INSIDE: Birkel learns the basics in National Guard

SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC

ROCK BOTTOM

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SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

News of attacks halts school day; stuns students

Eric Grubaugh
Staff Reporter

July 4, 1976. April 12, 1861. December 7, 1941.

Now, September 11, 2001.

The events that occurred Tuesday, September 11, 2001, and all subsequent events, have earned their place in history, along with these other influential dates. Whether or not it is truly realized, the terrorist attacks against New York and Washington will be documented in future generations' history books as one of the most intolerable, barbarous acts of crime against this nation.

Some in our community may think they are too far away for this terroristic wrongdoing to affect them. Others know the solemnity of this issue. At Scotus, moods were mixed. Many were worried about the consequences of the attacks and how the U.S. would react.

"Thirst for vengeance will lead to acts that could be detrimental to our future," Father Steve Emanuel said. "Forgiveness with a sense of charity, especially for those who have suffered, will be overshadowed by our need to show we are strong."

> ***"I'm not surprised at all. Everyone hates the USA except the USA."***
> **-Senior Tim Mlinar**

Speech and Drama teacher Sandie Bernt was also worried about the consequences of retaliation. She said she hopes these attacks do not lead to war, but she feels war is very possible.

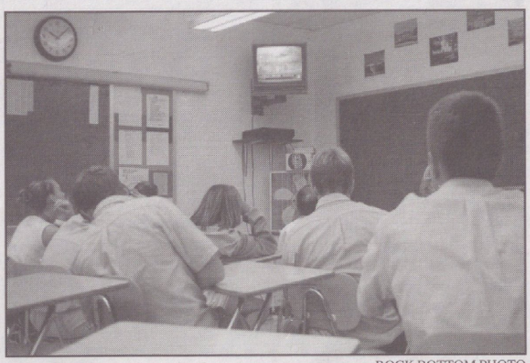
Indeed, the United States' urge to flex its muscles could lead to a war. Students even talked about another World War.

"It could be World War III," sophomore Kyle Torczon said, "and I want to get drafted."

Responses of "Bomb 'em," and "Nuke 'em," were numerous, but that raised the questions, "Bomb who? Nuke who?" At the time of the attack, no evidence singled out one country as leading the assault, and the terrorists themselves were also anonymous. While many Scotus students and staff were intent on violent retaliation, or praying for forgiveness and staying out of conflict, still others were simply indifferent.

"I'm not surprised at all," senior Tim Mlinar said. "Everyone hates the U.S.A. except the U.S.A."

Regardless where one's heart sides, whether it be fear, forgiveness, vengeance, or indifference, one fact is still for sure: This attack will be recorded in the annals of history. Whether or not these records will be for the better or for the worse is up to the American people.



ROCK BOTTOM PHOTO

Freshmen students watch the shocking events unfold on September 11. Several classes deviated from normal routine to watch the news coverage of the terrorist attacks.

In times of crisis, USA needs to love its enemies

The skyline of New York City has been forever changed, and even though our tallest buildings may have crumbled, in the aftermath of the disasters in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania the spirit of the United States has risen together. Americans have united in such a way my generation has never seen before. Everywhere there is a feeling of nationalism. All over the nation people did what they could to help, from cleaning the debris to donating money in the plastic containers at restaurants. The terrorist attacks shook our nation, but the responses the American people have shown lives as a tribute to those who lost their lives.

President Bush called for immediate action against this attack on the U.S. Within one day of the attack he had declared an unofficial war on the terrorists and soon after Congress voted to fund this assault against our faceless, countryless enemy. Americans backed the government on this decision.

We as a country have the capability of incinerating our enemy with the biggest nuclear warhead we can dig out of our stockpile if we feel the need. In reality we will just pelt them with a barrage of ballistic missiles. Is blowing a bunch of Arabic fa-

See ***Staroscik****, page 5*

Seventh graders getting the hang of new school

Matt Krings
Staff Reporter

As they dash down the halls with every book they possess on their back, they make sure they are at their class with at least two minutes to spare. Their heads are on a swivel checking out every classroom number to make sure they don't dart into the wrong room.

Every year they seem to get smaller and smaller, and with each year there seems to be those new little kids which we know nothing about. Although older students like to make jokes, everyone should stop and remember what their first year at Scotus was like.

Many seventh graders heard that Scotus was easy compared to elementary school, and they still think so now that they are here. Seventh graders Austin Kuta, Jessica Aerts, Mark Siegel, and Lizzie Powers said that this year was going to be easier than sixth grade, but they would just have to wait until their first quarter report card to see if their predictions were true.

"Mrs. Malicky's class is pretty much really easy," Kuta said. "And I like her missing toe. So she would have to be my favorite."

While some like classes for their relative ease, Mark Siegel looks for the humor when pick-

See ***7th Graders****, page 5*

ROCK BOTTOM PHOTO

The banner yet waves...

The flag at Pawee Park flies at half-mast as a sign of sorrow for the lives lost in the terroristic attacks. In the wake of the tragic attacks, people around the nation were urged to fly their flags.

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A guide to school, diseases, and other 'big words'

I have a horrible disease.

And I'm not just saying that because I'm a hypochondriac. Normal people (such as you) are blessed with a filter located between the brain and the mouth. The disease I am afflicted with gradually eats away this filter causing extreme bluntness and speech without thought. Over the years, my filter was slowly consumed by this illness causing me to say things that I didn't mean at the time.

As of today, I have no filter to speak of. This is why I am the opinion editor. My opinions are not merely my 'opinions', but rather unprocessed thoughts. So bear with me throughout this disturbingly long school year as I share these unprocessed thoughts with the people of our school and community.

The first month of school is always the most painful. We begin our year with the hopes of heat schedules, free jeans days, and the idle wish of air conditioning. But as we enter Scotus on our first day, the sweaty truth falls upon us heavier than the used towel of a fat man. Sweat drips down our backs as we attempt to be alert in math class. Those of us lucky enough to have a computer class in the air-conditioned labs savor our time in the sweet reprocessed air. On our way down to lunch we encounter the red-faced seventh-graders after their first cardiovascular exercise administered by Mrs. Tooley. As the invigorating scent of floor wax wears off, our janitor friends are spotted showing signs of adversity.

If everyone was the same, life would be like high school...

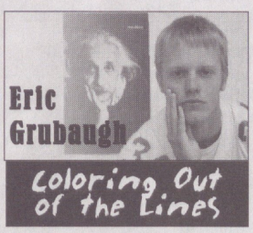
But it's not so bad. For those of you who were granted coordination, you have your sporting events to look forward to. For the intelligent members of our student body, you have the big test next week to anticipate. And for the social butterflies among us, homecoming is next month! Better get a start on finding a homecoming dress suitable for prom and a prom dress suitable for a wedding!

Yet what lies in store for those of us who are not exceptionally brawny, bright, or backward? Could it be study hall? A couple of Mr. Mahoney's Geocodes? Though both options are extremely profitable, the answer you were looking for is... the school newspaper!

Perhaps not my article, (especially if you had to look up the word 'hypochondriac') but several of the other articles are illiteracy friendly. And that's a good thing in this world of shampoo bottle instructions.

I will leave you now with a 'deep' thought: "If everyone was the same, life would be like high school."

Now I'm outta here faster than a fat girl in a dodge-ball game...



The American way to hide a president

The attacks on America that occurred September 11, 2001, are indeed very tragic, and my heart goes out to anyone reading this article, and even those not reading this article (but more so those reading the article), who has been personally involved in this catastrophe. I know this is a very serious issue, but I wanted to step away from the graveness of the issue and let out something that really annoys me: television reporters.

My heart also goes out to whomever had the brilliant idea to take President Bush to Offutt Air Force Base and stay in the underground tunnels due to the attacks. I mean, it is the perfect place. He would be in the center of the country with plenty of air defense above him, a long way to walk for anyone attacking from the ground, and his hideout would be a "secret." Anyway, my heart goes out to whomever that person was because they had their idea shattered by television newscasters that day.

On international television, reporters blatantly announced exactly where our president was, how he arrived there, and when he arrived there. WHY?! Why didn't they just give every single terrorist on the planet a map that says "BOMB HERE" in bright red letters with an arrow pointing at Offutt? Terrorists had already hijacked four planes we knew of. Who was to say they hadn't already stolen more to use for bombs that we just hadn't found out about yet? If they're on target, they could kill the president. If they miss, they still blow up a U.S. Air Force Base in our own backyard.

Why not just give the terrorists a map saying "Bomb here" with an arrow pointing to Offutt?

Newscasters even filmed *Air Force One* landing at the site and announced the president was on board with several of his staff members following in other planes. Great! While they're at it they can dress the president and his staff in brightly colored suits and paint big red targets on their chests! That way, anyone who wanted to, such as terrorists or assassins, could find the president and his staff at their leisure! Wouldn't that be nifty? (I'm sure one of last year's presidential candidate's mud-slingers probably wishes these reporters were around when their wooden candidate couldn't count on the perpetually perplexed Floridian voters.)

While some readers may agree with me, there might be that one reader out there, possibly a television news reporter, who's thinking 'But the terrorists were either dead from the crashes or still on the planes being hijacked, so they couldn't have been watching television...'

In case that one reader is out there, first of all, not ALL the terrorists are dead. Secondly, if they can hijack a plane, I think they could use a walkie-talkie!

Once again I apologize and feel sympathy for anyone affected by this tragic event—which is really all of us, because this will affect the entire country and all other parts of the globe. I also apologize to the person with the idea to put the president in a secret hideaway for the tragic stupidity of television newscasters who didn't realize the president's locale should be just that: a "secret."

Scotus heat day policy needs more attention

Rules are rules. They are supposed to be followed, especially by those who establish them. Early in this school year the heat schedule rule has been ignored when the generally forecasted temperatures were in excess of 90 degrees, causing a rush of negative backlash from students and faculty alike.

The September 4, 2001, weather forecast called for temperatures over 90 degrees Fahrenheit. The normal measure for a day like this would be start school at 7:45 a.m. and dismiss at 1:33 p.m. The rule was not honored, and students and teachers sweated out a miserable full day of school, whining and complaining the entire way.

Several teachers were upset, while others were angered by students' lack of academic enthusiasm. The students had every right to be upset. It is not right that teachers can accuse students of being weak-minded and unmotivated when the very rules that hold this institution together are not even in play.

A source that wishes to remain anonymous pointed that there is no entry for heat schedule policy in the school handbook. While this is in fact true, the topic is well outlined in the first issue of *Shamrock Lines*, the school's newsletter:

"If the heat requires us to dismiss early, classes will start at 7:45 a.m. and end at 1:33 p.m. The heat schedule will be used when the temperature is forecasted to rise above 90 degrees. Students will be notified a day in advance."

This policy exists for the benefit of both the physical and mental well-being of students and staff, especially for those stuck in the sauna that is the third floor. As long as the policy is there, whether it is in the handbook or not, it should be applied consistently.

What should be done? Should all students receive an apology? Not necessarily. Should we throw out the rule? No way! This is simply a matter of common sense. From now on the rule needs to be followed as it is stated. How would the teachers like it if students decided to untuck half of their shirts all day and say that it is fine because they're "kind of" following the rules? That would be found unacceptable, and immediate action would be taken.

There may be one source predicting 88 degrees, but if the regional consensus is closer to 95, the policy should be enacted. If it is forecasted to be 89.99999 degrees, then by all means have a full day. But the instant that mercury rises above 90, the rule needs to be in effect.

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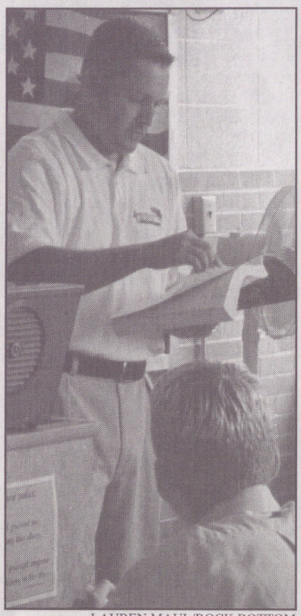

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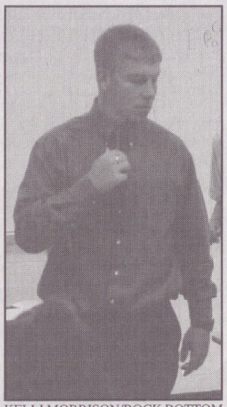
Scotus' newest additions to the facualty adapt to their new surroundings. They are (clockwise from above): Sean Wickham, Ben Ersland, and Cheryl Rambour.



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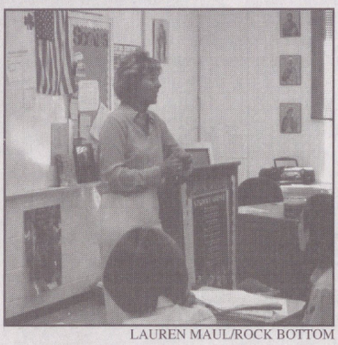

LAUREN MAUL/ROCK BOTTOM

Lauren Maul and Craig Staroscik
Editors

WARNING TO ALL NEW TEACHERS: Just because you've learned your student's names, what times the classes are actually dismissed, and your way around the building doesn't mean the worst is behind you.

Students, you think you know all about your teachers: their tone of voice, their expectations, what makes them tick. You may think you know it all, but you have no idea.

Here's an insight into the people behind the desks.

Cheryl Rambour

Many students don't know that Cheryl Rambour is not literally a 'new' teacher. She taught at Scotus from the fall of 1986 to the spring of 1994 before taking time off to raise her four children. Last year, Rambour was a substitute teacher here at Scotus.

"I love it here. I really feel at home. It's where I was called to be," Rambour said. The Jr. High Religion and Adolescent Relationships teacher enjoys tennis, reading, traveling, and bridge.

As far as challenges go, Rambour hasn't had any problem students.

"I walked into this knowing over half of the students already."

While students have been manageable for the most part, the computers have not. The program for entering the Living the Faith hours has been especially troublesome. Luckily, this dilemma hasn't affected her teaching skills.

"I try to bring it [the material] down to earth. They do a lot of journal writing. I try to be involved in the whole student," Rambour said.

As far as her future plans go, she's keeping an open mind and knows that she wants to be at Scotus for the time being.

"I've got a good bunch of kids, and I really enjoy having my own classroom."

Ben Ersland

Another new face at Scotus is that of Ben Ersland. Ersland is the junior and eighth grade English teacher, yearbook advisor, Jr. High football assistant coach, and freshman basketball assistant coach. Now, some may already know that, but many don't know much more about the man who claims that he "doesn't have any deep thoughts."

According to a number of his students, this is not the case when having a class with Ersland.

The Wisconsin native moved to Kansas where he received his high school education. While attending a Senior Work Week, Ersland discovered his appreciation of teaching. He then went on to Concordia College, where he took part in several sports, including football. After his mid-August wedding, he went on to teach here at Scotus.

As many of his students know, Ersland tends to prefer

See ***New Teachers,*** *page 5*

Sakai adapts to life, culture at Scotus

Kelli Morrison
Staff Reporter

Fade in to a room with twenty people. They are leaning against desks chatting. You want to join but you know no one, and on top of that you don't know what they are saying.

This, perhaps, was the scene Dai Sakai faced when he first arrived at Scotus just a month ago. Sakai is from Utunomiya, Japan, but for the next eight months he is attending Scotus as a foreign exchange student, hosted by the Fritz family.

While he misses his parents and two brothers, he is enjoying his experience in the U.S. so far. Sakai likes to bowl, play pool, and swim. He also enjoys karaoke, but said it is rather hard to come by in the United States. Sakai is involved in cross-country and has fun running, even though he said that coach Mahoney talks too fast for his liking.

He is enjoying going to a coed school, but he is still adjusting to switching classes every 40 minutes, as well as other differences in school schedules between the two countries.

"In Japan we go to class every first and third Saturday," says Sakai.

This is in addition to the normal five-day week. He also has to get used to seeing new faces in every class.

"In Japan we have class with the same students all day," says Sakai.

So there may be a little time before he gets to know America like a native. He does enjoy the freedom of speech and thinking we have. He said that in Japan they are not allowed to criticize the government. Larger portions and more variety at mealtime is also a change.

KELLI MORRISON/ROCK BOTTOM

Foreign exchange student and Scotus junior Dai Sakai poses with his host family. They are from left to right: Larry Fritz, Kyle Fritz, Sakai, and Sheri Fritz.

"In Japan we have fish three times a week. Fish, meat, fish, meat, fish." Sakai said.

They do have some Americanized food in the form of McDonald's, Pizza Hut, and even Kentucky Fried Chicken.

If you think that you don't fit in, you're not alone. So, take time out of your busy schedule to say "hi" to a new friend, you might just learn something.

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Birkel spends summer sweating through basics

Anthony Owens
Staff Reporter

His shoulders are starting to rub raw from the 50-pound pack strapped to his back. The sweltering summer sun is mercilessly sapping his energy. His feet ache at the thought of all the miles yet to go.

No, this isn't a tale of torture; it's just a typical day of summer vacation for senior Josh Birkel.

The end of the 2000-2001 school year meant the beginning of a long summer of basic training in the Army National Guard for Birkel. He graduated from the program in Fort Benning, Georgia, in the middle of August, leaving him only a couple of weeks to enjoy summer vacation.

Fitting the drill instructor stereotype, Birkel said that his instructors were very strict with his platoon. The punishments given to the platoons when someone messed up were called "smokers."

"One time a guy got a pop at lunch when we were only supposed to have milk or Powerade," Birkel said. "They smoked us all except for the guy who did it. He sat and watched."

Smokers consisted of a combination of push-ups, sit-ups, flutter kicks, and mountain climbers until the platoon was nearly exhausted. Birkel said that getting smoked became a common experince.

"You would get smoked several times a day," he said. "You just got used to it after a while."

Waking up at 7:00 or 7:30 a.m. is hard for most teenagers to do. A typical day for Birkel at basic training often started at 4:00 a.m., and lasted until lights out at 9:00 p.m. He was given until 5:00 a.m. to clean his barracks, make his bed and brush his teeth. After that it was off to stretch and warm-up for the day.

> ***"You would get [punished] several times a day. You just got used to it."***
> **- Josh Birkel**

Breakfast, or "chow," was served from 7:30 to 8:00 a.m. After chow, everyone goes to field exercises. Field exercises included such activites as classroom work, marksmenship, hand-to-hand combat training, and grenade training. After field training, supper took place somewhere between 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. It was then back to the barracks where everyone shines his boots and writes letters until 9 p.m., when they must go to sleep.

Near the end of training, the platoon took part in Field and Training Exercise, or FTX's. During the FTX, the platoon would spend three days out in the field training. Birkel said that it would usually be midnight before they were able to go to bed. The FTX included a twelve-mile march with a fifty-pound pack strapped onto their backs. If they were lucky, Birkel said, it wouldn't be raining on those days.

The worst part about the experience wasn't the physical wear and tear, Birkel said, but the homesickness that comes along with it.

"Seeing all of your pictures in your locker made you wish you weren't at basics," Birkel said.

Fortunately, he received a few letters from friends and Scotus faculty.

Despite the hardships and grueling daily regimen, Birkel said he had no regrets about signing up for the Guards. However, it didn't take him too long to come up with his favorite part of his summer experience:

"Graduation, and just knowing that it is all over."

Courtesy of Josh Birkel

Josh Birkel stands at parade rest in uniform.

The mullet: more than just hair

Lauren Maul
Editor

Chocolate as currency, polygamy, spandex pants… the list goes on. But there is one trend that has weathered the years as solid as the mousse that holds it in place. That trend is the timeless **mullet**.

If you don't know what a mullet is, don't feel ashamed. To the foolish, the mullet is "just a haircut." But to others, the mullet is a way of life. The mullet haircut is short in the front, and long in the back. Otherwise known as "business in the front, party in the back."

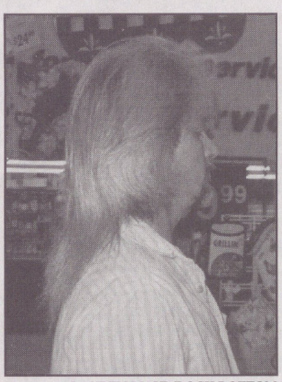
Numerous people have been fascinated with the mullet ever since they watched A.C. "Mullet" Slater grace the halls of Bayside High School on the hit TV series *Saved by the Bell*.

Since then, many folks have enjoyed 'hunting' mullets for entertainment purposes. Mullet hunts involve finding a mullet, taking a picture of the mullet, and then running away from the mullet.

It all began as a whimsical dream: to somehow coax a mullet into an interview. The search for the illusive mullet was on. Unfortunately, many mullets appeared too aggressive to be interviewed. Luckily, the *mulletude* inside of Ace Hardware was a different story. Gene Clayton, a fan of hunting, fishing, and Pink Floyd, was happy to be interviewed. He has had his ultimullet for ten years and plans on keeping it forever. Gene doesn't call his hairstyle a "mullet." He simply calls it "long hair." He has two children. His children do not have mullets.

There is a theory that mullets are hereditary. Now this doesn't mean that the children of mullets will be born with the 'do. The choice of getting a mullet is a very serious decision, which is usually made in the child's late-teens. But if the parent or other family member has a mullet, the child may be tempted to join the clan.

If you would like to learn more about mullets, visit your local library on Sunday mornings, which is prime mullet-learning time. You can also visit http://www.mulletsgalore.com. Enjoy, but remember to understand the mullet, you must also fear it.



LAUREN MAUL/ROCK BOTTOM

Gene Clayton displays his ultimullet. This is a classic example of mullethood.

Mullet Vocabulary

(courtesy of http://www.mulletsgalore.com.)

Coldneck: a non-mullet. *Note*: just because someone is a coldneck, doesn't mean they don't possess mulletude.

Mullet: (mu' lit) **1**. any of a family of edible, spiny-rayed fishes found in fresh and salt waters and having a small mouth and feeble teeth, as the striped striped (or gray) mullet. **2**. any haircut which the sides and top of the hair are cut *significantly* shorter than the back.

Mulletude: (mu' li' tewd) the attitude that comes with the adornment of the **mullet**.

The term "mullet" has also been seen in Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*: ***"They're so confiding and mullet-headed they don't take notice of nothing at all."***

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Staroscik: Pray for enemies

from page 1

natics to little bits really going to make everything better, though?

Scotus is a Catholic school. It teaches that we should love our enemies and support life over death. Everyone is shocked at these attacks, but is answering death with more death really the best answer?

You are only a student among millions in this country, but together we make a body, one that is united with Christ. We cannot go up to Bush and tell him to put away his guns and missiles, but we can pray for those who hurt us. Pray for those people in the world who think that by killing they can improve the world. Pray for those people who cheer at the collapse of an economic superpower, only because they live in a country too poor to support itself or its starving people. Pray for peace, that people in the world may come to realize the evil they do and change it. Pray for yourself, that you never forget how lucky you are to live in the greatest country in the world, where you have no envy, no unfulfilled needs, and where this may be your only glimpse of fear.

I pray for all those who lost their lives in the attacks and all those who have joined to show the true spirit of our nation. God bless America!

Seventh graders: Adjusting

from page 1

ing his favorite.

"Mr. Puetz is my favorite teacher because he is funny. Every time he laughs, I do too," Siegel said.

There are many changes that come about when first coming to junior high. Lizzie Powers wasn't scared of not finding her classes because she took advantage of not being counted tardy the first few days. However, being intimidated by the upperclassmen was a problem the first days for many students.

"Older kids pick on me when I am at my locker," Aerts said. "Sometimes they push me down the stairs, and they always say 'HURRY UP OR ELSE YOU WILL BE LATE.' "

This is a year that the seventh graders will never forget. It is a major educational transition in their lives. New teachers, more students, and harder classes will contribute to the overall high school experience, but their first year here is going to be one of the most memorable.

"This year is going to be a lot of fun," Kuta said. "Even though I miss recess."

SEVENTH GRADERS SPEAK

What is the biggest change from grade school to Scotus?

"I don't like heights. Scotus is too tall, and St. Bon's is much smaller."
- Jacob Staroscik

"Blue Jell-O"
- Stephanie Korger

"Going to school with my sister and changing teachers."
- Brittney Thompson

"Having to go to a different room after each period."
- Danny Zach

"Lockers."
- Cody Hellbusch

"Going from class to class and switching teachers."
- Travis Weiser

New teachers: Scotus adds four to staff

from page 3

discussion to lecture.

"I'm still refining [my teaching technique], that's obvious," said Ersland. When it comes to grading assignments, he said his biggest challenge so far has been to grade his class' first essay.

Another challenge is the one-hour drive from his home in Seward to Columbus. This commute may come into play when Ersland has to think of his future at Scotus. Since his wife is a student teacher in Seward, they have decided to wait until the end of the school year to make plans for next year.

Even though Ersland took this job one week before school started, he said he is rather comfortable with his situation.

Mary Karel

¿Qué piensas de la maestra nueva de Español y matematicas? It won't be long before eighth graders will be able to ask each other this question and many others, thanks in part to Mary Karel.

> *"They told me Scotus is a big family, and it is.*
> **- Mary Karel**

Karel is Scotus' newest Spanish 8, Spanish II, and applied math teacher. With an upbeat personality, values rooted in her family, and an optimistic view of the future, Karel has started down the rough road of the first year teacher.

A 2001 graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln last year, Karel anticipated teaching both of her majors at Scotus. Science and math had been two of Karel's favorite subjects in high school.

"They were two of my best subjects, and I liked my teachers who taught me."

Karel is looking forward to teaching at Scotus because of its outstanding technology program.

"I checked out other schools, but they didn't have enough computers for teacher or student use," she said. "I feel that is something that everyone should have access to."

Karel is also taking on the role of assistant coach for junior high girls basketball this year.

"I'm looking forward to coaching," Karel said. "I went to a volleyball game the other night and thought 'I need to be back in a sport.' It's going to be really fun."

No teaching career gets off to the perfect start, though.

"It's more than I expected," Karel said. "Grading is hard. Sixty-two Spanish paragraphs take up a little time. When I started teaching I didn't know what to expect. You get an idea what it is like from student teaching, but there are so many different rules and procedures."

Karel said that she enjoys teaching at Scotus so far and that the staff has been more than helpful.

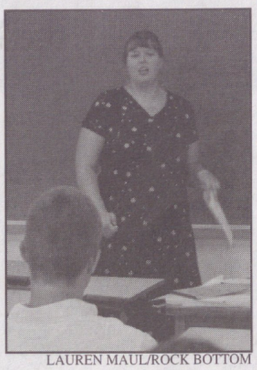
"They told me Scotus is a big family, and it is."

Sean Wickham

Don't worry. You're not seeing double. That face that you remember from football practice or on the sidelines of the girl's basketball games is supposed to be at the podium in front of your history class.

Sean Wickham, already known to Scotus as a coach for the past two years, starts this year as Scotus' eighth grade and junior history teacher.

Originally from Kearney, Wickham moved to Columbus with his wife, a Scotus graduate, to become an elementary physical education teacher at St Bonaventure two years ago. Since then he has been coaching at Scotus, but this is his first year in teaching in the building. Wickham said he enjoys the sports he has been involved in and hopes to get to know his students better through his coaching, and his players better through his teaching.



LAUREN MAUL/ROCK BOTTOM

First-year teacher Mary Karel gives instruction to one of her classes. Karel teaches math and Spanish at Scotus.

"Besides the competitiveness, teaching and coaching are basically the same," said Wickham. "Sports is more physical learning, and school is more of the academic learning, but both are essentially teaching."

Life in the gym as a P.E. teacher versus life in the classroom has presented some expected challenges for Wickham.

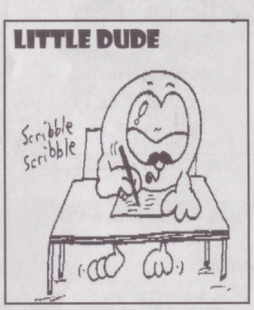
"Being in the classroom is a lot different than being in the gym all day. It is a new atmosphere."

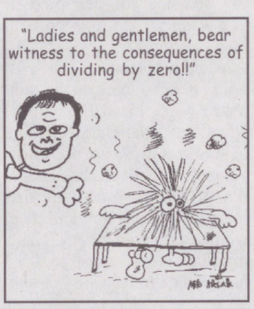
Wickham is looking forward to teaching history. He said that as a student he enjoyed the class and likes teaching the concepts of history. Although many teachers underestimate the first year, Wickham does not predict it being too difficult.

"I anticipated the workload," he said. "I know the first year is going to be tough. After this first year you get the lessons figured out and know how to present them."

Prepared or not, Wickham's teaching career at Scotus is off to a bright start.

"I want to try to make the classes as interactive as possible and give my students the opportunity to learn."





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Staying on top can bring stress

Craig Staroscik
Editor

You know that time of year. Whether it's the newly waxed gym floor, the first cool autumn breezes, or the spotlights radiating the night sky that give it away, Scotus is once again entwined in the excitement of another fall sports season.

Not to say that we don't have a reason to be. Equipped with experienced coaches, hard working players, and sometimes even enthusiastic fans, Scotus heads into another season expecting the most and nothing but the best. In fact, some might say that here at Scotus, winning is one thing taken for granted.

When was the last time you went to a volleyball game expecting to lose? Why is it no big deal when our football team walks away from its season opener with a 51-0 win? With such a prestigious athletic program do our players and coaches feel about the pressures of staying number one?

Cross country coach Dan Mahoney lead last year's girls cross country team to their first state championship. The girls have gotten off to a successful start and he hopes to continue last year's success.

"We hope to be in the hunt for the championship," Mahoney said. "There are two or three teams that are strong competitors- Gothenburg and Lincoln Lutheran. We just hope everyone stays healthy and improves."

Repeating a state championship is never easy, but Mahoney says that the fact that the team won last year has little to do with this season's performance.

"My coaching is the same as any other year," he said. "I don't think there is much pressure. Going to a meet, other teams want to beat us, but I think the girls are handling it well."

One state championship is incredible to say the least, but Scotus has what some may call the expert of repeating state championships. Coach John Petersen guided five teams to first in the state in the last six years of coaching volleyball. The team comes off last year's season as runners-up, a title that for an unspoken few is a disappointment. Petersen said the atmosphere of this year's team has been positive.

"We are optimistic that we will be competitors throughout the season," Petersen said. "Hopefully [being runners-up in last year's championship] will make us hungry to get back on top. The goal is really to be the best we're capable of, and everything else will take care of itself."

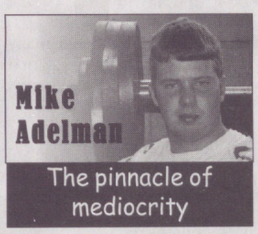
Petersen believes that there is some pressure from fans and other teams to be number one, but that the success of a team depends on itself.

"Pressure is created from within the team," he said. "We want to do well and compete on a high level. We want to be the best we can be."

The views of coaches and athletes were varied. Although athletes do feel some demands from the fans and other teams, they are more focused on improving themselves.

"The pressure is pretty high," said junior volleyball player Taryn Ketter. "The fans seemed really involved after our third or fourth championship, but now it seem like they don't care as much."

So whether you're in the playing field or cheering on from the bleachers, at Scotus you always have something to shout about. Remember that the goal is in your ability, not living up to your predecessors. The years of winning traditions have become an unmovable part of our school's spirit, so much that the fans might even stand up for the fight song. In the meantime, the Shamrocks will keep fighting for that next banner.



Homecoming 101

Guys, we don't have it as easy as we say we do. Sure, we brag about not having to do our hair every morning, require no makeup, and don't have to give birth, but none of that helps us in our ever-so-present quest of finding a homecoming date.

Anyone who personally knows me may ask why I am writing the column on advice for homecoming, as I am currently one for three in getting homecoming dates in my first three years of high school. Also, the one girl who did go with me barely knew me. This actually makes me the perfect man for the job: I know exactly what NOT to do, and am here to share that with you.

Imagine the feeling you get after your fifth ride on the Scrambler at the fair and you will get a decent idea of what a guy feels before he asks a girl to homecoming. Not only does he have to deal with the gut-wrenching feeling for a good portion of the day, but he also has to come up with some cheesy line to convince his prospect that he is a worthy candidate for the event. Top that all with the fear of rejection and you no longer have a young man, but a ball of nerves and cheap cologne.

So the day drags on and you finally ask her. The two-second gap before her response is the weirdest feeling you will ever have. You will think, "Hey, I asked her, that wasn't so bad." However, you will immediately start to feel sick. Do not panic, the girl will respond. If she says yes, great! You're on your own from this point since I would not know how to react.

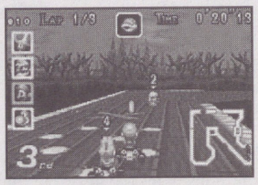
If she says no, politely thank her for her time and move on. Even worse is if she says maybe, because that means she thinks you cannot handle rejection. If she responds, "Can I get back to you on that?" just save yourself the trouble and tell her you have other people to ask, because she will not be getting back to you.

That is all the advice I have for the guys. Here is a little for the girls: be kind. You don't know how difficult this can be. Let any rejections down gently and don't brag to your friends about turning someone down. Also, do not act like you own the person you are dating simply because you accepted. If you accept to go, it is on your own free will.

Well, that is about all the wisdom I have to share on this subject. I hope this will make the agonizing experience a bit more bearable. Guys, do not allow yourself to think this has a negative effect on your future dating life; just get rich and meet women with your money. That's my plan. Now I must go, for I have a date to find!

New Mario Kart game races into fans' pockets

Mike Adelman
Editor-in-Chief



NASCAR, Mario- style.

If you thought Playstation2 was the most popular system ever, think again. Nintendo's Game Boy Advance has claimed the record of the fastest selling video game system ever. Since it's release on June 11, 2001, the GBA has sold one unit roughly every three seconds. This little handheld wonder has produced a library of over 30 games thus far, and insures hundreds of quality titles in the years to come.

Mario Kart: Super Circuit puts GBA's hardware to the test. Combining the game play style of the classic Super NES Mario Kart and the graphics of Mario Kart 64 gives this game the one-two punch combo needed to impress today's picky gamers.

The graphics in *Super Circuit* place simple 3-D models in motion on a flat, but detailed track. Though the track itself is only two-dimensional, it appears in 3-D thanks to the GBA's superior mapping abilities. The result is a fast, smooth, and realistic 3-D experience. The character animation is believable and fluid, while the items and their effects are quite entertaining. That said graphics deliver to high expectations and then some.

Sound in the game is crisp, but too quiet. Headphones are often needed just to hear all the instruments in the well-composed music. The in-game sounds of karts racing and crashing are pretty standard, and do what they're supposed to. All in all, sound is pretty good, but *Super Circuit* does not utilize the GBA's full sound potential.

The play control is what makes this game a real winner. The controls of racing and using items are quite simple, and can be learned quickly. The game itself is very responsive, and gives a great sense of speed on the faster tracks. The frame rate is constant, and never glitches up, either. One gripe is that the map on the bottom of the screen tends to get in the way on some of the larger tracks, and I've found no way to remove it as of yet.

Multiplayer modes are available in *Super Circuit*. Some modes allow up to four players with GBA's with only one game cartridge, while others require multiple game paks to link up (see instructions). Included in these modes are standard racing and battle modes. That and the Time Trial mode provide nearly infinite replay value. Basically, you get more than what you pay for. This game will provide hours upon hours of fun, and will go down as a GBA classic.

I highly recommend this game, but to play it you must first own a Game Boy Advance. I assure you that would be a worthy purchase. Imagine carrying a game system with nearly the power of Playstation1 in your pocket. You would never get bored!! The Game Boy Advance will provide the gaming world with years of entertainment, so hop on the bandwagon and pick one up when you can; and Mario Kart, of course.

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INSIDE: Homecoming dilemma- to date or not to date?

SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC

ROCK BOTTOM

Columbus, Nebraska | October, 2001 | Volume 4, Issue 2

THE JOURNEY

Scotus seniors prepare for college, deal with scholarships, junk mail, stress

Mike Adelman
Editor-in-Chief

You open your mailbox and are instantly buried in a pile of brochures. You have developed a sense of insecurity about your future, and have been cooped up for 18 years with little freedom.

These may sound like excerpts from horror movies, but they are the every day feelings of seniors preparing for college.

Seniors may notice that the amount of mail they receive from colleges has significantly increased over the last couple of years. What used to be no big deal may now be a great annoyance.

"Most of it is just junk mail, anyway," said senior Dan Hadland, referring to college mail.

Others don't even pay attention to the mailings.

"I'm not stressed about the mail," said senior Kathleen Ames. "Everybody gets the exact same stuff from the exact same colleges."

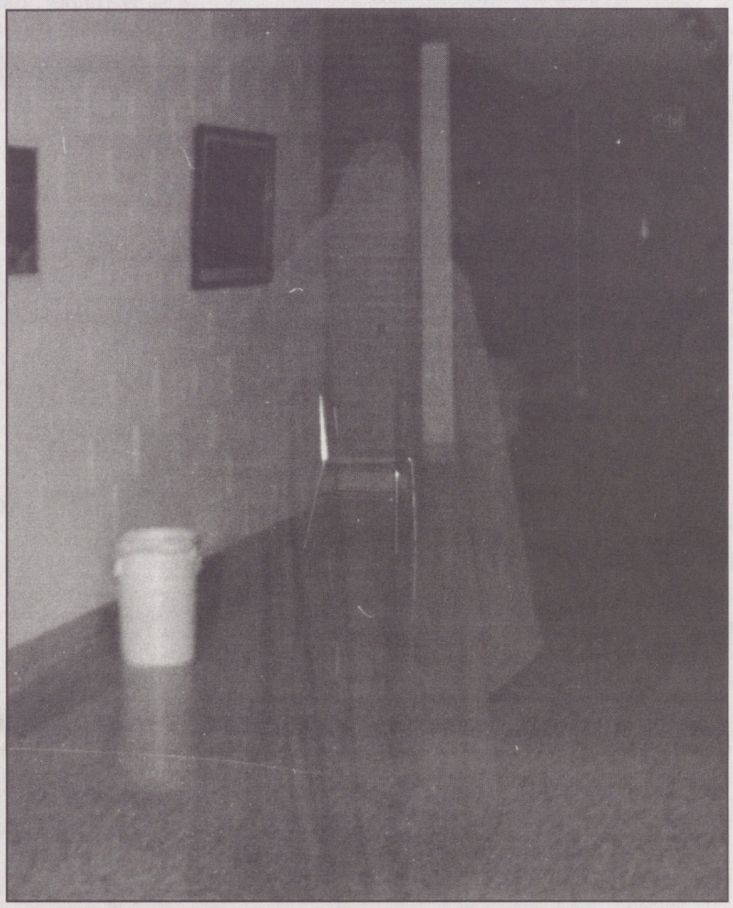
A feasible solution to the problem is to keep only the letters with information on schools that the student is considering. If the schools students receive mail from are too far away or are lacking in a field of interest, then they should be thrown away. Just because a letter from a school is a big packet does not mean it holds valuable or relevant information.

Some students may dread going to school for another two to four years, and may be tired of school already. "Senioritis", a common name for the attitude that seniors get toward the end of the year, sets in. Seniors feel that the work they do here does not matter once they get accepted to a college. The only way around this is to make a deliberate effort to stay focused, and hope that the resolve it gives carries on to college.

"You kind of need education in life unless you want to flip burgers your whole life," said senior Amanda Cielocha when speaking about the added pressure of schooling beyond high school graduation.

Paying for college or getting scholarships can be another strenuous experience. Guidance counselor Judi Wolken held a conference last school year with incoming seniors, and suggested that they spend some time looking for scholarships in fields that they are interested in. Many of these can be found with complete application instructions on the Internet.

Though the above problems and solutions are fairly simple and straightforward, there are bound to be other problems that students must face. As the seniors know, the solutions to these problems will take a great deal of work and sacrifice to uncover.

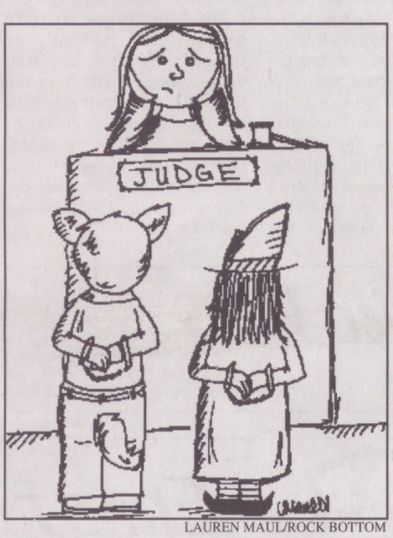


MIKE ADELMAN/ROCK BOTTOM

The spirit that walks among us...

The Scotus Ghost caught on film, haunting the school on a gloomy night. Look inside for another rare photo of this paranormal being.

Audience to act as jury, determine outcome of fall play



LAUREN MAUL/ROCK BOTTOM

The Big Bad Wolf (B.B. Wolf) and the Wicked Witch are brought to the stand in Scotus' rendition of *Fairy Tale Courtroom*. The play gives the audience the chance to determine the fate of these fairy tale characters.

Craig Staroscik
Editor

Growing up, you may recall having someone read fairy tales to you. Everyone had his or her favorite tale, favorite hero, or maybe even favorite villain. Did you ever wish you could get back at that snobby Goldilocks for eating Baby Bear's porridge? Or were you the one who always rooted for the Prince to come and save whatever princess happened to fall under evil this time? Whatever the case, now you have a chance to determine the fate of those classic villains in Scotus' 2001 fall play.

Fairy Tale Courtroom tells the story of the Wicked Witch and the Big Bad Wolf being taken to trial over their crimes committed against the rest of the fairy tale world, with testimonies from Gretel to the Little Red's Grandmother. The play evolves with pleas from the defendants, justified accusations from the victims, and the expected humor that comes whenever the Monkeys from the Wizard of Oz are thrown on the same stage as Snow White.

Jamie Ferguson has taken on the role of directing this year's play. He has been in charge of the last five fall plays at Scotus, including last year's *Dark and Stormy Night*. He notes that one thing that makes this year's play different is that the audience has a voice.

"The characters from the fairy tales testify, and in the end the audience votes to see if the villain is guilty or innocent," Ferguson said. "It's interesting because the play can have different endings."

> ***(Acting) gives me a thrill, a rush. I get to be someone I'm not.***
>
> **- Senior Meghan Bernt**

Like any school activity, putting a play on takes time and dedication by both the actors and the director. In about a month, they have to cast, memorize their lines and actions, and prepare the set. These tasks can be strenuous on the entire production team.

"Following the casting is long periods of rehearsing the play over and over," Ferguson said. "If you don't have your lines memorized, you don't have a play. The second thing the actors have to do is develop their characters, how they act, sound, and move. Rehearsals involve both, and the actors have to be dedicated. It requires a lot."

Not only is the process of memorizing and role-playing demanding of the actors, but there is also the ever-present psychological factor of having to stand up on the stage dressed as one of the Three Pigs, or worse. For most of the actors, it is not about self-consciousness, but doing what they enjoy.

"I don't feel any pressure," junior Scott Becker said. " For me, it's just

See ***Play****, page 5*

Rock Bottom, Scotus Central Catholic High School, Columbus, NE
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Physical education and its role in my life

I'm not supposed to enjoy school. No one likes school. Okay, some of you do. And that's fine. Because this year, school has been pretty good. One could blame this atrocity on being an editor on the paper staff, taking an art class, or maybe even play practice after school. But I think we all know the real reason: NO PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASS. For those of you who don't know, when students become juniors, they are through with their PE experience.

I understand that there are those among you who enjoy PE. Maybe it's because you like running, playing sports, or showering with members of the same sex. I don't appreciate any of these. In fact, one might dare to say that I "hated" PE. I'm a slow runner, bad at sports, and don't particularly like sharing a shower. From kindergarten to 10th grade, I always dreaded the class. Perhaps this is why I dislike exercise so much. Every time I think about exercise, I think of getting pummeled against the wall of the St. Isidore's cafeteria with basketballs during the weekly dodge ball game. Who invented that game? They have scarred millions of children emotionally and physically with their cruel game of abuse.

After sixth grade, I hoped that perhaps my junior high PE experience would be better. That was before I was introduced to the **TEN-MINUTE CARDIO WORKOUT**. If you are unfamiliar with this term, it is simply a synonym for "hell." Many people run until the point of vomiting during this barbaric exercise. And why are we forced to do this? To prepare us for the annual **20-MINUTE RUN.** Don't get me started. Don't *even* get me started.

I'm a slow runner, bad at sports, and don't particularly like sharing a shower.

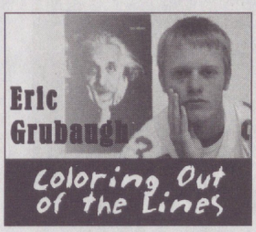
You are graded on four things in Scotus PE: attendance, effort, physical ability, and the capability to memorize the PE TV Handbook. Well, I did show up, I didn't try, I lacked physical ability, and was confused in regards to the 'handbook.' Therefore, my enjoyment level in PE class was at an all-time low. So I racked my brains to think of a way to make PE a tad more fun. I didn't really succeed, but I do have a few good memories.

- When we would run in the Old Gym, I would run out the door and into the locker room when the teacher wasn't looking. (It would have been a good time if I hadn't been horribly afraid of getting caught.)
- After PE, the cafeteria ladies felt sorry for some kids, so we would get some free peanut butter sandwiches.
- We could bring our own music to listen to in the weight room. For our class, that meant either 'ghetto' rap, or sugar-coated-gag-me-with-a-rusty-spoon pop. Therefore, I would occasionally bring some Ani DiFranco (which is *definitely* not weight-room music) and scare everyone.

I understand that these instances may not seem that "fun", or perhaps a pinch "illegal" according to school rules, but if you have ever been in PE, you see where I'm coming from. For all of you 7th graders out there, I have some words of wisdom for you: **BREAK SOMETHING**. I broke my foot last year and got out of PE for a **MONTH**. It was the best. And also, PE only gets worse. There's more running, more sports, and more group showers. Oh, and by the way, I walked during the final 20 minute run last year and still passed the class.

I will now leave the rest of you with some new deep thoughts: "Beauty fades, fat doesn't." "It's better to be mean and like it than to be nice and fake." "Never encourage the untalented."

This next quote is for those among you unsatisfied with your Homecoming date's appearance: "Personality only counts when it's dark." Okay, now I'm outta here faster than an anorexic in a buffet line.



Bombings and other pointless acts of vengeance

KA-BOOM!!!

Explosions drown out all other sounds; clouds of smoke fill the air and the senses. As the dust settles, buildings are demolished and innocent victims lay dead or severely injured without even knowing what just hit them.

Being the loyal, patriotic American that you are, I assume you are thinking of the tragedies of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Shocking as this may be to some of you, that's not what I'm talking about. I was actually referring to what happened in Afghanistan on Sunday, October 8, 2001.

Can anyone give me an intelligent answer as to why we needed to bomb them back to the Stone Age?

I mean, for the most part, their technology was still back in Jesus' time, why did we have to set them back farther? What threat did these nomadic desert-dwellers pose to us? What purpose did these bomb raids serve, and what did they accomplish?

Once again, as an American, you are probably thinking "It was obviously revenge for the World Trade Center." Obviously someone forgot to open their mind today. Plus that only answers half of my question. The other half was what did it accomplish?

Why must the entire Afghan nation pay for one terrorist's groups' crimes?

NOTHING!! The bombing killed innocent people and destroyed their homeland (although that land is not much more than sand, it was still their land).

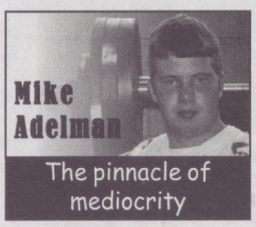
What did they do to deserve death? Once again, NOTHING!! Why must the entire Afghan nation pay for one terrorist's group's crimes? They shouldn't have to!

There's no reason or purpose behind these raids except to enlarge our American egos, to show we are the strongest. Big deal. What does the strongest matter if you got there by stepping on everyone below you? Plus, this senseless violence will only lead to more killing, which in turn will lead to... more killing.

Finally when the killing stops, the world will be back at square one because there will be so much emotional and physical rebuilding to be done and all that killing solved... you guessed it...NOTHING!!

Now for those who are more thickheaded, and a little bit slower than the rest, the point I am making here is that this unnecessary violence is exactly that...unnecessary.

It solves nothing and there is no purpose behind except for the United States to flex its military muscles. It needs to stop as soon as possible before more innocent people are hurt. To those who read this and agree with me, congratulations, your heart is in the right place. For the rest of the egotistical readers who disagree, it's okay to pick your jaw up off the floor.



Rock Bottom staff pays tribute to intelligence

Everyone loves the new version of the newspaper! Err… not really, though. While the teachers love the accurate and timely news articles we produce, several of the students have not had any positive comments.

I go from hearing "Where's Studs and Duds?" to "You guys don't make fun of enough people." Students have regularly commented on the lack of this sort of material in our periodical. This puts me, the editor, in a rather difficult position.

You see, this may shock all of you, but I have to follow rules, too. I think those of you who complain to me about the paper need to put this one down for a few hours and absorb that.

