Scotus Central Catholic

ROCK BOTTOM

Columbus, Nebraska | September 20, 2002 | Volume 5, Issue 1

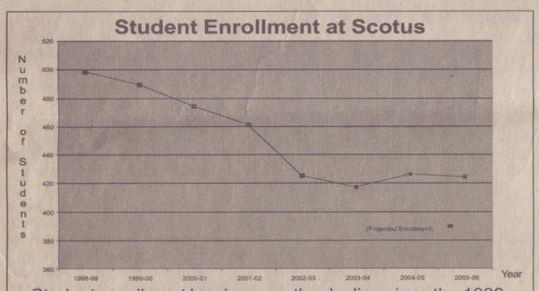
Drop in enrollment brings smaller classes, fewer dollars

Craig Staroscik
Editor-in-Chief

The halls are a bit quieter, the stairs a tad less crowded, and the air temperature seems to be just a few degrees cooler than usual.

This is not due to school expansion or the innovation of air conditioning, but the fact that there are fewer students in the building this year. There are fewer students talking, jostling about, and filling our study halls with body heat. Fewer students result in some negative aspects for Scotus as well.

For the fourth year in a row, the student population at Scotus has fallen, this year dipping 36 students below last year's enrollment to 425 students. Groups like the recruitment committee on the school board keep a constant outlook on the birth rates, enrollment, and number of students in the area, so the drop in students did not come as a total surprise.



Student enrollment has been on the decline since the 1999 school year. Projections are based on the number of current students in Catholic grade schools in Columbus.

CRAIG STAROSCIK/ROCK BOTTOM

"In the early 90's we heard about a dip in enrollment," Scotus Development Director John Schueth said. "Now here it is."

In a public school, this may just mean smaller class sizes and more room to move about. Scotus, however, not having the leisure of public school funding, must be wary of any drop in enrollment and the tuition dollars involved.

Catholic schools in the area are working together to try to keep the numbers up in order to benefit the parochial school system.

Over a third of Scotus' funding comes directly from student tuition. The loss of 36 students costs about $60,000, or the equivalent of about seven Shamrock Raffles. The budget for schools is not getting any smaller, and if the class sizes do, the Scotus financial department has to make up for the costs somewhere. In the case of this year, increasing tuition made up the lost income. An easier solution to the problem would be ensuring that the student enrollment stays at a desirable level, a solution that is easier thought up than achieved.

Schueth said that recruiting potential students is an ongoing process at Scotus. The first place Scotus officials look for new students is unsurprisingly the Catholic grade schools. Each of the grade schools has programs and committees in charge of informing the parents of children reaching kindergarten age about the Catholic school program. Principal Wayne Morfeld and Scotus Activities Director Gary Puetz visit with students at the fifth and sixth grade levels.

> "In the early '90's, we heard about a dip in enrollment. Now here it is."
>
> -John Schueth

Outside of the Catholic grade schools, there is also a large potential for students. About 50% of Catholic grade school age children do not attend Catholic schools. Scotus is developing more ways to provide PRE students and also non-Catholics with education about the school. Schueth said that by providing this information the school hopes to draw in larger numbers. Aside from direct contact, Scotus also does some advertising illustrating the benefits of Catholic education, mostly during Catholic schools week, but at other times as well. All of this, Schueth said, is not only to help the school, but also to try to provide more students with a wider selection of options in their schooling.

"We are not trying to fill the school with warm bodies," Schueth said, "but there are students out

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Students memorialize classmate with courtyard renovation

Amy Ellingson
Staff Reporter

It is 100 degrees outside with 98 percent humidity. Bodies are plastered with a mixture of dirt and sweat and muscles refuse to stop aching. A cool breeze is nonexistent within these walls. The amount of manual labor that lies ahead seems almost endless, but several Scotus students are more than ready for this challenge. The motivation comes not from money, but from love. This summer Josh Kluever's friends and family banded together to leave something for Scotus in his memory.

After Kluever's death in 2000, his mother, Kate Jones, knew she wanted to help to benefit the students of Scotus. After pondering over a scholarship program Jones decided that she wanted something that would affect more than one student per year.

"I wanted something for his class now and all in school now that knew him," said Jones. But the question was what that something was.

She found the answer within her own backyard. After the loss of her son, Jones had planted a garden in honor of him where she would go to reflect and pray. Everyone that saw it loved the idea and Kate said she thought that involving Josh's friends in something similar at Scotus would be a great experience.

" I think it's always fun to work in the dirt," said Jones.

She also said that she wanted the courtyard experience to be therapeutic and comforting to everyone that participated and that she wanted students to go there to relax during the day.

After the school gave Jones permission to start work in the courtyard she approached area businesses for help.

"Those that I contacted that owned their own businesses were very supportive," said Jones.

She also said that many business owners were familiar with her family and wanted to help out. Nosal Sand and Gravel, Landmark Landscaping, Lakefront Sprinklers, Foreman Supply Company, and Preferred Plumbing and Heating helped supply labor or materials for her cause. Kate also received help everyday from Josh's friends.

> "I didn't want to feel worhtless sitting at home. I felt like I was doing something good, too.
>
> -Ryan Zegar

Groups of students, and a few Scotus graduates, showed up and worked all day. Senior Ryan Zegar, a former classmate of Kluever, was happy to volunteer his time.

"I don't have a job and I didn't want to feel worthless sitting at home," said Zegar. "I felt like I was doing something good, too."

Many other workers said that the volunteering made them feel better about themselves. Although Jones had a sufficient amount of people to help her, work in the courtyard was filled with challenges.

Since several buildings have inhabited the area before Scotus, bricks, concrete, pipes, and other debris lay just under the surface preventing the necessary holes from being dug. Plants could not be placed where intended because as soon as a student would start digging they would hit something.

"The tunnels were our biggest obstacle," said Jones referring to the tunnels that ran under the school and courtyard.

However, not all of the challenges were unpleasant. Zegar said his biggest challenge was " eating all the food Kate would bring."

Trees and shrubs also had to be removed from the area to make room, but the dedicated workers did not let these problems stop them. The courtyard, complete with six trees, 175 shrubs and perennials, new benches and new sidewalks, was completed in about two weeks with hundreds of bulbs and mums still to come this fall.

AMY ELLINGSON/ROCK BOTTOM

AMY ELLINGSON/ROCK BOTTOM

Above: Father Bond blesses a cross in a dedication ceremony for the new courtyard while members of the senior class who helped with the restoration watch.

Left: As students head to their next class, seniors Tony Bogus, Tyler Weinand, and Dustin Beacher relax on the newly installed benches in the center of the courtyard during passing period.

The work done at Scotus this summer left behind good feelings and fond memories.

"I could see a little bit of Josh in all the kids," said Jones as she recalled the water fights and "hundreds" of hugs.

Zegar shared similar experiences.

"The best was when me and Shawn (Starostka) dug a giant hole on accident and then we sat in it together," he said.

The newly restored courtyard at Scotus will forever be a tangible sign of what the friends and family of Josh Kluever did for him completely out of love.

Looking back: September 11 changed world, daily life

Eric Grubaugh
Editor

It was one morning that a city's skyline was changed forever. It was one morning that this country's citizens will remember forever. It was one morning that threw the world into a tumultuous battle against terrorism.

It has been one year and the affects of that morning of Tuesday, September 11, 2001, are still lingering in the minds of Scotus students and faculty.

"I parent differently," said English teacher Becki Zanardi. "I worry more about my kids. I think about it pretty much every day."

Science teacher Jane Dusel-Misfeldt holds a slightly different angle.

"I'm not worried in my daily life," said Dusel-Misfeldt. "I can say the thought crosses my mind of what might happen next. I don't feel more or less safe than I did before, but now it's more of an awareness, where before it was taken for granted."

> "I think everyone is more aware of evil and of people that don't like the United States.
>
> -Whitney Anderson

Indeed people do definitely have a greater awareness of danger than they did before.

"I think that everyone is more aware of evil and of people that don't like the United States," said junior Whitney Anderson. "I think people's attitude has changed toward the government and everything."

If people's attitude has changed toward anything it would indeed be patriotism. There are very few places one can go and not see a flag or poster as a reminder of 9/11.

Zanardi and Dusel-Misfeldt both said they had a strong sense of patriotism.

"I've always gotten goosebumps when I hear the national anthem," said Dusel-Misfeldt. "I've had family members that were veterans. But now my husband and I put out a flag, and we never did that before. I also have a pin that I wear that I never had before."

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CD burning, downloading hurting local music businesses
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Homecoming candidates plan their kingdoms
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Good hygiene promotes friendship

Lauren Maul

You're Still Not Helping

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It happens every fall: You walk into the school building smelling and feeling fresh and leave that afternoon with a not-so-fresh feeling.

Fortunately, if you remembered to wear deodorant, you leave school smelling pretty much the same way you did that morning: good. But I have learned the hard way that many of the students at Scotus aren't so fortunate.

I really start to notice the stench after lunch. The underclassmen have already had their daily dose of P.E. and some of them have made the unfortunate choice of not showering. I cannot stress this enough: PLEASE SHOWER. If you do not want to shower because of the frightening group shower environment of the locker rooms, PLEASE APPLY ANOTHER COAT OF DEODORANT. As far as I'm concerned, you cannot wear enough deodorant.

I'll admit that when I was in junior high there were some mornings when I forgot to apply my deodorant.

No matter how dire the circumstance, I always found a way to not smell like bad body odor.

Everybody has those bad mornings when you sleep too late and accidentally put on your Tuesday day-of-the-week underwear even though it's Thursday. Then you go to P.E. and everyone in your locker room thinks you've been wearing the same underwear for two days when you really just misread the day on the front.

I've had plenty of those mornings. But when I realized I forgot my deodorant, I would race to the locker room and do a quick application. I never, repeat NEVER, went a day without it. No matter how dire the circumstance, I always found a way to not smell like bad body odor.

I'll give the seventh graders a couple weeks to get their acts together. Many of them just started to need deodorant and most of them still don't use it. But let me tell you, EVERYONE here at Scotus needs deodorant. Even if you haven't hit puberty, still have the common courtesy to apply a layer of deodorant every morning.

You may notice that your feet smell, too. Everyone's feet sweat, and that's why I put a dusting of deodorizing powder into my shoes every morning. My feet have never smelled so good. It only takes a second, but it can make all the difference in the battle to beat the stinkies.

In conclusion, good hygiene is a necessary facet of daily life. Also, if your hair looks wet when it's **not**, that means it is greasy and that you should WASH IT. PLEASE. You can buy cheap shampoo and it only takes a few minutes. I swear, people will like you better if you smell nice.

No one likes the smelly kid, so please heed my advice.

Now I'm outta here faster than a neckless man in a turtleneck store.

Accept yourself, be accepted in kind

Craig Staroscik

Wallowing In Thought

I'm tired of pretending.

I sat on the porch of the Connely family's lakeside cabin writing this. With my deadline tomorrow, I had little choice but to do my homework while I watched the rest of my cross-country team play sand volleyball after the afternoon's practice. Periodically between Calculus problems, they invited me to get up and join them. They kidded around about how I work too hard.

"Craig the straight A student," is not a bad name to be called. I've been called much worse. In fact, it was great to be invited. Everyone loves to be noticed, and my cross-country team is just one example of the inviting people I've encountered these past five years at Scotus.

I never was really a social guy. Sitting on the porch while the rest of my team swam was not a great sacrifice for me. I was not trying to be antisocial, and I hope they know that. I'm kind of a loner. There was a time when I would have felt bad about not joining in for a game on the beach. I used to try and tell myself that because everyone else had fun hanging out in a large party that I should too. Over time, I've come to accept that I am kind of a loner. That is just me.

It is not easy to accept yourself for who you are. This world screams for teens to be ultra-unique or the perfect everything. It is even harder to deal with the real people in your life who may think you are wrong because you would rather finish your homework than hang out in the sun. It is not always acquaintances; even your closest friends can have a hard time accepting you.

I respect you all, even if my secluded nature makes to seem like I'm rude.

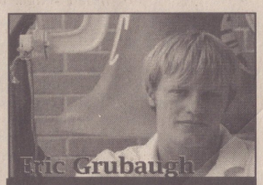
I am who I am. I'm tired of pretending I have to be someone else or that I will be better by conforming to anyone else's way of thinking. The only thing we have going for us is what God gave to us. We should try to excel, to become our best, but there is no denying we need to accept our limitations and differences.

When God made humans, I don't think he considered a universal brand; he just made the variety pack. I am the quiet, unexcitable flavor. Every day in the hall I pass the outgoing flavor, and the kind flavor, the not-quite-average-and-having-a-bad-day flavor. Sometimes I pass the hopeful and modest flavor, shielded with whatever artificial candy coating that happens to be in style. In their own way they are all great, even if a make-believe shell obscures the taste a bit.

I say "way to go" to all of us without cavity causing shells on the outside. I should give another round of applause for those of us who make the best of every personality we encounter. It does not take much to be kind. Even the people who would laugh at honesty want to be loved. The problem here is that some people still feel the need to pretend to be someone they are not. It may be impossible to like everyone, but we should all be accepted for being ourselves. We are who we are, and that is nothing to be ashamed of. Don't believe anyone who tells you otherwise.

I respect you all, even if my secluded nature makes it seem like I'm being rude. You may think by now that I write like a religion counselor, but I don't care. I'm tired of pretending that I don't care what the rest of my fellow students do with your lives. I have to care about you. You have to care about yourself. That's just who we are. There is no use pretending it's not true.

Be a kid, have fun; maturity overrated



Eric Grubaugh

Coloring Out of the Lines

For centuries, rumors have circulated of its existence...none providing proof. Countless searches have been conducted for its location...all ending in failure. Battles have been fought and lives have been lost on land said to hide the fabled Fountain of Youth. The notion of eternal life is that irresistible to human beings.

Today people everywhere are doing their darndest to look and feel younger every day. They do everything from eating the healthiest foods to taking all the right pills to buying the best rejuvenation cream the market can produce. Why? Why do adults go through so many hassles just to feel like a kid again? **Because kids have more fun!** Who besides a kid could sit in a mud puddle playing with a worm for hours and still be angry when an adult finally dragged them away kicking and screaming? Who besides a kid could make a game of running around and tagging each other such an intense competition? Who besides a kid doesn't have a worry in the world?

Who besides a kid could make a game of running around and tagging each other such an intense competition?

When was the last time a kid came up to you worried about the stock market falling? Matter of fact, when was the first time? They don't have to worry about finding a job, keeping a job, paying bills, or anything of the sort.

That's the best thing kids have going for them…their young intellects do not yet know the true meaning of stress. Yet I still remember growing up thinking 'I wish I was older so I could stay up 'til 10 too.' Or 'I can't wait 'til I'm older so I can drive a car.'

But I never ever remember thinking 'I can't wait 'til I'm 45 with graying hair paying for two kids' college expenses after forgetting to take out the garbage and feed the cat who just pooped on the carpet which is brand new and only cost three months wages which I had to work all too much overtime for because I'm only getting paid $8.95 an hour at McDonald's.'

So whenever I wished I was older, I wished I was an older kid, but never wished to be an adult. Why is that? Maybe it's because there's a point where we become 'too mature,' and since when is 'too mature' any fun? Sometime between adolescence and adulthood we probably reach that point.

Take, for instance, a student who…shall we say…passes gas during class. What's the first thing that happens every single time? Any and every student who heard it is going to darn near bust a gut laughing, or trying not to. Why is this so funny? To be honest, I don't really know, but it's just a natural reaction to a natural process.

But then the next thing that also happens every single time is that the teacher steps in saying something to the effect of:

"Now come on class, I'm sure it's happened to all of us. Let's try to be mature about it."

Oh come on, this is providing the students with a break in their normal ho-hum day of lectures and note taking. They get to have a little fun for just a couple minutes. Just one time, **one time** I would like to hear a teacher say:

"Wow, nice push."

Or fall out of their chair because they are laughing so hard. I doubt it would make the person guilty of the foul stench drifting through the room feel too bad, because chances are they are laughing too. Their face may be redder than Bozo the Clown's hair, but I bet they find it just as funny as the rest of the class. So just laugh it off, it would make the guilty party a little less embarrassed than it would trying to stand up for their "maturity."

That's one specific incidence of a case I think could be dealt with with a little "less maturity" for the sake of having fun. If you ask me, the Fountain of Youth isn't a little fountain of magical water somewhere in Florida; it's having fun. Laughter is the best way to keep you feeling young and spry. Laughing is the easiest way to relieve stress or worry, even if it's temporary. That's why kids have so much fun. Kids are rarely, if ever, in a bad mood.

They are always smiling, always laughing, and always having fun with whatever is available. They may wish they are older, but they wish they were older kids who are still having a lot of fun.

We grow up wishing we were older, and get older wishing we were younger, and it's because of one thing: the Fountain of Youth….or, more commonly, laughter.

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Internet downloads, CD burning affecting music business

Ryan Jablonski
Staff Reporter

You are in the car on the way home from school. You hear a song that catches your ear, you decide you want this song. How are you going to get it?

Are you going home to break open your piggy bank and spend twenty dollars on a CD for the one song that you heard on the radio? Then there is the second option, the more inexpensive option, getting a blank CD and burning all your favorite songs from different artists onto one, the ultimate Dance Mix.

Many people today have opted for this easier and less expensive way of getting music.

"I have probably downloaded over five hundred songs," said junior Chad Trofholz. "CD's are so expensive; this saves me money. Besides, I'm on the computer all the time anyway."

Five hundred songs may seem like a lot, but if compared to how many people download songs, it just scratches the surface.

Not everyone sees CD burning as a good thing. Those in the music industry believe that burning CD's is going to change the music industry for the worst.

"Everyone in the music industry loses money when you burn CD's," said Tom Bogus, owner of Bogey's Music.

"For the artists who make the music, to the music producers, all the way down the line to retail stores. I was forced to get two different suppliers after my original suppliers went bankrupt last Christmas."

Bogus has been selling music for sixteen years; he has seen how burning CD's has hurt the industry.

"If one guy comes in here to buy a CD, he gives it to nine of his friends to burn onto a blank CD," Bogus says. "That is what hurts

> **"Small music businesses are going out of business all over the country, so if you have it you got to use it or lose it!**
>
> **-Tom Bogus"**

the business more than downloading individual songs."

Even though clever consumers have taken advantage of the music industry, Bogus believes that burning CD's will come back to haunt the consumer.

"In the end, the consumer will lose," he said. "The music industry will have to change. Then we will not have small retail stores for music. We will be limited to what radio stations play."

Bogus said that the decrease in spending on CD's could make it impossible for small musics stores to compete with big retail stores such as Wal-Mart.

"Small music businesses are going out of business all over the country, so if you have it you got to **use it or lose it!**" Bogus said.

Downloading songs off the Internet and copying songs off used CD's is making the music industry work for free.

"For those who think music should be free, how long do you think you would work for free?" Bogus asked. "No one goes into work everyday for free, so why should artists and music dealers work for free; besides it's illegal. When you burn CD's you are breaking copyright laws."

However, to many teenagers, breaking a law with little chance of getting caught is a small price to pay for free music.

"I have burnt anywhere from 300 to 500 CD's in my entire lifetime," senior Adam Wick said. "I don't really care about the fact that it is against the law; it really doesn't bother me."

There is only one thing that would stop Wick from burning CD's.:

"Getting caught," he said, "but since I am not selling my burnt CD's, I am really not breaking any laws."

Students who insist on getting their music for free, enjoy the free tunes while they're out there, and prepare for the consumer to get burnt by the music industry.

Bell problems baffle, annoy school

Lauren Maul
Editor

"Ding-ding-ding DIIIINGGSCREEEEAGGHHH."

Scotus students have heard many variations of the sound written above coming from the intercom/bell system this past month. Sometimes the school bell sounded like this, sometimes the bell worked fine, and other times the bell did not work at all.

In the case of the latter, Scotus Superintendent Bill Gannon signaled the endings of classes by using a foghorn in the hallways. This replacement bell did not work so well.

In addition to causing confusion, the foghorn may have damaged hearing and added to the overall mayhem of the school day. Despite possible hearing loss, the student body is durable enough to cope with whatever this building may bring.

Scotus has had to deal with many technical problems, such as no air conditioning and cold air coming from the heating vents in the winter. So it was only natural that the bell and intercom system should stop working.

Kathy Kruse, spokeswoman of the secretaries in the front office, discovered the bell dilemma way back on August 1. The school called the company that initially installed the intercom/bell system to come on down and fix the problem.

The company was baffled.

It took them five different trips to finally fix the bells. Problem solved? Not so fast, reader. Unfortunately, the bells continued to malfunction. Finally, after much debate and many pages read from the manual, the problem with the bells turned out to be squirrels in the wiring.

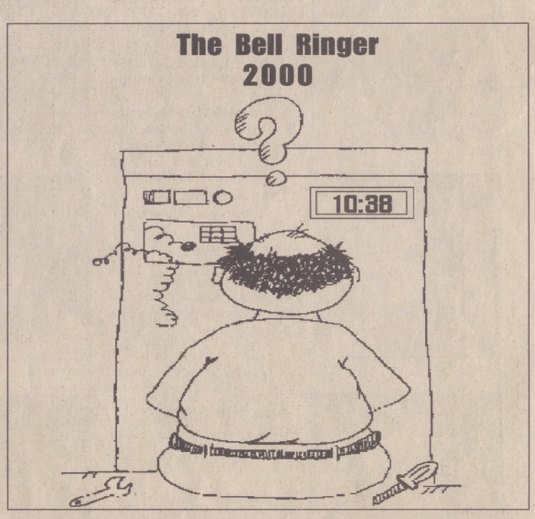
Apparently, the rodents had chewed through the majority of the wires causing terrible noises to be heard when the bell would ring. OK, that's a lie.

Actually, the experts say that squirrels had **nothing** to do with this matter. It was instead "problems with the amplifier system." But many people believe it was the Scotus Ghost and her minions at work again.

No matter what caused the breakdown, students should rest assured that the front office will continue functioning as usual.

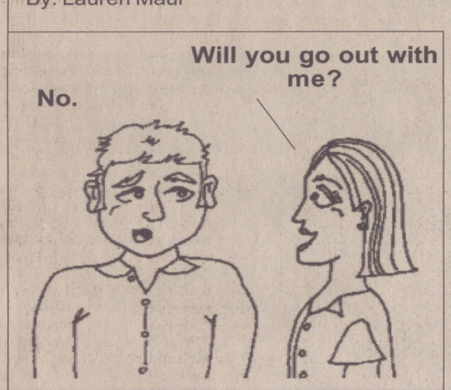
"We're flexible here," said Kruse. "Life goes on."

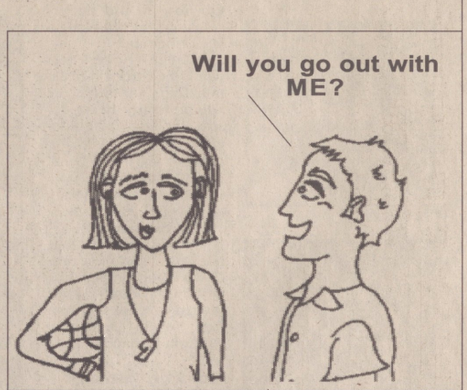
Life may go on, but will the bells? They may be working now, but who knows what the future (or the Scotus Ghost) will bring. (Most likely nothing, but one has to be on guard here at Scotus.)



How to Get a Date at Scotus

By: Lauren Maul





September 11: One year later

from page 1

One could agree that since September 11, 2001, there has been a stronger sense of friendship, or at least of harmony among Americans, but Zanardi disagrees.

"It's not that I have lost my confidence in America, but it's like I've lost my confidence in people," said Zanardi. "I teach my kids the whole stranger equals danger thing."

While everyone may not have a sense of imminent danger, there is definitely a greater awareness of what could happen.

"I think that [Americans] are more aware that anything can happen," said Anderson, "and life won't be there anymore. Life can be taken away at any time."

September 11 did not only bring around changes in the way Americans think, but also in the way the country operates.

"I went to Chicago," said junior Ashley Foltz, "and the security at the airports and pretty much everywhere was so tight. I think they searched everyone's bags at the airport. It took forever."

With step-ups in security, anti-terrorism, and awareness of danger, one may begin to feel more at ease.

But no matter how safe Americans feel in the future when they read about 9-11 in History textbooks, the minds of this generation will forever be impressed upon by the events of the morning of Tuesday, September 11, 2001.

Enrollment: Class sizes shrinking

from page 1

there who want the type of environment and reputation Scotus has to offer. Scotus tries to educate to each individual's unique person."

Morfeld said there are other factors cause some students to transfer out of Scotus. These include Scotus' demanding curriculum and firm rules. Schueth added that because of Columbus' above average public school system, it is harder to draw students in at the extra cost, but that Scotus' long history of academic, athletic, fine arts, and community successes is a huge positive for attracting kids. By keeping the student numbers up, the incoming money makes it is easier for the school to add even more improvements. The only way to accomplish this, according to Morfeld, is to get the word out about the kind of school Scotus is.

"I think it extremely important to show our character to the public," Morfeld said. "Our reputation is who we are, and we have to show we are genuine in our efforts."

The future enrollment of Scotus relies on several factors, among these the way the school presents itself. It is unknown for certain how full the classrooms will be next year, but Scotus is doing its part to make sure there are plenty of students to make noise.

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Decision '02: Homecoming

Ryan Jablonski
Staff Reporter

Yes, the homecoming votes have already been collected, and hopefully you won't have to slap your forehead in anger knowing how the homecoming royalty plan to rule their newly crowned kingdom. We gave the candidates questions about their rule as King or Queen, and they answered them as seriously and honestly as possible.

Sackett

Jennifer Sackett
Q. How would underclassmen be viewed in your kingdom?
A. They would not have any say in anything.
Q. What would a school day schedule look like in your kingdom?
A. We would sleep all day and then party.

Ketter

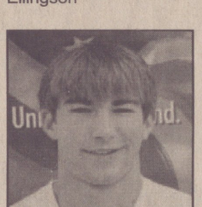
Taryn Ketter
Q. As homecoming Queen how would you like your subjects to view you?
A. As Ryan's master.
Q. As homecoming Queen how would you go about ruling your kingdom?
A. I'd let the people in the kingdom do whatever they wanted to do, except for my boyfriend.

Zabawa

Tara Zabawa
Q. As homecoming Queen how would you like your subject to view you?
A. Taller than I really am
Q. What would a school day schedule look like in your kingdom?
A. 8 AM-11 AM: Nap time
11-1 PM: Lunch
1-3PM: Recess

Ellingson

Amy Ellingson
Q. As Queen how what meal would you like served at your coronation?
A. Pancakes in the shape of my face with blueberry eyes, strawberry lips, banana hair, and a pineapple crown. There would be no syrup; my face is not greasy.
Q. How would underclassmen be viewed in your kingdom?
A. My lowly servants would be forced to wear loincloths and serve me whatever my heart desires, or face the guillotine.


Roewert

Tyler Roewert
Q. As homecoming King how would you go about ruling your kingdom?
A. I would make someone else do all the work for me.
Q. As homecoming King what meal would you like served at your coronation.
A. Turkey drumsticks.

Chatman

Amber Chatman

Amber had no comment

Zegar

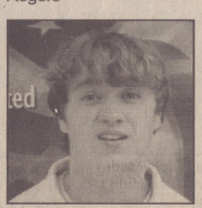
Ryan Zegar
Q. As homecoming King how would you like your subjects to view you?
A. Through a telescope.
Q. As homecoming King what meal would you like served at your coronation?
A. Punji sticks for everyone.

Tooley

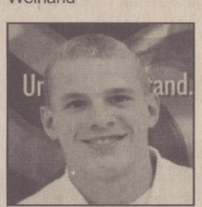
Jacob Tooley
Q. As homecoming King, what rule would you make or what rule would you take away to make your kingdom better?
A. Naptime for everyone!
Q. As homecoming King how would you like your subjects to view you?
A. With childlike wonder and awe.

Rogers

Robert Rogers
Q. As homecoming King what rule would you make or what rule would you take away to make your kingdom better?
A. Clothes-Take them away!
Q. How would underclassmen be viewed in your kingdom.
A. Like my children.


Weinand

Tyler Weinand
Q. As homecoming King, what rule would you make or what rule would you take away to make your kingdom better?
A. On jeans day guys can wear biker shorts and tank tops, and other days there has to be short hair, visible socks, and tucked in shirts for all so everyone can get the total learning experience, distraction free.
Q. As homecoming King how would you like your subjects to view you?
A. The total package (like the charming, handsome individual that I am.)


Melliger

Josh Melliger
Q. As homecoming King how would you like your subjects to address you?
A. Your Greatness.
Q. What would a school day schedule look like in your kingdom?
A. School... what school?

Mielak

Nicole Mielak

Nicole had no comment

Trio of new staffers begin year at Scotus

Scott Becker and Anna Evans
Rock Bottom Correspondents

As students meander down the halls, they will notice a few new marvels: The seventh graders ranging in height from three feet to six feet, more information covering the senior hall bulletin board, and some unfamiliar adults chatting with our well-known teachers. They may appear scary at first, but our three new faculty members are, for the most part, just three normal guys that want to enrich the learning experience of Scotus students.

Brian Fuscher is the new junior and senior Theology teacher. He graduated from Creighton University in 2002 with a major in journalism and a minor in theology. Fuscher has followed his mother's footsteps into the education profession. At Scotus he wishes to become a source of support for young people, even though he was at first intimidated by Scotus' high standing in academics and athletics. He said that he believes that teenagers are underestimated in their abilities. Along with his teaching duties, Fuscher said he was glad to be given the opportunity to coach freshmen football and soccer.

ERIC GRUBAUGH/ROCK BOTTOM

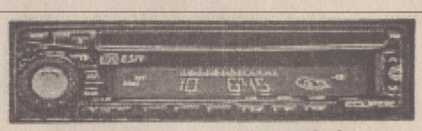
Junior English teacher Steve Cozad instructs his class. Cozad is one of three new faculty members this fall.

With the new theology teacher came a new theology preacher.

Bond, Father Bill Bond, was ordained on June 5, 1999. He operated as the associate pastor of St. Leo's in Omaha, where he assisted the grade school and prepared couples for marriage. Bond is highly impressed with Scotus' school spirit and support of sports, but wishes students would carry that enthusiasm into the church. At Scotus he wishes to help students grow in prayer. He said one of the best ways for them to start that is to sing in church. Bond wants the students to learn more about mass so they can "draw in unity with God and with each other." Bond said he was most impressed by the Living the Faith program in place at Scotus.

Steve Cozad started out as a newspaper reporter, and then taught in such places as Glenwood, Iowa, and Lyons, Nebraska, before finally coming to Scotus. While teaching he specialized in media, special education, and English. He wanted to teach at Scotus for it's great reputation in sports and academics and said the parental support is better than anywhere he had been previously. He has coached everything from football, to basketball to track, and is the head football coach and an assistant track coah at Scotus. He is enjoying his time at Scotus- no matter how small the football team is. He lives with his wife Brenda, four kids, Amanda, Meghan, Stefanae, and Zane, and his dog, Champ.

As the school year goes on, students sitting in class will gain a better understanding of the new faces that grace our halls, and the new additions will help this highly academic and athletic school have more spirit in sports and for God.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Beth Orton provides mellow music from the U.K.

Lauren Maul
Editor

For those of you who enjoy the melodic stylings of artists such as Sinead O'Connor, Sarah McLachlan, Natalie Merchant, Björk, Dido, or Tori Amos, you should definitely check out British singer/songwriter Beth Orton.

Despite the fact Orton's voice sounds a little like these artists, she manages to combines acoustic folk with electric beats to create a sound all her own.

On her latest album, *Daybreaker,* Orton gives her best organic acoustic sound with songs like "Carmella" and "This One's Gonna Bruise." The rest of her songs are jazzy with a bit of tasteful techno thrown in.

For the track "God Song", Emmylou Harris joins Orton's vocals to produce a mellow song with swaying melodies. Guitar idol Ryan Adams can also be heard in a couple of songs.

Still not sold? Here are some of the lyrics from Track 2: "Concrete Sky."

Faith has a good side/still everyone she ever loved they all turned bad/ Constance his own way of breathing and you know you couldn't will him to survive/ Couldn't will him if you tried/And there's a concrete sky falling from the trees again and you know not why it's not coming round too soon/It's harder than a heartbreak too/I've seen your good side but I still don't know just what it is that you might want.

> "I've seen your good side but I still don't know just what it is that you might want.
>
> -Beth Orton"

Because of the many different genres on this album, you may never get tired of listening to it. I give this fabulous and eclectic album **four out of four stars**.

Places to enjoy this CD include: your car, your bathtub, and at the breakfast table to put you in a retrospective mood.

If you are looking to add some "girlie music" to your CD collection, this may not be what you are looking for. This CD appeals to everyone who likes to listen to mellow music, even if those people aren't girls.

You won't hear many songs about love and other goo-goo things, but you will hear some great acoustic and soulful melodies.

If you buy this CD and are a fan, I would recommend you check out some of Orton's other CDs, such as *Central Reservation* & *Trailer Park*..

Happy listening!

Swimfan's story of obsession more than typical teen horror movie

Amy Ellingson
Staff Reporter

Before seeing the movie, *Swimfan* seemed like it was going to be the stereotypical teen horror movie. You know, flaky girls, hunky guys, too many dead bodies, and most importantly, no common sense. *Swimfan* was different from most teen horror movies though; the characters, from hero to villain, seem like real people.

Ben Cronin, played by Jesse Bradford, had the perfect life: a beautiful girlfriend, a promising swimming career, a rewarding hospital job, and a loyal group of friends. Ben had made mistakes with drugs in his past, but six months in a juvenile rehabilitation center, and the support of his girlfriend had set him straight. Because of an expected college scholarship and the companionship of his girlfriend, life after high school seemed like it was going to be flawless.

Unfortunately for Ben, a simple act of kindness sparked the relationship that almost destroyed his life. Madison Belle was the new girl at school having the typical "new girl at school" problems and Ben, not thinking anything of it, helped her open her locker. Madison's flirtatious personality immediately overwhelms Ben, and she easily seduces him.

20TH CENTURY FOX PHOTO

The obsessed Madison (Christensen) watches Ben (Bradford) swim his laps.

Ben immediately realizes the severity of his mistake and wants to forget the encounter ever happened, but Madison has other ideas in mind. She believes that Ben is in love with her and that wants to be with her, but Ben's feelings are exactly the opposite. Although Ben is extremely assertive, to the point of being violent with her, Madison refuses to take a hint. Ben's frustration only fuels Madison to try harder. At first I didn't exactly feel sorry for Ben because he made the choice to cheat on his girlfriend, Amy, who was the perfect role model of what a girlfriend should be (And aren't all Amys?).

She always listened to him and cared about his feelings. Ben completely ignored the fact that Amy was a much better person than Madison was. I also found it ironic that Ben didn't even mention he was with Amy until after he found out Madison wanted more than his body. Ben deserved a little punishment but Madison definitely went too far. As she pursues Ben, she leaves a path of destruction through his life. Madison will not stop until she feels she has gotten revenge, even if it means committing murder. Ben is framed for crimes he didn't commit and authorities do not believe his alibi. A crucial piece of evidence provided with the help of Madison's nerdy cousin could prove Ben's innocence and save his life.

Surprisingly enough, *Swimfan* was more realistic than most despite Madison's questionable escape from police. Instead of the villain being immortal, surviving beating, after stab wound, after gunshot, she had intelligence. Madison Belle, played by Erika Christensen, knew what was most important to Ben and ruined it. Christensen has received gracious recognition for her success as Michael Douglas' drug-addicted teenager in *Traffic* and followed the performance well with *Swimfan*. Christensen shows what being deceived and heartbroken can do to a person with an unstable mentality.

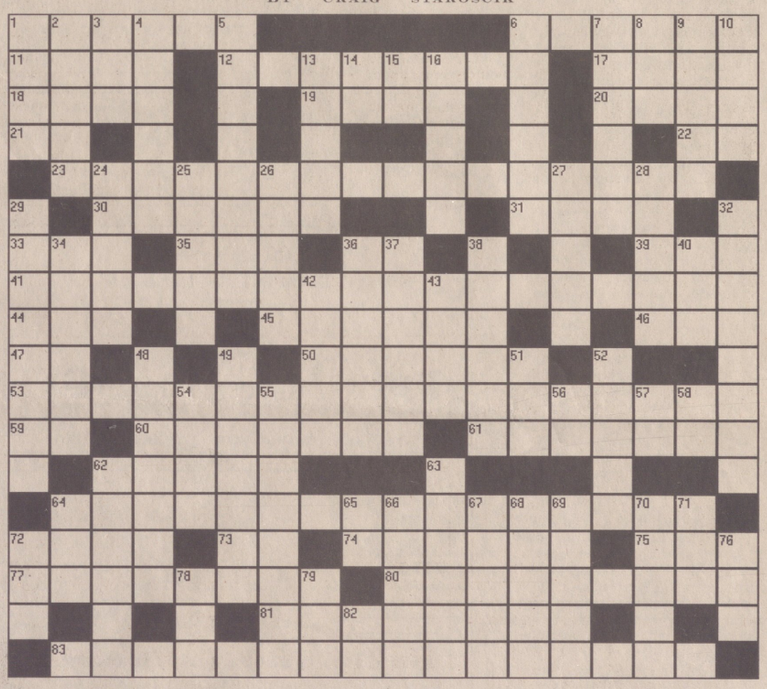
Swimfan sends powerful messages about the dangers of infidelity and casual sex. In my opinion, *Swimfan* would be a good date movie. Even though the ending isn't picture perfect, the movie will definitely give you a good thrill.

Swimfan
Stars: Jesse Bradford, Erika Christensen
Amy's Rock Bottom Rating:

"Swimming in Schools"

SCOTUS ✝ WORD

BY CRAIG STAROSCIK



Across:
1. Group of fish
6. To establish through law
11. Small dam for fish
12. To have had influence on
17. A school law
18. Thought or insight
19. Slender woodwind instrument
20. Relating to the mouth
21. Millenium Edition (abbr.)
22. Secret Service (abbr.)
23. Conceited clams?
30. Mythical fish-human
31. Area occupied by a structure
33. Wrath
35. Body part lateral the eyes
36. Alternating current (abbr.)
39. Local area network (abbr.)
41. Shamu's pod eating Cheerios?
44. To give in exchange for goods
45. Harnessing an animal to an implement
46. Island off coast of India: ___ Lanka
47. Emulator Program (abbr.)
50. Scruf from an animal's coat
53. False clue between bread?
59. Steradian (abbr.)
60. Hydrocarbon levels in petroleum
61. Another name for fast food
62. Crack in the Earth's crust
64. All the rage in fish barbershops?
72. Animals that can be hunted or fished
73. Salvation Army (abbr.)
74. To be innate or inherent
75. The edge of a cylinder
77. An abnormal decrease in body's pH
80. A silk screen print
81. Attaching names
83. Doublewide marlin?

Down:
1. How fish move
2. Gives possession of
3. To move quickly
4. Shrine dedicated to ancient god
5. Relating to tears
6. Perfect goals
7. Amount earned after expenses
8. Possessive "we"
9. To strike quickly with a blade
10. Thin, snakelike fish (pl)
13. West wind off Alps
14. Eastbound (abbr.)
15. Company (abbr.)
16. Opinion held by organization
24. Hard mineral used in sandpaper
25. A streak of color
26. British form of "sarcastic"
27. Funny or suspicious
28. Opposite of buys
29. To dissolve or spread
32. Visions into confounding problems
34. One who harvests
36. One class of aliphatic hydrocarbons
37. To hold on in a desperate manner
38. Orange and almond flavoring
40. Variation of "air"
42. Variation of element 53
43. All beginnings have their ___
48. To come together in a large group
49. Without creativity
51. Radio Network Association (abbr.)
52. To increase in size by taking in liquid
54. Electronic Common User Language (abbr.)
55. Smaller than oxtails
56. Country code of Denmark
57. Large moon of Jupiter
58. Colorado University (abbr.)
62. Smokier
63. Retained after due date (2 words) ov__ ___
64. Type of computer
65. "Ad interim" (abbr.)
66. To put into: ___t
67. Fine line on some typefaces
68. _____dad and Tobago
69. Burglars or thieves
70. To remove from writing
71. A small drink
72. Fish with elongated body and snout
76. Megahertz (abbr.)
78. eggs
79. Tool used for cutting
82. malodourousnes

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Scotus athletics program earns All-Sports title again

Matt Krings

Eric Grubaugh
Editor

To many, Scotus Central Catholic is more than a school. Scotus is looked at positively for its well-groomed students, excellent academics, and competitive athletics. With old faces out and Coach Cozad in, the football team is looked at in a different light. Hopes of continuing the great tradition is just one of the few goals set forth by the football team. Tradition is what made Scotus football what it is and change would seem pointless, but the new-look Shamrocks have started a few new traditions of their own.

New changes have come about, and I am sure fans have noticed. The reasoning is not always clear though. One tradition started is the "Hit Stick." This stick is a 6 foot pole painted green and yellow with the word 'hit' painted all over it. Before every game, the starting defense puts their hands on the stick promising to give 110%. The explosion of emotions then starts. One of my favorite parts to a game day is hearing Coach Goerlinger's pregame talk. Always fired up, he instructs us to go out there and kick butt, but in words that cannot be published. After a few encouraging words from our captains, the team takes the field slowly. With the captains in front, the hit stick is carried out, never to touch the ground. Because we come out of the locker room full of inspirational words, it has been weird taking the field in such a calm manner.

Before every game day, students used to see the football players go get their favorite fast food. This is no longer the case. Tradition has changed football player's eating habits, and players now stay at school and are fed spaghetti, tomatoes, and a salad. This is not very appetizing and I would prefer my Subway, but the new way is a change I will have to live with.

Many physical changes have come to the Shamrocks this season, and this includes mental preparation as well. I came into the season expecting some hard conditioning, but I never expected the torture I experienced the first week. Two a days brought out the "gorillas," a torturous run that includes about 100-yards of bear crawling on your hands and feet. One is not bad, and the second gets tough. Then comes the third gorilla, and the pain is pretty much unbearable. My upper arms felt like oatmeal. Many lineman were dragging on their bellies; it was a hideous experience.

Tradition has started right before the game too. Quiet time has been introduced. For 20 minutes players either lie down on the cafeteria tables or lay their heads down on the bus to mentally prepare for the game. We go over assignments and prepare in a way players never have prepared the past years. Players are sure to be prepared for the game.

Smaller traditions have also been started with the arrival of a new system. The starting defense carries a card the day of the game stating a commitment to giving one's all in the upcoming game. Helmets are not allowed off for any reason at practices or games, unless a player is getting a drink. Sweat could be going into your pupil, burning your eye like battery acid, and if that helmet comes off, the player is rewarded with push-ups.

These new traditions started will not win us the big football game, but they make other differences. Starting 0-2 is not the way anyone wants to start a season, but the mental and physical preparations has the Shamrocks heading into battle every Friday night with a chance to win.

The hallways are lined with it. The Activity Center displays it. It can be felt in the crowd at any Scotus competition.

Tradition is one thing Scotus has never been shorthanded on. Soon the championship pictures will need a hallway of their own. The trophies are on the verge of bursting out of their case. The banners hanging from the ceiling of the new gym are about to overlap each other. There are no shortages of wins, records, or championships here at Scotus, and most likely there never will be.

This past June, the tradition here was expounded upon, as Scotus claimed the Nebraska Class C-1 All-Sports Award for the seventh time in a row and the twelfth time overall. The All-Sports Award is presented annually by the *Omaha World Herald*. It is determined by awarding points in all sports in which a school finishes in the top ten in the state. There is a girls' award, a boys' award, and a combined award. This past year, the Scotus girls won the award by shattering the all-time record of points scored. The girls' strength combined with the boys' scores also earned Scotus the combined All-Sports Award. It is rare enough to win this award back-to-back, but seven times in a row is undoubtedly outstanding. However, it seems to come as little surprise to Athletic Director Gary Puetz.

> "We have great staffs and athletes that get along in between sports. There's a lot of cooperation there."
> -Gary Puetz

"We have good athletes and good programs," said Puetz, "and I think that another major contributor is that our coaches stay in the program. That provides some continuity, and it makes it more competitive."

Volleyball and track coach Janet Tooley also agreed that continuity of coaching staffs has helped Scotus through the years.

"We have a lot of tradition here," said Tooley, "and a lot of the success is based on consistency of our coaching staffs. That means that the skills are taught in a progressive manner. We're all on the same page from the junior high level to the J. V. level to the varsity level."

Puetz also contributes the success to the relationship between coaches and athletes during and after the season.

"We have great (coaching) staffs and athletes that get along in between sports. There's a lot of cooperation there."

For the most part though, a lot of the athletes here do not get much time in between sports.

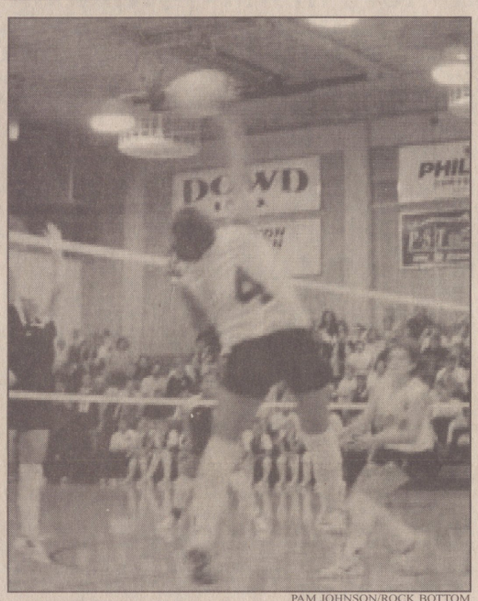
"The vast majority of our quality athletes are two and three sport athletes," said Puetz. "Very few of them specialize."

The only specialty Scotus seemed to have was winning. In claiming the All-Sports Award, the girls scored heavily by taking championships in cross country, volleyball, and soccer, earning runners-up in basketball and track, and taking sixth in golf. The boys contributed to the combined title with seventh-place finishes in both track and soccer.

Tooley attributes the girls' success an idea similiar Puetz's.

"I think the number of our three-sport athletes is a major factor," said Tooley, "and those skills transfer over. You learn how to handle yourself in the big game. It may be your first state soccer tournament, but if you've already been in state volleyball or basketball, I don't think you go in as wide-eyed as you would have."

Competitors at Scotus are no strangers to big games. They gain experience in rivalries and tough competitions as soon as they enter the competing world of Scotus, and those experiences lead to the quality Scotus holds most dear: tradition.


PAM JOHNSON/ROCK BOTTOM

Smashing...

Junior Laura Dolezal attacks the vollyball in a recent match against Grand Island Central Catholic. The top ranked Shamrocks defeated the number two Crusaders 15-7, 15-3.

Students getting too big for their own britches

Matt Krings
Editor

The life of high school students is filled with worries and ambitions. Popularity, fun, and homework consume their lives. The schedule of students can be crazy with the eight hour school day, extracurricular activities, and for some a job. Exercise is not a huge concern to most students, mostly because from the lack of time to do so. P.E. teacher Janet Tooley has made clear the huge importance of diet and exercise to her classes, but many students do not enjoy running or eating healthy.

Exercise should be an everyday event for people. It gives you more energy, as well as a better figure. Besides organized sports, the exercise habits of Scotus students aren't great.

"I probably should run," said sophomore Tom Adelman, "but I don't like moving when I don't have to. That would also take away from my guitar playing time."

Exercise is not the only healthy activity many teenagers neglect. Eating healthy is also a rarity among high school students.

"I don't watch what I eat at all," said eighth grader Josh Otte. "I do want to be healthy, but right now I ain't getting any fatter, so why should I exercise?"

Everyday large-figured people can be easily seen. It is no secret that America is a fat nation. As long as students keep on not caring about their figure, change does not seem likely. Some students are blessed, as junior Shane Goodall said.

"For some reason I am always hungry," he said. "I eat and eat, do absolutely nothing, and then eat some more. My weight never changes, and it's great."

Metabolism is different for everyone, and those students who cannot get away with ignoring their diet such as Goodall know that healthy diet and some exercise is a guarantee success for feeling better physically and mentally. This is very hard to do though.

"Food is so good, I can't help myself," said eighth grader Kyle Mroczek. "I am in sports and school, but I do not exercise on my own at all."

The country's youth are fat and out of shape. With a change in diets and a commitment to working out, students can change their appearance and attitudes towards their figure. No doubt about it, it is hard, but students need to slim down and eat the way they have been told for years. Take that flabby belly and shrink it!

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Scotus Central Catholic

ROCK BOTTOM

Columbus, Nebraska | October, 18 2002 | Volume 5, Issue 2

Retreat a chance to get away, get together

Senior retreat brought students closer as they begin final year at Scotus

Craig Staroscik
Editor-In-Chief

A small room suddenly seemed spacious as the last of 81 seniors packed into a small corner for an end of the day picture. In the back, classmates were leaning over one another; the front consisted of a collage of bodies, and overhead students hung from the rafters. This closing ceremony was a fitting end to a day of connecting and sharing for the class of 2003.

Earlier this month the senior students had their class retreat. As in past years, it consisted of a day spent at Camp Timber Lake, time for reflection and prayer, and a heap of class bonding.

"It was amazing," senior Kristan Forney said. "I thought it was incredible how we came together and bonded. I saw my class in a different way."

The day started off early with a bus ride to the camp outside of Central City, followed by a recess to help the day get started. After that, the students settled down for a quieter period of reflection. In what is known as the burning of the class sins, students had a chance to ask for forgiveness and to bury the mistakes made in the past.

Another part of the morning's activities was a time for students to open up and share their feelings with the class. The positive messages seemed to bring home a sense of unity as well as class pride.

"I think our class really came together well," senior Tony Bogus said. "For people to be able to stand up like and say what they wanted was pretty cool."

The afternoon was a bit less serious. Despite several interruptions of some activities due to a lightning storm, students still had the chance to relax, enjoy the lake, or test their skills and courage on Timber Lake's challenge course. It was also a time for the class to get to know one another better. After dinner, the group gathered to share an emotional mass together.

> "It was amazing. I thought it was incredible how we came together and bonded."
> -Kristan Forney

"My favorite part was the mass," senior Nicole Kobus said. "It was a nice intimate thing for all of us. During the sign of peace I shook hands or hugged a lot of people I usually don't hang out with."

One face absent from the day but not from the thoughts of the senior class was Father Steve Emanuel. Father Bill Bond took the place of Father Steve Emanuel as the retreat's coordinator this year. Although Bond was a relatively new face to Scotus, most students thought he did a fine job filling the shoes Emanuel.

"I think Father Bond did about as well as Fr. Steve would have," Bogus said. "He was pretty well organized and did a great job."

Three weeks after the retreat, the emotions and shared feelings from the retreat have a mixed place in the thoughts of seniors. Some students feel that the class unity felt at the retreat has already worn off, while others believe it is still striving in the actions of their peers.

"I think the unity has worn off a lot," Kobus said. "Most people are falling back into their old routines. It isn't something that can be prevented, it just happens."

Forney disagrees.

"I think we bonded really well than and that feeling has stayed," she said. "I think the retreat did something good for our class."

Whatever the outcome, the senior retreat was a chance to establish a strong sense of class unity before charging into the rest of the school year and future beyond.

Teens for Life students brave elements to protest abortion

Scott Becker
Rock Bottom Correspondent

What was written on your calendar on Sunday, October 6? Maybe it was like any other Sunday. You may have written a reminder to mow the lawn, to pick up groceries or to record your favorite television show. Sunday was a very important date for pro-life supporters.

Sunday, October 6th was Columbus' annual Life Chain. The chain was made up of Christian pro-life supporters who hold up signs along the highway for the many people driving by to see. "Abortion kills children" and "Abortion hurts women" are some of the many signs that could be seen along the highway. Scotus' Teens for Life members joined other pro-life supporters in the festivities. Most of the students were located a long the highway by Walgreen's parking lot. There was a wide range of supporters there, from children to adults. They all had many different reasons for being at the event.

"I think that it is a terrible thing to be pro-choice," said Senior Nick Hall, president of Teens for Life. "As people drive by, they get a chance to think about how wrong it is."

Indeed, driving past the group, it would be hard not to notice the student's signs held out in unison, followed by rows and rows of other pro-life groups. The students there hoped that their presence was helping to make a difference.

"The life chain is important because other people need to know that people care," sophomore Aleah German said. "Abortion is just like murder."

Teens for Life sponsor, Joan Lahm agreed.

"I have always believed that life is sacred and convenience is not a reason to kill a human being," she said.

Lahm also said that the life chain is important because it provides great visual support for the pro-life stance.

This year, the weather had an effect on the event. The wind advisory and cold temperature did not help the life chain. Many signs were seen battered by the wind.

