



SCOTUS CENTRAL Rock Bottom

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Water park possible with the demise of city pool

Poor conditions of city pool force city to look at alternatives

By Danielle Bernt
Editor-in-Chief

Year after year the quality of the Columbus city pool heads further down the road to disrepair. Columbus has two options when this is brought to attention: the pool could undergo major renovations to fix, update, and repopulate the pool; or something new could paddle its way to the drawing board. Possible plans of a water park have floated to the surface.

Columbus city councilman Jim Bulkley said that there are definite problems with the city pool.

"Because of the age of the pool we know everyday, every week, every

year there is a possibility of a problem limping along," Bulkley said. "Pools have seen their day."

The problem is also evident to the pool's employees.

"People need a place to swim, and the Pawnee pool is in bad shape," senior Steph Lyons, a life-guard at the Pawnee pool, said.

These problems consist of plumbing issues that would be expensive to the community and when these expenses exceed a certain amount, Columbus would be required to improve the entire facility, Bulkley was not certain of the amount, but said he thought it was approximately \$10,000.

"You can only limp along so long," he said.

Bulkley said that Columbus has

two options: build a new water park or fix the existing pool. Surrounding cities have also moved down the road towards the future of city swimming pools. Grand Island and David City have recently built water parks. Fremont and Norfolk are investigating these options as well. Is Columbus being left behind?

Two years ago a contractor said that the renovation price for the Columbus city pool would be over a million dollars, easily exceeding the \$10,000 mark requiring a new pool. The option of the water park

has been brought to the attention of the community.

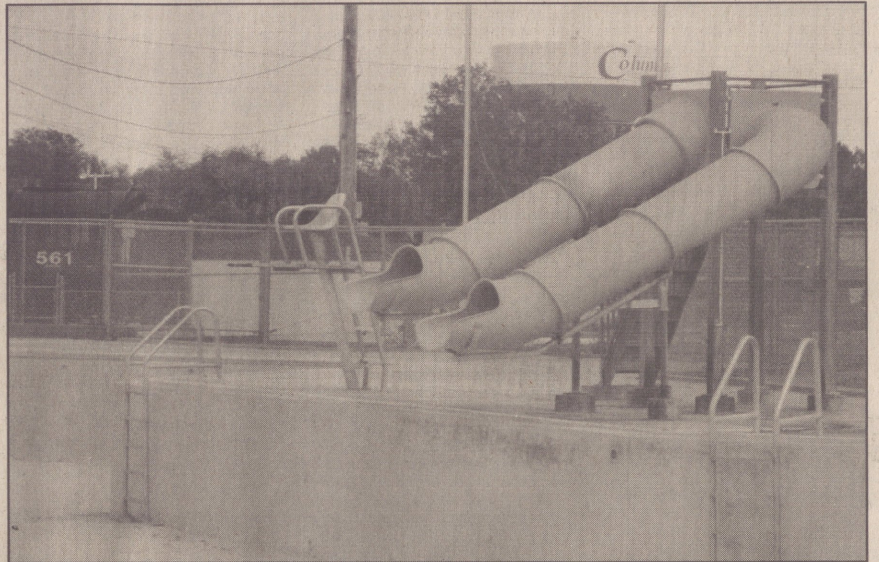
The water park idea has not been officially adopted yet, but if the plans of a water park were to be drawn up there

would need to be a definite plan of payment. Fundraising and temporary sales tax increase are possible solutions.

This issue has not been on the agenda for the city council meetings. Bulkley said there needs to be a groundswell of the community for this to take place. Government is for the people, he said, and undoubtedly the community needs to push this idea. Bulkley said this might be brought to a formal discussion within the next six months.

"I'm not sure if we're doing the right thing by waiting," Bulkley said. The site and size of the possible water park have yet to be decided, but next to the Aquatic Center is a possibility.

The idea of a new water park is



DANIELLE BERNT/ROCK BOTTOM

The Columbus city pool sits empty for the season. Because of the high costs of needed renovations, the pool may have seen its last drop of water.

popular with some area teens.

"I don't go to the city pool anymore," Columbus High junior Joey Irwin said. "I'm not quite sure if anyone besides younger kids and their parents go. There is not much to do there, not a lot of room. Maybe they need to put in new stuff. A water park would be just dandy for the community."

A new water park could also bring money to the community.

"I think [the Pawnee pool] is lame," senior Katie Ingram said. "I never go there and I think maybe if Columbus had more fun stuff at the pool, I would actually spend money to go there." She went on

to say that building a water park in Columbus would bring in surrounding business.

Bulkley said the issue would be addressed sooner than six months if the public pushes the idea. Organizations such as the Junior City Council and local civic groups could get this addressed quickly. Bulkley said the younger people of the community need to get involved and say something. Bulkley is a supporter of the idea but he cannot do this alone, thus, needing the people of the community to step forward and take part in bettering the community.



Cracks in the Pawnee Pool, such as the one seen here, are filled for temporary purposes. Major repairs are needed for the Pawnee pool to continue public use.

Policies affect shirttales, thirst

By Matt Raimondo
Staff Reporter

As the students sit in their blazing classrooms learning math facts and prepositions, they can be glad to know that this year it will not be too exhausting to sit in class and learn. No, it is not air conditioning, but it might keep students cooler. This year the students get to have water bottles in class with them.

The student body has cooperated with the changes in the handbook so far. Students are now allowed to drink water in any class as long as it is in a clear container. Along with that, though, are the new uniform rules that include an automatic one-dollar fine if a student is not in the correct dress code attire. Also new this year is the increased weight of the semester tests on a student's average.

Principals

Wayne Morfeld said that there has been no problem with the water being in the classes and that there was never any anticipation that it would be a problem. Many of the teachers also agree with Morfeld on this subject.

"It's making life simpler and it makes it easier on the students," English teacher Kathy Johnson said.

Many students thought that it was a good idea to have the water in class.

"If everyone doesn't abuse the privilege and if they want it along with the teachers then it can be kept in classes for a long time," sophomore student council member Kelly Ingram said.

It was the student council that presented a proposal to the teachers right before the school year to allow students to have water bottles in class. The teachers overwhelmingly approved the idea.

Another change was made to tighten up a loophole in the dress code. This year the students are supposed to wear only yellow, blue, and white polos, or white or blue oxfords. Last year the students were allowed to wear any polo that was of pastel color or the oxfords.

The students, though, started to wear different colors that weren't pastel. Morfeld said that the colors are limited this year for consistency.

If the students decide to be out of dress code then they will be fined a dollar. All that the teachers have to do is say, "Tuck in your shirt" and the student will automatically be fined a dollar. This extra incentive has worked so far with the student body.

"I hardly see anyone with an untucked shirt or wearing the wrong uniform anymore," Johnson said.

The money collected will actually go back to the students. Morfeld said that the money from the uniform

finances will go to help pay for the new computer lab for the junior high. The old computers were not good enough to help teach the students much more about computers than they already knew.

The final major policy change this year will affect how the students are graded. Last year the Rock Bottom reported that many students didn't care about the semester tests because of the small impact they had on a student's grade. Johnson said that since the students didn't care about the semester tests, the teachers shouldn't have spent so much time in class preparing for them. This year the school is responding by increasing the tests from 10 percent of the student's semester grade to 20

See Policies, page 4

"I hardly see anyone with an untucked shirt anymore."

~Kathy Johnson



WEST NILE GOES THE MILE

Nebraska sees more than its share of the disease

By Zac Riley and Danielle Bernt
Editors

Slap!

There goes another one. But there's plenty more where that came from.

The annoying little insects known as mosquitoes can make life miserable enough during the summer months while they bombard your skin like miniature kamikazes. Besides the itching, there has been a new reason to dread mosquitoes over the last few years: West Nile disease.

Nebraska has been one of the states most infected by the West Nile outbreak. Nebraska has attributed more deaths to the disease than any other state except for Colorado. As of September 19, the Cornhusker State has reported 632 cases of the disease in humans, according to the Center for Disease Control. This total ranks behind only Colorado and South Dakota nationally.

Because West Nile is a virus, Dr. Dan Rosenquist of Columbus said that little can be done once the disease is detected, and there is no cure.

"There is no treatment," Rosenquist said, "except maybe Tylenol, fever control, fluids and rest."

The disease was first detected in 1937 in Africa and the Middle East. It landed on American shores in 1999. The symptoms are similar to many other viruses such as the flu, headache, fever, weakness and a stiff neck. As the disease progresses, a victim may experience disorientation, coma, or even paralysis. One human victim out of every 1,000 affected with the disease die.

If a person has these symptoms, getting tested is a rather simple procedure. Rosenquist said that the test can be done with a simple blood test.

Twelve cases have been re-

See West Nile, page 4

Opinion

Scotus crack down tough on students

BITTERNESS



Chad Trofholz

Many negative feelings have been established by students about the new rules being enforced at Scotus this year; many of these critical feelings come from one Chad Trofholz. I decided that instead of sitting around being whiny, I would write a whiny column...while sitting around.

The first and most disturbing change since last year is charging students a dollar fine for various dress code violations, such as untucked shirts or wearing non-Dickies. I am aware that enrollment is down from previous years, but this rule is simply silly.

I understand that enforcing this rule was no doubt a pain for teachers last year, but how is charging a dollar a solution? In most cases, shirts will come untucked without the student knowing it. A simple reminder would be a suitable solution in this case. Persistent offenders would be given a detention. Taking our money will only cause anger and our reactions will cause a greater scene than having a logo on a shirt.

So far this year I have been fined two dollars for 1) being unshaven and 2) for throwing a milk carton at lunch. These fines seem inconsistent to a dress code violation. Therefore, I think the consequence should fit the crime, rather than punishing all persons the same.

The second change this year

Taking our money will only cause anger and our reactions will cause a greater scene than having a logo on a shirt.

never become fatally dehydrated during a class. Therefore this "privilege" was basically useless for me. Thirst was my main scapegoat for exiting a classroom. However, with the addition of this new "privilege" I am now denied an opportunity to leave classes for water. Heaven forbid I quench my body with the most abundant resource on earth. An explanation for depriving me a drink of water was, "with privilege come responsibility." What doesn't come with responsibility? I feel that privileges should not be taken away to provide room for other privileges.

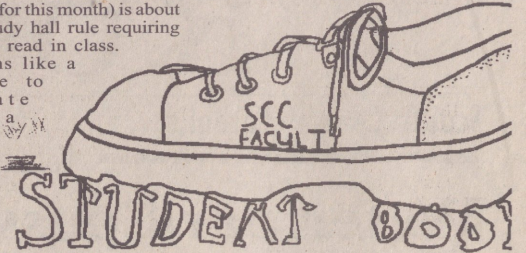
My third and final bit for

was the epic introduction of water bottles to the classroom. I was told to be happy with this change. At first it did not affect me all that much. I have

whinness (for this month) is about the new study hall rule requiring students to read in class.

This seems like a great rule to eliminate sleeping in a school setting. There is a catch however. This said student must be reading a novel, which means that quality reading such as *The World-Herald* and *Nick Magazine* become forbidden. I see no harm in reading a newspaper during a study hall. Newspapers help students further their knowledge, primarily "Hagar the Horrible."

The point is that if we are forced to read, it should at least be something that we like to read. I understand that some magazines should not be read in a Catholic school, or



any school for that matter. There are also several books that probably should not be read in school. Spotting a "Maxim Magazine" would be much easier too, primarily if one searches the bedrooms of my classmates.

I have posted my feelings; however, sadly, I do not have very many solutions. Hopefully this article will sound as more of a wake-up call than simple whining.

Until next time, snootch to the nootch.

Golfers fight for the love of the...sport

Just Press Pause



Danielle Bernt

It's fall once again and the frequent ping of metal on plastic is in the air. To many, golf is not just some recreational pastime that you learn about in Leisure Class, but it is a sport. Golf is a sport, and it deserves the respect of one. If you are one of those people giving me attitude about now, ask yourself:

"Self, have I ever carried a bag eighteen plus holes in 100 degree heat with competitors who throw their attitude further than Danny Marino can throw the long bomb? Or am I the one who rents a cart,

fills the cooler to the brim with ice and "beverages," and calls a mulligan on every other hole?

If you're part of the majority of golfers that ride with the little coolers, then I can understand if you consider golf a recreational activity because my crippled grandma could probably do the same. While working at Quail Run you may notice some types of golfers that are all too common: the tipsy, loud-mouthed older men who are obviously illiterate because time after time I find myself taking in the coolers that are clearly marked "PLEASE RETURN TO CLUBHOUSE." These guys would fall under the Big-Talker-I'm-the-Best-Golfer category along with a few teenage guys that remain nameless. It is funny though because I've never met a female golfer who was as self-proclaimed as some of these guys. And I can say this after golfing with some of the best

Have I ever carried a bag eighteen plus holes in 100 degree heat with competitors who throw their attitude further than Danny Marino can throw the long bomb?

golfers in the state; furthermore, I can say this after golfing with some of the preppy girls from the private Omaha schools. But that's another article for another time and place.

These same guys are the ones that consider such things as sitting in a shack at ungodly hours of the morning with bullets and a gun a sport, and the same guys who think driving around a circle 500 times a sport. I don't get it. By those standards cheerleading at Scotus would

be considered a sport.

Now, I support the cheerleading squad 110%, but it's not a sport at Scotus. You can't blame these girls though. It's not their fault they have limits set for them. How frustrating would that be to be told you couldn't even jump off the floor because it's against the rules at Scotus? Probably just about as frustrating as trying to run from the cops when you don't have any legs. I do want to say one more thing about the cheerleaders though. Thanks, girls; it's people like you that make Scotus sports what they are, which is obviously everything.

But anyway, if you've made it to this part of the article and still disagree with me, I'll tell you what...how about you come out to a meet sometime? You can even wake up at 5 a.m. and ride with us in an over-packed Suburban for a few hours. Then you can be ever so lucky to carry my bag for five

hours while golfing with some of the "friendliest" girls in the state. And after this, returning home to hear that you didn't play well enough so you head out to the range the next morning, which happens to be Saturday, at 7 a.m. Finally, you can go to school that next Monday and listen to teachers and classmates alike tell you that what you do doesn't deserve to be called a sport.



Remembering the old days...



Zac Riley

As my first year in creative writing, aka newspaper, I am supposed to write a column and it has taken much thought to figure out what exactly to write about. Even now I'm just typing to take up space. Eeek.

Okay, but seriously, many of you know of me and know that I am now a senior. Yay! The idea came to me at Friday's football game, which might I add was not a pretty one. It came down to, I believe, Taylor Harsh asking/telling Billy Soulliere and I to go ask seventh graders to move. Seventh graders were sitting on the front bench. As many of you know, that is where the seniors sit/stand when Scotus scores. If I as a seventh grader would have sat there I would have been picked up and thrown, but I as a seventh grader would not come down to that. I would move and not sit near them. I didn't want to give them a chance to pick on

The first row at any event was reserved for seniors; you wouldn't even think about sitting there.

me. So I came to the idea to write about how life as a seventh grader has changed, dramatically.

When I was in seventh grade, I didn't get it quite so bad for the fact I had a brother who just graduated, plus my mother taught at school, too (Marsha Riley). If I saw a senior I would not mess with him. I

would not even look at him because I would be scared about what they would do to me. The first row at any event was reserved for seniors; you wouldn't even think about sitting there. It was no question then that you didn't mess with the seniors.

I don't know if you heard about the powder puff game, in Chicago, IL. I will give you information; the senior and junior girls play flag or touch football. The senior girls make the junior girls do stuff like eat grass or something to that extent. If the junior girls want to be able to do that to the next year's juniors they have to go through it first. So that's like seniority. I am not

saying that what they did was right; that was way past the limit.

This isn't all about seventh graders. Things have changed so much since I was a seventh grader. When we became a freshman and we wanted into a class the seniors got first dibs. Some teachers don't like having seniors because they won't take it seriously. Yet they believe freshman will take it more seriously. When I was a freshman I was-umm, in a word-quite immature, but now as a senior you know teachers and what they will take and what they won't. You know the limit of the teachers, and just how close you can get to that limit before they blow their top.

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Features

Kaufmann settling in Midwest

By Sadie Bolte
Editor

He was smiling even before the interview began. This smile started off another day at a new experience.

Matt Kaufmann is a 12-year-old freshman at Scotus. He recently moved from Jamestown, New York, a city with a population of about 60,000.

"I wasn't really that upset about [moving]," Kaufmann said. "I miss my friends, but we still talk."

His first assumption of Nebraska was like many other's: a lot of farms and not too many people. The transition Kaufmann made from New York to Nebraska wasn't out of the ordinary because he lived at a lake, not in a large city. He described Jamestown as "pretty much the same as here."

At the age of 12, Kaufmann is

in the 9th grade, and to top it off, he is taking Algebra II, a class typically taken by sophomores and juniors. Kaufmann said he only skipped kindergarten, by the discretion of his parents. In New York, he had been a level higher in math classes, and based on what classes he had previously taken, he was put in Algebra II.

One of his favorite classes is Algebra II because math comes easily to him. His Algebra I teacher, Merlin Lahm, said Kaufmann is very attentive, and he is always offering information.

"I've told Matt, stop raising your hand, just tell me the answer,"

Lahm said, grinning.

Though being intelligent can have its benefits, it can have its downfalls as well. Because he was younger and smaller than the rest of his classmates, he was a target of teasing. He learned to deal with it, and eventually they stopped teasing him.

In the future Kaufmann plans on going to college and hopes to become a math or science teacher. Other than that, he doesn't have any set goals yet.

In his spare time, he enjoys swimming, jumping on his trampoline, playing on his computer, and playing tennis.

"Most people don't think that I like sports," he said. "I actually



T.J. WRIGLEY/ROCK BOTTOM

Matt Kaufmann smiles as he stands in the courtyard. He's adjusting to Scotus and other changes after he moved from Jamestown, New York.

"It makes me feel good that people appreciate me."

~Matt Kaufmann



PHOTO COURTESY BILLY SOULLIERE

Senior Billy Soulliere and his parents pose with a buffalo they shot near Niobrara, Nebraska. Soulliere is one of the many Scotus students that enjoy hunting.

Hunting serves as life-long passion for some students

By Stephanie Laudenklos
Staff Reporter

When most students are sleeping at 4:45 in the morning, deer hunters and other hunters alike are out in their stand. They are patiently awaiting an animal to walk by their tree while trying not to fall asleep. It's a passion, and whether it is with a bow, rifle, or muzzleloader, hunters everywhere create great memories from their own voyages. Their first hunt, who they learned from, and hunting tips are some of those memories.

Bow season started on September 15 and the season has gotten off to a slow start. As of Sept. 21, only 9 deer have been checked in. Since Nebraska is a vast land of prairie and rivers, the deer population is high.

Others venture off to other states or even countries to accomplish lifetime hunting goals.

"I had been wanting to do it for years and years before I could go," taxidermist Don Laudenklos of Laudy's Taxidermy said about his most memorable hunt for Black Bear in Canada.

Out of the many Scotus students that hunt, some are successful and others are not. The animals may not show on certain days, but laughs can be had just getting to your stand or blind.

"I had a cramp while walking to the duck blind," senior Joe Held said, "and I had to hold onto (senior Billy) Soulliere before I fell in the river."

They are out there for anything from raccoons to deer to ducks. A

hunter may even live up to Held's favorite saying: "If it flies, it dies."

Many hunters have been hunting anywhere from a few years to their whole lives like Soulliere, a lot of them learning the trade from their fathers. They hunt from local areas such as Genoa to far away in the sandhills. Rifle season spurs the sandhill movement.

The rifle season starts November 14 and lasts for two weeks. During this time, bow hunters are asked to stop hunting. This is done so the whole population of deer is not spooked. It is also done for safety and territory sharing reasons.

Pre-season is a critical time. Preparing the gun or bow makes all the difference. Siting the bow or rifle can be done in the middle of a field or in local towns for archers

who want something nearby. DB Archery in Platte Center has a great indoor range of up to 20 yards, as well as

a virtual hunt. Checking treestands to make sure they are stable and quiet is one more thing to add to the to-do list.

Hunters want the trophy deer, but most settle for the meat and eating aspect. Deer and other animals make for good meals. From stir-fry to jerky they can become a variety of different foods. Associations even have big and small game recipe books.

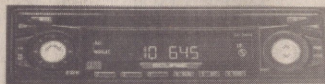
If they are in it for the trophy aspect, mounting would be the next step. Local taxidermists are one of the cheapest and most convenient ways to go.

Once the last rifle is put away for the season, once the last deer steak has been eaten, the hunter is left with perhaps the best part of hunting: memories and stories.

"If it flies, it dies."

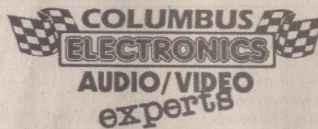
~Joe Held

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This Nebraska student has pre-med down to a science.

ERICA PETERSON a junior from Gothenburg double majoring in biology/pre-med and Spanish, has dreams of becoming a doctor.

Already, she's been involved in research and shadow experiences on campus and has served as a health aid in her community. She credits the accessibility of her professors and the involvement

opportunities on campus for her success: "Participating in the Honors Program. Researching with professors at the Beadle

Center. Serving as a youth mentor. Nebraska has helped me shape the exact program

I want and need."

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| 2 Tbs. Wesson Oil | Half can of water |
| Flour | 4-5 small deer steaks |
| One can mushroom soup | 3 cups prepared rice |

Heat oil in a frying pan. Flour steaks on both sides and fry until done. Remove steaks and drain all oil from pan. Pour mushroom soup and water in pan and stir until smooth. Add steaks to soup and simmer for 20 minutes. Serve over rice. Serves 4-5 people.

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Junior high sports briefs

Compiled by Tyler Micek and Kelly Ingram

Junior High Cross Country

Although the junior high cross country runners have put many hard hours into their running, they have been able to have only one meet.

Head Coach Tim Engel said he was pleased that each of his five runners finished the race on September 5 in Albion. The runners hope to improve their times by the end of the season and finish a race without walking.

"They have put forth good effort," Engel said. "Our first meet was at Albion and our last meet is at Albion, so hopefully we will have improved our times."

7th Grade Volleyball

The seventh grade 'A' team started off its season with a tournament in Schuyler in which they placed second in the silver division. The team also won its game on Monday, September 15, against Lakeview in two sets. The 'B' team also defeated Lakeview in two sets.

Head Coach Jane Dusel-Misfeldt said passing is the seventh graders' strength and lack of communication is their weakness.

"I think they are very good," Dusel-Misfeldt said. "I am

pleased with their progress."

8th Grade Volleyball

The eighth grade 'A' team also started its season with a tournament in Schuyler. The team beat North Bend in three sets and went on to win the tournament against Schuyler in two sets. The team also defeated Lakeview on Monday, September 15, in two sets.

The 'B' team also won their game against Lakeview in two sets. Gary Luchsinger, head coach, said that the eighth graders' strength is their passing and serving.

"We're not a real strong attacking team yet, and I think we could work a little more on our defense," Luchsinger said.

The team is looking good so far, Luchsinger said.

7th Grade Football

The Scotus seventh grade football was supposed to have its first game on September 11, but it was postponed due to weather. The seventh grade team is not full of the biggest players, but what they lack in size, they make up for in speed and numbers.

"There are some players new to football, so we are moving a lot of kids to different positions," Pat Brockhaus, the head seventh grade

coach, said.

A lot of the schools they play have good tradition, but the Scotus seventh graders enjoy the game, and it will be nice to see how they do against the other teams, Brockhaus said.

They played their first game on September 17, against Central City, and they won 66-0. On September 18, they played a very close game against Norfolk Catholic. It ended up being tied 8-8.

8th Grade Football

The Scotus eighth grade football team also had its first game postponed.

Head Coach Brian Fuchser said it will be hard to tell how the team will compare to other teams because it is his first year as head coach, but he is impressed by the quality of the athletes.

"The biggest challenge will be keeping all seventeen players healthy because that only leaves us with six subs right now," said Fuchser.

The first game played was against Norfolk Catholic on September 18. Since Bradshaw Park does not have a scoreboard, no one was sure what the final score was, but it was believed that Scotus lost.



PHOTO TAKEN FROM WWW.UNLOCO.COM

Unloco is Pete (drums), Joey (vocals), Marc (guitars), and Victor (bass). They come from Texas and produce a hard-rock sound like no one else.

Good Charlotte not so good; Unloco offers unique sound



Sadie Bolte

Trash Talk

Girls don't like boys; girls like cars and money. And the winner for the best songwriting goes to... Good Charlotte! This hard-core punk band has some of the most colorful, unique, and heartfelt lyrics.

Who are we kidding?! Good Charlotte is far from good. Their lyrics don't make sense and have no meaning.

"Lifestyles of the rich and the famous, they're always complaining, always complaining." Yeah, and your point is...?

Words are half of music, and they can't even get that

right. For the other half, they slap their meaningless nonsense with some music. Sure, you can call it music, but so can whatever Hanson, Britney Spears, and the Spice Girls came up with. So why not just call them a boy-band? Good, more like bad, Charlotte made sure that wasn't going to happen, so they got all tattooed up, colored and spiked their hair, and put a few bolts and screws in their face. Let me put it this way: Britney Spears and Justin Timberlake both have tattoos, Pink colors and spikes her hair, and Joey from *Nsync has his eyebrow pierced.

So yes, as far as I am concerned,

Good Charlotte made sure that they weren't called a boy-band, so they got all tattooed up...

they are a boy-band. Their poppy tunes and easy-to-follow lyrics appeal to the young and the hopeless, such as those in the early adolescent stages. Good Charlotte has little kids wearing their logo-ed black and green wristbands and thinking that they are hard-core punks because of it. For all of you wannabe-punks, Good Charlotte is the band for you!

Finally Something Good!

Now that I got that over with, let's move onto something worth listening to. Last year I went to the Music as a Weapon II tour, and I saw one of the most phenomenal bands I've ever seen or heard. After I heard their songs and saw their live show, I couldn't get enough of Unloco. They are all hispanic but

grew up in Texas. Sure, you're thinking that this will all be in Spanish. Actually, there is only one line in just one of their songs that is in Spanish. Unloco is a hard-rock band with a sound of their own. Every song is full of

energy and deep, powerful lyrics that many can relate to. For the first-timers, you may want to try the band's latest album *Becoming i*. "Failure" is the album's first single. *Becoming i* is a bit softer than their previous album *Healing*. After you've thoroughly enjoyed *becoming i*, it's time to give *Healing* a try. Proceed with caution; this album's intensity may blow you away. It clearly displays the band's capabilities of producing songs with a powerful punch. Unloco is a unique band that has talent yet to be discovered. All in all, Good Charlotte's poppy tunes and punk-wannabe style have to go, while Unlocos irreplaceable sound is here to stay.

West Nile: Nebraska gets hit hard

ported in Platte County so far this year, up from seven reports last year. However, Rosenquist said that the majority of people affected are going unreported.

"If Platte County had 12 reported cases," he said, "there would be 120 cases not reported."

West Nile, like many other viruses, is especially dangerous to young children and the elderly. It is those two groups where most of the fatalities are seen, as well as in people with preexisting diseases such as diabetes or cancer.

Over 130 species of birds are carriers of the virus, with the most common being blackbirds,

robins, sparrows, and doves. However, it is the mosquito that infects most humans. To protect themselves from getting the disease, people should take precautions to avoid mosquito bites. Nebraskans will soon get a helping hand in that regard from Mother Nature.

"The freeze will kill the mosquitoes and their larva," Rosenquist said. "This should make a big difference in the number of cases until next year."

For people who have to suffer through the disease, they can find solace in that they are safe for a year. After contracting the disease, victims are immune for about a year.

Did you know?

-1,321 cases of West Nile in Nebraska and 10 deaths.

-Nebraska is the third largest human cases after Colorado and South Dakota.

-Nebraska is second for most deaths after Colorado.

- When contracted with West Nile virus he/she will be immune for approximately one year.

- Symptoms of West Nile are headaches, high fever, neck stiffness, coma, tremors, convulsions, and muscle weakness.

-There have been 12 human cases in Platte County this year.

Policies

from page 1

student body is going to college and needs to be ready for how they will be treated in college," Morfeld said, "and the semester tests in college are a major part of their grade."

Morfeld said he would also like to see the student council get involved more in making the student body grow.

"Will the student body ever be able to run the school?" Morfeld said. "No, but they should be able to have a logical voice in how it is run."

Some changes have been made to the way this school is run. Will all of them work? Is there any way to tell how long any of them will last? Only time will tell.



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Is Good (?) Charlotte just another boy band?



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Rock Bottom Review

Rock Bottom Review

Twists make *Matchstick Men* worth it

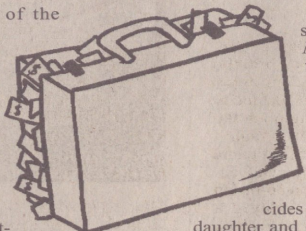
By Joey Beauvais
Staff Reporter

People get scammed everyday, and it's not just old people or your average fool. Anytime someone calls you up and tells you that you've won a contest and to send in some money to claim it - WATCH OUT. Professional con artists can make winning a contest or trying to claim a prize a nightmare that you could have never imagined. This is just like what happens in the film *Matchstick Men*.

Roy, played by Nicolas Cage, was left by his wife when she got the impression he was a "bad person." She had a dislike for his being a "neat-freak." In a typical movie-like twist, he does something drastic (becomes a con-artist), winds up getting himself in trouble, and all in all endures some unrealistic drama.

The acting overall was better than would be expected from a movie that did not have many big name actors or a lot of hype. Nicolas Cage manages to shake off the action/rebel stereotype from previous films, such as *Con Air* and *Gone in 60 Seconds*. His character Roy is obsessive-compulsive, causing him to stay in, close all doors three times, close all windows, and other annoying habits. Sam Rockwell, who plays Roy's partner Frank, does not have near as much screen time as Cage, but we do find him to be over easy at time, especially considering the type of work that he's doing.

The plot of the movie has a bit more depth than I thought it would, but as all movies are, it has been dramatized to make it more interesting. OK, so the fact that a man becomes a con artist after he gets divorced may be semi-possible, but then finding out that he had a daughter with his ex-wife 14 years ago and not finding out about it until he sees a psychiatrist for pouring his medication down the drain? When's the last time that happened? And even more so, his daughter, played by Alison Lohman, just HAPPENS to be great when it comes to conning people. It's also all too convenient that they were planning a big heist that she could be a part of.



On the realism scale, *Matchstick Men* may not be the highest, but that's not to say it doesn't have its high points. The movie is entertaining, particularly when Cage decides to go out with his daughter and get to know her. She totally flips his world upside-down and makes things go positively in his life once again. After all, how much room is there for a teenager in the house of a guy where EVERYTHING must be spotless?

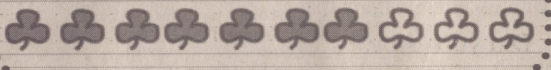
Matchstick Men is not the type of film that you usually see come out. It may not be as funny as other movies out there, but the depth of the plot and its many twist make it one of the best movies I've seen in a long time. Unrealistic, clever, and mildly entertaining. *Matchstick Men* receives a 7 of 10 **shamrocks**.

At the movies: *Matchstick Men*

Stars: Nicolas Cage, Alison Lohman, Sam Rockwell

Five words: Unrealistic, clever, and mildly entertaining

Joey's Rock Bottom rating:



SO FAR FROM REAL

The pop-punk band Caulterize hails from Canada and closely resembles bands such as The Ataris and Green Day. They will be touring with Evanescence on the Nintendo Fusion Tour.

Cauterize follows pop-punk formula to success

By Chad Trofholz
Editor

Rising from a million-to-one shot, the band Caulterize has produced greatness. With the release of their debut album "So Far from Real" the band delivers a CD with nonstop hits.

Having Green Day as their main influence, Caulterize produces a sort of music that sounds very similar to other recent pop-punk bands such as A Simple Plan or The Ataris. The main difference that I found about Caulterize was that the lyrics are meaningful and appealing. Every song is unique and catchy, helping them break from the mold that recent pop-punk bands follow. An example of their unique lyrics taken from the song "Choke" goes:

You said I always sang too loud to sing you a love song. Well I save my soft voice for the words I really mean. You always said I had a hard time saying what's on my mind. Well, here it goes: I hate you for what you've done to me.

The song "Choke" has a very upbeat pace as well as their newly released single "Something Beautiful." There are also a few softer pace songs, much like Blink 182

has, such as "Killing Me." Whether the beat is fast or slow, the main theme of their music deals with many issues that teens deal with. Most songs are written about breaking up and how it feels.

If you go then I'll forget you. When you're gone I won't miss you. I'm sorry, that's just the way I learned to deal with broken hearts.

This piece is taken from my personal favorite song, "If you Go." The band hails from Ontario, Canada, where three members met in kindergarten. They started a band that they called Toe. After inviting a friend to join the band, their new name for the band came from a Toe song titled "The Moment I Cauterize," a play on words for "caught her eyes."

"So Far from Real" is the best CD that I have bought this year and I encourage all to buy it. I can honestly say that I did not find a bad song. The band will be touring with Evanescence on the Nintendo Fusion Tour, which unfortunately tours nowhere near Nebraska. So, if you are tired of poppy bands like Good Charlotte that produce nothing but boy-band rank material, I think it is time for you to check out this quality band. And hey, if Jay Trofholz likes it...it can't be that bad.

Across

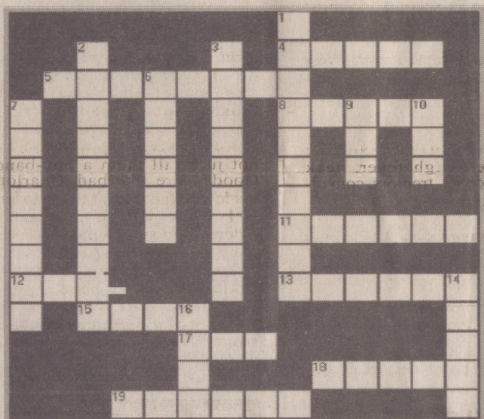
- Spanish word for Fall
- Boys' sport
- _____ Day
- Fall
- What you do in cross-country
- Things that fall in Fall
- Girls' sport in this season
- Weight room program (abbreviated)
- Coach for 5 Across
- Fall Color

Down

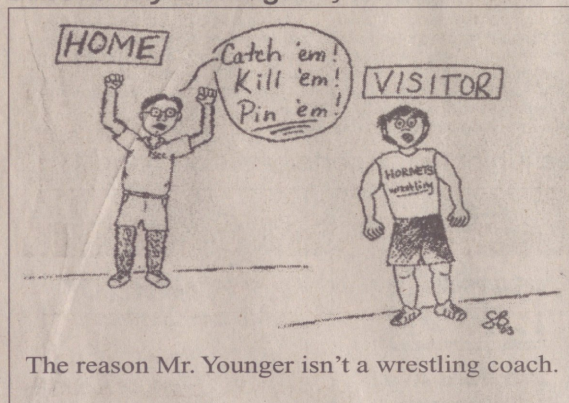
- Girls' sport
- Major event coming up
- Holiday in Fall
- Boys' Sport in this season
- Campus
- Mrs. Hruska's baby
- Fall Color
- Organization against underage drinking
- Organization that had a mini-golf tournament

SCOTUS + WORD

BY TYLER MICEK AND KELLY INGRAM



Directionally Challenged by Sadie Bolte



The reason Mr. Younger isn't a wrestling coach.

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Kyle's Korner



Kyle Clarey

Huskers out to prove '02 was fluke

Nebraska football is finally back in session.

After last year's sub-par season, Husker fans were eager to see what the new coaches had done with the team. So far, it appears that Bo Pelini has worked the defense back to a level that people expect. I'm not completely ready to say, "The blackshirts are back," like I've been frequently hearing. Yes, they are having a good season so far. But the real tests will begin when they have to face some of the Big XII powers.

As far as the offense goes, the jury is still out. Against Oklahoma State they managed to score a lone touchdown, but overall their performance was weak. In the second game they scored 31 points against the Aggies. No, not the Texas A&M Aggies, the Utah State Aggies. Against Penn State they scored 18 points, but it was ugly.

New offensive coordinator Barney Cotton promised to bring

Will the Big Red Machine start rolling again or will it grind to a painful halt?

a more balanced attack. But does he have the weapons? Jammal Lord has struggled the whole season throwing the ball. It appears that he's not going to get any better. Josh Davis is a tough runner, but does he have the speed to get the corner?

Matt Herian looks great at tight end, but you have to get him the ball. The 'O' Line looks to have worked hard in the off-season and is improved.

We are already hearing the chants of "Dailey, Dailey, Dailey." He's proven he can throw the ball in high school and the coaches love his arm strength. Look for a change if Lord struggles in a big game.

The special teams will be fine. Sandro DeAngelis has already kicked his way out of a job with his missed extra point. David Dyches, the true freshman, came on and made four field goals against Utah State. He's the number one kicker as of today. Kyle Larson is a potential All-American at punter.

The big question mark for this season will be the offense. Will the Big Red Machine start rolling again or will it grind to a painful halt?

VB competes with perfection

By Nicole Sobotka
Staff Reporter

When people think of the Scotus volleyball, one word comes to mind; success. Every time a new season tolls around people wonder if the team will carry on the tradition and if Scotus will still be the best.

"It's scary," Laura Dolezal said about playing on a team that hasn't lost a game in the last two seasons.

"It's an intimidating fact, because you don't want to be the one that messes up that streak."

Head Coach John Petersen had a different view of the situation.

"I guess I've coached long enough that those kinds of things aren't important," Petersen said. "Each team needs to reach its highest level of ability. The goal in every match is to play your best and do things right, all the time."

Many of Scotus's volleyball games are short and sometimes it seems the players sweat more during the warm-ups than the actual games. Scotus doesn't seem to have that much competition, but the players still seem to get pumped up to play, regardless of the opponent.

"You get motivated by your teammates, even though you know you could win, you want to make everything perfect, no matter who you play," junior Haley Buel said.

"You just want to kill them."

Many great athletes have walked through Scotus's halls. Often, they'll come back to watch the teams they've played on, which can be nerve wracking for the players who are currently playing.

"I feel like they're there to evaluate you and compare you to their team and how good they were," senior Mandi Schumacher said. "They're watching to make sure you get the job done."

A lot of success at Scotus had been credited to Petersen. Many people feel he is an outstanding coach.

"He's extremely intense and you don't want to make him mad," Buel said. "No one wants to make him get out the barf bucket."

The barf bucket was something Petersen would refer to when his players' play made him "sick." The senior volleyball players presented him with an actual bucket for his birthday. Since the players were able to do that, it shows the camaraderie on the team.

"He's definitely a good coach,"

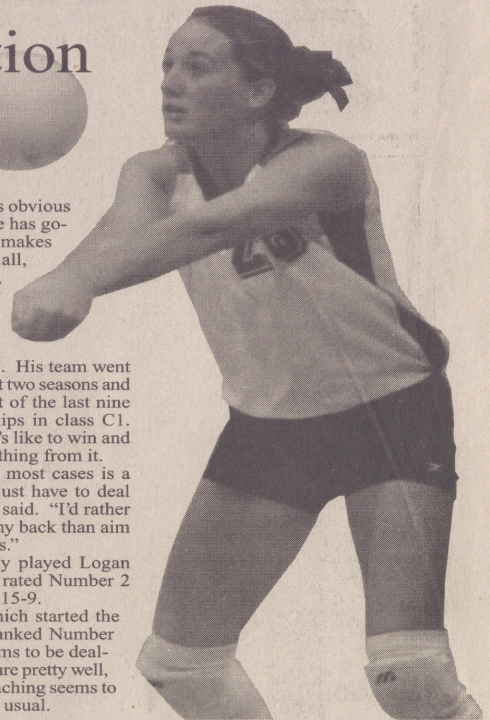
Schumacher said. "I mean, it's obvious by the tradition he has going on here. He makes you give it your all, no matter what, and he expects perfection daily."

Petersen had been part of many great teams. His team went undefeated the last two seasons and has won eight out of the last nine state championships in class C1. He knows what it's like to win and has learned something from it.

"Pressure, in most cases is a good thing, you just have to deal with it," Petersen said. "I'd rather have a target on my back than aim for someone else's."

They recently played Logan View, which was rated Number 2 at the time, 15-5, 15-9.

The team, which started the season 7-0 and ranked Number 1 in class C1, seems to be dealing with the pressure pretty well, and Petersen's coaching seems to be working...like usual.



Streaking...

A look at Scotus volleyball's continuing excellence

Scotus volleyball has...

- Won 66 straight matches
- Won 2 straight state championships
- Won 7 of the last 8 state championships
- Gone 360-14 over 14 seasons

- Played in the state finals 10 straight years
- Appeared in 14 straight state tournaments
- Finished ranked in the top 2 in 12 of the last 13 seasons, finishing 3rd in the other year, 1992

Catholic football schedules get tougher road

Scotus won't see a team ranked outside the top 5 until its season is half over.

By Kyle Clarey
Editor

In 2002, the Nebraska School Activities Association took it upon itself to draw up football schedules for every football team in Nebraska. The current schedules, created before the 2002 season, give a definite advantage to non-Catholic schools.

The Rock Bottom compared the schedules of three area Catholic schools (Scotus, David City Aquinas, and Wahoo Neumann) to the public schools of similar size in their towns (Columbus Lakeview, David City High, and Wahoo High). The numbers show a much tougher road for the Catholic schools.

Taking the worst hit is Scotus, who won't see a team ranked outside of the top 5 in Class C1 until its season is half over. Norfolk Catholic, Pierce, and Boone Central are the non-district opponents for Scotus this year. Scotus then starts district play against defending state champion Neumann, followed by Aquinas. Aquinas, by the way, started its season against the No. 1 and 2 teams in the state.

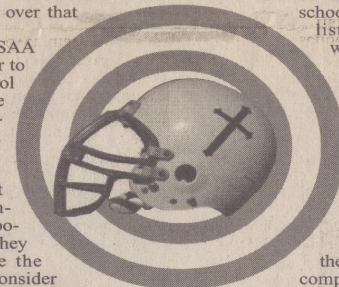
The Shamrocks' first five opponents have combined for eight appearances in the state championship game over the past six years, including five state champions over that span.

The NSAA sent a letter to every school before the 2002 football season. The school had to make a list of the non-district opponents that they would like the NSAA to consider for their schedule in the 2002 and 2003 seasons. Before the 2002 season, the schools got to make their own non-district schedule. The non-district opponents that Scotus wished to play for this season ranked in priority (1) Schuyler, (2) Mt. Michael, (3) North Bend, (4) Wayne, (5) York, (6) Madison. Scotus received none of these op-

ponents on their schedule. According to the letter, "The NSAA will not make any guarantees that your school will get to play all of the non-district schools that you have listed. The NSAA will make every attempt possible to try and accommodate your request for non-district games in football."

Opponents of the three Catholic schools won 60 percent of their games in 2002, compared to the public schools' opponents winning percentage of 48 percent. This season the disparity is even more pronounced, with the Catholic opponents winning 71 percent compared to 45 percent so far for the public school opponents.

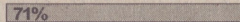
Does the NSAA have a controversy on its hands?



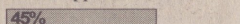
A steeper climb for Catholic schools

2003 Winning Percentage

Catholic Opponents:

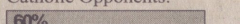


Public Opponents:

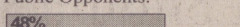


2002 Winning Percentage

Catholic Opponents:



Public Opponents:



Percentages based on non-district opponents. Schools compared: Neumann, Scotus, Aquinas to Wahoo, Lakeview and David City

Scotus's First Four Games

Norfolk Catholic #2 in C1

Pierce #5 in C1

Boone Central #4 in C1

Bishop Neumann #3 in C1

Omaha World-Herald ratings after week 2

All four teams are currently 3-0



T. J. WRIGLEY/ROCK BOTTOM

Raw running

Sophomore running back Jim Rawhouser runs the ball for the Green team as junior Pat Schaecher leads the way in the annual preseason scrimmage. The Green team edged the White team to win the "Gatorade Game."

See junior high sports briefs on page 4



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Volume 6 ◦ Issue 2 ◦ October 17, 2003

Stuthman explains inner workings of government

By Matt Raimondo
Staff Reporter

"Oh I'm just a bill, Oh I'm only a bill. Standing here on Capitol Hill."

Most students have seen the *School House Rocks* video about making bills. On September 26th some of those students received the chance to get a first hand view on how bills are actually made. They were given the chance to listen to Nebraska state senator Arnie Stuthman in the Little Theater.

During his speech he discussed many different topics about what he encounters in his job as senator. He talked about the gun laws and the state's control of gambling.

In one day he receives approximately 834 bills. Each bill consists of about 200 pages. The legislature can pass a bill quickly if most everyone agrees about it, but this is a very rare occurrence and does not happen very often.

When deciding on how to vote on a bill, lobbyists try to influence the senators to what they (the lobbyists) believe.