I would love to bring "Studs and Duds" and "Flavors of the Month" back, but the answer is simply no. What can be done? Well, I can start by making fun of the nameless individuals who cut me into pieces for something I have no control over. Small minds are easily fascinated. Only a person with a low level of intellect would want to read nothing but garbage.

Is it that difficult or boring to read intelligent and concise writing? The *Rock Bottom* is actually quite humorous for those smart enough to understand writing above a third grade level.

It seems that the students have reduced their attention span to that of Neanderthals when it comes to leisure reading. The only time most of them want to read anything willfully is when the material is either gossip or immoral garbage. This is rather disheartening from the standpoint of a news writer.

The bottom line is that if you want to read about people being made fun of, then go read a bathroom stall. Hopefully the student body isn't so fickle with their "precious paper" in the future. This publication holds a lot of humorous nuggets for those who peruse its pages. Perhaps some of the students will see the light, and help the others realize that we're doing our best.

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Trick-or-treating: Can you really get too old for free candy?

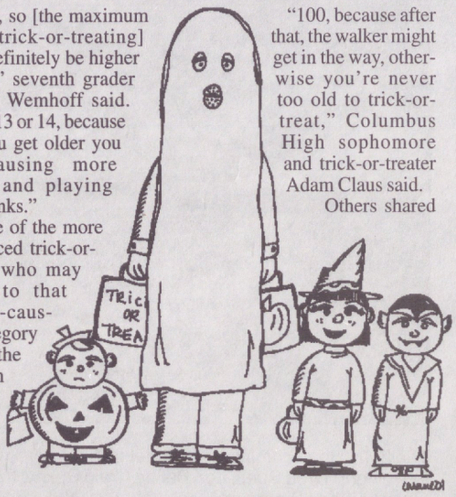
Eric Grubaugh
Staff Reporter

Trick-or-treat, smell my feet...everyone knows the rest.

Halloween has arived, the one night of the year the ghosts and goblins inside of everyone come out to play—without getting in trouble. Each year more and more young'ns go out collecting candy, and even as those young'ns get a bit older, the passion for this holiday never seems to die. However, as we get older we seem to get more and more mischievous, which raises a question that will be debated throughout the ages: "Is there an age limit where all of this freakish fun should have to stop?"

"We're not too old, because we're 12, so [the maximum age for trick-or-treating] should definitely be higher than 12," seventh grader Whitney Wemhoff said. "Maybe 13 or 14, because when you get older you start causing more trouble and playing more pranks."

Some of the more experienced trick-or-treaters who may fall in to that "trouble-causing" category thought the maximum age should be much higher.



"100, because after that, the walker might get in the way, otherwise you're never too old to trick-or-treat," Columbus High sophomore and trick-or-treater Adam Claus said.

Others shared this idea.

"Any person of whatever age should be able to dress in a costume and bring the youth back into themselves," senior Wes Wemhoff said.

Many students and would-be trick-or-treaters might agree, but those handing out the candy might feel differently.

"Once you're out of grade school [you should stop trick-or-treating] because Halloween is for fun; it's not for collecting candy from adults," Dave Darnell said.

So, as you can see: The younger of the trick-or-treaters feel that those who play pranks on Halloween are too old to trick-or-treat. However, those who are doing the prank-playing feel you are never, ever too old to put on some funky threads and search every nook and cranny to find someone to scare, just as their predecessors did to them in their younger days. And last but certainly not least, those who have just lost that yearning to get free candy by the bag load feel that the candy should be left for the young'ns.

Whether you're just getting your feet wet in finding the houses who give the dandiest delights; a seasoned, veteran prankster; or getting to the point where you're on the outside looking in, the debate will continue on neighborhood doorsteps for many Halloween nights to come.

Kitty: Scotus' answer to Casper?

Kelli Morrison
Staff Reporter

Meet Kitty.

She enjoys roaming the halls late at night or early in the morning, stealing pictures, and playing with drama props. Her style includes a black riding cape and a simple 1900's dress. Not your type?

I wouldn't worry. She's dead.

Yes, dead. Kitty is the resident poltergeist at Scotus and every now and again she makes her presence known as the "Scotus Ghost." The Scotus ghost has been a legend around school for years, but is it just a myth or is there a real story here? Speech and drama teacher Sandie Bernt has been witness to some of the pranks attributed to the Scotus ghost, or Kitty, and has become somewhat of a authority on the subject. Here's the story of Kitty the Scotus ghost according to Bernt:

Kitty is 18 and was a senior at Scotus many decades ago. As an active member of the student body, Kitty enjoyed acting and singing. Not that she was lacking in any other area, for she was an excellent student who worked hard and was very kind. In the months before her graduation, a flu epidemic struck Columbus and Kitty was not spared. Three weeks before graduation, Kitty died. She has been sighted many times in the halls of Scotus since.

Her favorite prank to pull is stealing things from the journalism staff. Neither the yearbook nor the paper staff is safe from an otherworldly visit.

One account of Kitty happened in the 1980's. At the time, room 23 (Mr. Arneal's room) had a wall dividing it into two. The west side of the room was used by the yearbook staff. Over the course of the year pictures began to go missing. Month aftermonth only one or two would be gone. Then one morning the staff came in early to find that the pictures in the locked room had been laid out on the floor in a pattern.

Yet another account of her readiness to torment the journalists lies only a few years later. A Mrs. Ivy was the advisor of the newspaper in the mid-1980's when, again, things began to go missing. Only this time it wasn't pictures, it was various other objects. Ivy, not believing in ghosts, accused her students of stealing and banned them from the room when she wasn't there with them. Things still disappeared. She became angry and stormed out of the room and asked Bernt, who occupied the room next door, if she had let them in. Bernt hadn't.

KELLI MORRISON/ROCK BOTTOM

Possible evidence of Kitty's existence? An apparition climbs Scotus' stairs late at night.

Kitty enjoys the second floor, and isn't shy about sneaking up on you. Don't fear, Kitty is friend not foe. She only

*See **Ghost,** page 5*

SCARY MEMORIES AND THEN SOME

Halloween is in the air, decorations are on the walls, and here's what's in the minds of Scotus students:

What scares you the most about Halloween?

"When people answer the door naked." – *Josh Romberg, Junior*

"Old scary people who answer the door and smell bad." – *Tyler Weinand, Junior*

"The way people look at me when I still go Trick-or-Treating." – *Chris Rogers, Senior*

What's your favorite Halloween memory?

"Getting candy. EATING IT." – *Matt Bahr, Senior*

"When a guy chased my two friends and I down the street. (He was a hunchback.)" – *Ann Bierbower, Junior*

"Dumping a certain person five miles out of town and making them walk in a girl costume back into town." – *Ryan Jarecki, Senior*

Why do you/don't you believe in ghosts?

"I've never seen a ghost, but I've seen some of the 'reliable' witnesses to the supernatural and I am convinced that ghosts exist." – *Shawn Starostka, Senior*

"I do, because they help me steal candy from the rich glutton children who later become bulimic because of their horrendous parents' pressure." – *Anna Evans, Junior*

"I see dead people." – *Kelly Novicki, Junior*

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Homecoming customs survive years, changes

Mike Adelman
Editor-in-Chief

Homecoming week has come and gone. Many students simply went with the flow and dressed up funny just because they can, not really knowing the true meaning of what they are doing. But Homecoming is more than just wearing your pajamas to school.

Homecoming can be thought of in a few different ways. This year it can be thought of as a homecoming for the football team, since it had not had a home game in eons (actually, one month). It can also be thought of as the return of students from a long summer.

The main reason though, which seems to have been lost over the years, is that alumni are welcome back to participate in the week's events. A few have participated in recent years, but not enough to make anyone realize the true significance of the event. It is there so that graduates can get a feel of what is going on at school, even though they are not there. It is unfortunate that many of them are simply too busy to take part in the action.

Homecoming may seem like a time of celebration, but there are some pitfalls. It can sometimes be too much of a distraction to the football team, who needs to win the game to set the tone for the evening.

"As a coach, it creates a distraction from the football game," Scotus head football coach Jim Puetz said. "I remember 1982 when we lost to Boys Town. It stays in my mind. We played terrible, and there was even some dissension over who was supposed to be king."

Puetz said that he was glad that the rule was changed back in the mid-80's so that the king candidates did not have to be football players. This ruling must have lifted some of the weight off the shoulders of the football team, and perhaps calmed their anxieties.

The dress-up days are there to remind everyone to have fun, and know that the week is supposed to be lighthearted and jovial.

Father Steve Emanuel taught his senior theology class the difference between ritual and routine. According to notes, a ritual has more meaning than the action itself, whereas a routine is simply an action with one distinct, concrete purpose. This applies to homecoming week as well.

A regular day of school can be seen as a routine, but homecoming days are ritual. There is a special meaning in each day. Not necessarily the theme of the day, but the atmosphere of the week and the anticipation of the upcoming events. Emanuel said that it should simply be called "stupid week" if all the symbolic meaning was lost.

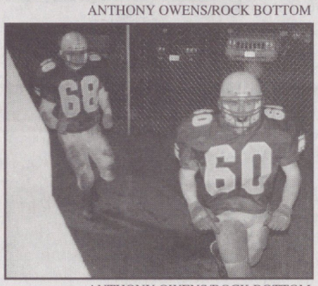
"Stupid week" indeed. The student body participated in this year's festivities with great vigor and enthusiasm.

Homecoming is gone for another year, but will come again next year, hopefully bringing with is the same enthusiasm and less rain.

ANTHONY OWENS/ROCK BOTTOM

The 2001 Homecoming court protects themselves from the bone-chilling rain. They are (from left to right) Greg Buelt, Lori Beller, Craig Pekny, Kari Mroczek, Dana Torczon, Meghan Pile, Queen Cheryl Biermann, Josh Johnson, Natasha Bender, Ryan Jarecki, Andrea Brezinski, and King Matt Kudron.

ANTHONY OWENS/ROCK BOTTOM



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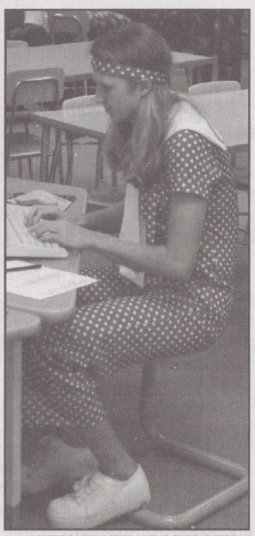

ANTHONY OWENS/ROCK BOTTOM

Left: Senior Kari Mroczek sports a retro look for 70's day during homecoming week.

Bottom Far Left: Senior Co-captain Ryan Jarecki leads the football team onto the field for the second half. The Shamrocks beat Lakeview 40-19.

Top Far Left: Last year's homecoming royalty, Melissa Schmidt and Travis Fry, guide crown bearers, Holly Podliska and Tony Zoucha onto the field.

Students see both pros and cons to taking date to Homecoming

Lauren Maul
Editor

A date, or not a date. *That* is the question.

There are those who are adamant in their belief that attending a dance dateless is worse than a public flogging. Then there are those individuals who are perfectly comfortable showing up with their friends and not a date in sight.

"I think it's better to go without a date because it'd be fun to steal someone else's," said freshman Eric Mulligan.

Mulligan's response was not uncommon among his freshmen classmates.

"It's better not to [take a date]," said fellow freshman Travis Kozak. "Then you can pick up more dates after the dance."

As shown by Mulligan and Kozak, many freshman males thought of Homecoming as their chance to 'get with the ladies.' Only about 25% of the freshmen class interviewed expected the dance to be more exciting with a date.

After a student has endured his or her first dance, they have a stronger opinion when asked about which option is more rewarding.

"It's better having a date before the dance because all your friends have dates," said sophomore Andrea Micek. This response was very common among the sophomores interviewed.

"If you don't have a date, you feel dumb," said sophomore Sarah Sobotka.

Even the sophomore males

See ***Dates****, page 6*

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Homecoming dance preparations differ greatly by gender

All a guy needs: clothes and a date*

*Date optional

Anthony Owens
Staff Reporter

When it comes to Homecoming, girls always tend to be a little bothered by their dates. Guys, your date knows that you probably only spent about ten minutes to a half an hour getting ready, and that you spent little or no money on what you're wearing. Sure you bought them a flower, but that only cost about 15 bucks.

Girls take more time getting ready and spend a heck of a lot more on their dresses, hair, and heels. Girls think they have it tough preparing for the dance. Hopefully your date will tell you you're right.

> *"I didn't spend a dime on my clothes, but my mom sure did.*
> **- Bob Korgie**

Senior Chris Rogers spends about 20 to 25 minutes showering and getting ready, and he didn't spend a dime on clothes. Like Chris, most young men at Scotus don't spend much time preparing for Homecoming.

"This is just one of the many things that makes us different from girls," Rogers said. Rogers said the only reason he takes "so long" to get ready is because he is in football.

Sophomore Bob Korgie said he hates being in football on the night of Homecoming.

"It is such a hassle to get ready after the game and pick up your date in under an hour," Korgie said.

Korgie was a little more reasonable when it came to spending money on his attire. He said his shirt and pants cost somewhere in the neighborhood of $75. That might sound pretty expensive to most guys, but that didn't concern Korgie.

"I didn't spend a dime on my clothes, but my mom sure did," Korgie said.

Having parents pay for clothes is common among many young men and their parents.

When it comes to finding a date, some ask a date based on their looks and or personality. Others are very worried about even finding a date. Junior Adam Wick also said he is never too worried about finding a date. Most young men like Rogers, Korgie, and Wick say they look for a date with a good personality and good looks.

So girls, if you find out that your date only spent a few bucks on his clothes and showered ten minutes before he picked you up, know that you are not alone.

Dollars, time invested in drawn-out preparation for girls

Matt Krings
Staff Reporter

Preparing for Homecoming is a tale of two worlds for different people. For some, Homecoming is the biggest deal of the fall season. For others Homecoming is just another Friday night in their lives.

When one thinks of Homecoming, the beautiful girls dressed up in their best attire comes to mind. The casual observer does not often know the full story of the girls' struggles of getting ready for the big night. Now at CHS, former Scotus student Maria Cruikshank says that many people don't actually realize how much preparation and time a girl needs to look her best at homecoming.

> *"No one wants to go out with someone disgustingly dirty.*
> **- Kelsey Kunneman**

Observing a girl getting ready for Homecoming can be a most frustrating experience. When you think they look absolutely gorgeous, they are only beginning to get their face on and have a lot of time yet before they will be close to ready. Most girls think that they have the toughest job between guys and girls in preparing for Homecoming.

"Definitely girls have it harder," Cruikshank said. "We have hair appointments, makeup, finding the perfect dress, accessories, jewelry, finding the perfect hair style, shaving our legs, moisturizing out bodies, and waiting for dates that take too long to pick us up."

Most people would think that with all the preparing and expenses for Homecoming, the amount of money spent would be enormous. This held true for most girls interviewed, who spent an average of one hundred dollars for dresses, hair, boutonniere, shoes, makeup, etc. Some, however, find ways to avoid the high costs. For senior Natalie Krings the dollar amount was considerably less.

"I spent $21.50 because I am cheap," said Krings. "I bought my dress for $15.00, and a boutonniere for $6.50. I did my own hair and already had all the accessories."

Once the women are absolutely perfect they begin to worry about their dates. Freshman Michaela Engler thinks it would be great if she could find a date she could talk to and look good. Sophomores Kelsey Kunneman and Andrea Micek take a different view. Micek said that looks definitely play a part in picking a man for Homecoming, and hygiene is always a concern.

"No one wants to go out with someone disgustingly dirty," said Kunneman.

Although senior Brandi Olmer thought that her date, Josh Birkel, was the most important part to Homecoming; the vibe from most girls was the fact that they just wanted to have fun. In the end, the girls' money and preparation all put into one night paid off with a very memorable 2001 Homecoming dance.

"Although I didn't even get a flower from my date, I had a fun time because I love being all dressed up even if it does take a lot of work and preparation," said junior Ann Bierbower.

Play: Actors prepping for roles

from page 1

natural. I pretend the audience isn't there."

Senior Meghan Bernt is in it for the excitement.

"I love it," she said. "It gives me a thrill, a rush. I get to be somebody I'm not, and use my talents."

Becker, Bernt, and the rest of the cast are putting the finishing touches on the play, which is to be performed Friday, October 26, and Saturday, October 27.

"The final week before the show is really the determining factor on how well we do," Ferguson said.

He said the play also has universal appeal.

"It's a good family show, for kids and adults," Ferguson said. "Everyone is familiar with the characters. It should easy to understand and funny."

Showtime for the play, to be held in Scotus Memerioal Hall, is 7:30. Admission is $4 for adults and $3 for students and kids.

Ghost: Has Kitty been haunting the halls of Scotus?

from page 3

wants to watch. Perhaps she wants to make a little rift in the halls she traversed as a student so many years ago. Maybe she wants to relive her childhood or even just warn people they are taking things for granted. For whatever reason, Kitty has decided to grace the halls of Scotus many times over the years.

Kitty also enjoys showing up around the time of plays and musicals to remember the good old days. She has even been known to interact with the actors.

These stories given to you are based on witness accounts and are believed to be accurate, except for the exact name of the ghost, which is purely an educated guess.

Silence is golden, especially when you're a ghost. Kitty is here, a permanent senior always there to remind us that things aren't always what they seem. Keep your eyes peeled, your mind open, and your heart in your chest. There are ghosts roaming the halls of Scotus.

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Rivalries add spice to competition on court, field and track

Kelli Morrison
Staff Reporter

Green and white, Shamrocks let's fight!

This year, as always, Scotus butts heads and grits teeth with the best of them. But there are always those few select teams that bring out something special in Shamrock athletes.

Columbus Lakeview and David City Aquinas are two schools consistently listed among Scotus' greatest rivals. The fact that these school are close to Scotus and that they play Scotus in nearly every sport makes the Vikings and Monarchs natural choices as rivals. When Aquinas was not scheduled this year in football, people noticed.

"We have played them for 52 years, and we won't get the chance to kick their butts this year," said Ryan Jarecki, a senior on the football team.

Other rivalries have been sprouting in recent years due to numerous big-time showdowns. Several girls said basketball and volleyball games with Grand Island Central Catholic and North Bend have taken on a rivalry-like atmosphere due to frequent meetings in districts and state tournaments.

However, you don't have to play a team often to consider them a rival. Several members of the volleyball team tabbed Central City as a team they are most looking forward to playing. Scotus does not play them in the regular season, but the two teams did meet in the state finals last year, a game won by the Bison.

"Last year's loss bothers us a lot," said senior Lori Beller. "We went to one of their games to watch, and it makes us want (the rematch) even more. We want revenge."

So with everything on the line, does a rival change the way teams prepare? Some say no.

"We must be prepared for every team and every game," said volleyball coach John Peterson.

Senior Natasha Bender agrees with Peterson's assessment. She said that while a rival doesn't change the way a team practices, you can feel the energy start to build during warm-ups.

Others feel differently about the situation of intensity for rivals.

"More intensity is involved in practice, and it's a weekly preparation," said football coach Jim Puetz.

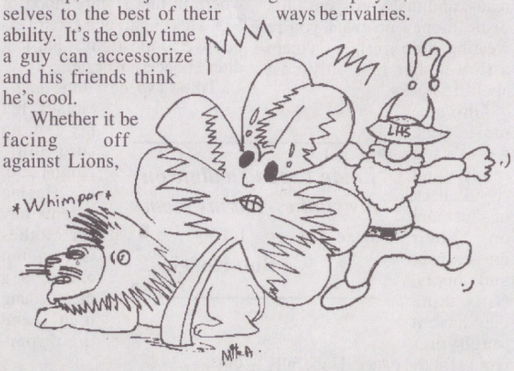
The attitude of the team is everything according to most coaches. And, as usual, they are right. However, one shouldn't forget the key role that the students get to play in this medley of competition.

A great part of that attitude comes from the fans; the screaming, jumping, and insanely competitive people who come "to watch." What would a rivalry be without fans and their crazy fan ways? During a rivalry game fans get to be the loudest, rudest, most annoying version of themselves, and people call it school spirit. Rivalries are where the fans shine. They dress up, make up, and bejewel themselves to the best of their ability. It's the only time a guy can accessorize and his friends think he's cool.

Whether it be facing off against Lions, Tigers, or Vikings, Scotus players know they have to be prepared to take the best shot from every team they play.

So, where will you be when the school battles its rival? Right next to the mass of green cheering, even if you have no idea what is going on. You show up anyway, though.

Why? Because as long as games are played, there will always be rivalries.



Dates: Debate rages on best way to attend dance

from page 4

interviewed agreed about feeling 'dumb' without a date.

"When everyone else dances with a date, you don't want to feel like an idiot," said sophomore Jake Euteneuer.

It seems as though the main motivation for bringing a date as a sophomore is to fit in socially. However, when Scotus students reach junior year, many of them apparently outgrow their Homecoming insecurities.

"It's better without a date because then you don't have a date that expects you to dance with them during every song," said junior Ann Bierbower.

Junior Ashley Pritchard saw other advantages to going dateless.

"If you don't have a date, you don't have to take a lot of time getting ready for the dance," she said.

On the other hand, some juniors also believe that Homecoming is just as fun with a date.

"It's more fun with a date because then you don't have to wait to find someone to dance with," said junior Michaela Klimes, "but the dance is fun with your friends, too."

Junior Josh Melliger uses his date as a defensive measure.

"I like to have a date so I don't get asked to dance by someone I don't want to dance with," he said.

About 50% of the juniors enjoy having a date, and 50% would rather be without one. So what do the seniors think about all of this?

Senior Meghan Bernt came to the conclusion that dances can be fun without a date, but it depends on the date.

Senior Bob Soulliere saw both advantages and disadvantages.

"It's better to go with [a date], definitely, because without one you feel like an idiot," said Soulliere. "It's also nice to go without a date, because you get to roam freely."

Still confused as to whether or not you should bring a date to your next dance? Here are some tips compiled from several seniors to keep in mind before you ask or reject a potential date:

1. Whether having a date is fun or not depends upon the date.

2. Homecoming is never as much fun with a date from out of town since they don't know anyone and cling to you the whole time.

3. And last, but obviously not least, dates that don't dance are defective.

But all in all, the Homecoming experience depends upon the individual and what they hope to get out of the evening.

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INSIDE: Titles times two; VB and CC bring home gold

SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC

ROCK BOTTOM

Columbus, Nebraska | November, 2001 | Volume 4, Issue 3

Activity period may face elimination from day

Kelli Morrison
Stff Reporter

Barrages of hands pile multi-colored passes onto a desk. They must all be signed and handed back as quickly as the brain can process all of this information.

Sound like too much to handle? It does. Now try adding all this to keeping track of the other fifteen students in the class and grading next period's quizzes. This is an every day reality for Scouts' teachers during what is loosely called activity period.

The STO, or Scotus Teachers Organization, a compilation of the staff of educators at Scouts, has been in debate over the issue of keeping or booting the twenty minutes some consider a distraction to the learning environment.

However, getting rid of activity period is not as simple as just crossing it off the schedule. There are many problems to consider, including lunch, teachers that teach elsewhere, club meetings, Channel One, and daily mass.

The teachers feel that discipline is at a low and far too many students are visiting the office during this time according to Wayne Morfled.

"The students always moving around makes supervision difficult," said Fr. Steve Emanuel, resident priest and teacher.

The teachers are faced with not only a personal responsibility, but also a legal one to the students whereabouts during school hours.

Some students say that they need this period to do homework, since they have no study hall. Others agree with the staff that this time is abused.

"There is a total defiance of the rules during this time," said junior Matt Welker.

Other students agree that this period's rules have been pushed to its limits.

"The whole idea of activity period is an outrage," said freshman Heidi Sobota. "They should never have started it."

But, then what does the school do with the twenty minutes? It is not possible to just get out twenty minutes earlier there are many complications to consider, stated STO President Merlin Lahm. Lunch must be moved to accommodate all the student's needs, including that of the elementary students also served by the same lunch program. One must also consider the teachers that teach elementary in addition to Scotus and their schedules. Then there is the issue of the televisions donated by Channel One. The channel must be watched for at least twelve minutes a day or the deal is voided.

There is more to this debate. Some of the students wondered about the clubs and organizations that have meetings during this time. Others think this is a small obstacle easily overcome.

"If it is important, you can reschedule the meeting," sophomore Jake Euteneuer said.

The teachers and club leaders feel the same.

Does this mean those students who love going to mass to see Fr. Steve's bright shining face and hear the word of God every day will be sorely disappointed? Not for long, in addition to eliminating activity period the STO has discussed and suggested to the higher authorities that we have a weekly mass. This mass would not be the classic hour-long mass. It would be short, around the same length as the activity period mass with a little allowed time for the extra communion being distributed.

All issues considered, most of the people who were interviewed think that activity period is unnecessary and should be eliminated.

"We need change," said junior Jake Otte.

Although no final decisions have been made, the administration is ready for a long debate with all sides and opinions accepted.

" I value the students opinion, we need to address the issue from both sides, said Morfeld. Give the idea a chance to evolve."

PHOTO COURTESY LINCOLN ARNEAL

Back on top

Moments after winning the state championship Jennifer Sackett, Renee Beiermann, and Kari Mroczek hoist the trophy high. More on the team's outstanding feats on page 6

Absent free day impacts raffle; turning profits this year a gamble

Craig Staroscik
Editor

Attention all students! Opportunities are now available for improving social skills, marketing abilities, and stewardship. Maximum pay of over $200. Basic writing skills are required, and talking skills are a plus.

Sounds like a good deal, but somebody had to mention that you would be helping your school at the same time. The Scotus raffle has once again started, much to the dismay of students and parents. The raffle has come to be as well remembered a tradition as Thanksgiving break, and for some the tradition is once again played out with the annual tossing of the tickets into the book bag and forgetting them.

The Scotus raffle appears to be too great a hassle for the majority of Scotus students to even attempt to sell. "I don't have time to sell them," or "it's not worth it," are the common laments heard from students in the few moments of class after the tickets are passed out.

One of the major disappointments to students is the fact that the free-day incentive is still missing from the goldenrod prize posters hanging throughout the building. As most students already know, until last year a day off of school was given to any student who sold at least $50 worth of raffle tickets. The decision was made by the school board last year that getting out of school was not the most appropriate reward for selling tickets that were supposed to support the school. That decision has had a dramatic effect on the raffle, though. From the 1999-2000 raffle total of $17,502 last year's ticket profit dropped to unprecedented $5,923.

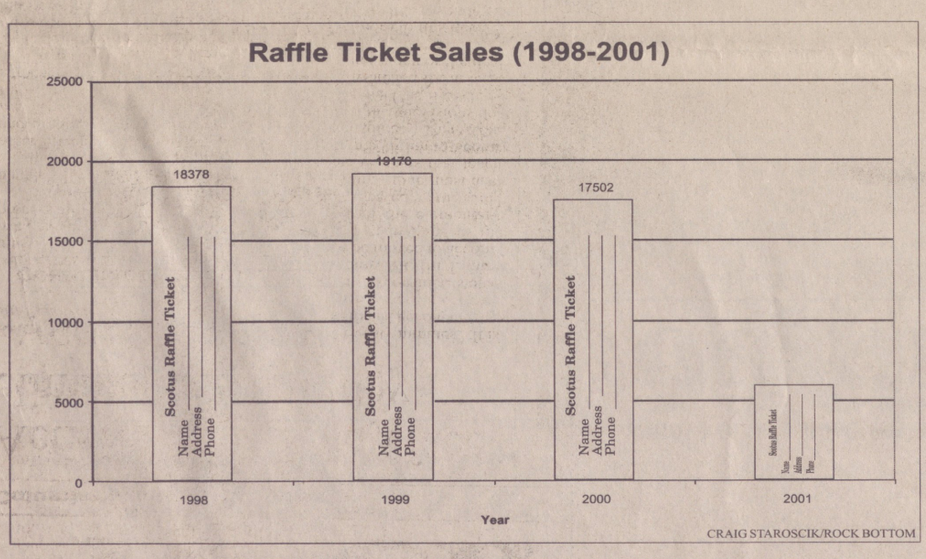
"It really dropped when we took the free-day away," Development Director John Schueth said. "The incentives that were offered last year weren't incentives that the students wanted. [The students] wanted the free day or nothing."

Despite last year's apparent failure to meet revenue goals, the Scotus budget is still planing on receiving $20,000 from this year's raffle. A few changes were made to the raffle this year in hopes of higher profit returns, including extending the selling period from four to six weeks and starting the raffle in November instead of December. The development office has also opened its doors to students with suggestions for new incentives that would make the students want to sell.

One plan that has been considered is to eliminate the raffle altogether and either pass the tuition on to parents or starting other fundraisers. Other fundraisers carry the same problems as the raffle with fact that students would still have to sell something.

Despite the hopes for a better outcome with this year's raffle, the apparent disposition of the student body is an, 'I don't have to sell mine' attitude.

"I wish the students could sell the tickets without the incentives," Schueth said. "It is an opportunity to help the school and be a steward at the same time."



CRAIG STAROSCIK/ROCK BOTTOM

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A hazardous walk down the dangerous memory lane

I miss elementary school. I miss recess, milk breaks, and coloring. But I don't miss the person I was in my childhood. Come to think about it, if I ever ran into Lauren Maul at age six, I would give her a good drop kick to the face.

Let's just say that many years ago I had a few anger management problems. Everyone considered me a "brat," but I prefer to think of myself as being simply "high maintenance." Okay, I was a brat. I admit it. I threw more temper tantrums than a diva on a bad hair day. I would cry, scream, and bite when I didn't get my way. My parents were stumped. They had tried everything: punishment, reverse psychology, taking away privileges, taking away sugar, and many more things that are terrible to children everywhere. Yet, I was still a horribly rotten kid.

Then around the first grade, my mom started to read John Rosemond's article. If you don't know who he is, you are incredibly lucky. Mr. Rosemond considers himself a gifted and skilled child psychologist. But to children, he is the devil. My mother claimed she read his article so she could "understand me better" and help me to be a "better kid." This meant no TV, no presents except on holidays and birthdays, excessive time-outs, and learning to think *before* I acted.

Thinking back, it wasn't that bad. They should have listened to that cockamamie "doctor" long before I got so bad. But back then it was dreadful. I didn't realize at the time that I was a terrible kid. All I knew was that I wanted attention all the time, and if I didn't get it, well, I **had** to get it. Not being acknowledged was the worst thing in the world.

Perhaps the demon that possessed me for all those years ran away after I received my First Communion.

I'm not sure what happened, but I became a "better" kid. I was nicer to people, I started sharing, and I gave up biting others in public. Some can thank (or blame) Dr. John Rosemond for this, but I think that I just finally matured. Either that, or the demon that possessed me for all those years ran away after I received my First Communion.

But it's hard to go from being a brat to a "good kid." My relatives never forgot my terrible actions, and a few of them don't like me today. A couple of my old elementary school teachers are afraid of me, and my parents are still cautious around me when I have a bad day.

One might think that those past experiences were "good" for me, and perhaps they gave me the skills to have patience with the bratty children I deal with today. Maybe in a "perfect" world I could deal with those little monsters, but for the time being, they are not on my list of people to be nice to.

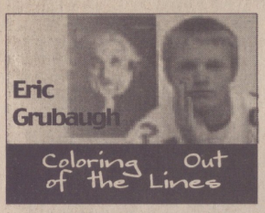
I will now leave you with some deep thoughts I had when I was a child:

"Why are muppets and cartoon animals naked all the time, but wear towels when they get out of the bath? What are they hiding?"

"If Jesus is really my friend, why doesn't he call me?"

"Mom, why does my sister say that I'm a mistake?"

Okay, that's enough rambling for this time. Now I'm outta here faster than a little boy at Michael Jackson's house.



Fond Thanksgiving memories sitting around the kid's table

There it was: what I had dreamed of in every one of my Thanksgivings past…my name written on the napkin that wrapped the silverware that sat on the place mat that rested on the ADULTS' TABLE!!!

Finally, after all those years of sitting at that blasted blue card table, I was finally old enough to sit with the adults of the family at "The Big Table!" My big day had finally come. No more sitting with my legs scrunched underneath that all-too-short card table, no more drinking out of tippy-cups for fear of spilling on Grandma's plush carpeting, and best of all, no more sitting next to cousin Mordecai, who did everything with his food except eat it. Now I got to eat with the adults, with the shiny silverware, the crystal glasses, the candlesticks, centerpieces, and all sorts of other decorations, and the thrill of eating off of Grandma's special china.

I remember being so proud that Thanksgiving, being promoted from the littluns' table right up to "The Big Table." I thought that was the happiest day I could ever experience…then I remember Christmas, and my birthday, and Easter, and Labor Day, and Veterans' Day, and Independence Day, and…well you get the point, plus those are for future stories.

But now, when I look back, I miss that ancient blue card table, my little plastic green tippy-cup, and yes, even cousin Mordecai, who never could keep things out of his nose. In fact, when I think about it (which really depresses me because YES, I ACTUALLY HAVE THE TIME to think about stuff like this), the littluns' table was so much more fascinating than "The Big Table," (which now has become simply "the dinner table"). At the dinner table, all I hear are things like:

Now I am the adult who has to scrape the frog guts off the card table and clean the juice out of Grandma's carpet.

"Well stocks are down 37 points again today, so I'm going to have to consolidate some of my shares and liquidate the rest into a baseline account…"

Right…I understood nearly half of that. Or things like…

"My gosh did you see Uncle Josiah last week? He looks awful! I tell you the man should be put in a nursing home, I am just getting so worried about him…"

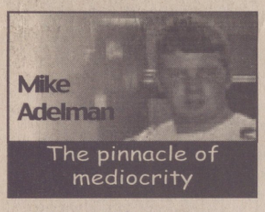
Right…I care about nearly none of that, being that I've never met Uncle Josiah, or anyone else mentioned in these conversations.

Now I'm not saying I don't enjoy sitting with the adults on Thanksgiving, or that they are always dull and boring, I just think that there are a lot more interesting things that occur at the littluns' table. There was always something exciting going on. Instead of the above, you'd hear things more akin to:

"Wow cousin Mordecai, that green bean really does fit up your nose , I can't even see it anymore…no really, it's gone…" Or something like:

"Jimmy, seriously, take the frog out of Susie's hair. C'mon man, it was hilarious the first eight times or so, and pretty funny the next few too, but the twentieth time is a little extreme, don't you think? Look, she's not even screaming anymore because it's getting so dull. Just put the frog away. Thanks…hey, dude, what are you doing now? No, don't even thi…JIMMY PUT THE LIZARD DOWN NOW! NO, DUDE, PUT IT BACK IN ITS CAGE! JIMMY I SWEAR TO EVERYTHING HOLY…"

You see what I mean? Yeah I didn't think so. But I miss cousin Mordecai's strange abilities with food; I miss how Jimmy reminded me of Noah because he always had his wonderful creatures with him; I just miss being that little kid. However, what I'll never miss is that now I am the adult who has to scrape the frog guts off the card table and clean the cranberry juice out of Grandma's plush carpet.



A square in search of a 'Cube: one night's adventure

I have no life.

Case in point: In the wee hours of Sunday morning, November 18, I was waiting at Wal-Mart for the release of none other than the latest video game system.

Gamers are a strange bunch. I know this not only because I am one, but also because they tend to have such loyalty toward their favorite products. I mean, we wait outside in the cold for hours on end to buy a game system the way most people would wait for concert tickets. Rather than watch a good movie, we play a good round of Mario Tennis. Girlfriend? Ha! A gamer has no time for such distractions. We are often stubbly, eat nothing but unhealthy greasy foods, and speak in a language most humans can't understand.

I had researched a particular system called the Nintendo GameCube, a next-generation gaming console. While I could spend hours bogging you down with details (seriously), I think I can justify all it in one sentence: The GameCube is really, really cool.

My particular endeavor on that morning was rather interesting. Staying up all night, I got to Wal-Mart at about 2 a.m. and beheld a strange sight: humans sitting on lawn chairs on a concrete walkway. They had loads of food and spoke in that strange language I mentioned earlier.

I quickly realized that these were no ordinary humans, but gamers like myself! Many of them had brought their GameBoys, an undeniable sign that they were also true believers.

We talked about our favorite games for long periods of time, and exchanged information on strategies for playing them.

Later, a couple of police officers pulled up and asked what we were doing. I explained to them the purpose of our pilgrimage while trying not to go into great detail. They just laughed.

By 5 a.m. I was so sleep-deprived that my perception of reality began to blur...

By 5 a.m. I was so sleep-deprived that my perception of reality began to blur. Adding that to five cans of Mountain Dew transformed me into a man possessed. I found myself squishing my face against the store window while waiting for the manager to open the door.

The last hour actually took four hours. God slowed time down to test my willpower. I was strong in mind and passed the time by eating chips and harassing the wimps that had fallen asleep.

Mike's stunned by games' size.

Finally, the annointed hour arrived. At 7:00, the doors to Wal-Mart finally swung open, and I proudly marched through the doors while a beams of light shined from heaven and the Hallelujah chorus played in the background.

By the time I got my 'Cube and got home, it was about 8 a.m. I played and played and played until church, which was unusually long this time. By 3 p.m. my body forced itself to fall asleep, which took away precious game time, and now I'm typing this article wasting even more of that time.

I think you see the point. Though you may think that games are dumb, or not the "in" thing, don't knock them. They're just for fun. People who play games enjoy what they do, and aren't afraid to be themselves. It's a shame that many people can't do the things that they'd like to because their peer groups ridicule them. Hopefully my never ending stand for gaming will one day be a pillar for those oppressed to lean on!!

Until next time, keep that controller stick smokin'.

Mike poses with his reward for spending the night in Wal-Mart's parking lot.

Letters to the Editor

The *Rock Bottom* accepts letters to the editor for publication. Letters should be less than 250 words and must be signed.

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Most students say Scotus lunch bucks stereotype

Anthony Owens
Staff Reporter

Can I have your fries? Can I have your cake?

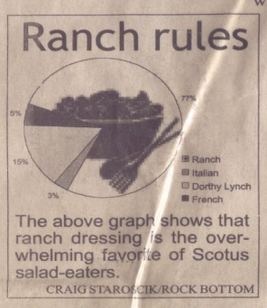
These are two questions you hear nearly every day down in the cafeteria.

When lunchtime rolls around, students can't wait to go down and eat. It is the center of their day, a time to talk with friends over a "fancy" meal. One question you might ask yourself is whether or not the school lunch is worth eating.

"I think our school lunch is great," said junior Jake Otte.

Most students agree that they are very fortunate to have such a good lunch.

"Half the reason I come to school is just to eat lunch," senior Shawn Starostka said. "It is like an all-you-can-eat buffet for $1.60 that lasts about 20 minutes."



The above graph shows that ranch dressing is the overwhelming favorite of Scotus salad-eaters.
CRAIG STAROSCIK/ROCK BOTTOM

A survey of 75 Scotus students show that 90 percent of students agree with Starostka and Otte responding that they either "somewhat" liked or liked it "a lot." Only 10 percent of the surveyed students reported not liking their school lunch.

> ***Half the reason I come to school is to eat lunch.***
> **- Shawn Starostka**

Sophomore Scott Hengeller is in that minority and said he can't stand Scotus' lunch.

"It makes me sick if I eat certain things and it seems as if we eat the same thing at least three or four times a week," Hengeller said.

The salad bar is a crucial part of lunch; 86 percent of students who eat lunch eat from the salad bar. Of that group that eat from the salad bar, 77 percent prefer Ranch dressing over Italian, French, and Dorothy Lynch.

School lunch has had a bad reputation in the past and present. On television and in movies, the lunch is always avoided if possible and is made to look disgusting. It seems as if no one wants to eat or no one cool eats school lunch.

That's apparently not the case at Scotus where a majority enjoy the daily routine of lunch.

ANTHONY OWENS/ROCKBOTTOM
Several senior boys, including (from left to right) Josh Birkel, Jason Engquist, and Matt Bahr, appear to be getting all they can out of lunch as they chow down. Most Scotus students say that they at least "somewhat enjoy" the lunches served in the cafeteria.

Scotus School Board tackle issues behind the scenes

Lauren Maul
Editor

What do you do when you have issues with bullies, harassment, or a controversial article in the school newspaper?

For starters **don't go to the school board.** It's not because they're not fit to deal with those issues, it's simply because that's not their job.

"We get complaints, but a lot of the time those [complaints] haven't gone through the proper channels," school board member Al Neidbalski said. "Always start with the advisor. We're the last people you come to."

So what exactly *does* the school board do?

"Our basic job is to set policy and guidelines as to how the school is to be run," Neidbalski said.

At an average school board meeting, members usually discuss new business. The meetings are open to the public, but they only discuss what's on the agenda.

One of the more exciting issues the school board is dealing with is the raffle sale.

"We knew we were going to lose money because the students are not going to sell [tickets] without getting the day off," board president John Cimpl said.

Non-students believe that earning a free day by selling a set number of tickets is not a worthy prize.

The idea is that by selling tickets you support the school, and getting a day off of school contradicts the support shown by selling the tickets.

Other ongoing issues include teacher pay. Cimpl says that even though the teachers received a great raise last year, they're still behind the other Catholic schools.

The goal is to have Scotus teachers earn 90 percent of what Lakeview teachers earn.

Most Scotus students are still upset about the removal of some features from last year's *Rock Bottom*, including "Studs & Duds" and "Flavors of the Month."

"There were some complaints and some feelings that some of the content [of the paper] that didn't reflect what Scotus was all about," said Niedbalski. Board president John Cimpl agreed.

"[The paper] got abused. We wouldn't have taken them [the features] out if it wasn't," said Cimpl. "The paper is a privilege."

In conclusion, there are two things that the students and parents should understand about the school board: the board is primarily a policy-making committee and people need to understand the chain of command.

"We don't run day to day operations," said Niedbalski. "That's what Mr. Gannon and Morfeld are here for."

Clubs offer students various activites

Eric Grubaugh
Staff Reporter

"FBLA members meet in Mrs. Salyard's room during activity period tomorrow." "The next FCA huddle will be Thursday." "Teens for Life will meet today during activity period."

These are just some of the many announcements Scotus students hear each day informing them of a different club's meeting. But what are these clubs actually doing at these meetings? What purpose do these clubs serve here, and what are they doing to reach that goal?

Future Business Leaders of America, according to its mission statement, provides "leadership skills for future business leaders," and teaches members to "learn about the necessary skills for the job market." Recently, FBLA members have participated in highway litter pickup, and they threw a Halloween party for all the Columbus Catholic elementary schools. The officers also attended a fall leadership conference.

"It was great," said sophomore Canice Coan. "We learned what it really means to be an FBLA member, and they gave us some excellent ideas for fund-raisers."

In the future, FBLA will be going to the State Leadership Conference. This is a statewide academic competition that lasts three days. During those three days, there are only a few hours of actual competition, and the rest of the time is given as free time.

What do Lego's, an obstacle course, and a blindfolded trust walk through the school have in common? **Fellowship of Christian Athletes!**

FCA is a new, student-initiated club that, according to its mission statement, "presents to athletes and coaches, and all whom they influence, the challenge and adventure of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, serving him in their relationships in the fellowship of the church." Each "huddle," which is what an FCA meeting is called, is centered around a Bible study, which is then applied to daily life. The Lego's were taking the theme of teamwork and leadership from the Bible; the obstacle course was constructed by the members to find the best way to overcome obstacles, and the trust walk through the school was to emphasize, well, trust.

"It's great because it is all student-initiated," Father Steve Emanuel, who sponsors Scotus' FCA chapter, said. "Last year we had a couple people say, 'Yeah that might be cool.' But this year I had several people say they'd love to do it, and they really took charge and got it going."

Teens for Life provides a way for students to find others who support their beliefs against abortion and to actively show those beliefs. Teens for Life has been considered going to the abortion clinic to silently protest, and planned other activities that are centered around support of life.

Now in the future when you hear that FCA has a huddle coming up, or Teens for Life and FBLA have meetings during activity period, you are just that much more informed of these activities, or maybe even a part of them.

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John Duns Scotus: The man behind our school's namesake

A drawing of John Duns Scotus, a brilliant thinker and teacher of the 13th and 14th centuries. Scotus High School, originally founded by the Franciscan order, was named after the Franciscan priest in 1965.

Craig Staroscik
Editor

November doesn't seem to have much in the way of holidays. There's Thanksgiving, Veteran's Day, and Christmas is only a month away. You could even count All Saints if you felt like ingratiating yourself with your religion teacher. And don't forget November 8.

No, November 8 is not a reference to Mr. Morefield's birthday. It is a memorial to someone who is as important to our school though: the Blessed John Duns Scotus.

Though our school is named after him, the majority of students don't really know much about Scotus, and for those students who haven't taken Father Steve Emanuel's theology class yet, nothing may be known of the man.

An unscientific poll shows that the student body's outlying perception of Scotus is that he is the guy they named the dunce cap after. Well, yes, for a period of time Scotus' teachings were not widely popular, and in a round-about way a duns became a Medieval slam. It wouldn't make much sense to name our school after him if that was all he amounted to, though.

John Duns Scotus, a neat sounding name that literally means John the Scot of Duns, lived during the 13th and 14th centuries in Scotland, England, and France. Not much is known of his childhood. According to one legend, when he was a boy working in the fields of his father, he had a vision of Mary and his mind was opened by her.

Whether his knowledge came from a miraculous vision or from natural-born talent, Scotus was definitely enlightened by it. A brief look into his education shows that he was anything but the dunce he is commonly remembered for. He attended the University of Oxford in England and later the University of Paris, where he received his Masters Degree. He was ordained a priest in the Franciscan order at the age of 25 and lived most of his life studying, teaching, and writing.

Perhaps the best-fitting quality of Scotus for our school was his teachings and thinking. Scotus is thought to have been as great a philosopher as St. Thomas Aquinas. Scotus was one of the first to think of and strongest supporter of the Immaculate Conception.

Before Scotus' time, it was the church's belief that all people were born with original sin, even Mary. Scotus, with a revolutionary new idea, said that even though all humans are born with original sin that Mary, being the mother of God, was born without sin of any kind. His thinking was met with strong opposition, from which much of the criticism he faced came from. It wasn't until over 500 years after he died that the church fully accepted his teachings, when Pope Pius IX made the Immaculate Conception dogma, or an unchangeable church belief.

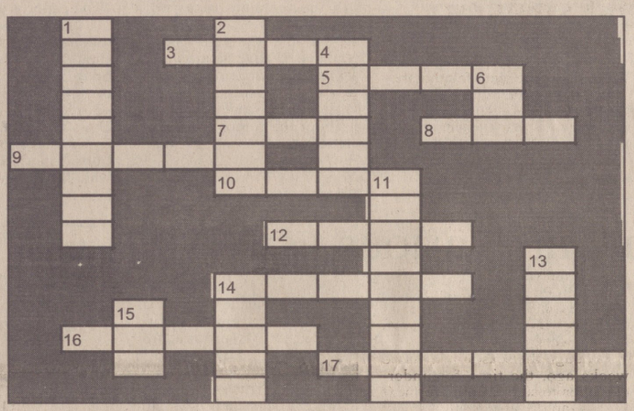
Scotus is a unique and powerful image for our school. He was his own thinker. Instead of compiling mass amounts of information and then rearranging it in his own form, Scotus' ideas were new. He stood up for what he believed in, and because of it the foundations of our whole faith are now based on his teachings.

The technical aspects of Scotus probably won't be memorized or imprinted on the minds of the students passing through the doors of the building named for him. No student should leave without a bit of insight on the life and teachings of Scotus, the doctor, the teacher, and the influential thinker, simply the man whom proudly stands for Scotus.

Scotus †-word

DOWN
1. Room 34
2. Giver of Geocodes
4. An extra one of these is required in chemistry in case of a mistake.
6. Abbreviation for month of Christmas
11. Your reward for three tardies
13. Time of year when it gets cold
14. The best answer in Theology; reason our school exists
15. What all teams want to do

ACROSS
3. Best part of lunch for dessert lovers
5. What you're supposed to do to your English assignment
7. Club for smart people
8. What you see on our coaches' hats
9. Upperclass Scotus boys are required to _____ once in a while
10. The court_____ is closed until spring
12. Accounting teacher
14. Now: "Dress-down day;" Formerly: "_____ day"
16. Final rankings of VB and GCC.
17. Fr. Steve almost had to shave this.



DON'T READ THIS

STUPID, STUPID JOKES

Q: How do you catch a unique rabbit?

A: Unique up on him!!

Q: How do you catch a tame rabbit?

A: Tame Way!!

LITTLE DUDE by Mike Adleman

Lead paint Chips by Lauren Maul

Come on, people! **Eat!**

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Cross country girls repeat championship

Matt Krings
Staff Reporter

One course. Six girls. Two trophies in a row. The girls cross country team came home from Kearney the same place they ended up last year.

"The atmosphere is awesome," said senior Angela Fisher. "A lot of people came down to watch, especially from our class. Having that much support from my friends helped me want to do my best."

