Alps and close to the city where the 1992 Winter Olympics were held. The last three days of the trip will be spent in Paris. The students making the trip to France include Rebecca Baker, Angie Chavez, Veronica Chavez, Abigail Hutchins, Ivonne Lopez, Kristin Martin, Erin Myers, Adrienne Panveno, Patricia Parra, Leticia Perez, Shilo Santiago, Bridget Shockey, Vanessa Talbott, Leigh Taylor, and Carrie Vandercreek. French teacher Marjorie Appel, who will be chaperoning the trip, hopes "my students make friends and enjoy themselves and learn about life in France and what it is like to be a teenager in France." While in France, the students will be staying with families, going to classes in a French high school, and taking field trips. They will be able to see where the Olympics were held and while in Paris go sightseeing. Talbott, who has visited France twice, looks



The students visiting France over Spring Break are (clockwise from left) Adrienne Panveno, Vanessa Talbott, Bridget Shockey, Leigh Taylor, Kristin Martin, Rebecca Baker, Shilo Santiago, Leticia Perez, Ivonne Lopez, Patty Parra, Veronica Chavez, Angie Chavez, Erin Myers, and French teacher Mrs. Appel. (photo by Gina Lipscomb)

forward to seeing Paris again. She commented, "You can never get tired of the city of lights. The lights were astounding. You can't really believe it until you see it." Visiting the sights in Paris is what Hutchins is looking forward to. "I'll finally see many of the places that I've studied for three years. Living in France for two weeks will certainly make it easier to understand the French language, people, and culture than just reading about them." Myers who hosted a French student last year fears, "I will not be able to think in French as well as they were able to speak in English when they were here." Myers hopes "by living and communicating with a French family for two weeks I will be able to observe the way they live." Baker who has taken French for four years and visited France her sophomore year is looking forward to her visit to France. She said, "The best part was going up in the Eiffel Tower. I'm looking forward to going to the school again because it's fun to see how different they teach there. I'm looking forward to shopping the most." Veronica Chavez is looking forward to "seeing my exchange student I hosted last year, climbing the Eiffel Tower, and visiting all of the other monuments and historical places."

School auditorium will undergo renovation

by Jeanine Murphy

Due to state law the school will be replacing some of the electrical wiring in the auditorium. The school has started a two phase renovation project on the auditorium. The first phase is in progress right now and the second one is to start in the next couple of months. This first phase consists of new wiring, replacing the sound system and adding space on the balcony. They will also be opening up the light ports so more light shines on the stage. In the second phase the lights will be replaced and a new lighting board will be installed. Drama teacher and play director Mary Hafertepe said, "The new lighting board will be nice because they wouldn't have to spend the money on renting a lighting board and we will be able to spend the money on other things in the plays."

The cost of the first renovation bid came in just under \$100,000. Superintendent Joel Morris said, "They expected the bids to be around \$135,000 to \$140,000 and were happy to see that the bids came in lower." The cost of the second renovation bid has not come in yet, but Morris feels "the bid will be about the same as the first." The auditorium is used throughout the school year by different clubs such as the foreign languages club, Dance Production, chorus, band, Thespians, parent night, the community and many other clubs who will benefit from the new auditorium. Junior, Eric Heerwagon and President of the Thespian club felt, "The renovation will be a nice addition to the plays and the new lighting will help make things look better on the stage."

Inkspots

by Elisa Biancalana, Liz Germand, Julianne Graczyk, and Jason Mummert

Appreciation shown

Booster Club sponsored a coaches, advisors, and sponsored an appreciation dinner on March 11. This pizza dinner was a result of the Booster Club's sponsoring all extra-curricular activities. Booster Club Vice-president Marianne Spielman explained, "We had a great turnout. Everyone who said they were going to come, did, plus a few more." Much of the administration also attended this event.

Murphy to Colorado

Jeanine Murphy will compete in the Journalism Education Association journalism contest in Denver, Colorado, on May 9-12. Murphy, the Business Manager for the Bridge, took second in the 1991 Chicago JEA advertising contest (held November 14-17) winning an Excellent award for an ad she drew to qualify for the national competition.

Dance to be held

Student Council is sponsoring their annual Turnabout dance on Saturday, April 11. Tickets are \$5 person and \$10 per couple if purchased before the dance. They are \$6 per person and \$12 per couple at the cafeteria door. Visitor passes need to be approved by 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 9.

Members selected

The following students were chosen for the 1992-1993 Dance Production: Heather Adams, Sara Allen, Elisabeth Blenkle, Dana Brosseau, Stacy Clombar, Cory Christiansen, Monique Cleminson, Gina Clifford, Sheri Daleida, Laura Doll, Rich Geroullis, Carmen Gonzalez, Thea Hopkins, Candi Katrys, Shpresa Kermi, Kristin Martin, Chancannica Mam, Dana McKenzie, Amy Mertz, Melissa Mulany, Denice Nance, Rachel Owens, Patty Parra, Julianne Perclante, Jenny Richards, Eve Rivera, Julia Rodenkirch, Ann Shlim, Zora Slapak, and Nicki Thomas.

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Overloaded counselors doing their job?

The counselors at WCCHS are overloaded with work.

It is because each counselor has around 335 students to serve.

According to assistant principal Greg Schragge the weighted number of students per counselor is 335. For counselors such as Gene Peterson, Bob Hein, and Ralph Zaffino the actual number is higher because the weighted number takes into account the jobs of Gayle McDaniels and Emmanuel Reyes. Both have fewer students; McDaniels because she has special education students who take extra time and Reyes because he has all bilingual students.

Let's look at an average day in the life of a WCCHS counselor.

A counselor's day is a busy one that would be made a lot easier if they each did not have 300 students to serve.

McDaniels' job includes calling in students to tell them that classes they chose have been cancelled and helping those students pick a new class to replace the dropped class. She also makes calls to parents to update them on their children's grades. She had to contact eight graders to tell them about classes that have been cancelled. She also writes recommendations for scholarships and releases transcripts for them. She is in charge of making up the scholarships list for this month.

McDaniels said, "We're the intermediary between the parents, teachers, and students." She explained that counselors "continually try to bring all sides together." Bob Hein said, "We can stay very busy just with students who walk in." He also said that most of his schedule is dictated by students who walk into his office.

Hein said that a "massive project" counselors are in charge of is pre-registration. During this time counselors need to see their students that are in the building plus see all the incoming freshman. To see all of the freshman, counselors sometimes have to go out to the "feeder" schools.

If you cannot find your counselor it might be because they are doing one of these projects. McDaniels said that they might also be in the dean's office handling a situation that is urgent.

All the counselors have schedules for the week on their doors but according to Ralph Zaffino, those schedules don't tell the whole story because there are a lot of other reasons why he might not be in his office, such as the computer room helping a student.

McDaniels explained that schedule changes were an on going job and so the school decided to implement what is now called D-day by many students. She said that from the time registration took place until the end of the 1991 school year there were 87 schedule changes made. She also said that last year counselors filled almost two whole file drawers full of schedule changes, but since the new deadline was put into effect at the start of the last semester they have only filled about one file drawer.

