



Homecoming Court - Front Row: Rachael Barron, Michelle Wessels, Jamie Kamarmeyer, Kelsey Hoffman, Lisa Krogmann; Back Row: Brian Klaus, Mark Woods, Adam Wilson, Chris Cook, Aaron Cole.

Homecoming Events

Monday-Thursday:

-Float building at the bus barn

Tuesday, October 1:

-Varsity volleyball vs Don Bosco there at 5:30

Thursday, October 3:

-PEP Rally at Brown Field at 7:30 PM

-9th volleyball vs Anamosa here at 4:00

-Boys and girls cross country at Western Dubuque at 5:00

Friday, October 4:

-2:00 PM parade

-Football vs Union LaPorte Knights

Saturday, October 5:

-Homecoming dance from 9-12 PM

Homecoming Dress up Days

Monday-Pajama Day

Tuesday-Costume Day (dress up in a Halloween costume)

Wednesday-Western (cowboy) Day

Thursday-Celebrity Day (dress up as your favorite celebrity)

Friday-Orange and Black Day



Thumbs Up to...

By Lindsay Murphy

-  Early Out Because of Heat
-  People Displaying Patriotism
-  Both Spaghetti and Tacos the first week of school
-  Available Parking Spaces
-  Tailgating and Cross Country Superfans

Congratulations to the West Delaware Pride Marching Band who placed 1st in the Marion Marching Invitational on Saturday, September 28!

Picture Perfect Pastime Darkroom Brightens Life

By Ashley Nachtman



As you walk into the room, you smell a vinegar-like odor. The walls are painted dark blue and the windows are framed by dark black sheets. These sights and smells greet Tabatha Taylor every night.

Traces of chemical residue leave a vinegary smell that often deters prospective darkroom owners, as do the dreary colors of the room. However, this doesn't discourage Taylor, a young photographer.

Taylor spends around five hours developing negatives and printing pictures each week.

Taylor's room is the ideal place for her darkroom because it met all of the requirements of a darkroom: convenience, good ventilation, and low humidity.

She couldn't use the basement because it was damp and leaked. "My room was the next best place because my parents wouldn't let me take over the bathroom," Taylor said.

In June, after saving a year's worth of paychecks from Econofoods, Taylor's dream became reality. The cost for the necessary equipment and chemicals for developing pictures amounted to around \$475, \$525 less than Taylor

predicted.

It took Taylor over two months to find the equipment she needed.

No hobby comes without its challenges.

Taylor's room has no running water so she keeps jugs of water and trays handy that she uses to rinse pictures and other trays.

She has also had problems with light leaking around the cracks in the doorframe. To solve this problem, Taylor stuffed fabric around the edges of the door.

She plans to major in photography and thought it would be a good investment. Taylor is unsure of which college she will attend.

"It keeps me in practice for cadet teaching," Taylor said. "It kind of refreshes your memory so you can teach people what they need to be doing." Taylor helps cadet teach juniors and seniors in Pitzenger-Timp's Photography I class.

Taylor recently entered a digital photography contest on-line, and the International Library of Photography published her photo. The photo was of a kitten sitting in a doll chair with its paws on the armrest.

Taylor enjoys photography. "It's something I've loved from day one, and it's just something I've really gotten into," she said.

From the East to the West

The Fierce Competition of the New WaMaC

By Lindsay Murphy

West Delaware athletics have progressed to the top of the conference in the past decade; however, with the addition of four new teams to the conference, the title of WaMaC champs will be harder to accomplish.

Beginning with the 2003-2004 year, the WaMaC conference will add four teams: Dewitt Central, Dyserville Beckman, Maquoketa, and Western Dubuque.

The four teams will be added to the WaMaC because the Big Bend conference disbanded and four teams were looking for a conference to join.

According to Bob Murphy, Athletic Director, West Delaware High School will adjust well to the change in the new WaMaC. Murphy said, "I think the new WaMaC will be good for our kids because it will increase exposure to other areas of our state. It will certainly increase the competition

levels in all activities."

The New WaMaC will be split into two divisions. One will be the East division which will consist of West Delaware, Dyserville Beckman, Western Dubuque, Maquoketa, Dewitt, and Marion. The other division, the West division, will consist of Independence, Don Bosco, Waterloo Columbus, Benton Community, Vinton, and South Tama.

The scheduling will be different for each sport. Volleyball will play each team in their division and two games outside of their division. At the end of the season there will conference tournament involving all the teams in the WaMaC.

In cross country, there will be a conference tournament involving all the WaMaC schools.

Wrestling will wrestle every team inside their division and wrestle a tournament at the end of the year against all of the WaMaC schools.

will have a tournament at the end of the year against all the teams in the WaMaC.

For track and golf, teams will compete against surrounding schools, and then at the end of the season teams will participate in a conference tournament that will have all the WaMaC schools in it. The conference tournament will consist of a boys and girls tournament.

For softball and baseball, teams will play everyone in both divisions in a double-header.

Christian Aanestad, girls soccer coach, said, "It's always better to increase the amount of competition." Aanestad also mentioned that the new WaMaC will increase the cost of expenses to West Delaware because of the traveling, but the increased level of competition will make the WaMaC even better.

