

the bridge



West Chicago Community High School

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Morris to take over as superintendent next year

by Chris Seper

Joel Morris, named to be Richard Kamm's replacement as superintendent next year, is ready to bring his type of educational style to WCCHS.

"I want to improve education," Morris, the assistant superintendent for Maine South High School said. "I think what a high school needs to do is to teach students how to be life-long learners."

Morris, who earned his bachelors degree at Illinois State University, his Masters at Loyola and his Doctorate at the University of Illinois, was picked from 14 finalists from a field of 55 for the job. His contract is set for two years with a pay of \$91,000 a year beginning March 19, 1991.

"I don't have any plans yet," Morris admitted. "I'm looking forward to meeting the staff and students and hear things they like to do. I'm very impressed (with WCCHS). It looks great."

Morris' idea of "life long-learners" is the belief that high schools should be preparing students for change and adaptation in their adult lives. Morris said that things such as reading, writing and the ability to do research keys to this plan.

"Some of the jobs students will be competing for don't exist right now," Morris said. "You have got to be trained to be able to practice this job and to cope with this." Morris also felt that programs recognize student achievements is key in this process.

"One thing I think is important to a successful program is students of the month, student recognition programs," he said. "You need to be recognized for the kinds of contributions you make. Assemblies, honor roll, perfect attendance and teacher recognizing achievements are all important programs." Morris also felt that the foreign language department and the bilingual programs are strong points in this, and sees the ethnic diversity (77 percent anglo, 20 percent His-

panic, 1 percent black, 2 percent other races) at West Chicago as a strength.

"A real strength is the ethnic mix," he said. "I view it as a real positive opportunity to be exposed to different and alternative kinds of backgrounds."

"I think bilingual programs very often bilingual clubs get a bad reputation," Morris said. "People use them to continue to insulate families from learning English. It looks like that hasn't happened here. Students have a chance to continue to learn (in other classes) and at the same time have an opportunity to learn English. The last thing we need to do is teach English, and when the student finally acquires skill level of fourth or fifth grade, they have no opportunity to use their skills. We'd be doing the students a great disservice."

Although a recent decision by the United States Supreme Court said that schools do have the right to censor the high school publications, Morris said that he feels that the current agreement that the Bridge has

with the high school administration—namely that the Bridge can print any articles on any subject as long as they are not libelous, obscene and/or insight a riot—is a good one and will remain.

Morris went on to say that he felt the programs and traditions at West Chicago, athletically and academically, were at a very high level already, and that he is only hoping to maintain the high tradition at West Chicago. As of now he said that he is anxious to meet with the staff and students and see what they think can be done.

"A thing I would enjoy doing is meeting with people and talking with them. I would also like to try and meet with staff members, both informally and in the building, and see things they see that are important," Morris said.

Morris will be commuting his first year at West Chicago—allowing his son to finish high school at Maine South—and will then move into the area in his second year.

A French influence spread through West Chicago

by Brian York

You may have noticed that there was an abundance of new students at West Chicago. Do not check your glasses, our high school has not increased enrollment; they were exchange students from France.

On April 15, West Chicago's French subculture was expanded by the arrival of the exchange students. Twenty-four French exchange students from Grenoble, France were hosted by We-go students so they could experience American culture.

The French were met at O'Hare airport with "American love". French visitor Alexandre Rivolta described her first thought as, "American people have very big cars. I liked the balloons and flowers they brought me."

The students did a lot of sight-seeing during their two-week stay. Various trips to Chicago, Fermilab, and Stratford Square shopping center were some of the highlights included during their stay. In Chicago, they visited Water Tower shopping center, Museum of Science and Industry, the Sears Tower and the University of Chicago.

One of the biggest shocks for the French was the food. French exchange student Sandrine Simon explained, "Breakfast is com-

pletely different. We have no bacon or eggs. Lunch and dinner are the same in France."

Another shock to the French visitors was

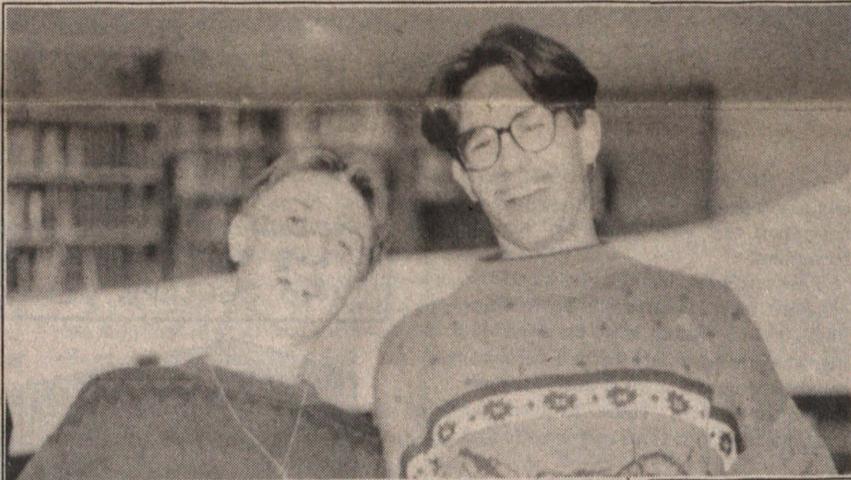
the lack of time for lunch that the school has. They are usually allowed two hours for lunch, not 25 minutes.

French student Caroline Ruelle noticed the different hair styles here in America. "Some girls' hair sticks straight up!" she commented. Rivolta described her dislike for the many "gross" flavors of bubble gum, summing it up by saying, "American gum is disgusting!"

The American director of the exchange was French teacher Majorie Appel. "I think the exchange went very well. This was probably the best exchange that we've had." Appel went on to add that the impression she got from the French was that they liked our school and want to visit America again.

If anyone is interested in an exchange with France Appel strongly encourages it. The requirements is having taken at least second year French, a continuous 2.0 or above grade point average, and to be enthusiastic about the French language. For more information see Appel.

The students departed back home on April 29.



French exchange students Pascal Vatton and Emmanuel Manca enjoying America. (photo by Gina Lipscomb)

VICA brings back state competition winners

by Christine Pomeroy

Twenty four VICA students earned a total of 9 plaques and medals for first, second and third place as well as 10 merit certificates and ribbons for fourth, fifth and sixth places at state competition.

The West Chicago VICA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America) Chapter had members who participated in the 1991 VICA Skill Competition held in Springfield, Illinois on April 18-20.

David Anderson received sixth place in Job Skill Demonstration, Luis Aguilar-second place in Safety Presentation, Jennifer Bohnsack-fourth place in Commercial Sewing, Michelle Caffarello-fourth place in Fresh Cut Floral Craft Centerpiece, Sharise Carlson-fifth place in Commercial Sewing, Chad Day-first place in Cabinet-Making and Millwork, Jennifer Edwards-sixth place in Fresh Cut Floral and Craft Centerpiece, Kathy Echevarria-fourth place in Fresh Cut Floral and sixth place in Craft Centerpiece, Barbara Giese-sixth place in Commercial Sewing, Debbie Hahn-fourth place in Prepared Speech, April Hendrix-second place in Job Interview, Jason Lawrence-first place in

Safety Presentation and third place in Full Service Auto, Ed Pagan-third place in Cabinet-Making and Millwork, Ben Seaver-second place in Job Skill Demonstration, and Leticia Vargas-third place in Safety Presentation and Action Skills Demonstration.

In addition, nine students competed but were not placed. Andrea Barrientos in Job Skill Demonstration, Alan Chelette in Interview Competencies, Casi Dieter in Job Interview, Kristen Frost and Diana Hernandez were Job Interview finalists, Ray Hoffman in Job Interview, Art Pierce in Job Skill Demonstration, Richard Perez in Job Skill Demonstration, and Robert Snyder in Culinary Arts.

"The students did well and did their best," said CWT (Co-operative work training) Adviser Paul Junkrowski. Adviser Cass Streicher was also pleased with the results. "It was nice to see a first and third in Cabinet Making," Streicher said. She also pointed out that the competition shows that students do succeed at something good. "The kids were well behaved and they did an excellent job," Streicher said.

Inkspots

by Jenny Doggett, Julia Hill, Pat Guane and Margaret Walen

Yearbook to camp

Next years Yearbook team will be having a teaching course on July 23-25 at Rockford College, Illinois.

New kicking Cats

The 1991-92 Pom-Pons squad is: Captain Jessica DiBella, Co-captain Gina Clifford, Tanya Brooks, Dee Calderini, Angie Chavez, Anita Costellano, Nikki Glammanco, Jeanine Goodman, Jill Loek, Val Lund, Kristen Martin, Jenny Mennella, Denise Nance, Paula Nelson, Michelle Retner, Sybil Ruiz and Kristie Spielman.

Future fundraisers

The Booster Club will be sponsoring "A Flower Truck Load Sale", on May 18th in the commons area. It will be held from 8am till 2pm. There will also be a bake sale and a car wash which will be sponsored by Prom Committee during the day.

