

Unsuspecting Hero Roams The Halls Of WD

By Brett Logan

Heroes aren't born. They rise to the challenge whenever called upon. On the night of Monday, February 26, Bob Ryan became a hero. He rescued his long time friend Timothy Leo Woods from his battered truck.

Woods had been at Ryan's house for a few hours before leaving for the basketball game in his two wheel-drive S-10 which never performed well in snowy and icy conditions. The weather wasn't threatening, but blowing snow had drifted the roads.

According to Woods, his truck spun out of control, fishtailing left and right. It finally collided with a drift and rolled onto its side.

Woods, not wearing a seatbelt at the time, fell to the passenger side door when the truck rolled. He hit his head on the passen-

ger door window and the impact rendered him unconscious.

Ryan, who was following Woods, happened upon him when he came over the crest of the hill where the accident occurred. Ryan said, "At first it was funny, sort of scary, and then it was funny again."

Immediately, Ryan rushed to the truck to see if Woods was all right. When he found him unconscious, Ryan slapped him in the face in order to awaken him. "I don't consider myself a hero, but a tool of the Lord," said Ryan.

Woods awoke and wondered what had happened. Ryan told him that he had just messed up his truck and was lucky to be alive to walk away from it.

"I'll tell you what, I don't like the guy too

much, but I darn sure respect him," said Woods smiling.

Ryan helped Woods get out of the truck and return to Ryan's house. Finally, Ryan asked Woods how it happened. Woods replied in

a somewhat confused state, "That snowbank was calling me names." Later it was found that Woods suffered a minor concussion from the blow to the head.



Tim Woods and Bob Ryan stand next to the dented door of Woods' S-10 pickup. Ryan rescued Woods from the pickup on February 26, 2001.

*Congratulations to the Destination Imagination group, **Dynamic Improv.**, for earning **first place** at state.*

Rachael Reeder, Michelle Cooper, Jasmine High, and Meghan Jones will perform at Nationals in Knoxville, Tennessee on May 23-26.

Congratulations All Staters!

Becky McCusker- Story Telling

Kim Huether- Improvisation







Melody Schaffer- Expository Address

Becky McCusker- Acting

Scott Gaskill- Radio News



Thumbs Down to...

-  Spring break only two days
-  Track practice in Spec building
-  Novell Border Manager overstepping its bounds
-  Bill Daly's 50 ft. shot
-  Shutting down Napster
-  People going through other people's lockers

National Honor Society Banquet
Tuesday, April 3
6:30 p.m.
at the middle school

Buckle Up For Safety!
IT'S THE LAW!



West Delaware
 High School's
 Dinner Theater
 will be held at the
 Middle School Gym
 on April 6 and 7
 at 7 p.m.
 Admission-\$15

Parents Collaborate with School

by Erin Hermsen

Recently West Delaware has adopted a new program called K12 Planet which gives parents and students secure access to the school's central information system about students.

The program shows complete data that is specific to a student's performance, grades, and attendance in class. It also provides parents the opportunity to communicate with school staff online whenever the need arises.

K12 Planet is a private web site for West Delaware. It is designed for only people inside the school community who are authorized to enter K12 Planet and every single authorization has to be applied for individually to

ensure privacy protection. Parents and students may view only their own information and not that of any other student.

"West Delaware is offering K12 Planet," said Mr. Don Lyness, guidance counselor, "because of its potential to bring teachers, parents and students together in closer collaboration, making the demands of school life and continued study easier for the students and parents. There are some small problems to be worked out to make the program work better, but these should be corrected soon."

For more information, parents need to contact the high school guidance office.

Good Person Awards

☺Luann Carpenter:

For going above and beyond every year decorating for prom.

☺Mr. Litterer: For

bringing angel food cake to help students understand calculus.

☺Print

Shop Attendants: For printing 850 Inklings.



☺Jennifer

Sellner, Juvenile Court School Liaison/Truancy Officer: For helping students get through the hard times by talking and understanding.

☺Stage Crew for

WD Forte: For doing everything for the performers.



Thumbs Up to...



Softball coach hired



Spring finally arrives



One term left of 2000-2001 School Year



Becky McCusker making it to All State Speech in three events this year

Six Days of Heat

By Brian DeMoss

"It's like climbing a sheer cliff. When you get to the top, the view is phenomenal," said Mr. Christian Aanestad about wood firing ceramics.

Wood firing uses the process of a basic kiln, but the heat is fueled by a wood fire. The entire process, reaching a temperature of above 2,400 degrees, takes six days.

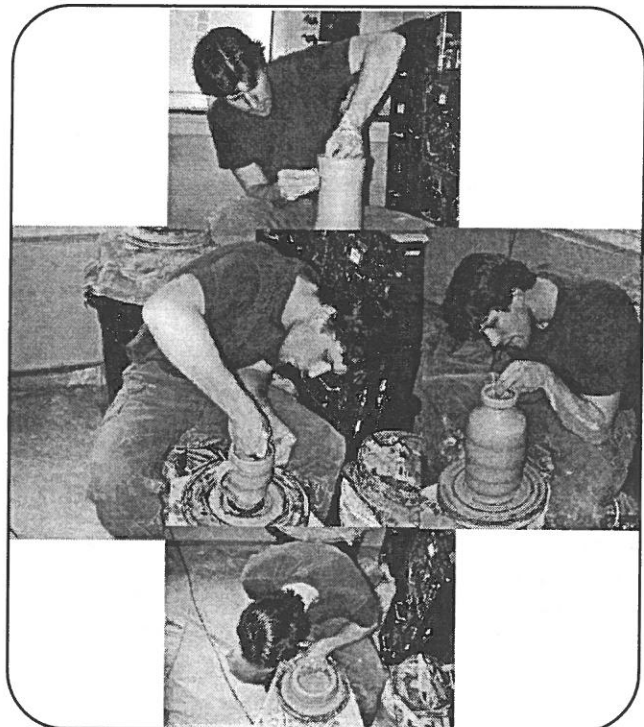
The fire is built up slowly or a majority of the pots will crack or break. Also, the more wood the fire is fed, the more ash that accumulates and falls onto the pots creating a more

dynamic surface.