Cross country coach Dan Mahoney lead last year's girls cross country team to their first state championship. The team started this season out very well and was looking forward to trying to repeat last year's performance.

"We knew we would be in the hunt for the championship (at the state meet)," Mahoney said. "Gothenburg and Lincoln Lutheran were two very good teams, but we knew if we did our best good things would happen."

Repeating a state championship is never easy, but Mahoney said that the fact that the team won last year has little to do with this season's performance.

Senior Sarah Karges said that because they won last year, there was some pressure on them to do well because of all the returning runners. Five of the six runners at the state meet were seniors, and four of the seniors were returning champions. The lone underclassman was freshman Kayla Engel. She did not have the pressure of repeating as champion, but she did have to fill the shoes of her sister Molly, last year's state champion.

> *"If we lost without me giving my best effort it would live with me forever..."*
> **- Kathleen Ames**

"At some meets people would recognize me because of my sister," said Engel. "This gave me a challenge throughout the year to make a name for myself and not just be Molly's little sister."

The state meet at Kearney turned out to be a memorable one for the team. Fisher took first place overall, beating the school record for the course. Engel had an impressive finish by taking fourth; Karges came in twenty-fifth with Kathleen Ames finishing out the top four in the team with twenty-seventh place. They ended strong, but Gothenburg did quite well themselves.

"We thought that Gothenburg got us," said Fisher. "We were all very surprised when we were announced the champions."

This was very true, none of the shamrocks thought they had won. The announcement that they won was all the better since they were not expecting it. The seniors all said that this season couldn't have ended any better for the five of them who closed out their careers by adding another championship banner to the Scotus legacy.

"This was my last race as a Shamrock," said Ames. "If we lost without me giving my best effort it would live with me forever, so I had to do my best."

Mahoney said he will miss this group of seniors, and they have been one of the best cross-country teams he has coached. Although we pray to always be as successful as this year, the lack of returning state runners could be a problem in the future. For the past two years Scotus has beaten Gothenburg by two points, just keep your fingers crossed that a three peat is in store for the 2002 cross-country team.

PHOTO COURTSEY SARAH KARGES

Coach Dan Mahoney, Nicole Weeder, Cheryl Bierman, Kathleen Ames, Sarah Karges, Angela Fisher, and Kayla Engel hoist the state championship trophy at the awards ceremony. The team defeated Gothenburg by only two points for its second consecutive championship.

Football team sees good and bad in past season

Mike Adelman
Editor-in-Chief

It was over just like that. The abrupt end of the Shamrocks' 2001 football season left many athletes and fans without a sense of closure.

Though the hurt of losing in the playoffs remains in the minds of those who participated, they are forced to focus on the positive aspects of the season, and the possibilities that await underclassmen next year.

The final game against Norfolk Catholic ended in a 49-28 loss for the Shamrocks. Down 35-0 at half, the 'Rocks fought valiantly to try to get back in the game. The effort was too little too late, but several lessons were learned.

"It was hard to believe it was the last time I'd put on a high school uniform and play football," said senior co-captain Dana Torczon, when recalling the last time he walked back to the bus.

The feeling does not seem to sink in right away for most players.

"It doesn't really get to you until you're not practicing anymore," said Torczon, when asked if this year really felt like his last.

Torczon said he was still happy about having a winning record of 6-4, others think that fewer injuries and more effort could have lead to a better season.

"The biggest thing I'd like to change is if everyone could have been healthy all year," said coach Gary Puetz.

Despite regular practices and weight room requirements, several members of the team felt that they could have worked harder. It seems that these feelings did not set in until it was all over.

"People that didn't care should've been kicked off," said senior co-captain Bob Soulliere, when referring to a lack of participation of some individuals in the weight room and in team spirit.

Soulliere said that he could just tell that there were some people that did not want to be at practice.

Coach Puetz would agree.

"I question the work ethic of some players," he said. "You can always work a little harder."

Though the season just ended weeks ago, the time for underclassmen to start training for next year is rapidly approaching.

"This [the result of the season] encourages me to get in the weight room," said junior Tyler Roewert. Roewert and many other juniors will compose the bulk of next year's team.

Torczon and Soulliere look to other possibilities for football in their futures. Both said they were either interested in college or intermural football. Soulliere also gave a little advice for next year's team.

"Make sure they play every game like their last and just have fun," he said.

As the 2001 season comes to an end, Scotus athletes and fans can look to next year as a new beginning. The new faces that join the team each year can always learn something from their predecessors.

Climbing and Lego's help team unite

Eric Grubaugh
Staff Reporter

Guys being strapped into harnesses, straining to reach a metal bar, and slipping off of the walls. What is this? A scene out of ESPN's *Rugged Outdoors*? No, these are just some of the experiences the Scotus boys' basketball team went through in their team "retreat" at the Fremont YMCA.

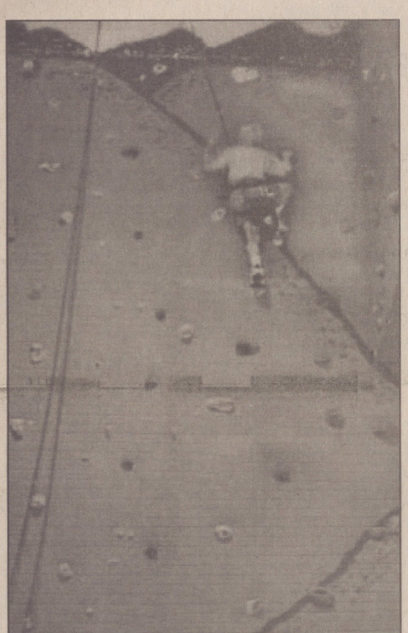
"It's an opportunity to be with each other outside of the normal requirements of your positions and roles," Coach Merlin Lahm said. "And it's also a chance to see your teachers and coaches in a different light, when were not instructing you or yelling all the time. We're just having fun."

The boys traveled to Fremont and had their normal practice to begin the night. But after that, events were anything but normal. The team was divided into two for a four-event competition. The went head-to-head in an actual game and in a situation contest; they put their heads together in a "quiz bowl," and they relied on each others' memories and instructions in a Lego building competition. At the end of these four competitions, there was no winner, the teams had split the two events 2-2, and the tie-breaker was free-throws. But regardless of which team was the better at free-throws, the whole team was a winner in this case.

Lahm said the trip was a team, trust, and unity-building experience, and a chance to have fun, and that's exactly what it was. Many players said they feel the newly improved unity will help them succeed in the season.

"Except that I'm still sore from the rock climbing," sophomore Ryan Ames said, "it was awesome. We got together as a team both on and off the court and just hung out. I wouldn't mind going back again next year."

Several players said that the team is practicing hard and that they are fired up and ready to prove this newer unity this season, and is bound and determined to let no one stand in their way.



Derek Lahm shows size doesn t matter when it comes to climbing. Wall climbing was one of the many activities the boys basketball team participated in at the Fremont Y during a team retreat.

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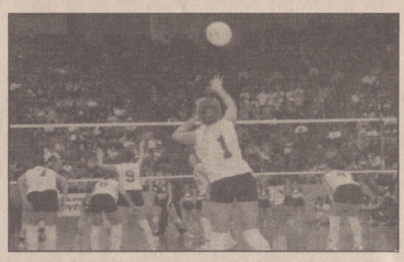
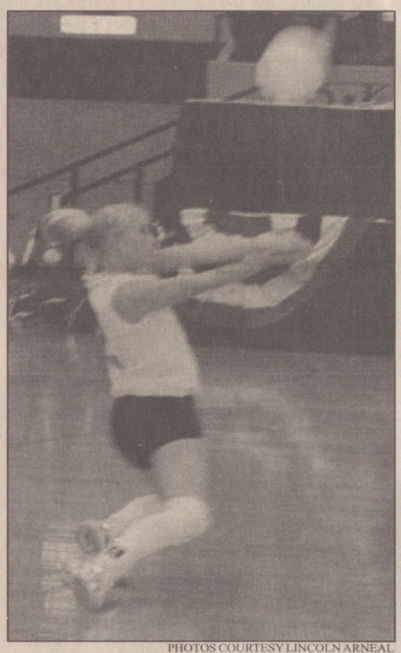




Far Left: Senior Natasha Bender (right) and junior Renee Beiermann (left) embrace after the victory over Central City clinches the 2001 state championship for the Shamrocks.

Above: The team poses for some snap shots with their trophy. Back row: Coach Janet Tooley, Coach John Petersen, Lynn Weeder, Taylor Harsh, Andrea Brezinski, Michelle Flint, Coach Julie Blaser, and Manager Tara Zabawa. Middle Row: Laura Dolezal, Taryn Ketter, Nicole Mielak, Jennifer Sackett, Renee Beiermann. Front Row: Lori Beller, Kari Mroczek, Meghan Pile, Natasha Bender, and Amanda Cielocha.

Near Left Top: Junior Nicole Mielak serves it up against the Bison in the finals.

Near Left Bottom: Junior Jennifer Sackett passes the ball.

Above: Coach Petersen gives the line judge an icy stare after a questionable call. The call could ve given the Shamrocks the championship in the second set, but the Bison rallied to win 14-16 and force a third game.

Right: Senior Meghan Pile smashes a set into the Bison court. Pile ended her career as the all-time leader in kills at Scotus with 695.

PHOTOS COURTESY LINCOLN ARNEAL

Shamrock girls take state; reverse result of '00 finals

Matt Krings and Eric Grubaugh
Staff Reporters

They have the Nebraska record for appearing in the state tournament finals with 13. They also have appeared in eight consecutive finals, another record. Now, the Shamrock volleyball team has added one more accolade to their trophy case. The Shamrocks have tied the Nebraska record of eight State championships.

"Every one comes into the State Tournament 0-0," said Coach Jon Petersen. Petersen also said you have to stay focused a lot to be successful in the state tournament.

The first two rounds for Scotus were not all that challenging. The Shamrocks beat Wahoo Neumann 15-2 and 15-4; then marching on to cruise over Lincoln Lutheran 15-0, 15-1.

It was a different story for Central City, the team Scouts would meet in the final for the second straight year. The Bison started their tournament off with a 15-8, 15-8 victory over Chadron. Their next opponent, Syracuse, would prove to be a tough game for the second seeded Bison. They won 16-14, 15-11 but one had to wonder if some fatigue settled in for the Bison.

> *"The season could not have ended any better; I was VERY excited after that last ball went wide.*
> **- Kari Mroczek**

"Being the number one seed, you hope your bracket is a little easier," Petersen said. "So that helped us a little because we didn't have to take as many swings; therefore, not as fatigued."

The match was like a scene out of a movie, both teams came in with perfect records, a match up of number one vs. number two, and the dramatics from last year's 15-0 first set Scotus win, then going on to get beat in the second set after leading much of it and the third set as well only added to the exciting atmosphere.

After watching the second set of this year's state final, some may have had flashbacks of last year's final. However, this year the Shamrocks had a different plan than last year's outcome. In a very tight match the Shamrocks prevailed over the Central City Bison in a thrilling three set match.

Coming into the finals Petersen said he knew that it would come down to whomever could stay focused and play a great match. He said it would be a great challenge for his team with Central City returning four starters, and three of them being All-State players.

"After they (Central City) came back to win the second game," said senior Kari Mroczek. " Thoughts of last year's come-back came into my head. I knew we had to stay focused and play our game. The whole team stepped up and played great. The season could not have ended any better; I was VERY excited after that last ball went wide."

Although the whole team did play solid matches all year, Petersen knows he couldn't have done it without the brilliant leadership of his seniors.

"A large ingredient for us was our seniors," said Petersen. "There were six of them and they were very skilled, great leaders, and they were highly motivated. They just did a tremendous job for us all year."

A perfect season

Varsity: 29-0 Junior Varsity: 16-0 Freshmen: 12-0

Varsity Matches												
Holdredge	W	2-0	Schuyler	W	2-0	Schuyler	W	2-0	Lincoln Lutheran	W	2-0
Lincoln Pius X	W	2-0	Lexington	W	2-0	Neumann	W	2-0	Omaha Skutt	W	2-0
Lincoln Christian	W	2-0	York	W	2-0	CB St. Alberts	W	2-0	Madison	W	2-0
GICC	W	2-0	Grand Island NW	W	2-0	Linoln Christian	W	2-0	Lakeview	W	2-0
Raymond Central	W	2-0	Lakeview	W	2-0	Burgan	W	2-0	Arlington	W	2-0
Schuyler	W	2-0	Seward	W	2-0	Lincoln Christian	W	2-0	Neumann	W	2-0
DCA	W	2-0	Lincoln Christian	W	2-0	Hastings St. Cecilia	W	2-0	Lincoln Lutheran	W	2-0
									Central City	W	2-1

The Dynasty

Consecutive State Championships
6-Bellevue West (1992-97)
6-Shickley (1987-92)
5-Scotus (1995-99)

Most Times in Finals
13-Scotus
10-Grand Island CC
9-Bellevue West

Consecutive Years in Finals
8-Scotus (1993-2001)
6-Bellevue West (1992-97)
6-Shickley (1987-92)

Most State Tournament Matches
44-Grand Island CC
43-Lincoln Northeast
41-Scotus

Most State Tournament Match Wins
32-Scotus
32-Grand Island CC
27-Bellevue West

Most State Tournament Appearances
21-Lincoln Northeast
18-Grand Island CC
18-Lincoln East
18-Papillion-LaVista
18-Ogallala
17-Scotus

Most State Championhips
8-Bellevue West
8-Scotus
6-Grand Island CC

State Championship Games 1994-2001
2001: **Scotus** defeats Central City
2000: Central City def. **Scotus**
1999: **Scotus** def. Syracuse
1998: **Scotus** def. Centennial
1997: **Scotus** def. Hershey
1996: **Scotus** def. GICC
1995: **Scotus** def. GICC
1994: GICC def. **Scotus**

INSIDE: Scotus students venture across town to play for CHS

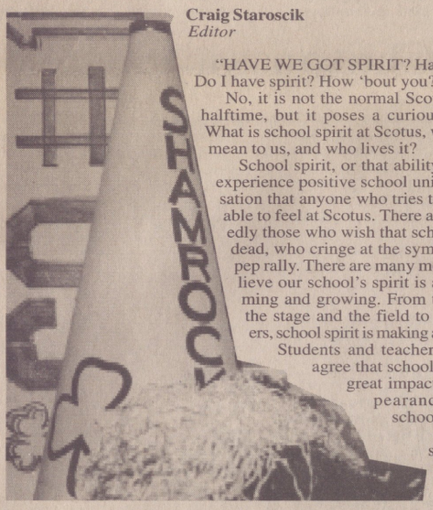
SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC

ROCK BOTTOM

Columbus, Nebraska | December, 2001 | Volume 4, Issue 4

DOES SCOTUS HAVE THE SPIRIT?

Definition and display of spirit can mean many things to people



Craig Staroscik
Editor

"HAVE WE GOT SPIRIT? Have no clue? Do I have spirit? How 'bout you?"

No, it is not the normal Scotus cheer at halftime, but it poses a curious question. What is school spirit at Scotus, what does it mean to us, and who lives it?

School spirit, or that ability to act and experience positive school unity, is a sensation that anyone who tries to should be able to feel at Scotus. There are undoubtedly those who wish that school spirit is dead, who cringe at the symbolism of a pep rally. There are many more who believe our school's spirit is alive, brimming and growing. From the court to the stage and the field to the bleachers, school spirit is making a comeback.

Students and teachers alike can agree that school spirit has a great impact on the appearance of our school.

"School spirit applies to all aspects of school," Activities Director Gary Puetz said. "It is a positive attitude to all activities, not just an individual sport or group."

"School spirit is what makes us look proud," eighth grader Derek Stankoski said. "It's what shows others that you care."

Schools spirit does make a big impact on students and organizations. "Athletes know the rush of adrenalin as chants and cheers come from the sidelines. So how does Scotus rank its spirit? In Junior Jesse Johnson's opinion, school spirit is improving.

> ***You can't force school spirit; students have to want to do it.***
> **- Jesse Johnson**

"Our spirit is medium, but its getting better," Johnson said. "In seventh grade you never saw this type of enthusiasm. But other (schools) don't see our spirit as good as theirs is because not everyone [at Scotus] gets as involved."

The fact that not everyone gets involved in school spirit is something noted by many. As demonstrated by the sophomore's listless response in the winter sports' pep rally, some students either think school spirit is overrated or that lack of spirit is more popular.

"Some classes think they are too cool to cheer, some are uninhibited," history teacher Sean Wickham said. "But overall the spirit is improving."

Improving seems to be the word to describe school spirit. Many agree we have some catching up to do with other high schools, such as Columbus High, but our own spirit growing thanks to the efforts noted by several.

"Seniors are the most vocal; they have the biggest spirit," Wickham said. "The junior class is catching up though. Cheerleaders are trying to motivate students, and students are trying to understand what they can do even with restrictions."

Johnson agrees.

"The junior class has taken over spirit," Johnson said. "The cheerleaders, mostly juniors, are stronger than ever now."

The positive comeback of the Scotus cheerleading program is but one example of the inflating energy in students. Two years ago, the cheerleading program seemed to be on its last leg, but as Johnson noted, has made a lively comeback. Puetz thinks that the improvement comes from another font.

"How the seniors act dictates how the rest of the school behaves," Puetz said. "The seniors are leading well, and others are following."

Even with all this positive moral behind the betterment of showing school pride, others note that even though overall spirit is better, it still fluctuates at times.

"At times [our school spirit] is average, at other times, above average," said PE teacher Janet

*See **Spirit**, page 3*

Semester tests loom in first weeks of 2002

Mike Adelman
Editor-in-Chief

Semester finals are the culmination of five months of hard work. Or are they? The students voice their opinions on the administering of the tests and the value they hold.

The semester final is a standard in most classes. Basically it is a test over all previous materials worth 10% of the semester grade. Some students and faculty discussed if that grade was valid.

"No," said Junior Dustin Becher. "Some people don't test well. It should be 5%."

Father Steve Emanuel disagrees and considers that the ten percent rule just.

"In my class, easily. I would make it a third of the grade," Emanuel said. "Since it's a total point grading system, it's probably the percent of the what you can earn anyway."

That makes sense considering that some finals in classes are actually worth less than normal tests themselves.

Then there is the debate on when the tests should be taken. Some schools take them before Christmas vacation to avoid that "holiday forgetfulness."

Asurvey found the student body nearly evenly split as to prefering the test before or after the Christmas break.

Scotus currently administers the tests toward the middle of January. This allows plenty of time for students smart enough to study. The determining factor is if the students are willing to prepare for the tests. Some are not.

"You never go back to the material again," said junior Wade Wemhoff.

This is a common feeling among students. They fail to see the point in going over material they have already seen. The "cram and flush" mentality is quite popular among students.

Semester finals that are comprehensive yet manageable is the goal of the teachers. This year, they will be taken the week after students get back from Christmas vacation.

No matter when semester test are held, let the cramming begin for another tradition as regular as Christmas.

MIKE ADELMAN/ROCK BOTTOM

Decking the halls

Ann Beiermann and Niki Van Ackeren decorate the freshman hallway for their theme "A Gifted Christmas." Every year each class decorates their hall in preparation for Christmas break.

Too much going on, not enough time

Between responsibilies and having a social life, students learn to value and manage time

Eric Grubaugh
Staff Reporter

Demanding teachers, overwhelming schoolwork, sports, fine arts, a job, plus personal endeavors: it's enough to make one want to rip out his hair. But there haven't been too many mysteriously balding students around Scotus as of late, so how are they handling this juggling act of work and play?

"I'm having a nervous breakdown," sophomore Mary Naughtin said. "I feel like doing a cartwheel, and I can't even do cartwheels."

But gymnastics are only a small part of students' routines.

Our school day last approximately 7 hours and 31 minutes, but most students arrive well before the 8:04 bell. Most are here between 7:30 and 7:45, but some are here as early as 6:45. Plus, those who have practices for sports, or speeches, or plays, do not leave at the 3:35 bell. Basketball practices run until 6 o' clock or a little after. A speech practice may only take 15-20 minutes, but more often than not there is a lot of waiting for the people going before you, so one could easily stay until 4:30. Play and musical practices last anywhere from an hour and a half to 2 and a half hours.

With school and practices, that leaves approximately 14 hours left in the day. Then factor in a job, music lessons, dance lessons, babysitting, or a variety of other activities, there are approximately 10 hours left in the students day. That's plenty of time, right? Well, subtract the doctor-recommended 8 hours of sleep and you're left with 2 hours.

But what about homework? After a poll of many students, the results were that the average student spends about 1 hour each night doing homework…except for those in Speech I. When those students were factored in, that one hour increases to almost 3 hours. That adds up to over the limit of the 24 hour day. So what activities out of all these take priority over others to balance the schedule?

> ***I feel like I'm doing cartwheels, and I can't even do cartwheels.***
> **- Mary Naughtin**

"I put off homework for dance," sophomore Katie Ingram said. "I put off sleep for homework, and I put off homework until as late as I can."

Many interviewed students agreed with this idea. Homework and sleep take the backseat to any other activities one may have on their schedule. But the homework still seems to be getting done, and that can only mean a lot less than eight hours of sleep.

Is there any help for these sleep-deprived students? Of course there is. It's called CHOICE, which is a serious of questions you can ask yourself to effectively manage your time. CHOICE is:

Compare your activities. (Which ones are most important?)

How will your choice affect you later? (What are the consequences?)

Order your priorities.

Inscribe your schedule. (Write down all your activities.)

Carry out the plan you've made.

Enjoy being in control of your time.

So, overall, is all of this schedule-cramming and sleep-depriving worth it?

"It doesn't seem like it's worth it now," Ingram said. "It's really frustrating, but I know it will be good for me. I'm sure when I'm in college things won't be any easier."

ROCK BOTTOM, Scotus Central Catholic High School, Columbus, NE
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Children sacrifice behavior, dignity for presents

Kids are nicer during the holiday season. One might say this unusual conduct is meant to promote peace on earth, brighten an elderly person's day, or simply to do what Jesus would do. But the true reason for this unnatural occurrence is not to better the world, it's to increase the child's number of **presents.**

Kids are nicer around the holidays because of **presents**. It's common knowledge. If you're "good," you will get more presents. So every year after Thanksgiving, kids around the world practice the fine art of brown-nosing with parents, grandparents, teachers, siblings, and whoever else may feel the gift of giving.

It's sneaky, underhanded, and downright ingenious of them. That's right: **ingenious.** (And no, "ingenious" is not a synonym for "sneaky". It's just a big word for **smart**.)

Adults are always saying that "kids are God's little presents," or that "children are the greatest creation." Personally, I feel that belief is **horse hockey**. That's right, **horse hockey**. (Or in layman's terms, **"poo."**) Some kids are selfish, whiny, loud little monsters. Not that

Everyone knows it's not how many presents you get; it's simply how good they are...

I hate kids or anything, that's just how some kids act before they mature. As for the adults saying those cockamamie aphorisms, **they don't have young children at the present time**. They are, in other words, clergy, celibates, or grandparents.

Sure, maybe you know a kid who just wanted "world peace" for Christmas. Perhaps they *did* want world peace, but I'm sure that if you read down their list a little further you would discover that they also really "just" wanted a pony.

That's why kids grow up. If they didn't grow up, the world would be a giant version of the island in *The Lord of the Flies*. Or, for the illiterate among us, "a very bad place."

Some people are under the suspicion that the holidays have become over-marketed and downright corrupt. It may be true, but hey, the holidays are what you make them to be. Go out and visit a homeless shelter on Christmas, or buy your kid the pony. If that's what makes a good holiday, good for you.

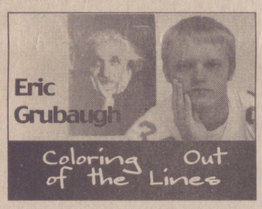
Everyone knows it's not how many presents you get; it's simply how good they are. Um, I mean, the important thing is that you spend the holidays with loved ones. Or with really good presents.

I want to wish each and every one of you a very happy holiday, but I'm saving that wish for some new art supplies.

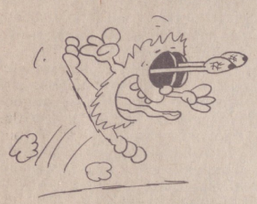
But happy holidays anyway.

Now I'm outta here faster than Frosty at a snow cone convention.

Some people find the joy of Christmas in gifts...



Snowflakes that stay on my nose and my lashes, silver white winters that melt into springs. These are a few of my favorite things. But they can't top one thing...PRESENTS!!



I love Christmas presents. Yes I know..."It is better to give than receive," but does anyone out there actually know someone who absolutely despises finding a package wrapped up in shiny paper with his or her name on the tag? I highly doubt it. Plus it's always better to receive gifts than shell out money for relatives you see once a year.

And my favorite part of gifts...(besides actually opening them)...guessing what they are by shaking them so hard that it measures on the Richter scale. Because, who wants to wait?? The anticipation of that time when you finally get to open those gleaming packages boggles the mind. Especially when your mother puts them under the tree a MONTH BEFORE YOU GET TO OPEN THEM!!

My favorite part of gifts is guessing what they are by shaking them so hard it measures on the Richter scale.

The wait drives me insane. Plus now that I am older, I'm expected to just be patient and wait for Christmas to arrive. Well, sometimes CHRISTMAS TAKES TOO LONG TO ARRIVE!! I think I'm going insane from a lack of shaking presents. My hands start to shake just from habit whenever I see any Christmas trees.

So basically, all I'm really saying is, that when it comes to Christmas gifts: I HAVE NO PATIENCE!

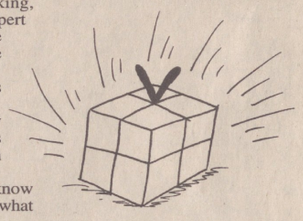
Sadly though, after so many years of shaking and shaking, one almost becomes an expert on knowing exactly what the gift is, and it almost ruins the fun of opening the gifts.

"Be careful," mothers warn, "you might break it."

"No I won't," the overly anxious children respond. "It's just a Megator V X-ray vision model action figure."

'It is? Wow, how did he know that? I didn't even know that's what it was when I bought it, I just grabbed one off the shelf' the confounded mothers walk away wondering.

However, I myself am not one such expert, so I will continue to cause miniature earthquakes with my gift-shaking when the parents aren't watching...



...and others would rather forget the madness

Christmas is great. Christmas songs, colored lights, cinnamon sticks, cold winter nights, everything about the holiday makes you giggle inside like a little child. As with almost everything else in life that seems to be too good to be true, Christmas has flaws as well. For me, that eternal dislike is one of those unavoidable consequences of Christmas: Christmas presents

I have always had this problem with Christmas. For some reason, every year people feel this relentless need to run out and buy me stuff. I have a strange, some may even call it insane, dislike for getting gifts. When I was in ninth grade, my Christmas list was as follows: medical supplies (I am a diabetic), a calculator (for my Algebra II class next the year), and a school shirt. That was one of my most cherished Christmases. Most years I'm not that lucky, but that year I actually got something from my list, and I still use that calculator today.

Still, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends all think that because it is Christmas they have to go out of their way to pick out, buy, wrap, and give presents to me. Why? I don't want presents. Give me a week out of school, a Christmas tree in a warm house with at cup of hot apple cider wrapped up in a blanket, and I am just about the most content fellow on the planet. Christmas is supposed to be about brotherly love and celebrating and thanking God for giving us His Son, right? But *noooo*, because it is Christmas, those who supposedly love me have to shower me with worldly possessions packed in cute little boxes with affixed little bows that were probably used to decorate my Christmas presents last year.

Why do people think it so necessary to give presents anyway? My first assumption is that they wanted to show their great affection for me by getting me something that would improve my overall happiness or well being. Then, I rethought the idea, causing hot apple cider to travel up my nasal cavity and shoot from my nose in spasmodic little bursts.

I have always had a problem with Christmas. For some reason, people feel the need to run out and buy me stuff.

Yeah, right! The only reason these sneaky little people bought me presents was so that they could watch me humiliate myself as I opened up expensive foreign-made goods and while I sat there thinking that I had not gotten them anything. They knew well what I know now: the only way to avoid this painful self anguish would be for me to go out of my way to buy *them* something too.

Squeezing up the stairwell after the final bell is a hard thing to do. Calming a hungry mob may be even more difficult. Nothing in this world, however, compares to the daunting task of shopping for Christmas gifts. Guys are not made to shop. Stores across America have developed to make the most of this holiday shopping period, and the least for the male populous. That car that swerves out of nowhere to steal the last available parking spot within missile range of the store was not just there by chance. Nor is the fact that every conceivable gift idea (including board games you play on the toilet and over 7,000 different types of screaming toys) appears on the shelf except the ones you are looking for. Store managers hire guys (the kind who are too insensitive to worry about buying presents) to make sure that other male customers have no possible chance of leaving the store satisfied.

Larry: "Hey, look at that guy! He found something that was on his girlfriend's Christmas list."

Dillon: "All right. Don't panic. I'll go get the scary gorilla suit, you just make sure the rest of the display is cleared by the time I get back."

Most stores are not careless enough to let this kind of mistake slip by, but it proves while we men will never ever be able to buy the correct present for anyone. So, back to my original assumption, why would people want to give me gifts to make me give them gifts? They just want me to go out, fight the muddle of crowds at stores and give them a gift so they can go to

See Staroscik, page 3

Forget the whales, it's the spoons that need saving

While working at Wunderlich's the other day I was putting away unused plastic silverware from a dinner party. During this time a question came to me: why are more spoons left over than anything else? I have concluded that our friend, the spoon, is being neglected.

Rather than prove my theory with in-depth facts and hours of research, I have decided to wing it with radical opinions and harsh assumptions.

Why don't we use our spoons anymore? I find myself simply taking a fork to do the job of the spoon, as well. Not only does this hurt the spoon's feelings for making it feel unimportant, it also overworks the fork. Now two pieces of tableware are unhappy because of one minor oversight.

Another thought is that the spoon is for breakfast cereal only. Not true. The spoon can hold its own against the fork when it comes to mashed potatoes, corn, and beans. Ever tried to use a fork to eat applesauce? Didn't think so. Not only that, but the fork is pointy, and it can hurt if you are not careful. The spoon is nice and smooth, and doesn't want to hurt anyone.

The spoon is nice and smooth, and it doesn't want to hurt anyone.

Yet another theory is simple forgetfulness or the lack of spoons to be used. Could this forgetfulness stem from our own lack of self-motivation? Are we trying to lump too many thing together in each day to try to make life simpler? Do we simply not like spoons? Why???

Perhaps the lack of use of spoons can be rooted in the larger problems of society. The fork: "TV, video games, movies; rough and unkind," has replaced the spoon: "family, friends, and kindness." This void in society can only be filled if we start using our spoons more. If we do it will create a domino effect and eventually solve every problem in the world.

The spoon problem can be easily fixed. Eat nothing but soggy cereal or pudding for the next few days and your appreciation for our unsung hero will grow by leaps and bounds.

Then the spork comes into the mix. The spork (a spoon-fork hybrid in case you didn't know) is like corporate America. It tries to make everything more efficient but forgets the important things that the spoon and fork represent in their pure forms. The only way around this is to avoid the spork completely. If we continue to use it we may find ourselves searching for other forms of acceptance to fill the void that the absence of conventional tableware will create.

If you're still with me, then you are as crazy as I am. Hopefully this insane rant has either brightened your day or given you the same distorted insight that I have on the world.

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As temperature of school fluctuates, so do behaviors and opinions

Kelli Morrison
Staff Reporter

Blue, no, green, maybe, oh, I have nothing to wear. Mom! How cold is it outside?

The air begins to change and multicolored sweatshirts appear in mass. Students at Scotus are constantly trying to find new ways to keep warm or keep cool, as the case may sometimes be. The temperature of the school is a large issue these days among students.

So, how big of an issue is the temperature swing? Well, let's just say every year when the weather starts to become extreme, the halls are filled with the grumbling of students who would rather be elsewhere. These conditions aren't at best when the air turns chilly according to the majority of students interviewed. The condition of the heaters seems to be the most discussed topic on the agenda.

"They blow out cold air, cool on good days," said Ellingson about the condition of the heaters.

Although, not all of them seem to be unable to work to the best of their ability when it comes to keeping a room nice and toasty. Many of the teacher's heaters work too well, but that's not a problem to some.

"It's better to be able to open a window and regulate it than to have it too cold and not be able to help it. I'm happy with it," said Spanish teacher Connie Felger.

This seems to be the general consensus among those with extreme conditions to handle.

Although, most think that the conditions could be more bearable they feel the janitorial staff is doing their best to keep the school a pleasant place for learning. One must all also consider the age and structure of the building in which we reside.

"It's not like it's a new house where the air conditioning doesn't work," said Felger. "You have to consider the age of this building and the material your working with."

Then, of course, we must all remember that we pay to learn with God in our midst and the budget for minor convinces is hard to work with. Then there's the other side of the temperature.

The students are more willing to accept the "Snow Days" rules than the "Heat Days." This is probably because snow is tangible and there must be a fair amount of it, while heat is intangible and the amount is up for speculation. The question has often been asked as to how hot is too hot to learn or function normally and be safe. This brings up the other side of the temperature war, when it becomes too hot to think or even breath.

The students feel that the regulations should be lowered because the body heat and constant moving plus the obvious fatigue creates a bad environment to try to learn in.

"If it gets too hot, we get tired," said junior Amy Ellingson.

The teachers also feel that their energy is spent on trying to keep the students awake and paying attention when the mercury rises.

"The students become sluggish," Felger said.

Many students have commented on the "almost unbearable" heat of the classrooms, especially the ones on third floor. Even though the students are unhappy with the present conditions they are not willing to give up their valuable vacation time in exchange for air conditioned rooms. This is why study hall teachers have to regulate the number of students that they allow to venture to the temperature controlled media center.

So, perhaps the heaters will never stabilize and we will all have to deal with the heat, but at least we will always receive our quality education and the staff will do their best.

Rocking around the clock? It all depends on what your curfew is

Matt Krings
Staff Reporter

When the clock ticks later and later on a weekend night, every kid has to deal with curfew. Making sure they get home on time is one of their biggest responsibilities they are given outside of school. The curfew kids are given is what parents base trust on and shows a true character if they choose to follow it.

The city curfew for kids under fifteen is 11 p.m., yet many kids of that age have a curfew later than that.

"If parents make sure they can get their kids home, then they can stay out as late as they want," said Columbus Police Officer Alan Wilkins. "When they (kids) start to walk home or just go out in the streets past 11 is when the problems start."

Wilkins added that for 16-year-olds, there is no curfew by law, but it's totally up to the parent's judgment.

Freshman Jeff Olmer said kids just want to go have fun and not worry about getting in trouble. It seems that there is really nothing to do after midnight for most people, but most students take a different view. Sophomore Michael Schaecher says that the fun begins at midnight, but it is too bad his parents won't let him stay past 12.

Most of you at this time are just wondering what is there possibly to do at that late of night. Well, most students at Scotus seem to like hanging out with friends most of all, and watching a movie, playing cards, or anything that involves numerous peers.

> ***"If parents make sure they can get their kids at home, then the kids can stay out as late as they want.***
>
> **- Officer Alan Wilkins**

"There is nothing better than five-man-call-your-partner-frenzy (card game, pitch)," said Sophomore Jon Scholz.

Then there are those with no curfew at all. Many junior high students claimed to have no curfew, and after more investigation the reason for this is because they don't really go out yet. Their parents don't give them a curfew because they come pick their kids up at their own convenience. The students that honestly don't have a curfew are often thought of as the bad kids or the wild ones to the mature crowd. However some students don't think this way of them.

"The 'good' kids can have the latest curfews because they have earned their trust, so they deserve everything they earn," said freshman Paige Hottovy. "So I think the 'bad' kids are home earlier than the ones that can be trusted."

Whether you like your curfew or you think it is totally unfair, remember a couple things: be good, when your parents see that they can trust you your curfew could easily skyrocket. If you think it is totally unfair, well just remember what Mrs. Johnson always says, "The fair is in July."

Girls spend hours shopping for the perfect gift; guys grumble

Matt Krings
Staff Reporter

From the day after Thanksgiving to late Christmas Eve, there is a shopping fever that seems to hit many people around the world. People can't wait to get their gifts for the ones they love, but the ones that seem to have the most shopping urge is, of course, the women.

The question of why does it take so long is one of the mysteries of woman that men just cannot figure out. Men have looked for the answer for years, on and off between bowl games at least, but can this question ever be answered correctly?

"Woman look for sales and wonder if this will be the right thing to get that someone," said seventh grader Lance Schmidt. "Men don't care if what they got is actually good, they just are happy they got something and it didn't take long to get it."

Maybe the answer is in where they shop. Many students have to go out of town to find gifts because of the shopping selection in Columbus.

"There is no mall in Columbus," said sophomore Whitney Becher. "About the only thing I could get in Columbus is Wal-Mart clothes, and who wants those?"

It's true that trying to find good shopping in Columbus can be a challenge at times, but is it an excuse for the extensive time it takes girls to shop?

Then the point of pickyness comes up. Maybe because girls are so picky that it takes them an eternity to find what they want to give for gifts. Some male students may agree with this.

"If you get the girl the wrong thing she probably would never forgive you,"said eighth grader Jared Rickert. "I could get a stick of beef jerky and love it; a girl would cry and shun you."

But it is not just being picky. Girls tend to get more gifts for friends, and naturally more gifts takes more time.

"I trade names with all my girlfriends," said seventh grader Natasha Scholz. "People have to realize how many presents a girl has to get, that's why it takes so long."

AHHH... maybe that is the answer the men of the world search for. If that really is the case though, well take all the time you need ladies.

"There is no way I could give up a present just to save the girls time," freshman Pat Schaecher said. "I have a feeling that every guy feels that way too."

Spirit: School enthusiasim said to be improving

from page 1

Tooley. "It seems to vary between game to game and sport to sport. It is easier to be motivated when you're doing well. It is when you are down that you need that spirit from the stands, but that is when it is shown least. Unfortunately, our overall success is taken for granted, and sometimes spirit is withheld because people don't want others to do as well."

The display of school pride is a definite asset to uniting and strengthening the school body. Even though it isn't always at its peak, students realize that it is something that has to grow naturally over time with the support of others students.

"You can't force school spirit," said Johnson. "Students have to want to do it, to get involved on their own."

School sprit, whether it be cheering from the stands or roaring at a pep rally is a vital feature of our school's moral. It is what makes Scotus a body and a force as it ripples through the stands as students scream for the big green.

Staroscik: Humbug to gifts

from page 2

all the after Christmas sales to exchange their gifts without the hassle of two-hour checkouts and random gorilla mobbings. Not only that, but while they are in the store they get to start picking out what they want on **next** year's Christmas list!

So please, this holiday season, give the gift that keeps on giving. Forget the presents, the shining ribbons, and even the stocking stuffers. Show someone you really do care by giving them absolutely nothing. And for those of you still wondering, all I wanted for Christmas is my sanity, and yes, I'll put it down on my list right after I clean this apple cider off my Christmas cards.

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From the grinch to Uncle Eddie, Christmas movie season is here

The Rock Bottom Staff

As inevitable as snow, at least in most winters, those holiday movies are back. Whether it's Charlie Brown directing the Christmas play or Frosty the Snowman coming back to life, the moments in these movies are forever burned into our hearts and minds. The Rock Bottom Staff has listed their favorite movies and the reasons they like them:

Frosty the Snowman

It didn't win any awards, and it isn't always remembered for it's intelligent dialogue, but it sure as heck holds a special place in my heart.

Frosty the Snowman has changed my life. I even have the soundtrack in vinyl, which I played constantly throughout the summer of my first grade year. This story of a magical snowman coming to life and playing with the local children is definitely worth a watch this holiday season. I recommend the cartoon version, as the clay-mation version is usually frightening to anyone with vision.

The ending is without a doubt shocking, as no one in his or her right minds expected Frosty to still be alive by the end of the first half hour.

I guarantee that this film about a little snowman with a dream in his heart and a magical hat on his head will change your life. Or, perhaps, just waste precious present opening time. *-Lauren Maul*

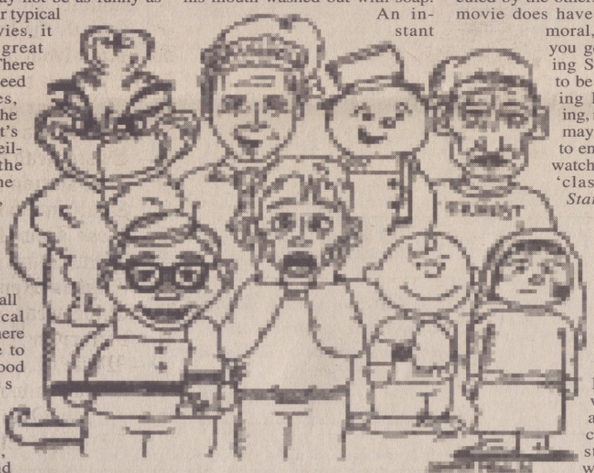
The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

Turning books into movies has been a big thing recently. First *Harry Potter*, and then *Lord of the Rings*. But one of my favorite movies based on books has to be *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. This hilarious movie is about an old school Christmas pageant in a small town. Watch this movie to see what happens when the white trash family no one likes has their daughter star as Mary in the church Christmas play. *-Lauren Maul*

Ernest Saves Christmas

It's Christmas Eve, and Santa has lost "The Magic." He needs to find a replacement before 7:00 pm. This sounds like a job for…Superman! But Superman has a run in his tights. What about…Batman! No, Batman's ears are drooping. Who's left? Ernest! *Ernest Saves Christmas* is a great Christmas movie. Although it may not be as funny as some of your typical Ernest movies, it has some great moments. There are warp-speed sleigh rides, reindeer on the ceiling (that's right, the ceiling, not the roof, but the ceiling), elves in trench coats, and high-speed taxi rides.

Amidst all these comical moments, there is also time to show the good messages Christmas brings with it, such as friendship, honesty, and forgiveness. So this holiday season, sit down with your family, share some laughs, maybe some tears (ok…probably not tears) and rent *Ernest Saves Christmas*. *-Eric Grubaugh*



A Christmas Story

A Christmas Story- The ultimate classic that aired for 24 hours straight last year and is sure to again. The story revolves around Ralphie and his quest to get a Red Rider Bee-bee Gun. Along the way there is a cast of colorful characters and exaggerated personalities from the point of view of a young child. I picked this movie because it showed grown-ups in that "Charlie Brown-esque" way, where they don't understand kids at all and are very scary. The best parts are when Ralphie beats up the bully Scott Farkus, and when Ralphie utters "Fudge" and gets his mouth washed out with soap. An instant winner, everyone should catch this flick at least once during the daylong marathon. *-Mike Adelman*

A Charlie Brown Christmas

If you need a holiday movie that has a great underling moral message, is recognized by everyone but has a plot line that runs slower than the Abominable Snowmoster with a toothache, then *A Charlie Brown Christmas* may be the movie for you.

As the story goes, Charlie Brown is a crucial part of that year's Christmas pageant. His job it to find the perfect Christmas tree for the set. Eventually, after spending several minutes walking through the same repeated backgrounds, the Blockhead picks out the most ugly tree. Though the tree in no way resembles an evergreen of any type, Charlie Brown feels sorry for it and takes it back, only to be ridiculed by the others. Although the movie does have a noteworthy moral, the headache you get from watching Snoopy attempt to be funny or hearing Lucy's annoying, repetitive voice, may not be enough to encourage you to watch this Christmas 'classic'. *-Craig Staroscik*

Home Alone

More than often a Christmas Classic is a mix between the gathering of families with much love and happiness. Most people want to sit down and watch these classics from start to finish without interruptions. I'll bet that this isn't the case with *Home Alone*. We all know the only part that is worth watching is the end. There is no denying that all the traps Kevin McCallister sets are genius and we only wish we could do that. This still is a classic due to the hilarious pranks pulled, and at the end the little boy reunites with his family. *-Matt Krings*

The Grinch

The Grinch is the statement of a man named Dr. Seuss. The proper title of this movie/book is *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. The movie that is animated is more closely related to the book and has less bearing on reality. The newest version of the movie, including the infamous Jim Carey as the Grinch, is a much more realistic portrayal of how this story might actually have come about. We highly recommend this movie to all people, not just those under 12. It carries a message that we have heard many times, but usually ignore. It also has several hidden messages that are not in the book but are worked in quite nicely in the movie and the soundtrack is a must hear hilarious expression of Seuss's personality. So, if you wish holiday fun and a message of love and tolerance with cool special effects and makeup, see *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. *-Kelli Morrison*

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation

This is the funniest Christmas movie I have ever seen. It is an hour and half full of laughs and a classic in the eyes of many. I strongly recommend this movie to those of you who haven't seen it

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation is another example of how things are done in the Griswold family. Nothing ever happens they way it is supposed to, Clark always tries to think of a way to get around it, and Cousin Eddy is always there to offer a helping hand. Cousin Eddy played by Randy Quaid, is one of the funniest characters in the National Lampoon's movies.

I highly suggest this movie to anyone who needs a laugh or if you are bored over Christmas break. *-Butch Owens*

Many cultures celebrating during holiday season

Lauren Maul
Editor

Crowded stores, hyper children, and remarkably trashy decorations: all of these disturbing instances are results of the crazy holiday known to many as **Boxing Day**. Oh wait, I mean, **Christmas**. While you're putting up with Santa and his over-commercialized version of Jesus' birthday, other cultures have their own forms of holiday fun. Light the menorah for Hanukkah, or whip up some Soul Food for Kwanzaa. In either case, have a great holiday season whether you participate in these other holidays or not.

December 5 ***Sinterklaasavond***

A holiday in the Netherlands where Sinterklaas, or St. Nicolas, is dressed like a bishop in red. He brings presents with his servant "zwarte Piet" (black Pieter) on a white horse. It's similar to America's version of Santa Claus.

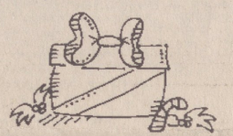
This year: December 10-18 ***Hanukkah***

A Jewish holiday which celebrates the victory of the Maccabees over the Seleucid Greeks. A candelabrum (or menorah) is lit for eight nights, in celebration of the Maccabees' rededication of the corrupted Holy Temple, and in celebration of freedom. However, it's not just to celebrate the victory over the Greeks. It's also to remember the miracle of the oil.

December 26-January 1 ***Kwanzaa***

An African American celebration with focus on the traditional African values of family, community responsibility, commerce, and self-improvement. Kwanzaa is neither political nor religious, and it's not a substitute for Christmas. It's just a time to reaffirm the African-American people, their ancestors and culture. (Kwanzaa literally means "first fruits of the harvest" in the African language Kiswahili.)

December 26 ***Boxing Day or St. Stephen's Day***



Legend says that on this British holiday observed in Canada and Australia, the noblemen "boxed up" gifts for their servants. It is also known as St. Stephen's Day. Stephen was a martyr who was stoned to death shortly after Christ's crucifixion.

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Lead Paint Chips *by Lauren Maul*

"Children are by far our greatest gift this holiday season. So this Christmas, I want you all to try to remember the **wonder** and **innocence** of your childhood holidays."

I wanted the **BIG PONY!**

little Dude by Mike Adelman

Christmas Gifts from A-Z

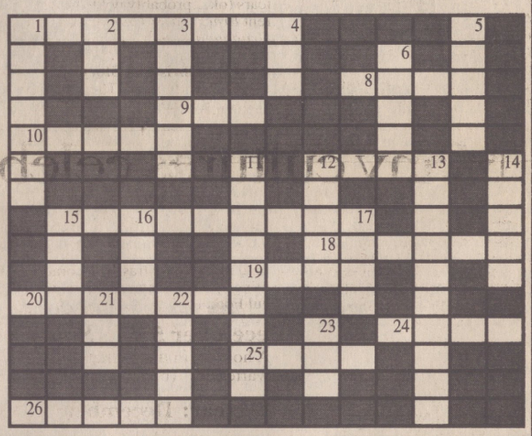
Here's an alphebetical list of presents. Some we would like to see, some we have already seen, and others that just fit a letter.