'91 yearbook team

The Yearbook team for next school year will be: Christine Baginski, editor-in-chief, Yvette Alvara, Anna Berendson, Sandy Dawson, Kerl Jones, Michelle May, Kelly MacAdam, Denise Nance, Samantha Newby, MaryJo Prusko and Nicole Ybarra.

Spring musical

The Spring musical **Anything Goes** will be May 16, 17 and 18 at 7:30 p.m. in Weyrauch Auditorium.

Bridge wins awards

The American Scholastic Press Association (ASPA) has announced the Annual Newspaper Awards. WCCHS recieved awards for the most Outstanding Cartoon, "Property of Santa," by Matt Phillips; the most Outstanding Story, "Thorium is One Step Closer to Being Shipped", by Margaret Walen and **The Bridge** Newspaper was presented first place overall. The ASPA Judge said "Your (Bridge) staff, editor and faculty adviser the are to be commended for this publication. I am certain it (the Bridge) is a credit to your school and is well received in the community."

Thank you very much Bilingual Club

The **Bridge** staff would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Bilingual club, probably one of the least known clubs in WCCHS. This club has put forth remarkable efforts to intergrate native Spanish speaking students into the We-go curriculum. Unfortunately, it appears as though most students here pay little attention to the club and know little about it's purpose. This year the Bilingual Club has had a Mexican picnic, car wash, bowling trip, Christmas party, and participated in the Home Coming parade. These are just a few things that the club has accomplished. The Bilingual Club helps to break the language barrier between native Spanish speaking students and native English speakers by getting them involved and working together. Bilingual Club welcomes anyone with slight knowledge of another language to join.

Where is Prom Committee?

by Jon Turkot

Prom Committeel
Has anyone heard of them? Who are they and what exactly do they do?

I mean, how many people have heard over the announcements that there will be a Prom Committee meeting after school? Not me.

But according to junior class Vice-President Michelle May, who along with junior Lynn Ellerbruch seem to be the bulk of Prom Committeel, the announcements are there. "We put the announcements in, but no one seems to respond," May said. "There is a lack of participation on the part of the junior class and there is so much that needs to be done," said Ellerbruch.

Well, sure there might be a lack of participation but what about a lack of administration? All I keep hearing is that there isn't

enough money for prom and that no one else is helping. Well if Prom Committee would decide to have fund raisers a little earlier in the year maybe Prom Committee wouldn't have this problem. I understand that it's hard to get people involved but maybe Prom Committee should try a little harder. Give the people an incentive to join and not just say "Come if you want."

According to both Ellerbruch and May, Prom Committee doesn't meet that often because "No one is interested." Well, my solution to that is to get them interested. Make sure they will stick with it and don't just give up because four people show up for the first meeting. I think that is being a little hasty.

Instead of complaining about the lack of money and participation, why doesn't Prom Committee take the 10 or 12 loyal members and work to the best of their ability.

Where has Pep Club gone for the spring?

by Jamie McDole

What has happened to the pep in Pep Club and West Chicago?

The spirit at West Chicago had driven itself into the gutter in spring sports. During the fall sports period Pep Club decorated lockers and had pep assemblies for the football players. Likewise, in the winter sports period, lockers were decorated and there were pep assemblies for the basketball players. And then the spring sports period comes and there is...nothing?

What happened to the lockers being decorated and the pep assemblies?

They disappeared. Maybe spring sports

aren't important enough to be considered for a pep assembly or not even good enough to have the players' lockers decorated.

What happened to the little spirit that West Chicago did have? Does school spirit end after the last basketball game?

Assistant Principal John Highland said that the reason that there are no pep assemblies in the spring is because in the past there haven't been too many. He also added that the reason there are no pep assemblies now is because during the other pep assemblies during the fall and winter there was a very poor turn out of students. Only about 150 of the 1,400 students at We-go went to the last pep assembly according to Highland.

What happened to the students? Where did they go?

Obviously they thought that the pep assemblies weren't important enough to spend the extra half an hour to stay in school and support the teams.

The last pep assembly was organized by Kim LaBelle. She worked long and hard on trying to think of a way to make the pep assembly exciting. She planned everything out and when the time came for the students to come in the gym, few people came. All of that hard work was thrown down the drain. LaBelle deserves more credit than 150 students coming to the pep assembly she worked long and hard on.

LaBelle's response to why the lockers weren't decorated for spring sports was because there were not enough people in Pep Club to decorate all of the lockers. She said that she tried to get more people to join the club but it didn't work.

Next year students should try to get involved in pep club and give a little school spirit to the athletes and sports at the school. Enthusiasm shouldn't stop at the end of the basketball season either. It should keep going until the end of the year.

LaBelle and the few people in Pep Club deserve a lot of credit for trying to make Pep Club work in the spring. What will happen when LaBelle graduates? Who will take over?

'Why is there P.E.' and more in letters to the editor

Dear Kim Derby,

Have you ever met someone who couldn't open a jar of food? Yet you ask, "Why is there P.E.?"

"People are able to wonder at the height of mountains, and the huge waves of the sea, the vast compass of the ocean, at the circular motion of the stars, and then pass by themselves without wondering at all." (St. Augustine 354-430) It never ceases to amaze me what the human body can do. I consistently experiment to see what more my body can do and I'm always impressed with the results.

I think P.E. should be required. It's the only chance of educating the masses of

the obvious link between physical fitness and prolonged healthy lives through demonstration and real "hands-on" experimentation.

Physical fitness has so many ways to be achieved. My personal favorites are: swimming, biking, jogging, cross-country, skiing, windsurfing, sand volleyball, aerobics, weight lifting, and rowing. (Not necessarily in that order.) There is a way for everyone, and P.E. is an easy way to find it.

There is a level of fitness we all should maintain. Remember those physical fitness tests? How many of you honestly scored over 85 percent on all your tests?

Just as I sit in math class wondering when I'll ever use the complicated hodge podge of information they are throwing at me, there are people sitting in P.E. wondering "What am I doing this for?" The answer: to maintain a level of fitness so by the time you go to retire, you're not popping medication to control your blood pressure, cholesterol, and bodily functions in general. An immediate result is it is a healthy way to control your body weight. It is unhealthy to control your weight by dieting alone. I could get into a heated discussion on peoples' eating habits and such, but that is a topic for another day.

Sincerely,
Dan Fors

Bill 097 explained

Dear Editors,

Students' in Steve Arnold's government classes and S.E.A.C. have originated an important State House Bill at our high school. Unfortunately, a small percentage of the school knows anything about it, even though it is rare for students to start up a State bill.

House Bill 097 proposes a plan for using recycled paper in Illinois elementary and secondary public schools. Schools must buy an increasing percentage of recycled paper over a course of ten years, with a goal of at least 50% recycled paper being purchased by July 1, 2001. The bill defines recycled paper as having a certain percentage of post-consumer

waste, and this percentage would also increase over the next ten years.

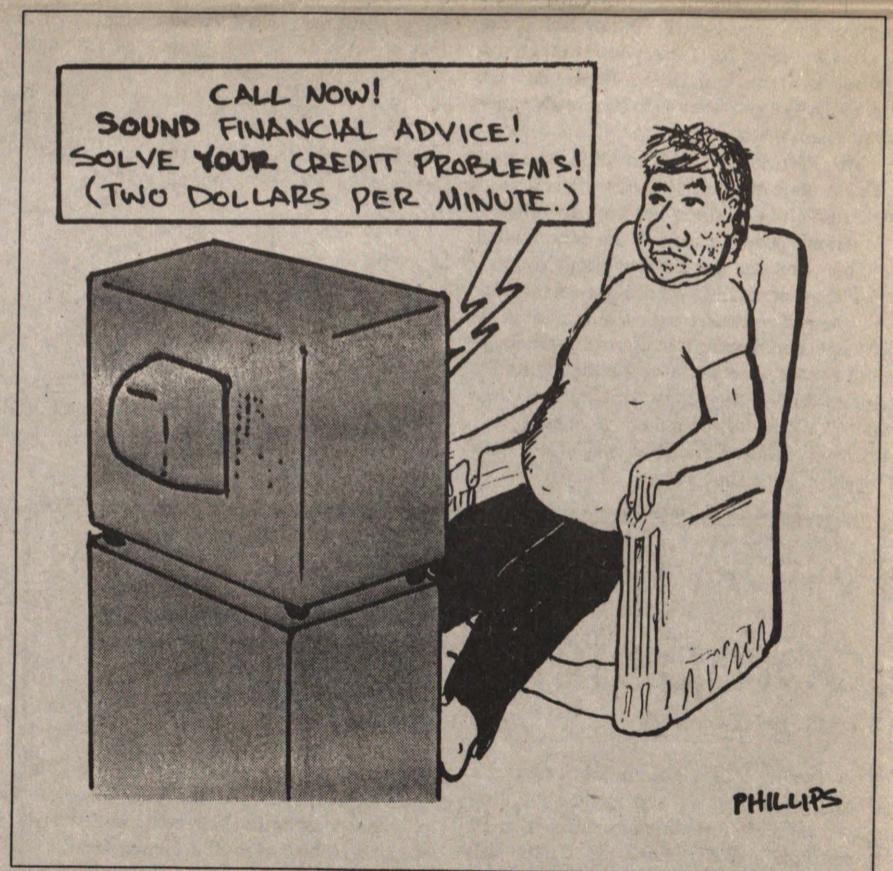
Theoretically, most people should like this bill. No one wants to see more landfills (34% of landfill space is paper), more smog, and more forests cut down. The problem is the price of recycled paper. Right now, most paper companies state the price difference between recycled and virgin pulp paper is 10%. If this bill goes into effect, the recycling market will be stimulated, and the price difference will decrease. Also, most school boards have little money to waste. Most school boards think the price difference is much more than it would be. For example, it would cost District #94 an extra \$2000 a year to buy recycled paper, or a mere extra .016% of the school's budget. In other schools around the state, we have found the extra cost to be minimal.