Mr. Aanestad has fired over 300 pots through this process and said, "When you wood fire, you feel really connected to your work and it gives you a real nice texture."

With wood firing, the colors are often surprising. Mr. Aanestad said, "You get some really beautiful colors."

Aanestad, selected by the WaMaC Conference art teachers, will demonstrate his abilities in wood firing, hand making, and wheel throwing ceramic projects at the WaMaC Art Show.



New Suspension Program Encourages Students

by Jennifer Rohlf

West Delaware High School has recently implemented the Rehabilitative Alternative Program's School Suspension Program. When students are suspended from school for smoking, fighting, or skipping many days of school, they now go to the R.A.P suspension program on Main Street from 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. for the day that they are suspended.

Prior to the R.A.P suspension program, suspended students sat in the main office or the lower level of the wrestling room, according to Jennifer Sellner, the Juvenile Court School Liaison / Truancy Officer. "The administration didn't really see a point in suspending the students if they were going to go to the room and fall asleep," said Sellner. "In the past, students could just get in their car and leave."

The main goal of the R.A.P suspension program, according to Sellner, is to

provide structure for suspended students. It will provide a more intensive environment than a normal school setting. This program is intended to serve as a deterrent to the violation of school rules. As a deterrent, it is expected to reduce the number of rule violations and result in fewer student suspensions for discipline.

Mr. Jesse Hurley, R.A.P instructor, may tell the school that the student is not ready to come back to the school setting. Then the student will be retained until the student complies with the rules. According to Mr. Hurley, if students are continually coming back to the R.A.P program, further action will take place. The student will go through the court system and the Department of Human Services to receive full R.A.P treatment.

"I think that it's a good idea," said Sam Ehrler. "Because if you're going to do dumb stuff, you might as

well get stuck there instead of sitting on your butt."

Approximately six students have been to the R.A.P program since its implementation February 1. The suspensions are decreasing more and more each day. "At this time, the school hasn't had any repeat offenders," said Sellner. "Speaking with some of these students, they have gained a new insight to their own thinking process and how individual's actions have a consequence. Action always has a reaction."

Once in the program, students learn the rules through first hand self-control. Self-control is a type of discipline that the staff chooses for students when they don't comply with the rules. Students stand, facing the wall, with their hands behind their back, and they must ask if they may start their time.

"Once I got there, I didn't know what to do. But when I did anything

wrong, I was told to stand at the wall," said one student who has been in the program. "All I did was try to get help with my work and I stood at the wall because of that for at least two hours throughout the whole day. They get at you for the littlest things."

According to Mr. Hurley, students write a paper explaining the reasons they were suspended, and the things they can do in the future to change the way that they handle similar situations. After homework and the paper, students do assignments given by the staff. There is also group therapy with the student and a staff member.

"Students get a lot of anger out by talking, and we also learn about their situation at home," said Mr. Hurley. "We learn about the person and sometimes the reasons that they are behaving the way that they are."

WaMaC Art 2001

by Jennifer Rohlf

The WaMaC Art Conference and Competition will be held Thursday, April 10. Hosted by West Delaware High School's Art Department, the conference will be held in the old gym and open to public for viewing from 9 a.m. to noon.

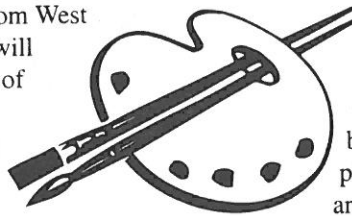
During the morning, approximately 25 students from West Delaware will attend two of the six workshops led by the following Iowan artists: Wendell Mohr,

watercolor artist;
Gordon

Kellenberger,
pastel artist;
Bob

Campagna,
black and white
photography
artist; Christian

Aanestad, ceramic artist;
Kathy Boyle, representative



from Minneapolis Art Institute. There will also be a viewing show and a sax artist from an art supply company.

A total of 180 students from the eight WaMaC schools will attend the WaMaC Art Conference and Competition.

What's In Your Locker?

By Laura Burkle

"Pictures of my friends, clay pieces from art projects, a bag, books, wrappers, and notes."
-Melissa Hauschild

"Football locker tags, pictures of dances, Burger King toys, and notes to get out of school."
-Drew Maifield

"Borrowed clothes, books, pop cans, an old

Ding-Dong, and a 'Party On' sign."
-Holly Ingles

"My coat, chorus music, notes, a state wrestling picture, a congratulations card, and a tank top."
-Adam Baumgartner

"Crayons, old shirts, and other people's books."
-Jena Petlon

"Woodworking projects, sweatshirts, papers, and wrappers."
-Jake Galloway

"Old Inklings, pictures of friends, books, flashcards, and sucker sticks."
-Mark Woods

"A purse, a coat, wrappers, pictures of friends, and an empty 2-liter bottle of 7-UP."
-Sarah Flannagan, Junior

School supports soccer

by Kristy Larsen

Goalies, penalty kicks, half backs, and shin guards will be the talk next year. The spring of 2002 West Delaware High School will offer boys and girls soccer teams for the first time.