"I respect the lobbyists," Stuthman said, "but (I) use them only for information."

Gambling is an issue that he addressed during his speech. He said he wishes that the state could control the revenues from gambling so that the profits can go to the gambling addictions.

His views on gun laws were agreed upon by many of the students and faculty that attended the assembly. He believes that nobody should be allowed to carry a concealed weapon out in public.

"If concealed weapons were allowed," Stuthman said, "then you would have to assume that everyone had a weapon instead of assuming that no one has a weapon."

He talked about many of these topics because they are occurrences that will affect the student body sooner or later.

"These things will not directly affect them (student body) now," modern problems teacher Jim Puetz, who set up the speaker, said. "When they get to be forty years old is when the things that they hear as seventeen-year-olds start to come into their lives."

Puetz said it was good for the students to have a senator like Stuthman.

See *Senator*, page 4



KELLY INGRAM/ROCK BOTTOM

And they're off

As Coach Dan Mahoney looks on, the Scotus boys cross country team strides out of the gate at the conference meet held in Hastings. The boys team would finish third while the girls went on to a first place finish at the Friday, October 10, meet.

Retreats form cornerstones for class unity

By Danielle Bernt
Editor-in-Chief

Each year students and faculty alike set aside a day to make a retreat. From the simple Scotus gym to Duncan to Camp Timberlake, the purpose behind these days changes only slightly. The idea is to bring people together to realize a common bond through God and prayer.

"Students tend to value retreats for class bonding," Father Bill Bond, the sponsor of the retreats, said, "and I think when we grow closer to each other we are more open to God."

As seventh graders coming to Scotus, the retreat provides a taste of everything from meeting new classmates to thinking about future life plans. This is when the year to year letters are first introduced to the students. These letters help students define goals, hopes, and memories. Senior Canice Coan recalls her impression of the retreat:

"We thought it was a big deal, but looking back now it wasn't as big of a deal as we made it."

Coan also went on to say that the next few retreat years were too similar.

"Our freshman, sophomore, and junior retreats were all pretty much the same because we had set times to do certain things," she said.

One retreat Coan did not mention was the eighth grade confirmation retreat. This is done through the

churches and takes place before confirmation in the eighth grade. Eighth grade students go on two retreats for either half a day or a complete day depending on the parish. For this reason Scotus does not plan an eighth grade school retreat.

Finally after the five years of Columbus and Duncan retreats the school mixes it up with a trip to Camp Timberlake for the long-awaited senior retreat. The day starts with an early bus ride to Camp Timberlake. The students take part in a prayer service and a group activity that involves burning slips of paper with things students feel hold them back.

"I think it was a good way to symbolize letting stuff go," senior Eric Grubaugh said. "It shows you are willing to let out what you are holding in,



SARAH KEITER/ROCK BOTTOM

Seniors Joe Held and Ryan Ames bond with classmate Mandi Schumacher in the form of dumping her in the lake. Each year the seniors take retreat to Camp Timberlake near Central City.

and when you burn something it doesn't come back."

Then the seniors were allowed to have a group discussion.

"I don't think we had any huge issues that needed to be addressed and changed," senior Mary Naughtin said.

"I just think it gave us the opportunity to have fun with a wide range of people."

Opinions on the discussion differed, but some things were definite.

"The best way to judge a conversation isn't a video tape of the conversation but by being there in person," Bond said.

In the afternoon seniors were given the opportunity to try the high ropes course, the wall-climb, and the power pole for which Timberlake is famous. The senior retreat has an exceptionally larger time period for individual free time.

"It was a lot of fun and I got to hang out with a lot of people I don't really hang out with," senior Barb Levos said.

Of course, along with class retreats is always the question of class unity.

"I don't think we're a unified class, but we understand each other and the different groups," Levos said.

Class unity or not, the overall opinion of the senior retreat was positive. Along with student retreats, FCS teacher Carmen Johnson has a positive view on faculty retreats.

"[A retreat] brings the teachers together just as it does the students," Johnson said. "I've found them to be all good and useful."

Retreats have as many personal purposes as sociable. The main idea is for each student to come out with more of an understanding about him or herself through faith and friends.



KEITER/RB

Senior Polly Pillen balances on the Power Pole as the wind gusts during senior retreat. The Power Pole at Camp Timberlake is one of three hair-raising obstacles.

Local students gather to discuss, explore faith

By Kelly Ingram
Staff Reporter

Getting together and talking about God, school, problems, and just about everything is keeping some kids busy on Sunday evenings.

Team G.O., meaning God's Operation, is a group of local high school students who are getting together every Sunday night at Progressive Swine Technologies from 7 to 8:30 to talk and listen to each other. The purpose of the group, which was started by John Beller, is to help and be examples for the community and to find themselves faithfully.

"I like group because it's a fun time to talk about problems we are having at school and home," freshmen Thomas Beller, member of the group, said.

Sophomore Jessica Koza, also a member, enjoys the discussion, too.

"I enjoy it because we get to discuss our faith together," Koza said, "and we get to talk about things in our lives and how prayer and God can help us through those things."

The group is made up of 20 to 30 students from Scotus and a few

from Columbus High, but anyone who is interested is welcome. Despite how much fun the group is having, it is hard to recruit students to join.

"I think people should be open-minded and not have first impressions on it," sophomore Jennifer Haney, also a member, said. "They should just go once and try it."

John Beller said it is hard to put into words why he started the group.

"It is basically an extension of God's love to a group of youth who are currently involved or not in groups in order to just get together to pray, to talk, and to understand each other in what we are and where we want to go as Christian people," Beller said.

It is clear that Beller has a love for youth and a love for the future of the Columbus community.

"The message we are trying to get across is that God loves everybody," Beller said, "and He wants only the best for us."

The group is hoping to build a retreat center where students can go just to hang out and stay out of trouble. The retreat center might be at a farm near Platte Center, or the group might rent or buy a building



KELLY INGRAM/ROCK BOTTOM

Darla Neemeyer explains a trust and decision-making exercise to the group as junior Ben Beller waits blindfolded. The group meets regularly on Sunday nights for fellowship and bible study.

in town. The center would have couches, a refrigerator, games, foosball, and other "homely" items.

"I think the retreat center would be a great place for people to go to relax and get away from the stresses of life," Koza said.

What is in the future for the group is not determined quite yet.

"The future of our group is in the hands of the group, the Lord, and through ongoing prayer and discussion," Beller said. "I think we will find those answers. We have discovered we are a sounding board for thoughts, questions, and ideas among the group."

The group has already out-reached to the community. Some

members and Beller prepared and served food to the homeless at the Rescue Mission. The group has goals to become more active in the community. It also has several members who are willing to listen to anyone's problems and help he or she out as best as they can.

"I think I am becoming more faithful in a way because we always go over the readings from mass that weekend," Koza said, "and it helps us to understand them better."

The group hopes to keep growing in their wisdom and love for God and in the number of members of the group as they face the challenges of life with a little help from their friends.

Breathalyzer tests become Homecoming tradition

By Stephanie Laudenklos
Staff Reporter

High school is full of tests, and all of them can affect a student's future. However, perhaps the test that could have the most dire consequences for failing is a test that students can't even study for: the sobriety test at Homecoming.

It may sound odd, but it is the truth. If someone were to fail this easy test, they would be in more trouble than they could plan for. There is a possibility to fail this test but still pass it in a fifteen minutes. They are tested with two different testers after this waiting period. Breathalyzers can be set off by a couple of foods containing alcohol. Some types of gum can set it off or even poppy seeds. The chance that anyone would eat a poppy seed muffin before Homecoming is slim, but still possible.

Breathalyzer tests are not for the
See *Breathalyzers*, page 4

Opinion

Quest for fast, cheap food creates greasy situation

BITTERNESS



Chad Trofholz

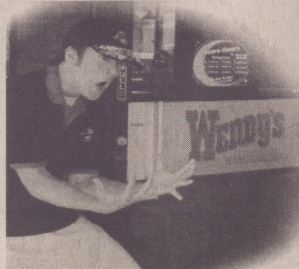
Competing for our business and our adolescent-slave-wage jobs, the 23rd Street rivalry drags on still.

Whether it is the Whopper vs. Spicy Chicken Sandwich, the Junior Bacon Cheeseburger vs. Rodeo Cheeseburger, or King Size vs. Biggie Size, one must make a complex decision on how to buy processed food; a terrific battle to see which will be the most appropriate to cut the mustard. (I thank you.)

The differences between Burger King and Wendy's are subtle for being less than two blocks apart...therefore satisfying Chad Trofholz ought to be their primary

concern. Let's role-play for a minute (or two depending on how quickly you read.) Put yourself in my situation. It's 11:30 and comes a hankering for some fast food. My daily dosage of ground beef is yet to be met so I search for any way to fill my colon with hamburger. There is \$2.25 in my wallet/couch. What do I do? What do I do?

The first choice proximity-wise is to



stop at Wendy's, which hires the likes of seniors Jon Scholz, Scott Ditter, and Dominic Heimann, the self-appointed "best manager in the world." How I long for a square-pattied triple; however, I fall \$1.74 short. Suddenly, I am right in the middle of a pickle (gotta love the puns, eh?) Now I have to settle for a single, but all hope is not lost. With a little help of something that I like to call the Green and Gold Card I receive Biggie fries. Does life get any better than this?

My alternative now is Burger King. Employing one Jacob Euteneuer, this place already has a single strike against it. My two dollars will net me double Rodeo Cheeseburgers, a fine choice. The man that decided to put onion rings and BBQ sauce on a burger is a

It's a terrific battle to see which fast food joint will be the most appropriate to cut the mustard.

fine gentlemen. Kudos to you, sir! But where is burger heaven without French fries? I'm sorry, but six of the sorriest rings are

not going to do the job. This excursion has also left me sodaless. I suppose I could get water and fill it with Sprite, but according to Jacob, this is an unwise decision.

"So these (Hispanics) come into the store and they order all of their food but they didn't order any drinks," Euteneuer said. "They just asked for six glasses of water. Then they order one drink to go with it. And so we had to make sure that they didn't fill their water glasses with pop. I went out there to check on it and they had pop in their water glasses. I said, 'You can't have pop; you only paid for water.' They said that they had filled up the pop and poured it into the glasses. I told them they'd have to pay for

the sodas. He goes, 'No, no, no. You take twenty and forget about it.'"

So as of right now my scales are balanced between a double with biggie or the rodeo cheeseburger duo. A greasy situation if you ask me. (Honestly the last one.) What do you do? What do you do? As you might have guessed, I drive-through at Taco Bell and merrily drive home with a cheesy-gordita crunch. Snooth to the nootch.



Blame can be spread for not-so-spirited school spirit

Just Press Pause



Danielle Bernt

School spirit...I realize this is a bit cliché for a topic so bear with me as I try a new approach.

Imagine this, you're sitting in the stands watching the long-time city rivals go at it again on the volleyball court. The rules have changed though. The winning team not only receives the bragging rights for a year but also the lives of their opponents. This would mean losing your closest friends and quite possibly the numerous state-title winning coach. So you're sitting in the stands, each of the teams having one set under their belt, would you not cheer for

your girls? Would you not scream at the top of your lungs in hopes of a victory? I bet so. Otherwise, your team would end up like the Inca's playing their little stone ball game to the death, sending them home without heads on their shoulders...literally. If school spirit would be taken this seriously maybe we could have a winning football season, or more importantly, win the school spirit award at a state tournament.

School spirit isn't just about going to the state championship games that we're accustomed to, it's about showing that you support your team even if they're down 48-7 in the fourth.

Being the S of the "ROCKS" girls I've realized that it's not only the students, but it's also the parents. I do believe the last time the "ROCKS" girls went to a game they only got the you-look-like-a-complete-idiot stare. Three quarters, some 30 odd points down, a hoarse voice, and a few obscene comments

School spirit is not just about going to championship games, it's about supporting your team when they're down 48-7.

later, the incredibly populated student section of 20 kids stood up to do a little something called "cheer for you're team," only to be scolded by the parents sitting behind them to sit down and be quiet. C'mon! This is one thing...along with quite a few others, which I just don't get. Just because you're wearing a little polo with your son's name and number on it doesn't mean you're pushing the limit of school spirit...now if you were wearing one of those cute little picture buttons, I'd understand. I think my first question is, why were you sitting in the student section? Then, I'd like to ask you if you have some sort of mental disorder like Turrets

or something. Because maybe then I'd understand why you were cursing and shaking like a two-year old on Ecstasy. And I'd just like to say if I can risk losing a chunk of my self-dignity by looking like a complete fool, then you can too.

Have you ever been to a Lincoln Christian game? Holy heck, kids! That's what I call school spirit. These fans know what's going on. The gym is always packed and insanely loud. I remember one game when all the students dressed up as nerds...and the bazaar thing was that if you weren't dressed up you were the one who looked like a dweeb. Even though the crazy "Indian" chick may have been annoying doing her obnoxious battle cry, but I honestly believe she's the backbone of that team, not just the 7-foot sisters that we all know so well. And trust me, I do realize that we can use the excuse that the faculty has set rules that allow no larger than a one inch by one inch piece of school spirit be put on

your face, but come on, peeps, there are other things that could go down because we all know that some things will never change, like Janet Reno refusing plastic surgery. But I guess that's different; she is cute.

So in conclusion, make an idiot of yourself. It's like Al Niedbalski always tells me: you've only got two things in life to worry about, if you're sick and if you're well. And if you're well you've got nothing to worry about, but if you're sick you've got two things to worry about: whether you're alive or whether you're dead. And if you're alive you've got nothing to worry about, but if you're dead you've got two things to worry about, whether you go to heaven or whether you go to hell. If you go to heaven you've got nothing to worry about, and if you go to hell you've still got nothing to worry about because you'll be too busy shaking hands with all your friends. So don't worry about it

Poseurs jumping on already crowded skater bandwagon

Steph Laudenklos



Skater or Prep? Two opposite genres meaning someone cannot be both. If they are, there is only one word for them: Poseurs. Scotus has been considered a prep school throughout the past years. The traditionally short hair, uniforms, and clean-shaven students have given the school this reputa-

tion. Though, in the last couple years, more black-died hair and "skater" jewelry has appeared in the halls and classrooms. The day of the boy bands is out and punk rock is now in. Skaters are taking over the sidewalks and parking lots. All too often signs are posted on buildings stating "No Skateboards."

Skaters have a bad reputation as far as responsibility goes. If someone is a skater they have the reputation to be not try hard at anything except...well...skating. Listening to punk rock music is a main part of their day while hard core sports are not. So people may ask: "How can anyone at Scotus be a skater?" There are a select few

in the school that are true skaters. However, most of them have never even been on a skateboard. These are Poseurs. Some may call them

In the last couple years, more black-died hair and "skater" jewelry has appeared in the halls and classrooms.

wannabes. They like the whole demeanor of being a rebel and not caring what other people think, but once they are out of the baggie jeans and black t-shirts, it is back to straight-driven Ms. or Mr. Goodstudent. A large number of those who claim to be skater are

actually the straight-A students who are in the front of each class.

There are even bands who are made up of Poseurs. Avril Lavigne is a prime example. When being interviewed, she said that she had never even been on a skateboard. Nobody likes the wannabe so Poseurs should stick with what they know. *Good Charlotte*, who was bashed by *Sadie Bolte* in the previous issue of *Rock Bottom*, has become yet another band who claims to be punk rock, but they are now leaning to the pop, boy-band side of their industry.

True punk rock bands love the music for the music and the fans. They are not in it for the money,

cars, or fame. In one of *Good Charlotte's* songs called "Lifestyles of the Rich and the Famous" they put down anyone with fame or money. Punks are supposed to have a motivation for all their anger. Angry parents are usually the source for this. If a "skater" is rich and spoiled, they are posing.

So no matter what anyone tries to be, they can never change who they really are. If they want to be punk, they should be punk. If they have a reputation for being a straight-A student, they should stick with that. If they have the best of both worlds, that is all the better for them. It will probably get them further in the long run anyway.

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Evolution

In-Depth Homecoming from A to Z

Homecoming traditions have evolved over years

By Nicole Sobotka
Staff Reporter

Traci Wickham was voted Homecoming queen in 1990.

"Something we did that I don't think is done anymore, is the parents of the candidates would have a nice dinner the night before Homecoming for the candidates," Wickham said. "It was a nice thing to do and it was an honor to be nominated."

During the time that she was nominated, the girls would carry large, white flowers that they nicknamed "football mums" during the coronation. The tips of the flowers would be colored to match that candidate's dress.

The '90s were a time of change for many Homecoming traditions. The nominees were often three-sport athletes or cheerleaders for girls, but it was rare that girls in cross-country were nominated. The guys didn't have to be football players anymore. There was no bonfire or dinner the night before for candidates.

English teacher Kelly Schaad, a 1991 Scotus grad, recalled

the Homecomings of the '90's.

"We had a pep rally on the Friday of Homecoming, and I remember the candidates had to do crazy stuff like eat gummy worms out of pies made of whipped cream, while blindfolded," Schaad said. "The pep rally was a huge event."

Dress attire was a lot different then than it is now.

"Nobody went and got their hair done, or their nails," Schaad said. "I mean, it was unheard of. You might go to a friend's house to do hair and make up, but you wouldn't pay somebody to do it."

At the dance, people wore nice clothes, but not the formal dresses common today. Finding a date was also different.

"People didn't just go together as friends, either you were going out with someone and you went with them, or you went stag," Schaad said. "It was pretty serious if someone asked you to go with them"

While Scotus has changed many of its traditions over the years, the honor of being nominated and the fun time looked forward to by most of the school remains.

Dan Martin and Leigh Merrill smile as they stand as the 1975 homecoming king and queen. Many Homecoming traditions at Scotus have remained the same over the past 30 years.



Homecoming King Mike Horne and Queen Traci Duren stand side by side after their 1987 coronation. Some traditions, like a dinner for the candidates, have disappeared since the '80s.



The 1990 Homecoming royalty, Tiffany Codling and Travis Brock, prepare to crown the new king and queen as part of the 1991 ceremony, led by crown bearers and current juniors Heidi Sobota and Chris Schmeits. Each year the royalty from the previous year is invited back to pass their title on to the next class.

Like high schools across the land, Homecoming is a time-honored tradition around Scotus. While Homecoming itself is a tradition, the activities, requirements, and dress attire have changed drastically over the years.

In the '70s, the male candidates had to be in football and the female candidates had to be in the pep club. The way the men dressed was also more formal than it is now. They wore coats with ties.

"It was just expected that the guys wore ties with a coat; it didn't seem out of the ordinary," Tom Sobotka, a 1975 Homecoming king nominee said. "Now you see more sweaters instead of ties and coats, which is fine, but it seemed more like a special occasion when we dressed up for it."

While today, Scotus has a Spirit Week, pep rally, and a Mass; it was not done that way then.

"We did things differently then," Sobotka said. "We had a bonfire the night before the dance at the old practice field, and we had a live band play instead of a DJ. It was pretty exciting and most everyone turned up for it."

In the '80s, some tradition had already changed but some remained. The requirements to be nominated did not change. The girls had to be in pep club or a cheerleader and the guys had to be football players. The candidates wore formal clothes, but the people that weren't nominated didn't. The girls just wore nice shirts and blouses, while the guys wore sweaters and pants if they weren't nominated.

The '80s are when the tradition of decorating hallways started. Another thing that was the same as the '70s, was that the seniors chose the candidates and the whole high school voted for king and queen.

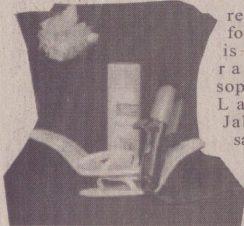
"Nobody went and got their hair done, or their nails. I mean, it was unheard of."

~Kelly Schaad

Dollars, hours involved vary in dance preparation

By Stephanie Laudenklos
Staff Reporter

Shoes, a dress, make-up, hair appointment. Just the thought of Homecoming preparation makes some students break out in hives (yet another thing to worry about). The time management, money, and dress code are just a few chores to accomplish before this glorious night.



"Getting ready for four hours is overrated," sophomore Lauren Jablonski said about last year's preparation

time. The time to get ready for the big night is anywhere from five minutes to Jablonski's four hours. It all depends on organization. Some students are not allotted the needed time for full preparation. Students in sports may request to have a morning practice so that there is time to pluck, tuck, shave, shift, and tape (it is a girl thing).

There are the football players who, although they are guys, may need a little bit more than just a cold shower to get ready for the night. Plus, some have to pick up their dates. This adds extra pressure on them to be on time as to set a good first impression in front of the parents of this girl. Most people do not realize how much pressure is put upon a guy to act, talk, walk, and smile perfectly so that the parents will let their daughter get in the car with this boy. Then there is the whole exchange of flowers, which can be a quite painful story.

However, the big night can be pulled off without spending a lot of money.

"I've spent zero dollars on Homecoming," freshman Stephanie Spies said.

Spies accomplished this by borrowing a dress instead of buying one. A dress can cost anywhere from a Goodwill price to \$300 for anything brand name. Shopping can be a tedious task as well. Walking around a mall all day trying on dresses is not the best Saturday to spend, especially if a dress is not even bought. Then there are the shoes. Shoe prices vary according to what the wearer is going for: comfort or style. Flip-flops have been a recent addition to the Homecoming attire. They are cheap and easy. Wal-Mart sells them for about \$1.49.

Getting hair done can be costly. Some students do it themselves since they have no reason to get it done professionally. All this expense can

be eliminated if just going natural and casual would be an option, but there is one obstacle standing in the way.

Scotus has been looked at as a classy school. It is organized, educational, and Catholic reputation also pertains to the Homecoming attire. A few students in the past years have decided to go to this occasion as themselves and wear the usual jeans and t-shirt. They were not allowed to enter the dance unless they changed. Fancy hair, nice dresses, and Doc Martins are laughed upon at other schools.

"I just wore jeans and a nice shirt," sophomore Kim Whalen said about going to Twin River's Homecoming this year.

Freshman Jordan Grubaugh said it's not clothes or hair that makes a Homecoming special:

"The attitude you set determines how much fun is had."

Do kings and queens still reign homecoming?

By Nicole Sobotka
Staff Reporter

Homecoming royalty has been around long enough for it to become tradition, but is it really just a pointless custom? In most movies made about Homecoming, the queen is a blonde cheerleader and the king is captain of the football team. That's not real life though, at least not at Scotus. While some people do not enjoy Homecoming, most others have a great time.

"I love Homecoming," sophomore Jamie Tooley said. "I think it's fun because there are activities throughout the week, and it's nice to see the entire high school participating."

Junior Nicki Van Ackeren also said she thinks that it is a good time.

"I think Homecoming is fun here because we're smaller school and we

know each other so we don't feel stupid when we dress up," Van Ackeren said. "CHS is too big, and no one dances there."

Not everyone shares that view on Homecoming king and queen.

"I think it's a tradition and a popularity contest because the person who

"It's like any other dance, but people just make a bigger deal out of it."

~Josh Jepsen

wins is well-known and popular most of the time," sophomore Eric Puckett said. "It's tradition because it's been around forever."

Should Scotus continue to carry on its tradition, or has it lost its wholesomeness over the years? Not everyone at Scotus goes to Homecoming

and some think it's a waste of time, money, or that it is unfair.

"I think that having a queen and king is a good thing," senior Kelly Cheloha said, "but I think that most of the time, people know who is going to be chosen for the candidates."

Others don't care about it either way. "I don't care much for Homecoming," sophomore Josh Jepsen said. "It's like any other dance, but people just make a bigger deal out of it."

Some people love it, some people would love to get rid of it. The issue might be a problem for some, but Scotus won't be riding itself of this tradition anytime soon.

"I think we should keep the king and queen because it comes with the dance and it's something fun to look forward to," Tooley said.

Some people might think that Homecoming is overrated and pointless, but it's worth the time and effort put into it for most.

Different strokes for different folks

A look at area schools' Homecoming traditions

Lakeview

Voting: Seniors vote for candidates, student body votes for king and queen.

Candidates: Six girls and six boys

Dance: Saturday

Coronation: Friday after the game

Other Traditions: Spirit week with dress-up days.

Columbus High School

Voting: Seniors vote for candidates; student body votes for king and queen

Candidates: Eight each

Dance: Friday

Coronation: Friday

Other traditions: Wednesday night pep rally and car bash

Schuyler

Voting: The whole school picks candidates, the student body then votes again for king and queen

Candidates: Five each

Dance: Saturday

Coronation: After the game

Other traditions: Bonfire on Monday and a spirit week

Twin River

Voting: The whole school picks the candidates, then votes again for king and queen.

Candidates: Five each

Dance: Friday

Coronation: Halftime of game

Other Traditions: A parade on Friday with a pep rally

North Bend

Voting: Student body picks candidates and then revotes for king and queen

Candidates: Five each

Dance: on Friday

Coronation: After the game

Other Traditions: A pep rally on Friday and spirit week

Humphrey High School

Voting: Seniors pick candidates, then high school votes on king and queen

Candidates: Usually four, this year they had six of each

Dance: On Friday most years, but this year was on Saturday

Coronation: At the beginning of dance

Other Traditions: spirit week, some years they have bonfires, parade and pep rally the Wednesday before Homecoming

Scotus

Voting: Seniors pick candidates, then high school votes on king and queen

Number of candidates: Six each

Dance: Friday

Coronation: After the game

Other Traditions: Spirit week, hallway decorating competition, pep rally, Mass Thursday night

NICOLE SOBOTKA/ROCK BOTTOM



Bustin' a move '70s style

A group of Scotus students get their dance on in the school back in 1975. The clothing styles have changed, but the Homecoming dance still takes place in the school cafeteria.

Rock Bottom

Time crunch felt by some, others have time to spare

By Zac Riley
Editor

"BZZZZZ" "BZZZZZ"
Smack! The alarm clock was just thrown against the wall. Maybe this is what junior Crystal Modde does every morning at 6:30 a.m. when she wakes up.

"I have to lift, so pretty much everyday I am up at 6:30," Modde said.

Modde hits the hay about 11:30 every night, and has to start pretty early to fit in all her many activities.

"FLA, Art Club, Mock Trial, and I'm also on the Speech team this year," she said.

Modde will be quite busy this year; she also has to find time to squeeze in an average of one hour of homework.

Modde is like normal kids on the weekend. She painted her closet recently on the weekend, but mostly she just goes out with her friends and hangs out.

There is only so much time in the day, and that means that a student has to make choices on what to leave out.

"I really like painting and drawing; I wish I had time for that," Modde said. "I also wish I could be in band. It's just something that I think I would like."

It seems Modde has a pretty full plate at Scotus, but not everyone carries such a full load.

Senior Shane Goodall's bedtime on normal nights is 1 a.m. Goodall does not have the alarm clock problem.

"I wake whenever my mom wakes me up," Goodall said.

He also enjoys lots of free time since he is not very active in the school activities.

"Honestly, I never do homework at home," Goodall said.

However, Goodall doesn't just stay at home. He works at Gottberg Brew Pub. His job is all Goodall would talk about. He doesn't have a girlfriend to take up his time either.

"No girlfriend," Goodall said. "But I'm looking. If you're good looking, call me."

Even in his spare time, Goodall is rarely home and does not spend much time with his family. He cooks his suppers at Gottberg.

"My favorite free time activities are none of your business," Goodall said.

Even without school activities taking up his time, Goodall said he still wishes he had more time in the day.

"If there was more time in the day, I would read a book," Goodall said, "but there is not more than 24 hours in a day."



Breathalyzer: Test required at dance

from page 1

people who become light headed when breathing heavily. The police officer often asks students to blow as hard as they can for as long as they can into a small plastic tube.

"I'm just hoping that it won't beep," freshman Brittney Thompson said about taking her first breathalyzer test.

The time it takes for this to occur seems an eternity, but in fact it is only about ten seconds.

Scotus started testing students at high school dances in 1998 because of a student showing up at a school dance completely drunk and puking everywhere according to Jana Buelt, a student at Scotus when they started the tests.

"I think that it is a good idea," junior Ashlee Ebel said about the testing. "When people come in drunk, they ruin the dances by be-

ing obnoxious and rowdy."

And so the testing has become standard procedure. Some students even end up saving their little white tubes as souvenirs. Others just use it as routine practice.

"You just blow in the tube and you're done," junior Katie Novicki said.

There is nothing to worry about when taking this test unless a student has been drinking. In this case they would have to be drunk because they might as well be running through the streets naked yelling, "I am a minor and I've been drinking a six pack!"

The tests have helped lower the amount of alcohol associated with school dances and parties.

"(I am) looking forward to afterwards," junior Heidi Sobota said. "Soda parties."

Senator

from page 1

"I support these people very much," Puetz said, "and I hope we get to have more people like that to speak at our school."

Stuthman said he knew he wanted to become a senator when he wished to bring the needs of people who were from small areas to the concerns of the government. At his present job he makes \$12,000 a year. After taxes it amounts to about \$242 a month that he receives from the state.

Members of modern problems class and others who attended now know how the "bill sitting on capital hill" gets to become a new law in the Nebraska government, even if it didn't rhyme as well.

Homecoming candidates state their platforms

In an election with more characters than the California governor's race, the *Rock Bottom* took a glimpse inside the twelve candidates' minds. Here's a look at how each of them plan to rule their would-be kingdoms.

Kyle Torczon



Q What will be your first rule as king of Scotus?
A Last one in the showers is a rotten egg.
Q What will be your legacy as king of Scotus?
A I don't believe in legacies because someone else is just gonna come along and everyone will forget you.

Laura Dolezal



Q Who is your ideal king of anyone in the world?
A I would have to say Javy Lopez.
Q How have you been preparing for candidacy?
A Every Wednesday night, I go to Lynn's house and we practice our wave.

Lynn Weeder

Q What will be your first rule as queen of Scotus?
A The faculty will have to wear the student dress code and everyone can change them a dollar.
Q What will be your legacy as queen of Scotus?
A Most likely to gain 40 pounds after eating everyone's food.

Chad Trofholz



Q What will be your first rule as king of Scotus?
A I've always believed in the ways of a ruling class, mainly because I RULE.
Q How have you been preparing for candidacy?
A I've learned that there is more to being a candidate than not caring and doing my bum busters.



A Most likely to gain 40 pounds after eating everyone's food.

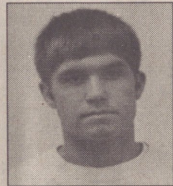
Jacob Euteneuer

Q Who is your ideal queen out of anyone in the world?
A The band queen.
Q What will you make your loyal subjects do for you?
A Make them listen to the Boss and the Stones non-stop.



Dominic Heimann

Q What will be your first rule as king of Scotus?
A We would get Thursday and Friday off during the first round of the NCAA basketball tournament.
Q How have you been preparing for candidacy?
A I've been sitting at home like usual, so basically nothing. I see no need to prepare cuz I got it wrapped up.



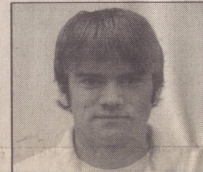
Polly Pillen

Q What will you make your loyal subjects do for you?
A Crack my knuckles.
Q What will be your legacy as queen of Scotus?
A I doubt I would have one.



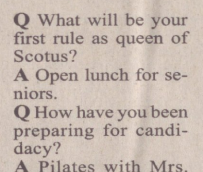
Jonathon Scholz

Q What will be your first rule as king of Scotus?
A Put the money from our numerous fines into a monthly student lottery drawing.
Q What will you make your loyal subjects do?
A Give me back massages at every moment of the day.



Taylor Harsh

Q What will be your first rule as queen of Scotus?
A Open lunch for seniors.
Q How have you been preparing for candidacy?
A Pilates with Mrs. Tooley.

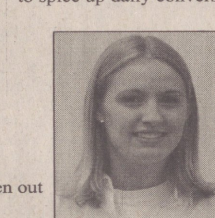


Ryan Ames

Q Who is your ideal queen out of anyone in the world?
A Anna Kournakova.
Q What will be your legacy as king of Scotus?
A The sexiest man to ever walk these halls.



Q What will be your first rule as queen of Scotus?
A Change the mascot. A shamrock isn't all that fierce. Perhaps a cannibal who likes to eat shamrocks as an appetizer would be more suiting.
Q What will be your legacy as queen of Scotus?
A The gal who brought words like *totally*, *buggin*, *psyche*, and *man-alive* into the Scotus vocabulary to spice up daily conversation.



Kelsey Kunneman

Kelsey had no comment.

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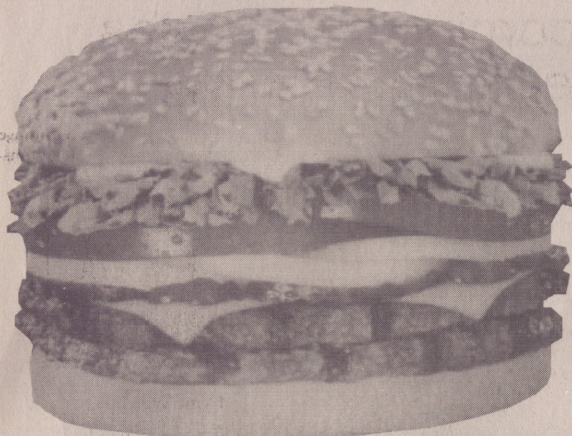
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Rich & Donette Jablonski



Students choose sides in fast food frenzy

By Tyler Micek
Staff Reporter

In a town that has more places to buy food than clothing, gas, and movies combined, which place is the best? Is Burger King really the king? Or is McDonalds still the most popular place to eat?

"My pick is Wendy's whenever I want to go out to eat," sophomore Zepherin Swope said. "Their frosties just can't be beat. PERIOD. Plus, Dave (Thomas, founder of Wendy's) is a total stud."

A survey was developed and handed out to over 100 random students in order to find out who had the best food. Categories ranged from

breadsticks to tacos, hamburgers, ice cream, pizza, and several others.

Some races were not even close. For best fish, Long John Silver's won with 88% of the votes, and Dairy Queen took home best ice cream with a total of 76%. Others including best chicken strips or nuggets and hamburgers were decided by just a couple of votes.

The categories also included two very open ones, best service and overall favorite place to eat in Columbus. In both cases, there were numerous different suggestions that included just about every fast food place in Columbus. Most only received one or two votes, but Wendy's knocked both Burger King and McDonalds down a spot. Wendy's received the most votes, eight.

Traditional fast food places are not the only places that people like to eat at. Surprisingly, Mexican food was a favorite for numerous people.

"My favorite place to eat is Taco Johns," sophomore Sami Zabawa said. "They have potato oles with really good seasoning, and they have the crushed ice."

Other students prefer Mexican food from different places.

"I like El Matador," senior Derek Curtis said, "because they have good food, good service, and they have free pesos with the Green and Gold Card."

Best Mexican was a close race. El Matador beat Taco Johns 43% to 30% and Amigos was not far behind with 24%.

Amigos was a favorite of seniors Stacia Jackson and Jenna Vyhlidal. They liked Amigos best because they have good service, tasty spices and seasonings, and they

have a large variety of foods including burritos, nachos, and the healthier choice of different types of salads.

Some people like to eat at places where you are not tied down to just one type of food.

"I think that Arby's is my favorite place to eat," seventh grader Aaron Wrigley said. "They have a really good food plus a good selection of food and a lot of variety."

Food is not the only factor to think about when deciding where to eat.

"I am not very picky when it comes to food," junior Cesili Forney said. "I usually go wherever my friends want to go. Usually we end up at Burger King, because we know a lot of people that work there. Their fries are really good because they are not soggy like most other places."

For everything from the best hamburgers, crispiest fries, to crushed ice, there is a place in Columbus for anyone to quickly get his or her favorite.

Black at head of class in *School of Rock*

Rock Bottom Review

By Sadie Bolte
Editor

It's typical for Jack Black to play a character that is less than perfect, or maybe I should say an unintelligent failure who lacks much competence. However, in *School of Rock*, his character Dewey differs from Black's usual characters because this time he changes, and he uses his talents as a musician to teach.

Jack Black plays a guy infatuated with rock music. He was kicked out of his rock band and now looking for a new band. He is very lazy and doesn't take care of his responsibilities, such as getting a job. In order to pay rent, he poses as his roommate and substitute teaches a group of 10-year-olds for a few weeks.

At first, Dewey couldn't care less about teaching the students and tells them to have recess for the whole day. But when he notices their musical talents one day, he decides to form a rock band out of the students. He unites the students as they work together to make the band ready for the upcoming battle of the bands. They must keep it a secret because their parents and private school won't approve of rock music. Dewey tells

them it is a mandatory school project on which they will be graded. Another secret Dewey is trying to keep is that he is not a real teacher. Many funny points of the movie come from Dewey's stupidity and creativeness when trying to cover his lies. The other funny parts are when he energetically creates new songs. He's seen jumping onto desks, running around, shaking his head, and screaming.

As they are all having fun, Dewey also tells them how to stand up to people and voice their opinion. This is a major technique Dewey uses to write songs. The principal and other teachers see how happy the students have become, so he gains respect from

many. My first impression of the movie when I saw the previews was that it looked okay, but it looked like it didn't have a very interesting plot. However, I kept an open mind and ended up liking it.

I liked this movie because it was original. It isn't some chick-flick where a couple breaks up, only to get back together at the end. I also like it because I am really into music, especially rock. It was quite mind-boggling to see 10-year-olds playing instruments and singing that well. When you mix talented kids with a talented comedian/musician, it is sure to be a hit. Furthermore, it is a movie for the whole family to enjoy. *School of Rock* earns eight out of 10 shamrocks.

At the movies: *School of Rock*

Stars: Jack Black, Joan Cusack, Mike White
Five words: Black plus school equals funny
Sadie's Rock Bottom rating:



UNDER THE ROCK by Melinda DeLeon



SCOTUS WORD

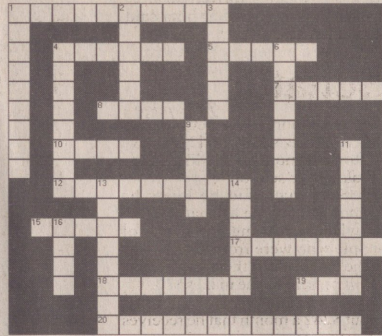
BY TYLER MICEK AND KELLY INGRAM

Across

- Fall dance at a high school
- Tuesday's HC theme
- Thursday's HC theme
- A type of string used around Halloween
- Monday's theme
- Autuamn
- Second half what happened on September 30 and October 1
- Cross County meet on October 24
- Second part of 11. Down
- A popular type of costume
- Flies around on Halloween
- Homecoming Theme

Down

- Oct. 31
- Main color of this month
- Halloween monster
- Football game on October 30
- What kids wear
- Person on Oct. 7
- First part of what happens on October 26 that will give you an hour
- Freshmen, sophomores, and juniors had in October
- Halloween Figure
- Wednesday's HC theme



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Kyle Clarey

New NBA season will be wild

The Spurs are the champions! The Spurs are the champions! Many people may not like the NBA because it is too slow. There are plenty young, new guys to help solve that problem. Anyway, for all of you die hard NBA fans, here's who I like to make the playoffs for the 2003-2004 season.

Boston Celtics: Antoine Walker should probably stop shooting 20 3-pointers a game. But the Truth Paul Pierce will carry this team into the playoffs with his clutch shooting.

Dallas Mavericks: The Mavs made a nice move over the off season. They got Antawn Jamison, and he should help this team go deep in the playoffs. The question is will they be able to get past the Lakers, Kings, or Spurs?

Detroit Pistons: The Pistons have one of the best coaches in the NBA in Larry Brown. They drafted young Darko Milicic, and they still have Chauncey Billups. But Ben Wallace will help them be the beasts of the East.

Houston Rockets: These guys almost made the playoffs last year. That won't happen this year, because they will be in the playoffs. Yao Ming is more experienced and should help this team a lot.

Indiana Pacers: The Pacers will make the playoffs again this year. They still have "Mr. Clutch" Reggie Miller to save them.

Los Angeles Lakers: The Lakers made some huge moves over the off season getting two good veteran players in Karl Malone and Gary Payton. Kobe better come back if they want to win though.

Minnesota Timberwolves: These guys had a nice off-season. They added, Latrell Sprewell, Sam Cassell, and Michael Olowokandi.

New Jersey Nets: The Nets should fare well again in the Eastern Conference. They still have Jason Kidd and Kenyon Martin to carry them to the playoffs.

New Orleans Hornets: The Hornets are still a great team in the East. They have a great chance to make it to the NBA Finals because they re-signed P.J. Brown. Don't forget about Baron Davis and Jamal Mashburn.

Orlando Magic: Tracy McGrady and Drew Gooden make this team very young and exciting. They almost got past the first round of the playoffs last year, and they should get past them this year.

Philadelphia 76ers: After signing Allen Iverson maybe this year Phil could go deep into the playoffs. They added the Big Dog Glenn Robinson which should help them with their inside game.

Phoenix Suns: The Suns almost upset the Spurs in the first round of the playoffs last year. These guys are for real with Marbury running the point for them.

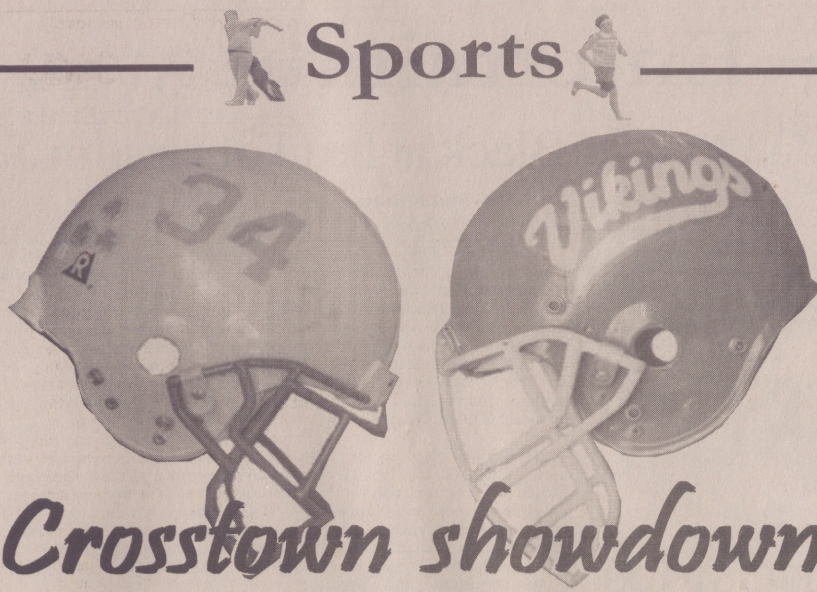
Portland Trailblazers: The Blazers are an old team, and they aren't blazing quick. But they should have enough to get to the playoffs this year.

Sacramento Kings: Sacramento is still one of the powerhouses in the West. If Sacramento plays like they did two years ago, then they could be the Kings of the West.

San Antonio Spurs: This team is the champion of the NBA and they have the hardwood to show it. I can already see it now: Spurs vs. Lakers in the Western Conference Finals.

Toronto Raptors: The Raptors had a very disappointing season last year though. Vince Carter will play better, and the Raptors will sneak into the playoffs.

Those are my predictions for this year. For all of you who don't know, 16 teams make the playoffs, eight from the West, and eight from the East. And one more thing please no wagering on these picks.



Crosstown showdown

Scotus, Lakeview renew annual rivalry

By Joey Beauvais and T.J. Wrigley
Staff Reporters

Some people may consider wearing green and blue at the same time a fashion statement. Unfortunately, when green jerseys meet blue jerseys, they clash—hard. This happens when Scotus and Lakeview hit the football field in their annual showdown for Class C1 football in Columbus.

The rivalry has been rather lopsided, with Scotus holding a 31-3 edge in the series, but each year brings a new war.

Clete Pillen attended Scotus as a freshman, but he transferred to Lakeview his sophomore year, 1969, where he graduated from Lakeview in 1972. Pillen said it was special whenever he played Scotus because he was a good friend with many of the Scotus players. The fact that he had been at Scotus meant that he knew all the kids from Scotus.

Pillen said that this rivalry between Scotus and Lakeview is a good rivalry for Columbus if it is kept in proper context. Pillen said the coaches get along real well.

"We can make too a big deal out of winning or losing," Pillen said, "as long as the fans treat each other with respect. I've always sensed that when it's a week prior to playing, there's a heightened level of enthusiasm and excitement that's created within each school."

"I took pride in preparing properly for the game," Pillen said.

Pillen said the games were hard on both sides, but after the game was over, everyone shook hands with mutual respect. It shows how special the rivalry is by having Lakeview as Scotus' homecoming opponent.

"It puts a lot more emphasis and

meaning on what homecoming is really about," Pillen said. "We will see in the game, whether a person is playing or sitting on the sidelines, there will be much more energy."

Thomas Roh, a sophomore running back for Scotus, is anxious for the quickly approaching Homecoming game this year.

"I just can't wait to get out there and give everything I have," Roh said.