"My poster was ripped up because it was so windy," senior Kelly Novicki, Treasurer of Teens for Life, said. "I was sad."

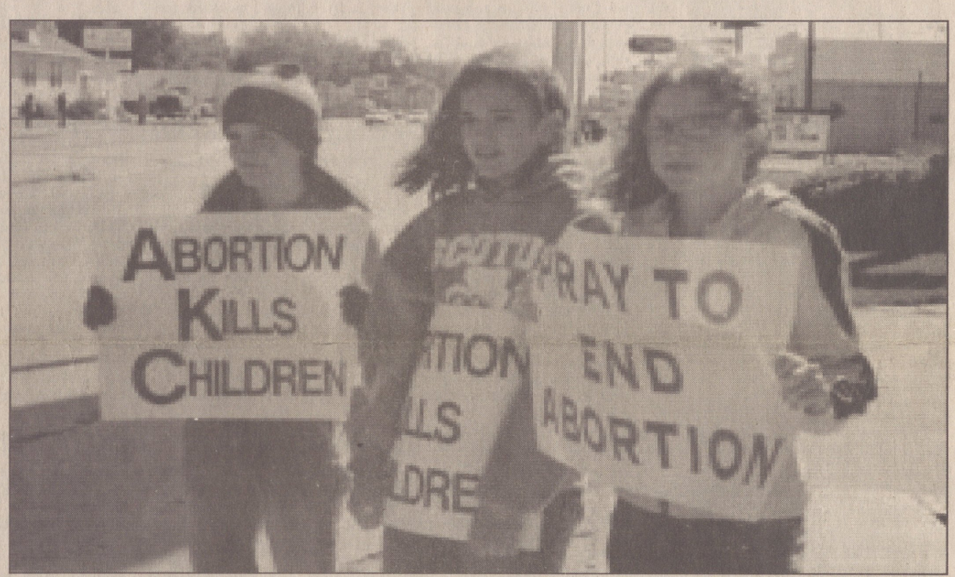
The motorists passing by had different ways of responding to the signs.

"When motorists passed by, some waved, some smiled, some gave us thumbs up and some gave us thumbs down," Novicki said.

The life chain certainly showed the opinions of pro-life supporters, but, as Novicki observed, that there are still those with pro-choice views on the issue.

"I would like to see a decrease in abortion and see more conversions to the pro-life movement due to the life chain," said Lahm.

For those who missed the life chain, there are other opportunities to voice opinions. The members of Teens for Life are participating in the annual Walk for Life in Lincoln. The walk for life is held towards end of January. Those participating in the Life Chain and Walk for Life show the power of unity and desire to promote their positive message.



SCOTT BECKER/ROCK BOTTOM

Freshmen Melissa Steiner, Stephanie Levos, and Amberle Zuerlein hold out posters supporting their pro-life cause. Several Scotus Teens for Life members participated in the annual Columbus area Life Chain.

Former Scotus students look back after transferring out

Matt Krings
Editor

Ten years from now, students will be thinking back on their high school days and coming back for reunions. The class one graduated with is always a special group of people with a ton of memories. Not to be forgotten is the classmates that have come and gone throughout the high school days. Transferring from school to school happens everywhere, and Scotus is no exception.

A place where everybody knows your name; nothing could be better right? Here at Scotus, the student body is small enough where most of the people know who everyone is. Students are greeted by about every teacher who knows the name of the kids around them. CHS junior Michael Schaecher, formerly of Scotus, said at Columbus High, you don't walk around the halls afraid that teachers will scan you for a dress code infragment or behavior problem.

"None of the teachers know who I am," Schaecher said. "I hated walking by the second floor bathroom because of two certain teachers always telling me to tuck in my shirt or get a hair cut"

Not all of Scotus was bad to Schaecher. He said he will miss all of his classmates he has been with since kindergarten and of course he will definitely miss computers teacher Bonnie Kreikemeier.

The teachers are not the only people the transfers are glad to be apart from. For the most part Scotus is filled with students who are fun to be around. Most people remember CHS junior Abbi Zywiec as the "happiest girl" at Scotus. She always had a huge smile on her face, and nothing bad to say about anyone. Behind the huge smile was not always happiness though. Although Zywiec was surrounded by peers who loved being around her cheerfulness, some classmates were not always as nice to her as she was to everyone else.

> "Scotus was fun while it lasted, but CHS is much easier and I don't have as many worries about academics."
> -Cole Pfiefer

"Kids are so mean," Zywiec said. "I just couldn't handle all the mean people anymore. At Columbus High there are tons of people that like me and I fit in more there than at Scotus. I still am gonna marry Ryan Ames though."

Harassment will happen at any school, and Zywiec said it happens at CHS too, but she said the students don't key on one person and keep on doing it. Zywiec loved her teachers at Scotus, and she said Scotus was fun when her classmates made it fun for her. She said she misses her Scotus friends and everyone at Scotus has surely noticed the lack of happiness without Abbi.

People are not the only reason Scotus students leave to go to another school. Former Scotus student Cole Pfiefer said CHS is academically much easier. He said he doesn't have to try near as hard and still gets the same grades.

"Scotus was fun while it lasted," said Pfiefer, "but CHS is much easier and I don't have as many worries about academics.

Transfers out of Scotus is not really a problem, but many students lost someone to transfers they miss dearly. The junior class alone has lost twenty-eight students from seventh grade to now, and who knows what is yet to come. All the students interviewed said there it is no one's fault that they left, but mostly just a big decision they had to make concerning their schooling.

School anywhere will be full of homework, exams, and nagging teachers. For these students who transfer from school to school, it's mostly the thrill of change. Whether good or bad, this change affects their classmates of old, and the class they now will enjoy their reunions with.

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College can provides escape from Nebraska life for some

Lauren Maul

You're Still Not Helping

Everyone would always tell me that I could become whatever I wanted when I grew up. Therefore, I chose to become a bear. They hibernate, eat fish, and have cute babies.

Unfortunately, two years after I had made my career choice, my sister broke the news to me that I could not become a bear. But after a few trips to the zoo, I decided that becoming a person who could take care of the bears and other animals would be better than being the bear. So when I became old enough, I got a job at a local vet clinic taking care of the animals.

I've wanted to be a veterinarian ever since. But I also want to be an actress, artist, and writer. The only way I can incorporate all of these careers is to become an actress that portrays a veterinarian on TV and writes her own scripts and paints the set. But that's a little extensive.

No matter what I become, I know I will be it outside of Nebraska. I've never been a fan of this state, and it boggles my mind that people want to attend college in Nebraska. For me, college should be the time when you get away from home and become your own person. Many argue that they can't attend out of state schools because of higher costs, but there are always scholarships and community colleges out of state.

If you like Nebraska, good for you. As for myself, I'm getting out as soon as possible. I've traveled quite a bit in my life and I've seen so many things that I would have never seen in Nebraska.

No matter what I become, I know it will be outside of Nebraska. I've never been a fan of this state.

Nebraska has tons of wide-open spaces, corn, and nice people. I like all of these things, but I don't appreciate the scorching hot weather, lack of huge cities, and people who treat Husker football as a religion.

I've been looking at Boston College, Notre Dame, and University of San Diego. I have visited all of these places, and have fallen in love with all of them. The majority of my friends have chosen to stay in Nebraska for college, and I totally support them. They believe that it's best for them to stay here, and I believe it's best for me to get the heck out of Nebraska.

Wherever my classmates choose to go to college, or to even go at all, I will be proud of each and every one of them. No matter what they become in life, be it a doctor, coach, or even a bear, I will respect them. But I beg of them: please consider a school or career off the beaten path. Go somewhere where no one will know you. Work hard to become something you always wanted to be. Be your own person. And never, EVER, settle for something less than you hoped for. And yes, I did get these slogans off of inspirational refrigerator magnets.

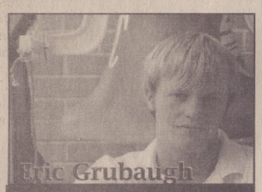
Just because your friends are going to a certain school doesn't mean that school is right for you. It's getting down to crunch time for choosing a school, and I want everyone to be happy with his or her decision. So no matter how cheesy and stupid I sound, just think about what I've said, OK?

I'm almost positive someone will be angry about this column and my Nebraska bashing, but don't take it personally. Me not liking this state isn't a personal insult to the citizens of Nebraska.

I just want to leave, and if you are a die-hard Nebraska fan and are mad at me, just be happy I won't be here next year. And who knows, maybe someday someone will be able to become a bear. And then I will just have to be jealous of them.

Now I'm outta here faster than a monkey in a poo fight.

Burning desire to compete can only be calmed by victory



Eric Grubaugh

Coloring Out of the Lines

Don't ever even attempt to tell me that it's just a game. There is an outcome, a final score, a victor, and a failure. Winning and losing are night and day. They could not be more opposite, and these opposites never attract. The gap between wins and losses is impassable; the distance between them unimaginable.

Spectators judge a team or an athlete on their win/loss records or their successes and failures. No statistician ever wrote "He played exceptionally hard during all his losses" on the back of a trading card. Television highlights could never possibly grasp the emotions and thoughts behind the faces they show in their program. A dropped pass, a missed shot, or a false start would haunt any competitor for quite some time. No matter how many times a coach or teammates may say "You'll get 'em next time," it still hurts. Maybe there isn't a next time; maybe you don't get a second chance to make that catch or shot or stay set. Society conveys losing as failure, a mistake, and nothing more. There is no consolation for the losers. Benefits are for the winners and the winners only. A competitor could smash his personal best by 5 seconds in a race, but still finish 6th and have nothing to show for it. Sure the competitor knows it, and their coaches know it too, but no acknowledgement comes from anyone outside the team. Everyone loves to be acknowledged for their successes. Such incredible emphasis is placed on competition that no matter what the outcome it will produce boundless emotions.

There is no greater feeling in the world than victory; there is no lower feeling in the world than failure. No drug could give anyone the glorious high that a victory produces, and no depression could produce the heart-rending emotions that failure fabricates. A state championship and a triple-overtime loss on a last second three-pointer will both provide conversation amongst teammates forever. Over time, I may forget the specific statistics of my many competitions, but I have never forgotten the mistakes I have made in those games. I remember an eighth grade football game where I slipped on a third down when I should've had the first down. I remember a little league baseball game where I flew out with the bases loaded and we lost that game. Losing, or failure, whatever it may be called, is a mistake, and I feel very strongly about all my mistakes.

No statistician ever wrote 'He played exceptionally hard during all his losses' on the back of a trading card.

I hate to fail. I hate to lose. I hate to acknowledge that I am not the best at what I do. I know that there is always someone better, but whenever I meet someone better, I strive with everything I have to prove that I can compete with or better than that person. Losing and failure, however, are not just about the final score of the game. My team could win by forty, and that one missed tackle I had on a third-and-short will haunt me until I make a stop on third-and-short. No matter how good the rest of my performance may have been, any and every mistake will stay in the front of my mind until I make up for that mistake in a similar situation.

There is always someone saying it's not about winning or losing, but how you play the game, or that losing makes you better. Winning and losing come from how you play the game. If you are out there not caring whether or not you win or lose, you won't win. If you're playing your hardest and still lose, no one can blame you, but does that make it feel any better? If you play sports to make yourself better at them, and losing makes you better, wouldn't that mean you would want to lose? I should say not. Losing that much would get some athletes accustomed to losing, and if that happens…well, we will just say that it's one thing that coaches hope never happens.

Success and failure is black and white. That is the only way I can describe these two opposing outcomes. Competition is my life. It is in my blood. I feel that whenever I fail, I let down anyone and everyone on my team and associated with my team, and anyone in my family, but above and beyond all else I let down myself, and that is never an option. So much work and infinitely more emotion are put into sports; don't ever try to tell me it's just a game.

Senior privileges outdated, over rated, and harmful to self esteem

Craig Staroscik

Wallowing In Thought

Supposedly my parents have picked up my senior pictures. I cannot be sure of this, because I have not seen them yet. Moreover, I have never even seen my senior picture proofs. I am not worried about this because, frankly, I hate my senior pictures.

There was once a time when graduating from high school meant something important. Thirty years ago, a high school diploma was enough to get a fair paying job and a start on a solid career. Nowadays, you can take that same diploma and become a manager for McDonald's, or better yet, sign holder during highway construction.

Graduating from high school is not worth as much as it was a few decades ago. Even though, our stubborn society still has to treat it like it is a truly life-altering event. As a result, seniors get special senior "perks," none of which have made me the least bit perky so far.

Do you know how many pepperoni pizzas one could buy with senior picture money?

The first of these "perks" was senior pictures. For reasons beyond my poorly educated comprehension ability (that is, high school level intelligence), parents still find it necessary to carry on this pointless tradition. I realize that some seniors *enjoy* getting their senior pictures taken. This is understandable, because some seniors have nice looking faces. I however, was not blessed with physical beauty. My hair is thin and receding, my forehead to my neck is covered with acne, and I have the standard geek face that comes from almost anyone who wears glasses. Still, my parents wanted to pay hundreds of dollars for professional photographer to take my picture, when that nice old man could have them taken for twelve dollars on orientation day.

Some may say my parents made me get senior pictures out of love. I would argue that statement. First off, senior pictures are a huge waste of money. One year from now I will be the poorest I have ever been in my life. I will be in student loans up to my chin acne, not to mention all the other costs that come from going to college. Instead of buying me senior pictures, couldn't my parents just have given me that money? Do you know how many pepperoni pizzas, *the college staple*, one could buy with senior picture money? I will be sitting in my dorm, chewing on the end of my pencil and hoping to suck out some nourishment, but at least I will be able to look back on myself before I took on the figure of an Ethiopian refugee.

Aside from the horrid monetary loss, my parents have now permanently preserved my face. Years from now, when people see those pictures of me, they will not think, "There is my grandpa, a great and noble man." They will instead ask themselves, "Didn't that guy know how to comb his hair?"

Perhaps senior pictures really are not that bad. I mean, some day, when I am old and ugly and have no hair whatsoever, I will be able to look back on those pictures of me in my youth. I will be able to see myself in my full juvenile vigor, and I will feel better because, hey, I was ugly then, too!

Now more dreaded perks are looming in my future. I overhear my parents, conversing in whispers, uttering the words "graduation" and "party." I shiver just to think of it. I only recently learned to cope with the attention I get on my birthday, and highly doubt I will be any more capable of handling an event of graduation-party magnitude. I keep having nightmares of my cousins' graduation parties: the noise, the claustrophobia, those disgusting hat-shaped mints that every graduation party *has* to have.

I have decided I will not be at my graduation party. If, during the party, there is an emergency and you need to find me, I will probably be hiding out in the library. Otherwise, I have arranged for my brothers to hang random senior pictures around the house to give the impression of me being there. If nothing else, senior pictures have one vital use; they should make clever stand-ins.

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Night in school leaves scared students' questions unanswered

Lauren Maul
Editor

On September 30, 2002, four students and a teacher entered into Scotus on a very dark and not-so-stormy night. The events of the evening are often horrific and most likely exaggerated. Nevertheless, Scott Becker, Amy Ellingson, Ryan Jablonski, Mr. Arneal, and me, Lauren Maul, experienced that dreadful and terrifying night and have lived to tell the tale. Which is just what I am about to do. Starting… now:

9:00 PM - Students enter the Scotus grounds carrying sleeping bags, soda pop, and one penguin decorated pillow. (And yes, that pillow belonged to Ryan Jablonski.) Suddenly, an apparition appeared through the glass of the north doors. As the ghostly figure drew nearer, Scott Becker shrieked out in fright. (And when I say Scott Becker, I mean Lauren Maul.) When the phantom reached the doors, we realized it was Mr. Arneal, letting us into the school and beginning the most terrifying night of our lives. (Except for Amy Ellingson, because her most terrifying night was the night they decided to cancel the series *Full House*.)

9:30 PM - The students and Mr. Arneal have settled all of their belongings in the Creative Writing classroom and have designated that room as the "Safety Room." The students decide to go exploring and everyone is incredibly grateful that Lauren Maul was awesome enough to bring along not one, but two flashlights. As we set off down the senior hallway, we discover that Scott does not believe in ghosts at all. Which is a funny thing, because about five seconds later the scariest thing we have ever seen drifted past the Media Center windows. Ryan stifled a gasp as the doors swung open and the four of us were confronted by…….. A ghost? A monster? The night janitor? Or could it be…..MR. MAHONEY?

Yes, it is Mr. Mahoney. (Okay, so it's not Kitty Cavanaugh, but it's still kind of scary.) After our run-in with the geography teacher, the four of us continue on to the chapel, where ghosts have been spotted before. Since we can't have many lights on (the neighbors would think vandals broke into Scotus or something) we sit in a circle on the floor of the very dark chapel. We begin to tell frightening tales of previous ghost encounters, when all of a sudden, we all get really, really, scared. I would like to say that we saw a ghost, heard moaning, or had something scary happen like that, but in all actuality, we just got really scared for no reason. Needless to say, we hightailed it out of that chapel faster than we would have if Jesus Himself was in there telling us to "amscray."

10:30 PM - Ryan, Amy, Scott, and I make our way to the Old Gym. Along the way, everyone but Scott swears that they see some shadowy figures in the corners. Could it have been Kitty? Otis the Scotus Ghost? Or maybe just the early stages of glaucoma? We may never know. Once we get to the Old Gym, Scott whips out some 80's CDs and we all do the Safety Dance. Since we are all apparently losers, all of us are capable of doing some skillful Robot Dance moves.

Throughout the course of the evening, we engage in Ultimate Volleyball and some whiffle-ball hockey. And of course, more Robot Dancing. I think the scariest thing that night was seeing me dance and attempt physical activity.

12:30 AM - On our way back to the "Safety Room," we notice that the light is on in the third floor landing. Of course, Scott hyperventilates, but once again, it's just Mr. Mahoney scaring the pahjeesus out of us. And when I say "Scott," I mean "Lauren."

1:00 AM - While exploring in the C-Wing, Amy, Ryan, and I look toward the Band Room doors and just about wet our pajamas. In the Band Room door window there are glowing eyes and a white face! Amy started screeching "Eyes! Eyes! Eyes!" and Ryan assumed the fetal position and began clutching the Bible for support. And when I say "Ryan", I mean "Lauren."

2:30 AM - Everyone settles down to a good few hours of sleep in the "Safety Room" and I decide to head on home because sleeping on the floor just isn't for me.

* * *

All in all, it was a fun evening at good old Scotus, and despite some shadowy figures, glowing eyes, and occasional unexplained noises, the school wasn't all that scary. For me, it's scarier during the daytime, especially when I have a calculus test sixth period and didn't study for it. Even clutching the Bible for support doesn't help me out with that scary subject.

KITTY CAVANAUGH/ROCK BOTTOM

Rock Bottom staff members cower in fright at the sight of the sophmore class hallway decoration. The actual Scotus ghost was too illusive to be caught on film, but this reanactment shows what that encounter would have looked like.

New chess club to challenge minds of Scotus students

Eric Grubaugh
Editor

Competition drowns the hallways at Scotus. On any given day there will be students clad in football, volleyball, Improv, basketball, softball, cheerleading, swimming, wrestling, baseball, and numerous other team or club shirts. Recently, one more competitive group has been added to this sea of competition, the chess club.

"Last year," chess club sponsor Tom Salyard said, "I was approached by four students who are now seniors that said they would like to get some form of (chess) club or organization started."

> **"My friends and I just like to play chess, so we just figured it would be nice to play with others around school.**
>
> **-Jon Schueth"**

Seniors Nathan Fisher, Craig Staroscik, Josh Giustra, Scott Becker, and Jon Schueth started the notion of a chess club and brought their idea to Salyard.

"My friends and I just like to play chess," Schueth said, "so we just figured it would be a good idea and that it would be nice to play with others around school."

The initiative of these students was all that Salyard seemed to need to make the beginnings of a new club.

"We had started a chess club at St. Isidore's last year," Salyard said, "and this just seemed to be a logical extension of that."

If grade school students can handle this, then surely Scotus can handle a chess club as well. The chess club is not just a place for expert players.

"The goal is to provide a place for people who share an interest to get together and explore that interest," Salyard said, "and also for individuals who need it to gain instruction."

The chess club is certainly open to players of any experience level.

"I know how to play," freshman Joseph Hanus said, "but I've never played in tournaments or anything…I'm just in it for casual play."

Tournaments are another possibility for the chess club.

"Right now [tournaments are] an open question that's up to the individuals," Salyard said. "Maybe someday once the ball gets rolling and we are organized it would be fun to challenge other schools, and for the students there is also the possibility of competing in rated tournaments, but these are not necessarily a major emphasis of the club."

The ball may already be rolling for the chess club, faster than most imagined.

"When I put in the announcement," Salyard said, "I got names somewhere in the mid-20s, so I was surprised when almost 40 showed up…I was pleased and stunned."

The turn out was unexpected for Schueth as well.

"I was expecting maybe 10 to 15 people," Schueth said, "but not 40."

Hanus also said he was expecting around 15 people, but nowhere near the amount that showed up. The turnout was simply overwhelming.

"It will be an interesting experience," Salyard said. "I think the greatest challenge will be to stay organized…At St. Isidore's we had about 15 kids and four adults. I may need to see if there's another adult interested in helping out."

Indeed being organized will be challenging with 40 students and one sponsor. About the only item that has really been organized is the fact that the club will meet every Thursday morning at 7:45 in Mr. Salyard's room. But as the club becomes more and more organized, perhaps Scotus will have some new types of trophies to add in its case. At the very least, there could soon be chess club shirts seen mingling in the hallways with all the other team and club shirts.

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This Nebraska student gets the picture.

CRYSTAL CORMAN, an advertising major from Edgar, NE, works as a photojournalist for the University of Nebraska–Lincoln student newspaper. She developed a passion for photography in Australia where she studied for a semester. At Nebraska, Crystal found a place she could broaden her horizons: *"The University of Nebraska–Lincoln offers so many opportunities on campus and through study abroad programs. It's the best of both worlds."*

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What are dreams made of: a question worth sleeping on

Amy Ellingson
Staff Reporter

No matter how well someone assumes they know themself there will always be a part of them that they know hardly anything about. Most people are unable to fully understand what contains their most intimate fears, personal thoughts, and greatest wishes. This part of every person is their unconscious, which contains dreams.

Some people may remember every detail of their dream, while others have no idea they even dreamt at all. Those who are fortunate enough to remember their dreams usually write them off as a common occurrence with no relevance. Are they ignoring valuable messages that their unconscious is trying to send them? Is trying to interpret and understand one's dreams a wise decision or just a waste of time? A few Scotus students have their own theories about their dreams and what they mean.

Senior Steve Micek rarely remembers his dreams.

"The last dream I remember was a couple of years ago," Micek said. "I was in a factory and pieces of leather clothing were on a conveyer belt going into a machine. The machine looked like it had a mechanical face on it and it was eating the leather clothes."

To some, this dream could sound like a strange clothing fetish, but according to Tom Corbett, author of *The Dreamer's Dictionary*, Micek's dream could forecast success after a hard struggle or a beneficial change in life.

> "I have stupid dreams all the time that probably mean nothing
> -Tyler Weinand

The fact that the clothing was made of leather is considered to be a sign of good luck as well. An influential decision or important event in Micek's life could have triggered this dream.

"I do remember that I was worried about a test the next day that I had not studied for," said Micek. "I ended up getting a pretty good grade.

I think dreams are a foreshadowing of what might come."

While some dreams, such as Micek's, may have highly symbolic meanings others should be interpreted to mean exactly what they are.

Freshman Katie Klimes is one of Scotus' many avid study hall dreamers.

"Yesterday in study hall I was having a dream that I was playing in a volleyball game and my team won," she said.

Considering the current situation, Klimes' dream could be interpreted literally. After all, it is volleyball season and she did have a game that night.

In general, dreams that directly relate to a situation of stress or importance in one's life can be interpreted as meaning exactly what are. But what if a dream is not symbolic and not literal?

Some scientists believe that a dream can be the brain's way of cleansing itself of useless information. Dreams can sometimes dispose of thoughts that would otherwise clutter the mind with unnecessary remembered experiences, people, or places. Consequently, what a person dreams about could just be meaningless psychological junk.

Senior Tyler Weinand's dream could be an example of this.

Recently, Weinand had a dream in which Shaquille O'Neal desperately needed him to play for his team in a game against the Seattle Supersonics.

As they rode to the game in a police car they pulled over a bus that was swerving all over the road. The bus happened to belong to AC/DC, so Tyler and Shaq let them go with a warning. In return for their light punishment, AC/DC flew Tyler and Shaq to Jamaica to party with spider monkeys.

By the time they arrived in the United States, they were running late for the game against Seattle. They eventually got there, but instead of playing a basketball game it was prom and Tyler and Shaq danced the night away.

The meaning of Weinand's dream, if there even was one, would be very hard to find. The people, places, and events were very specific. Having a dream about AC/DC and Shaq is probably not symbolic of anything.

"I don't think it meant anything at all," said Weinand. "I have stupid dreams all the time that probably mean nothing."

Whether or not dreams are symbolic messages, expressions of concern, or absolutely nothing depends on the attitude of the dreamer. According to Craig Hamilton-Parker, author of *Remembering & Understanding Your* Dreams, a person with an open mind who faces their anxieties is more likely to have meaningful and symbolic dreams.

Consequently, a person who holds no value in their dreams is more likely to forget what they dreamt as soon as they wake up. Good dreams come from a good attitude towards them. Aside from an open mind, a good diet and plenty of sleep can contribute to remembering dreams. Based on those tips…Sweet dreams.

Cheerleaders lead life filled with pep, ponytails and posters

Pam Johnson
Staff Reporter

The cheerleaders. Ahhh yes, those sweet peppy girls who wear matching skirts. Well, they are a lot more than that.

The cheerleaders have been doing all they can to rebuild the program here at Scotus. They put in long hours every week to make sure that locker decorations are up in time, posters are neatly placed on all the walls, and pep rallies are planned out, which could take days.

When the current cheerleaders first started out in 2000, they were a squad of nine girls, all of whom were either freshman or sophomores. Since then, they have progressed into a squad of twelve girls who are a combination of freshman through seniors.

Senior Rachel Raimondo recalled the first time she stepped in front of a crowd her sophomore year.

"I was incredibly nervous," she said. "We knew our cheers, but that was it. We didn't know a format or how many to do, and there were so many people watching us. It was definitely a learning experience."

Every summer, the cheerleaders attend a cheering camp. This past summer they went to a camp at Creighton, where they cheered for four straight days, nine hours a day.

> "[The first time] I was incredibly nervous. We knew our cheers, but that's it.
> -Rachel Raimondo

On top of this strenuous camp, they also practiced three times a week during the summer preparing for this year's cheering season.

"Every week on average we commit about five to six hours of our time getting ready, depending on the season," senior Angela Vavricek said.

This year the cheer squad has adopted quite a few girls into its membership. There are currently three seniors, four juniors, four sophomores, and one freshman.

"The new cheerleaders have contributed an enormous amount of time, energy, creativity and laughs in the squad," Vavricek said.

Not only in this past year has the squad improved through these new cheerleaders; over the years they have been working hard to do the best they can to redeem the reputation of the past cheerleaders that had been handed down to them when they first started out. In fact, a few years ago cheerleading at Scotus was nearly dropped due to lack of interest.

"When we [the senior cheerleaders] joined as sophomores," Raimondo said, "there wasn't going to be a cheerleading squad anymore. The people that joined that year had a difficult time gaining the respect of the student body and faculty because we were all underclassmen. Over the last couple years we have improved tremendously as cheerleaders; we have helped organize and improve the program as well as school spirit."

Several of the cheerleaders said that they cannot handle all the spirit themselves, and urged the student body and faculty to get involved as well. What's the best way to do that?

"Stand up and cheer!" said Vavricek.

Gimme a head with long, beautiful hair...but don't let the coach see me

Lauren Maul
Editor

While women can adorn their hair with barrettes, headbands, and ponytails, men are not willing to sport such styles and risk the ridicule. Therefore, to have unique hair as a male, they must have a stylish cut to stand out from the crowd.

At Scotus, there are guidelines as to how the boys must wear their mop. Unfortunately for the ladies out there who enjoy long hair on men, Scotus is not the place to find them. Male hair must be kept (for the most part) short and trim. Although "short and trim" may seem restricting, social studies teacher Jim Puetz remembers seeing many variations from the cut.

"I graduated from college in 1962," Puetz said, "and back then there were two hairstyles: the flat-top and the ivy-league. What [haircut] I have right now is pretty much the ivy-league, but only if I had more hair."

An "ivy league" haircut is simply short and neat all around.

As for the different styles here at Scotus, Puetz said that haircuts have differed through the ages. In the seventies, boy's hair was much longer, because, as Puetz said, they were copying the "acid rock people."

In the eighties, Puetz said he saw a lot of the "curly mop in the back" and relatively short on the sides. (Just like A.C. Slater wore it on *Saved by the Bell.*)

Finally, in the early nineties, most Scotus boys opted for the low-maintenance hair that the closely-shaven look offered.

Today at Scotus many of the boys' hairstyles are shaggy in the front and sides and as long as it is allowed to be in the back.

Despite the mandatory hair regulations at Scotus, many boys push the hair length barrier. One such fellow is Jon Augustine. His fight to keep his long hair despite the rule was to no avail. On September 4, 2002, Augustine lost approximately 3-4 inches of his hair in football coach Steve Cozad's back lawn during a senior football player meal.

"When they cut it off," Augustine said, "it felt like a part of me was gone. It became a part of Coach Cozad's lawn and no longer a part of me."

Augustine may have lost the majority of his hair, but he still cares about the hair he has left.

"I think my relationship with my hair is very healthy and caring," Augustine said. "My hair likes me; I like my hair. I groom it well and it keeps the sun out of my eyes."

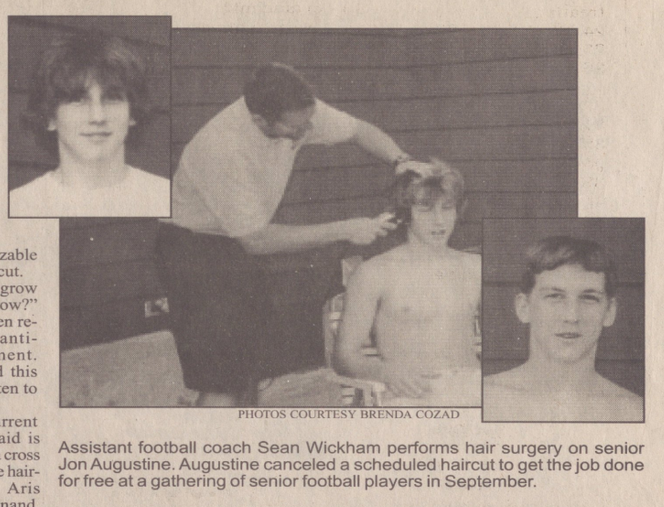
Most of the boys who are pushing the hair length envelope also have sideburns, but some people still model the "anti-sideburn." The anti-sideburn look consists of hair shaved high above the sideburn line.

Social studies teacher Pat Brockhaus is one of the more recognizable wearers of this haircut.

"Why should I grow something I can't grow?" Brockhaus said when responding to the anti-sideburn comment. Brockhaus has had this hairstyle for about ten to fifteen years.

Before his current look, Brockhaus said is hair in Jr. High was a cross between the afro-like hairstyles of students Aris Micek and Jay Weinand. Brockhaus said his hair was more wavy than afro-y, however. Brockhaus also had it parted on the side, for a touch of class.

Brockhaus said he is very happy with his hair and is not jealous of anyone else's hair.



PHOTOS COURTESY BRENDA COZAD

Assistant football coach Sean Wickham performs hair surgery on senior Jon Augustine. Augustine canceled a scheduled haircut to get the job done for free at a gathering of senior football players in September.

"I'm an older guy," Brockhaus said. "What am I going to be jealous of? That's pretty shallow."

So whether boys at Scotus shave their heads, grow it long, or even adorn it with hair accessories, just remember that in college everyone can do whatever they want to their hair and not get a slap on the wrist from the Scotus administration.

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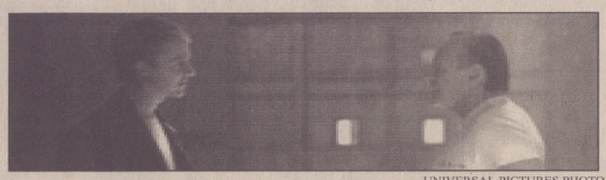
Dr. Lecter comes back to thrill in *Red Dragon*

Amy Ellingson
Staff Reporter



UNIVERSAL PICTURES PHOTO
Edward Norton and Anthony Hopkins team up to find a serial killer in *Red Dragon*, the third movie in the Hannibal Lecter series.

Be sure you've bought a large soda and popcorn. Definitely make sure to make a last minute run to the restroom too. The newest addition to the Hannibal Lecter tale, *Red Dragon*, will keep you on the edge of your seat for two and a half hours.

At first, the plot could confuse some. The key point in understanding the movie is this: *Red Dragon* takes place five years before *Silence of the Lambs*. It is a flashback into the Hannibal Lecter saga. Once that concept is mastered, the movie is much easier to understand.

Will Graham, played by Edward Norton, is a young, intellectual, and insightful FBI agent who is seeking the advice of Doctor Lecter about a series of recent killings. Apparently Graham finds out too much information for his own good. A grizzly struggle occurs in Lecter's apartment, but Graham is lucky enough to stab him with a hunting arrow before Lecter can kill him and serve him for breakfast with a side of bacon (or maybe hash browns). The movie could have ended there. Lecter is locked away in a maximum-security prison to serve nine consecutive life sentences and Graham resigns his position in the FBI to spend more time with his family. Happily ever after? Think again. One year after his near death experience with Lecter, Graham is asked to return to his position to solve a new case. Two families from two different states with no apparent links to each other were brutally massacred in the same fashion. All the mirrors in their homes were shattered and the large pieces used to kill each member of the family. The smaller shards of mirror were inserted into the victim's eyes. If you are under the assumption that the director decided not to show every gory detail of the murder scenes, you're wrong. After studying every possible aspect of the crime scenes, Graham realizes that he needs the help of one person to profile this killer. That one person is, of course, the brilliant and insane psychologist, Hannibal Lecter. What Graham doesn't know is that Lecter has been communicating with the killer, a.k.a. the "Tooth Fairy," played by Ralph Fiennes. While cleaning Lecter's cell one day, a janitor comes across a note from the Tooth Fairy hidden in a roll of toilet paper. You could say that the Tooth Fairy is a fan of Lecter's work. He mentions that he is interested in Graham and his family. The FBI is immediately called to investigate. From clues left in the note, they discover that Lecter and the Tooth Fairy communicate in the personal ads of a local newspaper through code names and numbers from various Bible passages. Through some impressive code cracking, it is determined that Lecter has gained Graham's home address and sent it to the Tooth Fairy in an apparent act of revenge. Graham's family is taken from their home before any harm could come to them. That is, before any harm could come to them that night. As Graham continues his duel with the Tooth Fairy, Hannibal alternates between being a friend and an enemy.

The plot of *Red Dragon* shares many similarities to *Silence of the Lambs*. You know, a young FBI agent turns to Lecter for help in capturing an elusive serial killer. Lecter agrees to help, but gives his clues through a series of poems and descriptive phrases much to the frustration of the agent. Lecter is sarcastic and creepy, as usual, but this time he is also a bit careless. As unusual as it may seem, the near perfect Lecter made two mistakes in *Red Dragon* that are much to the FBI's benefit. I guess all movies must have their loopholes.

Another attention worthy character is the Tooth Fairy. If you thought that Buffalo Bill in *Silence of the Lambs* was bad with his coat-of-skin fantasy, be prepared. He's nothing compared to the Tooth Fairy. As if murdering entire families wasn't bad enough, he is convinced that he has morphed into a dragon and isn't a human anymore. He forgot to write in his personals ad that his pastimes include tattooing himself, talking to his dead abusive grandmother and eating cherished works of art. Interested anyone?

Guys, if you want to take your date to a movie that will get her so scared that she'll need a big hunky guy like you to hold her…this would be the one. *Red Dragon* shells out its fair share of suspense and thrills, not to mention enough blood to fill an Olympic-size swimming pool. Even though it doesn't match up to the original *Silence of the Lambs*, it's not the least bit disappointing.

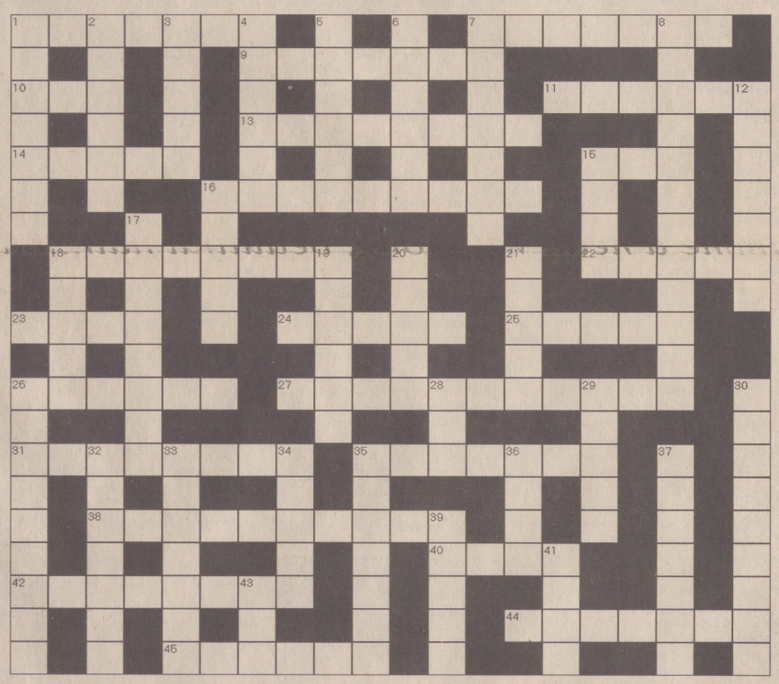
Red Dragon
Stars: Anthony Hopkins, Edward Norton, Ralph Fiennes
Amy's Rock Bottom Rating:

"A Less Frightening Puzzle"

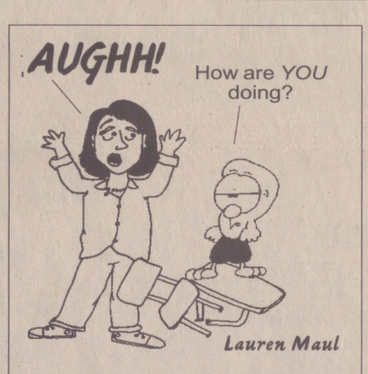
SCOTUS ✝ WORD
BY CRAIG STAROSCIK

Across:
1. Lurking in the ____
7. A type of fear
9. Ghost of the opera
10. What you do with candy
11. Pumpkin pie spice
13. Noise leaves make
14. Graves
15. How bats move
16. Calmness
18. Sockets in skull
22. A ghost or fiend
23. Cost of trick-or-treating
24. Black magic doer
25. Color of the season
26. Kids dress as super ____
27. An evil sorcerer
31. Not scared
35. A container for potion brewing
38. A vision of a ghost
40. Small demons
42. Cruelest
44. Blood-sucking monster
45. A cave dwelling monster

Down:
1. A synonym for a ghost
2. The season of Halloween
3. Monsters starring in Shrek
4. A soul
5. Almost a princess
6. Taken
7. Together within
8. A bad person
12. Spooky
15. A canine tooth
16. To scare for a short period
17. When the moon is full, this is born
18. Uncomfortable
19. An arachnid
20. Seasonal atmosphere
21. Poisonous snake
26. Dwellings of a spirit
28. Nocturnal bird
29. Halloween present
30. The Rock Bottom wishes you a happy ____
32. Collected in heaps
33. Poe's visitor was ___ on his chamber door
34. Move slowly without effort
35. Color of blood
36. To harvest
37. Father of jack-o-lantern
39. The time of day for ghosts
41. To kill
43. A weak cry



Lead Paint Chips



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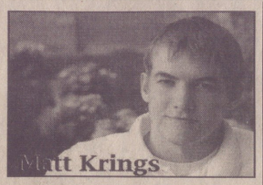


Is the Red dead?

The Big Red. The kings of the Big 12 North division. Yes, it is the Iowa State Cyclones

I am not used to admitting the Huskers aren't going to win, but I am finaly convinced our many streaks will come to an end. When the Huskers have been beating Iowa State convincingly for the past year, and then they themselves get slaughtered, it's more than just Iowa State being that good. Something is terribly wrong down in Huskerland, and I have some clues to what it is.

Many possibilities come to mind. Like the defense, if that is what you would call it. Husker defenses have been at the top for as long as I can remember. I knew someday we would have to lose, but never lose by the margins we have. I cannot imagine what is going to happen when we reach the tough part of the schedule.

Next victim is the coaching. From Devaney to Osborne, the state of Nebraska is not used to losing. Coach Solich has managed to take a top five program and run it into the ground. Coach Osborne did not win championships right away, and I should not expect Solich to do what the legend couldn't do. I am used to the Huskers being a contender, and not being one has got me bored with Husker football. Eventually the Huskers should be back on top, but a lot of changes will have to come.

I think the biggest reason for the Husker fall is simply a lack of talent. Our recruiting classes have been very poor to say the least in the past couple years. The speed of recruits is not what it was back in the glory days.

When Former Husker Jay Sims came to Scotus on a business trip for the teachers, he decided to eat with me and my class when it came time for lunch. He had plenty to say about the embarrassing losses. He would tell me stories about how mean the defensive line players were when he was playing. He said he would never go around the Peters brothers because they scared everyone that looked at them. I just laughed at the stories, but realized the Huskers need some more mean dudes back on the Blackshirts. The defense of the past couple of years just is not getting the job done. He also told me of the past running backs of Nebraska. He said any one of the backs could go the distance and were the top backs in the country. One time he told Coach Osborne all he needed was six inches of open grass and he would be gone. The next play he went eighty yards against the Michigan State Spartan's defense.

Coaching isn't the same, recruiting isn't the same, offensive rushing totals are nowhere near where they used to be, and the defense is for sure not the same Blackshirts. The season will not be the same for the Husker faithful. With many winning streaks gone already, I am predicting the streak of nine win seasons to be wiped out as well. The Husker tradition couldn't last forever, but it would have been nice if it had.

There is no doubt the stadium will still be full on Saturdays, and I will keep tracking the Huskers wherever they play. I'll keep on criticizing them because it's the Big Red. Until they get back into championship form and prove me wrong, I just have to finally tell myself, THE HUSKERS ARE A BAD FOOTBALL TEAM.

Boys CC running to new heights

Ryan Jablonski
Staff Reporter

When thinking of a powerhouse in Scotus cross country, people will naturally think of the girls' team and its back-to-back state championships. While the girls are continuing the tradition of success by chasing a third straight state title, the boys team is making some noise of its own.

The revitalized boys cross country team, which has seen little in the way of team success in the past several years, has run its way to being ranked eighth in the state this season. After winning its first meet in over a decade at the Aquinas invite, the team followed up by winning its first Centennial Conference championship since 1986. In this victory Scotus defeated two higher-ranking teams and may move up in rank.

Senior Jake Otte is one member of the cross country team who has stuck with it after three years of little team success. Otte said that finally winning after all the years gives him a great sense of accomplishment.

"I have always worked hard, and so has everyone else on the team," he said. "This year we have just showed that all our hard work has paid off."

Head coach Dan Mahoney said running as team is just one of several reasons for the cross country team's current success.

"The boys are running in packs, and two new runners in Kyle Fritz and Derek Stankoski added to already talented team," Mahoney said.

As an underclassman, junior Kyle Torczon said he believes that it is the senior leaders that have helped in the team perform well this season.

"Jake and Cody (Fry) have really been role models in working hard and getting the job done," Torczon said. "Even though Craig (Staroscik) isn't on the varsity team, he works hard all the time and sets an example for all of us runners to do our best."

The upperclassmen are receiving some help from talented freshman Derek Stankoski. In last week's conference meet at Council Bluff St. Albert, Stankoski lead all Scotus runners with a fifth-place finish.

CRAIG STAROSCIK/ROCK BOTTOM

Freshman Derek Stankoski, senior Kyle Fritz, and junior Kyle Torczon race together in a recent cross country meet. All three runners placed in the top ten at the conference meet, leading Scotus to the team championship.

"I'm not surprised that Derek finished first out of our guys; he is a talented runner," Mahoney said. "It is not often that a freshman beats an upperclassmen, especially in boys cross-country, but no one member (of the team) is dominating. Different runners have finished first in a lot of the meets."

Torczon finished the conference meet right behind Stankoski, finishing seventh. Fritz came in eighth, and Otte placed 16th. Fry rounded out the scoring at 27th. Scotus took the team title 36 to 51 over runner-up Mt. Michael.

The girls' team also took home conference championship honors, with sophomore Kayla Engel winning the individual gold medal. Freshman Megan Zuerlein and sophomores Karla Jarecke and Katie Swanson teamed up with Engel to take four of the top five places in the meet.

The Fisher special: pressure points, booming punts

Ryan Jablonski
Staff Reporter

It's a scene repeated all around the state on Friday nights.

There are three seconds to go in the fourth quarter. The home team is down by two and has just taken their last timeout. Whose name is the coach going to call? Someone who doesn't usually crumble in a pressure situation: the kicker. The snap is good; the kicker sends it spinning through the air, time is gone but it still stands still, and then utopia. The home team wins by one in the last seconds.

The Scotus Shamrocks have a lot of confidence when the above situations happens, because the man called upon is Nathan Fisher, a senior co-captain of the Scotus football team.

Fisher will tell you that a kicker's life isn't as easy as running onto the field for kickoffs, punts, and field goals. Butterflies are a part of the job.

Head football coach Steve Cozad got his first glimpse of Fisher this summer and liked what he saw.

"Nathan has a great skill, a skill that many teams don't have," Cozad said. "Potentially we have the ability to win games in the final seconds. He is also a weapon as a punter being able to kick the ball deep."

However, Fisher's football career got off to a late start, having never played football until his freshman year.

"Before that my mom didn't want me to play," Fisher said, "but I really wanted to play so I joined the team my freshman year."

Coach Vern Younger was Fisher's football coach that freshman year, and he recalled how Fisher got his start in kicking.

"Nate had never played football before, and that was obvious to me," Younger said. "I asked if anyone knew how to punt and Nate volunteered. He just punted great! I got a chance to pull him over and ask him how he learned to punt like that, and he told me that he read it out of a book. I then asked him if he could please read a book about being a guard."

Due to his kicking talent, Fisher no longer has to worry about playing guard, thus cutting down on his reading load.

When the media talks about Scotus' football team, Fisher's name is often brought up; but Fisher is unaffected by the attention.

"It's nice that they bring me up in conversation," Fisher said, "but I'm not the only person on the team. If the offense doesn't get me close enough to kick field goals, or if the defense doesn't give me enough time to get a punt off, they probably wouldn't be talking about me much."

Fisher has attended many camps for kicking over the summer.

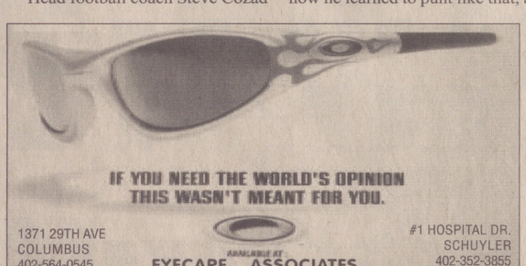
"It's mostly practice," Fisher said, "but the good things are that I get to meet kickers from all over and learn their secrets, and it's motivation to compete against kickers like me."

R. JABLONSKI/ROCK BOTTOM

Nathan Fisher attempts a PAT against Wahoo.

Fisher said he hopes to carry his kicking career beyond high school, and has several colleges show an interest in his services.

For any young aspiring kickers who wish to follow in Fisher's footsteps, they just need to visit their local library.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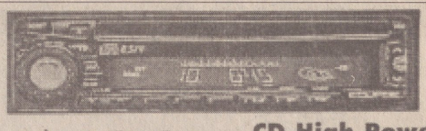
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Scotus Central Catholic

ROCK BOTTOM

Columbus, Nebraska 68601 | November 13, 2002 | Volume 5, Issue 3

Students exercising their right to choose

Newly eligible voters faced with decision to cast or not cast their ballots

Craig Staroscik
Editor-In-Chief

The votes are in. Earlier this month candidates around the county celebrated their elections or moved on after their defeats. The decisions made in the voting booths around the country were not the only important ones made November 5. Once again, the low turnout of voters showed American's decisions on the importance of voting.

Among those eligible voters were members of Scotus' senior class. For most, this was their first chance to vote in a major election. Suddenly members of the voting process, the students who recently turned eighteen had one important choice to make before the election ever came up: whether or not to vote.

Student's opinions went both ways on the issue. Senior Nick Hall was one of the students who felt a strong inclination to the importance of voting.

"I want to make a difference," Hall said, "and as insignificant as it may seem, it [voting] is important. Instead of complaining about who gets elected, I want to be able to say who I voted for and have my reasons for it."

Some students questioned how much of a difference their vote really made. Most students whom were interviewed stated that they did not think most candidates focused on the needs of students because of their low percent of influence. Even if students voted, some wondered if their opinions meant enough to change the outcome.

> "You should still go out and vote for the issues that are important to you."
> -Pat Brockhaus

"I don't think that the candidates really see kids voting, so I don't think they try to get elected by kids," Senior Tony Bayer said. "If I'm not a big priority for them, then voting isn't a big priority to me. I think that your vote can matter, but in the big picture no one vote can decide anything."

Junior City Council Secretary and Scotus Senior Emily Cleary disagrees.

"I think that every vote is important," Cleary said. "At one point, the race for State Senator was only five votes apart according to a radio poll, so if just a few more people would go out and vote it could have been turned around."

Scotus civics teacher Pat Brockhaus said that voting requires an inner motivation and that even though most officials do not focus their campaigns on the younger age group, that students need to express their opinions in order to change the government. Some students noted that, even if they did vote, it would not really matter because they had no opinions. Senior Mike Tworek said he did not take the time to vote because he did not know much about those running for election, and that his vote did not mean anything. Brockhaus commented that he thought voting should be done no matter what the information level.

"There are lots of countries out there who every day die for this kind of opportunity," Brockhaus said. "Even if students don't know all the offices, it doesn't matter because most adults don't either. You still should go to vote for the issues that are important to you."

As some students noted, more and more issues of those issues become important to you. Senior Gina Starzec did not vote in this election, because she said it was not worth the time. Like several others, she said her undemocratic attitude would probably change as she got older.

"I'm not sure when I'll start to vote," Starzec said. "If I do, it will be later in life when more of the issues relate to me."

Voting is a right, a privilege, and to some, a nuisance. Students are reminded of their civic responsibilities, but the choice to exercise them is theirs alone.

"To people who can't vote yet, make sure you do," Hall said. "Your vote matters. It might be a hassle, but it is also a duty."

RUNNING FOR GOLD

PHOTOS COURTESY SHERI ZUERLEIN

Coach Dan Mahoney, freshmen Megan Zuerlein and Melissa Steiner, sophomores Karla Jarecke and Katie Swanson, junior Kelsey Kunnemann, and sophomore Kayla Engel accept the state championship trophy at the awards ceremony in Kearney. Engel was the only member who ran on last year's state champion squad.

Girls first, boys 7th at state cross country

Scott Becker
Rock Bottom Corespondent

The frozen legs of runners sprinted past as the fans from the sidelines cheer them on. It was state cross country, and Scotus was in the middle of the action.

This year the girls were victorious at state for the third year in a row. Sophomore Kayla Engel and freshman Megan Zuerlein took the top two spots in Class C. The boys were also successful this year, placing seventh at the state meet. Junior Kyle Torczon finished the race in sixth place, the highest a male runner has ever placed at the state meet in Scotus history.

The girls' team lost five of the six runners from last year's state championship squad, but that didn't stop the girls from thinking that another title was within their reach this year.

"I thought that our team would win it," Engel said. "We kept getting better and better and we all had confidence in each other."

The runners weren't the only ones who had confidence. The fans had high hopes in the runners' abilities and braved the chilling weather to root for the Shamrocks.

"We had a lot more people show up than we usual do," Zuerlein said. "We could always use more though."

The girls' finished eleven points ahead of their nearest competitor, Gothenburg. The team was both surprised and excited when they heard the results.

"The girls knew that they would be near the top," coach Dan Mahoney said. "Gothenburg was the team to beat, and with the weather conditions, who knew who would win?"

Both teams and fans had to put up with the extremely cold weather. The team only had a few practices with such extreme conditions, and it was a major concern on the part of the runners.

"It was really, really cold," sophomore Karla Jarecke said. "We tried to warm up the best we could."

Most of the boys team was surprised when it finished first at the conference meet, but when they finished second at districts and qualified for state, they were ecstatic. However, many of the runners thought they could have placed even higher than their seventh place finish at state.