According to Mr. Bob Murphy, athletic director, soccer was added due to the large number of students requesting soccer, a petition with over 1,500 signatures requesting its addition, and the large number of kids from kindergarten to high school participating in soccer in the summer. After five months of consideration, the West Delaware School Board approved the addition of the soccer program.

Mrs. Cheryl Jewett, soccer supporter, said, "I believe our kids should have a place to fit in and participate. I'm glad that students will have soccer as

a choice now."

Zach Rudd, who plans to go out for soccer said, "It provides another opportunity for more people to get involved in athletics."

Money is another item that came into consideration. Two coaches will be needed which will cost around \$5,000. Soccer goals will be borrowed, which will lower costs, and other equipment will be paid by the activity account.

Monica Butikofer, who plans to go out for soccer said, "Soccer rocks! I'm so excited we're going to have soccer next year. Soccer is the bombdiggy!"

The number of students planning to go out for soccer will determine if a junior varsity and varsity team will be needed. Thirteen regular games will be played during the

season. "Many schools have contacted us to play them," said Murphy.

Practices may be held in the interior part of the track, at football practice fields, and east of the dry run by the baseball complex.

"It's a lot of fun and a good thing. It gets you in shape and it's a team sport," said Sara Saunders who plans to go out for soccer.

Murphy explained that this may affect both boys and girls track, golf, baseball and softball. This might be a tough decision for some students if they like other sports.

"I think it's a good thing," said Murphy. "Kids that are involved in soccer might not always be standouts in other activities."

Top 10 Places to Eat

by Alicia Zehr

10. Chili's Bar & Grill
9. Benningan's Grill & Tavern
8. TGI Friday's
7. Perkins Family Restaurants & Bakery
6. Lone Star Steak House & Saloon
5. Carlos O' Kelly's Mexican Cafe
4. Chuck E. Cheese's
3. Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar
2. Olive Garden Italian Restaurant
1. Ryan's Family Steak House

* 100 students at West Delaware were surveyed.



Surviving the Toughest Battle

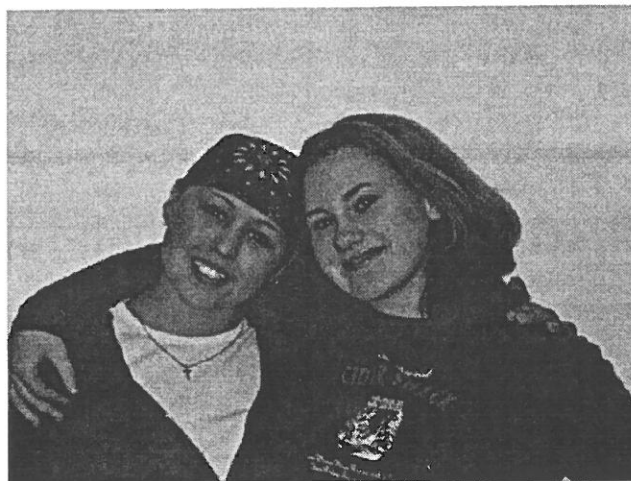
by Laura Burkle

"I found out on my birthday," said freshman Chrystal Mendez about the October 29 discovery of her ovarian cancer. It started with a visit to the doctor when they discovered the cancer. She remembers her state of shock and crying a lot after hearing the news.

She recalls the reaction of her family and friends was very similar. Her mom spent a lot of time with her in the hospital, and her friends started crying when she called and told them about her situation.

Her mom and her best friend Katie Brooks kept her going through her ordeal. Mendez said Brooks talked to her every day in the hospital and came to see her every day when she returned home.

Mendez went through an ultra sound, a cat scan, and surgery where the doctors removed her right ovary and tube. Then she underwent nine weeks of chemotherapy. This all took place at an Iowa City hospital during which her



Chrystal Mendez and Katie Brooks

longest stay was one week.

Although she still has to go back to the hospital monthly for check-ups, the doctors say that 90% of her cancer was removed through surgery and the other 10% was demolished through chemotherapy. They will know next month whether it is completely gone.

"I was happy to leave the hospital, but I didn't want to go back to school," Mendez said. She knew that

she would be behind in school work after being gone for four months and that people would stare because of her hair loss and the bandanna she wore. She had originally planned to come back only half days but decided to return full days when she realized that the students weren't bothering her as much as she had thought.

The worst part of having cancer for Mendez was having the IVs put into her

veins. After a while the veins would get weak and the doctors would have to stick the IVs in different veins. Also, she had to remain still for twelve hours while being injected with chemotherapy or else the doctors would have to re-insert the IVs. She also disliked being in the Iowa City hospital for weeks at a time all by herself.

Other struggles included losing her shoulder length hair, having sensitive skin, experiencing nausea, weakness and drowsiness, and losing of appetite.

She believes she has changed for the better because of her experience. She said she's a lot nicer to people because she now knows that words and looks can be hurtful.

Mendez's advice for families going through the same situation is to, "Always keep in contact with family and friends." It worked for her.

