Football looks to revive tradition...Page 6

SCOTUS CENTRAL

ROCK BOTTOM

SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA 68601

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Scotus grad, local unit sent to Iraq

By Sadie Bolte
Editor-in-Chief

They all stood there, waiting for the answer. It had been so long; they were ready and anticipating a break to go home. But the announcement was not quite what they had been hoping for.

On July 10, 2004, Josh Birkel, a 2002 Scotus graduate, and the rest of his National Guard unit were shocked to hear the news that they were called for "Operation Enduring Freedom" and would soon be traveling to the Middle East.

At first, this was not part of his plan. Birkel signed up for the National Guard in October of 2000 because he thought he could use the extra money to help pay for his college tuition.

Birkel

"I never thought I'd go anywhere," Birkel said. "I figured I would just go and do my monthly thing."

He has wanted to go since March of 2003. Once he received the shocking news on that July summer day, however, he had some mixed feelings about actually going. He was unsure as to if he still wanted to go to another country for a year, away from his family and friends.

"You realize the reality of it all," Birkel said. "There's a chance you might not come back, or you come back different."

He knows he has no choice, so he looks at the positive side of the matter.

The troops in Hastings, Nebraska knew their lives would all be affected by the news they received that night. Some were down, some were excited, but most were shocked and speechless.

"I was scared," he said. "I kind of sat there, staring off into the field. It's hard to explain. The reality of it all sets in."

That night Birkel's unit had two hours to make their phone calls before lights out. The first person Birkel called was his mom. When he told her, she burst into tears in fear of her son's future safety. As any mother, she did not want him to go.

"I really don't want to hear anyone cry right now," he told his mother. So she stopped.

His dad was sleeping, so he left him a quick message and talked to him the next day. Birkel said his dad did not have much to say about the situation.

In the event he would not come back, Birkel tried to see most of his friends at least once before he left. His time for doing all of the fun things he was planning was cut short because he was put on the ten-percent list. This means that ten percent of his unit (about 15-20 people) is told to prepare the unit's gear to be shipped out.

"Everyone else is at home doing whatever," Birkel said, "and you're there boxing up everything, putting it on crates, and loading it on trucks."

Death almost becomes tangible as a soldier is forced to write out his own will. From deciding who should carry your casket at your funeral, to choosing which deserving person gets your new stereo system, "It kind of freaks you out," Birkel said.

"For the first week I knew [of going overseas]," he said, "every single day I thought about, 'what if I die?' I thought about that nonstop. It wears you down to think about it all the time."

It was complicated to write down everything in the will, so he said just to give everything to his mom. It's easier not to think about it too much while overseas, Birkel said, because if you do, then you will not have much of a drive to try to survive.

Because of security reasons, they were not told exactly what they will be doing and where they will be doing it. Basically, Birkel will accompany supply convoys as a mechanic. It is just a matter of how far the troops will be going and how dangerous it will be.

One of the possibilities is delivering supplies to the troops. Anything from ammunition and fuel, to juice boxes and batteries can be taken.

> **"You realize the reality of it all. There's a chance you might not come back."**
> - Josh Birkel

"I want to volunteer [to drive into Iraq when needed]," Birkel said, "just because I don't want to stick back in the shop all the time. I think I'd get bored.

"I want to see what it's like. I don't want to go over there to be in the motor pool all day."

It's a dangerous task with which he's willing to assist. Roadside bombs are always an obstacle on the route. They come in numerous disguises, whether they are in pop cans or cardboard boxes. And if they are hanging from the overpasses, it is many times too late before they can be noticed. In addition to these bombs, the convoys often become targets of enemy fire and ambushes.

Besides the money he will receive for his duties overseas, Birkel said he is looking at the positive side of the situation. The experience he will soon encounter will aid him in his future career.

"I'm going to teach history," he said, "so when we talk about this stuff in class, I've actually been there. I'll have pictures and stories, first hand accounts, so it will be more beneficial to [the students]."

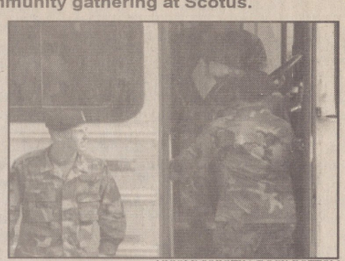
Tim Siegel, a 2002 Scotus graduate and a good friend of Birkel, said it will be weird without him, given that they have known each other ever since they were two-years-old. He will try to keep in touch with Birkel whichever way he can, though, by sending care packages or writing letters.

It will most likely be a year before Birkel completes his term. He said he is not looking forward to missing his friends and family, and being gone for a year means he will have to get used to the change that has taken place over the course of that year. He is not letting that stop him though.

"Some of the other people do it," Birkel said. "I'm sure I can."

NICOLE SOBOTKA/ROCK BOTTOM

A soldier gives a farewell hug before he left in August. The troops of the 1075th Medium Transportation Company were honored during a community gathering at Scotus.



NICOLE SOBOTKA/ROCK BOTTOM

Soldiers load the bus for the first leg of a journey that will eventually lead them to Iraq. Several Scotus graduates are part of the group.

Students overwhelmingly support Bush

By John Beauvias
Editor

Every four years a horrible plague sets upon the land and disrupts the calm of everyday life.

This fever is election madness.

The political machines are in full swing, pumping out as much propaganda as possible in support of their respective candidates.

The two main candidates this year are Republican President George Bush and Democratic Massachusetts senator John Kerry. Each one represents the political extremes of their side of the political spectrum.

George Bush is described by his supporters as Reagan-esque and as a war president. He was president during the dark times of 9/11 and took the United States into the Iraqi War. His critics color him as a warmonger and accuse him of not doing enough to prevent the World Trade Center attacks.

On the other hand, John Kerry has the most liberal voting record in the Senate, according to the *National Journal*. He started off his campaign as an anti-war candidate and is strongly supported by the "Anybody But Bush" elements in the Democratic Party. However, his change of stance from anti-war to pro-war back to anti-war and once again back to pro-war has drawn him numerous critics.

Scotus students have expressed support for both the candidates. However, the majority seems to support President Bush. Most students' opinions of the president were limited to expressing their support without any particular reason. All junior Justin McPhillips had to say was, "Bush all the way!"

Some students support the president because of a particular issue that concerns them. Many students see Bush's wartime leadership as a reason to re-elect him.

"If Bush doesn't win," junior Jessice Kuehler said, "the Iraq War is lost."

Other students support Bush but do not completely agree with all of his policies. One issue that a few students disagreed with the president on is the issue of gay marriage. Senior Katie Swanson, a Bush supporter, dissents from his position on this topic.

"Who cares? If they're happy, why not?" said Swanson.

Not everyone's opinions on the candidates are based on politics. Superficial issues about the politicians seem to matter, too.

"Kerry looks goofy," senior Brittany Williams said. "Bush definitely wins on looks."

There are some Kerry supporters amongst Scotus's ranks. Though greatly outnumbered they are more than a little disenchanted with the president. Junior Justin Schaf stopped supporting Bush after his family lost their government support as a result of the president's policies. He blames the Iraqi conflict's cost. Still, Schaf has his reservations about Senator Kerry.

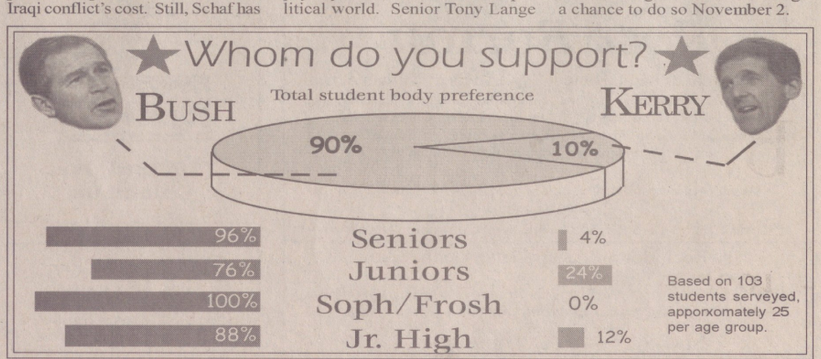
"Kerry means well," Schaf said, "but I don't know if he understands what he is all promising."

Despite these students who have an opinion on the issues and the candidates, Scotus still has many who are either apathetic to politics or simply don't know. Many think that because they cannot vote that they do not have to pay any attention to the current political world. Senior Tony Lange had a reason for lacking an opinion on the issues.

"I don't know nothing about politics," he said. "Why you asking me about it?"

Regardless of issues and polls and the seemingly endless lines of attack ads, this election will soon be over. This November the U.S. will know who its leader for the next four years will be and the direction of the free world will be decided.

Those registered to vote will get a chance to do so November 2.



New dumpster location stinks

There's nothing better than the smell of.....half eaten lunch items and used Kleenexes!

For all who didn't know, the dumpsters have been moved from the northeast corner of the school to the west side of school between the weight room and the band room doors.

One of the reasons for the moving of the dumpsters was that they didn't want people walking out of St. Bon's church on Sundays to look over and see dumpsters.

All moving the dumpsters did was cause problems. Now the doors to the weight room always have to be closed, otherwise the stench from the dumpsters leaves the whole north end of the building smelling like unsanitary waste. The feeling of being in the weight room with 20 football players with beads of sweat running down their faces when there's no air circulating is not very pleasant. It's sad when the smell of sweaty football players is preferred over the normal air supply, because it's being polluted with the toxic smell of rotting waste coming from the dumpsters that are placed right outside the weight room doors.

Another thing is that two parking spots now have to be left open on the west side of school so the garbage man can empty the dumpsters. Those spots are the same ones that students were fined for parking in last year, and are now saved for the garbage man who has to empty the smell-of-puke stained

All moving the dumpsters did was cause problems.

At least someone is enjoying the new dumpster location.

dumpsters. Now that those two spots are taken up, this means that two staff members have to park their cars elsewhere, which means two less spots for students to park.

The new location also creates inconvieince for the custodians who have to haul lunch waste around the building now.

Even when the dumpsters are emptied, they still smell like something died in there after just polishing off a chicken pattie on a bun.

There was a fence around the dumpsters, but there was one dumpster that found its way outside the fence that was causing all the ruckus. If only there was a way to move that dumpster behind the fence so that it wouldn't be visible from the church, that would've made it a lot easier. Or perhaps a chain link fence with the plastic slats like the one surrounding the dumpsters in their new location could have been built. The slats do a pretty good job of obstructing the view of the dumpsters.

But in the end, all that really matters is that people coming out of St. Bon's think we got rid of the dumpsters. All they can do now is be thankful that they don't have to smell it or use our weight room. After all they, the parishoners do pay the bills around here, all the students do is come here every day and smell the trash.

Highly anticipated Europe trip starts off shaky

- Brutally Honest -

Going on any vacation has its fair share of worries. However, I had no idea what I was getting myself into when I signed up in spring of my Sophomore year for the summer of 2004 Europe trip. I was so excited that I was going to share a once-in-a-lifetime experience with my friends.

When I informed my mom of my plans, she quickly reminded me of something I just *had* to go to during the same time that the trip was scheduled-it was my sister's wedding. Being the nice sister I am, I decided that I should probably go to the wedding (since I was a bride's maid and all), and leave the idea of a future vacation behind.

But I couldn't. I couldn't and didn't want to imagine my friends having fun and experiencing other cultures while I was bumming around in ol' C-Town doing the same old thing-I knew I had plenty of time to do just that. Luckily, we eventually worked things out so that I could go on the trip-or so I thought.

First, EF Tours couldn't guarantee me that the date could be changed. Once they moved the date back so I could go, they weren't sure I could be on the same flight as the rest of the group, let alone go at all.

To make a long story short, I obviously go to go, but I had to take a separate flight. Yep, by myself. Overseas. To another country.

So I got ready to go, making sure I had everything that I needed

Hey look at me! I'm a tourist!

to survive on my own.

While everyone else was still sleeping, I drug myself out of bed at three in the morning to head to Omaha. At the airport I slung on my "hey look at me, I'm a tourist" book bag, slapped on my watch (five minutes ahead), clutched my tickets, and rolled my eyes as my mother tried to kiss me good-bye. I walked down the ramp and I was alone. I was on my own for the next 22 hours.

I couldn't help but laugh when I was thinking of what the person to sit next to me on the plane was to look like. This person was just what I wasn't looking for. Here we were, two fat chicks shoved together, one reading the Dr. Phil weight-loss book (it wasn't me!). At least she's not talking, I thought.

Once I got to my final destination, Madrid, Spain, my Spanish "skills" were put to the ultimate test as I tried to just get out of the airport to meet my tour director.

She was so happy to see me; she told me she had been there waiting for me for four hours. It was awkward being hugged by a French lady who was one-third my size. She had the energy of a four-year-old on crack.

We went to the bus that took us to the hotel. Once I was there, I rinsed out all of my clothes that were affected by the giant liquid explosion in my luggage (yes, I put them in plastic bags. Gee, what help that was!)

I was forced to roam the streets of Madrid with complete strangers. My plane was early, so I spent six hours with a bunch of "Mary-Kate and Ashley's" from Pittsburgh while I waited for the Nebraska crew to arrive.

After getting lost for four hours on the colorful streets of Madrid (by "colorful" I mean "holy cow, what a bunch of weirdoes!"), I was just a little sick of it. Okay, I wanted to beat them all with the traditional Spanish rock-hard bread. I was trying the best I could to survive without the people I call "normal."

If they don't come soon, I thought, I think I'll die here in Spain.

To Be Continued...

Meatheads taking over Scotus one step at a time

- - - - Earmuffs! - - - -

Mmmm.....protein!

Protein is something that never gets old, plus it increases your muscle capacity. I look up to those who make daily chocolate, creatine milkshakes and eat double chocolate protein bars right before or after working out. Meathead is the term that we have given to these protein-filled football players, such as senior Tony Korth, juniors Eric Puckett and Chris Schumacher, and 2004 graduate Brian Malicky.

Now I'm not saying that lifting everyday is a bad thing, or playing football, but being obsessed with being a massively ripped protein addict may be taking it too far. I mean, I love Tony Korth's devotion to the game of football, but the kid is just a huge meathead. Take this for example: in between two-a-days for football, Tony would always return to the second practice chewing on either a peanut butter or a double chocolate protein bar. He would have to chew each bite of the bar for at least a minute or two, now that's dedication! When one is willing to chew on a protein bar for 10-15 minutes in order to get stronger, or to run a 4.53 second 40 yard dash, he deserves to be a huge mass of muscle. I think that's enough about Tony, it's now time to move on to Eric and Chris.

Although Eric and Chris are not quite as meaty as Tony, we still consider them meatheads. I don't

I mean, I love their devotion to the game of football, but these kids are just huge meatheads.

think that they intake an excessive amount of protein, but they do have a few other characteristics that cause them to fall into the meathead category. For instance, they both have shaved heads, which just screams, "Hey look at me, I'm a meathead!" They also both bought football shoes that cost close to what I paid for my car stereo. Another thing that categorizes them as a meathead is that they both wear Under Armour skullcaps that keep drops of sweat from dripping off their hairless scalps onto their faces.

Now it's time to talk about the one that started the whole meathead reign, the king of all meatheads, Brian Malicky. On average, Brian probably consumes more protein in one meal than I would in 3 or 4 days. On time last school year I went out to eat at Burger King with Brian, and he ordered two double cheeseburgers, then before we left he also ordered two five piece chicken tenders for the ride home. That's only not a massive amount of protein, but also food in general! I think somehow all of his protein intake weakened his ankles, because you know it's bad when your sprain your ankles two or three times a week, especially when your ankles are taped and you're wearing ankle braces.

In the end, although all four of these guys are good football players, there is just certain things about them that make them more meaty than the normal person. I hope that in writing this article, it doesn't cause me to get attacked by a gang of meatheads, because I wouldn't want to hurt them too bad. Now it's time to say goodbye, but always keep an eye out for new developing meatheads.

Summer jobs bring in more money, less sleep

- - - Laugh a little - - -

The job market for teens in the Columbus area is not exactly booming. It seems that, for the most part, many people who have jobs don't want to work, and people who don't have jobs want them badly. The struggle to find employment also becomes greater as summer approaches.

I managed to steer away from relying on come-and-go babysitting money that brought me few hours with even less pay. I enjoyed it, but I needed something more than what I had been doing since I was ten. I was fortunate enough to find employment but hated the thought of being tied down. However, when given the choice between working a little here and there and having no money to spend on myself this summer, I chose working a little. I've had the same job at Big Apple Bagels since November of last year, but with school coming to a pleasant close, summer made way for me to put many more hours under my belt. I soon found myself working during the days, and even sooner, early mornings. After a few years of detasseling, I had looked forward to never having to work so early again in my life. Little did I know what was in store for me.

My work days began to get earlier and earlier, and before I knew it,

...But I still find that 5 a.m. will always be way too early for Steven Tyler and Lynard Skynard.

I was up long before the crack of dawn listening to the Hawk and making coffee. I became far fonder of rock 'n' roll oldies as the summer droned on, but I still find that 5 a.m. will always be way too early for Steven Tyler and Lynard Skynard.

While acquiring a paycheck had its obvious advantages, I obtained much more out of my summer job. Getting up so early and being off work before many of my friends were even awake allowed me to value my sleep so much more. As hard as I tried, I couldn't seem to get in quite enough sleep before having to wake up at 4:30 a.m. A very important life skill I learned was how to sleep whenever possible. I used to only be able to sleep at night, but the early mornings trained my body to rest whenever it got the chance.

I also tried to teach myself how to save my money. That lasted through one paycheck. Somehow my needs, or more often my wants, seemed to come to me just as frequently as my paycheck. I think my money was mostly well spent, and I did manage to stash a little bit away for another time. Having just enough left over to take a vacation or two, I took in every last moment of summer I had.

School came more swiftly than most everyone anticipated. Even though my senior year was beginning, I could not help but feel a bit of regret that my summer was already at an end. This meant no more 5 a.m., and as crazy as most sleep-loving teens think I may be, I sometimes miss it. I am maintaining the same job minus the early mornings, and in some strange way this is comforting to feel that a piece of summer will continue to be with me.

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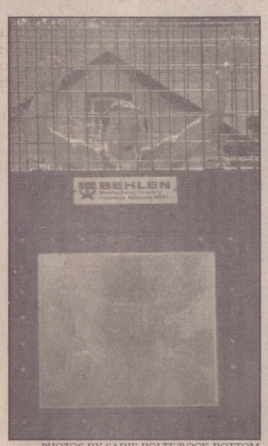

PHOTOS BY SADIE BOLTE/ROCK BOTTOM

Father Jeff Loseke shakes off the water (right) after being dunked. He was one of a few volunteers to sit in the dunking booth at the Saint Isidore's Bazaar.

A bazaar day

By Heidi Sobota
Editor

Every September there is something stirring at St. Isidore's Parish. It's the annual fund-raising bazaar.

This year the bazaar was held on Sunday, September 12. There is always something to do while you're there including: the ring toss, karaoke, chuck-a-luck, dunking booth, and the ball toss. Scotus students play a big role in helping work at the bazaar.

"I've come to it ever since I was little," junior Lauren Jablonski said. "I've always helped because my parents have been chairs."

Another large reason why Scotus students help is to earn living the faith hours. Freshman Brock Lower said this is the motive behind his work at the bazaar.

Another key attraction at this year's bazaar was being able to dunk Fr. Jeff Loseke at the dunking booth. At 1:30 he reported for duty, and there was already a line waiting for him to jump in. He would taunt all the players until they finally dunked him. Key phrases like, "I'm still dry!" or "Aaaahhh... come on, you can do better," were said quite often by the usually low-key priest.

Along with the beauty of dunking the campus priest was the opportunity to help out the parish and community.

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Loseke returns home as campus minister

By Katie Michaelsen
Staff Reporter

Father Jeff Loseke is back for a second go-around at Scotus. The only change is now Loseke is on the other side of the desk (and in this case, pulpit). He is the new Theology 10 and Theology 8 teacher and head of Campus Ministry.

After graduating from Scotus in 1992, Loseke attended the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota. He then traveled to Rome and spent five years studying at Rome North American University to become a priest.

As enthusiastic as Loseke is, when he got the call to come back to Scotus, he was eager to come back to his hometown.

"I'm excited to work in a high school," he said, "I feel good about coming here."

As a teenager at Scotus, Loseke was a busy man. He was part of Mock Trial, Speech, Thespians, Fall Productions, One Acts, Campus Ministry, National Honors society, and an EME. Now that Loseke is back at Scotus again, he said it is high school all over, with a few changes.

Even though he recognizes half the faces of the teacher, the other half is gone. As a student here, Loseke was part of a more populated school as well. Scotus's population has gone down and Loseke said he would love to see more students here.

> **"I am excited to work in a high school. I feel good about coming here."**
> -Father Jeff Loseke

Now that Loseke is teaching, he said that some students don't really know what it means to be Catholic. The students, he said, have much more to learn about their religion before they fully understand what it means to be Catholic.

Being a teacher is much different from being a priest Loseke said.

"A priest has a lot more one on one sessions, meetings with people, marriage, counseling, and committee meetings," Loseke said.

"Being both a priest and school teacher is busy, but the High School is one specific part of the parish."

Loseke has set out a goal for the student body. He said the school needs more leaders in the student body to be good examples. Through those leaders, people will realize what the Church (with a capital C) is.

Loseke said every student should be involved in living their faith visibly in some way, and with Campus Ministry leaders, this could happen.

Coming out of the first all school Mass on September 1, the student body seemed more energized than usual after a Mass.

"I feel that there will be great changes since Fr. Loseke is here," sophomore Katie Schueth said, "and he will change the school for the better."

HEIDI SOBOTA/ROCK BOTTOM

Father Jeff Loseke hands out papers to his Relgion 8 students. Loeske, a 1992 Scotus graduate, will be serving his first year as campus minster at his old school.

Students were not the only people who enjoyed mass, but teachers as well said it was a great mass.

Students should not be afraid to be leaders of their faith, Loseke said. If there is one message that Loseke could send to the students, it would be: "To remember that everything we do can be done in a way that pleases God, just by putting ourselves through it."

Student teachers gaining experience

By Karla Jarecke
Editor

Who is she, and why is she sitting in *my* spot at the back of the classroom?

Many students were asking themselves this question when they discovered student teachers Carrie Smoots and Anna Detlefson in their science and computer classes on the first day of school. After realizing these two were too old to be students, the classes were introduced to Smoots and Detlefson and were informed that they would be sitting in on their classes and even teaching many of their periods during the remainder of 2004. Several students' reaction to this was positive, thinking that the new, inexperienced teachers would cut them some slack. These two young women had more experience, however, than predicted.

Smoots, a 1994 graduate of David City Aquinas and student of College of St. Mary, always knew that she wanted to be a teacher.

"I enjoy working with kids and teaching people new things," Smoots said.

> **"I enjoy working with kids and teaching people new things"**
> - Carrie Smoots

Business and English were always more of her favorite subjects, so she figured she would teach something she likes and has a great deal of interest in. Smoots, already having obtained her bachelors degree in business, is to student teach for ten weeks in business and ten weeks in english before graduating in January. She was given a list of a few high schools that she could teach at and chose to come here because she liked the idea of a Catholic high school since she attended a Catholic school herself.

Anna Detlefsen attended high school in Shelton and moved on to college at Wayne State. She was not always so sure she wanted to be a teacher, but she thought of the possibility while still a senior in high school. She came to the conclusion that she was interested in science after giving a speech about plants during a presentation her class had to do dealing with their interests for college majors. Detlefsen was originally assigned to student teach at Pierce, but had to change those plans after her husband received a job offer in Leigh, where she currently lives. She looked into Scotus and Lakeview, and she received her first call from Scotus who said they would be happy to have her.

"I was really excited to come to Scotus," Detlefsen said after looking into the school.

Although both Smoots and Detlefsen have had experience with teaching in front of people before, this was a new type of experience for them both. Both Smootz and Detlefsen admitted that they were a little nervous when asked about their first experience teaching in front of a classroom. Detlefsen said she was more concerned that none of the students would want to answer her questions. She did not find this a problem with the Jr. High students, but the older the students got, she found, the harder it is to get as much participation. Detlefsen has also been impressed by the teacher's different systems of organization, and also their unique ways of getting students motivated such as chemistry teacher Jane Dusel's mole money which is used for extra credit. Smoots, on the other hand, said she has been "overwhelmed with all the work that teaching really is."

"Making lesson plans from the new books has definitely been a good learning experience," Smoots said.

As for their plans after teaching at Scotus, Detlefsen will be taking over the science department at the high school in Leigh, and Smoots is unsure of where she will find her teaching job, but said she would be interested in a future job as a teacher here at Scotus.

HEIDI SOBOTA/ROCK BOTTOM

Scotus Flag Corp performs at halftime of Schuyler football game. Senior Emilie Powers and junior Lauren Jablonski are co-captains of this year's squad.

Flag Corps practices hard to perform

By Heidi Sobota
Editor

The music's bumpin'. The gym's rockin', but it may not be what you think.

It is not a volleyball match or a pep rally. It is 7:30 a.m., and the flag corps is practicing as it does every day.

Many people walk by the gym in the early morning hours and watch the flag corps practice, but not many will appreciate what they are doing. Sophomore flag corps member Lauren Schumacher said that having to be there every morning does not bother her. It seems that all this practice is paying off because they are already much improved from past years.

"It seems like they are ready for new things," junior Steph Levos said. "I now enjoy watching their performances, and they seem to enjoy it."

It is this new-found flare that has been drawing people to watch the flag corps at their many performances each year. People will sit in the stands during a football half time to see what new routines and skills the group is coming up with.

Sophomore corps member Kristin Wrubel said that she was nervous during her first flag performance, a pressure compounded because she said it seems that everyone always seems to pick out their mistakes. Dropping their flag, not being synchronized, and people forgetting steps is often noticed by the audience, but it's nothing a few more 7:30 a.m. practices won't fix.

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Rock Bottom review

Ten years later, *Clerks* still delivers the goods

By John Beauvias
Editor

Recently, the tenth anniversary edition of a cult classic was released and its genius took precedent over any of the B-movies now in theatres. The work in question is director Kevin Smith's break out film simply titled *Clerks*.

This movie, filmed in black and white on a budget of only $27,000, ultimately gave the world two great heroes in cinema history, Jay (Jason Mewes) and Silent Bob (Kevin Smith). Ironically, these two are, despite being the biggest actors to come out of this movie, not the centers of this story.

Instead, it focuses on a single workday of Dante Hicks (Brain O'Halloran, also of *Office Space*), a dedicated employee of the local mini-mart. He is forced to come in because the schedule worker decided to head up to Vermont. As the hours pass, an illustrious groups of characters pass through his workplace, from riot starting gum salesmen to guidance counselors in search of the perfect dozen eggs. In the meanwhile, he must make the biggest romantic decisions of his life, choosing between his current girlfriend and his high school sweetheart.

The movie is not with heavy comic relief, however. Dante's ever present friend, Randal (Jeff Anderson), is always along side him. Randal works in the video store across the street and quickly proves himself the most negligent person ever hired. His hijinks range from convincing Dante to take a break from work for a hockey game on the roof to knocking over a casket at a wake. He even goes so far as to raid the cash register and rent videos at a rival store.

It is not the humor that makes this movie great, though. As Randal and Dante weather the storm of their day, viewers are subjected to observations and philosophies that challenge and connect with even the densest of people. This movie ranges from everywhere from crude toilet humor to thought provoking and reflective. It is a great movie suited for parties and dates. However, its not for everyone, the content of its jokes and the myriad of foul language used make it only for those not easily offended. Still, there is something for everyone. It is Gen X humor at its best. As always, the decision and final judgment is up to the viewer. Give it a look and make up your mind about it yourself, after all it is your money.

Clerks 1994
Starring: **Brian O'Halloran, Jeff Anderson, Jason Mewes, Kevin Smith**
Director: **Kevin Smith**

Reviews
Chicago Sun Times--**3 stars/4**
FilmCritic.com--**4 stars/5**
Film Threat--**4.5 stars/5**
Rock Bottom ♣♣♣♣♣

Speech team saved from possible elimination

By Nicole Sobotka
Staff Reporter

All of us have fears. For most people, their greatest fear is public speaking otherwise known as giving speeches. And for others like Lauren Jablonski this "fear" is an adrenaline rush; so not only do they do it, they compete at it. This year they almost didn't get that chance.

Last year was the end of an era. Last year was Sandie Bernt's 25th year of being Scotus's Speech Team Coach. This year, Scotus has two new coaches, Tracy Johnson and Sarah Borgman. They have immense shoes to fill, and only a short time to step into those shoes. They were announced as coaches on Monday, September 13 after a summer of contacting and re-contacting possible coaches.

The Speech season consists of twelve meets including the district and state competitions. It starts in November, but they start practicing in the beginning of October. Many people from last year's team were apprehensive about the uncertainty of the team.

"I was worried that we wouldn't have a team this year," sophomore Lauren Jablonski said. "I thought that we would just let it slide and not compete, and maybe not even compete next year."

> **"I was worried that we wouldn't have a team this year."**
> -Lauren Jablonski

Bernt let the administration know two years ago that the year of 2003-2004 would be her last year as speech coach. Superintendent Bill Gannon spent time prior to the summer trying to find a coach by advertising in the *Telegram*. Looking for a speech coach was hindered by the fact that many of the people that called about it wanted a full time teaching job. Scotus continued to look through August by letters, phone calls, advertisements in the church bulletins, and even advertisements in the *Omaha World Herald*.

Many parents and students were alarmed at the apparent lack of progress. Donette Jablonski and Mary Powers were two of these concerned parents.

"When my mom and Mrs. Powers saw that nothing was really being accomplished by the school, they started organizing it themselves," Jablonski said. "We're really this far because of them."

Parents concerned with the program had a meeting with administration. Gannon said that he knows the school wanted to continue to have an identity in speech and wanted to keep the program going also.

Scotus contacted all three of the Catholic elementary schools asking them to announce the need of a coach to their staff. One of the new coaches, Sarah Borgman, is a teacher from St. Bonaventure, so the school feels that they were successful and their hard work shows it.

"Did we search as hard for this position as another?" Gannon said. "Probably harder."

Now that Scotus has a speech coach, speech team members can rest assured. They can still give speeches and get their adrenaline rushes from being in the limelight.

All-Sports

Continued from page 6

bined championship 64 to 62. West Point Central Catholic also had their girls scoring the majority of the points scoring 40 out of their 64. Both schools won volleyball and girls basketball at the state championships.

In retrospect, what is more important? State Champs or All-Sports? Girls basketball coach Sean Wickham said that an All-Sports Award better reflects the school as a whole. If a school can dominate in both girls and boys athletics, it is a true "All-Sports" champion.

"I think the boys will be better contributors now than before," he said, "and if the girls can keep up the consistency, we will be in the running again."

With eyes watching from the outside world, Scotus will once again try to become reigning "champions" of the Class C All-Sports title.

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School spirit is haunting the halls

We've got spirit! Yes we do! We've got spirit! How about YOU?!

Actually, here at Scotus we really do not have school spirit, but hopefully with S-Club we are going to try to bring school spirit back. We are beginning to have S-Club meetings for the first time in 15 years.

This, I feel, is a great thing. It is our role as students and faculty to bring back what was once a meaningful reason to go to the games. They are not only social events, but they are an event that allows you to get involved in whatever makes you happy. I also feel that allowing the Band and Flag Corps to become a part of S-Club will make the school more unified. Let's not stop at saying "I'm in S-Club." Let's go the whole nine yards and make it known to the outside community that we are Scotus, and we have a reason to be proud! Go Rocks!

➪It is that time again! HUSKER FOOTBALL! With a new coach hopefully the "west coast offense" will begin to put some meaningful points on the board. After dismantling Western Illinois 56-17, the Big Red let turnovers get in the way of a victory against Southern Mississippi. Let's hope that Coach Callahan can whip them into shape and bring some rejuvenation to our beloved Huskers. Also look for USC and LSU to continue their dynasties this season.

➪For all of you out there that do not watch tennis (which I am sure is almost all of you) Roger Federer of Switzerland continued his reign as tennis's leading man. He won the U.S. Open after also winning Wimbledon and the Australian Open. He is already being rumored as the best player ever to play the game. This is a bold statement, which puts him up in the ranks with Pete Sampras, Johnny McEnroe, and Rod Laver. Andy Roddick was ousted in the quarterfinals and was not allowed to defend his title from a year ago.