"I thought it was the best we could have done for boys cross country," Torczon said. "I was a little surprised we didn't do better at state, but not a lot of people were ready for the conditions out there."

The boys were both relieved to be finished and proud of their accomplishment. Some of the runners had different ideas about their placement at state.

"I was surprised," said Torczon of his sixth place finish. "I hoped to be in the twenties and didn't expect to do that well at all."

Senior Jake Otte, who finished 47th, was still satisfied with his place.

"I predicted that I was going to place about what I did," he said. "We were hoping to do better, but in a way, we did good anyway."

After running in the cold, nothing could be better than crossing the long awaited finish line.

"I was relieved this was my last time this year, and I gave it my all," said Zuerlein.

The 2002 cross country season is finished, but the youth of both teams leaves the future of Scotus cross country looking bright. The girls team returns all six varsity runners for next year, and the boys return their top two finishers from the state meet, Torczon and freshmen Derek Stankoski, who ran 32nd in this year's meet.

"I think our team will do really good next year," said Engel. "We have a good chance at winning it next year."

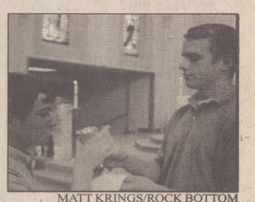
Torczon said the success of the boys team should also continue.

"We have a lot of graduating seniors, but our juniors and underclassmen should pick it up," said Torczon. "Hopefully we will do about the same next year."

Katie Swanson braves the snow and mud at the state meet. Swanson finished 19th.

Scotus seniors called to be EME's

Craig Staroscik
Editor-in-Chief



MATT KRINGS/ROCK BOTTOM

Senior Josh Melliger distributes communion as a recent mass. Melliger is one of 18 student EME's at Scotus

Scotus is a school where education and religion come together in a visible and important bond. One way that Scotus allows students to participate in their faith is through the mandating of Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist (EME's). Becoming an EME involves an inner desire and a deep faith on the part of the students involved.

"I have just grown in my faith a lot in the past couple of years," senior Tara Zabawa, one of the newly mandated EME's, said. "It seemed like the right thing to do. We are brought up in the Catholic Church and need to promote what we believe in."

Such a crucial duty requires much responsibility on the part of the individual student. In fact, before the Second Vatican Council, administering the Eucharist was a job reserved only for church authorities, according to Father Bill Bond. After the council, it was decided that all persons who were baptized, being members of the Body of Christ, would display the dignity of their baptism through administering the Eucharist.

"The newly mandated EME's at Scotus reflect the dignity that we all share through our faith in baptism that Christ bears," Bond said. "They are meant to remind us of the words of St. Teresa Avila, 'Christ has no body on Earth but yours.'"

As a means of preparation, the students spent an afternoon in Norfolk learning what it means to be an EME and how to perform the physical actions of distributing communion. They were finally mandated at a special mass in Norfolk on October 29. Archbishop Elden Curtiss, who presided over the ceremony, told the EME's of the important responsibility that is placed on them during his homily. The students said that this responsibility is already present in their lives.

"I'm a role model," senior Justin Feldhaus said, "so I can't screw up. I want people to be able to look up to me. I feel privileged, and I'm excited because it is a pretty tough spot to be in with all of the responsibility."

The responsibilities of the group not only include sharing their Christian character, but also their responsibilities during the mass. Handling the Body or Blood of Christ is no small task, and with the entire student body watching, the desire to be perfect is hard to ignore. Senior Amanda Ott administered the Eucharist for the first time with many of the new EME's during the All Saint's Day mass. She noted that the ceremony did not go along flawlessly, but that it was not bad for the first time. Along with the worries and minor mistakes, there are also benefits.

"It was neat to see all the kids come up," senior Josh Melliger, another EME, said. "I remembered when I was young and went up to them for communion. I hope to be a good example for them, especially."

Standing at the altar during the Eucharist, the students are a representation of their faith and the Church. Many of the new EME's said they hope to use this unique opportunity to deepen their own beliefs and help others.

"I hope that by showing others in my actions that I would have the opportunity to strengthen their faith," Ott said. "I want to show that it is a positive thing to be involved with mass. I want to be able to use what I've learned to be strong and help others be strong."

Scotus Alumn getting shot at the pros
Page 3

Volleyball team set to travel to Lincoln again for state tournament
Page 6

The *Rock Bottom* gets real on the *Real World*

You're Still Not Helping

This is the true story of seven strange people picked to work on a newspaper, work together, and have their articles printed. Find out what happens when people stop being polite, and start getting real. The *Real World: Rock Bottom.*

I am addicted to the *Real World*. I was there when Stephan hit Irene, when Pedro educated others about AIDS, and when Melissa obsessed over Jaime. I'm very disappointed about the recent *Real World* in Las Vegas. They usually have at least one homosexual, one virgin, and one person who is a little loose with their morals. This season, there are no homosexuals, and certainly no virgins. Everyone in this cast is "loose." The girls are all tan and anorexic and the guys are all muscular players (except poor Frank.) But then again, it doesn't matter if the guys are players or not when you have Trishelle in the house. I'm just upset because I miss the classic *Real World*. Even though this Las Vegas season is rather interesting, it upsets me to see variations of the same kind of people in the cast.

This got me thinking about my newspaper class. There are seven students and we all have to work closely together. Sometimes, a little too closely. The other day, I got incredibly mad at Ryan. I'm not going to say why, but I did yell at the little, um, boy. Hence, I would probably be the crazy emotional girl with anger problems, like Melissa in the *New Orleans* season. And Ryan would be the cast member everyone gets mad at, just like Stephan from the *Seattle* cast. If this staff was anything like the real

I would probably be the crazy emotional girl with anger problems.

Real World, Ryan would already have been kicked off. Or beat up by me.

Craig would be Matt from *New Orleans* because he is very religious and the regulator of the group. Amy would be Cara from *Chicago* because she is smart and in control. Pam would be Sarah from *Miami* because she's very laid-back and relaxed. Eric would be Frank from *Las Vegas* because he always gets the shaft, even though he doesn't deserve it. Matt would be Kyle from *Chicago,* mainly because of his issues with women.

If someone were to place a camera in our creative writing classroom, they would be entertained for hours. We always get into so many fights, and we laugh when we're not screaming at each other. There is always drama going on. Either Eric's articles aren't done, or Craig gets in trouble with the Archbishop, or I am screeching at someone. If the *Rock Bottom* staff were ever chosen to be on the real *Real World,* it would be a toss up as to what would happen when the cameras rolled. Either no one would ever be home because we were so sick of each other or we would have battles every day and night. The battle part is probably the most accurate.

Nevertheless, I have learned a lot as part of the *Rock Bottom* staff. I have learned that I need to control my anger. I have also learned that many people don't really know who I am. I often portray myself as a lazy person who dislikes exercise, but that's not totally accurate. I may not have enjoyed P.E., but when it comes to important work I do my best and get things done. If I am asked to do manual labor for the good of humanity, or just move some boxes for my grandma, I do those tasks willingly and exactly. Just because something makes for good reading doesn't mean it's whom I really am. It hurts when people think I am a lazy person and a poor worker. But it also is sad for those people who think that, for they are missing out on knowing me as a complete person.

Anyway, tune into the *Real World* on Tuesday nights. You may see your *Rock Bottom* staff getting into another fight or me doing physical labor.

Holiday "Cheer" is often met with many holiday struggles

Coloring Out of the Lines

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way, oh what fun it is to Trick or treat, smell my feet, give me something good to eat…we've all heard the familiar songs from the even more familiar holidays. The tunes are drilled into our heads as children. We then more-than-willingly memorize and sing them to anyone within earshot when their respective holidays come around.

It was cute then. Now…well, now you'd just be looked at like you just broke loose from a mental institution if you ran up to houses telling people you're going to pull down their undergarments if they don't start dishing out the sweets. Heck, people only open the door for high school trick-or-treaters because they're afraid they'll be scraping yolk off their front door and picking Charmin off their roof the next day. Wal-Mart sells toilet paper; people don't need to look on their house for a new roll. And eggs? I believe Super Saver may have some…and if they're out, Hy-Vee is right across the street. The eggs splattered all over their house are of no use to them, or anyone else. So how throwing a load of eggs at a house is enjoyable is beyond me. Congratulations, you managed to hit a house with an egg! How'd you manage that? That had to be tough. The sheer amount of physical strain and concentration that must have taken…wow, I'm truly amazed. Must've been some challenge. Here, here's another one for you: you take this surfboard, and I'll roll you this beach ball. See if you can hit that, too.

Now, if you made this egg-throwing more of a sport, it could be great…such as egg tag. Everybody gets a dozen eggs, don't get hit, do your best to hit everyone else. If you run out of eggs…duck. Think getting pelted by an egg might hurt? Eh, maybe, but what about the other games we play? You ever been shot with a paintball? Or taken a direct hit in the eye with a water balloon? Yeah, get that Snuggles bear to promote how Downy soft both of those feel. And last time I checked, people are still having paintball wars and chucking water balloons.

Speaking of the airborne aqua assailants…what is it smashing them on parked cars? Where's the genius who came up with that one? Did an angel of the Lord descend upon him, fill him with the Spirit, and command him to fill a flimsy rubber flask with dihydrogen monoxide and wash away the evil demon condemning the poor afflicted automobile to the fiery pits of Hell? I'm thinking no. The "genius" just can't hit a moving target. They'd give thanks if it was their turn to throw when a Mack truck came driving by at twenty mph, and even that was pushing it.

If you made this egg-throwing more of a sport, it could be great... such as egg tag.

Of course, there are many other things to be thankful for; therefore, we have Thanksgiving, a fantastic holiday in and of itself. Number one: Massive vacation time because it's always on Thursday. Number two: All the eatin's you could ask for from the best cook in the land, Grandma. It is kind of strange though. Normally, to show appreciation for someone or something, we give away something or pay for something in their honor. This holiday, however, we give thanks by gorging ourselves until we need pants with two more inches in the waste. Then the guys collapse on the couch watching John Madden drool over a six-legged turkey. If anything else goes on that day, I always miss it because that six-legged turkey is simply astounding…either that or the six legs of turkey I just ate compelled me to crumple into the recliner and sleep, and then that's where I remain for the rest of the afternoon, night, and following morning.

But if you're looking for lazy holidays, Christmas is definitely not the one to look at…or at least it wasn't a few years back. It used to be you could produce a novel using only my Christmas list. It was filled with "I want this," "Give me this," and "please please please Santa bring me this," all followed by any and every toy a child could want that his parents either couldn't afford or just didn't want to afford. Nowadays my list looks more like this:

No more underwear, I have plenty. No sweaters.

No socks, I got some for my birthday and then again for Thanksgiving. I don't need anymore.

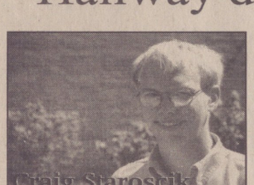
No lumps of coal. It was devastating when I was five, and sort of funny last year. But any more coal and next year the stockings mysteriously disappear into the fireplace they hang over.

Please God don't let them get me sweaters.

Oh but about those cute fuzzy slippers you are always telling me about…don't even think about it. And who forgets the carols? We sing our silly little brains out, or at least pretend to, during elementary school Christmas pageants. We sing about silver bells and jingle bells and bells on bobtails. Now I just wish I could get all that ringing out of my ears. Then of course there's Santa's sleigh and one-horse open sleighs and me falling off sleighs and trying to drive my enormous sleigh of a car through the snow. I'm definitely not singing "Joy to the World" when that time comes.

I guess if I'm the one who is always talking about not growing up I shouldn't be talking about how all these holidays are losing their luster. Then again if you still enjoy the whole one-horse open sleigh deal, my car suddenly doesn't seem that bad anymore.

Hallway dancing is an unrequited dream for most students



Wallowing In Thought

Do you ever have one of those crazy wishes that seems pointless yet important at the same time?

Everyone knows the four-minute drill. We have all heard the horror stories. "I have to go from PE to Mrs. Felger's third floor Spanish and then to the science wing," someone complains every year. In my opinion, it is fine to complain. It is hard to make it to some classes without being tardy with only a four-minutes passing period. We have to contend with locker stops, bathroom breaks, and the hoards of other students on the stairs.

In order to make it to our classes on time, we students almost have to have a book bag. I am still amazed by the few students who can make it to every class on time without a book bag. Unfortunately, like so many others, I have become dependent on the backpack. I know, for a fact, that I would be tardy for every eighth period I have ever taken without it.

Now, aside from the lower back problems backpack wearers will experience as they grow old, book bags also inhibit movement. If you need an example, try walking down the third floor hallway. Junior high students take a bad rap for their clumsiness; if you are lugging around a bag that weighs half as much as you, I doubt that you can have much control over your movement. Even the more oriented upperclassmen's movements are inhibited. Most specifically, no one can dance with a book bag on.

If you are like me, when you're having a good day, you just want to glide down the halls like there isn't anyone there.

How can you possibly expect to express yourself in any way without being able to dance? If you are like me, when you're having a good day, you just want to glide down the halls like there isn't anyone there. Feeling cocky? Strut down the hall snapping your fingers like Russ Tamblyn in his opening scene in *West Side Story*. When you feel like you're on top of the world, grab the closest girl and tango.

School takes too much out of a person as it is. Sitting through class after class is important, and I wouldn't trade my education for the world, but it is stiffening. Passing period should be a time to let loose and forget for just a few fleeting moments about tests, homework, projects, college, and all of the normal school day material.

I have silly desires, but if I could change one thing about school, it would be to add on seven extra minutes so I could extend passing period. That way I could waltz down those halls and still make to theology on time. I'm not a dancer, but I'm starting to believe that's because I never have time. Who knows, with some practice, we could all get better at it. We might even improve enough to actually dance at our school dances!

Thankfully, I can dream for free, and it is okay to take my problems out on a book bag. In the mean time, keep smiling in the halls. Every smile I see feels like two steps off my break dance; every "Hi," feels like a dip in the tango. I doubt I could ever convince the school board to give me that extra minute, but at least we have each other to fall back on.

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Former Shamrock looking to Steel position in NFL

Matt Krings
Editor

Making the NFL is every backyard football player's dream, but for most it is just that: a dream. A few follow that dream and play college football. There is one former Scotus high school star who is close to living that dream of being an NFL player.

Chad Mustard, a 1996 graduate of Scotus, was recently contacted by the Pittsburgh Steelers. The Steelers were interested in his services as a tight end, so he packed off to Pittsburgh for a try-out.

Mustard was a three-sport athlete at Scotus, participating in football, basketball, and track. From the years 1992 to 1996, he was tearing up the high school scene and was recognized statewide for his accomplishments.

As a junior and senior, Mustard was given All-State honors in football and basketball. In his senior year, he also made the second team All-Nebraska in football. Upon going to college, Mustard was not sure what sport he really wanted to play.

"I could have played any of those two sports [in college]," Mustard said, "but coming out of high school I decided to give basketball a try."

Mustard attended the University of North Dakota where he played division 1-AA basketball. After using up his four years of basketball eligibility, he decided to give his other love, football, another shot for a couple of years. Mustard was made a tight end for North Dakota, and his decision to play football would come to prove pivotal in his future.

After college, Mustard decided he wanted to go on playing football. He played for one year with the Omaha Beef, an arena football team. Then he decided to go for the big time.

> "It was very weird to see in person guys I watch every Sunday afternoon on TV."
> -Chad Mustard

"I sent a tape to about every NFL team," Mustard said. "I was just in hope that a team could use my talents."

It turns out the Pittsburgh Steelers liked what they saw. The Steelers told Mustard they wanted to give him a workout, so they decided to fly Mustard out to Pennsylvania. He left Monday, got situated and was shown around Pittsburgh. On Tuesday he was brought to the stadium and was shown the weight room, locker room, and other important places for the players.

"I got to talk to starting Steeler quarterback Tommy Maddox," Mustard said. "Running back Jerome Bettis was nice. It was very weird to see in person the guys I have been watching every Sunday afternoon on T.V."

After settling in, the workouts started. He had to do the shuttle run and many other agility and quickness tests. Then came the football part. Mustard ran through all kinds of routes from his tight end position. A ball thrown to him was easy to catch, but his last test did not prove this easy. Mustard said they threw all kinds of bad balls his way, and trying to catch these was not an easy task.

After trying to prove himself to the Steelers, they told him what they were going to do. Mustard was told that they would give him a contract in January or February for the next football season, but until then he does not plan to wait. Mustard will most likely not be playing with the Beef this year, but enter the draft for the NFL Europe. The six teams in the league are made up of players trying to prove that they have what it takes in the NFL.

Mustard is truly in the process of living out his dream. This opportunity does not come every day, and Mustard knows he has what it takes to make it in the NFL.

"I did not want to wake up some day and say that I didn't try," Mustard said.

Don't feel bad; we all have embarrassing, unhealthy habits

Lauren Maul
Editor

They have nicotine patches to aide in quitting smoking. But what about cottage cheese patches, or baseball patches? Where are the patches to aide in quitting these obsessions? But then again, many of the people addicted to these things do not want to quit. Ever.

Katie Swoboda, a senior at Scotus, is one of these addicted people.

"I see how much caffeine I can consume until I pass out," Swoboda said.

This common addiction has been plaguing Swoboda ever since she was seven years old. Swoboda's favorite drink that contains this drug is coffee. Although people have warned her of the effects, Swoboda remains confident with her choice.

"They told me it [caffeine] would stunt my growth," Swoboda said, "but I didn't care."

Another addiction that starts with a "C" is cottage cheese. Not your average run-of-the-mill cottage cheese, but **large curd** cottage cheese. (In other words, "extra strength" cottage cheese.)

Scotus senior Jesse Johnson has been addicted to this breed of cheese since she was only a baby.

"[Classmates] make fun of me everyday at lunch," Johnson said. Despite the pain of mockery from classmates, Johnson continues her love affair with the large curds.

Although food addictions are popular, clothing and sports addictions are just as common.

Brandon Esch, a seventh-grader, cannot stop wearing his Brett Favre jersey. Because his jersey is so "lucky," Esch never likes to take it off.

"They call me a loser," Esch said, "just because [the jersey] is so faded."

Michael Novicki, another Scotus seventh-grader, cannot get enough of his baseball. Although Novicki also gets made fun of for his addiction, he holds fast to his love of the game.

"They say baseball's stupid," Novicki said, "because they think it's easy."

Students aren't the only people who have bad habits. Scotus teachers have admitted to guilty addictions, also.

Patti Salyard, the computer education instructor here at Scotus, suffers from a slight junk food addiction.

"I don't eat breakfast or lunch," Salyard said. "I just eat junk (food) all night long."

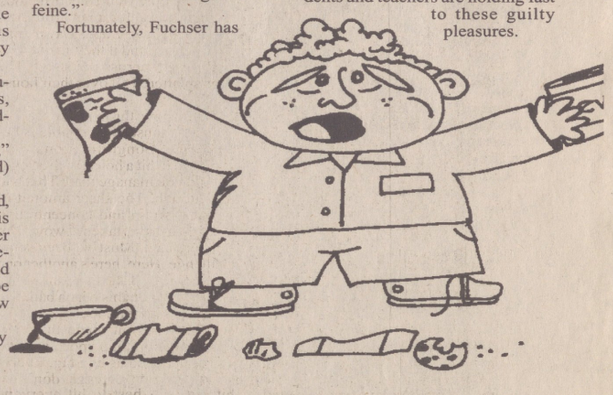
Apparently, Salyard's husband, Tom Salyard, does not share this habit. Patti Salyard says that her husband gives her a hard time because he eats healthy foods and that he would like for her to be around to see their children grow up.

Brian Fuchser, the new theology teacher at Scotus, is a recovering addict. He had reached a point during his college education where he would drink Mt. Dew almost exclusively.

"If I was stressed out," Fuchser said, "I'd have one. I craved the taste more than the sugar or caffeine."

Fortunately, Fuchser has been pretty clean lately, but he battled his addiction for three years.

Despite the mockery and humiliation an addiction may bring, students and teachers are holding fast to these guilty pleasures.



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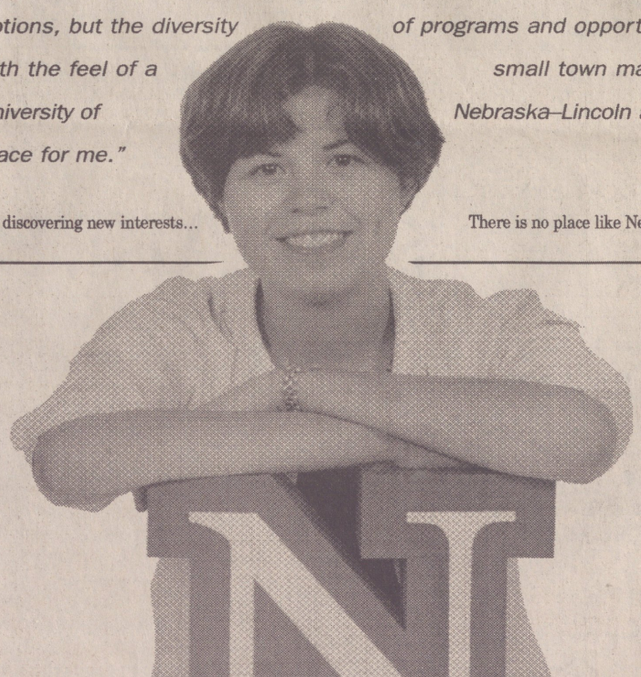
This Nebraska student came from a small town– and found community.

AMBER SAYERS is a junior computer engineering major and Honors student from Hay Springs. She excels in this top-notch program as well as outside the classroom. She credits upperclass students for her involvement in Feed the Need, a community service program, UNITE (NU's Inter-Tribal Exchange), and even the Juggling Club: *"I had other options, but the diversity of programs and opportunities with the feel of a small town made the University of Nebraska–Lincoln a great place for me."*

For discovering new interests... There is no place like Nebraska.



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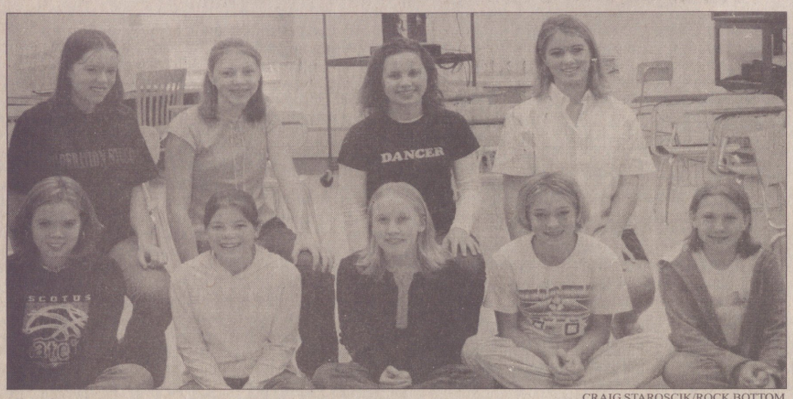


CRAIG STAROSCIK/ROCK BOTTOM

The Katie/Kelly sisters are (with Katies in the back and Kellys in front): Novicki, Cheloha, Ingram, Connolly, and Korth. The group's unique bond is a phenomenon that they stuggle to explain.

Sibling pairs share odd occurence of first names

Pam Johnson
Staff Reporter

Katie here, Kelly there… everywhere an individual may turn there goes yet another one strolling down the hallway around the corner.

The Katie- Kelly trend at Scotus has exploded in recent years into a quirky coincidence. There are currently five sets of sisters with the names of Katie and Kelly that have Scotus connection. In total there are nine girls who make up this Katie- Kelly movement within the Scotus walls.

These trendsetters consist of Freshmen Katie and her junior sister Kelly Cheloha, junior Katie and freshmen Kelly Ingram, sophomore Katie and senior Kelly Novicki, sohpomore Katie and senvethgrader Kelly Connolly, and seventh-grader Kellie Korth, whose sister Katie graduated from Scotus last year.

Kelly Cheloha hinted that there might be more than meets the eye to this name game.

"We have a whole secret society made up," she said.

It really makes one wonder if they actually do with this reoccurring cliché throughout the school.

Katie Ingram said that the stormy reason for her name as well as her sisters' name was simple.

"My parents just liked the name Katie," she said, "and at the time there was a hurricane named Kate, so it all fit nicely. They just liked the name Kelly too. The 'K thing' was just an added bonus."

Kelly Cheloha also said that she too would carry on the "K theme" to her own family some day by naming her lucky child "Kidney."

Many ideas may be brewed up as to the reason for this occurrence. Maybe they are trying to take Scotus over one Katie and Kelly at a time. Or perhaps the names Kelly and Katie were just really popular back in the mid- to - late 80's, and the names fit togther so well that parents decided to use them both. Or maybe this is just one really crazy coincidence. The world may never know.

Crisis team ready to handle any situation

Eric Grubaugh
Editor

Tragedy has struck a Scotus student. It has left him saddened, confused, and frustrated. He has no idea where to turn. Family and friends can offer a good listening ear and consolation, but when that is not enough, Scotus's Crisis Team is there to help in any way possible.

The Scotus Crisis Team is made up of four faculty members who have been specifically trained to deal with various tragic situations that may occur in a school setting. If any student is in need of help in any situation, he/she only needs to approach one member of the Crisis Team to start arranging meetings. The members of the team are junior high guidance counselor Pam Weir, senior high guidance counselor Judi Wolken, campus minister Father Bill Bond, and physical education teacher Janet Tooley.

> "I like the students knowing they can trust me and that I will be there."
> -Janet Tooley

"[The Crisis Team] provides support in various situations that need a connection between a student, family, and other adult," Weir said. "It gives us a protocol to follow in the event something should happen."

'Something,' in this case refers to a wide variety of events. Bond said some such events are student deaths, bomb threats, and events such as 9-11.

"Our responsibility is to develop a policy and procedure for such events," Bond said, "and with the blessing of the administration, implement those for the sake of the students."

Wolken said, however, that the Crisis Team is not only in action during times of crisis.

"[The Crisis Team provides] the service to help anyone in a crisis as a support system," Wolken said, "but we also help the school to prepare and make it so other crises are not as severe. We inform people on how to handle such situations."

Any crisis is a tough situation to handle, but the people directly involved in the crisis are not the only ones who experience deep emotions when dealing with the Crisis Team.

"When you're on a crisis team, you really get an education of how people feel when they are presented with a crisis," Wolken said. "No matter how much schooling you have, you always feel emotion for those suffering from the crisis. You can't disconnect yourself from the crisis."

All members of the team seemed to agree that there are many emotions present when dealing with a crisis.

"There is always a lot of shock, utter despair, and sometimes even a little hopelessness," Weir said, "but there is also a feeling of encouragement and support for the victim."

Bond also said the emotions were a two-sided coin.

"There is a sense of relief and gratitude that a crisis like this hasn't happened yet," Bond said, "and there's a respect and appreciation for those who have gone through it already. There is a heightened concern about how I would handle such a situation."

Tooley said that there are many emotions that a teacher on the crisis team must face. Tooley said that a team member not only feels grief as a teacher who has lost a student, but as a parent who can't imagine losing a child of her own. However, there are also positive aspects of helping others deal with pain.

"There is also the satisfaction of when a student comes up and says thanks, knowing that what I said helped," Tooley said. "I like the students knowing they can trust me and that I will be there."

All members of the Crisis Team were asked to join it, but this sense of satisfaction has them all knowing they would have considered volunteering for the team had they not been asked.

"It is a worthwhile experience," Tooley said, "especially with all the different agendas that come about. It's important to have a professionally trained team, and that we use that training to see through tough events. We help deal with emotional issues, and rather than just hit or miss, it provides us with some consistency as to how issues are handled."

Wolken said that the Crisis Team is very stressful but definitely worthwhile.

Weir said she could see both sides .to volunteering for the Crisis Team.

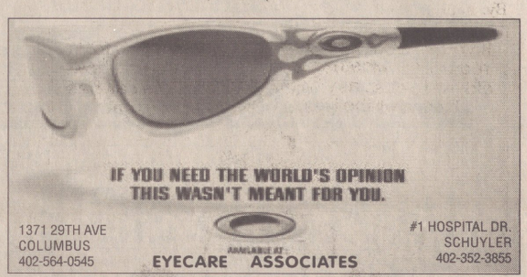
"I was appointed to the team four years ago," she said. "Would I have volunteered? Yes and no. It is very emotionally challenging and taxing, especially with the loss of a student or a student who has lost a family member. That is emotionally draining and very difficult to deal with. But also I am able to help someone along the way and help them to find encouragement.

"It is the hardest job I have ever been asked to do."

Lights, cameras, acting!

PAM JOHNSON/ROCKBOTTOM

Darin Kuehler, as Aesop, Sally Deturk, as Betty, and Jennifer Fisher, as Paula, act out a scene of the Scotus fall play "Hide and Shriek," the story of a strange Hill-Billy family and their efforts to keep the family home. The play was performed on the first and second of this month, and was directed by Jamie Ferguson.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"*Stroke* of luck" gives once in a lifetime opportunity

Amy Ellingson
Staff Reporter

Standing on 13th street in front of Sokol Auditorium in Omaha, I realize that it's 1:45 a.m. on a school night (a Thursday to be exact). Tomorrow I have a huge AP English test on the history of poetry, which I hardly understand, and I have to work right after school until 9:00. I know for a fact that I'll be dead by 3rd period. All day I will drag myself from class to class with a half smile of my face because I'll be remembering the night before and how it felt to be on top of the world. I have to laugh to myself because my dad is probably in a cold sweat seeing as how I haven't called him yet. He's thinking that I've been kidnapped, taken to North Omaha, and beaten into a gang. Good old dad. He has no idea that I've just met one of my favorite bands, The Strokes, and had one of the best concert experiences of my life.

I've been to my fair share of concerts (The Foo Fighters, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Incubus, and Weezer just to name a few) but seeing Rooney, The Donnas, and The Strokes has by far been my best concert yet (Incubus is a close second, but I passed out because of dehydration and lost my front row spot next to my future husband, Brandon Boyd). From the second it started, I knew this show wouldn't be like the others. Usually the opening band doesn't really interest me, as harsh as that may sound, but Rooney was great. They use a keyboard for a lot of their songs, which I really liked, because it gives them a really original sound. The Donnas definitely rocked the house. After seeing them I really wanted to be in my own girl band, but when I remembered that I can't sing or play any instruments I realized that it wasn't going to happen.

This concert was also different because I'm used to standing outside an auditorium fit to accommodate conventions and basketball games, surrounded by thousands of people. Everyone blends into a mass of sweat covered t-shirts and skin once the concert starts, and if you're not kicked in the head by a crowd surfer you're lucky. This concert, however, seemed to put a focus on the individual.

If you've never been there, Sokol Auditorium is about the size of the old gym here at Scotus. My friends and I chose a spot up on the balcony where we could easily see the stage. Easy, that is, until a security guard decided that he needed to stand right in front of me. It didn't stop me from dancing though. For those of you who have had the pleasure of watching me dance (Homecoming Pep Rally), you know that I can get a little carried away. The music was just so great though, that I couldn't help but get more than a little carried away. Next thing I know a bald man with an English accent is knocking me out of my dancing haze because he says he wants Sara Krajicek, a former Scotus student, and myself to stay where we were after the show. He was going to come up and get us.

Oh, the horrible thoughts that began to flash through my mind. "I'm going to meet The Strokes and I'm sweating like no other, all my make up is worn off, and I just know I must have a rancid case of B.O." I had to keep trying to convince myself that girls don't sweat, they glow. Why? Why couldn't I have just planned ahead a little bit and done something, anything, with my hair? Did I put deodorant on before I left? I swear I almost wet my pants and passed out. Even if I would have wet my pants, I probably would have been too sweaty to notice. I was so nervous. Despite almost giving myself a hemorrhage, I put all my worries aside to enjoy my favorite Stroke's song "Someday" and the rest of the concert.

Before I knew it the concert was over and Sara and I were standing alone on the balcony. Then came the waiting. First we had to wait on the balcony. Then on the stairs while the rest of the audience left. Then we waited on the floor by the wall. Then we waited in the bar (no alcoholic beverages for Amy, thank you). It had been almost an hour since the concert had ended. Was someone tricking me? I bet The Strokes weren't even coming out. The stage managers were just

PHOTO COURTESY AMY ELLINGSON

Sara Krajicek, Fab the Stroke's drummer, and Amy Ellingson

rounding up stupid girls to sweep all the paper and cigarette butts off the floor. But then, in that one precious moment, I saw him. Julian, the lead singer in all his shaggy-haired, drowsy-eyed glory, was coming towards the bar.

Our eyes met for a split second and he came walking towards me. He asked me to go get a broom out of the janitors closet and start sweeping the floor. It was to be spotless by the time he was done mingling with the fans. Actually, he didn't. Julian, Fab, and Nikolai, the three Strokes I met, were really outgoing and casual. Even though they were pretty busy with other fans, Sara and I did get a conversation and a few pictures with them. I even ended up getting the set list autographed and a free Rooney CD, which I've grown pretty attached to. What more could I ask for (aside from Fab asking me to come on tour with them to hang out and possibly be his girlfriend) in a concert?

I asked myself a lot of questions on the ride home. Why me? What did that stage worker see that caught his eye? I could see how someone could see something interesting in Sara, but I kept on trying to figure out what made me special. Maybe it was nothing. Perhaps people were just picked at random. Maybe it was something. Or maybe, it was just a stroke (lame pun intended) of good luck.

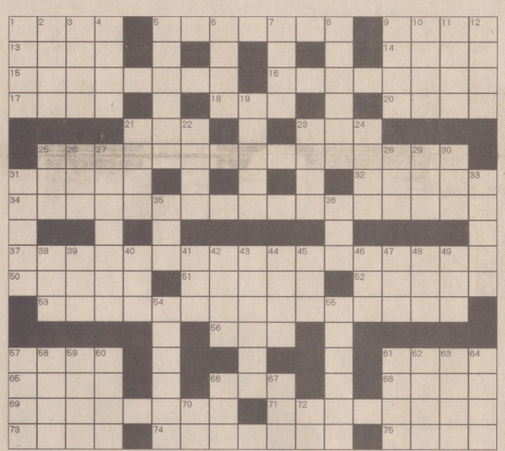
"Checkmate!"

Across:
1. Castle
5. One member of a two person team
9. Endgame in chess
13. ____ the Terrible
14. Metals
15. Horizontals
16. Resting on something: ____umbent
17. Do this or ___
18. Has eaten
20. A circular current
21. Winter sport
23. Not young
25. When students change classrooms?
31. King Arthur searched for this
32. A silly or foolish gesture
34. A dull pirate with two peg legs?
37. Sunny day conversation starter?
50. Not dumb
51. Angry
52. Bird that rhymes with toon
53. To sell without a choice?
56. Management to cost (abbr.)
57. Most important chess piece
61. To adjust a piece in chess
65. A false god
66. Upper appendage
68. Discount
69. An outer covering
71. Dogs with parents of different breed
73. To place or move carefully
74. What students are constantly doing with their shirts
75. Two are found in this clue

Down:
1. To stir up anger
2. Round, but not a circle
3. Whole grain ___
4. The leg bones are connected to this
5. Tricks
6. Civil rights figure: ___Parks
7. Pointy facial feature
8. Small wave
9. Not less
10. Dry climate
11. To care for
12. Extended School Year (abbr.)
19. One who rents a home
21. A markdown in price
22. Distinctive theories or doctrines
23. Silica based gem
24. Acting: ___a
25. Before
26. To pester
27. Steals
28. Internal Network Adapter (abbr.)
29. Marine mammal: __er
30. To cease living
31. Small valleys
33. An abnormal sac or vesicle in the body
35. Pronoun for a girl
36. Green __s and ham
38. Industrial Model and Design (abbr.)
39. Computer Aided Engineering (abbr.)
40. Waste Treatment Plant (abbr.)
41. The ___ we breathe
42. A motorized cart or train
43. The Mad _____
44. Suffix used to form an adjective from a noun
45. ___ Speedwagon
46. A mountain in southern France
47. Extinct, ostrich-like bird
48. A type of tie
49. Another name for a hotel
54. A baby eagle
55. Jotting or remembering
57. A rhombus-shaped toy
58. A thought
59. Christmas drinks: Egg ___
60. Adhesive
61. Store
62. A double curve with the shape of an elongated S
63. Evil
64. Electro-Optic Sensor System (abbr.)
66. Air Traffic Control (abbr.)
67. Maintenance Manual Intermediate Levels (abbr.)
70. Thirteenth letter of Greek alphabet
72. Not off

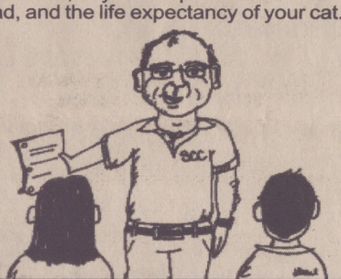
Scotus ✝ Word

By Craig staroscik



Tales of My Meager Existence at Scotus
By: Lauren Maul

If you all would be so kind as to fill out this form regarding whether or not you have a cat, how old that cat is, any health problems the cat has had, and the life expectancy of your cat.



The Awful Truth behind the physiology dissection cats.

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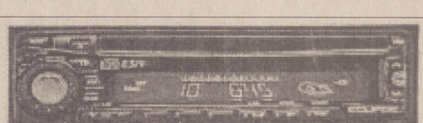
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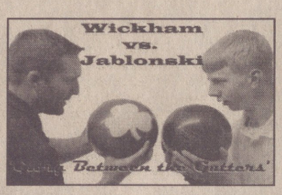
Wickham, Jablonski face off for bowling bragging rights

Barely able to fit through the door due to an enlarged ego, Mr. Wickham walks through the doors. As he straps on his pearly white bowling shoes, he sneers, "I don't trust house shoes."

His opponent, Ryan Jablonski is already strapped up and ready to go. Then the practice throws begin, and the trash talking commenced. Time to prove their superiority in the sport of bowling. Jablonski, the king of student bowlers, and Wickham, the ex-college bowler at UNK. Only one will leave with bragging rights. The match started, and the atmosphere was right to crown the bowling champion of Scotus Central Catholic.



Wickham opened up hitting 8 pins and was unable to pick up a spare. An easy opportunity for Jablonski to take complete control of the match. Jablonski took advantage of this opportunity and hit a strike on his first ball. Jablonski's big arching curve was unable to keep this huge lead throughout the match. Unsure of what he was getting himself into, Wickham was growing doubtful of his skills from the lack of bowling he had been doing compared to Jablonski.

Now, the whole time I had no clue of how the scoring was being done or who was winning. I just knew when each bowler had a huge frame because of the laughing at their opponent on the way back from their throw. Wickham reminded me of ice skaters skating on ice with no ice skates. With his old shoes, he was close to slipping down on many throws. Jablonski was reminiscent of a professional bowler with his glove, wristband, and of course the perfect form.

I am used to going bowling and throwing it between my legs, or throwing two balls at a time. This professional feel to a match was stunning. Those two truly throw like something you would see on T.V.

Then came the 6th frame, and a turn of events came along. With Jablonski up 104 to 86, Wickham threw two straight strikes, and Jablonski let him in the match without knocking all the pins over in the 7th. It was then 134 to 132 in favor of Wickham. It came down to the last three frames. Wickham and Jablonski traded strikes and, going into the last frame, Wickham was still up by two pins.

Jablonski was due up first. His first two throws of the frame were strikes, and then he rolled a 6 on his last throw. This forced Wickham to have to throw all strikes to win the match.

Wickham was as cool as the air coming out of the Scotus heaters. He stepped up to his mark and the first throw was a curving strike. One down and two to go. Breaking a nervous sweat, Wickham knew it was do or die time. His second throw was away, and another strike was the result. Last ball, time to be crowned a champion or a choker. The room was silent as can be. Wickham needed a strike, and he knew it. He stepped up to the lane and let it go….

A huge curve was put on the ball. Traveling down the lane, the ball was hugging the gutter. One more centimeter to the right and Jablonski wins. The ball was heading right toward the side pin, and in the last ten feet, the ball took a huge curve and struck the pins perfectly in the pocket. STRIKE THREE, Jablonski is out (and crying on the floor). Jablonski was literally on his knees with his head buried in his hands. Jablonski now has to face all those who had faith that he wouldn't let a teacher beat him. Wickham strolled in confident he was going to win, and he backed up his talk with a 214 – 208 defeat over Jablonski.

MATT KRINGS/ROCK BOTTOM

Sean Wickham raises his arms in triumph just as he anticipates his ball hitting the pins and giving him the victory. The throw did end up being a strike and gave Wickham 214-208 win over challenger Ryan Jablonski.

ON TO STATE!

Shamrock volleyball team favored to win 9th title

Eric Grubaugh
Editor

Heated rivalries and fierce competitors fill the bracket of the 2002 state volleyball tournament, and all of these teams have one thing in common. They have their sights leveled on Scotus.

Scotus once again sits atop the rankings of class C1. For the 14th consecutive year, the Shamrocks have captured the district title and it has put the punctuation mark on a spectacular undefeated regular season. To secure the title, the Shamrocks defeated Lincoln Lutheran (15-6, 15-1), a team they had defeated only a week prior. Head coach John Petersen said that he would not let that fact affect the preparation for the game.

"Our goal is always to play the best we can," he said. "We practiced and prepared and we played at the level we were capable of. [Winning the district] takes a little of the pressure off too. I think we would have been very disappointed had we not played well [during the district tournament]."

Petersen said he felt good about how his team played throughout the district tournament. He said the team got better and better each day the team played and that he is very comfortable with the number one seed at the state tournament.

"I would rather be number one than anything else," Petersen said. "Sure there's a target on your back, but people have to raise their level of play against us now. And sure there's some pressure, but I think it's a good pressure. It's a pressure to perform well."

The team has performed so well over the course of the year that they are highly favored to win the state championship, but Petersen does not let this take away from the excitement of going to the state tournament.

"You can't control who you play and you can't control the level of play of the other teams," he said. "You just try and reach your peak, and you'll see whether or not the other team has the skills and talent that you do. It's a great experience to be a part of a state championship, and I have been very fortunate to have many chances to go. I enjoy it just as much this time as I did the first time, and I certainly try to convey that to the kids."

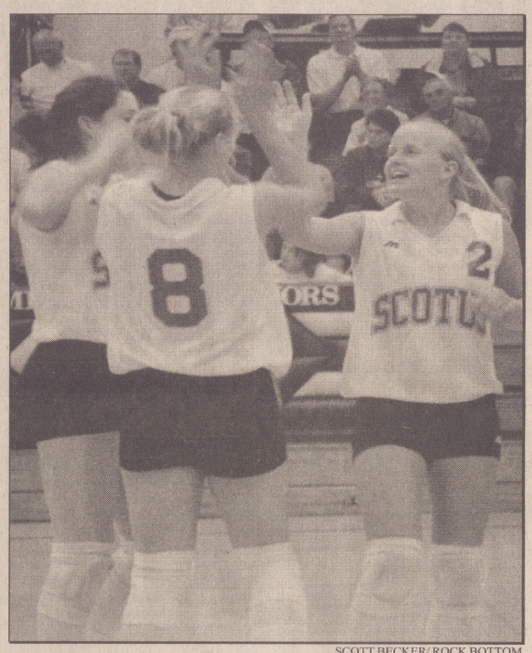
'The kids' certainly have the skills and talent necessary to compete, and there seems to be no stopping the improvement.

"I feel we're playing as good as we have all year," Petersen said of the team's play going in to the state tournament. "Each game you try to raise it up a notch, especially with state. Our focus and intensity picks up, and that adds to our level of play."

The players have been ready day in and day out and have risen to the occasion every time they were called upon, but the players are not the only one Petersen wants to give thanks to (although they do do most of the work).

"Myself, the staff, and the team would like to thank the student body, the cheerleaders, and the band," Petersen said. "We really appreciate their support and enthusiasm. It really helps us."

With Scotus now resting comfortably in the number one position, they are preparing for their November 15th match versus Ord (12-13). Ord has qualified for four state tournaments, the last of which was in 1982. In this particular year, Ord made it to the second round before being defeated by GICC. However, their first round victory was over none other than Scotus (15-13, 8-15, 18-16). Will the number one seed continue their domination? Or will history repeat itself?



SCOTT BECKER/ ROCK BOTTOM

Teammates Renee Beiermann, Taylor Harsh, and Jennifer Sackett celebrate a successful play in the district final game against Lincoln Lutheran. Due to wild card points, both teams qualified for state this week

The road to a championship..

- #2 GICC (25-4) 2:00 PM #7 Syracuse (21-6)
- #6 Chase County (19-4) 12:30 PM #3 Gordon
- → 7:00 PM
- #1 Scotus (26-0) 2:00 PM #8 Ord (12-13)
- #4 Wayne (28-4) 3:30 PM #5 Lincoln Lutheran (26-10)
- → 8:30 PM
- → Nov. 16 6:30 PM Pershing Auditorium

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Scotus Central Catholic

ROCK BOTTOM

Columbus, Nebraska 68601 | December 13, 2002 | Volume 5, Issue 4

With CHS out, future of Holiday Tournament up in air

Scotus working to find new teams to fill brackets and ensure basketball tradition stays in Columbus

Eric Grubagh
Editor

There are presents, eggnog, dumplings, cookies, lights, trees, presents, and basketball. What would Christmas break be like without basketball?

For 20 years, coaches, players, and fans have come to compete in and to watch the Columbus Holiday Tournament. The tournament has previously consisted of eight teams in two brackets. The Shamrock/Viking division this year consists of Scotus, Schuyler, Elkhorn, and Lakeview. The Discoverer division has Columbus High, Fremont, Norfolk, and Lexington.

However, after this year, the Holiday Tournament will be seeing a drastic change. The entire Discoverer division will have to be dropped. All of these teams are in the Greater Nebraska Conference, and this conference has decided to hold a conference tournament over the holidays. Scotus Athletic Director Gary Puetz is confident that the tournament will continue on though.

"[Scotus], Lakeview, Schuyler, and Elkhorn are all committed to keeping the tournament going," he said.

All of these teams are considering several options for the future of the tournament.

"We are considering just leaving it as a four team tournament as it is now," Puetz said. "But we are attempting to find four new teams to have a Scotus bracket and a Lakeview bracket, and then rotate the visiting teams so we aren't always playing the same people."

Finding these new teams does present somewhat of a problem though.

"Most teams already have their own tournaments," Puetz said, "and some are having pre- or post-holiday tournaments. We just need to be creative in our scheduling. I want to keep Scotus [playing] in Columbus."

Whether it has eight teams or four teams, a tournament still needs to be funded. As of now the Chamber of Commerce funds the tournament. Should they stop funding with the loss of the Discoverer division, Puetz is still committed to keeping the tournament here.

> "We just need to be creative in our scheduling. I want to keep Scotus playing in Columbus."
>
> -Gary Puetz

"Right now the Chamber of Commerce is interested in being involved," Puetz said. "They're not going to drop out. But if they would, we would simply sponsor [the tournament] by ourselves. It really is self-funding. You have the gate fees and ads, it would just be more work on our part."

Chamber of Commerce member Don Mroczek said that decisions on the holiday tournament will take some time.

"A lot depends on other teams and other towns because there are some towns that aren't having holiday tournaments next year," Mroczek said. "Right now Madison said they may want to [join the Columbus Holiday Tournament], and Fullerton is looking for a tournament to join, but nothing is definite. We're going to have to wait and see."

The tournament has brought so many advantages to Columbus, there is no reason that every effort is not being made to keep it here.

"It has been great for the local economy," Puetz said. "I am committed to keeping this tournament in town because it is a great advantage for our people, too. There's no travel for them. If we have to host the tournament every year, I will do that."

Puetz also said for him that the best-case scenario would be to find four new teams to keep the competition going. Other basketball coaches seem to agree.

"Obviously we want to see them bring in four new teams," girls' head coach Sean Wickham said, "but it's really tough to do. They're already in their own tournaments. But I would really like to see four new teams."

Boys' assistant coach Pat Brockhaus seemed to share the same idea.

"We'd like to see them bring in four new teams," Brockhaus said, "but we have to pull them out of a tournament they are already in to come to ours, and that's very difficult. We may have to keep it a four-team tournament, but how long can that be done? I really don't know. Perhaps sometime we'll have to go to a pre-holiday tournament or a post-holiday tournament."

Whether new teams are found or the same teams are kept, basketball will remain a part of the Scotus holiday season. Now it is simply a matter of when and where the games will continue.

Queens of the court

The Scotus volleyball team celebrates with its trophy after winning its seventh title in eight years. **Back row:** Assistant Coach Janet Tooley, Head Coach John Petersen, Ann Beiermann, Lynn Weeder, Mandi Schumacher, Haley Buelt, manager Tiffany Hanus, Asstistant Coach Julie Blaser. **Middle Row:** Heidi Sobota, Stephanie Lyons, Tayolr Harsh, and Laura Dolezal. **Front Row:** Nicole Mielak, Renee Beiermann, Taryn Ketter, Jennifer Sackett, and Michelle Flint.

State Tournament Scores:

Ord	0	0
Columbus Scotus	15	15
Wayne	2	1
Columbus Scotus	15	15
Grand Island CC	6	6
Columbus Scotus	15	15

29-0

PHOTO COURTESY PAT AND CINDY SACKETT

LAUREN MAUL/ROCK BOTTOM

Senior Mikayla Wurdinger literally has her hands full as she cares for her doll. The doll is used as part of a three-day assignment to help students get an idea of what life with children is like.

Fussy dolls give students taste of parenting joys, blues

Scott Becker
Rock Bottom Corespondent

It's the middle of the class period, and tests are being handed out. All the students try to cram what little information into their brain that they can. In the middle of the test, a loud cry is heard and everyone turns and looks at a baby carrier sitting next to another student's desk. Sound Familiar?

The baby carrier belonged to a student of the Childhood Development class. These babies seen in the hallways and classrooms of Scotus are part of the "Baby Think It Over" simulation. Each student in the class is assigned to carry around a computerized doll with them for three days. The dolls simulate everything that a real infant would be capable of. The dolls cry, need diapers changed, require feeding and gentle rocking. In the end, they produce a computer readout that shows the teacher how the baby was treated, how long it spent crying before the "parent" attended to its needs, and if the head was held in the correct position.

> "Being a parent was fun, but I'm glad I don't have to do it for a while."
>
> -Amanda Krings

"This program helps develop respect for taking care of babies and teaches students not jump into parenting without thinking about it first," childhood development teacher Carmen Johnson said.

Theology teacher Brian Fuscher said that this simulation is a good program to have.

"I think it's a very good activity and it's very important," he said. "However, I wish there could be a way to do it without distracting class."

One of those distracing baby dolls belonged to junior Katy Nagengast.

"Mr. Fuscher made me nervous in class," she said, "and then I snapped the (doll's) head back all the way, and it made that shrill cry."

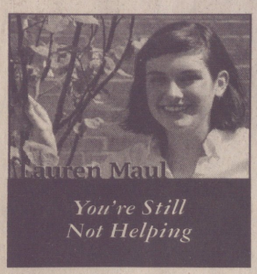
Each student is given a baby to take care of for three days. The students are responsible for their baby at all times. The student's opinions on parenting varied.

*See **Parenting**, page 3*

Columbus men working to provide shelter, comfort to area homeless
Page 3

Sledders ready to head for the hills at first sign of snow
Page 3

Sadly, high school movies and Scotus life are not the same



Movies such as *The Breakfast Club*, *Pretty in Pink,* and *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* are very misleading and should come with a disclaimer: HIGH SCHOOL IS NOT LIKE THIS!

As a preteen, I watched these movies over and over. By the time I was twelve and ready to enter Scotus, I believed that high school would rock. I was under the impression that detention would be a bonding experience between different social classes, prom would be magical, and daily high school life would be a blast.

There are many teen movies that take place in a high school, and all of them are unrealistic. Despite the bogus quality of these films, I love high school movies from the eighties. *The Breakfast Club, Pretty in Pink,* and *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* are among my very favorite movies. As a gawky preteen, I imagined I would blossom into a Molly Ringwald type character. Sadly, high school has not been quirky or romantic for me. No matter how hard I try to create my own drama, school days remain repetitive and dull.

For all of you underclassmen who have yet to experience a detention, prom, or a senior's school day, here are the facts. These facts may be hard to stomach, but I believe it is my duty as a teenager to inform the preteens of this world about the truth concerning high school life.

In the movie *The Breakfast Club*, a jock, a criminal, a "princess," a basket case, and a nerd all share a Saturday morning detention. First of all, Scotus does not have a Saturday morning detention. So when I received my first Tuesday morning detention during my sophomore year, I thought it may be somewhat similar to the movie. I thought I was so cool because unlike the majority of the people in the detention, I was not there for tardies.

I believed the prom would be the time when my Hollywood high school dream would come true.