The bill passed the first reading and had a reading for the Primary and Secondary Education Committee. An amendment was

placed on the bill, saying that the bill will implement a phase-in plan. The bill is to have it's second reading this week. Representatives from around the state must know that people support this bill in order for them to support it at the House. If the bill passes the third reading at the house, it will then go on to the Senate.

In order to support this bill, students at this school must write or phone Representative Don Hensel, urging him to support the bill (112 Galena, West Chicago, 60185 or 293-1234). Students must also contact family members or friends from around the state asking them to write their Representatives and to send articles to their local newspapers. The general public must know about the bill. Please contact Mr. Arnold to get a form letter from him for your friends around the state. He will be able to find out who their representatives are, so they will only have to send a letter.

Claire Broldo, Amy Brigowatz



THE BRIDGE
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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.

Dating in the 90's - how do students feel about it?

by Kim Derby

What is the dating scene at We-go? Every day we see people walking down the hallways holding hands. Perhaps we are one of them. Students here had different views on the matter.

Junior Sarah Bant sees dating as more of a "group thing. It seems these days that couples are out."

Brett Siglin, a sophomore, thinks dating at our school is predictable. He feels couples always go to the same places and do the same things.

A senior (who does not wish to be named) feels dating is varied. "Everyone has their own style and personal taste. This makes for plenty of differences in what happens during the weekends or even in school."

Freshman Erich Gernand says that he has absolutely no problem with going out, but people "shouldn't get too serious at this age." He feels the students at West Chicago should strive to have more fun, and save the seriousness for after high school.

Sophomore Betty Staniels feels dating is fun if it involves going out with a good friend. "Dating just to have a boyfriend stinks, though."

Junior Brandon McCauley has another view on the dating scene. "Chicks are chicks these days." He thinks they give too many excuses.

How has dating changed over the years?

Staniels feels dating has become more superficial as time has gone by. She thinks in past times people only dated others if they were truly interested in them. She feels that today dating involves "seeing who can get the most beautiful girl or the most athletic guy."

Bant says that dating used to involve things like sock hops. "It used to be that couples went out for a soda. Now, everyone goes to big parties."

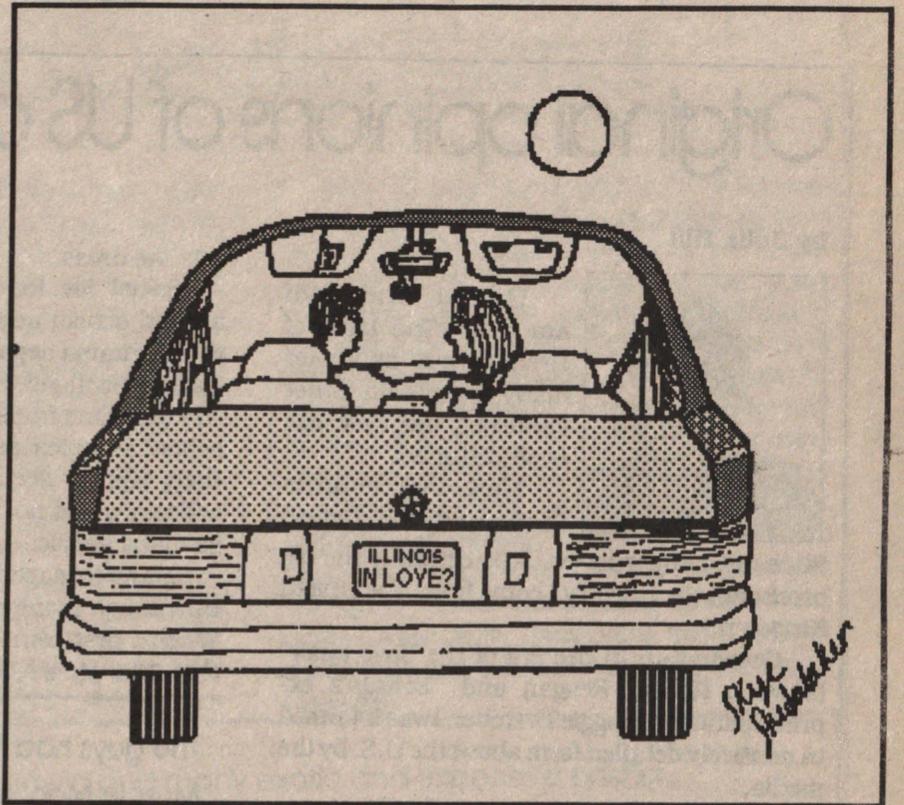
Siglin thinks the dating scene has always been the same. He says, "It's always been predictable."

Gernand says things have changed a lot over the years. He thinks people date for fun nowadays. He feels that on the contrary, 30 or 40 years ago, "people would get married when they were 19 or 20. I think people were more serious then."

The senior doesn't think the dating scene has changed much. He says, "The restaurants and movies may change, but the ideas are all the same-even the traditional school dances."

McCauley feels the times have changed. He says, "Guys respect girls more these days." McCauley thinks guys used to push girls around more.

What will happen with dating in the future? You decide. When it comes to dating, just remember the words of that anonymous senior. "It's natural to have fun."



Biased truth revealed about south of West Chicago

by Brian Levake



Short quiz for those who think they know jack about Southern anything: The grammatically correct Southern phrase would be: A) I dropped my viddles when I saw that extremely large okra patch. B) I heaved my fanny when I eyed that barn. C) Anna toted the corn bread to Hulaco where they was scared up pronto. D) Hondo hucked.

The obvious choice is C. I assume that some of you might have missed that because of the words okra and barn and hucked. Don't feel bad, you're not alone. How many people

spend a week on top of Baileyton mountain in Alabama and come out screaming that it is the land of plenty?

I don't know.

But hey, don't get me wrong. There must be some redeeming qualities to Southern culture, or all of the people living there would pack a lunch and head north. It might be the weather, but one time I saw it snow three feet in April. I'll take my Spring break (fun in the sun?) without frozen precipitation, thank you.

Is it the food? Could be. I have to admit that their idea of a "seafood extravaganza" is all-you-can-eat breaded catfish. Eat them up, yum.

When former Georgia resident Jon Turkot was asked about the food, he replied "Collard Greens. It looks like something my cat hucked up." Jon doesn't even have a cat, folks. Maybe he got a catfish deposit somewhere in

his medulla. He also had problems with fried squash. "They dip it in a batter and they eat it. They also try to disguise it. That's why they put colored tooth picks in them to make them look like shrimp." Can't they honestly unveil their tasty treats?

Would it be the night life? Hey, on any given Saturday, you can go to Ardmore Tennessee and see the band P.W.I. (Play While Intoxicated) rip up Garon's place, a small club/bar. And for those who hate either beer or unsuccessful cover bands, there are plenty of trees to climb and cows to milk, fields to romp through and furry woodland creatures to pet and to hold.

Another boggling thing about the south is their accent; or more to the point, the location of it. Where in the hell does it begin? On numerous trips to sweet home Alabama, I tried to figure out where the accent started.

My best estimation is the southern Illinois town, Mattoon, population 450.

My family and I checked into a small, yet average looking motel to stay for the night. Two rooms down from us was a beer party deluxe. And then all of a sudden, the noise stopped. At about this time, my mother and I decided to get something to eat at the local Hardee's. Wrong choice. The first thing I see as I walk in is a young man blowing up chunks o' hamburgers. Then it hit me what was taking place when I saw the streamers and balloons. They party at Hardee's!!!!!! What a concept! As we left Hardee's, I saw the same young man laying on the floor in just about the same area that he hurled. Yum.

Since then, I thought a lot about that puking guy. That kid looked a lot like myself. He was laying in a puddle of vomit. It's an omen. I'm never going back. But then again, they probably don't want me there.