➪Tiger Woods is no longer at the top of Men's Golf. Vijay Singh is the new king. Woods' father is also having health problems with a tumor behind his eye. Earl Woods is receiving radiation to fix this problem, and Tiger is more focused on his father than losing his No. 1 ranking. Hopefully Tiger Woods will bring himself back up to shape and get in the running yet again.

➪With the women achieving gold in Athens, the WNBA is bringing to end another great season. With new faces like Diana Taurasi and veterans like Lisa Leslie, the women still reign supreme in the world of international basketball. Although they did say there was a threat of a terrorist attack, that did not stop the women from going so we want those men to get back in the mix in Beijing 2008.

➪The New England Patriots are beginning their run to another Super Bowl Championship. With Tom Brady running the show they have another good chance of bringing home the Vince Lombardi trophy. Hopefully those Broncos will start up their tradition again after losing Terrell Davis indefinitely to a knee injury. No team is standing out this year so this should be an extremely interesting NFL season.

➪One of the biggest stories in this year's Olympics was the Iraqi soccer team. They made it all the way to the semi-finals in their first major international tournament. For all the people out there that believe the war in Iraq was not justified, ask the men on that team how they feel. Now they are allowed to play for their country without the fear of torture, and that is what international athletics are all about. They will definitely be up and coming in the next few years and watch out for them in the 2006 World Cup.

Awaking the Sleeping Giant

Scotus gets off to a roller-coaster start in its quest to return to a tradition of football dominance

By Emilie Powers
Editor

When Roger Krienke was named head coach of the Scotus football team, he didn't have to look far to find a blueprint on how to bring new life to a once dominant program.

No, he didn't look to Pierce High School, his alma-mater and football powerhouse. He didn't look back to his playing days at South Dakota University.

He looked to Scotus's own past. This effort can even be seen in the team's football helmets, which are replicas of the style worn by the 1984 team to mark the 20th anniversary of that team's state championship.

The 2004 squad got off to an exciting start with a win over Schuyler, but then showed that state championships are still a long ways off by stumbling in its next two games. One of the first steps in any rebuilding project is to try to instill a winning attitude.

For the football team, this began last summer. From practice routines, coaching techniques, or game plans, the team had a lot of new information to learn.

"They were excited about learning a new offense and defense," Krienke said. "Kids picked up what we were trying to put in. They picked up the terminology well. I was pleased with the effort level."

Despite the excellent efforts made in practice, Krienke said he was feeling a mixture of excited and nervousness before the first game against Schuyler. Still, practice had made as perfect as Krienke could have anticipated.

"Another week of practice would not have made a difference," Krienke said. "We needed a game under our belts."

A new attitude has been brought, and many welcome the change. This new start is being attributed to one single emotion: enthusiasm. Both on and off the field, Krienke seems to be dripping with it. Senior football player Adam Bergland said he enjoys Krienke's enthusiasm for the game.

"No matter what is going on," Bergland said, "lifting, watching films, or whatever we are doing, he is always pumped up."

Krienke said he hopes this enthusiasm and excitement can help Scotus, which was ranked in the state's top 5 as recently as 2000, back to its recent past.

"He told us to forget about the past two years and to rebuild the dynasty," Bergland said. The last time Scotus football won a State Championship was in 1993.

The excitement has rubbed off not only on the players but on the student spectators as well.

"I really noticed the guys were much more pumped up for the (Schuyler) game, even during agilities," senior Katie Novicki said. "They all just seemed really excited to be there, which made the fans want to be there too."

In a sport like football, that emotion is key. Krienke said that the emotion level for the Milford game was not where it should have been, and contributed to the disappointing loss.

Krienke seems as pleased with the seniors as they are with him.

"The seniors are doing an excellent job," Krienke said. "They want to make Scotus football respectable again."

One of those seniors, quarterback and co-captain Pat Scheacher, said that a few early losses didn't dampen the team's spirit.

"We hope to get to the playoffs and finish strong," Schaecher said. "We have some winnable games that we need take care of."

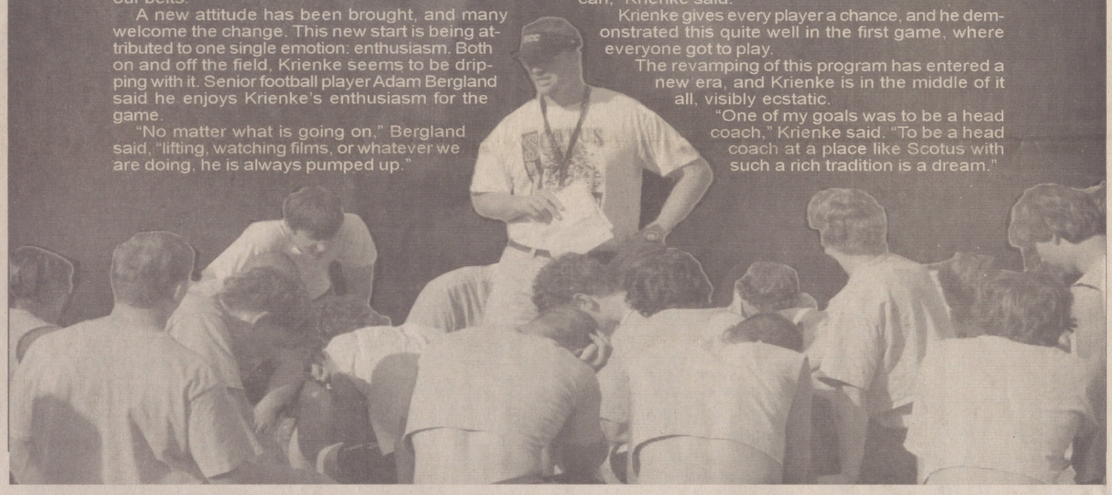
Krienke stated in the March 26 issue of the *Rock Bottom* that he believes football is a numbers game. He encouraged as many boys to go out as possible and welcomed any newcomers. Although hard to control, this is one area he would like to improve in.

"We'd love to have as many kids as we possibly can," Krienke said.

Krienke gives every player a chance, and he demonstrated this quite well in the first game, where everyone got to play.

The revamping of this program has entered a new era, and Krienke is in the middle of it all, visibly ecstatic.

"One of my goals was to be a head coach," Krienke said. "To be a head coach at a place like Scotus with such a rich tradition is a dream."



Scotus girls step up to the plate

By Karla Jarecke
Editor

This year's Columbus High softball roster is peppered with six Scotus students, giving the Discoverers a strong Shamrock flavor.

Scotus senior Jessi Ryan, who has been playing fast-pitch for three years at CHS, said that this year's team is very well rounded. She says that they have a lot of young talent this year mixed in with some veterans with five seniors on the team. She is also very ecstatic that the team gets along very well this year.

"This is the first time I've seen our team actually bond," Ryan said.

Ryan said that being from Scotus does not affect a player's position on the team, but she is concerned about the support the team gets from Scotus.

"CHS pays for a lot, so sometimes we feel left out," Ryan said.

Sophomore Natasha Scholz also admits to feeling as though Scotus does not contribute much to the team. Scholz said that Columbus High coaches wonder why Scotus does not give money to the softball program.

Another problem concerning Ryan and Scholz is support from their classmates. They have seen very few Scotus fans attend games. They said one reason for this is the fact that Scotus students must pay admission to the games, whereas Columbus High students can use their activity card, which they have the option of buying at the beginning of the school year. Ryan said she believes that if Scotus students had the option of buying the activity card like the students at CHS do then more Scotus students would want to attend the games.

This would allow them to receive free admission into other co-op sports such as wrestling and swimming which they would otherwise pay three or four dollars to be admitted.

The card, which costs twenty dollars, would save students money and motivate them to come to more games, Ryan said.

This softball team is predicting a very successful season and are off to a good start with a 10-9 record.

SADIE BOLTE/ROCK BOTTOM

Sophomore Natasha Scholz swings the bat for the Columbus High softball team. Scholz is one of the six players from Scotus.

Rocks crowned all-sport king

By Heidi Sobota
Editor

At Scotus the first thought that will spring into an outsider's mind is of course... athletics. Volleyball, football, soccer, basketball, track. No matter what it is, someone is always talking about it.

For the 2003-2004 school year, the Omaha World Herald named Scotus Girls All-Sports Champions for the eighth time in the last ten years. The award is given to the school who earns the most points in the end-of-season rankings. A state championship is worth so many points depending on the sport, and each team in the Top 10 is awarded points based on how they finished.

The girls almost single-handedly pulled in the hardware scoring 60 out of 62 points. However, West Point Central Catholic won the com-

See All-Sports, page 5

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Volleyball sets state standard for wins...Page 6

SCOTUS CENTRAL

ROCK BOTTOM

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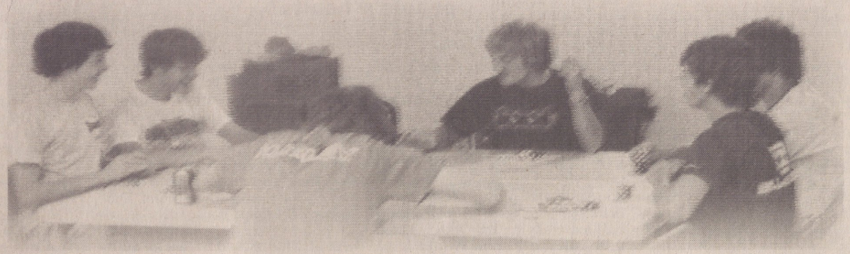
VOLUME 7 ◆ ISSUE 2 ◆ OCTOBER 15, 2004

Poker, gambling hot topics at Scotus



Nebraska legislature looking at expanding legalized gambling

By John Beauvias
Editor

In the Unicameral's latest session, Nebraska's state senators will vote on an amendment that would allow gambling to be constitutional. If ratified, the next ballot will present options to constituents for legalize casinos and other forms of gambling. Currently, two ballot initiatives lead the charge.

Amendment 3 would allow for the building of two casinos in Nebraska. The other, Initiatives 417-420, would allow for the building of two casinos in Omaha and over 4,900 slot and poker machines throughout the state.

A thrid option is to abstain from gambling completely. This is supported by scores of religious groups who believe the social cost to would be unbearable, but has drawn concern from many citizens, especially those of Omaha. These citizens feel that the state is losing a valuable source of income to our neighbor to the east. According to *The Legislative Guide to State Taxation in Iowa*, the state received $186,730,830 from gaming tax revenues in the year 2000 alone.

Gary Bock already makes a living off of legalized gambling. He is the general manager of Simulcast racing at Ag Park in Columbus. Simulcasting allows people to bet on horse races around the country shown on TV. He said that just allowing two casinos anywhere in Nebraska limits the ability of smaller businesses to compete. In his opinion, the proposition that would allow for slot machines and video poker could inject money into the local community, and since, money, once injected into the local economy, typically turn hands seven times before it leaves the community.

"The proposal (Initiative 417-420) to allow slots and video poker will give new opportunities to small business owners," Mr. Bock said, "It would be expensive to get involved, but at least they would get a chance."

The final option available to the state is to allow Nebraska's Native American tribes to set up casinos on their reservation. The current arrangement between the state does not allow for the tribes to operate any type of gambling facilities as long as the state does not allow similar gambling.

Bock said expanded gambling would be a beneficial thing if it were properly regulated.

Reasons that student's support the issue tend to vary.

"I can't wait for gambling to come," senior Nikki Van Ackren said. "Once I am old enough, I'm definitely going to the casinos."

Fellow senior Travis Herchenback had different reasons for supporting the current push.

"Nebraska taxes are way too high," he said. "Maybe casinos are what we need to cut down on them."

Some, such as art teacher Nancy Shadle, oppose the proposals. She credits its overwhelming support at the school to students being grossly uniformed on the subject.

"It is scary," she said. "I do not think students understand the ramifications of legalized gambling."

Not all students are in favor of the prospect of casinos in Nebraska.

"The human cost of gambling is too high," freshman Cathy Held said.

These opinions are not without substance. The U. S. Census has shown several trends in states that legalize gambling. Suicide, domestic violence, child abuse, divorce, bankruptcy, and over all crime rates are elevated in the states that have legalized gambling.

Soon the legislature will decide if Nebraska takes the next step toward rolling the dice with expanded gambling.

ESPN's WSOP sparks poker craze

By Chad Schmeits
Editor

It looks like America has found a new pastime: poker. Just about every night of the week, one can be flipping through the channels and come across at least one poker game being played on national TV, the most frequent being Texas Hold 'Em.

What is the world coming to that watching people gamble, and most of the time lose, has almost become an obsession? Not only has watching poker become popular, but also playing poker.

Texas Hold 'Em is a huge trend at Scotus. It seems as if there is a poker game being played at some student's house nearly every day of the week. Hold 'Em, especially here at Scotus, tends to be a male-dominated game.

It's not too often that one hears girls talking about a poker game being played at someone's house, or at least not at this school.

"All they are doing is losing money," senior Haley Buelt said. "Can't they find something better to do?"

She said that she has never been part of a poker game, and she doesn't know why girls don't play.

The main poker event that is televised on TV is called the World Series of Poker (WSOP). The requirements to enter the WSOP are $10,000 and one must be at least 21 years of age. Most of the people that entered the WSOP ended up losing all their money because they got knocked out early, but the winner took home a hefty check of $5,000,000.

The WSOP is also very male-dominated, but there were a few women who decided to test their luck for $5,000,000 in cold, hard cash. Recently, the Tournament of Champions, which is a poker tournament consisting of the top poker players in the world, was won by a woman. Annie Duke, who won $2,000,000.

Senior Andy Hadland said that he plays poker "for the thrill of the game." He also said that watching poker on TV is what made him want to play the game.

Poker involves a lot of luck, but here is also an aspect of skill involved. According to Hadland, there is more skill than luck, but he doesn't deny that luck plays a factor.

"If you catch the right cards," he said, "then you should win."

He also said that his favorite professional poker player is Howard Lederer, because he shows proper "poker etiquettes," and he doesn't rub it in his opponent's faces when he wins. Hadland said he wants to follow Lederer footsteps someday.

"If I had the money to enter," Hadland said, "I would."

POKER LINGO

The Nuts	best possible hand
Hilton Sisters	pair of Queens
Cowboys	pair of Kings
Poket Rockets	pair of Aces
Fold	forfeit the hand

Class challenges traditional male image

By John Beauvais
Editor

Every Friday, the announcements, *Building Healthy Relationships*' students are told when to report to their groups. For most of the student body, what goes on behind the closed doors of their meetings is a mystery. Applicants are selected at random and then divided into three groups.

They boys' class tries to change its participants' views of what it means to be masculine. They are shown why it is not always right to be "stoic" or "macho." The discussions in the class have allowed some students to develop more rounded views of the ideal male.

"Being a man just doesn't mean being tough all the time," said freshman Ethan Schaecher. "We don't have to be in charge of everything."

> **"I never realized that self-respect was an essential part of a relationship."**
> - Jeff Olmer

Scott Pettit, the male student advisor/advocate, has been heading these seminars, with the Center for Survivors, for over ten months. His impression of Scotus has been good so far. Pettit said he believes that Scotus students face issues other than that of other schools in Columbus because of the different climate private institutions offer. However, he maintains that our young men are not that different.

"They are basically good kids," Pettit said. "Each has their own expectations for the class and their own needs. It's hard to tell,

*See **BHR**, page 5*

S-Club puts forth effert to increase student involvement

By Katie Michaelsen
Staff Reporter

It's game day and the crowd is cheering, but wait, what are the students doing? It's not uncommon to see half the students sit and the other half stand during the Scotus fight song at any Scotus game or activity. Needless to say, the S-Club is looking for student leaders to take a stand and get the student body involved in these activities and be of some support.

S-Club sponsor Jim Puetz and his assistant Sean Wickham are trying to get more students to join S-Club. No it's not S-Club7 (the musical group), for those of you that didn't already know, but a club to keep students active in school spirit. This club is open to anyone that has earned a letter or participates in any activity that you can receive a letter in.

Wickham was asked to help with the club and said that he would like to do this and get it going.

"We decided to have people more active and over time, pick it back up," Wickham said.

Wickham said in the past S-Club has been an honorary club that rarely met. This year's club is trying to change that.

A lot of schools wear letter jackets, but they are rarely seen at Scotus. Look in recent yearbooks and it's very odd to see students wear letter jackets, but this is something the club is hoping to change.

Wickham said that the letter jackets are an important priority because they are the most visible thing. Students should wear them because they are proud of their school and proud of their accomplishments, he said.

> **"I really think the school's spirit has died. S-Club can help...and be there to support and not socialize."**
> - Jordan Grubaugh

"I think it's one of those things that kids don't want to wear them," Wickham said.

Some students plainly do not want to wear the jackets, but others have their own opinions about the jackets and how S-Club is helping Scotus.

"I think the S-Club will get the student body more involved with cheers at athletic games," sophomore Kellie Johnson said. "The letter jackets need to be updated and not so old fashion."

Whether it is the style or color, Wickham said Scotus seems to be the only school that doesn't wear them. This is where S-Club comes in. A total of 63 students showed up for the first club meeting, which is a great response Wickham said.

He said there needs to be at least 10 active members at every game or event that are visible to the crowd.

"I really think the schools' spirit has died," sophomore Jordan Grubaugh said. "S-Club can help the team get pumped and motivated and be there to support and not socialize."

T-shirts will also be an identifying piece that all S-Club members will receive, hopefully for under $10, he said.

With strong senior leaders, then this club will get under way. He said in the past, seniors have gotten together to think of ideas to spark the student crowd and to be leaders for all students during an activity.

Wichham said that students must realize that this club is for supporting those who are in an activity and to cheer for them. He said everyone is important to what Scotus is about.

"The crowd is always good, but it is the students who are most visible," Wickham said. "There are things you can and cannot do, but your sportsmanship is very important in the student crowd."

R-E-S-P-E-C-T is L-A-C-K-I-N-G

This may seem severely generic, but respect at Scotus is an issue that some people are becoming increasingly aware of and others should know about. In at least seven sports, groups, or activities at Scotus, respect issues have risen. The organization does not matter. The sponsor, captain, coach, teacher, or student does not matter. Even the situation does not matter. At a Catholic school, let us take one minute of our busy lives and *seriously* ponder Jesus' words: Treat others as you want to be treated. It is difficult to be the first person to stand up and do the right thing, but respect has to start somewhere.

When it comes to respect there are three kinds of people. Person number one genuinely means what they say all the time. Person number two talks to you differently to your face or behind your back. Person number three has no concept of respect whatsoever. When the topic of respect arises, people always rack their brains to think of whom it was that did or said something wrong. They never stop to think that perhaps they've slipped up. *Everyone* has been guilty of disrespect in some way, shape, or form at one point or another.

There are so many commonly used phrases that hearing them so often do we rarely stop to think what they really mean. Looking again at Jesus, most Scotus students say the Our Father daily. It becomes a routine and meaningless unless you take time to think about it carefully each time you pray it. The same goes for the commonly used phrases. Think before you speak. If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all. Don't criticize somebody unless you've walked a mile in their shoes. Mind your own business.

Does anyone honestly have a strong enough character to spend time analyzing other people's habits?

Some disrespect that is or has occurred at Scotus this year has been within and between various organizations. For example, a certain individual from the football team voiced his opinion to a certain volleyball player. He spoke on behalf of "everyone" from the football team saying that they wished the volleyball team would have lost. Just because the football team has had a rough few years, is that any reason to put down the volleyball team's success when they work just as hard if not harder than the football team? Obviously the little green monster has reared its ugly head, and this time it's not the shamrock.

In at least two other organizations (that shall remain nameless), there seems to be a struggle for power. Whether it's underclassmen whocan't wait for their turn to lead the pack, or fellow seniors who are upset at their position (or lack thereof), students this year seem to be having difficulty respecting their captain(s). Trust that they are doing the best job they know how because working against them makes it more difficult for them to lead their peers.

Think about the meaning behind your words and actions. Did you really want someone else to do poorly? Are they really all that bad at what they do? Just as most of us probably pray the Our Father without thinking about what it truly means, so have students gotten into the habit of being disrespectful without even thinking twice. Old habits die hard, and this one will definitely kill spirits. No one deserves disrespectful comments, behind their back or not. Speaking badly about someone behind their back is worse than saying something to them because they can not even defend themselves. Don't be a coward. If you have a problem with someone, discuss it with them privately and rationally. Do not involve more people than you have to because chances are it is none of their business.

Who's talking about you? Who are you talking about? Is it accomplishing anything? Everyone could spend hours trying to put others into categories. Since we were young we have always been told to "worry about yourself." Does anyone honestly have a strong enough character to spend time analyzing other people's habits? When it comes down to it, everyone is either person one, two, or three. What number do you *want* to be? What number *are* you? What number *should* you be?

Editorial Briefs

Watch what you wear

Dress code seems to be a long-standing issue around Scotus, but the way the school is handling it is better now than ever. The teachers and administrators are at least beginning to enforce the dress code, and they might as well since there is one. Although there are certain parts of the dress code that are sort of pointless (such as having all-white socks), we still need to keep up the good work on enforcing it.

With that in mind we also need to think of what the teachers and administrators are saying. The teachers must also have to have certain standards like not being able to see your midriff when you put your arms over your head. Also, while bending over to see something as insignificant as the color of our socks, make sure we do not have the chance to see more than we pay for. Some women cannot help it, but for school, all must dress appropriately.

Wasted class time not just teachers fault

The clock keeps ticking and students keep waiting. Most students would love to waste class time, but what about those students who do care? Everyday there seems to be almost the exact amount of time just sitting around doing nothing in some classes. One student has been keeping track of how much class time is being wasted each day in one particular class, and that amount averaged about 12 minutes. Meaning, the teacher tries to get the class's attention and there is no response, so for as long as that takes, it's wasting time.

If these calculations are right, then that is about an entire class wasted the entire week, and about a month of wasted class time the entire year. In a month, it's about a full week of doing nothing. Yes, some kids are happy, but think about it, why would you just want to sit an entire class and listen to a bunch of nothing while you can actually learn? Over half the time it's the students' fault, because they treat the teacher like dirt. Yes, the students do treat the teachers like dirt, but it is the responsibility of the teacher to remove the problem from the class. They interrupt while the teacher is talking, laugh and tell secrets during class, and most of all, don't want to give the teacher a chance.

If anything it's the maturity level of those students. They have no respect and we are in a Catholic school, so why not be quiet and give some of those teachers a chance.

Part 2: So many Europe stories, so little space

- -Brutally Honest- - -

Spain was hot.

And on that particular day, with those particular crazy people, it was *really* hot. Not to mention the fact that I wore my book bag jam-packed with 22 hours of entertainment for my numerous flights. I was obviously not smart enough to unload it in the two whole hours of free time we had before we headed out on our useless escapade.

We were lost. I was drenched in sweat. And this was only my first day in Europe with another two weeks to look forward to.

"It's this way." "No, that way." "Yeah, 'cause I like, remember that hot guy on that big sign thingy!"

We did have adults with us, but luckily they were *not* familiar with Spain at all. We ended up going "that way," whichever way it was, but we were back. Back to the hotel now full of confused-looking Nebraskans (thank God they finally came).

"Where did you go?"

All I could answer was…Madrid. More accurately-*circles* around Madrid.

Yes, I got pooped on.

We basically just walked around the city the whole time we were there, which was about two and a half days. There weren't any authentic stores where we walked around, but we found places with some pretty unique shoes. Unfortunately they didn't exactly fit my enormous feet or my not-so-enormous budget.

Before we knew it, it was goodbye Madrid and hello Paris! Not only was I excited to visit the famous city, but also we were going to meet up with the rest of our Nebraska group that didn't go on the extension to Spain.

The train ride from Madrid to Paris wasn't too bad, although its numerous convulsions sent my face slamming into the window one too many times.

We hopped off the train, onto the bus, and arrived at our beautiful royal palace where we were greeted by the most gorgeous Parisian in all the land.

NOT. It was more like…we were hurried off the bus to get into our hotel in fear of the gangs who were staring at us from the park across the street. When we entered the hotel, we were welcomed by the pungent stench of marijuana and the glossy stare of the hotel attendant.

Although Paris is quite the dirty city, it does have its good qualities, such as its beautiful historical architecture, the American-bashing French waiters, the many ammo-filled pigeons flying overhead (yes, I got pooped on), the jolting traffic that made Jen Haney hurl, and the juvenile delinquents harassing us as we waited under the Eiffel Tower.

Don't get me wrong. It was a fun experience, but it's just not somewhere I'd want to live.

Our last day in Paris came rather quickly for some, and not quick enough for others, as we split the troop into even smaller groups for one last go-around shopping the stores of Paris.

By the time we were leaving France for Switzerland, almost everyone was happy to get out of the huge city. Little did we know what the future train ride had in store for us.

To be continued (this is the last one, I promise)…

Rap: An accidental career for the untalented

- - - - Earmuffs! - - - -

Rap may be the world's worst mishap. Hey, I'm a poet and I didn't even know it. I think that's how most rappers realized what they could do. They were probably just sitting at home and said something like, "Yo mom, this chicken fried steak is da bomb," and realized that they could rhyme. Then they went to a recording studio, told them of their newly discovered "talent", and had music to their talking.

I think the funniest thing is that rappers can take the dumbest topic, write a song about it, and put it to music. But the sad thing is, people like it! For instance, I don't want to hear a song about "leaning back", or a song about how it's getting hot in here. I figured that all you have to do is think of something really stupid and put it to a catchy beat, and it's going to be played everywhere.

I don't want to hear a song about "leaning back."

There are also a few more qualifications that you must meet in order to become a famous rapper. The most important thing that you need to do is drive a Cadillac Escalade. Inside this Escalade there needs to be TV's, suede on the seats, and a "bumpin" system. Another thing that you may need is a very profound strut. You can really tell how much money someone has and how famous someone is by how big their strut is. Ice is something else that is also very important. Ice is what rappers call their big, expensive jewelry. It's also known as "bling bling".

What's up with rappers rapping about themselves? Lots of big rap songs are about the rappers belongings. They like to rap about their cars, jewelry, and houses. It's almost like they're trying to tell us that they are so rich that they're can afford to make CD's about how rich they are. All they're trying to do is rub it in your face by rapping about how because you bought this CD, it helped them pay for the $250,000 diamond necklace . So, all we're doing by buying their albums are making every rapper that much more conceited.

And why is it that rappers are so obsessed with women? It's hard to find a rap video that doesn't have lots of girls in little amounts of clothing. I don't see why these girls are so attracted to these guys anyway. I bet all of them are just in awe of how good they are at talking in their CD's, and they know that if they can get with these rappers, the will be able to watch movies in their Escalades.

In the end, I think most rappers are not famous for being good at rapping, but for what they own. You never hear of a famous rapper living in a trailer park and driving a Ford Escort, because that would severely ruin their reputation.

So, if you have recently found out that you are good at rhyming, you should become a rapper, because you really don't need much talent. Well then, peace out homies, and until next time, keep it real yo!

Intercepting grades from parents only delays the inevitable

Once a quarter it comes. You sneak into your house, avoiding your parents, crossing your fingers and praying you can avoid the inevitable. You get to your room, close the door quietly and turn around. Then you realize that you are not alone in your room. YOUR PARENTS ARE THERE! And they hold a little sheet of paper that is going to keep you grounded for a very long time.

This sheet, of course, is your mid-quarter report, graciously given to your parents by our kind school administration. All of a sudden every plan set up for the next couple of weeks is trashed. The paper you did not spend as much time as you should have and that test you could of sworn was the next day have come back to haunt you. You are in the house for less than thirty seconds before you hear what seem to be every parent's favorite words: "YOUR GROUNDED!"

If I were a responsible and well-rounded student, I could simply accept that it is my fault and buckle down to study. However, we all know those qualities are far from the reality that is actually me. I know two things: The teachers are all against me, and second, my parents cannot get another one of these report cards.

It is obvious the teachers are out to ruin our grades.

It is obvious the teachers are out to ruin our grades. Assignments are *always* given on the days with the hardest practices, the essay is *always* due the day after games, and test are always, *always* on the days you feel sick. Every teacher, when they grade homework likes to recall the times you dozed off in class or the joke you could not resist from making. The answers you turned in are never the ones that are returned checked wrong.

Sure, there seem to be those goody-goody students out there, with the perfect grades and many times the seemingly three dozen athletic letters, not to mention their staff positions in all of Scotus's clubs. I know that these people have to do this one of two ways.

The majority of them must be bribing the teachers. I would do the same, but in the *countless* hours I spend on my homework, I do not have time to find a job to pay my teachers. The other possibility is that these miracle students do not sleep. They are always doing something to add to their fifteen page resumes and yet they always have time to make an appearance at every party that occurs in a 15-mile area. My personal belief is that these students are really robots, built by the school to make unrealistically high expectations for the rest of us average students.

Next quarter though, I will have the jump on these reports. I already know that simply stealing it from the mail will easily get me grounded for even more amounts of time. No, I will have the next few weeks to stop my parents from reading it. Running over and crushing the mailbox comes to mind. If any of my fellow students have any helpful advice, please tell me. I will be at home, grounded, trying to figure out how I to explain to my parents why I ran over my parents 500 pound stone and brick mailbox.

P.S. On a personal note, I would like to apologize to the cheerleaders for the incident after the Lakeview game. I let my emotions run and said something that I regret. I appreciate your support of Scotus athletics and for the record, I never said that I did not nor did I blame anyone for what happened with that game. Sorry for the whole ordeal.

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Send to Scotus care of the Rock Bottom.

From paddleboats to powerpoles

Seniors bond at annual retreat for the last time

HEIDI SOBOTA/ROCK BOTTOM

Eugene Bichlmeier and Katie Connolly seem to enjoy themselves in the water. Paddleboats was another favorite of the day.

By Emilie Powers & Katie Michaelsen
Rock Bottom Staff

Through rain and shine, the senior class had an eventful day at their senior retreat. The seniors tested their limits through extreme activities, old friendships, and a new priest, Fr. Jeff Loseke. They were also joined by English teacher Becki Zanardi. Not only did the students learn more about each other, but they got a feel of what it's like to be closer to one another.

"We all got closer in a way," senior Cesili Forney said. "It was a good way to get away from school and get to know your classmates outside of the school rules."

The seniors were out of school, but what kind of mischief were they really getting into? Whether it was mudfighting, tipping over canoes, or jumping on the blob, students got to experience things under the new direction of Loseke.

"He [Loseke] likes to interact with us and find out what type of people we are and what activities we like to do," senior Ashlee Ebel said.

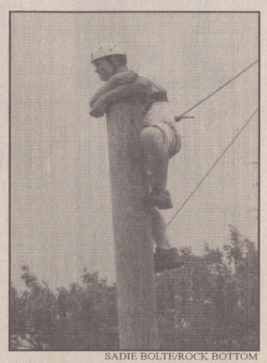
Loseke was equally motivated about the day.

"I was tentatively excited," Loseke said, "because I knew it was a big moment for the seniors, and I had not been to Timberlake before."

Loseke's favorite activiy was the ropes course. He also liked how the day ended with mass. Loeske and Zanardi joined students in launchings on the blob, a blown up object that people jump on to launch a person into the water.