I was there for "disrespecting" a substitute teacher. I felt so "bad" and rebellious. Unfortunately, I couldn't explain to many people why I was in detention because there is no talking in detention. Morning detention takes place at seven a.m. (no later, or it doesn't count) in a rank little room just off the weight room.

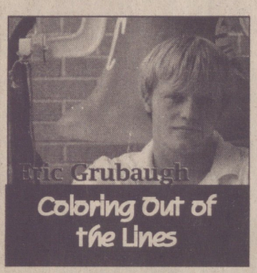
There is one long table and all I did was work on my Algebra II assignment. Unfortunately, contrary to *The Breakfast Club,* there was no bonding, no dancing through library rows, and no mayhem to be made.

After my disappointing detention sophomore year, I believed the prom would be the time when my Hollywood high school dream would come true. Like *Pretty in Pink*, I pictured myself walking into a beautifully decorated gym and having my dream guy ask me to dance. My first prom took place in the VFW building. We ate on disposable plates and danced on a cramped sweaty dance floor. I was not asked to dance. If you want more detail into that evening, take a look at the class prom picture. I'm the ticked off girl in the second row glaring at the camera.

Senior year has been pretty good to me thus far. Daily life is nothing like *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, but it's not hell. There's not much drama here at Scotus and nobody really skips class. I usually just go to classes, procrastinate my homework, and read during study hall. After school I go to work or watch *The Simpsons*. Sometimes I'll spice it up and go out to eat with friends on school nights, shop at the Wal-Mart, or go bowling.

High school's not bad, but the movies are better. Now I'll watch *Animal House* and see how my college days will measure up.

'Tis the season for cough drops, Kleenex, and plenty of fluids



You expect it to come, but you never think about it much and are never ready before it hits you. But when it does hit you, oh man you know it. A cold is never ever fun to have, and I just happened to contract one recently. I don't know how I got it, but if I ever find the scoundrel who gave it to me…look out. Actually I could care less where it came from; all I want right now is to get rid of the thing.

Sometimes you get the tiny cold where it may just be a little cough now and then, or a teeny bit of nasal drippage—but no, not this time, not this cold. I happened to get the full-blown version. It's the version where I wake up in the morning and my eyes are swollen shut and flooding. As soon as my head raises just one centimeter off the pillow, it gains twenty pounds from the drainage and starts hammering inside itself more than any construction crew Omaha could ever set to work. It's the migraine of a lifetime.

Then I have to literally drag my feet out of bed because I feel so weak, and then test them out just to see if they will hold my body weight (plus the new twenty pounds in my head).

Next I shuffle along through the dark, stepping on the snotty Kleenexes from throughout the night that never found their garbage-can target.

A trail of these soggy, inaccurate Kleenexes leads me to the door and eventually to the bathroom. The bathroom is an ugly place to be with a cold like this. First of all, you have to turn on the lights. The lights upgrade the construction crew in my head to an all-out nuclear war. As my head feels like it's going to explode, a quick check in the mirror reveals that my head also appears as if it's going to explode. I've got the red, puffy eyes, the swollen lips, inflamed nostrils, rosy-squirrel cheeks, the whole works.

Now that my quick glance in the mirror was enough to break it, I decide some water would be good. Well, we don't always make good decisions. The water is more like razor blades and kitchen knives sliding down my throat. My pharynx must have been marauded by little Freddy Kruegers during the night, because it seems to have been absolutely mauled beyond belief and repair.

Sometimes you get the tiny cold where it may just be a little cough-but no, not this time.

Then the fits of coughing begin, which really do not help my already scarred throat. The razor blades and kitchen knives seem to be returning to do some more mangling in the back of my throat. I sound like a combination of a walrus and a motor refusing to start.

I continue my hacking and sputtering as I clamber up the Mount McKinley-sized staircase in my home. As the air becomes thinner and thinner the more I climb, the weight that is in my head triples, falls to my feet, and then I get that fuzzy, disconnected feeling in my brain. Mind you that doesn't stop World War III from persisting between my ears, but now my feet are attached to baby-grand pianos filled with molten lead, and I'm trying to climb Mount McKinley with the pianos dragging behind.

After what must have been years of climbing and scrambling to the peak of the stairs, I drag my lead-filled baby-grands to the breakfast table. I can tell that there is a variety of boxes of cereal set out for me to choose from, but I can't see quite enough through my swollen eye sockets to discern what kinds of cereal these boxes contain. Then again, I don't feel much like eating. The cursed cold has given me chapped lips and a velvet tongue that make any type of food in any way, shape, or form unappetizing. Plus the weight is returning to my head, but not lessening in my feet, I don't believe I need to be adding anymore weight in my belly.

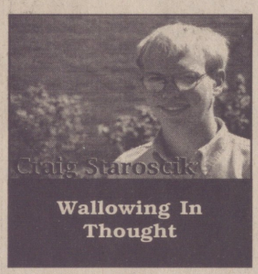
By now my nose has started running. It could take Maurice Green in the 100 meter dash any day. I've been sneezing so hard that hurricane Andrew has nothing on me. My body weighs about 150 pounds, but the cold multiplies that by ten, I think.

My only chance of even catching a glimpse of my car in the driveway and arriving at school halfway on time is to find the medicine cabinet.

When you have a cold, reaching the medicine cabinet is like finding King Arthur's Holy Grail. Unfortunately for me, the Grail is empty right now except for Nyquil and Tylenol PM. Well, I don't know that either would help my symptoms, but I do know they'd knock me out before I could even think about leaving for school.

School in itself will present a whole new chapter to this saga. If my staircase is Mount McKinley, the school's stairs are going to be Mount Everest. My only hope to survive a school day is that World War III leaves my head and infects another poor soul's world, or that gallon of Nyquil I just…. drank…. takes…. eff….

The reason for the season is the reason it's a season



I saw something unusual outside of Super Saver this year. Sitting among the toppled Christmas trees and the heaping piles of salt was an inconspicuous and surprising Christmas decoration. It was a nativity.

Now, a nativity may not be all that uncommon an object for a Catholic student to see during the holiday season. Most of us have had at least one up in our house, and if, not have seen it in school or church. In all the places I would expect to find a nativity, outside a grocery store along Columbus' busiest road was one of the least likely candidates.

It makes me a little bit sad. I expected to see Christmas decorations up in the aisles of stores by October. I expected the world to once again use Thanksgiving weekend as a time to shop rather than give thanks. I expect one of our local radio stations to be playing non-stop Christmas music in November. I never expected to see a religious symbol outside a store.

I have been told Christmas is nothing more than a commercial holiday anymore. It is merely a big Christmas present to the economy in the form of millions upon millions of little gift-wrapped boxes.

Cold weather and peppermint must have some type of magical powers to turn an ordinary day into something magnificent.

Still, something deep down inside wants to argue otherwise. Perhaps it is because our government, which will not even let schools hold prayers at graduations, still hangs up Christmas trees and lets Santa Claus visit downtown.

Maybe this feeling has to do with the fact that during this season people walk around with smiles that can't be ignored. Cold weather and peppermint must have some type of magical power to turn an ordinary day into something magnificent. Then, to top it all off, someone gets the beautiful notion to commit a seasonal faux pas and actually display a nativity.

I was always a sucker for subtle signs. If we take the time to look, God is always around us. Sometimes He shows up in a cashier's smile when you are in a hurry and tired of all your Christmas shopping. Other times He is found in a well-placed snow, the kind that shows up out of nowhere at just the right moment and isn't too cold or wet to make you uncomfortable. In this season, call it Christmas or any other celebration, He is all around us. I think that is part of the reason Christmas is such a special time of the year. We are not only trying to celebrate His birth, but celebrate his presence in the millions of little things that make this such a wonderful time of the year.

This year, keep your eyes open for those glimpses of God. They could be found anywhere. Try to recognize him in your relative's faces when you see them over the break. I like to look for Him by staring up at a Christmas tree while I lay underneath it. Whatever you do this season, keep Him in mind. God has made himself visible everywhere, even in a grocery store's nativity.

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Scotus Central Catholic

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'Harbor of Hope' looks to provide for area homeless

Amy Ellingson
Staff Reporter

Until about five years ago Ted Pearson was not a religious man.

He refused to believe that there was a God that cared about him, but on a November night in 1997 he realized that he was mistaken. While the song "Amazing Grace" was played before a George Foreman fight, Pearson realized that God did care about him. Since that night, Pearson has devoted much of his time to helping others in need and helping them get to know God.

While leading a Bible study group, he was introduced to Pastor Tom Beatty, the executive director of The Harbor of Hope Rescue Mission in Columbus. Beatty asked him if he would be interested in developing a homeless shelter in Columbus and after much thought and prayer, Pearson agreed.

> "For the last six months I've delt with 15 to 20 people a month without a place to stay, food, or furniture"
> -Ted Pearson

When the word "homeless" is mentioned while describing a person, what images come to mind? Perhaps a skinny, undernourished man or woman, wearing worn clothing, sleeping on a sidewalk, or begging for pocket change. Maybe they are standing next to the highway with a sign proclaiming "Will Work For Food," or pushing a shopping cart full of their belongings. Since these negative, stereotypical images of homeless people are not normally seen in Columbus, it means that Columbus doesn't have a problem with homelessness. Right?

While working with this shelter project and with other shelters, Pearson has seen first hand that Columbus definitely has a problem with homelessness.

"For the last six months I've dealt with 15 to 20 people a month without a place to stay, food, or furniture," Pearson said.

People without a place to stay aren't necessarily the only ones who need the assistance of the homeless shelter. Those who need time away from family situations, are lonely, and are suffering, need the shelter just as much. Because of this, the shelter aims to assist not only the homeless, but the hurting as well. Even though some may not share in Pearson's understanding and compassion towards the homeless, his attorney, Tom Maul, does.

Two weeks before Maul's involvement in the shelter began, he said that he got a call from the Holy Spirit that posed to him a very important question. What can I do to help somebody? His call was answered when Beatty asked him if he was willing to help with the legal portion of developing the shelter. Maul agreed to do so free of charge. For him, this case is very different.

"This is one of the few opportunities I've had to do this type of work for a nonprofit, charitable organization," Maul said.

His job is to change zoning classes so that a shelter can exist in their selected location. It sounds complicated, but Maul said he's basically "helping them through city beaurocracy." Though the shelter still has a long way to go, it has already made a lot of progress toward becoming a reality.

The shelter now has a special-use permit, a purchase agreement, and $105,000 out of the $170,000 raised. Once it is completely established, the Harbor of Hope Rescue Mission shelter won't be just like any other. The mission will offer the New Life Program, a drug and alcohol rehabilitation program that is scripturally based. The shelter also offers its residents knowledge about the gospel and the teachings of Jesus in a home-based setting. It is believed that the religious touch the shelter gives will make a dramatic difference in its people.

"When somebody comes to a point of knowing Jesus," Pearson said, "that changes them for the rest of their life."

Not only will the shelter largely benefit the lives of its residents, the city of Columbus will see some positive changes as well.

Since the shelter isn't state run, taxpayers won't have to contribute their money to pay for it. The shelter operates totally on private donations from businesses and individuals. It's actually a form of tax relief. The city's law enforcement won't have the task of finding temporary places for the homeless to stay anymore, and churches who are unequipped to meet the needs of the less fortunate will be relieved as well.

"I believe the mission will do more for the city of Columbus than it does for the homeless people," Pearson said.

The invaluable amount of good that the Harbor of Hope Rescue Mission will be doing for others is setting an example of compassion, caring, and understanding to the rest of the city. Many have donated time and money to helping this cause, and those working on the project hope more will follow.

With that in mind, an important question arises. What can YOU do to help somebody?

How you can help

Call for a volunteer application:
(402) 563-1096

Send a donation to:
The Harbor of Hope Rescue Mission
P.O. Box 1064
Columbus, NE 68601

AMY ELLINGSON/ROCK BOTTOM

Ted Pearson, left, and Tom Maul sit outside Columbus' new homeless shelter. Both men have been essential in the development of the shelter.

Students warm up to idea of long Christmas break

Ryan Jablonski
Staff Reporter

Though the weather outside is colder, the students are more excited about this particular Christmas break. Scotus students have two full weeks of Christmas break, compared to the week and a half that they usually get. Some students have some great plans for their long lazy days off.

Senior Steve Micek seems to be confused about what he is going to do during his Christmas break. His options range from a trip to Chicago to sitting at home and drinking diet caffeine free soda.

"Most Christmases I just stay at home and drink soda and play my video games," Micek said.

Even though Micek's schedule contains little excitement,it could be worse.

"I am going to stay home and see if I can drink ten Red Bull's in one hour," senior Tony Bayer said.

The combination of that much caffeine and the overeating that comes with the Holiday season could have sluggishly disastrous results in the future for Bayer.

Not everyone is going to be at home drinking diet caffeine free soda and Red Bull during the Holiday Season. Senior Nathan Fisher is planning on taking a road trip.

"My parents and I are planning on going to Cornlee for Christmas," Fisher said. "Sounds real exciting if you have not ever been to a town with twenty people, two bars and an antique store."

While Fisher has his fun all planned for the Christmas season, some will be using the extra time off working hard at being lazy.

"I plan on lying on my couch and not moving anything except for my hand to my mouth and fingers to change the channel," senior Josh Giustra said.

Overall, the option of lying around during the long Christmas break has been the best thing to do to spend two weeks out of school. Those who are traveling though, hopefully will have more fun than twenty people, two bars, and an antique store.

Parenting: Dolls go everywhere

from page 1

Nagengast said she enjoyed the chance to be a parent. She said that the baby looked real to her, and it made her feel like a real mother. Others, however, were embarrassed about having to take the baby with them everywhere they went.

"I got really weird looks from older people when I was carrying the baby," said junior Amanda Krings.

Senior Anna Evans received the same reaction when she went with senior Jocelyn Karsk to the library.

"Three old ladies thought that the babies were real at first," said Evans. "When they figured out the babies weren't real, they kept naming our babies and they wouldn't leave us alone."

After the simulation ended, the participants had different thoughts about being parents

Krings said that carrying the baby everywhere taught her some lessons.

"It taught me how much work they take," said Krings.

However, the program made Nagengast more excited about being a parent. She also said that the similation also showed her the financial burden a baby requires.

The student reactions to the exercise were mixed, but as Fuscher pointed out, the situation is a little different from parenting. Whether being active in the simulation is completely accurate or not, it makes an impact on the students

"Being a parent wasn't bad," said Krings, "but I'm glad I don't have to do it for a while."

Your holiday gift guide

Looking for the perfect gift for that whiny sibling? Or maybe you're scanning the market for additions to your own Christmas wish list. Here's a look at what's hot this Christmas season.

Top Five Holiday Classics for Kids:

1. *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*
2. *Hanukkah*
3. *The Night Before Christmas*
4. *Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins*
5. *A Christmas Carol*

Top Five Non-Fiction Books for Adults:

1. *From a Buick 8*- Stephen King
2. *The Murder Book*- Jonathan Kellerman
3. *Q is for Quarry*- Sue Grafton
4. *White Doves at Morning*- James Lee Burke
5. *Seek My Face*- John Updike

Hot Gifts for Kids:

1. Barbie Anywhere Gift Set
2. Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 4
3. Grand Theft Auto: Vice City
4. Radio Controlled Crocodile Hunter Truck
5. Sistine Chapel 3-D Puzzle
6. Harry Potter Whomping Willow Game
7. Operation
8. Disney Princess Enchanted Dream Ball Game
9. Little Tikes Patio Playhouse
10. Extreme Snow Boggan

Harry Potter Hot Gifts:

1. LEGO has many products like: "Chamber of Secrets," "Harry Potter and Hogwarts and Castle," and "Aragog in the Dark Forest Set".
2. "Harry's Levitating Challenge"
3. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*- Daniel Radcliffe
4. "The Dueling Club"

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Passion for wheels drives competition among teen's cars

Ryan Jablonski
Staff Reporter

Movies like the *Fast and the Furious* and *Gone in 60 Seconds* have brought a new fade to cars to the small teenage community of Columbus. Not all cars in town can make the quarter mile in 13.9, but those who own cars that can, don't care. Then there are some cars that are fast, but not all that furious. Scotus has seen its share of good cars as well as the cars that can only be laughed at when seen in the parking lot.

Senior Jon Schueth has one of those cars that makes someone look and ask, what was the manufacture thinking? The Nova, or No Go if translated from the Spanish name, has been at the school for the past three years.

"The car was my parents, and I guess I was special enough to carry on its legacy," Schueth said. "It's nothing fancy; it justs gets me where I need to go, if it starts."

To say that it just gets you where you need to go is a little understatement for some cars. Senior Shane Kelly graced the parking lot this year with his new 5.0 liter Mustang.

"It moves a lot faster than my old car," Kelly said. "It's not the nicest looking car, but it turns some heads."

Kelly said that he has always had the opinion that Fords aren't always the best car to have, but he will take his new wheels without any complaints.

Another car in the parking lot that doesn't quiet have the same head turning ability as Kelly's, would be Senior Victor Tira's Ford Festiva, better known as "The Bubble." Tira knows of a few other words that people use to describe his car:

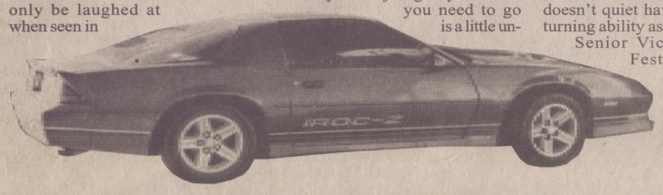
"Ha, Ha, Ha," he said.

Tira aslo said that he is putting his Bubble to the test against Jake Otte's car.

For a car that can really fly, junior Brian Malicky has something in store for you. His SS Camaro is proclaimed to be the fastest car in school by the majority of Scotus' Senior High.

"The thing flies," Malicky said. "It has affected my life in so many ways. I just don't think I could get up in the morning and look out the window and not see it there."

Even if you have a rickety old junker, or a sleek stallion on wheels, the freedom that comes along with the car is all by itself worth it. It takes you places you need to go, and it is an easy way to spend more time with your friends. Don't take driving lightly, Junior Bobbie Korgie didn't realize how good it was to drive, until his car would not start.



Sledding preview '02: *When and if snow flies, students look to the hills*

Matt Krings
Editor

The wintertime can be as hectic as ever. With crazed shoppers, holiday travels, and decorations galore, some can find no time for fun. The lack of snow has made it difficult for some types of winter fun, in particular, sledding. When the snow does fall, the hunt for finding the best hills in town starts and the fun begins.

The topography of Columbus is relatively flat. Finding these hills is definitely not an easy task. In town, there are not too many good places to take the ol' toboggan.

"When I was younger I used to go to the airport after they shovels the huge piles of snow of the runways," freshman Nicole Sobotka said. "Other than that, there really is no where else to sled within city limits."

Finding good sledding spots is not impossible around here. North of town are plenty of huge hills. Sophomore Jeff Olmer said some of the smaller ones are his favorite.

"On the east side of Lake North, there are some fun sledding hills," Olmer said. "You can set up crazy ramps halfway down the hills. Sledding down with a friend and trying to knock him over is fun because there are so many trees to injure your friend."

> "You can set up crazy ramps halfway down the hills. Sledding down with a friend and trying to knock him over is fun."
> -Jeff Olmer

The small, two-second sled rides are good and fun for the time being. To experience the best place to sled around Columbus, sledders have to look a few miles out of town. Camp Luther has been used for years as a summer get-a-way for kids and a calm escape from busy city life. None of these uses can compare to the fun of sledding down its giant hills. Sophomore Andy Hadland has experienced the ultimate sledding experience.

"The best place to sled is definitely Camp Luther," Hadland said. "There is one down side though, carrying the sled back up the hills."

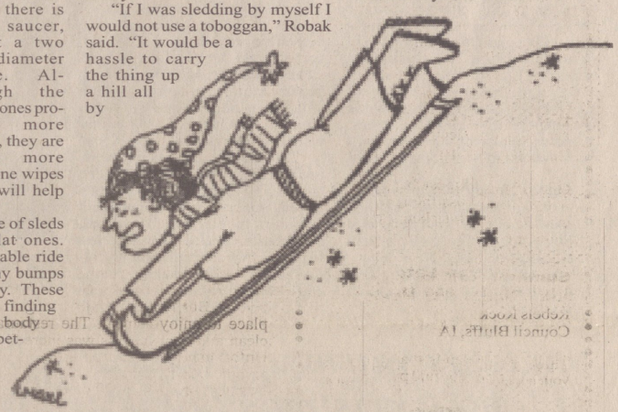
With the right kind of sled, sledding can be an entertaining ride wherever they are used. There are three types of basic sleds. First, there is the saucer, about a two foot diameter circle. Although the metal ones produce more speed, they are much more dangerous. When someone wipes out, the plastic version will help reduce the pain of it all.

The most common type of sleds are the long, skinny, flat ones. These provide a comfortable ride down a hill, without many bumps and bruises along the way. These sleds can be boring, but finding new ways to position the body of them can make them better.

Finally the old fashion toboggans. Toboggans are multi-person sleds with metal blades on the bottom for maximum speed. Eighth grader Jozef Robak said toboggans are the best kind of sled because the ride down in not so lonely.

"If I was sledding by myself I would not use a toboggan," Robak said. "It would be a hassle to carry the thing up a hill all by yourself."

With a few weeks until winter, the only thing sledding fanatics can do is anticipate the next big snow. Hopefully the Nebraska weather will not let all the snow melt within a day after it falls.



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Upcoming Events and Area Concerts

Friday, Dec. 13
When Breaks the Dawn, Hawthorne, Trial By Error, and **Truth in Ruin**
RNS Skateboard Shop
13436 L Street
Omaha, NE

Hardcore music on a hardcore day. 5 bucks, 4 bands, 3 hours, 2 stages, 1 night. Doors at 7:30, show from 8:00- 11:00 pm. All ages.

Saturday, Dec. 14
Get Up Kids, Hey Mercedes
Sokol Auditorium
13th and Martha
Omaha, NE

Advance Tickets Available at all Homer's locations, online at 1% Productions, or by calling 800-262-9592. $15. Show starts at 8:00 pm. All ages.

Monday, Dec. 16
Three Horned Penguin, GFN, The Not So Thins, and **Point Blanc**
Ranch Bowl
1600 S. 72nd St. (393-0900)
Lincoln, NE

Punk bands and one hard rock band.

Friday, Dec. 20
Def Leppard
Mid-America Center
Council Bluffs, IA

One of the biggest bands in the world just across the river! Tickets: $35 through Ticketmaster. 7:30 showtime.

Summer Too Late, Force that Binds, and **Device**
Rebels Rock
Council Bluffs, IA

Three sweet bands that will rock your socks off! $5. 7:00 pm. All ages.

My Raging Mind; The Floater; Eponymous, and **When Breaks the Dawn**
RNS Skateboard Shop
13436 L Street
Omaha, NE 68137

This show is a benefit show for CRFA (Cancer Research Foundation of America). The proceeds go to the foundation, and support research.

Friday, Jan. 3
Felt, The Floaters, Eponymous, and **My Raging Mind**
RNS Skateboard Shop
13436 L Street
Omaha, NE 68137

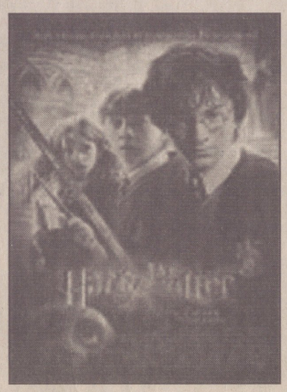
They are showing 4 local punk bands. Come see some 4 great acts play the first RNS show of the New Year! $5. Doors at 7:30 pm. Show at 8-11 pm. All ages.

PAM JOHNSON/ROCK BOTTOM

Rock Bottom Review:

Second *Harry Potter* movie worthy tribute to book

Lauren Maul
Editor



Boys should see *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* because of a flying car, Quidditch, Aragog, and the slaying of a Basilisk.

Girls should see this film because of Oliver Wood.

Let me explain a few things first off: Quidditch is a sport played on brooms, Aragog is a giant man-eating spider, and a Basilisk is an enormous snake with a deadly gaze.

Oliver Wood, as played by Sean Biggerstaff, just happens to be the very good-looking captain of Harry Potter's Quidditch team. He also has a Scottish accent. Did I mention that he is good-looking?

Anyway, I saw this film over Thanksgiving break with my thirteen-year old cousin. We were amazed at all the different kinds of people that went to the movie. There were old people, teenagers, and teeny little kids. In fact, this little bratty girl sat behind me and kept kicking my head. Despite the painful distraction of having my head used as a hairy soccer ball, I thoroughly enjoyed this movie.

This movie was based on the second book in the Harry Potter series. My cousin and I had both read all the books, but I know of people who did not read the books and still got a kick out of the movie. (When I say they "got a kick out of the movie," I don't mean it literally because no little kids ever kicked them in the head while they were watching the movie.)

The film starts out when a house elf, Dobby, attempts to keep Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe) away from Hogwarts, his magic school. Dobby causes a lot of magical mayhem in Harry's non-magical aunt and uncle's home. Later, Harry Potter's school friends, the Weasleys, rescue him from his aunt and uncle's home in a flying car. The car and Dobby were exactly how I imagined them. In fact, almost everything in this film was exactly how I imagined it would be while I was reading the book.

To keep a long story short, there is a massive mystery at Hogwarts that deals with The Chamber of Secrets. Harry, along with his two best friends, Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint) and Hermione Granger (Emma Watson), uncover the secrets that lie within the Chamber.

The first half of the film is very jumpy and the transitions between scenes don't flow all that well. But then again, I don't know how else the film makers could have done it. They wanted to include important information from the book along with memorable scenes, and they did they best they could. Later on in the movie, the scenes are longer and flow smoothly.

To make a long story short, mayhem (including a giant spider and an awesome Quidditch scene) ensues and Harry winds up killing a giant snake. The special effects were marvelous and the ending was so happy I almost cried. The acting was believable, the props and scenery were magical, and the overall film was fantastic.

No matter how great a film may be, the book is always better. For those of you who have yet to read the Harry Potter series, I highly recommend you do so.

All in all, I give this movie 9 out of 10 stars.

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets
Stars: Dan Radcliffe, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson
Lauren's Rock Bottom Rating:

Rock Bottom Review:

Conga restaurant has bright spots, room to improve

Lauren Maul
Editor

If you ever feel like waiting a long time and then eating a lot of food and have two hours to spare, come on down to the Congo Bar and Grille. But don't order the pork tacos.

The Congo Bar and Grille, located on 23rd street in the old Chinese restaurant building, is relatively new on the dining scene. I ate there on a Friday night, and despite popular belief, the restaurant was not crowded at all. At first glance, the place seems a little ritzy, having a couple chandeliers hanging from the ceiling. But actually, it's just a regular sort of place to enjoy a meal. The restaurant was clean and our waitress was incredibly nice. Unfortunately, there was only one waitress assigned to five tables, so the service was less than prompt.

I had the bright idea to order the pork tacos. Sadly, they were not very good. The pork was dry and tough and the "soft" taco shells were stale and brittle. Luckily, my companions fared better with their orders. The avocado salad, the chicken salad, the hamburger, and the steak burrito were just fine and safe to eat. The 7-ounce steak was more than "medium rare" but the accompanying potato and salad were just fine and dandy. Our appetizer of delicious fried mushrooms filled me up enough that I didn't starve by not eating my pork tacos.

I fell into a bit of luck: the waitress accidentally brought us a steak sirloin. I had already started in on the potato when the waitress realized her mistake. She simply replaced the potato and delivered the steak to the proper table. I "accidentally" let it slip that I was writing a restaurant review and two minutes later the steak was mine again. Luckily, the other table hadn't eaten any of it. This may not have been sanitary, but the sirloin steak tasted just fine to me. The waitress conveniently left it off our bill.

The restaurant had a jukebox, a dancefloor, a pool table, and a bar. The jukebox worked great, the dancefloor had tables on it, and the pool table was occupied.

This restaurant offers both Mexican and American food. Overall, it was a good time. The bill was way more than I usually pay (since all the dinners were around the $10 range,) the food took a little too long to get to our table, but I got a free sirloin steak. Hence, the evening was a success.

Bottom line: clean restrooms, clean atmosphere, Enrique Iglesias blasting from the jukebox, and relatively good food.

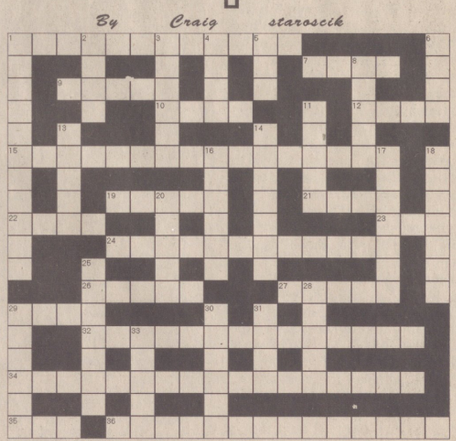
"Christmas Songs"

Across:
1. The _(three words)_ Christmas
7. __ golden rings
9. Nine ___ a milking
10. Three French ___
12. Abbreviation for Christmas
15. Twelve _____
19. Six geese a ___g
21. A partridge was in this: pear __
22. Not main dish
23. Celebrate the birth of the
24. ____ piping
26. Ten ___ a leaping
27. Seven ___ a swimming
29. Sandwich place
32. After the partridge
34. The only gift left
35. Color of the season
36. The Rock Bottom wishes you

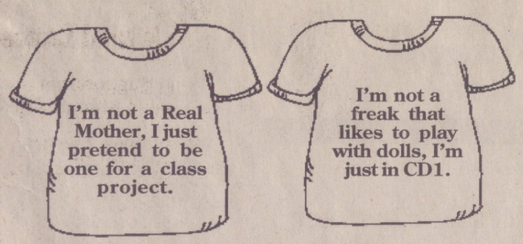
Down:
1. Rudolph, _____ Reindeer
2. Something a pine tree lacks
3. You know __
4. Makes stockings
5. A song or poem
6. Wrapping decoration
8. Reindeer with an 'X'
11. Heavenly bodied reindeer
13. Valentine reindeer
14. The most famous reindeer
16. Reindeer doing the waltz
17. What one does after shaking present
18. Strutting reindeer
20. To give right of way
25. Reindeer after the quarterback
28. Santa's belly will do this
29. Dressing reindeer
30. Kid who are this get no presents
31. Winter sport equipment
33. To give a speech

SCOTUS ✝ WORD

By Craig staroscik



Tales of My Meager Existence at Scotus
By: Lauren Maul



After a few embarrassing experiences with the plastic babies, Mrs. Carmen Johnson made these T-Shirts out of curtains for her students to wear.

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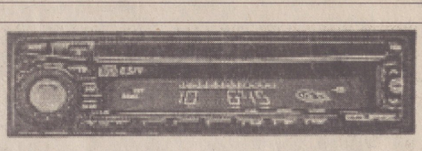
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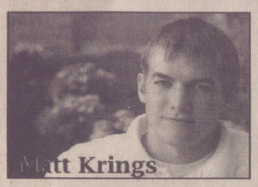
Matt Krings

Key to sport success all in thumbs

You know it's a wonderful world we live in when we can vicariously live our athletic lives in a television set.

Much of my precious time has been spent in front of my television, Playstation 2 controller in hand, and a sporting game blasted up on volume. I have come to many conclusions from my video game experiences.

The more you play a sport on a video game console, the better you will become at the sport. There is no way this theory of mine could not be true. For example, many, including me, have been addicted to the NCAA College Football games. The realistic player features are a huge contribution to the entertainment value of the game, but that is not what makes it golden. The game play is ridiculously superior. Reading coverages is a must, and the velocity of your passes is key. If you do not become any better at football after going through the real situations presented to you on that game, you obviously do not appreciate a chance to become a better football player.

The Scotus football's team goal for the 2003 season is to win the statecChampionship. That mission would become much easier if every player had a video football game to take part in. Coach Cozad, it is just a $50 investment for each player, and you can't put a price on winning.

Some people do not like a certain sport because of lack of understanding. Let me tell you now, soccer is not appreciated as much as it should be. Grabbing any FIFA game should turn anyone's hate for soccer into a positive 180. I am guaranteeing satisfaction with any FIFA soccer game.

Being in the hick state of Nebraska, most people are not attracted to foreign sports. Rugby is not usually a well-known sport. I am almost positive most do not know the rules of rugby or the fun that playing it actually is. When EA Sports came out with a Rugby game, it was hard to get into it at first. After learning the rules and strategies of the game, I am now unstoppable. I am to Rugby as Mike Adelman is to Monkey Ball.

Playing video games is all good and fun, but some people take it to a whole new level. I have heard that some people have huge tournaments of College Football. Their rooms consist of brackets for the weeks games. An unhealthy obsession has taken over if you ask me, and I think it is completely ludicrous.

The top three games a true gamer and athlete must have are: NCAA Football 2003, FIFA Soccer 2003, and Rugby. If you can get any three games for Christmas be sure to add these to the list. It will not only provide you with the most fun ever, but you will be a much better athlete. Just invest all your time into sitting on your couch playing video games.

Basketball players shoot off new season

Craig Staroscik
Editor-in-Chief

Last week Nebraska kicked off its winter sports season, as did both Shamrock basketball teams here at home against Hastings St. Cecilia. Last year the girls' team finished second at the state tournament, while the boys ended their season with a loss to Columbus Lakeview at in districts. Both teams are looking forward to this year and are eager to improve from last year's performance.

After coming off an incredibly successful season last year, the second-ranked Shamrock girls have a lot to live up too. The team finished their first game with a win, defeating Hastings St. Cecilia 60-34. The rest of the season's schedule does not appear so easy, said head coach Sean Wickham. Still, he said the players are optimistic.

"I know that we have a lot of though teams on our schedule that are better than they were a year ago," Wickham said. "A lot of those teams that we played last year were young, and now they have the experience on us."

Experience is something that the girls may be lacking. The team lost all of its five starters from last year. One of the biggest challenges the young team will face this year is living up to the runner-up standards of last year's team. Wickham said that this year's incoming starters are doing a good job of organizing and motivating the team.

"I'm looking forward to the development of the team," Wickham said. "We have a lot of young kids who don't have a lot of varsity or junior varsity experience."

On the opposite side of the court is the Scotus boys' team. Coach Merlin Lahm's team finished on a sour note last year, losing to their across-town rivals the Lakeview Vikings. The team comes into this season prepared and hopeful, despite losing their opener to the Bluehawks 59-41. With hopes to avoid the shortcomings of last year, conditioning for this year's team started in the fall for some seniors, and the Shamrocks have been training like crazy ever since.

"It has been a lot of hard work so far," senior Mike Zadina said, "but I think it is going to make us better during the season."

Coach Lahm said that he is looking forward to the group of players he has this year and that he expects much improvement with the help of his returning seniors.

"I think we've got a lot of experience with leadership with seven seniors," Lahm said. "That should be a real strength for us. It does not mean everything to have experienced players, but goes a long way toward helping people understanding what needs to be done and the intensity which you need to play at."

Coach Lahm also said that he is hoping that the Shamrock's performance will appear better this season. After facing "monstrous" competition last year, Lahm said that the teams Scotus will face this year will determine how well the team is overall. The Shamrocks hope that the preseason rankings, which put Wahoo Neumann and Grand Island Central Catholic as first and second, are overrated. Both teams are in Scotus' conference, but the team feels that it stands a good chance.

"I'm exited about the group of people that we have and the chemistry our team has," Lahm said. "We've asked them to make some adjustments, we've asked them to change their game, and we've asked them to change the way they do things, and they've really responded well."

Last week's opener was an opportunity for both teams to prove their worth out on the court. While the season is still unpredictable at this point, the Shamrocks feel they have a good idea of what to expect. The fans will have even more to look forward to.

Going in for two...

CRAIG STAROSCIK/ROCK BOTTOM

Sophomore Ann Beiermann springs up for the a shot in the matchup between second ranked Scotus and unrated Hastings St. Cecilia. The girls won the game 60-34, while the Scotus boysfell 59-41. While both scores seem to bring an echo of last year's finishes, the teams are yet unsure how this year will play out.

Fall Sports Wrap-up

Fall sports yield 4 top-10 finishes

Football

The football team got off to a rocky start, but came together to win the last three games. Led by the senior captains, the Shamrocks were able to turn around their beginning frustrations to have the season come to a positive end.

State Finish: 33 Varsity - 3-5
Junior Varsity - 3-2 Freshman - 3-2

Volleyball

The volleyball team stormed through the 2002 season, finishing without dropping a match. This completes the programs's second straight undefeated season. Including all three levels of play, Scotus volleyball has won 95 matches in a row.

State Finish: #1 Varsity - 29-0
Junior Varsity - 11-0 Freshman - 9-0

Girls Cross Country

The cross country team was an overall success in 2002. Although young, the girls were able to three-peat at state.

State Finish: #1

1st place finishes at Lakeview Triangular and Duel; Scotus, North Bend, UNK, David City Invite, and at the Conference, Districts

Boys Cross Country

The boys were ranked in the top 10 this year for the first time in a long while.

State Finish: 7

1st place finishes at Lakeview Dual, David City Invite, and Conference

Girls Golf

Led by All-State golfer Danielle Bernt, the girls golf team had a fabulous season. They went on to win the district meet and finished an impressive 3rd at the state meet.

State Finish: 3

Varsity - 1st place finishes at the Blair and Oakland-Craig Invites, and Districts

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Scotus Central Catholic

ROCK BOTTOM

Columbus, Nebraska 68601 | January 17, 2003 | Volume 5, Issue 5

Final barrier to halfway mark: semester tests

Eric Grubaugh
Editor

For 17 and a half weeks they have slaved away at their work. Each day more and more tasks are piled on. As new information is added, some of the work of yore gets buried in the memory banks; sometimes it is not-so-easily recalled. Who are these dogged laborers? Students, of course. And now, after 17 and a half weeks of study, they are expected to dredge their memories to bring back information handed to them the first day of classes with the coming of the semester tests.

"I don't really care," junior Sally DeTurk said. "I plan to study enough so I can pass, and that's it."

Many students share this apathetic attitude, even when they have to recall facts from four and five months earlier.

"I might study just a little," seventh grader Chris Herdzina said, "but they don't really affect your grade, so why bother?"

The fact that there are two weeks of Christmas vacation before semester tests does not seem to affect students, either. But that seems to be because there are still two weeks after Christmas break before students actually take the tests, and almost the entire week of the tests is spent in review. Many students do not do much of their regular homework over the break either. It gets put off until the Sunday night before they come back. With such a lackadaisical approach to semester tests, there are bound to be some very difficult tests.

"P. E. was always the hardest because I could never tell the difference between the systems or the types of energy and all that stuff," DeTurk said.

> "I really don't care. I plan to study enough so that I can pass, and that's it.
> -Sally DeTurk"

The days prior to the tests spent reviewing seem to take a little of the edge off the difficult tests for some…

"English would have been the toughest," eighth grader Lance Schmidt said, "but we reviewed for like three days before it, so it wasn't that bad."

…and for others it doesn't seem to matter.

"The tests are easy because we review so much," eighth grader Mike Lange said, "and a lot of the questions are so obvious, but I would rather have the review because it wastes class time, and you don't have to pay attention."

Time does not seem to weaken students' careless view of semester tests. As the years go on, the tests may change, but the attitudes do not seem to.

"The tests have become more difficult," DeTurk said, "but that just makes me hate them more."

Senior Emily Cleary seems to agree with DeTurk's outlook.

"I used to hate them," Cleary said, "but I would still do them. Now, I still hate them and don't care."

"Don't care" is a very common theme among students regarding semester tests. How can this be? The semester tests are an evaluation of everything they have learned and retained for the school year. Why isn't that important to students? Shouldn't they want to see where they are at? Perhaps the reason is what Herdzina mentioned. The semester tests do not affect students' grades very much. Semester tests are only worth ten percent of a student's semester grade. In some instances there are students who can receive a 14 percent on the test and still keep an A in the class. Perhaps if the tests were worth a bigger percentage of the grade and had a larger impact on the semester grade, students would start caring a little more…or perhaps that would make the tests more difficult and just make students hate the tests more.

Unconditional love from a pet is a priceless commodity

Lauren Maul
Editor

If your grandpa had arthritis and his medication was expensive, would you kill him to save money? Hopefully, that answer is NO. Many pet owners, when faced with similar circumstances, also say NO to the big sleep.

People who do not have cherished pets seem to be the only folks who believe that spending large amounts of money on animals is preposterous. But for those lucky individuals who do have pets, no expense is too great to take care of a beloved pet.

Connie Felger, besides being a Spanish teacher at Scotus, is a full-time mom. She has four little girls: Lucy, Chelsea, Lori, and Lady. These girls love their mother unconditionally. They greet her at the door, watch over her while she grades Spanish tests, check up on her while she sleeps, and shed all over the furniture. No, Felger does not have four hairy children. She has four loving Dalmatian dogs.

"I've always had pets," Felger said. "They're worth every penny I spend on them."

Felger has had more than her share of veterinarian bills. Her previous dog, Magnum, required her to spend $50 a month for medical supplies. Chelsea recently had a $700 surgery for a leg injury. But that's a small price to pay for something that will love you unconditionally.

"They are always happy to see me," Felger said, "and always a comfort."

Instead of purchasing these pure-bred dogs, Felger adopted these girls because no one else seemed to want them.

Senior Katie Swoboda, on the other hand, shelled out $400 for her new dog.

"My mom wanted a dog," Swoboda said, "because she doesn't want to be lonely when I go off to college."

Swoboda recently purchased a new Maltese puppy whom she named Zoe.

Zoe was the last dog to be purchased from the breeder, and Swoboda gave her a loving home.

"She brings me nothing but joy," Swoboda said, "but she pooped on my bed a week ago."

Despite these little unpleasant surprises, Swoboda is happy to be a dog owner. Swoboda actually has another pet, a bird who whistles *The Andy Griffith Show* theme song.

"But sadly," Swoboda said, "he has lost his top place in the family [to the dog]. Sorry."

Senior Nick Hall is used to having a dog around. Coco, Hall's toy poodle, is a whopping 15 years old.

> "(My dog) brings me nothing but joy, but she pooped on my bed a week ago.
> -Katie Swoboda"

"She was born on Mother's Day and was a gift for my mom," Hall said, "but she's really been a pet for the whole family."

Coco has lived a good life, but Hall said because of old age and stress from being pestered by his little sister, Coco's once-trademark cocoa-colored coat is now practically white. In addition to Coco's graying hair, Coco also suffers from arthritis, cataracts, and deafness.

"I think she's having problems with her bowels now, too," Hall said. "We should get her into the vet."

Freshman Shayla Christiansen is the lucky owner of two dogs and two cats. She prefers the dogs over cats because "the cats are always sleeping."

Christiansen's Boxer dog, Sophie, recently had an expensive surgery to have a tumor removed. In addition to the tumor, Sophie also suffers from arthritis, which is also very expensive.

Christiansen doesn't complain about the costs, though.

"They're part of the family," Christiansen said, "if you're not going to be with your pets, it's not worth it."

Whether it's abandoned Dalmations or a whistling bird, taking care of pets really pays off according to Scotus pet owners. The payoff might not be financial, but it's hard to put a price tag on unconditional love.

Mr. Shamrock Pageant looking to bring laughs to Scotus

Scott Becker
Rock Bottom Correspondent

With a brilliantly faked smile, the contestant nervously steps up to the microphone. After botching a juggling act in the talent competition, the contestant knows it's going to take some fine strutting in the eveningwear competition to win over the crowd. The lights are getting brighter. A bead of sweat drips down his forehead.

Did that just say *his* forehead?

Yes. This is not the Miss America pageant, but the first Mr. Shamrock contest. The Scotus Student Council is planning a show like Mr. Universe, only the contestants will be members of the student body, and the winner will be crowned Mr. Shamrock.

Senior Tara Zabawa is on the Mr. Shamrock Committee, and said that the pageant has been successful at other schools.

"Columbus has had a Mister Discoverer contest for the past couple years," she said. "We wanted to do it last year but it didn't work out."

This year, the members of student council want to make the dream a reality

"It's really just for fun," said Mr. Shamrock Committee member Adam Wick. "Whoever gets the audience involved the most will probably win."

Those interested in competing for the title of Mr. Shamrock will need to fill out an application. If there are too many candidate applicants, ten competitors will be drawn at random. The chance to be a contestant in the competition will be offered to the senior boys first. If there are not enough contestants, the chance will then be offered to any junior boys interested.

The judges of the contest will consist of faculty members, students, and a few people outside of school, according to Zabawa. Student Council sponsor Becki Zanardi and Zabawa will host the event.

The competition itself will consist of a talent contest, eveningwear competition, and a video interview, recorded before the contest and viewed after the talent contest. Prizes will be awarded to the runners-up and winner.

Zanardi said that applications will be available sometime in the second semester. The contest will then be during the week of St. Patrick's Day, although Zanardi said that plans for the contest could change.

Wick said that the contest will take place at the end of a school day, much like a pep rally. He said that in the future the student council will look into holding the contest in the evening.

The student council is planning the event but help is needed with the decorations, music, and more. Living the faith hours will be offered to anyone who volunteers to help after school.

"Overall, this contest should be an end-of-the-year moral booster," said Zanardi.

Okay, Mr. Shamrock will probably not look like this. Scotus boys will get a chance to strut their stuff in the March contest..

Mr. Shamrock Pageant

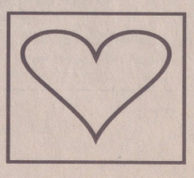
Competitors: Upperclass boys

Competition categories: talent, eveningwear, interview

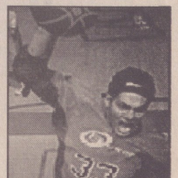
Sponsored by: Scotus Student Council

Applications will be available soon

Looking for love in all the wrong places? Continue your search on a FREE blind date! Page 3



Oddball sports are gaining fans, confusing others Page 6



Talking to strangers can be more healthy than harmful

Before I get off an elevator, I always get the urge to tell the other passengers in the elevator "thank you." When I told my sister this the other day as we stepped off the elevator she said, "Why tell them 'thank you' when they didn't do anything?" But for some reason, I think it's polite to say *something* on the elevator and I feel awkward when I don't. "Thank you" just seems like a good standby. You know, "thank you" for not attacking me in the elevator, "thank you" for not invading my personal space bubble, "thank you" for not glaring at me while the elevator was in motion.

The reason why no one talks in elevators is because it's impossible to have a meaningful conversation in the amount of time it takes to go from floor to floor. Maybe there would be time if we could simply skip the formalities. No "Hello, I'm so-and-so, what's your name?" Why not just jump right into, "What's the secret of happiness?" "Why are you still alive?" "What will you be thinking about tomorrow?"

But this would scare the other elevator passengers. They would think I have Terret's syndrome and step far away from me. I have never tried this "skipping formalities" thing on an elevator, but feel that I should. If not that, maybe I will jump as high as I can right when the elevator starts and see what the other passengers do. Maybe they will try the same thing when no one else is on the elevator. It's fun, you should try it.

You don't have to sniff butts to make strangers into people.

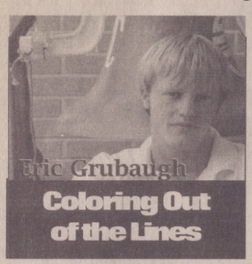
It's not just elevator "courtesies" that confuse me, it's the way everyone is expected to act in public. No shouting out random remarks, no staring at strangers, no sitting next to strangers when there's an empty seat across the room… and the list goes on. I understand the "no staring" policy, because that creeps even me out, but not sitting next to people you don't know? Why is that? (As long as the person sitting next to me doesn't smell, it's fine by me.) I think we don't sit directly by each other because we are afraid of conversation. Very few people engage in conversations with people they don't know. (And conversations regarding the weather do not count as actual conversations because no personal information is exchanged.)

To simply state the facts: we don't converse with strangers because we are afraid. We are afraid because we don't know these people. We don't know these people because we don't converse with them. And we certainly don't converse with strangers.

Grown-ups should stop teaching children that talking to strangers is bad. Finding yourself all alone with a stranger is bad for little kids, but talking isn't. When I was a youngster I sat on an old man's lap at a restaurant because he looked sad. I was about four, and it scared the pahjeezuz out of my parents. The old man was really nice, about 80 years old, and said I reminded him of his daughter when she was my age. My dad later told me that I probably made the old man's day. I told my dad that I didn't make anybody's days, I just sat on an old guy's lap.

You don't really have to sit on the lap of an elderly person to make strangers into people, just smile at everybody. Then work your way up to a wave. Or don't. Just ignore everyone in public. You know what? No one will notice that you are ignoring them because that's what everybody does. And that's not bad, or cruel, it's just disappointing. Dogs are better with strangers than people are. When dogs stumble upon a new dog in the park, they bark or sniff the other dog's butt. You don't have to sniff butts to make strangers into people, you can just smile and call it good.

Too many channels, too many changes, boggles the mind



They've been added, subtracted, mixed and matched so many times that I'm not sure if I need to be going up or down. I was just getting used to the old setup and then BAM they change it on me again. I flip to where I expect to find Comedy Central and I find the Bravo channel in its place. The Disney channel stepped in over TNN. I just thank my lucky stars that ESPN stayed in the same spot.

The cable company must get extremely bored. Hey, there's nothing else to do, so they can mess with the heads of the customers they have left and rearrange all of their channels. I see how that could be amusing—almost. It just confuses me. No wonder so many people are going to satellites now. At least those channels aren't scrambled around after a few months. Plus, who wouldn't want 500 channels, including 30 channels of music, 30 channels of sports, 50 channels of movies, and 20 channels you can't order until you're 18? I know I would need all that, as opposed to the all-inclusive 70 channels I have presently.

Where did 70 channels come from?? I remember a time when it was only about 40 channels, and I

I guess if I only want five channels I could just get rid of the cable.

didn't know what to do with them all then. Now what am I supposed to do? At one time there was Lifetime for women. Now there's Lifetime, Oxygen, WE, Home and Garden, and Lifetime Movie Network for women. Once there was only ESPN for sports. Now we have ESPN, ESPN2, and Fox Sports. For kids it used to be Nickelodeon and PBS and that was it. Today the young ones have a plethora of tube entertainment to choose from. The two classic channels are still around, then there's Fox Family, ABC Family, NETV2, and the Cartoon Network.

Where are these networks coming from? Most of them are nearly replicas of each other. USA and TNT; ABC, NBC, and CBS; the ESPNs and Fox; all of them are incredibly similar. Personally, I only need one sports channel, one sitcom channel, one movie channel, and one comedy channel. I think we need to get custom cable going. We get to choose what channels we want, and the cable company charges us for just those channels.

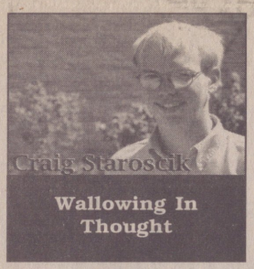
Right now I'd be paying for over 70 channels when I only watch about five of them. I would be paying 14 times less- that is, of course, if I was paying for it. I guess if I only want five channels I could just get rid of the cable. Then I'd be stuck with the local channels. But how lame is it when your friends come over and want to watch the game or a new comedian?

"Uh…yea guys, I don't have cable. I'm too cheap to pay for 70 channels. The cable company wouldn't give me just five channels at a lower price, so I just didn't pay for any of it."

That probably wouldn't blow over too well, and I would most likely be left with my TV watching either the evening news or white and black fuzz race up and down the screen. Always bet on black.

But maybe having some channels of fuzz would be better than four home shopping channels, a soap opera channel, two animal channels, and Fox Sports. And maybe it would be better than having so many channels that I don't know what they all are or how many there are. I know it would definitely be better than turning to a channel expecting to see SportsCenter and finding animal mating rituals instead.

High school education finally starts making a cartload of sense



I push carts.

It is not the most glamorous job in the world, but I'm not afraid to admit it. Well, actually, the only reason I can admit it is because you have all already seen me pushing carts. It seems almost everyone within a ten-mile radius of Columbus came to Wal-Mart over the holiday season. If you were not one of the 250,000 customers my store greeted this year, then: (1) you own a car and can drive to a city with more than one actual department store, or (2) all of your major purchasing needs can be fulfilled at the Dollar Tree.

Those of you with a little extra change to spare can come and visit me in the Wal-Mart parking lot. For many people, seeing a cart pusher (we preferred to be called 'stockmen' for our self-esteems' sake) can be an eye-opening experience. Trudging behind a line of twelve carts on a Friday night, you may even bring yourself to question, "How are they capable of such humiliating feats?"

The simple answer to that question: physics. I don't know how I could get by each day without it.