To change the WaMaC, the Iowa High School Athletic Association

(IHSAA), the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union (IGHSAU), and the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) went through a long process. To start it off, in the summer of 2001 the four new schools petitioned to the IHSAA, IGHSAU, and DPI to enter the WaMaC conference. An initial hearing was held at Anamosa in October of 2001. Another meeting was held in December of 2002 in Des Moines that appealed the first meeting. The final decision passed down from the DPI was announced in February of 2002.

In basketball, teams will play each team inside their division twice, they will travel to the other division three times, and the other division will travel to their school three times. They will also play five non-conference games to round out their schedule.

In soccer, athletes will play all the teams in both divisions once, and then

Newcomers

By Megan Maurer

It may be just another year at West Delaware High School for most students, but for some students it is a whole different experience.

"I was excited to move to West Delaware and meet more people," said Tessa Tuetken, who moved to West Delaware in June from South Dakota. Tuetken plans to play basketball and volleyball at West Delaware.

Iulian Margeloiu, the foreign exchange student from Romania, said that West Delaware is a really nice school. "I love the extracurricular activities that are provided here," said Margeloiu, who plans to play soccer.

However, some new students have a different side of the story. Nick Payne, who moved from Vinton Shellsburg, said it was a big change. New students have to go through the whole process of meeting new people. "Here at West Delaware you have to actually take school seriously. It was normal to fail classes at Vinton," said Payne.

Tara Betz also said moving was a big change. Betz came from Oelwein this summer. "Classes are longer here with block scheduling, and it's weird because I don't know people," said Betz. Despite missing her friends, Betz does appreciate that at West Delaware her grades are improving.

A Moment of Terror

By Kristin Bohlke

A year has passed since the terrorist attacks hit the United States. Not only have people across the country changed, but so have students from West Delaware.

For some students, the attack made them more interested in the media.

Gretchen Knott said, "I pay more attention to the government and the news that is going on."

Casey Hansen said, "Because I'm a pilot, a lot of the regulations have changed. That's the biggest way it's affected me."

Life has also changed for Heather Miller's brother, Brent Miller. He recently joined the army because he felt like he needed to. Heather said her brother is more patriotic

than before and it makes him proud that he is in the army.

Some students are more appreciative than before September 11. Katie Huether said, "I became more aware of the blessings God gave to this country. Freedom can be taken away very quickly if we don't take the right precautions."

Not only has this affected students, but it also has affected staff members. "I appreciate each day a little more, especially with my family," said Jeff Voss, teacher.

LuAnn Carpenter, guidance secretary, said, "You have to live every day to its fullest because you never know what's going to happen."

What Were Your Feelings on 9/11?

By Kristin Bohlke

"It was scary because no one thought it could happen. A lot of people had different reactions and they kept saying that they wanted to be with their family."
-Raquel Vaske

"I thought it wasn't true because it was like a fake movie or something. People were saying it was bigger than Pearl Harbor because it happened in the (continental) U.S."
-Sara Winch

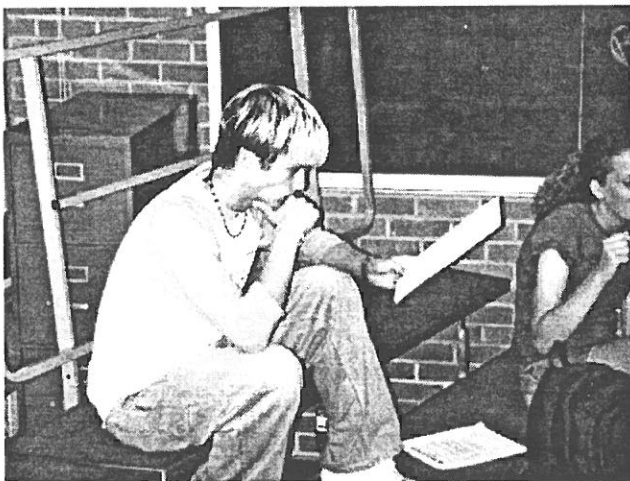
"It was a pitiful example of our nation's backbone, because now we are all patriotic and before we could have cared less."
-Andy Fessler

"I was shocked! I didn't know what was going on!"
-Ashley Mulder

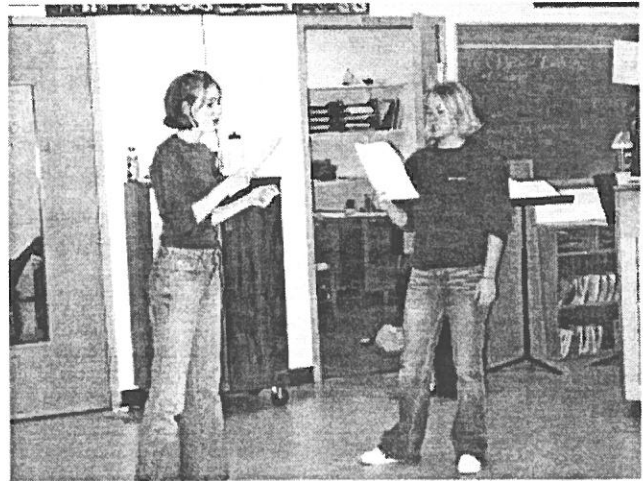
"We didn't know who did it, if it was a small terrorist group or a country that was behind the attacks."
-Rick Louk

Bye Bye Birdie

A Glimpse at the Upcoming Musical



Mason Greve prepares for musical recall try-outs. This year's musical, *Bye Bye Birdie*, will take place the second weekend of November.