Activities Director Gary Puetz, a Scotus assistant football coach from 1976-2001, also shared the same ideas about the rivalry.

"Everybody should have some memories; it's a huge rivalry everybody knows about."
~Brian Miksch

"I think it is a very healthy rivalry in all sports and activities," Puetz said.

Puetz was involved in 27 football games against Lakeview. The rivalry started in 1970 when the school opened. As a coach he helped to build the 25-2 record that Scotus had against Lakeview when he coached. Puetz thought that they didn't handle their practices any different when they played Lakeview. Puetz said that one of the reasons that there is such a rivalry between Scotus and Lakeview is because of both schools' geographic and student body size. Because the two schools are relatively the same size, they are in the same district and as a result of this, play each other often in all events.

"There's always that extra burst of energy before and emotion before playing Lakeview," Puetz said.

"I can say some of the best friends I have are involved at Lakeview."

Tom Lange, P.E. Teacher, Freshman Football Coach, Head Track Coach, and Junior High Athletics Director at Lakeview agrees with Puetz on the rivalry.

"You've got two schools who are close in proximity and are about the same size as far as enrollment," Lange said. "When you have a situation like this they should be competing."

Lange also said that the week before playing a rival like Scotus, there's a certain fire in the hearts of the players coming to practice. The teams go out and play with intensity and enthusiasm.

Sophomore Brian Miksch not only has friends at Lakeview, but family as well. His brother, Adam Miksch, is a senior at Lakeview and a member of the football team. Brian serves as a student manager for the Scotus football team.

Brian Miksch said that when it comes time for a game, he and his brother don't make bets. Miksch said he roots for his brother when he plays.

"Everybody should have some memories; it's a huge rivalry everybody knows about," Miksch said. Miksch said the he and his brother Adam still get along.

"I'll tell him he did a nice job playing, and he'll tell me I did a nice job managing," Miksch said.

The rivalry existed in 1971, but it has not been a rivalry of deceit and hurtful memories. It has been a rivalry that has created friendships among different people. Families can still coexist within the same household and respect each other's school. Most people thought of this rivalry as a positive challenge for each school. This rivalry has made itself known in the present and the past and will most likely be here in the future.

Athletes adapting to new strength program

By Kyle Clarey
Editor

Bigger, faster, stronger. These three words have been preached by all of the Scotus P.E. teachers and coaches since the beginning of last year. Some people are tired of hearing these three words from summer lifts. Others do not mind them.

At the beginning of last year the Scotus athletic department implemented a new strength system called the Bigger, Faster, Stronger system. The goal of this system is for the lifter to lift more than he or she did last time while lifting with the same number of sets and repetitions. The lifter competes with himself or herself.

"We changed to the new system because of the fact that football Coach Steve Cozad was coming in," Activities Director Gary Puetz said, "and he believed in it. When new people come there are new ideas."

Scotus had a BFS clinic in August to help the coaches and athletes become more familiar with the system.

"The clinic was a success because of the number of kids who

"Lifting is not a game."
~Clint Torczon

came," Puetz said, "and the coaches learned more about the program."

Puetz said that Scotus facilities should help keep the weight program competitive.

"I think we have a first class facility for a school our size," Puetz said. "The athletic department, Shamrock booster club, and S-club put money into it. The weight room has been good, is good, and we will keep it good."

Student athletes had the same opinions about if they leaned anything new at the clinic.

"Lifting is not a game," Sophomore Clint Torczon said. "You have to be on the ball at all times."

Sophomore Jamie Tooley had a same opinion about what she learned at the clinic.

Tooley said that she learned proper lifting techniques and the routines of lifting.

Sophomore Zach Ramaekers said the BFS program does have its positives though.

"It makes you remember what you lifted last time so you get stronger," Ramaekers said.

Overall it appears that the new BFS system has been a very nice change for Scotus.

JV, Freshman Sports Briefs

9th Grade Football

The Scotus freshman team started the season 2-2 so far this season. Head Coach Roger Krienke said that the season is going along quite well, and that the team is working hard. He said the players are enthusiastic and play hard in the games.

"I think our strength is that we have a nice power running game," Krienke said. "We have a couple guys with the speed to get to the outside."

Because of the small numbers of freshman out, some sophomores have been allowed to play on freshman teams, mostly on defense. Krienke said that the players are upbeat and in high spirits. The freshmen played Lakeview October 14 and will play Aquinas on the 20th.

9th Grade Volleyball

With two games and a tournament left, the 9th grade team had a record of 7-0 as of October 12.

Freshmen Coach Julie Blaser said her team is extremely athletic, has good height, and has good



ROCK BOTTOM PHOTO

Freshmen Kyle Mroczek runs the option against Hastings Adams Central. The Shamrocks lost in a heartbreaker 20-14.

work ethics. Blaser said the team has trouble being consistent, however.

Blaser said the team's toughest competition has been with CHS.

"I hope we continue to improve our level of play by running some quicker offenses and by improving

our hitting efficiency and serve receive," Blaser said.

JV Volleyball

The Junior Varsity volleyball has started off 9-0.

Head JV Coach Janet Tooley said her team is led by the largest number of juniors she has coached

at the junior varsity level, which gives them good court experience.

"With continued hard work and focus on their fundamental skills," Tooley said, "some of these girls can make the next step to varsity level next year. With the graduation of six seniors, they will have to."

Some of the team's toughest competition came from the Grand Island Northwest tournament, but it managed to escape with the tournament title.

"Hopefully we can stay focused and keep improving with two-and-a-half weeks left in our JV season," Tooley said.

Scotus hosts four team JV tournament on Saturday, October 25.

JV Football

The JV football team ended its season with a winning record of 3-2 after beating Lakeview 21-0 in a rain-shortened game. Coach Nathan Arneal said the team has had chances to win every game, but that fumbles plagued the team early in its season.

"We can be a very good football team when we are emotionally ready to play," Arneal said. "I think the guys had a lot of fun."

Arneal said that an improving passing attack has helped the Shamrocks in recent games.

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Volume 6 • Issue 4 • December 18, 2003

One Act's *Serpent* tempts audiences with good, evil

By Nicole Sobotka
Staff Reporter

I was not involved. I am a small person. I hold no opinion. I stay alive.

They chanted that, together, over and over. They are like any other team; only they don't compete just physically. They try to be the best in acting, conveying emotion. The One Acts cast is made up of students in Drama II. They pick a play and travel around to compete against other One Acts teams. It requires diligence and hard work.

This year's selection, "*The Serpent*," was an ensemble acting piece, which means it had many smaller, different plays put together. It was an Obie winner, which is the equivalent to getting an Oscar. It was a very powerful experience for those who watched it.

"This year's play was all about choices," Coach Sandie Bernst said. "Whether people were going to choose to be good or bad."

The first thing they did in the play was an autopsy. The doctor was cutting into the brain and explaining human thought. Adam and Eve were next. They portrayed Eve talking to the serpent about eating the fruit from the Forbidden Tree in the Garden of Eden. Then God was yelling at Adam and Eve. He cursed them and their offspring. After the actors had done all this they all made statements or asked questions. It was a modern application of the previous scene.



(Top to Bottom) Seniors Katy Nagengast and Amanda Krings, sophomores Kayla Chlopek and Katie Cheloha tempt Eve as the smooth talking snake in this year's One Act *The Serpent*. The One Act team received first place at the Conference meet and second at districts.

Cain and Abel was the next story that they acted out. They showed the murder and what caused it because of the choices Cain and Abel made. Next they portrayed a modern day assassin. Then the people in Drama

II did another modern application. The last part that was done was where they asked the audience to choose. Would they master evil? Or would evil master them?

One of the statements that they said that

was the hardest hitting was "Is a crime only a crime when you're caught?" One thing they tried to accomplish was making people think. People were really able to get into it. Some people in the audience even screamed when they watched it.

"This year's play was really different, more untraditional," Katie Cheloha said. "Scotus usually doesn't pick a traditional play to do because they're boring. This year at Districts there were lots of traditional boring ones."

One Acts is very hard to be good at. The students have to work at a lot of things.

"To be good at One Acts," senior Darin Kuehler said, "you would have to be able to wake up early, work your butt off, take criticism with a smile, and prove yourself. It also takes determination and acting ability."

The tech crew is also very important to the team. Once they travel to another school with another stage they have fifteen minutes to figure out the lights, sound, and stage. The actors have to know where to go and how much space they have to do the performance. Adaptability is very important, because adjusting to the facilities can make or break the performance.

Despite the teams high hopes, expectations, and talent, they won't be going to state this year. Even though they won at the conference meet, Scotus's team received second at districts to a safe, traditional Shakespearean play.

Book club inspires students

By Sarah Keiter
Staff Reporter

Reading for enjoyment seems to be a thing of the past for many high school students. Assigned books with strict "read by" dates and pop quizzes seem to front the high school reading world. A need for reading just to enjoy seemed imperative. English teacher Becki Zanardi saw this need, and the book club was formed.

"I just felt that the lower grades had Accelerated Reader, and that didn't seem to fit for the upper grades," Zanardi said. "They needed something different."

Accelerated Reader is a program where students read books and each book has a point value to it. After a student gets done with the book they take a quiz over it, and if the student scores well enough on the test they get the points for reading that book. Students are assigned to obtain a certain amount of points each quarter depending upon how well they score on a reading comprehension test.

Book club is open to any senior or faculty member who enjoys reading and discussing. The book club is in its early stages yet and has

only held one meeting, but at that meeting they decided the most important order of business: what book they were going to read. Book club members decided on reading *The Da Vinci Code*. At the club's next meeting, sometime around January 19, they are going to discuss the book over muffins and orange juice. The book club is not run through the school, so students are responsible for finding their own books, and there are no study guides or pop quizzes involved. Zanardi said she wanted to make sure that people know that book club is solely for enjoyment.

"This is how people do it in the real world, you read a book, and then you can talk about it with other adults, so I thought why not," Zanardi said.

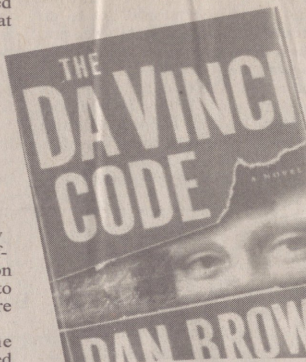
One book club member, Senior Chelsie Thompson is looking forward to the experience.

"I think it's a new opportunity for us and to get to know what different people enjoy," Thompson said. "It is neat because you get to know people better, and you are sharing something you enjoy."

Thompson said that she thought there was a definite need

for a book club and that it was a great idea to start it. Thompson also said that she feels that there are a lot of students that really like to read and this is just a way for people to share what they like. Thompson said she bought the book at Target, but she has not started reading it.

"I really hope that this thing will carry over every year," Thompson said. "This was just a great idea and I hope students will take advantage of it."



Driver's licenses give students more freedom, responsibility

By T.J. Wrigley
Staff Reporter

The siren's noise follows close behind. There is no turning back now; it is too late. Resisting the urge to speed was not an option. There goes the next two weeks of working to pay for that ticket. Insurance rates are also likely to skyrocket like never before which will also cost a pretty penny. All of this is happening because of one joy ride with a car.

This is the scenario that many Scotus students face on a regular basis. Others, however, have never faced this situation. The Columbus Police Department is always on the prowl to keep these youngsters at bay. Getting a driver's license is a big responsibility that has often been abused by many teenagers in Columbus. By looking

in the *Columbus Telegram*, it is easy to see that many of the Columbus citizens who are being ticketed are teenagers. The reason of the Columbus teenagers' need for speed may be all linked back to when they received their first sensation of freedom. This freedom would be getting their license for the first time. Many Scotus students can vividly remember their first taste of freedom as if it were yesterday.

"I feel like I earned it," senior Darin Kuehler said.

Kuehler said this because he had already worked at Taco John's to buy this car and took out a loan from his aunt. He said the car he bought was a 1964 Ford Falcon.

"I try to always drive safe," Kuehler said.

Kuehler said that he hopes to restore his car in the future. He said that in the future he still plans to be a cautious driver. Kuehler, however, said he has been pulled over because of a broken headlight and received a "fix-it" ticket. He was forced to replace his damaged headlight within a set number of

days. Kuehler said he has also been rear-ended.

"It is more of a responsibility," Kuehler said.

He said it also does bring more freedom. Before having a car, Kuehler's main form of transportation came from his parents or walking to a place.

"I did a lot of walking," Kuehler said.

Kuehler said he could probably go back to his former methods of transportation if he lost his license, and it would not bother him too much.

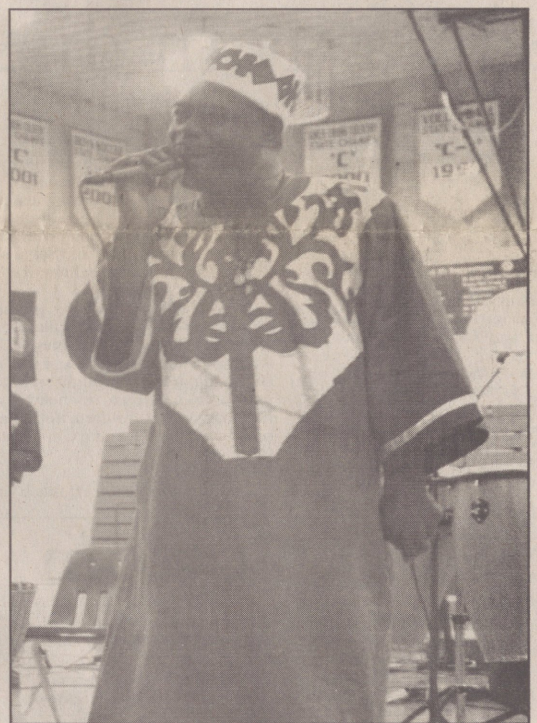
Sophomore Justin Schaf has other ideas on safe driving.

"Of course I speed, everyone does," Schaf said.

Schaf said that he has never received a ticket for anything. He is currently driving a Delta '88 Oldsmobile. Having his driver's license and a car has given Schaf more freedom.

"I've had the money to buy a decent car, but I'm saving up to buy a better one," Schaf said.

Schaf said that if he lost his license or if it was revoked, it would not affect him that much because he would find other means

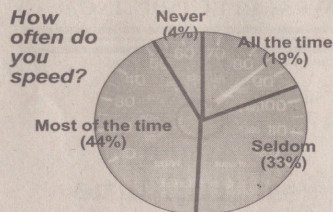


STEPHANIE LAUDENKLOS/ROCK BOTTOM

We gonna rock dis place

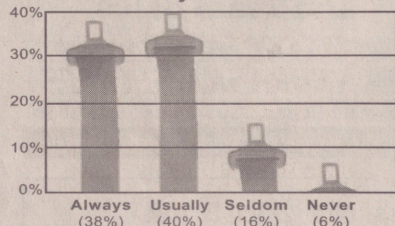
The lead singer for the group Ashanti gets the Scotus crowd involved with a song and dance from the African culture. The Ashanti group performed for Scotus on November 25.

Teenage Driving Habits

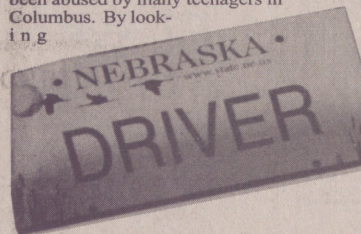


Scotus students of driving age were asked how often they speed. Over 60% admitted that they are usually driving faster than the law allows.

How often do you wear a seat belt?



At least while they are speeding around, most students are buckled up. 78% of respondents said they either always or usually wear a seat belt when in a car.



Opinion

Cookie-cutter country music enrages teen

BITTERNESS



Chad Trofholz

I would like to know whom the wiseheimer is that keeps bringing country music into our state. It seems these days that I am being overrun by this genre of mu-

sic and it busts my chops. Nothing pushes my buttons more than having to listen to this mindless rambling. Having said this, I will be overrun with angry cowboys and turbulent rednecks, but that's the price you have to pay for success. I want to explain my irk with this music as thoroughly as possible, but I feel the only way to describe my beef is that it should be dudes writing for chicks, but lately I find dudes listening to it, which makes them dummies. That's a lot of dimp. It is easy to detect this woman-

aimed music by its songs about love and affection. Real men, such as myself, know better than to fall into this cheesy deathtrap. We see Any old schmuck can pull off country music, present company included. through this charade for we know that these tunes were not meant to meet our ears. Knowing about another man's quest for love is not something I care to hear about.

That is why guys do not get together and gossip about their lady friends. It's embarrassing. I imagine that you'd get your butt kicked for saying something like that. I'd much rather listen to songs with valuable lyrics. For instance, "I don't wanna sit here and say I'm sorry. I just wanna drink beer and play Atari!" Another bothersome quality I've found is that all of country music is basically molded. Take some sappy lyrics and align them with any shoddy guitar. Any old schmuck can pull it off, present

company included. I figure if I purchase some cowboy boots, the world's tightest jeans, and something flannel, I could be a superstar. I'll go as far as to say that country music is borderline hick. I've said it and I am proud of it. Commenting for all dudes I hereby claim that all men composing country music are sell-outs and embarrassments against men everywhere. My only wonder is how much they sold out for and how black their hearts really are. Also I wonder if they'd like to spot me some chicks. Snootch to the nootch. Yee Haw.

Christmas season invades space bubble of other holidays

Just Press Pause



Danielle Bernt

Imagine living in a world where boughs of holly and strung lights hang year-round. Imagine a place where the sound of sleigh bells could be heard over loudspeakers everywhere year-round. In your minds you can see all the little happy people grasping hands singing around a large pine tree. Things couldn't be better right? WRONG, because you're living in an illusion, a fantasy if you will. Because as you take a closer look you realize these little

"happy" people are bound by strait jackets walking a chain-gang inside the tight supervision of a mental institution. Now I don't know about you but I can't stand "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" 24/7, and I too would be in this institution of insanity. Now don't misunderstand me. I know that it hasn't come to this yet, but if this craze of Christmas isn't taken into consideration, this place may end up a little loonier than it already is. You can't argue with me on that one. Things are getting quite odd...since when is it ok for a 45-year-old man to sleep with a 12-year-old boy because "sharing your bed with someone is the most loving thing you can do?" My fascination with the insanity of Christmas first began a few days...no...a few weeks...no, but a few months ago before Halloween. Yes, that's right, when

Wal-Mart first put up that six-foot Santa that's scarier than a doll museum at night. What's the deal? And yes, I do blame Wal-Mart for everything from running other businesses out of town to scaring I can't stand "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" 24/7. not only the very young with that "cute" little blood-sucking smiley face but also the elderly. I heard last month 27 elderly citizens died after seeing the commercial with Mr. Smiley bouncing around in that Robin Hood get up. Christmas is brought out extremely early, which is bad enough, but then you are forced to listen to sweet Christmas tunes as you're shopping for your turkey on Thanksgiving. And when you

should be giving thanks to those Indians...whoops I mean Pilgrims that settled this land of the free, you are overtaken by discussing what time you should set your alarms for the next morning. You know those Furby thinkers won't last past a quarter of five. Now, recently I was Christmas shopping with a few jolly tunes on the radio as we pulled into the Target parking lot. And as we drove by I saw a woman waving. Oh, how nice of her. She must have the Christmas attitude I thought. Oh Santa, was I wrong. One car honk later I realize she's flipping off a guy in a Buick. Hmmm. I really thought that all the birds had flown south for the winter; I guess I must have missed that biology class. Along with the birds flying comes the sound of ringing bells. Year after year I see these people standing outside in the worst cold

imaginable to ring a bell for what must be that gooey feeling they get when they help people because I think on average of my 18 years on this earth I've seen just about .002% people actually toss a penny in. I don't think they get much out of the donation anyhow when all the profit is spent paying hospital bills for extreme migraines. Don't get me wrong, I'm no Grinch nor Scrooge, because I love the smell of coniferous trees and cheap cinnamon candles. But I firmly believe each holiday should have a space bubble. It's kind of like in grade school when the rat of the class would scream "you're invading my space bubble," only it's with holidays. Maybe this way the best holiday of the year can be given the recognition that it deserves...HALLOWEEN.

Santa truth disheartens idealistic youth



Kelly Ingram

Dear Santa, I want a pony, an ice cream maker, and the cabbage patch doll that tans and sunburns along with me. I have been a very good girl except yesterday, and the day before, and last week when I argued with my sister. Not to mention when I stole her necklace, but I said I was sorry! Please bring me everything I want!

Your Friend, Kelly When I was little, every year I would write to Santa. Never in a million years would I have guessed I was actually writing to a good friend Katie Klimes. Along with her mom, Katie answers all of "Santa's" fan mail for him down in Frankfurt's Square. So who really is that jolly, plump guy? While some still believe he weighs 300 pounds and lives with Rudolph at the North Pole, I can't. Believing in Santa brought sparkle to my eyes and joy to my heart just like many other children, until that belief was shattered one Christmas Eve. Thinking back..... It was a normal Christmas Eve,

and I was running around like a chicken with my head cut off. I was waiting for my mom at the shop (a.k.a Performance Printing) who needed to run an "errand" (which really meant last minute shopping.) I was trying to wait patiently, but I knew when she got there I would get to go home and put on my frilly red and black dress for church. I was looking out the window as my mom pulled up. She took a sled and put it in my dad's truck. I remember thinking "Wow!" I hope that is mine so I won't have to share one with my sister Katie. After waking up bright and early

for Christmas and digging into my stocking, I decided to separate the presents. Stuck behind the Christmas tree was a big box. I knew it had to be the sled, but on the tag it said to Kelly from Santa. This could not be the sled, could it? As normal tradition, I opened my presents from smallest to largest, and that box was my largest present. I excitedly ripped off the wrapping paper and opened the box to only find.....the sled. This, which should have been the highlight of my Christmas, was one of the worst moments of my life.

Could it be true? Could my parents really be Santa? The truth does not want to be uncovered but all of the facts are there for children to see. Tears came to my eyes, but I tried to blink them away. Luckily my parents never saw the tears, and I left the tears, anger, and sadness buried somewhere deep inside which was released just a couple of weeks ago when I had a huge fight with a friend. This is a moment that defies all movies, books, and stories about Santa, and no child wants to experience it, but everyone has to in life. Unlike Santa, who makes the annual trip to my house on Christmas Eve, my joy and excitement for him have never returned since that dreadful day.

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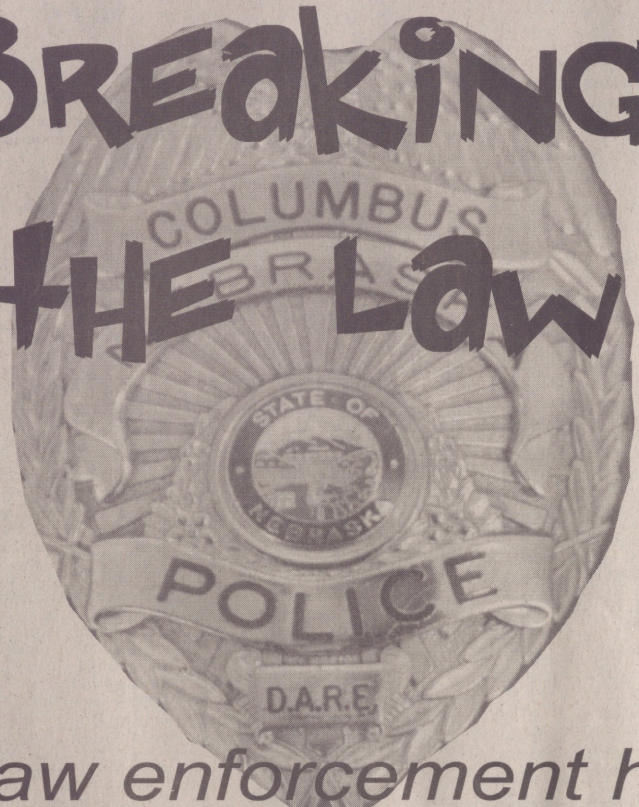
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BREAKING THE LAW



Law enforcement has tough task of keeping the peace



ZAC RILEY/ROCK BOTTOM

Columbus Police Officer Black stands next to his vehicle. Helping the community is one of the highlights of being an officer.

Police officers aren't out to get kids, but to help

By Chad Trofholz
Editor

Teenagers rarely would consider a police officer as a friend and they never appreciate the job of officers have after getting pulled over, but this might change with a greater understanding of cops.

Chuck Sherer, one of two captains on the Columbus Police Squad, explained how he is a vital

"It is not my job to be a judge. My job is to bring them to court."
~Chuck Sherer

part of the community scene for many reasons. He has been working as captain for seven years and was an officer in Schuyler for 19 years.

He said that although police officers are human, there are rules that should be followed just like any other job. The worst story that he can remember was having to arrest a man for DWI while the man's wife was having stillborn twins. However, an arrest needed to be made for the safety of all people on the road.

"It is not my job to be a judge," Sherer said. "My job is to bring them to court."

As captain, he mostly has a desk

job, however, while in Schuyler he was often on the road patrolling. While Columbus and Schuyler may seem like peaceful towns, sometimes foul happenings do occur.

"In my tenure I have arrested a couple of armed burglars and it is scary," Sherer said.

To illustrate this point, Sherer said that one time in Schuyler he experienced a man that was eviscerated (gutted) in the park. The stabbing was gang related to exhibit its power. The first responding officers were able to apply CPR to the injured man, who eventually re-

covered, while the others began to search for a suspect.

While protecting and serving are important to Sherer, he was modest about his task.

"I enjoy giving back to the community. For instance, taking a kid that is kind of in trouble and hopefully (I) will make a difference in that young man's career path or life choices."

Sherer volunteers as a coach for the Columbus Wrestling Team, proving the he is not only invaluable as an officer, but an outstanding man in the community.

Diversion, probation helps kids learn from mistakes

By Zac Riley
Editor

getting in trouble anymore. "It's more that I don't want to get in trouble," Ingemansen said, "so I guess it did prevent me in a way."

Minor in possession, minor in consumption, and driving under the influence have what in common? Many high school students at Scotus have had one of these misdemeanors. For them the punishment can be harsh. The student breaking the law will be punished by the law, school, and most likely by their parents.

The most common punishment for the first offenders is Diversion. There is no judge to dish out the punishment. The punishment is never different for any offender. It is a ten-week course.

"All the kids have the same punishment," Wilma Arp, head of Diversion, said. "Once in a while there might be specific differences to help the teenager."

The people who run Diversion look at the adolescent and see if the adolescent is at his or her academic potential. The people of Diversion might include rules like no grades below a "D" or no tardies, and they also watch truancies.

Diversion is only offered once to an adolescent. Diversion has a few more requirements: it requires 25 hours community service and classes (good decision making, substance abuse awareness, and there is a class for the parents).

Senior Michael Ingemansen recently finished Diversion.

"I got off of Diversion November 19," Ingemansen said, "I started Diversion in the beginning of September."

Ingemansen received a MIP in August. He had to take the two classes and his parents also had to take the class. Ingemansen felt the classes did nothing for him.

"All I got out of the classes was a folder and some paper," Ingemansen said.

He did his 25 hours of community service, and he said it was not too hard to get the hours done. He said he does not think he will be

teenagers cannot take Diversion again. They must go to court and face a judge. The judge will most likely put the teenager on probation. Being on probation would give the offender a probation officer. The probation officer's job is to make sure the offender does everything the judge told him or her to do.

Columbus Probation Officer Chad McKown's caseload is half teenagers. He makes sure kids do what they are supposed to do so they will be off their probation on time.

"Most kids will do what they're supposed to do," McKown said. "They just want to move on and get it done."

Probation is very different from Diversion in that the requirements the offender has are never quite the same.

"Each Judge has his or her own criteria," McKown said. "It is totally different from judge to judge."

Some common punishments are community service hours, random drug tests (Diversion has these too for drug-related offenses), curfew, drug classes, and counseling. It just depends on what the judge sees fit.

Punishments come from three sources for Scotus students. They come from the law, school, and parents. The law punishment portion will always be there. Some students are not affected by the school punishment because they are not active in extracurricular activities. The most they would have to do is take counseling from people the school see fit.

Adolescents also might not receive punishments from their parents because of their involvement in their child's life. Although diversion and probation are helpful in rehabilitation, not getting in trouble might be the solution.

Statistics show Columbus does not fit its alcohol reputation

By Chad Trofholz
Editor

Columbus is normally thought of as a fairly reputable "alcohol town." This and other myths are believed about Columbus and are entirely false, according to police statistics. This idea that Columbus is Nebraska's watering hole lacks backing.

In 2000, Platte County had 149 liquor law violations. This involves any alcohol arrests ranging from MIP from stores selling booze to minors. In that same year Norfolk had 266 and North Platte had 148.

Many people believe Platte County also has a national rank for its number of MIP's. The truth-value is questionable because many numbers are compiled based on student surveys. The value of the numbers depends on honesty.

A rumor has also been spread that the Columbus Police receives

rewards for arresting minors with MIP. Sergeant Todd Thalken explained this belief by saying that there are agencies that will fund grants for alcohol enforcement. These grants award money for a specific arrest, which the department might have extra officers targeting. The money made by the

"My greatest wish would be to come to work and not arrest anyone."
~Todd Thalken

grant pays for the extra enforcement and therefore the money will not get passed into the officer's pocket for making the arrest.

These and other rumors tend to lead people to believe that the police are targeting them and find enjoyment in making the arrest.

Thalken dismissed this idea of enjoyment in arresting kids for MIP. He said that if he makes twenty arrests or zero arrests that it is the same to him, and the belief that cops enjoy arrest is not the case.

"My greatest wish," Thalken said, "would be to come to work and not arrest anybody. I don't get personal satisfaction arresting people."

Sergeant Thalken has worked law enforcement in Columbus for 16 years. He grew up in Columbus and now enforces the law in Columbus. He said that he couldn't think of a better job to have. However he wishes it did not entail the odd hours, but people break the law on even holidays.

He said that police officers are also members of our community, too. It is the police fatal accidents, and with every death in town a person in the department is hurt.

"We live in this town and these are our neighbors and friends."

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Cowabunga, Dude! The early '90s strike back

By Sadie Bolte
Editor

Oh, the '90s.

It was a time when the first priority on every kid's list was to pass the last level on Super Mario. And how could the fanny packs and overalls be forgotten? Popular music ranged from Vanilla Ice and M.C. Hammer to Nirvana and Pearl Jam to New Kids on the Block.

Whether these memories make you giggle, cringe, or even cause confusion, they all contribute in making 1990 and 1991 eventful and exciting years.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Who in the right mind came up with the idea to have crime-fighting, pizza-loving, teen-aged giant turtles who were ninjas taught by a rat? Whoever it was may have been the most ingenious person that has ever lived. Anyone who can pull that off should be declared king of the universe...well maybe it wasn't that great.

"The TV show was at 6 every Saturday morning," junior Emilie Powers said. "They're the reason I eat pizza for breakfast."

The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles took on a monumental role

for freshman Kevin Micek.

"I had almost everything imaginable with the Turtles," Micek said. "The action figures were my best friends. How pathetic."

Originally a TV show in the 80's, the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles used their movies, action figures, and TV shows to show off their "Turtle Power" and fight to a comeback in 1990 and '91.

TV shows: After its debut in 1989, *The Simpsons* quickly gained popularity. Popular family shows were *Full House*, *Family Matters*, and *Home Improvement*. These shows combined just the right amount of hugs and "I love you's" with mayhem and destruction.

to make them a hit with families of all ages. Although men had their reason for watching *Baywatch*, girls also enjoyed it.

"I used to watch *Baywatch* every night before bed because I had a crush on Hobbie. (David Hasselhoff's son)," freshman Erin Abegglen said.

Video games: Video games were becoming more and more popular as they became more advanced. Nintendo came out with Super Mario Bros. 3 and Super Mario World, both games that revolutionized the future world of video

games. At times, most kids have found themselves pushing sleep aside just to pass the last level of these games.

"My sisters and I would go to my cousins' house and stay there all day until we passed Super Mario Bros. 3," junior Nicki Van Ackeren said.

To others, Super Mario meant much more than just trying to beat the game.

"Through my younger years, Super Mario often comforted me in times of desperation," Micek said. Sega also brought the new video game Sonic the Hedgehog.

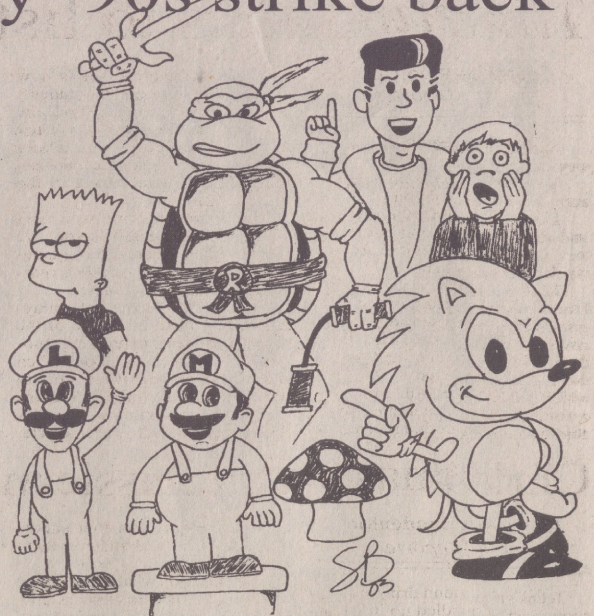
Music: 1990-91 started a whole new kind of music. Emerging from Seattle, grunge quickly made its way to popularity. Bands such as Nirvana and Pearl Jam led the way as more and more started to follow. On the other side of grunge was the popular boy-band New Kids on the Block. Many remember having the group's sheets, pillows, games, books, tapes, posters, and even dolls. Vanilla Ice and M.C. Hammer influenced people to dress like morons and shave stripes on the sides of their heads.

"I begged my mom until she bought me some M.C. Hammer pants," Van Ackeren said.

Others liked the idea of having this fashion.

"M.C. Hammer was awesome," freshman Scott Ackman said. "The parachute pants should come back in style."

Movies: Kevin!!! Come on folks, who honestly forgets their kid? *Home Alone* made its way into theaters in 1990, and



has been on TV about a million times since. As far as Disney goes, two of its greatest animated movies, *Beauty and the Beast* and *The Little Mermaid*, were in this time period. The not-so-family-orientated film *The Silence of the Lambs* started its gruesome trilogy in 1991.

Well, there you have it- 1990 and 1991 in review. It was a time when the style was to tease your hair,

wear one-strapped overalls, sweaters, and especially light-colored and long jean shorts.

"There was none of that four-inch inseam stuff," junior Aleah German said.

Heck, even the mullet was still popular. Don't worry; there's still hope for the mullet and everything else in 1990-91 making a huge comeback. Just wait and see.

Tunnels below school source of many rumors

By Matt Raimondo
Staff Reporter

Fire, Scotus ghost, and dark tunnels. These rumors remind many of the students attending Scotus of a tragedy that happened a long time ago.

The rumor is that there was a fire at Saint Boneventure's school. The tunnels caught fire and ended up killing one of the nuns that helped out at the school. She then became known as SCOTUS GHOST.

"The tunnels were used by priests and nuns during bad weather," Head of Scotus maintenance Ed Groelinger said. "It was warmer for them to use the tunnels to travel through than to go outside in the weather."

The tunnels that connect Saint Boneventure's church and Scotus today are no longer in use. There are, however, approximately five to six entrances to the tunnels that are, every once in a while, opened.

Driving: Young drivers seek thrill of road

from page 1
because he would find other means of transportation.

"I would probably have to rely on my parents again," Schaf said.

One of Schaf's means of transportation before receiving his car was his bike.

Schaf's ideas of speeding have also caught on to sophomore Autumn Kresha.

"I speed because I'm always late," Kresha said.

Kresha said that she currently owns a 1992 Cadillac Seville that her dad purchased for her. Kresha said she had slid on the ice and crashed into another car. Kresha said it would be difficult to lose her license after having it for awhile.

"I probably wouldn't know what

"Ever since the parking lot was built," Groelinger said, "the tunnel have not provided people with a way to get from the school to the church.

Some of the new members of the Scotus faculty had not heard of the Scotus tunnels and were shocked to hear about them. Mary Hruska, a new teacher at Scotus three years ago, was one of the teachers that was unaware of the tunnels.

When asked a question about the tunnels she said, "What? There are tunnels under the school?"

The other students that were interviewed had just heard the rumor and had not heard any other stories about the tunnels or the fire that happened long ago. They knew that a nun died in the fire and that was it.

From the dark tunnels that lie under the school to the fire that created the Scotus ghost, it is safe to say that there are many unsolved mysteries that Scotus Central Catholic hides from all of its inhabitants.



TYLER MICEK/ROCK BOTTOM

Cheerleaders getting the crowd pumped during a recent basketball game. They are from left to right junior Tanya Bowman, freshman April Schueth, sophomores Kayla Chlopek and Kendall Backman, and junior Sarah Bierman.

Spirit takes practice for cheerleaders

By Tyler Micek
Staff Reporter

Getting up early, two-a-day practices, and spending extra time after school and on weekends describes more than just the basketball teams. The cheerleaders also have a very busy schedule.

In the life of a cheerleader, there is more than just yelling, jumping, and shaking their pom-poms. They spend at least an hour each week working on cheers and making banners and locker decorations. They plan the pep-rallies and cheer camps for possible future cheerleaders who are now in grade school. They learn new routines and go to camps over the summer. They take their cheerleading seriously.

There were many different reasons why the cheerleaders decided to become who they are.

Most of the cheerleaders say their favorite part of all is the cheering, but they also enjoy supporting the school, dancing, or being involved in games.

"I became a cheerleader because I like to yell," sophomore Kendall Backman, who joined the

squad this year said.

For some, cheerleading is a family thing.

"I watched my sister and got hooked on it," junior Cesili Fomey, who is on her second year as a cheerleader, said.

One cheerleader joined the squad to keep it going.

"I became a cheerleader my freshman year because it was going to be an all-new squad," senior Kailey McCoy said. "The old squad was full of seniors who were leaving and people who were always getting into trouble. Cheerleading as a whole was really going down and getting a bad reputation. I thought I could bring a lot of spirit and benefits to help the squad recover from the few bad years. Also, my friends were trying out and I wasn't in any sports, so cheerleading would keep me occupied."

A cheerleader's week starts on Monday when they have a meeting that is approximately one hour. During the meetings they practice their routines and make their posters and locker signs. They also discuss upcoming events and what they need to do to plan for them. Some of these events in-

clude: football games, basketball games, pep-rallies, and their cheer camp.

Since their main performances are at the sporting events, they prepare by stretching and doing warm-ups. Some of the warm-ups include song and dance combinations like "Old Sally Walker" and "The Pony Dance."

During the game, they must pay attention and know what is going on so they know which of their many cheers to perform and when to perform it. Plus, they always need to know where the ball is so that it does not hit them.

When they are not getting ready for games, they have to prepare for their cheer camp and the dance routine with the flag corps. They have a cheer camp every year for the girls in grade school. They teach them what it is like to be a cheerleader and how fun it is. They also have a dance routine with the flag corps that will be performed at an upcoming pep rally.

Even with making posters, learning cheers, performing, holding camps, and going to camps of their own taking up most of their time, they always find new ways to enhance school spirit.

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Rich & Donette Jablonski

Rock Bottom Review

Timeline adds to list of failed time-travel movies

By Kelly Ingram
Staff Reporter

Want a movie with action, history, and thrilling scenes? Well, then *Timeline* is not exactly the movie for you.

Despite having many fighting and action scenes and a little history, this movie is not exactly the thriller it is said to be.

The movie takes place mostly in France where a team of archeologists is digging. Two students discover a bifocal lens and a letter from their professor. The head guy of the dig had opened a wormhole which led to the 14th century. A wormhole is an opening into the past that people or things can travel

through. Their professor is now trapped in history, and the students must travel back in time to find him.

The movie was good when fighting and action was taking place, but more things blew up than they actually would have in the Middle Ages.

Paul Walker plays the main character as the professor's son. He shows real emotion and can actually act like what he is feeling compared to Frances O'Conner.

Frances O'Conner, who plays the student most in charge of the dig, has problems expressing emotion. There are many times when she tries to cry, but it turns out to be some kind of whimper. She also has problems stumbling over her lines and talking like she is reading

it from a script which she could have been.

Other actors include Gerard Butler, Billy Connelly, David Thewlis, and Anna Friel. They mostly fight throughout the whole movie, but do it well.

The movie did have some high points like trying to escape from a castle, but it had problems with time.

It was one of those movies where at points it seemed time happened five times faster than normal, and then other times it seemed the time in the movie was moving five times as slow.

The movie received bad reviews from most big newspapers. Only one out of 16 reviews were good. Another eleven were horrible rat-

ings and the rest were mixed. Most reviews said the movie was boring, scattershot, and repetitive.

This reviewer felt the same.

There have been way too many movies about time travel, and *Timeline* was just another to add to the pile of rejects. It is too unre-

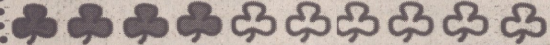
alistic and a bore. There are many times when a moviegoer must concentrate in order not to drift off.

This movie features pretty good actors who are giving horrible performances.

Overall the movie is a complete waste of \$6.50.

At the movies: *Timeline*

Stars: Paul Walker, Frances O'Conner, Gerard Butler, Billy Connelly
Five words: Repetitive and a real bore
Kelly's Rock Bottom rating:



Christmas brings classic movies, shows

By Steph Laudenklos
Staff Reporter

Teens sit around drinking their eggnog and bundled up in a blanket while the Christmas lights on the tree are set on a steady glow. What better to do on a ten-days-until-Christmas night than watch a marathon of Christmas movies?

Every movie from *A Christmas Story* to the older version of *The Grinch* is watched during the great spirits of the holiday. The movies have changed over time and re-makes have been made. Technology has enhanced these movies to more realistic happenings, but the changes may not necessarily be for the best.

Take *The Grinch* for example. The first cartoon version is short and has a great moral. How could anyone resist the adorable Cindy Lou Who with her big blue eyes? Then there is the newer version that has the extremely large Christmas tree along with the Who lady who competes with the neighbor Who for the most decorated house award. For decorating the houses

they use a light gun that shoots out light bulbs and attaches them to the housetop.

It seems as if what is said to be the 25 days of Christmas is now really 32 days. *A Christmas Story* has a marathon every year and will continue until a better movie comes out. This is freshman Jordan Grubaugh's favorite because "Ralph's friend gets his tongue stuck to a pole."

Watching movies during Christmas is a newly made tradition for sophomores Jamie Tooley and Lauren Jablonski.

In eighth grade during band they had to play *Charlie Brown Christmas Carol* for one of their songs. Tooley told Jablonski how good *Charlie Brown's Christmas* was, but Jablonski had never seen the movie.

"So we started talking about different Christmas movies we'd seen and decided we both needed to see each other's movies," Jablonski said.

It was off to Tooley's home for the night. Snacks and drinks were made.

"We had McDonald's and made Christmas cookies," Tooley said.

Their favorite Christmas movies are *Christmas Vacation* and *Sesame Street Christmas*. Watching the old movies reminds them of past Christmases. The two girls may share their Christmas movies with each of their kids someday as religion teacher Cheryl Rambour has.

The waiting period and Advent preparing was what she said were her favorite parts of Christmas.

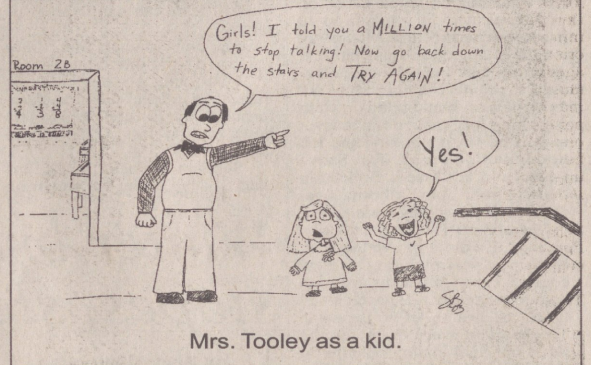
"And then you've got the food, of course, and being with family," Rambour said.

Some people like certain movies because they can relate to their holiday experiences.

"The dad on *A Christmas Story* reminds me of my dad," Rambour said laughing, "because he is a regular Archie Bunker. He's a grouch and a crab."

If the holiday break needs to be spiced up a bit, or maybe a break is needed from the ample amounts of food that have been eaten, have some friends over for a Christmas movie marathon. The holiday might be just a little bit warmer.