For years teachers have been trying to convince me that the things I'm learning in school will eventually be needed in the workplace. Then, like a minivan with an unobservant driver, the importance of school hit me. Before my very eyes, what had once been a collection of carts coursing a curve became centripetal force! When one cart became detached while I was turning the carts, it flew off in a straight-line path tangent to the point on the curve where the force of my push left it! For a moment, the discovery was so beautiful I almost lost my sense of reality. Luckily, I recovered my senses just in time to stop the stray cart from colliding with an Oldsmobile parked in the handicapped stall.

Then, like a minivan with an unobservant driver, the importance of school hit me.

After that day, I have seen examples of subject material returning in every aspect of my job. Every angle I approached my job from, I find some lesson from school. I ask how the work done on the carts related to the number and speed of the carts, and what causes the difference between elastic and inelastic cart collisions? Why is it that I get more tired pushing several carts at a low velocity than a few carts at a very high velocity? What causes the increase in inertia of the cart whenever it is going in the wrong direction?

Of course, my job is not limited to physics. I have already developed an extensive theory based on information learned in biology on the reproduction cycle of carts. They sit in the front of the store amalgamating (English vocabulary word) all night, so by the time I come to work, carts have spawned up everywhere in the parking lot. Using calculus, it is possible to derive a derivative for the number of carts spawned per hour, and in turn, the rate at which I must push the carts. I use moral discipline learned in religion classes to forgive those people steal ladies' perfume bottles and stuff the packages down the toilet. Y, por supuesto, español es importante para mis tipos que lo habla.

Sometimes, while I'm increasing the momentum of my carts, I reflect on how foolish I was to ever question the wisdom of my teachers. My education, inadequate as it is, has nonetheless played a vital role in my success at Wal-Mart (although, I have yet to find a valid excuse for reading the works of Thomas Hardy…)

I thank God for my education. I don't know where I'd be today without it. Probably shopping at some store, somewhere, leaving my cart in the middle of the parking lot because I can't read the sign that says, "Please return your carts **here**." Then again, working with carts is just the beginning. If it takes a high school physics course just to learn how to push carts around, what do you have to learn in order to understand the extraordinary mechanics behind burger flipping?

Scotus Central Catholic
ROCK BOTTOM

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Healthy dating takes effort, awareness

Pam Johnson
Staff Reporter

Healthy dating is a key element to evolving future relationships. There are many things that either people do not know about or that they are simply ignoring. There is so much out there that people should be educated about for the safety of themselves as well as their loved ones.

Healthy dating is made up of a few essential ingredients. Some of them being: negotiation and fairness; nonthreatening behavior; respect; trust and support; honesty and accountability; and shared responsibility. These things are a must when couples are involved in a relationship and want to make it work.

There are many myths that are developed about the situations happening all around people everyday. Myths such as "It can't happen to me." The fact is that more than 10 percent of teenagers experience physical violence in their dating relationships.

You may also thing that teen dating violence isn't really that serious. The truth is that husbands or boyfriends kill thirty percent of all women who are murdered in this country. According to a Massachusetts study, that same high percentage applied to girls ages 15 to 19 as well. Also, 60% of all rapes

10% of teenagers experience physical violence in dating relationships.

reported to rape crisis centers are committed by acquaintances, and the majority of victims are aged 16-24.

It's important to realize that no relationship is perfect; they all have their problems. If a person is in a potential violent relationship, or in one already they may answer "yes" to a few of the following questions: Do you feel like you don't have any power in your relationship? Are you justifying everything you do to avoid your partners' anger? Are you being told not to see your friends or family? Are you being told what to do? Are you being forced or pressured to have sex?

There are many things one can do if they are in an abusive relationship but do not know how to get out while they still can. There is a 24-hour crisis hotline, 1-800-852-3388 that one could call; there are counselors and teachers to talk to; support from friends and family is uplifting and their extra strength makes things a lot easier.

Dating should be fun and a great experience for teenagers and college students. In case of abusive dating, people need to remember four basic things: you are not alone; the abuse is not your fault; if it feels scary, it is abuse; and get some help and support.

Inactivity, eating leads to 'Christmas Bulge'

Ryan Jablonski
Staff Reporter

Christmas time is over, and the first day of school has arrived. No more sleeping into the afternoon and lounging around the house in sweats. You have to get dragged out of bed in the morning just to make it to school on time. You reach for your pants and you realize that they are fitting a little tighter than they usually do. The dreaded Christmas bulge has hit.

Though your pants may not fit for the first day of school, there are ways to get rid of this dreaded bulge. Eighth grader Kyle Mroczek knows the feeling of being a little heavier after the holidays.

"I happen to like the extra weight," Mroczek said. "It keeps me warm during the cold Nebraska months."

This bulge might seem warm and

"I happen to like the extra weight. It keeps me warm during the cold Nebraska months."
-Kyle Mroczek

toasty, but Mroczek knows that it will eventually go away.

"I am such a work out machine that the extra weight will be gone in a few short days," Mroczek said.

Mroczek knows that exercise will alleviate his stressed waistline, but for those who are not into physical activity, it may be harder to lose the pounds. Senior Steve Micek knows that once the weight is on, it might be here to stay.

"Don't get me wrong, I work out in the mornings," Micek said, "but not the way I would if I were in certain activities."

Micek's limited effort in working out may keep him from getting into a perfectly toned figure.

"I just don't feel the pounds peeling away when I work out anymore," Micek said.

Workouts may not be for everybody. Are there other alternatives? Eating healthy doesn't seem too fun to some people, but there are those who will give it the extra effort. Junior Michael Ingemansen believes that those extra pounds will just go away by not eating as much.

"Skip breakfast, then eat a big lunch," Ingemansan said. "It is just that simple; I can feel the pounds falling away."

Whether it is eating healthy or working out, there are many different ways to lose the pounds.

So whether your pants fit a little too tight or you're always receiving bigger sizes of clothes as Christmas presents, the Christmas bulge will always be there, waiting for the food to touch a victim's lips, so it can jump to the hips.

Glasses bring beauty into focus for some

Matt Krings
Editor

Do guys make passes at girls with glasses? Do women despise guys with four eyes?

The dating pool around Scotus is full of prospects for both guys and girls. Personality, looks, and sense of humor are a few aspects students look for in the opposite sex. Many students wear glasses, and whether glasses affect their popularity towards the other gender or not, glasses can sometime affect the way students are looked at.

"If she has glasses, that probably means she is smarter than me, but you never know."
-Aris Micek

In the Catholic atmosphere at Scotus, religion classes teach not to judge a person by the way they look, but it is what inside that counts. Yet there are back and forth arguments on whether glasses are attractive or turn people away from potentially dating each other.

"Glasses are not attractive if the girl wears them all the time," seventh grader Kip Kudron said. "If she would wear them once in a while that would be cool, but not all the time."

Kudron also said he would rather date a good looking girl in glasses than an average looking girl without glasses. The amount of glasses seen around school is not a great number, and sophomore Aris Micek would like to see more.

"Glasses on chicks leave a mysterious sense to her," Micek said. "If she has glasses, that probably means she is smarter than me, but you never know."

The opinion of whether glasses are attractive differs from guy to guy, and girls also think in many of the same ways. Seventh grader Ryann Cooper said it all depends on what kind of face the guy has. Senior Michaela Klimes looks at a different feature to mesh in with the glasses.

"Guys definitely have to have to right hair to be able to wear glasses," Klimes said.

Glasses might not only attract or repel the opposite sex, but they can also be a big hassle too. Klimes said a guy with glasses has to take them off when kissing because they would just get in the way and feel funny.

When it comes to trying to find a date, sometime the eyes have it, even if there are four of them.

Enter the *RB*'s 'Win a Date' drawing

Free dinner, movie to be provided to winners

Valentine's Day is just around the corner. Don't have a date? By filling out the form below, you could be set up with everything you need: dinner at Dusters, movie passes, and even a person to go out with. All of this will be given for free to one lucky guy and one lucky girl who are drawn at random from the entries submitted.

In the February issue of *The Rock Bottom*, the staff is planning on having a blind date feature. From sophomores to seniors, students can sign up and have their names drawn to go on this date.

The *Rock Bottom* will cover the expenses of the dinner and movie. The date will be a dinner at Dusters followed by bowling or a movie.

If you are asked to go on this date, you can then choose between a movie and bowling. After the date, the couple must answer a few questions about the date.

If you sign up to go on this date, there are a few rules you must follow: you must have a parent's signature on the sign-up sheet, you cannot back out of the date, you must stay for the duration of the date, and you must answer a few questions for the newspaper at the end of the evening.

The day of this date is not set in stone; it will be determined by the schedule of the two people on the date. The sign-up sheets are due January 24, and the drawing will be done that day and the results will only be told to the individuals. The drawing will be out of a box and chances of winning are equal for everyone. You will not know whom you are going on the date with until the night of the date.

It is a free night of food and fun, and a chance to make a new friend or maybe that special someone. To enter the 'Win a Date' drawing, fill out the form below and place it in the enveolope near the door to Mr. Arneal's room. Staff members of the *Rock Bottom* are not eligible for the drawing.

Cut this form out to win a chance to be a part of the Dating Game!

Name:_____

Grade:_____ (must be in grades 10-12)

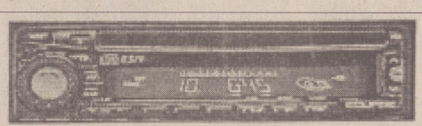
Due January 24th!

Parent Permission: I give my child permission to attend a date sponsored by the *Rock Bottom*. (If your child is chosen, we will contact you with the time and place of their date.)

Parent Signature:_____

Date:_____

Place this completed form in the envelope ouside of Mr. Arneal's room.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Do You Try?

The multiple-choice quiz you take to find out if you really Try to Try.

Lauren Maul
Editor

1. It's 11:30 pm and you haven't even opened your math book. You have 37 problems due the next day. What do you do?
A. *Drink a cup of coffee and get working to answer your questions carefully and thoroughly.*
B. *Drink a cup of coffee.*
C. *Drink.*

2. Your distraught friend calls you and starts crying about getting dumped by their hot significant other. What's the first thought that comes to your mind?
A. "I will listen and support this good friend."
B. "I should hook up with their ex. He/she is HOT."
C. "I should tell my friend's hot ex to be quiet so my friend doesn't know that their ex is right here beside me."

3. There is a homeless man living in a box on the side of the road by your parked car. He looks really sad and hungry. What do you decide to do?
A. Keep him in your prayers and give him a can of food later.
B. Throw an orange at him as you drive away.
C. Get in your car right away and avoid eye contact.

4. Your parent/guardian reminds you to pick up your grandmother from the Columbus airport. You can't go, so what do you do?
A. Tell your close friend to pick up Grandma for you.
B. Tell your parent/guardian to pick Grandma up themselves.
C. Don't do anything. There are a lot of birds at the airport. Perhaps they will fly Grandma home for you. If not, Grandma is old and has lived a good life.

5. A substitute teacher starts crying after the students become rude and violent. What do you do?
A. Break down into tears of sympathy and tell everyone to leave the sub alone.
B. Ask to use the restroom and never return to class.
C. Wipe the drool off of your desk and fall back to sleep.

THE BREAKDOWN

*If you answered mostly **A's**, you are an upstanding citizen and you try really hard.*

*If you answered mostly **B's**, you are a moderate try-er and are perfectly normal.*

*If you answered mostly **C's**, you are a liar because a true non-Try-er would not have taken this quiz in the first place.*

WHAT'S COOKING?

Students getting their oven mitts dirty in the kitchen

Craig Staroscik
Editor-in-Chief

The school day starts, and before third period it is inevitable that someone asks, "What's for lunch?"

For a few minutes after lunch, the craving is satisfied, but it will return. Many teenagers share an inner fulfillment found in consuming food, but others also enjoy the preparation of their food.

For most teens, life revolve around food. Some students go beyond just pigging out; they are part of the actual preparation. Whether they just bake for fun or actually have responsibilities involving food, students can fulfill the traditional parent role of mealtime preparation.

The majority of students have made at least some type of meal in their life. A small amount of around-the-oven experience is all it takes to make most foods. Like most other student chefs, senior Andrea Johnson considers herself an above average baker, but by no means perfect.

"I like baking cookies- when they turn out," Johnson said. "You have to practice at it or they don't turn out the way you want."

In our prepackaged world, one might wonder why students should even need to cook if all they have to do is run to the store. Perhaps a more apt question, why not just let the parents do the baking?

"I like to bake," said Johnson. "I'm too lazy to go out to the store and buy something. Baking isn't really hard at all. It's fun, and I get to use the electric mixer."

Another breed of student cooks takes the world of food preparation to the next level. Students like sophomore Stephanie Hall see cooking as both a passion, and at times, a necessity.

"I was four or five when I really started cooking a lot," Hall said. "Now I cook two or three times a week when my mom works. My family likes it because they have something to eat. I like it because I can make whatever I want."

Hall's list of culinary achievements includes such specialties as apple pies, roasts, and ribs. She said the most unique food she has ever made was a from a recipe her grandmother gave her.

"The most unusual thing I have made is kringla. It is a traditional Norwegian food. It looks like a pretzel, but is really a type of sweet bread."

Whether students enjoy the art of cooking or would rather just eat, there always has to be someone there to make the food first. Who knows, this school may even be home to the next Martha Stewart. Whatever the case, student cooks help fulfill the desire to cook as well as hungry stomachs.

Upcoming Events

January 17
047, Castoffs, Yank, and My Raging Mind. $5. All ages. Doors at 7:30. Show 8-11. More punk and mall rock here for you to listen to.
RNS Skateboard Shop
RNS is at:
13436 L Street
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Midwest Dilemma, Shinyville, and **The EYE. Daybirds** are from the KC area, if you like the Beatles, you need to be at this show. $8 all ages.
Ranch Bowl
1600 S. 72nd Street
Omaha, NE

January 24
Frommanhole, The Quiet Type, and **Her Flyaway Manner**. The Lepers and Her Flyaway Manner are out of Lincoln. They are both getting rave reviews, securing them as two of Nebraskas greatest indie-rock bands.
Sokol Underground
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Omaha, NE

REMEMBER!
10-12 graders sign up for *Rock Bottom* Win-a-Date drawing!
See page 3 for details.

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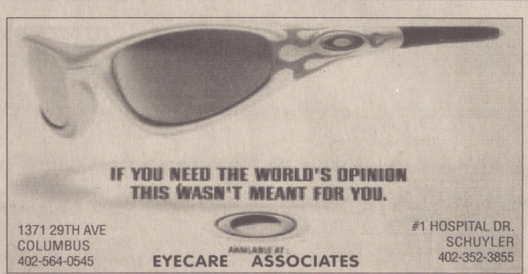
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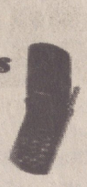
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Rock Bottom Review:

DiCaprio leads FBI on wild chase in *Catch Me if You Can*

Amy Ellingson
Staff Reporter

It's probably not hard to imagine being broke, especially as a teenager. Most young adults find ways to bypass this inconvenience through finding jobs or plea-bargaining with parents. Frank Abagnale Jr. decided to take a different approach to making money though. He became a professional conartist at the age of sixteen and Steven Spielberg's new movie, *Catch Me If You Can*, is his story.

Frank, played by Leonardo DiCaprio, grew up in a comfortable suburban atmosphere. His father was a pillar of the community and his mother was the type who always had the laundry done and a hot dinner on the table.

Unfortunately, Frank's father was found guilty of tax fraud and the family was forced to move from their picturesque upscale home into a crowded apartment. Although life was different, it wasn't over, and the Abagnales continued to function. Frank received a checkbook for his birthday and was reasonably happy until his parents filed for divorce and he had to choose between them.

Understandably torn, Frank ran away from home and slowly began his life as a smooth swindler. He became a master of disguise posing as an airline pilot, a government agent, a doctor, and a lawyer under numerous fake identities. His spree was fueled by a steady cash flow provided by forged paychecks. Eventually, as expected, the FBI caught onto his handiwork and Frank is pursued by agent Carl Hanratty (Tom Hanks). The chase goes on for years and spans the globe but a standoff in France determines the futures of Abagnale and Hanratty.

Catch Me If You Can proves that underestimating the intelligence of youth can be a much larger mistake than expected. If anything, the movie empowers teenagers into thinking that with enough experience at lying they can fool anyone, even the American government, into giving them what they want. Of course, the film doesn't actually promote trying check fraud or posing as a pilot, maybe just a little ingenuity. With Steven Spielberg's direction and an outstanding cast, *Catch Me If You Can* topped the holiday box office. Although the film lacks any extreme in comedy, romance, or action, the brilliance and creativity of Frank Abagnale Jr.'s crimes are enough to captivate audiences.

Catch Me If You Can

Stars: Leonardo DiCaprio, Tom Hanks

Amy's Rock Bottom Rating:

Frank, portrayed by Leonardo DiCaprio, surrounded by his entourage of flight attendants. Frank posed as many professionals in this film, including an airplane pilot.

Rock Bottom Review:

Applebee's brings new dining option to town

Pam Johnson
Staff Reporter

The Columbus restaurant scene has received an infusion of new life. A new Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and Bar opened in mid-December on the east end of 23rd Street. It is part of the new Village Centre Mall being constructed.

I have visited many Applebee's in my lifetime, and I recently received the opportunity to visit the one here in Columbus. It still kept the same casual and light atmosphere with all kinds of paraphernalia hanging from wall to wall. As a local touch, there is a display representing each of the three local high schools and Central Community College. The Scotus display includes many team pictures from the last five years, a few sports jerseys, band uniforms, and yearbook pictures.

Applebee's offers carryout and to-go menus as well as the traditional dining room setting. I would recommend this restaurant for anyone from singles, to couples, to families, or just for talk.

My date and I got there around 9:00 on a Tuesday evening, and we were seated almost immediately. At first glance of the menu, it seemed like there was not really that big of a selection. After a closer look, there were many appetizers that looked and sounded completely delectable. The waitress was swift and friendly, and had gotten our orders and returned with the food not more than 15 minutes later. We did spend a good portion of our meal with empty water glasses, but that seemed to be just a minor flaw.

The food was as spectacular as it had looked on the menu. I ordered the spinach and artichoke dip, and my date ordered the mandarin chicken platter. With my dip I received an additional portion of salsa and sour cream. There was just the right amount of chips with my dip, and they were festively colored red, black, and plain. Steam was still rising off the mandarin chicken platter when it was placed on our table. It was based with rice and colorful vegetables and topped off with golden chicken.

In comparison to other Applebee's restaurants, I would have to say that the Columbus version stacks up nicely.

Overall, I would have to say that it was outstanding, and a great addition to the Columbus area restaurants. The food was also outstanding. The service was courteous, prompt and friendly. The atmosphere, décor, setting and cleanliness were exceptional with a few minor flaws. For the amount of food we had received, the bill was very generous. It came to a little over $15, excluding tip. This is a superb restaurant and I would recommend it to anyone.

Older movies offer four-star alternative

Ryan Jablonski
Staff Reporter

The Jerk, Sgt. Bilko, and *Rebel Without a Cause* are classic movies that have shaped the movie industry. These movies have changed lives upon lives and continue to thrill younger audiences today.

The Jerk, starring Steve Martin, is about a poor white boy, adopted by a poor black family. He realizes that he is different from the rest of his family and believes there is a place out there where he can fit in. He travels to the big city of St. Louis to try to make a living. He gets a job at a gas station where he befriends the gas station owner. He invents a soon to be million dollar invention, is robbed, targeted by a psychotic killer, and taken away by the circus. In the circus he learns that you don't have to be good as long as you make a profit. He meets a lady by the name of Marie, played by Bernadette Peters. She leaves him right before he asks her to marry him. He gets a letter from a company called Opti-Grab, where he gets a large some of money from his earlier invention. He finds Marie and they marry. He finds out that his invention gets him into more trouble than good. This movie is a classic comedy that makes common sense, or the lack there of, hilarious.

Sgt. Bilko is a hilarious comedy about an army sergeant whose dream is to run the biggest undercover casino that the military had ever seen. This movie has all the right mixings; it stars Steve Martin, Dan Akryod, and Phil Hartman. Bilko, played by Martin, has a reality check when a Major Holombre from his past comes back to his base as an inspector. Holombre, played by Phil Hartman, holds a personal grudge against Bilko. Bilko doesn't know about Hartman's return, so his view on the situation is that, "it's an army thing; it doesn't affect us." Bilko's carefree attitude is going to get him into a lot of trouble, trouble that he might not get out of. This movie provides movie watchers a lighter side of the military, a side that makes you want to join. This movie was defiantely made with no help of the military what so every.

Rebel Without a Cause is a drama staring James Dean and Natalie Wood. Jim Starks, played by James Dean, is a problem child who has forced his parents to move before because of his actions. When he is challenged to a chicken run, the challenger is trapped in his car and killed as his car is hurled over the edge of a bluff. He befriends a boy by the name of Johnny and the other driver's old girlfriend, played by Natalie Wood. Johnny goes mental and Jim Stark has to try to save him. This movie gives teenagers a reality check on some things that kids would do just to try to make friends and to gain the approval of their parents.

Movies have been made for our enjoyment and a chance to feel dangerous and give us a way to laugh. New movies will still be made, and the classics will still be classics, but before spending big money in movie in the theater on a movie, check out an oldie at your local video store.

Touchstone Pictures

Dean plays the ultimate maverick in *Rebel Without a Cause.*

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Scotus Word
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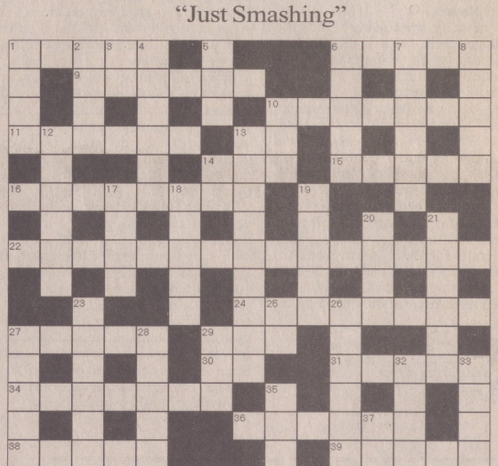
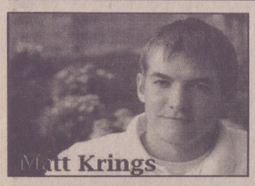


Across:
1. Brings down a building
6. Laughable
9. Tear down
10. Greenhouse
11. Ties up
13. Prep. for "here"
14. also
15. To force collapse
16. A destructive sitcom?
22. An explosion of amusement?
24. Luck or bad accident?
27. Small bit of food
29. A fake
30. Alternative conjunction
31. To hit with a broad surface
34. Uncomfortable
36. Two leg bones
38. To rap on a door
39. Summarize

Down:
1. Metal track
2. Greek god of thunder
3. Variant of in
4. Glassy surface
5. Stock-keeping unit
6. Relating to city
7. Raise of price
8. To collide
10. Virtual Translation Device (Abbreviation)
12. All one can carry
13. Against work
14. Artificial Intelligence
17. A band worn around waist
18. Horse feet
19. Swiped
20. Small fish
21. What a microwave does
23. _____ clock
25. Not out
26. One who hits
27. To fragment or break
28. Lack of color
29. North Atlantic fish
32. Waste acid
33. Beaten to a ____
35. To slice
37. Prefix for "again"



Matt Krings

2002 sports bring thrills, confusion

The 2002 year has forever left some memorable moments in the sporting world. The year was filled with confusing replays, ridiculous endings, and inexplicable ties. Every year brings in special highlights, and 2002 was no exception. My favorite sporting moments of 2002:

1.The playoffs in the NBA. The Los Angeles Lakers and the Sacramento Kings hooked up for a thrilling seven game series. With many other story lines on each team, the seventh game went into overtime with the Lakers taking the series. This was definitely the best pro basketball series I have seen to date.

2. The American Men's soccer team in the World Cup. Staying up till the early morning just to watch their matches, I found that the World Cup was a memorable event for all soccer fans. The USA played the role of underdog while defeating some of the world's dominate soccer powers. The best soccer game of 2002 was the first match of World Cup. The Americans beat heavily favored Portugal 3-2.

3. In the NFL, memorable playoffs were played in 2002. Just to make the record straight, the Patriots fumbled and the Raiders should have won in snowy New England. But the controversy of the call was what will always make that season stand out with questions of "What if?"

4. One year earlier, they were going to be contracted, and now they are the reigning divisional champions. The Minnesota Twins brought excitement to the baseball season of 2002. With all the jokes of how bad they were, the Twins got the last laugh making it all the way to the American League Championship Game.

5. In the Major League Baseball All-Star game, an unforgettable result came about in 2002. The first ever tie in an All-Star game disgusted baseball fans after staying up and watching until the end. The talk of change was discussed to try and fix the problem, but this precedent set by baseball should never happen again.

6. Over the summer, the USA basketball team was beaten for the first time since NBA players started playing on our national team in 1992. Internationally, the American pros had never lost, but with the absence of America's best NBA players, we were handed humiliating losses. That is what we probably deserve for not sending Shaq, Allen Iverson, Jason Kidd, and many other of the NBA most valuable players.

7. Finally, the Huskers made the college football season memorable, but not in a way most fans want to remember. The Husker's streak of nine win seasons, winning seasons, home wins, and many other streaks were wiped clean from the slate. The 2002 Husker season was memorable, and I hope the 2003 season leaves a better kind of unforgettable moment.

Last year brought us crazy and long lasting memorable moments, and from the looks of this year's college football championship game and the NFL playoffs, 2003 is only getting heated up to become even more memorable than before.

Penny's Floral
Don't forget to order your flowers for the Sweetheart Dance.

Columbus wrestlers pin down upset

Four Scotus athletes help fifth-ranked Discoverers past #2 Papillion-La Vista

Eric Grubaugh
Editor

Waiting, watching, muscling, and finally just asking earned a spot in a line with no elbow room, let alone camera room. The ceiling lights dimmed, strobe lights flickered, and a paper-covered doorway soon erupts, spilling out dozens of wrestlers ready for a grueling night. Like a bullet through smoke, the wrestlers exploded out through that paper ready to face the challenges ahead of them.

The wrestlers paraded around the mat and then began their warm-up routines. As the lights went down, the crowd never did. The students were on their feet the moment that paper doorway ripped open and they stayed on their feet until they got to their cars to leave. The scene had been set for the fifth-rated Columbus wrestling team's dual against number two Papillion-La Vista.

Helping the Discoverers in their upset quest on this night would be four wrestlers from Scotus: seniors Nick Hall, Tony Schwank, Jason Avery, and junior Chad Trofholz.

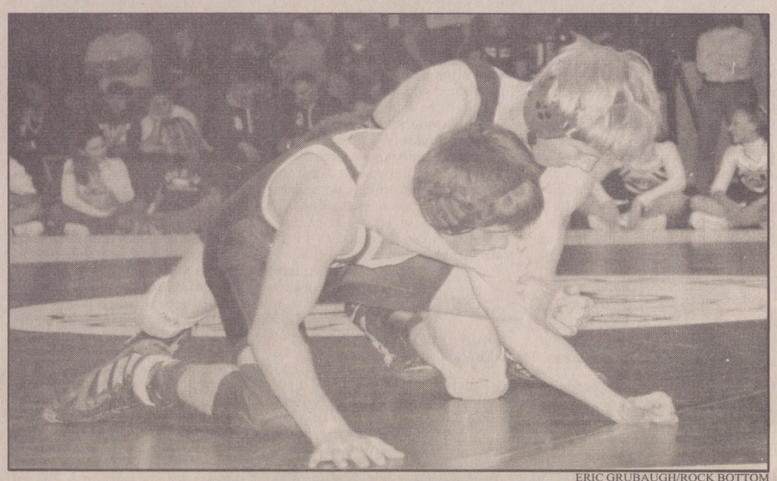
The night started off with an overwhelmingly exciting match, putting Avery to the test against Papillion's Jared Gable. Gable is ranked number one in the 215-pound weight class.

"I was really nervous before the meet because he's number one," Avery said. "I didn't know if I could win, but when you run out of the tunnel you feel like you can beat anybody."

In the last minute of the match it was tied at one. The entire match had been a deadlock. With under a minute to go, Avery scored two points for a takedown to take the lead 3-1. There were under thirty seconds to go when Gable recharged. Gable scored a reversal for two points and then scored another two for a takedown to take a 5-3 victory in the closing seconds of the match.

"During the match you're not thinking about winning or losing," Avery said. "I was just so pumped up, and the crowd was so in to it; they kept me going."

Hall wrestled later and scored an 8-2 win over Curtis Gordon in the 135-pound class as Columbus inched towards the Papillion lead. Trofholz, ranked fourth in the state, followed, holding a 4-2 lead over Josh Barnes at 140 pounds, giving Columbus its first lead at 20-18.



ERIC GRUBAUGH/ROCK BOTTOM

Junior Chad Trofholz takes down and locks up a Papillion-La Vista wrestler in last week's dual. Trofholz would go on to win the match, and Columbus upset number one Papillion 38-26.

"There's a little pressure being [ranked fourth]," Trofholz said. "It's like having a target on your back. Everyone wants to go after the guy on top."

In the next match Columbus High's Tyler Warnke fell to Papillion's Josh Arocho 16-0, allowing Papillion to regain the lead 23-20 with only four matches remaining. The ensuing match proved to be very painful for Papillion.

Columbus High's Wes Cooper wrestled Papillion's Aaron Bartlett into a 1-1 tie long into the second period. The grappling ceased when Cooper hooked Bartlett's leg, lifted him off the mat, and drove him down. It looked as if Cooper had a good chance of scoring a pin when the referee halted the match. The expression on Bartlett's face was one of severe pain. Trainers rushed to Bartlett to examine his knee. He was carried off the mat, his left leg dangling lifelessly. Cooper won the match by injury default, giving Columbus a 26-23 lead.

The 160-pounders were next, pitting Schwank against Dan Burke. Burke defeated Schwank 8-3 to tie the two teams at 26 with only two matches remaining.

The last two matches were hard-fought battles. Columbus High's Nick Micek and Eric Dales both scored pins to nail down the victory for Columbus 38-26.

After the meet, head coach Rick Benson, clad in a Scotus sweatshirt, was congratulated by many people. Benson had much praise for his team.

"We have twelve seniors," Benson said, "and that is huge leadership and experience in our room and in competition for us. They work hard and they've made a lot of progress for us."

Despite so much progress, Benson does not plan to stop.

"We should not be satisfied," he said. "We want to go into our practice room everyday and leave better than we were when we came in."

Benson said the Scotus wrestlers help in accomplishing this.

"[The Scotus wrestlers'] dedication, their desire, and their work ethic are tremendous," he said. "They are a great addition as well as an example for us. I plan to recruit hard over there next year because we will lose four Scotus seniors this year."

Trofholz said he is all for the recruiting process.

"It would nice to have a lot more Scotus interest," he said. "I know we get a crowd there and everything, but I think we need to get some of the freshmen to come to the practices and the tryouts so they can see what the team is all about."

Trofholz also voiced the desire Benson mentioned- with a slight twist.

"My main goal this year is to win 30 matches," Trofholz said. "I'm going to paint a fingernail for every match I win." Trofholz is well on his way to meeting that goal with ten wins so far this season.

Scotus wrestlers were not the only ones receiving Benson's praise.

"I would like to thank the Scotus student body for their support. I know our kids enjoy it, and I hope they enjoy it as well."

Benson added some final thoughts about the wrestling team.

"It is never the Scotus wrestlers and the [CHS] wrestlers," he said. "It's a team effort for us. It's always the Columbus wrestling team."

Slamball and other combo-sports try to score big

Amy Ellingson
Staff Reporter

Tune into TNN on any given Saturday night and it's bound to be on...Slamball, the combination of basketball and trampolines, or as the website puts it, it a "human video game."

Although it may be entertaining, Slamball is more like a slam-dunk competition than actual basketball, but recently it has gained a large fan base. The sport is relatively new, with 2002-2003 being its first year on the air. Two years ago Rollerjam, 1970's roller derby with wrestling and throwing people over rails, filled the same time slot. These are just two of the new "fad sports" making appearances with, no doubt, many more extreme and more innovative ones to come. Taking into consideration the publicity these new sports have been getting, one has to ask the question...Will there be a sports revolution?

Junior Bob Korgie says there might be a chance, although he's not so sure about how good Slamball is. Other sports are completely different though. For about the past two years, Korgie and his friends have passed the time playing a game called "Skennis," the combination of soccer and tennis. Rumored to have been created by a group of veteran soccer players at a camp, Skennis has made its way to Columbus and has collected a fair amount of players with certainly more to come.

"I think Skennis has the potential to develop into something bigger," said Korgie. "There's a lot of people into this, and I think it could evolve."

Slamball athletes soar above the rim after bouncing off trampolines. Slam ball is just one novelty in a huge influx of new sports.

The game has clearly won the admiration of its players and has a definite potential but those who are less familiar with the idea are a bit skeptical of a new sport's chances of success.

Senior Josh Melliger, a participant of many traditional sports, has his own opinions about the new games stepping into the spotlight.

"I don't really think they'll ever be as popular as traditional sports," Melliger said. "America is always changing, but the sports have probably already been established. They're not going to cancel all the leagues we have now to make way for new sports. People are probably more interested in traditional sports anyway because the opportunity is always there."

He has a point. For a sports revolution to actually occur, new sports would probably have to receive an extreme amount of publicity, much more than TNN alone can offer, and begin being taught at grade school levels to become what football, soccer, hockey, softball are today. Perhaps even learning a game in elementary physical education isn't even enough. Whatever happened to soccer-baseball?

But with all these opinions, one fact remains. No one can accurately predict the future of sports. In twenty years Scotus could be having a Skennis pep rally in an *air conditioned* gym or be on their way to state soccer-baseball. Football and volleyball could be only memories kept alive by the trophy cases. No one knows what the future of sports may hold, and until it reveals itself, people will just have to preoccupy themselves with watching Slamball on TNN...or will they?

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Scotus Central Catholic

ROCK BOTTOM

Columbus, Nebraska 68601 | February 14, 2003 | Volume 5, Issue 6

Students take part in National Walk for Life

Craig Staroscik
Editor-in-Chief

Walking along in the cold, January weather, they suddenly felt connected, as if they were part of something too great to truly grasp.

In the later part of last month, a group of Teens for Life members from Scotus traveled to Washington, D.C., to take part in the national Walk for Life. The event is held every year in protest of the infamous Roe vs. Wade trial that made abortion legal. This year, four representatives from Scotus joined the estimated 80,000 to 100,000 demonstrators in their march against abortion.

"It was a lifetime experience," Teens for Life President Nick Hall said. "I initially didn't really know what to expect, but it is something I will never forget."

> "I knew at that point that this is where I wanted to be, doing what I needed to do."
> -Nick Hall

The Walk for life is the nation's largest anti-abortion demonstration. The teens traveled the mile with a group from Humphrey St. Francis parish. Though it was cold, the students and thousands of people marched to the capital. Hall felt the walk was an inspiring moment, both before the event and during. After listening to several keynote speakers on the subject of abortion, and even hearing from some of our nation's senators, the march began.

"When we were starting the walk, I got cut off from the rest of our group," Hall said. "I was walking with all these strangers from different states but we were there trying to get the same thing done. I knew that at that point this was where I wanted to be, doing what I needed to do."

The event was of much greater magnitude than any the students had ever experience. Those on the trip and other Teens for Life members have participated in a Walk for Life in Lincoln. The Washington walk surpassed the Lincoln event in size as well as an overall feeling of influence.

The group also took part in a special mass held at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. The mass, given in one of the nation's largest churches, was packed full. The group arrived two hours before the start and still had to sit in the aisles. The mass was also an inspirational and moving moment.

"The church was huge," senior Kelly Novicki said. "It was such a beautiful church, and it was really moving to see all the people there gathered for the same reason."

The mass included a homily reminding the students that their demonstration was not a celebration, but a time of mourning. Sharing the same Catholic beliefs and beliefs toward abortion blended into a common theme for the mass, and gave the assembly what the students described as a truly unifying experience.

Aside from the walk, the students had a chance to tour some of Washington's famous monuments and buildings, and as well as the national Holocaust museum. As a whole, the group felt the trip was a truly worthwhile encounter.

Pro-life supporters are hopeful for changes in the coming year. With President Bush's pledge to end partial birth abortion during his State of the Union address and a Republican government, progress towards saving the lives of the unborn seems to be moving in the right direction. The students and all pro-life advocates at the rally hope that their voices and actions will help congress to make the right decisions.

"Anyone who has a thought of going to a Walk for Life, whether it be in Lincoln or national, should do it," Hall said. "It is so much fun. With so many people backing you, you can really tell it is worth it, especially for this good cause."

PHOTO COURTESY KELLY NOVICKI

Teens for Life members freshman Stephanie Laudenklos and seniors Nick Hall, Kelly Novicki, and Molly Bolte stand on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. After participating in the National Walk for Life, the country's largest pro-life demonstration, the group spent some time visiting the sites in the nation's capital.

CRAIG STAROSCIK/ROCK BOTTOM

Seniors Jake Tooley, Brett Wolff, and Amanda Ott watch intently as instructor Vern Younger explains the dissection of the digestive system. Students in the class are split up into groups of three and spend the year dealing with different systems and parts of the feline specimens.

Curiosity killed cat, then dissected it

Scott Becker
Rock Bottom Correspondent

Some people get sick at the sight of blood. Others have to turn their head when they see an operation on The Learning Channel. Everyone knows that what goes on inside the human body is amazing, but would just rather do without seeing all the blood and guts that make it possible. However, there is one group of Scotus students who see the blood and guts up close. Literally.

Members of science teacher Vern Younger's physiology class are getting an up-close look at the inner workings of the body. Not a human body, mind you, but a cat's. The class has been dissecting cats since September in order to gain an understanding of the human body.

"It gives us a chance to see anatomy that is close to our own," Younger said. "Many students have a health interest, the next level they work with is a (human) cadaver. This allows them to see something before the real deal."

When first introduced to the concept of cutting open a cat, the students had mixed reactions

"At the beginning we were hesitant," senior Andrea Johnson said, "but everyone is used to it by now."

Some students take comfort in knowing the source of the cats they see in physiology class.

"The cats we work with are strays," Johnson said. "Knowing the cats weren't killed for that purpose makes it easier."

Senior Justin Feldhaus said that he enjoys dissecting the cat because the hands-on experience makes the subject matter easier to understand than it would be in just lecture format.

"I love it," Feldhaus said. "You get to explore new adventures of life."

Johnson said she felt the same way about the project.

"It's interesting to see in the cats what is in us," she said. "The bad part of it is the smell of the cat."

Not everyone in the class is so eager to take such a hands-on approach, however.

"I have not touched the cat once," senior Rachel Raimondo said.

Raimondo said that she is just fine with letting the other members of her group do the dirty work.

"I do the drawing and sometimes watch my group dissecting our cat," she said.

Younger said they use the cats on and off throughout the year and that there is sometimes a long period of time between dissecting sessions.

Some of the groups are getting excited about the upcoming unit on the digestive system. The cat used by Raimondo, Feldhaus, and senior Jen Sackett might have a surprise inside of it.

"We think our cat is pregnant because it is really fat," said Raimondo. Other classmates are wondering the same thing about their cat.

As the year continues, the cats will provide understanding about the human anatomy for the students and will prepare them for possible careers in the medical field. The next time you get advice from your doctor, you just may have a stray cat to thank.

Love it or hate it, happy Valentine's

Eric Grubaugh
Editor

Love is in the air. Or at least it's supposed to be. For some, Valentine's Day is a day of hearts and flowers and candy. For others, those hearts are broken, the flowers withered, and the candy three-fourths eaten. Valentine's Day seems to bring out the best and worst memories and dreams for Scotus students.

"Valentine's Day is tops," junior Michael Ingemansen said. "...it may be a female-originated holiday forcing us to make them feel special, but when we do they [return the favor], so it works out."

Sophomore Brett Fry has a slightly different view of this "day of love."

"[Valentine's Day] is the worst day of the year," Fry said. "I hate Valentine's Day. I've had a break up with three different girls on that day."

People's past experiences with Valentine's Days—be they good, bad, or ugly—seem to shape their outlook on future Valentine's Days.

"I just hope that the next Valentine's Day will be better than the last," junior Kelsey Kucera said. "The perfect Valentine's Day would be a guy surprising me with flowers and taking me to a nice restaurant- not a fast food place."

Flowers and fancy foods seem to be favorites among the ladies. Giving them can make a girl's Valentine's Day the best ever. Not giving them could make it the worst one ever. But, be careful guys, sometimes it isn't just the thought that counts.

"Well, I killed those two birds (best and worst Valentine's Day experiences) with one stone,"

*See **Valentine**, page 4*

Whose side are you on? The battle to prove a Valentine's worth begins
Page 2

Junior high dribbles into basketball role
Page 6

Girls gone wild on Valentine's Day

Once again, I hate Valentine's Day

Lauren Maul

You're Still Not Helping

Another case of the Valentine's Day Blues.

I whole-heartedly believe that in my 17 years of life I must have had ONE good Valentine's Day; yet looking back upon my miserable Valentine's Day history, I fail to find one.

Let's start with kindergarten. At the time, kindergarten seemed like the best place to sow my wild oats. Unfortunately, no one was willing to lend me their farm. In other words, every snot-nosed 5-year-old had a Valentine except for me. I was alone, but it wasn't for lack of trying.

The tale of Lauren's cooties spread like wildfire through the St. Isidore's playground.

Heck, I think I even gave the elderly janitor a Valentine card.

At the end of that fateful February I decided that by first-grade I would have a full-time Valentine Love Hunk. Unfortunately, it was not to be. Once again, I was Valentine-less.

To make a sad matter even sadder, my first-grade class said I had cooties. Well, the tale of Lauren's cooties spread like wild fire through the St. Isidore's playground, and I did not have a Valentine for the next four years.

Finally, in sixth grade, I got new contact lenses. Surely I would be a Valentine Magnet! And sure enough, I had an anonymous Valentine.

Well, maybe it wasn't a Valentine, but I did receive a cupcake on my desk with a little card. Given, the name on the card wasn't "Lauren" and the icing was licked off the cupcake, but I felt proud nonetheless.

In junior high, no one really had Valentine's. But a lot of girls had boyfriends. And, yet again, I was the Cheese and the Cheese Stands Alone. By this time, my parents started to feel sorry for me so they bought me Valentine's Day candy.

However, after I began to gain weight and break out into acne pimples, the Valentine's Day candy became a thing of the past.

Freshman Year: I arrive at school on Valentine's Day and find a pleasant card and talking stuffed frog toy in my locker. My first thought was of course that I had unlocked the wrong locker.

But no! It was my locker! So I suppose that that was a "good" Valentine's Day. I even had a date with the Frog-Toy-Giver to Sweetheart that year.

But alas, it was not to be. I see now that I was way too immature to be in a relationship at the young age of fourteen. So when my freshman year Valentine and I called it quits, I took out my anger on the talking stuffed frog toy.

To make a gruesome story less gruesome, perhaps I shouldn't tell you about how I brutally ripped the stuffing out of the stuffed frog toy and smashed the talking box to pieces and how I then hurled the cloth carcass onto the neighbor's roof. That relationship ended very badly.

And once again, I was very immature.

Moving on. Sophomore year, I didn't *really* have a Valentine, but I conned a handsome boy into taking me to the Sweetheart Dance.

Conning a date is very simple, but must only be used in emergencies. You see, in the February of my sophomore year, I was fifteen and was not able to drive a car. Therefore, I asked this handsome boy if he could "give me a ride to the dance." I did not have a corsage or anything, but showing up with him was quite enough.

That may *seem* to be a happy Valentine's Day story, but I cannot stress enough that it is ***NOT*** a happy Valentine's Day story. The handsome boy had an out-of-town girlfriend and when dealing with attached handsome boys the result is ***NEVER*** pretty.

Once again, a horrible Valentine's Day.

Junior year I did not go to Sweetheart. Looking back, one could say that I was nursing a damaged heart, but I think I just wasn't able to find a dress.

This trail of bloody stories and tears leads us to the present day. Once again, no Valentine possibilities.

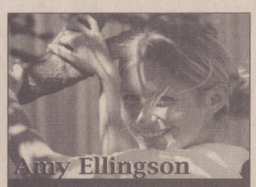
But I am going to the dance with a friend and I did find a pretty sweet dress.

In conclusion, having a Valentine is fun, but feeling sorry for yourself is even better.

So this Valentine's Day, you should buy yourself some candy hearts and write cruel and mean sayings on the backs and hand them out to everyone you know in order to spread the Valentine's Day Blues.

And to those of you that were in my first-grade class, I do ***NOT*** have cooties.

I love Valentine's Day



Amy Ellingson

The Glass is Half Full

I admit, Valentine's Day is probably much more enjoyable with a special someone to spend it with, but it doesn't leave the single crowd empty handed. Valentine's Day offers a much needed deviation from the average school day.

First of all, tolerance for food will be fairly high, considering the number of teachers (good, generous teachers) who let students give out candy, cookies, and whatever else. Even if no one in your class brings food, you can still stuff yourself sick.

If the situation arises, it's wise to bring your own candy and eat it. If you run into a confrontation, just say you got the goods in a different class (no dollar fine for you). Another eating opportunity lies in the Crush Valentines that you can send to your friends…hopefully you'll get a few.

Valentine's Day could also offer opportunities for some mischief. Even if you're Lauren, you can still have fun. In fact, LAUREN was the one who gave me the idea of Valentine's Day mischief after she wrote her own OBSCENE messages on candy hearts. That's right, she defaced those innocent little candies with FILTH. I think I'm going to be sick, but the thought of good-natured, church-appropriate mischief will settle me down. If you're in a daring mood, and you're sure you won't hurt anyone's feelings, you can make up secret admirers for your friends or forge a good looking person's name on a Valentine (which LAUREN, queen of Valentine's Day darkness, has also done, and to me I might add).

Retail stores, restaurants, and TV have found their own forms of Valentine's Day enthusiasm as well. Retail stores have V-Day sales, restaurants make offer deals, and television (being the best of them all) features countless forms of Valentine's Day entertainment. Maury Povich will be a main event, no doubt, with his odd couples, like the 400 pound German woman who's madly in love with the two-foot tall Hispanic midget, or his "secret crushes revealed" segments. Maybe even Jack Hannah and his exotic animals could join in on the love.

Think back to when your biggest problem concerning Valentine's Day was your card box.

If Valentine's Day still puts a damper on your February, don't worry, it's only one day. If it bothers you that you're not with anyone, think back to the grade school years when your biggest problem concerning Valentine's Day was what your card box would look like. I remember Dustin Becher's was always better than mine, and I think I despised him every Valentine's Day because of it, even though he was usually my Valentine. I guess it was a love-hate relationship. But for what it's worth, Valentine's Day gives Lauren and I something to debate about (and finally an excuse to dress up as angels and devils), and for you, something to pass the time reading.

Polite behavior in Mass is not a new concept, people

Craig Staroscik

Wallowing In Thought

A moment of your silence, please.

It does not seem like that difficult of a request, especially when a priest requests it before the start of a mass. Yet, week after week we are still talking. In fact, we are talking more bluntly and objectively than at the beginning of the year.

I will be the first to admit that weekly masses are not the highlight of my school year. One hour a week adds up to about forty hours of school I'm missing in a year. I realize the rest of the student body is not entirely thrilled about it either. However, the retaliation that some students have come up with is embarrassing, and the squeaking of shoes, the coughing, and the cracking of knuckles during Eucharist is downright grotesque. Some of us need to learn how to pay more respect, and if you cannot change your attitude for mass, at least save the complaining for a more appropriate time.

Father Bond is not Father Steve. He likes to sing, and sometimes he stares off into space. We all have unique traits. He is still a priest and an elder. I was taught to respect all people, including those in authority. We upperclassmen especially seem to act like we are above authority. Just because we disagree with the activities he is in charge of does not endow us with the right to desecrate mass.

This lack of respect for authority does exist solely in the case of Father Bond.

Some of us need to learn how to pay more respect...

When Mr. Gannon attempted to once again quite the student body down before mass, he was greeted with even more talking, and in some cases, laughs. If you don't agree with him, fine, but deal with your attitudes someplace outside of the mass. He was trying to show reverence for God in God's church. Our personal attitudes toward Mr. Gannon or any other member of the administration should not hold relevance to whether or not we listen to them when they are doing the right thing.

The pinnacle of this humiliating spectacle was the Catholic schools week mass at the end of last month. During the distribution of Communion to the EMEs, some bright student thought it would be a cute idea to crack his or her knuckles. Before long, the entire church sounded like a bag of popcorn in the microwave. This whole time, Mrs. Gerhold and her daughter were sitting in the front row, waiting to present Mr. Lahm with his Teacher of the Year award. I know I take Mr. Lahm's speech out of context when I say it, but if I were accepting the award I would have had to do it with humility too.

Mass is not a new concept for any of us; we have been taught how to behave in mass since we were born. I cannot say what kind of opinions you are trying to get across though this disrespect. If we have a problem with mass or religion, then we could probably could move to the high school across town. If we want to protest the over-indulgence of mass every week, then talk to an administrator or Father. Most of all, if we have a problem with those in charge of the mass, grow up. I'm not sure what mass means to any of Scotus' students. As for myself, mass is a way of life and an exclamation of faith.

The priest has asked you, the school has asked you, and now your fellow student is asking you: please show a bit more reverence in church. It isn't that difficult of a request.

A moment of your silence, for God's sake, please.

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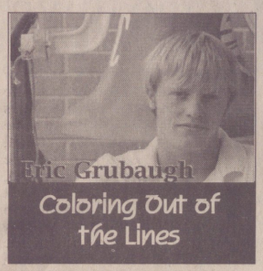
When it comes to cheese, man tops beast every time



A world-class sprinter steps up to the line. Slowly, methodically he sets himself into his blocks. They call him the "Cheetah Man." Before every race he prepares by envisioning himself as a cheetah stalking its opponents.

No scenario will ever be closer to that vision than the one in which he is about to partake. The "Cheetah Man" is preparing himself for the cheesiest race he will ever enter.

The gun goes off, and the combatants take off down their lanes. "Cheetah Man" flies out to a commanding lead, but halfway down the lane, the giraffe he is racing against stumbles, and effectively kills any chance of a comeback it had. "Cheetah Man" has successfully defeated a giraffe in the 100-yard dash. Congratulations, Sport.

Although insanely hilarious, the show is so blatantly scripted it is quite possibly one of the corniest shows ever.

This was just one scenario from a relatively new television show called *Man vs. Beast*. The show pits some of the most elite (yet lesser known) athletes the world can produce against the largest, strongest, fastest beasts that roam the earth. Among other scenarios, the show also exhibited: 40 midgets racing an elephant…while pulling a DC-10 airplane, a 360-pound sumo wrestler in a tug-of-war against a 180-pound female orangutan, and the world champion hot-dog eater against a bear in a hot-dog eating contest. Complete with announcers, statistics, animal coaches, instant replays, and that one guy who does the "Let's get rrready to rrruuummmbbbllleee!" thing, this show leaves one question burning in the mind: what is television coming to? Although insanely hilarious, the show is so blatantly scripted it is quite possibly one of the corniest shows ever.

Soon after defeating the giraffe, the "Cheetah Man" was ready for his next challenge…a zebra. The zebra had "Cheetah Man" beat right off the gun. But as soon as he finished, "Cheetah Man" was livid because he claimed that the zebra had false-started. Upon closer review—instant replay—the judges ruled that yes, the zebra did in fact come out of the gate early, and a rematch would be scheduled. However, it would have to wait for another episode because the zebra was growing weary and had already retired to its barn for a mud bath and a silver platter piled high with hay.

Wow. Here, how about this. Have a lion chase the zebra down its lane and then see who wins the race. If the lion doesn't jump over the fence and savagely rip apart the "Cheetah Man" first, then I guarantee a black and white blur will cross the finish line before any guy dreaming about cheetahs does.

While the zebra was eating its hay, there was more eating going on in a much different venue. The world champion hot dog eater was about to face off against an enormous bear to see who could finish a whole lot of hot dogs first. All right, seriously, the guy weighs about 120 pounds compared to the bear's 800. Who do you think is going to eat faster? As soon as the bear finished with the hot dogs, he would still have room for the guy-and then probably the guy's hot dogs too. Of course the bear is going to win. If it didn't, I'd be worried that the bear had an eating disorder. Either that or maybe it was just full because it ate its trainer in the locker room.

And there is yet another thing. The animals had coaches. The bear had an eating coach; the zebra had a running coach; the orangutan had a tug-of-war coach, and the elephant had a DC-10-pulling coach. All of the coaches were gentlemen, shall we say, well past their prime. And how hard would it be to be one of these coaches? What's the zebra's coach going to do? Say "go" when the gun goes off? Because he is sure as heck not going to keep pace with the thing when its sprinting down that lane. I believe a third-grader can coach anyone how to play tug-of-war. The only somewhat tricky one may be the elephant. It took 40 midgets to pull that thing. One middle-aged man certainly couldn't demonstrate and yank that thing down the lane even if he was crazy enough to want to. But even then, he would just have to dangle some food in front of the elephant…or possibly let a mouse run around among the elephant's legs. That may give it a start. I seriously hope those guys didn't get paid any more than I do (nothing) for coaching these animals.