Emily Meyer and Kylie Toomer read through a scene as a part of musical recall try-outs. Both received a lead part in the show.

One Saturday Morning!

No More Cartoons for Saturday School Students

By Amanda Klein

Saturday School? For some this may be a nightmare, but for others this will be reality. A new discipline policy went into effect this year for the students who misbehave.

Saturday School, held on the second and fourth Saturday of each month, is supervised by Assistant Principal Bob Murphy and Principal Doug Tuetken. Beginning at 8 a.m., students spend either two or three hours in Saturday School depending on the severity of their actions.

"I hope it will change

their habits. Sometimes students use poor judgment in going against school policies. Hopefully, this will make students aware of the decisions they make," said Murphy.

Five students participated in the first Saturday School, supervised by Tuetken. Nine students participated in the second Saturday School, supervised by Murphy.

"The most common ways to earn a Saturday Schooling are skipping a class or having an unexcused absence," said

Tuetken.

Students who attend Saturday School find themselves reading, completing homework and doing other academic activities.

"I dislike Saturday School because you have to get up early on a Saturday and do nothing," said Brandon Schaul, who found Saturday School took up some of his Saturday leisure time. Schaul earned a Saturday School because he went to the parking lot with a few of his friends to get some

books out of a vehicle. A nearby staff member spotted them and told them they were off campus, which is against school regulations.

Jessica Sedain, who has not attended a Saturday School, believes Saturday School just may be a good option. Sedain said, "I think it's a good idea because the students are not going to want to get up early and go to school. So if they misbehave and have to go to Saturday School, then maybe they will learn not to misbehave anymore."

All in a Day's Skip

Q: What would you be doing if you were skipping?

By Ashley Nachtman

"I would be sleeping on the vent by the chorus room."

Mark Hanson

"If I skipped with friends, I'd go shopping."

Krystle Manson

"I'd go to eat at Deli One."

Abbie Smith

"I'd be watching TV and sleeping."

Chad Hood

"Probably going to the beach while it's still warm out."

Molly Weber

"I'd go to Wal-Mart and get Gummi Bears and go home and eat them."

Jamie Smith

Facts on Foreign Exchange Students

By Candace Hubbard



Iulian Margeloiui

Country: Romania

Age: 17

Grade: Senior

Host Family: The Denise and Brian Pralle Family

West Delaware Favorites: "The students

and teachers are very nice and kind"

Favorite American food: baked potato and steak

Favorite American leisure activity: soccer

Hobbies: Using the computer and playing tennis

Do you like America? "Yes, because it is very different than Romania."



Lena Fischer

Country: Germany

Age: 17

Grade: Senior

Host Family: The Connie and Larry Heims Family

West Delaware Favorites: many activi-

ties

Favorite American food: cheese pizza

Favorite American leisure activities: tennis and movies

Hobbies: reading and attending parties

Do you like America? "Yes, because the people are friendly and more sociable, and here it is warmer weather."

Life of a Host Family

A Glance at Living with a Foreign Exchange Student

By Candace Hubbard

Germany and Romania may seem millions of miles away for most students, but for sophomore Mindi Heims and freshman Logan Pralle those countries have become as close as the dinner table.

Denise and Brian Pralle are the host family for Iulian Margeloiui from Romania; Connie and Larry Heims are the host family for Lena Fischer from Germany. The two families received their foreign exchange students approximately two weeks before school and both students will stay through the school year until around June.

The Pralles say they enjoy the addition to their family. Denise Pralle said, "Having Iulian has really helped

our family become more involved in many activities, and also to get to know more students in the high school." Pralle also commented on how much Iulian likes to be involved in sports such as cross-country and stay very active.

The morning routines for both families have changed. At the Pralle home, the mornings are a bit rougher than usual as Margeloiui is used to sleeping in until his 12, noon, classes in Romania.

On the other hand, the Heims just seem to be short one bathroom. Mindi Heims, a sophomore said, "Every morning seems to be a rush. It's like having a sister. We both seem to need the bath-

room at the same time."

When it comes to cooking for their guest, the Heims face a difficulty. Fischer is a vegetarian, which makes cooking a little different for Connie Heims. Fischer prefers cheese pizza to any other American food.

But food is not an issue at the Pralle home as Denise Pralle says, "Whatever we eat, Iulian will eat too."

One change for the foreign exchange student involves curfews. Margeloiui, who is used to staying out until 3 a.m., does not understand a midnight curfew. Fischer also thinks that her host parents are strict. In fact, Fischer sees nothing wrong with coming home two hours beyond curfew.

Fischer said, "People here (America) are a lot more active than the students in Germany." She also said that people are a lot more social too.