Teacher tidbits

by Jennifer Doggett

Name Robert Owens
Occupation Physical Education teacher
Birthday September 20, 1944
Birthplace St. Charles
Current home Winfield
Marital status married
Car GMC Jimmy
Children two
Last movie seen Marked For Death
Last book read Iron and Ice
Nobody knows I'm really thin
Worst job and where Ball and Seed Company, unloading steam wagons
Prized possession big screen TV
I'd give anything to meet Julia Roberts
In high school, people thought I was quiet
Favorite pigout food pizza
Favorite childhood memory sport activities
Worst time in my life unloading those steam wagons
Three words that best describe me big, quiet, friendly
Most irrational act guy cut me off so I cut him off
What I fear the most being a paraplegic
If I weren't a teacher, I'd be artist
Students think that I'm nice
My favorite high school subject was P.E.

America's lonely pets need a home

by Christine Pomeroy

There were 1584 cats and 984 dogs euthanized last year at the DuPage County Animal Control Center/Humane Society in Wheaton.

Each year thousands of animals are brought into shelters around the country. In 1990 the DuPage County Animal Control took in 2074 dogs and 2133 cats-that's 173 dogs and 178 cats per month. Julie Mason from the Control Center said that animals are brought in because they're "unwanted," the

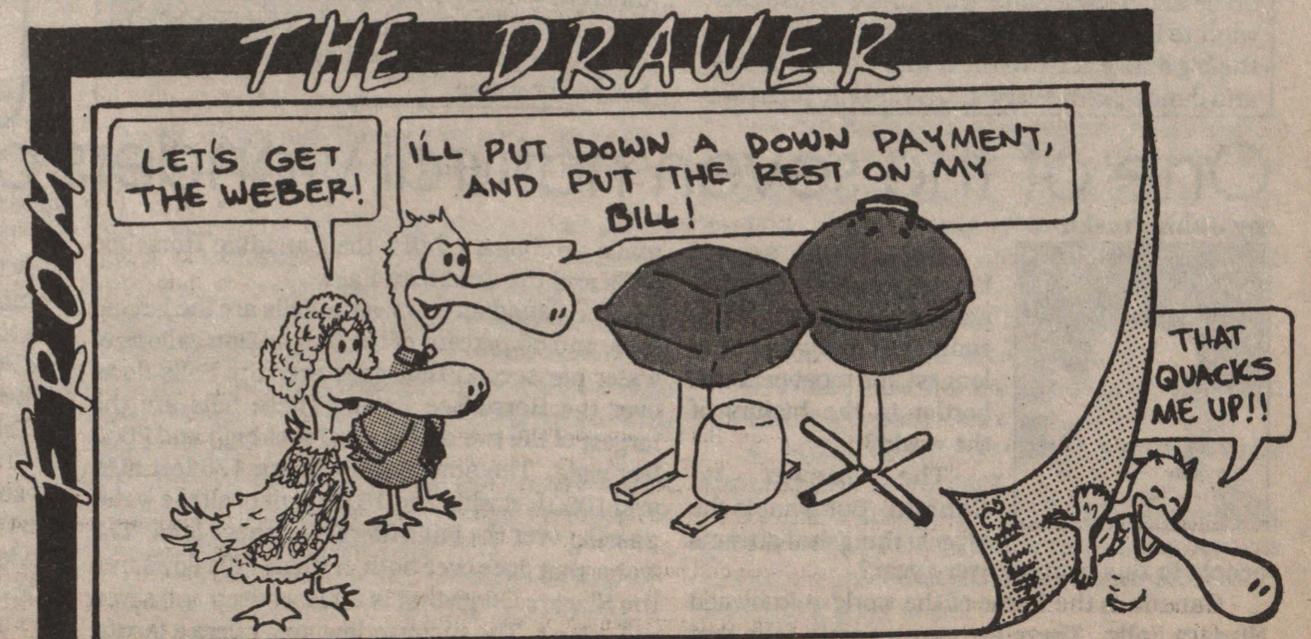
owners either move or have no time for their pet.

"The Society for the Prevention of Animal Young Inc. (SPAY) is a small, non profit association dedicated to promoting animal birth control," said Eillen Gardner Galer, author of Reducing the Surplus-Cat Fancy Magazine.

"To solve the nation's tragic animal population problem, however, SPAY believes animal agencies must work closely with veterinarians. Spay/neuter programs dramatically reduce the horror and expense of animal control," Galer said.

The only way to bring down the overpopulation of cats and dogs is to spay/neuter the animal. Not all animals are necessarily homeless. However, if the animal looks dirty and hungry, it's a good chance that the cat or dog is homeless. Be cautious when finding an animal, it may be scared and frightened and could bite. Notify the police department or the animal shelter to help you.

If you are interested in adopting a pet, you may call the DuPage County Animal Control at 682-7197 or the Anderson Shelter at 697-2881.



Traveling teens tell about

Original opinions of US changes

by Julia Hill



United States of America: The Land of Dreams but sadly for many people in other countries the view has been distorted.

Most other countries know that the United

States is a superpower. It is certainly the big brother of the country I come from, the United Kingdom.

Growing up in the era of the "love affair" between Ronald Reagan and Britain's ex-prime minister, Maggie Thatcher, I was informed in relatively detailed form about the U.S. by the media.

My view prior to coming to live here was probably a common view, especially with my school friends. It was a huge country, living a fast, hard, ambitious, competitive life with a high percentage of crime in the large cities. The American high school life had been distorted by the movies, the pom-pom girls and the cheerleaders were the rich type, snobby with lots of blond permed hair and always very popular with sporty guys. The guys had the traditional "Mr. Muscle Man" look about them with the convertible sports car. I cannot prove all this with any particular movie, I have just seen too many depicting this.

My immediate opinion of American high school life did change once I started this school, but not, however of American life in general. There are many different kinds of people, but if you do want to find the movie teenagers this school does have its couple of the permed blond

The American high school life has been distorted by the movies, the pom-pom girls and cheerleaders were the rich type.

hair Pom-poms and cheerleaders and "look at me I am Mr. Everything you want in a man," but luckily enough only a very, small percentage. In every country that you visit there will always be a similar type of person.

Prom was even advertised over in the U.K., with movies and books. *Pretty in Pink* comes to mind. Again the permed blondies and the all American guy were advertised. Prom is a big important event here, but I still take the view that it is a competition with who has the best dress and a lot of panic with girls because they want to be invited. My school in Scotland had the big dance at Christmas where we went stag and danced with everyone so the only pressure

was the dress.

Social life for many people is centered around school activities with sports all year round, drama department, and various clubs. Back in Scotland, (which is the part of the U.K where I come from) life starts when you leave school as quick as possible at 3:30 p.m. If there had not been all these activities here at school I would not have gotten to have known so many people.

Many teenagers are obsessed with saving up enough money to buy a car, in the USA. When I first came I could never understand this. Now I know, besides the commuter trains

The guys had the traditional "Mr. Muscle Man" look about them with the convertible sports car.

to the city, public transportation is practically non-existent out here in the suburbs.

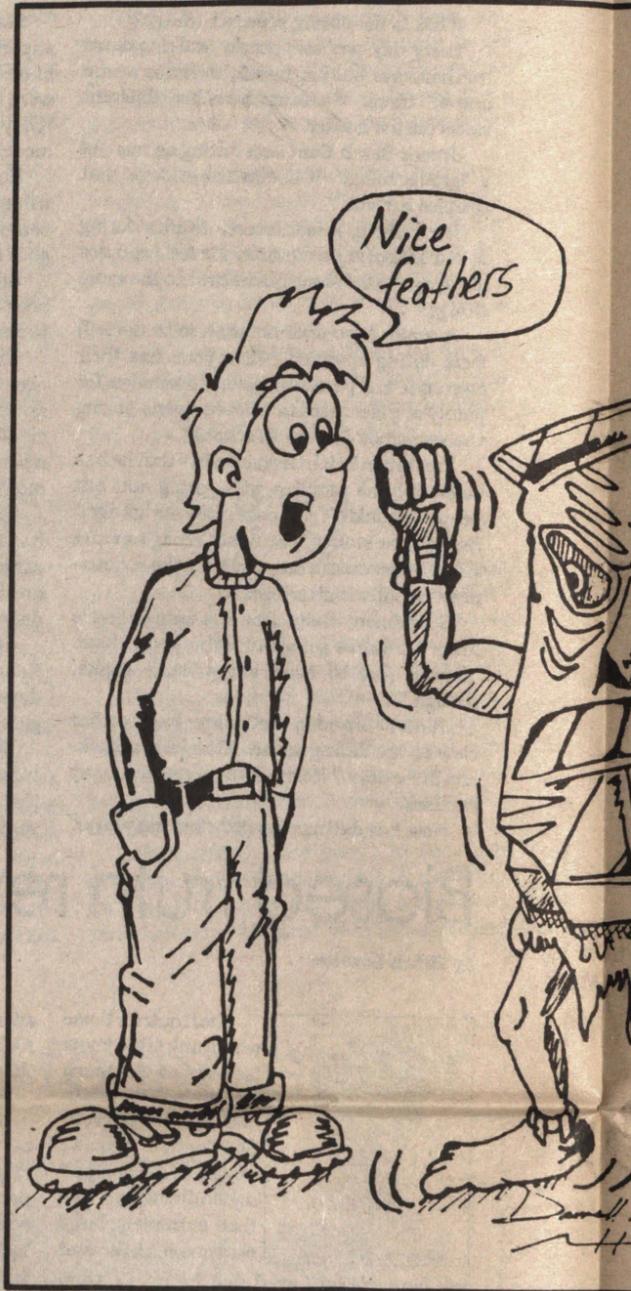
People in general are the same here as back in Scotland. There are some cultural differences. Spiritual guidance seems to be growing trend in this area of the U.S. compared to what the situation was like amongst the students at my school in Scotland.