If you can't find your counselor, ask the secretary because all counselors are supposed to "check out" when they are out of their office. If they haven't checked out, they should be in the office area. Whenever a counselor leaves his/her office they are supposed to leave a note with the secretary so that she can let a student know

when they will be back. McDaniels said that if she is not in the guidance office and is gone for a long time it is usually because she had to attend a meeting with a dean and student. She does not check out because they usually only take five minutes, but some take longer than expected.

Another place to look for your counselor is in the computer room that is located in the guidance office because counselors help students look for just the right college on the computer from time to time. If you do not see them there they may be at a meeting in the conference room. For example McDaniels is the counselor for the special education students and from time to time has meetings with these students, parents and teachers.

All the counselors seemed to say that they wished that if a student comes into the guidance area and sees that his/her counselor is not in his/her office that the student would sit down and wait five minutes. If their counselor is still not there you should fill out a slip at the secretary's desk to set up an appointment for a later time. As Reyes said, "We're here for the students, it's a student service." He hopes that all students take advantage of that service.

On top of all of these things counselors do not have their own secretaries. Hein said that there is "virtually no secretarial help." He says that the secretary that they have now is more of a receptionist because she doesn't have time to type all of the things that the counselors need typed. He said "We have to do it ourselves." If the counselors had a couple of secretaries they would have more time to see students.

Reyes believes that an extra secretary would help answer phones and help students to set up appointments with their counselors. He said that it would help with the traffic in the guidance area. Right now there are times when the counselors have to cover the phones for each other, such as when the secretary is on a break. Peterson said that on an average he answers three to six phone calls a day that are not for him.

The guidance office will be getting some of the much needed help next year when, according to Schragge, a new director of special education activities is added and with that new job another secretary will also be added. According to Peterson this will not help the guidance office unless that secretary is "housed" in the guidance office so that he/she could help the secretary that is already there.

At the last school Reyes worked at, he said that they had seven guidance counselors and three secretaries, which he thought made a big difference in how things were run. He agreed that another secretary would help the guidance office a great deal.

To help out the counselors and students of WCCHS the **Bridge** believes that the School Board should either hire more counselors or hire more guidance secretaries. Either one of these proposals would help to reduce the work that counselors have to deal with and would allow them more time to help students with their needs. The ideal situation would be to hire both more counselors and more secretaries.

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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.

Pow!!!



by Jamie McDole

This issue things have been very confusing for all of us at the **Bridge**.

From being perhaps censored to staying at a School Board meeting until 10:30 at night, we have been very busy people.

Everything seems to be okay now though, so you can all relax. So this brought me to write a different Pow article than the one on censorship I was going to write.

So here it is.

During this issue the **Bridge** was on the verge of being censored. What happened was Principal Alan Jones decided that the **Bridge** was not doing a good job and not following the policy that the **Bridge** had with the School Board. So what he did was to write a memo to our adviser, Tim Courtney. It said that if Courtney felt if any article in the **Bridge** was going to be controversial then he should tell him about it.

We had to tell him of controversial issues in the **Bridge** before the paper was sent to the printer. We thought this was a violation of the

policy we had with the School Board so we decided to go to the School Board meeting to fight the problem.

At the meeting things went well and we accomplished what we wanted to. This was accomplished by bringing the **Bridge** together to fight for their rights.

The School Board invited three student representatives from the **Bridge** to participate in a discussion about the policy at a School Board policy meeting. I would like to thank the School Board for their willingness to talk about the issues and hope in the future they will have this same willingness.

Now we are not going to be censored and do not have to show the principal what we write. It is back to the way it should be.

The message I'm trying to get to you is that you have to stand up for yourself, and fight for what you think is right. No one is perfect, even administrators, and you're the one that has to catch their mistakes.

In the future if you think something is wrong, pursue it and fight it until you get a sensible response. Make people explain themselves and ask questions. More times than not you'll reach a compromise with the person you are dealing with just by caring enough to ask the questions.

If you believe in something deep down, don't walk away when you don't get your way. Stand up and fight for what you believe in. We did and we accomplished what we set forth to do.

America works on a theory of standing up and fighting for your rights, so use the opportunities America gives you and stand up for your rights.

Top ten reasons to think the **Bridge** staff is SATANIC!

by Jason Mummert

10. None of them like garlic
9. Sometimes that happens when your disk gives you the Michaelangelo virus.
8. Face it, evil clown worship isn't exactly normal.
7. You're kidding? I thought that I heard strange sounds coming from room 216 last Halloween too!
6. Multiplied by 111 = ?
5. Nonne of dem spell to goud.
4. Weird Photo of the Month allegedly cult-related.
3. Rumor has it that certain issues of the **Bridge** will scream if burned.
2. The average number of words in a **Bridge** story is 666.
1. Calling our parents for tardies drove us to seek Satan.

The ups and downs of junk food

by Skye Studabaker

Junk.

Noun; a thick piece or chunk of something; a product regarded as shoddy, cheap, or filthy; something without value.

So how would you define junk food?

Nick Streams, senior, says simply, "I like cookies." Well, okay. One point to be made, however, is that cookies, when made at home by one's own two hands, can, in fact, be quite nutritious, therefore not junk.

"Twinkies with lots-o-cream!" laughs Nichole Cordin, sophomore. "And they're best in the middle of the night after TV entrees and Mountain Dew."

By simply looking at a Twinkie, some may say that it would qualify as junk. They do sort of resemble a thick piece of chunk of something and they could be seen as inferior and vulgar and one could argue that they have no value in the world.

But, hey, that's only one point of view. To many sad souls, Twinkies are a delicious part of a nutritious breakfast, lunch or dinner. Plus they have a shelf life of more than ten years. That's got to give them some points in the right direction.

There are a few folks in this world,

though, who would shudder at the thought of eating a Twinkie. Freshman Monica Novak says, "I'm a calorie counter, so I don't really eat junk food. On a bad day I might eat ice cream."

How someone can not appreciate the sensation of snarfing down that blob of artificial flavors filled with yummy psuedo-cream is beyond comprehension.

"I think America should be eating healthier," states senior John Cowling. His definition of junk food is "everything we eat; except the school cafeteria food, of course."

Jen Ault, sophomore, proves this point perfectly. "I eat junk food whenever I'm not eating breakfast, lunch, or dinner," she said as she bit into a Nestle Carmel bar during first lunch.

But she's not the only one. Have you ever noticed the number of *Little Debbie's* circulating the cafeteria? Think of how many *Starcrunch* bakers and frosters we keep in the labor force! This is not even counting candy bars, chips, and other assorted lard filled treat things. The list goes on and on.

Junk food. We can't live with it or without it.

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Top ten things that are in the office that you'll never see

by Brian Levake

10. Slackers.
9. Snacks.
8. Any student of the month.
7. Abusive power.
6. Any lists.
5. A happy face.
4. Substances (stationary, pens).
3. Teachers permitted to use the Xerox machine.
2. Live goats and chickens.
1. Juice Bar.