While staying at the Pralle's, Margeloiui hopes to see the Mall of America. He already saw his first baseball game, the Chicago Cubs in Chicago, along with the Sears Tower.

Fischer hopes to see Chicago during her stay as well.

Both families are very happy with their decision to be a host family for a foreign exchange student. They hope to make Fischer's and Margeloiui's visits pleasant.

New Teachers

By Kelsey Hepke

Four new teachers and a new principal have joined the staff at West Delaware.



Brenda Crumpton comes to West Delaware with five

years experience at Central City and six years of experience at Independence. Crumpton, native of Monticello, graduated from Monticello High School.

Crumpton is currently teaching third through fifth grade general music, and she is also the Women's Choir teacher and an assistant to Duane Philgreen, music teacher, for other musical contests and productions.

Crumpton's biggest challenge is trying to get to know all of her students' names. Between the high school and the upper elementary, she has about 500 names to remember. Crumpton likes how the music department and students are very supportive.



Laura Gelwicks, a new English teacher, previously taught five

years at Fulton High School in Missouri. Gelwicks, who graduated from Indiana University, is currently working on her Masters Degree at the University of Northern Iowa.

A native of Champaign, Illinois, Gelwicks faces some challenges at West Delaware, such as remembering all the names and not finding a Diet Coke pop machine in the building.

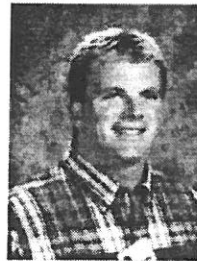
Gelwicks likes how the faculty and students are so helpful.

Kathy Naughton, new to the science department, grew up in New Vienna and graduated from Loras College. Naughton has nine years of teaching experience: five years at Western Dubuque; two years at Serena, Illinois; and one year at Freeport,



Illinois. Although Naughton's biggest challenge at

West Delaware is implementing the new curriculum, she likes how the faculty and students are very friendly.



Kevin Rubner, a part-time teacher, joins the autos department.

Hired by Northeast Iowa Community College, Rubner recently completed his teaching requirements at the University of Iowa. Along with teaching in the afternoons, Rubner works as an auto mechanic at the West Delaware bus barn in the mornings.

Rubner likes teaching students what he has had first hand experience working with in the autos field for the past 16 years.

He also appreciates how nice the teaching staff and students are at West Delaware.

A Dyersville native, Rubner attended Western Dubuque High School.

Doug Tuetken, new



principal, graduated from Monticello High School. Tuetken comes

from Vermillion, South Dakota, where he was principal for four years. He also has two years experience as an assistant principal and 13 years experience as a teacher.

What Tuetken likes best about West Delaware are the students and staff and the direction of the new curriculum, which is the K-12 articulation mastery of benchmarks.

Tuetken's goals include curriculum development, modification of both the student handbook and class offerings, and updating certain facilities.

Brain Drain

By Ashley Nachtman

Q. I have a light side and a dark side, and I hold the universe together. What am I?

Answer on page 13

Who Pays For Their Gas?

By Kelsey Hepke

Grade	Percent
10th	71%
11th	73%
12th	84%

Approximately 50 people with their license were surveyed

From Competition to Cooperation

By Dan Glaza

The Vikings, Stars, Wildcats, and Hawks are all working together for a change as part of the Regional High School (RHS) Consortium, which includes Ed-Co, Starmont, Maquoketa Valley, and West Delaware.

The state of Iowa provided a grant to the RHS in the spring of 2001 to investigate sharing of school programs. One area the state was in need of was automotive skills. According to Kelly Jared, under the program, students would be able to gain NICC automotive credits while in high school. So, the intent was to bring in NICC certified staff to teach the automotive classes to area students.

According to Kevin Rubner, who has recently been hired by Northeast Iowa Community College to teach

automotive classes at West Delaware, auto equipment and facility availability at West Delaware make it a convenient central location for the classes.

Even though they had short notice to sign up for the classes, approximately 80 students are taking part in this program this year, which includes about 18 from the surrounding schools. Teacher Dennis Wiedenman thinks attendance in the classes will increase with more notice. "A lot of kids are interested in the program," said Wiedenman.

"Scheduling is critical," said Rubner. The schools run on separate schedules, so it is sometimes tough for some Ed-Co students to arrive at class on time. But with a little cooperation from teachers, the students are able to

reduce their tardiness. Although schedules may conflict, if the classes can fit into a student's itinerary, any student can gain college credit through NICC, along with the normal number of high school credits, which is one per term.

The discipline tactics are under West Delaware's control since the classes take place at West Delaware High School. If visiting students misbehave, they have to deal with West Delaware Principal Doug Tuetken, but then they also have to go back to their school and deal with their respective principal. According to Rubner, there is no problem in this area. Their districts expect them to be "twice as good."

Rubner enjoys the educational setting, because after being in the workforce for 16

years, he believes that teaching gives him more satisfaction. He appreciates the fact that the students want to learn, because when he was in the workforce, he said "people just wanted their cars fixed, no questions asked."

Rubner hopes to inspire at least a few kids into pursuing the automotive programs at NICC. He knows not every student will strive for a career in automotives or mechanics, but he believes that if he can inspire two or three, it would be "well worth it." If anything, he hopes that he can help improve their automotive skills.