Even though drinking is a big sin here, it is not in the U.K. The pubs are a way of social life for many people in Britain. They just talk and if they want a drink, they drink. There is not such a big show amongst teenagers to see who is being naughty by drinking illegally or with seeing who can drink the most.

In retrospect, after now being here for nine months, I no longer see the empty headed blondies or the big muscles without brains. The students may have some of these characteristics but certainly not as brainless and that, is not all. A large percentage are very involved in school life with the activities I mentioned earlier and more. On top of the extra-curricular activities, many are getting good grades, hold down a part time job and have a social life.

The movies depiction of American high school life has a lot to do with the opinions of it overseas. I am very glad I came here, not once have I regretted it, and now I will be able to set the picture straight to many people back in Britain.

Life here in America has been certainly different from my life back in Scotland, U.K. No one can say which country is a better place to live. All I can say is that they are different, not better nor worse.



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One of the seven natural wonders of the world

by John Prusko



What is the second largest country in land mass in the world? What country shares with us the longest and most peaceful border in the history of the world?

The answer is: **Canada**. But what is the biggest thing that attracts

people to this country every year?

Canada is the home of the world-reknowned Niagara Falls. There are two separate falls that

make up Niagara Falls, the Canadian Horseshoe Falls and the American Falls.

The Canadian Horseshoe Falls are the largest falls, and 85 percent of the 625 million gallons of water per second that goes over the Falls flows over the Horseshoe Falls. These falls are the largest of the two and are 167 feet high and 2600 feet wide. The American Falls are 176 feet high and 1000 feet wide and 15 percent of all the water passing over the Falls flows over these falls. The water that goes over both of these falls flows into the Niagara Gorge that is 200 feet deep and seven miles long. The surrounding area offers a terrific

view of the Falls.

There are many tours that can be taken to view the Falls. For the boating enthusiasts that do not mind getting soaked, there is the Maid of the Mist boat tours that go right up to the base of the Falls. Sightseers can take tours of the tunnel system that was built behind the Falls which lead to Table Rock at the base of the Horseshoe Falls.

The Minolta Tower on the Canadian side rises 29 stories and gives visitors a spectacular view of the Falls. Another tower, the biggest of the two is Skylon Tower which has a glass elevator that rides the side of the tower to a restaurant on top giving sightseers a wonderful view of the Falls.

out their foreign affairs



A visit to Deutschland

by Cheryl Greenwalt



Guten Tag! And now its time for a word from the little corner of Europe that I visited. Some of you may refer to it as the capital of the world, but I on the other hand refer to it as Germany.

Last summer I, six other students, and a teacher from WCCHS went to Germany for a three week exchange program at Gunzenhausen, Germany. During our stay there we encountered many a variety of experiences which ranged from touring the exotic and famous castles of King Ludwig to the wonderful sight seeing crowd pleaser, not

After we had experienced a bit of German culture, we got to go sightseeing and see all of the beautiful historical sights of Germany. Germany is an old country and has many landmarks that have lasted for hundreds of years, and been through many wars. Some of the more interesting spots of interest were the castles. Germany was once a monarchy and was ruled by a king. One king, named King Ludwig, was a bizarre man and who was very rich. While in power, Ludwig built many exotic and expensive castles. I had the opportunity to see two of them, Neuschwanstein and Schloss Linderhof. Neuschwanstein may be seen in the movie Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, and from that movie, one can tell how excentric the king's taste was.

While in power, Ludwig built many exotic and expensive castles.

entirely built canal(which our chaperon deserves credit for).

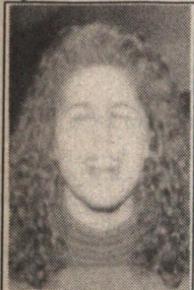
Culture is all part of a country, and Germany has plenty of it. Our group, while visiting a neighboring town, went to a church celebration. There was a folk band playing the traditional beer drinking songs with an accordian in the background. Sound like fun? All the people were joyously swaying and singing along with their huge mugs of beer in their hands. And at a certain part of the song, everybody would raise their beers up and clang them together with a mighty roar of Wohl! Throughout the night, people danced on the tables, sang, and enjoyed the music of the folkband, some in their traditional knickers and suspenders.

This isn't necessarily a pleasant point to visit, but it has much historical significance and it is interesting. Rothenburg is a tourist town but it also is a good model of a typical German town with brick roads, half timbered houses, the torn wall, the perimeter of the town, and the market square. The market square is an open market in the town square which is held, depending on the town, everyday.

I am not a tourguide, nor am I a German publicist, so I will just say; if I were to go back to Germany, I would definitely go to Berlin, to observe the divided culture of former West and East Germany, and also to see the remains of the historical "Wall", and to see the progress of the divided nation reunified. Tschuss!

France at a glance: S'est la vie !Oui, oui, oui, oui

by Karen Saad



French Kissing?.....Is that the only thing that comes to your head when you think of France?

Well, there is a lot more to France than that, last April when I was in France, I spent 7 days in Grenoble, a village on the border near Switzerland, and 3 days in

Paris, where I saw the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, and the Louvre. During my stay in Grenoble I took notice of the different lifestyles. One difference in France, because you can not get your license until you turn 18, there is a tram that connects al of Grenoble, so it's easy to get where you want. Some other major differences are in their school curriculum. In France they are in school from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M., Monday through Friday and usually Saturdays. Also their selection of food

they eat is different. In France they eat things such as cow's brain and cow's stomache, but they also eat pizza and crepes.

Some of my vivid memories from France are, a larger than life painting on the wall of the high school, Mounier, of an athlete, seeing the Mona Lisa, eating tripe (cow's stomach) for lunch, at their school, going up the Eiffel Tower, and actually understanding what they said to me in French. When in France, do as the French.....S'est la vie!

Soviet Union: A different way of life and traveling tips

by Jennifer Walters



Russia! It means a lot of different things to different people. When I asked people what they thought of when they hear the word "Russia", they had negative views towards it. The most common answers were Communism, KGB, a Red Sheet, frustrated, pushy, and loss of freedom.

I really did not know what to expect. There are always television shows and movies that have the Russians as the "bad guys". However, I did not know if this is what actually went on. When I took my first step off the airplane in Moscow, I saw a military man. He was not just a normal military man, he had the cold, steel look on his face. This really scared me at first, but after we got through customs and met the people we were staying with, they were very friendly.

Russia is not as bad as everyone thinks. They

put all their money into preserving their history. Most of their buildings are covered in gold. They cannot be described in words. They have to be seen in person. It is like putting all the great monuments in the United States in one city.

Traveling is a different story. If you visit Russia, do not take the easy way out. Make sure that you ride the metro. This is where you will meet some very interesting people. The people keep to themselves. However, loosen them up. Make sure you act like a normal American. Be loud and obnoxious. They are already staring at you anyway. Make sure you pretend to surf and moving". The Russians will finally realize and go around you. You are finally starting to fit in with their society.

Believe me many people will try to sell you things for American money. Go for it! It is a lot of fun once you get the hang of it!

After a week and a half, we were told that we were going to go to McDonald's. I was willing to

pay \$50 for a hamburger at that time. However, this is the biggest rumor concerning Russia. We bought a Big Mac, fries, milkshake and a sundae for about \$1. They only get paid about 70-100 Rubles a month. (There are only six rubles to a dollar.) Not too much, huh!

Overall, Russia is a great place. P As a matter of fact, after three weeks, I did not feel that I was even in a foreign country. I definitely want to go back in the near future. It is a great place to go, especially if you like a challenge. However, I do have a few tips for you.

1. Watch out for old ladies with blue hair.
2. Do not try the bread juice.
3. Make sure you hold your nose when you are entering a bathroom.
4. Make sure that you have a stash of toilet paper in your fanny pack.
5. Make sure that when you find something good to eat, you eat as much as you can because you do not know the next time you are going to get something good to eat.