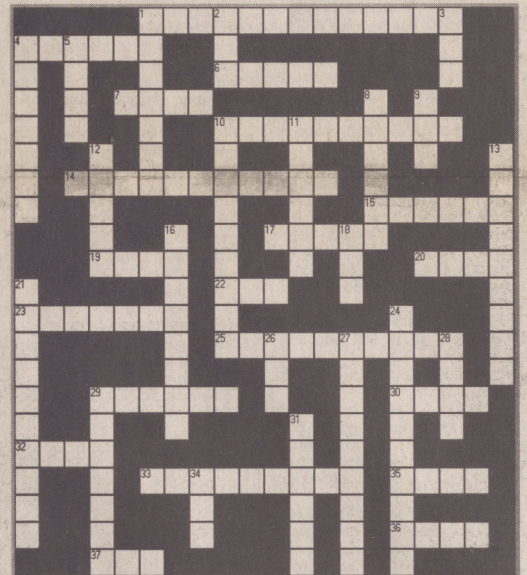
Directionally Challenged by Sadie Bolte



Mrs. Tooley as a kid.

SCOTUS + WORD

BY TYLER MICEK AND KELLY INGRAM



Everything December

- | | |
|---|---|
| Across | Down |
| 1) Common Greeting | 1) _____ Tournament |
| 4) Santa Says _____ | 2) Christmas Dessert |
| 6) Little Helpers _____ | 3) What Scotus' New Club Does |
| 7) What You Do At A Restaurant | 4) Jewish Celebration |
| 10) NHS Sells _____ | 5) Where College Kids Go For The Holidays |
| 14) Last Day of The Month | 8) Christmas Songs |
| 15) On Many Houses | 9) Christmas Color |
| 17) Happens During Winter | 10) December 25 |
| 19) What The Kings Followed | 11) _____ And Swimming Team |
| 20) What Bad Children Get For Christmas | 12) Jingle _____ |
| 22) What You Wipe Your Shoes On | 13) What You Kiss Under |
| 23) Short Plays _____ | 16) Under The Tree |
| 25) Wears Red and White | 18) Water Is _____ |
| 29) This Season _____ | 21) Walkin' In A Winter _____ |
| 30) Brought Gold To Jesus | 24) Major Sport _____ |
| 32) Candy Cane _____ | 26) Second Part Of "37 Across" |
| 33) Type Of Tree _____ | 27) Roasting Over An Open Fire |
| 35) Jesus _____ | 28) You _____ "8 Down" |
| 36) Peace, Joy, And _____ | 29) What You Do On A Mat |
| 37) First Part Of What You Drink At Christmas | 31) Big, Red, And Has Bells |
| | 34) Santa's Helpers |

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Kyle Clarey

Solich rides off into sunset

With the numerous sports stories brewing these days I'm going to try to tackle them all.

● First of all, the most heated debate in the history of Nebraska. Should we have Steve Pederson given Frank Solich another year after his win against Colorado? Pederson said he wanted the program to go in a different direction. Maybe not a different direction, but a familiar direction that had Nebraska playing for national championships not too long ago. It all boiled down to recruiting for Frank. For whatever reason he wasn't getting the job done well enough for Steve Pederson. Let's face it, Solich did benefit from Tom Osborne's recruits, and when they were gone a 7-7 season hit Husker fans like a tornado. He did improve the team in the past year by hiring six new coaches to try to get his program back to prominence. But weren't all those coaches he let go the same coaches that were there for the three national championships in the 1990's? Pederson will look like a genius if he hires a new coach that gets the Huskers back to the national championship. Would he have Frank led the team back to the promised land if he was not fired by Pederson? That question will forever burn in the back of Husker fans' minds.

● Curt Schilling to the Red Sox. The one two punch of Martinez and Schilling will be tough. The Yankees have already gotten Gary Sheffield, but they want more pitching to top the rival Red Sox.

● It's just like 1997 when the Marlins won the World Series. After the season their team was picked apart because of free agency. The fire sale has begun again in Florida with Derek Lee going to the Cubs, and Ivan Rodriguez leaving for more money.

● Things are looking up for the Nebraska basketball team. They have started off the season nicely and have a potential all Big 12 player in Jake Muhleisen. Can Nebraskans say NIT?

● The Nebraska and Creighton rivalry was exciting this year. They should really start a home and home series. That would attract many fans and could start a great rivalry in Nebraska.

● Kansas State sure stuck it to the Sooners in the Big 12 title game. Will Oklahoma be able to bounce back against LSU? Who knows, but Kansas State will knock off Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl.

● The Lakers are running through the NBA. What's going to happen when Kobe Bryant has to go to court? Shaq, Payton, and Malone will just have to step their games up.

● I know exactly what LeBron James wants for Christmas. A ticket out of Cleveland.

● The Bengals have had a great season so far. They are still in the hunt for the playoffs. Wow, the AFC North must be pretty weak, but the Bengals must have improved.

● The Tuna Bill Parcels has turned the Cowboys around. Are they ready to make a playoff push? Tampa Bay sure went south in a hurry. First of all they can't win very many games. Second they let their best receiver Keyshawn Johnson go.

● Predicting the National Football League is almost impossible these days. An example, the Bengals beat the then undefeated Chiefs in Week 11. We should have known, Bengals wide receiver Chad Johnson guaranteed a victory before the game.

● Will Nebraska be able to win another game in the Alamo Bowl against Michigan State? Let's hope Pelini has the defense ready for the Spartans spread offense.

● It's Christmas break, and the football and basketball games are plentiful. As they say, it's the most wonderful time of the year.

Road games bring long trips, bus rides

By Kyle Clarey
Editor

Crowds cheering for the other team. Hostile environments. Long hours on the road.

These are only some of the things that describe a road game in sports. Some people like them, while others hate them. There is one thing in common: everyone has to make them.

Athletes have to plan many things before going on a road trip like what food to pack and what to bring to do on the bus. Some athletes enjoy going to some places more than others. Junior John Beauvais had a easy way to sum it up.

"I like going to wherever the football team can win," Beauvais said.

Sophomore Michael Gokie likes going to a more interesting place.

"I like going to Schuyler for the interesting aroma," Gokie said, referring to the Excel packing plant buses have to pass on the way to the school.

Sophomore Justin McPhillips likes to sleep on the bus and bring



KYLE CLAREY/ROCK BOTTOM

Sophomore Justin McPhillips and senior Laura Kelly haul off all their gear after a Dec. 5 road game against Hastings St. Cecilia. The bus arrived back at school at 11:30 p.m. after a two hour trip.

peanut butter and jelly. He dislikes traveling to Wahoo Neumann because of the rivalry, however.

Junior Cassie Hall likes going to one of the more popular places: state volleyball. She also likes to do other things during road trips. She brings her CD player on all bus

rides to listen to some music, and she loves to eat puppy chow.

Beauvais likes and dislikes are a little more unique however.

Beauvais said he likes to "yell at freshmen." He also brings Subway to eat, but when it comes to packing a cooler he has his own

way. "I don't put it off until my parents do because they don't do the best job," Beauvais said.

When it comes to good concession stands on the road sophomore Zach Ramaekers knows where to go.

"Hastings is the best for the good pizza," Ramaekers said of the Pizza Hut in the St. Cecilia concession stand.

Vern Younger, who has been driving buses at Scotus for 38 years, had a bad thing happen to him. It is called the story of the "get-away bus."

One day a bus started to roll backwards after Younger had parked it. The bus was not on and no one was in it. The bus then crashed into Head of Maintenance Ed Groelinger's new pickup. The emergency brake was not on and Younger was the last person to drive the bus.

"Let's just say Mr. Groelinger was not happy about the situation," Younger said.

Whether it be a trip to state in Lincoln, Schuyler, or a home football game, bus rides are just one major part of a road trip.

Winter brings snow, slopes, sledding

By Joey Beauvais
Staff Reporter

There might not have been a lot of snow yet, but it's never too early to get ready for one of the funnest activities of the winter - sledding.

Sledding is a fun activity for anybody, and it brings out a lot of good and bad memories. The key to sledding is know where to do it and how. Different students of different ages have different ideas.

Sophomore Austin Zaeh said that he prefers to go sledding north of Columbus by Lake North.

"The slope there is really steep," Zaeh said, "but the run is a bit short."

Zaeh said that he thinks the best way to go sledding is on a snowboard. Zach said that a snowboard just feels a lot faster when you ride it.

Freshman Matt Kaufmann has a different idea about the best way to sled.

"I like just going down on a tube," Kaufmann said. "I like it because you can go fast down the hill and feel the wind against your face"

Seventh grader Nick Daley is yet

another person who enjoys the fun of sledding. Daley said he prefers to sled anywhere with a steep hill, such as the Pawnee Levee, which is on the sides of the Loop River south of Columbus. Though fun most of the time, sledding does have a few dangerous times. If the rider isn't paying attention on a bad run, injury is around the corner.

"One time," Daley said, "I was going down a hill, I hit a bump, and rolled down the hill head first."

Daley was not injured, as this was not a very serious wipeout. Kaufmann, however, has had an

experience that was a bit more extreme. Kaufmann said one time when he was sledding with some of his friends,

his tube flipped and he fell hard on the ground. That was not too bad of a situation, until Kaufmann was also nearly run over by his friends coming down the hill on all of their sleds.

Sledding is a fun thing to do, no matter where it is done or how someone goes down. Hopefully, more snow will come and soon everybody will be able to hit the slopes.

"One time I was going down a hill, I hit a bump, and rolled down the hill head first."
~Nick Daley



DANIELLE BERNT/ROCK BOTTOM

Up for the duece

Senior Eric Grubaugh goes up for a layup on a Dec. 5 game against Hastings St. Cecilia. The Shamrocks lost a heart-breaker 54-51.

Peraults enjoy life on the sidelines

Couple has taped, iced, massaged Scotus athletes back to health for 10 years

By Danielle Bernt
Editor-in-Chief

Banners and trophies are symbols of the abundant successes in Scotus athletics. Behind every successful team there are coaches, fans, and physical therapists. In this case, two great physical therapists. Through hard work, dedication, and a love for what they do, Randy and Pam Perault have been bracing Scotus athletes for 10 years.

Pam Perault, coming from Beemer, Nebraska, received an athletic training degree from the University of Nebraska. Randy grew up in Minneapolis, Illinois, and received his degree at Mankato State. Pam and Randy met at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, where they both received their masters in physical therapy. Later, Peraults came to settle in Columbus and began their careers. After working with another clinic for four years, Pam and Randy began their own business.

"We felt like we wanted to stay in Columbus," Pam Perault said. "The business was something we felt we wanted to be our own."



TYLER MICEK/ROCK BOTTOM

Physical trainer Randy Perault, with hands folded, watches a Scotus basketball game from behind the bench. Randy and his wife Pam have volunteered their services at Scotus games for over 10 years.

Working in Columbus at both a high school and college level, Randy Perault said he prefers working at the high school level because he knows not only the athletes but also the families. Working with high school athletes was one of many reasons Peraults decided to remain in Columbus.

"[Attending games] is all volunteer, and that's one reason we came to Columbus," Randy Perault said. "We enjoy working with the high school."

Attending games was also one

way to promote the newly founded Perault's Therapy clinic. This also served as a way to meet the people of the community.

"You don't just meet the athletes but the parents and the grandparents as well," Pam Perault said.

A typical day for the Peraults begins at 7 a.m. when Pam and Randy each have their own patient loads at their downtown clinic. Randy takes a few hours out of the day to see patients at Mory's Haven as well. Seeing patients lasts until 6 p.m. when Pam and Randy attend athletic events of Scotus and Columbus Community College.

Randy said the most common injury is the ankle sprain. Ankle sprains are rated on a scale from one to three, one being the least damaging and three being the most. A third degree sprain can take a

minimum of two weeks to heal. Randy encourages three types of ankle sprain preventions; taping, wearing a brace, and doing exercises to increase balance, strength, and flexibility.

Seeing, on average, more than 50 Scotus athletes for minor injuries and eight to 10 Scotus athletes for major injuries throughout the year, Perault's date books are never clear. Pam said things do get a little hectic especially with their three daughters and one son's activities increasing, but the love for the job makes it all worth while.

"It affects our social life more than anything," Randy said, "but then the games become our social activity."

Even though extremely busy, Pam said she loves it all, even the theatre productions where she takes her daughters in her free time.

When Pam and Randy do have spare time they continue to keep working out because they believe in practicing what they preach: exercising.

Pam and Randy Perault have built a business for which Scotus athletics have been able to lean on as not only therapists, but also supporters and friends.

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SCOTUS CENTRAL Rock Bottom

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Volume 6 • Issue 6 • February 27, 2004

Religious testimonials test class of 2004

By Stephanie Laudenklos
Staff Reporter

As if the seniors do not have enough to worry about concerning colleges and other planning for their futures, the Archdiocese is asking them to do an evaluation of their faith. The seniors have recently been asked to do a religion testimonial about the sacrament that has most affected each of their lives.

Each student has to contain in their four to six minute report a scripture reference, a defined moment of grace, and how this sacrament has changed their lives and helped them create a deeper commitment to God.

"The point of (the religious testimonial) is having a standardized test," senior religion teacher Brian Fuchser said.

Standardized tests are tests that are done to see where a school stands as far as the state and government's guidelines go.

The Archdiocese is using Scotus as a pilot school to test out certain projects.

They need to do these projects "to catch up with public school and state standards," Fuchser said.

In the future the Archdiocese will assign these projects to other grades if they are a success at Scotus. They are just using Scotus to get out the glitches.

The students were given two weeks from the assigned date to complete the assignment. They were then graded according to a rubric given by the Archdiocese. The rubric was based on the criteria met in four levels. The first level was assigned an A or 100. This was done for each section and then averaged for a final grade. Originally the Archdiocese had set the time at eight to 10 minutes, but Fuchser compromised with the students and changed it to four to six minutes. Some students could not even meet that time limit.

"Hardly any students met the four minute mark," Fuchser said.

If the students were to not meet this requirement of time they would be docked five points, or if they were to go over, they would obtain an extra five points.

Over all the tests came out about

right.

"(The grades) are pretty close to what they would be on a test," Fuchser said.

The views and personal reactions of this testimonial varied.

Fuchser said that he views theology as allowing students to think about and question their faith, not to enforce certain criteria. With a time limit on the testimonials Fuchser said that the students did not have enough time to do that.

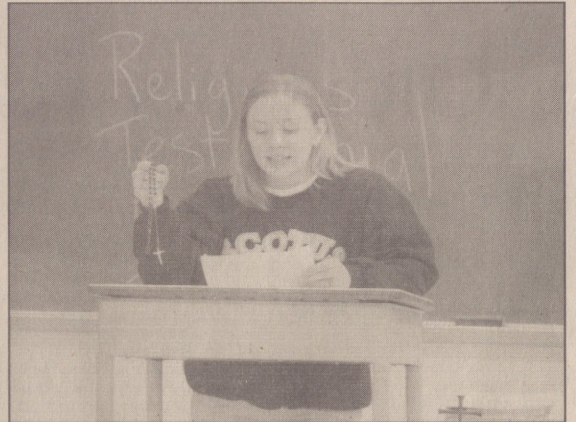
The students attitude towards the testimonials overall was negative.

"I think that it would have been more useful if people would have taken it more seriously," senior Amanda Krings said.

It was not completely a failure though.

"We did have some amazing testimonials," Fuchser said.

Senior Tara Steiner was one who did not have a good attitude towards this assignment until she was recently in a car accident. Students were talking and as always, rumors were spread through the hallways. When the testimonials came around, this was her chance



DANIELLE BERNT/ROCK BOTTOM

Senior Sally Deturk practices for her religious testimonial. Scotus was picked by the archdiocese to give the religious testimonials a trial run this year.

to tell everyone the real story. "It gave me a chance to set the rumors straight," Steiner said.

The testimonials brought about realization of faith that students may have not had before.

Thrill of performing, competition drive speakers

By Sadie Bolte
Editor

Palms are sweaty, heart's racing, knees are trembling, lips quiver, legs become stiff...

Is this judgment day, when God decides if you should soar to heaven or be shot down straight to hell? Not quite, but sometimes to certain people, it may seem that way.

Every year, the Scotus speech team is working hard preparing their speeches for the next meet. Each meet gets them ready for conference, which they've won 23 out of the 26 years Scotus has offered this organization. The pressure mounts to keep the reputation that the Scotus speech team has rightfully earned.

This year's team is a mixture of experienced upperclassmen and young, fresh faces. The more they win, the closer they become. The closer they become, the more speech team becomes a family.

"You have to work as an individual," Scotus speech team coach Mrs. Sandie Bernt said, "but be a team player."

What makes a good team? According to Bernt, it is the "unique combination of individual personalities."

Senior Co-captain Darin Kuehler pumps up the team before heading into rounds and reminds them to keep a positive attitude.

"We go in as a team," Kuehler said, "and come out as a team."

Once in a round, it is up to the individual or the group to perform



DANIELLE BERNT/ROCK BOTTOM

Coaches Sandie Bernt and Brian Fuchser discuss critiques with senior Darin Kuehler after a round of humorous prose. Kuehler is co-captain of the speech team this year.

to the best of their abilities. Everyone contributes to the team by scoring well in each round. To get the best score, being focused is the key.

"I get into it," Kuehler said. "My mind goes into one track; my mind goes into the piece."

Sophomore Autumn Kresha is brand new to the team this year, joining at the beginning of February. She was asked to fill a spot that was needed to make the group complete. Her first time performing went smoothly.

"I was comfortable with my piece," Kresha said. "I wasn't too nervous."

Reasons for joining speech team vary from person to person. For Kuehler, he wanted a challenge, and because he liked acting, he thought he'd give this a shot. Junior Crystal Modde also joined on her own decision looking for a fun experience. Kresha, however, had

to be persuaded in order for her to join. Once she was asked what seemed like 50 times by Bernt and sophomore Tyler Micek, she finally gave in.

Bernt is constantly looking for competition to make the team better. When she first came to Scotus in 1978, the speech team at the time needed a drastic change to measure up to the school she had been at before. It took a while, but soon the Scotus speech team was up to par with the rest of the speaking world.

Why would someone want to be in such an organization?

"It's a blast, an exhilarating and new experience," Kuehler said. "You go into rounds, and you don't know who's going to be there. It's another challenge."

He said before a round his adrenaline starts pumping and he gets a "speaking high."



TYLER MICEK/ROCK BOTTOM

Top: Darin Kuehler receives second place in Humorous Prose. Kuehler was quadruple entered at the Crete speech meet.



TYLER MICEK/RB

Left: Elizabeth Suesse persuades the audience during her second persuasion round.

Modde said it's fun meeting new people, and that there are definitely a lot of weird and odd people.

"You get to walk around in a suit," Modde said. "That's always fun."

There are some people, however, that have no appreciation for speech team and say that it's worthless and stupid. If Kuehler hears this, he thinks that it is sad to see the view they have, and he knows that they don't realize the hard work that is put forth everyday of every week of the long season.

"I just tell them, 'you have no clue,'" he said. "You can't knock it till you try it."

Bernt knows that the hard work she does for them will pay off.

"It's an activity that you don't just grow out of," she said. "You use it no matter what job you go into, and it teaches organization. It's a skill for life."

Actors put on show in Tom Sawyer

By Kelly Ingram
Staff Reporter

Lights! Camera! Action! Students have been hustling around the old gym at Scotus every night, and it hasn't been on the basketball court. So what is it?

The musical! Music teacher E.J. Gardner and many high school students have been working hard since December on the 2004 musical *Tom Sawyer*.

"I have been working hard for this ever since my youth by being in so many plays," junior Nathan Staroscik said.

Staroscik, who has been in numerous plays such as *Bye Bye Birdie* and *Calamity Jane*, plays the part of Tom Sawyer.

"I enjoy playing Tom," Staroscik said. "He is a neat character. It is a good part but a lot of work."

Other students are also excited for their roles.

"This is the first year I actually had a real part," sophomore Lauren Jablonski said.

Jablonski plays Sidney Sawyer, Tom's younger, annoying sister.

"I love my part," Jablonski said, "because I can be myself...a bratty little sister who tortures Tom. At first I wanted to play Becky, but this part fits me way better. I can torture

See *Sawyer*, page 4

Missing activity period affects school

Lower meeting attendance seen as a result, but most appreciate the shorter days

By Danielle Bernt
Editor-in-Chief

A quiet murmur quickly grew into a harmonized chant with fists raised high. CHANNEL ONE! CHANNEL ONE!

These were the feelings of a number of seniors when asked about the now non-existent activity period. Although, the chant was only half serious, many students feel the absence makes for a long day. To many others the change was a positive thing.

After many complaints about activity period being a waste of time the school dismissed the 25-minute activity period after the 2001-2002 school year. The period came between fourth and fifth periods and was supposed to be a time when clubs and organizations could meet. Students without meetings were to use the time as a study hall or to watch Channel One, a 20-minute news program directed towards teens. With statements floating around the hallway that students only use the free time to copy homework or to sleep, this seemed like a good solution.

"I think it's a waste of time," social studies teacher Pat Brockhaus said. "It wasn't being used like it was supposed to be used."

After the changes were made the school was faced with 26 additional minutes during the school day, thus, leading to the start of the day going from 8:04 to 8:30. Many like this change.

"I don't have students who forget to come in or over sleep for [make-up labs and quizzes]," chemistry teacher Jane Dusel-Misfeldt said.

Activity period, for many organizations, was a time to have meetings and to sell fundraising items. Activities are now forced to schedule meetings before or after school. Some organization's attendance levels have suffered, but some teachers do not accept this as an excuse.

"Are we hurting because we don't have it? No," Brockhaus said. "If it's going to be that important to them, they'll be there."

But in addition to lacking a time for meetings some students feel it is harder to get sales out to the students. Senior Chelsie Thompson said activity period allotted a time for yearbook and candy sales. She also said she would go to

"(Activity period) was a waste of time. It wasn't being used like it was supposed to be used."

~Pat Brockhaus

mass during activity period.

"During activity period we would watch Channel One," senior Taylor Harsh said. "I miss Channel One. We've got some great memories with Channel One."

Although the activity period change is set, opinions of whether it was a good or bad change still vary.

"I had mixed feelings about it," Dusel-Misfeldt said. "I didn't think it was being a real productive time, although it did allow students to make up a short quiz or those types of things."

In the scheme of things activity period missing is only one tiny molecule, but as we know molecules make things really happen. And in order to keep up, Scotus must keep advancing along with the times.

Opinion

Participation, alertness lacking at Masses

It is a well-known fact that many people think that school Masses are also nap times. Looking down the pews at Mass, it is common to see a few people sleeping. Sleeping during Mass is very disrespectful on the students' part, but there are a few things that could be done to hold student's interest a bit more.

Every weekend, all the students, or at least most, go to Mass. Students go to Mass for sports and other events too. When all-school Masses come around, some students are not into it. They hear and do the same thing every week, and they get tired of it. A lack of changes makes Mass very routine and boring.

Some possible changes that

could help keep the attention of the students include the following: newer and more up-beat music with live instruments, a shorter and more to the point homily that relates closely to the students, and maybe a time change.

Newer and more up-beat music would help get students moving. More would sing which would help focus their attention better. Singing would also get some students more into the Mass that would make them have a better mind-set and want to be there more. Even if only the first and last songs would change, it would probably help a lot. Also, live music was a good addition to one of the past masses, but where did it go? Bringing back

the live music would again help to get the students into mass more. It is more energizing than just the normal, everyday piano. It not only gets the person playing the instrument involved, but the whole con-

If students are not happy with masses, then they have to shoulder some of the responsibility.

gregation was into it.

The homily is one of the main points of Mass. It is usually a good lesson for all to learn from—at least for those still paying attention.

Keeping the homily down to a couple of minutes would lessen the chance of people losing focus. The same good points could be made, and more students would get something out of it.

With less than an hour left of school, most students are too tired to fully participate in their last class, let alone Mass. Everyone is more tired at the end of the day. That is why a time change may have a positive effect. If Mass was moved to the morning, people may be more alert and participate more.

If students are not happy with Masses, then they have to shoulder some of the responsibility. Everyone had a chance to be part of

the group that Father Bill Bond put together in order to make masses better. If they are not willing to put forth an effort to make positive changes, they should not complain about it.

It is sad the some students cannot stay awake throughout Mass. Students should not complain about an hour long Mass, but there are a few things that could make a difference. Newer and more up-beat music with live instruments, a shorter and more to the point homily that relates closely to the students, and a time change might get them more involved, and they would have a far better mind-set when going to Mass in the future.

Glory between the gutters: Part II

BITTERNESS



Chad Trofholz

A new opponent lies in the shadows searching himself to find out if he has what it takes to be the champion of Scotus. The man known as "Darts" steps up for the anticipated showdown. The match that has spent over a year in the making is stewing in the competitor's (Dylan Guenther) mind.

The undisputed champion and former Kearney Collegiate bowler who goes by the obvious codename Mr. Sean

Wickham remains confident in his skills.

The first installment of "Glory Between the Gutters" featured Wickham defeating Ryan Jablonski with three final frame strikes to win 214-208. Wickham admitted that he has not picked up his ball since last year against Jablonski.

The fiery underdog Darts had this to say, "I'm thinking that I'm going to take Wickham to the house and show him a thing or two."

The night approached and the stage was set. Both men looked relaxed in their black t-shirts, ready to battle. A crowd consisting of literally tens of students waited on-hand.

"I'm very nervous right now," Wickham said before the match. "There's a lot at stake, like bragging rights at Scotus."

Both men started the game with open frames, but Wickham was able to score the first mark, capitalizing on Dylan's split. From then on it was all Sean up in that house, closing his next five frames. In the seventh frame leading by 35 pins, he opened the door for

Darts by leaving a split. Dylan could not hop on this and matched with a split of his own, his fourth on the day. This is not what I would consider top-notch bowling. Adding insult to injury, Wickham finished with three strikes in the final two frames to come out on top 191-143.

Although modest throughout most of the game, with the victory sealed he pulled the showy tactic of "raising the roof".

"I'll be able to walk the halls of Scotus with my head a little higher tomorrow."

The shameful showing of Darts and his lack of competition was embarrassing for him as well as the student body.

"There's no excuse for me sucking." Wickham, who is now 2 and 0, welcomes competition and says that he is always game, and the lanes are always open in C-bus.

So I guess I can tell you what I learned. Don't run your mouth if you don't have the (bowling) balls to back it up. Snootch to the nooch.



DANIELLE BERNT/ROCK BOTTOM

Guenther looks on as Wickham throws another strike in the match. Wickham ran his record to 2-0 versus the student challenges.

Skin-deep beauty not always so deep

Just Press Pause



Danielle Bernt

"Cause I'm young and I'm hip, and so beautiful, I'm gonna be a supermodel." Am I dreaming? Would someone please come pinch me? According to these lyrics that many late 90's teens use as a bible reference, just because one is young, hip, and beautiful they too are able to become just like Tori Spelling who is supposedly a supermodel. And by these standards I am a supermodel. Scary isn't it? Because I may consider myself

young and quite possibly hip but perhaps not so beautiful...maybe that's where I go wrong. But, eh two out of three isn't bad. Ok, ok. So I lied. I'm not really a supermodel, I'm really a freakishly semi-normal highschooler. But isn't that the goal, to be like Tori Spelling or perhaps for the boys...Andy Roddick? Society has an out of control infatuation with being the best looking, the most popular, and the richest. So the question is where have all the morals gone? Maybe they left along with the cowboys...I'm not quite sure.

First and foremost comes the appearance. Whatever happened to pasty white skin being glamorous like in the day of Bette Davis? Does she not have an entire song written about her and her eyes? I can only hope that some day I

have a song titled Danielle Bernt Eyes. But I fatly doubt it because these days being glamorous consists of having a tan almost to the point of racial change, being a size zero, and carrying your collection of Louie Vuitton bags around like it ain't

no thang. With great role models like Britney Spears and her two day marriage, teens strive to become more...or in a way, less. I'm predicting in five years we'll have a new size of pants...negative one. Now, I don't know about my fellow readers, but I too have fallen into this endless pit of slim-fast bars and tanning cards. Every night after saying my routine rosary, I go to bed feeling horrible appearance-

wise. Planning new ways to drop those pounds never seems to work for me. Actually I can't seem to go

without food or some sort of calorie filled soda for over three hours. And as Valentine's Day is lurking I tend to drown my sorrow's in candy conversation hearts...yeah good-bye "Lover Boy," so long "Honey-Pie," adios "Fatty." WHAT!? What is this? Maybe these little hearts are trying to tell me something. But I do find that I myself discriminate against the pale white hearts as well.

So the question is what IS so bad about paleness...or being "fair-skinned" if it makes you feel

better? I don't think I can even tan in the summer...it's more of a tomato color. Maybe fifty years from now I'll be glamorous with my "color of love" skin tone, and tanners will be the discriminated, but then again I'll be 68 and I doubt Hollywood will have much use for old Dani-Girl then.

So in conclusion, who in the heck came up with these rules? Was it the same people that said Michael Jackson was normal? Maybe it was the same people that consider being call something less than a dollar hip? Or perhaps it was the people who gave the little Hillfiger girl her own show. And solving this problem we should just keep in mind that beauty is in the eye of the beholder...and maybe a distorting fun-house mirror. Until then, adios and "Call Me Later."

I'm predicting that in five years we'll have a new size of pants...negative one.

Dollars, common sense fall to fashion trap

Steph Landenklos

Fashion. It changes every day and can be the most expensive waste.

While looking through my monthly J. Crew magazine, I found the cutest pair of flip-flops and a nice swimsuit to go along with them. Thinking that I would buy this little number, I dared to look at the prices. Oh, what do you know-

the flip-flops cost more than the swimsuit at a whopping 78 dollars! I immediately closed the magazine and opened up a more practical price-ranged book also known as the JC Penny catalog.

For all the guys out there who like a little lingerie over Valentine's Day, that could set a girl back 300 dollars for a corset that makes it impossible to breathe. Victoria's Secret has come out with the million-dollar bra and panty made of diamonds. Sign me up for that one.

I am for the more conventional clothes that are comfy and whole, not something that appears to be torn in the middle and safety-pinned back together.

How about this for a new t-shirt slogan: "I should be doing 400 sit-

ups a day in order to wear this shirt." The style these days for the ladies is to wear a shirt that shows your midriff along with the style of the lower jeans. Fashion is fashion and it comes and goes by the minute. Let's face it. Our society is lazy and the majority does not work out to have that physically fit body. So with the lovely fashions come along a roll of fat hanging out instead of just skin.

I'm not saying that the fashions are tasteless, but people need to think about what sort of image they are putting out. Some shirts are so short that they remind me of something that you would wear with grey hair and a gapped-tooth smile at the Platte County Fair.

The fashions of today are mere

copy-cats of the '70s with a recent twist. Flared jeans (also known as bellbottoms) are back in style as well as go-go boots and the mod-squad-looking clothes.

Bangs have been a recent addition to hairstyles. I am one of the people who chose to try this new style. When getting them I had a flashback of when I was about five years old and had the bangs that were loaded with hairspray and served as a shield from the sun. These days people wear the bangs loosely and not curled. A side-part is usually associated with them too.

Guys' fashion will never change. Even though guys do not care nearly as much about fashion as the ladies do, the fashion should change from their cargo shorts to the old worn-out jeans. I just want to say that whoever created those large M.C. Hammer pants had to be thinking of a building a house

because you could fit a family of five in those things.

Whether it is swimsuits, t-shirts, jeans, hairstyles, or go-go boots you can guarantee that it will be back in fashion within 30 years. I plan on keeping my outrageous fashions for my kids to wear. They may just be back in style by that time.

Fashion is fashion and it comes and goes by the minute.

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Numerous teachers to teach new classes

By T. J. Wrigley
Staff Reporter

Most of the Scotus students live out their lives in school. They attend class after class with the same teachers every day for nine months. Many of the students are also aware of the fact that most of the Scotus teachers teach the same subject year after year. This is not what will be happening next year at Scotus. Numerous teachers are taking on new classes that other teachers used to have and are dropping some of their classes to make room for the class switch.

Principal Wayne Morfeld said Scotus teachers are teaching different

classes because Scotus must change for the new classes that are being offered next year. The school also has to have a certain percentage of teachers teaching in their endorsed areas. Some of the changes were done to get more teachers teaching in their endorsed area.

Dan Mahoney, the current History 8 and geography of world affairs teacher, will no longer be teaching History 8. He will be dropping the class in exchange for earth science.

"This is the class that I was originally endorsed in teaching," Mahoney said, "and I'm looking forward to teaching the class."

Mahoney said that he was going to prepare over the summer for his new

class. He also said that he will be asking Joan Lahm, the current earth science teacher, how she has been teaching her class.

"I will have to brush up on the new things that have taken place in astronomy and meteorology," Mahoney said.

With Mahoney teaching earth science next year, the current earth science teacher, Lahm, will have to make some changes as well.

Lahm's whole schedule will be changing. In addition to losing earth science, she will also not be teaching sophomore theology. She will instead be teaching Physical Science 8 and junior theology.

"I am excited to try something new because I am anxious to work with a different

age group," Lahm said.

Lahm said she will be talking with the current physical science teacher, Thomas Salyard, to help her understand what and how she must teach physical science next year.

"I will be reading a lot of books over the summer to prepare for my classes," Lahm said.

Since Lahm is teaching physical science, Salyard will also be making changes to his usual routine.

In place of physical science, Salyard will be teaching senior theology.

"I've done (physical science) for a number of years, and I will probably feel a little sadness," Salyard said.

Salyard said he will be talking with the current Senior Theology teacher, Brian Fuchser, about how

to teach Senior Theology following the guidelines set by the Omaha Archdiocese curriculum.

John Petersen will also be taking on a different class next year. Petersen will no longer be teaching advanced math class next year. He will instead be taking on Math 7.

"It's been about 27 years since I taught 7th grade," Petersen said.

Petersen said he always enjoyed advanced math, but he is happy about what he will be teaching next year. He said he will discuss with Mable Pekarek about how to teach 7th grade math. He said she is a great teacher with much experience.

There are going to be many teachers teaching different classes next year. Most of the teachers are ready for the new challenge and are happy about teaching the different classes next year. This proves that Scotus can change from its usual routine and try something new.

"I am excited to try something new because I am anxious to work with a different age group."
~Joan Lahm

Scotus adapts to a new scheduling system

By Kyle Clarey
Editor

A schedule may only be a white sheet of paper, but this paper is vitally important to the life of a Scotus student.

A new way to schedule classes was introduced this year at Scotus. Instead of having the computer choose what periods the students would have each class, the students made the decision. Not only were students able to pick the period of each class, but they also were able to plan class periods with friends. Senior High Counselor Judi Wolken is in charge of the schedules.

"Scotus is a college-prep school," Wolken said, "and this new scheduling system is the way that we've seen larger schools schedule students. This is the way they schedule the students in college so it will help them to start now."

There are different opinions about the new system.

"I like it," sophomore Michael Gokic said, "but the only bad thing is that it isn't a surprise the next school year when you get your schedule."

Wolken was not sure if she liked the new scheduling system yet.

"I can't say yet because I do not know the amount of work involved in making the schedules," Wolken said.

She said one concern she has of the new scheduling system is that a large number of students could

all sign up for a certain period of a class. She then would have to go back and redo some schedules.

"This is the first year, so there are going to be problems," Wolken said. "I'll have to wait and see what happens."

Wolken said she hopes to have all of the schedules finalized by May 1.

The students of Scotus have differing opinions about the new scheduling system.

Sophomore Austin Zach likes the new scheduling system.

"I like it because you can plan classes with your friends," Zach said.

The process was not as simple as the old one for some.

"It was difficult and confusing to fill my schedule out," sophomore Amberle Zuerlein said. "There were so many different combinations and choices."

While Zuerlein was confused, sophomore Justin McPhillips summed up the new schedules in one sentence.

"The schedules are great for people who want to be organized, but I'm not organized," McPhillips said.

Junior Eugene Bichlmeier did not care for the new system.

"I hate it because everything I wanted to take since seventh grade I can't take now," Bichlmeier said.

Some may like the new system while some may not like this system, but only time will tell whether the new scheduling system will be effective for both Scotus staff and students.

In case you were confused...

Mrs. Lahm is teaching Theology 11 which was formerly taught by Mr. Fuchser.
Mr. Mahoney is teaching earth science which was formerly taught by Mrs. Lahm.
Mr. Petersen is teaching Math 7 which was formerly taught by Mrs. Pekarek.
Mr. Salyard is teaching Theology 12 which was formerly taught by Mr. Fuchser.
Mrs. C. Johnson is teaching Religion 10 which was formerly taught by Mrs. Lahm.

Got it now???

New year, new classes offered

By T. J. Wrigley
Staff Reporter

Going to endless classes may be the worst part of a student's life, but the new classes offered at Scotus next year may help students find a new sense of relief from the everyday routine. Many of the new classes next year will also be technology-based classes, but there will be two new family and consumer science classes offered to students. Each class has unique objectives that will help Scotus students succeed.

Bonnie Kreikemeier will be teaching the new computer courses next year. She said the new classes being offered are IT (Informational Technology) Essentials I and Computer Applications III. Kreikemeier said she is excited about teaching both classes next year, and hopes the new technology classes may attract students to Scotus.

"Scotus is offering these classes for recruitment purposes in various types of technologies," Kreikemeier said. "We want to stay up to date."

Kreikemeier said IT Essentials I offers an in-depth exposure to computer hardware and operating systems. Students will learn how various hardware and software function. She said hands-on activities and labs will help students complete this objective.

"These labs will help students learn how to assemble and configure a computer, install operating systems and software, and troubleshoot hardware and software problems," Kreikemeier said.

She said that the class will have an introduction to networking. Networking is how all school computers are connected together. This class will help prepare all of its students for the CompTIA's A+ certification. She said the CompTIA's A+ certification will let employers

know that the student is able to apply his or her computing knowledge to working in the company's firm.

"We are working with colleges to try and make these new courses college-prep courses," Kreikemeier said, "so the students will get college credits for completing these courses."

Computer Applications III will be primarily focused on using the computer as a tool for creating a various array of documents using many Microsoft technologies. Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint will be used in this course. Advanced desktop publishing and image management will also be taught to the students. The students will be studying these various products and technologies

"We need more technology classes because that is the evolution of the modern world."

~Wayne Morfeld

to prepare for the Microsoft Certification Exams. These exams will help colleges and employers see that you are qualified and know how to run Microsoft software well.

"Many employers," Kreikemeier said, "clients, and peers will recognize that you are a Microsoft Certified Professional, and this will show them that you understand the skills and knowledge you've gained through your experience in this class."

Principal Wayne Morfeld said that more technology classes are needed at Scotus.

"We need more technology classes because that is the evolution of the modern world," Morfeld said. "As education and society change, we must change as well."

Morfeld said that family and consumer science classes are

needed, but new technology classes are also needed. This is why Scotus is offering two new family and consumer science classes next year.

Carmen Johnson said she will be teaching Clothing and Design and Skills for Life next year. She said these classes will both be taught for one semester each and will be taught on a rotating basis. This means that this class will not be offered in the 2005-2006 school year. These classes will be replaced with Child Development I and Child Development II.

Students will be learning numerous new skills in both classes. Clothing and Design, which will be taught first semester, will be learning how to analyze various reasons for clothing choices, give examples of the effects that design principles have on appearances, and describe the wide range of career choices in the fashion industry. Repairing and altering clothes will also be included in this class. There will be various tests and labs used to enhance the students ability to learn the information.

Johnson said in Skills for Life, which will be taught second semester, students will learn how to recognize responsibility of the family and its members to itself and society, investigate factors to make informed decisions about financial management, and practice good nutritional habits. She said that this class will help students in personal development and how to handle relationship situations that they may encounter in life. Johnson said that she is ready and excited to teach these new classes next year.

All of these new classes will challenge Scotus students. There are many objectives to completing these courses which will prove useful in the students' future. These classes will help many students to succeed in the world today and of the world tomorrow.

New classes offered

2004-2005

Computer Applications III
IT Essentials I
Clothing and Design
Skills for Life

2005-2006

Child Development I
Child Development II

2006-2007

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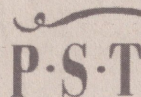
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There are BATS among us

Bats not uncommon in halls of Scotus

By Matt Raimondo
Staff Reporter

They are normally found in caves, but they can also be found in other places, such as a classroom. These creatures are feared by some and loved by others. They are known as bats. Scotus Central Catholic happens to have bats living within its walls.

When one of these bats is discovered, the first thing that has to be done is it has to be caught. Most of the time this is done with a net that is located in the back of science teacher Vern Younger's room. After the bats are caught they are sometimes brought back into the biology room for the class to view. Sophomore April Spies, a student in biology first period, was one of the students who saw a captured bat. "She felt sorry for the bat that was trapped inside the net and thought that it was cruel to capture them in such a way.

Another instance in which a bat was found in a classroom was when a bat (pictured above) was on the ceiling of English teacher Nathan Arneal's room. It was during a freshman English class with many students in the room.

"I was scared," freshman Ashley Micek said, "and I thought it was going to attack me."

Others in the class did not share the fear of this animal and wanted to be a little more daring.

"I wanted to throw something at it so it would start to fly around the room and be a distraction to the class," freshman Jake Staroscik said.

Superintendent Bill Gannon has caught many bats throughout his years at Scotus. He described what is like to catch a bat.

"It is simply putting a net over

**"I was scared, and I thought it was going to attack me."
~Ashley Micek"**

the top of the bat and then swiping either to right or left to keep the bat inside the net," Gannon said.

Anyone who is willing to catch a bat can do so, but the two people who catch them most are Gannon and head of maintenance Ed Guerlinger. The bats can be found any place in the building but are most likely to be found in dark places. Gannon said there are bats that can be found down in the tun-

nels under the school, but these bats are not captured because they do not affect the lives of the people within the school.

The bats are most commonly found during the fall. In the months of August and September there is an average of about one to two bats a week found in the school building. They are very prominent in the area. Even though they are an inconvenience, they are also a benefit to us in the environment because they eat mosquitoes and other annoying bugs.

"Bats are like mice," Gannon said. "They both can get through small holes and those holes in the school are hard to block to prevent them (the bats) from entering the school."

There are always going to bats living within the walls of Scotus. In order to allow the students and faculty to complete their work efficiently, the bats that enter the school and are visible have to be caught and released outside. After these creatures have been captured and released outside again, everything goes back to functioning normally. Bats are a part of Scotus that need to be dealt with in the best fashion. They will and always will be one of the scariest assets to the Scotus community.

Girl Power spices up mid-'90s

By Sadie Bolte
Editor

The years 1990-91 had "Turtle Power," 1992-93 had the power to step over the line of obscenity, and finally, 1994-96 had "girl power."

Women played an essential role in this time period because they came through with some of the most influential music in the '90s. This is also where many long-running television shows got their start. A filmmaking revolution began when Disney and Pixar joined to make one of the highest-grossing films in the decade. Here, three memorable years are summed up and slammed into one article.

Music: After the men of grunge and gangsta rap took control of mainstream music, where did the women stand? In 1994, '95, and '96, the women finally came through with the music they made their own. Some of the influential females of this time period were Celine Dion, Alanis Morissette, Sheryl Crow, and the members of TLC and Spice Girls. Although Ace of Base and No Doubt had guys in their group, it was really the women who stood out. Whether the music was R&B, ska, light rock, or girly-sugarcoated pop, it was time for girl power to shine.

Deciding on which of your friends gets to play the part of which Spice Girl can be quite the bloody battle. Tempers flare and little fists fly when your friend Sally Sue doesn't get to be Cutesy Spice, the innocent and adorable Spice. Sophomore Katie Cheloha recalls the conflicts between her friends. "Hailea Sahs, Carly and Anne Peetz and I would always fight about who got to be each Spice Girl," Cheloha said.

After the bickering was over, only then can the performance begin.

"Four of my friends and I used to pretend to be the Spice Girls and do concerts on the benches at recess," freshman Elizabeth Suess said.

Movies: *Finding Nemo*, *Monsters Inc.*, *Ice Age*, *Shrek*, and *Toy Story 2* are movies that are all the result of the movie that changed the future of children's movies.

I Love the '90s

This is the third of a series looking back on the popular toys, music, television, movies, and fads of the 1990s.

1994-1996

1995's *Toy Story* was the first feature length film animated entirely by computer.

Another popular movie was *Forrest Gump*. Who would have thought that the life-story of a rather dumb southern boy could create such a stir? Maybe he was right. Maybe life really is one giant box of chocolates. Along with other films in this era, this too was one of the highest-grossing films of the '90s.

TV shows: So many of the popular shows from 1994-1996 are still popular to this day. *ER* and *Everybody Loves Raymond* started in this time period. *Touched by an Angel*, *The Drew Carey Show*, *Chueless*, and *Sabrina the Teenage Witch*, were all long-running television shows, some of them ending not too long ago.

Who says television can't help

you in the future?

"*Sabrina the Teenage Witch* taught me about how life stinks for teenage girls," Cheloha said, "even if you are a witch with special powers."

Games/Fads: Herds of desperate parents bombarded into stores, knocking over shelves and employees alike. What is this madness? Could this all be for those adorable little bags of plastic beans? Or maybe it was because of that one red furry doll that giggled and had epileptic breakouts whenever you pressed its tummy. The Beanie Babies and Tickle Me Elmo caused quite a ruckus in toy stores across America.