The RHS Consortium is currently considering sharing other vocational and academic areas.

What Would You Eat for \$100?

By Jessica Sedain

"I would probably eat maggots, because it would be something to try."

- Autumn Ross

"I would eat a caterpillar, because it's not that bad."

- Bill Kluesner

"I would eat a minnow or a worm."

- Cameron McMullen

"Spinach. It just looks really bad."

- Adam Nylund

A Contract to Wellness

By Jessica Sedain

The West Delaware Physical Education Teachers are in the process of acquiring fitness equipment from the National Fitness Foundation.

The National Fitness Foundation, located in Utah, sets up contracts with schools in order to get their equipment into schools and compile heart-rate data from the people who use the equipment.

The contract states that the foundation will lease the equipment to West Delaware

for three years. At the end of the three years, the school may sign another contract and get new equipment or pay a fee and keep the original equipment. Initially, the school will pay the foundation to get the equipment, but eventually the money will be reimbursed.

The equipment includes aerobic bikes, treadmills, and different strength training machines.

When the equipment arrives, the Foundation will send a representative to teach

the fitness training program to the physical education teachers.

Sam Anderson, physical education teacher, said that as soon as the physical education teachers found out about the National Fitness Foundation and its program last January, they were definitely interested in finding out more information.

The School Board, the administrators, and all three physical education teachers, Anderson, Jody King, and Jeff Voss, decided that the

equipment would be put in the old gym. They also decided that until they understood the equipment better, the physical education students, athletes and their instructors would be the only ones to use the equipment. Then they will open up the equipment to personnel who are at the high school. Their intention is to get students and athletes on the program so they can continue to use the program throughout the whole year.

Fashion Tips

By Katie Mozingo

“Wear black. It’s a slimming color.”

-Mike Morrison

“If you dye your hair blue, red or whatever, you have to dye it blonde first.”

-Ryan Jellison

“Don’t wear brown shoes with a black outfit. It doesn’t match.”

-Amanda Steines

“I really like the jean skirts. They’re cute.”

-Tiffany Sherman



Thumbs Down to...

By Lindsay Murphy



Not Being able to see Grades before Conferences



New Graduation Date



Enforced Dress Code



Students Ripping off Juice Machine



School Clocks out of Sync

Traditional Pregame Pow-Wow

By Kim Meisgeier

Annual tailgating has kicked off for another year of pregame pow-wow.

Continuing the tailgating tradition of the 2000 and 2001 classes, Adam Baumgartner, Scott Burns and Derek Kimmerle are the True Tailgaters, according to Baumgartner.

As last year's tailgating wrapped up, David Durey and Eric Hanson, last year's senior set of tailgaters, presented an autographed spatula to the new True Tailgaters.

According to Burns, the spatula is significant because it's the one used by former West Delaware tailgaters. "It's nice to have a piece of memorabilia that shows we are legit tailgaters," said Burns.

Collecting money before

hand, the clan shops for their groceries during their open period. Usually spending around twenty dollars, they buy all the essentials needed for the evening event.

Sophomore Spencer Duncan, the youngest member of the group, also gets in on some of the action. "The upperclassmen are cool about letting me hold the sacred spatula," said Duncan.

"Our weekly menu is very diverse," said Kimmerle. It all depends on how much money is collected and what everyone wants to eat that night. Popular menu items include hamburgers, hotdogs and brats.

On days of away games, Baumgartner, Burns, and

Kimmerle meet in the high school parking lot and travel in caravan fashion to the game. Arriving during the first quarter of the sophomore game, they set up camp, light the grill, kick back, relax and enjoy the food and music. When it comes to home games, they gather in the high school parking lot around 4:45 p.m.

While hanging out in the parking lot, grilling isn't the only activity. "We all have a good time. We turn up the music in Burns' car and play a little catch," said Baumgartner. "We're just out there representin' West Delaware."

Every Friday the numbers vary from 5 to 20 students. No student is prevented from participat-

ing in tailgating. "Anyone is welcome," said Kimmerle.

Hanson and Durey have also inspired other groups to start tailgating. Although they did not receive the beloved spatula, that has not lessened their desire to tailgate.

As seniors they wanted to keep last year's tradition alive but also add some of their own uniqueness to it. They did this by painting the grill. Burns painted the boards around the grill orange, and since the grill itself is black, it shows off the West Delaware colors.

Baumgartner, Burns, and Kimmerle are brainstorming future plans for the group such as cruising to Cresco in Burns' motorhome.



Kelly Murphy, Scott Burns, Adam Baumgartner, Kristal Koelker and Ben Hepke gather in the high school parking lot to tailgate.

In the high school parking lot, Kelsey Hoffman, Lisa Krogman and Julie Phillips wait for Ben Hepke to sign their jeans showing their school spirit.

Autos Classes Get the Inside Track

By Emily Bandy

Eighty-three autos students spent the day at the Earlville Tri State Raceway on September 6.

Due to tickets donated by the racetrack, Dennis Wiedenman and Kevin Rubner, teachers, took their Autos I, Autos II, and Power Mechanics classes to the track for the day. The tickets were good for the whole day so many of the students returned to the track that night to watch

more races.