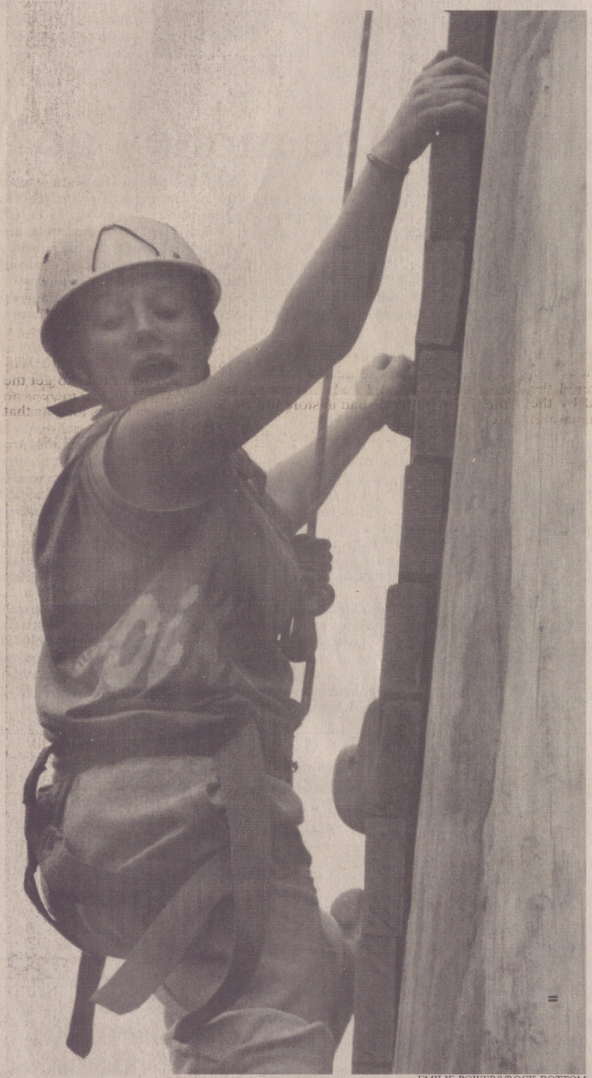
As their senior year progresses, students think about what's ahead.

"I think we are all starting to realize the reality of our senior year," Ebel said. "We won't see many people after this year, so why not make the best of it."



SADIE BOLTE/ROCK BOTTOM

Tony Lange reaches the top of the powerpole. To complete the task, he had to stand up on the pole and leap to a trapeze several feet away.



EMILIE POWERS/ROCK BOTTOM

Jessi Ryan fearlessly climbed the rock wall. She then looked down to realize that she couldn't go any further.

SADIE BOLTE/ROCK BOTTOM

LEFT: Ben Beller and Chad Schmeits cheer on Heidi Sobota. She attempted to climb the powerpole first.

BELOW: Tony Korth smiles as he almost falls off the ropes course. The seniors always had a line waiting to take part in this activity.

EMILIE POWERS/ROCK BOTTOM

HEIDI SOBOTA/ROCK BOTTOM

Students watch as English teacher Becki Zanardi slides off the blob. Zanardi was one of several teachers chaperoning the event.

HEIDI SOBOTA/ROCK BOTTOM

Andy Hadland, Cody Bonk, Ben Beller, and Nathan Staroscik fail miserably in their attempt to canoe. Many water activities took place that day.

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Contenders For the Crown: This Year's Homecoming Royalty

Canidates answer the hard questions on everyone's mind

Haley Buelt

Haley Buelt
Q: Why do you want to be homecoming Queen?
A: I don't want to be. My favorite person Sadie should be.
Q: What will you do if you win?
A: Read the *Rock Bottom.*

Kayla Engel

Kayla Engel
Q: How will you make all citizens of your kingdom treat you?
A: Like the little midget I am with lots of love and chocolate.
Q: What will you do if you win?
A: Run a 2-mile warm-up around the track.

Brittany Williams

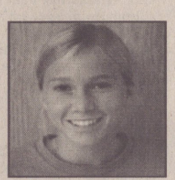
Brittany Williams
Q: What will you do if you win?
A: "Shake it, sh-sh-shake it, sh-sh-shake it like a Polaroid picture."
Q: What would you do if you win?
A: Make Alex Kuta my king.

Karla Jarecke

Karla Jarecke
Q: Why do you want to be homecoming Queen?
A: So I can dance with Mlinar and we can respark our 5th grade love affair.
Q: What will you do if you win?
A: I will body surf over the Scotus fans.

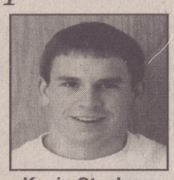
Becky Johnson

Becky Johnson
Q: Why do you want to be homecoming Queen?
A: So I can have the special dance alone with Nathan Staroscik, and so I can take a picture with THEE Nathan Staroscik.
Q: What will you do if you win?
A: I will jump for joy and hug Nathan Staroscik.



Katie Swanson

Katie Swanson
Q: How will you make all citizens of your kingdom treat you?
A: Like a beautiful swan in a pond.
Q: Describe what the magical kingdom of Scotus is in one word.
A: Squirrelly

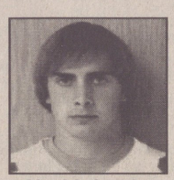


Kevin Stachura

Kevin Stachura
Q: Why do you want to be homecoming King?
A: So I can come back next year.
Q: What makes you a good candidate?
A: I like protein.

Nate Staroscik

Nathan Staroscik
Q: Describe what the magical kingdom of Scotus is in one word.
A: Whaa-bam!
Q: What will you do if you win?
A: Blow a tender kiss to a special Spanish IV teacher I know.

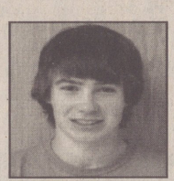


Chad Schmeits

Chad Schmeits
Q: As King, how will you rule your kingdom?
A: We will have SCC on our shorts, shoes, and socks too!!
Q: What will you do if you win?
A: I will buy everyone a kitten.

Pat Schaecher

Pat Schaecher
Q: Describe what the magical kingdom of Scotus is in one word.
A: Protein
Q: What makes you a good candidate?
A: I know Paul.



Ben Beller

Ben Beller
Q: What will you do if you win?
A: Run some hills with Mr. Mahoney.
Q: As King, how will you rule your kingdom?
A: I will play Dave Mathews Band throughout the halls and hire midgets to carry everyone's books.

Ben Mlinar

Ben Mlinar
Q: Why do you want to be homecoming King?
A: So Ryan Ames will touch my head.
Q: Describe what the magical kingdom of Scotus is in one word.
A: Paul

Photo courtesy of Emilie Powers

Seniors (Clockwise from black alien) Aleah German, Jennifer Lenser, Crystal Modde, Megan Rosenquist, Katie Connolly, Steph Hall and Emilie Powers pose in their sixth grade halloween costumes.

Where does all the money go?

By Sadie Bolte
Editor-in-Chief

Show me the money!

For some students at Scotus, this phrase may be a weekly occurrence as they tell their parents to hand over the cash.

Others dream of the day their parents would even think of dishing out the dough or whipping out the Visa.

Whether the money is passed off freely or well earned, one question remains: Where is all of this money going?

For the working student, sometimes the paycheck may be spent more quickly than it came. Junior Jessica Daley can relate to those useless shopping sprees to that famous store that has everything: Wal-Mart.

"I come home, and I'm like, 'What did I buy?'" she said.

There are those students, however, who do not have that extra cash to freely spend. Senior Cody Bonk works at Hamilton about five days a week to make payments for his car and its insurance.

"I try to save the rest of it," Bonk said, "if I don't spend it on poker first."

Other than his car, the bank, and in the hands of other poker players, Bonk said he does not really invest his money elsewhere.

Freshman Brock Lower also spends some of his money on poker. Although he drags beaches every week, the source of most of his income comes from his weekly ten-dollar allowance.

> "What did I buy?"
> -Jessica Daley

While every girl needs her clothes, shopping for them can bring about routines.

"Every time [Whitney Ebel and I] go to American Eagle," eighth graderMacey Fuhr said, "we buy a pair of underwear."

It can safely be said that clothes, shoes, makeup, and even more clothes are on which many female students spend most of their money.

Junior Sami Zabawa says she has to pay for most of her clothes and other things she wants, when her parents pay for things she needs.

While some may get allowances, and others work for the money, Zabawa receives income from both resources. While she works at 13th Street Barbeque, her parents give her a weekly allowance for working around the house.

"I usually spend most of my allowance," she said, "and I put my work money into savings for college."

Many students have jobs, but for those who don't, this means money usually comes from one source-mom and dad.

"My parents don't want me to get a job," junior Amberle Zuerlein said, "so that I can focus on my grades."

Zuerlein said she spends most of her weekly allowance on things she does on the weekend, as true with many teenagers.

Whether it comes from the pockets of parents or from tedious labor, and whether it is spent on fast cars, cute shoes, or a night at the movies, it is something that cannot be ignored-money!

Halloween memories still haunt students years later

By Sadie Bolte
Editor-in-Chief

"Happy Halloween!"

These words are heard as students descend the stairwell, ready to go home after school is out. They look outside to see that the screaming has come (and is still coming) from a seemingly strange lady in a Halloween costume.

When senior Eugene Bichlmeier heard this noise, his first reaction was to run away. He overheard people talking about this "odd lady," and most of them were freaked out or just plain confused.

Bichlmeier eventually peeked outside, and little did he know this distraction was waiting for him.

He saw the sign she was holding. On this sign was a name he had recognized-it was his own.

"It took me a while, but when I realized it, I was like, 'Oh my gosh, that's my mom!'" Bichlmeier said.

Like Bichlmeier, most students have memorable Halloween stories, embarrassing or not. Many of these memorable times may come from a time at a party when everything but the norm occurred.

Junior Ashley Bowns had her usual party last Halloween at her house. She and her friends were hanging out outside when it happened.

"These ten-year-old punks drove by on their bikes," Bowns said. "They were wearing capes and started to whip candy at us."

As children, many dress up in costumes for the holiday. Senior Ann Beiermann remembers a time when her family went Trick-Or-Treating together.

"My older brother and sister were both fishermen," Beiermann said, "and my younger brother and I were hunters."

For some students, it is not too late to dress up for the occasion.

This year, Bowns said she and friend Stephanie Levos wanted to get full-body animal suits and run around in them Halloween night.

Whether it is six or sixteen, age is not necessarily a determining factor for the students at Scotus to enjoy Halloween.

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The Bachelor kicks off new season

By Heidi Sobota
Editor

Roses are usually used to show someone you love them, but in the case of *The Bachelor* roses are used to either keep or kick off potential spouses.

In this new season, the bachelor, Byron Velvick, will have a little bit more trouble deciding than in seasons past. First of all, he had to be chosen by the women over another potential bachelor, he is living with the women, and he must choose the women separately for every date because each date is one-on-one. The women undoubtedly will become nasty, and he will be able to see it first hand. Velvick also seems to come home after EVERY date and find a note from another girl who did not get chosen to go on the date, Although this season the women are getting along better than in years past. Trish from the last season always seemed to be the one that no other girls liked, and she is being replaced with Krysta this season.

"I don't care for Krysta," FCS teacher Carmen Johnson said. "She is pretty outspoken, and she doesn't care if she hurts another person's feelings."

Johnson echoes the feelings of many of the women on the show, many of who have knowingly voiced their opinion about her. Krysta has already been shown running around the women's villa wearing nothing but a thong and an apron, which would also make many of us uncomfortable.

With jealousy rearing its ugly head, Velvick must work long and hard to separate the women worth dating from the women who are there for the T.V. time. In past seasons, it always seems that the bachelors never last, but the bachelorettes so far have stayed together. Such is the case with the first bachelorette Trista and her husband Ryan, along with Meredith and Ian. The people who watch *The Bachelor* want to see at least one bachelor and his chosen one last forever.

Watching *The Bachelor* comes down to one simple fact for Johnson (and for 2,999,999 others who watch the show on a weekly basis), and that is getting to see all the interesting people that come on. Drama and competitiveness is always around when a group of women is fighting over a man, and such is the case in every season of the show.

Everyone needs a little excitement in his or her lives, and for 3 million people every Wednesday night, that excitement is *The Bachelor*.

And the award goes to...

With the overabundance of award shows on TV, we asked students if they could create any award, what would it be called and to whom would it go?

Best Cheerleader - Tony Lange
Drew Gannon - 12

Most Uhhh's said in one class period - Mr. Mahoney (with 175 Uhhh's)
Josh Ryan - 9

Best Sports Role Models - Lawrence Phillips, Kobe Bryant, Mike Tyson, Ricky Williams, Pete Rose
Kyle Clarey - 11

Best Girlish Shriek - Ben Mlinar
Cody Bonk - 12

Rock Bottom review

Grill brings smoky taste to 13th St.

By Karla Jarecke
Editor

Mmmmmm, barbeque ribs!

This was definitely what I was thinking walking along 13th Street one pleasant Wednesday evening. I was excited to eat at the 13th Street BBQ & Grill that recently opened this summer. I decided to bring my dad along for some good father-daughter bonding time. Well that and the fact that he would be paying for the meal. Anyway, dining at the restaurant was a first for the both of us.

As for service, I give them five stars. The waitresses were all about pleasing us from the moment we walked through the door. Although I did get a few weird looks when I started taking pictures of my food, they were overall very nice people. As for the food, I was expecting to see BBQ this and BBQ that to be the basis of the menu, but to my surprise there was a wide variety of choices on the menu. Seafood at a BBQ joint was definitely unexpected, but I suppose the more choices they have the more people they can please.

The food here is basically what most people can relate to as bar food with the exception of the more expensive cuisine such as steak and prime rib. The price for a meal ranges anywhere from a hamburger

Ribs and one of 13th St. BBQ's many barbeque dishes.

$5.99 to the prime rib $16.99. I went for the pulled pork sandwich served on a sesame seed bun with red onion and pickle for $5.99. My dad chose the Wednesday night special which was all you can eat BBQ beef ribs for $7.99. Well ok we were a bit cheap, but I was taking into consideration what the average teenager would choose to pay for their meal. The meals were served about five minutes after ordering. Quick service is always a plus. My sandwich, which also came with a side of coleslaw, was delicious. The pork had a "smoked" taste that left your mouth watering. I sampled my dad's BBQ beef ribs and thought they were good, but the pork was much better. The meal left me satisfied, but not extremely full. There was definitely room for dessert. We ordered the carrot cake $2.99. I can honestly say this was the best carrot cake I've ever had. Any carrot cake fan must try this. It was, as some food critics might suggest, "to die for".

So if you are ever craving barbeque ribs or a place to kick back and watch some Monday night football, I highly recommend dining at the 13th St. BBQ & Grill. It is a casual restaurant with a relaxing atmosphere for any age group. It is a great restaurant for a family, a group of friends, or even a date.

BHR: *Boys build healthy relationships*

from page 1

but most kids welcome the knowledge."

The class has helped many to tear down the traditional male view of masculinity. The image of the Terminator-esque, muscle bound, emotionless tough guy is fading from the participant's minds.

"I now know that just because you look tough, it doesn't mean you don't have feelings," freshman Kevin Patocka said.

Also, touched upon are the issues of sex and dating. The students taught that women are more than objects, that they are people too, with valuable opinions. Sex is taught to be more than a toy, to be discarded and tossed away at a whim. Young men are taught to respect their partners.

On the same note, young men are told to be respectful of themselves. They learn not to be martyrs in relationships, staying in just for the sake of the girl. They learn that their feelings are valid too and that they need to respect themselves.

"I never realized that self-respect was an essential part of a relationship," said senior Jeff Olmer.

Time will tell if this class has the positive effect on the students that it is hoping for.If things go as planned, students could look forward to a happier high school

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Trash talking is part of athletics

Let the trash talk begin!

Trash talking seems to get more people involved in the game than would have been in a regular situation. Spectators, players, and coaches all seem to do a little bit of this ageless aspect of sports. There is always something about getting wrapped up in the hooplah of things being said. Certain sports are more prone to athletes being trash talkers, which makes me wish trash talking was a larger part of every sport.

Walk up to any of the older female athletes here, and ask them who gets the most involved in the trash talk. The answer will undoubtedly be yours truly. Making other players get angry about things you cannot control has always been a specialty of mine.

Having only been a part of female athletics, I can honestly say I've never heard anyone say to me, "you got served." I can say however, that I have heard many a time, "jeez...get off me," while pushing you and running away. For those of you who do not know me well I am fairly "solid," which seems to make a lot of our adversaries angry. They have a little trouble getting through me so they are forced to go around me, which in some instances can take quite awhile.

Having only been a part of female athletics, I can honestly say I've never heard anyone say to me, "you got served."

Since we are often the ones that people are chasing, other teams will take their trash talking to a more physical level such as making anti-Shamrock posters or even t-shirts. Although they do this, most players from other schools would not allow us to see it, but obviously there are other people out there who will not use some common intelligence. When you give teams more motivation to beat you, it usually makes your time more difficult. The point being, trash talk can be in many shapes (and forms).

It is little things like this that get me all riled up over trash talking. This is why I always seem to be involved in this large (and yes, it is large) part of athletics. On the other hand, let us try to get rid of this aspect because it does not show good sportsmanship. Let us try to become better friends through our competition. NOT!

1. SCOTUS DEF. HOLDREDGE 15-5, 15-4
2. SCOTUS DEF. LINCOLN PIUS X 15-7
3. SCOTUS DEF. LINCOLN CHRI 15-7
4. SCOTUS DEF. GICC 15-
5. SCOTUS DEF. RAY 15-3
6. SCOTUS DEF.
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14. SCOTUS DEF. LIN
15. SCOTUS DEF. SC 15-5
16. SCOTUS DEF. WA 15-7
17. SCOTUS DEF. ST.
18. SCOTUS DEF. LIN 15-10
19. SCOTUS DEF. FRE 15-8
20. SCOTUS DEF. LIN 15-6
21. SCOTUS DEF. ST.
22. SCOTUS DEF. LIN 15-8
23. SCOTUS DEF. OMA
24. SCOTUS DEF. MA
25. SCOTUS DEF. LAK
26. SCOTUS DEF. ARL
27. SCOTUS DEF. WA 15-4
28. SCOTUS DEF. LIN 15-1
29. SCOTUS DEF. CEN 16, 15-9
30. SCOTUS DEF. AQU
31. SCOTUS DEF. LIN
32. SCOTUS DEF. OMAHA SKUTT 15-5, 15-4
33. SCOTUS DEF. GICC 15-7, 15-3
34. SCOTUS DEF. NORTH BEND 15-6, 15-5
35. SCOTUS DEF. RAYMOND CENTRAL 15-2, 15-0

36. SCOTUS DEF. AQUINAS 15-6, 15-5
37. SCOTUS DEF. SCHUYLER 15-7, 15-5
38. SCOTUS DEF. 15-10
39. SCOTU 15-6
40. SCO 15-5
41. SI
42. 5-4, 15-3
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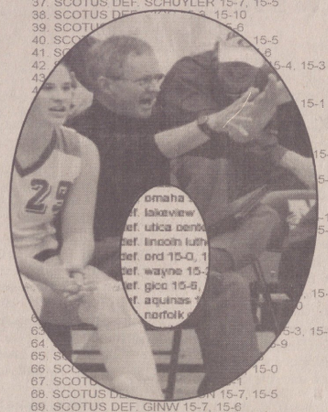

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69. SCOTUS DEF. GINW 15-7, 15-6
70. SCOTUS DEF. LAKEVIEW 15-6, 15-4
71. SCOTUS DEF. LINCOLN CHRISTIAN 15-3, 15-1

72. SCOTUS DEF. YORK 15-9, 15-9
73. SCOTUS DEF. ELKHORN 15-5, 15-9
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85. SCOTUS DEF. A 0 15-0, 15-5
86. SCOTUS DEF.
87. SCOTUS DEF. 5
88. SCOTUS DEF. 25-8, 25-10
89. SCOTUS DEF. C 25-8, 25-7
90. SCOTUS DEF. 25, 25-10, 25-17
91. SCOTUS DEF. 25-17
92. SCOTUS DEF. 30, 25-17
93. SCOTUS DEF. 5-16, 25-14
94. SCOTUS DEF. 25-11, 25-8
95. SCOTUS DEF. 15, 25-17, 25-9
96. SCOTUS DEF. 5-13
97. SCOTUS DEF. 5-13, 25-10
98. SCOTUS DEF. 25-23, 25-20
99. SCOTUS DEF. 5-15, 25-10, 25-14
100. SCOTU CHRISTIAN 25-12, 25-21
101. SCOTU 5-20, 25-12
102. SCOTU 5-21, 25-14
103. SCOTU NEUMANN 25-8, 25-11, 25-11
104. SCOT NEUMANN 25-7, 25-13
105. SCOTUS DEF. ST. CECILIA 25-11, 25-14
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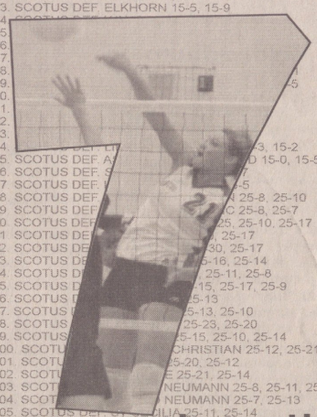

...and counting...

Records fall as Scotus captures crown

By Karla Jarecke
Editor

If there was one thing the Scotus volleyball team has learned to deal with over three straight undefeated seasons, it is pressure. With a state-record win streak and a conference championship on the line and arguably the best team in the state standing in its way, there was plenty of pressure to go around last Saturday at the Centennial Conference Tournament in the Scotus Activities Center.

Hours after extending the state record to 105 consecutive wins in the semi-finals, the streak was almost snapped. Lincoln Lutheran, who had been ranked in front of Scotus for much of the year in the *Omaha World-Herald* volleyball rankings, came as close as anyone has come to beating the Shamrocks in over three years. One thing that is for sure is that Scotus will not be winning any easy matches against Lutheran this season.

Scotus beat Wahoo Neumann and Hastings St. Cecilia to qualify for the championship. The final was the game everyone had been waiting for, and the crowd was pumped. Scotus, the No.1 ranked team in class C-1, would be taking on No. 2 ranked Lincoln Lutheran.

> **"They kept fighting for every point, and they made the big points when they had to."**
> -John Petersen

The energy level was high throughout the gym, and the players were visibly anxious for the highly anticipated match to get underway. The fans could tell it was going to be a great game just from watching the two extremely talented teams warm up.

Scotus's previous match against St. Cecilia gave them the state record for consecutive wins with 105.

"I feel (the record) is a really good accomplishment," senior Ann Beiermann said. "It shows how dedicated we are to playing and how hard we work to win."

The Shamrocks were too concentrated, however, on preparing for their next game against Lincoln Lutheran to celebrate the great accomplishment.

Both seniors Crystal Modde and Beiermann said that they have been working hard all week doing the same things they've done for every other game.

"We don't want to overlook any team, so we prepare the same every time," Moode said.

Scotus lead 16-8 during the first set, but the tide soon changed as Lincoln Lutheran made it a one-point game at 18-17. It was a battle after that and in the end the Warriors pulled away with a 25-22 victory over the Shamrocks.

This was something the Scotus fans were certainly not used to, as the team had dropped only four sets in three and a half years. The players, however, had been in this situation earlier this season and knew they just needed to regroup and come out the second set with even stronger intensity.

Lincoln Lutheran led the entire second set until Heidi Sobota came up with a huge kill for the Shamrocks giving them a 19-18 lead over the Warriors. It was back and forth as the teams tied several times throughout the game. Sobota once again made another huge kill bringing them into the lead at 23-22. Her kill was followed by two more as junior Jamie Tooley and senior Katie Novicki each had a kill to bring the set to a close at 25-22.

It all came down to the third set to determine the conference champion. The third set was even tighter than the second with over a dozen ties. The Warriors led 24-22 and were a point away from stopping the streak and taking home the championship plaque. The Shamrocks, however, never said die and came back to win in dramatic fashion, 27-25.

SADIE BOLTE/ROCK BOTTOM

Seniors Haley Buelt (28) and Crystal Modde (21) block an attack from Lincoln Lutheran. The Shamrocks defeated Lincoln Lutheran to capture the Centennial Conference championship.

"The biggest thing about our kids is they didn't quite competing," Coach John Petersen said. "They kept fighting for every point, and they made the big points when they had to."

Scotus players, coaches, and fans were ecstatic. Petersen said the game was one of the best high school volleyball matches Scotus's gym has ever seen

"The record is nice," Sobota said, "but it's eventually going to end. We won that conference championship forever, and that can never be taken away from us."

The Scotus volleyball team has little time to enjoy their victory, however, as they face the Warriors yet again on October 19 at Lincoln Lutheran. Both teams are expecting another tough game and will be working hard to improve their game for the next showdown.

"Right now we have a lot of emotion because we really wanted this win," Lincoln Lutheran senior Ally Mendenhall said, "and that emotion will carry into next week as we prepare to play them again."

Beller leads boys cross country team to state ranking

KARLA JARECKE/ROCK BOTTOM

Senior Ben Beller runs gracefully toward the finish line at the Aquinas Invite. Beller's fifth place finish led the Shamrocks to a runner-up trophy.

By Heidi Sobota
Editor

Stomachs feeling queasy, sweat clouding the vision, heart pounding. Most people would go to see the doctor with these symptoms, but others bring these symptoms on voluntarily.

Running five to seven miles a day may not seem like fun to the average person, but it is the price that must be paid to be the best when it comes to cross country. It takes hard work and lots of will power to overcome the desire to rest and go easy.

This year seems to be different than others for the boys cross country team. They are continuing to build on recent years' success, and they also have one of the top runners in the state.

Most cross country fans are used to seeing Ben Beller finish in the top five at meets, and his team expects no less. Beller, ranked as the no. 9 runner in Class C in the *Omaha World-Herald*, said that the success of all the other team members is playing into his success this year.

"We are definitely one of the state's best teams," Beller said. The boys' team is ranked no. 7 in Class C by the *World-Herald*.

Being one of the state's best takes time and hard work, and having the lung capacity to be long distance runner does not hurt either. Beller is continuing to work and may become the best long distance runner Scotus has ever seen. Earlier this season he set the school record for the fastest time on Scotus's home course.

Beller, the only senior on varsity, said that younger varsity runners have stepped up a lot from last year. Other success may come from the fact that the team is extremely close this year.

Junior Kelly Ingram said that the boys' team success also helps the girls because they have something to cheer about. She said she hopes that Beller and the rest of the boys' team can continue its consistency and add to the success the girls team has experinced.

"The biggest rivals we have are each other," Beller said, "especially when we throw rocks before practice."

There is a lot of respect between Beller and his teammates, and now this year's team is making its mark as one of the best in the school's history.

With Beller breaking records and the girls' team ranked no. 1 in the state heading into districts, both of Scotus's cross country teams will be looking to make some noise at the state meet in Kearney on October 22 .

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Seniors face final athletic season...Page 3

SCOTUS CENTRAL

ROCK BOTTOM

SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC — COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA 68601

VOLUME 7 ◆ ISSUE 3 ◆ NOVEMBER 19, 2004

Youth rally sends message to teens

By Heidi Sobota
Editor

Getting together for God.

That is what 576 students from all over the Archdiocese of Omaha did.

On October 24 in the Scotus Activities Center, teens were invited to come and celebrate their Catholic identity and learn why it is "cool to be Catholic." It was a day full of speakers and faith-filled activities to bring God into the lives of teenagers, and it allowed people to make some new friends.

"I like just meeting people from different places," North Bend Central student Alex Emanuel said. Emanuel was one of the participants of the first activity, which was learning how to make balloon animals.

It was activities like the making of balloon animals and the human knot that allowed the students to become more at ease with each other, and some students knew each other from the past. Creighton Prep junior Chris Berton said that this was a chance for him to see some old friends as well as to make new ones.

"It sounded like a lot of fun, and a way to meet new people," junior Jamie Tooley said.

Other than getting to meet new people, the students listened to two speakers, Jason Evert and Vince Nims, both from California. They spoke on two topics that many teenagers face in the modern day: sex and stress.

Evert incorporated things in his speech on sex from Barbie dolls to Cosmopolitan. He taught students about learning the difference between love and lust.

"Picture Jesus sitting next to you, and that's how far you should go," Evert said.

He gave the teens different ways of thinking about their spouses before they have ever met them. Things like pure love promise cards that look something like a credit card, or keeping a candle to give to their spouse on their wedding night as a symbol of their willingness to wait. Premarital sex is an accepted part of America's society, but Evert tried to make students realize they could be the ones to change that.

"He was awesome!" junior Zeph Swope said about Evert's speech.

Nims helped students realize that "every second counts" when it comes to doing things in life, and if one is determined to get somewhere or do something, there is always a way with God.

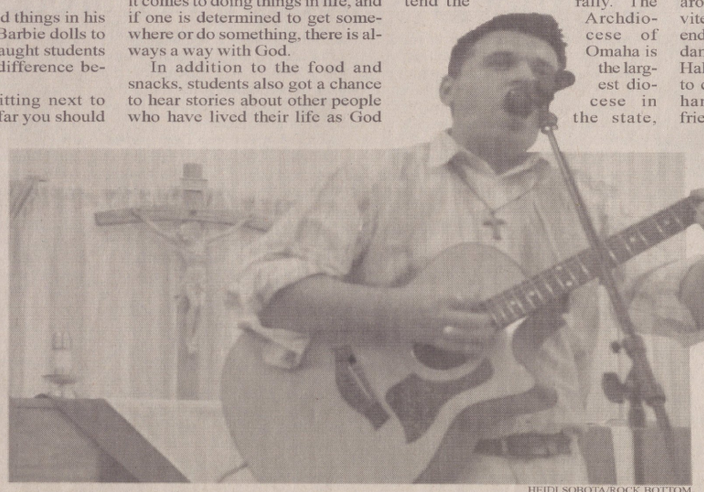
In addition to the food and snacks, students also got a chance to hear stories about other people who have lived their life as God would want them to.

"It reminded me of how I'm supposed to be acting," Tooley said.

Tooley also said that being in a Christian environment was definitely worth the money paid to attend the rally. The Archdiocese of Omaha is the largest diocese in the state, and this was the way to get a large part of the church together to celebrate.

Archbishop Elden Curtiss presided for a Mass at the end of the day in which all the priests from around the Archdiocese were invited to attend. The day officially ended with dinner and a dance. The dance was held in the Memorial Hall, and it allowed all the students to come together one last time to hang out with their friends.

"It is cool to be Catholic" is the simple saying that drew together hundreds of teens from different places. They took the call that God gave them, and He gave everyone the chance to show what they truly feel about their faith.



HEIDI SOBOTA/ROCK BOTTOM

(left)Vince Nims performs a song for the teens who attended the youth rally. Scotus hosted the rally that attracted 567 teens from across the state.

Making it count

Seniors made their voices heard on election day '04

By Emilie Powers
Editor

As the numbers rolled in, the map of the United States filled with color. Americans sat on the edges of their seats to see if states would be colored red or blue.

As of election night, people thought they would have to wait days or even weeks for the final results, yet Senator John Kerry graciously conceded on November 3, making way for President George Bush's second victory speech. In his modest acceptance speech, Bush assured Americans that he would not let them down.

"I'm humbled by the trust and confidence of my fellow citizens," President Bush said. "With that trust comes a duty to serve all Americans. And I will do my best to fulfill that duty every day as your president."

Voting may seem boring, but it is serious and can even be nerve-racking for voters, even if citizens of Columbus don't have to wait in line for ten hours.

"I was nervous when I first went in," senior Alecia Zarek said. "Then I was fine when I was done."

It is also very difficult for first time voters because there is more than just a mayor and a president to vote for. Like many first time voters, Zarek didn't know of any of the judges or know much about any of the casino measures to be voted on, so she left those sections blank.

For many Scotus students, the election seemed to come down to one single issue: abortion. Nineteen Scotus seniors were eligible to vote in this year's election. Bush was the pick for the whopping majority of those Scotus voters.

"I voted for Bush," Zarek said, "because Kerry is for abortion and I am completely against abortion."

Like many first-time voters, Zarek did not put much research into picking a candidate.

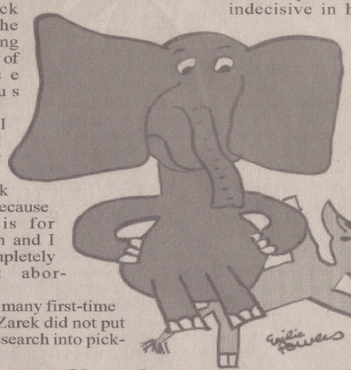
"It pretty much came down to the abortion issue," she said.

Senior Beth Niedbalski voted for Bush, however, she based her decision on more than one topic.

"I voted for Bush because of the way Kerry was changing his mind about the war," Niedbalski said. "In the beginning he was going to pull troops out, then he turned around and said he wanted more troops in Iraq. Kerry was so indecisive in his campaign it would've been hard to trust him as president."

While Zarek was primarily voting against Kerry, Niedbalski had other reasons for voting for Bush.

"I know Bush hasn't made all the right decisions," Niedbalski said, "but he's been up front about everything."