Miniature versions of the Beanie Babies were given away as the toys in McDonald's Happy Meals. People became obsessed with this idea and tried to get them at any cost.

"I remember there was always a line of cars going onto the highway at McDonald's to get Happy Meals for the Beanie Babies," freshman Kelsey Beiermann said.

Magic Eye was also a favorite toy, at least for those who could figure out how it works. Staring at it too long could actually cause pain. If you crossed your eyes just right, 3-D images would reportedly jump out of the seemingly random colors.

"Magic Eye was just a plot to sell headache medicine," junior John Beauvais said.

Women played a crucial role in the music business and showed that they too can be influential. *Toy Story* was a huge innovation in the animated filmmaking world. Searching for and getting that new toy almost became its own Olympic event. Exciting and ever-changing technologies and lifestyles make 1994, '95, and '96 something to talk about.

Scotus boys to compete for Mr. Shamrock crown

By Chad Trofholz
Editor

The opportunity to be in the school's spotlight and feel superior to the rest has come for Scotus. Having peers look upon them with admiration and being crowned as the Shamrock's best is the dream of many boys. This excitement may not be caused by being crowned Sweetheart King this year. Rather, true 'Rocks might be more encouraged to strut their stuff in the Mister Shamrock Pageant which is being hosted by the student council.

Student Council Sponsor Becki Zanardi is not only in charge of helping with the planning but also will be emceeing this event, which will be held sometime around Saint Patrick's Day. Columbus High held a similar show as a fundraiser; however, Scotus' show will serve as a pep rally to support the school. It will be a chance to let loose in an environment that normally frowns upon face painting or costumes.

"The idea behind (the pageant) is so that there will be a morale booster that is something different and fun," Zanardi said.

The competition will be held during the school day and the competitors will be judged in three events: interview, talent, and eveningwear.

Although the Mr. Shamrock

Pageant will emulate the Miss America Pageant, Zanardi said she hopes it will be something entertaining to break from the ordinary mundane. For instance, it would be an acceptable talent to play the guitar or even bike across the stage. Never fear if these talents do not float your boat, hula hoping or burping can also serve as a great show. A winner can be selected due to a great gastro-intestinal presentation.

The eveningwear competition should not be confused with a pajama competition. Lord knows Mr. Shamrock would not dare strut around in his skimpies. The contestant is encouraged by Zanardi to wear whatever he feels needs to be worn to catch the eye of some hotty. A Canadian tuxedo or a leisure suit would be interesting ensembles.

The Student Council tried to run this presentation last year but the application process may have been unclear. Boys should not be shy because the format will be very unique and entertainment-oriented. The contestants from grades nine through twelve will be selected on a first come, first served basis. It is going to be a fun competition that is not too serious, yet purposeful. The purpose being: Having the title "Mr. Shamrock" and a fantastic door prize.

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Entertainment

Rock Bottom Review

'Super' commercials stoop for laughs

By Joey Beauvias
Staff Reporter

Nobody likes being disappointed, but things do not always go as planned. It is hard to say what has more hype surrounding it, the Super Bowl or the commercials that go on during it. It seems like every year, either the game or the commercials are supposed to be the greatest ever, but always falls short of expectations. The commercials this year were just one case.

When a commercial is going to cost a company \$1.3 million for just 30 seconds of airtime, it had better be top notch. Some of them were entertaining, like the Budweiser commercial that featured a dog attacking another man to get his owner a Bud Light. The commercial was not too long, and it was something a lot of people could relate to.

Some commercials are funny, but the concept behind them is just too low-class. Another Bud Light com-

mercial featured a woman being lit on fire when a horse "passed wind" during her candlelight dinner. Not every commercial has to be a work of art, but it is coming to a point where crude humor is the only theme that an audience is willing to laugh at. This was just one of many commercials that was funny, but the whole idea behind them was to make the audience laugh, then to flash their product in the last five seconds.

Perhaps that flashing a product in the last five seconds is better than just talking about it for a long time. In the Levitra commercials the only thing that happens is that Mike Ditka gives his two bits on who he feels Levitra would be useful to. Not only is it not funny, it is not even creative. Certain commercials just seem like they are a step above the rest.

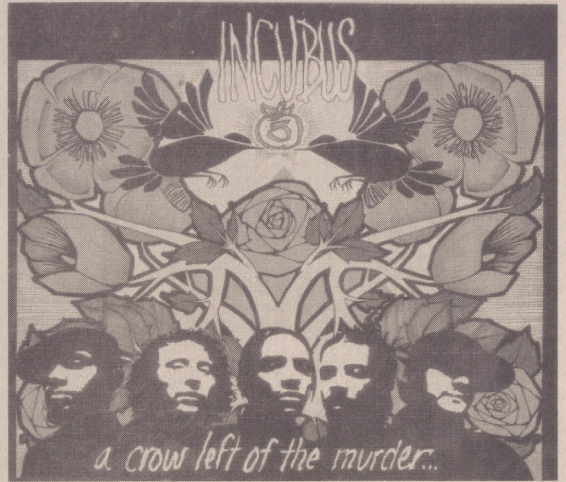
There were two commercials this year during the Super Bowl that stick out. The first was a Pepsi commercial where bears attack a man to get his clothes, then pose as him

Joey's Cream of the Super Bowl Commercial Crop

1. Old People Fighting (Lays Chips)
2. Bears buying Pepsi (Pepsi)
3. Dog attack (Budweiser)
4. Candlelight dinner (Budweiser)
5. Kids with Soap (Chevy)

to buy a Pepsi. This, along with the Lays Potato Chips commercial, where the old people have a race, were the best commercials of the Super Bowl. These commercials were not too long, made people laugh, and the good clean humor went with the products.

Though the commercials were not the best they have ever been, there were still good ones. Nothing can be perfect, but as far as Super Bowl commercials go, this year was just a little below par.



Rock Bottom Review

Incubus's new CD sells better than previous four

By Zac Riley
Editor

For a band to really hit it off they need a distinct sound. Incubus is a band that does this very thing.

Incubus's new CD, *A Crow Left of the Murder...* was released early February. After extensive listening to their CD, Incubus shows they can still make sweet music.

They already have a hit in the song "Megalomaniac," which has a music video being played on TV. The song in essence is saying that no one is the greatest or the best. They say you are no Jesus, so stop thinking you are. This is a great example of what Incubus does: they write songs that everyone can relate to. This song would be what someone thinks of that one person who is arrogant.

Incubus's first CD *Make Yourself* did this very thing. It gave them an easily recognizable sound, or at least a prompt response of "Ahh I know this band-it's on the tip of my tongue." The CD that really got Incubus recognized was *Morning View*. This CD was released in 2001. The song that got them on the Top Ten Billboard was "Pardon Me." Plus having songs like "Nice to Know You," "Wish You were Here," and "Warning" would leave Incubus a tough act to follow. *A Crow Left of the Murder...* has filled the shoes relatively well. "Megalomaniac" is on its way to being a hit, but *A Crow Left of the Murder...* has many other songs that are exceedingly good, too.

A Crow Left of the Murder... has 13 songs on it, and they are all good songs. But there are some that are better than others. For instance, "Agoraphobia" is a very good song that is talking about how the

world is messed up and bad things happen, but you can't help that you must get through it. Some words are "I don't want to stay inside for good," waiting for the good to come would be like "reading while my eye's are closed."

One other song that is an exceptionally good is "Priceless" this song is about someone who doesn't step outside himself to see who and what they really are. It all is saying how now is the time to change yourself you can do it before something bad happens in your life, but if you don't "the look on your face is priceless" when that bad thing happens because you didn't change.

Incubus's sound is unique because they don't use only guitars, drums, and bass but also other instruments and even sounds from a keyboard. It seems to add flavor. "Nice to Know You" they start off slow and quiet and then get loud before going slow and quiet again. So it's much like a roller coaster, up and down. This sound gives them a step above other bands. This been reflected by their sales of *A Crow Left of the Murder...*

Vh1.com stated that Incubus came up second in weekly sales total. They lost to some guy called Kenny Chesney. *A Crow Left of the Murder...* in its first week of sales sold more than 331,000 copies.

Incubus had a rough job to keep up the energy. A fifth album is a monstrous accomplishment, and to be able keep the band together, keep the music great, and keep that unique sound to their selves is an accomplishment. Incubus is touring this June in the United States and people will hear their new album *A Crow Left of the Murder...* because it is a great CD.

Sawyer: Classic adapted to stage

from page 1

Nathan and not feel bad because he and I are such good friends."

Senior Sarah Keiter plays Becky Thatcher, the main girl part. Another big part is Huck Finn who is played by senior Zac Riley.

Many of the musical's characters were written for males, but most people who tried out were females. This problem was easily fixed by changing her to shes and hims to hers. Jablonski's part was actually written for a male as was senior Mary Naughtin's part of Rev. Josephine Sprague.

Naughtin, who has also been in many past plays, also enjoys starring in the musical, especially the singing parts. However, she says it does have challenges.

"It's more challenging because it is less like how I am everyday, so it's more acting," Naughtin said.

There have been more prob-



KELLY INGRAM/ROCK BOTTOM

Freshman Kristin Wrubel (center), playing the part of Amy Lawrence, reads a poem to her classmates in the Scotus musical *Tom Sawyer*. The cast began rehearsing in December.

lems than just the one Naughtin faces.

The students have had problems with being sick and showing up to practices.

"I feel the musical has been more rushed this year," sophomore Autumn Kresha said.

The students have prepared for this musical by practicing since December. They have been memorizing lines and music.

After spending many hours with each other, the students have come together very well.

"I feel their greatest success has been bonding together," Gardner said. "I also think they have become the characters they were chosen to play very well."

This is the seventh year Gardner has helped with the musical.

"I love the musicals!" Gardner said. "It's my favorite time of the year, even though it may drive me crazy."

The musical is great way for someone to learn if they want to pursue acting in their future.

"I definitely would like to study acting," Starosick said.

Others are not sure. "I might study acting," Jablonski said. "I am not for sure, but I will definitely finish the musicals while I am in high school."

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Are you ready for the madness?

It is the most exciting time of the year. Last second buzzer beaters, half court shots, overtimes. It's March Madness. One of the most famous tournaments in all of sports. There are so many good games, players, plays it's hard to keep track of them all. That is where this madness starts. After months of playing and weeks of speculation as to who will be in and who will be out, Selection Sunday comes. This is the day of judgement for most college basketball teams. It also may be the most nerve-wrecking for the "bubble" teams out there. Are they one of the elite 65 teams in the nation, or will they be sent packing to the NIT or even home. Finally after all of the selections have been made the brackets begin to be filled out by almost every basketball fan. And

Scotus needs to have an NCAA tournament break from school.

then on Thursday, March 18, the tournament will finally begin. The tournament is tough to pick every year, but this year it might even be more difficult to fill out those brackets. The parity in college basketball is much more obvious. Duke, St. Joseph's, Pittsburgh, Stanford, Connecticut-these teams all have a great shot to win the title. But can they avoid being upset by the Gonzaga's and UNC Wilmington's out there? That is what makes the NCAA tournament even more fun to watch.

● It looks like if either Creighton or Nebraska wants to make it to the NCAA tournament they will have to win their respective conference tournaments. Creighton may be a "bubble" team, but being in the Missouri Valley Conference does not help them. It looks like they both might be headed to the NIT. For Nebraska, this would be a big step up.

● It's good to see Bill Callahan getting several top recruits throughout the United States. Let's hope that the Huskers can get back to being a top notch recruiting team.

● The Nebraska baseball team is ranked in the top 25 in the latest pre-season polls. It would be great to see them make it back to Omaha again next year.

● How many times did a player slip or fall over by losing his footing during the Super Bowl? It was all because of the great halftime show that everyone loved. There is a simple solution. Either get rid of the halftime stuff or have it in the end zones on the field. I know the only reason some people watch the Super Bowl is for the halftime extravaganzas, but it has gone way too far. The field was like an ice-skating rink.

● So Kobe Bryant hurt his hand when it "went through a window while moving boxes in his garage." I should have known, Kobe was packing all of his goods for his trip to the county jail. Or maybe he was moving all of the rings that he bought his wife.

● Scotus needs to have a "NCAA tournament" vacation so basketball fans will not have to miss any of the early games during the first round.

● Look for another NCAA tournament pool this year. Let's see if anyone can beat last years champion Brandon Esch.

NCAA Tournament Dates:
Selection Sunday: March 14
First Round Begins: March 18
Final Four: April 3
National Championship: April 5



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Doing it with DEFENSE

Shamrock girls lead state in defense, continue tradition

By Sarah Keiter
Staff Reporter

The final score was 56-41. To most teams that would seem like a solid victory, but for the Scotus girl's basketball team, those 41 points given up would be a disappointment.

The Scotus girl's basketball team prides itself in having a strong defensive history, and is once again leading the state in defense. The Shamrocks have given up the least amount of points per game to hold the number one spot in the defensive rankings according to the latest issue of *Huskerland Prep Report*. The second-ranked team defensively in Class C1, Logan View, gives up about five more points per game than Scotus.

Senior Laura Dolezal said that the team has a goal for every game, to keep the other team less than 30 points, a goal that the Shamrocks have accomplished 13 out of 18 games this year.

"It's just good to know as a team you can do that," Dolezal said.

Holding the opponent to less than 30 is a positive for the Shamrocks, but for the opposing team it is just a frustration factor. Dolezal said that sometimes other teams get frustrated when they are not able to score.

"You can hear the teams just yelling at each other and blaming each other for the way they are playing. It makes me thankful that our team is not like that."

Junior Heidi Sobota said that when the Shamrocks are able to hold the opponent to minimal scoring it is definitely an advantage, especially when the team is used to scoring a lot.

This year's team has a chance to break the record for fewest amount of points allowed per game. Coach Sean Wickham said that the current record is 26.6 points per game set by the 2000-2001 team. Wickham said that as of

February 11, this year's team is at exactly 26.6 points per game.

"We have to average 25 points a game for the rest of the season," Wickham said.

Wickham said he thinks it will definitely be a challenge, but that if the girls can put together four great quarters of defense each game they should have no problem doing it.

Sobota said she attributes Scotus' great defensive success to the fact that the team spends a lot of time working hard on its man-to-man defense during practice.

"We just have one defense," Sobota said, "so we get to work in it constantly."

Dolezal said she also thinks it helps only having to worry about one defense, but she gives credit to the coaches too.

"The coaches are a big part of our success. They help us to stay focused on the things we need to work on."

Having the chance to break a defensive record may add pressure, but the girls seem to take it in stride.

Dolezal said she feels that although breaking the record would be a great accomplishment, just knowing that compared to the other Shamrock teams of the past they are doing great, is accomplishment enough. If the record does not happen, she said it is not the end of the world.

Sobota said that she agrees that the girls just need to focus on making the goal of keeping the other team under 30, and as long as the opposing team does not score more than they should she is happy. Wickham said his goal for the team has not changed since he realized they might have a chance at the record. He said that at the beginning no one thinks about it, but as the season goes along people start to pay more attention to it.

"We don't emphasize breaking records," Wickham said. "We just want to play the best we possibly can."



Top 5 Defenses in C1

School	Avg. Points/Game
1. Columbus Scotus	26.8
2. Logan View	31.6
3. West Holt	35.8
4. Centura	37.2
5. Bridgeport	38.0

Source: Huskerland Prep Report as of Feb. 20, 2004

Girls find locker room situation a tight squeeze

By Nicole Sobotka
Staff Reporter

Scotus has a problem. That problem is the locker room facilities. The locker rooms are getting old and need to be updated or replaced. The girls' locker rooms are not only getting old, but also the way they are set up makes them very inconvenient.

When Scotus was first built, there were no girls' sports. The only lockers the girls needed were for P.E. Scotus hasn't changed its building in the last 30 years. By now, sports have changed and not only do the girls at Scotus play sports, but they are successful.

The girls at Scotus were in need of locker rooms so two more small rooms were added to the girls' locker rooms. Girls at Scotus now have three small separate locker rooms, while the boys have one large locker room. For many people, this is a problem.

"Our locker room situation is very unhandy especially when we host tournaments, such as for volleyball and the Holiday Tournament," Athletic Director Gary Puetz said. "It's very difficult to make sure everyone has a place to change and shower. If we had better locker rooms, we'd be more open to hosting sub-districts and districts."

Not being able to host tournaments is just one problem. The girls are crowded in their locker rooms. After school the locker room is a madhouse.

"It's unfair that we don't have as much room," sophomore Michelle Moore said. "There are so many girls out for sports and the boys have so much more room."

P.E. teacher Janet Tooley deals with the locker rooms everyday. As the P.E. teacher Mrs. Tooley has to be able to supervise girls in three locker rooms all at one time.

"I know that Ed does the best job he can and he has done a good job, Janet Tooley said, "but the facilities are aging and things are breaking. We need to update, but I think we have too many other financial needs at the moment."

Many boys at Scotus don't see a problem. Then again, they also have the bigger locker room. Not that this is their fault. When Scotus was first built, there was just no need for girls to have lockers and locker space.

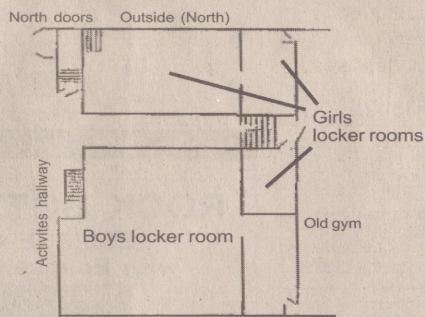
"We need more locker space," sophomore Josh Jepsen said. "We have football pads. If the girls had football pads then they'd need more space, but they don't. Kneepads don't take up a lot of room."

There have been preliminary drawings done for the location of where girls' locker rooms would be added on. The sketches are of a possible locker room, restroom, and additional space for a classroom or storage addition. The addition would be added onto the east side of the Activity Center and into the courtyard. The girls' locker rooms now would probably be made into visitor's locker rooms.

"These are very long-range plans," Superintendent Bill Gannon said. "We don't have the funds right now and everything we're doing is preliminary. To have the funds for locker rooms we would have to do some type of campaign."

The locker rooms at Scotus, while not the best, will have to be dealt with for the time being.

Locker room layout



The locker room situation at Scotus pre-dates girls sports. Currently, the girls use three separate small locker rooms.



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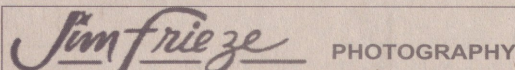
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Volume 6 • Issue 7 • March 26, 2004

Shamrocks prove essential to St. Patrick's Day Parade

By Stephanie Laudenklos
Staff Reporter

St. Patrick's Day to Scotus is just another day of green spirit. The Scotus band, however, has a different meaning to this day. They attend the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Omaha every year. They have been attending the parade for three years and have placed in the top two of the marching band category every year.

The first year at the parade the band received second, but came back to place first last year. There is a perk to winning these places including cash rewards, a good reputation, a shiny trophy, and bragging rights for one full year. Some may call it the 'Luck of the Irish,' but others call it pure talent.

The students are required to march at this parade, and they are given a participation grade as well as an actual percentage grade. Band members also have to attend this parade in order to letter in the class.

This year the band had its largest marching ensemble ever.

"We had approximately 83 band members and seven flag corps people," band director Kristen Cox said.

The SCC band is the only marching band from outside of Omaha that attends this parade, but many students love going every year. Their song this year was titled *El Fuego*. *El Fuego* is a Latin/Spanish piece that they also performed in the fall. The song must have put the viewers in the mood because they kept yelling for more.

"The spectators are so involved," Cox said.

Those spectators kept the musicians beating their drums, tooting their horns, or twirling their flags down the streets of Omaha. The SCC flag corps is also involved in the parade. They lead at the front of the band battling wind and cold in their green and gold sequined outfits.

The parade can offer some sights that you would never get to see.

"You get to see green horses," junior Aleah German said.

Twirling the flags in the wind can be tiring on the arms, junior flag corps member Stephanie Hall said. The seniors choreographed the flag corps march this year, and all the members practiced hard to stay on time with the band.

Next year the band hopes to take first away from their rivals, Omaha Gross, who won the parade this year.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KRISTEN COX

The Scotus Marching Band cruises down the streets of downtown Omaha during the St. Patrick's Day Parade. This was the band's third year attending the parade. The band received a second place rating to a local band, Omaha Gross.

Students play director with Movie software

By Sarah Keiter
Staff Reporter

Technology has changed the face of America today, but it is not only the outside world that has become technology run. In schools across the world today technology is changing the way things are done. Even at Scotus, teachers no longer need to hand-write all their grades; it can be done on computer. Most recently, students no longer have to use homemade visual aids to do reports; they can use a great new technology called Movie Maker.

The sophomore class was assigned to do a Movie Maker project in English class. Movie Maker is a video program that allows students to implement music, digital video, scanned pictures, and voice into a video. Each group of five or six students had to pick a problem, such as eating disorders, cancer, animal abuse, alcohol and drug abuse, and discuss how the community of Columbus is helping to solve that problem, and whether or not they are doing a good job. Groups had to consist of students that were in the same English class, and at least some of the students in that group had to be directly effected by the problem chosen by their group. Students were allotted two weeks of English and computer class time to work on their project, and an additional week to finish the project up outside of school.

Sophomore Lauren Jablonski said that she enjoyed doing the Movie Maker project. She said she thought that doing the projects on Movie Maker was better because it was easier to get the point across.

"Movie Maker takes the students creativity and expresses it in ways you couldn't with words," Jablonski said.

Jablonski said that she felt Movie Maker was a great way for the sophomores to be able to show and teach their own class what they had learned through interviews and research. She said the project was fun because she got to learn new things about groups she never even knew existed in the Columbus area. That was exactly what Sophomore English teacher Kelly Schaad had hoped her students would gain from this project.

“Movie Maker takes the students creativity and expresses it in ways you couldn't with words.”

~Lauren Jablonski

"I wanted the kids to become more aware of the community," Schaad said. "I wanted them to realize that Columbus has all the same problems as big cities do, and there are ways to help."

Schaad said she felt the biggest benefit is that the students had to work together to learn something new, then they had to translate it in a way so they could teach the rest of their class.

Because this was the first year doing Movie Maker, Jablonski said she felt that it was a little hectic trying to get comfortable with the program in the two short weeks of class time they were allotted. She said it was hard to get used to it at first, but once the students got used to it, it was easy to navigate through. Schaad also said she felt that using Movie Maker for the first time was crazy. Schaad and computer teacher Bonnie Kreikemeier attended classes this summer to get acquainted with the new Movie Maker program.

Schaad said she wants to do this next year, but insists that more up to date computers are a must. She said the classes only had one available computer to download video clips on to, and it was difficult to get everything downloaded from all the groups.

"Every year there are going to be things that we will change," Schaad said. "I think for this being the first year it was a good way to incorporate new technology and community awareness."



NICOLE SOBOTKA/ROCK BOTTOM

Making the cut

Sophomore Jamie Tooley makes the first cut after the Shamrocks roll over Norfolk Catholic to take the state basketball championship. This year's team became the second basketball team in Scotus history to finish a season undefeated. Story and more photos can be found on page 6.

Student reading scores improve with Accelerated Reader program

By Danielle Bernt
Editor-in-Chief

Imagine a classroom where every student was hard at work, reading perhaps. No sleeping, no murmuring chit-chat, no nothing...except 20 quiet reading students. A teacher's dream? Perhaps. Students scrambling to raise their English grade? Maybe.

This year more student light bulbs have been turned on to reading. The Accelerated Reading program has gotten seventh and eighth grade students to dust off the shelves in the library and rekindle a reading program similar to a program taught in previous years.

The Accelerated Reading program was the result of Scotus' ACT scores, Media Center Specialist Cathy Podliska, one of the teachers on the School Improvement Reading Committee, said.

"Our ACT scores are higher than both the Nebraska average and the national average, but they are lower than our math, social studies, and science scores," Podliska said. "Are they terrible? No. Is there room for improvement? Yes."

Most adult reading materials such as newspapers and magazines are written at an eighth grade reading level, thus Podliska said the school's goal is to have everyone reading at or above this level before high school.

Podliska did have one concern about the program: if it is going to be done it needs to be done well. In previous years a similar program was used in junior high English classes where once a book was read a test would be

“Our ACT scores are higher than both the Nebraska average and the national average...”

~Cathy Podliska

taken on the computer. After each test the student would be awarded points to work towards a goal for the quarter. After many faults, such as easy cheating, the program was forced to evolve into the new Accelerated Reader program.

The new program still includes the computer testing to work towards a reading goal each quarter of the school year. Each student has a personalized goal based on his or her reading level. The program counts for 15 percent of their English grade. If the students reach their goal at the end of each quarter the students are rewarded with not only the overall grade but also special prizes such as pizza and pop, at the

end of each quarter.

For some students the quarter-long grading period seems too short. Seventh grader Jared Ostdiek said even though the program has forced students to actually carry and read books rather than just fake it, the grading system would be more effective if it were used at the end of each semester. The new program also includes many new books. The Media Center Specialists have been hard at work sorting and stocking the shelves with new and interesting reading material.

"We've started out adding fiction," Podliska said. "The research behind most of it indicates that fiction is easier to read and, therefore, students are more apt to read that."

Although these women have been working hard, one student feels like the seventh and eighth grades are at a disadvantage.

"I think that (senior high students) should try the program," seventh grade student Tylour Kumpf said, "so you know what it's like."

Podliska said that each year a new grade would be added to the program.

"Ideally we'd like to have [Accelerated Reader] school wide," Podliska said, "but when we started we didn't have enough books to do that."

All in all, the goals are set high for Scotus students, and with some help from Accelerated Reader these goals are possible as evident through already improving reading scores seen within the seventh and eighth grades.

Opinion

Ticket sales found to be costly

BITTERNESS



Chad Trofholz

Although raffle ticket sales are over, and I'm sure you as well as I ever want to be referred to as a seller again, there is a travesty that concerns me about this particular event.

My good friend Jon Scholz came to school one day only to find that he now has a fifty-dollar fine due

to losing his raffle tickets. In response to this fine, Jon had this to say.

"Isn't there some way to solve this problem other than having to pay the school my hard earned, cold, hard cash?"

I'm just going to go ahead and agree that this is utter foolishness. For the life of me I cannot recall that Jon signed a contract or entered into any form of legal agreement as far as the tickets go. What I do recall however is that when tickets were issued, the question was brought up about immediately returning the tickets. The reason we couldn't was thoroughly explained to us in the form of, "Because." So what I don't get is why

Jon is being charged after he was forced to baby-sit those tickets.

Activites secretary Annette Hash assured me that she checked every ticket turned to be sure that the correct tickets were being turned in for each person. I question then how the fifty-dollar fine can be enforced on something that has no cash value. The only way the tickets have value would be if Jon was going to go sell the tickets and keep the money for himself. This shows utter mistrust and insinuates that Jonathon is a thief.

Anyone who knows Jon could tell you that this is pure tomfoolery. It's insulting that Scotus would place this burden on him.

At the same time I am not saying that Jon's misfortune should go without punishment. In no way do I believe that we should alleviate his irresponsibility. I do not want to encourage an absence of accountability and still feel that Jon needs to learn some lesson out of this, perhaps not such a costly one. I think serv-

ing a detention or bringing in a note from his mother might make more sense.

Sometimes, however, it seems like Scotus will do things that do not always make the most sense. So for this I have formulated a solution in which both parties will benefit. I think that Jon should swallow his pride, pay the fine, and forget that this ever happened. Down the road I don't think it would be illogical if he "forgets" to support Scotus as an alumnus by purchasing raffle tickets. That's the way I see it, for I truly believe that this is insane in the membrane and all I am asking, is give Scholz a chance.

Snootch to the nooch.

Isn't there some way to solve this problem other than having to pay the school my hard-earned, cold, hard cash.

Spring fever capable of driving to insanity

Just Press Pause



Danielle Bernt

"Uh, today Bobbie Jo walked by me in the hall and didn't even look at me. Then in math she borrowed Bette's calculator instead of mine. What is with her? She's being such a snot!"

Have you found yourself saying things similar to this lately? Or MAYBE you were the girl who bor-

rowed Bette's calculator, in that case...you SNOT!

Spring fever sure has sprung itself into the Scotus hallways recently. Or maybe it's not so much "spring fever" as it is just another name excusing irritability. Every day now I see more and more students popping headache relievers at the water fountains. I hear more and more peaceful silences because students are angry...but this only lasts until that abrupt bark of a sponsor that could snap a snare drumhead, about things that make just about as much sense as me

Spring fever sure has sprung itself into the Scotus hallways recently.

getting black highlights in my hair.

Now I know that I'm no exception to this trendy tradition, but hey, at least I have a big brown toothed smile on when I tell someone to go "sit on it." With this in mind, let's travel back to last Tuesday night when I was listening to Enya trying to alleviate this stressful spring fever fiasco when it occurred to me that if we could identify the cause, we could quite possibly put a stop to this psychotic spring spat.

Besides a few possible minor causes of irritability, such as, a car

being stolen or perhaps having less free time than Sinead O'Connor has hair, there's one major cause that I know has affected my mood greatly, the fact that my second mother has been convicted recently. Who did I turn to when plants needed to be planted? Martha. Who did I turn to when I needed a new recipe for my small dinner party of 20-22.5 guests? Martha! And who did I turn to when I needed a somewhat comical joke for a column?! But of course it was MARTHA!!

But it's time to wipe that tear from our eyes because we're going to smother these causes of spring moodiness with some shining solutions. Solution One:

Don't own a car...run. This way you'll save money...and yourself...from obesity that supposedly most of our "Land of the Free" suffers from. Solution two: send Sinead some Rogaine...and quit all activities so you won't have to worry about finding free time; it'll find you. And last but not least, solution three: start a committee to bust Martha out. Because who knows what those crazy convicts would do to one of her lacy conventions. We could be the few, the proud, the MARTHAS.

So in conclusion, chill out. Only 63 days until school's out (54 for seniors!!!).

Atkins says: carbs are the enemy!

Brutally Honest



Sadie Bolte

Try our mega meaty meatballs with a side of peanut butter and a slab-o-grease, it's Atkins Friendly!

Sounds delicious! I can't wait to go to the Olive Garden and order me up some lasagna and spaghetti-hold the carb-packed pasta please.

America is going crazy over this low-carb turning no-carb diet.

Some old fart had this genius idea to take the food-guide pyramid and flip it upside-down. Eat

all the slabs of lard and eight-pound steaks you want, but don't even think about touching that piece of bread, and touch down that cracker! Protein is the way to go!

Heck, even Hy-Vee has it's own part of an aisle dedicated to the Atkins craze.

But as always, it pays to look good. A box of protein breakfast bars can cost you a whopping six buckaroos for six bars per box. I know I haven't taken calculus yet, but according to my calculations, that's roughly a dollar per bar. Rice-crispie bars are about \$2.50 for a box of ten. But God forbid that rice crispies just might be made of rice, which contains high levels of the way-too-toxic carbohydrates that our bodies just cannot handle.

Where is all of that meat and

grease that these crazed dieters are eating going? Surely not on our hips or tummy or thighs or butt because that's where all of the dangerous carbs go, right? The only place left to go is for it to be shoved

God forbid that rice crispies just might be made of rice, which contains high levels of the way-too-toxic carbs that our bodies just cannot handle.

into our arteries, the safest place for it to go, of course.

Oh boy! I can't wait until I get skinny from the Atkins Diet! Then my cholesterol level will be up to here! I might have eight heart attacks by the age of 31, but who cares? At least I'm not fat!

The poor ol' cows haven't had

it so bad before. However, they picked just the right moment to plea their case of insanity (Don't eat me, I'm mad!). That mad-cow disease mumbo-jumbo sprang up in the midst of the Atkins craze. Nonetheless, nothing could stop these carnivores from grabbing at every piece of meat they could get their hands on.

Where did Mr. Atkins, sorry "Doctor Atkins," come up with such a crazy idea? He probably thought, "Hey, I'm going to eat a bunch of meat and nuts. Just maybe I'll get skinny." I guess it worked for him though. But what gave him this idea? Has he ever seen a fat vegetarian? I was just wondering.

Fast food places and many restaurants are thinking low-carb, too.

Burger King offers the bunless Whopper that comes in a bowl. Yummy. Hey, it's the same as having a meat-patty salad. Haven't you ever had a meat-patty salad?

Subway sandwiches can be made in a surprisingly "good-tasting" cardboard-like wrap. Wow, I'm almost getting hungry.

What is the world coming to? Are we quickly heading toward a carb-less universe?

I just know that sooner or later these Atkins cult members are going to snap one day and hold up a bakery. Or maybe a bagel and muffin shop. That could leave a poor girl like me jobless!

All this Atkins talk is making me hungry. I'm going to go have myself some meat-patty salad and a cardboard wrap. Well, I'm out...like an Atkins dieter at a spaghetti eating contest!

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In-Depth

"He who digs with the most toys wins."
-Ancient bumpersticker proverb

The Bling is the Thing



Whether it be cars, cell phones, or MP3 players, items that were once luxuries are becoming 'must haves' to teens

Cell phones popping into the pockets of students

By Joey Beauvais
Staff Reporter

A few years ago, there were only a few people that had cell phones. Now days everyone knows about them, and its not too uncommon for teenagers to use one on a regular basis.

Sophomore Shane Reardon does not have his own cell phone. Whenever he goes somewhere though he usually borrows a phone from either his parents or sister.

"Usually it's just in case something happens," Reardon said.

Cell phones are not always used for just calling to be picked up. Chatting on a cell phone with a friend is something that happens more often in fact. Junior Travis Herchenbach does not think he could get by without his cell phone.

"It's how I get a hold of people," Herchenbach said, "like if I need a favor done or something."

Junior Brett Fry used to have a cell phone, but does not anymore. The phone had belonged to Fry's brother Cody, but he was given the old phone when his brother got a new one. Fry just had the phone

during the remainder of the coverage that his brother had paid for.

"I used it a lot," Fry said. "I actually enjoyed when I had it because I didn't really have to go all the way home to tell my parents what I'm doing."

Just because someone has a phone does not mean he or she can afford to pay for everything. Paying monthly dues for how much you talk can be a problem. Many parents just pay for the bill, but other teens have to pay for it on their own. Reardon and Herchenbach agreed that they are glad they do not have to pay for everything.

"I'm just happy my parents pay for everything," Herchenbach said.

Cell phones may be popular, but they are not for everyone. Reardon dislikes his cell phone because it becomes a responsibility.

"It's one more thing I have to take care of," Reardon said.

Cell phones have made their way into the lives of teenagers, but not everyone appreciates cell phones.

Maybe people even think of them as a hassle and another bill to pay, but they might as well get used to it, because cell phones are going to be around for a while.

Tan skin no longer a luxury of the summer

By Zac Riley
Editor

What a joyous season for the seniors and juniors of Scotus Central Catholic. Prom is right upon them. With such an event it might possibly mean more stress for students to get things accomplished in order to make the most out of their Prom experience. Girls worry about many things like their hair, nails, dress, and finally the color of their skin. Tanning seems to be coming the most popular thing to do to look the best for those posed pictures with Goc's. Many girls from Scotus and from around the Columbus take part in this fad.

Sophomore Jessica Kuehler has admitted she does tan. With little sunlight in the great state of Nebraska and for the fact the weather is quite cold, outside tanning is just not plausible. Kuehler, like many girls, finds the brightness in the tanning bed. Although she could not remember her feelings of her first experience from her freshman year of "fake baking," she did have one thing to say about tanning.

"I wanted to be burned," Kuehler said.

Senior Kelsey Kunneman has

also tanned, although now she said she does not do it as much.

"I like to be white now," Kunneman said, "but I use to like to be tan."

There are several other burning questions to be asked about tanning, perhaps the cost or even more important why? Kuehler said she spent about \$37 on tanning and tanning lotion preparing for a dance. Kunneman did not have to stand or lay down for her tanning it was simply painted on. For this Kunneman had to pay \$20. The money seems to be spent close to the time of dances because girls want to look their best for these events. With the simple question to as why tan, people give simple answers.

"...To be tan," Kuehler said.

Girls are going to tan because they want to be tan and want to look their best for the dates or the pictures for their parents.

"I am not real positive, but maybe to look pretty," Junior Tyler Hahn said.

With every thing in life, people do things to make them happy. Girls will buy dresses, do their hair, have their nails done, and even change the color of their skin.

"Well if they spend the money, I sure hope they enjoy it," Hahn said.

\$1,000,000 How would you spend a million dollars?

By Matt Raimondo
Staff Reporter

What would you do with a million dollars? Be practical and invest it wisely? Or go nuts and spend it foolishly?

"If I had a million dollars I would invest it in the bank and become a hobo with a walking stick," senior Jake Euteneuer said.

Some would be more generous.

"If I owned a million dollars," junior Drew Gannon said, "I would donate all of it to Scotus and wouldn't keep a single penny."

Senior Scott Ditter said that he would just invest the money into the bank so that he could earn more money over the years.

"I would move out of Columbus and build myself a new

house," junior Brett Fry said. "I would also buy a brand new car."

Religion teacher Brian Fuchser said he would also go with a new house as his first luxury purchase.

"I would get a nice house near a lake in the mountains," he said. "Someplace fairly rural, where convenience is close, but not in the city."

Looking at the more practical side, Fuchser said he would first pay off his debts, as well as donate a good portion of it to charity.

"I would not get too extravagant in spending (the money)," Fuchser said, "but a nice house, nice vehicle and to help my parents out would be nice."

Most people can only dream about what they would do with a million. Investing it in the bank would ensure a person a com-

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fortable life. Buying luxuries is also a nice thing, but whatever is chosen, a million dollars is still a lot of money.

Junker or not: cars are a must

By Joey Beauvais
Staff Reporter

When it comes to bragging, who has what car always come up. But how exactly do teens get the cars that they drive, and what do they think of them?

Some teens just consider getting a car to be sort of a ritual when they turn 16. They say that if they are old enough to drive and have a license, they should be driving.

Other teens have to work if they want to have something to drive and call their own. Sophomore Ben Svatora just asks his parents to use their car when he needs to drive.

"I don't think that teens need their own car," Svatora said, "but it does help."

Sophomore Justin McPhillips drives a 96 Chevy pickup. McPhillips said he paid for a third of the car, but his parents paid for the rest because he works for them on the farm during the weekends.

"I like everything about it," McPhillips said. "The engine, seats, and color are awesome. The radio's a little staticy though."

Svatora and McPhillips both agree that if a teen is going to complain about a car, they should be willing to pay for it all on their own.

"When I want my own car I'll buy it," Svatora said. "I've got a

job, and there's no room for me to complain unless it's mine."

The weather is not always perfect, so how a vehicle holds up under rough weather is always a concern. McPhillips said that his pickup has never got him stuck in a snowstorm yet. Sophomore Steph Levos is going to get her sister Barb's car, but she is not too sure of how safe it is.

"One time we were going to Lin-

coln and the speedometer just went out," Levos said, "so it said we were going 120 the whole time."

In general there are certain things teen drivers should think about when they buy a car. They need to decide if they have enough money not only to buy the car, but also to take care of insurance, gas, and repairs. Also consider getting

a reliable and fuel-efficient car so you do not break your budget.

"I like imports," Svatora said, "They are

more reliable in general. Plus they get good gas mileage."

Last, just take care of the car. Riding the car hard all the time will just make it break down. The last thing a driver wants is to blow their engine up in the middle of nowhere because they forgot to check their oil.

"I don't think that teens need their own car, but it does help."
~Ben Svatora



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Rock Bottom

To study or not to study? Homework habits affect grades

By T.J. Wrigley
Staff Reporter

After waiting for countless hours, the bell finally rings, and the school day is over for Scotus students. For some students, however, this is not always the case. The students go home and realize that they must study or complete countless homework assignments. If they do not complete the assignments, their grade will drop to a point that they will never recover.

Completing assignments can be a hard task to accomplish. There are different activities that interfere such as sports' practice, work, and many other activities. Finding an exact time to do homework can be difficult for some Scotus students.

Sophomore Sami Zabawa said she does homework when she comes home from work. She said her workload consists of one or two school subjects a night with the usual test to study for each night. Zabawa said she usually spends an hour to and hour and a half completing certain assignments. She said she has the most homework in Algebra II class because she gets

an assignment almost every day in that class.

"I feel like I am learning something from homework because in most cases it helps to better grasp the concepts of the material you are learning," Zabawa said.

She said homework is a good grade booster if she understands what she is learning, but she said there are the occasional assign-

"Homework does help my grade if I actually sit down and do it.

~Eugene Bichlmeier ~

ments that help to reduce her grade. Zabawa said she does not notice people cheating in the morning, but she said she never goes down to breakfast. She said breakfast was where most people get their homework done.

Junior Eugene Bichlmeier's schedule for completing homework has evolved over his high school career.

Bichlmeier said before his junior year he would start homework around 6:00 p.m. He said he now

does his homework sometime late at night. He said that he has a subject or two that will take him a good hour and a half. Geometry and history are what Bichlmeier usually has the most homework in this year, but he said that speech and biology are the subjects he had the most homework in last year.

"Homework does help my grade if I actually sit down and do it," Bichlmeier said, "but I will not do as great if I cram."

Bichlmeier said the people who cheat know who they are, but he said he does not notice students cheating.

Sophomore Autumn Kresha had a different opinion on what some students say cheating is.

"People check their answers, they don't cheat," Kresha said.

Sophomore Jennifer Haney completes her homework around the same time Bichlmeier completes his homework.

"I complete my homework late at night," Haney said, "at breakfast, and in study hall."

She said that speech and Algebra II are the classes she has the most homework in this year. Haney said she spends one hour completing her homework. She said her

study methods include cramming before tests.

"Homework will raise your grade when you actually do it," Haney said.

Sophomore Alex Casillas completes his homework before Haney.

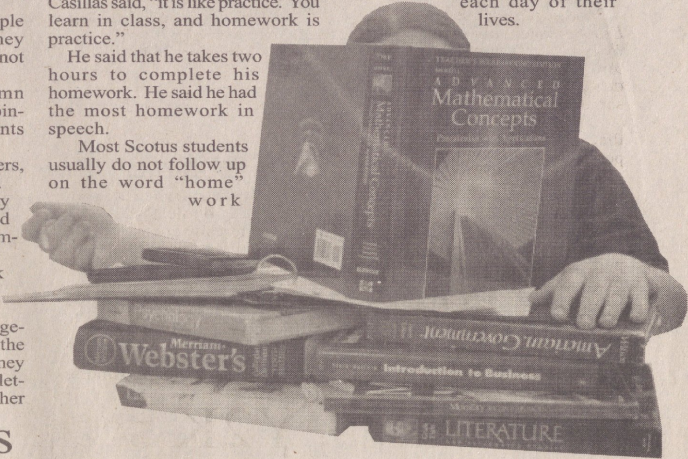
Casillas said he does his homework when he gets home at 4:00 p.m. or in study hall. He said that homework helps his grade.

"Homework is not learning," Casillas said, "it is like practice. You learn in class, and homework is practice."

He said that he takes two hours to complete his homework. He said he had the most homework in speech.

Most Scotus students usually do not follow up on the word "home" work

because they complete their assignments at school the next morning. Some students do believe homework is beneficial, and they believe they are learning something. Some classes tend to have more homework than others do. Whatever the case may be, Scotus students are finding a way through their busy life styles to complete the sometimes numerous amount of homework they are assigned each day of their lives.



Crunch time nears for choosing colleges

By Tyler Micek
Staff Reporter

Prom, Senior Skip Day, Senior Party, Graduation, Senior Class Trip... What's Next? Well, for most high school graduates, a long summer and college await. Whether it is a two-year college, four-year college, or trade school, almost all Scotus graduates will go on for some type of higher education.

Picking a college is probably one of the most important, and possibly hardest, choices of a person's life. Before you pick your school, it might be a good decision to know your major.

"Students should choose a major they enjoy," Scotus guidance counselor Judi Wolken said. "You do not want to be looking at the clock constantly at work to see if it's quitting time. This is the No. 1 sign that you don't enjoy your job. Choose a major where you enjoy the classes and want to take more and more."

Another way to decide on a major is to find something that you can relate to and something that affects your life.

"I am majoring in respiratory therapy," senior Stacia Jackson said, "because I have bad, sports-related asthma, and my grandma has emphysema."

Even if you know your major, when and how do you start to look

for a college?

"Students should start thinking about college from the time they enter high school," Wolken said. "As a student during freshman year, they need to look at the type of course work that are going to be taking over the next four years. If they want to keep all doors open to all colleges open, they should take the most challenging courses possible."

"I am trying to take a lot of math and science classes," junior Becky Johnson said. "Hopefully they will help prepare me for some type of career in medicine."