Letters to the editor

Guidance speaks out

Zaffino says...

To the Editor:

Michelle May's "letter to the editor" that appeared in that march 6 issue of The Bridge caused me to note that there has been an unusual number of counselor-bashing letters this year. This trend disturbs me, especially when the individuals writing the letters pretend to speak for the entire student body. Ms. May states, "...I think in my four years (along with the rest of my peers) have gotten minimal (if any) help and guidance from the counselors." In fact, I have been a counselor at Community High School for 10 years precisely because of the positive experience I have had with the majority of my students. It saddens me to think that these letters filled with unsubstantiated allegations and misinformation might give the student body a slanted impression of the counseling department.

In addressing the specific "...guidance department inadequacies..." mentioned by Ms. May, I must admit that I am equally concerned about the "EDUCATION" that "...our own institute ..." promotes. Because of our school's policy that allows senior to choose the minimum number of credits needed to graduate, the number of credits taken per semester drops from three in the freshman, sophomore, and junior classes, to 2.6 in the senior class. While most seniors are responsible and choose a full schedule, many do not. Can you believe that we actually have a senior girl who is planning on going to college, but is taking only Yearbook, government, and PE for her entire schedule this semester? Also, we have a surprisingly large number of college-bound seniors who either are not taking or have dropped senior English, even though it is recommended by nearly every college.

I also share Ms. May's concern that some students are confused about procedures and deadlines. As part of our guid-

ance curriculum, the counselors plan meetings with all of our students each year. We meet with freshman for Freshman orientation to explain graduation and college-entrance requirements and to begin developing a four-year plan. We meet with sophomores for Career Orientation to give a vocational interest survey, to explain future trends, and to continue working on four-year plans. We meet with juniors during for College Orientation to explain the procedures for choosing a college, applying to college, applying for financial aid, and registering for college entrance tests. Finally, we meet with seniors to check credits and GPA, and to remind them of the college application scholarship and financial aid procedures. The following statistics illustrate the problem as I see it. This year 98 percent of my freshmen attended Freshman Orientation; 77 percent of my sophomores attended Career Orientation; 49 percent of my junior attended College Orientation; and 45 percent of my seniors attended Senior Conference. It is no surprise to me that many seniors are confused. Finally, I tend to agree with Ms. May's suggestion "Just as the seniors." I would like to hear from the seniors who have attended the informational sessions given by the counselors. I would also like to hear from the seniors who have taken advantage of the educational opportunities available in "...our own institute..." for EDUCATION" by choosing a rigorous course load for their senior year. I would also like to hear from the senior who have spent the many hours necessary to fill our college applications, financial aid forms, and scholarship applications. However it is possible that these students are too busy taking care of their responsibilities to write letters to the editor. What a shame.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph B. Zaffino, Counselor

McDaniels says...

I read a letter in the last issue of the Bridge. It mentioned many things about the school and the guidance department in particular. It described an institution with "stupid bureaucratic rules" that kept students from choosing classes according to their interests and desire for education. It described a guidance department so inadequate that "some students actually hired outside guidance help." It also described a guidance department where applications were lost and "transcripts forgotten to be sent in." The student said that she "along with the rest of her peers, had gotten minimal (if any) help and guidance from counselors."

You may be surprised to learn that stories about counselors not helping students are as old as ghost stories around the campfire. In fact, one story about a counselor not helping a student was found by archaeologists in a cave in France. It was estimated to have been painted by a Neanderthal teen around 110,000 B.C. (Honestly!) Just as this story has been told since time immemorial, it will continue to be told down through the generations.

Sadly there is some truth to this story. I, for one, can't help as many students as I would like. But rather than the guidance department's "inadequacies" I would like to believe this situation is due to the number of students (nearly 300) each counselor has and the variety of duties they perform. It bothers me as much as it bothers some students that I cannot always help them. But to some students, the measure of a good counselor -- or teacher or parent for that matter -- is based on the speed with which the answer, "yes" is given to their requests. (Schedule changes come to mind here.)

All in all, though, most students are pretty understanding about the demanding nature of serving a variety of needs for students, parents and teachers. I appreciate that. Other students, particularly the ones who feel slighted sometimes, may find it helpful to relate to the counselor's job to the ones they may have had. (Working alone at a fast food counter? --at lunchtime perhaps?) Certain times of the year are very busy and certain events, like preregistration, are like steamrollers that push everything else aside. (Those familiar with preregistration will remember that this is the stage during which large numbers of students choose classes "according to their interests" and "desire for education.")

Anyway, we are still working on ways to help more students. The part of the letter that really needs another viewpoint, though, is the part about "applications lost, transcripts forgotten to be sent in", etc. This is the part of the ghost story that may be too scary for younger

or more sensitive viewers -- not to mention seniors who may now be uneasy about the whereabouts of their applications. In fact, the letter sounds more like Moe, Larry and Curly do guidance. (No comments, now!) The way the letter sounds, college applications disappear faster than dogs eat homework! I thought I better check into the facts lest some seniors worry that their applications fell into a black hole in the universe (or worse yet, some large pocket in Curly's overalls!)

I found that lost transcripts have a long history too. The first one was unearthed on a counselor's desk in Egypt around 3,500 B.C. It was kept from decomposing because it was protected by 76 layers of scrolls and other documents. (These are believed to have been ancient schedule change forms.) The transcript was also preserved by the humidity from a Twinkie still in the counselor's desk drawer. The archaeologists found the transcript by carefully removing the papers layer by layer. (Counselors still use this same technique today to find papers on their desks.)

Anyway, I thought I better investigate lost transcripts at our school. I checked with Mrs. Brown, our registrar. She is the person who gets the applications after the counselors fill in their portions. Mrs. Brown records the date and sends the application, along with a transcript, to the college. Mrs. Brown found that she had sent 449 college transcripts out for last year's seniors and 295 so far this year for current seniors. Of these 744 college transcripts and applications sent to colleges, 2 were lost -- by the colleges. I am not saying that the guidance department never loses anything. (those of you who have seen my desk will know that anything is possible!) The point is, Mrs. Brown called the colleges as soon as she was informed about the missing applications. She was able to trace both to office errors by the colleges.

The last part of the student's letter that needs another viewpoint is the description of a guidance department so "inadequate" that "some students actually hired outside guidance help" for scholarships. I investigated this too. I asked Mrs. Brown how many students applied for scholarships last year. She recorded 160. Nearly all of these were announced and made available through the guidance office.

I hope this letter is taken in good spirit. It was meant that way. Students should be helped more, not only with college, but in other areas as well. We are still working on new ideas on how to do it better.

Mrs. McDaniel

Wicca: for the good of all

by Alicia Garceau

The practice of Wicca is "a contemporary Pagan religion with spiritual roots in the earliest expressions of reverence of nature," according to Scott Cunningham, the author of **The Truth About Witchcraft Today**. The religion itself revolves around the movements of the sun, moon, and stars.