While Niedbalski felt strongly about her decision, many students do not see a need to be concerned about who wins, especially if they cannot vote. However, Social Studies teacher Pat Brockhaus said students should be concerned.

"At any level from mayor up to president," he said, "[leaders] will set down policy that is going to affect [students'] lives."

Aside from feeling that students should be concerned about the election, Brockhaus also said that there should be more Americans registering to vote and voting. Brockhaus's experience voting has also changed over the years.

"I probably take it more seriously," Brockhaus said. "I find out more about the candidates, do more research."

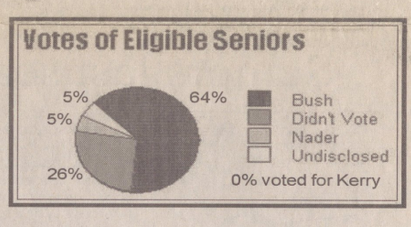
Niedbalski followed a similar approach to preparing to vote as Brockhaus has learned to do.

"I watched parts of the first debate and clips of other debates and campaigns," Niedbalski said.

Although she studied up a bit on the presidential candidates, Niedbalski didn't take the debates too seriously.

"You think it's staged," Niedbalski said, "because [the candidates]...go through the questions before the debate. They're going to say what voters want to hear."

All opinions set aside, the majority of America has chosen George Bush to be the President of the United States for the next four years. Only time will tell if this was the best decision for the nation.



Students, parents find SIPS valuable

By Nicole Sobotka
Staff Reporter

Technology is taking over Scotus. First it is automatic bathroom lights and now SIPS.

SIPS stands for "School Information and Performance System" and is a place where parents and students can check grades. On the website, www.scotushs.ne.altonaed.com, there is a school-wide calendar and a place for faculty to place announcements. Teachers and students can also communicate through the website. They can send e-mails and teachers can set up discussion groups.

"The total goal of this program is more communication between parents and students and parents and teachers," Superintendent Bill Gannon said.

Students can maintain a personal calendar and make a ToDo list for themselves. Homework assigned by teachers through the site is automatically added to students' ToDo List. SIPS allows students to see their grades any time they have an available computer. For students who previously had to wait until Mondays to know their grade or ask their teacher to print them out, this is a good site and a bad site.

"It's a lot easier to find out my grades," junior Sarah Marik said, "because I can just look at them whenever. I just don't like my parents seeing them everyday."

Students might be finding out that they have to work harder on everyday assignments because they do not have a week or a few days to get their grades up before their parents see them. Many parents like the program because of the availability of their child's grades and attendance.

"Honestly," teacher and parent Janet Tooley said, "I haven't even been on it for (junior daughter) Jamie yet, but it's great. As a parent, the idea of increased communication between home and school is very appealing to me."

Scotus has been looking for software to allow for parent and student access to grades for the past year. Scotus chose SIPS because it is so cost effective that in a few years it will pay for itself. The program that Scotus had before would have cost a lot more and not been as useful as SIPS is.

"It beats the old system," mom Donette Jablonski said. "I don't have to call in on Wednesdays anymore."

One concern that teachers do have about the program is the possible loss of personal communication. Gannon said that SIPS should not replace parent-teacher conferences. It should not replace phone calls or meetings when needed. It is a great system, he said, but it is just an added tool.

Teachers have had to enter grades into the computer for many years now so the only change is not posting those grades in the classroom. There is more they can do such as assignments and discussion groups, but it is their choice. Teachers can also put power-point presentations on the site for students.

"For me this is the same as last year," chemistry teacher Jane Dusel-Misfeldt said, "because I never posted grades last year. I feel that if students use it though, it'll be beneficial in keeping them more informed."

SADIE BOLTE/ROCK BOTTOM

Howling for a victory

Several Scotus seniors yell in support of the volleyball team which competed in its 11th straight state championship match. The Shamrocks came up on the short end of the stick this time, losing a thriller to Lincoln Lutheran 19-25, 25-19, 18-25, 25-20, 9-15. More coverage of the Shamrocks' runner-up finish can be found on page 6.

School spirit increases on and off court

Everyone knows the words to Scotus's school song, and if someone doesn't then they didn't take seventh grade music. Most people have stood up while the band played it before any volleyball, basketball, or football game. The school song is only the beginning of a new trend at Scotus-the pep rally. Pep rallies are becoming more fun and exciting, and all the students and faculty are getting more involved in the activities.

The cheerleaders are taking more initiative to get activities prepared, and now teachers are also being invited to participate. The Homecoming pep rally on October 15 was one of the best pep rallies in recent history. Seeing the school come together was a truly uplifting experience. No one wants to go to a pep rally just for the sake of getting out of class. If there is 30 minutes set aside to have a little fun, the students and faculty might as well take advantage of it. This is finally beginning to happen.

One can hear the crowd shouting, "GO ROCKS," more and more as the game progresses.

When the school debated getting rid of pep rallies all together, the school community showed them that the students could handle it, but the fun needs to continue at the pep rallies. It gets the entire student body ready to support its team whether or not they are involved in the athletics or fine arts. The pep rally gives everyone in the whole school a chance to have some school spirit, and now the school is beginning to take advantage of this opportunity. Maybe the next step is getting more parents to attend and taking this school spirit onto the field or court. This will make the students feel like the world outside of Scotus is seeing these good things happen.

Keep these things going. The more the students and teachers come together as one, the more Scotus will be seen in a positive light. People who come to Scotus to watch games will see how supportive the students are, and this is good for the school's morale.

This school spirit is even stepping outside of the pep rallies, and into the sidelines now. Last season during volleyball and football games, everyone was standing and cheering. One can hear the crowd shouting, "GO ROCKS," more and more as the game progresses. This will also help the basketball teams as they work to have another great season.

The S-Club T-shirts are making us look unified, but it is the act of school spirit that is taking this to the next level. Working on this throughout the year will only help in the years to come, and it will make Scotus a more enjoyable place to be for every student, teacher, and fan.

Editorial Briefs

Homecoming week a big success

Homecoming week is full of ups and downs. Some people see dressing up as a nuisance, and other people look forward to Homecoming for the dress up days alone. Either way, the school is usually balanced with these two outlooks.

This year, however, Scotus seemed to be unusually festive during Homecoming week. With a boost of renewed school spirit, it seemed as if more students participated during the week than in past years.

We must first thank the Student Council for picking awesome themes for each day of Homecoming week. (The days were Pajama Day, Cowboy & Indian Day, Famous Couples Day, Animal Day, and Spirit Day.) Second, we must congratulate the penguins, Dumb & Dumbers, Indian princesses, and the rest of the student body that did an excellent job playing the part this year. With the exception of a few minor infractions and eyebrow-raisers, the successful dress up week made Homecoming an enjoyable experience for all.

T-shirts show involvement

Green, gold, black, and gray. These colors are becoming regularly seen throughout the hallways here at Scotus. Many students are seeing less and less of Scotus polo shirts and more of T-shirts.

If you do not want to wear your uniform shirt, just join an organization. The different sports groups and school organizations are allowed to wear their shirts once a week. So if you're involved in five different organizations you might not have to wear your Scotus polo all week. This is a great way to display school spirit and pride for these organizations and sports, but some believe the organizations that wear their T-shirts wear them for unnecessary reasons such as NHS and Student Council being allowed to wear their T-shirts on meeting days. Why not? It shows group involvement and sends the message across that this organization is actually doing something. Students that are getting involved should be allowed to show off their shirts.

Coliseum good fit for volleyball

The 2004 state volleyball finals were held in the UNL Coliseum for the first time. About time! From a fan's view Pershing Auditorium, the former site, killed the atmosphere by spreading fans too far out and far away from the court with its theater-style seating. The NSAA should keep the finals in its new home.

Part 3: Still not enough space for all Europe stories

- -Brutally-Honest- - -

So maybe Paris wasn't all that great for some people.

Having such high expectations for a dirty city in an anti-American country may not make the best experience.

After Paris, I knew one thing for sure-I didn't want to go back… at least not with a large group of people who…let's say they didn't hesitate to let everyone know they were bummed about every little thing that went wrong.

Anyway, about this crazy, confusing train ride to Switzerland-I figured it would be about as fun, if not more fun than the first one.

We were all shoved into the train in just enough time before it left us "stupid Americans" behind.

We were told which room to go to, not knowing a group of Swiss teenage boys had beat us there. Being the nice American girls we are, we kicked their butts out. Actually, we had to have our tour guides swap a few words in whatever language. But at least we weren't the ones who had to move.

As their whole group of about 30 was in the hallway getting ready to move to another train car, Karla Jarecke decided to say something so very intelligent at the time. Not knowing that some of them just *might* know some English, she said, "Man, those guys are all ugly!"

We immediately noticed how "friendly" all of the men were.

The boy standing two inches…no, centimeters away from Karla gave her a shocked and disgusted look. Oops! Oh, well.

I think the whole group had underestimated how beautiful Switzerland would be.

Everywhere you looked, it was rolling, grassy hills, or tall snow-covered mountains, or even herds and herds of cows with bells around their necks, walking through fields of wild flowers.

As it was for most of the group, Lucerne, Switzerland was by far the highlight of my trip.

It was back on the bus sooner than we knew it. It was going to be a long ride to Italy. Most of the day was spent in the bus as I tried not to freak out on the giggling Pittsburgh chicks too much.

Instead of putting aside a day to visit, we took a 30-minute pit stop to get a quick glimpse of the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Then it was back on the dreaded bus.

Later that evening, we arrived at Florence. As we walked down the streets at night, we immediately noticed how "friendly" all of the men were.

Every single one of them (ages ranging from 13 to 63) stared at every female who walked past them, whistled, and said some thing-thank goodness I couldn't understand them (I can just imagine all the stuff they were saying about us). Even though I was walking with a group of girls, we all know they were really whistling at *me* (I wish).

The next day we had about six hours of free time to roam the streets of Florence. It was the perfect opportunity to seek revenge on those stupid European pigeons.

Anyway, after a couple days in Florence it was off to Rome. On our way there, we stopped for lunch in Assisi, where almost everyone spoke *zero* English. This didn't really help much when Sandra tried to order a pepperoni pizza, but was disappointed with a pizza piled high with *peppers*.

Rome was really cool, but it wasn't very fun touring all day with my insides boiling and my flesh sizzling under the hot sun. If I could go back to Europe, I'd want to go to Rome and tour it in more than just one day.

After an extremely tiring two weeks darting from country to country, we were all pooped. We just all wanted to go home.

My flights home went pretty smoothly, with a few exceptions. I only had to switch spots on the plane six times, and the lady next to me moaned in her sleep for ten hours of the flight overseas.

I was finally home at nine o'clock p.m., but by my watch it was 4 a.m. I was greeted by my mom and my recently educated father. Apparently he was unaware of the fact that I flew both ways by myself. That's right Dad; this "dingdong" didn't get lost after all!

This trip was definitely a highlight of a lifetime- I guess you can tell by the *three* columns I wrote about it, and even leaving out parts.

I'd have to say this was the best, and longest, two weeks of my entire life.

Seniors last seasons come to an abrupt hault

- - - - Earmuffs! - - - -

For the majority of the senior athletes this fall was their last school-sanctioned fall sport ever. It was their last time putting on a Scotus jersey and stepping on the court, walking up to the tee, running onto the course, stepping up to the plate, or jogging on to the field.

Some will still play intramural sports in college, but there's only a handful that will every play in front of a large crowd that cares about the outcome of the game. Of course nobody is just going to completely stop playing these fall sports, because there's always going to be volleyball leagues, softball leagues, golf tournaments, various long-distance races, and intramural football.

Although there may be intramural flag football, or pick-up games of two-hand touch, there's only going to be a few of the senior guys that will ever put on football pads to play a game ever again. One can ask almost any senior football player, and they would probably say that there is nothing like putting on your pads, stepping out under the lights, and feeling the anticipation of making that first hit.

"Seniors, this could be your last football game ever."

Football is the only high school sport where there is a whole week between every game. There's no other build-up like it in any other sport, where at the end of every day, when Friday night has become one day closer, the adrenaline just keeps building.

Then when it finally comes time for game day, it's almost too hard to concentrate on anything besides the game. Football players could only get this feeling eight times a year, whereas in other sports there are at least 20 games. Then, when you find out that your team has made playoffs, and you get the chance to play at least one more game, you know you can't let this be your last.

One thing you don't want to hear is, "Seniors, this could be your last football game ever." Sure thing, next your know is that it's fourth quarter, there's no possible way of coming back, and you begin thinking to yourself, "Well, this is it." After the fourth quarter buzzer goes off, it finally hits you, and you say to yourself, "This is going to be my last time ever wearing this Scotus jersey under the lights, and playing in front of all these parents and students."

You can ask any senior athlete who has played their last fall sporting event this year, and the feeling would be mutual. Maybe some of then haven't really taken the time to think about it, but it's true.

It seems as if almost every sport this fall ended tragically. The softball team lost in the second round of districts, the golf team missed the cut at districts, the cross-country team didn't run to their full potential at state, the football team lost in the first round of state playoffs, and the volleyball lost in the state championship match.

The volleyball team probably took the hardest hit. After winning 115 games in a row, winning three state championships in a row, and being the team that everyone wanted to beat for the last few decades, it all had to stop somewhere, but that's just too bad that it had to be then.

In the end, all the fall sports and really good seasons this year, but they all seemed to come to a heartbreaking end. So, when it comes time for your last season as a Shamrock, never say never, because when it's over, you're going to wish that you could just play one last game.

Giving thanks is the true meaning of Thanksgiving

I love the fall.

Leaves changing colors, cool breezes, and earlier sunsets. With the change in season brings many changes in life. Fewer outdoor activities, more school work, colder weather….hmmm, maybe I don't like fall so much.

Well, there is one great day that makes up for all of that. Thanksgiving. No one can say they hate Thanksgiving unless they hate good food, football, or maybe their relatives. Give or take, something good always awaits you on Thanksgiving Day. As for me, I love Thanksgiving dinner. It has been the best meal of the year for me since I can remember. Spending time with the family is good too, but the FOOD IS UTTERLY AMAZING!

People tend to leave out an important part of their Thanksgiving tradition, however. You know…the giving thanks part. My family always takes a few minutes to go around the table and say what they are thankful for before we stuff our faces with mashed potatoes and turkey. It is only these few minutes, however, that we really take the time to think about what we are most thankful for in our lives. We realize during these few moments how truly fortunate we are to have family, friends, school, home, and everything that comes with our life. We have all heard our parents preach to us about how good we have it compared to their supposed childhood misfortunes, but we still cannot help but complain about not having that new cell phone, new clothes, or new shoes.

There really are people much less fortunate than us.

Every one of us is guilty of complaining. It is just human nature. People know it's greedy; they know they are being selfish. So why then do people continue to complain and always want more? We cannot help always wanting more "stuff," but we can help getting carried away with mixing our wants and our needs. Soon enough little Johnny will whine to his mom, "I need a phone in my room because I can't walk all the way upstairs to get the phone." Yes, Johnny, you can get your lazy butt up and answer the phone.

Anyway, the lesson in all this is to not become the selfish people we here in America tend to be. There really are people much less fortunate than us. Just because you cannot see them or do not know them does not mean you can ignore their existence. For most people, it is when they see that they truly believe. So take the time this Thanksgiving to thank God, your family, friends, and others for all they have done for you because we truly are fortunate to have such lives.

The next time you find yourself "needing" more frosting on your cake, think of those that don't get any cake at all.

SCOTUS CENTRAL
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Send to Scotus care of the Rock Bottom.

CHAD SCHMELTS/ROCK BOTTOM

Senior Ben Mlinar cleans off his football helmet for the last time. The football season ended with a playoff loss to Aquinas.

When the final whistle blows

As their careers wrap up, seniors will soon have to deal with life after high school athletics

Memories made in playground, playoffs

By John Beauvais
Editor

Along every journey great friends are made. The journey of Scotus' football team is another classic example. For over a decade, the seniors have played, practiced, sweat, and bled alongside one another.

"At St. Isidore's, we played at recess, then we played after school and underneath the lights together," said senior Brett Fry.

In younger days they played at the grade schools, idolizing the Scotus player whom they watched, waiting for the day when it would be their turn. Those with older brothers on the team watched in admiration as the bar was set for their future performances on the field. Fry said he remembered thinking, "I wanted to wear that jersey!"

As they entered junior high, they unified as one team in seventh grade football. They learned the finer points of the game, and in eighth grade, they were unwittingly introduced to the man who would someday be their head varsity coach, who was at the time the head junior high coach, Coach Roger Krienke.

The team played on into high school, but did not get the chance to be part of the Puetz dynasty. Instead, they experienced rough times as the team weathered rough sophomore and junior, failing to make the playoffs for the first time in several years. Many of them learned lessons from this though.

"You got to keeping going no matter what happens," senior Ben Mlinar said. "You got to take the bad with the good."

Senior season soon came and with it came a new head coach. Krienke had risen straight to the top from the junior high position. He brought to the program new life and a promise of the start of a new dynasty.

The players listen to his words and followed him through the season, reaching the state playoffs for the first time since 2001. The disappointment of a 27-0 loss to Lakeview was put behind them as they triumphed in the closing seconds of a 3-0 win over Battle Creek, and saw senior Tony Korth ran for a school record of 391 yards against Madison. The season drew to a close with their playoff run quickly ended by David City Aquinas. After the mix of successes and failures of the season, most had no regrets.

"All those hours of practice, and all those hours in the weight room, it was all worth it," said Korth.

Football has done many things for these players. It taught them the how to accept defeat and to value success when it comes. It showed them the benefits of hard work, working as a team, and how to be humble. Most important of all, it helped to turn young boys into young men.

Final thoughts

Several seniors were asked what was going through their minds as they walked off the course, field, or court for the last time.

"I knew that it was going to be my last time ever wearing football pads."
-Cody Bonk
Football

"Well, I guess it's all over now, but at least I still have track to look forward to."
-Drew Gannon
Cross Country

"I was kind of relieved, but on the other hand I was kind of sad."
-BethNiedbalski
Golf

"I was sad because I knew that this was the last time that I would every play high school softball again."
-Jessi Ryan
Softball

"I wish we could've ended our season on a good note, but you can't always have second chances."
-Katie Novicki
Volleyball

Three-sport athletes learn from years of experience

By John Beauvais
Editor

They start out as the norm in sports. Then as seasons go along, it becomes tougher and tougher, and their numbers become thinner and thinner. They are three-sport athletes.

In the Scotus senior class, only three male and six female three-sport athletes remain. Two of these athletes, Pat Schaecher and Ann Beiermann, have been to numerous camps, played for years on club teams, and spent thousands of dollars to further their athletic careers.

"I can't begin to tell you how much money my family has spent on sports," Beiermann said.

Schaecher remembers going through at least 28 pairs of shoes over the course of his athletic career. Beiermann can recall over a dozen camps since she started playing sports.It may seem like a lot to most people, but they said they never really noticed.

"It was always worth it," Schaecher said. "Hopefully, now I can play in college."

Athletics has taught more that just physical skills.

"Being a captain taught me what it is like to be a leader," Schaecher said. He was elected captain in both basketball and football.

Beiermann said being a well-rounded athlete made her a better athlete.

"Everything comes together, sports overlap, skills and footwork from one translate to the other sports," she said.

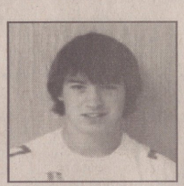
Both these seniors started their careers early on. Beiermann started club basketball in fourth grade, and Schaecher has played club soccer since first grade. They had to live life in and around these club teams.

"My family never missed a vacation because of sports," Beiermann said. "We just had to postpone vacations when they came."

The experiences that athletics has given them, at the time, caused hardship, but now are memories that bring good laughs. Beiermann chuckled as she recalled how people "splattered" against the ground when they learned to sprawl in junior high volleyball. Schaecher laughed as he realized how many of his early football stories ended with "and then Beller dropped a pass in the end zone."

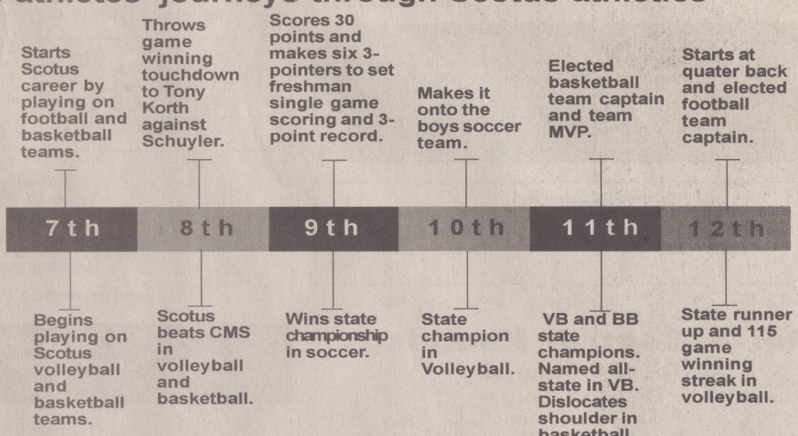
Athletics was a positive experience for these players. As they finish out their senior years, they will continue to give what they have to their teams, and as their high school careers wind down, more stories will be made.

Through the years:
Two athletes' journeys through Scotus athletics



Senior Pat Shaecher

Senior Ann Beiermann



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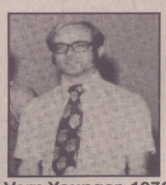
F. Schwank 1973


Vern Younger, 1973

J. Schwank, 2004

Same names, new faces

Veteran teachers seeing second generation

Katie Michaelsen
Staff Reporter

Oh! You look just like your parents!

Students who have parents that went to Scotus may have heard this many times. Some parents who attended Scotus seem to have good memories, but some may not.

Tim Michaelsen, class of 1970, said he had a very close class and they all got along well. Whether they were making their teachers mad or goofing around there was always someone to buckle them down he said.

> **"The best way to describe Scotus is that is was a family."**
> -Fritz Schawnk

"Of all the teachers I had," Michaelsen said, "Vern Younger always comes to mind. He really knows his stuff."

Many classes were close and it seemed like everybody got along and friendships were strong he said.

Fritz Schwank, father of sophomore Jackie and eighth grader Callen, graduated from Scotus in 1973 and has good memories as well. Schwank had Younger as a seventh grader and said he was a very dynamic teacher. He remembers how some classes got to dissect animals, and he especially remembers Scotus's lunches.

"The best way to describe Scotus," Schwank said, "is that it was a family."

Schwank was part of the football and track team and said both Jim Puetz and Younger were fun coaches as well as fun teachers. At that time basketball games were played in the old gym and the students sat on bleachers on the stage. The new gym didn't even exist then.

Not only has the school changed, but the teachers have changed too.

Both Younger and Jim Puetz have been at Scotus for 38 years. Younger said that the kids have stayed the same since he has been here. Most teachers said that technology has changed the most now that computers are more available. Younger also said that before the days of girls athletics, having a pep club back then gave the girls the opportunity to unit as a group.

If Younger recognizes a last name he will be sure to ask who your parents are. Expectations for students are a lot higher than what they were back then and a lot of times students are smarter than what their parents were, he said.

Jim Puetz said that the majority of the students are good and they come from good families.

"A lot of the students who had parents go here, have the same attitudes as their parents had," Puetz said.

More parents these days are more involved with their child's daily activities he said. Parents are much more involved in their child's schoolwork and there is more competition these days to get into the college teenagers want, he said.

Scotus back in the day was very competitive in their sports, but there were no girls sports either he said.

Jim's brother Gary Puetz also said the students have not changed. Younger and the Puetz brothers said that more is expected for all students these days.

For those new students at school watch out. If Younger hears your name and it sounds familiar, be prepared to stop, he just may know your parents.

Losing things a stressful experience

Sadie Bolte
Editor-in-Chief

"Hand in your assignments."

The teacher stands at the front of the class watching as everyone hands in his or her homework- except for one person.

That one person frantically searches for something they have spent many hours on.

Jolting the book bag upside down sends papers flying in all directions. There is no hope- it is lost. And this time, it *is* lost.

This is an occurrence many students, but for eighth grader Cameron Birkel, it is something he knows all too well.

"I usually lose my homework about once a week," Birkel said.

One time he even lost a Religion report, but was able to redo it for a reduced grade.

Losing a homework assignment may seem very insignificant, however, when compared to a $150 ring. Senior Ashlee Ebel had received this ring from her boyfriend.

Ebel said she never takes off the ring unless she is playing sports, and even then she finds a way to have it with her by putting it on her water jug.

"I didn't want to lose my necklace either, so I put (my ring) on my necklace, and my necklace on my water jug," Ebel said.

As she walked to the bus in the dark, Ebel took her necklace off of her water jug, and her ring slipped off and fell to the ground.

"I was so mad when I realized it was gone," she said. "I was too scared to talk to (my boyfriend) Chad about it."

Some make a habit out of losing things. Senior Jessy Stocklein loses her things on a daily basis.

Her worst experience, she said, was losing a fifty-dollar bill.

"I walked into Wal-Mart," Stocklein said, "and I noticed I didn't have it anymore."

Losing things can be very frustrating, and some spend days stressing out about their lost possessions. Some students, however, do it so often that they just shrug their shoulders and forget about it.

Birkel, who recently lost an adolescent relationships assignment, took a zero for not having it. Later he discovered the assignment at the bottom of his book bag.

"I didn't care," Birkel said.

Senior Ben Beller said that he tends to lose his pencil during school.

He searches his locker for his backup pencil,and then finds it on top of his ear.

Just about everyone loses something at some point or another, whether the value may be large or small. Even those with the most perfect, organized lockers will come across lost English essays.

Sleep is victim of busy schedules

Karla Jarecke
Editor

Before Thomas Edison's invention of the light bulb, people slept an average of ten hours a night. Today, Americans average 6.9 hours of sleep on weeknights and 7.5 hours of sleep on weekends according to a 2002 National Sleep Foundation's survey. For most people, getting to sleep in is an added bonus to their day. People are so busy in today's fast-paced world that they do not have time to sleep.

Senior Eugene Bichlmeier averages about five hours of sleep a night. He wakes up around 6:00 and does not get home until 11:30 because of after-school One Act practice and working.

"Half the time I don't even get to my homework because I'm too tired," Bichlmeier said.

The result of not enough sleep affects people differently. Some people can function fine off little sleep while others may feel like they can barely make it through the day. What some people fail to recognize is how greatly sleep patterns can affect daily activities and even affect them years from now.

According to sleep experts, teens need at least 8.5 to 9.25 hours of sleep each night, compared to an average of seven to nine hours for adults. By not meeting their minimum sleep needs, humans may be putting themselves at risk for injury, health, and behavior problems.

Going to bed early and getting up early are not something most teenagers like to do. According to the National Sleep Foundation, teenagers' internal biological clocks keep them awake later in the evening and sleeping later in the morning. As a result, many students come to school too sleepy to learn, through no fault of their own.

Senior Amanda Blair also averages about five hours of sleep a night. She said that lack of sleep does not really affect her during school, partially because her unchallenging classes do not require strenuous thinking, she said.

"I don't think many teenagers get a lot of sleep," Blair said.

She said she believes that this lack of sleep is greatly influenced by Internet chatting.

"(The Internet message service) MSN is probably the number one reason students do not go to bed earlier," Blair said.

Senior Becky Johnson is what most would call an over-sleeper. Johnson averages about nine hours of sleep each night and likes to take after-school naps for about an hour when she is not in a sport. On the weekends she gets in a five-hour nap in the afternoon along with her eight hours at night.

"I enjoy sleeping," Johnson said. "It is very soothing."

While some students cherish their sleeping time, others simply think it is overrated. Although too much sleep can be harmful, too little sleep can defiantly hurt the body. It is during sleep that the body rests and the brain "recharges."

When a person doesn't get adequate sleep, they accumulate a sleep debt that can be difficult to "pay back" if it becomes too big. Many people believe that they are good sleepers if they're out as soon as they hit the pillow. Wrong – it takes the human brain twenty minutes to slow down enough for sleep. When the body is sleep deprived, it will fall asleep in five to 10 minutes or less. In contrast, when the body has had too much sleep, it will take more than 20 minutes to fall asleep. Also, 15 minutes is all it takes for the body to become fully awake in the morning, so if someone struggles to wake up and get going, they need more sleep.

Most people today will agree that they can never get enough sleep.

"If I could have 10 hours of sleep a night," Bichlmeier said, "I would love it."

Sleep Tips

The following tips can help you achieve sleep and the benefits it provides:

1. Maintain a regular bed and wake time schedule including weekends.
2. Establish a regular, relaxing bedtime routine such as soaking in a hot bath, reading a book, or listening to soothing music.
3. Create a sleep-conductive environment that is dark, quiet, comfortable and cool.
4. Sleep on comfortable mattress and pillows.
5. Finish eating at least 2-3 hours before your regular bedtime.
6. Exercise regularly. It is best to complete your workout at least a few hours before bedtime.
7. Avoid caffeine close to bedtime.

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Rock Bottom review

Green Day, Sum 41 get big hits

By John Beauvias
Editor

Green Day:

Green Day's new album *American Idiot* is a must have for all its fans and a great introduction for those who are not familiar with the group. It is pure, classic Green Day, which means it has both the strengths and drawbacks of their other albums.

If you are looking for artistic development you are definitely looking in the wrong place. This band knows it has a winning formula and it is sticking with it. Their music sounds straight out of the nineties and it almost impossible to claim any large changes in their style.

Also, the album is politically motivated, a minus for many listeners. The band's far left leanings not only leaks into their songs but actually forms the identity of their album. Its title, *American Idiot*, the same as their first single of f the CD, mocks the typical American and refers to President Bush's policies as a "redneck agenda."

Still, if it is Green Day that you want, then it is Green Day that you will get. This Album has more of the things Green Day does best than in any previous album. It has a balance of classic soft punk and a few slower, more reflective songs that few artists remember is a key part of any CD. All in all *American Idiot* is more than worth its cost.

All in all *American Idiot* is more than worth its cost.

Sum 41:

Sum 41 made a big splash and a couple of hits two summers ago with its release of Does This Look Infected? And it does so again with its latest, Chuck. Though the title makes it sound like its previous pop-punk albums, it is anything but. The metalistic styling of their pervious album's *Hell Song* and *Still Waiting* tracks completely defines this record. Many songs combine the acoustic and electric guitar parts seamlessly and this album, in my opinion, is their best to date. The guitar and bass solos and the instrumentals of this album show their skill level to be far above today's typical bands, and the harsh voice of their lead singer gives the album all the edge it needs.

This group shows signs of being the next Metallica and has the staying power to become it. They have a great sound and the fan base loyal enough to experiment. Their music has grown up as they have and it is only getting better.

Despite their political campaigning for the Democratic Party with contributions for the *Rock Against Bush* compilation CD and performances for the Kerry Campaign, Sum 41's album does not alienate any of its listeners with bold, opinionated songs. The band seems to know how to keep business and politics separate. If I picked one CD to buy this fall, this would be it.

Also listen to:

Lately, with the alternative clubs and music channels, one little-known music group has developed a die hard following. My Chemical Romance's new, fun-loving music video *I'm Not Okay*, from their biggest album, *Three Cheers for Sweet Revenge*, has drawn many Scotus students to buy this CD. I gave it a listen and found it to be a breath of fresh air to the punk rock scene. It is everything good about punk and sheds all of the stereotypes of pop bands such as Simple Plan.

If you are looking for a more alternative sound this is it. This CD is full of solid songs, though the first track would be best shuffled to the end. Other than that one weakness it is one of the most solid debuts in a long while. Take a look at the underground and buy *Three Cheers for Sweet Revenge*.

What are you thankful for?