A – A new bell system for Scotus
B – bin Laden in a bag
C – Crying towel for Colorado fans
D – Dana Torzon wearing #25, scoring touchdowns
E – Eric Cattau telling jokes
F – Free Jeans Day, I mean "Dress Down Day"
G – GCA, Game Cubes Anonymous for certain editors of the paper
H – Heisman Trophy for Eric Crouch
I – Iambic pentameters, oh wait those are boring
J – Jackal, the best Nintendo game ever created
K – Kiss from a girlfriend or boyfriend
L – Lauren's column being illiteracy friendly
M– Money for all, especially Scotus teachers
N – Nebraska volleyball back in final four next year
O – Oysterhead announcing a tour of the Midwest
P – Playstation 2, to distract us from our homework
Q - Quall in a box
R – Rose Bowl for the Cornhuskers
S – Snow Days, if it ever snows
T – Taliban Removal sprikled all over Afganistan
U – Underwear, of course
V – Victory in the Rose Bowl
W – White Gravy
X – X-Box to work on our thumb-eye coordination
Y – Yearly New Year's resolutions to ignore
Z – ZZ Top's Eliminator Album

Scotus Tword

Across:
1. These pull Santa's sleigh
8. ____ of coal
9. Sports teams try to do this
10. __, __ pants on fire
12. George Orwell wrote the book Animal ____
15. A plant you kiss under
18. Santa rides one of these
19. Tator ____
20. Frosty was one of these
24. Three of these in a yard
25. Santa is coming to here
26. Upon a midnight _____

Down:
1. Red-nosed reindeer
2. Resturant Village ___
3. Sleeping pills make you ___
4. Christmas colors: green and ___
5. Keeps the doctor away
6. The main ingrediant of candy
11. Roast these over an open fire
12. This is on your windows in the winter and is the last name of a former Nebraska quarterback
13. A muppet is a combination of puppet and a _____
14. Silent _____, holy _____
15. The opposite of nice
16. This is white, cold, and fluffy
17. You go somewhere ____ when you don't like where you are
21. Opposite of young
22. When someone dies, they meet their _____
23. Bird with big eyes and says "who"



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Scotus, Columbus High benefit from cooperative sports teams

Craig Staroscik
Editor

Six-thirty am. Just enough time to get up, get dressed, and speed to the gym for weightlifting. Tedious curls. Wrenching sit-ups. Shower, get dressed again, grab a quick breakfast, and head to class.

As any athlete knows, sporting has its demands. Now, take all of the normal sports preparation and add having to go to another school, meet new coaches, teammates, and rules to the mix. These are just a few examples of what some students in co-op sports have had to go through.

With the crash of that last volleyball hitting the floor for Scotus' win over Central City, fall sports season ended, paving the way for the winter games. Scotus students will not only be cheering for "The big green," as two co-op sports take to the mats and pool. Columbus High School shares both its wrestling and swim teams with athletes from Scotus. According to Activities Director Gary Puetz, the co-op sports program was initiated about five years ago with boys and girls tennis, followed by swimming, wrestling, baseball, and softball. The program had some concerns for both Scotus and CHS, but Puetz said it has turned out for the best for both schools. With a different environment, Scotus students must adapt to sharing another school's team.

"There are no real differences," junior wrestler Tony Schwank said. "It is still a sport, but at a different school."

It is true that sports are basically the same, and the fact that practice schedules and procedures are different at CHS than at Scotus accounts for some inconveniences among athletes.

"Weightlifting every day can be a rush," Schwank said. "Lifting in the morning is hard because they [CHS] start later than we do. It's hard to get from there to here on time."

Adjusting to a new schedule is one part of what makes a co-op sport different, but dealing with new fans and coaches has varying results.

"Some parents from CHS don't like the Scotus students," junior wrestler Jason Avery said. "The kids all treat you the same, but some of the parents are upset when you wrestle instead of one of their kids."

Not only are pressures felt from parents, but from coaches as well.

"The coaches expect us to do more, because of Scotus' reputation for good athletes," said Schwank.

Regardless of how the coaches or parents see the Scotus participants, tension between Scotus and CHS students does not play a big factor.

"Most of the kids get along," said sophomore swimmer Angie Boeding. "There are some exceptions, but that is true in any type of sport. I've made a lot of friends; it's easy to get along with them because we have the same interests. If something was changed, I think co-op sports should get more attention. We get our lockers decorated and have posters in the hall, but a lot of people really don't notice us."

Of those interviewed, most would like to see the co-op program left as it is. Students agree that Scotus doesn't have the budget or interest to build the programs on their own, and most athletes say they are satisfied with the current system. As Puetz noted, the co-op sports program has advantages for both Scotus and CHS.

"It's good for the students who want to go to our school and participate in any sport," Puetz said, "and it's good for Columbus High because they get some of their best players from Scotus. It helps the two schools get along better, we have to cooperate with one another. It's a good deal."

Administrators, activity programs, and especially students that have benefited from these programs concur that co-op sports is the best way for students to get full advantage of the different opportunities available in Columbus. So this winter season, in between rooting for Scotus at home basketball games, why not try cheering for those Scotus students dressed in maroon?

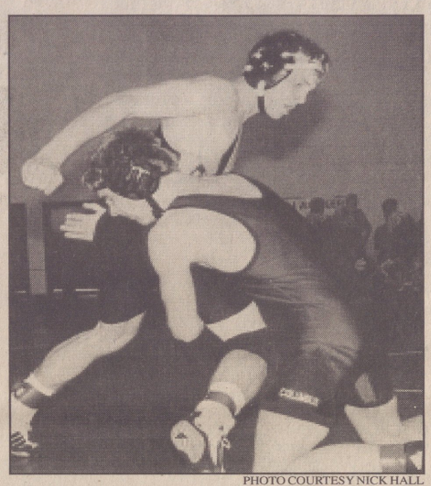


PHOTO COURTESY NICK HALL

Junior Nick Hall participates in wrestling as one of Scotus' co-op sport athletes. Wrestling is just one of several co-op sports avaliable to Scotus students.

Thrill, challenge of hunting attracts teens to early mornings

Anthony Owens
Staff Reporter

It's 5:30 in the morning, around 23 degrees out, and there is a fresh blanket of snow on the ground. It sounds like a pretty awkward scenario for most, but a perfect chance for hunters to get some game.

Depending on the type of game you hunt, you may want to get an early start.

Senior Tim Mlinar said he doesn't mind getting up early as long as he shoots a few birds that morning. Mlinar hunts migratory birds, such as ducks, geese, and the occasional crow.

"I started hunting about four years ago, and I have loved doing it ever since," Mlinar said. "I go hunting just about any time I can."

Senior Matt Peterson said he started hunting when he was just six years old.

"I used to sit in my dad's tree stand with him until he got his deer," Peterson said. "I used to have so much fun even though I never did anything." Peterson doesn't hunt deer much anymore, but he said he is starting to find the world of duck hunting very amusing.

PHOTO COURTESY ANTHONY OWENS

Anthony Owens and Blake Aschoff pose with the bounty of a recent huting expedition for Canadian geese. Aschoff and Owens are just two of the many Scotus students who enjoy hunting.

Like Mlinar and Peterson, most hunters have completed a hunter safety course. Hunter safety informs hunters, young and old, how to stay safe and make the right decisions while hunting. At the end of the course the students must take a final exam reviewing what they have learned. All hunters under the age of sixteen are required to have a hunter's safety card with them while they are hunting. Once they turn sixteen they are required to buy a hunting license, a habitat stamp, and if they plan to hunt migratory birds like ducks and geese they must buy a duck stamp too.

A big controversy with hunting is the problem with using lead shot in shotgun cartridges. Lead has quite a few advantages compared to some other alternatives. Lead has more killing power than steel or copper and it is more reasonably priced, which makes it preferable to other metal shots. Lead is illegal for hunting migratory birds, which raises complaints from those who hunt those such birds and have to use more expensive steel shots.

Hunting is always a dangerous sport. Hunters who don't know what they are doing can seriously hurt themselves or others. If you go hunting don't screw around, always have your safety on your gun on, always know where your muzzle is pointed, and use common sense.

Reading puts some students into worlds of mystery, some to sleep

Lauren Maul
Editor

"I'm sorry, but you're cutting in on my leisurely reading time."

Just because you don't hear many people say this line, doesn't mean that they are not reading. Reading for fun is a foreign concept to some people, but to others it puts the "fun" back in "fundamental."

These days, more people are reading thanks to Harry Potter. In fact, in English teacher Nathan Arneal's classroom, the Harry Potter books have been checked out four times as much as the other books. But for many students, reading has always held a special place in their hearts, with or without Harry.

It may surprise and shock you, but some students aren't exactly turned on by literary masterpieces that don't include pictures on every page.

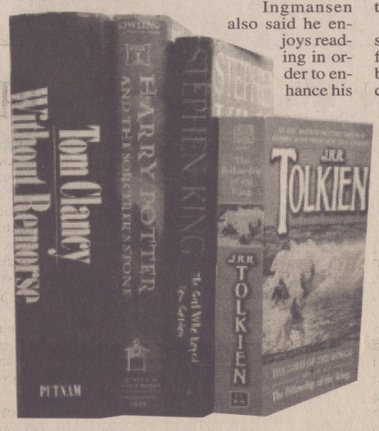
"Reading takes up too much time," said sophomore Joe Held. "But I read books for school unless they are boring. Then I stop."

According to many students, they don't "hate" reading; it's just that most books aren't appealing.

"I haven't found any good books that I like to read," said junior Tony Bayer. "And I don't usually read assigned books for school."

Although some students claim they don't read assigned books for English classes, some of them actually do read them, and some even enjoy them.

"I loved the book *Night* by Elie Weisel," said sophomore Michael Ingmansen. "(Sophomore Engish teacher) Mrs. Schaad always has a brilliant menagerie of exciting books for us to read."



Ingmansen also said he enjoys reading in order to enhance his verbal skills.

Female students are usually more eager than males to express their love of all things literary.

"I've always liked reading," said freshman Aleah German. "My favorite book is *A Child Called It*, because it's a true story, and you can't believe that it actually happened."

Even upper classmen, or in this case "class-women," benefit from reading.

"I think you get more out of reading than watching TV. Reading will expand your mind," said senior Melissa Wangler, whose favorite author is Nora Roberts. Suspense themed books are popular, but to some students, the classics are more appreciated.

"I enjoy reading the Bible for fun," said junior Rachel Raimondo. "Maybe it's because my parents read me the Bible when I was little."

Just because reading seems to be more popular with the girls doesn't mean boys don't always enjoy a good read.

"The whole *Goosebumps* collection is a preferable choice," said junior Tyler Weinand. "But watching TV is better because it requires less thinking."

It seems like one cannot even talk about reading today without bringing up Harry Potter. Many students have read and enjoyed the books by J.K. Rowling and have also seen the movie.

"I do like Harry Potter, even though everyone makes fun of me for it," said senior Jill Micek, who also saw the movie. According to many students, the book was better than the film, though the movie was still enjoyable.

"The book was better, because it had more details than the movie," said German.

Whether you love it or hate it, reading will still be a part of our lives as long as there are people who still think occasionally.

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INSIDE: Last year's seniors look at life after Scotus

SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC

ROCK BOTTOM

Columbus, Nebraska | January, 2002 | Volume 4, Issue 5

SWAT teams practice hostage rescue at Scotus

Craig Staroscik
Editor

Suddenly there was a relentless pounding on the door. Seconds later officers stormed through the opposite side of the room. Bodies flew to the ground as demanding voices screamed "Get down! Hands over your head!" In an instant it was over.

All this occurred in a S.W.A.T. team rehearsal that took place January 10. Scotus and the Nebraska State Patrol conducted a practice hostage situation, a drill designed to teach administrators, teachers, and students what it might feel like to be involved in an actual hostage situation.

"I think that this type of education is necessary from the standpoint that something like this could ever happen," Scotus Superintendent Bill Gannon said. "After Columbine it heightened everyone to the situation. This type of training helps [school administration] and the police learn what to do."

The mock assault provided a triple purpose for those involved: it helped Scotus' school administrators reevaluate the current emergency plan at Scotus, helped officers practice their skills, and taught educators how to react.

The drill that took place involved a seven-member group of officers from Team B of Nebraska's five

> *"It's startling to think that this is necessary, even in our school*
> **- Ashley Pritchard**

S.W.A.T. teams.

Although the only shots that were fired came from the shutters of cameras, all the officers were armed with loaded guns and appeared in full gear. Members of the student council and faculty were divided and placed in five different rooms, some of which contained a 'hostage taker.' The hostage taker's job was to pick a hostage and provide a target for the incoming S.W.A.T. team. Former Scotus student Nathan Malicky, who is currently studying for his major in criminal justice, was one of these hostage takers as part of his self-described internship. Having participated in this type of program for his educational training, Malicky described the reactions people have during the situation.

"Your natural reaction will be to freeze up, but you just have to help the officers," he said. "If this was a real situation, they wouldn't know who the bad guy was, so they have to suspect everyone."

As the S.W.A.T. team made its way from room to room, they performed the tactical operations that would have been applied in a real hostage situation. After waiting minutes, participants were drawn to the attention of a rapid pounding on their room's door. Seconds later the group would pour in from the opposite door, yelling commands and threatening with body pads, riot shields, and assault weapons. The team operated with incredible speed as the entire seven-man group swarmed into a room following precise orders and formations.

The strike offered a learning experience for those who were involved,

CRAID STAROSCIK/ROCK BOTTOM

Team leader Dave Spiegel, left, explains some of the tactics used by the hostage rescue teams, shown here without some of their gear. During the actual drill, the lead officer held a bullet-proof shield as the team entered the rooms.

even though after following instructions to "Get down and cover your head!" most individuals had little idea of what was going on around them. Though participants saw little more than the floor after the armed officers charged in, S.W.A.T. team leader Dave Spiegel commented later that that was exactly what they would be seeing in a real situation.

Not knowing what to expect, a few were nervous anticipating the

See ***SWAT****, page 3*

MIKE ADELMAN/ROCK BOTTOM

Here's the plan...

Seventh grader Karrie Starzec and other Intramural basketball players huddle around their coach, senior Nicole Weeder. Junior high students are divided up into four teams, each coached by a senior high basketball player.

New schedule to be voted on next board meeting

Proposed daily schedule would move school day up, eliminate activity period.

From staff reports

A new daily schedule was proposed by Scotus administration to the school board at its January 17 meeting.

The new schedule would eliminate activity period. Teachers and students have complained in the past that they twenty-minute period after fourth period was not being used properly. In particular, it had been noted that the number of students roaming the halls at this time had reached an unacceptable level.

The proposed schedule, which is to be voted on by the board at its Feburary 21 meeting, would start the school day at 7:55 a.m. and end it at 3:12 p.m. The length of classes would remain the same as in the current schedule. However,

See ***Schedule****, page 6*

High school dating scene good enough, for now

Matt Krings
Staff Reporter

It's another regular school day, and chances are you can count on certain couples hanging around together and walking each other to class. Many couples have emerged on the scene here at Scotus, but many of us are not aware of the commitment these people share with each other.

In high school, many students are just looking to have a good time. Together the students participate in sports, fine arts, academic responsibilities, and all the other aspects of school. Is it really possible to find a true partner in this process?

"No, because everyone in high school are idiots about relationships" said senior Wes Wemhoff.

Whitney Becher agrees, saying that high school boys have a way to go before being worthy of "true partner status.

"They (high school boys) are too immature when they are at this age," she said.

Sure there are advantages and disadvantages to be dating someone. What is the best part though?

"When I am grounded, my woman can come over and cook for me," said sophomore Nick Sahs. "The way it should be."

The chances of high school sweethearts staying together for

See ***Dating****, page 4*

Eighth grade drama class conquers nerves to produce *60s Mania*

Lauren Maul
Editor

Ringo Starr jumping out of a box, kids kissing on the couch, and crazy mayhem only the eighth grade can provide: all ingredients for the junior high production of *'60s Mania*, written by Craig Sodaro.

'60s Mania, the play of choice for the second-quarter 8th grade drama class, is a hilarious glimpse of what happens when there are misunderstandings that cause chaos to ensue.

In the play, the audience returns to the 1960's to learn about a typical family that has an untypical day. When the boss asks to join them for dinner at their home, the father assumes he is going to be fired. (Later we find out that the boss just came to give him a promotion.) Meanwhile, the daughter wins a date with her dream guy Ringo Starr. The older daughter has a relationship with a good-for-nothing hippie and is going to run away with him to 'Purple Mountain'. The wife's aunt (played by Maria Prohaska) is trying to cause trouble while the rest of the family is trying to impress the boss.

As bewildering as that may

> *"Luckily people could improvise very well despite technical difficulties.*
> **- Sandie Bernt**

sound, the eighth graders actually pulled it off, with a few minor problems. Besides having to deal with a glass vase breaking on stage and a misunderstanding with the cues, the kids only had a short amount of time to memorize their many lines.

"Yes, we had some exciting moments," Mrs. Sandie Bernt said. "Luckily, people could improvise very will despite technical difficulties. They also did very well considering the long [Christmas] break."

Adding to the obstacles, many of the boys had a basketball game on the night of the final rehearsal so they weren't able to run through the whole thing. Despite their many hardships, the cast had a pretty good experience overall.

"I have one of the leads; I play the mother," said 8th grader Stephanie Laudenklos. "It has a lot of lines, which is tough, but it's fun. One kid in our class had [to say] the word 'cremated', and he said 'cemented.' We all laughed."

Though some 8th graders are interested in pursuing their drama careers in high school, other cast members are not so thrilled about the drama experience.

"My character is an old dad," said fellow cast member Justin McPhillips. "It's difficult practice and learning all the lines. I wouldn't want a lead again."

See ***Drama****, page 4*

LAUREN MAUL/ROCK BOTTOM

Eighth graders Alexis Casillas, left, and Clint Torczon work on their lines before the performance. Several of the students said that memorizing lines was one of the more difficult tasks in putting on a play.

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Immaturity leads to destruction

Scotus has a third-grade problem. No, it's not being quiet in the halls or even making sure students can dress themselves; it's worse. One or more individuals (namely males) in our school think that it is still "cool" to write on the restroom walls.

The first step to solving this problem is to find where it stems from. The need to put someone else down without doing it to his or her face is often due to the lack of a spinal cord or brain. The offender either has such incredibly low self-esteem that he must write on a RESTROOM WALL to bolster some confidence, or has absolutely no life to speak of.

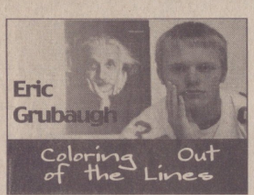
Not being able to go the the restroom without reading the tabloids is getting old.

Perhaps the perpetrator thinks he is being funny. Oh, yeah. It's funny, all right. Making the custodians work extra hours to clean the graffiti, thus raising tuition. Bet the parents think that's really funny.

Not only that, but the messages on the wall say nearly exactly the same thing every time. One would think such a professional graffiti artist would have more than a 10-word vocabulary. We truly feel sympathy for the writer of the graffiti. Most students have read the warnings in the announcements to stop writing on the walls, but the people who write these announcements have neglected to realize that this person obviously couldn't understand "big words."

It's sad that we have to write an editorial addressing such a ludicrous issue. This has to stop, and soon. Not being able to go to the restroom without reading tabloids is getting old fast. Maybe teachers will have to escort students to the restrooms from now on…

New Year's resolutions going unfulfilled



"I'm going to lose 10 pounds."

"I'm going to work out at least twice every week."

Sound like you on New Year's making resolutions? Well, that's definitely not me. New Year's resolutions, pssh, what a waste. My resolution is: never to make another New Year's resolution. Why not, you ask? Because I NEVER, EVER keep them!! I don't ever remember a single time where one of my resolutions lasted more than…a day. Seriously. I could make my resolution the easiest task in the world. Like, say…I am going to make my bed every day. I would wake up on January 2, get out of bed, and trudge upstairs, never even giving a second thought—actually, never even giving a first thought—to my already-old New Year's resolution.

As a matter of fact, I'm not sure I even remember the last time I made my bed (much to my mother's dismay). Come to think of it, I don't remember the last time I made my bed, dusted or vacuumed my room, or picked up the wet towels I hang over my weight bench. My room is a mess! I am just too incredibly busy to clean it…or, actually that's what I'd like to say. The truth would sound more like…I am just too incredibly lazy to clean it.

Ok, now where was I? Ah, yes, New Year's resolutions. (Wow, how did I get off on messy rooms starting with New Year's resolutions??) Like I said, I NEVER keep them. I'm sorry but the first thing, let alone the most important thing, that comes into my mind every day isn't "Ooh gotta do my New Year's resolution now." The first thing that comes into my mind when I wake up is mainly just a series of grunts because it's too early to get up, no matter what time it is. The most important thing that comes to my mind every day is something like 'Holy cow I am absolutely starving. What is there to eat around this place?'

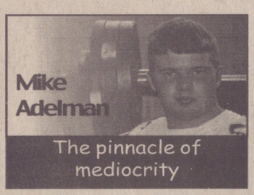
I don't remember a single time where one of my resolutions lasted more than… a day.

What? Huh? Oh, right, the New Year's resolution thing (Wow, how did I get off on food starting with messy rooms? Or was it losing ten pounds? Aahh, I can't remember).

So like I was saying about New Year's resolutions—wait a minute, what was I saying about New Year's resolutions? Oh well, I forget. Anyways, how many of you actually keep your resolutions for the ENTIRE year, EVERY DAY, not missing a SINGLE time?! I don't know. I'm not even sure why I asked, but I know that I don't, EVER.

Maybe it's because I'm afraid of the drastic change one little New Year's resolution could cause. Or maybe it's because I just think we use the New Year as an excuse to say we're going to do things we don't have the time to normally. We could very well make these resolutions ANY other time of the year. But heaven forbid we promise to work out twice a week in the MIDDLE of the year, and not at the BEGINNING of the year. What a waste of time that would be, huh? But yeah, you're probably right, that's not the reason. I just never keep them because I'm just too darn lazy to make my bed 365 times a year.

Geeks: The "In-Crowd" of the future...



They're making a comeback. Pretty soon the athletes will be the ones who get picked on. Video games and comic book reading will be the main pastimes of our future. "What madness is this?" you ask. Simple. The geek uprising has started.

It is becoming increasingly cool to be a "geek" in this day and age. Most people are computer functional, which was once only a trait of geeks, the thick-rimmed glasses are back, and the *Revenge of the Nerds* movies are cool.

American society is beginning to realize that being smart is actually more important than being athletic. Sure, parents and teachers have always said that to their students, but now "normal people" are finding out for themselves.

I especially like the quote from Bill Gates: "Be nice to nerds, chances are you'll be working for one someday."

The increase in technology in everyday activities has been the main cause. Example: A person buys a new computer. He goes to his geek friend for help, who effortlessly sets up the computer. The person then realizes that this "geek" is more than what he appears. He is an intellectual stud. An "all-star" if you will. The person then models himself after his geek friend and thus becomes a geek. Repeat process as needed.

I especially like the quote from Bill Gates: "Be nice to nerds, chances are you'll be working for one someday."

Popular culture is now a safe-haven for geeks. Television shows such as *Beat the Geeks* on Comedy Central encourage geeks to celebrate their useless knowledge and use it to make money.

Geeks spend their liesure time playing complex video games or tradable card games. Both involve high levels of strategy, and provide an excellent means for exercising their gargantuan minds. Ordinary folk who partake in these activities can elevate their mental powers as well.

Geeks are not to be feared. Most intend no harm, and if angry, can usually be calmed with a glass of prune juice or an episode of Star Trek.

Remaining in good physical condition is still important. Smart geeks are able to hide their "geekiness" when necessary, as in athletic competition. Regular exercise and motions other than putting Pringles in the mouth will prolong the life span and provide the energy needed to carry out the geekiest of tasks.

The next time you want to stuff the little nerdy guy in the locker, remember, in ten years he'll probably own you. Try to have respect for the intellects, they are the ones who make life easier.

How to cope with your perpetual singleness

Valentine's Day. Bah. Let me tell you, if I ever saw Cupid on the streets I would give him a good kick in the diaper.

Now, I'm not bitter or anything, I've just had some really unpleasant Valentine's Day experiences. For example, in grade school everybody had "valentines," and it was a big deal to have your own designated "special someone."

Now I'm not bitter or anything...

I never had a valentine. Blame it on the glasses, the mushroom haircut, or the braces, but I never had someone to exchange cupcakes with on February 14. But I was still okay. I mean, my bad luck with romance couldn't last once I got to high school, right?

Excuse me while I laugh on the inside.

It turned out that Scotus was a whole lot more disheartening. There were even Valentine's Day cookies that you could buy for your "special someone" to be handed out in activity period.

Bah.

Sure, I was upset. I could have sworn that when I got contacts, a new hairstyle, and lost the braces I would be a "Valentine Magnet." Hah. If anything, I was a Valentine Repellent.

That led me to the conclusion that I was jinxed. Terribly, terribly, jinxed. Somewhere out there, all the little cupids were laughing at me and throwing a "Let's Laugh at Lauren Party."

You know, even though I still despise Valentine's Day, I don't whine around about being single like I used to. (And by the way, this article is *not* whining.) Instead, I take my anger that bubbles up every February and turn it into a mix CD. The good 'ole "Valentine's Day Sucks Mix."

As for those vile Valentine cookies, I send a couple to myself and say that they're from "a special someone." Hey, it beats not getting *any* cookie goodness.

If you hate February the 14th as much as I do, when you watch the movie *Superstar* and hear people shout "Fight VD," just tell yourself that they're fighting Valentine's not venereal disease.

Here are some of my favorite quotes from some great anti-VD tunes:

"I've had the blues, the reds and the pinks, one thing's for sure: Love Stinks," – J Geils Band

"I tell myself that I can't stand the pain, but when you hold me in your arms I say it again. So come on come on, come on, come on and take another little piece of my heart, now baby," - Dusty Springfield (I prefer the Janis Joplin version.)

"I'm gonna miss you when you're gone, yeah I'm gonna be torn. Just remember that I love you, just remember you were warned." – Ani Difranco

Now I'm outta here faster than a sheep getting the flock outta here. And that's pretty fast.

Valentine's Day Sucks Mix

1.Love Stinks
J Geils Band
2.Take Another Little Piece of My Heart
Janis Joplin
3.You Can't Hurry Love
Diana Ross & the Supremes
4.What About Love?
Heart
5.You Oughta Know
Alanis Morisette
6.Dilate
Ani DiFranco
7.All By Myself
Jewel
8.Alone Again, Naturally
Gilbert O'Sullivan
9.(Don't They Know It's) The End of the World
Skeeter Davis
10.Untouchable Face
Ani DiFranco
11.Baby, Don't You Break my Heart Slow
Vonda Shepard
12.Eaten by the Monster of Love
Sparks
13.When You Were Mine
Ani DiFranco
14.Heartbreaker
Pat Benetar
15.Crying
Vonda Shepard
16.What Becomes of the Brokenhearted?
The Temptations
17.Single White Female
Chely Wright
18.Love is a Battlefield
Pat Benetar
19.This Old Heart of Mine
Rod Stewart
20.I Will Survive
Gloria Gaynor

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Class of 2001 reminisces, gives advice to current senior class

Craig Staroscik
Editor

The second, and for some, final semester at Scotus has begun. Now, more than ever, seniors are starting to feel the pressure and anticipation of life after Scotus.

The looming question of "What do you want to do after high school?" that countless relatives and friends of friends have asked is finally being confronted by even the most procrastinating seniors. Some students will be the first to leave home, others will follow from the footsteps of older siblings, but no matter what, it will be a new and unpredictable journey.

A year ago another group of men and women were preparing for this same journey. After having been out of Scotus for almost seven months, the Scotus class of 2001 has already been through some of the roughest trails on the road ahead of them. Many of these former seniors who broke the confines of life as the rest of the student body knows it came back over Christmas vacation and shared some of their thoughts and feelings about life after graduation.

One of the main functions of high school is to prepare students for college. Tory Ketter, currently a freshman at Benedictine College in Kansas, said that he feels that Scotus prepared him well for the challenges of college.

"It definitely prepared me education-wise," said Ketter. "Scotus is a small school, and being at a small college is like being [at Scotus]."

Another 2001 Scotus graduate, Luke Boeding, is attending a college a little closer to home.

Boeding is currently taking courses at Central Community College Platte Campus here in Columbus. He said that even though he still attends school in Columbus, there are few similarities between college and high school life.

"There is no comparison," said Boeding. "There aren't as many rules; you can basically do whatever you want."

As can be assumed with college students, Boeding welcomes this new freedom, even if he does avoid facing the responsibility that comes with it once and a while. Boeding cannot admit going to every class, but he says he tries his best.

"I can't possibly get up every morning for class," he said. "I try not to make a habit of [missing classes] though."

> ***"I can't possibly get up every morning for class. I try not to make a habit of [missing classes] though."***
>
> **-Luke Boeding**

The class of 2001 had several members attending colleges within the state, as well as a few outside. Leslie Maul, who is now a freshman attending the University of Notre Dame, has also experienced the differences from living life on one's own. Maul, however, is in the minority of past seniors who are attending an out-of-state college. She said that because she now lives so far from home, she misses her family, but she has already made many great friends at the university.

"I can't wait to go back!" said Maul. "My friends and I live all over the U.S. and it's nearly impossible to see each other over Christmas break. I miss them a lot; however, it was good to see my family, especially my younger, more beautiful and charming sister."

Sarcasm is not the only thing Maul has learned from her first five months of college. One point Maul noted is that the classes she is taking in college are challenging, even to her high standards. She said that everything changes in college, such as course requirements, paper writing, and grading procedures. Some of the best changes Maul experienced came from her new-found friends.

"My friends and I usually stay on campus like the majority of the school," Maul said. "They call campus the bubble because you never have to leave if you don't want to."

Maul also found that some of her new freedoms were not quite what she imagined them to be. Freshmen at her university are not allowed to have cars the first semester of school, so any traveling is done by taxi. Maul has found that the campus itself includes a huge array of things to do, even besides studying.

Seniors are polishing their walking sticks as they prepare to finish off their last year here at Scotus. Whether they wanted to leave last year or will cherish these last few months, they hope Scotus has provided them with the intellect and skills they need for the journey ahead of them. Those who have blazed the trail that begins with those last steps out of Scotus offer seniors luck and advice.

"Get out there and meet people your first week," said Ketter. "It's all about learning about yourself as well as others."

16-year-olds need to gain maturity before driving

Picture this: You're fifteen years old, you ride your bike to school, and you don't do anything on weekends. What could possibly change all this? Hmmmm, think about it. Maybe your sixteenth birthday!?

For the majority of teenagers under the age of sixteen the one thing that seems to never come is your sixteenth birthday. Have you ever counted the days down until a certain holiday, birthday, or special event? It seems as if it takes twice as long if you count the days.

Once you get your license and a car you have freedom and control to do almost whatever you want. Too much freedom and control to do almost whatever you want.

The point of this column is that there is too much freedom in a driver's license. A sixteen year-old kid should not be able to get a license until he turns eighteen.

For one thing, it is harder for parents to keep track of kids who have cars. They can get around town quickly and seem to be in several places at once. It is hard to supervise kids who are so mobile.

Another problem is that a kid with a car becomes everyone's taxi. Besides the expense, a car full of kids can be very distracting for an inexperienced driver.

The biggest drawback to young drivers is that a lack of maturity can be dangerous when combined with a motor vehicle.

I have been driving for roughly two years, and I appreciate the freedom it gives me, but it is a dangerous task that I, like most, take for granted. When I was sixteen and I got my license and car, I thought I was invincible behind the wheel. I thought I was the perfect driver. Still to this day I have not yet crashed my car, but I have had a few close-calls which ended up as a dent or smashed license plate.

Sixteen is not a mature enough age to drive a car. This does not mean that every 16 year-old is going to be irresponsible behind the wheel, but from my experience of being a 16 year-old driver, and from my observations, I know how reckless and how careless one can be.

There are 16 year-olds mature enough for a license, but the percentage of responsible sixteen year-olds seems smaller than the percentage of sixteen year-olds who think nothing bad can ever happen to them.

> **...A lack of maturity can be dangerous when combined with a motor vehicle.**

The government now has new graduated-license laws such as a P.O.P. and an O.P. A P.O.P. is a provisional operator's permit. It is given to sixteen year-olds and permits them to drive between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to midnight. An O.P., or operator's permit, is given to those seventeen and older. It is a "real" license permitting the driver to drive whenever he or she desires.

What else do teenagers really like? Music. If they get a car, they will want to play music. Music distracts drivers from concentrating on the road. I have to turn my tunes down to concentrate on my driving every now and then.

Parents, if you agree with what I have said, do not get your kids cars. They will take advantage of the freedom that comes with them. I know I did. I don't know much about anything, but is this a step in the right direction?

SWAT: Students, staff witness rescue tactics up close

from page 1

arrival of the team. Afterwards, though, some of those who took place in a similar program that was offered at St. Isidore's grade school a year ago were disappointed by the relatively mild nature of the strike. One difference in Scotus' practice was the absence of flash-bangs, an extremely loud, temporarily blinding explosive. The organization opted not to use the explosives because of their small potential for causing damage. Still, many were disappointed by the predictability of the drill.

"It wasn't that real to me," said junior Adam Wick. "The cameraman came in and you knew that they were coming, so there wasn't much surprise. I think it was important to have the knowledge of what to do if this would happen. It was educational. It could have been more real if it wasn't so planned out."

By involving the entire Scotus faculty, teachers from other area schools, and the student council, the exercise also illustrated the importance of training like this for schools. While no one can predict the chances of ever having to go through what was practiced, the education obtained is something that all agree should be necessary.

"It was a good experience," junior Ashley Pritchard said. "It's startling to think that this is necessary, even in our school."

Everyone hopes that the training will not have to go any further than that, but Scotus administration believes they have made a positive step in insuring that no matter what takes place in this generation Scotus will be prepared to face the unpredictability of tomorrow.

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Goerlinger behind scenes of Scotus' everyday conveniences

Craig Staroscik
Editor

Scotus may not be the most beautiful school in the world, but one can only expect so much from a building over one hundred years old. Scotus may not be a place of state of the art architecture or first-rate insulation, but it is standing the test of time. The school could not have endured the years of punishment that comes with housing students for nine months of the year without a little TLC from the school's maintenance department.

Whether it is a light bulb that needs to be replaced or fixing that stubborn boiler, Scotus Central Catholic's longevity comes in part from the untiring dedication of the school's maintenance staff. Ed Goerlinger, Scotus' Maintenance Supervisor is the forerunner in the attempt to make school as physically pleasant an environment as possible.

Goerlinger's day starts at 6:15 AM. It is his job to get the school ready in the morning for the arrival of teachers and students. Before anything else, he must make sure that everything is up and running, doors are unlocked, sidewalks are cleared, and the school is in operational shape. The rest of his day varies depending on what types of jobs need to be done. Along with fixing the miscellaneous items, he is also in charge of refueling and cleaning the buses, delivering lunches to Immanuel Lutheran, and making sure the day and night janitors are prepared and on task.

It would not take long for our school to fall into ruin without the assistance of Goerlinger and the other maintenance personnel. Teachers are in constant need of their services. Any Scotus employee or student is thankful that there is always someone there to fix that blinking light bulb or repair another broken desk. Goerlinger describes that the busiest part of his job is trying to make sure everyone is comfortable here.

"I put myself in that position," Goerlinger said. "They depend on me. Sometimes I get upset, because I'm always busy when they need something. I try to make everyone happy though. It's impossible, but I try."

> *"I try to make everyone happy. It's impossible, but I try.*
> **-Ed Goerlinger**

One thing that makes being in maintenance at a school different from elsewhere is the interaction with students. According to Goerlinger, that is one thing that makes his job a bit more eventful. As a coach and the guy who is always busy doing something in the halls, Goerlinger has plenty of student interaction.

"I find I have very little trouble with any [students]," he said. "I remember what school was like. Sometimes students have a bad day; so do I. Some students won't realize that these four years in high school are the best years of your life until ten years down the road. I try to remind them of that."

Outside of school, Goerlinger enjoys coaching students. On the field or court, Goerlinger considers it one of his favorite benefits of the job.

"I love it," Goerlinger said. "I have nothing to prove for myself, and it helps me remember my days back in high school. It's exciting to watch the kids win, and heartbreaking to lose. I hope I can relate to them and help them understand that losing is just like life, you have to take the good with the bad."

Of course, no job is immune to its drawbacks. Some parts of the job Goerlinger could do without.

"I just don't like to paint," said Goerlinger, "and with plumbing you always get into more than you expected."

The next time you think that you simply cannot bear the cold air coming out of your heater or the cracks in the ceiling panels, just try to imagine what a mess school would be without the attention of those working behind the scenes in order to make school a more comfortable environment to learn in. As for the present, employees like Goerlinger will continue to make sure that everything is in order for the learning environment. This is a challenge Goerlinger willfully accepts every day.

"I enjoy my job. I like the people I work with, I like the kids. I like Scotus and the people I'm involved with."

Rock Bottom staffers explore mysteries below school

Subterranean tunnels yield world of intrigue and adventure, but mostly just dust, filth

Mike Adelman
Editor-in-Chief

Our school hides a terrible secret. Maniacal teachers? Crazy staff members? Soy burgers? Well, some of those are true, but that is not the "big" secret.

Scotus Central Catholic hides a network of tunnels underneath the building.

Ed Goerlinger, head of maintenance, escorted several Rock Bottom staffers around the school to see the many tunnel entrances.

The first two are in the custodial office by the Concessional. There is another one in the back of the Little Theater, and yet another behind the flight of stairs on the east side of the building.

The tunnels were apparently used in the days of old when bad weather struck. Goerlinger said they used to be taller, and people would walk through them to get from St. Bon's to Scotus (then St. Bon's high). The path to St. Bon's was blocked off with the construction of the parking lot.

The path we examined was the one underneath the east stairs. Goerlinger escorted Lauren Maul, Matt Krings, and myself to the entrance, and left the rest to us. Matt and I immediately dove into the mission, crawling in a space approximately 3.5 feet high. This area still had functioning lights that contained working pipes. It was full of dirt and dust (up to 2 inches thick at times.)

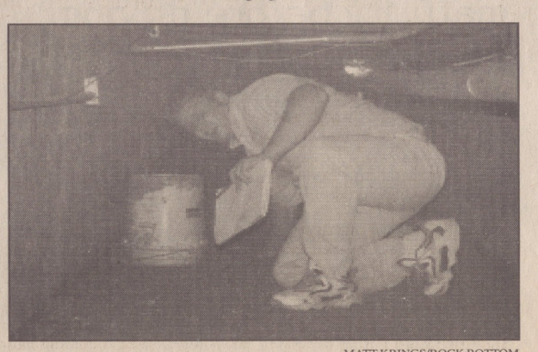
Having not been involved in athletics for several months now, I immediately began to tire. Matt's superior ninja basketball skills saved him from that fate.

We managed to avoid the pipes that ran alongside us, as they were covered with asbestos. Lauren finally decided to join us in our search, but immediately returned to the entrance when she said something crawled over her hand.

Matt and I continued our journey until we reached the first corner. We stopped and examined the wall. Ancient hieroglyphics? Warnings of doom to all who enter? No, it was just the spray-painted phrase "Adam Cremers '95." Apparently he had met some terrible fate (or not).

The next stretch of tunnel would be our last (morbid, huh?). We continued down the path until we found an impassable network of pipes and buckets filled with unidentifiable substances. This is where our expedition ended.

Another secret of our school has been uncovered. It can only be wondered what wonderful secrets the rest of the tunnels hold. Probably just more dirt.



MATT KRINGS/ROCK BOTTOM

Rock Bottom editor Mike Adelman, in an effort to impress the ladies, role plays Indiana Jones. Unfortunately he got tired of squat-walking and turned around after about 60 yards.

Drama

from page 1

Learning all the many lines was the biggest obstacle, according to many in the class. Luckily, they had someone to help them out when they got stuck.

"I have to help a lot of people with the lines," said stage manager Chelsea Liss. "I'd be the stage manager again. I'd rather be that than a lead because I'm not good at memorizing lines."

The performance of *'60s Mania* was Tuesday, January 8. Helping with the sound and lights were several Thespian Troupe 1909 members.

"The good thing about it is that the eighth grade has an opportunity to work with the senior high students involved with drama," said Bernt. "There are many talented kids in that [eighth grade] class."

If you missed this play, don't feel bad- there are more plays performed by a different 8th grade class each quarter of the school year, all of them audience worthy.

Dating

from page 1

life are most likely not in the couples favor. While dating in high school can be fun, many students realize that there is life beyond high school relationships and know that they will someday be ready to move on.

"I don't see myself with anyone from high school," said freshman Jessi Ryan. "There is going to be tons more guys to choose from once I leave here."

The couples in school seem to be happy, but the majority of students are single. If having a boyfriend or girlfriend is all it's cracked up to be, why isn't everyone dating? Besides being too shy, some people just don't want the extra stress that comes along with having a special someone.

"Between working at Wendy's and reading Bible verses, I just don't have the time for a girlfriend," said sophomore Shane Goodall. "So sorry ladies, I just don't get the time for you."

MIKE ADELMAN/ROCK BOTTOM

The man, the myth, the legend

Father Steve Emanuel poses with the locker decorations bearing his likeness in the senior hallway. The decorations were part of the seniors' "O, come, O come, Emanuel" decorating theme the week leading up to Christmas break.

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From pen to page, Little Dude keeps students laughing, groaning

Kelli Morrison
Staff Reporter

While reading through the school paper, readers have often come across a puzzling yet hilarious comic drawn by one of Scotus' very own seniors. The reason this comic is perplexing is not that its intelligence is above the slower readers, it is simply that not a one of us can figure out what this little guy is and why he is the way he is.

This is of course referring to Little Dude, the resident comic strip of senior Mike Adelman. Little Dude has become a familiar sight to Adelman's classmates and teachers, often seen gracing the pages of a notebook or assignment.

The character itself is a small, simple green guy, an interesting fact since he is usually seen in only black and white.

"He is a two-segmented character instead of the usual three. Most characters have a head, body and limbs," Adelman explained. "Little Dude is just a head and limbs."

Adelman said the origin of Little Dude occured when one day while drawing he came up with a little dude that couldn't really be described as anything else. And so Little Dude and all his stupendous adventures was born.

Adelman says that his first source of inspiration came from the well-loved "Garfield" cartoons, and later the "japanamation," or anime, a form of drawing using square pupils, wild, detached-like hair, and exaggerated expressions, inspired by *Dragon Ball-Z* the popular cartoon on television.

Little Dude has undergone some changes over the years, but then some things never change. The fearless and sometimes witless comic character has never had shoes. This seems an odd predicament, being without shoes would lead to painful situations and he wouldn't be served in most restaurants and department stores. Well, untwist your minds; this is a simply answered question.

"At first I wasn't very good at drawing shoes, so it just stayed that way, but some of the newer versions of him have them," Adelman said.

Adelman says he's constantly trying to update and create a newer version of Little Dude. Adelman wants to create a 20th-century-friend-to-the-masses Little Dude. He has added shoes, hair, and has him doing more motions. For example the traditional character has earned a black belt and is now fighting arch nemeses, like the diabolical Mr. Square. He has also gotten boots and a backwards cap as "Homie-G Little Dude." Last, but not least is "Action Little Dude." He does any kind of move Adelman can imagine.

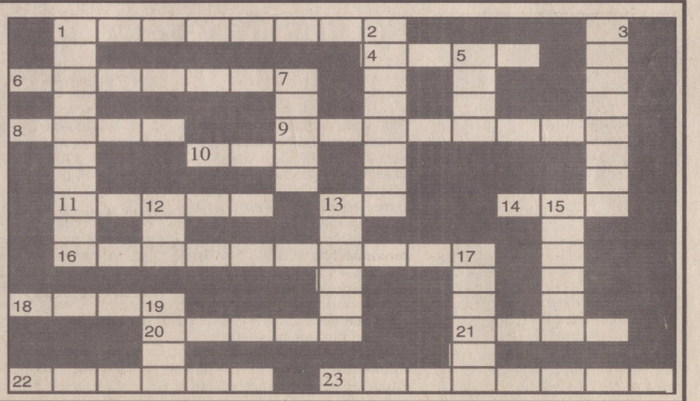
The future looks bright for a man and his Little Dude. Adelman plans to take his littlest pal to new heights, and depths for that matter. He wants to see his creation in 3-D so that the reader can see him as Adelman sees him. Adelman also plans to do what all exceptional artists do: take a good, profitable design and fuse it with their own. He wishes to make little dude more "japanamation" fun. This involves creative thought and work, but Adelman said that when the work is what you love it doesn't seem like all that much to handle.

So whether gracing the pages of the *Rock Bottom* or gracing the pages of a notebook, Little Dude will be with all of us. Adelman will continue drawing and make his move into the real world with a career in art, but wherever he goes he will always remember his first friend in drawing, Little Dude.

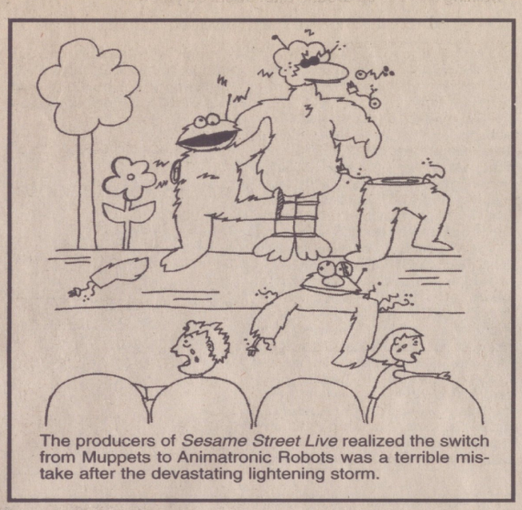
Scotus ✝ -word

Across
1. Scotus just had these: _____ finals
4. Green with _____
6. *Rock Bottom* sponser's day job: _____ teacher
8. _____ is in the air
9. Plentiful
10. Every 16 year-olds dream gift
11. Next season's main sport
13. Abbreviation in ship's name
14. Ingredient in sweet potatoes
16. Upcoming Scotus dance
18. Work, school, and _____ occupy students time
20. A cold wind
21. Being this earns you tardies
22. A sweet Valentine's gift
23. Amount of time left in school

Down
1. Seniors often suffer this
2. One thing a basketball player does
3. State patrol division that was at our school
5. Invalid
7. Symbol of Valentine's day
12. To do well on a test
13. Group that likes to talk: _____ team
15. What you call someone who passed basic art
17. What every basketball player wants to be
19. Cold stuff missing most of this winter

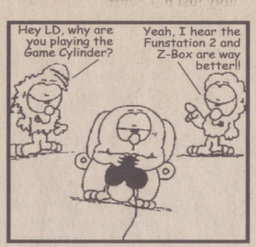


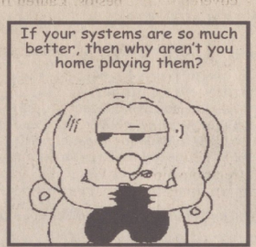
Lead Paint Chips *by Lauren Maul*

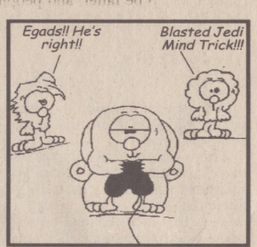


The producers of *Sesame Street Live* realized the switch from Muppets to Animatronic Robots was a terrible mistake after the devastating lightening storm.

little Dude by Mike Adelman







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Scotus students join Husker faithful in pilgrimage to Pasadena

Eric Grubaugh
Staff Reporter

Parades, marching bands, airplanes flying overhead, displays of the Sears' Trophy, and red and white balloons gracing the skies above the stadium. Sound familiar? Of course it does! It's Husker football!! Only this time, it's in a much different environment—the Rose Bowl.

"We had been planning the trip for at least a year," sophomore Kyle Bogus said. "When we were at the airport we almost missed our flight because the security was so tight. They checked everything."

Not even the National Championship football game can take us away from the tragedies of September 11, and those tragedies can take away our nation's spirit.

"Before the game there were planes flying overhead that said 'United We Stand' and other patriotic stuff," freshman Jay Weinand said. "That got everyone in the stadium excited."

Nebraska and Miami fans stood together, cheering for the country, not just their teams. However, the Nebraska fans made up, by far, the majority of this crowd.

"We hadn't been to a home game since Nebraska last played Missouri at home," Bogus said, "which was like 5 years ago, but it felt just like a home game."

> *"Disneyland was nothing compared to the energy of the game."*
> **- Kyle Bogus**

Weinand agreed with this notion.

"[The crowd] was all Nebraska fans," he said, "except for this one little section of Miami fans."

So even as far away as Pasadena, the Big Red still brought a massive following with them. However, Bogus said there was one major difference between this "home game" and a game in Lincoln: It was a lot warmer in Pasadena.

With raised temperatures and raised spirits the Huskers took the field, welcomed by their accustomed sea of red. But as the game progressed, the Huskers could not. In the end the Miami Hurricanes would reign as National Champions. But not even this would quiet the Husker Faithful.

"Everyone was pumped and on their feet the whole game," Weinand said. "Even in the fourth quarter when we were down so much, not many people left, and everyone was still standing."

Those not there can only imagine the electric atmosphere that was created in Pasadena that night.

"We went to Disneyland, too," Bogus said, "and that was nothing compared to the energy during the game."

Although the final score may not have reflected the dreams Husker fans had for their team this season, Jay Weinand said there were plenty of memories to bring back to Nebraska country.

"Even after Miami won," he said, "there was so much Nebraska stuff during the pre-game, that the confetti they dropped for Miami was red and white."

PHOTO COURTESY WEINAND FAMILY

Jay, Ray, and Tyler Weinand (l-r) pose in front of the Rose Bowl stadium on their recent trip to Pasadena, California. Although the Huskers suffered a loss, most fans, including several Scotus families enjoyed the experience.

