

March 25, 2007

# WESTWORD

## WEB EXCLUSIVES

# SADD's 'Wheel' fights domestic violence

**W** Rex Penaflorida  
Staff Writer

Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) sponsored "Wheel of Knowledge"—a program designed to disseminate facts about domestic violence and prevention—on Thursday, March 22, during all lunch periods in front of the cafeteria.

The program's goal was "to educate people so that they may become aware of domestic violence and how it's affecting their friends, family and themselves," said counselor MaryBeth Thomas, the sponsor of SADD, which promotes non-violence throughout the school.

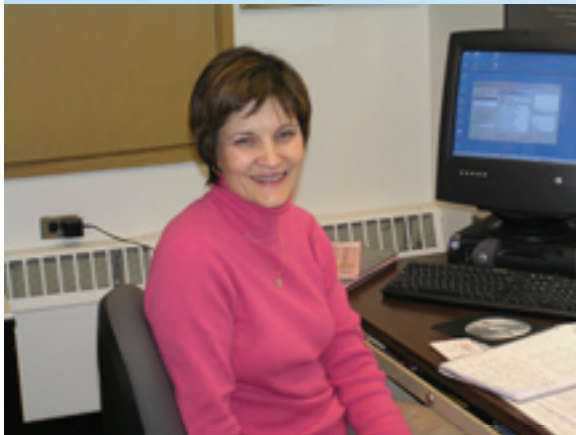
School nurse Peggy Bassrawi is part of the Prevention Team, a branch of SADD. Its job is to educate students about violence, drugs and drinking.

"It's very important for the students to know how serious the damage will be physically and mentally when they are involved in [violence, drugs and drinking]," Bassrawi said.

April is Violence Awareness Month. During this time, SADD will highlight domestic violence and other issues in the form of posters, flyers and other events like the Wheel of Knowledge.

"The more [violence] is seen at home, the more it is used in daily life," Thomas said.

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), young women aged 16-24 experience the highest rate of domestic violence. The NCADV also revealed that in the state of Illinois, there were 5,853 sexual assaults reported in 2003, for which only 1,717 arrests were made.



Thomas