COMPILED BY KATIE MICHAELSEN

"For scoring a varsity touchdown and my brother making the game-winning field goal."
-Sophomore Paul Mlinar

"Women."
-Freshman Sam Wemhoff

"Paul's TD."
-Sophomore Tanner Johnson

"The opportunity to teach in a faith-based educational system, my family, students, and peas."
-P.E. teacher Janet Tooley

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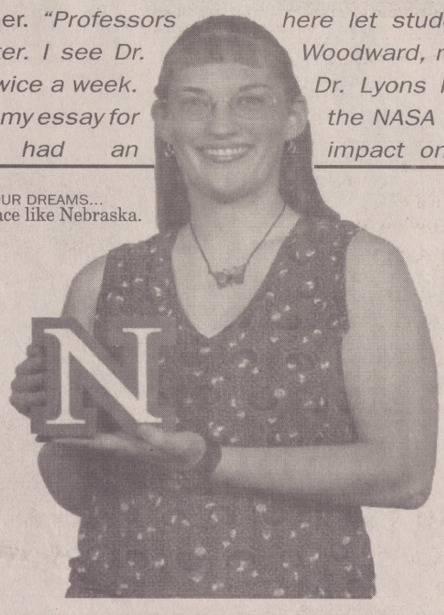
This Nebraska Student Spent Her Summer With NASA

MELLISA ACKERMAN, a junior from Alliance majoring in math and French at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln, was one of 12 NASA interns selected from 1,500 applicants last summer. Now, she is continuing her NASA research on campus. Next summer, she plans to study in France and hopes to attend graduate school in the future. Whatever her goals, Ackerman knows her professors will be there to support her. *"Professors here let students know they matter. I see Dr. Woodward, my advisor, at least twice a week. Dr. Lyons helped me as I wrote my essay for the NASA internship. They've had an impact on my life."*



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-Swing and a miss!!-

Coaches can make all the difference

There is one important thing that every coach needs. A whistle. Without a whistle no practice is complete. There is one thing that every team needs. A coach.

The one thing that can make the sport different from one season to the next (other than the sport itself) is the coach. Coaches make or break how successful a team is going to be, and this all comes down to his or her coaching style.

There are three different types of coaches, those who yell a lot, those who yell more, and those who don't yell at all. Coaches who never say anything can't be successful because nothing will ever be accomplished. Coaches who yell all the time can't be successful because if players hate their coach, they simply won't go out. My point being that to be a great coach you must be between these two extremes. He or she cannot be afraid to yell at a player, but he or she can't yell so much that they aren't being heard. This is the simple fact that has come out of thousands of years of competition.

I am sure everyone has heard the saying, "You're only as good as your weakest link." However, I like to think of it as, "You're only as good as your coach."

He or she cannot be afraid to yell at a player, but they can't yell so much that they aren't being heard.

Yelling may not be the only thing that a coach has to do. Scouting is also another HUGE part of any team. Without a good scouting coach, a team has no chance of knowing anything about their opponent. This would be equivalent to a blind person walking in the middle of a street. O.K. maybe a little bit extreme there, but you see my point.

Scouting gives a player/team a chance to know what is in store, and it also gives them the chance to work out the kinks that may need to be addressed. It would be difficult for anyone to not know the slightest aspect of their opponent's game, but it can go into much greater detail.

All in all, a major part of any team is due to the coach, but the coaches must have all the correct tools to do what is best. Great assistant coaches can never hurt either. If you can take one thing away from this, let it be that the player will never control the coach's actions. Take what the coach says, absorb it, and then move on. Every player will make mistakes, and sometimes it may not be your fault and you get blamed, but take it in and let it go.

SETTLING FOR SILVER

Third time is a charm for Lincoln Lutheran in championship

By Emilie Powers
Editor

As Lincoln Lutheran's side of the Coliseum was literally rocking, Scotus Central Catholic fans came to a standstill after 2 hours, 8 minutes, and five sets. The Shamrock "dynasty" had come to a shrieking halt after three straight state titles and 115 consecutive wins.

There was no doubt that sadness engulfed the Scotus section, but the players rightfully took it the hardest.

"I was crying at point 14," senior Ashlee Ebel said.

For others who managed to hold it together until after the game point, the win for the Warriors stung. Senior Haley Buelt referred to her end-of-the-game shock as "instant tears and crying."

Yet thinking of how the girls could have combated these feelings of remorse turned up only helpless resolutions. Buelt said that she really felt that the team was prepared.

"I thought we had the best team possible," Buelt said.

Many schools would be elated to receive a runner up trophy, but Scotus has to be reminded of the true caliber of a state championship. Assistant coach Janet Tooley agreed with this sentiment after the awards ceremony.

"You should never hang your head about a state runner-up finish," Tooley said. "Instead of being so sad that something comes to an end, you can't forget all the good things that have happened. These kids finished off and wrote the record book this year."

> "I started crying on point 14."
> -Ashlee Ebel

Tooley also said that although the girls didn't get the state tournament title, had they taken a loss earlier, they wouldn't have the state record-winning streak for all sports.

In round one Friday, Scotus beat Cozad in three sets. Later that day, Scotus won the semifinal game against undefeated Wood River in three sets to set what would later be known as the final victory in a state record-winning streak for all sports of 115.

Second-ranked Lutheran, a team Scotus had beaten twice during the season, awaited Scotus in the finals. The fans helped Scotus get ready for the big game.

"I thought our crowd was awesome," Buelt said. "That was definitely a big motivation for us."

While the crowd pumped up the team to prepare for a difficult game, Coach Tooley knew that the game would be a challenge.

"I knew it was going to be a tough match," Tooley said. "Both teams were so equally matched. It was a great honor to be there, and I just hoped we could play well. I do think we played well."

She also said that of course they can always go back and dissect all the errors after a loss.

"The reason our team is so good," she said, "is we pick apart every error whether we win or lose. We'll take this loss and learn from it for next year and that's what keeps this program going."

At the end of the day, she said Scotus girls' volleyball needs to be commended for their efforts.

"There's no need for anybody to hang their head," Tooley said, "because we played well, and we got beat by a very good team."

KARLA JARECKE/ROCK BOTTOM

Seniors Heidi Sobota, Haley Buelt, Katie Novicki, Crystal Modde, and Ann Beiermann comfort each other after losing to Lincoln Lutheran in the state championship match. The Warriors beat the Shamrocks in a 5-game thriller.

SADIE BOLTE/ROCK BOTTOM

The Scotus bench celebrates after winning a long rally in the state championship game. This year was the first time the state finals have been held at the Coliseum.

SADIE BOLTE/ROCK BOTTOM

Seniors Heidi Sobota and Cassie Hall dig a Warrior attack. The state finals was the seniors last game for Scotus.

Cross country seasons end in disappointment

By John Beauvais
Editor

With the girls' cross country team entering the state meet undefeated and the boys' team ranked fifth in the state, expectations were high for the Scotus cross country teams as they journeyed to Kearney to take on the state's best.

Both teams managed to finish in the top ten at the state meet, with the girls' team capturing the runner-up trophy and the boys placing sixth. However, both teams couldn't help but feel a little disappointed. Observers noted that many of the states top runners had been falling ill or struggling to finish throughout the day. Scotus's teams also fell victim as each team had a key runner go down during the race.

In the girls' race at state, senior runner Karla Jarecke struggled to finish and placed far below her anticipated performance. For senior Kayla Engel, this was when she knew things were not going well.

"After I saw Karla finish, I knew we didn't win," Engel said.

The disappointment was hard to take after being ranked No. 1 most of the season. Engel paced the girls team with a fifth-place finish, ending her career with four state cross country medals.

It was then the boys' turn to step to the starting line. With their sights set on Scotus records, fate once again had different plans. With little distance to go, the team's top runner, senior Ben Beller, collapsed and was unable to finish the race.

"That had to be the biggest disappointment of my life," Beller said. "My mind kept running, but my legs wouldn't. If it had been any other day, I think I could have finished that race."

Junior Clint Torczon lead the team with a 20th place finish. Beller said the rest of the team did well and can be pround of its sixth place finish.

"Any time you place in the top ten, you know you have a good team," Beller said.

Engel said she thought the team must have been cursed. Coach Dan Mahoney said the many strange finishes were odd but thought it was just one of those strange meets. However, Mahoney didn't let a disappointing finish overshadow an otherwise successful season.

"Overall both teams had great seasons," Mahoney said. "I'm proud of them."

The future looks bright for the boys' program with Beller being the only varsity senior.

The girls' team will have to work hard to replace its top three runners. Engel said they can have much success, though, if they work it as more of a mental game.

With this season wrapped up and excitement in store for next season, this year's runners can look back fondly.

"Beller was a great leader for us all," Engel said. "I will remember the closeness of the team and how well the senior and junior classes united."

SADIE BOLTE/ROCK BOTTOM

Senior Katie Swanson gives a look of determination at state cross country, followed by fellow senior Karla Jarecke. Swanson finished 27th, while Jarecke finished 36th.

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SCOTUS CENTRAL
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Sequels try for more success...Page 5

SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA 68601

VOLUME 7 ◆ ISSUE 4 ◆ DECEMBER 17, 2004

From Midwest to Mideast

Scotus students send care packages to alumni serving overseas

Former Shamrocks serving Uncle Sam

The following are Scotus alumni currently serving overseas and the recipients of supply boxes.

Who: Brad Balak
Year Graduated: 2000
Branch: Marines
Where: Fallujah, Iraq

Who: Josh Birkel
Year Graduated: 2002
Branch: National Guard
Where: Kuwait

Who: Steve Bonk
Year Graduated: 1985
Branch: National Guard
Where: Kuwait

Who: Timothy Ketter
Year Graduated: 1989
Branch: Navy

Who: Christina Kretchman
Year Graduated: 1994
Branch: Army
Where: Afghanistan

Who: Chris Miller
Year Graduated: 1985
Branch: National Guard
Where: Kuwait

Who: Jeff Wemhoff
Year Graduated: 1999
Branch: National Guard
Where: Kuwait

By Sadie Bolte
Editor-in-chief

They ask for baby wipes.

They ask for bug spray, beef jerky, toilet paper, and even candy. They have asked, and they have received.

This is not for the Simon House, a place Scotus has supported on a regular basis. Rather, these items sit in boxes, waiting to be shipped overseas. Scotus has recently adopted several of the school's alumni that are currently serving our nation at war.

How can you help?
If you wish to contribute supplies, contact Becki Zanardi at Scotus. All items are accepted.

Items needed
-batteries
-bug repellent
-foot powder
-sunscreen
-baby wipes
-eydrops

Items *not* needed
-ramen noodles
-Ivory soap
-toilet paper
-lip balm

Students bring a few requested supplies, and Student Council, along with other volunteers, packs them into boxes. These boxes are then taken to the post office where they will be shipped to their final destinations.

After the idea was suggested by Scotus secretary Kathy Kruse, Stu-Co sponsor Becki Zanardi tood the initiative to get it started at Scotus.

"I like this kind of stuff," Zanardi said referring to charitable acts.

Student Council went to work right away to make sure all went smoothly. Zanardi prepared her room to be the place to keep all of the donations brought in not only by students, but also by other members of the Scotus family. Senior Stu-Co member Brittany Williams acquired a list of needed items to post around the school, as fellow senior Ann Beiermann made a yellow cardboard ribbon-shaped sign to put in the office window.

"Everyone's going to see it everyday," Beiermann said, "and that will remind them that (the troops) are overseas fighting for us."

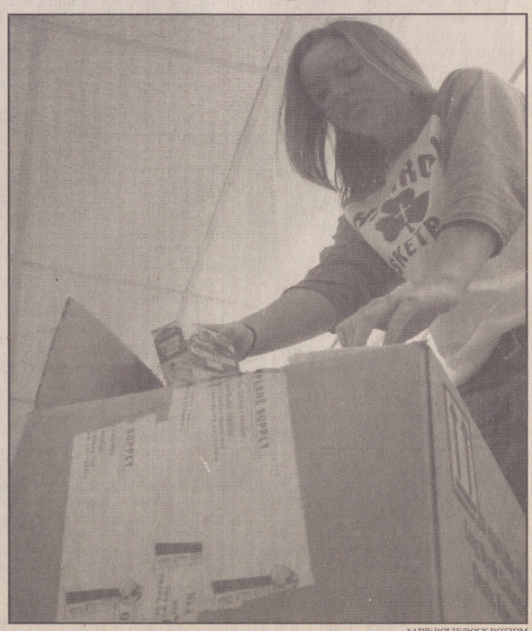
At first, Beiermann said only a few donated items sat in Zanardi's room. But during the last couple of weeks before the send-off date, supplies poured in rapidly.

"We received so much the first time," Zanardi said. "There was a lot of incentive (to give donations) the first time."

Senior Student Council president Crystal Modde was also amazed by the turnout.

"I was surprised to see such a wide variety of stuff," Modde said.

When time came for everything to be shipped, supplies were then distributed evenly into separate boxes with a box for each adopted alumni.



SADIE BOLTE/ROCK BOTTOM

Senior Student Council officer Katie Novicki distributes donated items into boxes that were later sent to the adopted service men and women. Boxes will be sent overseas two more times later this school year.

"If we had a problem," Modde said, "it was that the boxes weren't big enough to hold all the stuff to send."

Although there was an overabundance towards the beginning, Zanardi said that they will still take everything. There are two dates scheduled later this school year that these care packages will be sent overseas.

Zanardi, Modde, and Beiermann all agreed that putting care packages together is the least they can do for the troops.

"If there's anything you can do," Beiermann said, "It's making them feel at home."

Zanardi took more of a spiritual approach to the matter.

"It's our responsibility as Christians to be charitable through corporal works of mercy," she said. "It's a piece of adulthood."

For Modde, it is simply a nice gesture.

"It's nice to let them know that the school they came from supports them," Modde said, "and that they're not totally separated from where they came from."

'Tis the season for sniffling and sneezing

By Katie Michaelsen
Staff Reporter

Oh man! Half the school is sick for the second time this month. What is the deal?

Most people may be down with a sickness many a times in a year and those that are not, can consider themselves lucky.

Physician's Assistant Marc Benesch has worked at the Columbus Medical Center for 11 years. Benesch has seen many different cases of sicknesses throughout his time working, as well as sprains and breaks.

Benesch said that he is usually the busiest from the middle of November to March. Kathy Kruse, who keeps track of attendance for the Scotus Central Office, said that students are usually sick the most in November and April.

The two main sicknesses Benesch sees are strep throat and tonsilitis.

Weather has a huge effect on how kids get sick, especially with the pollens and dust in the air, Benesch said. Summer is the worst time for allergies too, because that is when it truly starts to kick in. As for the winter, the flu, colds, mono, and strep throat are more common.

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, more than 150 million cases of the flu, colds, and the like are seen every year in the U.S. Over the counter medications, such as Vitamin C, can help combat these ailments.

Most importantly, the country is short on flu shots, which are quite vital to our society. For those who have not gotten a shot by now, chances are there will not be one, but this is not why so many people are sick.

> **"I hate being sick."**
> - Kellie Johnson

Dr. Dan Rosenquist, a Columbus Physician, said that the reason that the world is short on flu shots is because the bacteria salmonella contaminated the flu shots. This contamination happened in the United Kingdom, not the United States.

Now that sports have started up again, many students are touching things more than usual. Whether it is sharing water bottles or a pop, or anything people touch, germs are being spread by the millions.

Although it is during the winter months that students get sick the most, there is one question. Are they really sick? Some students admit that they play hooky, but others do not. Half the time when students play hooky it is because there is a quiz or a test that day.

Freshman Brock Lower said that he would still go home even if he were only slightly sick. He said that it is usually on test days that he is sick because he did not study.

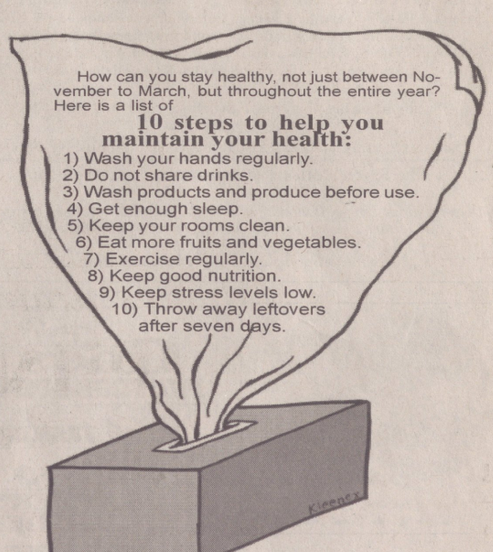
On the other hand, some students do not even think about playing hooky because that means they would have to catch up.

Senior Nicki Van Ackeren said that if she does not feel well enough she will go home, but if it means missing an important class then she will stay.

"I hate being sick," sophomore Kellie Johnson said, "because you're so worn down and tired all the time."

Johnson said that she comes to school even if she is sick, that is, unless she is was vomiting.

A simple task like washing your hands regularly can in fact keep students in school more instead of being sick all the time and trying to catch back up. On top of the fact that being sick raises your stress level too, which is not healthy.



Merry Christmas from the Rock Bottom!!

Christmas season easier to survive with sarcasm

-- Brutally Honest ---

Merry Christmas!

It's August, and we can finally put up the Christmas decorations! Forget about Halloween. Forget about Thanksgiving. Heck, forget about Easter too, because we all know you were thinking about Christmas even then.

Why don't we just keep our one strand of lights up all year? Some of the trailer parks have figured it out-it wastes time to take them down for such a short time.

All this is doing is getting hopes up even higher for Christmas. At my house, required Christmas lists show up earlier and earlier.

My brothers get their hopes up and fill their list, no, lists with ridiculous requests. Requests such as giant entertainment centers to go in their rooms, big screen tv's, every video game possible, scaled down Escalade remote-control cars, four-wheelers, new fishing boats, and Mercedes convertibles (leather interior of course). I ask for the essentials, such as CDs, more CDs, and perhaps a sock or two.

I can't help it; sarcasm is a disease.

My brothers throw a fit to find that they have everything they asked for on their lists but one thing: "Sorry, we thought that the leather interior was asking a little much, boys."

I'm slapped with disappointment as I discover my lone present underneath the tree…that one sock I asked for.

"Sorry, Sadie, we lost the list of CDs you wanted (…and ran out of money), but we'll let you listen to your father's Yanni CD anytime you want!"

Yippee.

My three older sisters don't give my parents a list, because, what else do poor college students want aside from that $100,000 check they know they'll get from them.

They'll try to tell me that maybe I wasn't a "good girl" this year.

It wasn't my fault I accidentally shoved my brother off the roof. It wasn't my fault I bit the dog-she approached *me*!

Wait. What has an early start on Christmas done to my family? No, my family always has been this crazy. But this premature jump on the season has made me want to throw up even more now that radio stations play this "jolly" music 24/7.

There is only one thing that gets me through everything without pulling *all* of my hair out. It is especially helpful during this five-month holiday we call Christmas. One more clue as to what this magic ingredient is: without it, there is no Sadie. Yup, you guessed it *…sarcasm.*

Instead of being mad that I got absolutely zero presents, I joke about it. That's right, I'm sarcastic. Imagine that-not *me*!

Okay, I'll admit it. I may have been sarcastic when I was talking about not getting any presents and my siblings getting them all. I can't help it; sarcasm is a disease. And it's especially bad during Christmas. How else do I entertain myself during the two whole weeks in which I'm forced to stay with my family?

STOP TELLING KIDS THERE'S NO SANTA!

---- Earmuffs! ----

Remember when you used to believe in Santa?

Those were the days, when the whole year was spent waiting for Christmas to come. I can remember waking up the day after Christmas and thinking to myself, "Now I'm going to have to wait 364 days until next Christmas."

I know that I wasn't the only one that did this when I was little, but I can remember staying awake until the wee hours of Christmas morning just waiting until I heard the sounds of reindeer on my roof. Once I did, I realized that Santa must've "thought" that I was a good little boy, and I then settled down enough to go to bed.

Next it came time for Christmas morning. I don't get how a kid who fell asleep at like 1 or 2 in the morning always wakes up at like seven to wake up the whole house to open presents. Anyway, the first thing I did every morning was quietly tip-toe downstairs, sneak a peak at my presents, look to see if Santa ate his cookies I left him, and check outside to see if the reindeer ate the carrots. Then I would go into everyone's rooms and wake them up.

I bet you can't guess who got to open the first present. Nope, it was me!

Now it's not like I would quietly tap them on the shoulder until they opened their eyes, I ferociously jumped on their bed in order to make sure they were wide awake and ready to function enough to watch me open my presents. I loved it when they would ask me if they could sleep for just a few more minutes. Then I would leave the room for a few seconds to make them think I was being nice, then quietly open their door back up, flip on the light and scream, "Merry Chistmas," then they knew I was for real.

Finally, when everyone was up, to their surprise I was already downstairs playing with one of the toys that Santa had left for me and eating candy out of my stocking, because there's nothing like eating chocolate Christmas trees at 7 o'clock in the morning.

I bet you can't guess who got to open the first present. Nope, it was me! It wasn't because they let me open the first present, it's just that I always beat everybody to the punch. Then, after all my presents were open, then it was time to go downstairs and start playing with them, whether everyone else was done or not.

In the end, I guess what I'm trying to say is, who's idea was it to tell all the little kids when they got a certain age that there wasn't a Santa. Think about how more fun Christmas would be right now if we still believed in Santa, that would be fantastic. But no, our parents, and/or friends had to go and ruin Christmas for the rest of our lives. It is still fun to leave out the cookies, carrots, and note for Santa, but it's just not the same.

Reality of Laguna Beach captivates audience

- - Once in a while - -

I am obsessed- completely and totally obsessed. I have two words for you: *Laguna Beach*. I did not miss an episode, not even when I was sick with the flu. If you haven't heard of *Laguna Beach* then you've been living under a rock. A very big and heavy rock.

It is a show on MTV kind of like *The Real World*. The cameras follow around this group of juniors and seniors in high school who are friends. Anyways, the disclaimer says that the show was taped over a six-month period in Laguna Beach, the real O.C. The O.C. is Orange County in California. The people, place, and drama are real.

If you haven't heard of *Laguna Beach*, then you've been living under a rock.

The season finale was on December 7 and I did not miss a second, even though Brittany Williams' baby was crying. MTV arranged so that there weren't even commercials. Obviously, this shows how much the show rocks. A few of my friends and I had our own little Black and White Affair to watch the show together.

For all you non-Laguna lovers I will explain to you what a Black and White Affair is. It's a party with formal dress where everyone wears black, white, or black and white. We even had black and white brownies. Yummy.

I don't know if I was exactly happy with the ending though. Stephen picked up his friend LC at the airport, mere hours after he promised Kristin he wouldn't be spending that much time with LC. Yeah, right. We'll see how Kristin and Stephen's "open" relationship works out. Nevertheless, Stephen better not be spending a lot of time with LC in San Fran.

If you can't tell, Kristin is my favorite! It was so cool when she was the surprise guest after the finale. Everyone says Kristin is so mean, blah, blah, blah. She does talk about LC, but LC isn't perfect either! LC is thinking what Kristin is saying but Kristin just says it out loud. Plus, Kristin got the guy.

Whether you love Kristin or LC, there is one thing we can all agree on…a second season! I can't wait. It should be better than ever because this year, because as Kristin said, she is going to run the show.

A few things we all need to think about: Who is the new girl in the Mercedes? Will Kristin and Stephen be together when he comes back? Which girl is going to get Talan? Is LC coming back to Laguna Beach- and do we really care? Until next season!

As they say in Laguna, this column is *dunzo*.

Editorial Briefs

Everyone guilty of whining

"I'm so stressed out."

Aren't we all? There's bound to be something that bothers us at one point or another. But do we need to tell the world in a high-pitched, dragging, singsong manner?

We're talking about whining. Everyone does it, and some do more than others-way more. But it this annoyance necessary?

While it seems as if your world is coming to an abrupt halt, chances are that it most likely will not. But many won't hesitate to whine about it 'til the cows come home.

Making a huge deal out of a rather minor problem is the worst way anyone can whine. An upcoming geometry test isn't nearly as bad as the death of a family member, being homeless, having multiple cancerous tumors, and breaking every bone in your body-so don't act like it-or whine about it for that matter.

Don't go around proclaiming issues to the world. It's not everyone else's problem-it's yours. So in the words of Dr. Phil-"Deal with it!"

Students forced to weave through traffic

Many students find the passing period at Scotus to be a time to socialize, especially for seniors who have their own hallway. However, some people have less time to socialize during passing periods because they have to hurry to talk to teachers or go to the complete opposite end of the school.

With the size of our hallways and the population of our student body, it is reasonable to expect to be able to make it through the hallways trouble-free, yet for some reason, this is not always the case. Recently, students have found it necessary to stand in the dead center of the hall. With some people by their lockers (understandably) and others on or near the benches, standing in the middle of the hallway becomes somewhat of a problem.

Because some students need to pass through the halls somewhat quickly, it is important for others to be aware of that. Scotus is lucky to have four minutes between classes and an administration that lets us enjoy those four minutes of freedom. Very simply, it would be considerate and appreciated for those with more time to be conscious of others around them and out of the line of traffic.

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It's the Most *Wonderful* Time of the Year!

Dollars: the real Christmas green

By Heidi Sobota
Editor

It's the most wonderful time of the year….or so they say.

It is the time when everyone is cheery, but sometimes, that cheerfulness does not continue on through the gift buying stage.

"I will buy them something if I can find a gift to fit the person," eighth grader Adam Niedbalski said. He also said that his parents do most of the spending for him.

"The maximum amount I will spend is $20," he said.

This may be the case for Niedbalski, but for Spanish teacher Connie Felger, money is the deciding factor.

"When I have more, I spend more," Felger said. "It all depends on the income."

Another motivator is not only money, but also love for the person that will be receiving the gift.

"I spend according to love for them, but also what is comfortable for them to receive," Felger said.

It may not be a question of whether the love someone possesses, but simply what they feel they can receive. This may make it difficult for people to choose presents for others because they often cannot decide on a suitable gift.

Sophomore Whitney Beller said that a typical gift for a girl would be perfume or a gift card to buy clothes, but Felger said that typical gifts include books, movies, perfume, and lotion.

Sometimes the person receiving the gift is not extremely helpful either. They could beat around the bush when asked what they want. So the safest way to go is usually gift cards Beller said.

Gifts cards take out the hassle of returning gifts that they don't like. In the long run it seems to be the simplest way to please everyone.

Whether the motive is saving money or showing love, purchasing gifts has both people in mind. The true meaning of Christmas is on December 25th when families and friends come together to exchange gifts, not only of material value, but also gifts of themselves.

Money at the top of Christmas lists

By Karla Jarecke
Editor

Presents!! People are making list and checking it twice in preparing for the most exciting gift exchange day of the year.

The shopping aspect of Christmas can make it the most wonderful time of the year for some and for others the most stressful time of the year.

Of course, it will be the girls that go over their budget this season, but there are a few of those boys who actually like shopping. Yes, some of the boys at Scotus actually admitted that they enjoy shopping.

So what is the hot item this year that every parent has to have for their kid? Well, to be honest, there really isn't one. Wal-Mart can expect to sell a lot of the new video game Halo 2 and the new Harry Potter movie, but there will be no must have gift that people have seen in the past with the Tickle-Me-Elmo and Furby craze.

Many students at Scotus said that they would like to receive an I-Pod for Christmas, which has become very popular in taking the place of portable CD-players. Clothing, cell phones, DVD players, Husker season tickets, and cars were other popular responses. The most popular answer, however, was money, which was a common response for those people who did not know what they wanted for Christmas.

> **"A good gift is one that is sent from the heart."**
> -Kristina Flint

An issue that often arises during this time of year is what to buy. Many people will take an easier route, and buy their friends and family more generic gifts. Others, however, put a great deal of thought into this matter and get their companions more personal gifts that have meaning behind it.

"A good gift is one that is sent from the heart," said junior Kristina Flint. "It is always nice to receive a gift that has meaning behind it rather than a price tag."

It is the thought that goes into getting the gift that makes receiving the gift truly memorable. Christmas season is, after all, a time for giving rather than receiving.

Christmas traditions begin with family

By Heidi Sobota and Karla Jarecke
Editors

Church, food, gifts, Christmas carols. These all make up a large part of what is known as Christmas tradition.

"We put up a Christmas tree and a few other things," freshman Jeff Svatora said. "We also put up lights outside."

As December 25th quickly approaches, the Christmas spirit is becoming more and more evident in preparing for the birth of Christ. During this time the true tradition does not lie within the opening of gifts, but it is in Jesus coming into our world that should make people realize there is more to life than material goods.

Svatora said that his family always opens gifts on Christmas Eve before attending Midnight Mass together. He also said that they keep a Nativity scene in their house as a reminder of Jesus' birth.

Although Jesus is the reason for the season, people take a little time out of their busy lives to give something to someone they care about. Christmas is about generosity and love in the sense of sacrificing what would normally be spent on oneself. Generosity also being in giving of one's time.

Year after year families and friends unite to take advantage of this wonderful season. Traditions begin forming as soon as families merge together, and this is where all the memories of Christmas are stored.

"Christmas is my favorite holiday because it is a time to get together with family that I haven't seen in a few months," sophomore Laura Blair said.

Blair spends Christmas Eve with her parants and two sisters. They go to church, go out to eat, look at Christmas lights, and open presents. On Christmas Day she goes to her grandma's house to be with her family.

Family and friends show us every day that they care so the spirit of Christmas should not end after December 25 but continue throughout the year.

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Together forever: some relationships keep going and going

Emilie Powers
Editor

Dating is a normal part of high school. While some people have never dated, others have been dating since junior high. Some couples have even been together since junior high.

Call them crazy, but they're simply crazy about each other. Sophomores Kristin Wrubel and Scott Ackman are one such couple. They have been together since the seventh grade. The two mingled at a junior high fun night and started "going out" the next night at a YMCA dance, although Wrubel said she didn't know him very well.

Times have changed for the two since then, and they have come a long way Wrubel said.

"We never gave up. We just gave it a little bit more time, and it added up to 3 years!" Wrubel said.

There is no doubt that long term relationships require careful attention, and Ackman said he knows why he has stayed with Wrubel.

"I care about her," he said.

Despite his age, he doesn't take his relationship for granted, especially compared to others his age.

"Most people aren't as committed as we are," Ackman said.

Abbie Tessendorf is the Adolescent Advocate for the Center for Survivors and also teaches Building Healthy Relationships at Scotus. She said that teens' long-term relationships teach them to communicate and compromise with each other.

"[Teens] learn to confront each other when they're upset," Tessendorf said. "They learn good life lessons."

However, she also said that the most common problem with teens' long term relationships is controlling behavior.

On a larger scale, after knowing his wife for three years before getting married, substitute teacher Robert Dierman has been married for 41 years. He, too, had down to earth reasons for being with her.

"On the whole we're compatible," Dierman said. "We have similar interests."

The two met in New Jersey where his wife had her first teaching job, he his third, and both taught English and Social Studies. Through a group of young teachers on the staff at the school, they began to socialize. Dierman is pleased with the turn of events.

"I couldn't imagine life without her," he said.

While he has had luck with his relationship, he offered some advice to high school students in long-term relationships that they should realize.

"What they are [now]," he said, "isn't going to be what they will be when they get older.

Wrubel also views long-term relationships from a step back. Though her relationship so far has been successful and enjoyable, she knows how lucky she is to have such a deep experience at her age. She feels that her relationship with Ackman has given her a bigger picture of everything.

"The love that you feel for that person, most people our age don't feel or can't feel because they don't have that type of relationship," Wrubel said.

No one knows what the future holds, but Wrubel and Ackman feel that they have a pretty good outlook on their relationship together.

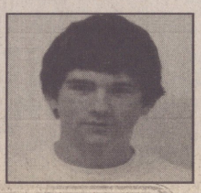
Not everyone is as lucky to have such a dating experience at their young age, but stories like that of Wrubel and Ackman, and Mr. and Mrs. Dierman, can only strive to give hope to others looking for a long term relationship.

Rock Talk

In a super-scientific survey of semi-random Scotus students, we asked ...

What was your worst Christmas present ever?

Austin Zach, jr.
From my grandma, I received a grooming kit including a comb, fingernail clippers, a nail file, and nose hair clippers.



Matt Raimondo, jr.
For Christmas one year I received an orange in my stocking from Santa Claus. They belong in the refrigerator.

Kristina Flint, jr.
Lotion. If I wanted lotion, I'd go buy some lotion at the store; that is a cheap way to get out of a gift. It really shows you care.

Eric Sinovic, fr.
One time my grandma gave me a pair of socks inside a phone box because I thought I was getting a phone.

Reannon Paprocki, jr.
The "present" my dog left me.

Accessories aim to individualize

John Beauvais
Editor

For some students, a uniform is simply not enough. A little bit more is needed for their taste, and they bring to their uniforms a number of faddish ad-ons.