Witchcraft began some 50,000 years ago in Western Europe and has often been confused with Satanism. But witches, who don't believe in the devil, reject that comparison. According to a recent article in **Sassy** magazine, evil is against the principles of the Wiccan religion. Sees Herons, a witch explained, "We have two major tenants. Do what you will but harm none. And whatever you do, good or evil, will be returned to you threefold. We believe that people who do evil things destroy themselves."

'We have two major tenants. Do what you will but harm none. And whatever you do, good or evil, will be returned to you threefold.'

Laurie Cabot, the official witch of Salem, MA, explained that Witchcraft is "for the good of all". Witches use magic to make these good things

happen. She said in order to perform their magic witches must go into an altered state of mind called alpha.

Cabot, who is now 60, has practiced Witchcraft since she was 16. Though she was raised Catholic, she switched to Witchcraft after researching the religion. She explained, "I was extremely physic. My father, who was a very intelligent man, said 'Look into science and you will find out why you are physic.' I ran into a very learned woman who was a witch and she guided my inquiries in the library."

She married at 23 and raised both her daughters according to the beliefs of Witchcraft, but she said she would never attempt to recruit teenagers for the classes she teaches. She believes many of the people who take her classes are "still searching". She explained, "I don't teach teenagers without parental consent. I wouldn't go out and try to get teenagers to take my class. We feel people must come to this on their own."

According to an article in the **Anchorage Daily News** one interested passer-by at a Witchcraft demonstration said, "It's great that people can...ask questions. They don't have to agree. They don't have to like it. But at least they're informed." Witches would like to debunk the myth of green-faced, wart-covered evil people. One witch said, "Witches have been the victims of propaganda for thousands of years. But we are just honest, loving people who want to be left alone to practice our religion."

PROM TIME

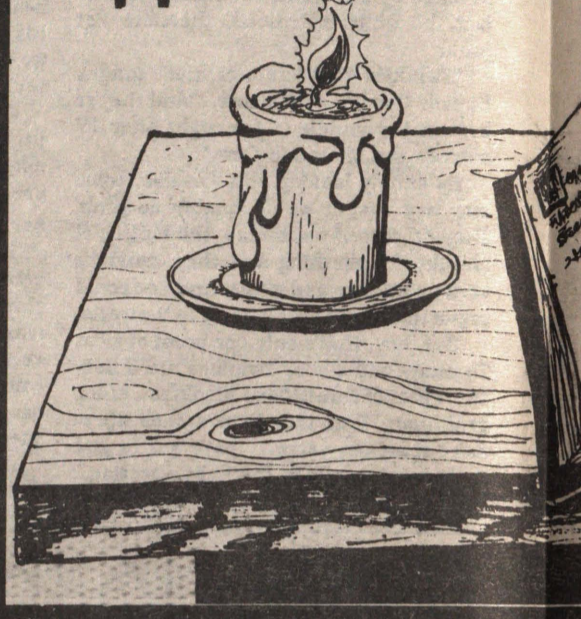


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WITCH



The witch

by Julianne Graczyk

Civic leaders are launching a serious effort to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the famous Salem witch trials. This town's claim to fame may be its association of witches.

The Salem trials occurred as a result of the largest witch hunt in American history. Early in 1692 several village girls began to behave strangely. They disappeared under tables, uttered weird sounds, and screamed that they were being tortured. Suspicions of witchcraft soon lead to the arrest of three women, and more to follow.

The **Boston Herald** recalled that in the "Witch City" Puritan settlers hanged 6 men, 13 women, and 2 dogs convicted of satanic witchcraft. Another man was pressed to death with large stones for refusing to enter a plea of innocence or guilt to the witchcraft charge. About 150 other people were imprisoned on the witchcraft charges. The Salem trials resulted in the last witchcraft executions in America.

Organizers of the events hope to educate people about the intolerance and human rights abuses that ran rampant in 1692, when people squabbling over land and power convicted and condemned neighbors based on the hysterical stories of a few young girls.

'We are commemorating this period, not celebrating it. Twenty people died. That's not something to celebrate.'

Once again citizens debate over how Salem's history should be presented to the world. Old questions are raised again of the city's use of a "hokey" silhouette of a crone on a broom for patches on uniforms of city workers, the logo of the city newspaper and in restaurants and bars. Many ask how a city can impact somber lessons about the scapegoating of innocent Christians while pandering to stereotypes of witches?

According to the **Boston Globe**, the witch population in Salem, by some counts, reaches



Witchcraft 'considered a hoax'

by Gina Lipscomb

Even though Witchcraft is a recognized religion, other religions do not agree with it and think it is a hoax and even a sin.

Rabbi Hyman Agress from the Temple Bnai Isreal in Aurora said that Witchcraft is "considered a hoax superstition that has nothing to do with reality." Father Vern Arseneau from St. Mary's Catholic Church in West Chicago, believes that some of the people involved in Witchcraft are playing psychological games, but others are really believe in Witchcraft itself.

Rabbi Hymen Agress from the Temple Bnai Isreal in Aurora said that Witchcraft is 'considered a hoax a superstition that has nothing to do with reality.'

For those who are playing psychological games Arseneau says that they are "playing with fire." According to Father Vern the

"Catholic Church believes there is another dimension to the spirit world." He continued by saying that, "people can not manipulate the other side."

According to most Judeo/Christian standards Witchcraft is considered a sin. Agress said that according to his religion people involved in "Witchcraft are "Comitting Sins." Arseneau thinks that the individual becomes their own god. As humans we rely on God, but in Witchcraft God is not important. The witch has his/her own power instead of God. Pastor Frederick Reklau from St. Andrew's in West Chicago said that, "Anyone who describes themselves as a Christian can not embrace Witchcraft at the same time."

As to why anyone would want to be a witch, Arseneau thinks that someone may want to be successful materially or, "become part of a mysterious and exciting group." Others such as Pastor Welton Warkentin from the First Congressional Church of West Chicago believe that Witchcraft is a "bad way to search for identity."

Witchcraft is not Satanism yet they tend to be categorized together. Maybe it is because both go against most Judeo/Christian beliefs.

hing year

2,400. Some fundamentalist Christians have denounced the witches as "anti-Christian devil worshippers." They have sparked a modern-day feud over issues of respect and tolerance. The executive director of the Salem Witch Trials Tercentenary Commemoration, Linda McConchie, explains, "We are commemorating this period, not celebrating it. Twenty people died. That's not something to celebrate."

Salem is expecting the Halloween of 1992 to be busy. Salem offers candlelight tours, costume parties, and treasure hunts for tourists. In the words of a local tour operator, their history is "spooked up" for the holiday. A Salem resident of 30 years, Delores Zielinski said, "Salem's Halloween crowds are unbelievable. I'll tell you, with the economy being what it is, it's good for the shops and restaurants."

More serious events also take place, including a presentation of "Tituba's Tale." This is a theatrical recreation of the testimony offered at the 1692 witch trials by a Caribbean slave who was suspected of introducing witchcraft to the community.