While at the track the students watched the racers for speed and time. Michael Tekippe said, "I liked seeing the alcohol car classes because they go 250 mph in a quarter mile."

The students also watched the racers and crew members perform tuning and car preparation.

"I liked being able to walk through the pits and talk to people who built

their own race cars and see what changes they do to make their cars go faster," said Greg Hawker.

Wiedenman said, "I think it was a very beneficial day for the students. They learned a lot about the automotive field, lifestyle of the racers, and job opportunities.

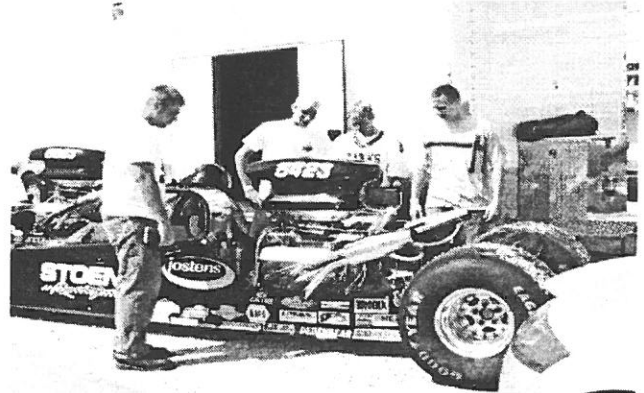
Also, the students went down in the pits, toured the different race cars and asked questions. Holly

Ingles said, "The highlight of the day was touring the semis that racers kept their cars in and being able to see under the hood of all the cars."

"Overall the day was pretty exciting, especially the part when we missed the bus back to school and had to catch a ride with a guy from Ed-Co," said Matt Drees.



Enjoying a field trip to the Earlville Tri State Raceway, Aarron Cole watches the racers for speed and time. Dennis Wiedenman and Kevin Rubner, teachers, took their Autos I, Autos II, and Power Mechanics classes to the Raceway on September 6.



Checking out the rail car, Sam Curtis, Jon Bagley, Tom Heiar, and Ryan Jaeger look at all the parts while at the track.

Line Em Up!



Match the number of the car with the car owner.

Answers on page 12

- a. Kurt Heims
- b. Lindsey Smock
- c. Nicole Lane
- d. Zach Rudd
- e. Ben Hepke

No Bull About It

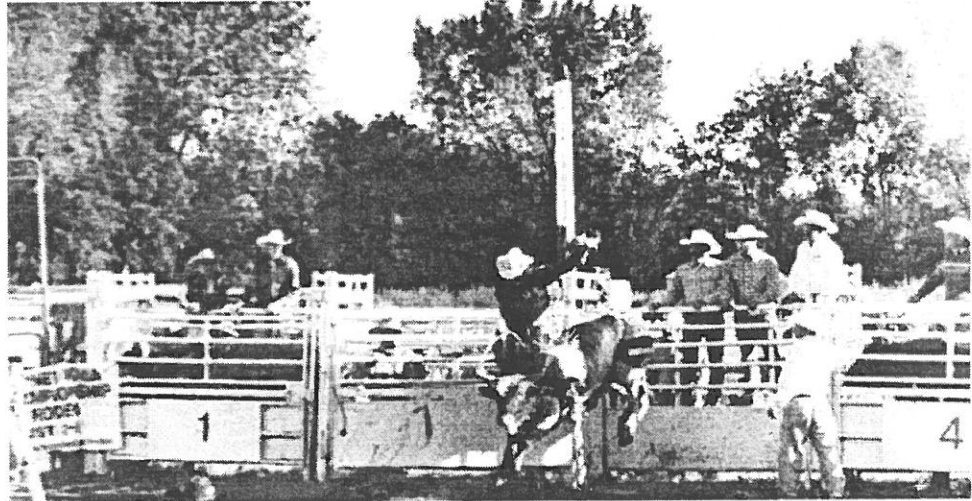
By Kristin Flannagan

"It's bulls and blood, it's dust and mud, it's the roar of a Sunday crowd," sings Garth Brooks in his song "Rodeo." Like Brooks these are just a few of the elements that Jacob Gearhart loves about bull riding.

Gearhart, who started bull riding on September 1, competes for money or for points in the Iowa High School Rodeo Association.

Gearhart bull rides because "he thought it looked fun and interesting and for the rush." He said, "It's not something that everyone does and it makes me unique."

Getting started bull riding wasn't so easy for Gearhart. It took him many months to persuade his parents to sign a waiver. The waiver states that if the person riding was to get hurt or die, that the parents cannot come back and place a lawsuit against the sponsor of the rodeo. Gearhart's parents finally said that "a person should try everything once" and signed the waiver.



Jacob Gearhart at his second rodeo in Central City tries for an eight second ride.

Participants must be at least eighteen or have parental consent, and they must pay an entry fee which can range from \$15-\$100 or more depending on the rodeo.

Some safety precautions Gearhart takes before he rides include wearing a Rough Stock Vest, which protects him from serious injury, and a mouth guard. But these items are not required at all rodeos.