A variety of necklaces, chains, watches, and rings can be found on students in Scotus's hallways. What people wear is a matter of personal choice.

"I wear a lot of bracelets, a lot of pink and black," junior Amberle Zeurlein said. "They're some of my favorite colors."

Some, like senior Brett Fry, wear a variety of jewelry. Fry said he often wears to school three chain necklaces, a watch, a ring, and, occasionally on accident, his earring.

"All of my stuff got me a nickname from some of the guys on the football team: The King of Bling Bling," Fry said.

Others too, receive commentary on their apparel.

"People are nice to me about it," seventh grader Molly Forney said. "They give me compliments on the things I wear."

Forney said she wore her things to separate herself from the crowd and to be more of an individual. Other people have reasons too for wearing their add-ons. Zeurlein and Fry both wear crosses every day, each saying that it is a symbol of where they are with their faith.

Some people are just not into wearing the add-ons but are also into making them, too.

"I don't like to spend money," junior Autumn Kresha said, "So if I didn't find what I'm wearing, I probably made it. I'm cheap like that."

Others do the same.

"When I go shopping," Zeurlein said, "I constantly look for things I can make on my own."

Most, however, have other sources for their add-ons. Fry said he received all of his as gifts and the one thing that he bought was from Claire's. Similarly, Forney said she bought her jewelry at Claire's.

"When there is a sale, my mom and I go down," she said, "and I usually spend about ten dollars a trip."

With her money spent, Forney likes to change things up by wearing different colors every day. However, not everyone plans what he or she wears.

"I just throw on something in the morning," Kresha said. "Half the time I don't know what I'm wearing."

Whether one likes to accessorize or not, more than uniforms now are part of many students' everyday wear. For now, at least, Scotus students have one avenue into which to display their individuality or lack of it.

This Nebraska Student Spent Her Summer With NASA

MELLISA ACKERMAN, a junior from Alliance majoring in math and French at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln, was one of 12 NASA interns selected from 1,500 applicants last summer. Now, she is continuing her NASA research on campus. Next summer, she plans to study in France and hopes to attend graduate school in the future. Whatever her goals, Ackerman knows her professors will be there to support her. *"Professors here let students know they matter. I see Dr. Woodward, my advisor, at least twice a week. Dr. Lyons helped me as I wrote my essay for the NASA internship. They've had an impact on my life."*

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Rock Bottom review

Video game sequels try to live up to originals

By John Beauvais
Editor

Perhaps one of the most anticipated games of all time, *Halo 2* is not infallible, as many gamers would have you believe. *Halo* may be the best first-person shooter of all time, but *Halo 2* is not.

Stealing all of its best moves from the original and from games preceding it, this game is nothing revolutionary like the first. In some places the graphics have been tweaked and, in some places, tweaked too much. The changes in the multiplayer aspect of the game: new levels, new weapons, new vehicles, and a couple new moves, are little more than the X-Box's equivalent of an expansion pack.

The multi-player has stayed much the same, but the add-ons have given it an acquired taste and have lost the refreshing pick-up-and-go-feel of the original. *Halo 2* lacks playability of other great shooters of the past such as the original *Halo* and *007 Golden Eye*. On top of it all, players should not even bother with most levels unless they have a system link, enabling more X-Boxes to be hooked up. The levels are simply too large for less than eight people.

The campaign mode helps make up for it though. It has a break-neck pace and the storyline is even more engrossing than the original. The addition of cell shading to some graphic skins has taken away some the darkness of the first and the shield effects are simply beautiful. The drawback to the campaign is that it is a bit short.

San Andreas does things that other series can only dream of doing.

Microsoft knows this game has more die-hard fans than perhaps any other game out there. It is no surprise that this game is so much more difficult than the original, but with the fan-base of the original, the company has the freedom to do what it wants. This game is great for the die-hards, but those who are just getting into the series need to pick up a copy of the original.

GTA: San Andreas

When *Grand Theft Auto 3* came out, it quickly became the most controversial game of all time and created a genre all its own, paving the way for other great games such as Manhunt. *San Andreas* does not disappoint and does things that other series can only dream of doing.

Along with the rampant violence, the ability to restore health by visiting prostitutes, and selling drugs, the series has added a couple new things for its millions of fans. If you ever wanted to spray paint gang members in the face or killing a pizza boy with a fire extinguisher this game is the only place you will probably ever get to live out those sick fantasies. On top of it all this, game has more celebrity cameos than any game in history.

The game, while pushing the boundaries of moral decency, has actually done a very innovative thing for gaming. The game has made the character completely customizable, making his diet, clothing, and workout all part of the play. It is so engrossing that it could that this is what Sims Ghetto is like.

The game is as far as the Playstation 2 can take it and its graphics engine is clearly showing its age. Until the long awaited Playstation 3 comes to fruition, players should look to the X-Box version to see what this game can truly do.

Though I truly miss the story of Tommy Verscetti, this game does not know how to disappoint. San Andreas might truly be the high water mark of the series. If players are looking for the best platform game of the season, *GTA: San Andreas* wins hands down.

Master Chief from Halo 2

Rock Bottom review

Stars return for Ocean's 12

By Emilie Powers and Heidi Sobota
Editors

If you are planning to see the highly anticipated sequel *Ocean's 12*, come prepared with Dramamine. *Ocean's 12* is not recommended for those who just ate or are highly prone to motion sickness. Although the angles and camera movements were interesting and somewhat original, they were overdone, distracting, and dizzying.

Almost just as dizzying was the plot. Some movies lack a plot, but *Ocean's 12* had a surplus of plot. It was the type of movie that has to be watched more than once to catch all the pieces. With twists around every corner, this movie kept you guessing and second-guessing the result with every scene.

If you're looking for a comedy to get you rolling, *Ocean's 12* is definitely not it. *Ocean's Eleven* is by far funnier, yet *Ocean's 12* was a good sequel for those who like a thinker on a Saturday night.

The details of each character in *Ocean's Eleven* are elaborated on in *Ocean's 12*. In addition to the complex characters from the first movie, icons including Bruce Willis and Catherine Zeta-Jones joined the all-star cast for the sequel.

In an attempt to take a larger role in the robbery scheme, Linus Caldwell (Matt Damon) captured a larger role the second time around. His character not only caused a great number of dilemmas for his crew but was also responsible for the majority of funny material that the movie produced.

For a change of pace, roles were reversed between Danny Ocean (George Clooney) and Rusty Ryan (Brad Pitt). In *Ocean's Eleven* Danny Ocean was going after the girl, Tess (Julia Roberts), but during overseas travel to pull a job in Amsterdam, Rusty Ryan failed to mention his involvement with the beautiful Europol agent Isabel Lahiri (Catherine Zeta-Jones). Her involvement in investigating high-profile robberies poses a problem and the possible demise of Ocean and his crew.

With a heart-felt and pleasantly unpredictable ending, *Ocean's 12* even left a window open for a possibly amazing trilogy. Ultimately *Ocean's 12* will be a bit less successful than *Ocean's Eleven*, but it's good as sequels go.

Ocean's 12

Starring: George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Bernie Mac, Frank Catton, Don Cheadle, Catherine Zeta Jones, Julia Roberts, Andy Garcia, Matt Damon and many more

Director: Steven Soderbergh

Rock Bottom Rating ♣♣♣♣♣

School Trivia

How many lockers are in Scotus?

*Submit your guess with your name and grade on it to the envelope outside Mr. Arneal's room (23) by 3:45 today (Friday, December 17). The correct or closest guess will receive a prize. Please only one guess per person.

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-Swing and a miss!!-

Only you can prevent obesity

Obesity is a *huge* problem in the United States today (no pun intended). McDonald's, Burger King, and Pizza Hut are taking over our lives.

Children are especially becoming susceptible to this terrible health risk. Healthy eating habits are becoming less and less common among the young people of today. Take a look in your kitchen and see what's inside.

Are there things like fruit, vegetables, and milk? Or are there things like pop, butter, and potato chips?

If your answer would be the latter of the two, then you could be on your way to being overweight, and ultimately obese. Now I'm not saying that people should completely get rid of all good junk food, but maybe substituting something healthy once and awhile would be a good idea.

Another good way to teach children the way to stay healthy is giving them back their recess. Elementary school aged children are seeing their outdoor time become less and less. Maybe if they were let outside of the school walls once in a while they would realize there is something else to do besides watch TV.

It all comes down to one thing, humans are creatures of habit

Schools could also begin to have a bigger effect on the way teens live their lives once they go off to college(or whatever they choose to do). Possibly, by requiring that all students have to take a physical education class all the way through their senior year. Once students see their fitness lacking, they will realize that they need to do something about it.

It all comes down to one thing. Humans are creatures of habit, and if we start early in creating those habits then we will do our part to help make America a little healthier. Parents, teachers, and adult friends have to help instill the "good fitness values" that will give people a better life.

So instead of going to McDonald's for a good old fashioned cheeseburger, give the fruits and veggies a chance. Who knows? Maybe you'll be surprised and like them!

Scotus swimmers make a splash for CHS

By Nicole Sobotka
Staff Reporter

Coaches demand time and effort. Teams are only with each other for a few hours every day. There is a bond there, even if they go to different schools. They are a team. This is the attitude that the Columbus High Swimming Team exudes.

With no swim team at their own school, four Scotus student don the maroon and white of Columbus High. But since there are a few students every year, namely seniors Becky Johnson and Katie Connally, sophomore Anna Boeding, and freshman Sarah Jackson this year, who want to swim. It is for students like them that Scotus co-ops with Columbus High School.

The fact that they go to Scotus does not matter to the swimmers from Columbus High.

"I don't think it's bad or weird that they're from Scotus," CHS sophomore swimmer Kristen Jacobson said. "It doesn't matter because I've known them for forever through club swim teams."

Melissa Morris is entering her first year as the team's coach. She said that it was offered to her because she swam when she lived in California.

Morris said that she does not see it as a problem that the kids are from different schools because they are strong as a team. When they are in the water she cannot even tell they go to different schools because they all work hard and get along.

"I like being on a team with two schools," Boeding said. "Everyone is really friendly and I like meeting new people."

The team has had two meets. The first one was a dual at Hastings. The girls received first place and the boys finished second. The second meet was Saturday, December 4 at Fremont. The girls' team finished fifth out of nine and the boys eighth.

"I was nervous about the first few meets," Morris said, "but I think we did well and will continue to be successful. Everyone is coming along very fast."

JOHN BEAUVAIS/ROCK BOTTOM

Senior Becky Johnson works on her butterfly stroke during a practice at the Columbus Aquatic Center. Johnson is one of four Scotus students swimming for the Columbus High School swim team.

Off court antics affect athlete's fan base

By Katie Michaelsen
Staff Reporter

Kobe Bryant, on trial? No way! When people heard this, many could not believe it at first, but it was really happening to one of the best and youngest NBA basketball players of all time.

Most people do not want to believe that their favorite sports idol has done something wrong, but at least not all sports idols get into trouble.

There are those idols who are caring, the idols who think they are all that, and the idols that do what they do for the money.

Asking students whom their favorite sports idol is one thing, but how they look up to them is another. Most athletes are paid very well, but they are paid for how well they play, not the way they act. Should they be paid for their actions?

Freshman Ellen Rambour said that her favorite sports idol is tennis player Jennifer Capriati.

"The athlete's behavior off the court affects the way I feel about the athletes because if they were not an all-round good person off the court, then that reputation sticks with them on the court," Rambour said.

Some students also seem to look up to their brothers or sisters when it comes to sports idols.

"I look up to how much time and effort my brother puts into each strenuous activity," sophomore Jordan Grubaugh said. "His love for sports showed through when he played."

To sophomore Sarah Pandorf, Raven Ebner and Mr. Pete Petersen are her idols, because Ebner is a talented and skilled volleyball manager. Pandorf said she will be sad when Mr. Petersen (her idol) retires.

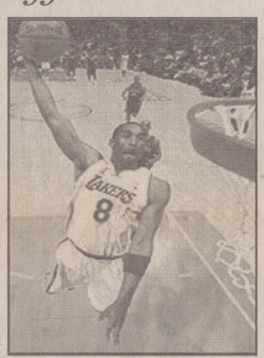
Ben and Paul Mlinar, Jamie Tooley, Heidi Sobota, seem to be some favorite sports idols too. Soccer players Mia Hamm and David Beckham, cyclist Lance Armstrong, football players John Elway, Dan Marino, and Michael Vick seem to be more favorite sports idols of the students.

Those that said their favorite sports idol are Kobe Bryant said that his behavior off the court does not affect the way they feel about Bryant. Clint Torczon said Bryant's behavior does affect the way he feels about him.

No matter what sport students take part in, the sports idols range from swimmers, dancers, football players, basketball players, student athletes, and teachers.

Of the 50 students who were surveyed, 62% of the students said that the athlete's behavior off the court affect the way they feel about them, while 36% said that the athlete's behavior off the court did not affect the way they feel about them, and one student said yes and no.

Many people look up to athletes these days, and too many of them have bad influences on people; luckily we still have some whom are good influences.



Kobe Bryant's on the court playing has gained him many fans, but his off the court behavior caused some fans to rethink their opinion of him.

Working out, staying in shape not just for in-sport athletes

By Chad Schmeits
Editor

Training in the off-season, when you don't necessarily have to, can be very difficult to do.

There are many people in the weight room every morning trying to better themselves for their current sport, but there aren't too many people that lift on a consistent basis that are not training for a sport. Those who are not training for a current sport may be doing so in order to stay in shape and better themselves for their upcoming season, but there are a few that lift that aren't in any sports. These students aren't just lifting to stay physically fit, but they are also doing so to feel better about themselves, to build up confidence, and to have more energy.

Juniors Stephanie Laudenklos and Jim Rawhouser are two athletes that both lift four times a week, and neither of them is in a winter sport. Laudenklos, on top of lifting four times a week, also exercises fives days a week either at 5:30 a.m. or after school for 45-60 minutes at a time. She said when she lifts it usually takes her 30-45 minutes to get her whole routine in at school, whereas Rawhouser lifts for at least 50 minutes at a time.

> **"Keeping my body heathly teaches me discipline and helps me concentrate during class."**
> -Steph Laudenklos

When asked why he lifted, Rawhouser said, "So I don't get fat and out of shape."

On the other hand, Laudenklos is lifting to stay strong, and working out to keep her body healthy.

In order to be serious about lifting or working out, one needs to have a drive, and set goals for themselves. Nobody is just going to lift for no reason, there needs to be some kind of incentive. Take these two juniors for example, both of them have set goals for themselves, and they both know what they want to get out of their training. Rawhouser hopes to build strength in order to get faster, whereas Laudenklos hopes to get a better physique and have more energy to get through the day, and her main objective is to gain a toned and healthy body.

Both of them also agree that they would still be training this extensively even if they didn't play sports at all.

"Keeping my body healthy teaches discipline and helps me concentrate during class," Laudenklos said.

From a teacher's perspective, Mr. Wickham does some kind of cardio work-out at least five times a week for 30 minutes a day when he's not busy coaching. He also tries to lift two or three times a week during this period.

"I mainly work out to feel better about myself," he added.

Although lifting may not seem like that big of chore when you are doing so for the in-season sport, lifting just to better yourself, or for an upcoming season, may be a little harder to push yourself to do.

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SCOTUS CENTRAL

ROCK BOTTOM

Oh, the power of caffeine... Page 4

SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC

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VOLUME 7 ◆ ISSUE 5◆ JANUARY 13, 2005

Healthy eating habits encourage smaller portions, more veggies

By Emilie Powers
Editor

With a heightened awareness of obesity as a disease in the nation, many Americans are watching what they eat. Instead of going on a "diet," the solution may be to simply take care of your "diet."

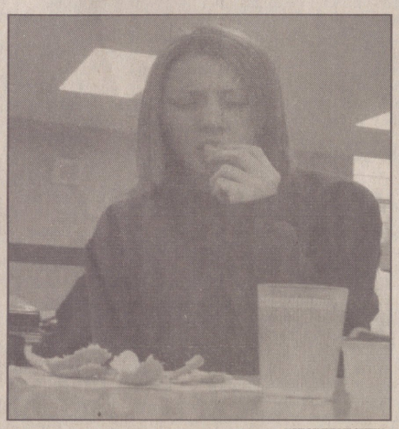
High school students have very busy schedules, and these schedules affect their eating habits. Fast food is not *bad* for you, unless you eat it all the time. The problem with unhealthy eating habits in teens today is that they are so busy.

"They don't cook very much," Maxine McElligott said. She is a Registered Dietician and a Licensed Medical Nutrition Therapist at The Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. "[High school students] eat out more, so that affects their food choices. They often are not getting enough fruits and vegetables."

Some Scotus students hold true to this statement. Sophomore Lauren Schumacher agreed with this sentiment. Her vegetable intake, or lack thereof, leads to a less healthy eating pattern.

"I don't eat very many vegetables," Schumacher said. "I find it hard to eat things that I don't like to eat that I probably should. I don't like how it tastes. I like how sweets taste, so I eat more of that instead of vegetables and things like that."

McElligott gave a possible solution to the problem of unhealthy eating patterns for high school students.



SADIE BOLTZ/ROCK BOTTOM

Junior Kate Cheloha starts off the day the healthy way as she enjoys an orange. A variety of fruits are offered at breakfast in the Scotus cafeteria.

"[Students] should assess their portion sizes," McElligott said. "You want them to learn how to eat healthy, and the biggest thing they don't understand is the portion size."

She suggests a certain eating pattern in order to assure that teens are getting enough vegetables than anything else. Teens should use their plate as their portion, with half starch, a quarter or more of vegetables, and a quarter of meat.

"Start at the vegetables, then eat the meat, then the starch. Go around the plate in that order and add in fruits and dairy products."

Teens should use this pattern also in taking seconds. If they plan to eat seconds, they should start with the vegetables again.

"The vegetables have fewer calories and more filling fibers," McElligott said. "This process will fill them up faster and help them to eat more of the healthy foods."

For some people, eating healthy is not as difficult. Eating at home versus eating out really does make a difference.

"Mostly I eat healthy because my mom cooks," senior Stephanie Hall said.

While Schumacher and Hall both said that they eat three meals a day, their snack amounts make the difference. Schumacher said she only snacks sometimes after school, but Hall said she usually has two snacks every day. However, differences in diet may come from differences in activity level.

"Look at individual needs depending on activity or inactivity," McElligott said. "Eating habits also vary with gender."

Special occasions and holidays are a time to be extra cautious of what you eat because foods are more tempting.

"Holidays are difficult because all the extra food is really good," Hall said.

Schumacher agreed that sweets are more tempting, and both girls said that not all healthy foods were difficult to put into their diets.

"Most fruits I'll eat pretty easily and like a lot," Schumacher said.

McElligott said that a good reference for a healthy diet is the Food Guide Pyramid.

Although the Food Guide Pyramid suggests five servings of fruits and vegetables for each day, McElligott said that the fruits and vegetables category would be a good choice to eat more of if necessary or desired.

If teens are concerned about their weight, they should monitor their calorie intake. Recent studies also show that eating three to four dairy products a day can help to improve weight loss.

Any or all of these methods can be used to eat healthier or to aid in losing weight. Eating fast food and quick-fix foods may seem like the solution today, but a good eating habit is the healthier decision in the long run.

SADIE BOLTZ/ROCK BOTTOM

Junior Michael Gokie chows down on some pancakes before school starts. Other hot breakfast choices are available every morning.

JOHN BEADLES/ROCK BOTTOM

Up for two

Junior Kim Whalen shoots over two Twin River defeders in the junior varsity division of the Columbus Holiday Tournament. Both the boys and girls junior varsity teams, along with the girls varsity, took first place.

Coming home for the holidays

2004 Scotus graduates take break from college life

By Heidi Sobota
Editor

New people, new classes, and being away from home are only three things that make college different from high school. For the Scotus Class of 2004, it was a new beginning, or for some, perhaps a little bit of the same old routine.

There are many decisions to make when deciding on a college such as: an in or out of state campus, private or public, what majors are offered, and of course how much tuition is going to cost.

Whitney Anderson, a 2004 graduate who is attending St. Edward's University in Austin, Tex., said that she chose St. Edward's due to the diversity of the campus.

"There are blacks, whites, Hispanics," Anderson said, "and it is interesting finding out how we all grew up so differently."

Anderson also said that if she could go back to high school she would become involved in more activities because it would have given her the chance to meet more people. This is why she is trying to become a part of a community service organization that mentors at a local community school.

Joe Held, a fellow 2004 graduate attending Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln, said that he passes the time by lifting four times a week and playing a lot of PlayStation2. He also said that he enjoys hanging out with his roommate, Jon Scholz (another 2004 Scotus graduate).

> **"I like college better than high school, because it is nice to have some freedom."**
>
> **- Taylor Harsh**

"The one thing that really surprised me about college was the amount of free time you got," Held said.

To avoid this free time, Anderson said that scheduling your classes with limited time in between allows your day to run smoother, and you are able to get more things done after your classes are finished.

At the end of a long school day, Taylor Harsh, another one of last year's graduates, said that she takes a lot of naps.

"I love my roommate," Harsh said, "but I hate my dorm because it is all girls. I like college better than high school, because it is nice to have some freedom."

Looking back on their high school days, their experience at Scotus helped to prepare them for the college course load.

"Scotus prepared me well except for writing," Held said.

This is the opposite point of view from Anderson because she said that a lot of the writing techniques from Scotus helped her.

Anderson also said that Vern Younger's biology class got her ready for her college biology class.

Harsh said that she spends a lot more time studying now than she did in high school because the professors expect more out of a college student.

"It is more challenging," Harsh said, "because it is just a higher level of education."

Smaller, high-tech cell phones gaining popularity with teens

By Karla Jarecke
Editor

Have you ever gone through a day where you didn't use your cell phone? The constant ring of cell phones is becoming a familiar sound in today's society.

Cell phones are definitely a primary source for communications these days. Most people admit that they can not live without this 2 x 4 gadget. As America sees the growth of technological advances improving through the years, cell phones continue to become increasingly advanced. They become smaller, yet more technical.

Most teenagers carry their handy cell phone with them everywhere they go. Sophomore Kellie Johnson spends about an hour on her cell phone on an average night. She uses it more on weekends to contact friends for their evening plans.

"It is very beneficial because you can contact people whenever you want to," Johnson said.

Cell phones are being used at home even with the presence of the common house phone. Some homes are even getting rid of their house phone and just owning cell phones. Johnson said that she uses her cell phone at home sometimes because it gives her privacy from other family members who might want to use the phone.

Sophomore Kyle Mroczek says cell phones are convenient, especially in the car.

"When you are driving you can call your friends to see where they are instead of going all the way home just to use the phone," Mroczek said.

Having a cell phone in the car can be convenient, but most will agree it is also a distraction as an increasing number of car accidents happen while the driver was on his or her cell phone.

Text messaging is also a quick and easy way send a message to someone without having to call them. Mroczek said that he sends text messages to friends all the time because it is something to do, and it is also a great way to send love notes to girls.

"Cell phones are very convenient, but one can get by with out one," Mroczek said. "I think they are a great idea though, and everyone should have one."

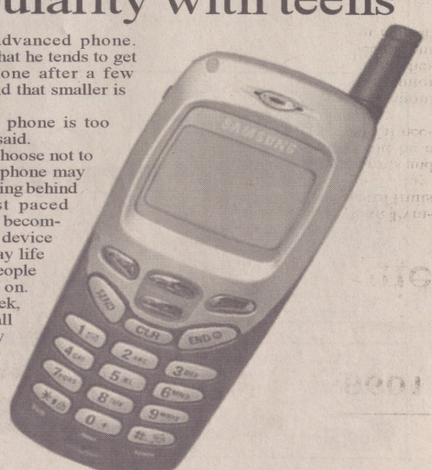
As phones become increasingly popular, they are becoming more like toys than simply communication devices. Senior Nate Staroscik has a newer phone that can take pictures.

"I find it more entertaining than anything," Staroscik said. "It's pretty sweet."

Companies are always coming out with a new and improved cell phone. People continue to want a better, more advanced phone. Staroscik said that he tends to get sick of his phone after a few months. He said that smaller is always better.

"I think my phone is too big," Staroscik said.

Those who choose not to purchase a cell phone may find they are falling behind in today's fast paced world. They are becoming a common device seen in every day life in which most people come to depend on. Johnson, Mroczek, and Staroscik all said that they consider their phone more of a luxury, however, than a necessity.



2004: a successful year full of "entertainment"

Brutally Honest

At the end of every year, there are at least a hundred or two TV shows, lists, or pictures of the most memorable events of the preceding 365 days. Whether it was celebrity hookups, breakups, goofups, or even lockups, stars' oh-so exciting complex lives made us all laugh until we wet ourselves.

Hard-core punk rocker Ashlee Simpson can't sing. What is so shocking is that she was caught—for all of us to see on live television when she was found to be lip-synching on Saturday Night Live. We heard pieces, pieces, pieces of well, not exactly live Ashlee. On a Monday, it was her band's fault, on a Tuesday it was an accident, and by Wednesday, it was acid reflux. Ohhhh…I don't think so! It smells like a Milli Vanilli rewind to me.

What makes me laugh so hard is the fact that she was actually able to "sing" that night. At the beginning of the show, female members of the SNL cast sang to that night's host, Jude Law. When Ashlee joined in, her distinct, scratchy sound was heard above all the rest (believe me, I've painfully watched it twice). But then sadly offstage, out of nowhere, a giant acid-spitting llama spewed right at her vocal chords, injuring them for the rest of the night. Oh, that poor, sweet little punk rocker.

Stars' oh-so exciting lives made us all laugh until we wet ourselves.

What's more embarrassing than the whole world watching you do a hoedown as they hear that you've been lip-synching the entire time? How about…the whole world watching and taking pictures of you as your dress strap falls, exposing one of your female parts.

Tara Reid stood oblivious to the fact that she was being stared at while almost half naked. Luckily, she has quick reflexes and the dress strap was back on her shoulder in a matter of only minutes.

What about Paris Hilton? Didn't she "accidentally" flash the absence of any undergarments on the red carpet? Oh, come on; it's Paris Hilton. It was just an advertising stunt to promote her latest *video*.

As Martha Stewart anticipates her day of freedom, Donald Trump, the greatest man to ever walk this earth, hires and fires people on the best show ever made, The Apprentice. I'm surprised Martha hasn't escaped yet. She's almost like a female MacGyver. With four strands of thread from her jumpsuit, a toothpick, some hairspray, and a lemon meringue pie, she could make a beautiful decorative key to her cell. Maybe she actually likes it there. Maybe it's going to be another reality TV show!

I thought the reality craze would be over by now. Yeah, right. Survivor 72: Chimney Rock, Who Wants to Marry My Great-Grandfather, Fear Factor: Toddlers, American Idol: William Hung, The Apprentice: You're Still Fired, and Who's Your Daddy (this one is for real!) continue the tradition of profiting from ruining people's lives on national television, and they all premier next month!

Thanks to Britney Spears for taking time out of her busy life to make 2004 her year. She went from pop princess to, well, just plain nasty. She couldn't possibly get any more white trash than she already is right now. I truly believe that getting married twice to two not-very-attractive men and picking up the great habit of smoking all in one year requires talent. Congratulations, Britney, for being the center of attention the entire year.

Oh yea…and I heard this one Lindsay Lohand chick was being talked about quite a bit. I heard her new single the other day, and I thought it was just so neat! I mean, would you like someone starting rumors about you? The song make so much sense—"Hey, look at me. I'm dancing in my music video with a shirt 1/25th my size!" "Hey, leave me be. Let me live. It's my life."

Let's make a deal Linday—you can act, party, and be in the public eye 24/7 just like you want to be, but please, stop trying to sing. The same goes to you too, Hillary Duff.

So that was just some of the dumb celebrities 2004. What will they do next?

I guess we'll have to do what we always do- watch and wait for them to ruin their own lives as we sit back and laugh at them.

Editorial Briefs

Finally, "heck" has frozen over

It's probably still very hard to understand, but yes, we did get a day off due to snow! The last time that happened was when this year's seniors were seventh graders, which was five years ago, but that was just a late start. Snow days for Scotus are just about as frequent as the election of a new pope.

There were probably quite a few students that were up later than usual praying for no school the night before, and miraculously their prayers were answered. Students lay in bed with their ears glued to the radio, waiting for the impossible, and to their surprise it was said, "All Columbus public and parochial schools will be closed today."

Eyes wide open, jaws dropped, and breathless is how the Scotus population found themselves when the long-awaited words passed through the air, out of the radio, and into their ears.

There were a few students that found themselves going to school to lift at 7 o'clock in the morning, only to find out the hard way that there was no school.

Then, on their way back home from school, the radio host finally announced the good news, but to them he almost sounded cocky.

Just to warn all the younger Scotus students, don't plan on this ever happening again in your high school careers, something like this usually only comes around once in a lifetime.

We should all consider ourselves lucky, because missing a full day of school because of snow is a dream that most Scotus students have never had the chance to live, but it seems like we have conquered the inevitable.

Low budget movie yields high quality comedy

Earmuffs!

If you have not already seen it, you must run to the movie rental place nearest you and check out the movie *Napoleon Dynamite*. I would be lying if I didn't tell you that it is pretty much the funniest movie I have ever seen.

I think the best kind of humor is stupid humor, and by that I mean stuff that is so stupid that it is funny, kind of like *Napoleon Dynamite*. Probably one of the things that makes it so funny is that it's realistic humor. The thing with most movies that we think are funny is that usually the funny things in the movies would never happen in real life, but that's not the case in Napoleon Dynamite.

Rent this or you will receive a roundhouse kick to the face.

The movie is named after the main character, Napoleon Dynamite. Napoleon is in high school and doesn't really have too many friends. He lives at home with his grandma and his brother, Kip. All Kip does all day is sit at home and talk to hot babes on the internet, in search of a soul mate.

Napoleon becomes best friends with a new student, Pedro Sanchez. When Napoleon got discouraged because Pedro asked the girl that he was going to ask to the school dance, Pedro tells Napoleon how to use his skills to ask a different girl.

In the end, Napoleon falls in love with the girl that Pedro took to the dance, Deb, and Kip finally meets his online soul mate, La Fawnduh, when she flies out to see him.

Some of the funny things about this movie are that there's not much dialogue, there's not much to the plot, and there are no special effects or anything. Also, the way that Napoleon reacts to something he doesnt like, with a long sigh and some name-calling. I think that just about anybody could've made a film like this with a video camera from home.

I know that with my description of this movie it probably doesn't seem too funny, but it is. Trust me, I watched it like infinity times over Christmas break, and I laughed just as hard every time.

So, if you're into stupid humor, *Napoleon Dynamite* is definitely for you. What you should do if you haven't seen this is have somebody pull you into town on your roller blades and rent it, or you will receive a roundhouse kick to the face. Peace out.

Time with grandparents proves to be a learning experience

Once in a while

What really goes on in some grandparents' head? Well, at times, not much. Having grandparents can be fun up to a point. When they start to lose it, yes, it is funny, but it can be frustrating.

Over Thanksgiving and Christmas break, I had the opportunity to chat with one of my grandmothers for quite some time. Although she is 92 years old and will be 93 in January, she is still very healthy. She walks easily and holds many of unforgettable conversations, which I got to take part in.

When she talks to people, she does know what she is saying and holds great conversations, but you may every once in a while have to remind her whom she is talking to. She may not remember she talked to you the next day, but she is just happy to be around people.

As I mentioned earlier about this all being frustrating, talking to grandparents can put you at an advantage. You can play along with their so-called memory. What I mean is, that a lot of times when they say something to you it does not make sense, but just play along

They enjoy the company even if the conversation is not very intelligent.

and agree, or say something else that does not make sense. This can be quite humorous.

You do not want to be mean though and take it too far because you never know if they understand what you are doing. You have to be sensitive with them and remember that they just want to be around you.

This is not true for all grandparents, and that is a relief. Even if their memory is not on top of things, it is always fun just to sit there with them. They enjoy the company even if the conversation is not very intelligent.

At times I feel bad when my grandmother does not remember who I am, but even if I have to keep reminding her, it can be worth it.

It sure is interesting to know that someone the same age as my grandmother has a memory as good as mine. Sometimes it is dementia (memory loss), and with others you do not know what is wrong, but you have to love them, even if they think one of your friends is a sibling to you when they have never met them in their entire life.