At the end of the show, the score was 4-2 in favor of the animals. The zebra, elephant, orangutan, and bear were all victors for the animals. "Cheetah Man" defeated the giraffe, and an ex-marine defeated a tiny monkey in an obstacle course race. Hey, if the man has never been through an obstacle course, and if the giraffe doesn't stumble, it's a whole different ball game and it could be a shutout for the animals. Then again, if there weren't people like me with time on their hands to watch a show like this, it wouldn't matter at all.

Reality TV trend attracting viewers

Some viewers see addicting genre as more TV than reality

Amy Ellingson
Staff Reporter

Ahh...reality television. How reliable. It's on every night on what can seem like every channel, and America is begging for more. The subject matter ranges from a group of people simply living together, to people competing for the ultimate dream of stardom.

Back by popular demand, *American Idol's* first episode of its second season was seen by more than 26 million Americans, making FOX the nation's most popular network. *Joe Millionaire* also aided in the sky-high ratings by adding an estimated 20 million viewers. Obviously, reality television is offering viewers something that regular sitcoms can't, but why is reality television so addictive? What makes viewers tune in week after week anxiously anticipating the drama of complete stranger's lives?

Senior Brooke Abegglen said that people like reality television because nothing is filtered and it helps distract people from what may be wrong in their own lives.

"It's funny watching other people's problems and not thinking about my own," said Abegglen.

Senior Tyler Roewert also has his theories about why people want reality television.

"I think that people see the shows as being their own lives, and they feel like they are somehow a part of them," said Roewert.

The reason why reality television is so well liked might remain unanswered, but networks aren't ignoring the fact that it will boost their ratings. Even PBS, usually recognized for its sound educational programming, has started its own reality series called *Frontier House*, where families are chosen to live life as a typical family in pioneer times would. Perhaps the idea behind *Frontier House* isn't as interesting as *Road Rules: Battle of the Sexes* or *The Osbournes*, but leave it to FOX to brainstorm and come up with *Bridezillas*, a series dedicated solely to outraged women on their wedding day.

"It's funny watching other people's problems and not thinking about my own."
-Brooke Abegglen

"You have to be bored out of your minds to come up with an idea like this," said Abegglen in regards to the show. "I think that a lot of networks are using the idea of reality television and jumping on the bandwagon instead of trying to be creative and thinking of something new."

Bridezillas seems to be rock bottom as far as reality T.V. goes, but where do people draw the line between what good reality T.V. is and isn't?

"*Battle of the Sexes* is the best because they get to do a lot of fun missions," said Roewert, "but I don't like *The Bachlorette* because the show is basically all guys, and I don't like dating and marriage type of stuff."

Abegglen agreed with the quality of romance on reality television.

"I think *Joe Millionaire* is stupid," she said. "The idea of the entire show is too made up because you know that the situation would never happen in real life. It's too unreal to be called reality T.V."

The value of reality television lies in the eye of its beholder. Some people praise it for showing life with emotion and without limits, but some ridicule it for being unethical. The truth is that no one knows where the next few years will take reality T.V. It may plunge deeper into the dim-witted or rise to the value of the human spirit. But one fact remains. If *The Real World* can last for eleven years and still be going strong, reality television won't be going anywhere soon. Perhaps the nation will be able to tune in next week for *Catholic School: Life at Scotus*.

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"Date Movies" popular form of entertainment

Lauren Maul
Editor

Date Movies are simply movies that people and their significant others enjoy watching together. Perhaps this Valentine's Day a trip to the theater or video rental store will top off the perfect holiday for lovers.

If you're planning to view a movie with your date, what things should you look for in a film?

Senior Jesse Johnson believes a Date Movie should be "romantic, funny, and interesting."

"A pinch of love, a dash of companionship, and a whole lot of lovin'," said senior Ryan Zegar when asked about a perfect Date Movie's ingredients. While the movie itself is important, a good movie-watching partner is also necessary.

Freshman Zepherin Swope says that a perfect date is one who "laughs [and] likes to buy me food." Shane Goodall would rather have a date that is simply "QUIET."

So you've got your movie and your date: what next? Perhaps some smooth moves to use on your honey?

"Just ask her if Craig can come," senior Nathan Fisher said. Senior Shane Kelly believes that when you "fake drowning" your date really digs it.

> "A pinch of love, a dash of companionship, and a whole lot of lovin'. -Ryan Zegar"

Many female students believe that Vin Diesel is the ideal movie date. For those not able to cuddle in Vin's lovin' arms, never fear, there is someone else out there for you.

Junior Katy Nagengast says that Scotus alum Mike Adelman is the man for her.

"He is my favorite person since last year," Nagengast said.

Junior Stacia Jackson also enjoys older men. Her ideal date is Mr. Sean Wickham because "he makes me feel safe."

Senior Mike Zadina, when asked about movie dates, said "I don't date; girls are gross."

Now that we know about movies, dates, and moves, what happens when things don't go as planned? Senior Bob Rogers says his most embarrassing theater experience is when he "farted and it smelled."

Scratching your head about what movies to watch? According to Scotus students surveyed, *Just Married, Lord of the Rings, Titanic,* and *Space Balls* are sure hits when it comes to a romantic Movie Date.

So this Valentine's Day, practice your "moves" and whip out the popcorn because in Columbus, seeing movies is pretty much the only thing to do.

Rock Bottom staffers earn JEA recognition

Eric Grubaugh
Editor

This year, the Jounalism Education Association of Nebraska awarded the top newspaper staff members in the state. Awards are given in many categories of writing, photography, layout, and business. Awards are designated honorable mention, excellent, and superior. Several *Rock Bottom* staff members were honored with some of these awards. Ryan Jablonski, Amy Ellingson, and Craig Staroscik all received excellents for sports writing, news writing, and column writing, respectively. Amy Ellingson received yet another excellent for her news photography.Staroscik garnered an honorable mention in newspaper layout and an excellent for sports photography. Eric Grubaugh earned two honorable mentions for column writing and feature writing. Matt Krings was awarded an honorable mention for advertising. *Rock Bottom* members hope this success continues.

Valentine

from page 1

Kucera said. "Someone sent me flowers at school but they were really ugly. I was so excited that someone surprised me with them, but they looked so bad that I was embarrassed to take them out of the office."

All in all, Valentine's Day is a day that brings forth a plethora of emotions in people. In many it brings out sheer bliss. In others, resentment and jealousy abound. Regardless, the thought of Valentine's Day initiates boundless dreams and memories, and it starts much excitement. But neither the hubbub nor the resentment surrounding Valentine's Day seems to affect junior Melissa Harpham.

"Boys should buy girls flowers and candy everyday," she said, "not just February 14."

Rock Bottom Win-a-Date Drawing

First time blind-daters enjoy night on the town

Matt Krings
Editor

Two strangers walked into Dusters, and immediately their eyes met. Knowing there was an instant attraction, both are filled with a weird feeling in their gut. The two talked the night away, and immediately fell in love.

The perfect ending to a perfect date, it's just too bad the blind date between sophomore Heidi Sobota and senior Cody Fry didn't end up this way. The two were the winners of the *Rock Bottom* Win-a-Date drawing. The newspaper paid for dinner at Dusters and movie passes. They did not know whom their date was until showing up that night.

Neither Sobota nor Fry had ever been on a blind date, and they both said they had no idea what to expect. Sobota said she signed up to go on a blind date not to meet a future boyfriend, but because of the free food and movie. Fry said he was forced to by *Rock Bottom* editor Lauren Maul.

Before their big date, anticipation and excitement ran through both of their minds. Sobota was not really nervous because she figured she would know and recognize whomever her date would be. Fry was not as comfortable as she, though.

"I was kind of nervous not knowing who my date was," Fry said. " I knew whoever came up, it would be fun."

Their plans for the night included an evening dinner at Dusters, and then the late movie *Darkness Falls*. After they both ordered their food, Fry's plan on the date was in full force; his goal was not to have any awkward silences.

"It was easy to make and keep conversation with Cody," Sobota said. "We know each other from band class, and he is real easy to get along with."

Just going as friends, the night went as planned. Dinner was great, and the movie was as good as expected. Sobota said the date went great because they already knew each other's likes, dislikes, and other little things about each other. Fry said the movie was very scary, and he would recommend it to anyone going on a date because the girl will probably get scared and need comfort. The overall date was a huge success.

"There was not an awkward moment the whole night," Sobota said. "We were really comfortable with each other, and I would probably go on another date with him just to have some fun."

One bad note on the night, Sobota found herself driving to the movie, which is usually the guy's job.

On a blind date, one never knows what to expect, but it can always be a fun way to meet new people.

"I don't think I would want to find my future spouse this way," Fry said, "but you never know."

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Will You Ever Have a Valentine?

The Quiz That Determines Your Ability to Land a Honey

Lauren Maul
Editor

1. Your last relationship ended when...
A) you both decided to see other people.
B) your significant other accused you of cheating.
C) you logged off the Internet.

2. When first introduced to a good-looking member of the opposite sex you...
A) act confident and coy.
B) use the term "What's cookin', good-lookin'..."
C) ask them to go out with you RIGHT AWAY.

3. People tell you that you look like
A) a Gap model.
B) someone who buys their clothes at the Wal-Mart.
C) Mike Adelman.

4. You look for _____ in a date.
A) a fun and nice personality
B) a nice face and better body
C) someone who will actually speak to you

5. Your ideal date includes...
A) an excellent conversation with someone you love.
B) things that cannot be viewed on cable television.
C) spending at least 5 minutes with your date before he/she leaves you.

6. The creature that resembles you most is the...
A) tiger.
B) rabbit.
C) leech.

7. Your future career will hopefully be...
A) something professional.
B) retail!
C) assistant to a master of the custodial arts.

8. Your definition of love is...
A) something "Honest & True."
B) action!
C) standing next to a person for more than 10 minutes before being shunned.

9. How badly do you want a significant other?
A) Not too badly since you are secure with yourself.
B) Pretty badly.
C) So badly that every time you see a happy couple you vomit with rage.

If answered mostly....

A's- You will most likely end up with a Valentine. Maybe not this year, but someone as studly as you won't be single too long.
B's- You will probably have a Valentine. Given, he/she may be a sleazy Valentine, but there are plenty of those to go around. Besides, you aren't so wholesome yourself.
C's- I hate to say this, but you may be alone **FOREVER** if you don't shape up and stop being so desperate. *But Happy Valentine's Day anyway!*

Tales of My Meager Existence at Scotus

By: Lauren Maul

Finding herself all alone at the party, Amy realized that she should have **NEVER** abbreviated "**Valentine's Day**" on her new T-Shirt.

Rock Bottom Review:

Darkness Falls is a scary thrill-ride

Ryan Jablonski
Staff Reporter

It takes a movie to change a harmless, fun children's tradition and make it a tale of supernatural terror and horror. That's just what *Darkness Falls* does.

Darkness Falls is a thriller that will leave you sleeping with your lights on for nights afterwards. A movie that portrays the beloved Tooth Fairy as a natural-born killing machine is one of the most creative ideas since *STAR WARS*. The special effects make you jump when you would least expect to.

A woman, soon to be known as the "Tooth Fairy," was hung 150 years ago because two children ran from her fire-scarred appearance and went missing. Matillda, the "Tooth Fairy," known for her charity in giving out gold coins when children lost their baby teeth, cursed the town of Darkness Falls saying "What I once took in kindness, I will forever take in revenge."

She is turned into a creature that lives in the dark, collecting children's lost baby teeth and killing all those who look upon her face.

Kyle Walsh, a current-day resident of Darkness Falls, claims to have accidentally awaken from sleep just in time to see the "Tooth Fairy" Matillda taking his last baby tooth. His mother is killed by the "Tooth Fairy" and Kyle is blamed and believed to be crazy by everyone except his childhood sweetheart Caitlin, played by Emma Caulfield, and her little brother Michael, played by Lee Cornie, who has recently lost his last baby tooth.

Years later, the grown up but still horror stricken Kyle Walsh, played by Chaney Kley, must return home to save Caitlin and Michael from an unrelenting evil that has plagued the town of Darkness Falls for over 150 years.

A flying crazy woman, a grown man who is afraid of the dark, and a little boy who is just trying to stay alive. These are the right ingredients for anyone wanting to go see a good movie. In my book, *Darkness Falls* is running circles around *The Ring*. This ghostly, non-stop thriller, is going to make you rethink pulling your last tooth too soon, and leave you begging for your night light.

Darkness Falls

Stars: Emma Caufield, Chaney Kley

Ryan's Rock Bottom Rating:

The three protagonists hide from the Tooth Fairy in this thriller. Apparently, this Tooth Fairy is after a bit more than teeth.

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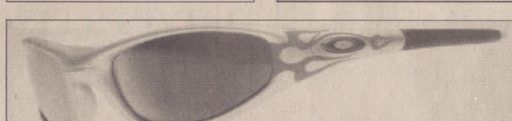
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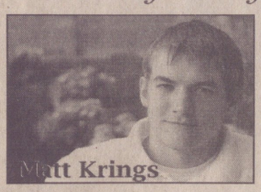
Upon further review, NFL season full of memories



Tampa Bay did as I predicted and won its first Super Bowl title since becoming a franchise in 1976. All hail the Buccaneers and their smothering defense. My friends and I watched the Super Bowl together, and toward the end it was said by some that Oakland's offense just didn't play well, that it never got into a rhythm. True, but credit the Tampa D for that - and a defensive line that deserved an MVP award all of its own.

As those of us who look forward to the NFL season each year with great anticipation watch the 2002 season take its last bow, we can only look to September and wonder what the league will hand us then. Looking back and ahead:

New York Jets QB Chad Pennington tops the list of good things to come out of this season and good things to look forward to in the next, particularly if you're a Jets fan. Pennington finished the season as the highest-rated quarterback in the league. While he didn't play well in the Jets' playoff loss against the Raiders, he'll only get better having had the experience. Look for the Jets to be contenders next year.

Tampa Bay's front office proved this week that they're smarter than you probably think by re-signing defensive coordinator (and former Husker D-Coordinator) Monte Kiffen to a three-year deal. San Francisco was hoping to get a shot at Kiffen to replace fired head coach Steve Mariucci, which was a great plan, but was smartly foiled by the Bucs. Tampa has a Super Bowl trophy now, and it knows the winning feeling, so next season will be tough for anyone playing the Bucs. Jon Gruden proved to be worth his weight in gold as the Oakland Raiders were not only outplayed in the Super Bowl, but they were clearly out coached. Kudos to Gruden and what will surely be continued success for him in the Sunshine State.

Overtime. The NFL's stupid overtime, which is long overdue for a change. Look for the NFL team owners to come up with a plan to even the playing field in overtime situations - 25 of which occurred during this past season. There have been several suggestions put on the table already; anything they come up with will be better than what's out there now.

Did anyone else find the "challenge system" frustrating once again in the Super Bowl? Tampa threw its first red flag in the Super Bowl on a "fumble" call, which was such a bad call it made me wonder what the officials were actually looking at. After the call was reversed, Tampa was still "punished" because it had to use a challenge on such an obvious miscall. It seems unfair to challenge, be right, and then lose a challenge flag. This system needs to be addressed as well, especially given the number of game-changing mistakes that are made by officials. If a team is right, they should get to keep their flag. If the team is wrong, they should lose a timeout and their flag.

Bill Parcells and Cowboys' owner Jerry Jones? It's not that I don't like Parcells or that I don't have any respect for what he's accomplished in this league, but sometimes people should just retire and stay retired. I am not predicting the team to fail, but there is no chance of Parcells and Jones coexisting. We all know the personality of each, and thinking they will get along is absurd.

Next season will be the Chiefs' season. A little defense will take them all the way.

I cannot leave out one of my favorite teams, the Steelers. This season brought about great change for a team that has always fielded a run-weighted offense and a spectacular defense. With QB Tommy Maddox appearing to have the goods, the Pittsburgh offense should continue to shine. The defense? Well, an interesting idea, which will never come to pass, but we can dream, would be to take over-paid and little-used backup QB Kordell Stewart and turn him into a cornerback. Just an idea, because watching the Steelers' defensive secondary gives me the hives.

Next season will be the Chiefs' season. I am a dedicated Chiefs fan, and seeing the offense run this year (top scoring in the NFL), a little defense will take them the whole nine yards.

Boys basketball still shooting away

Ryan Jablonski
Staff Reporter

The boy's basketball team has been through a lot this season. It has seen its share of ups and downs, but this season has been mostly downs with several near misses sprinkled in.

The team got off to a rough start as it began the season without two projected starters, seniors Wade Wemhoff and Tony Bogus. Even though the only win of the season came with the absence of the two seniors, things have started to pick up with their return.

"We are better offensively," Coach Merlin Lahm said. "Now that they are back, we have a higher field goal percentage, and it adds two very good ball handlers to the starting lineup that have helped keep recent games close."

The return of Bogus and Wemhoff to the lineup adds to what was already a senior-laden team. In all, seven seniors make up the core of this year's squad.

"With all the seniors, there is a lot of leadership brought to the team," senior Adam Wick said.

Despite the abundance of seniors on the roster and the leadership and experience that goes with them, the team is still struggling to find wins.

"The offense needs to improve," Coach Merlin Lahm said," we need to take better shots and reduce turnovers. We have had too many turnovers this year. We need to be more physical on the boards, and we need to start rebounding better than we have been."

Junior Ryan Ames, who has started on and off for the Shamrocks, said the reason for the losses is very simple.

"We just aren't scoring as many points as the other team," he said. "That's what I believe our biggest problem is."

The team has played hard and kept most of the games close, including being tied with #1 rated Wahoo Neumann at halftime last week. Seven of the team's losses have been by single digits. In spite of all the near misses, some of the players said that there is still a chance to salvage some success out of the remaining season.

"I'm betting that we beat Lakeview," Wick said. "That is one of my biggest goals for the rest of the season."

Scotus will see Lakeview for the second time this season tomorrow night. The Vikings beat Scotus 38-29 at the Holiday Tournament in December.

The team has managed to stay positive though all the hardships it has seen this season.

"Everyone on the team has great attitudes toward playing," Lahm said. "With the number of wins we have attained this season, the team has shown great character. They have shown me no sign of cashing in for the remainder of the season."

Even after a sub-par regular season, the team is not counting out the post-season. Out of the five teams in Scotus' sub-district, only one has a winning record (West Point 14-2). With the Shamrocks' tendency to keep games close, it could be an interesting tournament. Even if nothing else changes, the remainder of the season will be a fun one to watch.

IBA action heats up winter

Empty gyms, goofy socks highlight intramurals

Matt Krings
Editor

The high school basketball season is drawing ever so close to the end, but the intramural season in swinging in full force.

On Sunday evenings five teams convene in the old gym to take their best shot at being the best IBA (Intramural Basketball Association) team, and individually trying to be an IBA all-star.

"Intramural basketball is the best ball in town," senior Josh Romberg said. "There is no one yelling or shouting, just one hundred percent fun but also trying to win. This is the way all competitive sports should be."

Chief Maintenance Engineer Ed Goerlinger is the commissioner of IBA. He collects the money and keeps score and order in the gym. To begin each season, five senior captains take the list of players and have a draft. The league is open to Scotus high school students not participating in a winter sport.

"No one wants to come and just tear another team apart," junior Joe Held said. "Keeping it close is what makes games actually fun."

Despite Held's desire for parity, one team has proven itself IBA royalty. The team of Josh Romberg, Steve Micek, Chris Mahoney, Brian Malicky, Dominic Heimann, and Lee Aschoff has only one loss thus far and hope not to jinx themselves.

"Now I don't want to be too cocky," Aschoff, a sophomore, said, "but there is no way anyone can stop me or my team."

The best players in the league will eventually join forces to become the IBA all-star team. When the high school basketball season comes to an end, the IBA all-stars will take on the varsity basketball team up at Platte College. There is no exact date set yet, but players from both sides are excited about the whole ordeal.

"I'm guaranteeing we will win by 30 points," said Tony Bogus, a senior on the varsity team, "but I'm not taking any bets."

MATT KRINGS/ROCK BOTTOM

Dominic Heimann shoots a free throw during an IBA game. The Intramural Basketball Association plays games on Sunday nights.

Junior high basketball players rise early, compete tough

ERIC GRUBAUGH/ROCKBOTTOM

Eighth-grader Jake Staroscik drives to the bucket against Lakeview . The eighth-graders would go on to win this intra-city battle.

Eric Grubaugh
Editor

While most Scotus students are still shifting in their nice, cozy beds, and before most Scotus students even dream of arising from their slumber, the junior high students are being run ragged in their morning basketball practice. Every day these young guns drag themselves out of bed as early as 5 a.m. to get to practice on time. Simply the willingness to do that day in and day out deserves some respect, but these boys aren't just in it for the lack of sleep.

Seventh grader Chris Herdzina said he doesn't seem to mind the early rising.

"It is good to get it out of the way," he said, "because then you have the whole afternoon and night to do something."

Some eighth grade basketball players disagreed, however.

"I hate the morning practices," eighth grader Tanner Johnson said. "We have to get up at 5:00 to be here at 5:30 for a practice that starts at 6:00."

No matter what time the practice is, however, these basketball players are certainly getting a work out.

"It's fun," seventh grader Riley Hottovy said," and it's something to do...plus I need to stay in shape."

And there is plenty of staying—if not getting—in shape going on at these practices.

"I'm learning that running is really hard," seventh grader Nick Zarek said. "The suicides are really the hardest."

For those of you unfamiliar with the basketball form of a suicide, a "suicide" is an all-out sprint in which you run from baseline, to free-throw line, to baseline, to half-court, to baseline, to the free-throw line on the other side of the court, back to the baseline, to the opposite baseline, and back to the baseline on which you started. Sound grueling? They are. The coaches usually prefer to call them "lines" because of the lack of harshness that the word presents, but despite the harshness of these "lines," most of the players said they planned to play at least through high school.

Herdzina said he may have plans for slightly beyond high school though.

"I'm going to go pro," he said, "maybe get a Hummer and a couple jerseys while I'm in high school, get kicked off the team and then let back on, and then I'll go pro."

While these plans may not turn out exactly for Herdzina, there are some things that these athletes know are going right for them.

"Playing for your school is so much better than club or the Y," Bierbower said. "The games are actually really worth something when you win."

So regardless whether they are working hard at practice, playing hard for their school during a game, or looking past high school already to the pros, these young athletes show they are having fun playing basketball, even in the dead of winter at 5:00 in the morning.

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Scotus Central Catholic

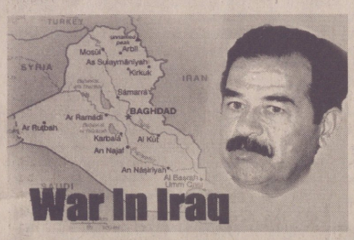
ROCK BOTTOM

Columbus, Nebraska 68601 | March 21, 2003 | Volume 5, Issue 7

War brings controversy into the classroom

Craig Staroscik
Editor-in-Chief

A few students can still remember watching the desert aflame as Iraqi troops set their oil fields on fire. From infrared cameras buildings were torn apart by guided missiles. On television, U.S. troops, many of them not much older than the senior class is now, marched over the sands.



Over the past couple of months, President Bush has again indicated that he feels war with the Middle Eastern country Iraq is necessary. People around the world have mixed views. Protests in the states and Europe have demonstrated pro and anti-war sedntiments. It seems that in all but a select few, the option to go to war is questionable. Half a world away from the Asian country, students in the United States also have their opinion. Scotus students are no different, and hold a variety of opinions towards the possibility of war.

A little over half the students questioned said that they would be for rather than against war. The threat of Saddam Hussein using weapons of mass destruction is a threat that many feel is real and justified by war. Senior Ashley Pritchard is in favor of going to war.

"I am for war with Iraq," Pritchard said. "He [Hussein] is not going to disarm, and it is just going to get worse and worse. If we don't do something, we'll eventually have to go to war anyway."

Others, like senior Tara Zabawa, oppose the thought of all-out combat, saying that the risks of sending our nation's troops into harms way is not worth it.

"It's kind of scary thinking about going to war," Zabawa said. "I don't want to go war. There is always that threat of never knowing what to expect from the enemy. I don't want anyone I know to have to go over there."

There is also the large group who cannot decide either way. Eighth graders Tanner Johnson and Kyle Mroczek wavered between choices. They said that while war might hurt the nation's economy, Hussein is still a dangerous guy and we should bomb the heck out of Iraq. Mroczek, like most students, revised their considerations when examining the possible consequences America might suffer.

"We should go to war as long as it has no effect here at home," Mroczek said.

War does bring the possibility of affecting Midwest America. One student who knows that possibility well is Crystal Kozak. Kozak is a field medic for the Nebraska Na-

See War, page 4

March marks the beginning of lent

Scott Becker
Rock Bottom Correspondent

Spring is near and that means many things. Summer isn't far around the bend, the weather is getting warmer, and for Christians, Lent has come again. For most Catholics, this means two things: giving up something, and not eating meat on Fridays.

Senior Gina Starzec is one of many people giving up a bad habit for Lent. She believes that it is important part of Lent.

"We usually don't have too make many sacrifices in our lives," Starzec said. For this reason, she believes that making a few sacrifices won't hurt.

This year, Starzec is giving up biting her nails, pop, and swearing, which she says is the hardest one.

"Everyone at work swears, so it's tough not to break," she said.

Junior Angie Boeding decided to give up swearing also, but has been running into problems.

"I've already done it like times after almost getting hit by a car the first day," Boeding siad.

Though it is tough for both of them, they both agreed that it was a bad habit, and Lent was a time to become a better Catholic.

While Lent is supposed to be a time to fast and pray, some people tend to take it as a time of punishment. Not all people understand what Lent is supposed to be about. Father Bill Bond says that Lent is really a new beginning.

"The Church tradition of Lent is 40 days of fasting, alms giving, and prayer as a time of penance in preparation of Easter," he said.

Today, Lent has been slightly modified from the original Lent. Instead of 40 days of fasting, Christians are required to fast only on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Another part of Lent is Abstinence. This refers to refraining from eating meat (except fish) on Ash Wednesdays and all Fridays of Lent. Many people know this, but few know why we give up meat on Fridays, and why fish is not considered meat.

"I enjoy eating meat and such," sophomore Nathan Staroscik said. "It's more of a tradition and I don't see the significance in it."

In order to shed some light on the topic, Father Bond explained his belief to why abstinence is an important part of Lent.

"The reason for abstinence is because meat was expensive in the time of early Christians and was a sign of celebration," Bond said.

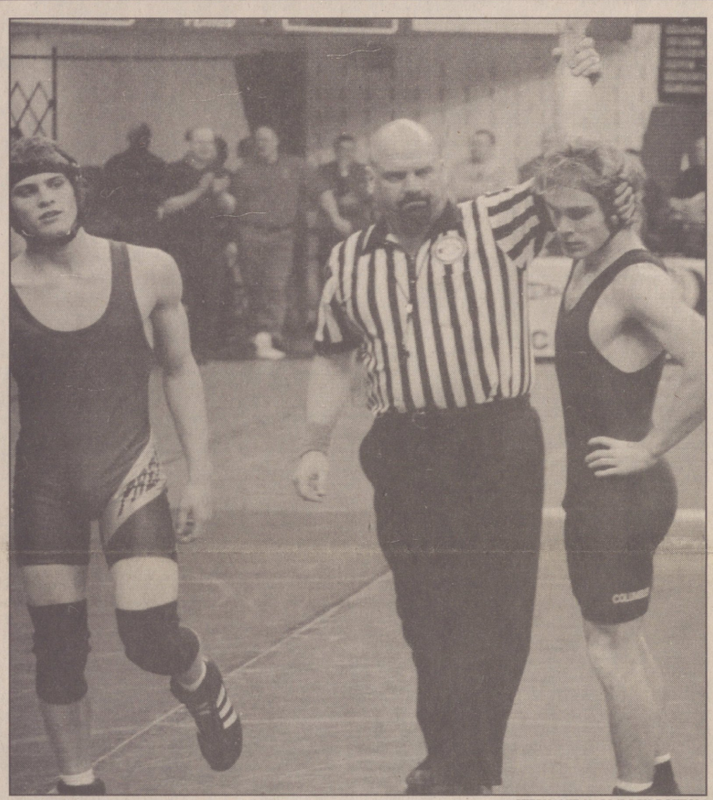
Father Bond also explained that the reason fish is allowed on Friday is because it was an easily available food for early Christians and a part of their regular diet. He said that it might also be because Jesus' early followers were fisherman, whose diet relied and occupation on fish.

In addition to abstaining, fasting during Lent is something that has taken place since the first centuries of the church. This symbolizes Jesus' forty days in the desert before his Ministry. One thing that may have arisen from this tradition was sacrificing something important. Though this is a common practice in the Church today, it has not always existed.

Bond explained that even though there is no set reason to why this is done, he has his own theory about it.

"My suspicion is that when the

See Lent, page 3



STEPHANIE HALL/ROCK BOTTOM

Pinning and winning

Senior Nick Hall is declared the winner after pinning Charlie Grimes of Omaha Creighton Prep in 57 seconds at the state wrestling meet. Hall was one of four Scotus students wrestling for Columbus High at the state meet last month. See page 6 for more pictures.

Columbus area, Scotus not immune to drug problem

Amy Ellingson
Staff Reporter

Within the past few years, Scotus has had the pleasure to listen to several talented speakers address some of the problems that teenagers face today. Topics have included abortion, premarital sex, eating disorders, and most recently, the horrors of bullying. These are all relevant problems that any Scotus student could have to deal with, but is there a bigger problem that has yet to be addressed?

The concern about drugs is one of the most important facing the nation's youth today, and although D.A.R.E covered the basics in grade school, Scotus may need a refresher course.

Drug-sniffing dogs have graced the school's halls more than once, and some students, past or present, aren't strangers to rehab. Do these factors mean that Scotus actually has a drug problem?

> **"Just because we're living in the Midwest doesn't mean that we're completely sheltered."**
>
> **-Jeff Olmer**

To try and find out how common drug use really is, about half of the high school student body (127 students) were given a survey which asked basic questions like "Have you used marijuana?" and "In your opinion, which drug is most dangerous?"

The survey reported that 25% of high school students at Scotus have tried marijuana at least once. Other illegal drugs besides marijuana have been tried by 7% of respondents.

Jeff Olmer, a sophomore who may be called the "average Scotus student," had his own reactions after seeing the outcome of the survey.

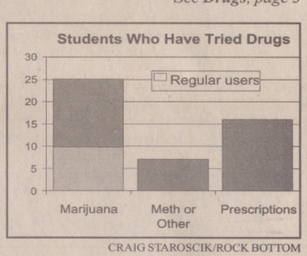
"I thought the results were pretty accurate," Olmer said, "but I didn't know that many people did drugs at Scotus."

As far as the school's drug problem is concerned, Olmer said he believes Scotus has the same amount of users as any other school in the nation has.

"Kids here are just like kids from anywhere else," Olmer said. "Just because we're living in the Midwest doesn't mean that we're completely sheltered."

Everyone at Scotus will have their own opinions about the survey results and about drug use in general, but the best outlook about the subject will come from one

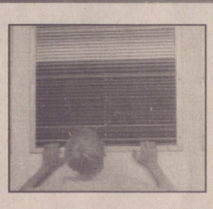
See Drugs, page 3



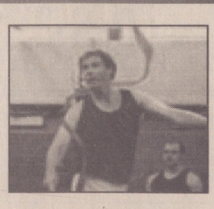
CRAIG STAROSCIK/ROCK BOTTOM

Findings based on a survey of 127 Scotus students.

The search is on for the meaning of hallway vents
Page 4



***Old School* delights viewers**
Page 5



Vet clinic proves to be worthy job, but not for the faint-hearted

I could never be a waitress. I hate cleaning up after people. The thought of dirty dishes and spit-up food from strangers disgusts me.

Luckily, I am not a waitress. At my job there is no dirty silverware or balled up napkins or lousy tips. Given, I do have to clean up urine, blood, feces, vomit, and other unmentionables at my job, but it doesn't really bother me. The only time I've ever been really grossed out at my job is when I was emptying one of the trash bins outside and it burst and bodily waste flew everywhere. Oh, and I hate it when I am about to leave and have to clean up a huge accident in one of the cages. But other than that, I love my job.

I guess I should mention that I work at a Veterinary Clinic.

My official title is "Kennel Girl", but this title doesn't begin to describe my job duties.

I let the dogs out, feed them, give them medicine, clean the cages, sweep and mop all the floors, take out the trash, etc. In other words, I am a glorified janitor. But that's okay, because I really *really* like my job. Maybe I like it because I am interested in going to vet school. Or maybe it's because of the flexible working hours and the friendly people I work with. But mainly, it's because of the puppies and kittens.

My mother never wanted our family to have a pet because she knew that she would have to take care of it. We went through fish after fish before my sister and I broke down crying for a kitten. Finally, when I was eight years old, my mother relented and we adopted a kitten. She was the runt of the litter and more fur than body. It wasn't until recently that I discovered that my mother finally agreed to a cat because she thought cats only lived to be about ten years old. The way she figured it, the cat would be conveniently dead before my sister and I went to college. Therefore, she would not have to clean up after it after we left. My mother was saddened to hear that some cats can live to be eighteen or even thirty years old.

My official title is "Kennel Girl", but this title doesn't begin to describe my job duties.

Don't get me wrong, my mom loves the cat. Okay, deep down, my mom loves the cat. Okay, really, really, deep down and only sometimes, my mom loves the cat.

But who could blame her? The cat is obese, bulimic, and always has urinary tract infections. Not to mention the constant shedding, the crying in the middle of the night for food (even though she already has some), and the messes. Our cat is a handful. She hisses at company, only likes my dad, and knocks things off the bathroom counter. (Or, she used to. Lately, she has become too obese to jump onto the counter.)

But back to my job. I think I like working at a vet place so much because the animals there are really nice to me. Unlike my cat at home, the cats at work usually love to be held and petted. The dogs are always happy to see me and of course the people I work with are extremely nice as well. I've worked at Pet Care Specialists for about three years now and I know all the dogs' and cats' names. I know which dogs will only eat canned food, which dogs will jump on you, and which dogs will pee on the floor when you let them out of their cage.

When I go to college in San Diego, I would love to work at a veterinary clinic there. But it will be really weird not knowing all the things about the animals there that I know about the animals at Pet Care.

Of course, I'll miss the people at Pet Care, too. They are always interested in what I'm involved in and always respect me for scooping poop.

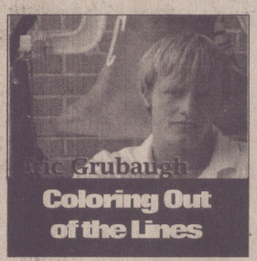
I've learned so much working there to prepare me for vet school, such as getting urine samples (don't ask), recognizing different medicines, and how to get a mean cat out of a small cage without being bitten.

Of course, I've also learned what makes a great vet clinic: skilled and friendly veterinarians, extremely nice receptionists, talented and kind vet-techs, and other nice people to work there.

But I don't consider a vet clinic perfect unless there are animals there that are always happy to see me. (Except for the blind ones, but they are happy to smell me.)

By the way, be sure to check out the play *10 Little Indians* playing at Platte March 20-23. Thurs-Sat starts at 8 pm, Sunday at 2 pm.

Dogs, as opposed to hippopotamuses, make the perfect pet



Every dog has its day. That is, of course, unless you're a dog at my house. In that case, every day is your day. In the Grubaugh household, our dogs are spoiled like no other. There's an unlimited supply of doggy treats on our counter. There's also the more-than-occasional scrap from the table. I am amazed that our 20-pound Westhighland white terriers aren't bigger than a Saint Bernard with the amount of food they get.

Man's best friend couldn't have it any better than at our house. But why are dogs man's best friend? Why not the monkey? After all we may or may not have evolved from them, right? Or why not the cat or the bird or the hippopotamus?

Why not make best friends with the entire animal kingdom? What's the big deal with the dog? There are a few reasons: availability, looks, and subservience.

I haven't seen too many monkeys wandering the trees of Columbus lately. Hippos don't seem to like the Platte River between the days of January 1 and December 31. Dogs are everywhere. They can live in America, Mexico, Canada, England, Africa, Asia, Australia, Russia…they can survive in almost any climate we can.

Man's best friend couldn't have it any better than at our house.

Therefore, they can live with us anywhere we go. Monkeys wouldn't be able to coexist with an Eskimo very well. After all there is limited swinging room in igloos and bananas are in scarce supply in frozen tundra regions.

Looks are another reason we choose the dog over some of the other animals. When you go to the zoo you never hear anyone—child, parent, or otherwise—shout out,

"Look at that beautiful hippopotamus! It's so cute covered in that mud and whatever else that is!"

Personally I wouldn't want to dig a giant mudhole in my backyard so that my hippo could wallow in it.

Plus could you imagine scooping the waste products of a hippo? I don't want to.

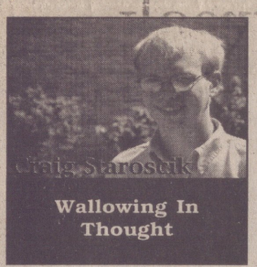
Probably the greatest factor in having the dog as our best friend is subservience. You can teach a dog very quickly and very easily to do what you say. They'll sit, stay, fetch, play dead, or tear up your sister's brand new fuzzy slippers she loves so much if you tell them to. Try ordering a cat to play dead. It will sit there and most likely completely ignore you. I don't think a bird would land long enough for you to order it around. A hippo probably wouldn't hear you because it's ears are so small and it can stay under water a lot longer than you can.

Dogs are highly dependent on their human owners; therefore, they hang around us the most. Cats and most other animals would be too independent.

Plus I really wouldn't want to pet a hippo covered in mud and whatever else that is.

The only way to get those animals to sit, stay, sit up, shake, dance, play dead, or whatever else you want them to do is bribe them with food. Wait…I guess…that's the only way we get our dogs to do anything too…

High school regrets don't have to wait until after graduation



Regret for the things we did can be tempered by time; it is regret for the things we did not do that is inconsolable. —Sidney J. Harris

My speech season is over. Actually, my speech season was over a long time ago. To say that I am upset with myself would be an understatement.

Speech is like any activity: you get out of it what you put into it. I will be the first to admit I put nothing into my speech season this year.

What caused me to conclude that I could perform a speech well without practicing it first is beyond me.

I should not dwell on the fact that I ruined this opportunity, but facing my mistakes always yields some type of regret.

It was not my own performance that I am most distraught over. My best friend, who is also on speech, worked harder on his speech than anyone I know.

He was always staying after school, squeezing in as many extra practices as he could, and his work was paying off. He placed first in some of the team's toughest speech meets of the season. I was certain he was going to state. Unfortunately, the district judges who saw his speeches didn't think so, and in the end he didn't even make finals

So, here is the setting. Craig, the speech team captain who didn't even make an effort in speech until it was too late, is sitting in the North Bend High School gym with the guy who should have been captain and should have gone to state. I felt rotten.

I consider myself a failure for a lot of reasons. Nothing hurts more than seeing someone who tries so hard and still fails.

I'm sure everyone feels that way at some time. Perhaps we regret the final basketball game that ruined our chance at state, or the time we didn't feel like studying and ended up flunking a test.

Still, Sidney Harris may be right. Those things that we try and fail at will never be as regretful as those we don't try at all: never trying out for a sport or activity, never taking that harder class, or shying away from a group who you don't understand.

I have two months of school left. After that, high school is just another memory added to the list.

I have two months of school left. After that, high school is just another memory added to the list. I'm regretting it already.

It seems that there are so many things I should have accomplished and never did. Even when I tried my hardest to get an A on that stupid physiology test or finish a cross country race in under twenty minutes, I cannot dwell on failing. However, I am already beginning to regret high school.

There are so many things I never tried, so many mistakes I never allowed myself to make, and so many mistakes I never allowed myself to overcome.

The beginning of the end is near for all of us, seniors, underclassmen, and teachers alike.

Only by acting now can ensure that we don't regret not acting tomorrow.

I'm so sorry you didn't make it to state. I'm sorry for anyone who has to live with that regret. Always keep in mind that as long as you tried, nothing is worth regretting.

ROCK BOTTOM
Scotus Central Catholic

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Make a note: assignment notebooks can be helpful or clutter

Lauren Maul
Editor

There is a pressing issue affecting Scotus students today.

Some would say that this issue is more pressing than drugs, alcohol, and even premarital sex. Keep in mind that those people don't know what they're talking about.

Is having an assignment notebook crucial in the development of today's youth?

Mrs. Carmen Johnson, a junior high religion teacher, believes that having an assignment notebook is important. She requires her students to have an assignment notebook and bring it with them to class everyday. Scotus even issues junior high students an assignment notebook bearing an ominous disclaimer demanding students to carry this entire notebook to all classes and study halls.

"I think it [the assignment notebook] helps students with their time management and organization skills," Johnson said.

Eighth graders Rob Baer and Kelsey Beiermann are among the students forced to tote around the heavy burden of an assignment notebook.

"I don't even use it in my other classes," Baer said. "But it's okay for people who don't keep track of their assignments."

"I don't like carrying it around," Beiermann said. "A few people use it [the assignment notebook] but most people don't."

Neither of the junior high students plan to have an assignment notebook in high school.

Senior Cody Fry doesn't want to imagine life without his assignment notebook.

"I get really stressed out when I lose my little book," Fry said. When asked about why he has his little book, Fry was quick with his reply.

"I like to keep track of my assignments. Duh. At the end of the day it's easier to look at my little book than think over the long day for what I have to do. Plus, I'm an overachiever."

Without his assignment notebook, Fry admits that he "would shed a tear, get out a new piece of paper, and start my life over."

Junior Ryan Ames "doesn't need" an assignment notebook.

"I remember my homework on my own," Ames said. "I'm a big boy now."

"A life with an assignment notebook would be an empty one at that. I respect their willingness to try to do their homework, but they're still losers."

Juniors Stacia Jackson and Katy Nagengast believe wholeheartedly in the wonders of an assignment notebook.

"Kids without assignment notebooks are lazy and don't keep track of their schedule," Jackson said. "My assignment notebook is a book of my life. It's Number One, just like me."

Nagengast agrees with Jackson.

"My assignment notebook is large and in charge," Nagengast said. "Without it, my life would be totally out of order, man. People without assignment notebooks are totally rejects."

Junior Jenna Vyhlidal tries to keep an assignment notebook every year but always gives it up.

"I discontinued the use," Vyhlidal said. "My life is better without it because I don't have to worry about carrying it around or losing it."

Those students with poor organization skills and need an assignment notebook are usually the ones who don't use one. Overachievers and organized members of the student body who don't need an assignment notebook usually have one. It's pure madness!

If students want this organizational tool, great. If other students can do without this meddling book, fine. When dealing with assignment notebooks it's best to keep in mind the title of Gary Coleman's excellent television show "Diff'rent Strokes" and realize that there are "Diff'rent Strokes" for different folks.

College visits help school selection process

Eric Grubaugh
Editor

It's a very grueling process indeed. There's mail to sort through, applications to fill out, essays to write, requirements to meet, factors to determine, pros and cons to evaluate, and the list goes on and on. College selection is an arduous task. There are so many factors that go in to the choice. Out of all of them, though, quite possibly the most influential is the visit.

"[The guides] try to pump up the school as much as they possibly can," senior Mike Zadina said. He said the guides will not tell you anything negative about the school.

Senior Renee Beiermann had a slightly different view.

"[The tour] is obviously mostly positive," she said, "but [the guide] will tell you something that they are working to improve. They'll tell you something if you ask them."

However prospective students do not usually base their decision solely on a guide's more-or-less biased view.

"I could usually tell right off the bat just looking around the campus if I belonged there or not," she said. "Whether or not people will come up to you and say hi or offer some input about the school helps."

Senior Angie Vavricek has many factors in mind when looking at a college.

"I really like to see the dorms," she said. "I look at the size of the class and the size of the campus. I like to see if there is technology available. Then I'm really big into whether the teachers will be available—whether you can go in and ask a question to them or if you're going to get their aide."

Senior Adam Wick also said there are a variety of influential factors.

"A lot of people base their decision solely on class or campus size," he said. "A lot of people will go to a private school because they're smaller. For me, the size of the school and surrounding town is (a) huge (factor), and also the classes that are offered."

Before degrees are framed and hung up, before the all night cramathons for tests, before one ever makes the step into the college life, they must go through the grueling process of college selection. Ciphering and filtering through an endless list of requirements, qualities, pros and cons only brings stress and more indecision. The visit may just be the most influential…and, maybe simplest of the selection factors according to Zadina.

"[The visit] makes a big difference," Zadina said, "because if you go there, and there are a bunch of jerks walking around, you're not going to go there."

Drugs: Students not sheltered

from page 1

who speaks from experience.

Scott Ridenour, a former drug addict and dealer, spent seven and a half years of his life working through a twelve-step narcotics program to become clean. Ridenour started drinking when he was seventeen and began using marijuana when he was nineteen. Eventually, one drug led to another, and Ridenour's soon found himself with an addiction and a new approach to life.

"I wanted it [drugs] so much I had to start dealing it," said Ridenour.

Over the next few years, Ridenour mainly dealt marijuana and methamphetamine, which were in highest demand, in the Columbus and David City area. His buyers would range in age from seventeen to forty years old. After some time, the police caught on to Ridenour's operation, and he was arrested while attempting to deal marijuana at an abandoned farm near David City. He was lucky though; Ridenour was only charged for the marijuana he was going to deal even though he was carrying three grams (the equivalent to ten years in jail) of methamphetamine.

Ridenour's life as an addict and dealer was over. After entering a recovery program, he got the opportunity to speak to Fremont Middle School students and outpatient groups about his experience with drugs. He has things today, like his own home and an improved relationship with his family, that he never would have had if he continued a life with drugs. He uses his past now as a way to help advise others for what they may face in the future.

"If a friend can't accept you saying no," Ridenour said, "they're not really your friends. Friends aren't running your life. You make your own decisions."

Olmer agrees on Ridenour's philosophy about peer pressure, only in a more poetic way.

"A friend with weed is one you definitely don't need."

Lent

from page 1

extreme fast changed to a modified fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, people knew something more was required," he said. "I suspect that people on their own decided what special sacrifice or sacrifices they would make for Lent's main reason."

So while lent is famous for its meatless Friday's and forced sacrifices, it's important to keep in mind the reasons in order to make it all worthwhile.

"Lent's main reason is to shape and sharpen our awareness that things of earth can never satisfy us, only things of heaven can," Bond said.

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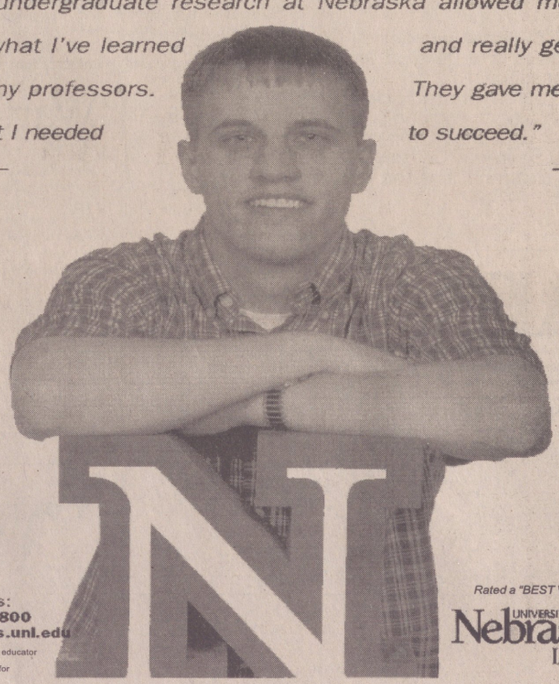
This Nebraska student is on a hot streak.

NATHAN WELLS, a senior computer science and engineering major at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and an Axtell native, was selected for the *USA TODAY* Academic Second Team, one of 20 students chosen from 500 nationwide. Wells earned the honor in part because he developed a computer program used by climatologists to monitor drought. *"The opportunity to do undergraduate research at Nebraska allowed me to apply what I've learned and really get to know my professors. They gave me the support I needed to succeed."*



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Casting a spell...

RYAN JABLONSKI/ROCK BOTTOM

The Godmother, played by senior Kristan Forney, makes Cinderella an offer she can't refuse. Forney enacted the part of the fairy godmother in the recent Scotus production of the play *Cinderella*.

Program helps Scotus girls learn about, form healthy relationships

Craig Staroscik
Editor-in-Chief

Relationships are a huge part of everyday life as a student. Hanging out with friends, partying, spending time with a boyfriend or girlfriend, or something as new as going of to college all hold the potential for a great time. The downside is that they all can present a level of danger.

Building Healthy Relationships is a program offered by Scotus that helps students understand some of these dangers. Abbie Tessendorf leads the program. She has volunteered her time for the past few years, helping organize and provide structure to the student led discussions. Group members meet several times a year to learn how to handle certain situations and how the law views different topics.

In the beginning of the year, students who signed up to participate are split into groups. With about ten members per group, they form an intimate relationship that makes it easier to share feelings and ideas on a wide variety of subjects. The group discusses not only dating relationships, but relationships with friends and sexual and alcohol abuse also. Talking to members of just one group, it is easy to get a sense of the bond they share.

"You can always hang out with your friends," senior Ashley Heesacker said, "but you can learn a lot from people outside your peers too and learn what they go through."

The meeting starts off with a statement from Tessendorf where the students talk about a word or situation's definition as defined by society, for example, how the government defines rape. The group then tells what they see wrong with this definition and why. After that, students can talk about whatever they have on their mind.

> "You can learn a lot from people oustide your peers and learn what they go through."
> -Ashley Heesacker

"It is easy to talk about student life," senior Kasey Sliva said. "We can talk to Abbie about anything and she understands. We talk about our lives, our boyfriends, or just whatever is going on."

Most members said they felt the knowledge they gained from the meetings was important to them. In these types of situations, talking about your opinions and sharing experiences with younger peers is a great tool for future relationships.

"I think it's important because everyday people are involved in this type of situation," junior Julie Wozny said. "I get a better understanding of what situations are in the law and in reality. I can take this knowledge and apply it elsewhere."

Wozny said that she learned a lot. Discussions about alcohol abuse and rape uncovered many different views she had not thought of before.

This year, Scotus offered the program only to girls due to the lack of a male instructor. Some seniors were disappointed about getting out of class for the free food the meeting offers, but current members of the girls' group think a boys' group would be worthwhile.

"In our class there are a lot of people," senior Michaela Klimes said. "If guys were exposed to [Building Healthy Relationships] it could help a lot. Guys will be going through the same thing, and just because they are guys doesn't change anything."

Relationships hold possibility for both growth and hindrance. Building Healthy Relationships offers students a chance to learn how to make the most out of these opportunities and keeping one's self safe at the same time.

"Everybody should experience it," Wozny said. "It is important for everyone to be educated because this is such a prominent subject."

Do You Smell?

The Quiz That Lets You Know if You Reek or Not.

By: Lauren Maul

1) You shower...
- A) everyday.
- B) every other day.
- C) when I can smell myself and feel nauseous.

2) Deodorant is...
- A) crucial to my livelihood.
- B) great if I remember to wear it.
- C) a faddish add on.

3) My favorite perfume/cologne is...
- A) applied in small tasteful amounts.
- B) used to make me smell better.
- C) what I bathe in. (When I bathe.)

4) People know when I have arrived because...
- A) they see me and notice a pleasant aroma.
- B) they see me.
- C) someone asks, "What reeks?"

5) I have been told that I smell...
- A) like flowers and sunshine.
- B) like nothing, really.
- C) like body waste left to steam in the sun.

If you answered mostly...

A's – You smell wonderful! Congratulations! Hygiene is your religion and you are devout in your practices!
B's – You smell pretty darn good and care enough about hygiene just enough to get by.
C's – I'm surprised you were able to complete this quiz without passing out from your own horrible stench. For the love of all that is good, just take a bath!

Mysterious vents loom in hallways

Lauren Maul
Editor

There is a mystery that has haunted Scotus students for years.

Some believe that this mystery is more mysterious than the Scotus Ghost, the Door That Leads to Nowhere, and the Cold Air Heaters combined.

Some have no idea what this mystery is.

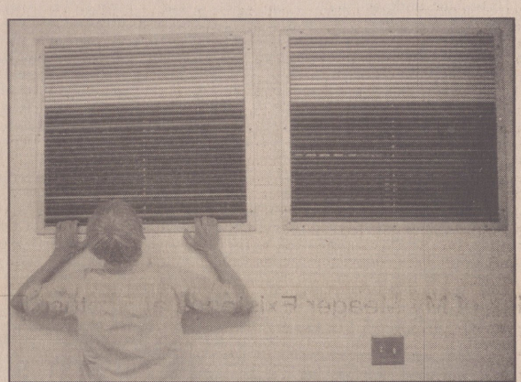
Some do not care.