Gearhart's first ride was on September 1st at Fisher's Rodeo in Coggon.

After his first ride, Gearhart said, "I wasn't very good. I didn't get a hold with my feet, and I didn't know what to expect."

On his second experience on September 14-15 at the Linn County Fairgrounds in Central City, he almost made an eight second ride.

When coming face to face with the bull, Gearhart said, "I just think to myself, 'Sit down. Ride up. And try.'"

Line 'Em Up Answers:

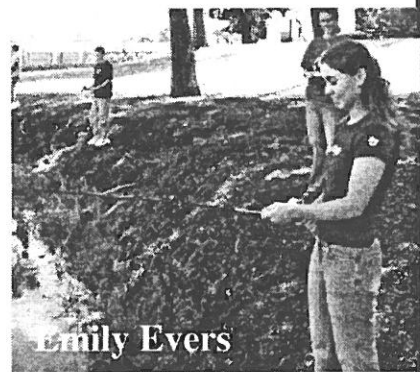
1. Zach Rudd
2. Ben Hepke
3. Kurt Heims
4. Lindsey Smock
5. Nicole Lane

Passing the Time in PE

During first term, physical education students took part in activities such as archery and fishing.



Nick Tibbott



Emily Evers

Meeting the Benchmarks

By Heather Miller

West Delaware is implementing a new junior kindergarten through twelfth grade approach to curriculum development. Beginning with the science department and eventually covering all curricular areas over the next four to five years, teachers will teach and assess according to predetermined benchmarks.

A committee called the Subject Area Committee (SAC) meets to determine the benchmarks, which are levels of achievement students have to complete to pass a class, for the area. This past summer the science SAC wrote benchmarks. Once the benchmarks are written, the teachers will teach and assess to those benchmarks.

"I hope students will know more science and be more accountable for their work when they are done with the class," said

Gretchen Adams, science teacher.

"Students might be challenged more," Don Lyness said, "but they will be better prepared when they graduate."

Grading will not change a whole lot, but to pass a class students need to have sixty percent or better plus mastery of all benchmarks. If students do not pass a benchmark, they will receive no credit yet (NCY) until those benchmarks are mastered, according to Adams.

Teaching will change a little. Since teachers know what other teachers are teaching, duplication will be lessened.

"I think it is going to be a good program, but it is going to take some time to get everything in place," said Chad Stonebraker, science teacher.

"I hope students will know more science and be more accountable for their work when they are done with the class."

-Teacher Gretchen Adams

**Brain Drain Answer:
Duct Tape!**

Note: Duct Tape is no longer used on ducts.

Quick Quotes

"I tripped in the annex and scraped my foot all up, it was so embarrassing because everyone was staring at me."

-Sandi Dighton

"The seniors kicked me to the back of the lunch line, just because I was a freshman."

-Tony Brown

"When Eric Halsey spilled syrup all over his pants at lunch, it was so funny because he was so mad."

-Jolene Cannon

"I came the first day of school and found out that my locker was very far away from everyone else's. So, I paid Lucas Leonard in Monopoly money to have a locker by everyone else."

-Misty Ross

Opposing Views of Saturday School . . .

by Steve Van Kooten



Most Disturbing Moments

By Megan Maurer

"I got lost in Wal-Mart when I was like five years old. I thought my mom had left me."

-Blake Mormann

"My most disturbing moment was when I almost drowned. We were at Backbone, a long time ago, and my sister and I were playing catch across the stream. My sister dropped the ball so I went in the water after it and the current took me under."

-Tom Heiar

"When my priest told me that there was no such thing as Adam and Eve, and I didn't know what to believe then because I had believed that for 17 years."

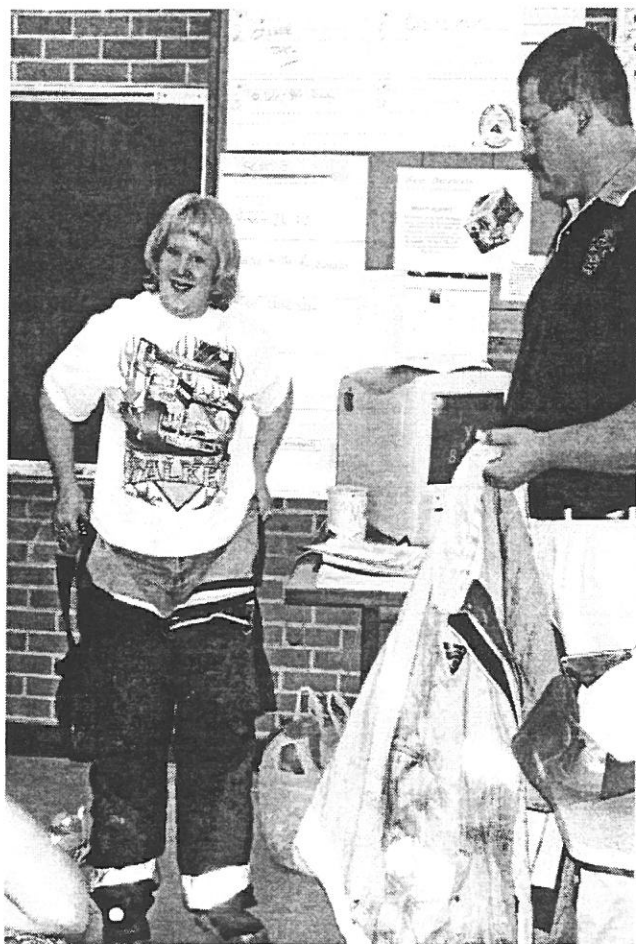
-Kellie Monaghan

"Kissing a girl that doesn't know how to kiss."