You are only here on Earth one time and our grandparents seem to be enjoying themselves, so why shouldn't we?

Spend as much time with them and get to know them well, because this experience only happens once, and for others, never. Although I really do not remember my grandma ever being fully with it, she has brought many great memories for my family that we will never forget.

Just remember, they just might fool you.

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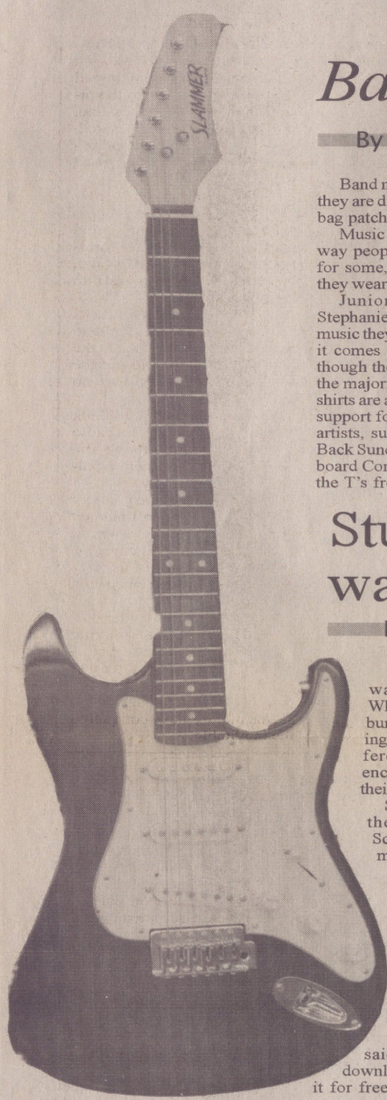

Bands influence clothing, accessories

By Sadie Bolte
Editor-in-chief

Band names fill the hallways as they are displayed on t-shirts, book bag patches, and even wristbands.

Music not only influences the way people may act and feel, but for some, it also influences what they wear.

Juniors Kate Cheloha and Stephanie Levos both say that the music they listen to is a factor when it comes to how they dress. Although they say that music affects the majority of what they wear, T-shirts are an easy way to show their support for their favorite bands or artists, such as Sugarcult, Taking Back Sunday, Thursday, and Dashboard Confessional. They receive the T's from concerts, the music/clothing store Hot Topic, or the Internet. Although Cheloha and Levos say they listen to many bands, T-shirts aren't always an option for showing their support. Sometimes such shirts do not exist, a store does not carry them, or the cost is too high, so they might find other things, such as buttons or pins.

"If the bands made shoes," Levos said, "I'd wear them too."

Music is music to them; they do not care what a band's image is, or if they even have one. Levos said she likes a band for their music, not their style of clothes.

> **"If the bands made shoes, I'd wear them too.**
> -Stephanie Levos

"A band could wearing pink tutus," Cheloha said, "and I'll still listen to their music if it's good."

Senior Drew Gannon agrees that image is not a determining factor to whether or not he listens to a band's or artist's music.

"I don't really pay attention to what they wear," Gannon said.

Unlike Cheloha and Levos, he said he doesn't wear T-shirts or anything else promoting the music to which he chooses to listen.

"If I want to support [a band]," he said, "I'll buy their CDs, not T-shirts."

No matter what opinions others may form, is not going to stop Cheloha and Levos from appearing the way they please.

"I don't care what anyone thinks," Levos said. "I wear what I want, not because anyone else likes it, but because I like it."

Though both say music does affect what they wear, they insist they aren't copying the bands to look like them. Labels or images are not what they are after, they say. They are simply expressing themselves freely.

"I wear clothes because I like them and feel comfortable in them," Cheloha said. "I don't wear clothes to fit a certain image."

Students find various ways to get music

By Sadie Bolte
Editor-in-chief

Today, there are many ways to get music. Whether it is downloading, burning, or just plain buying CDs, students have different views and preferences on how to listen to their jams.

Senior Brett Fry is one of the many students at Scotus who download their music illegally.

"I know it's illegal," Fry said. "But do I care? No."

Fry said he just wants music that is easy to get for free. He downloads his music from the Internet site Kazaa. He said he only burns CDs.

"I don't buy them," Fry said, "because I can just download the music and burn it for free. It's easy with a fast Internet."

Junior Chad Jochum is one of the seemingly few who buys all of his music. Even when Jochum has a burned version of a CD, if he likes it, he will go and buy it.

"I don't know," Jochum said. "I guess I just want the actual CD. I like the little info booklet you get with it, and I like the art and the pictures, too."

Jochum said he never downloads music off the Internet. Both he and Fry agree that they get most of their music through friends and from the media.

One of the newest ways to get music is through satellite radio, such as XM radio or Sirius radio. Subscriptions range from nine to 12 dollars a month plus the cost of the equipment.

Whether the music is attained illegally or totally legal, and whether they spend a fortune or less than a dime, students have a wide variety of getting the music they love.

Music evolves with changes in taste

By Chad Schmeits
Editor

Where have all the pop stars gone? The 90's were full of teenage artists singing about love stories that they never had, which were aimed as a teenage audience. Groups like the Backstreet Boys, N'SYNC, 98 Degrees, and solo artists like Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera not only hit it big for their singing abilities, but especially for their looks. Face it, would Britney Spears have made it as far as she has now if she wasn't so "hot."

It seems like the music world has shifted from pop to rock and punk. It has shifted from preppy, gelled hair pretty boys, to tight clothes wearing, tattooed boys, from love songs love songs, to songs about troubled lives and stuff we own.

What is it then that changes one's taste in music? Is it popularity of a certain artist or genre, or is it because is it what one truly likes? It could probably be easy to say that the reason why hardly anyone listens to pop anymore is because it is not as popular as it used to be, but if someone really truly likes pop, then why should popularity have an effect on what they're listening to?

According to Senior Amy Beierman, her shift from liking pop music in grade school to liking rock and punk now has come about because rock and punk is just what's in.

Beierman said, "Pop kind of stopped being popular when Blink 182 came out with the video that made fun of the Backstreet Boys."

"Rock and punk is what's being played on the radio and TV now, so that is why everybody listens to it," she said. "Pop isn't as popular as it used to be because music has evolved past that and has moved on to bands, not just singing foursomes like the Backstreet Boys."

In conclusion, popularity is what mostly affects the kind of music people listen to. If something isn't being played on the radio, then it is not going to be as popular.

This probably makes a lot of sense, but is the stuff that's being played on the radio what you really like, or do you just listen to it because it's being played on the radio?

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Students try to predict what the next 25 years has in store

Katie Michaelsen
Staff Reporter

The future is ours, but it is up to us to decide whether it is better or worse. In 25 years we may be better off than we are now. Can man survive another war? Can man survive what is yet to come? Hopefully only time will tell. We will know eventually.

Talking to the students about their predictions for the year 2030 was quite interesting. Many students seem to believe that the world will be better, while others say it will be the same if not worse.

"Everyone, no matter what age, will have a cell phone," sophomore Kelsey Beiermann said, "and we will go to school year-round."

Beiermann also predicts life will be worse in the future because their will be more inventions and with those inventions, it will cause more problems.

Sophomore Dana Czapla predicts the world will be in great turmoil form the Great War. If it is not over by then, he said, their will at least been an enormous amount of casualties.

"Life as we know it will be completely different," Czapla said. "Some say the apocalypse is near and according to prophets it may not by as far as people think."

If Czapla's prediction is correct, we may be doomed.

Some students predict that the world will be better because we will have a cure for aids, other diseases, and cancer, so we will live longer. The environment will be improved, some say.

On the other hand, one student refers back to the Star Trek movie for his prediction.

"Our mission will be to seek out new life and new civilizations," senior John Svatora said, "and to boldly go where no man has gone before!"

"According to the dumbest booking the world, we will have computer chips in our brain that controls our memories and our likes and dislikes as well as let us talk to others with our minds," Sophomore Thomas Beller said. "Plus, there will still be pizza."

Some others believe there will be flying cars and have robots that make our lives easier.

So, if these students have the correct predictions, the world may be in for a 'treat.' Whether it is good or bad, the world will just have to wait and see.

SADIE BOLTE/ROCK BOTTOM

Senior Hailey Buelt drinks a pop before school at breakfast. Many students take the morning as an opportunity to enjoy caffeine.

Reflecting on the past and the retro

Heidi Sobota
Editor

Aaaaahhhhh, the good ol' days.

At one point or another, everyone says those reminiscent words. It just goes to show that childhood is perhaps the best time in a person's life, or the most traumatic.

Social studies teacher Pat Brockhaus said that dropping his baby sister on her head was the most emotional experience of his childhood. Afterward, he went and hid in the storm cellar because he was afraid of what might happen to her (or himself).

It is little memories like this that make each person's childhood unique. Where people grow up also has a profound effect on what they would do in their spare time. Brockhaus said that he and his friends liked to play kick the can or sports games, and he also spent a lot of time working on the farm. Seventh grader Tommy Rambour said that he also played kick the can and capture the flag.

With one generation to the next, it is evident that things changed.

"I always listened to Def Leppard, Asia, AC/DC, Boston, and Men at Work," Brockhaus said.

This is a huge change from today's teens. Rambour said that he listened to Backstreet Boys, 98 Degrees, and Savage Garden. Music is always changing in the pop-culture scene, but some pastimes never get old, like the bad hair-dos.

"We'll just leave it at afro," Brockhaus said when asked about his worst hair do from his youth.

Rambour's hair tales are shorter:

"My grandpa always took me to the barber to get buzz cuts."

Sophomore Matt Kaufmann said that he can remember the days in New York playing with his Gameboy.

Growing up in the days of Super NES and Sega (and possibly some people with Atari), made it possible to not leave the house for days. Sitting in front of the TV with remote in hand is truly what "our age" was about. Nowadays, there is PlayStation2, Nintendo DS, and Xbox for the truly digital experience.

"Everything is much more revolutionary now," Kaufmann said "They come out with a game about every two weeks. There really isn't much anticipation."

From age to age, life changes and people grow up, but there is nothing like sitting around drinking some Dr. Slice and talking about what life was like "back in the day."

Before they became Scotus teachers

Sadie Bolte
Editor-in-Chief

Not everything happens just as it was planned.

For some teachers, it was not their first choice or idea for a career. Business and computers teacher Bonnie Kreikemeier and Spanish teacher Connie Felger had other occupations in mind when they graduated high school.

"A business degree left my options wide open," Kreikemeier said, "so I could go any direction I wanted to."

After school, Kreikemeier worked for a marketing company in Fremont until she found a better opening at a bank, eventually working there for five years. During those five years, Kreikemeier decided she wanted to do something else, so she pursued a bachelor's degree in business and computer education.

"I was working full time, married, and had a child," Kreikemeier said, "all at the same time I was taking night classes 60 miles away. That made it very hard."

Felger had even more variety in her jobs before teaching at Scotus. She planned to be a social worker after high school. After she received a degree in sociology and social work from UNL, she moved to Oakland, California and worked as a candy packer there.

"I wanted to get away from Nebraska," Felger said, "and once I got there, I just needed a job."

Once she moved back to Nebraska, she worked as a police officer at UNL.

"I liked the exercise of walking and talking to people," Felger said. "I liked walking the beat."

Felger also held jobs as a receptionist, waitress, bartender, and the owner of a turkey drumstick wagon.

"With the turkey drumstick wagon, I was a living legend!" she said. "I loved bartending. I truly think that I am a bartender at heart."

> **"Don't be afraid to try something new."**
> -Bonnie Kreikemeier

However, she was looking for something more.

"I don't know if I wanted to [bartend] for the rest of my life," Felger said. "It wasn't a career. I had to grow up and get a profession."

Felger went back to UNL to get her teaching degree in Spanish. She agrees it was difficult finding time to work full time and go to school.

Why did they change professions and go back to school to teach? Where did they get this seemingly sudden idea?

"I always had it in the back of my head at the end of high school," Kreikemeier said.

Felger also said it was something she remembered wanting to do. She had her own blackboards as a child, and she said she made her siblings play school with her.

Both teachers say having past experiences has been helpful to their current teaching careers.

"I have learned so much from being in the business world," Kreikemeier said. "It's a great learning experience for the [students] to hear real-life situations."

Felger's past taught her how to handle the students.

"When you work with the public," she said, "you have to have a lot of patience, and kids aren't any different."

Although Felger says students can be hard at times, teaching does have its rewards.

"When I reach the students," she said, "it's the most wonderful feeling in the world. And when [a former student] comes back from college, or says something nice, my heart melts."

Felger has had many jobs in the past, but none lasted longer than eight years, the amount her current teaching job at Scotus has lasted.

"There has to be more positive than negative in [teaching] for me to stay this long," Felger said. "This is the longest I've ever done anything ever in my life."

According to Kreikemeier, it's never too late for change.

"If you don't like what you're doing," Kreikemeier said, "don't be afraid to try something new."

Getting that daily dose of

Caffeine!

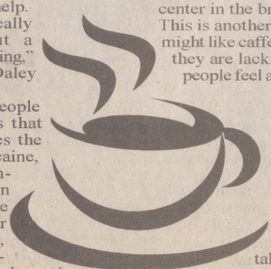
Pop, coffee part of daily rituals

Nicole Sobtoka
Staff Reporter

When most people think of the word addiction, alcohol and drugs are what pops into their head. But caffeine? No way, right? Wrong. More than 90% of Americans consume caffeine every day.

Caffeine provides an "energy boost" for people or attentiveness and many feel they cannot wake up without the help.

"I cannot be really awake without a Coke every morning," junior Jessica Daley said.



What most people do not know is that caffeine operates the same way as cocaine, heroin, and amphetamines in stimulating the brain. It is milder than those drugs, but it manipulates the same channels which is why it has addictive qualities.

"There were a few times when my hands would start shaking if I didn't have a pop in the morning," senior Haley Buelt said, "but I'm not that bad anymore. That was mostly in my sophomore year."

Caffeine occurs naturally in a wide range of foods like coffee beans, cocoa nuts, and tea leaves. A reason caffeine is so widespread is because it is added artificially to many other beverages. Average chocolate milk has 6 mg per ounce. One 12-ounce can of Coke, Pepsi, and Mountain Dew include an average of 50 mg of caffeine.

"I usually drink three pops a day," Buelt said, "and at least one in the morning."

Caffeine causes neurons in the brain to fire more rapidly. The pituitary gland realizes this and thinks something is happening so it tells the adrenal glands to release adrenaline. Adrenaline can make pupils dilate, breathing tubes open up, and hearts beat faster. It can also cause increased blood flow to the muscles, muscles to tighten up to be ready for action, and the liver to release sugar into the bloodstream for extra energy.

Caffeine also causes the pleasure center in the brain to be activated. This is another reason why bodies might like caffeine especially when they are lacking sleep. It makes people feel awake and feel good.

Despite all the pluses of caffeine, it contains many downfalls. Caffeine is bad in the long term. After the "boost" wears off people might feel tired or depressed so they take in more caffeine.

The body is then in a state of emergency with adrenaline pumping all day long. Irritability and jumpiness are also consequences. Caffeine can also affect deep sleep so people do not get the rest they need which makes them feel tired the next morning. Then they need caffeine right away to stay alert. It's a cycle that can be as bad as other drugs. When people try to stop taking caffeine, they get very tired and depressed. Most people will get a terrible, splitting headache as blood vessels in the brain dilate. Negative affects like these, force many people back to caffeine.

"In the mornings I get really bad headaches until I drink a pop," Daley said. "If I didn't get the caffeine, it would definitely affect whatever I was trying to do."

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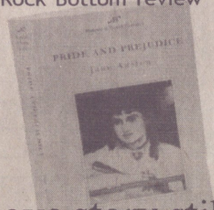


Love story still popular today

By Emilie Powers and Heidi Sobota
Editors

Unlike other ancient classics, *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen is an ageless novel that remains clear even in our day.

Many old books are difficult to understand because of their use of language that is different from ours today, and although *Pride and Prejudice* was first published in 1813, only a few differences in language can be detected. These few differences can be deciphered because they are used throughout the long book, giving the reader plenty of time to make sense of a few phrases.

This novel is captivating in that it goes against that stereotype.

Pride and Prejudice is, at first glance, a lengthy novel. The stereotype for long novels is that the author put too much detail into situations that should be of no concern to the plot of the story. However, this novel is captivating in that it goes against that stereotype. *Pride and Prejudice* is lengthy, but every part of it seems necessary to the plot.

This is a love story, and the characters are all involved in large love "triangles" with many people. The characters are all connected, beginning with the five Bennet daughters. The controversies surrounding each character are made more interesting by the differences in society from then to now.

In their time it was socially acceptable to marry cousins or more distant relatives. Some of their biggest social activities included balls and multiple games of cards.

Dancing at the balls was very significant to who was courting whom, and the first two dances were the most important. Dancing twice with another person was also seen as superior to only dancing with a person once.

Because the plot basically consists of the love "triangles," the emotions of the characters towards one another play a large role in where the story will go next.

The second Bennet daughter, Elizabeth, is very proud, and her opinions conflict with those of Mr. Darcy. Mr. Darcy is a friend of Mr. Bingley, Miss Jane Bennet's love interest. Mr. Darcy is stubborn and dismisses Elizabeth at first glance, but throughout the book, he secretly tries to convince himself that she is not as beautiful as she seems to him.

Mr. Darcy intrigues Elizabeth, but she meets Mr. Wickham who tells her his previous knowledge of Mr. Darcy. Elizabeth becomes interested in Mr. Wickham, but is unable to get closer to him because her cousin Mr. Collins is interested in her.

Other characters have situations similar to Elizabeth's, and the intertwining of all the relationships give *Pride and Prejudice* its appeal.

Rock Bottom review

Killers bring '70s sound to alternative rock

By Chad Schmeits
Editor

The Killers are on the loose again, and more music fans are starting to notice.

Although their album, *Hot Fuss*, has been out for about nine months now, The Killers have just recently hit it big with their first single "Somebody Told Me." This song was written about those men who are now called "metro-sexuals," or in other words, men who dress to impress.

The album mixes a sort of '70s vibe with an electronic sound. If you have listened to and liked The Cure, The Killers are kind of like The Cure meets a slightly techno sound. The band consists of a bassist, lead guitarist, drummer, and vocalist who blend well together to come up with a great acid-rock sound with added techno beats.

What sets them apart from others is their electro-acid sound.

The lead singer, Brandon Flowers, is a very uptempo performer. When he is on stage he moves around a lot, usually in quick, robot-like movements. In many of the tracks on the album, he uses a voice synthesizer, which adds another computerized element to their overall sound.

The bassist, Mark Stoermer, is a rather mellow, boring musician. On stage he hardly moves or changes facial expressions at all. His music is not at all boring, in fact he is a very talented bassist, but his very stoic behavior on stage kind of takes the focus off him.

On the other hand the guitarist, Dave Keuning, is not quite as exciting as Flowers, but is definitely way more active than the bassist. He is a very gifted guitarist, but too bad the lead singer kind of steals the show with his on stage performance.

The drummer, Ronnie Vannucci, is nothing too special. Most of the time he is just playing simple beats, and never really gets the chance to show what he can really do.

The band as a whole performs really well together musically, but their behaviors on stage are just so vastly different. The album does flow together really well from track to track, but there are a few songs that use more of the techno sound than others.

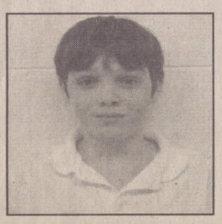
With the success of their second big hit, "Mr. Brightside," The Killers have really set the stage for themselves, but the rest of the album really does have enough to back them up.

In the end, what sets them apart from others is their electro-acid sound. Their differences in stage performance also set them apart because they add a kind of excitement to their performing. There is really no other band out there right now that can directly compare to The Killers, in others words they have kind of started their own musical genre.

Rock Talk

In a super-scientific survey of semi-random Scotus students, we asked ...

What is your New Year's resolution?



"Do my math homework!!"
-8th grader Kirby Reardon

"Workout every day so I can make Mr. Mahoney proud next year in cross country."
-Junior Clint Torczon

"Make a New Year's resolution next year."
-Junior Jim Rawhouser

"Live to see the end of speech."
-Sophomore Matt Kaufmann

"Study less, party more."
-Sophomore Kevin Micek

School Trivia

Congratulations! The winner of last issue's school trivia was Tony Zakrewski.

Claim your prized in Mr. Arneal's room.

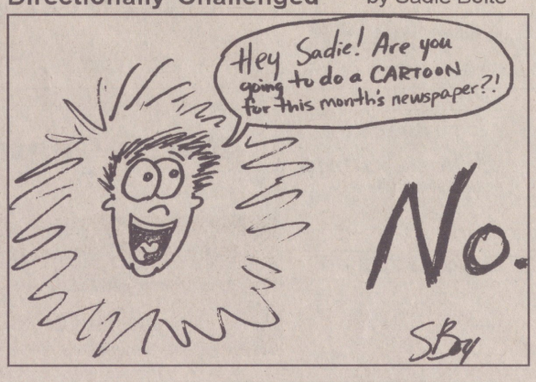
How many lockers are in Scotus?
Answer: 1022

This issue's question:

How many consecutive years has band been offered at Scotus?

Answers can be turned into an envelope outside Mr. Arneal's Room. All answers must be received before the end of school on Friday. The winner's name will be drawn from correct responses.

Directionally Challenged by Sadie Bolte



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Swing and a miss!!

Winter brings out the best in sports

Half the year gone by and the sports just keep comin' and comin'. The Super Bowl is just around the corner, and who knows what is going to happen in a huge mess of the NFL.

➪The first spot on the carpet is Terrell Owens of the Philadelphia Eagles breaking his ankle that in turn led to surgery. This is going to have a HUGE affect on the Eagles' success because he was their big play maker. I do not believe that the Eagles will be able to win a Super Bowl without him, but there is always a possibility of him being able to play in Jacksonville (if they can get that far).

➪The New England Patriots have Tom Brady, but do they have enough to finish out yet another year on top? I don't think so. They might turn into the Minnesota Vikings of last year, and choke on the last play of the big game. Look for them to make it to Jacksonville, but lose to the Steelers.

Whoa, Ben Roethlisberger! Not everyone can come out and do

You might as well tune into the Golf Channel

what he did, especially with an aging Jerome Bettis. Yes, he may be the bus, but he won't be running for much longer. Take it all the way Steelers!

➪Along with the NFL's dirty house party, men's college basketball is turning out to be a fairly interesting season. Illinois seems to be the best team so far, but I sense a slip-up soon. There are so many teams playing well this year, it will make March Madness extremely entertaining to watch.

➪Women's College Basketball is also living up to the pre-season hype. Pat Summit's powerhouse at Tennessee has already lost some footing by being defeated by Rutgers, but they are not as down and out as Connecticut without Diana Taurasi. Connecticut is going to have to fill HUGE shoes when the championships roll around having lost the best women's college basketball player ever.

➪As usual injuries are plaguing the NBA with Carmelo Anthony and LeBron James out. Carmelo injured in ankle in an ugly fall, and LeBron had a little bit of an accident by being hit in the face, which broke a bone. These are the two players (besides Shaq of course) that make the NBA worth watching. With them out, you might as well tune into the Golf Channel.

➪And what better to finish with than Peyton Manning having the season of a lifetime. Fifty-three touchdowns and counting! Dear Dan Marino, it was good while it lasted, but you are no longer the best quarterback ever in the NFL. Love, Heidi Sobota.

➪Ok, I lied, last but not least, we have the mess of the BCS. What is so wrong with having a four team playoff to reveal the TRUE champion of college football? Otherwise, the alternative is to have one long football tournament, which we all know will never happen. Therefore, a new system must be used because we will always have people saying "what if!"

It will be interesting to see who can live up to all of the expectations because those are the people that are true athletes. If you can't take the heat, get out of the game.

Varsity athletes are teaching the game and

TRAINING THE FUTURE

By John Beauvais
Editor

Starting young and competing often gives every athlete an edge. At Scotus, fifth through eighth grade students have been give a great opportunity to hone their skills and prepare for the future.

The intramural leagues have been supplementing the regular junior high season for over 20 years.

"The program," Lahm said, "has been going on since before I came to Scotus."

There are twelve sessions. In the first six, practices are conducted by the varsity coaches and players. After the first six sessions, the varsity players draft teams they will coach in the league.

This is meant to balance the teams, but to insure that the focus remains on development and not just winning, each player must receive the same amount of playing time regardless of ability.

Fun still is found by both coaches and players.

"Its always fun to make big plays against your friends," eighth grader Taylor Suess said. "Then you can rub their faces in it at school."

The losing had an effect on the fun of some though.

"I had fun coaching," junior Michael Gokie said, "except we only won one game because my first round draft pick broke his ankle."

Sometimes fun is found off the court.

JOHN BEAUVAIS/ROCK BOTTOM

Senior Pat Schaecher gives his team encouragement during half time of their intramural basketball game. Scotus offers Intramurals for 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.

"It's really cool to be around members of the varsity," Suess said.

The goal of the program is to improve and set them up for successful high school seasons.

"The program is great because we get the chance to see how the varsity gets things done," Suess said.

Instilling the ideas that the high school team plays by is one of the primary goals of the program.

"We focus on helping the players get down their fundamentals," Lahm said.

Sometimes the players view of the game also changes.

"It made me think about basketball being about fun instead of just winning," Gokie said.

Gokie remembered his days of playing intramurals years ago.

"I thought I was so much better than everyone else," Gokie said with a laugh. "I look at my players now, and I think I was a lot better than them."

Intramurals have been especially successful in one aspect.

"Intramurals really does a great job of extending the junior high season," Lahm said. "The guys' intramurals ends right before their regular season begins, and the girls' season begins as their regular season winds up."

Cheerleaders strive to bring school spirit

By John Beauvais
Editor

They are at every home game. Students see them around school and their uniforms are distinctive. Yet, few know much about them. They are Scotus's cheerleaders.

What does it take to be a cheerleader? Cheerleading sponsor Colline Belitz says cheerleaders have to be a number of things: they must be athletic enough to perform the jumps, have a good reputation, and have a solid sense of rhythm. Two things, though, are essential.

"School spirit and pride are top," Belitz said. "If you don't have that then you have no reason to be out there."

People may wonder what cheerleaders do other than cheer. Outside the games, their responsibilities amount to much more. At Scotus, the cheerleaders also make posters for all events and make sure that the posters that are up are current. In addition, the cheerleaders plan all of the school's pep rallies.

Besides their responsibilities, one much unneeded thing brings much stress into their lives. It is insults and teasing based on stereotypes about cheerleaders.

"They have to deal with crowds, students, parents, and even teachers who bash and criticize," said cheerleading captain senior Cesili Forney.

JOHN BEAUVAIS/ ROCK BOTTOM

Senior cheerleaders Jessi Ryan, Sarah Bierman, and Cesili Forney along with sophomore April Schueth (back) cheer at the boys basketball game versus Aquinas. The cheerleaders frequently follow the teams to help cheer them on.

Belitz sympathized with her cheerleaders. "We do receive a lot of criticism," said Belitz. "We talk about it, overcome that fear, and have to understand that our leadership is going to take ridicule."

To overcome this, the cheerleaders do things to help them come together as a team. A large part of this is cheerleading camp. Sports camps are well known at Scotus, but most students have little idea what goes on at cheerleading camp.

"We practice different jumps, learn cheers, and routines," Forney said. "We have a variety of competitions like All-Stars and dance routines."

The camps that the cheerleaders engage in offer competitions for them to compete against other schools. Once in a while, a cheerleader can win big and get a substantial reward. Forney recently qualified, after a competition consisting of jumps, cheers, and dance routines, for a competition in London, England.

"When I found out that I won," Forney said, "I thought, 'Like, shut-up!'"

Besides camps the cheerleaders have other bonding experiences that help them become friends.

"At state basketball," sophomore cheerleader Jennifer Augustine said, "we have a big makeover party. It's really neat!"

Many of the cheerleaders set goals for what they would like to see in their program's future. As a younger member on the team, Augustine has big goals for the future of the cheerleading program.

"I would like to see students support both the teams and the cheerleaders at the games," Augustine said, "Because that really would be neat!"

Belitz's goal for the school is one that many have been trying to achieve.

"Right now, about half the students stand at the games," said Belitz. "We need to get all of them standing."

It may be a while before either of those goals is achieved, but one thing can be counted on. The cheerleaders will be there until it does.

Jr. High Sports Briefs

7th grade girls basketball
Record: 3-4

"The season didn't turn out exactly how we wanted it to," assistant seventh grade coach Tyler Titman said, "but the team improved greatly as the season went on. They were a great group of kids to work with."

8th grade girls basketball
Record: 4-6

"The girls came a long ways as far a fundaments," eighth grade assistant coach Jacquie Smith said. "They were a very coachable group, and they really played with a lot of heart. They really took a big step in developing their skills."

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SCOTUS CENTRAL

Is Columbus a small town?... Page 3

ROCK BOTTOM

SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC

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VOLUME 7 ◆ ISSUE 7 ◆ MARCH 17, 2005

Time dwindles for making final college decision

By Sadie Bolte
Editor-in-Chief

The process that has taken 18 years is now down to its home stretch, leaving seniors only months to make the final decision.

Senior Crystal Modde said that she prefers small Nebraska schools, while fellow senior Cody Bonk would rather go to a large university in a city bigger than Columbus. Modde and Bonk agree that scholarships help when considering schools.

Both students are interested in a degree in biology, so as they began their search for their ideal college, they kept this in mind. As pamphlet after pamphlet flooded their mailboxes, they began the process of elimination.

"I threw away all the information on small schools and schools I've never heard of," Bonk said.

Although at first Modde had no idea what to look for, she kept an open mind and narrowed down her vast amount of choices.

"I was looking for a college with excellent academics," Modde said, "along with friendly people and an at-home feeling."

She visited a college that was big and ritzy. She visited somewhere that was far from home and had a party-filled atmosphere. She visited a place that had a lack of strong art and biology departments. But then Modde found what she was looking for in two local colleges: Nebraska Wesleyan and Concordia University.

"I had been to Wesleyan for track meets," she said, "and I always thought it was somewhere I would like to go. But then [fellow classmate] Kayla Engel suggested that I check out Concordia, and I liked that too."

With Wesleyan's academics and Concordia's welcoming Christian atmosphere, Modde is unsure as to which of the two she would rather have.

"I keep asking myself which is more important—a good education or being around good, Christian people," Modde said.

As Bonk started sifting through information on college after college, he came across a pamphlet for the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Bonk said that it appeared to be a nice school, and it was somewhat far from home, so he continued looking into it. He made the decision to go to the University of Minnesota in January when he received a letter of acceptance into the college.

Bonk said he did look at other colleges such as the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and University of Nebraska at Omaha, but U of M seemed like a better fit for him.

"I think it's time for a change," Bonk said, "a pretty big change, that is."

Although he has yet to visit the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Bonk said he is fairly confident with his decision.

"Hopefully it's nice," he said. "I already sent the down payment.

"I don't have any regrets yet. But if that changes, I can switch to another school after a year."

While Bonk has his decision made, Modde is stuck between two colleges she likes.

"Concordia's people are so warm and welcoming," she said, "like they really want you to go there. But Wesleyan will better prepare me for medical school, and it has more of a flare to the school. I fell at home both places, though."

Modde said she is waiting on additional scholarships to further help her make her decision. She, along with Bonk, never thought of college choices during their junior year, and they both started looking at the beginning of their senior year.

"I wish I would have started looking at colleges way earlier," Modde said. "Now I'm scrambling."

SADIE BOLTE/ROCK BOTTOM

Blown away

Junior Ashley Bowns fights the wind after school Thursday, March 10 as she makes her way to her car. The gusts of wind reached over 50 mph that day.

Blood drive continues tradition

By Nikki Sobotka
Staff Reporter

Doctors and nurses get credited with saving lives everyday. But without blood donors, many of those patients might not have lived.

Every two seconds, someone in the United States is in need of blood. For this reason Scotus holds an annual blood drive.

Science teacher Jane Dusel-Misfeldt is the person who organizes the drive. This is her second year after taking over for Vern Younger.