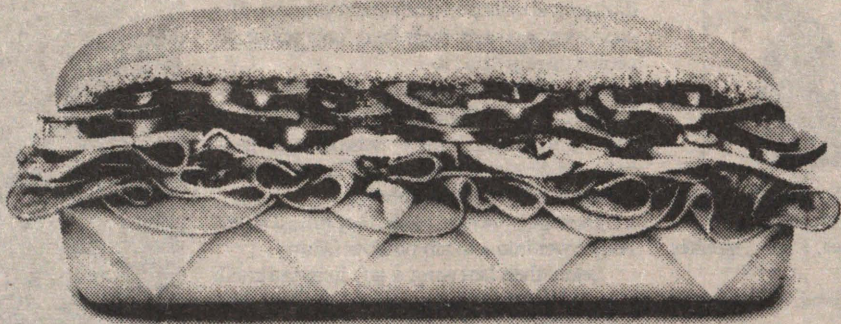
Many local residents attribute the interest in Salem to Laurie Cabot, Salem's "official witch," and the arrival of others who practice the witch religion. These witches are not against publicity, in fact some look for it.

Another witch, Shawn Porler, said today's witches feel sympathy for the people killed in the 1692 hysteria. This is not because they believe the victims to have been witches, but because they see a similarity in the intolerance of the Puritans and the criticism they have experienced from fundamentalist Christians.

Sharon Graham, a 30-year old witch, believes that 1992 would be a good time to re-educate people. She claims, "While they are in Salem, they might as well see what they are really about—that it is a real religion." Witches maintain they have been excluded from the planning of these events and that the focus of the planned commemoration perpetuates ages-old prejudices against their religion.

"With or without the participation of Salem's witches," McConchie said, "the commemoration will go on."

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6 Features

The Bridge / March 27, 1992

4th year philosophy

by Brian Levake



What if?

What if our school were located in a place where your every word, your every thought was taken out of your head in some really gross way, then rambled over and changed, then placed back in your head just in time for it to leave your mouth?

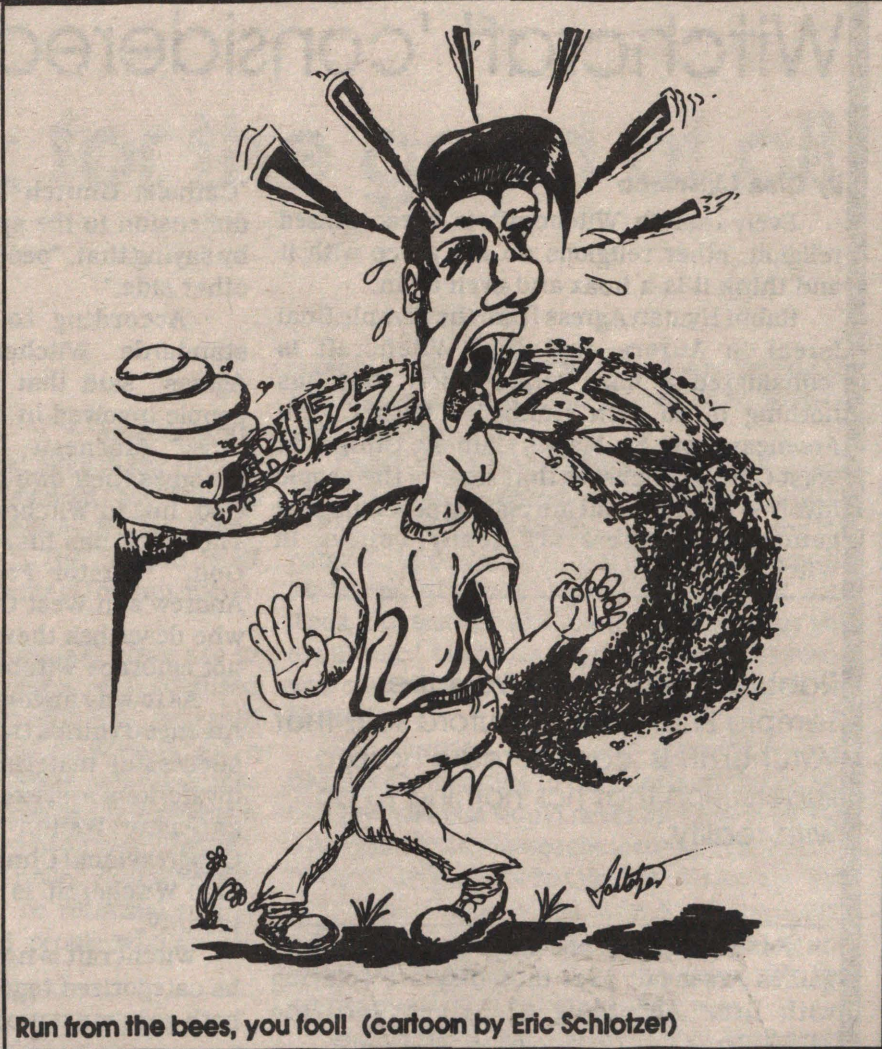
What if somebody invaded your environment, changing all the rules and customs you've abided by simply because they're insecure or simply don't approve of you?

What if you were walking through a garden in Spring time, enjoying the flowers and trees and the warmth and tootsiness when all of a sudden, about 53,000,000 bees come up and just sting the daylight out of you for no good reason.

These are all just some theoretical ideas that must have come to me in a fever-ridden dream. Not that I would know what any of those experiences are like or anything.

What if?

What if everything you ever worked for was savagely crushed and trod upon by several overgrown elves.



Run from the bees, you fool! (cartoon by Eric Schlotzer)

What if you had a kind next door neighbor that you always thought you could count on.

You know the kind; the ones who would water your plants when you're on vacation, would

bake you a pie when you're sick, the kind that secretly comes over to your house when you're gone and robs you blind.

What am I thinking?

What if?

What if you looked out the window in the morning and saw 100 blindfolded people running around in the streets, crashing into each other at top speed?

What if you woke up in the middle of the night and stubbed the heck out your toe.....in an empty room!!!!

You know, pain can be real fun, if you take it the right way. Heck, you should always take full on advantage of it at any cost. Think I'm joking? Remember the old broken arm in the cast gag? "Get all the sympathy."

What if?

What if you were at a roller-skating rink? You were skating along and you happen to fall down. Just by pure bad luck, Rhino, the "World's heaviest and fastest roller skate guy," come tumbling on top of you at full speed. Your body is mashed flat into the rink floor as more and more people pile up because they couldn't get out of the way in time.

What if you walked into your house from doing yard work? It was 100 degrees outside. You really want a drink of water. You grab the first thing you see. It is clear. It looks like water. Too bad that you swallowed two whole mouthfuls before you realize that it's ethyl alcohol.

What if?

What if you had bad, bad hemorrhoids? Then as a joke, someone told you that the way to cure them is by eating lots and lots of fiber and oat bran. They didn't mean to hurt you, but when you spend the next three weeks on the toilet, you sort of laugh at yourself for being so stupid.

What if?

Concert Corner Fission Monkey at McGregor's

by Brian Levake



McGregor's in Elmhurst housed four bands on an "all ages" night on Sunday March 22. Of these bands, I caught only two, Fission Monkey and Keller Kinder.