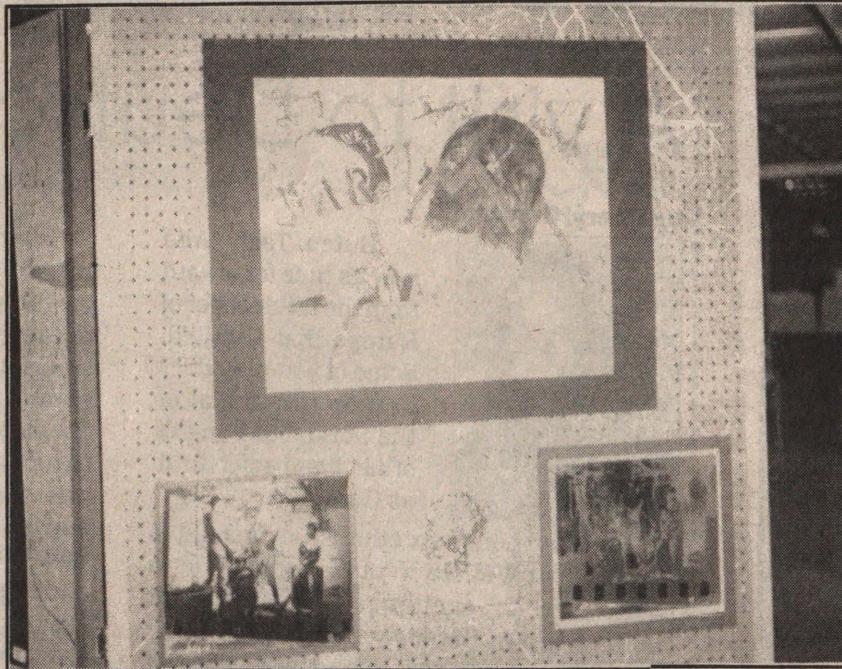
Growing art department displays creativity

by Elisa Biancalana

Over the past couple of years, the Art Department at West Chicago has grown. Art teacher, David Exner said, "There has been a 30% increase of students enrolling in art classes since last year. Also we're teaching some areas that haven't been taught here before." This year students have a choice of 13 sections of art to choose from. Last year there were only 10.

The Art Department has many activities planned. They were involved in the 1991 Art Show. The theme of this year's Art Show was "We-Go Van Gogh." It was held from April 15 to April 26 in the LRC. The other schools that had their art displayed at the show were the elementary and junior high school in Benjamin 25 and West Chicago 33. The Art Show is Celebrated the centennial celebration of the life and works of Vincent Van Gogh.

Also taking part in the Art Show was a String Quartet West Chicago students. They were Seniors Kim Smith and Teresa Johnson and Sophomores Dayne Yoder and Abigail



This piece by Brian Kozlovsky was displayed at the art show which ran from April 15 to April 26 in the LRC. (photo by Gina Ipscomb)

Hutchins. They performed at the Open House on April 16.

Another activity that is planned is the painting of murals around the school. They will start painting on the third floor next to the art rooms. They are going to start painting them after school after the Art Show is over. "Anyone interested in painting the murals can come," replied Exner.

If there is a good response on the murals, an informal Art Club will be started. It would meet afterschool. Exner said, "The Art Club would give the students who don't have time to take an art class, a chance to do so instead of taking a whole class in it."

There have been many enthusiastic feelings from the art students. Freshman Jeni Salgel said, "I like art because nothing I do ever looks like anybody else's." Junior Tom Seilheimer replied, "If I didn't have art, I figure I'd be in jail. It also expresses my musical talent." Freshman Peter Malave said, "Art is like a language with both dimension and feeling." Seniors Mike Laschinski said, "It's fun, entertaining, you learn a lot of stuff, and Mr. Exner is a swell guy-it's practically art."

Band 8-bark spawns a new generation of rock

by Julie Lock

"We were into the underground music scene," says Brian Kozlovsky about his band 8-bark's start.

The four member band consists of Kozlovsky (drums), Steve Sackett (bass), Kelly Sullivan (lead vocals), and Doug Ward (guitar, backup vocals.) They have been together for about a year after breaking into the music scene in April of 1990 in a club in St. Louis.

"We're usually the ones who call the clubs to see if they want to book us, but this guy called us," said Kozlovsky.

"People usually hear about us through our newsletter," explained Sackett. The newsletter was originally started by Ward while he was with another band and when 8-bark came together, "we just extended the mailing list,"

said Kozlovsky.

The newsletter is the band's primary source of publicity. It is sent to clubs in the Chicago area, with some going to places in Missouri and Michigan as well.



8-bark band member Steve Sackett. (photo by 8-bark)

"We get paid different amounts [for performances] depending on how far we have to travel," explained Kozlovsky. "Once we were gypped on a tour through Texas but we've also made up to \$250."

"We don't really want to get into the commercial music scene. Money isn't all that important to us. We mainly enjoy the traveling, meeting new people, and just having fun," he continued.

When the band does shows in places like Kalamazoo, MI, and St. Louis, MO they look to

members of similar bands to put them up for the night. "It's a very brotherly thing," explained Sackett. "When other bands come to play in Chicago, Doug will put them up for a while. It's all give and take."

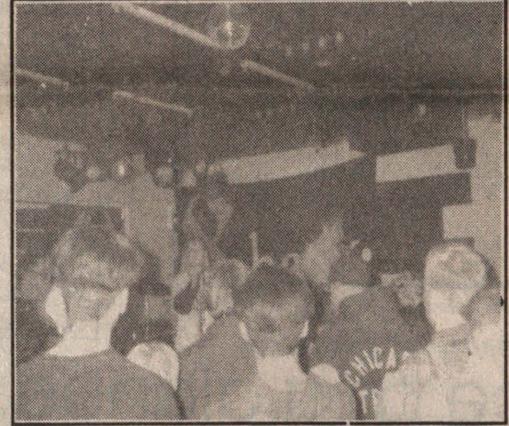
8-bark also went on a three-week tour this past summer. They first went down south, playing in Carbondale, IL. Next came Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Georgia, and North Carolina. Finally the four-some traveled up the East Coast, going through Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and ending their tour in Washington, D.C.

"It was a great experience," said Sackett. "We basically got to travel for free, meet people, and play music for three weeks."

The band will also be releasing their second record, Big Wheel (Underdog), in May. Their first record, Twelve, was out in July of 1990.

As far as future plans go, the group will be very busy. They will be going to Canada in the summer and also hope to tour Europe. But the important thing, adds Kozlovsky, "is to stay together and keep changing, not like Poison."

8-bark's next performance will be on May 19 at Sir Donald's in Downers Grove. They look forward to a bright future.



An 8-bark performance in March 1991. (photo by 8-bark)

Top ten unknown statistics

by Matt Phillips and Brian York

10. "37" - the speed limit most people think they see going into the student parking lot.
9. "1" - the number of pieces of pizza you commonly get in exchange for \$3.00 at a party.
8. "23" - the number of students who will not be some sort of person of the week.
7. "-357" - next year's senior bank account after prom.
6. "9" - the number german's think means 'no'.
5. "270" - the number of little kids who fall for the "lick the frozen flagpole" trick every year.
4. "7" - the number of Bridge editors you've heard so much about.
3. "69" - one less than 70.
2. "6937" - the number of rolls of toilet paper used for decoration this year.
1. "12" - the number of Bridge's a year where you - the reader - learn useful facts that are sure to make you the life of any party.

Correction

In the last issue of the Bridge, Marvin McNeese was misquoted in the article "Religious outbreak at WCHS". The correct quote is "the average senior sees God as a big policeman cracking down on people". Sorry Marvin.

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Boys' tennis get rough DVC welcome

Injuries and inconsistent play hurt Cats

by Chris Seper

The Wildcat tennis team was riding high entering DuPage Valley Conference competition. The team had defeated non-conference foes Batavia and Geneva and the three singles players, Kai Martin, Jon Martin and Clay Turner all sported undefeated records.

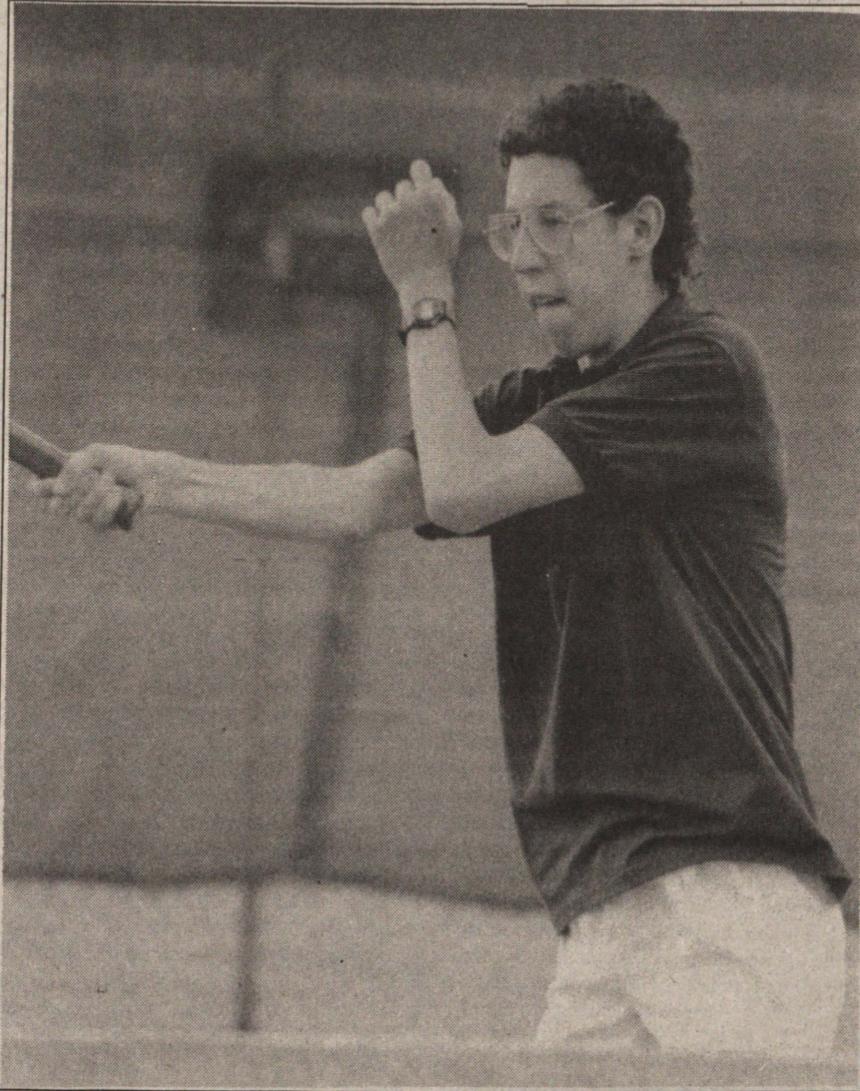
But the Cats were knocked for a loop immediately entering the DuPage Valley. The Cats 2-3 opening loss against Wheaton Central kicked off three losses out of their first four matches. The singles trio of first singles Kai, second singles Jon and the third singles player Turner—all preseason choices to be in the DVC championship hunt—combined for a record of 4-9.