"It is never too early to start looking at individual colleges," Wolken said. "One of your most important aspects to look at in a college is if it feels comfortable to you, and if it offers a wide variety of programs to study. The best way to see if it is a comfortable campus is to schedule a campus visit. This will help you to see the campus and talk to professors about the different programs of study."

"As you are choosing a college, cost, size, location, and the number of programs of study available that interest you are all very important factors to consider. It is up to your own needs as to how to prioritize these factors."

Some colleges don't offer all types of study.

"Because I work at SuperSaver," senior Canice Coan said, "I am go-

ing into pharmacy. I applied and was accepted into MARHOP (Mid American Rural Health Opportunity Program,) so I am going to Wayne State University for two years. After that, I am guaranteed a spot at Creighton Medical to finish my studies."

Everyone chooses a college for his or her own reasons. Jackson chose Wayne State because of the small town and comfortable feeling, while Coan went with two years of Wayne and two years of Creighton because it was the best way for her to study what she wanted to get involved with.

Whatever your reason for deciding on a major or school, try to make sure that it is a decision that you will still be happy with one, four, ten, and thirty years from now.



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This Nebraska student fights for homeland security on the food science front.

DAVID LEE SCHROEDER of West Point, Nebraska, a food science and technology and agribusiness double major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, was one of just 101 students nationally to receive a prestigious Homeland Security Scholarship. One of two scholarship winners from Nebraska, Schroeder eyes a possible internship focused on the fight against Mad Cow disease. "I am a cattle producer too, so I have a deep interest in the (Mad Cow) situation. In classes, we've followed the impact of what happened in Canada. There's a lot of uncertainty."

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Film portrays passion with startling realism

By Kelly Ingram
Staff Reporter

It can be reviewed as a distasteful, gory movie. But yet is a movie that will go down in history.

The Passion of Christ. This movie is based on the book *Dolorous Passion of Jesus Christ* by Anne Catherine Emmerich. It tells the story of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus in sometimes gruesome detail.

It is just about the only movie that can touch even the coldest person's heart.

"What really surprised me is that even my dad cried when seeing the movie," sophomore Autumn Kresha said.

Kresha is one of the many people who saw the movie with a religious group. In this case her Godparent group. The group then went to a house to discuss the movie.

"I would recommend going to the movie by yourself," Kresha said.

"or at least go with someone you aren't afraid to cry in front of. But I think everyone should see it."

Kresha was among the many people who enjoyed the movie.

"I felt the movie was extremely good," junior Eugene Bichelmeier said. "I think every religious person should see it."

The movie showed what Jesus really went through.

"The movie was a little gory," Bichelmeier said, "but it showed the real deal."

Sophomore April Spies thought the same.

"The movie was a great interpretation on what happened to Jesus," Spies said. "My favorite part was at the end when He resurrected. The whole theater was quiet, and it really got to me."

Some critics say that too much creative license was taken by director and producer Mel Gibson.

"In general, I think the movie did show what happened," Father Bill Bond said. "There are some things that we will never know how they happened. I am under the impres-



Actor Jim Caviezel portrays Jesus Christ in *The Passion of the Christ*. Audiences say the movie evokes powerful emotions.

sion that Mel Gibson filled in much information from prayer experiences based on Anne Catherine Emmerich. There are some particular details that my sense of what happened would be different, for example, the placement of nails."

The portrayal of Jesus' final days opened a lot of eyes.

"It made me think about everything Jesus went through," Kresha said. "It was so realistic."

Another student did not feel anything until after the movie.

"I felt changed after the movie," Bichelmeier said. "I really started to think hard about the whipping of Jesus and when He was nailed to the cross."

The part that sticks in most people's minds is when the whip was stuck in Jesus' flesh. It is then ripped out showing his ribs.

"I didn't think the whipping of Jesus was that bad until I saw the movie," Kresha said. "I then understood his pain more."

Another aspect associated with the movie is all the subtitles. Most students did not feel these affected how the movie got to them because the pictures explained it all.

This is a movie everyone should experience because it shows the pain and suffering Jesus went through to save humanity from its sins. It is a part of history that affects millions of people worldwide.

WWE brings its act to Omaha

By Chad Trofholz
Editor

Although the glory days of Hulk Hogan may be long gone, it was still exciting to attend the WWE Raw (is war) show on February 22nd at the Qwest Center in Omaha.

The first and most exciting bit of info that I learned was that the show *Saturday Night Heat* is filmed on Monday nights prior to the Raw. I had very good seats and was able to see the ring very clearly. The

It's hard to appreciate the programming when it has to compare to the memories we all have.

setup for the show was exactly as it appears on television. Imagine that. Like many events, there was a t-shirt cannon, the wave, and a lot of fireworks. The lights and graphics made for a great visual show.

The man sitting next to me, a complete stranger, felt the need to share every bit of wrestling knowledge he had with me. Luckily, this was little because he had a tendency to spit on me when he talked. This man was like much of the crowd in that he was very poorly dressed and adult. For being a teen-oriented program, there was an over-abundance of old (poorly dressed) people.

I would consider the show as being unimpressive. It is hard to appreciate the programming done when it has to compete with the Ultimate Warrior/Sting memories we all have. In those days wrestlers were true role models. There was Hulk Hogan who taught us to be real Americans. We also had Lex Luger teaching the benefits of anabolic steroids.

The biggest star we watched was Chris Benoit. He can be very entertaining with his "flying head butt" off the top ropes, but this cannot compete with a Razor's Edge, the feared tactic of Razor Ramone. Like every Monday, Stone Cold Steve Austin was around reeking havoc and selling his t-shirts. Booker T. left me disappointed when after winning his match, he failed to break dance. Luckily, he returned during commercial break to spin on the mat. Test was set to wrestle a woman and stunned the audience when he clothes lined her. I might have been the only one in the cheering section for that debacle.

So, all in all, the show was good solely because I was present. Any other way I might have changed the channel to watch "Straight Plan for a Gay Man." I think the thirty dollars spent on the ticket was worthwhile, especially considering the thirty dollars of snacks the man next to me consumed... only to spit back on me later.

Boy bands, Y2K scare mark end to decade

By Sadie Bolte
Editor

Dressed in a Catholic schoolgirl outfit, she paraded down the hallways and to the top of the charts when she made her debut in this time period. Although this mega pop-star supported the 1994-1996 "girl-power," it was time for a little testosterone to kick in. Boy bands quickly began yet another musical revolution in this decade. Television shows ranged from a teenager fighting vampires to mysterious chubby creatures with televisions on their stomachs. Moviegoers crammed into the theaters to see films such as *Titanic*, *The Sixth Sense*, and *Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery*.

Music: The boys struck back after the previous strong influence of women in music. Boy bands flooded this time period along with the screaming girl fans to support them. Such groups include *NSYNC, Backstreet Boys, O-Town, 98 degrees, and Hanson. In 1997, Hanson debuted their catchy yet irritating single "MmmBop." Even though it made no sense whatsoever, it was still a huge hit with young girls. Fans of boy bands often times became obsessed.

"I was in love with *NSYNC," freshman Meg Harrington said. "I had posters all over my walls, and I even knew the whole dance to (their single) 'Bye Bye Bye.'"

Movies: Mike Meyers began his creative parody in 1997 with the first of his films starring Austin Powers. *Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery* began the trail of the successful sequels to follow and displayed his talents as he played multiple characters.

An even more popular movie was the somewhat true story of two young adults in love. *Titanic* was just as controversial as it was popular, especially the fact that it was only rated PG-

13 but contained nudity. Many remember the theatres being jam-packed with *Titanic* enthusiasts.

"I waited in line for hours," junior Becky Johnson said. "After the third night, I finally got a ticket."

T.V. Shows: Television shows in 1997, '98, and '99 varied to whom they were directed. *Sex and the City*, *Ally McBeal*, *Dawson's Creek*, *South Park*, and *The Practice* were aimed toward the older crowd, while *Teletubbies* kept children occupied.

Teletubbies was a popular show with the

women living in a city (hence the name *Sex in the City*).

Toys: Who would have imagined that millions of kids would be trading Japanese cards and treating them like they were candy or even money? In 1999, Pokemon was at the height of its popularity. Whether they used their cards for the game of trading or for popularity purposes, almost every boy, and some girls, put this at the top of their priority lists.

Freshman Kyle Mroczek remembers buying them to be popular.

"I had so many cards," he said. "Then I thought it was stupid so I gave them away. Later everyone started to like them again so I had to follow the crowd."

Fads: As the popularity of the tattoo was ever-rising, what could those under the age of 18 do to show off their individuality? Body art was the cool thing to do, especially when it emerged in 1998. Some remember putting on body art during social gatherings.

"At my birthday party," freshman Sarah Sackett said, "all the girls there put them all over our stomachs and backs."

Perhaps the funniest thing that happened during this time period was the Y2K scare. People frantically stocked their house with more than plenty food and water, as if the world was going to end. Even if the computers would have thought the year was 1900, that didn't stop the power or shut down the world forever.

The years 1997, '98, and '99 were filled with pop music, especially boy bands. The card-trading game Pokemon rode the popularity roller coaster. Many television shows gave people something to talk about. But the thing that scared people the most, besides the Teletubbies, was the Y2K incident. At least they knew they had enough food and water to last them a very long time. The frantic Y2K scare was the perfect ending to such a memorable decade. Oh, the '90s.

I Love the '90s

This is the last of a series looking back on the popular toys, music, television, movies, and fads of the

1997-1999

young ones, and why it was popular still remains a mystery to many. Like many notorious children's shows, merchandise ranged from t-shirts to bedspreads to puzzles. Anything with the Teletubbies on it, they had to have it!

Conversation topics were no longer dull and obtuse. Now people could talk about what happened on the previous episode of *Dawson's Creek*. As hard as it was to believe, HBO came out with a show with sex as the topic. Even more surprising was that it was quickly gaining popularity. *Sex and the City* debuted in 1998 and showed the lives of four

Directionally Challenged by Sadie Bolte



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Kyle Clarey

Steroids: Will they tarnish baseball's past?

It was only a couple of years ago when Barry Bonds set the single season homerun record. Now two years later, baseball battles with the issue of several of its players, including Bonds, accused of taking steroids. There will be testing for steroids starting this year in baseball, not once but twice. And the new gig: players do not know when those tests are going to be.

● Will some players test positive for steroids? I certainly think so. I don't know who or when, but sometime throughout the summer someone will get caught. What if Barry Bonds tests positive? Will his records fall or will an asterisk be placed by them? He has said several times to test him because he's clean. Gary Sheffield and Jason Giambi of the Yankees also reportedly received steroids from a California nutritional supplement lab. No wonder the Yankees are so good. Giambi and Sheffield have denied using steroids several times. Giambi does look much smaller this year. Did he stop using steroids or just lose some weight over the offseason? There is only one solution, test them and if they are clean of steroids, then let's play some baseball. One thing is for sure, steroid talk will be the norm in baseball for several years to come.

● Speaking of baseball, once again the Yankees have topped the

I've heard "bubble" more times in the past month than Dick Vitale has said, "This is awesome baby!"

Red Sox. After weeks of speculation that Alex Rodriguez would go to the Sox, the Yankees got him. I think A-Rod will do fine at third base. He is a gold glove and has serious range.

● This year's sleeper in baseball is the Anaheim Angels. They added Bartolo Colon, Kelvin Escobar, and Vladimir Guerrero. Plus they have former Husker Darin Erstad.

● Help wanted: somebody show Nebraska basketball how to win close games. They went 2-6 this year in games decided by five points or less, suffering tough losses at Texas, at Oklahoma State, at Colorado, against Oklahoma, Kansas State, and again to Oklahoma in the Big 12 Tournament. Their only close wins were at home against Iowa State and most recently against Creighton. Somebody pass me a bottle of Tums.

● Creighton needs to revamp after a disappointing season. They made the NIT, but for them this is considered a disappointment after making several NCAA Tournament berths over the past years. The NIT did a great job of matching up the Huskers and the Bluejays. What a thriller it was. It added to the already great rivalry.

● The BCS is going to add a fifth bowl. Just another way to earn ABC some more money and to hype the games up for weeks.

● I've heard "bubble" more times in the past month more than Dick Vitale has said, "This is awesome baby!"

● It has been a blockbuster offseason in the NFL. First of all what were the Broncos thinking trading away Clinton Portis for Champ Bailey? The Redskins got a great deal. Next, Terrell Owens gets traded to the Eagles. He should bulk up their weak receiving core from last year. The Eagles have already picked up defensive end Jevon Kearse. Next, Keyshawn Johnson got traded to the Cowboys.

● There is trouble in paradise. Gary Payton has openly complained about Phil Jackson's triangle offense. He doesn't think he is getting the ball enough. Kobe Bryant is hurt again. It doesn't look like he'll be in a Laker uniform next season.

That championship season Shamrocks endure a wild ride to the state title

By Nicole Sobotka
Staff Reporter

As the bus pulled away from Scotus at 7:30 Thursday morning, the girls were in high spirits. And why shouldn't they be? They were heading to Lincoln to play in the State Tournament as the only undefeated team in class C-1.

The senior moms had decorated the bus with the theme "Scotus Shamrocks star in Finding Nemo Gold." The players sat down and started eating the Shamrock bagels that Big Apple Bagels had made for them. People slept, ate, played cards, or thought about the game.

"We're singing and getting pumped up for our game," junior Heidi Sobota said about herself and sophomore Jamie Tooley. "We do this before every state tournament."

The girls had a tough game against Fillmore Central. It was a close game and both teams worked hard, but the Rocks worked a little bit harder. Senior Stephanie Lyons sealed the game with a free throw and a rebound of her miss against four Fillmore Central players.

"I think we have good chances for the next couple games," Lyons said looking ahead to the rest of the tournament. "We got our nerves out and we can focus on playing now."

Scotus stayed to watch Centura play against Gothenburg, before happily heading back to the hotel.

Once again, the parents had beat the players there putting signs on the door that said who stayed in that room and decorated it in shamrocks, gold, and plenty of fish. (Remember the Finding Nemo Theme?)

At 5:00 it was time for practice at Nebraska Wesleyan University. They had a short, half hour practice and then headed over to Pershing for free pizza offered to teams competing. After watching part of the Class B game, it was back to the hotel.

Assistant Coach John Petersen



SADIE BOLTE/ROCK BOTTOM



NICOLE SOBOTKA/ROCK BOTTOM

Shown is the 2004 Scotus girls basketball state championship team. The Shamrocks went undefeated at 25-0.



TYLER MICEK/ROCK BOTTOM

Senior Laura Dolezal dribbles up the floor in the state semi-final against Ashland-Greenwood. Scotus won 50-41.

reminded the team that everyone had to be in their assigned room by 9:00, lights out by 10:00, and there would be a wake up call at 7:00.

Even though many players reported waking as early as 5:00, they drug themselves down to eat breakfast at 7:00, and started to get ready to leave for the Devaney Center at 8:00.

Scotus played

Ashland Greenwood at 9:30 Friday morning in the state semi-finals. The other team and its crowd were very intense. The Rocks pulled 15 points ahead, so the subs went in for the starters with two minutes left. With 18 seconds left and the lead whittled down to six, Coach Sean Wickham put the starters back in, causing Ashland's fans to erupt in a chorus of boos and jeers.

"I think it was really rude of them to yell because they did the same thing the night before," senior Mandi Schumacher said about Ashland's fans. "It's not like we were going to risk losing in the semi-finals at state."

The team stayed for the next one

Sophomore Jamie Tooley dives on the floor of the Pershing Auditorium after a loose ball in a first round game against Fillmore Central. Tooley became a starter this year after the injury of junior Ann Beiermann.



NICOLE SOBOTKA/ROCK BOTTOM

Senior Lynn Weeder looks to make a pass in the state championship game against Norfolk Catholic at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. The Shamrocks won the game 40-34.

Seniors Mandi Schumacher and Lynn Weeder are interviewed after the championship. PBS and Lincoln's channel 10 broadcast all the state championship games and interviewed several players from each winning team.



SADIE BOLTE/ROCK BOTTOM

and a half games before heading back to Columbus for the night. On the ride home, body parts spilled off the seats to stretch out. The bus was quiet because most of the team was sleeping or listening to music on CD players. They had come a long way, but they still had one more game before they were done.

"I'm nervous and excited," sophomore starter Jamie Tooley, said before the big game. "I know that once we start warming up it'll be okay. I just want to do something."

Catholic had lost in the state final the previous year on a last second shot, and were out to complete unfinished business, as many signs in the crowd attested. Scotus also endured a heart-breaking end to 2003, losing in districts when many people considered them the favorites to win state.

Despite losing to Scotus by 25 during the regular season, Norfolk Catholic came ready to play and led the game. Senior Lindsay Bayer, the Knights leading scorer, scored her thousandth point during the game, even though the Rocks held her to 11 points.

In the second half, Scotus came out and they were a different team. They played much better defense and got a few steals. Lynn Weeder stole the ball and raced down the court for a left-handed lay-up that

put Scotus ahead for the first time in the game. The Scotus fans went wild. After that, the Rocks would not give up their lead. It might have been a different game if Scotus had made its free throws, but they held on despite shooting 8 for 23 at the from the line.

The buzzer sounded, signaling the end of the game, and everyone went crazy. All the players ran out onto the court and hugged one another and celebrated their undefeated season that led to them being the first state basketball champions from Scotus since 1996. People cried and yelled in happiness. After the team cut a piece of the basketball net and received gold medals, they went to see their parents and friends.

"I knew we were going to win when I heard the song 'Rock the Casbar' when we came back out into the gym during half time," Senior starter Laura Dolezal said.

That night, the ride back was loud. Players called friends from their cell phones and they talked to one another. Weeder's voice reverberated around the bus as she asked the same questions she always asked on bus rides: "Who wants to tell scary stories?"

This will be a night, a season remembered by all the players of the 2004 Scotus Shamrocks. They were undefeated. They were the state champions.

Krienke to take over reigns as head football coach

By Kyle Clarey
Editor

It all started growing up as a kid on the farm. But as Roger Krienke grew up, the work ethic he received there was carried on later in life. To the football field.

Krienke will be the new head football coach at Scotus next year. He replaces Steve Cozad who coached at Scotus for two years. Krienke lettered in football at the University of South Dakota. He coached at the University of South Dakota's summer football camp, and he volunteered as varsity assistant at Vermillion High School in South Dakota before coming to Scotus. He has gone from the assistant junior high to the head junior high to the head freshman coach in his previous four years at Scotus. Now he will make another step up. For Krienke there will be big differences between the different jobs.

"Obviously the varsity season is longer," Krienke said, "and there is a greater interest in the outcome of games. I certainly expect more

pressure, which I welcome."

He contributes his success in coaching to different people.

"Being around the great coaches at Scotus in all sports has been beneficial," Krienke said, "along with my high school and college coaches. I'm grateful that my wife is a coach and understands the time commitment."

Vern Younger, who was the assistant coach with Krienke for the freshman football team last season, thought Krienke was very organized and willing to put in the time necessary to be successful.

"He is more organized than I was when I was head freshman coach," Younger said.

Younger also said he and Krienke got along well and agreed on most football philosophy throughout their year together.

Krienke plans on bringing new methods to the team next year.

"Some of the offensive and de-

fensive philosophies may be a bit different," Krienke said. "The coaching staff will have to sit down and give Scotus the greatest chance for success."

Activities director Gary Puetz was the first person to interview Krienke for the job. Krienke was then given follow-up interviews by

Principal Wayne Morfeld and Superintendent Bill Gannon. The school board then gave Scotus permission to name Krienke head coach. There were many reasons why Krienke was chosen.

"I believe he is a very enthusiastic, young coach," Puetz said. "He gets along well with others, and he has been in the football system for four years. He deserved a chance as coach."

Puetz said Krienke was also chosen so Scotus would not have to go outside the school system. Krienke also has a good working background in the weight room according to Puetz.

"He has great enthusiasm, is

"I certainly expect more pressure, which I welcome."
~Roger Krienke~



SCOTUS CENTRAL Rock Bottom

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Zeph Swope and Ben Beller strum along during an all-school mass. Mrs. Shadle and Mrs. Salyard are sponsors of the mass guitar group.

Guitars bring power to mass

By Matt Raimondo
Staff Reporter

From rock and roll to church music, guitars have been a way for people to express their words with a little excitement. Guitars are being introduced into the Scotus Central Catholic's all school mass. They have been added to the mass to see what effect it has on the student body's participation.

There are a variety of students and teachers who are participating in the addition of the instrument. Each of them got started playing the guitar in a different way.

"I liked the way that the guitar sounded," sophomore Zeph Swope said, "and wanted to be superstar, so I started to play it."

Junior Ben Beller began playing the guitar for more family-oriented reasons.

"My great-great uncle played the guitar," Beller said, "and nobody else in my family did, so I decided to pick it up and learn how to play."

All of these different people have used their talents to try to make a more entertaining place to be for the whole school. They have gone to practice and worked to try to make their efforts a success.

When mass is going on most of the students at Scotus would never even think about opening their mouths to sing. This attitude has all changed now that the school and the church have allowed the playing of guitars at mass. The addition has caused an increase in the number of students who sing at mass.

Beller said that the guitars encourage people to sing at mass more than if the guitars were not there.

"It lightens the mood a little bit and brightens up the

See *Guitars*, page 4

Scotus boys strut their stuff in pageant

By Chad Trofholz
Editor

The event was set for April 2nd, 2004. An event so prominent that it was publicized in the *Rock Bottom*. The first edition of the Mr. Shamrock took place with great anticipation. Nine handsome competitors stepped onto the stage for a musical number that only senior Angie Kwapnioski could have choreographed and only a mother could love. The nine members set forth not knowing what to expect.

Junior Brittany Williams and sophomore Jared Rickert, who kept the show lively and fluid, emceed the event. The show featured an interview, a talent competition, and a showing of an ensemble one would wear to catch a Mrs. Shamrock's eye.

The talent section of the show featured the most spectacular and bizarre talents unique to each competitor.

Leading the way was second-runner-up Joseph Held Jr. His rapping abilities were exhibited to Nelly's "E.I." This selection was tasteful and very well performed in his hip threads. He chose a different route in the eveningwear section, sporting a sweater vest and khaki combination.

Jon Scholz, the runner-up, kept the crowd lively with his choice of a song that never

gets old. With the help of audience member Scott Ditter, he and Dominic Heimann performed Johnny Cash's "Ring of Fire." The duo also made fine showings in the next round. Jon Scholz appeared back onstage in his "geek sheik" attire, while Dominic Heimann appeared dressed in a way that no God-fearing woman could resist. He strutted the stage in his Red Wendy's manager shirt and tucked into his black pants.

The champion was crowned by a panel of judges consisting of Ed Goerlinger, Annette Hash, senior Laura Dolezal, Lynette Hogelin, and Sandie Bern. Their decision for the undisputed champion of the pageant was Darin Kuehler, who wowed the audience on his saxophone with "After-shock." He also scored many points with his Chris Bower outfit, featured with a black dress shirt and yellow tie. He had much respect for the competition.

"I thought the competition was really stiff and that not one but all of the contestants should have Mr. Shamrock. Overall, it was a good end to the year."

The judges made a wise decision in picking a man with all of this modesty and an ability to moonwalk complementing his musical ability and flashy dressing.

The other contestants



DANIELLE BERNT/ROCK BOTTOM
Above: Junior Jared Rickert awards senior Darin Kuehler the Mr. Shamrock title during the Mr. Shamrock Pageant on April 2. This year's pageant was put on by the Senior High Student Council.

had fine showings as well. Dylan Guenther showed his bike skills with many stunts and a jump off of the stage. Michael Ingemanson's song "The Scientist" was very well performed on the piano and made a great follow-up for Brian Malicky's rendition of "Twinkle Twinkle." Eric Grubaugh was another musical entertainer on his electric guitar, selecting popular features such as "Radio" and "Stairway to Heaven." All of the contestants did their best to make this an enjoyable show for all.



DANIELLE BERNT/ROCK BOTTOM

Renovations planned to help Columbus economy

Wal-Mart, Hy-Vee, and Burger King businesses make move to modernized facilities

By Danielle Bernt
Editor-in-Chief

Wal-Mart and Hy-Vee seem to be places where the smiles are abundant, or so they advertise. Hy-Vee is where there's a smile in every aisle and of course Mr. Smiley rollin' back the prices is home at Wal-Mart. But is there enough room in the Columbus Hy-Vee to spread those bright smiles in every aisle? And is Mr. Smiley truly happy roaming in the Columbus-sized Wal-Mart? Columbus's answer to these questions is no.

Columbus has made the decision to invest in the future of the city by relocating two of its largest businesses. Hy-Vee is planning on making the move to east of the 30 Center Mall on the north side of Highway 30. In order for this move to happen businesses such as Burger King must relocate as well. After the 7 Knights Hotel lot is completely cleared, Burger King will start the dirt work for a larger, more modernized facility. This move will leave most of the old area where Burger King was open for Hy-Vee's move, but there will be more decisions as to what will also need to be relocated in that area. The new Hy-Vee store will be larger in size. Columbus City Council Member Joseph Frei said he was not exactly sure on the new store size but said it is some-

where around 230,000 square feet. This new facility will modernize its food storing capacity along with the pharmacy. Hy-Vee will also bring ethnic foods facilities to Columbus. There will be an Italian dining area as well as Chinese and the same American foods as were in the old store.

Also adding different varieties of foods to its name is the new Super

"No matter how large Wal-Mart gets, I will only go there for 'basic item shopping'."

~Bonnie Eikmeier

Wal-Mart. Along with the name change Wal-Mart will now be hosting a grocery store. Super Wal-Mart is planning the move from the west side of town to the east end of town. This new building will be built on the north side of Highway 30, just to the east of the Holiday Express Hotel. There has also been some clearing of homes in this area. The building of the Super Wal-Mart will make Columbus home of one of the largest Super Wal-Marts in Nebraska.

Columbus is geographically placed near larger cities which make it hard to supply enough demand for

other larger companies to take root in Columbus. As a city the building of these stores brings hope that Columbus shoppers will try to shop locally more than out-of-town, therefore, helping the economy of Columbus. The Super Wal-Mart and new Hy-Vee are also being built in hopes of attracting surrounding towns to come to Columbus and shop. Also, in modernizing these facilities it will force other Columbus businesses to improve their retail and quite possibly bring in more retail stores for Columbus. Of course, in doing this the Ma and Pa stores of Columbus are at great risk for losing business.

"They will need to find their niche," Frei said. "Columbus has been holding seminars to educate smaller stores on different competition techniques."

Frei said that definitely smaller stores will need to have a higher quality in service and product type in order to compete with the improving businesses. In the eyes of city, this plan looks to be a positive one, but what will happen to the small-town atmosphere?

"I think it'll be kind of negative because it will attract too many people," junior Gary Lux said. "I like the small town atmosphere, and it'll all change along with the

stores."

In improving these stores Columbus planners hope to see more people come to Columbus to shop. Some think that this change will not keep Columbus shoppers in Columbus.

"No matter how large Wal-Mart gets, I will only go there for 'basic item shopping,'" Bonnie Eikmeier said. "When I'm looking for specific items or variety shopping I go to Norfolk, Grand Island, or Omaha. With its new location on the other end of town, I will probably go to Walgreen's more."

Frei said that the completion of the Super Wal-Mart and new Hy-vee will hopefully be done in approximately one year. Frei said that he thinks this could only affect the city of Columbus in a positive way. City supporters hope for the best.

"I can only hope both additions will be good for Columbus," Eikmeier said. "With bigger stores maybe comes bigger donations for the schools, local organizations, non-profit groups and the different activities involving kids. Maybe we'll pull more business from the Schuyler area."

Whether the effects of these modernizations will be a positive or negative outcome, only the future will tell. Like the signs say, Columbus is proving to be a "city of power and progress."

FBLA members learn life skills at SLC

By Tyler Micek
Staff Reporter

Hours of football concessions, playing games with little ghosts and monsters, hanging up posters, going to meetings, collecting food. What does it all get you? A trip to SLC of course!

The State Leadership Conference is one of two main statewide FBLA conferences each year. The Scotus FBLA chapter took 14 students down this year, half of them being first timers. SLC consists mainly of tests, seminars, state officer election, awards, and a lot of free time.

While at SLC, everyone had to take at least five tests. The tests consist of everything from business math, to spelling and punctuation, to parliamentary procedures, and even job interviews. Most of the test have 300 to 600 students sitting down at a

table for 50 minutes filling in letters *a, b, c, or d*.

"Most of the tests were pretty easy," SLC first-timer, freshman Kristin Ostdiek said. "Some of them were so easy, but they got really boring, and I did not want to finish them."

Other tests were more involved and were more difficult.

"Derek (Curtis) and I had to take the competency series," SLC first timer, senior Kyle Bogus said, "which is a set of four hard tests and a mock job interview."

In the midst of all the test taking, everyone had to also find time to go to at least two seminars. They were about anything from principles of accounting, to how to introduce someone, to how to be more confident.

SLC is also where the new state officer candidates campaign, the delegates vote, and the new officers are inducted.

Anyone who wishes to be a state officer can apply, and if they are chosen, the will give a two to five minute presentation on why they should be chosen. Each candidate will have a special word or slogan

to advertise, and after the presentations, they set up booths and give out pencils, pens, beads, candy, etc. Each school gets a certain number of voting delegates depending on how many people are in their chapter. The votes are tallied, and officers are inducted.

There are main award ceremonies; the first is for honorable mentions for the people who got a top 5 percent on their tests excluding

the top eight scores, the second is the next day where the top eight finalists are announced. People placing either first or second will be representing Nebraska at the National Leadership Conference.

This all may seem like a lot of hard work and boring test (some of which may be true for some), but there is a lot of free time at the conference. The students were able to swim, exercise, eat, watch movies, relax, or find something else to do.

"I had a lot of fun winning five games of mini golf in a row," Bogus said.

Some people used their free time to network.

"I think that it was a good opportunity to meet others and really enhance social skills," junior Becky Johnson said.

Over all, SLC is a place to learn, meet people, and have fun.

"I definitely want to go back next year," Ostdiek said.

"I think that it as a good opportunity to meet others and really enhance social skills."

~Becky Johnson

Much anticipated article titled "Homecoming King Richard"

BITTERNESS

Chad Trofholz

For an entire year my Bitterness columns have been marked with extreme negativity about the life of Columbus. For a pleasant change, I'd like to look at the positive side and the most positive person that comes to mind is the man that I refer to as "Homecoming King Rich-

ard." Don't pretend like you don't know who I'm talking about: the pseudo-Chris Cringle that rides around town on his bike taking puppies...no wait that is Mrs. Gulch from the Wizard of Oz. "Homecoming King Richard" Jenkins can be frequently found in town sporting his blue shirt and green glasses. Contrary to popular belief however, he is not the first cousin of one Scott Ditter. His common stomping grounds are Hy-Vee Food Stores (Birthplace of the Tent Sale that failed to sell a single tent) and the bench outside of Columbus' own Thirty-Center Mall. The more courteous residents in town might be found to honk their

horns as they drive by...simply to double-check that he is not dead. For some people, met amphetamines are the only way to achieve the level of giddy enlightenment he displays. His joyous demeanor and loveable charisma help earn him the nickname Mr. Happy...not Mr. Gay. More than once he has told me how beautiful I am...which is nice, even though I wish he would quit referring to me as Chadley (and being a downright liar). Scott Ditter cited a time when the

King actually got into (Scott's) car to spread his goodwill. Scott was sketchy on the details of this rendezvous but I'd imagine he enjoyed the company. Don't be fooled into thinking that he is harmful though. I'm sure that he was only interested in sharing in Scott's joyous company...or perhaps a hot sandwich. Competition, however, is spotted when one "Stargazer" comes into the scene. This town ain't big enough for two nomads in this writer's humble opinion. Much

unlike Richard, Stargazer is hostile and very opinionated. Recent reports have found that Stargazer (explicitly deleted) hates Republicans. He is much more aggressive and for this fact I know very little about this particular element of Columbus. I recommend keeping a safe distance when either of these men are around. I do, however, feel that Richard is a unifying part of our community that we all should recognize and/or avoid. So you ask me to choose. I choose you Richard...then again, I could always take some amphetamines. Snootch to the Nootch.

Overcoming the Battle of the Sexes

Just Press Pause

Danielle Bernt

I can do anything you can do better. I can do anything better than you! NO, YOU CAN'T! YES, I CAN! NO, YOU CAN'T! YES, I CAN!!! Oh, Doris Day. Doris's song and dance is a great example of a battle that has been fought for years, obviously, if it was during a time when Doris was a common name. It has been fought even before monkey evolved into MAN, or Adam and Eve, your choice. And it probably will continue long after the pope is out of the God office.

This could only be one thing, no not the battle of the prettiest Mickey Mouse Club kid...which is of course is Roseanne Barr. (she was on that right?) Oh wait, no that was Britney Spears...my bad. No, this is the battle of the sexes. Oh yes. Sexist men are one of my BIGGEST pet peeves. Here, I'll list of few things that I see day-to-day. Women drivers? Now, have you boys taken a look at whose driver's insurance is more expensive? Males. Yeah, I do believe I have researched...because I'm obsessed? No. Just a young woman hungry for the truth? Yes. Geico doesn't lie folks. Ok, here's another one, "Get in the kitchen and make me a pie, WOMAN." Now, that phrase without the added WOMAN is only mildly insulting. And me being a woman, I MIGHT go make a pie...but only because I like to eat. A third sexism is that women aren't allowed to "release,"

to put it nicely. Say, just for an example, I walk into the kitchen at home and I hear this, to be honest with you, rather pathetic belch...no scolding comment, it's plain as having grass in your front yard. Speaking of grass, am I the only one who wonders who decided to put grass in yards? Maybe if I would have known that I was less important I wouldn't have signed up to help the church. I think it's time to head back to the beginning of this problem. When did this all start? Well, when you look at those pictures charting the evolution of monkey to human what sex is it? Male. When reading the Bible and the creation story, who did God create first? MAN. And when Danielle was

supposed to serve at her sister's confirmation mass, why was Danielle denied this privilege? Because of a man...well a boy. Just because some boy didn't show and there were two girls and two guys, the "holy man" sent me back to my pew because you always need to have more guys than gals serving. Who knew? Maybe if I would have known that I was less important, I wouldn't have signed up to help the church. My bad. Next sexist era...women not allowed to vote, expected to stay home and be "mom." Then there's job, car sales, and strength discrimination just to name a few. I figure if a woman can put up with monthly cycles, pregnancy, and men then she's pretty darn tough and can easily handle this list of double

standards. And in the strength department, I will admit I'm not body builder of the year, but when a teacher insists he needs a few guys to carry something downstairs and pulls out six books...roughly the size of a junior English book (a grammar book at that) I think I'd be able to manage. And I do believe I heard of a little competition a few years ago between Mrs. Tooley and her male P.E. class. Does anyone remember the outcome? I think we'll leave that unanswered to bypass a few injured egos. This battle of the sexes has been around since Doris Day and will continue long through another Y3K scare. So women, don't stand for this. Acting like a ditz isn't helping you anymore than it is helping Jessica Simpson's reputation. So put down your foot along with those cans of Chicken of the Sea and let's go burn some bras. Uhh, just kidding about the bras. Victoria Secret bras aren't cheap.

Video game parties provide weekends well spent

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Matt Raimondo

Imagine being at a party where everyone is concentrating so hard they never hear a word that is spoken. Everyone is thinking of the next move they are going to make on a video game. It is so intense that you can feel the emotions of

every person in the room. You wait until the precise moment to make your move. Suddenly, everyone around you is mad because you made a good move for yourself and hurt them. This might seem a little unrealistic for a party, but in fact, these parties actually do exist. When a really cool game is discovered, a party is set up and people come over to a person's house with the sole purpose of playing the game. One such game is called HALO. The game can be played by one person, or as many as sixteen people with the right equipment for the system.

Imagine how intense it would be in a room full of sixteen people who are all good at a game. This game has had parties so intense that when someone made a good move, their opponents actually start to beat the person because they are so mad that they got beaten. Unfortunately, not everyone can have a "HALO PARTY" because HALO is a game that is only made for X-BOX. This is one of the stupidest things I have ever

come across. In the first place, they should make every game for all of the systems, so that you do not have to worry about buying the wrong system. Every game is unique and needs to be played. The more games that a company sells the more money the business makes. This makes perfect sense as to why they should make every game for every system. Games today have impacted people's lives in more ways than one. They have given people a reason to have parties and to be together with friends. You can bring

a group of best friends into a room and sit them down in front of a video game and they will become archenemies for the next several hours. After they are done playing the game they will continue on with their lives even better friends than before. Everyone plays the game, but when they are done, all that has actually happened is they have become better friends by being with each other. Video game parties are surely one of the best things to attend. They are full of excitement and intense action. Video games are definitely one of the best creations ever invented.

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In-Depth

South Beach aims for "good" carbohydrates

By Stephanie Laudenklos
Staff Reporter

Create a diet. Name it something cool. Become famous and rich. It seems like that is all people are doing these days to make money. Yet another diet named the South Beach Diet has an original name based on where it was created.

Between the Atkins Diet and the latest South Beach Diet, the depletion of carbohydrates in a diet may cause life-threatening effects. Carbohydrates give you energy to do daily actions. They fuel the muscles including the heart.

The South Beach Diet takes a more gradual approach to a carbohydrate-controlled diet than the Atkins diet. It simply suggests for a person to replace "bad" carbs with "good" carbs. All this means is that instead of eating a piece of apple pie eat a whole apple. The amount of calories is less in an apple and the body can use the carbohydrates in an apple more efficiently than it can digest a piece of apple pie.

The South Beach Diet comes fully equipped with a book explaining how to get started, definitions of "bad" and "good" carbs, and how to continue a steady diet to control cravings. Do not be confused by the name. It is not as easy as lying on the beach watching the pounds melt away in the sun. It does allow you to still eat fatty foods though. By limiting the number of carbohydrates a person takes in, they are not allowing energy for the metabolism, which in turn digests the food. So by eating fatty foods that are not digested easily in the first place, the fat will be stored instead of digested.

This diet does not seem like it would work. It suggests some exercise programs, but it does not enforce them within the diet. Many people have claimed to lose 20 pounds within two months of going on this diet, though.

There used to be a crave of high

protein diets for building muscle. Then, the doctors found out about hidden fats within the protein that were leading to heart attacks. Now it seems as if every fast food restaurant is coming up with a "carb-friendly" menu. Subway is one of these restaurants. Although the menus are there, the customers are not necessarily following the ingredient guidelines.

"People will put more toppings in our wraps," Subway employee Haley Helger said.

Although the diet is popular, she said that the customers are not buying any less of the traditional Subway sandwiches.

The South Beach Diet and Atkins diets do not have any flaws yet, but they are too new to be found out.

Atkins Diet allows fatty meats, but hold the bread

By Nicole Sobotka
Staff Reporter

In the 1970s a man named Dr. Atkins started a diet. It's called the Atkins Diet. Original name, huh?

Basically, the Atkins Diet is based on the idea that eating more protein and fewer carbohydrates will make people lose weight. This is because of the sugars in carbohydrates. This may seem strange to people because carbohydrates are an integral part of most people's diets.

The Atkins diet remained on the fringes of main-

stream diets until just a couple of years ago. It's now a well-known and popular diet. Restaurants and grocery stores now cater to Atkins dieters by carrying "Atkins" friendly food, while before that may have seemed ludicrous. Hamburgers without buns and tacos without shells are a few "Atkins friendly" foods.

Not everyone thinks that the Atkins Diet works though.

"My parents are on the Atkins Diet," sophomore Ashley Bowns said, "and they're still overweight. We have Atkins food in our fridge and it doesn't even taste good."

The Atkins diet started a craze. There are now books, cookbooks, menus and protein shakes emblazoned with the Atkins icon. Whole websites, grocery stores, and restaurants are dedicated to the Atkins diet.

"People try to go on diets and change everything they eat," YMCA Trainer Jennifer Brownlow said, "That usually makes them gain more weight back. My advice is to find a diet that you can stay on for the rest of your life."

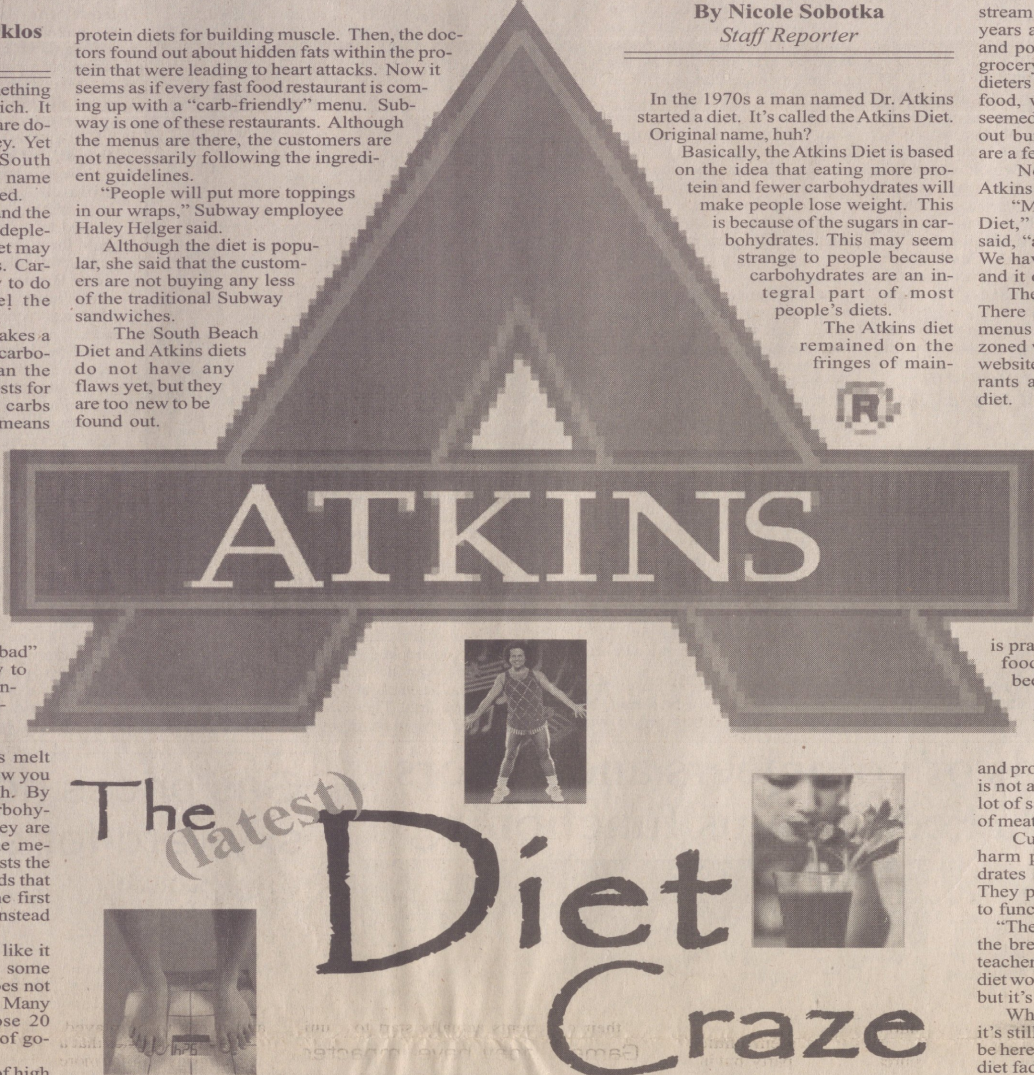
Many people aren't sure whether the Atkins Diet is a good idea because it is so low-carb. The Atkins Diet is practically cutting out an entire food group, which has always been very important.

"Good portion control is healthier than most diets," Brownlow said. "You need the balance of eating carbs and proteins. Limiting what you eat is not a good idea. People can eat a lot of saturated fat from eating a lot of meat."

Cutting out carbohydrates can harm people mentally. Carbohydrates are important for the brain. They provide fuel that brains need to function.

"The hardest thing to give up was the bread products," social studies teacher Sean Wickham said. "The diet works for short term weight loss, but it's definitely a trendy thing."

Whether Atkins is good or bad, it's still popular. This diet seems to be here to stay. At least until the next diet fad comes along.



Newest fad diets leave old diets in the dust

By Kelly Ingram
Staff Reporter

Diets have been taking over people's lives one craving at a time.

They seem to be becoming more and more common. Everyone wishes they had the self-esteem to be on a diet, and many do, such as those people on the new South Beach diet or Atkins diet.

But what about those old dieting techniques? What has happened to them?

Jenny Craig, SlimFast, and Richard Simmons's Diet are among those dying down.

Remember the commercial that sang Call! 1-800-98-Jenny or if it was 1999 the commercial jingle would go Call! 1-800-99-Jenny? But have you heard recently Call! 1-800-04-Jenny? No!

Jenny Craig is officially out of business in most eyes. If her company is not officially "dead," it definitely is in the world of diets. Who needs Jenny when they have all of these new diets!