Fission Monkey is a local band, boasting Matt Filippo on bass, Mike Schulbaum (Wheaton Central) on vocals, Eric Brown (Wheaton Central) on guitar, and We-go grad Darren Mendenhall on drums. The last time I saw these guys was at a party in the late summer. They totally rocked the place into oblivion that night. When handing the door guy my \$5, I wondered if they could match that performance.

My doubts were soon put to rest as the band crashed into a set of mostly original hard rock and punk-influenced tunes.

Fission Monkey must have an obsession with food (see the flyer), for several of their songs are entitled after your basic everyday lunch.

They opened with a song dubbed *Untitled*, then went into a song called *Social Disorder*. Song after song, the energy kept rising and getting more to the point of meltdown. The

highlight of the evening was a song called *The Ladder*, which was undoubtedly one of the darkest and most powerful songs I've heard. The sad thing was that there were only about 25 people there to hear it.

Schulbaum ran the show for the Monkeys, screaming out his aggression that brought him and the rest of the band to write their songs of hate and disgust for the world. They even made me want to hate and kill people.

These guys were so nasty, they turned a Tom Petty cover into a mosh number deluxe.

Before their last song, a guy from the booth signaled to the band that the next song was their last, which cut them short by about twenty

minutes. Obviously enraged, Fission Monkey climbed into an extra long version of *Sandwich*, and upon ending, they dropped their gear and walked off stage, personifying the attitude of the songs they just played. The reason given by the soundman was that "they were wrecking the equipment." After the incident, Filippo commented "If Mike was abusing equipment, I was definitely not aware of it."

Due to being cut short and the lack of people in attendance, Fission Monkey didn't get the accolades that their show called for. I guess

it goes along with the saying that artists never get famous till they're dead. Long live Fission Monkey.

I was so mad that I couldn't stick around for the next band, so I went to Sandpiper Restaurant and took my hate and frustration out on a bagel and cream cheese.

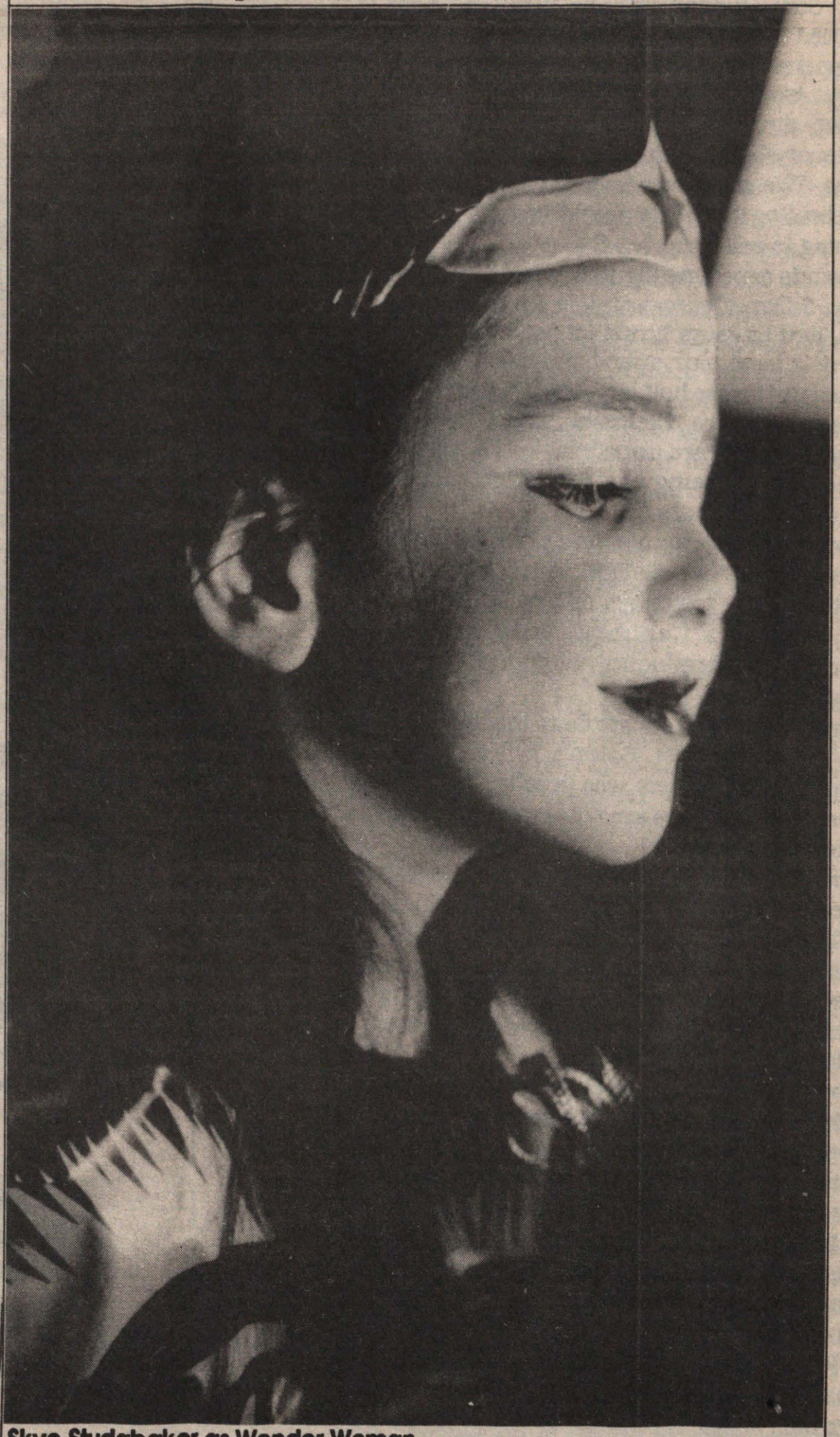
McGREGOR'S
673 W North Ave
ELMHURST
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FISSION MONKEY

PLAYING AT
McGREGOR'S

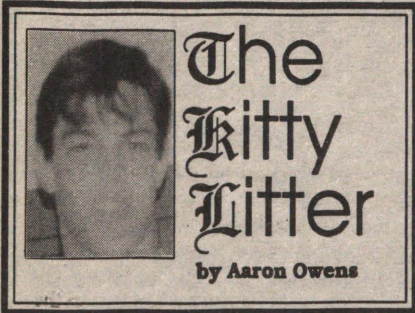
DATE: MARCH 22
TIME: 8:30 PM
PRICE: \$5

No more weirdness, now it's... Tootsie photo of the month



Skye Studabaker as Wonder Woman.