LAUREN MAUL/ROCK BOTTOM

Scotus' mystery door finally opened to the public

Lauren Maul
Editor

The Winchester Mystery House in San Jose, California, has stairways that lead to the ceilings, resident ghosts, and doors that lead to nowhere. Scotus Central Catholic High School in Columbus, Nebraska has stairways that lead to some hallways, resident ghosts, and a door that leads to nowhere. Coincidence?

Yeah, okay, maybe it is.

In the new gym at Scotus there is a door approximately 16 feet off the floor. No one knows just how many people have fallen out of it, or how many people have wanted to fall out of it. All that is known for "sure" is that the door came into existence by chance when the new gym and the storage area above the hallway were constructed.

"It *is* there for a purpose," said Superintendent Bill Gannon. "Because of the size of the [storage] area, two doors must be there for fire exits."

For example, if you are hangin' out in the storage hallway and you suddenly realize that the room is on fire, you can jump out of the door and fall several feet to the hard and merciless gym floor waiting below. As Gannon points out, the perilous fall is healthier than burning alive.

But jumping out of "The Door" isn't as easy as jumping out of your standardized door in the wall. There is a crossbar preventing easy access to the "safety" of gym floor. Gannon said that the crossbar could be easily moved in an emergency. Since there have never been any known fires in the storage hallway, no one knows for sure how easy the displacement of the crossbar is.

There were many students who did not realize that there was a "door to nowhere" hanging above them right in their very own gym. However, when the gym was first finished in the 1980's, many students speculated over its purpose. Some said it was the Scotus Ghost's "special door." (Keep in mind that in the 80's, no one really knew that ghosts could float through stuff.)

Other students believed it to be a fire escape, but the students that believed in the ghost business convinced them otherwise. And then everybody started to think it was a fire escape again, and the whole craziness was forgotten once they realized it *was* the Scotus Ghost's door.

And so they finally decided to go with the cockamamie notion that maybe it was "just a fire escape" and then the whole craziness was forgotten again when they realized it was a fire escape. But is it? Is it truly a "fire escape" or some kind of crazy portal to the underworld?

Yeah, okay, it's a fire escape.

But next time you're running laps for a good time in the new gym, look up at "the door" with the wonder and amazement only a door several feet off the ground deserves.

Resolutions take more resolve than people have

Anthony Owens
Staff Reporter

A New Year's resolution. What is it? Will you even make one? Will you fulfill it?

For most, you probably will not even make a New Year's resolution. For the rest, you will either break the one you made or stick to it like glue and become a better person.

The majority of Americans today make a New Year's resolution. It is a traditional thing to do over the holiday. Its purpose, if fulfilled, is to become a better person, which, in a way, could benefit everyone. If everyone made resolutions and kept them, imagine what this country would be like. Possibly, it could be more and more friendly every year.

P.E. teacher Janet Tooley says her New Year's resolution was to pray the rosary once a day while working out.

"I didn't have enough time for spontaneous prayer, so I figured the rosary would be a good idea," Tooley said.

New Year's Resolutions range from everything from losing weight, being less selfish, stop making fun of people, to watching less television. The majority of resolutions are made in an attempt to stop a person's problem or bad habits. For example, if one talk too much, he or she could consider making a resolution to listen more. This will keep your attention span broader and your mouth shut. If you would like to lose weight, you should consider making a resolution to exercise more, or possibly try the Subway diet.

> *"My study habits are nothing I am too proud of, but I made a resolution to help me study more."*
> **- Tom Adelman**

A New Year's resolution is very difficult to keep. There is no one or anything that can keep from breaking it. It is all a matter of will power to succeed in making oneself a better person. Help your friends keep theirs if they have one, and hopefully they will help you back.

Senior Adam Swierczek says he has never made a New Year's resolution. "I don't bother making one because, I'm just going to break it if I do. I don't know one person that even makes a resolution every year," Swierczek said.

When asked what his New Year's resolution was, sophomore Tom Adelman laughed and said he was going to try to study more.

"My study habits are nothing I am too proud of, but I made a resolution this year to help me study more," Adelman said.

What do you do? Do you make a resolution? Are you one of those people who constantly lies to themselves that they can make a resolution, then break it an hour later? If you are strong enough,stick to it like glue. Good luck on keeping your resolution; you may just make the world a better place.

Schedule: Activity period gone

from page 1

the school day would be 14 minutes shorter than the current schedule because of the elimination of activity period.

An extra 12 minuets would be added to seventh period to allow for the broadcast of news and current events show *Channel 1*. The school has a contract with the channel and would lose the TV's in the corner of each classroom if the program was not see daily.

Daily masses, which currently take place during activity period, would be elimintated. In their place, the school would hold a weekly all-school mass. This means that while the number of masses offered would go down, the actual number of masses attended by each student would go up. Currently students do to activity period mass with their fourth period class on a rotating basis, which means each class goes less than once a month under the current schedule. An alternate schedule would be followed on mass days.

Meeting which now take place during activity period, would have to be held before school.

Proposed schedule

Per.	start	end
1	7:55	8:41
2	8:45	9:31
3	9:35	10:21
4	10:25	11:11
5	11:15	12:01
6	12:05	1:20
7*	1:24	2:22
8	2:26	3:12

*Allows for the showing of Channel One at the end of 7th period.

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INSIDE: First or last? Sibling rivalry heats up

SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC

ROCK BOTTOM

Columbus, Nebraska | February, 2002 | Volume 4, Issue 6

Juniors ACTing in prepartaion for college futures and beyond

Students begin studying early in order to achieve high scores on standardized test

Craig Staroscik
Editor

Now is the time to act, or better put in a high school, ACT.

Scotus has a reputation for excelling in academics. Over three-fourths of last year's senior class enrolled in a four-year college after graduation, as will many of this year's graduates. As any upperclassmen should know by now, standardized tests, primarily the ACT in Nebraska, can have a major influence on a student's future plans.

Like an age-old ritual, Scotus juniors are starting down the same road as their predecessors in their preparation for the ACT. While some students have already taken the test, the majority of juniors have yet to flex their number two pencils over the difficult examination. Although the ACT is relatively similar to standardized tests given at school, it holds a greater importance than the average ITBS. The nervousness and unprepared feelings that come with such a crucial test are normal.

> *"I'm just worried that I won't get a high enough score.*
>
> **-Nathan Fisher**

"I'm just worried that I won't get a high enough score," said junior Nathan Fisher.

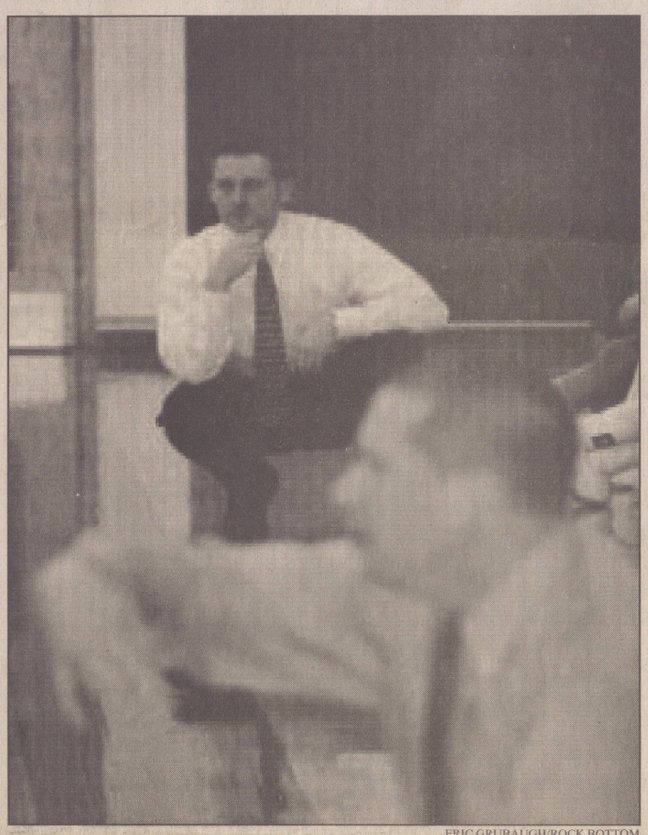
Sweating palms and anxious thoughts should be the least of concerns during a test. There are several options available to help students make sure that they have a grasp of the information on these tests. Much of the material in classes is designed to help students understand test material. English teacher Ben Ersland expanded his lesson plan to spend about a week on ACT preparation in his junior classes this month. After taking the practice test, Fisher said that he learned he was not as prepared as he thought he was.

Other sample tests are available to help students with the test format. Outside of school, Central Community Collage offers ACT preparation courses and the Sylvan Learning Center also offers a program, said counselor Judi Wolken.

Doing well cannot take the place of good grades and extracurricular participation in high school, but standardized test do have a major affect on schools and scholarships. Two points on the ACT can mean thousands of dollars difference in scholarship money or the likelihood of being accepted into a college or university. Retaking tests is something about half of last year's students decided to do, and with nothing to lose by retaking the ACT, it is often a well-made choice.

The majority of colleges in Nebraska have a requirement of 18 to 21 on the ACT to be accepted; however, that is not the sole determiner of acceptance in most collages, and the range can vary greatly from school to school.

The deadline for registering for the April ACT is March 1, and predictably in April Scotus students will be filling the desks of test centers in Columbus. Being prepared, positive, and confident should assure juniors and those in the future that they do the best they can on standardized tests. As a bonus, here is a little lesson to help students get started on their ACT training: go back through this article and rewrite every sentence in a more concise manner.



ERIC GRUBAUGH/ROCK BOTTOM

Playing the mental game

Basketball coach Sean Wickham studies the court as Boone Central coach Mike Kennedy instructs his players from the sideline. The Scotus girls went on to win the game 49-31 and advanced to the district finals being played tonight.

For Lahms and Salyards, teaching at Scotus is all in the family

Kelli Morrison
Staff Reporter

Two students are talking about their teachers, and one asks the other who they have for a certain subject. Should they happen to respond Lahm or Salyard it could cause some confusion. This is because Scotus boasts not one, but two married couples on staff: Merlin and Joan Lahm, and Thomas and Patti Salyard.

One might wonder how this duo of doubles ended up working toghether. Both couples at Scotus share similar stories when it comes to how they wound up on Scotus' fair campus.

Both Merlin Lahm and Thomas Salyard were teaching at Scotus before they were married. When they married teachers, both couples had to make decisions on where to live and work based on who was able to be uprooted and find a new job within a fair amount of time. In both cases the wives worked at other schools or education facilities in the area. When positions opened up at Scotus, they applied and made the transition from working seperatly to working in the same buliding as their husbands.

One might think that working with a spouse and seeing them everyday would affect daily life. Well, the couples said that the truth is they do not see each other much during the day. Since both sets of teachers do not have the same planning periods and reside on different floors of the building, they do not run into each other. However, Tom Salyard said he doensn't think that is by accident.

"When my wife was interviewing with the superintendent," he said, "(the superintedant) asked if she would mind working with me, and she said 'Not as long as we are on separate floors.' "

While the Lahms said working together does not cause any problems at school or home, the Salyards said working at the same place can create a few scheduling problems. Both couples said that the only thing it changes about their home lives is the fact that it gives them a common ground to talk and debate about.

> *"My wife said she wouldn't mind working with me as long as we on seperate floors.*
>
> **-Thomas Salyard**

Looking down the road a bit, the children of both couples will have to cope with going to school where not just one, but both their parents work. Merlin and Joan Lahm have different viewpoints on what their children will face when the they come to Scotus.

"I think it will be added pressure," said science and theology teacher Joan Lahm.

Her husband said that going to Scotus will be nothing their kids will not be used to already.

"I think it will be a natural progression for them," said math teacher Merlin Lahm. "They're here all the time now. They're going to be pretty comfortable with the school by the time they go here,"

The Salyards said that they do not know what it will be like when their children attend Scotus. Both have looked at other teachers who have had children at Scotus and have said that it is something both parents and children are likely to get used to.

So, from A to Z the spouse story is not a complicated one. It is just common ground and easier rides to and from work. It is a life like any other and a career with the same obstacles as any other. The next time the teachers at Scotus are thought of, remember the Lahms and the Salyards are four separate people with four very different jobs who just happen to be two couples.

School thefts leave teachers questioning, students at a loss

Though infrequent, a growing number of thefts at Scotus causes some concerns for many

Lauren Maul
Editor

We are not an inner-city school, we do not have gang problems, and we do not have school shootings in the hallways. But Scotus does have a problem. Over the past few years, there have been numerous accounts of theft right here in our quiet little Catholic school. From taking quizzes and test keys from teachers' desks, to pocketing money from Father Steve's office, the art of theft has taken quiet residence in the hallways of Scotus.

"I would say that for the majority of students, it [theft] is not something they struggle with everyday," said Father Steve Emanuel, resident priest at Scotus. "Is it a major issue? Yes. A major problem? No."

Though theft isn't brought to the attention of the students on a daily basis, it is an issue that should be recognized.

There are forms of stealing that exist without us completely realizing that they are, in fact, "stealing." "Borrowing" someone's homework, even with his or her consent, is considered stealing by the handbook's standards. And as for that never-ending issue of bathroom graffiti, isn't the paint that's used to cover lewd remarks stealing? The kids writing on the stalls certainly did not pay for it with their own money.

Why do people steal? From religion class notes, students know that selfishness is the root of all sin. Therefore, selfishness is also the root of stealing.

> *The greatest thing people steal is trust.*
>
> **-Father Steve Emanuel**

"As a society, we've been trained to believe that if I want it, I should get it; regardless of the consequences," said Emanuel. "And that flies in the face of Christian morality."

With this dilemma comes the need for solutions. Past instances have shown that the thieves have no intentions of stopping.

"There's no fool-proof method [to stop theft]," said Emanuel. "If I have to live in fear of people taking things from me, they've stolen my freedom, and I don't want to let that happen. The greatest thing people steal is trust."

Emanuel has had money stolen from his second floor office quite a few times since his arrival in 1997. Despite his bad luck, Emanuel has not become angry with the perpetrators.

"I guess I'm so stupid because I believe if someone wanted something bad enough they would ask me," he said.

In fact, there have been notices posted in the announcements by Emanuel offering to give his own money to the thief, if they really needed it that badly.

As of now, the punishment for theft at Scotus is very vague, as defined in the handbook.

"I think we need to do a better job of educating everybody about how we treat each other," said Principal Wayne Morfeld. "My first urge is to refer it to (Columbus Police) Officer Maschmeyer and the law."

Hopefully, the theft that has taken place at Scotus has made us more aware and able to learn from our experiences. Though theft may not be able to be completely stopped, the least we can hope for is a break in the cycle.

ROCK BOTTOM Scotus Central Catholic High School, Columbus, NE
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If "normal" is the only measure of popularity, then why be popular?

Based on my experience, popularity isn't measured by "cool" clothes, a lot of money, or even GPA. It's based on how normal you are. I mean, you don't see a lot of one-eyed kids who are part of the "in" crowd. Sure, that one-eyed kid may be really easy to get along with and incredibly fun to talk to, but the majority of kids don't actually look for those traits in a less than perfect package.

It's sad but true: people are shallow. Deep down, the majority of people today opt for the pretty package, even if it's empty.

High school is brutal. If you're not the run-of-the-mill "all-American" teenager, you get the shaft. I'm not saying there needs to be some radical nerd movement in American high schools; in fact, this system works quite well. The most successful people today were "losers" in high school. Practically all of Hollywood's elite and most music business celebrities were the class geeks. Many distinguished doctors, lawyers, dentists, and other nationally recognized people were high-school "losers" as well.

It's good to be a dork in high school. Why? You learn the true nature of the world, the fact that you can't please everyone, and the most important message of all: **"there is life after high school."**

It seems the minute college begins, the "coolest" kids in high school are at the bottom rung on the popularity ladder. This may be a shock to you, but you won't be cool forever. Enjoy high school while you can. If you're having a good time in high school, those are most likely the best years of your life.

As for me, I'm not such a fan of this high school business. I can do without the fake compliments, the bloody and biased battle for Homecoming Queen, the fact that being narrow minded is the "norm," and the terrible truth that the more you are like everyone else, the more popular you'll be.

I despise "normal," and therefore I'm not exactly "Little Miss Popularity"

When we leave high school, being "normal" doesn't cut it. The very things you used to climb the social ladder will drag you down faster than a bag full of horse hockey. Who wants to hire a "normal" when there are dozens of them?

I despise "normal," and therefore I'm not exactly "Little Miss Popularity"; but I'm not a leper, either. I choose my friends by common interests; hence, they are not normal either. (Thank God.)

For me, being popular is like the top of a steep mountain. The only way to climb this mountain is by going up a ladder made of people who are also struggling to reach the top. You can climb as high as you want, but after a while you get tired of stepping on people and realize your view at the bottom is just as good as the view from the top.

I love being the dork I am. I wouldn't trade it for anything. Accept your "dork-ness." Just be yourself, that way you can't regret anything.

I'll stop sounding like a bad episode of *Saved by the Bell* now, don't worry. Here's your monthly dose of "Deep Thoughts." (Remember, when you're a dork you have time to think of these things.)

"The basic purpose of life is to live each day with the intention of staying alive. If you've given that up, then you're already dead."

"I am a poster girl with no poster, I am 32-Flavors and then some. And I'm beyond your peripheral vision, so you might wanna turn your head; 'cuz someday you might find you are starving and eating most of the words you just said." – Ani DiFranco *32-Flavors*

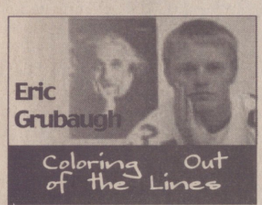
"If you start crying when reading Hallmark cards, either the card is really sad or there's something wrong with you."

"Sometimes tripping someone in the hall is easier than having to fake smile at them."

"You can still drown in shallow pools, so be careful of the pretty boys."

Now I'm outta here faster than a pyromaniac in a house without matches.

Pointless aspects of everyday life can annoy, puzzle



It sits there, staring up at me from just under my dashboard, right next to the volume control on my radio. It serves no purpose whatsoever. It only sits there, doing nothing. No one knows why it's there or why it was brought into existence, but yet it's still there.

It is a small green switch, and I don't have the foggiest idea as to why it's there. I flip the switch up, nothing happens, and it falls back down. There are no wires connecting it to anything, and for as long as I can remember there never were. It does me absolutely no good at all—all it's good for is taking up space. It's little, stupid, pointless things like this mysterious green switch in my car that just cheese me off.

I mean, if it isn't going to serve a purpose, then WHY PUT IT THERE?! Like your appendix…what is that all about? Did God put it there just to drive us batty? Unless my science teachers have been bamboozling me for the last 11 years, your appendix does ABSOLUTELY NOTHING! So WHY DO WE HAVE IT?? For you evolutionists out there, I think this would be an instance of 'vestigial organs' from cows to humans. For those of you not so keen on this subject, a cow uses its appendix to aid in digestion—we use it for…hmm…NOTHING!

The appendix has evolved from a useful organ for the cow into a WORTHLESS hunk of JUNK in humans. Why don't they just remove it shortly after birth? I mean,

If abbreviation is too long of a word for you, then ABBREVIATE IT!!

all that it can do is burst, which is potentially fatal. Who needs that? (I've just realized, by writing about it and by the slowly rising pain in my right side, that after saying all this about how pointless the appendix is and about removing it, I still have my appendix.)

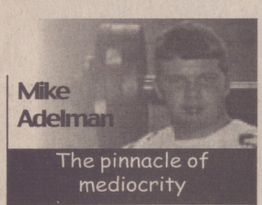
Basically what I'm trying to get across here is that I hate simple, pointless, annoying things. Who doesn't, right? It's like when people try to be funny and ask why abbreviation is such a long word, why we have the picnic tables in the courtyard, why we have so-called "professional" video game raters (*cough* Mike Adelman *cough*), and why there are the half-walls and no doors in boys' bathroom stalls.

If abbreviation is too long of a word for you, THEN ABBREVIATE IT!! IT'S THAT SIMPLE!! How? I don't know…Abrev8. And the picnic tables in the courtyard, why are they there? It's against the rules to take food out of the cafeteria and it's against the rules to have anything but gum during school. I don't know about the rest of you, but I don't need a table to chew gum. As for the video game raters, I don't need someone to tell me which games I'll like and which ones I won't. If I want to find that out, I'll rent the game. Someone (*cough* Mike Adelman *cough*) tried to convince me that game raters provide a free critique of the game in case you can't afford to rent the game. Well, if you can't afford to **rent** the game, I don't think you should own the system to play it on. And about those half-walls/no doors in the boys' bathroom stalls, what is up with that? I don't exactly like people walking in and striking up a conversation with me while I'm trying to answer nature's call. It's just not right; I enjoy my privacy, as I would think most of you do too.

Right about now you're probably asking yourself 'what is the point of him writing about all this?'

Actually…I'm not sure; there is no point. It's a pointless column…so WHY DID I WRITE IT?!?! And more importantly...why did YOU read it?

Frustrated students mad about loss of privileges due to unwanted artwork



This is sad. Yes, I know the issue was addressed last month, but the restroom graffiti has not stopped. So now I must fill my column with rants on the ridiculousness of the "lockdowns" and threats to the perpetrator instead of my usual humorous monologue.

In case you've been hiding under a rock for the last two or three weeks, classes have been put on indefinite lockdown until the graffiti "artist" steps forward.

How would you feel if 450 people absolutely hated you, and were suffering because of you? The average person would be miserable. Apparently we are dealing with a person whose level of integrity is far below average.

Now, Mr. Graffiti Man, you have an entire school filled with people who have bladders that are on the verge of bursting. You have downtrodden students who cannot complete their everyday activities because they are unable to commute from one part of the building to another. You have teachers who have to escort students to other

Mr. Graffiti Man, you have an entire school filled with people who have bladders that are on the verge of bursting

parts of the building, taking away from their time teaching, thus lowering the quality of our ENTIRE SCHOOL.

What gives you the right to muddle everyone else's education by placing restrictions on the freedom of students when 99.999% of them are innocent?

Hopefully a group of vigilante students will seek out the criminal and put an end to this garbage. Our school is, in a way, "crippled" until the person steps forward or is caught. Heck, I've heard people say they'll confess to it without being guilty just so they can use the restroom. That is truly sad.

I was hassled today for walking the halls because I'm a student aide during Study Hall. How ridiculous is that? I cannot even make copies without being suspected of criminal activity because of one person who thinks they are above the law.

Now, Mr. Artist, this is getting personal. You see that weight bar behind me in that little picture up there? Yeah, I thought so.

You had better turn yourself in. I'm sure the penalty will be lessened if you do so. It would be better than getting caught, which will inevitably happen. The whole school is against you, so give up.

Cabin fever? Don't rely on spring break

Hello and welcome to my point of view. Today's secret words are "spring break." This issue has troubled me for some time now, about twenty minutes. So, in keeping with the fact that none of you can read my mind (unless there's something I don't know) I will express my wonderful opinion to all of you.

I think that the current status of spring break is appalling and generally lazy, although genius on the part of the school. The clever people in the scheduling department of this school have made it simple to pacify the students without actually doing any work. They split the spring break into two Fridays. This happens because they think by splitting it up it will feel longer than it actually is. I have not been fooled and I will help enlighten all of you.

The break is so ingenious... it is on the same day as state games.

The second part to this break is so ingenious that the days/day off fall(s) on the same day/s as the state games. They know that most people will be gone anyway seeing as how this school is so obsessed with sports. Since they know the majority will not be in attendance they call it spring break and give us the day off. This kills two birds with one stone. They are now out of the clear with the students, they think they're getting a vacation but only the school knows the awful truth. Okay, so it's not that awful, but it's still **crafty** genius.

I have heard many a complaint about our spring break and not all of them have come from students. The teachers need time to get away from their tormentors also. But the school, being the **crafty** genius that I already mentioned, hides behind the school hours excuse again. This, in my opinion is bull honkey. Scotus already has more hours than the other schools in Columbus, so why not give the students a much needed break?

They may claim that we have longer Christmas and Easter breaks, but this doesn't make up for it. They just want to brain wash us into thinking that we get out, simply because we need the break. They can't even coincide with the public schools on this one. We always have spring break at different times. This makes it difficult for those of us to see our friends who go to one of the public schools.

So, in now that I've conculded to my ranting, let me say this: Save the penguins, you never know when we might need them and their little waddle.

Keep being cynical and sarcastic, the world doesn't need more hyperactive people. That is why they invented Ritalin.

Always fight the power, you might be surprised at how much chaos one person can cause.

And last but apparently least, take the time to examine your spring break and why you need more time off school. Perhaps to go to the save the penguins rally or just to watch those fun, fun, sports we all love.

Letters to the Editor

The *Rock Bottom* accepts letters to the editor for publication. Letters should be less than 250 words and must be signed.

Letters may be subject to editing for space and appropriateness.

Send letters to Scotus care of the *Rock Bottom*.

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SIBLING RIVALRY

Oldest child and the baby of the family often don't see eye to eye on perks of birth order

Firstborn like being first, grumble about spoiled siblings

Craig Staroscik
Editor

In the whole sibling rivalry, everyone knows who reigns supreme.

No, it is not the spoiled baby of the family. It is not the forgotten middle child either. It is the oldest sibling, the smartest, most responsible, and most respected son or daughter of mom and dad.

Yes, the oldest child is by far the most coveted position any kid with brothers or sisters would wish to have. The oldest child has the most privileges, is the most trusted by mom and dad, and is usually the pride of the family. Then again, being the greatest does sometimes come with its downfalls. Sometimes being the youngest seems more desirable, especially when they are treated with more attention and less work.

The youngest child often gets away with more, and has less responsibility at home. As seventh grader Sarah Pandorf explains, though the first-born is best, it comes with its responsibilities.

"I don't like babysitting my younger siblings," Pandorf said. "I have to clean up after them when they make a mess. They don't give me any respect."

"More often than not," Pandorf said, "it is the oldest child who takes the blame when younger kids are getting out of hand. No matter what happens, it always seems that the little siblings get away with everything."

With the injustice of family hierarchy comes the fact that the oldest child is too often overprotected. The first child is a learning process for parents and children alike, which often leads to the older or "experimental" child being denied privileges until far after the age younger siblings are allowed to do certain things.

> *"If there are advantages (to being firstborn), I haven't found them yet."*
> **- Zach Wolff**

Senior Zach Wolff said the eldest sibling usually has an earlier curfew, stricter rules, and more severe punishments than younger siblings when they reach the same age.

"If there are advantages, I haven't found them yet," Wolff said about being the oldest in the family. "[The last born] gets to do everything. They get to go out more because parents already know what to expect."

Perhaps the most difficult part of being the oldest is the constant need to make sure you are being a good role model. As Wolff said, the oldest child often has to live up to the great expectations of parents. They have to make sure that they raise the standard of being a "good" kid so high that their younger brothers or sisters will never be able to exceed their talent. When a first-born is undermined by the accomplishments of a younger sibling, the results can be devastating. Some feel this is an unlikely event.

"I don't know what I would do if my siblings did something better than me," seventh grader Kristin Wrubel said. "It's never happened."

The oldest sibling is certainly able to meet and exceed any challenges placed on them. That is why they are the first born, after all. The last thing any family wants is an unprepared baby of the family with so much responsibility. Even if younger siblings try to protest the seniority of the oldest in the family, it is of little avail. Just a reminder for the younger kids of the family: you get the house (and all the headaches that come with it) when the oldest goes off to college.

Family babies observe mistakes of older siblings, twist them to their advantage

Matt Krings
Staff Reporter

Being the baby of the family has its advantages and disadvantages in the sibling rivalry. Being able to learn from older brothers or sisters is one of the big benefits of not being first from your mother's womb. Noting some of your parents' actions can help know what to act like when you reach the older stages of life. Getting bossed around is a problem because everyone thinks they know what is best due to their higher age. But everyone still knows that being the baby is the place to be.

> *"My parents believe anything I say... I think it's pretty funny."*
> **- Pat Schaecher**

Although the oldest gets more privileges, it is all a matter of time before the baby gets the exact same ones. Most of the time this can even be better to have to wait for the privileges because some parents seem to become less strict with each child.

"My parents believe anything I say," said freshman Pat Schaecher. "They question (older brother) Michael about everything. I think it's pretty funny."

As the older sibling, does it seem that the baby gets away with murder? Well this is probably true, and the youngest sibling knows this too.

"Anything that baby gets in trouble for they can turn into how the older brother was a bad influence," senior Matt Bahr said.

"Anytime I get caught doing something wrong I can just say he (older brother Tony) taught me how to," Bahr said. "I then get into less trouble."

Parents seem to know what to expect when it is the baby's turn to go out. They have already had the experience of a teenager in high school. Is this an advantage or disadvantage though? Are parents getting smarter because they know what is going on? Or do parents not care as much because they have been broken in?

Eighth grader Tyler Micek says that he gets treated the same as his older sister, but he has a few years left so maybe he will get away with more because of his parents' experience with Makayla.

Is anything better than being the baby? It seems as if they can get away with anything, and most likely will have better privileges than the oldest. If there is any argument to the sibling rivalry, it's hard to say that the baby has the worse end of the stick.

Stress-causing, grade-reducing habit of procrastination is a habit some just cannot break

Anthony Owens
Business Manager

"I'll do it later."

How many times have you said that in your life?

Putting things off until the last minute is quite popular among teenagers today. It is called procrastinating. Everyone has done it some time or another.

Procrastination is one of the leading causes of stress in a teenager's life. Homework, friends, teachers, parents, and jobs are all examples of stressors, but homework is usually the first thing thought of when the word procrastination is mentioned.

Senior Ryan Jarecki says he saves almost all of his long-term projects for the last minute.

"I usually don't feel like doing my assignments the day I get them," he said. "Everybody saves them for the day before they're due. I have been procrastinating my homework pretty much since the first time I got it."

Like Jarecki, many students save their work for the last minute. The effort and skill put into these procrastinated assignments usually results in something less than what the student is capable of producing.

Sophomore Shane Goodall said that he can not reach his desired grade on school work if he procrastinates.

> *"Ninety-nine out of 100 assignments I get are saved to the last minute, and my grades show it."*
> **- Shane Goodall**

"Ninety-nine out of 100 assignments I get are saved to the last minute," he said. "My grade shows it, and I'm not surprised."

Most of the time, a student's grade greatly reflects on his or her effort into an assignment or project. If a student saves a project or paper for the night before it is due, the chances are he or she is only going to do enough to get it done and meet the minimum requirements for the paper or project.

Procrastination is not always practiticed voluntarily. Sophomore Samantha Prokupek says she wishes she could stop saving homework for the last minute.

"I have always put off doing my homework until the day it is due," she said. "I wish I could stop procrastinating. It causes so much stress when I have to do my homework in a hurry."

Procrastination is an all-too-familiar thing for students everywhere. Getting homework done as soon as possible is the best weapon against stress and procrastination.

Students struggling with constantly leaving things to the last minute better find time to do it or else their lives will be very stressful. Developing this bad habit now could lead to a more severe habit when they are older.

This article was supposed to be quite a bit longer, but it was saved to the day before the deadline and never did get completely finished. Sorry.

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Online sources reveal internet usage quite popular among students

Luaren Maul
Editor

Anyone who's anyone has the Internet. The good 'ole "Information Super Highway." You can download information, essays, pictures, music, and more.

In fact, a survey of Scotus students shows that they spend an average of two hours a day surfing the Internet, which is more time than they report spending on homework.

Although, perhaps spending more time on homework would stop the unpleasantness many find on the Internet. According to recent news, hundreds of American children and teenagers have been abducted after agreeing to meet a new "friend" they first encountered in a chat room.

"The Internet is a great tool to society, nevertheless, it adds to the delinquency of minors," said junior Anna Evans.

Although the Internet can lead to destruction, it can also lead to good. For instance, chat rooms can aide in finding that "special someone."

> ***"The Internet is a great tool to society, nevertheless it adds to the delinquency of minors.***
>
> **- Anna Evans**

"I met my first girlfriend in a chat room," said junior Matt Welker.

If chat rooms are not your thing, consider downloading an instant messenger service, such as MSN Instant Messenger. Ninety-seven percent of responding students prefer this messenger to similar versions provided by AOL and Yahoo.

"I talk on the Internet more than the phone because it's more fun and everybody's on MSN," said eighth grader Kayla Chlopek.

The "Information Super Highway" is also a great promotional tool. Junior Jon Zach uses the Internet to promote his band and other activities.

Besides it is obvious social and promotional aspects, the Internet is also a great tool for obtaining information.

"Instead of going to the library, you can stay at home and use the Internet for your homework," said eighth grader Shayla Christiansen.

Whatever students are doing on the Internet, be it homework, chatting, or good 'ole shameless self-promotion, they're apparently having a good time. And isn't that what Al Gore intended?

Students use shoes as form of expression

Anthony Owens
Staff Reporter

Some are red, some are blue, but most of the time they are black or white. They have soles, but not like a human does. Some slip on, lace up, buckle, or even Velcro. What could these possibly be?

Shoes.

They are made of about every material imaginable and come in a vast array of colors. One could list all the colors of shoes available, but for attention purposes probably should not. They come in a variety of different materials such as leather, suede, canvas, velvet, wood (those wacky Dutch), and synthetic materials like plastics.

They have many purposes such as protection, comfort, style, and for special purposes such as tap dancing, cleats for traction, aqua socks, and bowling shoes.

Senior Wes Wemhoff says he doesn't really care what is on his feet just as long as they are comfortable and affordable.

"There is nothing better than a comfortable pair of shoes," Wemhoff said. "The problem with shoes these days, is that they are too expensive. You don't always get what you pay for when you buy shoes."

> ***"I like to express myself through my shoes, because there's no other way I can in school.***
>
> **- Jeff Olmer**

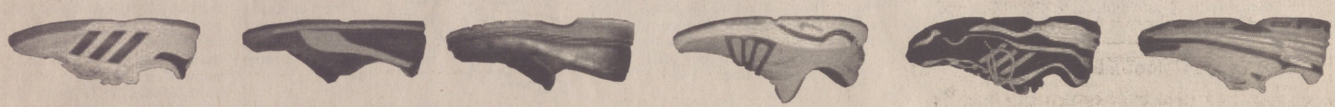
In a school with a dress code, such as Scotus, shoes are a way of expressing oneself. Since a student cannot really express his or her character by wearing the same thing everyone else does, shoes are one of the only ways to do so.

Freshman Jeff Olmer, owner of a pair of red Pumas, says he likes it when people turn their heads in the hallway when they see a pair of red shoes.

"I like to express myself through my shoes because there is no other way I can in school," Olmer said.

Olmer also owns a pair of white Adidas Sambas. Along with Adidas Superstars, Sambas are a very common shoe among teenagers.

Whether chosen for style, comfort, or another special purpose, the shoes on the feet of Scotus students are made for walking, and that's just what they will do.

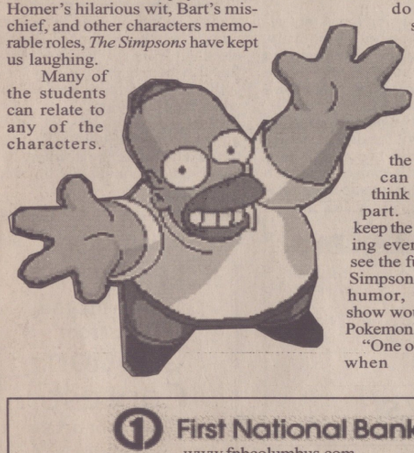


Woo-hoo! Simpsons mania grips the interest of students

Matt Krings
Staff Reporter

Throughout the years, our generation has had one of the best television series to enjoy. With Homer's hilarious wit, Bart's mischief, and other characters memorable roles, *The Simpsons* have kept us laughing.

Many of the students can relate to any of the characters.



Between the complete nerdyness of Milhouse and the evil attitude of Mr. Burns, everyone can say they are similar to a Simpsons character.

"I am most like Homer because I do really stupid stuff without thinking," said freshman Bret Lower. "Plus I freak out like he does."

When most people think of the Simpsons, they can not help but think of their favorite part. New episodes keep the audience watching every week just to see the funny parts. The Simpsons is rooted in its humor, without it the show would be as dull as Pokemon.

"One of my favorites is when Homer uses Flanders' roof for a plow, then denies having a snow plow business even though he is wearing the business's jacket," said junior Tony Schwank.

When asking the student body about their favorite episode, many people say that some of Homer's adventures are the best. An even greater number of people say that any episode with Ralph cannot be topped.

Sophomore Jake Euteneuer quotes one of his favorite lines from Ralph.

" '(Voice:) Ralph go to sleep. (Ralph:) Sleep, that's where I am a Viking!' or 'This glue tastes funny.' Those are all pretty good," Euteneuer said.

Simpsons mania runs rampant. There are clothes, games, books, movies, and just about anything you yearn for is available in the Simpsons variety. Even kid's underwear can be seen sporting Bartman or just about any character.

"I remember as a kid I used to have really cool underwear," said sophomore Chad Trofholz. "Of course it was *The Simpsons*."

To this day Scotus students still can be seen wearing *Simpsons* underwear.

"Every day after football Jake Euteneuer would be wearing his green Simpsons boxers," said sophomore Ryan Ames. "Not that I look or anything."

Because many consider this the best cartoon ever made, the true Simpsons fans know about everything there is to know about each of the characters. It is kind of like a soap opera; they can't miss what will happen next.

With the everyday problems the Simpsons face, it is a good family show to watch. On the box of *Simpson's Monopoly*, there is a small saying in the corner that says "Simpsons, a true American family." With the much-exaggerated adventures this is hard to believe, but it can teach a lesson. Just watch and learn with an open mind, and talk with the many "Simpsons freaks" that roam our halls everyday.

Homer adds to English language

Homer Simpson has become such a part of American culture, that one of his famous expressions has been included in the Oxford English Dictionary.

Doh: *Expressing frustration at the realization that things have turned out badly or not as planned, or that one has just said or done something foolish. Also (usu. mildly derog.): implying that another person has said or done something foolish.*

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Plot-twisting *Walk to Remember* leaves few impressions on memory

Mike Adelman
Editor-in-chief

A Walk to Remember is primarily a love story that focuses on the trials and tribulations of two young people.

Landon Carter and Jamie Sullivan were from two different worlds. When Landon was arrested for drunk driving and acts of mischief, he was forced by the authorities to partake in community service and to take on a role in the school play. Because of this Landon met Jamie, a kind young woman who willfully helped out the community.

Though he despised her at first, Landon grew to like Jamie. Their love blossomed until a terrible secret was revealed (I won't spoil it for you). The majority of the movie was about their determination to make the relationship work.

This movie was okay. I expected more action since the beginning sequences had plenty of it, but I was disappointed. There were too many scenes in a row where Landon and Jamie were together that might as well have been lumped into one longer scene. The acting was good, and the characters' emotions seemed genuine, but the atmosphere of the high school environment seemed phony. The kids at the school acted unrealistically immature toward other characters at times, and their attitudes were very cliché. At one point members of Jamie's class superimposed her face on a magazine ad depicting a nearly nude woman, and handed out copies during school.

Check this one out if you want an emotional story with interesting plot twists. The movie never really gets "boring," but requires patience to watch.

Cast:
Shane West as Landon Carter

Mandy Moore as Jamie Sullivan

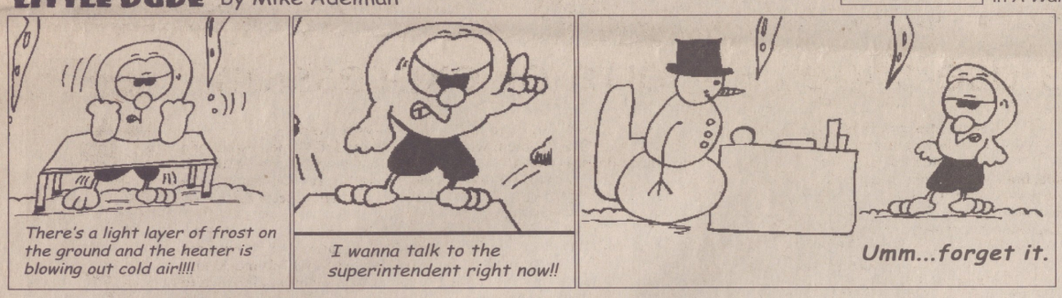
In a nutshell:
Guy meets girl he can't stand... grows to love her...learns terrible secret... love must endure.

Rating:
6.8/10

Warner Brothers photo

Actress Mandy Moore and actor Shane West star in in one of their many scenes together in *A Walk to Remember.*

LITTLE DUDE by Mike Adelman



DON'T READ THIS
STUPID, STUPID JOKES

Q: Why did the golfer bring two pairs of pants with him to the course?

A: In case he got a hole in one

Q: Why did the worker get fired from the orange juice factory?

A: He couldn't concentrate

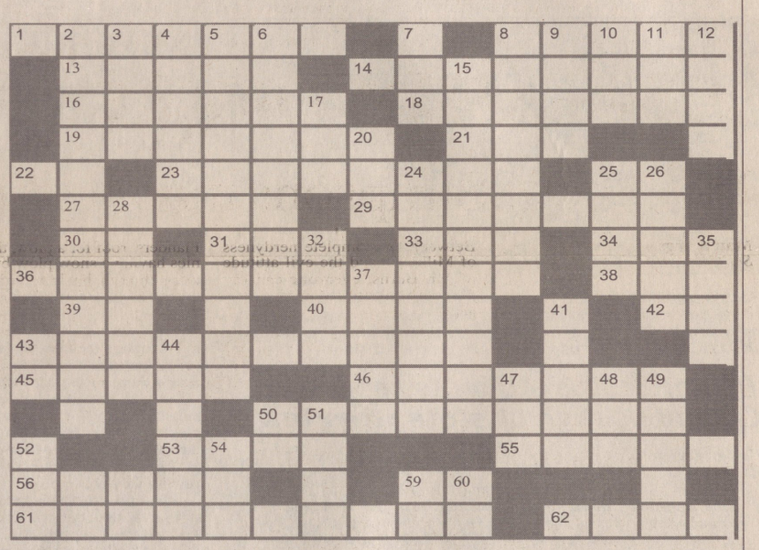
Scotus + word

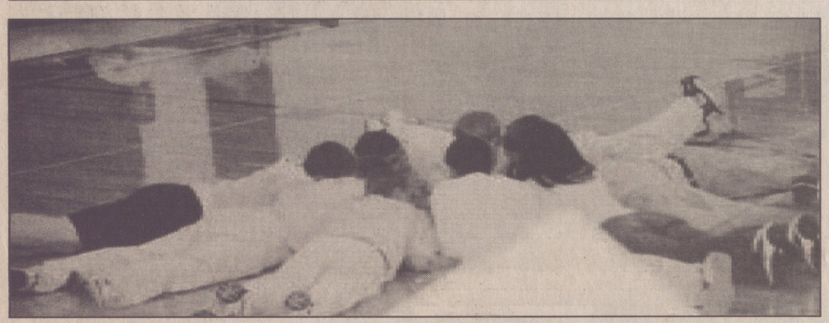
Across

1. Deceased body
8. Having wings
13. Full of suds
14. Relating to a nation
16. Danish cheese: _____i
18. Comes to rest
19. Author's job
21. Neckwear
22. Nebraska's postal code
23. Moved violently
25. Not you
27. Senior member of a group
29. Suspension of a liquid in gas
30. Football team abbreviation
31. British drink
33. Meaning of prefix "un"
34. Farewell Bidding
36. Rebirth
38. Revolutionary
39. School's abbreviation: _ _ C
40. Form of having fun
42. Prefix for "again"
43. Utopian
45. Having good flavor
46. To make bigger
50. Absent minded
53. Unstable lepton
55. Impossible to define chemistry term that starts with e and ends in –ster
56. Desert pool
59. I am
61. The end of the world
62. Crossword necessity

Down

2. Start of lent
3. Lion's sound
4. Dental problem
5. Without care: _____al__
6. Sorry Yellow-Red Insert Required for Not Efficient Spellers (Abbreviated)
7. Possessive without apostrophe
8. Cure
9. Commercial translation of 'light'
10. Anterior crucial ligament
11. Form of martial arts: ? bo
12. Besides
15. A ring of atoms of more than one kind
17. Transfer ribonucleic acid: _ R _ _
20. Girl Scouts of America
24. Dying of hair with reddish-brown leaves
25. Low protest
26. Not younger
32. Small venomous snakes
35. Formerly required payback
37. Sacrificial stand
41. Slaves of middle ages
43. Not he or she
44. Discoveries of nuclear age
47. To have eaten
48. Stomach
49. To place by vote
50. Two in a row means flabby in Spanish
51. Solely
52. Large Constrictor
54. Our nation
57. Advanced placement
58. Adjective, adverb, conjunction, or noun
59. Depends on your definition
60. See 25 across





Caption Contest

A group of upperclassmen huddle together between speakers during the Ash Wednesday's retreat. Tell us what caption you would write under the picture if printed in the *Rock Bottom.* Give your creative, humorous, or unusual caption on a piece of paper with your name and grade to Mr. Arneal by March first. Only one entry per person. Best captions will be published in the next *Rock Bottom.*

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Super Bowl commercials fail to live up to lofty expectations

Eric Grubaugh
Staff Reporter

They've produced innumerable memories for me. Like the delivery man searching through grocery coolers all over the nation, Clydesdales (who normally go for two) kicking extra points over power lines, and guys throwing things into a tree until their car falls out. However, this year, the commercials during half-time of the Super Bowl were anything but memorable.

This year too many companies wasted a whole lot of money trying to get their names seen worldwide. For instance, the mLife commercials—the first time I saw one of their commercials, I was intrigued as to what exactly mLife was, but after about the 10th different commercial, I completely lost all interest. At first I thought it was some type of insurance. I finally learned it was just another long-distance calling plan. How effective is a commercial that doesn't even tell you what company they are from or what it is exactly that they are trying to sell? Instead they simply tell you to log onto their web site to find out what you need to know. They must have burned at least $12 million on all their commercials.

Then there is Pepsi. I have one word to describe their time-traveling commercials with Britney Spears...oh, wait, no I don't. They put me at such a loss as to why they would make them, I'm drawing a complete blank. I didn't like Pepsi to begin with, but occasionally we would buy it to accommodate guests—never again. The only reason I actually remember it because it was the longest commercial I have ever seen and because Britney isn't all that terrible looking.

However, there was a brighter side to these disasters called commercials. Budweiser again came in with some excellent commercials. First of all, the tribute to September 11 with the Clydesdales bowing at ground zero was one of the best commercial ideas I have seen in a long time. Plus they added some more comical commercials as well. My favorite was one featuring Cedric the Entertainer being the voice of his buddy who has trouble talking to women. I don't want to spoil it for anyone who hasn't seen it, but it is definitely a very funny commercial.

Are these commercials going to make me buy and drink their product—no, because that would be illegal. But at least these stick out in my mind because they were creative, and funny, not because they were just plain awful.

The Super Bowl commercials this year were so dull that these are the very few that actually stand out in my brain well enough for me to write about with any depth. On a scale of one to 10, I'd give Budweiser an 8, Pepsi a 2, and as a whole, I'd give the commercials a 4. The great majority did nothing to sell me their product—obviously if a viewer can't remember them, they aren't doing their job.

Britney Spears was featured in one of the most talked-about ads in this year's Super Bowl.

Students: Clydesdales, Britney contribute to memorable ads

Eric Grubaugh
Staff Reporter

It was one of the closest Super Bowls the NFL has ever seen. In fact, it was the only one to ever be decided by a field goal. This year's Super Bowl was definitely one for the ages. But a low scoring game usually doesn't make for good television viewing. A lot of people watch the Super Bowl for one thing: good commercials.

Numerous Scotus students described this as a "weak" year for good Super Bowl commercials. In fact, there are only two commercials people seem to remember. One being a Bud Light commercial featuring silk sheets and boxers hanging from a tree, and the other being the Pepsi commercial featuring Britney Spears dancing and singing her way through time. This year, a 30-second spot during half-time of the Super Bowl cost $2 million.

"The [Britney Spears] commercial itself was terrible," sophomore Wes Zach said. "I think [Pepsi] wasted about $6 million, but who cares? She is hot!"

However, simply putting a celebrity in a commercial doesn't always sell the product—which is the purpose of a commercial is it not?

"Just putting her face next to a Pepsi can isn't going to make it taste better," sophomore Whitney Becher said, "and definitely won't make me buy it."

Compared to some fairly negative opinions of the Pepsi commercial, Budweiser seemed to fare pretty well. The majority of interviewed students said the commercial with a man running up the stairs, diving on his bed, sliding through the window, and losing his boxers on a tree branch was one of the funniest commercials they've seen in a long time. And Budweiser's commercial depicting the Clydesdales going to ground zero and bowing also stirred some reverent emotions.

All in all, if a good number of students only remembered two or three commercials from during the Super Bowl, it is probably safe to say the commercials this year did not meet up to the hype they get beforehand. Hopefully next time the Super Bowl is as exciting as this year's, the commercials that go along with it will be everything but lackluster.