-Adam Baumgartner

"When I rolled my car on Sam Blumer's road."

-Lucas Leonard



Tara Kraft tries on the fireman gear in her Science Interactions II class.

Fire Chief Heats Up Classroom

By Katie Mozingo

Fire Chief Larry Francis of Nevada spoke to the Science Interactions II class on September 3.

Kathy Naughton, science teacher, was teaching her class about chemical reactions and invited Francis to talk about fire "since fire is a chemical reaction."

Francis showed pictures of fire scenes and a powerpoint presentation. The class learned about fire extinguishers and how to

trace a fire to see how it started. "They listened very well and asked a lot of questions," said Naughton.

Tara Kraft, a member of the class, tried on the fire gear. "It was very heavy," said Kraft. "To give you an idea, it weighed as much as Brodie Parker—about 90 pounds."

Overall, Naughton said the experience was fun, interesting, and helpful to the class.

Pushing Sand Through the Hour Glass

A few ways to pass the time

by Steve Van Kooten

The sand never seems to end, trickling away on its own good time. Some students resort to passing notes or sleeping to bypass the day, but others need a little silliness in their lives to get through the day. Students go from a state of numbness to full gear in just a few seconds when they realize fiendish ways to expunge their boredom.

"I was bored out of my skull!" said Charlie Hines. "A friend and I hit a dry eraser across the chalk railing just to pass the time!" Hines has also acknowledged the school's monotony by climbing on basketball hoops and randomly tossing glue tipped toothpicks into the air along with other friends who recognize the problem.

Freshman have their own little tactics to dwindle down the timer. Katie Stocks said she likes to choreograph dances in her mind.

Jessica Beeh said, "I think of different topics for song lyrics and tap my feet to brainstorm different melodies."

Band seems to provide a few students with a little time to goof around as well. John Robbins said, "(We) goof around by slow dancing with backpacks in the hallways, playing chicken with drumsticks, and also dancing to native songs." Robbins explained that it was just something to do when he and other students became bored in class.

Some ask why students do this. Mark Hanson simply said, "School wasn't made to be fun, so I make it fun."

IHSPA Winners

Congratulations to Kim Sadewasser, senior, for earning 3rd place for her newspaper article called "Ridenour Drags the Dirt."

Congratulations to Ryan Hawker, graduate, for earning 3rd place for his editorial cartoon called "Biff."

Commencement Conflict

Tradition at West Delaware Broken?

by Tim Ryan

Senior girls state track qualifiers will have to run faster this year to make commencement.

For more than 32 years, every Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend West Delaware has held commencement at 2 p.m. This year, according to an August school board decision, the class of 2003 will graduate at 7 p.m. on Saturday evening.

At the July school board meeting, Ilona Durey, school board member, suggested that commencement be moved to Saturday night because parents told her that Sunday was a busy day for most people.

At the September board meeting, Dave Schultz,

teacher and parent, opposed the change. He said that travel for people would be difficult because most graduates have their parties after commencement so family members could attend both.

Another conflict involves girls state track. If commencement stays on Saturday night, Girls State Track qualifiers will be forced to sacrifice either their race or commencement. "We don't want to be all sweaty and dirty for our graduation," said Catherine Walker, girls trackster.

Attending the school board meeting on September 16, teacher and parent Cindy Baumgartner said, "I never saw the change

advertised in the school papers." She also added that the change was a big conflict for many students because they just weren't told that the date had been changed.

Also at the September meeting, Vice President Gary Johnson requested a survey be mailed to parents asking them what day they would like commencement. The results showed 82 percent favored Sunday and 18 percent favored Saturday evening.

On a different survey conducted for this article, seniors were asked what day they would like to have graduation. Eighty-eight percent said they would like to have commencement

on a Sunday; the other 12 percent voted for a Saturday night.

To conclude the September discussion, Board President Dan Zumbach said that the commencement change will be discussed again at the next board meeting.

"Graduation on a Saturday night doesn't make sense because the tradition of going outside to take pictures is gone. Nobody wants to take pictures in a crowded hallway," said senior Kristin Krogmann.

Senior Wade Feldmann said, "Why break tradition if nobody likes the change?"



Staff Box



Editor: Dan Glaza
Staff:
Emily Bandy
Kristin Bohlke
Kristin Flannagan
Kelsey Hepke
Candace Hubbard
Amanda Klein
Megan Maurer

Kim Meisgeier
Heather Miller
Katie Mozingo
Lindsay Murphy
Ashley Nachtman
Tim Ryan
Jessica Sedain
Steve VanKooten
Adviser: Helen Temeyer