So no more of Jenny's healthy meals and exercise programs because Americans are onto all carbs or all protein meals.

Another dieting program quickly dying down is SlimFast.

Chocolate, Vanilla, or Strawberry drinks anyone? This particular diet has a person drinking a shake for their breakfast and lunch and eating a sensible supper. This diet is

Who needs Jenny when they have all these new diets!

still in use, but not nearly advertised as much as previous years.

"The SlimFast diet is bad," YMCA trainer Jennifer Brownlow said, "because it doesn't allow a person to burn off calories he/she ate earlier. Breakfast and lunch

should be a person's biggest meals."

Having variety and balance is good in a person's diet. The SlimFast diet does not provide this.

"The only good thing about this diet is that it has no bad side effects," Brownlow said.

People can still pick up these tasty drinks in their local grocery store, but now-a-days most people would prefer to diet in another way.

A tight tank top, afro, and spandex shorts could only mean one person...Richard Simmons. His aerobics and step workouts saved a lot of people from dieting in the 1980s and '90s, but that phase is

too quickly coming to an end. Now America is enjoying Taeko and Pilates in the comfort of their own home.

This is also taking the place of dieting, or becoming an add-on to people's diets.

Jenny, SlimFast, and Richard are just a few past ways people have used to burn those excess calories.

So whether you want to stick to the old meals with Jenny, vanilla shakes with SlimFast, step workouts with Richard, or new protein and carb meals, find a diet that works for you.

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Rock Bottom

They're not crazy, but they act like it sometimes

Annual Thesipian initiation week brings out the best, wildest of drama group

By T. J. Wrigley
Staff Reporter

"Watch out, I am a maniac!"

This may be considered disturbing for a student to say while running down the Scotus hallways. The phrase would be unusual for any school week except Thesipian initiation week which was March 29 to April 2. The students saying such dialogue are trying to become a member of the Scotus Thespians. These students must do whatever the current members of the Thesipian group tell them. Several new candidates were asked to join Thespians this year. Freshman Elizabeth Suess was one of these Thesipian initiates.

Suess said she was not in many activities, so she went out for Thespians because this

"It was a lot of fun, and next year I get to pick on the initiates."

~Elizabeth Suess

was a group that she could become involved in. She said her two years of being in speech team is why she was invited to join Thespians.

"I was the only freshman initiate this year," Suess said.

Suess said she had to attend a special Thesipian meeting every morning of Thesipian initiation week, and she said she had different activities that she had to do throughout the week. Amanda Krings and Katy Nagengast, current Thesipian members, thought of and assigned these activities for

her to complete each day. She said on Monday she had to propose to Social Studies teacher Pat Brockhaus. Suess later had to tell religion teacher Brian Fuchser that she loved him.

"It was a lot of fun," Suess said, "and next year I get to pick on the new initiates."

Nagengast knows what it is like to stand in Suess's shoes.

"I didn't boss anyone around because I felt sorry for them," Nagengast said.

Nagengast said she was initiated last year because she was a member of the speech team for two years. She said she joined because she liked the fine arts. Nagengast said she remembers one objective she had to complete last year.

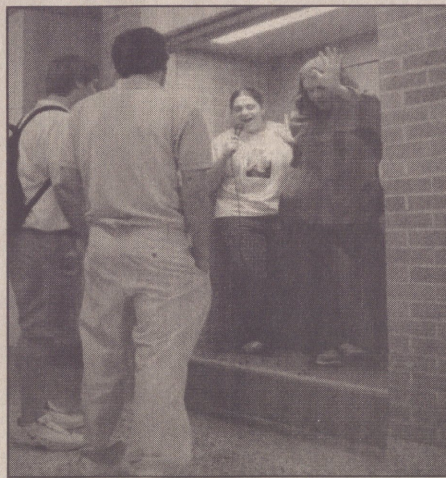
"I had to run down the hall screaming 'I am a maniac,'" Nagengast said.

Nagengast said that she helps out with the junior high plays as a Thesipian member. She said that the name Thesipian comes from an actor named Thespis.

"Thespians carries on for the rest of your life," Nagengast said. "It also looks good on college applications. People should go for it. It will always be there for you in the long run."

Senior Darin Kuehler also helps determine the initiates' fate.

Kuehler said he went through the initiation week as a freshman because he liked the fact that this group worked with



DANIELLE BERT/ROCK BOTTOM
Seniors Ryan Ames and Jon Scholtz watch as Thesipian initiates Sadie Bolte and Katie Cheloha freeze for their character poses. Thesipian initiation tasks range from acting out skits to writing essays.

acting. "It was a lot worse," Kuehler said, "and a lot more degrading. There was more fear in the initiates than this year."

Kuehler said he did not mind the initiation. This year, he said he made the initiates do what he thought was necessary and not too degrading. There were 10 initiates this year: one freshman, eight sophomores, and one

junior. Kuehler said Thespians is different from other organizations because this organization is a national organization. As a Thesipian member he has been required to complete a mandatory Voice of Democracy project which is a speech where the VFW gives the topics, and he had to record his speech on video. The video is sent to the VFW and is judged on the community, district, and state levels.

Sophomore Melissa Steiner was also initiated into the Scotus Thesipian organization this year. She said she was invited to join because she was on speech team for two years. She said that she had to act out the role of Britney Spears and had to sing a Britney Spears song to Brockhaus as one of her initiation tasks.

"It was a challenge to overcome," Steiner said.

She said that she joined to try and overcome the challenge and because her sister was in Thespians.

Senior Amanda Krings also enjoyed being an active member in deciding the fate of the new Thesipian initiates.

"I like to be mean," Krings said.

Krings said the initiates had an easier initiation week this year. She said she remembers when she had to army crawl to class between periods as a sophomore. Krings said she did not like the fact that she could only assign tasks to her assigned person and not control all the initiates.

Thespians is not like many other organizations at Scotus because of initiation week. Some of the students enjoyed the initiation week and some like ordering the initiates to complete specific tasks. Thespians is one organization that will remain unique in the eyes of all Scotus students for years to come.

Hundreds of volunteers and donors help Gala keep Scotus functioning

By Sarah Keiter
Staff Reporter

It is a one night extravaganza entitled "Casablanca." Hundreds of people are clad in their finest with their checkbooks open, ready to jump at the chance to bid on the first item that catches their eye. Hundreds of people willing to spend whatever it takes to show their enormous support for a school. Hundreds of people made a showing on Saturday, April 17, for the annual Scotus Gala.

The Gala is Scotus's number one fundraiser, but this one-night extravaganza would not be possible without the help and support of many generous donors from the Scotus community and the community of Columbus. Scotus Development Director John Schueth was pleased with the way this year's Gala went.

"It was our smoothest ever," he said. "The food was wonderful and we had lots of help, including students."

Over 75 items worth more than \$350 apiece were auctioned off in the grand auction at the Gala. About 700 silent auction items will be bid on that night also. Annette Hash, activities secretary and one of the most vital people involved with the Gala, said that roughly 300 people, businesses, and organizations donate to the Gala each year.

"The people (that donate) are mainly people who have donated in the past, or chamber members of the Columbus community," Hash said.

Not only are the hundreds of donations a key to the nights suc-



SARAH KEITER/ROCK BOTTOM
While helping set up, Dr. Dan Rosenquist gets a sneak preview of a set of golf clubs that were auctioned off at the Scotus Gala. Last year's Gala brought in \$181,000 for the Scotus.

cess, the buyers of these donations play a vital role in making the night a huge success. Hash said that the goal for this year is \$150,000, and last year's Gala raised about \$185,000. Last year a bronze horse sculpture by Fred Hoppe raked in \$7,000, and three dinners with Governor and Mrs. Johannes went for a total of \$6,800. Since the Gala is Scotus's main fundraiser, it is imperative that Scotus can raise as much money as possible.

"We are always grateful for what we do receive," Hash said.

Schueth said a jewelry box raffle, a new event at this year's gala, was very popular. People could purchase a jewelry box for \$30. Inside one of the boxes was a diamond ring, while others contained a \$10 dollar gift certificates to Kelly Jewelry.

Hash said that Scotus relies a lot on the Columbus community to

lend a hand, and they have been very helpful this year with donations, especially with the way the economy has been. Not only do people donate gifts to be bid on, but also people contribute hundreds of man-hours into the Gala each year.

Hash said that there are three couples, called Gala chairs, which are in charge of all the little sub-groups of the Gala. She said that these six people are head of every aspect of the Gala, and they are in charge of making sure everything is running on schedule. This year's co-chairs were Mark and Lisa Klimes, Phil and Mary Raimondo, and Neil and Kim Schumacher.

"Without the excellent support of the people of this community the Gala would not be the excellent fundraiser it is today," Hash said, "and we would not have the school we do today."

RB staffers place at state journalism contest

Several Rock Bottom staffers earned honors in the state journalism contest this spring.

Editor-in-Chief Danielle Bert led the charge by placing in the top three of Class B in five events, including being crowned state champion in the black and white photography category for a series of photos she took at state volleyball. She also won second place in color photography. For her "Just Press Pause" columns, she was awarded

second place in column writing. Bert also won third place in the news writing category and teamed up with fellow senior Sarah Keiter to take third place in the in-depth coverage for their look at how Scotus is dealing with getting smaller.

Sophomores Nicole Sobotka and T.J. Wrigley placed second and third, respectively, in sports feature writing.

Sobotka and Wrigley qualified for the all-class state finals for plac-

ing in the top 12 of their respective categories regardless of class. Bert qualified for state finals in both photography categories and was named first alternated in the news writing. The finals will be held in Lincoln May 1.

Overall, the Rock Bottom finished fifth in the Class B team sweepstakes, just a point out of third. Omaha Gross won the contest and two-time defending state champion McCook was runner-up.

Guitars: Student, teacher musicians featured at mass

mass," Beller said. Swope said that the guitar players are there for the entertainment of the students so they have something to look at while the songs are being played.

Students have been practicing for the guitars at mass ever since school started again after Christmas break. Art teacher Nancy

Shadle and business teacher Patti Salyard started the idea of having guitars played at mass. Salyard said that there will need to be more students to play the guitar for the mass to keep it going.

"Right now Ben and Zeph pick up the music really fast," Salyard said, "but we will need to have different students play the guitar so

that when they leave we have someone to take their place."

The whole purpose of having the guitars at mass is so that students will start to participate more in the service. The playing of guitars has added some excitement and variety to mass and will continue as long as there are people willing to do it.

Gas prices heading skyward for summer

By Zac Riley
Editor

With the rise of gas, it seems people are more willing to stay home and not waste gas. This is the case for many Scotus students who pay for their own gas. With the prices expected to top \$2 per gallon, Scotus students must be trying to drive to a solution to spend less money.

The most logical solution would be to ride a bicycle. Although most students who go from bicycle to automobile don't look back in the rearview mirror. Senior Canice Coan and sophomore Sami Zabawa have a common thought on bicycles: they don't like pedaling.

"I don't even have a bike," Zabawa said.

No matter what happens with prices, Zabawa will be pedal to the metal. Coan said she would ride her bike but not too much because of the hills she would have to ride up just to get home.

Although not everyone's friends have nice cars, sometimes Scotus students might drive to be able to drive in style. Zabawa takes turns with her friends, but Coan is more likely to drive herself.

"I got a new car," Coan said, "and I really like it, so I want to drive."

As prices become higher and higher, conservation of gas is a solution, but higher prices have not affected Zabawa.

"I drive the same amount of places," she said.

One bright idea brought by a Scotus student was motorcycles.

"All I know is Pelster will be all right with the prices," senior Brian Malicky said. (Senior Grant Pelster is the proud owner of a Harley Davidson.)

As gas prices rise with the summer temperature, Scotus students may or may not be more concerned, angry, or ignorant of the gas prices. Gas prices may go up, but there are ways to deal with them. What goes up must come down, as many people hope is a true saying.



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Rock Bottom Review

The Red Tent gives biblical women voice

By Stephanie Laudenklos
Staff Reporter

Earlier there was a controversy over *The DaVinci Code*, but now there is *The Red Tent*. Both books created controversy based on faith and religion.

The Red Tent was written by Anita Diamant in 2001. It tells a story from Dinah's point of view. Dinah was the daughter of Jacob and Leah. Her name is mentioned briefly in Genesis, but she plays a much larger role in biblical history.

Today it is hard enough to deal with divorced parents, but she had to deal with four mothers and having her cousins as her brothers and sisters. Her mothers were also sisters making them aunts to Dinah. Confused? It's not hard to be.

The book starts off by giving a family tree, and unless you have read the book or know about biblical genealogy, you will be lost. It is a regular soap opera. There are not too many thrilling parts of the book, but it does hold interest in certain parts.

The book is told from all

women's points of view rather than the biblical man's. It is said to be a representation of what the Bible would be like if told from the perspective of God's daughters instead of God's sons.

The red tent is a place where women would go during their cycle or birthing. They would come out to be mated after their cycle, and then they would be back in the tent to birth. The majority of their lives were spent in the red tent, and Dinah tells of how she came to be the only daughter of Jacob to ever enter into the red tent.

The first five chapters or so are history of Jacob's wives and all his sons. Then it breaks into Dinah's childhood and continues chronologically from there.

This book would capture the interest of readers who usually are interested in historical or biblical perspectives. It is not for those whose interest is romance, imaginative, or mysterious books. There is some romance in the book but nothing compared to a Danielle Steele. Overall it is an easy read and goes quite quickly for a 300-page book.



Rock Bottom Review

Search is on for best coffee in town

By Sadie Bolte
Editor

Have you noticed anything new recently in the great town of Columbus? Okay, it hasn't been all that recent, but it has brought forth some attention.

Coffee shops have seemed to pop up all over Columbus. I'm not talking about the restaurants that serve that cheap pot o' coffee; I'm talking about cappuccinos and lattes. No, not those gas stations with the fake cappuccinos loaded with sugar either. Specialty coffees, the ones you pay a good three dollars for to have someone make it for you.

So what exactly is a real cappuccino? Depending on what size you get, it can range from one to three shots of espresso, or really strong coffee. Milk is steamed and added to weaken the strong coffee taste and to give it that creamy texture. Steaming means that it is heated and added air to make it foamy.

If it sounds too plain, flavors can be added. Some of the most popular flavors are mocha (chocolate), french vanilla, caramel, and hazelnut.

And what about a latte? It's basically the same thing, except it

has less foam than the cappuccino, making it milkier with a lighter coffee taste. Most first-timers at the whole specialty coffee thing probably want a latte and not a cappuccino because it is milder.

Thirsty for something cold? Try an iced latte or cappuccino

Possibly the best specialty coffee drink I've ever had was Centre Perk's café mocha. A small mocha there will cost you \$2.75, but it is worth the cost and long drive to its location at the Village Centre mall.

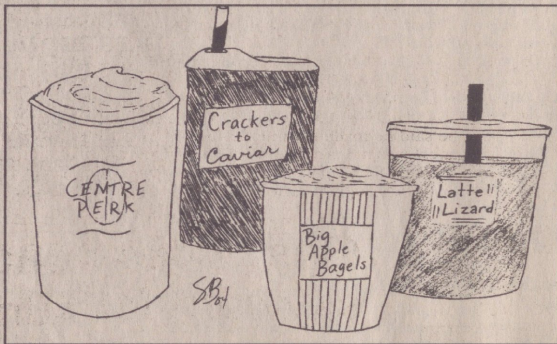
During the blistering days of summer the last thing on almost

anyone's mind is a hot latte. But when you get a craving for coffee, head for a cappuccino smoothie from Crackers to Caviar. Not far behind in second place is Latte Lizard with their version of a cappuccino smoothie, which they call a Lizard Frappé. Both are a bit pricier than a

regular latte, each costing \$2.50.

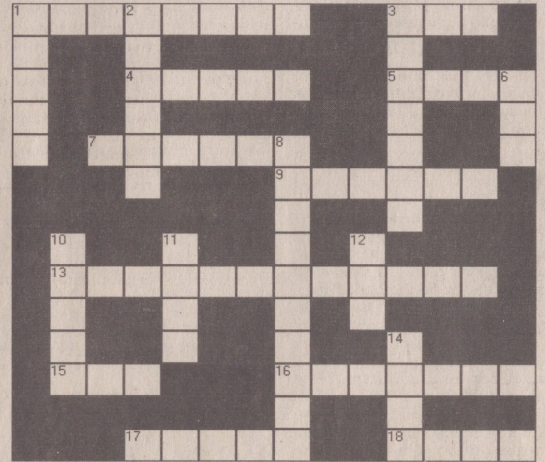
Not into the whole "coffee thing?" Don't worry; there's something for you too. All four places offer some sort of fruit smoothie. The one that stood out the most for me was from Latte Lizard. It will cost you \$2.50 for one of their small, deliciously blended fruit smoothies.

So now that we have taken a further look into the world of specialty coffee shops and what those in town have to offer, it all comes down to what you prefer. Try something different. It's a new way to get that caffeine in your system.



SCOTUS WORD

BY TYLER MICEK AND JOEY BEAUVIAS



Springing ahead

All the words in this month's crossword deal with the spring season, and most are referenced in this issue of the *Rock Bottom*.

Across

- Drama organization
- You give people baskets on _____ day
- The grey and brown of winter is replaced with spring
- In the air during spring, and celebrated in February.
- Girls spring sport
- Christian holiday in spring
- Cancer fund raising event
- _____ life starts in spring
- Some groups are having these

- End of school brings semester _____

Down

- _____ and Field
- Girls and guys spring sport
- '70s hairstyle that is making a comeback
- What you hunt for in Easter
- Seniors becoming lazy
- Scotus school color
- Biggest school fundraiser
- FBLA event
- Sport that uses clubs

Directionally Challenged by Sadie Bolte



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Kyle's
Korner

Kyle Clarey

Madness spreads into April, again

There were twelve seeds knocking out fives. One seeds were going down like flies. Nevada looked like a perennial powerhouse. And Alabama Birmingham didn't look like it could be stopped. The Crimson Tide were on a roll, and Xavier just flat out knew how to win games. By this time people were probably looking at their brackets in mass confusion, cursing, and crumbling them up for the garbage can.

Yet another exciting NCAA Tournament is in the books. And this one did not disappoint. There were upsets as usual, breakout players, and teams that got hot. The Final Four featured some "instant classics," as usual. Even with Emeka Okafor on the bench for a whole half Connecticut still somehow prevailed over Duke and went on to win a national championship. Oklahoma State had one heck of a run under Eddie Sutton. But thanks to Georgia Tech's Will Bynum, that ended short of the national championship. Georgia Tech had to be somewhat of the Cinderella story in the whole tournament. Not much was said about them prior to the beginning of the tourney. Jarrett Jack and Luke Schensher changed that completely. John Lucas was the go-to guy in clutch situations for the Cowboys. It would have been nice to see Oklahoma State in the national championship representing the Big 12. But they had a great season going 31-4, and making it

Maybe someone will pick up Jammal Lord as a fourth or fifth string.

to the Final Four is no slack. (How exactly did Nebraska take these guys into overtime in Stillwater?) Not only that, but the Pokes won the Big 12 regular and tournament championships. The 2004 NCAA Tournament was one to be remembered for ages.

Wait a second, the Miami Heat and the New York Knicks are in the playoffs. That hasn't happened in a long time. This year's surprise is the Memphis Grizzlies. Coach Hubie Brown has the team winning and taking "high percentage shots." He led them to their first playoff appearance ever.

Why in the world did baseball have "opening day" halfway across the world almost a week before any other teams play? It's fine that the MLB wants to market itself in Japan, but not for a regular season. Make that a pre-season game. I'm sure only the die-hards were up at 4 a.m. watching the game on ESPN 2.

It's time for the NFL draft again. This year's receiving class should be fairly strong with Roy Williams and Larry Fitzgerald. The Chargers have the first pick, but sources say that they will either draft Eli Manning or trade the number one pick to another team.

With the first selection in the 2004 NFL draft the San Diego Chargers select Jammal Lord. Hey maybe someone will pick up him as a fourth or fifth string.

The Nebraska baseball team is out to a decent start. Pitchers Phil Shirek and Zach Kroenke are having nice seasons so far. Let's hope the Huskers can stay in the top half in the Big 12 race.

The Husker football team has been hard at work trying to learn the new West Coast offense. It showed at the Red-White game. Joe Dailey looked like the right man to run the offense. Let's hope the red zone woes get fixed. Last year the Huskers were miserable in the red zone. Cory Ross should have a breakout season under the new system. He's quick, strong, and versatile.

The toughest games next season for Nebraska will be at Kansas State and at Oklahoma. It will be very interesting to see how the Husker offense produces against Bo Pelini's attacking style defense.

Petersen dominates tourney field

By Kyle Clarey
Editor

There are 65 teams, but only one winner. The goal of the 69 people who entered the challenge this year was to try and find out who that winner was going to be. But only one person throughout Scotus was the smartest basketball selector this year.

Of the numerous people who entered the *Rock Bottom* basketball tournament challenge not one person picked all Final Four teams correctly. Some people had Connecticut, Oklahoma State, and Duke. But no one was able to get Georgia Tech in the Final Four. There were plenty of Gonzaga, Kentucky, and Stanford picks in the Final Four however.

For the first time in the history of the challenge, a teacher was first in the final results. Math teacher John Petersen took home the championship in 2004. Petersen had the highest total in the history of the challenge getting 84 points. Last year he finished in 22nd place with 64 points. He had three of the four Final Four teams correct this year including Connecticut, Oklahoma State, and Duke.

"I'm just surprised I missed any games," Petersen said, laughing.

Petersen's championship did not come without hard work however.

"I watched games all year long and looked at scores," Petersen said. "Some of my success was due to luck, but some was just know-

ing who is good."

Petersen, whose favorite college basketball team is the Iowa Hawkeyes, tried to get some help making the picks.

"I was going to ask my wife," Petersen said, "but she didn't seem too interested in the whole idea."

Petersen said he tried to watch and root for as many of the teams as he picked whenever he had free time.

"I am going to brag to my students," Petersen said, "especially to Clint Torczon."

Torczon, a sophomore geometry student in one of Petersen's classes, told Petersen that he would not win the tournament challenge.

Petersen does look to help the less intelligent basketball junkies out there.

"If anyone needs some help next year," Petersen said, "I'd be more than willing to sell my services."

Sophomore Michael Gokie finished well behind Petersen, in fact, he was second to last in the challenge this year. Last year Gokie finished in ninth place. His championship pick of Gonzaga was one of the many picks that came back to haunt him.

"I thought they were pretty good going into the tournament," Gokie said. "Usually they are underrated, and they had good post players."

Gokie said he was even more confident when *Sports Illustrated* picked Gonzaga to win the national

championship. That all ended when the tenth seeded Nevada Wolfpack knocked out Gonzaga in the second round of the tournament.

Theology teacher Cheryl Rambour finished third in the challenge. She led the challenge heading into the last weeked, but she did not have either Connecticut or Georgia Tech in the national championship. There was some luck involved however.

"I've never have watched a full basketball game in my life," Rambour said.

Rambour said she had a little assistance from seventh grader Jay Klimes.

"I sat in my room one morning and picked the team with the better name," Rambour said. "It was all a complete guess."

Rambour said she didn't really have a favorite team, but she likes Duke because that is who her daughter likes. She also said she was mad because one of her favorite shows *Oprah* was not on because of the basketball coverage on CBS.

Another competitive and exciting NCAA Tournament is over. There were weeks of action and upsets. Will anyone be able to dethrone the volleyball and basketball junkie named John Petersen next year? With some study and a little luck, maybe, just maybe.

Rock Bottom Tournament Challenge

Overall top ten:	Points
1. Mr. Petersen	84
2. Tony Duren	76
3. Mrs. Rambour	75
4. Craig Pekarek	74
5. Michael Novicki	73
6. Michael Zoucha	73
7. Nick Zarek	71
8. Ben Broxterman	70
9. Eric Grubaugh	69
10. Leslie Douglas	68
Top Faculty:	
1. Mr. Petersen	84
3. Mrs. Rambour	75
12. Mr. Arneal	67
23. Mr. Brockhaus	62
29. Mrs. C. Johnson	59
Bottom of the pack:	
67. Stacy Held	43
68. Michael Gokie	42
69. Billy Merrill	30
Top junior high:	
2. Tony Duren	76
4. Craig Pekarek	74
5. Michael Novicki	73
6. Michael Zoucha	73
7. Nick Zarek	71

Underclassmen step up to fill varsity roles

By Joey Beauvais
Staff Reporter



T. J. WRIGLEY/ROCK BOTTOM

Sophomore Eric Puckett looks to make a pass in the annual Soap Scrimmage. Puckett was one of the underclassmen who had to step up and play varsity last season.

Varsity sports are a big deal. When the word varsity is said, the first thing that comes to mind are juniors and seniors. But there are more than just juniors and seniors playing the game. In fact, underclassmen can be some of the most important members of the team.

An example of one such underclassman is freshman Jacob Starosik, a member of the soccer team. Starosik believes there is a reason why he plays varsity as a freshman.

"There are only four seniors," Starosik said, "so younger classmen have to fill in the empty spots."

Starosik spends a lot of time on field during the soccer games. "I usually spend about half a game playing," Starosik said, "and I enjoy it a lot."

It's a bit more common for sophomores to have to play varsity sports. Sophomore Jamie Tooley started for Scotus volleyball and basketball when one of the older athletes was injured.

"I was really nervous," Tooley said, "but everyone got together and talked about how we all had to step it up, so it took pressure off of me."

Starosik said that he thinks the soccer team isn't like a bunch of individuals doing things on their own. They are all mixed together and that's what makes them a team.

It's not easy being an underclassman playing varsity.

Starosik sometimes wishes he had a little more experience on the field.

"I'd feel a bit easier," he said, "and I wouldn't feel like I'm doing new stuff with older kids."

Tooley has faith in younger athletes that could end up being in her same situation in the future.

"I just hope the underclassmen can continue our success in athletics," Tooley said.

Hopefully Starosik, Tooley, and other underclassmen benefit from the experience they get. Today's freshmen and sophomores are tomorrow's upperclassmen, and that means a bright future for those sports.



DANIELLE BERT/ROCK BOTTOM

Smash!

Junior Katie Connolly delivers a forehand in a recent tennis match. Connolly is one of the four Scotus girls that are part of the Columbus High tennis team.

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Local teen well on his way to beoming principal of world

By Riley Coyote
Maxim Man

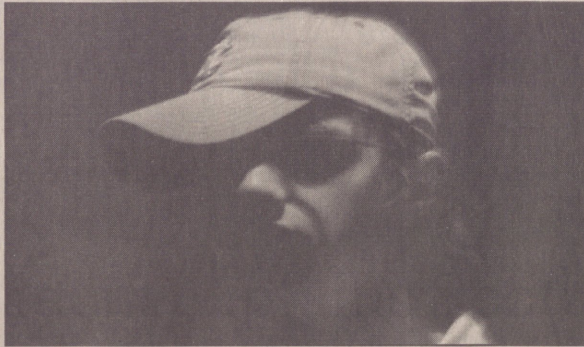
Victory is upon us. The feeling of greatness is upon me. People around the world rejoice. Scotus Central Catholic is under new management. Whoever else that feels like they are in charge are gone. A select few of students are in control, but mostly Zac rules.

The new management is a good thing because Zac knows best. Many celebrities are happy about the jolly event. Comedy Central now employs two familiar voices from Scotus Central Catholic. They see this new change to bring great possibilities.

"I can't believe it, but my awesome powers, that are better than Kyle's, foretold me it would happen," Eric Cartman said.

Although Cartman would not enlighten about what else he saw for the future, great comedian Dave Chappelle had a few things to say about this latest development.

"Hot dang," Chappelle said. "But I can believe it because I know there is a God



Zac, your new master, will now be making all the decisions for school, starting with that silly look on your face. Wipe it off!

because he has blessed me with the great joy of Oprah havin' my baby and I'M RICK JAMES!"

With Zac in charge their have already been changes in the school. For instance, dress code is done away with; in fact

clothes are illegal in school. Birthday suits are the only appropriate type of dress. It's going to be a cold winter. Brrrr! Zac would not comment for the fact everyone is trying to shake his hand, so he keeps his left

hand in a white glove with Vaseline in it to help his hand stay silky smooth. He also doesn't shake hands because he is a very big germ freak. In fact no one has seen him since the age of 7 without his protective bubble.

The alumni around the world can hear about the change in power of Scotus Central Catholic everywhere. Sloungn Wang had to say something about Scotus Central Catholic.

"典," Wang said.

Wang put it best to the authority of the old school Scotus Central Catholic. The new school is now called School Next to Big Church.

Scotus mascot to get desperately needed face lift

By Blaze
Staff Reporter

For years it has been a debatable topic about Scotus' school mascot. While most high schools choose an animal of some type of person (i.e., Discoverers, Vikings) Scotus has opted for a plant instead. The green symbol of Ireland has been a part of Scotus for many years, but a unanimous decision by the junior high student council decided it was time for

a change.

Members of the Scotus community are excited to see what the council will come up with to replace the long standing tradition of the Shamrock. Junior high StuCo was given the OK to change the school mascot about three months ago by the school board and the superintendent. Both parties felt that the junior high group was capable of handling a major decision that dealt with Scotus,

and both parties are confident that the council will do a great job.

Junior high student council members said they have not decided on a definite mascot yet, and they would like to hold their ideas secret until a mascot is finally decided upon. Whatever junior high student council does decide, rest assured that the long standing tradition of the shamrock at Scotus is going to get a face lift.

Freaky incident explains Scotus ghost; microwave popcorn, however, still a mystery to many

By Mennen
Aftershave for men

Help! Help! This is what a student might here coming from the first floor. The student runs to escape from what he thinks is the Scotus ghost. In reality, however, the noise is a student pounding on the courtyard doors.

This is a familiar sound when the courtyard doors lock behind many of the Scotus students in the courtyard. This experience has happened to two people of the Scotus Creative Writing class. The members of the newspaper class come to school on the weekend before the paper comes out the next week. When students go into the courtyard to get

some fresh air, slam! The courtyard door slams shut leaving the innocent student to face the real Scotus ghost. The ghost has caused the doors to lock, and many of the Scotus students have wasted away in this prison.

The courtyard ghost has been known to be helpful in some instances. Ed Goerlinger had important information has how the ghost has helped some of the Scotus faculty.

"When I come to cut the grass in the courtyard," Goerlinger said, "I find the grass has been recently cut!"

He said he finds this a helpful to his own job, and he welcomes the ghost into the courtyard. Scotus algebra teacher

Merlin Lahm, had a different experience than Goerlinger.

"I was in the courtyard doing my daily allowance of algebra," Lahm said, "and all of a sudden the courtyard doors locked, and I was trapped inside the courtyard."

Lahm said he pounded on the doors, but Goerlinger never came. Luckily Lahm had his mountain climbing gear with him and was able to scale the walls. He said Goerlinger explained to him the story of the courtyard ghost, and this helped him to understand what had happened to him. Sophomore Joey Beauvais had his own experience while working on the newspaper on a Saturday afternoon.

News Briefs

Columbus covered by 16 foot glacier; Scotus still has school

In what scientist are calling a freak climactic event, a new Ice Age has moved upon the Northern Hemisphere. All of Nebraska is covered by a 16-foot-thick sheet of glacier ice. All schools on the North American continent have called off school, except for Scotus High School of Columbus, Nebraska.

On a related note, Lakeview and Twin River have already called off school for January 23, 2006, because *Poor Richard's Almanac* says there is a "somewhat decent chance" of a dusting of snow.

Backpack-related deaths on the rise among junior high students

The number of crippling backpack related accidents has seen a dramatic rise over the past several years. In one case, a seventh grader simply snapped in half trying to make it up the steps to the third floor stairs. This occurred while he was attempting to carry twice his body weight in his backpack.

"These accidents are tragic occurrence," said Hank Panky, "but honestly, do they have to carry their entire lockers with them wherever they go?"

Stench emitted from bathroom found toxic; bad aim blamed

According to a Health Department directive, anyone passing within ten yards of the boys locker room shall be required to wear a gas mask.

"The level of toxins in that area is just off the map," spokesman Yuri Teltoft said. "We found one locker with a shirt in it that hadn't been washed since football two-a-days."

Donations to help the numerous victims of fainting can be sent to the local Red Cross chapter.

Supreme Court cuts Pledge of Allegiance down to six words

Citing offensive language throughout the traditional Pledge of Allegiance, the Supreme Court has trimmed the Pledge of all its political incorrectness. Students around the country will have to learn the following verse:

"I. Flag. Of which it stands."

Perfect attendance for seven straight years achieved by student

Scotus student Willy Smithers became the first student to attend the school every day for seven straight years.

"This has been a goal of mine for a long time," Smithers said. "Luckily, they only counted the days I was physically there because if they counted days I was mentally present, it would be more like 35%."

Although eligible for an eighth year at Scotus, Smithers declined, saying he would take his certificate of attendance and find gainful unemployment somewhere.

Tour of Butler County to replace Europe trip due to security concerns

Due to concerns for the safety of Scotus students traveling abroad, the school board has decided to replace the annual tour of Europe taken by many students with a tour of Butler County.

"We believe this will be a great cultural experience and a chance for our students to learn more about our neighbors to the south," school board member Jan Icicle said.

"We were also able to do it for the same cost as the Europe trips," she added with a wink, "so those who have already paid, shouldn't have to worry about refunds or anything."

She also added that for an additional fee, students could go on an optional excursion into eastern Polk County.

"I went outside to get some fresh air," Beauvais said, "and the doors slammed behind me. I pounded on the door, but I knew nobody would hear me since Mr. Arneal had the radio turned up to maximum volume. I climbed up on one of the window ledges to the roof above the concessional, jumped onto one of the busses, and then jumped down to the ground. Except for a torn ACL, I escaped with only a few cuts and scrapes."

Beauvais said that this is one experience that he will not forget. Sophomore Matthew Raimondo went looking for Beauvais, and the ghost also locked him in the courtyard where he would also await certain doom. He, however, used

his cell phone to call somebody, and he escaped without the hardship Beauvais went through.

Many Scotus students in the past have not been so lucky, however. There have been reports of students being trapped of the Easter break in the courtyard. When the next Tuesday came around, there was hardly anything left of them.

The courtyard ghost has seemed to help the faculty more than the students. So, who is the Scotus ghost? No one seems to be certain, but the Scotus students should beware and watch their backs the next time they walk into the courtyard. The real Scotus ghost will be waiting there.

Long hair to be shunned by Scotus faculty

By Willy Wonka
Chocolate reporter

The number of boys with long hair seems to be dwindling down at Scotus.

School officials decided this was a hairy situation that we must take care of. So how exactly do they solve this problem?

Faculty members have been locking boys up until they cut their hair! This has all been taking place in the staircase that leads to "no-where" by the girls bathroom inside Memorial Hall.

Students that were called down to the office to cut their hair refused by their freedom of expression. The next day these students suddenly

vanished! When looking at the announcements they appear to be "ill."

A few days later they seem to reappear looking quite skinnier and with their hair buzzed. It was when we asked them about their appearance that they revealed the real truth.

Instead of being home "sick," the boys were really dragged up to the staircase that leads to "no-where" and locked in a room until they cut their hair. But they had to stay there for two days with only asbestos crumbs and water to eat, even if they broke down and let the administrators cut their hair right away. This was a punishment so they learned not to grow their hair

out any longer.

After this allegation, administrators have been holding late-night meetings to discuss this.

"We have nothing against longhair," one faculty member said. "This is a ridiculous rumor that must be stopped."

Another source contradicted this.

"I was one of those tortured this way," an anonymous source stated. "After getting our hair buzzed, we were forced to watch movies of guys with short hair getting all the girls and were 'cool.'"

So next time the announcements state boys are "ill," we'll all know where they really are. Being tortured!

Vacations lengthened: Support comes from the students

By RUAQT
CrAZy cAtLaDY

Tu Pac said it best...it was something about change, but we're not quite sure what it was. But I guess that's just the way it is, eh? And here at Scouts next year, change is all too familiar.

At a press conference on Tuesday, principal Wayde Morefield announced a few schedule changes for next year.

"Yeah, we're planning on getting her done with a few changes here and there and here, then maybe sometimes there," Morefield said.

One main point at the conference was that school would now start at 7:30 am and end somewhere around 2. This change will be taken into effect in hopes of after-school practices starting a whole lot earlier. When asked about fine arts, Morefield had this to say:

"Oh, yeah, them too."

Due to three full weeks of 3-a-days, school will now begin on August 32 and get out sometime in June, not quite sure when, it depends on how many snow days Scotus uses this year.

"We were contemplating how many snow-days we'll schedule for next year," Morefield said. "We weren't sure in June, we're thinking we'll wait until July to decide."

In conclusion; 1.) Scotus students give this schedule a big

thumbs up, 2.) no one really knows how to spell Skootus, and 3.) well...check out the calendar!

Jul. 29 First Day of Fall Practice
Aug. 1 First Contracted Day for Teachers (non-paid)
Aug. 21-22 Staff Sacrifice Meeting (RIF...or maybe its RIP)
Aug. 32 Long-Awaited Learning Begins!
Oct. 1 Mid-Quarter Exams
Oct. 24-Nov. 13 Halloween Break
Nov. 14 No School But We'll Still Have School
Dec. 1 3/4 Quarter Exams
Dec. 3 End of First Quarter...3/4 day
Dec. 14 P-T Cruiser Conferences, Classes Will Be Held At Lakeview
Jan. 13 State Swimming — No School
Jan. 25-31 Public Schools Week—No School
Feb. 1-2 State Bowling — No School
Feb. 25 Ash..ley Wednesday
March 2-14 Spring Break
Mar. 18-21 State Speech—No School
Apr. 16 District Music — No School
Apr. 24 Prom held in School Cafeteria
May 1 Seniors last day
May 18 Graduation
June 1 Teachers Last Day
June 2-6 Teacher's Work Week (non-paid)

Smart-alec dissatisfied

By T. House
Mock Bottom

Pay attention here so that I can massively confuse you. Try not to get your panties in a bundle.

I was driving around one Saturday night and suddenly I was hungry enough to eat a bucket of fries. I felt like death on a cracker really. "Oh my (gosh)!" I first thought of going to Runza but no dice, it was closed. I didn't care one iota where I ate. Plus, gas was only fifty cents a gallon so I needed to drive around to make up for the mileage. All I knew was that I was going to

gorge myself. I decided to run to Burger King and visit the Burger King Boys. (Jake Euteneuer and Tony Korth) I wanted some mozzarella sticks; four for a buck. When I asked if they were still on the menu, my server spun his head and said, "NO!" At this point I was torqued off. I said, "It's your job," but they didn't give a Hoover. This was a rip off and a half. I got a soda that was larger than life...big time, big time. So I was happy, sorta kinda. Later that night I had some crack-brownies to satisfy my hankering, even though I wish I could have had a bucket of beef stew and a bucket of biscuits.

Garage Sale

123 Fake ST.

Somewhat stained toilet, non-washed baby diapers, vintage Halloween costumes, broken toys (several small pieces (great for small children)), past issues of Rock Bottom, entire series of Scotus Central Catholic High School Yearbooks, one 4 year old boy (great smile), misc. junk fun for all ages.

3am-4am,
5:47am-5:48am
No Solicitors

White trash not admitted!!!

Headline takes up more space than story

Affleck, Ben, sees life devoid of substance without a Jennifer, moves on, sort of

By Big Bottom Reporter
Entertaining Editor

Bennifer sounded so good that Ben Affleck could not lose the nickname. Almost four months after his break-up with hip-hopster Jennifer Lopez, Affleck is hooking-up with

Jennifer Love Hewitt.

"I am not a fan of change," Affleck said. "The nickname was a special part of me."

So will J.Love be getting that pretty pink diamond of J.Lo's? Sources say the couple is getting quite serious.

"I am definitely ready to settle

down," Affleck said.

J.Lo's perspective on this event is sour. She exclaimed that Affleck's relationship with J.Love is one of the reasons the two split up. It is a regular old soap opera. J.Lo has been managing her feelings well though. She has been seen with pop-singer Clay Aikens.

She feels that Aiken is filling her 'appetite for love'.

Affleck and J.Lo encountered each other at a club in Miami last week, and they had a controversy between them.

"They were in each other's faces, but they handled the situation like adults," reporter Gary

Leeber said.

So now that Bennifer II is on and Bennifer I is in the past, the fan numbers have dropped. Affleck will be appearing in yet another movie next month. Have no fear. This one does not include Jennifer II. She is hard at work preparing for her next single titled, "Seconds."



Unloco band members out number crowd at recent concert

Some parents realize coaches out to get their kid

By Stewart Skutt
Sports-know-it-all

Local coffee shops and cafes have been filled with the rumblings of unhappy parents recently as they struggle to understand why their children are not getting the star treatment they deserve.

"I don't get it," said one unhappy mother. "Little Johnny has always been on the all-star and select teams ever since we started him in the leagues two days after his birth. I know this for a fact, because my husband was the coach and was the one selecting the teams."

The mother went on to point out that not just anyone can play for these teams. They have to be able to afford the \$400 dollar fee. So you can see just how prestigious these teams were, she said.

One father had several statistics to prove how his kid was getting the shaft.

"My boy was five-foot-ten in the fifth grade and won every race at recess," he calmly pointed out. "Now he's not good enough to play varsity? I mean he used to dominate kids his age."

His boy is now five-foot-eleven and sitting the bench in several sports. This disgruntled father said the reason his kid is not playing is obvious, and that lack of talent has nothing to do with it.

"I know this coach would rather lose games that play my son, the best player on the team," he said. "Even though the coach has never

really met me and doesn't know anything about me, I know he is out to get my kid."

Lack of intelligence by the coach was also a common factor in cheating parents out of the chance to live through their kids' glory.

"I watch this sport on TV all the time," another parent said, "plus I coached my team of third graders to a championship, and let me tell you, we practice every week! So my qualifications should be obvious. We even won a tournament in

Des Moines, which due to the fact that it is in another state, makes us national champions! In fact, last summer, we won three national championships!"

Several of the parents also wanted to point out that they are not only top notch coaches, but that also know everything about officiating, too, and even thought they have never actually refereed a game, they would be happy to shout out suggestions from their spot in the stands.

NSAA adapts new volleyball rules

By Stuetta Skutt
Sports-know-it-most

The Nebraska School Activities Association has announced several new rule changes for the upcoming volleyball season.

From now on any schools that have any combination of the words "rock" or even "sham" as part of their team nicknames must serve

underhanded for all matches. Also, so-called "spiking" will be illegal for these teams as well. If they can't hit the ball nicely over the net, then they shouldn't hit it at all.

The NSAA director said that the new rules were not targeted at any one team, but he said it was done in the best interest of the game, particularly the game as it is played in Class C1.

Mock Bottom

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The Mock Bottom accepts letters to the editor, but will not read them or publish them

Letters should be 250 words or less in length and must be signed in blood. All letters are subject to editing just in case we don't like what you have to say.

Send to Scotus care of the Mock Bottom.

Lawn Ornament Repair and Maintenance

Features bird dung remover as well as a deluxe detail brush for all those hard to reach places. Comes complete with an anti-teen heat seeking missile launcher and over exaggerated gnome degreaser. Mention this ad to receive a complimentary Unloco compact disk.

As seen on As Seen on TV



SCOTUS CENTRAL Rock Bottom

Scotus Central Catholic

Columbus, Nebraska 68601

Volume 6 • Issue 9 • May 14, 2004

Loseke named campus minister

By T.J. Wrigley
Staff Reporter

Teachers instructing new classes and a new scheduling system were only the tip of the iceberg regarding the changes that Scotus will face next year. Scotus students will be receiving the guidance and instruction of Father Jeff Loseke next year which tops of the seemingly endless changes that will happen next year.

Father Loseke will be replacing the current resident priest, Father Bill Bond, as the new school theological counselor and adviser of Scotus Campus Ministry. Loseke said he also might be teaching some of the theology classes next year. He graduated from Scotus in 1992 and is looking forward to coming back.

"It will be kind of strange because some of these teachers taught me," Loseke said, "but it will also be exciting."

Loseke said he has gained ex-

perience in teaching by his classroom visits and lectures at St. Margaret Mary's High School in Omaha. He has worked with both the junior and senior high ministry programs. He is happy, however, with the fact that he is returning to Scotus.

"Scotus is a good school with a good program," Loseke said, "and I would like to be a part of that."

While at Scotus, Loseke participated in various school activities. He was on speech team, Mock Trial, National Honor Society, Thespians, One-Act Play Productions, EME, and Campus Ministry.

Loseke said he has started thinking about new ideas for next year's Campus Ministry organization and will be spending the summer thinking about new ideas for the program.

There will be many changes happening to Scotus next year. Father Loseke is one of the numerous changes occurring next year. He is overjoyed to be coming back to Scotus next year. The 2004-2005 school year looks to be a year of transitions and surprises.