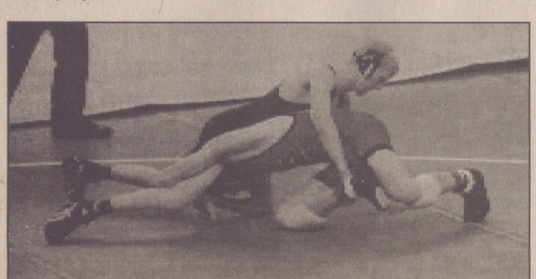


PHOTO COURTESY OF NICK HALL
Scotus sophomore Chad Trofholz wrestles Dan Fellman of Elkhorn in the first round of the state wrestling meet last week. Trofholz represented Columbus High in the 135-pound weight class and was one of three Scotus wrestlers to qualify for state.

Trio of Scotus students represent Columbus High at state wrestling

Craig Staroscik
Editor

After finishing with an impressive display of power at districts, Columbus High's wrestling team headed off to the state competition in Lincoln last weekend. Included in the team's eleven state qualifiers were junior Jason Avery, junior Nick Hall, and sophomore Chad Trofholz. These three athletes composed the first three members of Scotus' student body to grace the mats at the state wrestling tournament in Lincoln.

Columbus high finished the competition 17th overall in the class A bracket with Columbus High senior Matt Bates going on to win first in his weight division. As for the Shamrock contenders, all three were eliminated by losing their first two rounds. Despite the obvious disappointment, the students were still proud to take part.

"I never thought I'd get this far," Avery said. "On paper I shouldn't have gone. I had lost to these wrestlers before, but at districts I kicked their [rears]."

Avery said he was nervous going into the meet, but that it was worth all of the work and trying he went through during the year.

Trofholz agreed with Avery in that just going to state was an experience in itself.

"It was a lot of fun," he said. "I was just happy to make it there and to be competing with the best in the state."

Trofholz said that the team had hoped to do better overall, falling short of their goal of placing in the top ten. Still, he was positive about being able to wrestle this year and is optimistic about going back next year.

"I think everyone wrestled their best," Trofholz said. "There was a lot of good competition. Next year the coach expects to see all of us back there."

The experience of going to state was enough for these wrestlers, and it leaves much to look forward to in the future. Who knows, by this time next year Scotus could be welcoming home its first-ever state wrestling champions.

Familiar foe blocks Shamrocks' quest for return trip to state tournament

It may be a bit out of the way, but for the Scotus girls basketball team, the road to Lincoln goes through North Bend.

For the second year in a row, the Shamrocks, ranked third in the state in the Nebraska Coaches Poll, will duel fourth-ranked North Bend for a ticket to the state tournament in Lincoln. Head Coach Sean Wickham said that he wouldn't want it any other way.

"It's almost become a tradition for Scotus and North Bend to be playing this time of year with a trip to state on the line," Wickham said. "It's kind of what we expected at the beginning of the year when the districts were announced, that both teams would be in the position they are in now."

It's a position both teams are familiar with. Scotus and North Bend have met in post-season play in five of the last six years, including the 1998 state championship game won by Scotus. Scotus also ended the Tigers' season in the 1997 district final, but North Bend has won the last two contests, notably last year's district final. The victory allowed North Bend to advance and win the state championship. Scotus ended the year ranked second.

Wickham said he expects this year's game to be just as intense as past battles.

"Both teams are obviously very good, ranked in the top five," he said. "Both teams will be very prepared and play good defense. Each possession will be at a premium."

Offensive execution will be a key to victory in tonight's game, Wickham said. That is because the game will feature two of the best defenses in the state. Scotus' defense ranks first, allowing only 29.2 points a game. However, North Bend is not far behind, ranked fourth at 36.1.

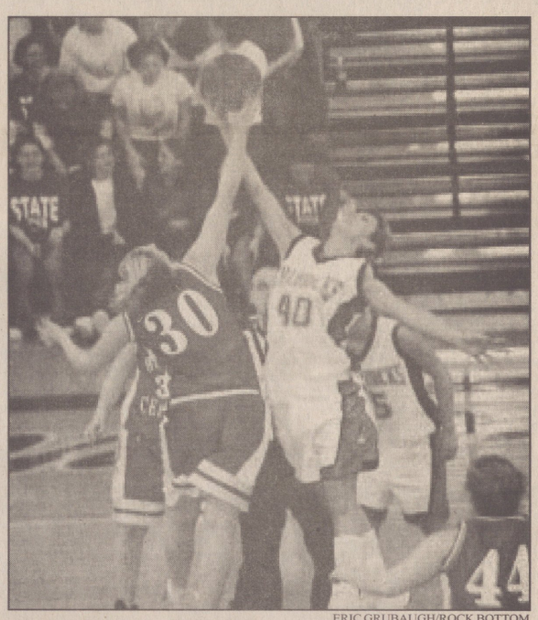
This year was the first time that class C-1 will use a wild-card system, meaning two teams that do not win their district will qualify for state. The wild-card teams will be selected based on a point system that factors in record and schedule strength. While both Scotus and North Bend are highly ranked in the wild-card point system, it is not likely the loser of tonight's game will advance to state due to Wahoo and Lincoln Christian losing in subdistricts last week. Those two teams, ranked ahead of Scotus and North Bend in wild card points, will most likely receive the wild-card bids.

Knowing that tonight's game will eliminate one team from the state title race, and facing North Bend's large following of loud fans will only add to an already pressure-packed situation. However, Wickham said he is hopeful that the experience of the Shamrocks' six seniors will be a factor in tonight's game.

"They have all been on teams in similar situations," the third-year coach said. "They know what to expect as far as crowd and atmosphere."

Defending the inside game of North Bend will be a key to the game, Wickham said. That inside game comes in the person of 6'2" Shari Elofson, who is averaging 14.8 points and 9.4 rebounds a game going into districts this season. North Bend's inside game is complimented by 5'9" guard Dani Settles, who averages 11.2 points and 4.9 assists per game.

The next chapter in this storied rivalry will be written tonight at 7:00 at Schuyler. The winner goes on, the loser goes home.


ERIC GRUBAUGH/ROCK BOTTOM
Senior Lori Beller reaches up for the opening tip in the subdistrict final against Boone Central. The Shamrocks won the game to advance to the district final against North Bend tonight.

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INSIDE: Teen drinking-is everybody doing it?

SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC

ROCK BOTTOM

Columbus, Nebraska | March, 2002 | Volume 4, Issue 7

Students give the gift of life by participating in Scotus blood drive

Members of the student body overcome fears and look inside themselves to donate to those in need

CRAIG STAROSCIK/ROCK BOTTOM

CRAIG STAROSCIK/ROCK BOTTOM

Top: Senior Natalie Krings watches intently as a nurse prepares her for donation. **Bottom:** Blood flows from arm to collection bag, adding another unit to the total.

Craig Staroscik
Editor

After taking Vern Younger's sophomore biology class, most students are under the impression that as long as they do not go swimming in foul-looking ponds that they will not have to worry about leeches.

These blood-hungry parasites live in secluded places waiting for the warm blood of a mammal, and then attach themselves, sucking the life force from its victim's body. Then, out of nowhere, the most unlikely creature comes crawling from room to room looking for the blood of teenage students.

Calling Younger a parasite would be going to extremes, but juniors or seniors in class this month experienced a visit from this blood-thirsty science teacher. Younger, in cooperation with the American Red Cross, went in search for students willing to donate their time and blood to this year's Scotus blood drive. Students, teachers, and faculty participated as a way of helping the millions of people every year in need of blood.

> *"I'm happy I did it and didn't pass out. This time it was to prove it to myself that I could.*
> **- Andrea Brezinski**

"It [Giving blood] wasn't that bad," senior Andy McPhillips said after donating. "It was for a good cause, it didn't hurt, I got out of class, and I saved a life."

Any Scotus student over the age of 17 is eligible to donate blood, and Scotus has a fantastic track record of students participating in the blood drive. About 80% of the senior class donated in the past year, and this year Scotus' goal was to recruit 120 potential donors. In all, 97 units of usable blood were collected, nine more than the initial goal of 88.

Most students who donated admit they did it for the worthy cause of helping someone in need, though that is not the only reason people donated. Senior Andrea Brezinski, who passed out last year while trying to donate, said she came back this year for another reason.

"I'm happy I did it and didn't pass out," she said. "This time it was to prove it to myself that I could."

While Brezinski was happy she did not faint, not everyone was not so lucky; at least one person did while during the procedure.

The blood given during the donation can sometimes cause a person to feel shaky afterwards, but the majority of givers walk away fine. In fact, the thought of needles more often makes people feel shaky, and is one of the leading reasons some students fear donating blood. Younger even admits to having fears about needles when he first started giving.

"I was frightened, worried of the unknown," Younger said about the first time he donated. "Disliking needles, I was a bit concerned."

After donating approximately 30 times, Younger says that overcoming the fear was definitely worth it, and that he now gives as often as he can.

Younger says that one of his main worries when he first gave blood was that he did not know what to expect. In order to make sure future donors know what they

See ***Blood****, page 3*

Student internet searches have gone to the dogs

Lauren Maul
Editor

Recently, the Scotus junior class was assigned a research paper. They received designated class time to research their topics on the Internet. Unfortunately, many students were unable to reach the sites they needed because of a dog. Yes, a **dog**. A dog by the name of "Bess."

"Bess" happens to be a computer image that comes up when students are not allowed access to a website because of unfit or inappropriate content. So what happens when you were not expecting a site to be blocked because of its "graphic" nature?

"I couldn't research my report on Woodstock because Bess had all of the sites blocked," said junior Anna Evans, "even the sites featuring the *Peanuts* cartoon."

Many students experience this struggle on a daily basis because of the new filter system. But the Scotus administration is not to blame.

"The state requires that if you receive any funding for the technology you have, you need to have a filter in place for students," said LAN (local area network) manager, Cathy Podliska.

While it is possible to override the system, it can't be done very easily.

"I don't have the password to override Bess," said Podliska. "It's on a server at a difference site."

But even smart dogs like Bess have their flaws.

Move over, McGruff, there's a new crime dog in town.

"You go on some sites that aren't bad and they're filtered," said senior Greg Buelt, "but most of the time it's [the filter] not very consistent, and that's frustrating."

Although the majority of students would rather not have to deal with Bess at all, other students don't exactly share their sentiments.

"I think Bess is good for blocking bad websites," said seventh grader Paige Kelly, "but bad for blocking good websites."

In any case, Bess is here to stay for the time being. Podliska explained that Bess is a permanent fixture at Scotus, or at least until the state legislature changes.

So next time you're doing some research and you get bit by Bess, keep your leash on and try again.

Coach John Petersen recognized nationally

Eric Grubaugh
Staff Reporter

He already has pictures of championships lining his classroom wall. There are trophies galore in Scotus' cases from his teams. Now he may have yet one more prestigious award to add to his repertoire.

Coach John Petersen is one of eight coaches to be nominated for national high school volleyball coach of the year. This is Petersen's second nomination for the award, and one he ranks as one of his greatest accomplishments.

"As an individual, it's definitely the biggest honor," Petersen said, "but I also received the Nebraska Girls' Coach of the Year from the Omaha World Herald once and from the Lincoln Journal Star once. Those were also big honors. But with every honor you have to question 'Am I worthy?' There must be hundreds, thousands of coaches worthy of the same awards."

Petersen began his illustrious coaching career in Newcastle, Nebraska, where he spent four years as a head volleyball coach, junior

See ***Petersen****, page 6*

MIKE ADELMAN/ROCK BOTTOM

Up and over...

Senior Lori Beller outjumps an opposing defender during the state championship game against Lincoln Christian. In the end, the Scotus girls lost by a heartbreaking score of 35-34, coming within one shot of the state title. Full coverage in sports on page six.

ROCK BOTTOM, Scotus Central Catholic High School, Columbus, NE
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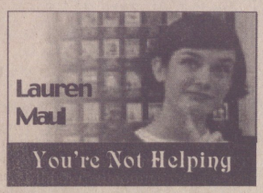


Childhood fears never go away, just change in form

I used to be terrified of monsters under my bed. I would literally take a giant running leap and jump into bed, in case distorted monster hands reached out and pulled me under.

Maybe all this fear was because of a traumatizing "children's movie" I had recently seen. It was called *Little Monsters*, and was about this whole "monster underworld" under kids' beds. I only watched it because the cute boy from the *Wonder Years* was in it. I distinctly recall this one scene where a bad monster ripped some poor kid's kneecaps out, or something along those lines.

But *Little Monsters* alone did not bear the complete responsibility in shaping the scared kid I was to become. There were others films, such as *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory, Howard the Duck,* and *Child's Play.* For the record, I did not "see" the Chuckie movies, per-say, but I was lucky enough to have a baby-sitter who did. And she was always quick to tell me (when I was at the ripe old age of four, I should mention) that if I didn't go to bed, Chuckie himself would come "get me" while I was awake. Of course, I failed to see as to how the submissive act of sleeping would keep this killer doll away, so I spent many a-night praying in the fetal position for Jesus Christ to keep this evil beast out of range. Years later when I was struggling to overcome my doll-ventriloquist dummy-clown-phobia, my sister put an evil-eyed porcelain doll of hers in my bed. Needless to say, I slept on the floor of my parents' room for the duration of my second grade year.

I spent many-a-night praying in the fetal position...

The *Howard the Duck* story is harmless when compared to that of the underhanded baby-sitter and the troublesome sibling, but traumatizing still the same. It all started when my well-intentioned older cousin tried to rent my sister and me a "children's video" starring a man in a duck costume. I don't truly recall what it was about, except there was a lot of crying on my part and therefore the video was swiftly removed from its home in the VCR. To this day, being scared of people in animal costumes is something I don't question.

Now, why on earth is Lauren afraid of little old *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*? Although I am a fan of the film today, as a small child there were several scenes which were, in a word, "unpleasant." For instance, the scene when the gluttonous boy practically drowns in a river of chocolate was more disturbing than entertaining. Unfortunately, later on in my freshman year, the class field trip to the Columbus Waste Water Treatment Plant brought back my fear of cloudy, brown water. Likewise, the scene in the crazy, psychedelic boat with a much-possessed Gene Wilder was enough to make me not

See ***Maul****, page 3*

Cookies and milk exchanged for math exams

I can remember my elementary school days like they were yesterday.

Well, all right, maybe not that well. I can vaguely remember what I had for breakfast this morning, but I still remember those elementary days fairly well.

What happened to them? What happened to recess, snack time, naptime, recess, and especially recess? When I first arrived in elementary school I thought it was the biggest building I had ever been in with the most enormous chairs and desks I had ever seen. It was overwhelming.

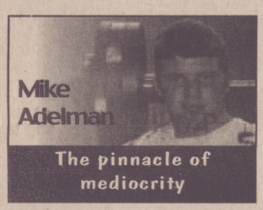
I went back recently. I couldn't believe that at one time I fit in those near-microscopic desks. My knees were crammed into my chin. Seventh grade feels like it was decades ago, and elementary school seems like something I should only read about in history books it was so long ago. Here I am already three quarters of the way through my sophomore year at Scotus. I'll be graduating high school and going to college in a little over two years.

The endless stream of mail I receive is a constant reminder of that. I remember the days when I didn't even know what college was, much less have to worry about which one to attend. Back then my biggest fears were probably what to wear to school, not letting little Johnny steal my milk and cookies again, whose team I was going to be on for recess, and praying that ITBS tests were canceled. Well, I don't have to worry about what to wear to school anymore. These bland khakis and collared shirt have that all taken care of. I've grown just a bit since then...apparently so much that people don't try to steal my food anymore. 'Whose team am I going to be on at recess?' has turned into 'How hard is the biology test today?' And since ITBS tests are gone, now I pray that I don't choke on my ACT or SAT, since colleges weigh decisions on those tests.

"Whose team am I going to be on at recess?" has turned into "How hard is the biology test today?

During elementary school, everybody was best friends. There wasn't a whole lot to do on weekends because 3rd graders aren't legally supposed to drive cars. But you didn't need to leave the house to find something to do. There were always G. I. Joe and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Now everyone belongs to his or her own little clique and action figures seem a little bit dull. Plus, gas costs money, and money doesn't grow on trees (if it did I would want to own a good chunk of a rainforest somewhere). Lack of money for gas means you're going to need a source of income—which generally implies a job.The only job I had in grade school involved pulling a comforter over messed up sheets (I think I've already expressed my feelings about that subject earlier). Now a job involves filling out an application and going to introduce yourself and telling why you are good for this company in a formal interview—plus more than 30 seconds of physical/mental labor, it's more like 20 hours a week or so for the least possible pay.

Of course, there are some positive differences between being in high school as compared to elementary school...I just can't think of any at the moment. I can't say that I remember my elementary days like they were yesterday, but heck, I can barely remember what the 4th root of 9,635,982 raised to the 2/3 power times the summation of the first six terms of 9/5 raised to the n-1 power is.



Dangerous, menacing snow piles destroy cars!

Students with the privilege of having a car to drive to school don't have it as easy as one would think.

With the freedom of getting from one place to another quickly come the costs of gas, insurance, repairs, and parking tickets.

Parking tickets, you ask? Well, not necessarily those levied by law enforcement, but by our own school.

As you may be aware, Scotus students use the St. Bonaventure parking lot since the school does not have one of its own.

This little arrangement works perfectly for the most part, but some problems arise during the winter, especially the season of Lent.

Recently students received fines for parking between two snow piles. This may have been a parking violation, but was never outlined as one. I don't recall being pulled aside by anyone from the school and being informed that parking between two snow piles was illegal.

Only a few students were aware that this was an offense punishable by a fine. This was because either the school or the parish failed to clearly outline the parking policies.

I don't use the parking lot because I'm afraid of getting slapped with some ridiculous penalty.

The snow pile fines were given coldly and without warning. The reason given to me was that it was a "safety hazard." While that is a perfectly acceptable reason, it was never stated prior to the offense. This is an act that a Catholic school, that teaches forgiveness and patience, should not have committed.

I don't even use the parking lot because I'm afraid of getting slapped with some ridiculous penalty. I could see it now...

"Um, look out the window. That kid parked at an 86-degree angle on the Spring Equinox during a year that's a multiple of two. I think we'd better give him a fine."

This problem needs to be rectified by the lifting of the fines and the creation of first offense warnings.

This is necessary so that any "oddball" or obscure rules don't catch students off guard. Doing otherwise makes it appear that either the school or the parish is attempting to collect dishonest fine revenue.

Hopefully in the end some solution can be reached. Perhaps "seasonal hazards" can be addressed at the proper times, and before anyone has a chance to park illegally.

A simple warning for a first offense would do wonders and reduce the feelings of frustration that some students who receive fines show.

A place besides Scotus where everybody knows your name

What can you say about Cheers that hasn't been said a thousand times already?

I mean, for it's last few years it was the number-one rated television show in America. Not bad for a show that premiered as the lowest rated show in America.

Its final season saw the story behind Cheers printed in every magazine and talked about on every TV in this country, and many others as well. So really, what could I possibly add?

Well, I can add my own feelings about this best of shows that television has ever offered us. But how to put something like this into words? Perhaps it is kind of like describing why you like a particular flower.

You can say that that you like roses because they are pretty and they smell nice. But then, so do lilacs. So what exactly is it that makes you like roses more than lilacs? Something about it strikes a chord in you soul.

It's gestalt; the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.

That's the way it is with *Cheers*. The characters and situations are hilarious. The acting and writing is outstanding. The bar itself has a life all it's own; a place "where everybody knows your name."

But there is more to it than that. It is some indefinable quality about this show that makes it better than the rest. I don't know what it is. And I guess that I really don't care either.

What I do know is that even in the darkest, saddest times of my life, *Cheers* was there. It transported me to a better, happier place, and for those 30 minutes the troubles I faced disappeared.

There have been a few times when my parents freak out on me for no reason, so I just go down to my room and anxiously await an episode of *Cheers* to be played. Frowns turn to a smile, and my anger turns to hysterical laughter.

Even now, in reruns, I prefer an old episode of *Cheers* to a new episode of almost any other show. It just doesn't get old. I've seen every episode so many times I can't count, but I still love it. And it still makes me laugh, and it still makes my troubles go away, in 30-minute doses.

Lauren Maul recently returned from a trip to the original Bull and Finch Tavern, which was the inspiration for the TV bar Cheers, and jealousy is raging inside of me. She got me a napkin from the tavern that had the Cheers logo on it.

Which got me thinking about how Norm would always put his beer on a napkin. Every time Norm walked into the bar, screams of his name came out.

Norm reminds me a lot of senior Mike Adelman. "Beaver" is shouted out by some classmates when he enters the room.

Before I die, Cheers is a place I definitely have to visit. Everything about the show makes me laugh, and Coach is possibly the funniest character ever made in a sitcom.

I just hope when I get older, a place like Cheers will be around. A place where my troubles can go away and I want to be where everybody knows my name.

Letters to the Editor

The *Rock Bottom* accepts letters to the editor for publication. Letters should be less than 250 words and must be signed.

Letters may be subject to editing for space and appropriateness.

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Teenage drinking reality, frequency do not live up to perceptions

Matt Krings
Staff Reporter

Several tragic events in the Columbus area over the past several years have made everyone painfully aware of the risks and consequences of teenage drinking. However, numerous accidents and deaths haven't put a stop to the consumption of alcohol among underage teens.

"Now days, anyone and everyone drinks," said senior Kayla Van Dyke. "It's no longer just one group of kids."

Teenage drinking seems to be happening every weekend. Hearing of a drinking party from past weekends is not an unusual experience. This leads to the perception that "everyone is doing it." However, a recent survey of about half the high school student body at Scotus shows that this perception is not accurate.

Respondents were asked to estimate the percentage of Scotus students in grades nine through 12 that drink alcohol at least a couple of times a month. On the average, students guessed that 68% of their schoolmates drink at least twice a month. The actual number of students who reported drinking that often was 37%. This shows that contrary to popular belief, the vast majority of Scotus students do not drink on a regular basis. In fact, 29% of the respondents have never used alcohol, compared to 15% who drink on a weekly basis.

Underage drinking is no secret. There are those people who do drink on weekends. There are those who seem to always want to drink. Senior Drew Gutierrez has had some bad experiences with alcohol. He has known people to get very sick from it, and he himself was involved in a very serious car accident.

> *If you booze, you lose.*
>
> **- Drew Gutierrez**

"If you booze, you lose," Gutierrez said. "People will look down on you if you are using alcohol."

Those driving experiences are the exact ones that people are trying to stop with programs such as DARE and the Grim Reaper Program, which Scotus took a part in last year. Drunk driving has taken many lives. Too many lives.

Some people say that the lack of alternatives in Columbus may contribute to teens looking to the bottle to have a good time.

"Columbus offers absolutely nothing to do," said freshman Heidi Sobota. "Kids have a hard time finding much or anything to do at all. It's basically just a boring town."

Turning 21 is just a few years away, but some cannot wait. They see drinking as a joy, necessary to have a good time, but also encounter the hardships. Alcohol makes people do things they would never imagine, and the decision making of students is affected deeply.

"I make a complete fool of myself," Van Dyke said. "I am a lot more attracted to some guys too."

Intoxication: is it a problem or just a part of life with teenagers? With such a high occurrence of accidents, injuries, and death, alcohol is clearly a problem that needs to be fixed. Major thinking needs to be done before the alcohol-related problems start and the consequences are being experienced.

In a fast paced world, schools strive to update technology

Kelli Morrison
Staff Reporter

"Welcome, you've got mail," is a phrase that is spoken most often these days not by a spouse or by children, but by a computer. Technology has come a long way from the days of an 18 by 30 foot machine that can only add in single digits.

It has especially changed in the schools, and Scotus is no exception. From 22 Apple Computers and one class that learns about technology to 127 instructional-use computers, 22 office-use computers, and at least six classes that rely on them daily, technology is quickly taking shape at Scotus.

"When I first started here we had one computer in the office, in the teachers' lounge, and it was only used at grading time," said office secretary Kathy Kruse.

Others on the staff at Scotus agree that we are technologically advanced as compared to other schools they have worked with. Scotus has a good student to computer ratio according to resident computer specialist Cheryl Zoucha.

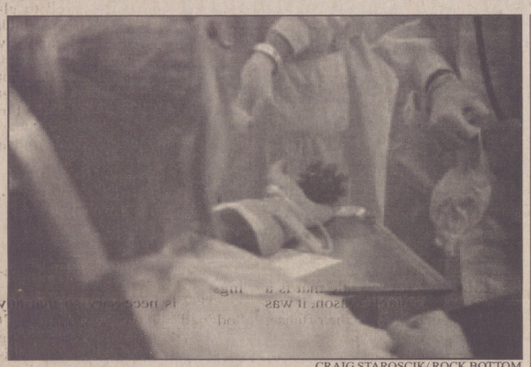
All interviewed agree that a breakdown of technology would lead to chaos, and to the three words any computer buff dreads: total system failure. This is why Scotus has a backup server and most files are saved there.

The next chapter in the technology of Scotus is already in the works.

"We hope to run things on wireless technology," said development director John Shueth, "and let the students take the lesson with them."

This is a plan that will be in full effect in about five to seven years down the road. So those students already attending Scotus will probably not benefit from wireless learning, but what is already there does not seem so bad. Zoucha said that one of the first steps on the road to this is to eliminate the Mac-lab.

From megabyte to microchip, the technology at Scotus is advanced and works well for the most part. The students use it often and it prepares them for a future in technological world. Although the technology at Scotus has come a long way, it still has a ways to go as technology progresses.



CRAIG STAROSCIK/ ROCK BOTTOM

Red cross workers don their gloves attempting to find another donor's vein.

Blood: Donation goal exceeded

from page 1

are getting into, Younger has taken the role of sponsoring the blood drive since it began in the middle 70's. Younger's first group consisted of about 20 of his physiology students who took a bus to the donation center. As participation grew and new regulations allowed 17-year-olds to donate without parental consent, the Red Cross brought the bloodmobile to Scotus. When that grew too crowded, the blood drive was set up in the Scotus Activity Center. Younger also takes the time to give a 45-minute presentation to classes about giving blood, why it is needed, and what to be ready for.

"I think education and knowing what to expect are the biggest ways to overcome fear," Younger said. "Most people don't like the needles, but the hurt is minimal for the good giving blood does."

It is not thrilling to be poked with needles, but the blood drive will undoubtably be thanked by those who will need blood. While some may have complained about having to be patient with nurses trying to find veins, inside the majority of students felt good about giving this worthy "gift from the heart."

"It was a good cause," said senior Jenny Krzycki, "mostly because I knew that I wasn't doing it for myself, but was doing it to help someone else."

Maul: Childhood fears continue

from page 2

sleep at all for the next week.

Oompa Loompas are something I don't even want to think about. At least the fate of bratty Veruca Salt down the "bad egg chute" played a large role in curing my childhood misbehavior. There were no specific movies I had seen to invoke my intense fear of ventriloquist dummies, (nor do I hope there ever will be) but that phobia is incredibly vivid yet today. In fact, just typing this, I'm looking over my shoulder in the case of a sneak attack.

You know, most people overcome their childhood fears of the dark, monsters, and even dolls. But in the place of those childhood fears arrive self-consciousness, a fear of failure, and an intense apprehension of being alone. I wonder which is worse: failure, or clowns? The last I knew, no one was afraid of failure coming to kill them while they slept.

Now your monthly treatment of thoughts:

"Oh these little projections, how they keep springing from me; I jump my ship as I take it personally; oh these little rejections, how they disappear quickly; the moment I decide not to abandon me." - Alanis Morissette

"I could pretend that you love me; the night would lose all sense of fear; but why do I need you to love me when you can't hold what I hold dear?" - Tori Amos

"Life is a B-movie; it's stupid and it's strange; it's a directionless story; and the dialog is lame. But in the 'he said she said' sometimes there's some poetry; if you turn your back long enough and let it happen naturally." - Ani DiFranco

"Your friends are those people who know what you meant to say, even when you're not eloquent enough to say it."

"The people you hate to see when you're in high school are the same people you wish could see you once you're successful; and they're not."

Now I'm outta here faster than a Coulrophobic at the circus.

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Student manager Kyle Kotrous learns the joys and skills of coaching

Craig Staroscik
Editor

Behind every successful business is a group of dedicated employees, behind every successful student is a knowing teacher, and behind every successful team is a great mascot. Well, perhaps the shamrock is not the best mascot in the world, but one person who can be added to the list of behind-the-scenes athletic participants is Kyle Kotrous.

ROCK BOTTOM PHOTO

Team Manager Klye Kutrous, stopwatch in hand, watches during the season's first track meet.

Behind every good coach is a good student manager, and in this case Scotus is not the exception. Whether it is basketball, football, or track, senior Kyle Kotrous manages the sidelines, ready to help any coach or player in need. Kotrous has become a well-known feature on the sidelines at games, providing support, encouragement, and assistance to the teams and coaches. Basketball Coach Merlin Lahm said managers like Kotrous are a necessary part of any coaching staff.

"Kyle had a lot of responsibilities," Lahm said. "He was in charge of getting the team ready before practice. At games he kept stats and ran the bench. He is totally indispensable. He can't be replaced."

Kotrous started student managing for Coach Jim Puetz's football team when he was a sophomore. As an underclassman, Kotrous said he did not really fit in with the team and that the players mostly ignored him. Initially, he did not plan to help run two other sports, but he enjoyed managing sports enough that over the next few years he took up managing for Coach Lahm's basketball team and Coach Nathan Arneal's track team. As his participation increased, he started fitting in better with the team.

"The past few years I've had no problems," Kotrous said. "The players and I get along and I'm treated like a coach."

His experiences in three different sports have led him to take on a variety of different tasks. During football season he takes care of equipment problems and helps with player injuries. In the winter he runs the clock for basketball and in spring he keeps track of times and roll call on the track. Student managing is also demanding on one's schedule. Kotrous says missing school for sports and having practice everyday can cut into his schedule, sometimes hurting his grades.

> *"He is totally indispensable. He can't be replaced."*
>
> **- Merlin Lahm**

With the work comes its rewards: student mangers get into all the games free, get some of the best seats, and share the players' experience without competing. Kotrous said that he loves to watch the individual players work together and improve themselves throughout the course of the season.

While these benefits are appreciated, Kotrous says the biggest advantage to being a team manager is getting first-hand knowledge of coaching. Kotrous says there is a possibility of coaching in his future and student managing is one of the best ways to learn what goes into coaching a winning team. Being on the sidelines and helping the coaches gives him a beneficial look at how a few successful coaches train their team. Ideally, Kotrous said he would like to be a college basketball or baseball coach, but that high school coaching would not be that bad of an alternative.

"I'd love to come back and coach high school," Kotrous said. "High school games are the most fun. It's great to watch a team progress through its season."

The experience, excitement, and knowledge gained from student managing was well worth it for Kotrous. According to him, helping run the team is the second best thing to actually competing.

"The worst part about it- well, I haven't really found one," said Kotrous. "It is a lot of fun."

The experience of student managing is not for everyone, but Kotrous would recommend it to anyone who likes sports or coaching, or just enjoys being part of a winning team. There will an emptiness with Kotrous missing from the sidelines after he graduates this year. Though he will be missed, there will still be three open spots for tomorrow's student managers to fill, continuing on behind the scenes to make the shamrocks who they are.

What every Shamrock should know about St. Patrick's Day

Lauren Maul
Editor

Is Christmas a tad too family oriented for you? Do you have a hard time believing in the Easter Bunny? Has Cupid given you the smack-down? If these sound like your kind of issues, the holiday you are in dire need of is St. Patrick's Day.

St. Patrick doesn't force you to buy gifts, fill Easter eggs, or even have a significant other; all this guy wants is for you to have a good 'ole Irish time on the seventeenth day of every March.

If you want to be a real perfectionist, you can feel free to call March 17th "Maewyn Succat Day", since that was St. Patrick's real name. But our friend Pat was not always such a saint. In fact, up until he was sixteen, he considered himself a pagan, or in simpler terms: "not friends with Jesus." Luckily his mindset changed for the better once he was sold into slavery and found God. After he escaped, he high-tailed it to Gaul and studied under St. Germain (not the Jackson) at a monastery for twelve years. During that long period of time, Pat decided he was going to go back to Ireland to convert the pagans and become the second bishop of Ireland.

Our buddy Pat was quite the smooth talker and therefore won over the converts. Unfortunately, the Celtic Druids were a little peeved and arrested him numerous times. But not even the Druids could stop the outbreak of the "Jesus Plague" in their little country. Pat escaped and went to work setting up schools and churches for the next thirty years. After there was no more room for churches or schools, Pat decided to retire. Sadly, his retirement didn't last long, because a few years later, he died. Ever since Patty passed on, March 17th has been commemorated in his honor.

Since then there have been a bunch of tall tales surrounding Pat's life. For instance, many people believe he could raise people from the dead and that he got rid of all the snakes in Ireland. But truthfully, one of the more substantial things Pat is remembered for is his symbolism of three-leafed shamrock. Patty used this piece of greenery to explain the Holy Trinity. Since it was hard for the Irish to understand how Jesus, His Dad, and some Ghost could all be part of the same thing, Pat's metaphor really helped out a lot.

Even though you are reading this article after St. Patty's Day, don't worry about missing out. As long as there are three-leaf clovers, leprechauns, and alcoholics, there will always be that pot of gold at the end of the rainbow known as St. Patrick's Day.

Probation reminds students the cost of straying outside the law

Anthony Owens
Staff Reporter

"I sentence you to six months probation and forty hours of community service." This is a line judges will say again and again to minors who break the law. Those intimidating words are supposed to frighten a juvenile so he or she will not have to return to court. In some cases this is true, while in others it is not.

Chad Oakley a probation officer for Platte County said the point of probation is to rehabilitate.

"It is a supervised second chance for the person," Oakley said. Oakley also said that a majority of the people put on probation learn their lesson and never have to be put on probation a second time.

The primary roles of a probation officer are to provide supervision and investigation for the courts and help with the sentencing. Whenever the officer feels it is necessary, he or she may call to see if the person made their set curfew, give a breath test, or even a urine test for drugs. If the person on probation fails such a check he or she may be given more time on probation or possibly more community service hours.

Junior Wade Wemhoff was put on probation in September of last year for MIP and obstruction. This was his first time being on probation.

"I think the point of probation is so you learn your lesson and never have to go back to court again," said Wemhoff. "It is like being grounded, but instead of by your parents, it's by the government."

Like Wemhoff, senior Shawn Starostka has only been on probation once. Starostka was put on probation on September 11 of last year for MIP and zero-tolerance. He was sentenced to six months probation and forty hours of community service.

> *"I think the point of probation is so you learn your lesson and never have to go back to court again."*
>
> **- Wade Wemhoff**

"That was the worst day of my life," said Starostka. "I get put on probation for six months; my girlfriend dumped me a few days before; I had just gotten fired from my job, and our country got attacked.

"Probation was not as bad as I thought it would be," he said. "It was no different from when I wasn't on it, except once a month I would have to go meet with my probation officer for about twenty minutes or so."

Starostka worked his community service hours off at St. Isidore's doing janitorial work.

Freshman Eric Mulligan was picked up in Colfax County coming back from Schuyler. His sentence for MIP in Colfax County was fifty hours of community service without any months of probation. Confused? People have always been wondering why Platte County has always had the harshest punishments for minors.

Senior Drew Gutierrez is one of those teenagers who unfortunately did not learn his lesson the first time. He had been on probation once in the past and is currently on it now.

"I was stupid to think I couldn't get caught," he said. "I was obviously wrong and I was caught again. The worst part about being caught again was that I would get little or no sympathy from the judge."

Gutierrez did janitorial work at Central Community College for his community service hours.

Offenders need to learn their lesson, unless they want to get in trouble. In most cases the law does win.

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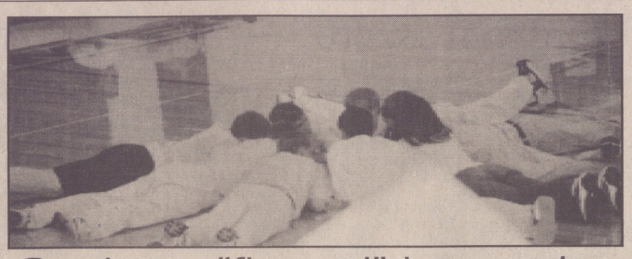


Students "floored" by speaker

This caption was submitted by Bonnie Eikmeier and is this month's winner.

And they said you can't four-wheel in town!

Think you can do better? Submit your caption for the photo on the left to Mr. Arneal's room today! The winner and honorable mentions will be in next month's issue.

DON'T READ THIS

STUPID, STUPID JOKES

Q: What do you call a cow with no legs?
A: Ground Beef!!

Q: Where are the Great Plains?
A: At the Great Airports!!

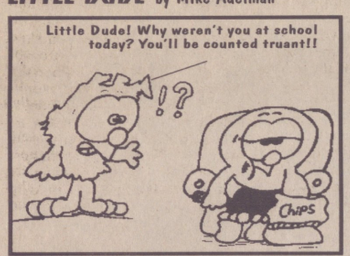
Q: What has four wheels and flies?
A: A garbage truck!!

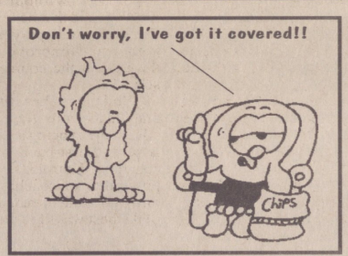
Stories:

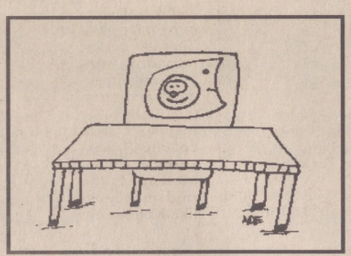
Two peanuts walk into a bar...one was a salted.

A large hole appeared downtown today. Police are looking into it.

LITTLE DUDE by Mike Adelman







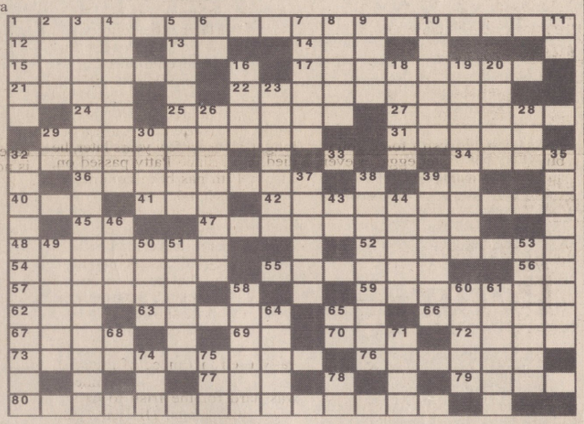
Scotus † -word

Across:

1. Giving human qualities
12. A kind of shell
13. Chemical symbol for barium
14. Midday snack
15. To experience again
17. The 21st state of the union
21. One who ruins: spo__
22. A formal dancing event
24. Chemical symbol for chlorine
25. Shakespeare's work was written in ____ pentameter
27. Marshy swamp: w____
29. What a room is during tests
31. Many, many years
32. Something left over
33. Your favorite letter
34. Circular machine component
36. Easy to forgive others
39. Artificial intelligence
40. Atomic mass unit
41. Follows get and precedes go
42. Students are the Rock Bottom's_____
45. Number
47. Most uncomfortable
48. Written by machinery
52. A beam used for support in certain bridges
54. To attain without force
55. Female rescuer
56. Operating System
57. State that borders two oceans
59. To publish again
62. Smallest amount: ____a
63. Known word phrase
65. The circumference of a circle divided by its diameter
66. A mark of indication
67. Gives a ship momentum
69. Greeting
70. Unhappy
72. To go out
73. A young person
76. Synonym for policeman
77. Plural to be
79. Posting of indication
80. A long word

Down:

1. Set of heart chambers that receive blood
2. Christmas carol
3. Electronic way of corresponding
4. Edge of follicle growth
5. Trait of following commands
6. Father
7. Inflammation of the ear
8. Sacred figure or body part
9. To become boring
10. To catch fire
11. Guam (Abbreviation)
16. Highest point
18. Describing the end of the small intestine
19. One who studies eggs
20. Lacking sense
23. Unclear, undefined
26. Geographical height
28. National Security Agency
29. Highest degree: __ plus ultra
30. Leaders of Imperialistic Russia: C___
32. New evaluations
35. To symbolize
37. One who others follow
38. Found on page two
39. Poisonous element
43. Chemical name for 39
44. Spooky
46. The plural of a single
49. To fill again
50. Male figurine representing the first man
51. Avoids
53. Threatening, looking angry
58. To stick together
60. Society of Automotive Engineering Manuscript
61. Six-fold item in poetry
64. Dug for minerals
65. Post Script
68. Lines (Abbreviation)
71. Information
74. Large Australian bird
75. Hat
78. Spanish "he"



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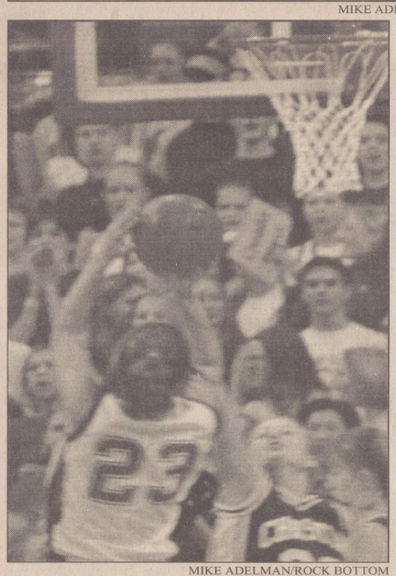
Girls fall just short of third state title this year

MIKE ADELMAN/ROCK BOTTOM

State Runners-up: Back Row: Assistant Coach Nathan Arneal, Head Coach Sean Wickham, Michelle Flint, Mandi Schumacher, Jennifer Sackett, Assistant Coach John Petersen. Middle Row: Laura Dolezal, Meghan Pile, Danielle Bernt, Nicole Weeder, Nicole Mielak. Front Row: Lori Beller, Katie Korth, Natasha Bender, Kari Mrockek.

MIKE ADELMAN/ROCK BOTTOM



MIKE ADELMAN/ROCK BOTTOM

Above: Senior girls take a break from cheering on the Shamrock girls basketball team at the state tournament. They are from left to right: Sarah Karges, Makayla Micek, Cheryl Bierman, Brandi Olmer, Andrea Brezinski, and Natalie Krings.

Left: Meghan Pile shoots over the Lincoln Christian defender in the state championship game. Pile was named to the all-tournament team for her efforts over the three day state tournament.

Shamrocks bring silver home from state

Mike Adelman
Editor

The Bob Devaney Center housed roaring Shamrock fans as the girls prepared for the final showdown against rival Lincoln Christian. The battle was epic, but sadly the other side emerged victorious by a single point.

The heartbreaking loss at the state championship overshadowed a tremendous season for the girls' basketball team. With it came ups, downs, and loads of excitement.

The Shamrocks ended their season at an impressive 21-5 record, and made it further than they had in years past.

"If [at the beginning of the season] they said we had a chance to go to state, we would have taken it," said Coach Sean Wickham.

The beginning of the season was a bit bumpy, but the team turned their momentum around quickly.

"I think that the way we came out in the early season couldn't really predict how we would end that season and how we did at state," said senior Meghan Pile.

The team developed over the course of the season and gained the experience necessary to topple strong opponents such as Schuyler and Elkhorn.

"Everyone went out and took charge," said senior Kari Mroczek. "They played each game like it was their final game."

This held especially true for the seniors.

"We had six seniors," said Wickham. "They played in a lot of big games, led by example, and executed well."

It is unfortunate that one loss at the end puts a damper on an excellent season. Only in the world of competition does the final moment matter the most.

One shot held an entire season in the balance. The last possession determined the outcome of the game. With the Shamrocks down by one, and just seconds left, senior point guard Katie Korth drove the length of the floor and pulled up for a jumper on the right baseline. The shot was long, but sophomore Mandi Schumacher was there for the rebound. Schumacher got a shot off at the buzzer, but was too far under the backboard to get the shot to fall.

"I hope it goes in [I thought]," said Wickham, referring to the final shot in the last second of the game. "We wanted to get down the floor and get a shot off."

The team was able to look past it, and realized how well they had done.

"We finished on a good note," said Mroczek. "There were ups and downs, and we played well as a team."

Now is the time to look to the future of the program.

"We'll have key positions to fill [next year]," said Wickham. "We are losing key rebounders and scorers."

The trials and tribulations of this season have left an impression on the history of girls' basketball. Yet another chapter in the saga of Scotus athletics has come to an end.

Petersen: 8-time state VB champ up for national award

from page 1

high boys basketball coach, head varsity boys basketball coach, and an assistant track coach. From Newcastle, Petersen then moved to Little Rock, Iowa. They didn't have volleyball there, but Petersen was the head coach for girls basketball and an assistant for the boys basketball team at the same time. So even after a long day at school, Petersen had not just one, but two practices to attend.

"It was a long day," Petersen said. "We usually went from 4-6 and then 6-8. I was at school from 7 to 8. My girls were little then; I could go days without seeing them. They'd be in bed when I got up and in bed when I got home."

After all these coaching jobs, Petersen still had one move left.

"I came to Scotus primarily because Coach (Gary) Puetz and I had taught together at Newcastle," Petersen said. "And one reason I came here was that the boys were very competitive, and there was no reason that the girls wouldn't be as well."

Petersen has been at Scotus for 25 years, and he says that not a whole lot has changed at Scotus as far as the athletes that come in.

"I've had great kids from the time I walked in the door," Petersen said. "They've always been willing to work hard and be competitive, and they're fun to be around. But as far as girls' athletics, the level of play has improved throughout the state, and I think it's largely because of the opportunities for girls to play sports."

Aside from the players, Petersen also couldn't say enough about his coaching staff.

"For a lot of the success we've had," Petersen said, "I have to give credit to not just the athletes, but also the assistants. My coaching staff is second to none. There's (Janet) Tooley, (Julie) Blaser, Gary (Luchsinger), Mrs. Dusel-Misfeldt, and Joan Lahm. I really enjoy working with them. A coach certainly can't do this by himself."

> *"I came to Scotus because the boys were very competitive, and there was no reason the girls wouldn't be as well.*
>
> **- John Petersen**

Janet Tooley, Petersen's assistant in volleyball, had nothing but complements for Coach Petersen as well.

"Mr. Petersen is very organized and well-prepared," Tooley said, "and he respects my ideas and what I have to say."

To gain such respect and relationship with coaches and players, Petersen has had to shape and mold his coaching style for his entire career.

"One of my biggest coaching influences is Terry Petit of Nebraska," Petersen said, referring to the former Husker volleyball coach. "I've worked his camp about 15 times during the summer. I got a lot of my knowledge from him. He was always a very calm guy, and he thought things through. But then there's other times where I see things Bobby Knight does, and I can take from that, but I think the most important thing as a coach is that you have to be yourself. You can't be trying to be someone else. There is a time to be vocal and a time to show your players they need to calm down. There is a fine line between the two."

Learning the balance between being vocal and being relaxed is just one of many qualities Petersen said a good coach should have.

"I think organization and preparation are key," Petersen said. "I try to plan my practices down to the minute.

There is more to coaching than just organizing and preparing for a practice though. You have to interact with your players, coaches, and opponents as well.

"You also have to be personable," Petersen said. "You have to enjoy what you are doing and you need to convey that to your athletes. You have to know how to win and lose with dignity."

A coach must also be working hard in season as well as out of season to gain any advantage possible.

ERIC GRUBAUGH/ROCK BOTTOM

Coach John Petersen smiles in his classroom in front of pictures of his 17 state tournament basketball and volleyball teams. This is Petersen's second nomination as national volleyball coach of the year.

"You have to be knowledgeable of your sport. I attend several clinics a year and I try to learn as much as I can. But a real disadvantage I had in volleyball is that I never had a chance to play it, so I'm constantly learning from other coaches and even the athletes."

Petersen also said a coach needs to be disciplined and have a great passion for the game. Tooley also had a quality to add to Petersen's list.

"[Coach Petersen] always has a concern to see that each athlete reaches their full potential, and I believe that's the greatest thing a coach could ever give an athlete."

The awards banquet is at the end of June in Connecticut. This, Petersen said, is probably the biggest difference between the first and second times, because the first banquet was in Lincoln.

"At the end of June my wife and I are going to go out [to Connecticut] and we're just going to have a good time. Whether I win or not, that's not even a concern. I don't think about it."

When Petersen travels off to the national convention, he can be sure he has a career's worth of athletes and coaches backing him all the way.

"I wish him the best of luck," Tooley said. "He's very deserving. I was shocked he didn't get it the first time. And if he doesn't get it this time, he can blame his assistants because in some way it's probably our fault."

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INSIDE: Checking in on former Scotus teachers

SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC

ROCK BOTTOM

Columbus, Nebraska | April, 2002 | Volume 4, Issue 8

Scotus to lose one of best, favorite teachers

Anthony Owens
Staff Reporter

Waking up at 4:30 in the morning can't be much fun. But it helps when you are getting up for a job you love and getting to help a community of people you care about. That's what Father Steve Emanuel does on a daily basis.

However, another part of the job description says that he can be uprooted at any time and moved to another community, and he gets no say in the decision.