But these people *should* care because this mystery has a twist.

The mystery is the Mysterious Vents on the second floor. Not just vents, but VENTS DRILLED INTO THE WALL! Yes, there are several large vents drilled into the wall near the water fountain on the second floor.

There are four vents in the wall. They measure to be exactly 31.7 inches tall and 31.7 inches wide. There is something suspicious about the convenient square shape of these vents. Even doubters must admit that there are some startling coincidences in these facts. These vents are square. They have four sides. There are four vents per floor. The number four is a PERFECT SQUARE. There are four mysterious missing seventh graders. Coincidence? (Actually, no seventh graders are missing. This fact was added to mount the tension.)

Think this is all a coincidental coincidence? Well, get a load of this: THERE ARE VENTS ON THE THIRD FLOOR AS WELL!



LAUREN MAUL/ROCK BOTTOM

A student is nearly sucked into the vents while attempting to uncover the mystery. Unconfirmed sightings of the vents have been reported on all floors of the building.

Ed Goerlinger, Head of Scotus Maintenance, explained this startling mystery in depth.

"There's an exhaust fan on top of the third story floor that moves the air," Goerlinger said. "The air is sucked through the building to outside."

Sucking air? Isn't this *DANGEROUS?*

Actually, it's not.

Rumor has it that there are similar vents on the first floor as well.

This startling fact leads intelligent people to believe that four vents on each floor (totaling TWELVE vents) suck. The sucking power of these vents is undetermined at this time.

Yet one can only deduce that these twelve vents are a dangerous mystery that has now been solved.

The conclusion to this risky mysterious mystery? These vents suck. And we mean that litterally.

War: Student opinions differ on subject

from page 1

tional Guard, and in the event of war she could be sent oversees. She wishes there was some way to avoid war through diplomacy, but is not sure if America will have that option much longer.

"There is not a good justification for war," Kozak said, "but we still have to save and protect our country. A lot of people say they just want to bomb Iraq and kill Saddam Hussein or Bin Laden, but then we're killing many innocent people at the same time."

Perhaps the most important question young recruits must ask themselves are, "What if?"

"It is a very hard time for someone my age to go out [to war]," Kozak said "They're just getting out of high school or just starting a college career and they have to leave their families to put their life at danger. But I guess that's why we joined, to defend our county."

War is never an easy topic. Those for and against it both have valid reasons to support their argument. However, the majority may still share the opinion of senior Jake Tooley, that war with Iraq is always a controversial subject and is impossible to predict the outcome.

"It isn't that we don't know much about the war, but there are two sides," Tooley said. "If we don't do anything, we risk them using weapons of mass destruction and being dangerous to us, but if we do something then we wouldn't have to worry about that, but we would have to worry about the men and women in the Army, Navy, and Air Force."

The student body won't come to a consensus, but each individual can make his or her opinion heard. President Bush is unfaltering in his decision to go to war, and the rest of the world only hopes it is the right one.

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Rock Bottom Review:

Blend of comedy and *Old School* style make a hit

Amy Ellingson
Staff Reproter

Growing old can be a hard idea to accept. Some adults choose to deal with their years in a productive way, like resolving to stay a child at heart, or they could try entirely too hard to keep their youthful appearance. In *Old School*, three friends decide to keep their on-campus house, and the lives of college students, by starting their own fraternity.

Mitch, played by Luke Wilson, is a young lawyer who is distraught to find his girlfriend, Juliette Lewis, in bed with not one, but two bondage-clad strangers, when he returns home early from a business trip. Deciding that the relationship had taken a turn for the bizarre, Mitch moves into the house of a former college professor. As part of an advertising scheme, Beanie, a long time friend of Mitch's and electronics business owner played by Vince Vaughn, throws a party at the house. Hundreds of college students attend, not to mention a few celebrities. Newly wed "Frank the Tank," played by Will Ferrell, attempts to support Mitch, but after too many drinks he truly lives up to his name. While streaking through the downtown business district, he is caught by coincidence by his wife, who later asks for a separation.

Unfortunately, the school's Dean isn't as pleased with the party as the students were, and informs the friends that the house will become school property again. This is a problem, seeing as how all three people living there will become homeless, but the friends find a loophole.

If they start a fraternity, the house and its residents will be part of a school organization and, therefore, it will remain in their possession. The fate of their Greek life lies in a test graded by the Dean that all the pledges must pass.

Old School is the type of movie that's funny because you have to imagine someone older, like your parents, in the same situation. What if my dad started a fraternity? What if my dad bonged numerous beers and then ran naked through a downtown area, only to get caught by my mother? There are many situations in the movie that would probably never happen in real life, but that's why it's so funny. Another great thing about this movie is its cast. Along with the Wilson, Vaughn, and Ferrell, Juliette Lewis, (my favorite actress), Craig Kilborn and Snoop Dogg all make appearances. Will Ferrell was my favorite out of all of them though because he manages to be to serious (he hardly ever smiles) but yet so hilarious. His *Saturday Night Live* experience has definitely paid off to make him the star of *Old School*.

For the first time in movie review history, I am giving a film all ten shamrocks. Congratulations *Old School*.

Old School

Stars: Luke Wilson, Will Ferrell, Vince Vaughn

Amy's Rock Bottom Rating:

Frank the Tank, played by Will Ferrell, uses his gymnastic skills to win back his fraternity.

Classic *Godfather* trilogy is kingpin of all gangster flicks

Ryan Jablonski
Staff Reporter

I write this to you as friends, because you show me great respect as the Godfather. Later, I will ask you all to do a service for me. And I will make you an offer you can't refuse.

A classic is a movie that will be remembered for all-time. No one will ever make one exactly like it, and no one will come close to doing any better. This classic is not just one great movie, but three.

The Godfather trilogy is one of the all-time greats in American Movies. Everyone has heard about it if not already seen at least one of them. The first *Godfather* movie has unforgettable actors such as Marlin Brando, Al Pachino, and Robert Duval.

Vito Corleoni, played by Brando, is a mob boss that comes to America from the city of Corleoni, Italy. He is a powerful man with many politicians, judges, and city administrators in his pocket. He has a daughter and three sons named Sunny, Fredo, and the youngest Michael, played by Al Pachino. Michael enlists in with the Marines during the WWII, becomes a war hero, and on his homecoming he finds his sister getting married.

Vito Corleoni is shot in the street and no one is saying whether he is alive or dead. Michael Corleoni finds out that he is in a hospital, and has been left unguarded. He has to save is father from mobsters who are out to finish the job. Even the police are out to get the Kingpin of the underworld.

The Godfather Part II gets kind of confusing. It flips back in forth in time between a young Vito Coreleoni, played by Robert DeNiro, trying to make it on the streets of New York doing legitimate work, and the present time Michael Coreleoni , who has followed his father's footsteps and is now the head of the Coreleoni crime family.

In the past, the young Vito Coreleoni gets fired from his job in the grocery store because a leader of the Black Hand's nephew needs a legitimate working job. Vito joins with two other men in stealing from houses, and they make a very good living on it.

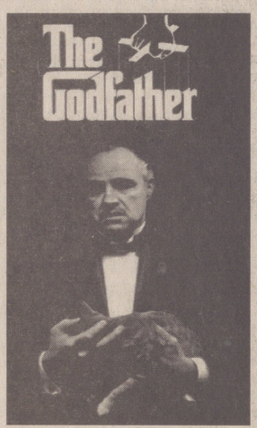
In the present time, Michael Coreleoni is traveling to Cuba to do some business with a large mob boss who is on the brink of death. He finds out that he is going to be killed by the Cuban government and is looking to kill everyone involved, everyone except his older brother Fredo.

The leader of the Black Hand is harassing Vito Coreleoni and wants a share of the money that they are making. Vito decides to do away with this menace and kills him in the hallway of his apartment. Vito then takes over the Olive Oil business and makes it big.

Michael Coreleoni is having his own trouble with the government. An old assassin of his is threatening to tell the courts about what has been going on. Michael brings a special surprise to the hearing to make the man think twice about ratting out the Mob boss.

The third *Godfather* was an excellent ending to the Godfather Trilogy. An aging Michael Coreleoni is trying to get out of the mob business. His nephew, wants into the family. Vincent Coreleoni, played by Andy Garcia, has a quick temper just like his father Sonny, and believes spilling blood is the only way to take care of his enemies. Michael and his sister Connie take Vincent under their wing and teach him the business. When a young boss decides to kill the heads of the old families, Vincent goes against Michael's orders and takes care of the problem for good.

Michael has all the members of Sicilian mob and some members of the Vatican council who have betrayed him removed. This movie ends with a shocking scene that you just can't miss.



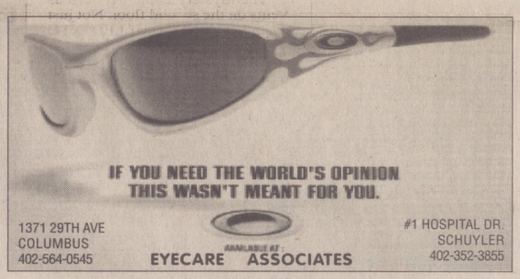
Marlon Brando stars as the Godfather in the classic movie trilogy.

Tales of My Meager Existence at Scotus

By: Lauren Maul

March	
Friday	Saturday
	1
7 SPRING BREAK!	8
14 SPRING BREAK!	15

Unfortunately, this is not a joke.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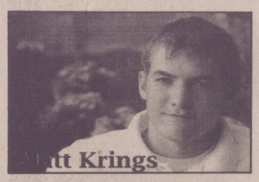


Matt Krings

Golfing world ruled by Tiger

I am Tiger Woods.

Well, not really, but I wish.

Golf, the lily-white sport once reserved for doctors on Wednesday afternoons at the stuck-up club, has become so, well...cool. One man has ushered the game into society's mainstream. The landscape of golf has changed dramatically since a 20-year-old by the name of Eldrick Woods, days after winning his third U.S. Amateur, stepped to a podium in Milwaukee to announce he was passing up his junior year at Stanford to become a professional golfer.

The fairways at tournaments are lined with children no taller than the gallery ropes. Merchandise racks are being emptied by the weekend rounds. Children are as apt to try swinging a cut-down golf club as a baseball bat. Who isn't Tiger Woods? Grandmothers are trading in knitting needles to watch him on weekends, record crowds are turning up to view PGA Tour events, and the game's television ratings are higher than ever.

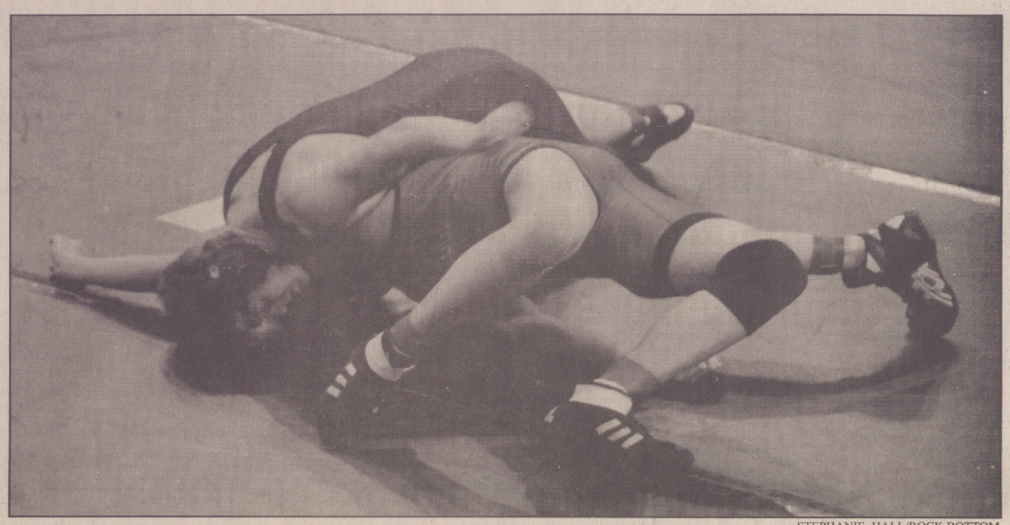
What else can be said about someone who works harder than everyone else, hits the ball further than anyone else, approaches every major like it's his last, consis-

He may surpass MJ and Ali before it's all over.

tently raises his game under pressure, possesses an insatiable drive to keep winning, seems to keep getting better with age, always handles himself with class and dignity, values his family and his parents, and plays the sport so well that he genuinely discourages his opponents? Did I leave anything out? And that has been the strangest part of the Tiger Phenomenon: *What can you say?* Watch him play golf, watch him dominate, watch the way he carries himself, watch the way the other golfers self-destruct around him ... *what can you say?* Is there anything anyone can possibly add? Here's somebody on the verge of becoming the most dominant athlete in recent memory and nobody can properly capture the moment.

When Tiger Woods leads a major going into the final day, you monitor the tournament and inevitably go on auto-pilot. It's a different sport now. You're not watching the tournament thinking, "Who's going to win?" but rather, "Could Tiger possibly self-implode?" And we may never see another golfer like him.

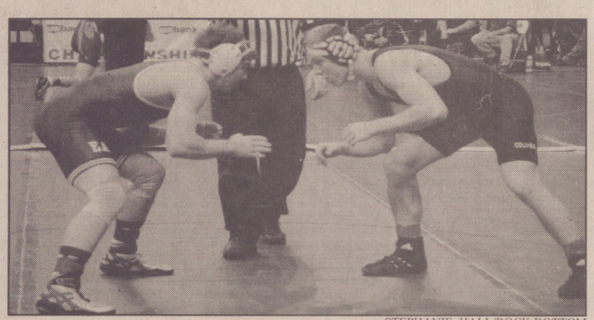
He may surpass MJ and Ali before it's over with complete and utter domination. We have never seen anything like this in any sport. He's an inspiration to us all. Kind of ruins the fun, doesn't it?



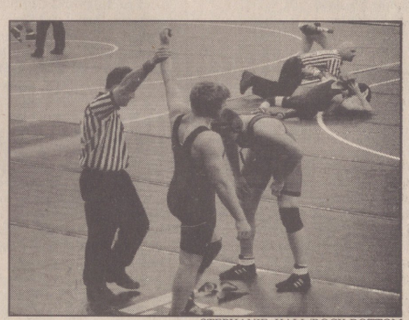
STEPHANIE HALL/ROCK BOTTOM

Senior Jason Avery twists Freedom Layman of Elkhorn into an Antler pretzel en route to 16-0 victory. Avery finished the meet 1-2 in the 215-pound weight class.

Wrestlers rock the mats in Lincoln



STEPHANIE HALL/ROCK BOTTOM



STEPHANIE HALL/ROCK BOTTOM

Left: Senior Tony Schwank (right) prepares to do battle with Keenan McCurdy of Lincoln East in the first round of the state wrestling tournament last month in Lincoln. McCurdy pinned Schwank and went on to win the state championship at 160 pounds. **Right:** Senior Jason Avery has his hand raised in triumph after his win against Layman of Elkhorn. While none of them earned medals, Scotus seniors Avery, Schwank, Nick Hall and junior Chad Trofholz helped Columbus High to a tenth-place finish at State.

Hoops take spotlight with start of championship

Ryan Jablonski
Staff Reporter

It's March Madness, baby!

Every March college basketball teams from all over the nation gear up to earn their right to be number one in the nation. Bracketology, seeds, conference champions, it's all a part of the Madness that is the NCAA tournament.

With some of the games on during school, there are only so many games that can be watched without teachers turning on the TV because they want to watch it themselves, or skipping school to stay at home and watch the action.

"There were about three classes that let us watch the tournament last year," senior Brad Bowns said, "but most of the time I just make a point to watch the games at home."

> **"How are you supposed to know if a twelve seed is going to upset a five seed?."**
>
> **-Brad Bowns**

Others have certain places to go to watch the games.

"I go to the Sports Page and watch the games," junior Joe Held said.

So the Madness has even spread to the teachers of the school, but it seems like the hype has affected the students more than anything.

"Every year we do brackets," junior Dominic Heimann said. "It's just for fun. Someone always ends up picking almost all of the games right."

Some people start thinking of their brackets as soon as the college basketball season tips off in November.

"I follow most of the teams through the whole season." Held said. "That way it is easier to know who would be able to beat who."

All the upsets that have occurred in the last two years have not helped students filling out their brackets.

"How are you supposed to know if a twelve seed is going to upset a five seed?" Bowns asked.

A lot of winning brackets can be attributed to luck, but luck and knowledge of stats and past games played is going to be the thing that will help future Bracketologists in their quest to pick the outcome of every single tournament game.

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Passing right along

CRAIG STAROSCIK/ROCKBOTTOM

Senior Josh Melliger awaits the hand-off from freshman Clint Torczon during the 3200 meter relay last Tuesday at the Scotus Knights of Columbus track meet. The two teamed up with juniors Eric Grubaugh and Kyle Torczon to win the event.

Student dress code to undergo revisions

Eric Grubaugh
Editor

Legal versus illegal pants, myriad polos, and shorts longer than your fingertips when standing with your arms at your sides. Scotus students see and hear these things every single day. Well, it's all about to change- or at least be revised.

A committee has been formed to discuss changes and revisions to the current dress code. This committee is made up of Scotus juniors Angie Kwapnioski and Canice Coan, Scotus faculty members Wayne Morfeld, Jane Dusel-Misfeldt, and Kathy Johnson, and other adults from the Scotus community. These people are discussing many minute changes, but others are not so small. Some of the changes being discussed are: new, SCC-labeled polos of specific colors, very specific brands of pants, and four-inch in-seams on all shorts (instead of the present "fingertips" standard).

"In the eleven years I have been here," Dusel-Misfeldt said, "[Scotus's] dress code has changed- I don't want to say dramatically- but quite a bit, and that has been good and bad."

Recent dress code changes have been good for students because the dress code became more relaxed, but for teachers it became a hassle.

"[Dress code changes have] been bad as a teacher because we are the ones expected to monitor it," Dusel-Misfeldt said. "There are more liberal styles, and that becomes difficult to monitor. Plus there are different descriptions of legal uniforms. I know that if you asked different teachers what 'legal pants' are, you would get a different description from each teacher."

The student representatives on the committee agree that some of the guidelines of the dress code have been pushed.

"One of the main problems is that students took the polo thing too far," Kwapnioski said. "There were too many people wearing different colors of pastel."

The current standard for polo shirts allows for pastel colors only. However, dark blue, olive green, orange and other non-pastel colored polos are a common sight in the hallways of Scotus.

The proposed solution would be to offer uniform polo shirts through the school. The polo shirts would come in three standard colors and would be monogrammed with an "SCC" label to help easily identify legal shirts. This policy would be similar to the way the school now handles the uniform sweatshirts.

As the uniform changes of old have had their ups and downs, Kwapnioski said the new uniform changes should be easy to adapt to.

"I think that it will make the teachers happy because it will be easier to monitor," she said, "and it will make the students happy because the teachers will get off their case a little bit."

There have been many problems with the definitions of "legal pants" and "pastel" colors this year, so much so that some on the committee are pushing for a dress code that would be even more strict.

"['More strict'] means something like one pants and one shirt for everyone to wear," Dusel-Misfeldt said. "We are trying to find a happy medium between that and a free-for-all. We are trying to open up our options to make the students comfortable and also make it easier to monitor."

As with the polos, whether or not these changes will work depends on the students. Dusel-Misfeldt only said that she hopes it works. Kwapnioski went a little further.

"Mostly I think that the changes will work if the students accept them," she said.

So while there will still be illegal pants, shirts, and shorts, this committee is hoping to at least define "illegal."

What's wrong with this picture?

Freshman Josh Jepsen wouldn't get far at Scotus wearing this. Can you spot all the dress code violations? Turn to page 3 for the answers.

Students "live the faith" through service program

Craig Staroscik
Editor-in-Chief

Nikki Kranz worked with children over the summer. Leading kids in bible songs and activities for a few hours a day could be a trying experience for anyone, especially when children get fussy or just overwhelming. Kranz is reminded of the best part of helping with Vacation Bible School every time she sees one of her former students run up and greet her like a best friend.

> "Service is not only important as a Christian, but because we need to help each other."
> -Joan Lahm

Like Kranz, Students at Scotus are required live out their good works in the Living the Faith program. This helps students to learn what practicing the faith is while giving them the opportunity to express their own talents and help others at the same time.

In order to pass theology, a mandatory course, students must complete twenty hours of living the faith during each year of high school and fifteen hours during their junior high years. While some students dislike trying to complete the hours, many students and teachers agree that it is a necessary part of teaching the Catholic faith.

"As a Christian we are supposed to help others; it's part of our faith," theology teacher Joan Lahm said. "Service is not only important as a Christian but because we need to help each other. Jesus has told us to love one another and help one another. You can say you have faith without good works, but good works come out from having faith."

Throughout the years changes have been made to both aid the students and help them expand their horizons. Lahm said she was happy with most of the changes, especially expecting students to get hours from community, school, and church groups. Some changes, like allowing only half of the hours to be completed during the summer, frustrated others.

"The thing about not counting all summer hours could be improved," sophomore Haley Buelt said. "It shouldn't mater when you do the hours, because you are still doing them."

*See **Faith**, page 3*

Do you take this man, for better or worse, for an 'A' or a 'C'?

Amy Ellingson
Staff Reporter

Senior year is filled with chaos. There are colleges to apply to, scholarships to fill out (and hopefully receive), graduations to plan, and in the midst of the already hectic day, senior students have to stop and wonder "Where is my wife?" or "Is my husband planning on calling the photographer for estimates on wedding photos?"

AMY ELLINGSON/ROCK BOTTOM

Adam Wick can't help but laugh as he and Tyler Roert propose to their 'wives' Angela Varvicek and Amber Chatman. The simulation is designed to give students a feel for marriage responsibilities.

Don't be mistaken. No one in the senior class (that we know of) has tied the knot yet. It has merely become time for the long – awaited Theology marriage simulation.

At the beginning of fourth quarter, Theology 12 students are asked to choose a prospective "spouse" to be their partner for the simulation. The "spouse" hunting can be a grueling process to determine the most suitable partner, or it can be a split second decision. Senior Rachel Raimondo, a participant in the simulation, chose the latter method.

"Kelly (Novicki) had two husbands, Chris Mahoney and Nathan Fisher, so I just took Nate," Raimondo said.

As soon as prospective "spouses" are found, the couple begins the engagement process. Partners must complete a series of worksheets designed to guide them through some of the same marriage preparation steps an actual engaged couple would go through.

"The ultimate goal of the simulation is to bring about an awareness of just how much work and effort goes into getting married," said the Theology 12 teacher, Brian Fuscher. " I think there's a false perception that once the question is popped, (snaps) you have a wedding like that. And once there's a wedding, (snaps again) you have a marriage."

The simulation is helping to dispel any false ideas about an easy marriage. Fisher and Raimondo have discovered what planning a marriage through the Catholic church is really like.

"We went to church and said we were engaged," Raimondo said. "Father Mark signed us up for a June 1st marriage session, and we set our wedding date for April 17, 2004. When he asked us our names we said Nathan Smith and Rachel Jones. He still thinks we're getting married."

Obviously, the marriage simulation is an interesting change of pace for the senior class.

" I think it's valuable," Fuscher said. " I also think it's a nice break for the students allowing them to do something they can easily connect with reality. Everyone has some experience with weddings – good or bad."

Valuable experience indeed. Learning about the process of marriage now can help students prepare themselves for their real weddings in the future. Furthermore, participants can develop better behavior in relationships.

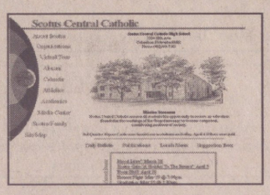
"I learned that your fiancé doesn't like it when you cheat on them," Raimondo said.

Her "husband" also found a useful lesson in the simulation.

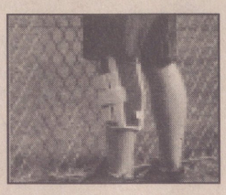
"I learned that agreeing with your wife is always the easiest way," Fisher said.

Whatever the moral of the story is, the marriage simulation is a creative way for seniors to try and master the art of matrimony. Let's just hope they'll only have to use those skills once.

A world-wide view from the Scotus web site
Page 4



How athletes sporting injuries cope
Page 6



Despite popular belief, reading IS cool! (Or at least I think it is...)

My sister told me that she never has time to read for fun at college. Between keeping up a hectic social life and studying for organic chemistry, she doesn't have the time. Given, she does manage to find the time to watch *The Bachelor* and other shows of that quality, but she can't find the time to read. You may be asking yourself: *Read? For FUN??!!??*

Yes, I am a freak that reads for fun. In fact, I must have a lot of fun because I read all the time. So it kind of scared me when my sister (who used to read a lot) told me she doesn't read for entertainment at college. But there are so many books I still need to read! And I have so little time!

This is why bookstores stress me out. For one, I want every book there but have no money. Secondly, I know that I cannot possibly read every book there. I leave the store feeling depressed and confused. But with the library, you don't need money! Hoorah! And if I don't like a book, I can just take it back! What a wonderful society we live in today!

This obsession with books began when I was a little girl. My grandma thought I was a genius because I read a book at age 4.

"She's not even in school and she can READ!" my grandma exclaimed.

Unfortunately, I just had the book in question memorized after all the times my parents had read it to me. But this reading thing really got me thinking… I could read magazines and the *American Girl* series my sister read and I could read billboards and store signs and never accidentally walk into the men's restroom again!

I can remember sitting in Mrs. Bruns' first grade classroom giddy with the thought of my future power thinking: *This is it! I will read! Mwhahaha!*

After that, no book was safe. My parents had to hide all the questionable reading material (which at

Yes, I am a freak that reads for fun. In fact, I must have a lot of fun because I read all the time.

the time was just a book about pregnancy tips called *A New Life*). In third grade I read *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.* I didn't really get it at the time but I closed the book having a massive crush on Huck.

Later that year I saw the movie and anyone from my St. Isidore's class can tell you about my unhealthy obsession with Elijah Wood (who played Huck in the movie).

After reading Mark Twain I read Judy Blume. Just a warning here: **if you are 8 years old or younger, don't read *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret* because that book will disturb you in indescribable ways and make you unhealthily anxious about puberty.**

If you're going to read compulsively, please don't just read one author. I made that mistake with V.C. Andrews and the entirety of my eighth grade career was spent reading all of her books over and over.

(If you've ever read her books you must know that it was not a healthy thing for a fourteen-year-old.)

I've gotten into the neurotic habit of writing down every book I finish and the date I finish it on. (I'm sort of addicted to that sense of completion reading brings.)

Looking back over the list (and yes, I do have a book ranking system) I realized that I read no less than four books a month. That's about a book every week. That's kind of sick.

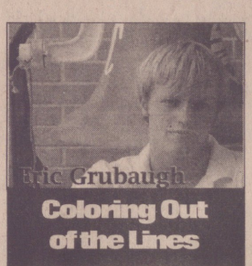
But now I will share with you my favorite books that I've read this year.

The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger
Invisible Monsters by Chuck Palahniuk
The Last Time They Met by Anita Shreve
Bluebeard by Kurt Vonnegut
She's Come Undone by Wally Lamb
Something Wicked This Way Comes by Ray Bradbury
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith
Joy School by Elizabeth Berg
The Awakening by Kate Chopin
One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest Ken Kesey
The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold

(I highly recommend that everyone read at least one book by Chuck Palahniuk, Kurt Vonnegut, or Anita Shreve.)

Of course these are not all of my favorite books but they are indeed great books that I have recently read. If you are smart, you will read at least one of these. If you are incredibly smart, you already have.

Drawing conclusions more beneficial than memorizing facts



If you've heard it once you're going to hear it at least a million and one times. Today's world is constantly changing. It is the age of progress. Today your computer is brand new…tonight it's already printed for yesterday's news.

We advance so quickly because of not only the information we obtain but largely because of the human ability to reason and draw conclusions from that information. To memorize each detail would cause you to fall behind. No one likes to fall behind, but in school it seems we are being taught too much information to memorize and not enough to use to draw conclusions.

Volume equals pi times the radius squared. Put "i before e." $E = mc^2$. All of these are rules and formulas students have learned or at least heard of throughout their lives.

For those of you who remember these rules, why do you remember them? Because they're short? Because they've been drilled into your head day after day, year after year, and you eventually got the hint and memorized them? Why should it be that way in school?

That way is that students have rules and formulas and facts and information hurled at them at 186,000 miles per second, and they don't have any clue from where all of these facts came or why they even need to know them.

Should there be more teaching of logic, reasoning, and inferencing in school rather than of mainly facts and information?

Students can memorize fact after fact after fact, formulas galore, and a plethora of rules, laws, and theorems. However, memorizing has its limits. What happens if a student, on the test, forgets that $pi*r^2$ is the formula for the area of a circle and they use it for the volume of a sphere instead, or on their English paper that "i before e does not apply after c?". Even though those have been repeatedly smashed into their minds, wouldn't it be better if the student knew how to derive that formula or rule instead of being forced to memorize?

That way, even if they forget the actual formula, the student can develop that formula through a certain process. If you are just told that that is the correct formula, however, there is nothing you can do if you forget it.

And if it is a general rule to follow, like "i before e except after c," and there really is no way to derive it, then maybe students need to be given a reason as to why we use that rule. Why is it e before i when coming after c?

The number pi is used in an abundance of formulas for circles and spheres. Pi is about 3.14. Pi never ends or repeats as a decimal. These are common facts students are told about pi. So what? Why do we use it in these formulas? Did the person who discovered pi simply have a whole load of free time on their hands? Why was there a need for the number pi in that person's day or field?

Why is it necessary for me to know it? These are just some of the questions that myself and maybe (hopefully) some other students have.

Everyone who has taken geometry remembers fondly those grand days of proofing.

Wouldn't it be better if the student knew how to derive that forumula or rule instead of being forced to memorize?

Writing out every single step and having a justification for each and every step was something that every student looked forward to every day. For those of you who have not yet taken geometry…have fun.

But even though those geometric proofs were so tedious, maybe they had some merit to them after all. Justifying each step gets the student to not only recall the rules and theorems and formulas they've had thrown at them, but to also see where these rules apply and how they fit in and can be used with other rules and formulas to draw conclusions.

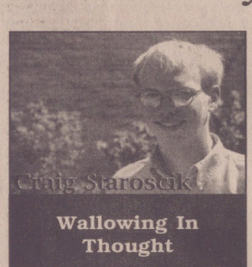
Now, it is easiest to pick on the math department for this topic because where else do you get more formulas and theorems thrown at you?

However, there seems to be a weakness for reasoning and conclusion drawing in every area of school. The SAT is a reasoning test, and many colleges look more heavily on this test than the ACT because they want students who can reason rather than memorize.

The SAT is riddled with questions that require the test-taker to draw conclusions from given information rather than simply answer questions about the information. Drawing conclusions from information is going to be much more important to a student's future than simply memorizing the actual information.

The real world is constantly changing, moving, and advancing. A person needs to be an adaptive learner. You need to learn quickly and think ahead using what you have learned before and are learning at that immediate moment. You cannot take the time to memorize every single detail or else you will fall behind. Are we getting enough of this adaptive learning in school…or are we falling behind?

Scientific hypothesis on behavior regarding entertainment values



Welcome to Student Behavior 101.

Actually, I wouldn't be much of an expert on this subject, although I think it would be an interesting class to take. Unfortunately, Scotus doesn't offer this class, so I'm forced to learn from outside experience alone.

This situation poses special difficulties for myself. Despite being a student for the past 14 years of my life, I still cannot explain my or other students' characteristic behavior. I have always been better at textbook learning. Give me the resources and instructions, and I can teach myself how to do most anything. When it comes to learning based solely on personal experience, I'm uncertain, possibly because in my case, the experimental data never matches my hypothesis.

For example, I recently did a study on entertainment values of students. Now, before I describe my procedure, let me assure you that just because I live a sheltered life does not mean I my parents cryogenically freeze me every night when I get home to protect me from the outside world. I state this information because earlier this month I watched my first episode of *Saturday Night Live.*

Actually, I didn't even watch the whole episode, but it was the largest portion of the show I had ever seen in a single sitting. I had heard so much about the program from my peers that I was actually curious to see if it was as humorous as lunchroom discussions had made it sound. I looked at watching *Saturday Night Live* as more of an experiment than watching for entertainment purposes.

Conclusion: I found *Saturday Night Live* to totally lack humor. I laughed at parts, because everyone else laughed, but I didn't find it to be funny at all.

This concerns me for two reasons. First of all, now all of my friends may be fretting if I'm only hanging around with them to test my theories on their behavior. More importantly, I may have developed a very serious and possibly deadly disease. I'm beginning to realize just how different I am from everyone. I don't think television shows like *Saturday Night Live* are funny. In fact, I don't like television much at all. I would rather read a good book than watch TV any day. I like running. I worry about my cholesterol intake, though I'm not even twenty years old yet. Worst of all, I sometimes enjoy calculus, even though I don't always understand it perfectly.

I looked at watching *Saturday Night Live* as more of an experiment than entertainment

Preliminary indications suggest these irregular emotions are only the result of personal preference and do not insinuate the presence of any abnormality, physiological or emotional. Still, the scientific data does not rule out the possibility that my characteristic opinions are dissimilar due to a brain deformation previously undocumented by the science world.

To determine which is the more likely case, I'm requesting help from my control grou-, err, peers. If you have a tape of a *Saturday Night Live* that is actually funny (as opposed to sexist, racist, anti-Semitic, or lewd), please get me a copy so I can confirm the supposed hilarity found in the program. Better yet, you could confess to me that the show really isn't funny and the majority of people are only involved in a conspiracy to make me think that it is. Anything spoken about this topic is, of course, off record.

If no one steps forward, I am going to be a little worried. I'll try not to sweat it. Next year, when I take my student behaviors course in college, I'm sure all of my questions will be answered.

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ROCK BOTTOM

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From devious to ingenious, April makes fools of us all

Lauren Maul
Editor

Where has this foolish day known as April Fool's Day originated from? Unlike Valentine's Day, we cannot blame the greeting card company on this one.

It turns out that in sixteenth-century France, the new year was observed on April first. In 1562, Pope Gregory introduced a new calendar that had the New Year on January first. Some people didn't believe that New Year's Day really changed, so they kept on celebrating the dawning of the New Year on April first. Hence, these people were known as "April Fools." Other people made fun of them and sent them on "fool's errands" or played tricks on them.

In modern day France, April first is known as "Poisson d'Avril." French kids fool their friends by taping a paper fish to their backs. When the kid with the fish on his back discovers he's been had, he screams out "Poisson d'Avril!" (or April Fish!) Who knows where the fish idea came from?

In any case, April Fool pranks are fun. Scotus students took delight in their pranks this year.

Junior Samantha Prokupek played a risky trick on chemistry teacher Jane Dusel-Misfeldt this year. (By the way, "Mole Money" is the paper money handed out in chemistry to use as extra credit on tests.)

"We wanted to play a trick on Mrs. Dusel so we [Ryan Ames and I] stole all the Mole Money and hid it in our lockers," Prokupek said. "When she found out she yelled at Ryan Ames and he gave back all of the tens and fives but I still had all the ones. Then Mrs. Dusel said that if anyone knew who took the ones to turn them in otherwise 'no more Mole Money.' I turned in the ones and blamed the whole thing on Ames. I said that he put the ones in my locker. Mrs. Dusel told us that she had a sense of humor but that Mole Money was not a joke. I told her that Mole Money was just paper."

Junior Ryan Ames (Prokupek's partner in crime,) also had a humorous April Fool's day prank to tell about.

"My sister had one of her guy friends call my dad and say that she got caught with illegal substances in her dorm room," Ames said. "They said she might get kicked out of college. My mom and dad sat down and talked about it for over an hour and then they called my sister. When my sister answered the phone she had all her friends yell 'APRIL FOOLS' into the phone."

Sophomore Andy Hadland pulled a prank this year on the Hy-Vee parking lot.

"I was driving past Hy-Vee with free chocolate fries on the top of my car and people started running after me."

Senior Ryan Zegar is no stranger to April Fools pranks since his birthday is on April first. But even though it was his birthday, Zegar still got pranked.

"Kyle Fritz and his dad used some tomfoolery on me and Tyler Roewert," Zegar said. The complex prank involved Fritz's dad pretending to be angry at Zegar and Roewert for messing with the light bulbs in the basement.

When asked about pranks that didn't work out Zegar was quick with a reply.

"It didn't work," Zegar said, "but one time I put Saran Wrap over the toilet seat for my brother. Unfortunately, my sister caught me."

One of the most successful pranks to take place this year also involved the mischievous Zegar. The prank involved not only some sly thinking, but also solid teamwork between two of the most unlikely sources.

Boys Head Soccer Coach Tammie Tonniges was starting off her morning like any other when she got a call from Principal Wayne Morfeld. Morfeld explained that three gentlemen had gotten into some trouble the night before and that she would be receiving a call from them during the day. Tonniges feared the worst. She started writing up new line-ups for the team and trying to schedule a roster without three senior starters. She even called assistant coach Brian Fuscher to tell him she was taking off her lunch hour to come and talk to the team.

Shortly before school got out, Tonniges received another call from Scotus. This time Zegar was on the other side. He explained how April first was his birthday and some of his friends were out partying. Tonniges was about to give him a lecture when Zegar simply said, "We're joking."

"They took me hook, line, and sinker," Tonniges said. "I usually don't fall for those kind of jokes, but they really got me good."

Tonniges took the title of April Fool with a grin, but said that payback comes in interesting forms.

No matter what kind of prank you pull, just remember to savor the moment. Remember: April Fool's Day comes just once a year.

What's wrong with this picture?

from page 1

How did you do? If you spotted all the uniform infractions, chances are you'll be more prepared for next year's dress code changes.

ERIC GRUBAUGH/ROCK BOTTOM

Freshmen Nicole Sobotka and Kelly Ingram rake the pit at a junior high track meet recently to fulfill the school hours category of the living the faith requirement. Each high school student must complete 20 hours per year of service.

Faith: Good works help the community

from page 1

Like Kranz, Buelt has completed many of her hours help with Vacation Bible School over the summer. She has also helped out with events like the Relay for Life. While she does not view the system as perfect, she still said that overall, the program was a benefit.

"I think it is a good thing," Buelt said. "It helps get kids involved with the community instead of just school, and it gives them a chance to help other people. It can help for job interviews, and it helps you to be able to work with other people."

Not all students share Buelt's opinions of the program. Eighth grader Danny Johnson said that he did not like fulfilling the hours at times. There are aspects which he enjoyed, such as helping with soccer organizations. Other times, he said it does not seem to make sense.

"I really don't want to do it," Johnson said, "but I guess it's for the goodness of everybody. I guess you need to do it."

Living the Faith can be a burden or an opportunity. Many see it as a chance to help others and learn important life skills. Outside the student body, others see it as an accomplishment on the part of the student body.

"For me, keeping track of the living the faith program is a way to appreciate some of the many activities that Scotus students do outside of school," Father Bill Bond, who is in charge of the program, said. "Recognizing their volunteer work gives me something to take pride in the students."

Whether it is seen as an opportunity or burden, living out the faith is truly a chance to show one's faith through good works.

Rock Bottom places third in NSAA state competition

The Scotus *Rock Bottom* placed third in this spring's Class B state journalism contest sponsored by the Nebraska School Activities Association. The contest is scored by rating entries from student journalists in 19 newspaper and yearbook categories. Scotus scored 15 points in the contest, but was edged out by Omaha Gross's 18 points for the state runner-up trophy. However, Scotus did improve one spot from last year's fourth place finish. McCook High School won Class B with 32 points.

The staff of the *Rock Bottom* also garnered several individual awards. Editor-in-chief Craig Staroscik placed in five events, including earning state champion honors in the black and white photography and headline writing categories. Staroscik placed second in newspaper layout and column writing and third in editorial writing.

Eric Grubaugh also placed in multiple events. He was awarded second place in sports feature writing for a story he wrote in spring of 2002 on volleyball coach John Petersen. Grubaugh's coverage of a wrestling dual this winter won him third place in sports news writing. He also placed third in headline writing.

The top 12 placers regardless of class qualify to compete in the state finals in Lincoln on May 3. Staroscik qualified in black and white photography, editorial writing, headline writing, and newspaper layout. Grubaugh will represent Scotus in the sports feature writing and headline writing categories.

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Web design class gives world access to Scotus

Craig Staroscik
Editor-in-Chief

Sitting half a world away, a man in a south Berlin office explores the halls of Scotus, checks out the soccer team's current success, reads up on tomorrow's lunch, and gets a glimpse of funny looking man in green scaling a vertical three story wall. How is this possible? It is none other than the combination of the Internet and student ingenuity.

In a world driven by new technology, Scotus has the ability to flaunt its own technological talents online. One of the best ways of doing this is through the student-run Scouts web site, which can be found at www.scotuscc.org. For the past four years, members of the web design class have been improving and maintaining the world-wide link to the school.

> "I knew nothing about it when we started... we learned together."
> -Bonnie Kreikemeier

The web site has a fairly short history. It began several years ago as a two-page site run by the media center supervisor. It expanded into eight pages when Mike Arp, a student at the time, got the notion to improve it by himself. It was not until the web design class was introduced and students began to work on the site that it really took off. The first class consisted of a few creative minds, an instructor who learned as fast as the students, and an ambition.

"I knew nothing [about web design] when we started," class instructor Bonnie Kreikemeier said. "The students knew a little bit, and we learned together. It was a small site, but it was more than we had before."

Kreikemeier and Cathy Podliska share in the role of teaching the course. In seven semesters it has evolved from eight pages with basic information to a sprawling site with over 200 pages, including everything from calendars to current events to a virtual tour of the building. The students are in charge of updating the site in September and maintaining it thoughout the year. Each student is placed in charge of a specific area, but the students also collaborate together for larger parts of the site. The class also works on a number of other projects involving web design.

"We spent the first part of the year working on updating the site," senior Cody Fry said. "The second semester we learned about programs to help us improve sites. We finished other sites and made our own web pages."

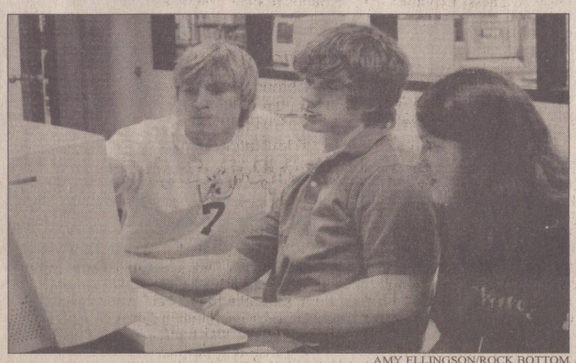
Students have helped other teachers create their own web sites to give students more access to classroom curriculum. Currently, the students are working on integrating programs like Paint Shop into the layout of the page. One of the more challenging parts of the class is learning to decipher the world of HTML, the computer language that students use to set up the site.

"Instead of moving pictures where you want, you have to know the code to get the pictures to move where you want," senior Renee Beiermann said about learning HTML.

Many of the students, including Beiermann, plan to use the class in their future, either for web or for other computer-related design jobs. Computer media is one of the fastest growing fields in the workplace. The web design class offers students a chance to get a feel for producing online media and helps develop skills need for later study. Other students may not specifically want a career in computing, but the class still develops skills useful in today's world.

With the end of the year drawing closer, the team still has ideas for next year's class. Podliska said she hopes to continue developing the site into a study tool for parents and students, and even some day make grades and other student information available online. The students also hope to utilize newer forms of media, like video and interactive features to make the site even more impressive. More features requires more work, but with the job the students have done so far, their goals seem within reach.

"I think the site looks good," Fry said. "Everyone has put in a lot of effort and it looks great. We have gotten a lot of compliments from people telling us how much they like the site, so we must be doing something right."



AMY ELLINGSON/ROCK BOTTOM

Seniors Dustin Becher, Tyler Weinand, and Renee Beiermann ponder the next step to take for Scotus' web page. Over the years the Scotus web site has grown to contain over 200 pages.

Squirrel inspires senior English class

Lauren Maul
Editor

Every great artist had a muse.

Even Kelly Schaad's AP English class has a muse. This muse of theirs is written about in vocabulary sentences, English papers, and even a book. The class talks about their muse at least once every day. And sometimes, if the class is lucky, this muse visits Schaad's second floor window to pay them a visit.

This muse is none other than Biff the Squirrel.

"Biff would come last year in the spring a lot," Mrs. Schaad said. "He comes more this year though and stays longer. He's not as shy."

But the squirrel now called Biff was unnamed last year. Senior Nate Fisher was the mastermind who christened the squirrel "Biff."

"It's a cool name," Fisher said. "It's like a name you would put on a bowling shirt, like 'Gus' or 'Joe'."

Every year the AP English class writes a book where each student contributes a chapter. This year the main character was obvious: Biff. In the story (and in real life) Biff is quite the ladies man.

"I don't like him," senior Adam Wick said. "He steals all the ladies."

And indeed Biff does steal all the ladies.

"He **IS** the ladies man," said Fisher. "He is like Leon Phelps (SNL's Ladies Man) in squirrel form."

Biff makes his much anticipated appearances to Schaad's window about two or three times a week.

"Everything stands still when Biff visits," Schaad said. "We all frantically run to the window."

When Biff was approached for questioning, he couldn't say anything regarding his appearances. But he did have a look in his eye that seemed to say nothing if not "What's up, AP English? How *you* doin'?"

As a whole, the AP English class loves their muse and it seems that their muse loves them.

Although many students would like to keep Biff as a pet, Schaad said that Biff is best left to the wilderness.

"He would be a nice outdoor pet," Schaad said, "but as for taking care of him indoors, I wouldn't want to."

Every day that goes by with no Biff appearance the AP English class goes home feeling unfulfilled. But when Biff does show his sunny, furry face, the world makes sense again.

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Rock Bottom Review:

Catcher far from fulfilling this movie critic's dreams

Amy Ellingson
Staff Reporter

To me, the word "dreamcatcher" implies Indians. If it were given as the title of a movie, I would make the educated guess, hypothesis if you will, that the movie would have something to do with Native Americans. Before viewing *Dreamcatcher*, Steven King's latest film, I guessed that it could deal with an ancient Cherokee curse, or disgruntled Sioux ghosts back from the grave to seek revenge on the white man. But when I actually saw *Dreamcatcher*, I discovered that my guesses were horribly wrong.

Dreamcatcher
Stars: Morgan Freeman, Jason Lee, Damian Lewis, Donnie Wahlberg, Tom Sizemore, Timothy Olyphant
Amy's Rock Bottom Rating:

Dreamcatcher begins with a group of prepubescent boys (Henry, Beaver, Jonesy, and Pete) who rescue a handicapped boy named Duddits from being beaten by two riotous football players. Duddits, possessing special powers, passes them on to the heroes that saved his life.

Up to this point, I truly believed that I understood the movie, but soon the friends go on their annual hunting trip. The theme of the movie completely shifts from the Duddits in their past to aliens that murder people.

When they first start arriving at the cabin, Jonesy finds a lost hunter and, being as caring as he is, takes him to the cabin to recover. After some impressive flatulence, he realizes that the lost hunter is extremely sick, and despite this, he leaves him alone for a short time to find Beaver, played by Jason Lee. When the pair returns, they discover a savage worm-like alien has come out of their guest, leaving only his corpse behind. Although Beaver attempts to trap the beast in the toilet bowl, he soon suffers the same fate as the hunter. After a frightening encounter with one of the aliens, Jonesy's mind apparently becomes possessed. Meanwhile, the government is hastily working to control the spread of the aliens. Morgan Freeman plays an agent who seems to be in charge, and extremely knowledgeable about the aliens, but by this time I was heading towards the door.

Warner Brothers Pictures
Two of the characters from *Dreamcatcher* stare as the entire forest empties of animal life. This same type of behavior was demonstrated by film critics while watching *Dreamcatcher*.

I was extremely disappointed with *Dreamcatcher*. I thought, based on its author and cast, that this movie was worth my six dollars, but sadly, I was mistaken. The movie was a mess of ideas that never actually came together. Don't blame Stephen King though. He is a brilliant writer. He has made many movies that have become my favorite thrillers (*Carrie* and *The Shining* just to name two), and I give him credit for his story. I've been told the book *Dreamcatcher* is a first-class novel. To me, this is just a story with potential that Hollywood ruined. Sorry Steve, but I'm giving *Dreamcatcher* a 1.

The Rock Bottom Movie Awards

The Rock bottom is sponsoring an awards contest for your favorite movie memories of the past year. Fill out the nomination form below and place it in the envelope outside Mr. Areneal's room by Wednesday. From your list of nominations, we will compile a list of four or five nominations and have the student body vote on the nominees within the next weeks. Movies must have been in theaters within the past year to be eligible.

RBMA nomination form

Your nomination for:

Best Overall Movie:_____

Funniest Movie:_____

Scariest Movie:_____

Best Action Film:_____

Best Chick Flick:_____

Best Comic Actor/Actress:_____ (in) _____

Best Actor:_____ (in) _____

Best Actress:_____ (in) _____

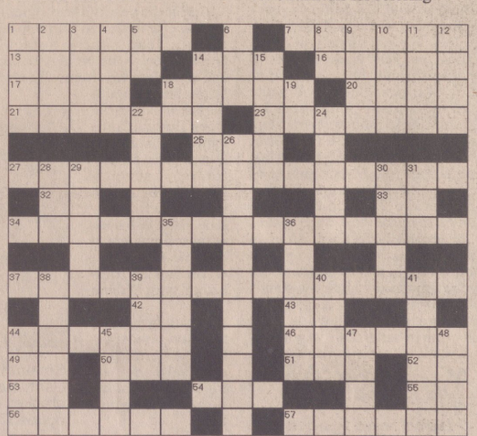
Your name:_____ Grade:_____

SCOTUS ✝ WORD

BY CRAIG STAROSCIK

Across:
1. Place the insane go for treatment
7. Crazy
13. Lord of the ____
14. A cry
16. Water in the desert
17. Used to tie things
18. Strong smelling chemical
20. A fight
21. To perform surgery
23. To exceed
25. Department of Economic Opportunity (abbreviated)
27. Went crazy misplacing thaws?
32. Wash closet (abbreviated)
33. Early release (abbreviated)
34. Can't make breakfast if you're: _____ omelet
37. A dark room or describing a blank mind?
42. Radio Grade (abbreviated)
43. Not available (abbreviated)
44. Place where students go insane
46. Possessed or overly desiring
49. Oklahoma (abbreviated)
50. Less than two but more than zero
51. Asian currency
52. Pirate greeting
53. Alabama or aluminum
54. Dominated by the id
55. Southeast
56. Soft silver metal
57. Holes for food

Down:
1. A big style of hair
2. The rate of change
3. Sharp cry associated with small dogs
4. Glare
5. You and I
6. Sense of humor (abbreviated)
8. Not yes
9. A cornmeal mush
10. On or towards the sea
11. More than one nothing
12. Agreements: y____
14. Blackbeard rival: Bonnet ____
15. Broom used in curling
18. Extra Terrestrial
19. Ruthenium
22. With, aside
24. Something scare: ____y
26. Study of the end of the world
28. To possess
29. Part of an act
30. Excess food: ____vers
31. A time period
35. A laugh
36. Lateness: t____
38. To distract in a sport
39. Metal used in steel
40. Uncommon
41. To let loose
44. Used in cleaning
45. Object Oriented Data Technology (abbreviated)
47. Rupture of a blood vessel:___rism
48. Chemicals for coloring



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Matt Krings

$port$ losing touch with everyday fans

Back when big league baseball really was our "national pastime," it was also a sport in which a person could spend any ol' evening showing up at a ballpark for a night's entertainment. The guy who carried a lunch pail to work could go to the ballpark at night and for a couple of bucks, get a decent seat, a hot dog and a beer, and cheer for guys they admired and respected. Today, a couple of bucks won't get you into the parking lot.

Big league baseball, as we know it today, couldn't exist without all the luxury suites these new ballparks provide. With some team payrolls now exceeding $100 million, the bleacher bucks mean little any more. Professional sports salaries have skyrocketed to levels that

Shaq could earn $450 for a three-second call.

the average Joe just can't comprehend. For instance, last season Alex Rodriguez of the Texas Rangers earned $22 million. That translates to $135,802 per game or $35,256 per at-bat. A-Rod can step to the plate, pop up the first pitch and earn more for that at bat than the normal working stiff will see on his annual W-2 statement. Plus, every big league players get four months of vacation and are sitting down watching during almost half of every work shift.

And baseball players wonder why fans never see their side during strike talks.