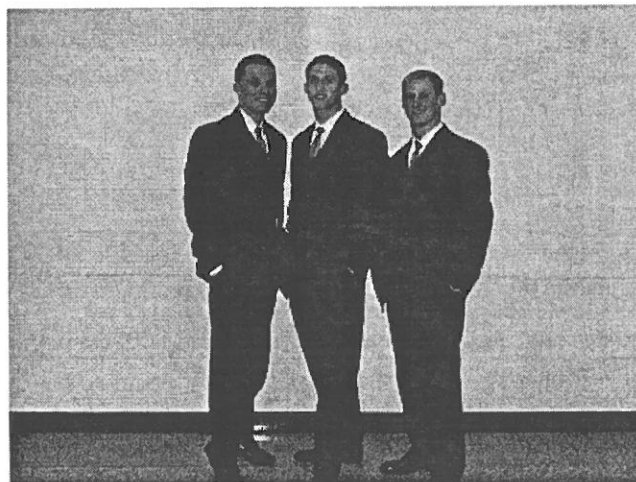
Upcoming WDCYC Opportunities

by Alicia Zehr

~April 1st: Masonic Lodge Breakfast from 8 a.m.- 1 p.m. at the Community Center.

~April 10th: Lambert Pizza Sales at the middle school from 4-7 p.m.

~April 17th: Manchester Pride Day to clean up around town.



Tim Turnis, Brian Appleton and Ryne Foster help advertize for J&D Menswear.



Twenty Years of Commitment and Magic

by Amber Ling

"The program is obviously mine," said Mrs. Darla Gaskill, about the speech program. And it has been hers for the last twenty years.

Ever since Mrs. Gaskill started teaching English at West Delaware High School, she has been the head speech coach.

She became the head speech coach because it came along with the job, and if she wanted a job she also had to take on the responsibilities of head coach and assistant drama director.

Gaskill gladly took on the challenge. She had been active in drama and speech while in high school and college, and she thought it would be fun and interest-



Meghan Jones displays her improv abilities at the All-State Speech Performance Night.

ing. She never dreamed she'd be coaching for the next twenty years.

For those twenty years, she has spent about ten months of each year working on speech. During the competitive speech season, she is busy practicing before and after school every day and scheduling performance times for the members of the team.

In those twenty years, the speech team has grown immensely from 34 students and six groups to 106 students and 27 groups.

One reason Gaskill thinks the speech program has grown is because new categories have been added through the years such as Television News and Musical Theatre while older categories have changed. Ensemble Acting was once only for two actors and called Duet Acting, and Individual Acting was once split into humorous and dramatic but is now one category. These are only a few of the changes, but the changes made have been enough to attract new people to the program.

She believes people have realized students don't have to be the most talented speakers, actors, or actresses to be successful in



Anna (Amber Ling) comforts and tries to tell Meldred (Becky McCusker) that everything will be all right and they'll survive in "Sunday, Sunday."

speech. That is why her favorite category is Readers Theatre. "I can have the most responsible, hardworking and not the most extremely talented students in Readers Theatre and the group can still have a successful season," said Gaskill.

She also enjoys coaching Ensemble Acting because she is able to coach more serious pieces which she believes she is more capable of coaching than more humorous scripts.

Through the years, Gaskill has had numerous assistant coaches who have helped attract new members. She gives credit to her assistants for helping make the speech team as great as it is.

"I like being around teenagers and I like being busy," said Gaskill.

So this makes it easy for her to enjoy her job, and she feels she can become closer to the students and build a more friend to friend relationship rather than a coach to student relationship.

She enjoys being a speech coach. "It's different from teaching because you see students from their freshmen year to their senior year and you feel somewhat responsible for how they have turned out," said Gaskill.

Although Mrs. Gaskill considered retiring from coaching, she has changed for mind and won't retire.

"I mean, I was afraid she might, but at the same time it's Mrs. Gaskill, and I know she couldn't stay away because it's been a part of her for so long,"

Story cont. page 8

Story cont. from page 7

said Emily Montag.

Gaskill's coaching career has been filled with successes. Over the years Gaskill has coached 11 group events and almost 40 individual events which earned All-State honors. She has also sent numerous groups and individuals to state contests where they have earned I and II ratings.

In order to promote a family-like team-setting, Gaskill used to have all the team members wear "power band-aids" for good luck, but the band-aids have now changed to orange and black Millennium Magic t-shirts.

Gaskill has many qualities that make her an ideal speech coach. "She's hard working, dedicated, and caring; plus she enjoys working and being busy,"