Emanuel, a priest, teacher, and coach at Scotus, received a phone call from Archbishop Elden Curtis saying he was to be moved to a new assignment. Emanuel is not for sure where he is going, but Neligh, Nebraska, was mentioned.

"It will be a new challenge for me," Emanuel said. "It's always hard starting over."

Over the past five years at Scotus, most of Emanuel's days have begun between 4:30 to 5:00 in the morning. He gets ready, puts his black uniform and white collar on, and gets to school around 5:30. He gets to his classroom and has a good morning prayer before he starts his day of teaching Theology. After a long day of teaching and a mass during activity period, he changes into more casual clothes and helps coach extracurricular activities. By the time that is all over it is usually 6:00 p.m., and he may have an appointment or meeting till 8:00 or 9:00. It is a daily grind that Emanuel has gotten used to, and, at times, relishes.

> *"It will be a new challenge for me. It's always hard starting over.*
> **- Fr. Steve Emanuel**

"It doesn't really bother me too much," Emanuel said. "It is just a consequence of life."

It is very difficult leaving for a new home. Emanuel said leaving families, friends, and people you know is very difficult.

"When you invest yourself in something, a part of you always stays, and it is very tough to take it with you," he said.

Though Emanuel considers himself a good teacher, he said the students can decide.

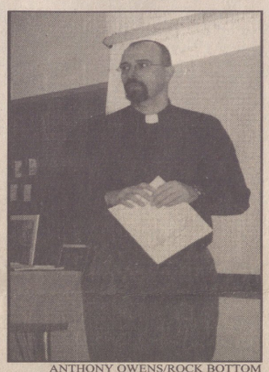
"Teaching is a talent that God has blessed me with," Emanuel said. "I can't judge myself as a good teacher; I have to leave that up to the students."

The students recognized that talent in 1999 when the student council named Emanuel Teacher of the Year. Senior Jake Staub is just one of many students who name Emanuel as his favorite students.

"I don't really like theology too much," Staub said, "but Father Steve makes it seem pretty interesting."

Some of the affection Scotus

*See **Emanuel**, page 5*



ANTHONY OWENS/ROCK BOTTOM

Father Steve Emanuel lectures a senior theology class on world religions. This will be Emanuel's last year at Scotus

MATT KRINGS/ROCK BOTTOM

Off to the races...

Senior Ryan Jarecki hands off the baton to junior Tyler Roewert on the last exchange of the 400 meter relay at the Knights of Columbus track meet last week. The relay's winning time of 43.8 seconds ranked third in the state, trailing only Seward and Omaha Central.

Much-debated schedule closer to finalization

Kelli Morrison
Staff Reporter

The schedule for the 2002-2003 school year seems to be still up for some debate, although the administration has narrowed it down to two options.

The proposed idea that appears to be the most likely one to be adopted is a plan where activity period will be moved to the beginning of the day. This time would be used for the same purpose as old activity period, namely meetings, but would not be mandatory for all students. WIthout activity period to watch Channel One, the school would also lose the televisions supplied by its contract with the organization.

Basically, the students would start first period at 8:30 and get out of school at 3:35, the same time school currently gets out.

This new schedule would address many issues and concerns of staff and students, but not all the issues are taken care of.There were still some concerns about having the high school starting later than the elementary schools for parents who provide transportation for students. Having school start later would also mean more morning supervision of students. Ther may also be some disturbances with the breakfast program.

With all the conflicts not being addressed, the old schedule may just have to stay in place for next year. The schedule is there to make the best use of the student and teachers' time, however early one may have to get up.

Next Year's Proposed Schedule

Period 1.....8:30
Period 2.....9:20
Period 3.....10:10
Period 4.....11:00
Period 5.....11:50
Period 6.....1:09
Period 7.....1:59
Period 8.....2:49-3:35

4 minute passing periods

Vocation Fair calls students to find their role in the church

Kelli Morrison
Staff Reporter

The call.

That's what the students are supposed to answer at this year's Omaha Archdiosin Vocations Fair. Scotus, along will all the high schools in the Omaha Archdiocese, will be participating in the event scheduled for Thursday, April 24.

The Fair will be a compilation of events geared toward calling students to be a part of the church. The fair consists of several booths scattered throughout the floor, several speakers, five to six video segments, a concert, lunch, and mass. Each speaker and video will address a different part of the vocation idea. The purpose of the fair, according to Scotus Principal Wayne Morfeld, is to help students better understand vocations.

Scotus students will meet at school at 5:40 a.m. to be loaded on buses. Students will be required to adhere to the normal school dress code and should return to Columbus at about 5:30 p.m.

Prom Committee decorates to impress for the big night

Craig Staroscik
Editor

There are some people who complain about having to do so much preparation before prom. They have to run out and buy a dress, matching accessories, get their hair done, rent limousines, and the list goes on. What some students do not know is the amount of time that goes into planning an event this big.

Every year it is the junior class's job to set up the annual dance. Beginning a year in advance, juniors, with the help of junior class sponsors Kelly Schaad and Bonnie Kreikemeier, plan everything.

Preparation starts as soon as the previous prom ends as locations are reserved for April. Then, during the first weeks of school in September class officers are picked and the decoration committee is formed. The real work comes during the last few weeks before the big night when everything has to fall into place. Junior Andrea Johnson felt some of this pressure.

"It takes a lot of work," said Johnson. "We spent four or five activity periods deciding over decorations."

After getting the decorations, they must be put together. The committee starts this about two weeks before prom. The group spent last Friday afternoon assembling decorations. Tonight they will meet to decorate the American Legion building and finish the last touches Saturday morning.

ROCK BOTTOM PHOTO

Juniors Andrea Johnson, Kasey Sliva and junior class co-sponsor Bonnie Kreikemeier work on decorations for prom. Weeks of preparation and planning go into putting on the annual dance.

One of the aspects of prom that makes it so interesting is that it is put together largely by students. Although the class sponsors may put in more hours than students in preparation, students design the whole layout of prom. The theme and all the decorations that go with it are chosen by members of the decorating committee and approved by the sponsors. Students also are in charge of the majority of construction of the items they chose to decorate with, preparing the senior roast, and as well as several other smaller tasks. Students like Megan Zarek, another member of the decorating committee, think that this is one way to help student appreciate the atmosphere more.

"I think that it is easier to appreciate if students pick it out," said Zarek. "We might be able to pick out decorations that everyone likes and students can see how much work we put into it."

Prom is only a twice in a lifetime event, so students and teachers come together to try and make it the best it can be. Some aspects of prom cannot be changed, but those working hard to prepare for the dance strive to do their part in making it a special night. After it is all over, one may wonder if it was truly worth going through all the work

*See **Prom**, page 3*

ROCK BOTTOM, Scotus Central Catholic High School, Columbus, NE
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Pep rallies need help from student input, careful planning

The backlash of the last Scotus pep rally left a sour taste in the mouths of students and faculty. It started off as a fun game, but turned into a staunch display of vulgarity and ignorance.

Remembering the amazing (and humorous) performance the three sports coaches did at last year's rally, the school was expecting something even better this time around. Unfortunately they were bitterly disappointed, as the main highlight was a made-up cheer about "licking the Scotus Cheerleaders." No, thanks.

It's apparent this rally went through absolutely no filtering or polishing process. The low point was a game that involved two people holding a balloon in-between their stomachs while racing across the gym floor. At the end of the floor they had to bounce their stomachs together to break the balloon. That raised a few eyebrows.

Different types of humor have their proper places in the world. Sexual innuendos and lampooning do not belong in a school pep rally.

Rather than eliminate pep rallies, Principal Wayne Morfeld said the content would simply have to be reviewed beforehand. Perhaps that will aid in increasing the quality of the rallies.

We do not wish to sound ungrateful for the effort of the cheerleaders. We know that they revived the near-dead squad and are very enthusiastic about what they do. The pep rallies simply need some fine-tuning. A few simple changes can turn things around

The pressure of coming up with entertaining pep rallies does not have to rest on the cheerleaders' shoulders alone. Those of you who sit in the stands and complain are more than welcome to contribute your ideas. The seniors could come up with some entertaining skits, as those three teachers did last year. We're sure the cheerleaders and administration would be open to suggestions.

With that in mind, we look to the upcoming review policy for assistance, as the rallies are in dire need of revamping. With more careful planning, approval from faculty, and more student input, the pep rallies can remain fun and humorous, but without the toilet humor.

Watching television is not a waste of time, but kind of

I like TV.

Known fact.

I believe my watching it in abundance stems from the fact that it was rationed when I was a small child. Back then, a half-hour of telly goodness was just enough to get me through the week. On weeknights, it was the *Cosby Show* and *Full House*. The mornings when I was granted the privilege of watching telly, I was glued to *Today's Special, Sesame Street*, and *Zoobilee Zoo*. As grade school droned on, my horizons expanded to such great shows like *Saved by the Bell, Family Matters*, and *Clarissa Explains It All*. Ah, the classics…

Now it's *Friends, Ally McBeal, The Simpsons, ER, Malcolm in the Middle*, and *Saturday Night Live*. And various others. And when I say "various", I mean "a lot more than I just mentioned."

Lately, I've been too busy to watch most of those shows. But whenever I'm tired, bored, or just plain cravin' it, I put on my old man pajamas and switch on the magical box I've come to know only as "Telly." It's great. I actually feel dumber after watching it. Even when I watch educational shows like *E! True Hollywood Story*, or *Behind the Music* I leave the couch feeling numb and stupid. But there are worse things to be addicted to. Such as video games. (*cough* Mike Adelman *cough*…) Or gambling. Or reading. Or porn.

I still like to read, but when it's 3 o'clock in the morning and you can't sleep, reading just seems unreasonable. My friends are shocked at my television knowledge, just as I am shocked at their lack of television watching hours.

But television isn't always so friendly. It has played many a mean trick on me over the years. Like in *Saved by the Bell*, they all started off living and going to school at Bayside Jr. High in Indiana, and magically, a year later, Bayside High landed in California. Along with all the teachers, students, and Mr. Belding.

I sometimes miss that dizzy, dumb feeling I get after hitting a couple of late night sitcoms.

How misleading.

Don't even get me started on what happened to Jesse and Kelly when Tory started going to Bayside. They just disappeared! With no explanation at all! In *Family Matters*, Laura used to have a little sister. But no one remembers that little girl or even mentions her after the first couple of seasons.

One might think *Ally McBeal* would be above disappearing characters or shifty plot lines. But no such luck. Ally's roommate, Renee, disappeared with no explanation. Even a lawyer at their firm, (I forget his name, but he had a crucial role) disappeared and no one mentions him anymore. Lost forever. He's that one guy who kind of dated Elaine and went out with a girl that wasn't really a girl.

And he disappeared. They could have at least made up some lame excuse. But no. I guess David E. Kelly is beyond *that* nonsense.

We should all watch responsibly and take note of any shady happenings on our favorite shows. Although I am recovering from my telly addiction, I sometimes miss that dizzy, dumb feeling I get after hitting a couple late night sitcoms.

Here's some "deep" thoughts. But not that deep. Because I'm tired and running out of ideas.

"Idleness is the nest where mischief lays its eggs." - McGuffy's Reader

"Sometimes ya just gotta push someone down the stairs and blame it on gravity."

"The only thing worse than a purposely mean person is a person who just tries really hard to be mean and fails. How hard can it be? I do it all the time."

"Anything you do wrong in life can be blamed on swallowing toothpaste as a child."

"It tastes like burning." - Ralph Wiggam

Now I'm outta here faster than a legless guy in a cakewalk.

Pointless label warnings degrade human intelligence

"Surgeon General's Warning: Smoking is hazardous to your health. This product may lead to cancer…"

Everyone has heard the familiar warning on all cigarette boxes. Products that are potentially harmful have cautions there to protect us, or at least tell us what we shouldn't do with that particular product. Whether or not we heed this advice is up to us. Nowadays, though, it seems like every product you buy comes with some sort of warning on it, and some of them make me step back and just scratch my head.

Fireworks packages read: "Danger: Explosive." Oh really? I thought they were just decorations for the Fourth of July. Hmmm…now I better be sure not to use them anywhere near fire or matches or anything like that, I might accidentally light one, and God knows what would happen then.

A bottle of children's aspirin, for ages 12 and under, says: "Do not operate heavy machinery after taking." Oh, thank goodness, my 8-year-old just took two of these and was about to leave for work in the construction yard. I better tell him not to run the forklifts or bulldozers today.

"Do not turn product upside-down," reads the bottom of the box for a small glass figurine…well, there's something that could have been brought to my attention on TOP of the box, maybe even the sides, but why the bottom? They should have put something more under that warning that says: "If you can read this, it's too late."

Why are these cautions necessary? Has intelligence gone so far downhill that we need to be told fireworks explode? My guess is that the warnings were put there after the company was sued for a consumer's foolish mistake. Someone lit a firework and couldn't run away fast enough:

Hmmm…there's no warning about these things exploding and burning me like this. Maybe if I make it look like I wasn't such an idiot, then I can sue this company for making these things…too…fireworky…"

Products that are potentially harmful have cautions there to protect us, or at least tell us what we shouldn't do with that particular product.

Then some person took the children's aspirin on accident before working with heavy machinery. Instead of setting the steel rafter on the top of the structure, the worker brought the entire structure to the ground:

"Wow, must be that aspirin I took that made me lightheaded or something, because it couldn't possibly be my own clumsiness that caused this, so surely it must be something else. And I bet there's not a warning on the bottle about heavy machinery mishaps. This is money in the bank."

Speaking of medicine, what is with the commercials for new medicine products that have nothing but warnings of the harmful things the medicine can do to you:

(In a nice, easy-to-understand tone) "Buy new 'Allergia' and get rid of your runny nose and puffy eyes for good."

(In a voice even an auctioneer would have to admire) "Warning: Product may cause drowsiness, dry mouth, runny nose, puffy eyes, swelling of the liver, arthritis, bursitis, appendicitis, tonsillitis, anythingitis, left big toe cancer, purpling of the skin, insomnia, and/or allergic reactions."

As for the glass product warning, I shouldn't even touch this one…but I will. Obviously someone damaged the product by turning the box upside-down prematurely:

"Well they didn't tell me I shouldn't turn it upside down. I thought it would look nicer if I just left it in the box and set it on my coffee table upside-down instead of taking it out of the box and then setting it up like every other person who bought this product. I should sue the company for my money back…and…$6.3 million in mental anguish."

Which brings up another idea: money, greed, but I could rant and rave about that for an entirely different column (note to self…).

How sad is it that some people have to be warned that fireworks explode? Obviously the majority of people are smart enough to figure out 'hey it's on fire, I'd better get away before I get burned and look like a complete fool,' but there's always those people that are so thick-headed they just drag the rest of us down with them. They just have to test the boundaries of everything—which is not normally a bad thing—but there's a difference between testing boundaries and common sense. Now if you'll excuse me I'm going to go drive 60 mph head-on into an oncoming semi just to see if my airbag is working OK.

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Scotus remains a positive place as world morale deterioriates

"All I want to do is to thank you, even though I don't know who you are."

That's how the song goes. I'm not sure who sings it or even what it is called. Ask anyone who knows me; I'm lucky if I can name four Beatles songs. Whoever wrote the song though, I would like to thank them, because the first time I heard the song it made me smile.

Maybe a smile is not that much anymore. In fact, it sometimes seems like a dying commodity. Scotus is one of the few places where you can still pick out at least a few people smiling in the hallway during the day. Outside the confines of this building can result in a whole different reality. It seems everyone has a million things to do, a hundred places to be, and almost no time to stop and smile, especially if it is around someone you do not know.

The grim realization of how true this is can be experienced any day just by looking around you. Look at the faces of the people driving past you (carefully, of course, so you do not run into them.) It is incredible how many people appear as if they are about ready to commit a felony, just driving in their car. Walk around Wal-Mart (where else would you be shopping?) and glance at people's faces. Even the friendly smiles in every aisle at Hy-Vee are gone. If you need a better situation, go to somewhere besides Columbus. Omaha is a great example. There are so many apathetic people that it is depressing just to look out your parent's SUV window, let alone getting over the polite hand gesture that some drivers give you when you're not speeding.

This is why I love this school so much. At any given time, no matter what classroom I'm in I can see someone smiling. It is impossible not to be smiled at in the hallway as long as you make eye contact. Scotus has to be one of the most positive places I know.

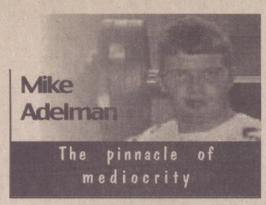
Human nature is to disagree. Certainly, there is someone out there who will argue that Omaha is the utopia of metropolitans or that Scotus is less than positive. If you feel that way, like I sometimes have, then it is our job to change it.

Whether or not we want to pretend, there are actually students in this building who do not feel the same way I do. There are students who only get smiled at when someone is laughing at them or while being made fun of. It is not something that I'm proud of or that can be made into a joke. It is something that I think we can all change.

My goal is not to criticize those who do the jesting. I think they get enough attention for what they do wrong the way it is. I would like to send out a humongous thank you to those of you who strive everyday to make this building the positive, light-hearted, and fun place that it is. It is not easy to buck the trend, to put on a radiant face in this world where we have so much to do, so much stress, and so much responsibility. Yet I see so many of you everyday as I walk through this building the same way I have for the past five years. Whether you are laughing with your friends at the lunch table, smiling at one of your students in the front of the classroom, or just saying "Hi" as you pass me in the halls, thank you for making this place such a wonderful school to spend every weekday.

Maybe it sounds fictitious, but I like going to school. I like to express myself through what I do best and belong to this community, no matter how cliquey it can become. Scotus should not be a place of strangers like outside these doors. Perhaps through a little bit of work on everyone's part we can make it better. All it takes is a smile. I would especially like to thank those of you who already care enough to let your own true self shine through, making all of us smile. Whoever you are.

All-day vocation fair bound to put uninterested students to sleep



The requirements of the Archdiocese Vocations Fair have me a bit flustered. There is a plethora of problems that students have, which go unheard, as they are forced to attend unless they have the written permission of a doctor.

The fact that we are being forced to go shows the tyrannical and conceited nature of those putting it on. If they really cared, they would realize that someone who is clearly not interested in becoming a priest or sister would not want to attend in the first place, and allow a foreseen absence to occur.

The length of this particular day is utterly ridiculous. How can the Archdiocese expect Scotus students to load a bus at 6:00 am, drive to Omaha, listen to a bunch of stuff, and arrive at home at about 5:00 pm? Does the phrase "I have other stuff to do" mean anything to them? Apparently not.

The itinerary for the day is lackluster at best. Speakers and videos and extremely short breaks make up the bulk of the day. It's like they're pounding students into submission with loads of information. On top of that, most of the videos are about becoming a priest. What are the girls supposed to be doing this whole time? Listen how to become something they cannot? I predict the students will poorly receive the majority of the day, and the videos and speakers will be met with half-asleep stares and wishes of being home.

> **Does the phrase "I have other stuff to do" mean anything to them? Apparently not.**

Along with inevitable boredom come possible behavior problems. Students looking for an out for their boredom will be sorely disappointed with the disciplinary actions outlined in the itinerary. On top of that, normally friendly tension between rival schools could lead to rowdy behavior as the frustrating and tedious day drags on.

I won't even go into the horrible public exposure this will get. I don't want to be on some news camera at an event I don't want to be at so my parents can see me on TV. I'm betting the Archdiocese will brag about how many students showed up, when the know they forced everyone to go.

Is this a pretty picture? I didn't think so. Yet it is the mostly likely of the scenarios. If a leader makes a group of people do something they are strongly opposed to, they will get angry. Period. A good deal of the student body is angry right now because they are being forced to do something that, in their eyes, lacks a purpose. No purpose will be found at the event if students go in to it close-minded, which they undoubtedly will.

Oh well, I guess I'll just log some hours on my Game Boy on the bus, while wearing my comfortable school uniform.

Rock Bottom staff receives recognition in state contest

Matt Krings
Staff Reporter

Several members of the *Rock Bottom* staff have recently won state-wide recognition for their writing skills. Eric Grubaugh, Mike Adelman, Craig Staroscik, and Lauren Maul each placed among the top three in their respective categories at the Nebraska State Journalism Competition. As a paper, the *Rock Bottom* finished fourth among Class B high school newspapers. McCook High School took top honors in Class B.

Adelman placed first in Class B in Editorial Writing as well as a runner-up in sports news. Staroscik received two runners-up in both sports feature writing and news writing. For his "Coloring Out of the Lines" columns, Grubaugh finished second in Class B column writing. The entertainment was provided by Maul, finishing third in the entertainment category.

The overall top twelve placers in each category, regardless of class, will be competing in the State Journalism Contest in Lincoln on April 27. Adelman qualified in both of his categories, and Staroscik will be competing in the sports feature writing contest. Maul will also represent Scotus in the entertainment writing category.

Prom

from page 1

and effort just for one night.

"It is like a wedding," said Schaad, "you put so much work into it and in one night it is over. I think it is fun to see it all come together. It's all that you make of it."

The decorating committee hopes that their touch will help make the most of prom. Even if someone does not have a ball on the dance floor, at least they can have fun looking at the scenery.

Students leave school to go to work

Lauren Maul
Editor

There have been a few students cutting class at Scotus. Where do they go? Shopping at the 30 Center Mall? Home to watch TV? Or are they simply faking sick?

It turns out those kids actually *are* sick. They've been diagnosed with a crazy strain of "Workin' Fever."

Either that, or they are participating in Diversified Occupations.

Patti Salyard, the teacher in charge of Diversified Occupations, has been running this job-shadowing program for about four years.

"Diversified Occupations gives kids a good idea about whether a particular career choice is right for them," said Salyard.

To get into the semester class, one must turn in recommendations from three different teachers, a paragraph why they want to be in the class, what their career interests are, and where they would like to job shadow. Once the student is admitted to the class, they are allowed to leave school in order to job-shadow at their business of choice. But problems arise when students can't find a business dealing in their career preferences.

"Because we are in a smaller town," said Salyard, "some career choices aren't available, making it difficult for students to find jobs they're interested in."

> **"*Diversified Occupations gives kids a good idea about whether a particular career choice is right for them.*
> - Patti Salyard"**

Despite the size of Columbus, many students have found a business where they have chosen to job shadow and have learned quite a few things while working there.

Lindsay Schmidt, a Scotus senior, is currently job shadowing at Pet Care Specialists.

"It's definitely not boring," said Schmidt. "Plus, you get out of school and it's a good opportunity to expand your horizons."

Heather Scribner, another senior, job shadowed a doctor for her Diversified Occupations class.

"You see a lot of weird things," said Scribner, "but that's confidential. This class is great to get some career background and make sure you're doing what you want to do."

But Diversified Occupations isn't just about leaving school early at the end of the day. You also must keep a daily journal about what you learned on the job, prepare a resume/application letter, a follow-up letter, and a resignation letter. At the end of the semester, students are also assigned to write a career paper, summing up their experiences.

If Diversified Occupations is something you are interested, the class is offered to juniors and seniors each semester. For more information, contact Patty Salyard.

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CRAIG STAROSCIK/ROCK BOTTOM

CRAIG STAROSCIK/ROCK BOTTOM

Scotus' lunch program would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of its employees. **Top:** Cathy Hoops manages the majority of cafeteria paperwork from her office, but is still found in the freezers or lunchlines to do her job. **Left:** Scotus' lunch program supplies meals to five schools, including St. Bonaventure students at Scotus.

Craig Staroscik
Editor

Regardless of class, year, or setting, it is always the focal point of topic. It is read more often than textbooks, computer monitors, and bathroom graffiti combined. As students read this paper from their desks in fourth period classrooms, it is right now in the back of their minds.

The lunch menu and everything that it means to Scotus students can only be described as absolutely essential. Fifth period means lunch, a break from the usual classroom, and most importantly, a chance to eat.

Rumors go around about the horrors of cafeteria food in high schools all over the country. Scotus' cafeteria, lead by Food Service Manager Cathy Hoops, strives to ensure that this school's lunchroom does not become just another adobe for "mystery meat."

For 28 years Hoops has worked in the Scotus lunch program managing books, designing menus, and when necessary serving up a batch of cinnamon rolls. If trying to figure out how to feed 850 people 5 days a week is not a tough job, then people must not know power of the human stomach.

"I've been here so long that I don't think about it anymore," said Hoops. "It is a big responsibility, but the program here at Scotus helps everything to fit together."

For the past 12 years Hoops has been in charge of running the lunch program. She is in charge of a 12-member team of cooks and servers that help provide meals for Scotus, St. Bonaventure Grade School, Emmanuel Lutheran Grade School and Daycare, and Trinity Lutheran Daycare. She works in cooperation with guideline set by the American Food Service Association to make sure that every day's items are not only what students need, but food student enjoy eating.

Hoops started as a baker, but her current position details the part of school lunches that students often overlook. Her responsibility is to ensure that the whole operation is organized. Starting at 6:30 in the morning, Hoops is up and setting up for the breakfast program. Throughout the morning she has a variety of tasks: preparing out of school lunch deliveries, talking with food vendors, preparing the days meal, shelving deliveries, and making sure that the program is running on track. When the cafeteria staff is short, Hoops subs. When new menus need to be thought up or rewritten, Hoops takes care of that, too. In fact, you can see her in almost any role in the lunchroom, even in her least favorite job.

"The worst part of working is in the freezer," Hoops said. "The lifting in the freezer, the cold, and there is always so much work in there."

Hoops says that her role is only a small part of the intricate balance in the cafeteria. Without the hard work and dedication of my staff, she said, the whole place would fall apart. Indeed it would. It is not any ordinary group of people that can bake 575 runzas, fry up 1300 grilled cheese sandwiches, and prepare the 190 pounds of French fries a body of student can consume in one meal. All this and more is accomplished by a dozen ladies in less than six hours.

Aside from the everyday hustle and bustle of standard meal preparations, Hoops also controls everything about the new menus that get added. It takes about five hours to make up a lunch menu for one month, said Hoops. Some of her job remains the same as it was when she took over for former Food Service Manager Clara Fletcher. The lasagna, meatballs, and all the cookie recipes have remained unchanged for years. She also tries to incorporate new foods in the lunch program to fit students ever-changing tastes, replacing meatloaf and tuna casserole with new meals like runzas, nachos, and chicken fajitas.

Hoops' job is a difficult yet important one. She says that it is worth it, even with all the effort, to hear parents or students compliment her on the meals.

"Every day is different, every day is a challenge," Hoops said, "ant that's what makes it interesting."

Acting well their parts, new Thespians are initiated to group

Kelli Morrison
Staff Reporter

It is spring in the halls of Scotus once again. For some students this means one thing: public humiliation.

Thespian initiation has long been a tradition at Scotus. The purpose of this humiliation is not the pure, twisted pleasure of the members, unless you count Thespian President Lauren Maul.

"As a thespian and someone who likes to be mean," said Maul, "I look forward to thespian initiation every year. It's a tradition."

It is to teach the initiates basic acting skills and how to play a part in any situation.

"It's to challenge their acting and performance skills," said Troupe Sponser Sandie Bernt.

The initiates are made to take on difficult and weird tasks in order to be admitted into the illustrious group. Each member must have participated for at least two years in Speech Team, One-Act, All School Play, or Musical, in any combination. The members must pay dues and be active in any event the troupe is involved in, and of course, must undergo the one-week initiation.

The initiation has changed over the years. According to Maul the initiation used to cost initiates too much money, many would be reduced to crying, and the demands were very hard on all. This year new guidelines have been set to prevent any conflicts.

During this year's initiation the students have had several projects to do. On Monday the initiates were made to wear a make-shift television around their necks that depicted something from the 80's, they also had an essay on how 80's television changed their lives due bright and early at 7:30 am. On Tuesday the initiates were assigned posters designed by the members with specific instructions on what they must be like. The initiates also had to buy the members breakfast.

On Wednesday the initiates were made to carry around props that were given to them. Thursday was 80's trivia day. The initiates were quizzed to the best of their ability. Then came Friday, the only day most of the students know. Friday was costume day. The initiates had to spend one passing period in Mrs. Johnson's windows with a pose in a stupid costume. The initiates were not allowed to move or laugh, most bear it well.

There are other perks to being a thespian, too. The acting skills it teaches you helps you become the best you can be, according to sophomore initiate Amanda Krings. One may also put it on their resume for life, and theater companies and colleges look favorably on this involvement.

Being a thespian is not all the initiation, but that's a big part of it. When you see someone running through the hall barking remember: they have to work hard to become one of the few, the humiliated, the thespians.

KELLI MORRISON/ROCK BOTTOM

Sophmore Katie Ingram breakdances in the hallway. Dancing is just on of the pointless tasks initiates must perform during thier week of Thespian torture.

Where are they now?

Mike Adelman
Matt Krings
Rock Bottom Staff

Throughout the years at Scotus many teachers have come and gone. Their reasons for joining and leaving are different, but one thing about their lives at Scotus remains the same: change is inevitable. Several teachers that once taught here were interviewed to see what they are doing now...

Chris McGill taught at Scotus through the 2000-01 school year. He was an English teacher and head soccer coach. He moved to Omaha last summer and is currently teaching at Bryan High School.

McGill said that the environment there is different. Bryan is a Class A school with about 1,400 students. He said he teaches four English classes that are an hour-and-a-half each, due to Bryan's block scheduling. This means that students have four classes a day on one day, then a different four classes the next.

"Discipline wise it is a lot different," McGill said. "There's an element of non-motivation [for some students]."

McGill is also continuing his coaching endeavors, as he coaches soccer at Bryan. Though he does the same things there that he did here, he emphasized that there is a difference between the two schools.

"I do miss Scotus," he said. "It was time for me to move on, and I think I made the right choice."

There was a period of adjustment at Bryan High School, though. McGill said he has to treat classes differently than he did here.

"It was frustrating at first here. It's frustrating and sad [to see unmotivated students]," he said. "I'm not able to 'build class unity' anymore, either."

Kevin Dodson taught at Scotus through the 1998-99 school year. He was an English teacher and coached football and track. He currently resides in North Platte and teaches at St. Patrick's High School, his alma mater.

"North Platte is similar to Columbus in many ways," Dodson said. "The population is about 24,000. St. Patrick's is a class C-2 school."

Dodson continues his teaching and coaching at St. Patrick's.

"I teach English, Health, P.E., and weightlifting," he said. "I'm currently coaching football, junior high wrestling, and track."

Dodson took a football program that was winless when he arrived to a 9-1 team that ranked in the top five for most of the 2001 season.

With the load of activities he partakes, one has to wonder where Dodson finds time for sentimentality.

"I miss the friends I made in teachers and students (at Scotus)," Dodson said. "There's a lot of similarities between the two towns, though."

Tom Walding served as Scotus' principal up into the 1999-2000 school year. After his time here he spent some time substitute teaching in his current home city of Norfolk. Walding is now retired and enjoys keeping up his lawn, garden, and house.

"I'm doing all the things that make me happy," Walding said.

Walding was the principal for thirteen years, and has enjoyed watching the kids grow up. The great success of the students had a lot to do with the superb faculty, Walding said. He said that he always remembers how up-beat and cooperative all the teachers at Scotus were.

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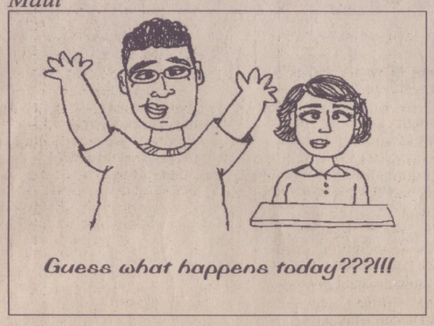
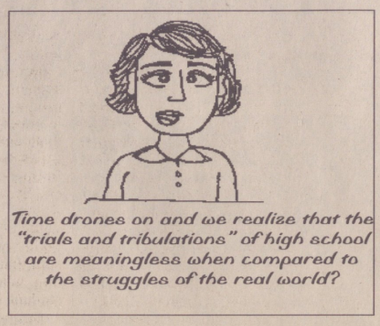
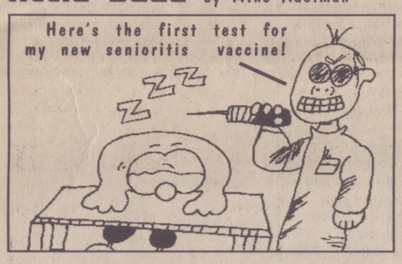
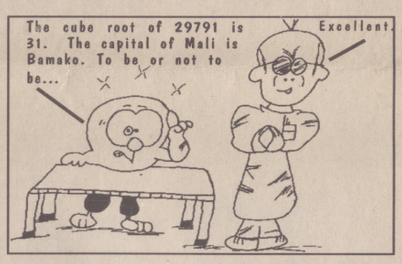
LEAD PAINT CHIPS *by Lauren Maul*





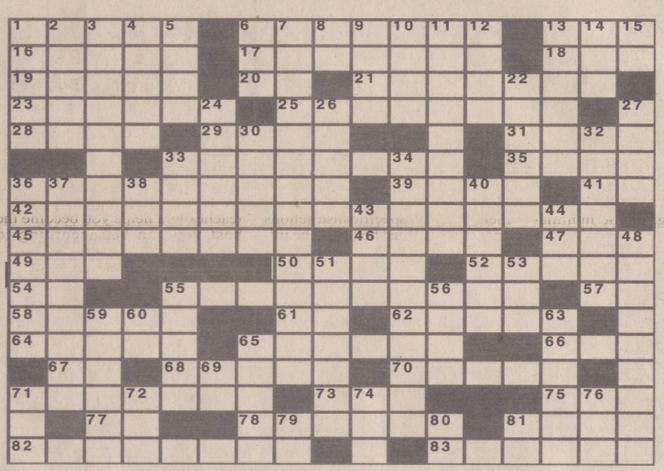
little Dude by Mike Adelman





Across
1. Binder of quarks
6. Frozen island
13. Armed conflict
16. Grazing land
17. Hollow muffin
18. Gone by
19. Semiprecious gems
20. Salvation Army
21. Can be lifted
23. Resource
25. Set of bones
28. Famous Scottish lake
29. Middle East country: __r
31. Easterner on a ranch
33. Section of a category
35. Single part of 33 across
36. Brilliant
39. White and Blue rivers
41. Symbol of Nobelium
42. Protectors of nature
45. Supervisor
46. To encourage
47. Damp
49. Shake of head
50. Water blocks
52. Remove mark
54. Integrated circuit
55. Bird's fruit
57. Second largest state
58. Small difference: N___
61. Mail Order
62. Easter message: He is ___
64. Your brother's daughter
65. Experience again
66. Sphere
67. National Guard
68. Natural view: ____c
70. To modify
71. Furnace
73. Bristle appendage of grass
75. Cattle call
77. Transformational grammar
78. To combust
81. Bird of prey
82. Southern dances
83. Resides

Down
1. Noise of pain
2. To go by
3. Not allotted
4. Stares
5. Bird's home
6. Inches per second
7. Males that protect beach
8. European Plain
9. To make a hole
10. Not nice
11. Powdered sedative
12. Small rough stones
13. Type of nut
14. Classification of years
15. Read only
20. Corpses
24. Knight's apprentice
26. Limestone cave
27. Trial
30. Over
32. Most packed
33. Super Nintendo entertainment system
34. Not attentive
36. City in SW Turkey (Konya)
37. Dentist's procaine
38. Electron spin resonance
40. 2000 mL, = 2 ___
43. A prosody
44. Trans World Airlines
48. Schoolbooks
51. Dialect of ancient Greece
53. Grain and bread
55. Birds of 55 across
56. Currency of Cambodia
59. To make invalid
60. Cubic Centimeter
63. Not odd
65. Polymerized synthetic
69. Symbol of Chromium
71. Questioning expression
72. Just a little
74. Hairpiece
76. Nocturnal bird
79. General staff
80. Education
81. Him



Scotus † -word

By Craig Staroscik

Emanuel

from page 1

students have toward Emanuel was shown just before Christmas, when the seniors decorated the senior hallway to the theme of "O Come, O Come, Emanuel." The decorations were highlighted with little drawings of the priest on each locker and posters of some of Emanuel's favorite sayings.

Another priest will replace Emanuel as campus chaplain, while another person will assume his teaching duties.

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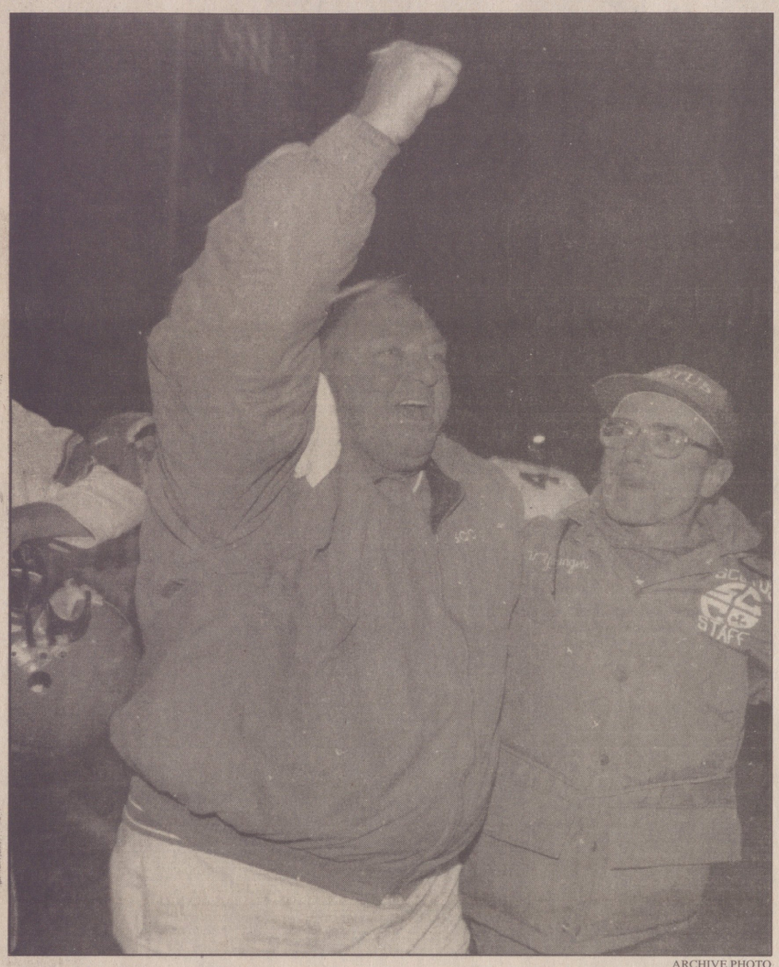
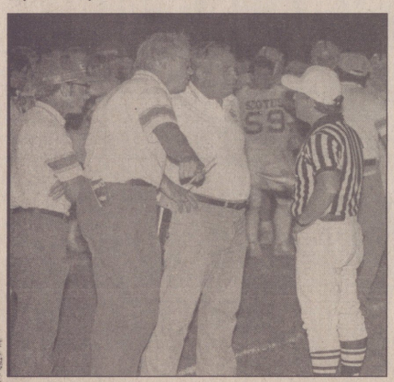
THE END OF AN ERA

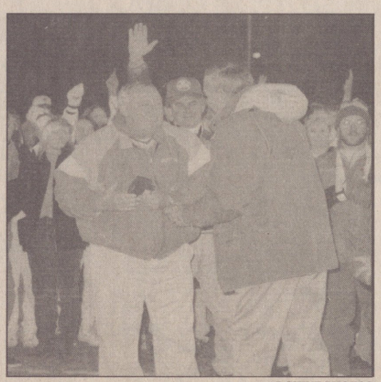
Puetz announces retirement after 31 year legacy as head coach



ARCHIVE PHOTO

Coach Puetz celebrates his second state championship as head coach in 1993. He walks with assistant Vern Younger after defeating Hastings Adams Central in a blow-out 42-24 championship game to top off the perfect 13-0 season.





ARCHIVE PHOTOS

Puetz's coaching career spans the ages. **Left:** Assistant coaches Vern Younger, Randy Berlin, and Puetz discuss a call with an official in the early 80's. **Right:** Puetz accepts the coach's award for coaching the 1993 state football champions with a crowd of Shamrock supporters cheering on in the background.

Eric Grubaugh
Staff Reporter

During his coaching career at Scotus alone, he has seen more than most people will witness in a lifetime. The Cold War, Vietnam, Watergate, the death of disco, and the fall of the Berlin Wall are only a few of the events that have occurred during his extensive career. After 35 years, 3 state championships, and 28 winning seasons, Jim Puetz has decided to step down from his coaching position at Scotus.

The road to becoming a Shamrock legend began at Keya Paha County High School in Springview, Nebraska, where Puetz spent one year as football coach. He then spent two years at Central City where he was an assistant football coach, and then he went on to coach at Nebraska City Lourdes, staying two years as the head football coach. Puetz has been at Scotus for 35 years where he has been head football coach for 31 years, head track coach, and also boys' golf coach.

> ***"Overall it's been a long successful run, and 99% of my memories will be very pleasant."***
> **- Jim Puetz**

Puetz gives a lot of credit for his successes to others.

"What makes a championship team is solid athletes," Puetz said, "and you hear this as a common cliché, but there has to be chemistry. You need strong senior leadership, and we've had that here. There's also a luck factor though. Sometimes it's just the way the ball bounces and staying away from injury."

However, athletes and luck won't get you far without a coach to gel them together, and a coach must have some great qualities to stay in the game for such a long time.

"As a coach you have to have enthusiasm," Puetz said. "You have to be a motivator and you have to have knowledge of the game you're coaching. You also have to get along with your community: parents, coaches, players, fans. If you can't get along with the people, you're not going to be around long."

But Puetz has stuck around for quite long, and such an extensive coaching career is bound to bring a bounty of great memories.

"One of my memories is my first year at Scotus in 1967," Puetz said. "We had an undermanned squad and we won a state championship. Also, obviously, the undefeated state championships of 1984 and 1993."

Although an incredible feat in itself, a championship is not always the greatest of memories.

"One of my favorite memories came against Pius X in 1997," Puetz said. "They were undefeated state champs from the year before, and we just crushed them."

But with so many positive memories, there are always negatives to go along.

"You don't really want to say losing as a low point," Puetz said, "but losing the close games [was one of the low points] and also getting beat in the 1997 and 1998 playoffs. Overall though it's been a long, successful run, and 99% of my memories will be very pleasant."

Indeed comparing Puetz's list of positives to negatives, the positives greatly outweigh the negatives, so there must be some very good reasons to step away from the game.

"I was losing the enthusiasm to go to practice," Puetz said. "Losses were becoming more difficult. I thought it would get easier as I got older."

Puetz also included age as a factor.

"I'll be 62 next football season; I just feel it's time for some new blood."

The new blood will have to succeed a regular legend in Nebraska high school football. But even this legend can't give enough thanks to the people around him.

"I have to thank the students and athletes for their great support," Puetz said. "Also the administration, the faculty, and the fans. The fans here are the best, and they add up to our reason for success. Not just in football, but in everything."

Puetz also gives credit to his coaching staff.

"I have to give a tremendous thanks to Mr. Vern Younger," Puetz said, "who has been coaching with me for 35 years, and also my brother Gary who has been coaching with me for 27 years. They are both a big, big reason for my success."

Gary Puetz will be stepping down from coaching, also. Jim Puetz also included the rest of his family in all his thanks.

"I have to thank my family for giving me the opportunity to spend so much time away from them."

Jim Puetz will remain at Scotus teaching and coaching the boys' golf team. He now only looks back on his football coaching.

"It's been a lot of fun," Jim Puetz said, "and I've always been very blessed with exceptionally good, highly motivated athletes who had winning attitudes and also a long-term, loyal coaching staff."

He never hesitates to thank so many others, but he is not only the coach, but also husband, father, brother, and teacher who has given countless others great opportunities himself, and for that Jim Puetz is owed a great debt of gratitude from all those whose lives he has touched.

The Puetz Coaching Record

1984- State Champion (13-0-0)
1993- State Champion (13-0-0)
1984-85- Neb. Coaches Assoc. Football Coach of the Year
1994- Lincoln Journal Star's Boys Coach of the Year
1997- NFICA Nebraska Football Coach of the Year
Career Record 232- 98- 6 (.699 winning percentage)
Record at Scotus 223-83-3 (.726 winning percentage)

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Football Track team brings home the Gold!!!

Richard Simmons
Mock Bottom Fitness Director

The football track team has recently been awarded with the National Fine Athletes Trophy! Captain Josh Giustra was the headliner of the season with his amazing time in the "Run for the Roses." This thoroughbred runner clocked in an amazing time of 15 seconds, shattering the previous record of six minutes, set by our own Mike Adelman. This may be a state record in the prestigious "couch to refrigerator event" which Giustra hopes to compete in this summer.

Mr. T

"I don't know how I did it," Giustra said. "I know I ate Burger King that morning. Hey, maybe they'll let me endorse them now!"

Giustra plans to propose to the fast-food chain in hopes of receiving free food for life.

"It was an amazing sight to see," said his coach. "There was literally a blur of light as he ran. The pavement was ripped from the street."

The bleachers event also yielded a victory for the superior athlete.

"I know I cut my time on the bleachers because I didn't have to stop and ask for directions this time," Giustra said.

Bryan Thames did quite well in the hurdles event. Of course, the coaches did have to tie a steak in front of his head to get him to run.

"I didn't even know I was running in an event," he said. "I was just chasing after this steak that appeared to be floating in the air. I had to jump over a bunch of obstacles while I was chasing it. I never did catch it though."

A member of the Scotus football track team collapses in a heap after "running for the roses."

Then Thames started to cry.

With the season nearly halfway over, the football track team looks to Giustra and Thames for leadership.

"We had planned to add more banners to the Activity Center wall," said the coach, "but then we found out this isn't even a real sport."

School receives financial boost from donor

Billy Gates
Mock Bottom Finacial Writer

Scotus has received an anonymous gift of two million dollars from generous donor Francis Buttle.

"This is a great gift," said some guy. "At first we turned the money down because there is really nothing that can be improved in our school. But finally we just gave in so Mr. Buttle would stop leaving weird messages on my machine in the middle of the night."

Several options were considered when trying to decided where the money would be best put to use. Among options considered were building-wide air-conditioning, buying the block south of the school for a parking garage, heaters that actually blow out warm air, a new girls locker room and an increase in teacher salaries.

"All those were great ideas," said the guy. "But in the end we decided to install refrigerator-style lights in all the lockers. Now the light will go on as soon as the student opens their locker."

The guy admitted that the locker-lights would have a minimal effect on the quality of education at Scouts, but that the improvements would be "pretty cool."

"Just think about it," he said. "You open your locker, the light comes on. You shut your locker, and the light goes off. Of course if you opened it again, the light would come back on. And this would happen automatically. No more will our students have to squint to see their books in poorly lit lockers."

Buttle, who requested that his name not be made public, said that he is happy to see his gift meet such a pressing need.

"I have always wanted to make a difference in the lives of young people," Buttle said, "but this works for me too."

When it was discovered that the project would still leave most of the money unspent, the school decided to beef up security measures on the lockers as well. The simplistic twentieth-century pad locks will be replaced with a scope that the student will place his or her eye against. A laser will then be able to identify the student by scanning the back of the retina. While the pad locks worked just fine, the new system will be much more expensive.

If there is any money left over, the school will look into installing a handicap-accessible elevator in the science wing.

"This is the start of a new era at Scouts," she said. "We owe a great deal to Francis Buttle. In fact, we are thinking of renaming the school 'The Buttle Building.'"

(Editor's note: We are not renaming the school. Mr. Buttle does not want his name revealed.) Buttle makes generosity a habit. In fact he was also approched recently about donating an organ. He declined, but did mention that he has a piano he could let go cheap.

Easter Bunny eats local children: Authorities baffled

Fozzie Bear
Muppet

Every year around this time small children run downstairs looking for a multicolored array of tiny hidden shapes that hold any variety of goodies. They search high and low. They all have one thing on the brain, sugar.

This is a noble cause since we all love that sugar high, but they seem to trust that a huge talking rabbit brought them. This again is noble: who wouldn't love a talking bunny that brings sugar, except he is ***evil***. I mean what do we really know about this so-called "bunny"?

He comes at night whilst we are asleep and breaks into houses with purely good intent? I think not. He has his little basket and seemingly hops silently around the house to hide his treasures. So, my question is why? What does this bunny have to hide that he comes in the night, why won't he let us see him? Why does he bring us goodies, what is his agenda? Could it be ***Evil***? This bunny of the night needs to be stopped. One cannot just go around scaring little children.

As a person who was once a small child I can tell you that if I didn't know it was my parents, sorry to all who still believe, I would have hidden under my bed with many stuffed animals to protect me. I feel violated that parents are trying to bribe us into being good with this bunny character. I should think that they have better ways to teach their children to behave.

Besides, I would like to know what a scary treat-bringing-talking-giant bunny has to do with the Lord's resurrection. I give it to you the public to decide weather we should stop this ***evil*** doing rabbit of the night. There will be a rally for all wishing to attend at 44 Stop the Evil Lane. We urge you to come and make your voice heard about this atrocity to society. If you don't want to be heard come and have some punch. We are not responsible for those who become ill because of unknown causes.