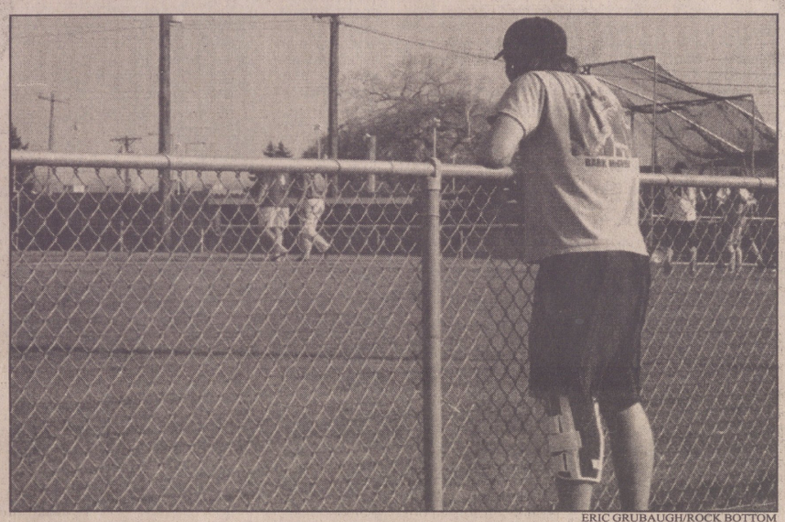
It's not just the average Joe that is getting cheated out of these huge sums of money professional athletes are making.

President George Bush earns $400,000 to be the leader of the free world.

If he could serve 14 four-year terms, the president - sometime right after his 110th birthday - would have earned as much as the Rangers' shortstop's annual salary.

Professional athletes have always earned more than the common man, but the gap between the two keeps widening every year. The NBA - with players like Kevin Garnett and Shaquille O'Neal now earning around $25 million a year - has also lost touch with the average Joe. Garnett's salary of $25.2 million this year is the highest in the league, and the second-highest of all-time. O'Neal will make $23.6 million this year, part of his 10-year, $208.5 million contract that goes through the 2006 season. O'Neal, who missed 15 games last year, earned $8,860 per minute of playing time last season. It takes the average Joe almost three months to make what Shaq makes in 60 seconds. Heck, on this pay scale, the Lakers' center can earn about $450 for a three-second call. By the time the average Joe stands in line 10 minutes to spend 10 or 12 bucks on a beer and a hot dog, Shaq will bring in better than $80,000.

SITTING OUT



ERIC GRUBAUGH/ROCK BOTTOM

Junior Jon Scholz watches his teammates practice while he sits out with a broken leg. The injury, which happened during an earlier game when a base runner slid into him, is his second major injury in as many years.

Injuries teach athletes patience, love of the game

Ryan Jablonski
Staff Reporter

The final season of Scotus athletics is upon us. Looking back at the rest of the year brings back memories of a football team that wouldn't quit, a volleyball team that shined once again, a girls cross country team lead by underclassman, and a boys team that was more than just outstanding compared to past years. Girl's golf went for the flagstick but all individuals fell just short of the cup at state. Then there were the basketball teams, with the boy's team stepping it up at the end of the year, and girls team falling just short in the end. There were four state qualifiers for wrestling, and a swimming team that made a splash. Now it all comes down to the spring sports with powerhouse soccer teams, track stars, new golfers stepping into varsity roles, and the baseball season has getting into full swing.

With all this excitement and ups and downs of each season, there remains one constant: injuries.

Sitting out is a major loss to any athlete. Players want to be on the field or court helping their team. Senior Tony Bogus had to sit out parts of two seasons this year. During a summer football camp, he tore his ACL, causing him to miss all of football season. Then a couple of weeks into basketball season, he suffered a deep thigh bruise that caused him to miss about a third of that season.

"(Getting hurt a second time) was just ridiculous," Bogus said. "I was going to miss almost half my senior year of sports. It started to anger me."

Sitting out to nurse an injury can be frustrating, but Bogus said that it's more important to make sure the injury is healed before attempting a comeback.

"I tried to get back as soon as I could," he said. "In fact, I may have come back too soon."

Jon Sholz, a Scotus junior who plays for the Columbus High baseball team, will miss most of the season with a broken leg he suffered when a baserunner slid into him at second base. Like Bogus, this is not the first time Scholz has missed major playing time to injury. He missed most of the high school and summer baseball seasons last year with a back problem.

"At first the trainer said that it wasn't fractured," Scholz said. "I was walking around on it that night. (What actually happened) set in the next day. My whole season flashed before my eyes."

When a player is forced to stand on the sidelines, they often see the game they are missing from a new perspective.

Bogus said that being removed from the action helped him to see some of the strengths and weaknesses of the team. Once he returned to action, he said he worked at overcoming some of those team weaknesses he saw from the bench. Scholz said he just missed playing the game.

"It's made me appreciate when I do play," Scholz said of his time on the bench due to injury. "It's shows me the love of the game."

Senior Wade Wemhoff, who broke his collarbone shortly into the soccer season, knows the impact of an injury as well as anyone.

"I was upset about the fact that I had to sit out," Wemhoff said, "but I will be back in a week or so."

Injuries rack not only individuals, but their teams as well, with non-starters having to step into starting roles. Even though it is bad to sit out, one way to get back into the game is to have a positive outlook.

Scholz said that he hopes his injuries are all behind him now.

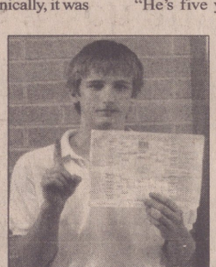
"It's bad luck," he said. "Hopefully, I'll get some good luck coming my way soon."

Syracuse, Esch both pull tourney upsets

Ryan Jablonski
Staff Reporter

Call it the year of the rookie.

This year freshman Carmelo Anthony lead the Syracuse Orangemen to the NCAA basketball championship. Ironically, it was also a first-timer at Scotus who won the Rock Bottom Tournament Challenge. Out of the 57 entrants, seventh grader Brandon Esch came from behind in the last week of the tournament to become the smartest (or luckiest) basketball guru of them all.



RYAN JABLONSKI/RB

Seventh grader Brandon Esch holds his winning bracket. Esch finished first out of 57 contestants.

Esch, who had his favorite team Kansas winning it all, said he attributes most of his victory to plain luck.

"For some of them, I just flipped a coin," he said. "I really didn't do any research or anything."

The coin flipping worked well. Esch was one of only three people who picked three of the Final Four teams correctly. He had Texas, Syracuse and Kansas playing in New Orleans, while missing on Kentucky, who lost to Marquette in the round of eight. No one had all of the final four teams picked correctly.

Junior Joe Held, a big fan of March Madness, wasn't too pleased to see a youngster walk away with the crown.

"He's five years younger than me," Held said. "I would think that I would know more about it than he would."

Held finished 48th in the contest.

Some of the upperclassmen may be jealous to be out-smarted by a seventh-grader, but at least one staff member was glad to see Esch win.

"I'm happy for him," lunch monitor Bonnie Eikmeier said. "There aren't many things that the junior high get to do with the senior high."

Eighth grader Mark Siegel was atop the standings after the first and second weekends of the tournament, but couldn't hold his lead. He finished second after not picking any of the Final Four games correctly. A lot of people were in the same boat as Siegel late in the tournament. No one picked a Syracuse-Kansas final, and only three people correctly picked Syracuse to win it all. Senior Ryan Zegar, junior Eric Grubaugh, and seventh grader Jaisa Gutierrez were the only ones with the Orangemen winning it all.

It was not just the boys and faculty in the school that took part in the contest. Five female students took part in the bracket challenge, and they held their own quite nicely. All five girls finished in the top half of the contest. The leader of the girls was seventh grader Melissa Pekny, who tied for third with 74 points.

The faculty was a big part in this challenge also. History teacher Sean Wickham lead seven faculty members with a ninth place finish. Activities Director Gary Puetz finished second among faculty with 66 points, good for 19th place overall.

The tournament challenge also featured some sibling rivalry. Maybe the biggest upset came with the Micek brothers. Kevin Micek, and eight-grader finished higher than his older brother, Steve, a senior. Kevin scored 63 points and 26th place, with his older, supposedly wiser brother Steve finished with 60 points and 34th place.

March Madness 2004 is only ten months away. There's recruiting season, summer leagues, preseason tournaments and conference play all looming for teams hoping to make a run at the title next season. A good fan will pay attention to all of it, or at least have a good coin ready to go next March.

Rock Bottom Tournament Challenge

Overall top ten:	pts.
1. Brandon Esch	79
2. Mark Siegel	77
3. Melissa Pekny	74
Eric Grubaugh	74
5. Ryan Zegar	73
6. Kyle Clarey	72
Ben Svatora	72
8. Mark Snitly	71
9. Sean Wickham	69
Mike Gokie	69
Kyle Torczon	69
Kyle Bogus	69
Kristina Flint	69
Jaisa Gutierrez	69

Top Faculty (Overall finish)	
1. Sean Wickham (9)	69
2. Gary Puetz (19)	66
3. John Petersen (22)	64

Top girls	
1. Melissa Pekny (3)	74
2. Kristina Flint (9)	69
Jaisa Guttierrez (9)	69
4. Heidi Sobota (15)	68
5. Ashley Bowns (22)	62

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ROCK BOTTOM

Columbus, Nebraska 68601 | May 16, 2003 | Volume 5, Issue 9

Graduation parties put a cap on seniors' year

Lauren Maul
Editor

Ah, graduation parties. The "shrine" featuring photos and accomplishments of the graduate, huge coolers flowing with ice and beverages, and "Congratulations!" signs hanging every which way… but behind every graduation party lurks months of planning and parental stress.

To avoid an overload of parental stress, senior Cassie Behle took part of the graduation planning into her own hands.

"I'm planning all the fun parts of my party," Behle said, "and my parents are doing all the rest. A sort of give and take, if you will."

Senior Jon Augustine, on the other hand, left the party planning to the professionals.

"My mom is planning the whole thing," Augustine said.

Although the planning portion may be tricky, how does one decide which day to have the graduation party on? Saturday night is always a good bet, but then again, so is Sunday afternoon. Several ideas need to be taken into consideration.

"I'm having mine on Sunday," Behle said, "because I have a hot date Saturday night."

Augustine is also taking the Sunday route since he is going on the hot date with Behle.

Although there may not be any "hot dates" at your graduation party, don't fret. There is sure to be money and gifts.

"I'm excited about the gifts, the money, the food, and the cake," Behle said. "And my cake has the good frosting!'

Augustine is also excited about the party perks but begs to differ about the quality of Behle's party.

"You just know my party's going to be better than Cassie's," Augustine said, "because I'm just that much cooler."

One doesn't know if this assumption is true since Behle has claimed to be providing Little King. But it seems what the people really want is a Sno-Cone machine.

"I want to go to Cassie's party," senior Kelly Novicki said. "Even though she doesn't have a Sno-Cone machine."

But what happens when graduation parties don't seem to be all fun, games and Sno-Cone machines?

"I didn't want a graduation party," Novicki said, "but my parents said I had to have one. I just want to say home and sleep!"

But alas, there is no rest for the weary. Graduation parties have been around ever since the cavemen graduated from rock chiseling school and they will definitely last until the end of time. This year's batch of parties are sure to be winners, just like the graduates themselves.

Liftoff!

ERIC GRUBAUGH/ROCK BOTTOM

Sophomore Crystal Modde oversees the high jump competition during the grade school track meet. Several members of the Scotus team volunteered to help throughout the event.

Counting down the days and making plans for the summer break

Eric Grubaugh
Editor

Spring is in the air, and that means that students everywhere are already thinking about summer vacation. As the amount of daylight increases, so too does the amount of boredom and detachment in the classroom. Students are preparing for summer vacation before most teachers are preparing third quarter grade reports.

> "I plan on being lazy all summer.
> -Sara Marik"

Now school has advanced well beyond those third quarter grade reports, and summer vacation becomes ever nearer. Summer is a time of a smorgasbord of activities. Students engage in everything from sports to work to swimming to absolutely nothing.

"I am going to be hanging out with my friends," freshman Sarah Marik said, "having parties at my lake at least three times a week…and tanning a lot!"

Lakes seem to be a popular spot during the summer. Sophomore Jessi Ryan said she would also be taking her friends out to her cabin to swim throughout the summer. For students, summer is all about lounging around.

"I plan on being lazy all summer," Marik said. "I dread getting a job during the summer."

Work seems to dampen the spirits during some students' summers, but Ryan sees the value in it.

"I want to work a lot this summer because I am saving up for going to Europe with [Computer Applications teacher] Mrs. [Bonnie] Kreikemeier," she said.

All work and no play may make students' summers dull, but there are worse things that could happen.

"My worst summer memory is when I chipped a tooth on Lauren Jablonski's bony hip when we flew off the inner-tube behind our boat at our lake," Marik said.

Bad summer memories can be difficult to come by, though.

"I have too many good memories and I can't think of any bad memories to mention specific ones," Ryan said.

However, no matter how fun a summer can be, there is always room for improvement.

"The ideal summer would be taking about five of my closest friends and going on a vacation to somewhere with a beach," Ryan said.

Ideal or not, any summer vacation has students' minds anywhere but in the classroom as the educational year winds down. While the true beginning summer isn't until well into June, students' thoughts of A's, B,s, and C's give way to sunny days, swimsuits, and sun tan lotion well before June appears on any calendar.

With the year's end looming, students finalize annual

Craig Staroscik
Editor-in-Chief

Before those glorious days of summer and freedom comes one of the most hectic and demanding times of the year. Semesters test and end of the year projects seem to fly in from all directions. One class that knows the end-of-the-year pressure better than anyone is the yearbook class.

In its annual ritual the yearbook class is faced with the daunting task of compiling a year's worth of news and memories. If the yearbook staff has learned one thing this year, it is that compiling a yearbook is no easy task. Coming into the class as the editor, Kristan Forney felt the pressure of putting together a single book that more students remember than all their textbooks combined.

"Some of it is kind of stressful," Forney said. "We want to make sure it is interesting and that all people will like it. It takes a lot of group effort for the whole staff. We want to make each other happy, but we have to compromise at the same time because there are a lot of good ideas from everyone on the staff."

Forney said that cooperation was one of the most important parts of successfully creating a yearbook. She said that last year's staff did not have quite the organization the staff has this year. Forney's goal is to make sure that the final deadline is met.

"Last year we were procrastinators," Forney said. "I was the only junior, so after the seniors got out I had to work on a lot of it by myself. We even had to come in back in June to finish. This year, we are trying not to come in during the summer."

With an almost brand-new staff and Spanish teacher Heather Rojas filling the job as first-year sponsor for the yearbook, the task looked unrealizable. After the class got going though, the year looked more hopeful. In order to help organize the workload, the class is divided up into three sections: the photo section, the copy section, and layout. Each group is in charge of a different part of the compilation and has to work together to put all the information into one unit.

"We all get along really well," junior Katie Ingram said. "Mrs. Rojas is a good sponsor. She has made sure that we weren't procrastinating and divided up the class like it is for the first time to help organize it."

Ingram said she was surprised about the amount of work that went into a yearbook. Most of the layout for the yearbook is done on computer and must be done on the publisher's program. The program and the applications that went along with it were something that Editor Forney said she did not even fully understand. Luckily, Forney said a pair of computer wizards, seniors Renee Beiermann and Ashley Heesacker, came to the rescue to help with all the technical operations. The work done by the photographers, writers, and designers then all comes together and is sent off to the publisher for printing.

"It was a lot more work than I expected," Beiermann said. "I originally thought it was cutting and pasting pictures, not all the computing, the deadlines, and working with the publishing company. It really gives you a sense of the business world."

The entire staff is anxious for the final work to come out next year, and have high expectations for how students will react. The majority of the yearbook theme is secret, but staff members promised a yearbook with more pictures, collages, and a few new surprises as well.

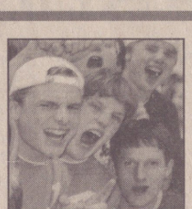
Despite all the work, the staff feels the result will be worth it. They also hope that the creativity they behind with make memories of this year even more fun to cherish.

"I would highly advise anyone to join yearbook," Forney said. "You can use your creative talents to make it look better and better each year."

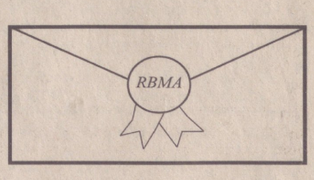
LAUREN MAUL/ROCK BOTTOM

Seniors Cody Fry and Andrea Johnson sort paperwork for the yearbook sales. The staff said that they are over three-fourths of the way done with their "illegally" themed book.

So long, seniors! Class of '03 ready to face world Page 3



Envelope please… RB Movie Award Winners Page 5



Six beneficial things learned while attending Scotus

To be honest with you, this last column was just going to be me thanking a bunch of people that have helped me throughout my education. But lists of names are never very fun to read. Then I had the great idea to write about the people who DIDN'T help me throughout my education. But that would just hurt feelings, and although I would *like* to hurt their feelings now, I may regret wasting my last column on them years later.

So finally, after hours of staring at a glaring white computer screen with nothing written on it, I decided I better start typing before my eyes developed cataracts. (I'm pretty sure you can only get cataracts from looking at the sun too long, but the screen *was* really bright.)

After much thought and screen staring I decided to write my column about **Ten Things I Have Learned At Scotus**. Since it was hard to think of ten, (and it took up too much room) I have decided to change it to **Six Things I Have Learned at Scotus.** Hopefully, this list will help out some underclassmen when it comes to making the most of their time at Scotus.

Item number 6: When walking to class, walk through the courtyard. Why? Because it's really pretty out there and it will make you feel like you're not in school. (But try to avoid the little kids playing hackey sack because it's easy to get hit with that thing since they're not very coordinated. Or maybe they just like to throw things at people. I'm still not quite clear on the matter.)

Item number 5: If you're going to leave class at 1:35 to protest the new Pep Rally rules, make sure you are not in a class where the teacher will chase you into the hallway and yell at you. I remember how I was all excited to leave Calculus that day and do my part in the protest. Unfortunately, Rachel Raimondo and I were the only people out of about 20 kids to attempt a dash to the courtyard. And sure enough, Mr. Salyard hunted us down and yelled at us to get back into the classroom. So for future reference, don't run out of his class because he is actually pretty quick and will catch you if you run.

Item number 4: Do anything it takes to stay awake in a math class. Decorate your calculator with stickers or draw pictures under the guise of writing down an answer. You would not believe how many times my answer to a math question was "a dog wearing glasses." If you absolutely HATE being called on because you never know the answer try to figure out why the teacher calls on you. Is it because it looks like you don't know the answer? Well, then simply draw a dog wearing glasses on you paper and pretend it's the right answer! Teachers never call on the kids who look confident with their answers. Or are you called on because the teacher draws a note card with your name on it out of his note card box? Simply remove the card with your name! (This can be extremely risky, but I managed it and was never called on during the second semester of my junior year.)

A word of advice: if you can't think of what to say maybe you should just sit and think about it for a while.

Item number 3: Go to the Media Center as much as possible. Bonnie and the rest of the Media Center crew are always super nice and usually have a box of cereal for you to curb your hunger. If you are in newspaper class your name will be placed on the UNIVERSAL MEDIA CENTER PASS. This means you can go to the Media Center whenever you want. Simply say it's to work on an article! The Media Center ladies can also recommend a good book for those of you who enjoy the fine sport of reading.

Item number 2: Always be nice to the cafeteria ladies. These women make your food and always serve it to you with a smile. Tell them "thank you" whenever possible. If you're always nice to them and respect them, maybe they'll even give you peanut butter sandwiches if you visit them before lunch. I can't tell you how many times those sandwiches have saved me during my third period study hall.

And finally, the last item number (but not the least important.): Be aware of what you say. I have been infamous for speaking without thinking. I have said so many hurtful things that seemed right at the time.

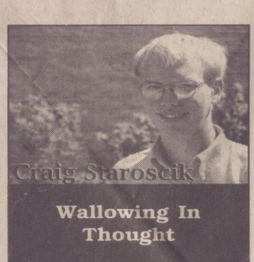
Since regrets are useless and don't help anyone (unless you have a time machine that enables you to go back and correct them) I will simply have to be sorry. A word of advice: if you can't think of what to say maybe you should just sit and think about it for a while. Talking without premeditated words usually hurts more than it helps.

So that's it: my education in a nutshell. Given, there were many other things I have learned, (like if you drop your chewing gum in a chicken coop you shouldn't pick it up) but these last six lessons are probably the most helpful.

It has been a pleasure writing for you for the past two years and I hope you have enjoyed it as much as I have.

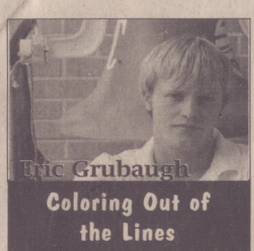
(To my classmates: Take care of yourselves. I am glad to have known you, although I may not always act like it. Just remember to enjoy your lives and the rest will fall into place.)

Don't expect a column: Craig is leaving Scotus with an ode



Here's one big thanks to you out there
Who made these six years worth the wear.
Let's start with numbers. Number one:
Thanks Mrs. Pekarek, Mathcounts was fun.
To Mr. Petersen thanks for proofs:
The meat and potatoes for geometry goofs.
To Mr. Lahm, no mathephobic,
Thanks for *i* and algerobics.
Mrs. Lahm, thanks for all your tests.
Your in-class reviews were by far the best.
Thanks, Mrs. (C) Johnson, who taught me to sew
And makes the best cookies, as teachers go.
Thank you Mrs. Riley. I can truly say
That my Degrasi memories will never fade away.
To FUCHS!, known as Fuchser by others
Who was still my teacher but felt like a brother.
Good luck Mr. Ersland, who like Mr. Joad
Seeks better fortunes heading west on the road.
Thanks, Mr. Dodson, for the "flitterbick" word
And the quacking computer I thought was absurd.
Thanks, Mr. Mcgill, for the study skills,
And Miss George, for the possum spiels.
Thanks, Mrs. Schaad. If it wasn't for you,
I might not be able to write poems (Boo-hoo!)
Thanks to my civics teacher Mr. Brockhaus
Now I do realize- the Senate and House.
Thanks, Mr. Mahoney, for the geocodes
And taking me running on long dusty roads.
To Mr. Wickham, thanks for history
You taught about old stuff, but it didn't bore me.
Thanks, Mr. Puetz, for the major projects,
For scholastic boosts, and cattle dissects.
To Mrs. Salyard, Podliska, and Kreikmeier
For teaching me how to type my desire.
También, a dos professoras buenas
Muchas gracias senorita Felger y señora Rojas.
And to Ms. Pape, who taught German you know
No spreche de Deutsch, lo siento!
Thanks, Mrs. Tooley, for letting me run
And Mr. G. Puetz, though I can't lift a ton.
Thanks also, Mrs. Blaser, for sit ups and curls
Which are almost as fun as P.E. without girls.
To E.J. Gardner, whose initials are secret,
Just because I can't sing doesn't mean I forget.
Thank you Mrs. Milnar for two years of art,
Who misplaced brown on the class color chart.
Thanks, Mrs. Bernt. You still know how I sound,
But at least I can speak now, even if not profound.
Thanks, Mrs. Malicky, for all that you've done.
In class and out your smile shines like the sun.
Thanks, Mrs. Dusel, for the crazy mole song
And chemical formulas twelve elements long.
Thanks, Mr. Younger, the class was spectacular;
Dissecting cats and learning vernacular.
To Mr. Tom Salyard, I can't thank enough
I know teaching me can at times be tough.
Thanks for derivatives, theorems and bad puns.
Deep down in my heart, physics was still phun.
Thanks, Mr. Arneal, for the great newspaper
And standing behind me when problems occur.
Thanks, Father Bond, for your words of grace.
When I hear Nirvana, I'll remember your face.
To Mrs. Cox, Hruska, Shadle, Zanardi,
Mrs. Johnson, Rambour, and Mr. Coach C,
You never taught me, but know this is true,
To you and all teachers, thanks for what you do.
Thanks to my first principal, Mr. Walding.
It was a mistake when I called you Balding.
Thanks to my counselors, Wolken and Wier
Whose guidance, in part, helped me to get here.
Thanks to Ed and crew for making school looks so clean.
Thanks to all the secretaries for all the unseen.
Thanks, Mr. Schueth, for handling dough,
Thanks, Mr. Morfeld, for running the show.
Thanks, Mr. Gannon, for the clever jokes
And all that you do for the Catholic school folks.
Thanks Cathy and everyone in the lunchroom.
Without you down there, school is nothing but doom.
Thank you Father Steve. Though you may never know it,
You not only preach God, you live Him and show it.
Thanks, to my parents, for this education
And all the wonderful things you have done.
Now that my time at Scotus is done.
I love you all, I'll miss everyone.
It took us six years. Now I think we can see
How you all have helped turned this Craig into me.
I'm one life you've touched, just one in a crowd
But I gave it my all, and I hope you are proud.

Stanford may remain a dream without a win in the lottery



Congratulations! You have been accepted into Stanford University in the prosperous Palo Alto, California area. Here you will enjoy an engaging academic structure gilded by a rich campus life that is enriched by the beautiful surrounding landscape.

Well, that's always been a dream of mine…getting a letter in the mail from Stanford University that began with a similar paragraph as the one above. However, having started a little college research, I have found that that is where my acceptance letter will most likely stay: in my dreams. It costs right around $40,000 per year to attend Stanford and many first-rate colleges like it. For the few and lucky affluent people, that would be petty pocket change.

For the rest of us, however, 40,000 big ones makes one healthy dent in the old pocket book. There's absolutely no way that a teen being paid minimum wage working less than 20 hours a week coming from a middle-class family can afford four years of $40,000. That's over $160,000 to complete a college education in the standard four years. Then there are those who have bigger expectations of a master's degree or even a doctorate degree, and they are in an even deeper predicament. That leaves these self-expectant students hoping, wishing, and praying for an enormous abundance of scholarships galore thrown at their feet from every which way.

It costs around $40,000 to attend Stanford and many first-rate colleges like it.

But, lo and behold, those wishes were quickly shot down after some further research.

Each year, Stanford University offers to all of their incoming and present students a grand total of $00,000.00 in scholarships. That'd be a great price to see on something like a brand new car, but it won't help a great many students chip away at that $40,000 for one year of higher education. There is still one last hope for those less privileged in the money department: financial aid.

Government and school financial aid can and will help a fantastic number of students afford all of their college years who, unaided, may not have even been able to afford the textbooks.

Those students are also incredibly lucky, for there are specific requirements dealing with family income that a family needs to meet in order to qualify for financial aid. If a family earns enough to live comfortably and afford places like Stanford, or if a family doesn't earn enough to live comfortably, then Stanford is right up their alley.

However if there's enough money to live comfortably but not as comfortably as $40,000 a year, then find a new college.

Basically, what they are saying is this: if you've got the brains and you've got the greens, welcome to Stanford! If you've got the brains and none of the greens, welcome to Stanford! If you've got the brains and enough greens so we don't have to pay but not enough so you can pay us, well then good luck, pal. You may as well find a new college.

To me, there is definitely something wrong with that picture. I cannot fault Stanford or point fingers this way and that because I wouldn't have enough fingers to point in all those directions.

I'm not a brilliant-enough economist to offer sure-fire solutions to the problem either. But it is plain to see that something needs to be altered about this financial aid process to make equal opportunity for families of various incomes to obtain at least some aid.

For now I guess I will just have to continue dreaming of the golden California sun, the well-to-do Palo Alto area, life-enriching acceptance letters, and winning the lottery.

Scotus Central Catholic
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Assistant/Opinion Editor: Lauren Maul Features Editor: Eric Grubaugh
Sports Editor, Business Manager: Matt Krings
Staff Reporters: Amy Ellingson, Ryan Jablonski

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Where have all the seniors gone? Look below to find out!

The class of 2003 has certainly flown the coop. Many seniors have decided to leave Nebraska in search of higher education.

UNL
Dustin Becher
Cassie Behle
Tony Bogus
Brad Bowns
Josh Melliger
Amanda Ott
Robert Rogers
Jared Schademann
Jon Schueth
Tyler Weinand
Wade Wemhoff
Brett Wolff
Jocelyn Karsk
Ashley Pritchard

UNO
Anna Evans
Nathan Fisher
Emily Cleary
Adam Wick
Ann Bierbower
Craig Starocik
Angie Vavricek
Justin Feldhaus

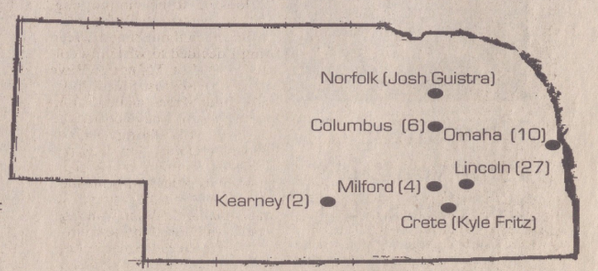
UNK
Megan Zarek
Jared Swantek

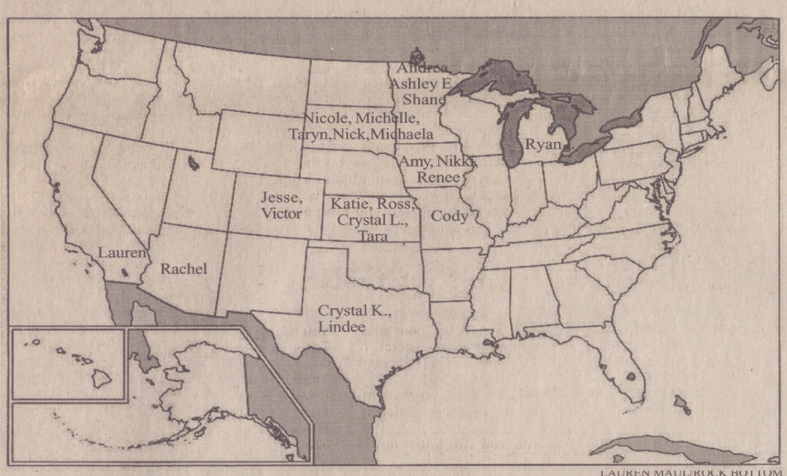
Central Community College - Columbus
Scott Becker
Gina Starzec
Pam Johnson
Tiffany Hanus
Mark Potocka
Steve Micek

Southeast Community College - Milford
Jake Otte
Tony Schwank
Nick Souillere
Mike Tworek

Wesleyan - Lincoln
Amber Chatman
Jake Tooley
Mikayla Wurdinger
Drew Paprocki

Southeast Community College-Lincoln
Brooke Abegglen
Jon Augustine
Molly Bolte
Holly Knapp
Chris Mahoney
Tyler Roewert
Josh Romberg





LAUREN MAUL/ROCK BOTTOM

In all, twenty-three seniors will be going to colleges out of state for their freshman year.

Jon Zach
Ryan Zegar

University of South Dakota - Vermillion
Nicole Mielak
Michelle Flint
Taryn Ketter

Mount Marty - Yankton, SD
Nick Hall
Michaela Klimes

Kansas State - Salina
Katie Swoboda
Ross Niedbalski

College of St. Mary - Omaha
Jennifer Sackett
Kasey Sliva

St. Catherine College - St. Paul, MN
Ashley Engquist
Andrea Johnson

Renegades

Amy Ellingson – University of Iowa – Iowa City
Ashley Heesacker – Creative Center – Omaha
Renee Beirmann – Briar Cliff – Sioux City
Cody Fry – Northwest Missouri State - Maryville, MO
Crystal Kozak – Fort Sam, Houston TX
Crystal Lux- Benedictine College- Atchison, KS
Jesse Johnson – Colorado Mountain College – Glenwood Springs
Josh Guistra – Northeast Technical Community College – Norfolk
Kristan Forney – Art Institute in MN
Kyle Fritz – Doane – Crete
Lauren Maul – University of San Diego
Lindee Pontow- Fort Sam, Houston TX
Mike Zadina – Creighton - Omaha
Nikki Kranz – Morningside – Sioux City, IA
Rachel Raimondo – Arizona State University – Tempe AZ
Ryan Jablonski – Saganaw Valley State University – University Center, Michigan
Shane Kelly – Minnesota State University, Manitoba MN
Tara Zabawa – Neumann University – Witchita KS
Victor Tira – Art Institute in Colorado – Denver

Steve Micek offers final words for the class of 2003...

Steve Micek
Guest Columnist

This is a good senior year. I am having a good senior year, bottom line. Most seniors are also having a good senior year. Everyone is looking to the future and for good reason. My fellow seniors are discussing where they will be attending college, whom they will be rooming with, what their major will be and whatnot. Some people are going to college where it is only a buck a semester. Others will be going to college where it will take buckets upon buckets upon buckets of money. Regardless of the cost, when you get to college you will HAVE TO READ! You will be gorging your brain on books in essence. I would like to take a look at the past to see why this year has been such a good year.

It was an afternoon like any other. Students were getting ready to take their afternoon nap during 6th period. I, meanwhile, was in an extremely rewarding and challenging modern problems class. The clock hit 1:30 and everyone looked at each other. A few seconds passed, but those few seconds felt like they were several excruciating minutes. Then there was a yell. This was no ordinary yell, oh no. That yell told us that the walk-out/run-out and start screaming was on. Mr. Jim Puetz had a look of bewilderment on his face. Another teacher was asking, "What is the function of this?"

As we finished running through the halls we ended up in the courtyard. In that courtyard there seemed to be a momentary bond. It might have only been for 25 minutes, it may have been for only a few seconds. What was the reason for this act of disobedience, one may ask. Some seniors were torqued at the fact that our Homecoming pep rally was a dud. Some seniors, I included, just wanted to do this because it was an act that was away from the norm. This was something different that would shake up the day. Some seniors stayed by their own accord. Some seniors became terrified at enraging Mr. Salyard and thought twice about leaving class and returned. Now, I'm not saying that walking out of class is a good thing or the right thing to do, but it was an experience I will not forget. The detentions that were handed out by the administration had no effect on me personally. No one remembers the punishment when reminiscing; everyone remembers the action.

This is an example of taking a chance. Not that you have to walk out of class to take a chance, but it is not every day that people get a chance to do something different. During my 18 years of being alive I have crushed a few butterflies, if I might be so fortunate as to borrow as a phrase from the honorable Mr. William Gannon. Sometimes butterflies need to be crushed in order for a deed to be accomplished, flat out. To live life, sometimes you have to take a chance. If you do not take a chance there is always someone else who will take it. So if life hands you lemons, make lemonade, which is what I think I will do right now.

...While a voice from the past offers up some advice

Mike Adelman
Returning Columnist

If you thought I was done preaching just because I graduated, you were terribly mistaken. I know my loyal readers have been starving for some more of Mike's column goodness, so I'm giving it a whirl. Bear with me, as my wit may be a tad rusty.

The past year at the University of Nebraska at Kearney has opened my eyes to several factors that current seniors may be taking for granted. Study habits, dealings with a possible roommate, and acknowledgement of personal limits are easily neglected. These helpful reminders were not made to be condescending rant or to make myself look like some college big shot. They were made so perhaps I could reduce some common anxieties of college life.

I may have appeared to have a solid work ethic as a high school student, but the mental processes involved with study and homework came quite naturally. In laymen's terms: I did not have to try very hard to get A's in high school. Regardless of your current abilities, you will be pushed much harder in college. Professors are apathetic. The courses you take will be much more complex than your high school courses. I almost pity seniors who do well without exerting much effort, as it will be quite difficult for them to adjust to actually having to study.

Those with adequate study habits should struggle less overall (like I would know). If you find yourself trapped in web of not studying, do not despair. Simply shutting off the loud music or placing yourself around students with developed study habits can do wonders. That said, do not expect A's to be handed out on silver platters, because you will be sorely disappointed. Oh, for those who are wondering, I got all A's and B's my first year. It required some adjustment, but with patience the good study habits emerged.

I got along perfectly with my roommate. I think we had ONE serious argument throughout the entire year. However, I witnessed the tedious drama between several other pairs of roommates (Fans of soap operas did not have to turn on their TVs for weeks). Observing such nuclear roommate meltdowns assisted me in creating a list of do's and don'ts when dealing with a roommate. First off, it is important that you enter the room QUIETLY if you are coming in past 11 p.m. Continually waking a heavy sleeper fails to produce a cheerful roommate. Second, suggest splitting the costs of items you buy for your room. Third, take turns on use of the TV (we had two, so this was not an issue). Even if you own the TV, let your roommate watch what he/she wants to watch sometimes. Perhaps your roommate owns something that you frequently use and take for granted, so it's only fair to let him or her use your stuff. Finally, talk on a person-to-person level with your roommate sometimes. Stay up late some night and chat about your hometowns, or brag about how much trouble you caused in high school. Taking conversational interest in someone shows that you genuinely care about his or her well being.

In your first few months of college you will spend many weeknights staying up late to talk to other members of your dorm. This is perfectly natural, as it is human nature to become accustomed with one's surroundings. However, DO NOT do this more than three or so nights in a row. You will simply burn out and miss class. It is imperative that you attend class regularly, and lack of sleep will diminish the importance of class in your tired mind. Also, for the partiers: be safe. If you want to go out and be a little festive, fine by me. I'm not your mom. However, do not question dropping grades if you find yourself partying several nights a week. Several friends of mine failed courses due to over-partying.

Now for a corny, sappy rant. I found myself missing Scotus on several occasions. At night I would lie awake and wonder how my old friends were doing. Vacations and trips home seemed hopelessly far away at times. Continually being surrounded by lots of people often became frustrating. I occasionally choked back a tear from being homesick, but realized that it was all for the better...

Seniors, your time together grows short. When the day arrives to leave for unknown lands, do not lament over the mistakes of the past. Instead, imagine the possibilities of the future. Future friendships and learning experiences densely populate the path ahead. To continually dwell on the past prevents you from seeing countless opportunities. However, do not completely forget where you came from. Keeping in touch is by no means difficult with technology today. By utilizing your previous experiences in high school and applying them to college life, you will find yourself empowered with vast social knowledge, and hopefully a degree.

And now for a summer of lying around and doing nothing!!! Yay!! Hey, I earned it. Plus, I already mastered Monkey Ball 2.

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Senior class memories

No waiting till next year: It's the Sox's turn

Baseball, America's pastime, is the greatest game in the entire world. No sport will ever mean what baseball means to America. Baseball is to America what Soccer is to Communism.

Baseball has tradition to it that no other sport will match. No other sport has an eighty-year curse on one team that only the tearing down of the stadium and building a new one will take away. Yes that's right, I'm talking about the curse of the Bambino. Babe Ruth, the fat man who decided to screw over my Red Sox.

You see, Hall of Famer Babe Ruth, long before he became known as the best player in the history of baseball, started out playing for the Red Sox. In fact, he was actually a pitcher for the Sox and lead them to World Series titles in 1915, 1916 and 1918. Then his contract was bought out by the Yankees, where the Babe became known more for his hitting than his pitching. The Boston Red Sox have not won a World Series since.

All in all, there is no reason why the Red Sox haven't won a World

I am probably the only person that will tell you Babe Ruth was overrated.

Series in the past five years. They have had names like Pedro Martinez, Nomar Garciappara, Manny Ramirez, Johnny Damon, Shea Hillandbrand, Tim Wakefield, Derek Lowe, Trot Nixon, and of course, last year's Ricky Henderson.

So how is this team not winning? Well, if you know, would you please tell me what is going on? I know this team has a curse on it, and I am probably the only person that will tell you that Babe Ruth was an overrated baseball player mainly because of my bitterness toward his curse. But in truth, there is no reason why my team shouldn't have a World Series ring in the last five years.

I know one reason: those stupid Yankees with their big pocket books are taking players that make a team, such as Robin Ventura, the third baseman from the Mets, a team with really only two worthwhile players. One being Mike Piazza, and the other being Robin Ventura.

This rivalry has been going on for decades of baseball. The Red Sox make good players; the Yankees buy good players. This makes baseball fans mad. The Yankees have a salary total of 149 million dollars.

This is the main reason why the Red Sox haven't been winning championships. The Yankees think they can buy everyone up and make the rest of the league look bad. Well, let me tell them something: it is not going to happen for much longer.

The Red Sox have had their fair share of shortened playoff appearances because of the Yankees, and I'm telling you now, that stops here. The road to the World Series for the Yankees stops in Boston and takes a left on Loser Road. The Red Sox will not take this sorry excuse for a dynasty anymore. The Red Sox have the firepower and the backing of the best fans in the world.

Red Sox fans are mad, and they are best fans in the world because you have to be great fans to back a team that hasn't won it all in 80 years. We're not bandwagon fans like all you Yankees out there. Yeah, I'm talking to you Gary Puetz. The front door is shutting for the Yankees and opening for the Red Sox. My year is here, and I'll be riding the Victory train all the way into Boston Harbor when my team gets its ring.

BOTTOMLINE!

What we'll miss…

- Mr. Salyard's sense of humor
- Showing respect
- Fr. Steve
- The reliable heating and air-conditioning system
- Movie Day in Theology
- Dustin Becher throwing himself at lockers
- The courtyard
- Intimidating underclassmen
- The dances
- Plyometrics
- Mr. Lahm falling off his bike
- Fr. Bond
- Chorus class
- Bonnie Eikmeier
- Child Development I
- The 2nd Homecoming Pep Rally
- Ryan Zegar's Suave Lotions
- Vodball
- "It's your job, bottom line, you gotta realize, in essence…"
- crack brownies
- Mr. Fuscher's smooth moves at Prom
- Art Club
- Quality School Lunches
- Reading the humorous graffiti on the bathroom walls
- Senior hallway
- Friends
- Perms for guys
- Homecoming week
- The new and improved barbequed beef on a bun
- Pud classes
- Heckling at sporting events
- Seeing what Jon Augustine will eat for money
- Leisure Activities

What we won't miss…

- Dress code
- The reliable heating and air-conditioning system
- Derivatives and Anti derivatives
- The office razor
- The *Baby Think It Over* simulation
- Not getting out early for heat schedule because it's 89.9999999 degrees
- 7:00 a.m. detentions
- Climbing three flights of stairs
- The handbook
- BESS
- The snow days we never ever had
- The "senior party"
- People not minding their own business
- Finding a parking spot during Lent
- Selling raffle tickets for the Gala and the Scotus Raffle
- Locked bathrooms
- South central L.A.
- Getting yelled at for having long hair
- Bells that don't sound like bells

Do You Watch Too Much Television?

The Quiz That Determines if You Are a Slave to the Magic Box
by Lauren Maul

1) The name of Blair's cousin who had cerebral palsy on the show *The Facts of Life* is:
a) Hannah
b) Geri
c) Jennifer

2) On *Saved By The Bell*, the AC in AC Slater stands for:
a) Andrew Clayton
b) Albert Craig
c) Albert Clifford

3) The mannequin that could come to life on the 80's children's show *Today's Special* was named:
a) George
b) Frank
c) Jeff

4) On the episode of *The Simpsons* where Frank Grimes Jr. attempts to kill Homer, whom did Lisa originally think was trying to kill her dad?
a) Bumblebee Man
b) Marge
c) Mr. Burns

5) On *Road Rules: Latin America*, who slapped Dan?
a) Shane
b) Gladys
c) Susie

6) On the *Real World: Boston* Sean got a bad rash because he had:
a) poison ivy
b) hives
c) a reaction to cheap lotion

7) The names of the Blockheads on the show *Gumby* were:
a) b & j
b) g & j
c) g & p

8) On the show *Seinfeld*, what was the name of Jerry's girlfriend whose name he didn't know when he was dating her?
a) Mulva
b) Susan
c) Dolores

9) On the show *Friends*, the friends play what game at the beach house?
a) strip poker
b) Marco Polo
c) strip Happy Days Game

10) On the *Anna Nicole Smith Show*, what does Kimmy have a tattoo of?
a) Anna Nicole
b) Sugar Pie
c) A cross

Answers to TV Quiz
1B, 2C, 3A, 4B, 5C, 6B, 7C, 8B, 9C, 10A

If you got 2 or less questions right, you sure don't watch enough TV.

If you got 6 or less right, nice effort but try to work on it.

If you got more than 6 questions right, you are a complete television loser, um, I mean, GENIUS!

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The Rock Bottom Movie Awards

Best overall movie
The Lord of the Rings: Two Towers
Other finalists: Jack***, Sweet Home Alabama, Autstin Powers in Goldmember

Funniest movie
Jack***
Other finalists: Autstin Powers in Goldmember, Anger Management, Old School

Scariest movie
The Ring
Other finalists: Wendigo, Red Dragon, Fear.com

Best action movie
The Lord of the Rings: Two Towers
Other finalists: .007:Die Another Day, XXX, The Bourne Identity

Best chick flick
How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days
Other finalists: Sweet Home Alabama, My Big Fat Greek Wedding, Blue Crush

Best comic actor
Adam Sandler
in *Anger Management*
Other finalists: Will Ferell (Old School), Mike Meyers (Goldmember), J. Knoxville (Jack***)

Best actor
Ashton Kutcher
in *Just Married*
Other finalists: Matt Damon (Bourne Identity), Vin Diesel (XXX), D. Radcliffe (Harry Potter)

Best actress
Reese Witherspoon
in *Sweet Home Alabama*
Other finalists: Jennifer Lopez (Enough), Kate Hudson (Lose a Guy), Emma Watson (Harry Potter

Lord of the Rings rules RBMA's

The ballots have been turned in by over 200 Scotus students, and the winners have been chosen. Scotus students have chosen their movie favorites for the past year in eight categories. In the April issue of the *Rock Bottom*, readers were asked to nominate their favorite actors and movies. From those nominations, the top four from each category were then voted on to choose a winner.

The magical fantasy story of *The Lord of the Rings: Two Towers* narrowly defeated Johnny Knoxville and his gang of daredevil pranksters' *Jack**** for the title of best movie for the past year. However, Knoxville's goofy antics were entertaining enough to capture the funniest movie category. *Two Towers* was also named the best action movie, proving that a wizard, some orcs and the kid who played Huck Finn in an earlier movie is a great combination. Of course, a good fight scene helped that one out too. *The Ring*'s story of a killer video tape scared away all contenders and was a runaway winner in the scariest movie category. J-Lo was defeated by Reese and the 70's are alive in the best actor category.

Adam Sandler proves he is still the king of comedy, beating out names like Meyers, Ferell, and Knoxville, *The Lord of the Rings Two Towers* took home best action movie,

So that wraps up the first ever Rock Bottom Movie awards. Well, I guess we'll see you at the movies.

Summer's silver screen seeing sequels

Amy Ellingson
Staff Reporter

If you don't want the Platte County Fair or the Fourth of July fireworks show to be your highlights in summer entertainment, here's a preview of concerts and movies coming to an area near you…

Concerts

The Civic Tour Presents New Found Glory & Good Charlotte
May 22, Pershing Center, Lincoln

Bone Thugs 'N Harmony, May 23
Royal Grove, Lincoln

DMX, May 31
Omaha Civic Auditorium

Foo Fighters, June 2
Mid America Center, Council Bluffs

Pearl Jam, June 13
Mid America Center, Council Bluffs

Linkin Park, July 29
Mid America Center, Council Bluffs

All Tickets are available at all Ticketmaster outlets, also at www.ticketmaster.com

Summer Movies

It's a summer of sequels…

Bruce Almighty: starring Jim Carrey and Morgan Freeman.
A television reporter becomes endowed with divine powers after resenting God.
Release date: May 23

Legally Blonde 2: Red, White, and Blonde: starring Reese Witherspoon, Bob Newhart, and Sally Field.
Along with planning her wedding, Elle Woods heads to Washington, D.C. to learn politics after she is unjustly fired from her firm.
Release date: July 2

X2: X Men United: starring Hugh Jackman and Halle Berry.
Marvel Comic's mutant heroes are back to save the world again, fighting an evil army and a sinister army general.
Release date: May 2

Hulk: starring Eric Bana and Jennifer Connelly.
A visit back to the beloved eighties television hit! A scientist's strange experiments make him the most powerful being on the planet.
Release date: June 20

The Matrix Reloaded: starring Keanu Reeves, Laurence Fishborne, and Jada Pinkett Smith.
As the second film in the Matrix trilogy, *Reloaded* is sure to be a high energy, gravity defying blockbuster.
Release date: May 15

Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines: starring Arnold Schwarzenegger (like you wouldn't have guessed) and Clair Daines.
The Terminator returns as a cyborg sent back in time (like you wouldn't have guessed) to save an 18-year-old boy from a sexy terminatrix.
Release date: July 2

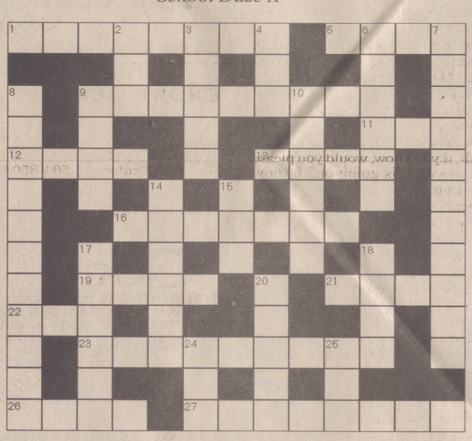
Charlies Angles: Full Throttle: starring Cameron Diaz, Lucy Lui, and Drew Barrymore.
The crime fighting heroines are going undercover to find two missing rings containing encrypted information about the Witness Protection Program.
Release date: June 27

Charlie's Angles, Hugh Jackman as an X-man, Legally Blonde Reese Witherspoon, and the Foo Fighters are a few of the entertainment choices for summer of 2003.

Across:
1. Japanese goodbye
5. Sounds like the Italian goodbye
9. Sports
11. Parents may be this
12. Standardized tests
13. To run from
16. A learned one
19. Precipitation
21. Curved passageway
22. The fourth power of *i*
23. Grades
26. Pijin goodbye: ?k?i
27. Every year ends with these

Down:
2. A grain
3. Geography book
4. Includes painting and pottery
6. A bother
7. German goodbye: Auf _____
8. Spanish "See you soon."
9. One in a play does this
10. A poem about a journey
14. Busy
15. The center of everything
17. Imagination allow you to do this
18. Fine ____
20. Juliet's tragic hero
24. To make a hole
25. Usually a yellow car

SCOTUS ✝ WORD
BY CRAIG STAROSCIK
"School Daze II"



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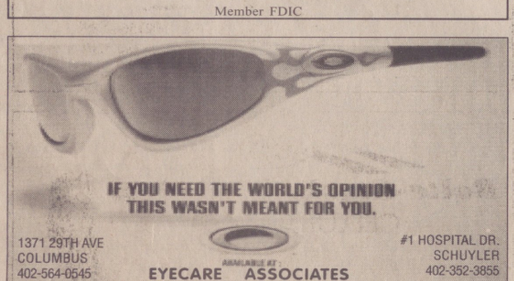

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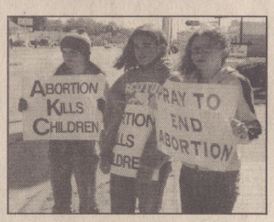
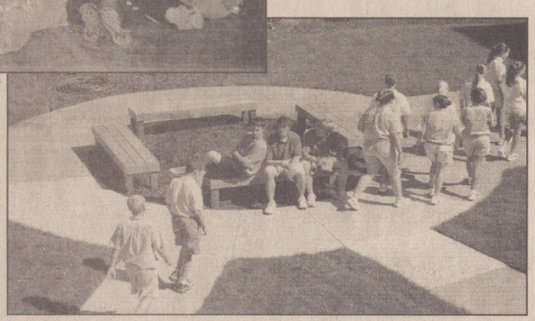
Three Cheers for the End of the Year

Student Life, 2002-03





Three seasons, thousands of memories

The best sports moment of the past year was:

Beating Lakebview in football. – Tyler Rowert

Nathan Fisher's 52 yard field goal. – Matt Raimondo

All three volleyball teams being undefeated. – Nicole Sobotka

At Lincoln Christian when the boys basketball team kept the game interesting 'till the last seconds. – Justin McPhillips

The most memorable events of the year:

The Columbine presentation. - Kelsey Beiermann

The time the seniors left class. – Jessica Koza

The funniest moment at Scotus was:

Not the senior roast. – Tony Bogus

When Zegar lost his lotion. – Matt Raimondo

When Clint Torzon stood up in Earth science with candy in his hand and in his mouth and got caught. –Justin Schaf

My proudest moment at Scotus was:

When I raised Spanish one with Mrs. Felger from a 71% to an 81%. - Chelsea Liss

Surviving the courtyard walkout and living to talk about it. – Tony Shwank

Trying out for cheer leading and making the squad. – Tonya Boman

Graduating. – Justin Feldhaus

My favorite teacher was:

Mrs. Lahm because she makes class fun and interesting. – Amberle Zuerlein

Mrs. Blaser because we always have so many funny jokes to tell in that class. – Whitney Beller

Mr. Salyard; he's nuts. – Jake Tooley

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