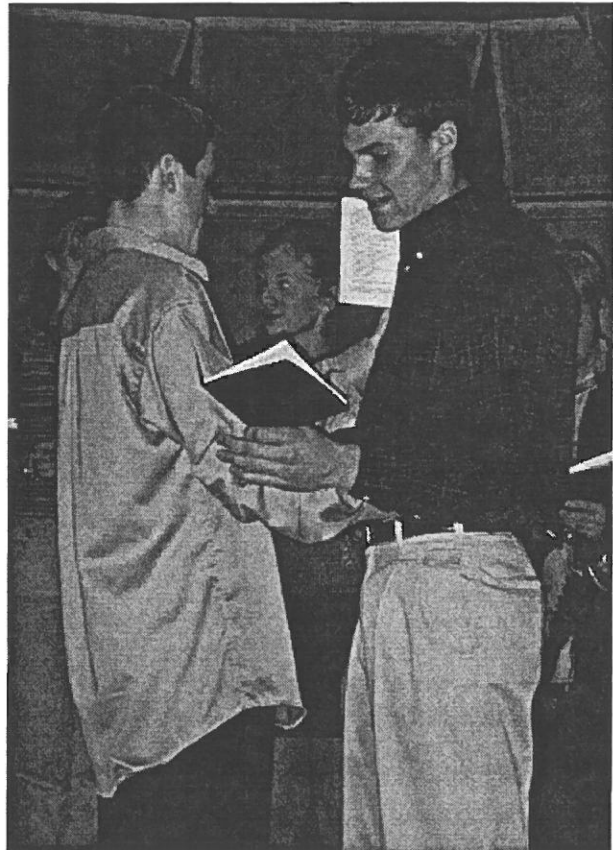
said Theresa Klees.

Yet she has baffled many students as to how she does it all, and does it so well.

"She's one of the seven wonders of the world...er...eight," said Cindy Mickens.

Although over the last twenty years, the speech team has gone from wearing "power band-aids" to wearing Millennium Magic t-shirts and from under 30 team members to over 100 team members, one element has remained constant – Mrs. Gaskill.

Ryan Gaffney and David Durey dance during the final moments of "Something Different" performed by Readers Theatre.



Seniors Spill....

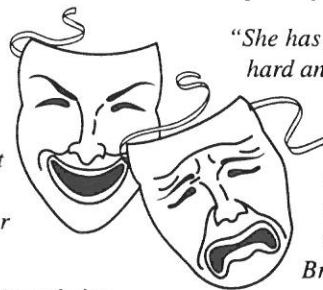
Their Thoughts About Mrs. Gaskill

"She puts a lot of time into the program and it shows." – Scott Gaskill

"She cares a lot and is dedicated. She helped me realize I could make All-State and I did." – Melody Schaffer

"Mrs. Gaskill treats her students like equals, and she is an authority figure that anyone can look up to because she genuinely cares about the well-being of her students." – Brittany Jacobson

"She helped give me the self-confidence I needed to perform my individual acting, a category I have never tried before, and when I didn't get as high of a rating as I had hoped, she was there with encouraging words and a hug." – Crystal Lee



"Mrs. Gaskill is the speech program. Without her we wouldn't be as successful. I admire her passion for the speech program." – Kim Huether

"She has a lot of spunk and energy, and she works hard and cares a lot." – Tara Dudley

"She's the only coach I have ever had, and we are like her kids. She remembers things that I did my freshman year that I don't even remember." – Amanda Brunzman

"She keeps things interesting." – Theresa Klees

"Mrs. Gaskill has played a very important role in helping me become who I am today." – Caleb Schultz

Kirchoff Leaves West Delaware Schools

by Jill Kamarmeyer

Dr. Joseph Kirchoff, superintendent, will be leaving the West Delaware County Community School District at the end of June. He will start his new superintendent position at Boone on July 2.

Kirchoff, West Delaware superintendent for seven years, takes pride in the following school district accomplishments: the addition to the high school, starting all day everyday

kindergarten, the elementary art program, and block scheduling at the high school. Kirchoff is also proud of the staff members, students and the improved programs at West Delaware.

Moving to Boone has many advantages for Kirchoff. The school district is about 500 students larger. The larger district will bring more opportunities like having a

string orchestra at the school and a swimming pool. The community is similar to Manchester although it is much larger, with about 12,500 people. Kirchoff is excited about the location because he will be close to Des Moines and Ames.

Kirchoff said, he will miss the the staff, faculty, board members and community members. He also said, "I'm going to



miss the students at West Delaware. They're just great young people to be around."

Lucky Moments

By Kelley Ryan

❖ "I found a \$100 bill on North Franklin."

Pat Conner

❖ "I got to see Kevin Sharp, a country singer, up close at the Delaware County Fair."

Katie Bockenstedt

❖ "I caught a 24 inch bass."

Brock Phillips

❖ "During a sophomore game, I shot an NBA three, and made it."

Steven Nachman

❖ "My head missed a steel fence post by an inch, when I was in my car accident in November."

Jake Blumer

❖ "I went to Movie Gallery and put a quarter in a gumball machine, and it had a wrapper on it, so I got a free movie!"

Lindsey Dierksen

❖ "I scored tickets to an ACDC concert. It was the greatest experience of my life."

Scott Kirby

❖ "Wrestling varsity for the first time when I was a sophomore."

Jon Bagley

❖ "I got to go to New York with the Girl Scouts when I was in seventh grade."

Melissa Mozingo

❖ "I made a half court shot during an eighth grade basketball game."

Mark Woods

❖ "I served the winning serve to win the Kennedy Tourna-

ment."

Kelly Murphy

❖ "I have gotten pulled over three times, and I have gotten let off all three times."

Katie Hermsen

❖ "I attended a WWF wrestling pay-per-view, and The Rock looked me in the eye and did a people's eyebrow to me."

Casey Kent

The Destiny of Destiny

by Gretchen Knott

The West Delaware Drama Department will present the play Destiny on Friday, April 20 and Saturday, April 21 in the high school gym.

Destiny gets its name from its main character Destiny Mink. Destiny is made fun of while growing up because of her shortcomings. However, she overcomes them and goes on to try and destroy all of the people that laughed at her in her past.