Feel free to bring the children and have them put in their early Christmas requests to Santa.

So, do your part to stop the horror and keep our homes and children safe from the bunny that wonders the night and breaks into our lives with his so-called sweets.

Breaking News: Yesterday at 4 pm Eastern Time the Easter bunny was apprehended while leaving his tree house hiding place to deliver his "goodies".

Mr. Bunny had four pairs of pantyhose and an expensive tie on his person. These items were believed to belong to Mr. Bunny, but the angry mob was willing to beat the false confession out of him anyway. Mr. Bunny was charged with scarring children for life, and aiding and abeding the forced politeness of children by unnamed parents.

Mr. Bunny will be spending the rest of his life in a cell being forced to listen to Barney and Friends sing a long until his head should explode. This is to teach Mr. Bunny the dangers of brainwashing children.

When asked to give a statement Mr. Bunny only shrugged and said, " We shall never give up the fight, cartoons and puppets everywhere will triumph and take over the world, he then proceeded to laugh hysterically (See Mike Adelman for replica laugh.)

Later Mr. Bunny said, " I surrender, I surrender, please stop the torture, the elves, the elves are after me, nooooooooooooooooooooo."

Little Dude missing: Presumed Dead

Lor: Goddess of Thunder
Cap'n

Sunday night at the Columbus horse races ended on a sour note. Notorious DUDE was found to be missing after failing to pay up on his many debts. In the distance, a girl with short black hair walked away carrying a squirming lavender polka-dot duffle bag unnoticed.

Authorities are baffled.

"Little Dude," said friend and soulmate, Puffball, "had a drinking problem. Known fact. God knows we tried everything we could to help the poor thing out."

"I never liked Little Dude," said Mickey Mouse, " I was always afraid of him taking over my role in the hearts of Americans everywhere."

It seems that this little "dude" will be sorely missed my no one, in other words, Mike Adelman.

"From the first moment he appeared on my paper," said Adelman, "Columbus fell in love. And so did I."

At approximately 9:03 pm Central Time, Little Dude left his drawer to wander aimlessly around downtown Columbus. After complaints of loud noises and shots fired, Little Dude was spotted cheering on his horse, Lucky Number 13, at the Columbus Races. After 11:23 pm and later, there was neither hide nor hair of this little creature known to many as "Bad Cartoon," I mean, "Little Dude."

For Little Dude's few fans, no need to worry—Little Dude's predecessor, Little Dud, will be replacing him in future issues of the *Mock Bottom*.

Authorities still baffled.

Mysterious airport visitor slips away unnoticed

Jeter Pennings
Important

Early Monday morning, there was a disturbance at the Columbus International Airport. An unknown female with short black hair attempted to load a squirming lavender polka dot duffle bag onto a plane to Schuyler. After being told to reveal the contents of the bag, the girl fled, dragging the bag on the ground behind her, leaving a trail of what appeared to be blood.

"We aren't too worried about the safety of our one plane here," said airport manager Dick York. "It's safely stowed in my backyard."

The Columbus International Airport continues to function as usual, sending out one plane every two weeks.

Authorities still baffled.

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INSIDE: Matt Krings discovers the key to knowledge. See page 4

SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC

Mock Bottom

Columbus, Ohio **April 1st, 2002** **Volume: Approximately four cubic inches if folded properly**

Maul trains for Columbus Marathon

Moren Laul
Confused

Scotus junior, Lauren "old woman" Maul, has been in training for the up-coming Columbus Marathon since Monday morning.

"I've been selling oven mitts by the side of the road to raise enough money for my trip downtown," said Maul. Maul's regimen consists of running, not eating, running, doing the stair machine, and not reading.

"As of yesterday, this is definitely the best shape of my life."

The battle will be harsh, but Maul plans on fighting like a machine, or just sitting back and eating peanut butter sandwiches. After the win, Maul plans on retiring to the boonies of Columbus to raise her two children, Gary Coleman and Michelle Tanner.

"My inspiration for this battle has definitely been Ade Michaelman," said Maul. "I can only hope to achieve his level of fitness."

Speaking of Ade Michaelman, the superstar model has been spotted outside of a Burger King in Beatrice, Nebraska. After the unpleasantness with his *Ladies Home Journal* cover story, the hero to millions has been in hiding with his co-conspirator "Little Dude."

Maul says that exercise has played a great role throughout her life, and that Richard Simmons is not really a man.

"I mean, you never see thighs like that on a *man*," said Maul. "That's just not being realistic."

Maul's two children have also helped her overcome her terrible disease.

"After being diagnosed with the Ebola Virus," said Maul, "I've really put my two great kids into perspective."

"Whatchoo talkin' bout, Lauren?" responds Maul's candid son.

You can visit South Dakota anytime throughout the year, excluding Febember, and remember to treat rashes as they occur.

Lauren Maul poses to show her physique for the upcoming Columbus Marathon.

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Little DUD

Mike Adelman out for GameCube annihalation

I'm gathering support for the two greatest video game systems ever: The Microsoft X-Box and the Sony Playstation2. These two titanic systems are designed to destroy the archnemesis, Nintendo GameCube.

The GameCube's games are too good, so they must be stopped. I'm helping the other two companies design slogans to detract from the GameCube's user base. In the meantime I fully support Sony and Microsoft putting out games before they're finished, using sleazy marketing tactics, and promising add-ons that never come out. Doing so will help to hypnotize people to buy these systems, even though they aren't as good.

In the meantime Nintendo will continue creating the greatest games in the world. How foolish! Why create a great game when you can simply put a shiny package on a piece of garbage and sell it as a great game? It's an excellent way to make money. It sure beats developing the game and polishing it, as long as the ignorant public doesn't notice.

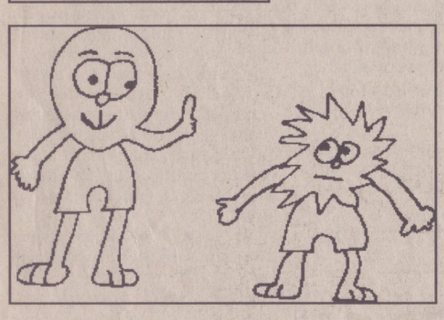
On top of that, I will accuse GameCube of being kiddy, even though it isn't. I will say it is a purple system, even though people can buy it in black. If I say it, it must be true! GameCube has as many, if not more, games targeted for older audiences than PS2 or X-Box, but I will refuse to acknowledge that, and the public will believe me!! MWAHAHAHA!!!

On top of that, people who buy these two systems will meet members of the opposite sex! I have them both, and I hang out with women all the time!! If you buy PS2 or X-Box, you will be cool!! I said so!

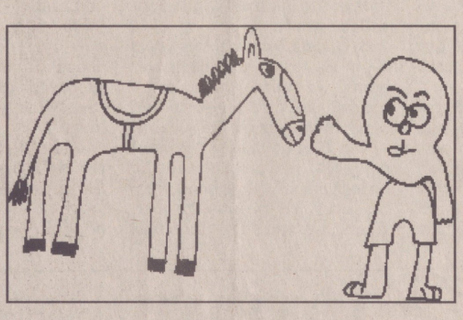
Forget personal preferences and good taste and go with the crowd! Hop on the bandwagon of mundane and mediocrity! You'll like it! Sony and Microsoft will dull your senses of good gaming so badly that you'll enjoy anything they release! In the meantime, keep the controller stick on that poorly designed controller going!! World domination is only a step away!!!

WHO IS THIS MAN?

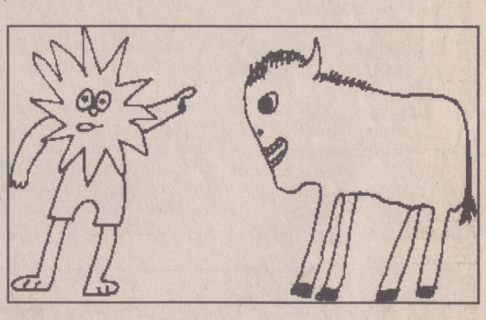
Respond and you can win absolutely nothing!!



Hey, guess what?



I got a horse!



So what? I got a buffalo.

INSIDE: Saying goodbye to the class of 2002

SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC

ROCK BOTTOM

Columbus, Nebraska | May, 2002 | Volume 4, Issue 9

Vocations fair leaves students praying they never have to go back

Mandatory diocesan education event fails to connect with the majority of Scotus youth

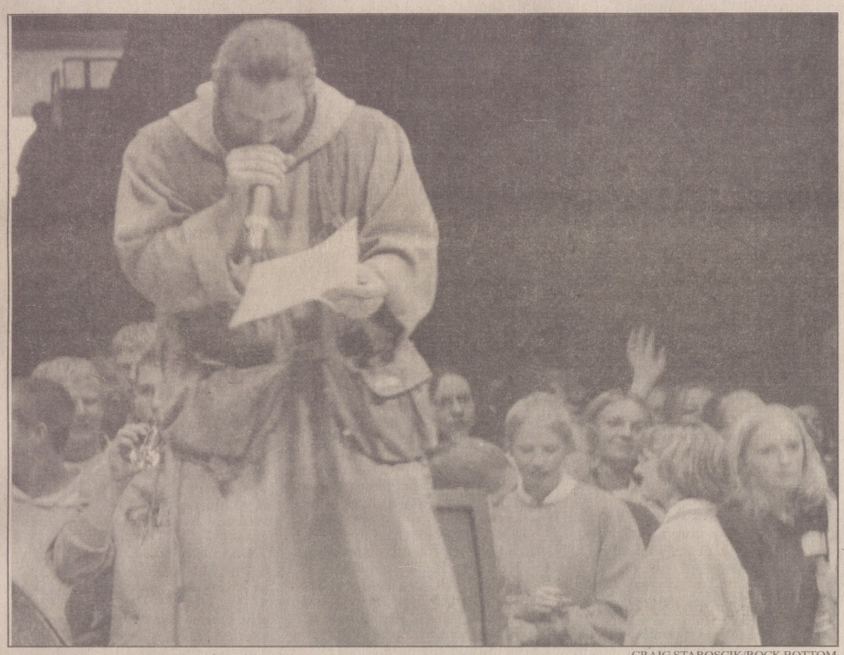
Craig Staroscik
Editor

"'God is good, all the time,' the crowd at the Omaha Civic Auditorium repeated again and again," reported the Omaha World Herald about last month's vocations fair.

Whether they simply overlooked the north section of the stands or just improvised to make a better sounding lead, the term "crowd" left out Scotus associates in this instance. Scotus students were required to attend the April 24th vocations fair in Omaha as a chance to study and reconsider different vocations. The event instead left more students, put in their own words, "Stupider than before."

From a Scotus perspective, the day seemed nothing more than a major mistake on the part of Archbishop Elden Curtis and others in charge of the Catholic gathering. The experience left students with less information about choosing vocations and more about how to rap a New York priest's song "Say Yes to Sex."

The focal point of the day seemed to involve musician Jesse Manibusan singing to a group of seventh to twelfth graders songs that a person would find in nursery books. Not many of the students enjoyed singing along with Manibusan and his lyrics, "One, two, the cow goes moo..." The maturity level of the event and the lack of thought-provoking insight given to students nullified the supposed purpose of the day. Even Scotus faculty members had some trouble accentuating the positives of the event.



CRAIG STAROSCIK/ROCK BOTTOM

Scotus students Cesili Forney, Tonya Bowman and Cassie Hall watch in thebackground durning Father Stan Fortuna's rapping at the vocations fair. Several students got involved with the end-of-the-day concert.

"The ideas present were good," said teacher Jane Dusel Misfeldt, "but I think that a lot of the students felt that the musical things were beneath them."

Dusel Misfeldt went on to say that several aspects of the day were a good idea, but could have been presented in a better form. The videos and real-life experiences presented by Scotus alumni and priest Father Carl Zoucha may have offered some insight into deciding vocations. Some students agree that the videos were well done, but that much of the presentation could not be heard because of other schools constantly screaming when local priests appeared on screen.

In addition to missing the movies, Scotus Theology teacher Father Steve Emanuel pointed out that there was a lot at the vocations fair that students did not get to see. For example, students barely saw that outside the main auditorium were booths from several different groups that could have also explained different vocations. The rest of the day he said could have been conducted better.

"I don't know if it was the most prudent use of resources," Emanuel said. "A lot of students only used it as a chance to complain. There were some good concepts, but I don't know how practical they really were."

Emanuel and Dusel Misfeldt both said that the event could have been more successful if certain steps were taken. Unfortunately, circumstances such as making the event mandatory, causing students a prolonged school day, and the themes provided made students feel resentful in having to go. This resentful attitude was transformed into a pessimistic view of the day. While some did not let the atmosphere bother their enjoyment of the day, most students shared the negative opinion.

Overall, students thought the vocations fair was an unnecessary and unenlightening event. Maybe it was possible for students to learn about vocations at the event. If not, at least the student body will be able to, in harmonious unison, tell you what sound the cow makes.

New policies in place for 2002-2003

Matt Krings
Staff Reporter

You know the routine. Come to school the first week and hear all about the new changes in the handbook from your activity period teacher. Next year is no exception, as new rules will be in effect for the student body. One of the biggest changes comes in the schedule, but many rules will come into effect as well.

At the Vocations Fair Scotus students saw many other Catholic schools whose dress code were a little different. This brought up the idea for students to wear polo shirts. They look just as nice and are comfortable, so this is a possibility for future school years. The idea of change has to start somewhere.

"I would like to see the student council get involved in that subject," said principal Wayne Morfeld. "I think (polo shirts) would be a good idea, but this would be a good way to get our student council involved and making a difference."

Changes on the way

- Grade ineligibility will affect all activities
- Shoes with no backs or heels will not be allowed
- Other dress code changes to be studied
- New schedule starting at 8:30

Only a few changes will be made in the dress code.

"[One] new rule is the 'Blake Aschoff and Nick Sahs rule'," said Morfeld.

Aschoff and Sahs both frequently wear the blue Pumas with no backs. They wear like a sandal, and will not be allowed next year.

Next year's schedule provides some good changes for the student body. Not going to school until 8:30 is a blessing for those people who like their sleep. There are always the changes that students do not like though. If you are truant, you will receive zeros in every class that was missed that day. Besides the many detentions given for truancy, this will give students a worse penalty for skipping school.

The most important part to any school year is the academics. All year people deal with grades, dance, fine arts, and sports. Rules between grades and these activities are changed for next year. Athletes with bad grades already cannot compete unless they get them up. This will be for every activity next year. For example, if a student has a music concert but is ineligible, they will not be allowed to attend that concert. This puts all the activities in the same light as sports, with the same punishments as well.

There are few students looking past summer to next year, but the rules that will eventually come into play and affect us are already in motion.

Cozad to begin new era of Scotus football

Eric Grubaugh
Staff Reporter

As one era leaves its final mark on Scotus history, it also marks the beginning of a new era. Scotus' football staff is about to receive some new blood from Steven Cozad of Lyons-Decatur Northeast High School, who will be taking over Jim Puetz's job as head coach.

Although he may be somewhat younger than what Scotus has seen recently, he is certainly not lacking in experience. Already his coaching career has taken him to several places. Cozad was a defensive coordinator at Abraham Lincoln High School in Des Moines, Iowa. He coached football, girls' basketball, track, and baseball at South Paige High School. He also coached in Glenwood, Iowa.

> *"Everyone has to get behind him, and whatever he does we will have to do to the best of our abilities."*
> **-Coach Vern Younger**

Even such a lengthy list of coaching jobs could not prepare anyone for the challenge of succeeding such a successful coach as Jim Puetz.

"This is a great challenge for me," Cozad said. "I am just in awe of everything Scotus represents and everything Jim Puetz has done. I'm very excited to be taking over a program that has been on top, instead of taking over and starting from the bottom."

Scotus has been on top in several occasions throughout its history, but there is always room for improvements.

"Right now," Cozad said, "not being there, and not knowing the intricacies of what goes on, it's hard to say [what needs to be improved upon], but I do know what I will bring to this program. I will bring energy, enthusiasm, and a love of the game."

Love of not only the game but the people around you is also extremely important.

"I consider myself a student of the game," Cozad said. "I am a coach who loves to be around kids and players, and I love the game."

Cozad is obviously very excited about coming to Scotus, and the present coaching staff is ready to welcome him.

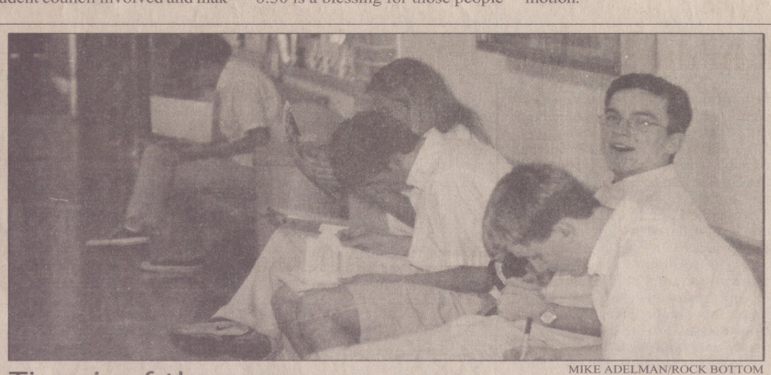
"Everyone has to get behind him," Coach Vern Younger said, "and whatever he does, we will have to do to the best of our abilities. We all have to give [Cozad] a real fair shot."

Athletic Director Gary Puetz is one of many ready to give Cozad a real fair shot.

"I think [Cozad] will bring a new enthusiasm with a new system," Puetz said, "and he's going to coach what he feels. I think it's something that will be exciting for us, exciting for the student body, and exciting for the fans."

A real fair shot is all Cozad is going to need to bring Scotus this excitement. He already has good coaching experience; he will be inheriting the athletes; all that is left is the people's acceptance of this great change.

"You know the old was good," Puetz said, "maybe the new will be better."



MIKE ADELMAN/ROCK BOTTOM

Time is of the essence

The seniors spend one of their last few days procrastinating in the hallway during activity period. Many assignments were frantically completed before (and during) school on these benches.

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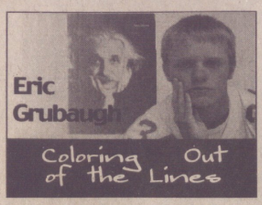
Heeeeeere's Billy!



It's one of those sluggish summer days, and you're sitting in your La-Z-Boy surfing through any and all channels to find something…anything…that will grab your attention for at least 30 seconds. You've gone from channel three to 63 four times and then through yet again backwards. On your sixth go-around, you see Oprah Winfrey, Jerry Springer, Judge Wapner, Bill Clinton, Judge Judy, Mills…wait a minute…Bill Clinton? Blurs of color and sound blink by as you instantly switch back to find out whatever Mr. Clinton could be blabbering on about this time. Alas! What's this?? He's not blabbering on at all…he's the one asking the questions!

There are rumors that Bill Clinton has been talking with NBC about hosting his own talk show. Imagine that…the ex-president is on his own talk show, standing in the aisle, microphone in hand, introducing his guests, with who knows how many television interns running around backstage. Oh, the possibilities of that show are endless.

Clinton is searching for a title for his new show. For lack of ideas, he will probably end up calling it something like *Wednesday Night Pre-recorded* or *The Tonight Show without Jay Leno*. I'd say it should be called *Just Shoot Me*, but unfortunately that name's already taken.

Besides, what could Bill Clinton possibly want to do with a talk show? Clear his name and get rid of the mar he left on the American presidency? What will he put on this talk show? Will he discuss news, politics, entertainment, or all of the above? Maybe it'll be another Jerry Springer where he brings in a guest that says:

"I hate taxes, abortion, and environmentalists."

Then Bill comes in and says:

"Well how about that! We just happen to have an IRS agent, an abortionist, and the head of the EPA all here with us today! Come on out, gentlemen!"

Then all Valhalla breaks loose as the IRS agent rattles off every missed payment the guest has had and the EPA exec yells at him for leaving his coffee cup on the bench outside. Then ratings tank, and NBC realizes 'Boy did we screw up. Guess we should have put *Entertainment Nightly with Bob Dole* in that slot instead.

Of course, I could always be wrong. Maybe Mr. Clinton could have a very successful show by bringing in former presidents to debate about present issues. Then again that might blow up in his face when Ronald Reagan comes on (amnesia suddenly disappeared, although he doesn't recall how) and starts downgrading Clinton.

What could Bill Clinton possibly want to do with a talk show?

"Were you ever shot at, boy?" Reagan screams. "Did you have to deal with those Iranians? I didn't think so! You call yourself a president?!"

All Clinton responds with is "I went to McDonald's a couple times," with a thumbs-up and a smile into the camera as Reagan continues ranting and raving.

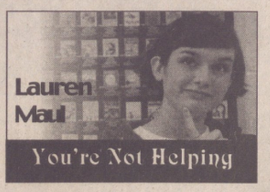
Maybe ratings won't tank. People may tune in just to see what kind of crazy ideas he'll have this week, or NBC will creatively put the show in a slot where millions of viewers spanning the country have absolutely nothing to do but kill an hour That's 15 minutes actually paying attention to the show, then 45 minutes (give or take a couple days) of blankly staring in sheer bewilderment at the screen. If that happens, then Bob Dole and his hopes of being in the limelight will be shattered yet again by one Bill Clinton.

$50 million though?! All Bill Clinton has to do is stand in front of a camera and read questions from a screen that someone else wrote for him to get that kind of money. I could work for my entire lifetime, put everything in the bank, live off of bugs from my backyard and water from the public school behind my house, and maybe, just *maybe* earn that much money.

I wonder, though, if this talk show could turn a profit…let's see…that would be Bill's request of $50 million plus the cost of the crew and equipment probably coming to near…let's say $200 million. If everyone in America tunes in at once, and advertisers start to compete for 10 second slots, then that could bring them to break even. But then NBC will have to subtract the intern lawsuit expenses and we end up somewhere around…oh… negative $2 billion. Hmm…not exactly the cash flow they're probably expecting.

However, if that's what they really want, NBC can go right ahead and give Bill Clinton $50 million to host a talk show; I just think a better investment would be giving him $100 million not to.

Junior memories



This year was a year of learning. I've taught others about the evils of exercise, the pitfalls of popularity, and the joy of television. In return, other people have taught me nothing, because I'm stubborn and don't listen.

Well, I have learned that bathroom graffiti is bad, throwing food is bad, and drawing mean caricatures of classmates and teachers is bad. Other than that, I'm kind of at a loss.

I don't think I ever broke into an exercise sweat the whole year...

Don't get me wrong; I have tons of fond memories from my junior year. There was that one time my friends and I stapled our hair to the theology bulletin board, the fun conversations we had at the Loser Table at lunch, and those educational weekends when I discovered what Columbus has to offer.

As my first year without P.E. draws to a close, I have to say that it was even greater than I thought it would be. I don't think I ever broke a sweat the whole school year.

Except for the stifling hot classrooms, but that doesn't really count as "exercise sweat."

This year has gone so fast. Usually school just crawls by. I'm so excited about summer… I can't wait to get my awesome farmer tan started up again.

I know there have been those columns of mine that you have read and thought, "Man, she is running out of ideas…" and I know that this is one of those columns. Those columns are like those episodes of The Simpsons where they sell out and just show clips from old shows. But I've tried to be new and exciting. Tried and *failed*, but still *tried*. So. No columns for 3 months. That's just pure craziness. Maybe I'll write some and hand them out to my neighborhood. (*sarcasm*)

Well, that's about all I have to say. Plus, if you've been reading this, you're probably tired of me anyway.

Now here is a *menagerie* of "deep" thoughts.

"I got tossed out the window of love's El Camino." – Ani DiFranco

"Look at that homeless man! What a bum!" – some history worksheet

"Want a thing-a-ma-bob? I've got twenty! But who cares? No big deal. I want more…" – Ariel

""He hoped and prayed that there wasn't an afterlife. Then he realized there was a contradiction involved here and merely hoped that there wasn't an afterlife." – Douglas Adams

"Nobody really cares if you're miserable, so you might as well be happy." – Cynthia Nelms

"You can complain because roses have thorns, or you can rejoice because thorns have roses." - Ziggy

"Maybe she thinks Ziggy's gotten too preachy, too." - Homer Simpson

"Drinking milk everyday helps you to outrun evil Digimon." – my milk carton

"Seeing is believing. Unless you're dealing with invisible friends, of course."

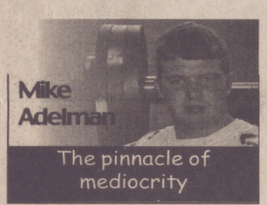
"Don't continue chewing your gum once it has fallen on the floor of a chicken coop."

"Instead of being reminded that there is no "I" in "TEAM", be confident in the fact that there **is** a "ME" in "TEAM." Working together is only good for the other people in your group."

"Falling down in a pig pen is never a good idea because sometimes pigs eat people."

Now I'm outta here faster than Mike Adelman in a swimsuit competition.

Seniors leave mistakes for others to learn by



I guess I should make my last column a positive one since I don't want to end on a sour note. I've gone from complaining about the state of the restrooms to condemning the vocation fair to blasting the heat day policy, and I think it's time for a break from the standard formula.

You see, it's not as fun as it looks to criticize everything. I've tried to be the "hero of the people" by using my power of the press to bash others, but it only ended in my making myself angrier or making the subject of my writing bitter towards me.

I think that people start worrying too much whenever a new rule pops up or if someone disagrees with them. I've learned over the past six years that trying to beat things back with your fists or with the press can wear you out.

Not everyone is out to get you in high school. It may seem that way. It might seem like teachers just make rules to make you miserable. In their minds, the rules are there to help you, not to control you.

My advice: just have fun. If some new dumb rule comes into play, don't worry about it. It won't be a big part of your life, and getting all paranoid and conspiracy gung-ho will eventually cause you to overanalyze everyday situations.

Here's some advice to underclassmen: The time one spends here is too short when compared to the length of a person's life. Enjoy and take care of your time here. I know, you're saying, "Yeah, yeah, whatever, every class says that", and nobody listens to it. Well, listen!! You don't have to be the same! Don't allow yourself to fall into the state of apathy that our class has at times in the past.

You're reading this and thinking, "Whatever, I'll forget this as soon as I'm done reading it". No, you won't. Make a difference. Try to make others enjoy being here. You don't have to have that cliché attitude that classes of the past had. You can be friends with everyone in your class, even if you disagree on things.

You can be different. If you're a person who makes fun of others because of their differing opinions, you are literally killing their spirit. Please don't read this and roll your eyes. You need to realize how serious it is to steal someone's dream. It's easy to do to someone, but it has a lasting effect on the life of the victim.

Try to talk to people you don't hang out with very often. Our class was given that very advice, and I saw nobody following it. Even if told to do so, the people in our class had egos too large and were too close-minded to try associating with different people. I have a feeling it will be the downfall of many in this year's senior class.

Please don't make the same mistakes we did. You don't have to because I'm warning you about them.

Next year, give it your best to enjoy every moment, even those boring days in November, December, and January. At the time it may seem ridiculous, but you will be happy you did.

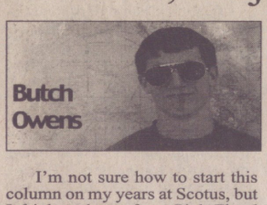
I now have a few lines left to spout off my biggest regrets.

First, I wish I had gone out more. Sitting at home playing Nintendo isn't as fun as I say it is. Second, I wish I had kept my mouth shut more. I missed out on a lot of good things to hear because I was too busy trying to get people to notice me. Third, I wish I had been a bit bolder, or had gotten a behavior detention or two. I think experiences like that are character building. I can't change the past, but I hope I've changed the future of incoming classes for the better.

My time here is finished now. No longer will you be graced by my presence in this excellent newspaper. I can only wish the best for the future of our school and those who inhabit it. Thanks for reading.

–Mike

All in all, it's just another brick in the wall



I'm not sure how to start this column on my years at Scotus, but I think a phrase from Pink Floyd could possibly help. High school can be explained by just being "another brick in the wall." The wall, being our lives, is made up of different tasks accomplished.

So as a senior at Scotus, I am just finishing the brick from high school and preparing to start another brick, college. Before I could begin rambling about what I think college may be like, I should probably tell you about some of my thoughts, bittersweet memories, and miserable moments (Vocation Fair) of school at Scotus.

Starting from the beginning, I was a seventh grade kid, scared of showering with other little boys (especially with friends whom I knew), having no recess (not that I had one when I was in sixth grade anyways), having eight different teachers and classes, and a new thing called a passing period. Coming to Scotus was very intimidating. Not that I couldn't make any new friends, but I was scared of getting "book checked" or thrown in a locker. I made a bunch of new friends, and had quite a few good times.

What happens after that? I come back a year later, a little wiser and a little taller. The eighth grade. Eighth grade was no different from the seventh except your classes get a little more complex and your friends as well as yourself start to be a little more laid back. You also start to notice something you never did before. The eighth grade girls. I'm not trying to say that I was the man back in the eighth grade with the chicks, and to be honest I don't remember anyone being the man. The weekend nights started to become populated by members of both sexes.

As a freshman I felt older and more important. I believe the point of your freshman year is to just live it up. Have fun your freshman year. Your classes for the most part are pretty easy and so is your homework. Use your study hall wise and get your work done in school so you don't have homework. Don't get worried when you realize you don't hang out with everyone you use to in junior high. It happens as you progress through high school.

The sophomore year has two

See ***Owens****, page 3*

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Puetz football legacy to include wins, hot dogs

Eric Grubaugh
Staff Reporter

It's true in every sport. Along with the times, the athletes, the fans, and the games change. After 40 years of coaching, Jim Puetz has extensive knowledge of that fact. However, there are some things that those who know him best say have never changed throughout Puetz's coaching career.

"Jim has always had a great sense of humor and timing," 27-year assistant, and life-long brother Gary Puetz said. "What I mean by that is he always knew when it was time to go hard and when it was time to back off. I think he really understood how a team felt. He knew the purpose of being out there was to have fun, not to torture each other."

Thirty-five year assistant coach Vern Younger also knows some qualities have remained constant in Jim Puetz.

"[Jim Puetz] has always had a willingness to help kids become better," Younger said. "He was a master motivator. He could get kids to want to play for him, to want to run for him."

To prove his point Younger said that while Puetz was coaching boys' track, they won 12 District consecutive district titles. That does not just come from solid athletes but solid, balanced coaching as well.

"[Jim] always had a good balance of hard work and fun as a coach and as a teacher," Gary Puetz said.

The hard work can be attributed for the success of Jim Puetz's career, so the fun has to fit in somewhere now.

"Early in his career," Younger said, "when I was first getting to know Jim, he used to use himself as the demonstrator. He'd put on a helmet and show the kids show to do the drill…he was good too."

Jim Puetz wasn't the only one who really got into the game though.

"Well this is back when the head coach had to take all the penalties on the sidelines," Gary Puetz said, "but we were at Neumann, and it was late in the game. We were winning probably 35-0, and we thought there were some cheap shots. [The assistant coaches] got two flags and so [Jim Puetz] had to take the walk. They threw him out of the game. Then later our filmers, instead of filming the game, zoomed in on Jim up in the stands. He and [former principal Tom] Walding were up in the stands eating a hot dog and drinking a pop."

> *"During one game, a role of tape went flying, accidently I'm sure, and almost struck an official."*
> **- Vern Younger**

During Jim Puetz's career, coaches weren't all that got tossed at games.

"Back then," Younger said, "the coaches did all the taping, and Jim did the majority of the taping, so he always carried a roll of tape around. During one game, the roll of tape went flying, accidentally I'm sure, and almost struck an official."

Surely after 40 years of coaching and teaching, there must be more great stories from such a character as Jim Puetz, but they simply could not fit in this newspaper. As it is true in sports, and most everything in life, but there are also some things that remain constant. Jim Puetz's legendary status as coach and comical character is one of those constants.

Owens: Enjoy, but don't 'cherish'

from page 2

main parts to it. Speech and Biology. Speech is probably the most intimidating class here at Scotus. The class itself is overwhelmed with homework, but if you actually look at it, it is pretty easy. The only problem is that you have so much of it.

Biology is the class that sometimes the ladies don't seem to like. Aside from the note taking and paying attention in class, the labs, catching bugs, and cutting animals up is pretty fun. My word of advice for biology is to go to the "blue light specials."

Your junior year is a fun one, but the days of school seem to take forever. It was one of the longest years of school for me. The only thing I could think of was how much I wished I was a senior. I didn't like knowing that I had to come back for another whole year of school. By this time your class has more than likely broken down into groups. Everyone doesn't hang out together like they did in seventh, eighth, and ninth grades. The people in your class select their friends and your class is turned into groups.

When it's all said and done you wake up for your last orientation day. You can't wait for the year to start because you know it is going fly by. You do something dumb for your picture and leave. Depending on your schedule, your senior year is absolutely great. I took an easy schedule making my day fun and usually taskless. There are some students who continue working at their schoolwork, by taking sometimes challenging classes like physics, calculus, and AP English. I'm sure I will regret not doing anything my senior year, but I might as well live it up while I can.

By the time Christmas comes your senior year, you already have most of your best friends picked out. Some of them may be friends you've had since grade school or maybe even a year or two younger than you.

I'm not going to end this column saying to cherish your time in high school. I don't know if I do like high school all that much, but just give me six months or year away from it and I'm sure I will. Don't cherish it, but have fun. Once the high school brick has been laid, you can't go back.

End of the year means time to brush up on locker cleaning techniques

Lauren Maul
Editor

Cleaning out your locker at the end of the year is like popping a big zit that's been festering for a while: there's always more stuff in it than you expected.

For those of you who have never cleaned out a locker, there are many ways to go about this end of the year mission. There's the 'ole garbage bag approach, which deals with emptying locker contents into a big bag and never looking at it again. Or burning the bag along with old school uniforms.

Then there's the Good Kid approach of saving empty notebooks and paper waste while you begin anxiously waiting for the next school year to begin.

But according to Vern Younger, Scotus educator and sophomore class supervisor, there's only one way to go about the cleaning process. (Actually, he said there is no best way, but "one way" sounded better.)

"You throw most of the junk away," said Younger, "wipe lightly with towel and cleaner, and reserve for next year students."

This self-proclaimed "Gestapo Younger" is always on hand to help out the sophomore's with their cleaning dilemmas. Many juniors and seniors remember Younger hovering over them as they cleaned out their lockers at the end of that special year, making sure it was perfect to the last detail. So what exactly is Vern looking for when aiming for a clean locker?

"All articles should be removed such as stickers and writing," said Younger, "and you just try to make it decent again."

But what happens when so much pain and destruction has been wrought upon your locker so that it can never be decent again?

Then you can just leave it as is and face the terrible consequences of the administration.

When authorities find an unchecked locker, they swoop in, saving schoolbooks and setting the rest aflame in a horrendous fire that could only be released from the fiery pits of hell.

Actually, the administration just keeps your schoolbooks and throws the rest away and you don't get your report card, or something along those lines.

So when embarking on the task of locker cleanout, just, uh, be sure to get it clean. Or not. Whatever you feel like doing is fine with us. But you may have to face the wrath. But no one really knows what the wrath is because everyone always cleans his or her locker. So do that.

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Seniors recall the past, prepare for future

The past six years have included lab reports, Notebook #2's, and scholastic boosts for the Class of 2002. Though the memories and highlights of these years may differ from student to student, the outcome of them all remains the same in that their time here is nearly over. It is then appropriate that their memories be recalled for the sake of fellowship and tradition...

Senior Wisdom

Recount your favorite/best memories from the past six years during school...

1. *The lawn ornament incident with Natalie and Cheryl: partners in crime.*
   -Amanda Cielocha
2. *Freshman initiation for track, going for a swim in the river and jumping over a mud hole.*
   -Matt Skarka
3. *The indoor water fight at Lindsay's and camping in South Dakota!*
   -Jill Micek

Which year was your personal favorite and why?

1. *Senior, pud*
   -Jake Staub
2. *Junior year- I actually liked most of my classes (esp. History and Design). Mr McGill, Mrs. Kosch, Fr. Steve, and Mrs. Shadle were all funny.*
   -Sheena Zoucha
3. *Senior- I didn't do anything and my grades came up.*
   -Adam Swierczek
4. *Freshman year, just because.*
   -Heather Scribner

What are you going to miss most about Scotus?

1. *Alto-appreciation days in swing choir.*
   -Colleen McGuire
2. *Fr. Steve, Runza's, and Class Unity.*
   -Jennifer Kresha
3. *Lunch.*
   -Matt Bahr
4. *Wearing socks that have to cover our ankles.*
   -Kathleen Ames
5. *The comfortable atmosphere and knowing everyone's name.*
   -Amy Bergland

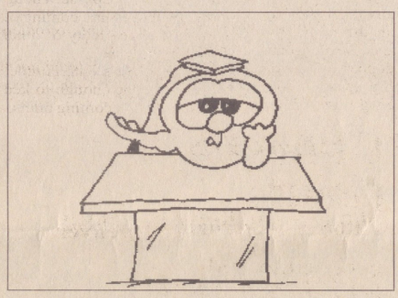
What do you think college will be like?

1. *A big Fiesta!*
   -Natalie Krings
2. *I'm going to have so many chicks crawling all over me I'm gonna need a crowbar to pry them off!!*
   -Shawn Starostka
3. *I think it will be a good and needed change.*
   -Nick Zywiec
4. *I think there will be lots of cramming, partying, and hopefully studying.*
   -Caroline Luby

What is your last bit of advice for underclassmen?

1. *Enjoy the present, learn from the past, and plan for the future. Talk to classmates you usually don't talk to or see. You'd be surprised what you can learn.*
   -Jenny Krzycki
2. *Don't try unless you really have to.*
   -Butch Owens
3. *Be yourself, don't worry about what others think.*
   -Kayla Van Dyke
4. *Don't get caught.*
   -Kathleen Ames

Little Dude by Mike Adelman



So as our time comes to an end, I think I'll have to say...

Don't worry about the little things, we'll meet again one day.

After six years, it's not that bad after all

Kayla Van Dyke
Guest Columnist

Just as any other senior would probably say, "It seems like only yesterday I was a scared seventh grader". That's how I felt as well. But now the time has come, no more pep rallies, no more dances, and no more theology classes. Although I have had my share of struggles throughout high school, the great times and good memories that have accompanied them vastly overrule the hardships.

In my final year at Scotus I have come to realize that some of the greatest memories have occurred right here in this school.

It all began i n the fall as a seventh grader. There I stood, a timid little girl who seemed even smaller compared to all the seniors. It was tough to comprehend that I would ever be one of those seniors looking at other timid little seventh graders.

In my last year of junior high, I was finally settled in, yet ready to move on to the big high school life.

My freshman year! Freshman year was an exciting one; I got to participate in high school sports and dances. Being able to be so involved as a freshman made the year fly right into my sophomore year.

Sophomore year was a year of ups and downs, I was able to drive, but I was very limited as to how much I could drive because of all the speech homework that I had to haul around.

After going through an incredibly tough sophomore year, I was ready to relax and cruise on into my junior year. Junior year was a fun and relaxing year. I was finally out of PE and was able to choose my own classes. I had a lot of freedom my junior year, but even more my senior year…

Senior year was a great year, and I am sad to say it will be my last year here. There are many wonderful memories from my senior year, but one in particular was probably the best. That memory was the senior retreat. Not only was it a ton of fun but it also built great class unity. After the senior retreat I think everyone had a lot more respect for each other as compared to past years.

Now for some advice for the underclassmen: Study hard and make the best of your high school years. You might say how much you hate high school now, but by the time your last week of your senior year comes, you will really realize how much fun high school is. Trust me, ask any teacher, I always complained about how much I hated Scotus, but now that the end is near I finally realized what a great school this really is.

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Concerts,movies provide summer fun

Anthony Owens
Staff Reporter

Waking up at noon and knowing there is nothing to do is a very boring life. Unfortunately, this is true for many teenagers during the summer. Once school gets out, teenagers can very easily turn into bums.

Perhaps try something new this summer. Go to a concert. There is nothing quite as good as seeing a good band play a live show.

This summer idea is sometimes taken for granted by some. It is often difficult to follow up on a concert, especially since Nebraska rarely has good shows. To overcome this barrier, try looking in Colorado, Kansas, Iowa, and Missouri. The states around Nebraska have a tendency to have a better variety of live music too.

Going to a concert is supposed to be fun. The ride down with friends and the show itself should be fun. Don't ruin the night by making bad decisions. Never drink on the way to a concert or drive home drunk from a show. Also, avoid drugs when going to, or coming back from a concert.

If a concert is too wild, too far away, or too expensive, try going to one of the new movies coming out this summer. Among the list of new movies coming out is Aus*tin Powers in Goldmember* (the third Austin Powers Movie), *Men In Black II*, and *The Crocodile Hunter: Collision Course*. Though all of these movies are coming out in July, there are plenty of others coming out in June.

This summer's entertainment line-up should be enough to keep most kids from becoming bums.

Summer Concerts

Nebraska
State Fair Park, Lincoln

5-31, 6-1, and 6-2
Nebraska Bluegrass Festival

Missouri
UMB Bank Pavillion, Maryland Heights

7-19 Poison
8-12 Lenny Kravitz
8-21 Alicia Keys
8-26 and 8-27
The Dave Matthews Band

Colorado
Fillmore Auditorium, Denver

6-12 Jethro Tull
6-14, 6-15, and 6-16
The Allman Brothers Band

Red Rocks Amphitheater, Morrison

6-2 Papa Roach
6-3 and 6-4 Trey Anastasio
7-3 and 7-4 Blues Traveller
7-17 Jewel
7-23 Deep Purple and the Scorpions

Iowa
Westfair Amphitheater, Council Bluffs

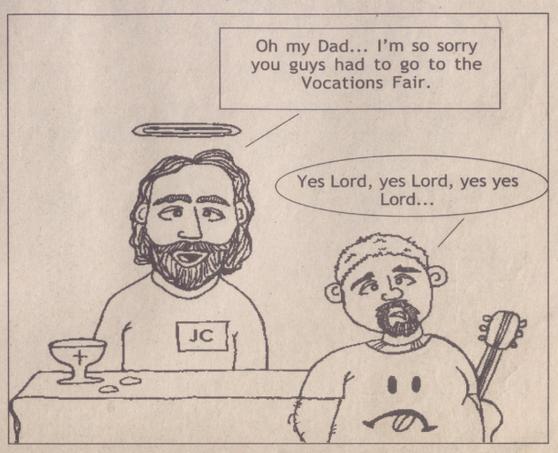
6-25 The Vans Warped Tour
8-14 BB King Musical Festival

Kansas
Sandstone Amphitheater, Bonner Springs

6-9 Usher
6-27 The Vans Warped Tour

Lead Paint Chips

By Lauren Maul



Coming Attractions

Opening dates for summer movies

June
6-7 Bad Company
6-14 Scooby Doo
6-21 Minority Report
6-28 Hey Arnold! The Movie
6-28 Mr. Deeds

July
7-3 Men in Black II
7-3 The Power Puff Girls
7-12 The Crocodile Hunter: Collision Course
7-19 Halloween: Resurrection
7-26 Austin Powers in Goldmember

August
8-2 XXX
8-9 Bloodwork
8-16 The Master of Disguise

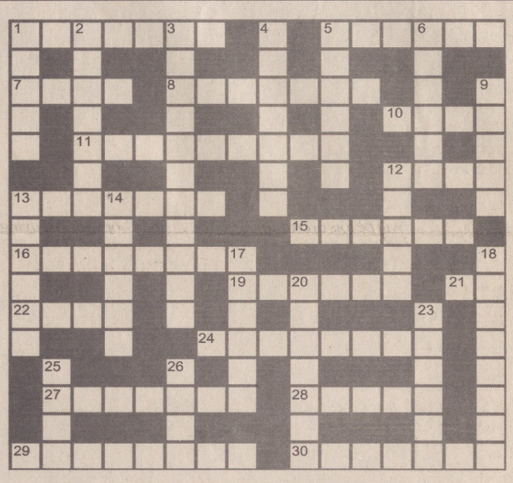
Scotus + -word

School Days

By Craig Staroscik

Across
1. Certificate of completion
5. To sort into groups
7. Teen face problem
8. Hat decorations
10. Army education program
11. Thinking skill
12. Printed words
13. Play with songs
15. Fifteen is an example
16. Growing up
19. Room to work in
21. Scotus' sexual education course
22. Canceller of track meets
24. Seat of a fan
27. To pull out of
28. Greek letter used in math
29. Sports competitors
30. Place of education beyond high school

Down
1. Acting group
2. Arithmetic necessity
3. Arithmetic
4. What students look for
5. Erase on hard drive
6. Not to pay attention
7. An adorable angle
12. Alternative to desk
13. Thought of past time
14. Lizard
17. Soccer defender
18. To finish education
19. Adjective to describe late student
23. Artists primary goal
25. Assessment (festival) of knowledge
26. True statement



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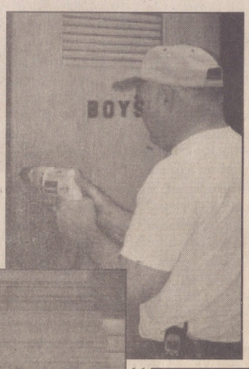
The stories of a year: 2001-2002

Conglomerated by Craig Staroscik and Kelli Morrison

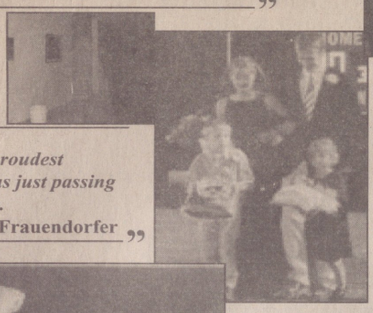
"We finished on a good note. There were ups and downs, and we played well as a team.
-Kari Mroczek on state basketball"

"My most memorable day was the day Mr. Brockhaus tried to tell us that the Mona Lisa was a MAN!
- Heidi Sobota"



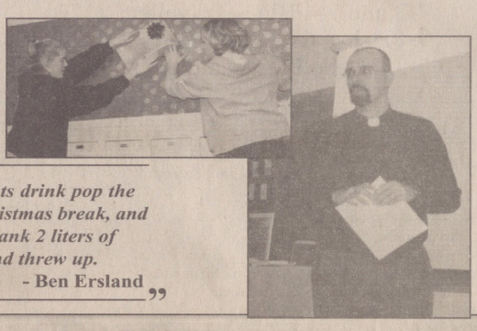
"The funniest moment was Mr. Ersland dancing at prom.
- Alex Beiermann"

"Not being able to go to the restroom without reading the tabloids is getting old.
- Rock Bottom"



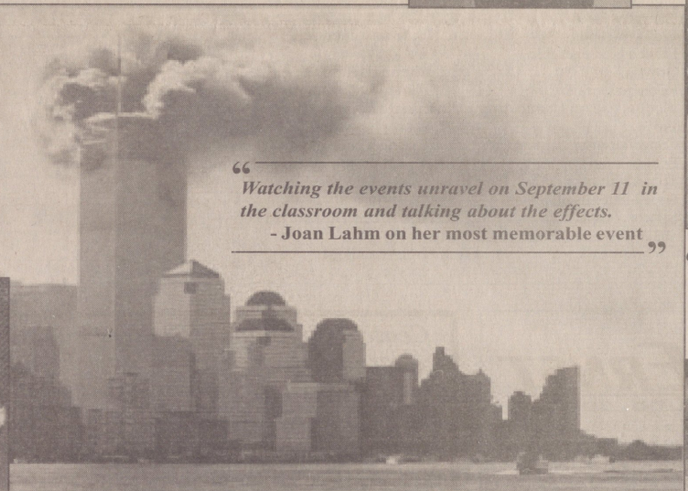
"One of my proudest moments was just passing speech class.
- Nicole Frauendorfer"

"The atmosphere was awesome. Having that much support from my friends helped me want to do my best.
-Cross country champion Angela Fisher"



"I let the students drink pop the day before Christmas break, and Jason Avery drank 2 liters of orange soda and threw up.
- Ben Ersland"

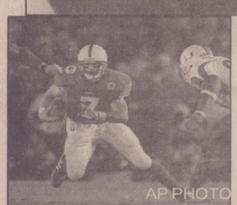
"Overall it's been a long successful run, and 99% of my memories will be very pleasant.
- Jim Puetz about his retirement"



"Watching the events unravel on September 11 in the classroom and talking about the effects.
- Joan Lahm on her most memorable event"

"I'll start my own fraternity. I'll call it Pi, Pi, Pi.
- Mike Adelman"

AP PHOTO



AP PHOTO

"My proudest moment was making it to all my classes without getting lost.
-Raven Ebner"

"My most memorable experience was when the overhead exploded in Mrs. Johnson's room.
- April Schueth"

"Acting gives me a thrill, a rush. I get to be someone I'm not.
- Meghan Bernt"

"The best year at Scotus thus far!
- Jessi Ryan"

"How come Mr. Petersen never stops smiling? Is the man ever sad?
- Vanessa Engquist"