

### UIL Teams bring home medals from fall competitions

**BY TERRELL FULTON & COURTNEY WINDHAM**

The UIL team is back in the act of bringing home medals faster than they can compete.

Their first tournament in Aledo, on October 25, was a giant success.

"The team did excellent. Everyone came home with a medal," sponsor, Sara Brown said.

The Accounting Team brought home the gold with Michael VanDerPol placing first and Kassidi Langley taking second place.

Current Events also placed first with Steven Cameron bringing home first place and Lance Kilpatrick placing second.

Yet another victory, the Math Team earned first, with VanDerPol's first place and Anna Daub placing fourth.

The Science Team placed fourth overall with Daub's first place victory.

VanDerPol won his third gold medal

in Computer Applications and Langley placed second.

The UIL team didn't let up as they took control of the Belton tournament last Saturday.

In Current Events, Kilpatrick place first and Cameron placed fourth. Megan Hudson placed third in Literary Criticism.

Maranda Goins placed fourth in News Writing, and Daub placed fourth in Science.

Dyana Dalton brought home first place for Prose and the team of Emily Tittle and Julie Rmeili placed third for Cross-Examination Debate.

However, the real bell of the ball was Brandon Beadle who won the gold medal in Computer Applications as a first-time competitor.



### Challenging Fun

#### Acadmeic Challenge disrobes Roby

**BY STEPHANIE SMITH**

The Academic Challenge team beat Roby with a score of 280 to 130 at their first meet on November 29. This year's team consists of Captain Liz Romig, Michael VanDerPol, Brad Rashke, Craig Rashke, and First alternate Lance Kilpatrick. The team's sponsor is Didi Blagg, a Spanish teacher here at Brownwood High. The meet will be shown on December 20 at 6 p.m. on KTXS news station. Tune in to see Brownwood challenge Roby at Abilene.

Academic Challenge has a game show setting that consists of one-on-one competition with two teams of four players. The contestants buzz in to answer questions of different categories such as History, Literature, Math, and

Current Events. The game is single elimination, meaning that once the team loses, they are out of the competition. Last year's team made it to semi-finals after four rounds of competition and this year's team hopes to make it all the way.

When asked what she thought of this year's team and how far they would go, Liz replied with enthusiasm, "The guys and I are great friends and we believe that this year will be great."

Academic Challenge is a class offered to anyone interested. For anyone interested in joining the Academic Challenge team next year, Liz suggested that you talk to Mrs. Blagg and your counselor.



Michael Little, Elisha Perez, and Anna Daub pause during the Pre-area choir competition in Weatherford to take a picture with Monte Garrett, an HPU music professor.

### Choir Students sing their way to All State Choir

**BY MARANDA GOINS**

Three choir students were selected as finalists in the Texas Music Educator Associations' All State Choir after auditioning on Nov 22 at Weatherford.

Anna Daub and Michael Little were chosen, along with Elisha Perez for first alternate.

These students also performed in the Region VII choir, directed by Dr. Monte Garrett, director of Choral Activities at Howard Payne University.

The All Region Choir

performed the All state selections for the 2002-2004 school year.

These selections included "The Battle of Jericho", arranged by Moses Hogan, "Ave Jesu Christe" by Peter Phillips, and several others.

Over 300 students auditioned for a spot in the 96 student choir.

The Texas All State Choir audition will be held at Trinity High School in Euless on Sat, Jan 10 and the selected students will perform in the Texas All State Choir concert on Feb 14 in San Antonio.



Carlie Eoff and Joey Ellis supervise 6<sup>th</sup> grade marshmallow towers. Choices members have been visiting 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes to promote drug awareness and wise lifestyle choices.

### A Hack Job: Hacky Sack has large appeal at Brownwood

**BY BENJAMIN HUMENIUK**

Soccer players whip them out to increase dexterity. Skaters use them to keep the boredom away. College students use them to impress their pals. They are the hacky-sacks, mighty bags of PVC pellets, and they're popping up everywhere around Brownwood High.

And this isn't a hands-on game, either. For the uninitiated, the game involves lobbing a hacky in a group, using everything except your arms and hands. The goal is to keep the sack going as long as possible without touching the ground- if everyone hits it at least once, a 'hack' has officially been achieved. ('Hack' is also another term for the hacky-sack itself.)

Senior Will Rivard received his introduction to the sport the hard way.

"I started when I visited my cousins with my uncle in Colorado... they were ten years older. They taught me the old-school style: you mess up, you get pegged by everyone," Rivard said.

Junior Dee Hail has also seen his share of pain when playing with friends.

"We are constantly getting hit in the face, stomach; getting shinkicked, diving for the hack to keep [the game] going. I actually have a pulled thigh muscle from playing," Hail said.

Where sophomore Aaron Evans makes an attempt to play on a daily basis, he has had his taste of heartbreak with the little bags, losing several to a certain four legged friend.

"My dog eats them like every day," Evans said.

But what motivates folks to get up these special beanbags and kick them an insane number of times?

"Pretty much when I'm bored with nothing else to do, I'll find my hack," Rivard said.

Hail agrees.

"It has become a pretty big part of our extra time," Hail said. "It's just an athletic and really quite interesting way to pass time."

For Evans, the game has evolved beyond just entertainment.

"It's [become] a part of me, part of my life," Evans said.



Dee Hail, Melinda Bowen, Michael VanDerPol, and Johnny Aguilar "hack" outside the band hall.



### Things that chafe my behind

#### Are you trying too hard to make friends? Try being yourself

**BY MAYURI BHAKTA**

Right now I am on the task, as most seniors are right now, to find out who I am. As I head out to the supposed "real world," what do I know about myself? I know this:

I believe in nonconformity, but then again one cannot be living in this society. But being into conformity where it's just sad chafes my behind.

So call me hypocritical, yet I am not one who will swing into random things as it is labeled as 'the new thing.'

Nonconformity does not mean that you should hate everything society introduces to you. There is absolutely no way for an individual not to compromise their views in this world. You can't help but like something everyone else likes, and I'm

aware of that. So, if you really are into the punk scene, good for you. Some of you already know who you are, and I apologize to you because you, unlike many, have listened to your heart and acted on those instincts.

So I bring a suggestion: make your own opinions, likes and dislikes, even the clothes you wear.

I also have reason to believe many people are putting on acts every minute they are around each other. Don't be afraid that people will not like you if you act like yourself.

In some cases, I have witnessed a girl go through split personalities as we migrated through the Student Center. I do not know if the girl I talk to

is the real thing, or her bogus persona. Is it necessary for one to hide their true self just to be friends with others? Are they trying to impress someone and become the ever-so-popular one?

There is a difference between ever changing personalities and disregarding an unpleasant trait to be considerate of others. When situations arrive and people dislike the way I deal with the situation, I'll try to stop it and be thoughtful of their personality. Yes, it's not being true to yourself, but this one negative trait is not going to change your entire personality. This will help you gain friends (not enemies) by still maintaining a majority of yourself.

I'm just telling the world to take steps to find who you really are, not being afraid of what it might be or what people might say.