Mr. Brian Enabnit, director, said Destiny is set-up like a nighttime soap opera and "is an extremely fun and exciting play. Take all of the best and worst of what you might expect from a nighttime soap opera drama and then make fun of it."

"I knew the cast would

have a good time putting it together," he continued, "There are a lot of dynamic characters in the play,

"I decided to try out for the play this year because I knew if I got to be a senior and never tried out, I'd regret it."

-Megan Ryan, reporter

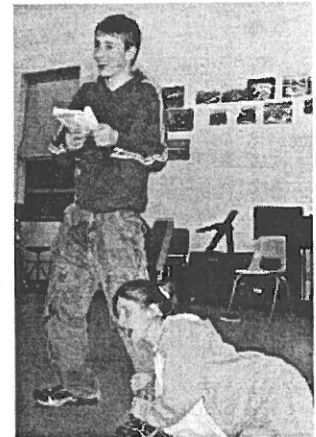
which are always enjoyable to portray but also a challenge to the actor."

The eleven members of the cast include Clint Coggins as Brewster, Ryan Gaffney as Rake Carbuncle, Dan Glaza as Todd, Hannah Greve as Clover, Jasmine High as Destiny

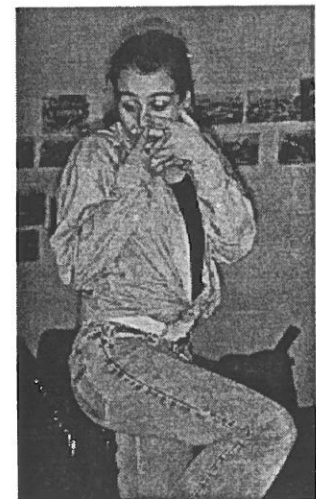
Mink, Amber Ling as the Nurse, Emily Montag as Mrs. Winifred Carbuncle, Grant Robbins as Dr. Amour Balducci, Megan Ryan as the Reporter, Mark Taylor as the Loudspeaker Voice and Student Director, and Kathryn Walker as the Secretary.

Because of the small cast, Enabnit has developed acting workshops to get more kids involved. The workshops give students a chance to get involved and learn about acting, as well as a chance to be on stage.

"I think that the acting workshops are a good idea," said Emily Meyer, "because they allow more people to get involved with the play because there is such a small cast."



Destiny holds on to the doctor's leg (seen here as Clint Coggins), pleading with him to fix her nose.



Having just discovered one of the play's secrets, Hannah Greve jumps in shock.



Cast:

Front Row: Jasmine High, Amber Ling; Row 2: Hannah Greve, Megan Ryan, Emily Montag; Back Row: Dan Glaza, Clint Coggins, and Mark Taylor. (Missing from photo: Ryan Gaffney, Grant- Robbins, and Kathryn Walker.)

Ohhhh Baby!

by Peggy Tucker

From school, sports, and sleep to taking care of a baby, life can change dramatically with the arrival of a child.

On February 20, Jessie Tibbott and Morgan Schmidt paid a visit to Mrs. Baumgartner's first hour Child and Parenting class to discuss what life is like for them as teen moms. A quick turn-around happened when they became pregnant. Responsibilities changed even more once their daughters were born. Schmidt and Tibbott talked emphatically about how their lives now revolve around their baby girls, financially, socially, and emotionally.

To get an idea of what an average day is like in the life of a teen mom, Tibbott shared her day. She said, "First thing is to change Paris' diaper, get the bottle, go to the babysitter, and talk to her about Paris for a while because she needs to know what's going on." Tibbott said every day there is something different she needs to take care of. After dropping off Paris, next comes work.

After a full day of work, being tired, and making only \$4.80 an hour after paying for child care, the thought of kicking back and relaxing is a good one. But as Mom, relaxing is out of the question. Lots of things occupy her mind: rent, gas for the car, payment for the

babysitter, food, and other miscellaneous expenses.

Tibbott said she doesn't have much of a social life anymore, because when there's not enough money

\$130 every month just on the bare necessities such as diapers, formula, and clothes. Schmidt said she spends more than that on her baby each month. Even

Tibbott said, "Do I look happy? I'm happy. I'm so happy." Schmidt smiled and nodded in agreement. Both girls agreed that this wasn't the best time in their lives to be taking care of a child, but neither of them would wish their baby away.

Mrs. Baumgartner's class reacted very positively to what these girls said. Most of them said that if you get pregnant, you will find out how mature the father is, because some of them run off, never to be seen again. Others stick around and tough it out, taking responsibility for their actions.

The session with these new moms changed the class' previous views on teen parenting. "You have to put yourself second; the baby *always* comes first," said Dusty Dryden. Many students thought that someone is never really ready to have a child. The amount of money spent is tremendous, and chances are that "a high school education is all you'll ever get out of life," said Elizabeth Nieman.

According to research, the loss or delay of lifetime goals and dreams is a big factor in having a child when only a teenager. Many teen moms will perhaps never get to do some of the things they had dreamed about as children, such as building

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Lori Bockenstedt and Katie Hermsen watch as Jessie Tibbott shows off her baby Paris.

to buy groceries, there isn't enough money to go out with friends and pay for a babysitter. So the nights consist mainly of one-sided conversations with the wall and the longing for a friend with whom to share a cup of tea.