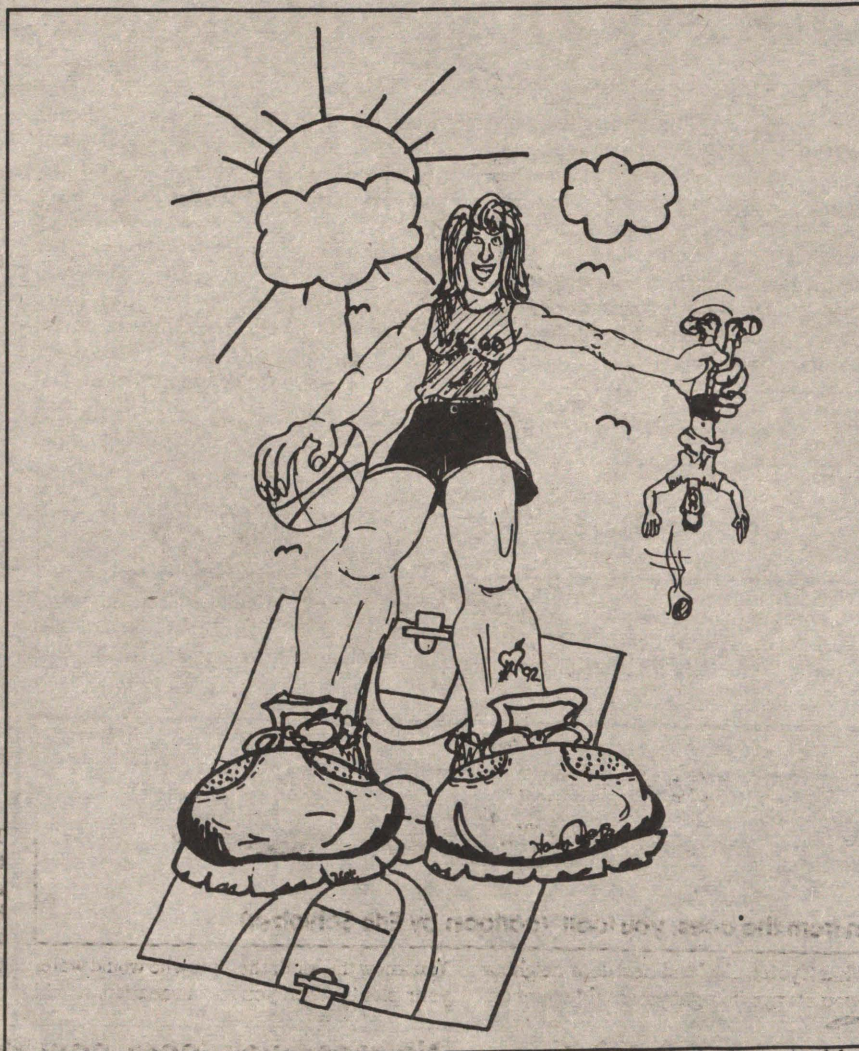
She-ra: Girls 'have the power' in Wildcat sports



The girls are the real athletes at West Chicago High school.

I have been reminded that I have overlooked some great achievements by fellow students at WCCHS. As I was looking for the facts for this article, I realized a very interesting thing. For the most part, the girls are getting the better of their competition, and the boys are just getting the better of themselves.

This year, many girls' teams have been very successful. In the fall sports season girls' cross country and volleyball seemed to come out ahead compared to boys' cross country, football, and soccer. With the changes that come with a new coach (two new coaches in this case) the girls' volleyball team was able to scrounge up a near .500 record and win some games in a very tough conference. On the other hand, football finished with a record of 2-7 and a seventh place performance in the DVC. Girls' cross country had an over-all successful finish capping it off by qualifying for sectionals as a team, and girls' tennis improved on last years overall record. The big story was girls' swimming, who after a good regular season excelled to a third place performance in the state meet. This performance overshadows that of any fall sport, be it boys or girls. High expectations were placed on the boys' cross-country team after a first place DVC performance last year. Unfortunately, the team did not stay healthy, and because of this could not be successful. Golf showed it had a few good individuals in the regular season, but did not perform in the state series. Soccer, was the exception, finish-



ing third in conference, bringing home a regional championship, and recording one of the best records for soccer in school history. Despite their performance, they did not accomplish much more then the year before, and will probably be remembered as just another decent West Chicago Soccer team. Overall though the girls proved their dominance improving in all girls sports and girls swimming turning in the best performance of the year, probably

of the last few years. The boys tried but could do nothing to improve from last year.

The winter was more of the same. Winter sports included boys' basketball, girls' basketball, boys' swimming, and wrestling. As wrestling faltered, boys' swimming and boys' basketball made strides, girls' basketball had the most surprising, successful season.

Boys' basketball finished second in con-

ference, first in the Oswego tournament, and had a final tally of 12-13. They had stars such as Erin Porter, Eric Heinz, and Travaris Sullivan. The boys got off to a great start of the season, but could not finish as strong with an over-time regional loss to Downers Grove North in the first round of regionals.

Boys' swimming also had a fairly successful season, sending two to state for the first time ever. The boys also finished with a 6-4 record, and a good performance in the sectional.

Despite finishing at 13-13, the Ladycats surpassed preseason expectation and surprised many a rival. Head coach Kim Wallner pointed out the highlight of the season. "The high point of our season was defeating Naperville North in the first round of regionals," said Wallner. "And then almost beating Naperville Central the next round." Amy Barnes proved to be the force of the team. Unanimous All-DVC, Daily Herald All-Area, Aurora Beacon All-Area, and Sun-Times All-area special mention, were just some of the awards she gained this year.

The spring sports season looks to be more of the same. Boys' baseball and track look to improve this season but neither is expected to make major waves. Both teams lose major stars in baseball's Shelby Dean, and tracks Rick Montalvo. Girls' track will make their mark with a few individuals. The ladycat runners will look to three returning state qualifiers to anchor their team. Badminton and girls' soccer are looking forward to successful seasons, after returning most of last year's varsity squads.

Girls' softball will be the most anticipated of all spring sports. The softball team has established itself as the most successful sport at West Chicago High. The girls have won conference the last three years, and looks forward to their chance to "break the curse" for a regional championship.

It seems for the rest of the year, the girls will be the real athletes at WCCHS.

PRESSURE!!!

Do the coaches force unwilling kids into athletics?

by Kristin Bedow

According to some students there has been a lot of pressure and harassment coming from a few of the coaches concerning sports. There are a few students who claim that they are involved in sports when they really don't want to be, only because they would rather be in sports than have the coach "harassing" them.

According to Track/Golf Coach Wilbur Walters "When a student quits a sport or decides not to go out for that sport any more, I wonder why. Especially when they are good at it. I simply wonder why they don't want to do something they are good at and enjoyed so much before. Sometimes kids quit because of work, friends, and boyfriends. I just don't like to see the kids throw their opportunities away. When someone quits, I just hope they do it for their own reasons rather than someone else's."

One student says, "I went out this year because I didn't want my teammates and the coach to hate me. I don't even want to be on the team this year, but it's better than having people mad at me." Another student said, "I tried to quit, but there was so much grief and pressure from my coach that I decided to just stay on the team so I would be left alone."

Golf/Baseball Coach, Tim Courtney says that he personally has not had a problem with students wanting to quit golf. But he has had kids decide to skip one year of a sport and then go out for that same sport a year later. "The only problem with that is that the kids who

skip a year end up regretting it because when they come back, the kids who stayed on with that sport are better because they had a year more practice than the kid who decided to take a break."