"It's kind of disappointing," Wildcat Coach Clone Moeaki said. "I think we've learned a lot of lessons from that."

The rift between the DVC competition and non-conference foes continued for the netters when they took first in the 16-team Addison Trail Tournament right after the initial DVC defeat. Jon won the second singles division while Kai placed fifth at the first singles spot. But the following matches against Glenbard South, Naperville North and Wheaton North proved disappointing, with respective 5-0, 4-1 losses against the Falcons and Huskies.

"Our conference is one of the toughest conferences in the area," Moeaki said. "We need to continue to be in control, especially of our emotions. In the last two (matches) while Kai playing he was very mad at himself. When he played against Glenbard South he had a super performance." Moeaki said that there has been problems in control with both Kai and Turner—a reasoning Moeaki uses to explain the losses.

As for Jon, the injury has been more physical, according to Moeaki. The younger Martin has been suffering from a lower back injury since the winter and has caused him to alter his serve to divert pressure from his back. Jon has played in five conference meets in order to qualify for the end of the year



Senior Steve Carboni is one of several players that are trying to solidify the second singles position. (photo courtesy of Challenge)

conference tourney.

Moeaki had also been thrown from his game plan at the outset of the year due to the loss of Pete Chadraha. The sophomore netter opted to play outside of high school competition in Indiana State Tournaments. Chadraha was going to team with another sophomore standout, Kurt Hesterman, to form a formidable doubles team.

The second doubles team has been a mix-and-match position so far this year. Moeaki has gone with combinations of seniors Brian

Ohins and Brian York, junior Matt Haverty and Eric Reflet, Haverty and York and senior Steve Carboni and Reflet. "It seems like I still can't find the right combination," Moeaki explained.

But Moeaki still feels the number one reason for the crumble is attitude.

"I feel we know our match," he said. "But it's important that they relax and learn from past mistakes. When we lose emotional control we know our performance will be affected."

Baseball gets knocked for a loop in DVC

by Jon Turkot

Baseball's winning ways seem to have gone south for the spring.

"We've experienced a lack of effort," said head coach Tim Courtney about his the way his team is playing, as they dropped four in a row in the first week of May, as the four DuPage Valley Conference teams outscored them 46-13. "We've pitched a couple of teams the wrong way."

Not only is the team losing but it is also committing a lot of errors, out of the 46 runs, 21 of them were unearned. "That's typical of high school teams", Courtney said. "There might be a few exceptions in our conference but not a lot."

But the Cats seem to be victorious when number 50, Shelby Dean takes the mound. Despite a 13-3 loss to conference rival Wheaton Central where he gave up two home runs, Dean has pitched outstanding so far. "The team feels good when he's out there," Courtney said. "He's confident in himself. He feels like he should win." Courtney also says that other teams aren't sure what to expect from Dean either.

"Other teams are surprised by how good he really is. They know how hard he throws but they don't know that he has a good curve

ball too."

The Cats did experience a rare event in high school baseball. Senior Patrick Quane was in a fight with Wheaton Central's Bob Williams. The fight started in the fourth inning when Williams pushed Quane, starting the fight. Both were ejected for the remainder of the game.

One added bonus to this year's team is the continued good play of sophomores Ken Hodgen and Scott Westman. Hodgen is the Cats top base stealer and Westman is one of top players in RBIs and average.

"They're playing very well," said Courtney

of his sophomore stars. "They are going to going to get better. They will learn from the experience gained this year."

Another plus for the Wildcat pitching staff is senior Val Graczyk. Known as a "junk ball pitcher", Graczyk has a curveball and is experimenting with a knuckleball.

On the offensive side, junior Jim Cabrera has established himself as one of the most consistent hitters in the Wildcat lineup. The junior has come off the bench to spark the Cats hitting as their DH. In on eof his first games in the Cats starting lineup, Cabrera went 3-for-4 with three RBIs.

In the oven

by Chris Seper



Solving the cheerleader dilemma

I was hoping to dodge this question until the year ended. But, alas, I cannot avoid it any longer.

Is cheerleading a sport?

I really dislike answering this question—not because I'm wrong or anything—it's just that I'm probably going to lose some friends for a good period of time. But I'm the sports editor and that's my job (to lose friends, that is). So, oh well...

Cheerleading is not a sport.

The reason given by the Illinois High School Association for cheerleading not being a sanctioned sport is that they do not practice five times a week—the minimum requirement for a sport. But I submit that even if cheerleading did practice five times a week, they still would not earn the right to be called a sport. This rule is a front by the IHSA to save themselves from having to call cheerleading a non-sport outright and face hundreds of angry pom-pom waving parents.

Let me give you a few examples.

The swim team at West Chicago Imaginary High School practices twice in a week—the rule for all high schools in the state is five. Does swimming, one of the United States' premier Olympic events, stop becoming a sport in Illinois because of a lack of practice time? Does this time-honored sport suddenly turn into Halloween favorite bobbing for apples?

Example two...

I have a callus on my middle finger because I write for the **Bridge** a lot. I work on the **Bridge** at least five times a week. Does this make the **Bridge** a sport? No. Does this make me a nerd? Maybe. But it is still not a sport, just like cheerleading is not a sport.

Then what is cheerleading? Was the study by the he professors at the University of Illinois right? Is it just way of supporting date-rape? Is it a form of expression for extremely happy people?

For all intents and purposes, cheerleading is an art form. My guess is that it is a form of dance.

You can draw this conclusion by looking at the similarities between the poms and cheerleaders. Both groups use the art form of dance to entertain crowds. The only difference is that for poms, there is an emphasis on dance choreography while lyrics and mounts are the chief concern for cheerleaders.

There are always rebuttals to the claim that cheerleading isn't a sport, but most are usually null and void and can be refuted rather easily. If I may site another example...

The fact that cheerleaders compete in a state competition has been a wedge that the game-time entertainers have used to stake their claim to athleticism. But with a quick examination, it can be seen that they compete much like **Challenge**, **F.B.L.A.** and **V.I.C.A.** competes, just in major competitions. Sports, on the other hand, keep a score every time they suit up.

Cheerleaders suit up and then make cheers hoping the team will score.

Everything somebody does takes hard work, and I do not doubt the intensity of any of the cheerleaders or their work ethic. Both the sophomore and varsity cheerleaders made trips downstate. But they made it down for their ability to entertain by the making up of cheers and their skill in jumps and formations—not for their skill in competing in a sport.

Cheerleading is important and should not be overlooked as a key for school spirit at WCCHS or any other high school. But at the same time, they should not be classified as something they are not...

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WILDCAT SPORTS TRIVIA

Mark Benja hold both the varsity and sophomore records in both 800-meter runs.

Softball showing DVC why they're the top

Cats 7-0 in first round against DVC teams

by Pat Quane and Chris Seper

The Lady Wildcat softball team is off to another good start this year with a 17-4 record, 8-0 in the DuPage Valley Conference.

The only losses have come to Addison Trail, Sycamore and York—the Cats lost to York twice in a double header.

"We need to improve on game situations," Lady Cat Coach Lee Maciejewski said. "To know exactly what to do in all situations. It has to become second nature to us."

For the third year in a row, the Cats pitching staff has been anchored by senior

'Rankings are balonga,' Maciejewski said. 'How can you rank a team when you have never seen them play.'

all-area player Kelly Matthews. Matthews pitched 14 of the first 16 games for the Cats, going 12-2. Junior Gretchen Austgen has been picking up where Matthews left off, going 2-0.