Money is a big issue for both girls. An average pregnancy for an insured patient totals about \$2,800, including 12 prenatal visits. But for someone who is not insured, the price is much higher.

New parents are required to run through even more money after the baby is born. Tibbott said she spends at least \$100-

with the help of parents, friends, and relatives, she figured she spends about \$200 each month.

But that's not even the end of it. These girls will be financially responsible for their children until they are at least 18 years of age. Considering food, housing, transportation, health care, clothing, education, and other expenses, the total bill can add up to over 1.45 million dollars, according to *USNews*.

Even with the seemingly endless list of expenses and the remnants of a social life, a lot of good things come with a baby. When asked if she was happy,

A Moment of Memories

by Lori Bagley

Prom is a time for memories. Some memories begin two months before prom, and they last for years to come.

Ashley Jared's best memory was dress shopping. Finding a dress is very important and girls don't want anybody else to have the same dress.

Andrea Bockenstedt will keep one memory with her for a long time. She said, "Jake (Feregesen) fainted in church because he was too warm."

Some people plan events for the entire day of prom. Last year Paul Waterman and Scott Gaskill said they took their dates to the Top of the Five where they danced while they waited for their meal.

At supper Shelby rave was disappointed that

Winafred's didn't have any pasta, but "the waiters were hot," she said.

When Lauren Gronewold was asked about eating supper at prom, she replied that she remembers "popping the sugar cube from her nose into her mouth on the first try."

The group Mandy Saunders went with probably won't forget about driving back from supper for their junior prom. "Jason Alber's car broke down on the way back from supper. We sat at the gas station forever," said Saunders.

After spending months, days, hours, and money preparing for prom, it was finally time for the dance.

Shelby Rave thought the decorations were cool and

looked like a lot of work. She liked the bridge going into the gym, but a lot of people fell on it. "Erica Pfeiler fell and ripped her dress," said Rave. But Rave had dress problems as well. Her dress was fitted too tightly, and she had to waddle around. "It was a pain in the butt," she said.

Former committee member Rory Heims said, with a smile, "Excellent job on the decorations last year."

Some people thought the decorations for prom should have been more romantic. Melody Schaffer said, "I thought it would be more dreamy."

When the dance was over people headed out into the rain to the Community Center, where the After Prom Party was held.

"At the After Prom we were hurdling puddles on the way into the Community Center," said Gronewold.

"At the After Prom Party, we ended up playing craps for three hours and winning an alarm clock," said Mark Johnson.

Waterman said he played the football game, went on the surfboard, and played craps, "even though I really didn't know how." "BJ (Funke) and Jake (Feregesen) were singing El Vira at the After Prom," said Bockenstedt.

Kim Huether said, "I had a fun time going with my friends. It was really relaxing and fun." Her favorite memory was, "having 22 people crash at my house after the After Prom Party."

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the highest skyscraper as a chief architect, leading students in the right direction as a teacher, or busting criminals as a model police officer. Nearly half the mothers who leave school never complete their education.

So what is the message Tibbott and Schmidt are trying to convey? Some kids are going to have sex no matter what, but Tibbott said if you are mature enough to have sex, you have to be mature enough to use protection and "to talk with your partner about the possible outcomes." But to be 100% safe from STDs and pregnancy, abstinence is the obvious choice.

Students' Regrets

Alicia Zehr

"I wish I would have taken harder classes to prepare me for college. I took classes I knew would be easy that I could pass."

- Deanne Drummy

"I haven't gone to a lot of athletic events that I would have liked to go to."

- Joni Carradus

"I didn't get out with my friends enough, working and stressing too much about grades."

- Sarah Flanagan, Junior

"I wish I would have gone out for wrestling instead of basketball."

- Corey Meyer

"I regret speeding because I got pulled over and got a ticket."

- Josh Ries

"I regret going out for chorus because I want to get more classes in so I can have open campus my senior year."

- Becky Schuck

"Skipping school because it got me into too much trouble."

- Jake Blumer

"Taking money from my dad because he got mad at me and I got grounded for the entire summer."

- Tim Tegler

Where Have All the Seniors Gone?

by Stacey Thole

With only eight seconds left on the clock, Brittany Prins, junior, steals the ball from the opposing team and passes it to her teammate Megan Fetter, sophomore, who breaks for the basket. The Hawks win the big game 62-61 against number one ranked Western Dubuque!

This scenario is like many of the girls' sports events, where people see mostly juniors representing the West Delaware varsity teams. Although they are doing a great job, why are so few senior girls out for sports this year?

A total of 17 different senior girls participate in the six girls sports offered at West Delaware. That is 23% of the 73 girls in the 2001 graduating class.

"Freshman year everybody was out," said Mandy Saunders, who participated in volleyball for two years. Saunders also said, "Everybody is just tired of the sports and practices every day."

Some senior girls don't want to participate in sports because they've lost interest in the sport. Katie Blakesley was involved in volleyball, basketball, track, and still is involved in softball. Blakesley said, "I lost the love and desire to compete in the sports that I quit."

Blakesley said the only

way she would change her mind about quitting those sports was if she was really good at them.

When asked if the teams would be better with more senior girls participating, Blakesley answered, "Yes, because we have a lot of unused talent in our grade."

Other girls felt the pressure was too much. Eileen Hoffmann, who quit volleyball her senior year, said, "I no longer liked playing. I was too nervous to enjoy it." Hoffmann continues to participate in softball.