Courtney and Walters don't feel that wanting a good player to continue in a

'I went out this year because I didn't want my teammates and the coach to hate me. I don't even want to be on the team this year, but it's better than having people mad at me.'

-Anonymous

certain sport is harassment. "I only want what's best for them, and if they tell me that they honestly don't want to be in that sport any more, then I leave them alone." says Walters. "I want to let the kids know that I think they have a lot of talent and skill, so that they will consider staying with a sport rather than skipping a year, then they won't have anything to regret when they return." says Courtney.

Some students feel they are harassed by their coaches to remain on or come out for a sport. However, none would not consent their names or quotes being printed in the paper due to their being currently involved in sports. These students have expressed concerns about the pressure they receive, but were unwilling to back these concerns up.

Boys' Basketball
-Eric Heinz

Girls' Basketball
-Amy Barnes

Swimming
-Brian Levake

Wrestling
-Isreal Castro

Boys' Basketball
-Erin Porter

Girls' Basketball
-Colleen Otto

Swimming
-David Flatter

Wrestling
-Carlos Ayala

Lady Cat booters prepare for season

by Liz Gernand

With the help of new coach Julio Del Real the girls' soccer team is looking at another season. A new coach sometimes means change but Del Real said he was planning to keep the program as close to last year as possible.

Del Real is looking for "general improvement basically." He is new in the girls high school scene with only one year as an assistant coach, but has coached lower level soccer and played

'I'm looking for general improvement basically.'

Julio Del Real

himself.

Senior Caroline Cinqegrani said that she looks forward to "Working with a

new coach" and "improving on our skills." Angle Spalo echoed Cinqegrani's statement when she said, "I look forward to playing my senior year and working with the new coaches." On the other hand seniors Jenny Rose and Cheri Oskerka agree they look forward to "new faces give hope for new talent and skills enabling our team to upgrade our-

'I look forward to working with a new coach.'

Caroline Cinqegrani

selves."

This year the team will mostly be working on defense because Del Real says it is his "key factor this year."

Spalo seems to have seen Del Real's conditioning philosophy because she said, "Since we have new coaches we are doing more conditioning." He also looks toward a lot of conditioning because he believes that finishing stronger than the other team can be a factor in the end result. Rose and Oskerka think that "a lot more numbers will help our endurance and build the program for years to come."

Del Real would like to improve on last

'a lot more numbers will help our endurance and build the program for years to come.'

year's record but said, "I'm not the type (of coach) that looks at records. I look at improvement." Cinqegrani thinks that

the team can improve on last year's record and that the team would "Probably (place) somewhere in the upper half (of DVC)."

On the other hand, Rose and Oskerka said, "We lost a lot of experience and we'll probably place the same as last year, but mentally and physically we hope to improve and keep up with the other teams." Spalo agrees with Cinqegrani, she believes that the team has a chance to improve their record, but "it depends on how we play together."

DuPage Valley All-Conference

First Team

Basketball
Eric Heinz
Travaris Sullivan

Girls Basketball
Amy Barnes

Wrestling
Isreal Castro

Second Team

Basketball
Erin Porter

Honorable Mention

Girls Basketball
Shannon Mason

As selected by the coaches of the DuPage Valley Conference

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Batters look to pitching for great season

by Brett Siglin

Head Baseball Coach Tim Courtney has high hopes for the We-go varsity team. Despite the loss of star pitcher Shelby Dean, the team still has a lot of talent. The pitching staff has a lot of slack to pick up,

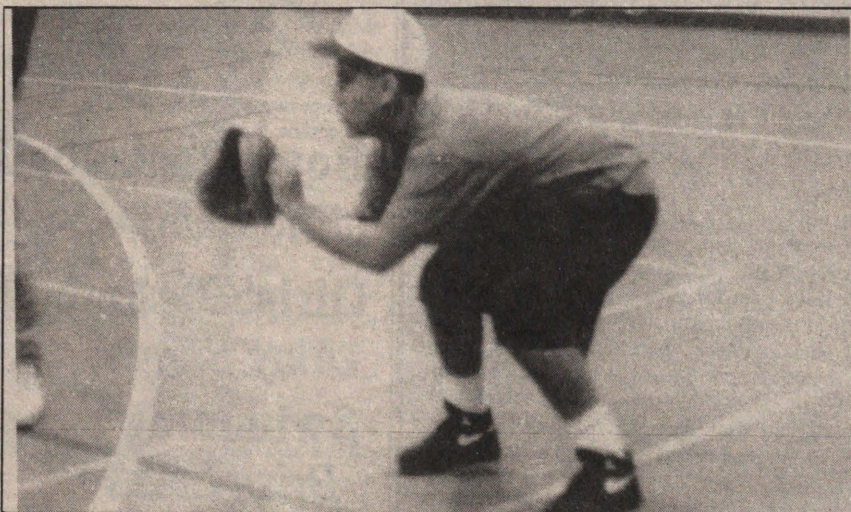
'Summer ball helps a lot, it really brings out what guys can accomplish.'

Tim Courtney

but Courtney thinks they can do the job.

Many players played in the summer league and did a pretty good job. According to Courtney, summer ball helps a lot. "It really brings out what the guys can accomplish," said Courtney. "It is especially helpful to a player who didn't play much last season or was on the sophomore team." Two players in particular, according to Courtney, really showed improvement during the summer—Ed Cortez and Ted Fijalkowski. He was really impressed with Cortez's infielding skills and Fijalkowski's throwing on the mound.

Hitting should be one of the strong points of the season, according to



Jim Cabrera prepares to catch the ball. (photo by Matt Haverly)

Courtney. The graduating seniors, especially Dean, will be missed, but the Wildcats should be able to stay strong with many returning varsity players. Jamie Mackert is expected to be a strong player on this year's squad, he had five homers last year. In addition, Jim Cabrera, Rich Fikis, Ken Hodgen, and

Brandon McCauley all hit better than .300 last season or during summer league. Since summer league is just as competitive as the regular season, things look pretty good for the Cats.

Courtney is not really sure of his starting lineup this year. McCauley and senior Jeremy Velichkoff will be competing for first

base, and Mackert will play shortstop when not pitching. Jamie McDole might start at third, and Joe Wagenaar, who also pitches will probably play second base when not on the mound. A battle will take place at the catcher position, where Cabrera will get pressure from Fikis.

Hodgen has a pretty secure spot in center field, with Greg Juarez and Scott Westman also playing in the outfield. Courtney said Cortez will play many infield positions, when others players are pitching. He is also a candidate to start at

Baseball's first game—
-March 31 vs. St. Charles (away)

either second or third base.

Courtney wants to find out for sure who his starters will be during the first few weeks of non-conference play. He believes most of the guys are much stronger and have improved their play a lot from last season. Last season the Wildcats were sixth in the DVC and lost in the second round of regionals. Courtney expects to improve on that this season. The DVC is very competitive and if the team does well in conference, it should do well in post-season play.