Camping for a cure



Seniors Laura Dolezal and Mandi Schumacher along with Tony Michaelsen put candles in memorial luminaries for the Relay for Life. Over 1,000 people participated in this year's Relay for Life.

Teachers still work in summer

By Matt Raimondo
Staff Reporter

Do teachers have lives outside of the classroom? They spend most of the year teaching classes and being around students, and then the summer hits. They are not seen again until the next year's classes start. Teachers are around, even though they are not teaching.

During the summer some of Scotus's teachers take on jobs that do not directly relate to teaching. Teacher Pat Brockhaus is one of the three teachers who paint houses during the summer, along with math teacher John Petersen and science teacher Vern Younger. Brockhaus said he paints houses in the summer so that he can have money to do more recreational activities.

Spanish teacher Mary Hruska said that she has not had time to have a job during the summer because she has always had other things going on. Ever since she started working at Scotus she has had different weddings to attend and a pregnancy to deal with.

Computer teacher Bonnie Kreikemeier is trying to start a graphic design business during the summer. She already does brochures and other graphic designs for various people, and she plans to make a business out of her hobby. The business will be run by herself, mainly, and with the help of her husband.

"The main reason I'm starting

this business," Kreikemeier said, "is because it is hard to teach when I live so far away, and maybe someday it will turn into a good business and can be a full-time job."

History teacher Sean Wickham umpires American Legion baseball during the summer, averaging about two to three games a week. Occasionally he will umpire a game for the little leagues. Wickham said that he has always been a baseball fan.

"I played Legion ball all throughout high school, and I coached Little League during college," Wickham said. "Umpiring allows me to still be around the game."

Other than having a part time job, some teachers actually taken classes during the summer. Kreikemeier said that she hopes to take different classes to help her with her business and with the advertising for it. These classes would also help with her desktop publishing classes. Wickham had to take an open book test over the rules in order to become a certified American Legion umpire.

Despite the work that teachers have to do, they still find time to sit back and relax.

"I spend most of my summer with my family going to midget football games coach-pitch games, and also playing with the varsity (basketball team) at open gym, Brockhaus said."

Although many students never see teachers during summer, they are out and about living their lives with jobs that reflect who they are.

Scotus students take part in Relay for Life

By Kelly Ingram
Staff Reporter

Many Scotus students gave back to their community on April 23 and 24 at the Pawnee Park track.

They were raising money and walking for the American Cancer Society at the annual Relay for Life. Volunteers set up camps with special teams and stay up all night walking around the track. They walk for people affected by cancer or because they themselves are cancer survivors.

"I think it's a great thing for our community to get together and remember the victims of cancer," senior Chelsie Thompson said.

Many students put their time and effort into this event.

"I have heard of it before," senior Laura Dolezal said, "but I never got involved, and I figured I would give up a Friday night for a good cause."

There were two teams formed by Scotus students.

Sophomore Joey Beauvais formed one team called "Mullet Mania," and senior Sarah Keiter

formed the other entitled "That 70's Tent."

"I think Sarah Keiter's team did a fantastic job," Jeff Gokie, organizer of the Relay for Life, said.

Keiter's team raised the most money out of all the schools, and will have their names appear on a plaque.

Some teams were put together to raise money for the American Cancer Society, which is the leading group to raise money for cancer, but other teams were formed to show support for loved ones with cancer.

"I have a few friends and family members with cancer," Thompson said. "I think it is time to show my support."

It can be also to honor the strength of survivors.

"My grandma had cancer a few years ago and my family was affected by that," Dolezal said. "She over came it, though. She is a survivor."

Others came together to remember those who have died from the disease.

"My grandma died of cancer in February," senior Mandi

Schumacher said. "There were lots of luminaries with her name on it so I decided to help out. We're raising money to make a difference in someone's life, and I feel better to help since I know how the families of victims feel."

Anyone may also buy luminaries, which are white paper bags with a person's name who has cancer, died of cancer, or survived the disease on the outside, and a candle in the inside.

This year they sold 4,750 luminaries, up from the 4,000 sold last year.

Scotus was praised for the student support in lighting the luminaries.

Barber Surgeons was also at the Relay for Life cutting the hair of women who had at least 10 inches to spare to give to Locks of Love, which makes wigs for people going through chemotherapy. This year they cut 24 women's hair, which was up from last year's 11 women.

This year 130 cancer survivors walked the track, which was the most ever.

"Over 1,000 people came and

See *Relay*, page 5

When babies don't wait for school to end

Long-term substitutes cover new mothers' classrooms

Schaad, Cox babies doing well

By Danielle Bernt
Editor-in-Chief

When having a baby while being a teacher in a small school might make one an overnight-celebrity, or something of the sort. But what about those people who step into those absent teacher's roles? As most know, both Mrs. Cox and Mrs. Shaad have been on pregnancy leave. But who are these new faces brightening our day?

Carla Luebbe is the musical substitute stepping in for Cox. Every morning Mrs. Luebbe travels from Fullerton to direct both the junior and senior high bands, as well as directing at the three grade schools. Taking over these different groups may seem task enough, but Luebbe also had to prepare the senior high band for district music.

"I had never been to districts as a director," Luebbe said. "That whole deal was overwhelming for me because I'm so much of a perfectionist."

Although Luebbe was a bit

nervous about districts, she went on to lead the band to a number two, or "excellent" rating.

Luebbe learned of the job in the early fall, when Cox called her in search of a musical substitute. Although this was Luebbe's first long term substituting job in Columbus, it is not her first. Luebbe has also stepped in for teachers on maternity leave in Genoa and Central City in both band and vocal music.

Luebbe has had no problem getting along with the band students.

"We are so lucky to get a band substitute who can actually direct," senior Barb Levos said. "I don't know what we would have done if she hadn't taken the job."

When asked what were the first thoughts when asked to direct, Luebbe said she had a few concerns.

"I didn't know anybody," Luebbe said, "and I wasn't sure. I didn't feel like I was qualified. I didn't want to let the level of the band down because Mrs. Cox has done such a great job."

Luebbe came from a musical family, her sister being Mrs. Amy Kranz, a former vocal director at Scotus.



Luebbe is finishing out the year for Mrs. Cox

She began performing in band in the fifth grade. Since then, she has learned to play the clarinet, piano, mallet instruments, and the trumpet. Luebbe earned her Elementary Special Education teaching degree at Dana College in Blair, Nebraska. Throughout college she played in the band and accompanied soloists. On the side she also played for weddings and funerals.

Luebbe is not the only lady stepping up to step in for a pregnant teacher. Marilyn Gangel is substituting for English teacher Kelly Shaad. She is a familiar face for not only Columbus substituting but

See *Subs*, page 5

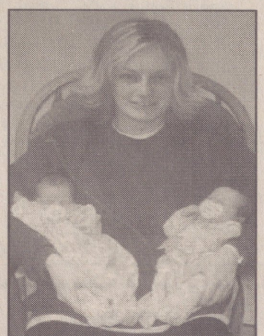
By Sadie Bolte
Editor

Their bellies leading them, they attempt to ascent the stairs and continue on to their classroom.

Two teachers from Scotus Central Catholic recently were put to the ultimate challenge of being pregnant during the majority of the school year. The past few months have been very hectic for band director Kristen Cox and English teacher Kelly Schaad as they prepared for their absence from school and made room for yet another addition to their ever-growing families.

The news came as a joyful shock to both mothers-to-be. This is not their first, however. Cox's two children are nine-year-old Vanessa and seven-year-old Lucas, and Schaad has two boys, Drew, five, and Cody, three.

When Cox heard that she was going to have another child, she said she was overjoyed and very excited.



COURTESY PHOTO

Mrs. Shaad takes break to pose for a picture with her newborn twins. Carly and Emily Shaad were born on April 28th.

"It's almost like starting over," Cox said.

She also said that she felt in the minority by waiting to see the baby's sex until the baby was born

See *Babies*, page 5

Opinion

Bitterness for the ages

BITTERNESS

Chad Trofholz

The end of the school year is upon us and we are all falling into patterns of laziness and sloppiness. My mind is rotting and I'm falling back into my bitterness trends. I've always been an advocate of bitterness. I think it is necessary to be bitter once in a while. Believe it or not, there are many elements nowadays that create bitterness inside

me.

The first and foremost way to create bitterness is whiners. One could argue that I've been whining this entire year. Well, excuse me, but this is just plain blasphemy. There is a fine line between being bitter and whining. Take these examples:

- 1) The people in my Chorus class have been especially negative with an upcoming show. I'm forced to stomach dull and ordinary remarks such as, "I hate this class," or "Chorus sucks." On the other side of the coin, a wise-cracker who is quick with the quips might come up with a wittier commentary. "Chorus? More like Borus."
- 2) A whiner might be heard to mutter, "Gosh it is cold out here," or

something to that whiny effect. Now, bitterness takes a more clever

approach. I on the other hand might use the quip, "I'm freezing my ice cubes off out here." 3) Another example coming from your standard man might go, "Good Charlotte is the worst band ever." Not being a standard man I could not settle for this response. A superstar like myself would respond, "Good Charlotte? More like Bad Charlotte." Then passersby might counter, "OOH! You didn't!"

Another little ditty that gets on my nerves quickly is that sort of

Internet lingo of the lazy people that uses symbols such as PLZ, L8ER, or IOULUVN. Is it really essential that we shorten our words so that they include numbers? I have a bit of lingo of you. PLZ stop. U stink. L8ER G8ER. That is just classical mirth making.

How about the times when the student asks if he/she can use the facility. Of course it is the teacher's witty retort to say, "I don't know. Can you." Now unless you want me to show you, how about just letting me do my business without getting the third-degree?

My bitterness extends beyond

school too and I am not done with my bitterness just yet. Have you ever wondered how the *Family Circus* got to be? It is not even a funny comic, and therefore, it does not belong on my favorite page. It's like on Sundays when there is a full-page comic spread, and there it is. It's the *Family Circus* just waiting to disappoint.

Rest assured that I have a plethora of bitterness to spread. I just don't have the time of day to share it all. I enjoy it greatly when people share their bitterness. Let it be known that I'll have time to put up with all sorts of bitterness. Besides, I'm just going to be sitting here, rocking out to my Good Charlotte. Snootch 2-da nooch, LOL.

Believe it or not,
there are many
elements nowadays
that create bitterness
inside me.

Hot tips for cool summer

Just Press Pause

Danielle Bernt

School's out for summer! School's out forever!! School's been...okaayyy...I think I'll stop there. Perhaps the next few words of that song are a titch bit inappropriate for present day schools. Well, it's only a few more days until we all run hooraa-ing through the halls and throwing paper off of high winding staircases. Only a small amount of time until you can look to the right and see up-coming seniors with spanking paddles in hand. And a look to the left finds mothers with shotguns. Ah, who am I kidding that doesn't happen at Scouts...oops I mean Scotus. I guess it's always fun to pretend Scotus is like the school on *The Dazed and Confused*. I guess you

could say things have changed since that time period. A little good old-fashioned seniority is now known as hazing. And throwing paper out of high windows will only get you windows taped over with poster, supposedly to "keep the sun out." Maybe the only thing that hasn't changed is the mothers with shotguns. Oh school days...(sigh).

But before we all can start humming those Alice Cooper lyrics, we must take all seriousness to prepare for this summer season span filled with splashes and sunburns.

First and foremost, I think we'd all agree that we could spare ourselves several pounds before we flub into those cute patootie swimsuits. In this case I recommend getting on a diet, but not just any diet...the Atkins diet. With the Atkins diet there is only one rule...there are NO RULES...mowahahaha...uhh, just kidding. The only rule is no carbs. So throw out that after school snack of an apple and go on and head out to Burger King. Order up a double Whopper, holding the

bun, of course. But go ahead and add some mayo and cheese. Because after all, you're deserve it after all that weight your losing because you aren't eating carbs. Now, you may have a few clogged arteries and high cholesterol, but hey, at least you'll be looking slimmer than Whitney Houston at the

A little good old-fashioned seniority is now known as hazing.

Grammys.

The next step to this pre-summer preparation fo' so' is skin to...ne. In my vast experience of tanning, I recommend not tanning before summer. In catching summer rays it's extremely crucial to be the pastiest shade of white possible. And hey when you show up to prom looking as pale as Winona Rider in *Beetlejuice*, just tell people you have a rash that would spread like the Bandwagon Cubs Fan Syndrome in the 2003 World Series playoffs, if you did go into a tanning

bed. This way they'll leave you alone. Maintaining this state for the last few weeks of school will ensure your body to absorb every UV ray possible.

After this is complete, it's important to realize the best time of the day to tan. Well, most experts say it's 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. I would suggest going out at 9 a.m. and staying out until about 5 p.m. just to make sure you don't miss the "prime" tanning hours. And don't forget those Ray-Bans for that super-sexy raccoon look.

Well, now that we've skimmed off those extra pounds and toasted ourselves to that lovely shade of Tomato Red, it is time to rip apart our minds and take a look at physiological aspect of pre-summer preparation.

First we'll take a glance at the frontal lobelish area of the brain. This is the part that makes people go CRAZY! For some, this part is over dominate. But don't worry, there is a job for these people. They write for a section in the SCC Handbook called "Petty Rules." Now, you're probably wondering what

this has to do with summer. Well, the goal is to trick this part of the brain into going into crazy hyper mode. This can be achieved by coming home every day after school and doing nothing but sitting in a dark room listening to songs like: "School's Out" by Alice Cooper; "Summer Girls" by LFO; and "Summer Time" by Will Smith and Jazzy Jeff. This way by the time "School's Out" you can take full advantage of the "Summer Time" by meeting "Summer Girls."

I have a few quick questions though. Who are these so called "summer girls?" Is this some sort of summer job for teachers? And where do these gals go in the winter?

Hmm. Well at any rate, our pre-summer preparation discussion is coming to a close. If you want to learn more on this topic, order my book, 1984 (Summer Styles), on the Names & Bobles website. It goes into detail about how sunlight directly affects Communism.

Well, as my final column, I will leave you with these words inspired by Chad...pootch to the dootch!

All you whiners are going to pay

you. Grow up! If you have a problem, why not deal with the problem instead of making more problems? And thank you for all the walking I have done just to go to the restroom because of your stupidity.

And once again I remind you that I know that I'm a hypocrite. I know I have my share of my whining, but I see a difference in the way I present them. I do not proclaim my problems to the whole world. If I feel the urge to whine, I try to tell someone who I know probably feels the same, perhaps one person in the class or one of my friends.

It seems to me that everyone has something to whine about. I know this because I know there are things even in my life I would want to be different. Whining, if you don't know, won't do anything about it. If you want something done then "Getter dun." Life is not fair, and there is no rule that says it has to be. Those people you see through your eyes who have it better probably themselves have something they don't like.

Although I know that not all whining is about something you don't have, it is sometimes about someone. Yet you hear someone

whining about something they don't like about a certain person, but as soon as this someone sees the person they don't say anything to them. Instead, the someone talks about them behind their back. Wow! That's impressive you can beat someone down with words... behind their back. This is as sad as someone coming back with a comeback five minutes later.

As I look around school and the even the United States and even my religion, I often run upon many questions that are almost impossible to answer. A few are these: students at Scotus want to rebel against the system because they are not happy about something. They do things to hurt the school and not make anything better, like the graffiti in the bathrooms. What does this do to solve any of problems you have with the school? If anything it only creates more grief for the students. It has no positive effect whatsoever. So whoever is responsible behind the destruction, I have three things to say to

you. Grow up! If you have a problem, why not deal with the problem instead of making more problems? And thank you for all the walking I have done just to go to the restroom because of your stupidity.

The United States, the land of the free, the land of equal opportunity, right? No. The U.S. has problems to be dealt with, too. One that bugs

me is with the Iraq war the talk about the draft. The draft is for men. What is so equal about that? Women through the history of the U.S. fight for equal rights as men, yet they are not drafted. Another aspect in the so called equality between men and women are the standards for them in the military. Women's standards for everything are lower than men. Great, if a man is shot and a woman has to carry him to safety, will she be able to do it?

Why can't the world see and start thinking that women and men are different. We all believe each individual is different. Why not the sexes too?

My point in these two things about school and U.S. is that there are many questions in life that there are really no exact answers and that there is nothing we can do about them. All you need to understand or accept that this is a fact of life; things are not fair or ever easy.

As my year ends today, I look back through my years. The years have not been bad, but I know it took me a long time to see that life is not fair or easy. When I finally figured this out, my life became better because I knew only I could make it better. So all you punks at Scotus have fun finishing your years at this school.

For the seniors, good luck!

It seems to me that everyone has something to whine about.

SCOTUS CENTRAL

Rock Bottom

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Send to Scotus care of the Rock Bottom.

Letter to the editor

Senior Class of 2004,

What happens when you put X number of students from all over Columbus into one class as 7th graders in 1998 at Scotus? As many new students come walking in the door, the administration gives a smile, as they prepare for the real chore. New faces, new lockers, new teachers, and classes, new friends, new uniforms, new rules, and hall passes. As soon as these students figure out which Puetz is which,

they're out of Junior High - and glad to make the switch!

Hello Senior High! they say, "Freshmen are we," fresh to be challenged, and compete endlessly.

As Sophomores they know they can handle the test, they're COOL, they can drive, they know everything - just ask!

As Juniors they're juggling their lives - GIVE 'EM A BREAK - if you please, homework, a job, their social life, ACT's?

THEY'RE SENIORS, THEY MADE IT! THEY'RE OUTTA HERE - HOME FREE, THEY'RE

POLISHED, THEY'RE READY - they say, "LET ME, BE ME!!!"

As 60 students leave these halls to be "all they can be," they'll always be part of the Scotus family. They've given us some of the best years of their lives - that is true, with memories for each of us - and for that, - we *Thank You*. Hats off to you today,

Sincerely,
Bonnie Eikmeier

P.S. Hope you'll stop and visit sometime - if I'm not at my desk, I'm probably "Out to Lunch."

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Class of 2004

In-Depth Summer Season Solves Senioritis

Former fall football follies fall short of fantastic for few

By Chad Trofholz
Editor

It's Friday night at a football game, the crowd is cheering one more time for me, and everything is going fine so far. But life is just ten yards away with a football play that goes on three.

Audio Karate's song "Senior Year" serves as a fitting reminder of all our great memories, most importantly the ones experienced on the FOOTBALL team. And how could I ever forget the season with the likes of Michael Mielak and Steak Euteneuer having footballs thrown at us? These fond memories are diminishing as football track fades into nonexistence. Our runs

for the roses are no more. Football was not all just fun and games though. After struggling in the bag drills and wearing a yellow jersey for hits, there were still more dreadful activities to avoid.

"S.C.E.D? What the...? Sled?!" senior and renowned football track stud Mike Mielak was heard to mutter.

The tough regime that also included badger kicks was sometimes spoiled as I was forced to watch my insubordinate teammates climb the monkey bars. All of our hard work paid off when it came to be game time. Tempers were flaring and Ryan Jareckie was kicking. Positioned on the 30-yard line, I

looked on in anticipation, always ready to perform the safety dance...or even a punt dance for that matter. Although my playing time was nearly the equivalent of Eric Crouch's professional career, I was still a strong supportive member.

When I hit varsity, my 5'9" 125 lb. frame was no longer an asset.

My stardom in football had become nonexistent once I hit varsity. My 5'9, 125 pound frame was no longer an asset to the game. As a starting lineman in 8th grade, our team competed to an undefeated season. Highlights of the year include Brian Malicky's last second touchdown

against Lakeview, Zach Riley's touchdown reception at CMS, and Chad Trofholz puking up beef stew at the stomping grounds.

Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond my control, I did not compete past my sophomore year. Was it that I was just too set in my ways to play for any coach other than Jim Puetz or the fact that I was still 5'9 125 pounds? "We ain't dead yet!" he used to tell us.

Well, Coach, I'm well into my senior year and these memories for me are nearly dead. In the meantime I will have to live out my glory in stands. That is, unless I walk into the ISU football program. The party is over. The party is over. My senior year is gone.

Senior Memories

Kyle's Torczon's excursions at State Basketball.

Senior Ski Trip: Large Marge vs. Chief

Hump Line/Sally's Dance Party.

Jeff Siegel's ability to drink a gallon of milk, followed very abruptly by puking cottage cheese.

Maria Prohoska's misrepresentation as Amberle Zurlein.

"WE GOT STH!"

Singing out Darts and Sobotka on the Senior Retreat.

Stephen Ames teaches the Senior Boys some humility.

Church sign and slivers in the eyes.

Wes Zach's speeding ticket for going 98 mph in a 55 zone.

Sawing down Dip sign in the middle of nowhere.

Hey Lange! Out of the Senior Row.

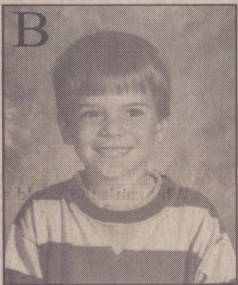
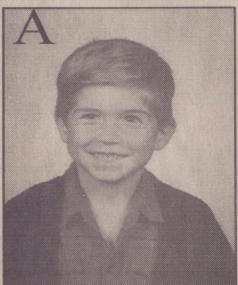
OUTLANDER!!! (on the CC team doesn't know how to wear his pants.)

Near death experiences on the way back from golf. (G-UNIT)

Who's That Kindergartener?

Can you guess who these seniors are?

- 1. Ryan Ames
- 2. Sally DeTurk
- 3. Dominic Heimann
- 4. Katie Ingram
- 5. Jon Scholz



ANSWERS: A-3, B-5, C-2, D-4, E-1

College freshman looks at year one without Scotus

By Craig Staroscik
Former Editor

Wow. It seems a lot longer than a year since I last sat down and wrote a column. At the same time, this first year in college has just flown by. I wonder if your year seems as short as mine does, or if you are too concerned about just getting out of there.

I already feel so disconnected from Scotus. I really enjoyed Scotus while I was there, and now I'm learning to love college. Now that I'm here, trying to type this out, I realize just how distanced I've become. I guess separation does that to you. I remember my class reading Mike Adelman's column last year and laughing about its absurdity. Now I know how Mike must have felt. It makes it that much clearer to me what you teachers have to go through every year.

Is there really any advice that I can give you seniors that you might actually use? You are such a diverse group of people that I'm not sure there is a catch-all for you. I will tell you what I've learned. First, you need to embrace change. Love it, because it will soon become the biggest part of your life. Be open to these new experiences, but make sure you know what your personality is before changing yourself. If you were perfect at Scotus, it will be much harder to be in college. If you were a slacker in high school, college will be different. Your teachers will not care if you do not try. It is actually your money, so make sure you use it to its fullest.

Secondly, let people help you. Utilize all the resources you can to help you prepare. They may not seem like they help that much, but the more people you know with answers, the less you have to

search when you actually have a problem. Thirdly, do not underestimate the importance of making a schedule for your self. Between work, activities, and hanging out with your friends, you will either have all the time in the world or no time at all. Learn to manage this time to the best of your ability, because if you are free one week, it usually means the next week you will have four tests and a paper due. If you are never busy, you need to get involved in more. This should be the time of your life (as should every moment), and there is no shortage of things to do in college.

Finally, I'd like to clear up some myths that teachers like to give you in high school.

1. If you are going to take a chemistry class in college, you do not need to save your entire notebook from Mrs. Dusel's class. You will review everything you learned in that class in the first two weeks.

2. You will never use your Write for College book. I have only taken one English class this year, but out of everyone else I have from Scotus here at UNO, Nathan Fisher is the only one who has used it...and that is because it used to be his mouse-pad. He says he no longer uses it for that either.

3. Everything you learn about religion will be argued by everyone, even Catholics. Your views on religion will be tried, but try to keep some form of faith, even if it is not the textbook example of a Catholic.

4. Have fun. College is a blast. There are responsibilities, a hundred of little changes, and it is all worth it. I would tell you it is really easy, but that would leave you nothing to work toward.

So, thanks for reading. I'm sorry if it was not the insightful, life-changing column you hoped it would be, but you have enough life changing of your own to do right now. Good luck to all of you.

Look back before memories fade

By Jake Euteneuer
Guest Columnist

It is a human condition to always fear that we will be forgotten. So as we seniors leave the halls it is only befitting that we will soon be replaced and forgotten. Ultimately, our entire high school career will be shortened up to a few funny memories and a few familiar faces. So to try and keep those memories a little brighter, I will reminisce.

I remember nights spent out at Held's land where it seemed like everything had come straight out of a Bob Seger song. I remember those nights where we would be moonlighting at the Moon Tower, and I remember State Track with wrecked rooms and chocolate chip cookies at 3 a.m.

For football there was S-C-E-D, boxes of crayons, and the East Side D (or Search and Rescue Defense, depending on whom you asked). Cross Country gave me thrown apples, breakfast in the morning,

and Aquaball at Kyle's in the evening. For Track I'll remember USC's in the hail (read: hell), Mama Melliger cooking eggs for us, and Kyle's victory sandwich (Turkey Breast!). There was Scholz's snort and bubble and Fan Kart Follies in Physics. I will always have my golden ohm, long after I have forgotten what an ohm is.

There are memories that are pleasurable and memories that are painful. I love to think about how the Cross Country team got eighth at our last meet and then went on to get seventh at the State Meet. It is painful to remember how I got this scar on my leg at that same State Meet. Eventually that scar will fade away along with the memories it carries. Memories of church runs and thrown rocks. Four gallons of blue Kool-Aid and makeshift megaphones

from bottles of Sunny D. I'll always remember the entire cross country team being at my house listening to Dan Seals singing "Bop." I will still have all my track medals (my hardware, that is) long

after my knees are shot and visions of running a mile in under five minutes have gone to the breeze. Caught in that cosmic breeze will be all the love lost, and all the love I never seemed to find. All the friendships and all the bad times. All the laughs and all the bad times. All of this will be lost to the wind.

If one memory stays with me it will be that of the "Renegade." And as the song says, "The gig is up, we're moving out." So that is what we need to do as seniors. Move out and make room for the memories of yet another class, and try to hold on to the memories we made.

There are memories that are pleasurable and memories that are painful.

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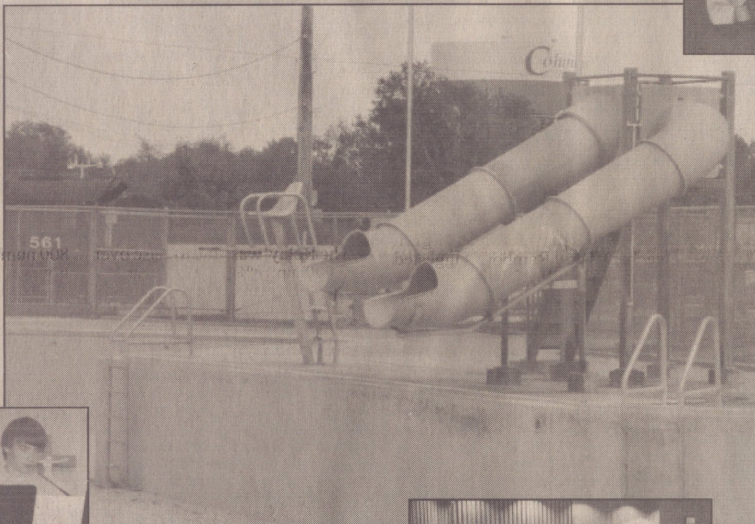
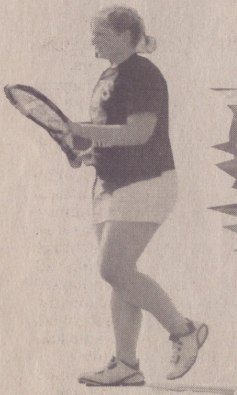


'03 - '04: Good times galore



"I knew we were going to win when I heard the song "Rock the Casbah"!"

~Laura Dolezal
on State Basketball



"Our ACT scores are higher than both the Nebraska average and the national average..."

~Cathy Podliska

"We need more technology classes because that is the evolution of the modern world."

~Wayne Morfeld



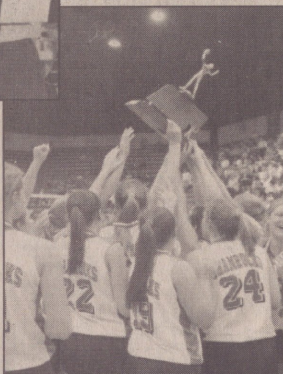
"For the rest of my life I will never forget the words to "Under the Sea.""

~Chad Trofholz
on Chorus



"I hardly see anyone with an untucked shirt anymore."

~Kathy Johnson on
dollar fines



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Entertainment

Lessons learned from dancing

By Sarah Keiter
Staff Reporter

As the year comes to a close many activities are ending. But when most think of May, they think of the end of the school year or the end of their sports activities. For approximately 65 students at Scotus, the end of the school year also means the end of the dance year, which means recital time.

There are two dance studios in Columbus, Barb's School of Dance and Lynette's Dance Studio. Combined there are about 700 dance students in the Columbus community. Dance has become a large part of many Scotus students' lives.

Senior Taylor Harsh, a Lynette's Dance Studio dancer, said that dance has become an important part of her life.

"I've been in dance since I was three years old," Harsh said, "and when you've danced once a week almost every week since you were three, you become attached."

Lynette's Dance Studio celebrated its 20th recital with "Movin' and Grovin' with the Mouse," which was held on May 1. Barb's School of Dance dancers spiced up the studio's 38th year with the theme "Dancing on Fire," May 8 and 9.

Harsh said this year's recital had the greatest meaning for her because this was the first time that she was able to be at both the afternoon and evening recitals.

"This recital meant so much because it was my senior year, and I

got to be a part of both recitals," Harsh said.

Freshman Carly Kucera, a student at Barb's School of Dance, said that she agrees that this year was the most meaningful. Kucera said that the recital was not meaningful for just her, but it was very special to her family because this was the last year that she and her sisters will be able to all dance at the same time since her sister is a senior. Senior Katie Ingram, a Barb's School of Dance dancer, said this year will be different also in part because it is her last year, but also because she is very anxious to see how well that classes that she taught at the studio do at the recital.

Students join dance classes at all different ages and for all different reasons.

Junior Megan Rosenquist, a Lynette's Dance Studio dancer, said that her parents put her in dance when she was little because she used to run into everything.

"They thought dance was the only thing that could help me," she said, "and it has."

Rosenquist said that she is very thankful that her parents put her in dance because she said that dance has taught her many things, like flexibility and coordination, and also social skills, like how to meet new friends. She said that many of the friends she has met at dance ended up becoming the people she is closest to and people that she trusts. Even though she only sees some girls once or twice a week at dance, Rosenquist said that she is really close to them, and she feels

like she sees them everyday.

"You just know you can have fun and be yourself at dance around your 'dancer friends', because the studio is just a place like that," she said.

Kucera said she also believes that dance has taught her many important lessons. She said that dance has improved her physical skills, but more importantly performing on stage has taught her confidence in her own ability. She said that through dance she has learned that you should stay committed to something if you really like it.

"It's hard with all the sports and other activities," Kucera said, "but I'm going to stick with it. It's definitely worth it to me."

Ingram said her best dance lesson would be that you are always a role model, so you always need to act like one.

"I teach classes at the studio," she said, "and knowing that all the little girls are looking up to you teaches you to be a role model whether you want to be one or not. Even when you aren't in the studio, the little girls will still come up and talk to you, and they are always watching you."

Harsh said that she agrees that being in dance teaches people many things, but most importantly for her, it has taught her the fact that being a dancer gives you the chance to do something besides sports in a community that is very sports oriented.

"I've gotten to see a very different perspective," she said, "and I love it."

Summer Concert Preview

Want something to do this summer? Here are the dates, places, and prices of just some of the local concerts taking place during the summer of '04.

OMAHA

Kid Rock, May 21, Qwest Center, \$33
Zebrahead, May 27, Ranch Bowl, \$15
Dave Chapelle (comedian), June 20, Omaha Music Hall, \$30.50
Van Halen, July 31, Qwest Center, \$55-95

IOWA

311, June 28, Sioux City, Tyson Event Center, \$33
Incubus, July 22, Cedar Rapids, US Cellular Center, \$33

KANSAS

Bonner Springs
Vans Warped Tour, July 26, Verizon Wireless Amphitheater, \$27
John Mayer and Maroon 5, July 27, Verizon Wireless Amphitheater, \$32.50
OZZFEST, August 10, Verizon Wireless Amphitheater, \$40
Dave Matthews Band, August 16, Verizon Wireless Amphitheater, \$33.50

KANSAS CITY, MO

Dashboard Confessional and Thrice, May 28, City Market, \$22
P.O.D., June 5, Uptown Theater, \$23
Incubus, July 24, Kemper Arena, \$33.50

Subs: Substitutes enjoy teaching challenges

from page 1

also for subbing for Shaad during her other two pregnancies.

"Well, I have subbed for Kelly with her other two pregnancies," Gangel said. "I believe I have been subbing since she was in school. So she asked me last January to come in."

In teaching regularly, Gangel finds that her regular routine is a little off, but she loves her work.

"I like English, so it was kind of a good fit," Gangel said. "In fact [subbing regularly] is probably better than those early morning calls, because at least you know what your schedule is."

But Gangel did not always just substitute. After moving away from Nebraska City to go to college at the University of Nebraska in Lin-

coln, she earned a teaching degree. She taught regularly in Kansas City and then stopped teaching for a while after she got married and had two children.

Gangel has been teaching for 20 to 25 years now and has found as a substitute during a pregnancy leave that some of the work is planned, but after teaching all those years she is able to use some of her own tips that she has picked up along the way. And during those years she has taught at all three Columbus schools and has found that she prefers Scotus.

Pregnant teachers over-night celebrities? Perhaps. Those teachers substituting for those teachers, behind the scenes saviors? Definitely.

Relay: Event raises money to fight cancer

from page 1

went throughout the event which was a great amount," Gokie said.

The Relay was able to raise over \$77,000, up 18% from last year.

"There are four purposes for the Relay for Life," Gokie said. "One was to raise money for the cure and better treatment for cancer patients, another was to help the people in Columbus with travel expenses, the third reason was to show support for cancer patients

and for the website about cancer, and the last purpose was for the 800 number that people may call 24 hours a day to answer questions about cancer."

The importance of the Relay for Life was to educate people about cancer and the things the American Cancer Society provides and to celebrate the strength that people have had to overcome this disease.

Babies: Teachers enjoy new life

from page 1

because it seems like everyone these days finds out ahead of time.

"There aren't a lot of big surprises in life, so we waited," she said.

When Schaad found out she was pregnant, she was surprised. For the first three months of her pregnancy she said she was in bed by nine, which is unusual for her. She felt it wasn't like her two previous pregnancies.

"I knew it was different," Schaad said. "I was scared; I thought something was wrong."

Nothing was wrong, though, and she soon learned she was having twins.

"I was shocked and amazed," and said, "but I know it runs in the family."

When Schaad was seven months pregnant, she had yet another surprise waiting for her—she was having two girls. Her husband told her they were going to end up having all boys. She didn't mind whether they were girls or boys, as long as they were healthy.

Schaad started her preparations early in August, when only she knew she was pregnant. This way she would be finished by the time Christmas rolled around, reducing the amount of stress. As for her home life, she rearranged bedrooms, went to a big sale for twins, and had a long heart-to-heart with her boys about how much life in the Schaad household was about to change.

Cox was in a different and perhaps more difficult situation. Not only would she be gone from school, but she would also miss out on some of the band's contests and performances. Finding someone to fill her shoes during her absence was and adventure all its own.

"There isn't a whole line of people wanting to sub for band," Cox said.

Band is much different than any regular classroom settings, and the substitute needs experience with

music. After she finally acquired one, she said there was pressure on her to find ways to make it easier for the sub.

After all of the preparations had been made, it was finally time to introduce a new life into the world. On April 7, Cox gave birth to an 8 lb 3 oz girl named Camille Pamela.

The name originally came from a composer Cox admired. She kept this name in the back of her mind. One day at a meeting, religion teacher Cheryl Rambour suggested the name Camille if she was to have a girl—the very name she had kept to herself the whole time.

"It was like a sign," Cox said. Three weeks later, on April 28, Schaad gave birth to her twin girls—5lb 13oz Emily Sue and 6lb 9oz Carly Victoria. Schaad and her husband noticed that they are not identical, so they were confident enough to remove the identification tags after the first week.

Schaad had a list of 10 names that her husband went through and eliminated those he didn't like.

Both names were names she liked of people she had known from college and student teaching.

Schaad said that the family tried making things for the two boys to seem as normal as possible. They were both excited about their new sisters, and they held them and kissed them, but three-year-old Cody, the younger of the two, had a short attention span and became bored with the whole idea.

Cox said she noticed no jealousy with her older children and the new baby.

"They just love her so much," she said. "They are so proud to help take care of her and sing to her."

It took a lot of help from family and friends for both teachers to get through their pregnancies.

"Everyone took such good care of me," Cox said. "I don't think I could have done it without the support of the band and my family."

2003-2004 RBMA's
Scotus students voted for the second annual Rock Bottom Movie Awards. Here were their favorites:

Favorite Movie Overall
Pirates of the Caribbean

Funniest Movie
School of Rock

Scariest Movie
Texas Chainsaw Massacre

Best Action Movie
Pirates of the Caribbean

Best Chick Flick
The Hot Chick

Best Actor
Johnny Depp
For Pirates of the Caribbean

Best Actress
Jennifer Aniston
For Bruce Almighty

Best Comedian
Dave Chappelle
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What will the rest of 2004 bring in sports?

Finally summer is here. After an already memorable year in sports who knows what the rest of 2004 will bring. In case you don't want to wait, here are some of the things that are destined to happen.

- George Steinbrenner gets in A-Rod's face after going 0 for 4. Steinbrenner threatens to ship him back to Texas and Alex finally bribes him not to. Alex goes 4 for 4 in a game and the boss fires Joe Torre after not making the playoffs. The Rangers get a wildcard and Alex claims he never wanted to leave Texas.

- Jammal Lord has exceptional workouts at the NFL mini-camp. The Texans claim that this guy could start. Jammal gets burned at safety in his first game and later holds a press conference in which he officially announces his retirement from the NFL. Houston claims they never saw it coming. Jammal nearly breaks the record for shortest career ever, which is currently held by Eric Crouch.

- Joe Dailey passes for 300 yards in a 20 point win over Western Illinois. Nebraskans fall in love with the new offense. Many began to wonder if the pixels of the scoreboard under passing yards even still work. The Huskers then lose in a snowy, sub-zero degree game at Kansas State. Husker fans start begging for the option offense back. They begin to call for Callahan's head. Where's the full-back up the middle when you need it?

- Eli Manning starts the season zero and nine for the Giants. He claims that he likes the warm weather states better. Eli's dad, Archie, makes him sit out the rest

Husker fans start begging for the option offense back.

of the season until he is traded to a team that plays its games in a warmer climate. San Diego finally picks him up as a fourth string behind Doug Flutie.

- The WNBA goes bankrupt and claims that ABC is not bringing in the viewers it would like. It permanently moves all its games to the SOAP channel. Ratings go up .2%.
- Tiger Woods says he needs a break from golf because he wants to be with his wife more often. Woods is later found taking golf lessons at the local YMCA. He said that they gave out free green jackets for every lesson taken.

- The Montreal Expos get contracted after a horrible season. Bud Selig moves them to Washington D.C. and plans on taking them over. One of their games remains a tie after it was suspended due to a national speech given by the President. Game plans on being rescheduled for an August 5 doubleheader.
- Kobe Bryant gets traded to the Denver Nuggets to cut some salary after the Lakers don't win the NBA Championship. Bryant starts off the season horribly. He claims that he can't stand any of the women there and demands a trade. He ends up back in Los Angeles, but this time with the Clippers.

- The NBA decides to lengthen the playoffs due to the ratings boost it received. Commissioner David Stern said he loves the way the players tried so hard during the playoffs. He just wishes they would do that in the regular season too. After months of discussion, the length of the NBA regular season was reduced to three weeks.
- The legal papers come out and Freddy Adu is actually 20 years old. He said it must have been a huge mistake. Later it is found that he got his "fake" birth certificate from some kid named Danny Almonte.
- The Scotus girls volleyball team wins the state championship again. The Nebraska Schools Athletic Association demands they be moved to Class A immediately.

New faces for school spirit

By Stephanie Laudenklos
Staff Reporter

Standing in front of five judges screaming out rhythmically, and jumping up and down. No, this is not the American Idol audition. It is the 2004-2005 Scotus Cheerleading Tryouts.

Freshman and 2004-2005 cheer-

leader Tiffany Kwapnoski stood in front of the judges trying to contain her nerves and excitement. She was confident that she could do it based on her practices in front of her mirror and performances for her parents.

"I'm happy that I made it," she said. Eighth-grader Gessica Paprocki will be joining Kwapnoski as an-

other newcomer on next year's squad. She was the only future freshman chosen out of the five girls that tried out.

Cheerleading has been a part of Scotus Central Catholic for many years. The squad helps boost fans' energy, which in return helps the athletes continue to win state championships. To continue this tradition, they held tryouts every year to create the best squad possible.

The tryouts were held on April 21 at 4:00 PM in the new gym. Eleven girls of mixed grades tried out this year, and only two girls were chosen. Each girl was judged on a group cheer, which was the school song, chanting the school song in a group of four, jumps individually, and individual cheers. Each one of these categories was then judged based on their motion, ability to stay with a group, ability to remember the correct actions, poise, and voice. The jumps were judged on height. The girls also had a personal interview held with cheerleading sponsor Brenda

Marxsen and a member of the community, and they also had to have a teacher recommendation. Another aspect that a cheerleader must have is spirit. In other words, they need to make the audience feel as if they can get up and cheer too.

Nine women judged the girls this year. These ladies were Barb Malicky, Judi Wolken, Traci Wickham, Lisa Duren, Brenda Marxsen, and the four seniors from this year's squad. Overall they felt good about their choices this year.

"The girls were judged well this year," current cheerleader and sophomore Jessica Kuehler said. "Next year's squad should be better."

There are some girls returning, but not all of them. Each returning cheerleader had to try out as well.

"With that many (girls) coming back," senior high guidance counselor Judi Wolken said, "it should be a good squad that has good leadership."

"The girls were judged well this year. Next year's squad should be better."
~Jessica Kuehler



TYLER MICEK/ROCK BOTTOM

Cheerleaders get the crowd pumped up during a basketball game last season. They are from left to right junior Tonya Boman, freshman April Schueth, sophomores Kayla Chlopek and Kendall Backman, and junior Sarah Bierman.

Success leads to recruiting allegations

By Nicole Sobotka
Staff Reporter

Recruiting has been around for years. Schools invite talented athletes, brilliant students, and even talented artists to attend them. But the schools in this article are high schools. High schools, in small measure, have started to recruit. Catholic and private schools are targets for recruiting allegations, even Scotus.

An e-mail sent to the NSAA executive director shortly after the state basketball tournament reads: "Three out of the eight boys basketball champions were parochial schools. When are you going to admit that private schools unfairly recruit?" Accusations of recruiting are not new to Scotus coaches.

"I've heard comments from people, but most of them are in jest," volleyball coach John Petersen said. "I say that I've only had two non-Catholic girls play for me, and they're my daughters."

Every single girl in varsity volleyball and varsity basketball, teams that won state championships this year, is Catholic. Of the 19 girls on Scotus's volleyball and basketball teams, 18 attended kindergarten in Columbus Catholic grade schools. The other person moved to Columbus from out of town, so clearly these girls were not recruited to Scotus for athletics.

Nearly all of the students attending Scotus are Catholic and from Columbus. "People say that we recruit because we're successful and we're Catholic," Petersen said. "They're trying to rationalize our success. Some of it's just jealousy."

Many people have the idea that parochial schools recruit students to play sports for them. Athletic Director Gary Puetz said people are just letting their imaginations run wild. Public schools that are successful in athletics also get accused of recruiting. With open enrollment in public schools recruiting can now happen anywhere, and it does. Recruiting is a problem, but not at Scotus.

Recruiting does not break any NSAA rules. Schools are permitted to recruit for academic and religious reasons, but recruiting for activity reasons ruins the spirit of sports.

"Successful schools are the ones that get branded as recruiters," Puetz said. "Public or parochial, it doesn't matter, it's only if the school is doing well in sports."

Not everyone thinks that just because a school is successful that they recruit.

"I've only had one person say anything to me about recruiting ever," varsity volleyball and basketball player Lynn Weeder said. "I just kind of ignored it because I know it's not true."

Scotus doesn't need to recruit. Volleyball and basketball camps start in the summer before fifth grade. By the time these girls get to high school, they are already talented.

"Successful schools are the ones that get branded as recruiters."
~Gary Puetz



KYLE CLAREY/ROCK BOTTOM

Splashing to victory

Junior Karla Jarecke runs through the water in the steeplechase run at the Lakeview Invitational. Jarecke won the event, and the Shamrock girls won the Invite.

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~Rock Bottom