Melody Schaffer, who was involved in track and cross country, said, "Senior girls are busy with other things like college applications and scholarships, boyfriends, jobs, and other activities like music and speech."

Varsity volleyball and golf coach Mr. Brett Mather thinks the number of senior girls out for sports this year is nothing unusual. Mather thinks senior girls have other things more important to them. He said, "They don't want to sit on the benches and they have other interests."

Theresa Klees said she quit

playing volleyball when she "had too many other conflicts with other activities." Klees thinks senior girls don't want to go out for sports because they want to try different things their senior year.

The lack of support also caused some senior girls to quit sports. Jill Hoekstra said the only way she would go back out for the sport she quit was "If the coaches supported me and were willing to work with me and my other commitments." Hoekstra is out for track and cross country and quit basketball after her sophomore year.

Hoekstra does, however, feel more seniors would be good for the sports teams. "The seniors would have more experience and could be role models for the younger girls," she said.

Jessica Oberreuter said, "There are a lot of seniors that are really good, but they got fed up with coaches." Oberreuter quit playing softball because she had to work, and she quit golf because none of her friends wanted to go out for golf.

Some people feel that the lack of senior girls isn't a problem. Angie German, one of the 17 girls out for sports this year, said, "You

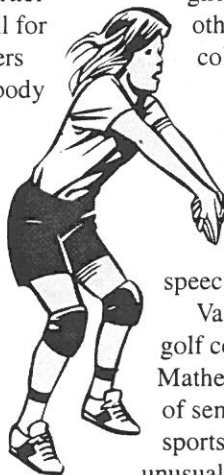
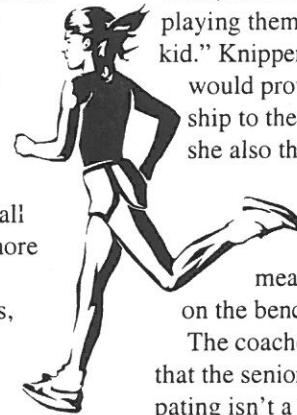
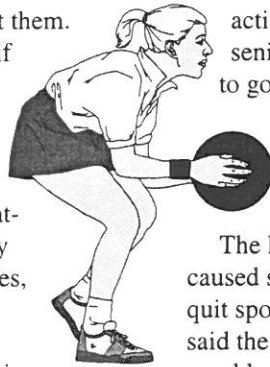
have to want to do well to be able to do well. You can't just be there." German stayed out for sports because they are fun and she likes her teammates.

Although Mather feels senior girls could help the team, he said you need to have motivation and want to succeed in order to help the team.

Stacie Knipper, who has been out for basketball and softball throughout high school, said, "I love to play them, and I have been playing them since I was a kid." Knipper feels seniors would provide leadership to the teams, but she also thinks that the more people out for sports would mean more sitting on the bench.

The coaches also feel that the seniors not participating isn't a big problem. Mr. Mike Kopish, the varsity girls basketball coach, said, "Whoever wants to work hard, we'll take them." He doesn't care whether they are seniors or not. Kopish thinks "high school kids want to have instant gratification," and if they don't get it they quit.

Track coach Mr. Rick Louk feels a lot of senior girls quit because they don't fit into the team plans and don't get to participate as much as they would like to. Mr. Louk said, "If they wanted to be there, they could help us."



Prom Advice

By Angie Rave

With prom just around the corner, the girls are running around trying to find the perfect dress, and the guys are trying to find the perfect date.

Buying a dress is a big deal to some. Deirdre Ryan suggests "Borrowing dresses from friends. It is a lot cheaper."

Jill Feldmann said, "Don't spend a lot of money on your dress, it is just for one night." Jill Kammarmeyer suggests, "Once you buy your dress,

don't look anymore. You may hate yourself for buying the one you did."

"Bringing along some safety pins is a good idea. I know some people who have had problems with dress straps braking," said Jamie Kelchen.

Along with the dress you have to have your hair all done up to top it off. Katie Blakesley suggests that you "Make your hair appointment a couple months in advance. You may find yourself without a

hair dresser."

Going out to eat is also another part of the prom experience. Jena Petlon recommends "Not eating at the Olive Garden in Dubuque. They spilt a strawberry daiquiri all down the front of my white silver dress."

When attending prom you usually go with a group of your friends. Sarah Flanagan said that "Groups are fun, but some times the vehicles can get too crowded."

Mandy Saunders feels "Groups can get too big and it makes it hard to get people to together."

The third and final part of the prom experience is the after prom party. Michelle Cooper feels that "It is a wonderful experience and everyone should attend the after prom party."

B.J. Funke suggests that you, "Do the Karaoke, have fun and be crazy."

Congratulations

To Show choirs and jazz bands!

- **WD Forte placed first in class 3A at the Fort Madison and Cedar Rapids Jefferson Show Choir Invitational. WD Forte also placed third runner-up at Fort Madison and second runner-up at Cedar Rapids Jefferson during the evening finals!**
- **Awarded Best Soloists at the Cedar Rapids Jefferson Show Choir Invitational**

were **Amber Ling as Best Female Soloist and Ryan Gaffney as Best Male Soloist.**

- **Crescendo placed fourth in the prep division at the Cedar Rapids Jefferson Show Choir Invitational.**

- **At the District Jazz Band Competition, Jazz I placed fifth and Jazz II placed 12th.**



Benett Funke and Jake Fergesen help advertise for Goodwill stores.



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