So far this season the Cats have been led by senior right fielder Melody Benson and junior shortstop Liz Germand. Both have tied for the lead in team RBIs with 15. Also, since entering the lineup, junior designated hitter Fiona Quane leads the Lady Cats in batting with a .500 average and 25 hits.

Maciejewski pointed to Quane and sophomore third baseman Tiffany Smith. In Smith's first year on varsity and she has been hitting steady through the year, even hitting a grand slam in the midseason.

In the Cats tear through the DVC, the Cats defeated Wheaton Central twice—the first time they played the Tigers they were ranked sixth in the state. Since the loss, Central has not been in the top 20.

"Rankings are balonga," Maciejewski said. "How can you rank a team when you have never seen them play." Even though the Cats went undefeated in the first round of conference play—including a 10-3 trouncing of last year's runner up Glenbard North—Maciejewski doesn't think it's a goal his team should strive for.

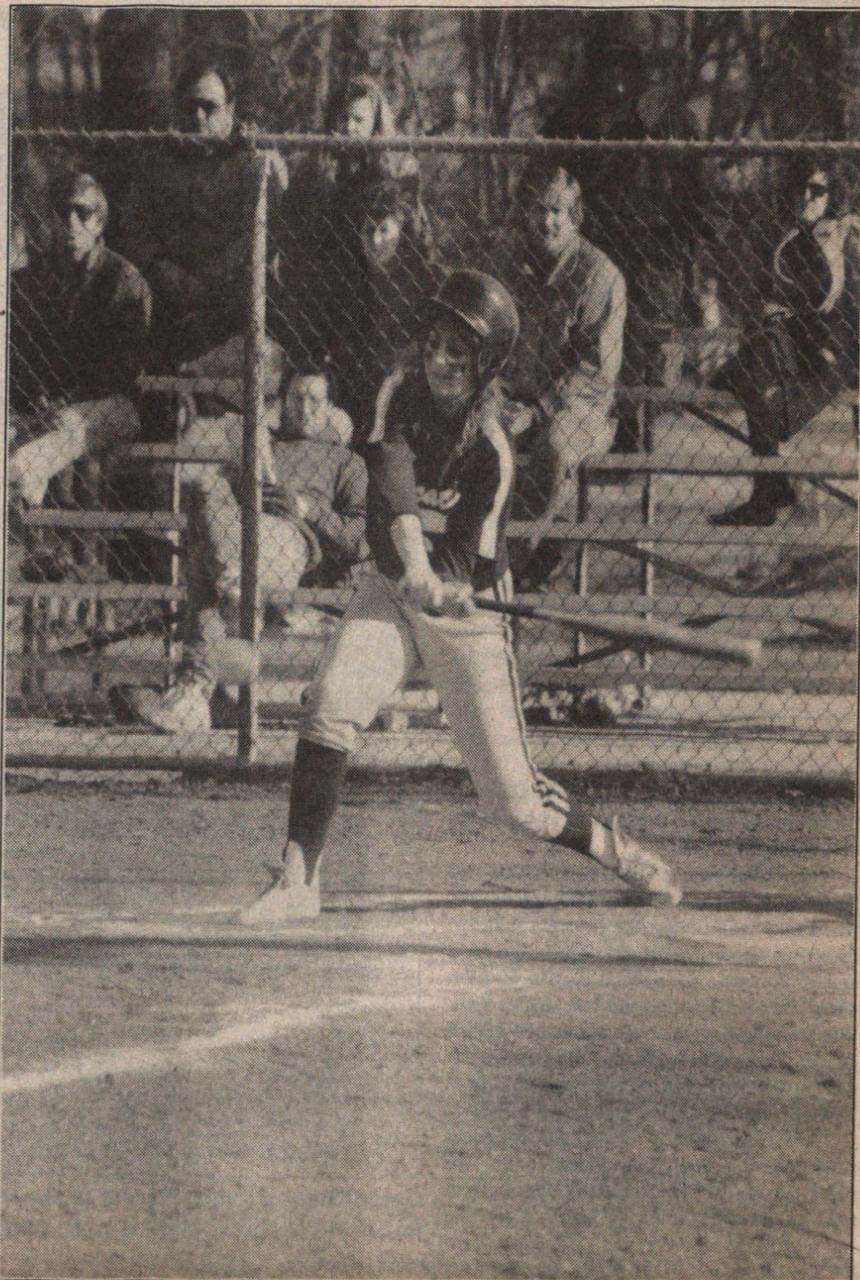
"Our goal right now is to win conference and to qualify for the state tournament and to win 23 games which should be a school record," Maciejewski said.

As the Cats enter the final stretch of the regular season, health will begin to come on their side. Austgen and junior pitcher Kristie Spielman have both returned to the lineup and senior utility player Rachel Sedlacek had been on a comeback until she was re-injured in a car accident. Sedlacek has the possibility of returning by playoff time.

Regionals could be a litmus test to see how far the Cats could go. For the past two years, Lady Wildcat conference championship teams have fell short of the state goal in the regional games. Last year, after getting to the regional finals, the Cats were turned away by the Elgin Maroons due to two errors in the field.

Maciejewski said that he feels, however, that the conference championship is more important than a regional one.

Regionals kick off May 21 and will end May 28, with sectionals beginning June 3. State starts May 7.



Two-time starter Jessica Walters has been helping the Lady Cats reach their goal of a third DVC title. (Bridge file photo)

Horyn, Jardis carry girls' state hopes

by Chris Seper

The Lady Wildcat track combination of seniors Nicole Horyn and Heather Jardis have been sending out a one-two first place punch where ever they have competed.

Now, the distance duo will get a chance to continue the punching at the state meet.

Horyn, ranked in the top two in the state in the 800-meter run, and Jardis, less than a second away from state qualifying time, finished the regular season at the DuPage Valley Conference meet last Friday and travel to the Wheaton North sectional Saturday for a chance at state.

"I think she can make it," Lady Wildcat Coach Wilbert Walters said about Jardis and the 11:59 state barrier. "If she misses the time she'll be pulled through by the other girls' times. She's there. If they're are good running conditions she'll do it."

Although she has been under the 2:23.7 state time for the past three weeks, a groin injury suffered by Horyn is still a worry of Walters. "I don't know how far back she is from the injury. She's already past state qualifying time. It's going to depend on her condition." Horyn was under state time in her first meet back after the injury, that a 2:22.4 performance at the Glenbard North Invitational.

Walters does not plan to compete in many other events at the Downers Grove North sectional. Last year's state qualifying two-mile relay team of Horyn, Jardis and sophomores Sarah Myers and Adrienne Yule have broken up and Walters said that he does not plan to even field a team.

"Nicole Horyn is unable to run the two-mile relay," Walters explained. "There are not enough quality people to run the 800 (one leg of the two-mile relay)." But Walters does plan to give Myers and Yule the choice of their best event at the sectional while giving freshmen Colleen Otto and sophomore Carrie Netzel the opportunity to team up with other teammates to run in a relay event.

"This is the toughest sectional in the state of Illinois," Walters said. "There is no doubt in



Samantha Newby is one of several Lady Cat distance runners that scored big points during the regular season. (photo courtesy of Challenge)

my mind this is the toughest sectional." All the members of the highly touted DuPage Valley Conference, minus Naperville's Central and North, will be in attendance as well as both Downers Grove schools and Glenbard West.

At the DVC meet, Horyn took second in the 800 with a time of 2:23.2 and Jardis took fifth in the two mile in 11:57.8. The team finished seventh with five points.

WILDCAT SPORTS TRIVIA

Who holds the records in both the frosh/soph and varsity 800-meter run?

(Answer on page seven)

Perez gets to state tournament

by Chris Seper

After a 2-10 individual regular season record, the Lady Wildcats' first singles player Carina Perez has qualified for the state tournament.

"Going in I was pretty nervous," Perez, a senior, admitted. "I wanted to go to state pretty bad. I was expecting to go to state." "She knew she was a senior," Lady Cat Coach LaVora Singleton said. "This was her last chance."

Perez placed third at the West Aurora sectional Friday, with a record of 3-1 at the tourney. The top four players from each sectional advance to state in both the singles and doubles competition.

The only loss for Perez came in the early going as she lost her first round match to DeKalb's Jai Peterson—the eventual second-place finisher—2-0, 5-11, 7-11. But Perez then fought her way back, beating Tayla Weathers of East Aurora 11-1, 11-3, Sarah Welsh of West Aurora in two straight sets and in the final match of the day, she beat Wets Aurora's Heather Sewell 11-9, 11-2.

"During the season I was injured a lot," Perez explained of her poor regular season showing. "My foot was twisted and my knee was hurt, but by sectionals I was pretty fine. I was at my top playing peak."

Today Perez will travel to Elmhurst College to compete in the 64-player state tournament. The event is a two-day tournament with the final matches occurring Saturday for both singles and doubles.

"I hope to at least make it to the top half," Perez said. "I think I have a chance at making my mark."

"To get there was an accomplishment Singleton said. "Anything beyond this is fantastic."

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