"I think giving blood is very important," Dusel-Misfeldt said, "and that the sooner you start doing it and realize it's not so bad then you'll continue to do it more through life."

The American Red Cross needs at least 2,500 usable units every week to meet the need for blood. They give Scotus a goal to meet every year, with this year's goal being 96 productive units. There are not enough faculty and students of age to fill that goal so students have to recruit parents to give. Last year 18 parents volunteered to help reach the goal.

The National Honor Society and Mr. Younger's Physiology class always help with the drive. They talk to people who are giving blood and get people from their classrooms to give blood. March 15 was the date for this year's drive, which was held in the Activity Center.

The actual procedure of giving blood takes only about 10 minutes, but the entire process takes about 90 minutes. There will be a list of reasons why people are not able to give blood. These can include tattoos received within a year, certain piercings, recent traveling internationally, and certain medications such as Accutane.

The next step is filling out a questionnaire. One of the trained staff members will then measure blood pressure and temperature. After this is a blood test for anemia and then more questions are answered. After the last questionnaire is completed, the blood is ready to be drawn. During this time the person who is giving will lose about one pound of body weight. After giving blood, there is free food, drink, and 15 minutes to relax.

Only a small fraction of the people who give blood will not give usable blood. There are certain requirements that a donor has to meet. People who want to give blood have to be 17 years or older to donate and have either their driver's license or donors card with them at time of donation.

"I'm disappointed that I can't give blood," junior Kristina Flint said. "I missed the age deadline by seven days."

Another requirement is knowledge of all medications taken within a month of donations, all vaccinations received, and social security number. They have to weigh at least 110 pounds and no more than 350 pounds. Iron deficiency is another problem that makes blood unusable.

There are some precautions that people can take to make the whole process easier. Drinking extra fluids that do not contain caffeine or alcohol before donating helps. So does eating within two or three hours before giving and getting a good night of sleep.

Many people are worried about giving blood. It is not painful and should feel like a pinch on the inside of the arm, opposite of the elbow.

"I'm going to give, but I'm scared," junior Jen Haney said. "I don't have a high tolerance for pain."

For people unable to make the drive but who still want to give, do not give up hope. There is an American Red Cross Chapter in Columbus that receives donations every Wednesday.

Bloody facts

- One pint of blood can help save up to three lives.
- An adult body contains 10-12 pints of blood.
- After a donation, fluid volume is replenished within 24 hours, and red blood cells in six weeks.
- About 5% of the public donates the 100% of the blood that is used.
- The most common blood type is O positive, with 38.6%.
- The least common blood type is AB negative, with .9%.

Congress votes no to minimum wage increase

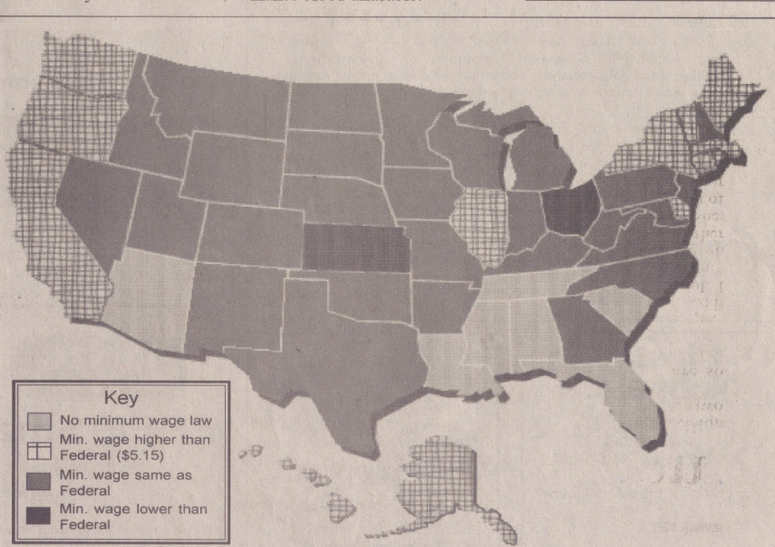
By Chad Schmeits
Editor

It's been eight years since the federal minimum wage has been raised, and a fight to raise minimum wage was just recently rejected by Congress.

When minimum wage was raised from $4.25 to $5.15 in 1997, opponents said that the raise would cause a loss of between 100,000 and 625,000 jobs. In 1997, the non-farm population produced more than 3 million new jobs, and the unemployment rate was the lowest it had been in 28 years.

Last year, the average household income remained just about $43,000 a year, and the poverty rate rose to 12.5%, up from 12.1% two years prior. That comes up to almost 40 million Americans living in poverty today. Also, this past year was the first time in three years that women saw a decline in wages, and there were more children living in poverty and without health insurance, than the year before.

The Republican Party wanted minimum wage to be raised to $6.25 over the next year and a half, whereas the Democratic Party wanted the amount to reach $7.25 over a two-year period. Tragically, for many of today's teenagers receiving minimum wage, both ideas were shot down, and minimum wage will remain at $5.15.



As theatre career comes to an end, memories remain

Brutally Honest

It's over.

As I know it, it's over. No more One-Acts, no more Theatre class. No more Mock Trial, Musical, Speech team. It's all done. To top it all off, there wasn't even a fall play, so that was one less thing to look forward to.

As it all comes to an end (or has long gone), my opportunities dwindle as I try to find yet another excuse to make a fool out of myself in front of everyone. *Biggest blame fool in the Jungle of Nool!*...I need to stop.

It's been weeks since the musical and I'm still reciting lines and riffing off songs (actually, I busted out the Broadway CD the other day to give it "one" more listen to). I can't help it; I have no other means of escape. The only way I can leave this cruel world is if I flood myself with fine arts...and it has all been so viciously ripped away from me!

That's right. "Poor me, poor Sadie." Everyone cry for me. Not only because my world is coming to an abrupt halt, but also because I don't know what to do with all of the sudden free time slapped in my face. My mother thinks that with this extra time I will do something productive, like clean my room. Oh Mom, you're hilarious!!!

I've managed to turn myself into quite the theatre geek.

I've said the last of my speeches; I've taken my last bow. I guess it's time I move on...but how? What will I do without the wonderful world of drama in my life?! Wait. *Do* I have to live without it?

I've figured it out. To keep myself busy, I'll cause a little artificial drama in my life—it's like killing two stones with one bird...or something like that. Anyway, every day I'll do something crazy or different.

Tomorrow I'll dye my hair purple; the next day I will catch a nasty cold, or cancer, whichever is most readily available. Eventually I'll join narcotics anonymous, tell my parents I'm pregnant, and even stoop to the level of taking TWO straws from the Scotus cafeteria. But, hey, it's all just acting, except for the pregnant part—I need to hurry and get that over with...*kidding.*

Okay, that just may have been the worst idea I've ever had...except for the time I decided to run into our *large, breakable* window, or the time I decided to see what it would be like to lick the rotating eggbeaters...

But seriously, in these past two years at Scotus I've managed to turn myself into quite the theatre geek. I wasn't just goofing around anymore—well, I still was, but not as much. It was more than being funny, or at least trying to be. I became competitive, with enough adrenaline rush and fast-paced heartbeats for me to consider it my cardio workouts. I poured my heart and soul into One-Acts and Speech, but the subjectivity of the matter cuts short numerous opportunities, such as going to state when we should have.

Although time lengths were seemingly cut short, the memories made will last much longer...forever. The flowers, hugs, "good job"'s, laughter, medals, awards—it made it worth it. But most importantly, the memories made everything worthwhile. I tell myself I should have started earlier. It was so fun, and now it's all over. It wasn't that I was too shy, but rather I thought almost as if my "reputation" would be shattered if I wasn't any good or if, God forbid, I looked stupid. I worried that maybe the voice I heard when I sang wasn't the same one that everyone else heard. But after countless beatings, my mother eventually convinced my that my crazy antics at home should be presented for all to see.

It took me a while, but I didn't care what others thought of me. They weren't having this much fun. I was. I did it, and I had fun.

There's more than one way to become a "player"

Earmuffs!

I'm a player. There I admit it and now all of you know it, I am a player.

I don't mean the kind of player that flirts with all the girls to try to "get with them," I mean one who is involved in plays/musicals.

Actually the truth is that I never really called them players before, but I know that I have read about them in Shakespeare and the Raymond Central's speech team is called the Raymond Central Players. Mr. Arneal sort of re-introduced this term to me, so I thought that I would try to incorporate it into my column somehow.

I know this may not really sound like me, but I am actually really sad that the musical is over. Most people probably don't realize how much hard work, determination, and patience it takes to be in a musical such as Seussical. It's kind of like a sports season, but there's really no winning or losing involved. I mean, you spend all of this time practicing and planning for that big game, and then when it's over, you can't help but be sad.

I have never heard so many people say, "I didn't know you could sing."

Being involved in the musical made me appreciate fine and performing arts and those involved a whole lot more. It allowed me to meet and become familiar with people whom I would have never really come into contact with. It also helped me to build quite a few new friendships.

The musical was the first time that I ever got up in front of people and sang on my own before. I will admit that I never really knew that I could sing that well until Mrs. Gardner told me to join Shamrock Singers. I think that one of the best things that came out of being in the play was the amount of recognition and compliments that I received afterwards.

That was a really cool feeling to come out onto the floor after the musical and immediately people start running up to me, shaking my hand, and telling me how good it was. Then I came back to school on Monday and teachers and students are still telling me, and everyone else involved, how much they liked it. I can say that I have never had that many compliments before in my life, and I have never heard so many people say, "I didn't know you could sing."

Overall the musical was definitely a very positive experience. It'll be something that I remember for a very long time. I'm just upset that I didn't become involved in the musical earlier, because I am really going to miss it. I'm sorry, I don't mean to go soft on all you guys, but it truly was a lot of fun.

Most of all I think I am going to miss all of the people involved the most. It helped me to appreciate a lot of people quite a bit more. I am really going to miss Ms. Gardner and Fr. J-Lo (sorry Fr. Loseke, I had to slip it in somewhere), because without them the musical wouldn't have had near the amount of success that it did. Plus, I know the kind of patience that it had to take to put up with me, but somehow they, and everyone else, got through it.

Internet scams lure in curious optimists

Once in a while

I usually have no problem sitting down at a computer and whipping out a spectacular story for the wonderful *Rock Bottom* in no time flat. My articles don't turn out as entertaining as one written by, say, Sadie Bolte, but she also takes longer than I do to write a story.

As I began to write my column, I decided that I would do so fairly quickly as usual and would then find something on the Internet to entertain myself for a while. I have come to the sad conclusion that unless you are either at least 18 or 21 years old and have a credit card handy, you are out of luck.

I thought junior high was the last time I would be at an awkward stage in life (sorry kiddies, we all go through it), but boy was I wrong. When it comes to good clean fun these days, the choices are slim pickings.

When it comes to good clean fun these days, the choices are slim pickings.

People can find temporary enjoyment in playing games that pop up flashing lights and sirens and promising lots of prizes. I find two problems with this. One: I would have to thank MSN for finally creating a pop-up blocker that I guess works because I don't remember the last time I was offered to play Spank the Monkey. Two: When I see any advertisements on other websites, I find that these games and so-claimed exciting celebrity trivia quizzes aren't really all they're cracked up to be.

I find it insulting that when shown a picture of a very obvious character from *Friends*, I can respond with any of Courtney Cox, Lisa Kudrow, or Jennifer Aniston, and be supposedly correct. Let's face it. The show was on for ten years. Anyone who can't figure out who's who should not be allowed to be surfing the web in the first place. They may drown among all the other computer nerds already lost forever in cyber space.

I passed the *Friends* quiz, but recently I was very devastated to be sucked into another Internet trap. You've seen the advertisements, heard the rumors, and maybe even received a "special" e-mail about it. Our parents and teachers warn us about scams like this. I only hoped that I could prove my friends wrong and be the first person they knew to get a free iPod!

To make a long story short (and less embarrassing), it is really possible to get a free iPod. The only problem was that I had to complete two "free" offers and refer five people who in turn completed two "free" offers. They set me up for heartbreak from the beginning.

All of the so-called *free* offers resulted in either an age limit, free trial after you supplied a credit card number, or a shipping cost of some kind. Because I am not stupid enough to actually fall further into this trap, I sadly let go of my dream of a free iPod.

I'm not really sure if I actually wanted an iPod; I'm always just drawn to things that are free. I think the part of the deal that was most appealing was that you got to pick your own color. That seemed like a deal to me.

I suppose the moral of the story is that for those of us at the in-between technology stage, life is tough. Too old for identifying celebrity hair-do's but too young to get iPod's for free, we are left with old-fashioned fun like TV and the good old monthly *Rock Bottom.*

Editorial Briefs

Teachers spread "example" to students

As seventh graders, we spend a significant amount of time getting a feeling for the school, the teachers, and the rules. Over time, we learn and most of the time come to accept the habits of different teachers. We also quickly learn the rules. The majority of Scotus students at the very least know the difference between right and wrong. Whether or not we choose to abide by that is a different story, yet a conflict arises when what we've learned about the habits of teachers and the rules conflict.

Any logical person knows that just because somebody else does something doesn't make it right. We as students learn who are the leaders amongst us. From the moment we come to this school, we look to the teachers for guidance and leadership. Although we know the rules, sometimes it's difficult to follow if the teachers don't make a conscience effort to abide by them as well.

One instance that makes it very hard to follow the rules is when teachers are consistently late to class but students are punished for being late. We understand that teachers usually have a lot on their plates, but many of us are also busy, simply in different ways. We also understand that there are times when teachers are unavoidably detained. We're not trying to excuse students from their tardiness, and we're not talking about being a minute or two late. It's simply frustrating when you are counted late in a class where frequently the teacher misses the first ten minutes of class. (Yes, it happens!) That is almost one whole quarter of the class for that day. Surprisingly, most of us want to learn something, and that's hard to do without a teacher in the room.

When it all comes down to it, we do learn something in the time teachers are late to class. Teachers, take it as a compliment when students are tardy. They've chosen to follow your example. At least we've paid attention to something!

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ROCK BOTTOM

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Columbus

Stuck in the middle

By Karla Jarecke
Editor

The common case of boredom has spread to many teenagers in Columbus. Complaints of nothing to do and nowhere to go are frequently heard on the weekends. Many students at Scotus are ready to escape their lives here in Columbus and experience the "big city."

Senior Megan Rosenquist, who has lived in Columbus her entire life, said that Columbus is a perfect place to grow up, but she sometimes wishes there were more things to do.

"I feel safe here," Rosenquist said, "and I like that I can get anywhere I need to go in five minutes or less."

Rosenquist would like to experience a bigger city, which is why she has chosen to attend UNO next year.

"I want to experience something different in college," Rosenquist said, "but I will definitely want to raise a family in a town like Columbus."

Many people might think that it would be easier to raise children in a safe town like Columbus. Emily Kemp of Omaha said that a city the size of Omaha would be the ideal place to live, work, and raise a family. Kemp, a senior at Omaha Marian, said that her class of 180 students is very small.

"I don't consider Omaha a big city," Kemp said, "but I love living here because there is always something to do."

On the weekends Kemp likes to go to movies, concerts, shows, basketball and hockey games, and shop.

Kemp, who has never lived in a town smaller than Omaha, said that living in a smaller town might have given her more opportunities in school activities, sports, and also develop better friendships.

"I probably would have different values and I would be closer to my family because I would spend more time at home," she said.

Kemp also said that it might be hard to live in a small town because everyone knows everything about you and your history.

For senior Haley Easton of Hebron (population 1,795), knowing most of the people in her town can be both positive and negative.

"Living in a small town can be a good thing because I can control my actions around certain people I know," Easton said, "but can also be a bad thing because things I don't want my parents to know can get back to them easily."

Easton, who has only 115 students in her high school, said that she wants to live in a bigger city in the future because she wants to meet more people and is also tired of the small town atmosphere. Easton said that she feels like she is missing out on a lot of opportunities by living in a small town.

While many teens in Columbus may think Columbus is too small to meet their ambitions, many older adults feel that Columbus is a great community to raise a family and spend your life. As the teens of Columbus grow, they too may feel this way someday.

"No one knows if they are meant to live in a small town or big city until they experience both," Rosenquist said.

Chillin' in C-town: Students recall their favorite pasttimes

By John Beauvias
Editor

"There's nothing to do in Columbus!"

This is an often-said complaint by many of Columbus's teenage residents. Some teens, however, have found ways to entertain themselves in this small town. The things they do to "just kill time" might not be everyone's idea of a good time but they are alternatives to doing nothing.

> **"My friends and I go on dinner dates... Guys just don't take us on dates."**
> -Brittany Williams

"Ever since I was friends with Mike Ingmensen," senior Tyler Hahn said, "I just hang out at Taco John's a lot."

Hahn hung out at Taco John's so often he, for a brief period of time was even an employee. Teen hangouts for many people occupy a special place in their lives.

"I didn't even really go there for the food or work," said Hahn. "It was just a place to socialize."

Others care to change their venue of entertainment from time to time.

"My friends and I go on dinner dates," senior Brittany Williams said. "We go the Brew Pub or El Tapitio. Amigos is another good one."

William's and her friends' reason for going on their dinner dates is a simple one.

"Guys just don't take us on dates," Williams said.

Going out to eat is not the only activity for people to entertain themselves with in Columbus. Some simply hang around their friend's homes and do things there.

"Me and my friends started playing ultimate Frisbee about a month ago," junior Shane Reardon said. "All you need is a dozen guys or so and a Frisbee and you got yourself a good time."

Despite how recently they started playing the game, Reardon has much faith that it is not just a passing phase.

"We're going to play ultimate Frisbee," Reardon said, "till we die!"

Other's idea of playing is not so physical. Junior Thomas Roh says that he and his friends have been playing musical instruments together as a loose-knit band since they were 15. They have gone through many names, break ups, and changes in their membership but one thing keeps them coming back.

"It's fun just to play around," Roh said. "It gives tons of opportunities just to mess around with friends."

While staying around the house is enough for some, other groups of friends feel the need to get out for a while.

"We like to go to the Maximus," senior Ben Bruns said. "We go to play pool there."

PHOTO COURTESTY OF AUSTIN ZACH

Scotus Juniors Joey Beauvais, Austin Zach, Thomas Roh, Chad Jochum, and Zeph Swope rock out as a band. Unfortunately, this Scotus band broke up their sophomore year.

Bruns says he likes to play but that it is not a big deal to him.

"It's just a place to go," Bruns said. "There's a little competition, but I don't win. (Tony) Lange just can't be beat."

He may not win but at least he has something to do. It may not seem as if there is much to do in Columbus, but as these people have proven, there are things to do if time is taken to go out and look.

Nebraska by the numbers

- There are **543** towns in Nebraska
- Out of those, Columbus is the **10th** largest
- **42%** of the state's population live in one of the four largest cities: Omaha, Lincoln, Bellevue and Grand Island
- **1.35 million** people, 78% of the total population, live in cities or towns
- **385 thousand** people live in the country or rual areas

Nebraska's Population
2.9 million hogs
1.9 million cows
1.7 million people

The state's largest
1. Omaha (404,267)
2. Lincoln (235,594)
3. Bellevue (46,734)
4. Grand Island (43,771)
5. Kearney (28,211)
6. Fremont (25,198)
7. Norfolk (24,061)
8. North Platte (23,924)
9. Hastings (23,536)
10. Columbus (20,880)

Figures as of July 2003

Source: Nebraska Department of Economic Development

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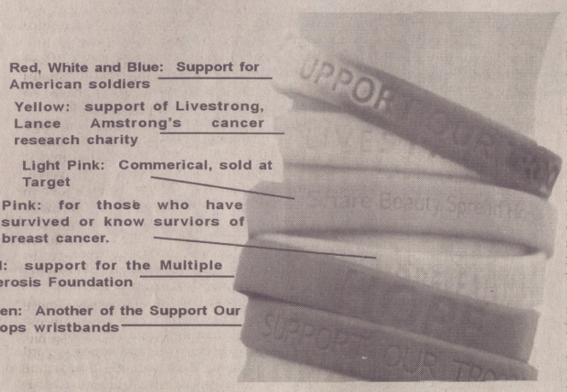
Wristbands become fashion statement, show support

Sorting out the wrist rainbow



Heidi Sobota
Editor

They are everywhere. Blue, red, pink, green, and yellow ones. These are the colors of the many unique wristbands that are floating around the halls (and the world) right now. There are too many different styles to keep track of.

All of these originated with the Lance Armstrong "Livestrong" bands. These bands were made for people who donated to the Lance Armstrong Foundation, which is dedicated to doing cancer research. If you order them directly from the Lance Armstrong foundation, they must be bought in 10, 100, or 1200 increments. They can also be bought in both adult and youth sizes.

Many other organizations are trying to do the same thing that the Lance Armstrong Foundation did by making their own wristbands of different colors.

White is for those against child pornography, red is for the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation, pink is for those who know anyone or have been treated for breast cancer, blue is for AIDS, green is for the support of our troops, and there are many commercialized brands as well.

As with the Livestrong bands, you can also get the others by donating to the causes. Most ask for a minimum of a $3.00 donation. They use $1.00 to pay for the materials to make the bracelets, and the rest goes to research and families.

"They pretty much are a fad," senior Sandra Wemhoff said, "but they remind us of people who need prayers."

This seems to be the fad of the year because stores such as American Eagle Outfitters and Hollister, along with many universities, are now trying to get a piece of the action.

Sophomore Carly Kucera, who wears the yellow Livestrong bracelet, said that she wears the bracelet to show that she is aware of the people out there who get cancer, and she likes being supporting in the fight against it. Along with these wristbands are bracelets that the American Cancer Society is making to create donations.

For a donation of $20.00 you can get a bracelet with different colored beads signifying the different types of cancer. They can be bought with all of the colors, or now they are being made with one color for cancer survivors and their families.

All of these bracelets are used to signify other people outthere who need our help. This is why these bracelets have become so popular.

"They're neat because they're the same thing," Wemhoff said, "but there's so many different ones."

School mascot changed as St. Bonaventure's became Scotus

By Katie Michaelsen
Staff Reporter

For many years the "Shamrocks" have been around, but Scotus has not always been considered the "Shamrocks." There are many people who support Scotus, but have not yet been told about its history. It has been too long for people not to know, but it will soon be told.

It all goes back to the Irish influence in the early years of Scotus. Franciscan Sisters started this school and named it St. Francis Academy in1878, but in 1925 St. Bonaventure Parish bought St. Francis Academy and the school was later named St. Bonaventure High School. As for being the "Shamrocks," this nickname ties in with the past.

Paul Ernst, the first St. Bonaventure boy's basketball coach, is the man who inspired the school's nickname to be the "Shamrocks." Nevertheless, that was not always the school's nickname. The first game was played on December 9, 1936, against Lindsay Public High School and the 'Irish' won 56-9. "Irish" at that time was the team's nickname.

The reason for this name was simply because all five boys that played were Irish; therefore, the team was called the "Irish" according to the school's old newspaper.

The following year on December 2, 1937, the first boys basketball game played that year, the team was donated new uniforms by Tooley Drug. Back then when the team received the uniforms, they called them "new suits." It was that year that the team was then called "Shamrocks." So, within that one-year span, the name was changed from "Irish" to the "Shamrocks." It is unknown when the name was actually changed, but Ernst played a big part in this change.

Activities Director Gary Puetz, who has been at Scotus for 33 years, said that when Scotus was St. Bonaventure they were informally called "The Bonnies."

It was not until 1965 that St. Bonaventure became Scotus Central Catholic. It was not until a little later that a reporter from the *Columbus Telegram* started calling Scotus "The Rocks." Since then, this name has stuck with the school, Puetz said.

Puetz said as long as he has been here, he and the school have attempted to try and get a mascot. Scotus already has the name, but dressing a student up as a Shamrock or an Irish person might add a little more spark to some home game.

Getting a student committee to find some students to dress up at home games has been brought up in the past. So this idea has come up a few times, but it will take students to get this whole mascot ordeal going.

What's in a name?

A look at Nebraska high school mascots

The five most common:	One-of-a-kind Mascots
19 teams named Eagles	Axtell Kittens (girls' teams)
18 teams named Tigers	Cozad Haymakers
17 teams named Knights	Benson Bunnies
17 teams named Bulldogs	Battle Creek Bravettes
16 teams named Jays	St. Edward Beavers
	Ord Chanticleers

Some fun quick St. Patrick Day's Facts

- 229,506 people, or 13.4% of the population, in Nebraska are Irish.
- In 1841 53% of the Irish population could neither read nor write.
- The Chicago River is dyed green every year for St. Patrick's Day.
- The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place in the United States, not in Ireland.
- A guy named Patrick (later the Patron Saint) made up St. Patrick's Day and was successful at winning converts to Christianity. He was arrested many times, but escaped every time. He died March 17 in A.D. 461 and since then this day has been considered St. Patrick's Day.
- California has the highest Irish population in the United States.
- Arizona desert is a hot spot for Irish music.
- Boston is home to a huge Irish community
- In 1816 around 6,000 Irish people sailed for America.

Largest Irish Population in the America by state-

1. California- 2,611,449
2. New York- 2,451,042
3. Pennsylvania- 1,981,106
4. Florida- 1,654,585
5. Illinois- 1,511,569

Compiled by Katie Micahaelsen

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Rock Talk

In a super-scientific survey of semi-random Scotus students, we asked ...

What did you give up for Lent?

"POP, I'm hurt, I'm dying, I'm definately dead."
-Kristin Wrubel, 10th

"Fireworks"
-Craig Pekarek, 8th

"Pop and Flaming Hot Cheetos"
-Sarah Jarecke, 7th

"Bacon"
-Austin Wallick, 7th

Rock Bottom review

Shaun shows off British humor

By John Beauvias
Editor

Every critic has an idea of what makes a movie stand out as great. Personally, I believe all great movies placed flawed relationships against a backdrop of a disaster making for unbelievable character development. *Shaun of the Dead* does this perfectly and on top of it all has witty pop-culture references, memorable parody, and danger that is not too over the top to be screen stealing.

As you may tell by now, this British import is no ordinary zombie movie. I find this movie to be a breathe of fresh air in a year of disappointing American cinema. It plays off stereotypes, mocking the works of legendary zombie filmmaker George Romero, but this does not make this the movie's soul. The other elements layered on top of this basis are so beautifully done that they make this film a shining example of what screenplay can be when combined with brilliant acting.

Shaun (Simon Pegg) is an ambition-challenged twenty something everyman who starts of the movie with a bitter break-up with his once bride-to-be, Liz (Kate Ashfield). With Shaun drowning in sorrows, his friend, Ed (Nick Frost), drags him to the Winchester, his favorite bar. After a night of wild partying they wake up to find London full of the pasty half-dead, a sarcastic irony based off the stereotype of the typical Londoner's appearance, a play on irony that is lost, like much British humor, in the "trip across the pond."

Looking outside, they discover one of these zombies and mistake her for an overtly drunk woman. As they go to wake her up, she attacks. Unable to recall how to stop a zombie, they literally throw whatever they can at her. Eventually they run out of things to throw and end up using Shaun's record collection. In an ingenious comedy bit, they edit it, spiting the worst of the records with scathing commentary and disposing them with a quick chuck at the zombies.

Eventually, they discover the old movie rule that says that only destroying the brain kills the undead. They fight their way back inside their house, and Shaun is filled with the idea of saving his "mum." Shaun and Ed devise numerous ways to save her and eventually revising to save Liz as well. With the sum of their combined brain powers, the best these two heroes are able to come up with is to pick them up in a car and lock themselves in the Winchester till the whole thing blows over.

This is a shining example of what screenplay can be when combined with brilliant acting.

On the way, they pick up a couple of Liz's friend and Shaun's hated stepfather, Philip (Bill Nighy). Along the way, there is a hilarious race to get as close to the bar as possible. However, they end up abandoning the car when it is realized that Phillip has been infected.

In a show-stealing scene Philip reconciles with Shaun before Shaun is forced to kill Phillip. As they run to the bar, his beloved mum too becomes infected. When they reach the bar they find it surrounded by zombies. In a selfless attempt to save the others, Shaun leads the zombies on a chase, so the others can make it inside.

Inside the bar, there is a huge argument over the merits of Shaun's life, the merits of his plan, and if Shaun or any of them will survive. Eventually Shaun returns just in time to kill his own mum. Soon the struggle against the zombie's proves hopeless. It comes down to Shaun, Liz, and an already infected Ed locking themselves in the basement awaiting death.

To avoid a fate worse then death, they decide to kill themselves. They decided that only Shaun has the courage to actually kill them all, however they only have two bullets left and three people to kill. Shaun struggles with the idea of killing his stepfather, mother, best friend, and girlfriend in the same day; at this point, his life is of little importance to him. To see how it all ends you will have to watch it for yourself.

The intense drama and emotion of this movie pull at one's heartstrings and the humor slides itself in grim, but seamlessly. The ending is poetic and leaves one wishing that movie were just a bit longer. If you are not a fan of British film, then this movie will be your conversion. After it, you will know what movies are really suppose to be like.

Rock Bottom review

Jimmy Eat World releases one-hit CD

By Sadie Bolte
Editor-in-chief

Disappointment. That's really what it all came down to. Overall, it was not what I expected.

Jimmy Eat World's junior album, *Futures*, was released soon after their powerful yet catchy single "Pain" hit the airwaves. Other than previous singles like "Sweetness" and "The Middle," I am not too familiar with the majority of their work.

I saw the video for Pain a few times and considered actually buying the CD. Also, as I flipped through my music-driven Alternative Press magazine, I noticed that they did a review on *Futures*. They rated it 4 out of a possible 5, so I went ahead and paid for the album—big mistake.

The magazine's review praised *Futures* and said "...JEW are able to shake the radio-rock stigma, putting together a wonderfully solid collection of 11 songs that draws inspiration equally from [both previous JEW CD's]." Don't get me wrong: I love this magazine, but I think Scott Heisel, the reviewer, was incorrect this time.

One of Alternative Press's editors even named the album one of the best albums of 2004. I wouldn't go *that* far.

It's not that it's a terrible CD. It's just that it's not worth paying some $15 for it. There is not a particular song that you can point out that is outrageously bad. Overall, I think it's a lousy album. Sure it has its good song ("Pain") and it's okay songs ("Just Tonight " and "Work"), but it just wasn't what it was said to be.

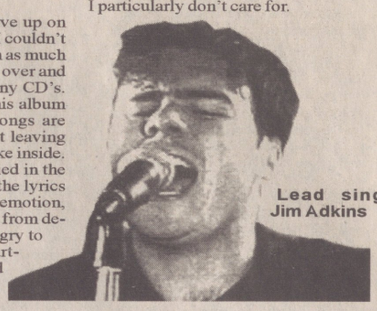
The power-packed "Pain" led me to believe that JEW were far from where they used to be with their heavily poppy single "The Middle." But after giving *Futures* a spin, I had felt as if I had been sadly mistaken. "Pain" was the only true rock song in my eyes, and the rest sounded like a first-time opening band for someone like Maroon 5...ewww.

I especially hate to give up on CD's I've purchased, but I couldn't seem to get attached, even as much as I've tried listening to it over and over, as the case with many CD's. However, even though this album is poppy, some of the songs are somewhat catchy without leaving you feeling all N*Sync-like inside.

As the magazine implied in the remainder of the review, the lyrics do have a wide range of emotion, which is good. They vary from depressing to optimistic, angry to confused, and even heartbroken. What *isn't* good is the fact that there basically is musically no motive behind them. The beats and tunes express an overall happy and optimistic tone, as many poppy songs do sound. The lyrics change from song to song, but the musical quality doesn't.

When the lead singer sings about the hopeful future, the music sounds happy. When he sings about anguish from losing someone to drugs, the music almost sounds peaceful and calm. All in all, there is not too much variation music-wise.

If I were to recommend this album to anyone, I would recommend it to the fans of such bands as Maroon 5 or Switchfoot—bands I particularly don't care for.



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Swing and a miss!!

Scotus prepares students for the real world

"Five more, five more. Come on you can do it."

I am sure many of people reading this column have heard the song "Heart of a Champion" by Nelly, and if you have not, go and check it out. Anyway, back to the column, the song begins with Nelly (and an anonymous person) lifting weights. Nelly is trying to keep his partner going by giving him encouragement. I think this is what makes the true heart of a champion.

Having gone to Scotus, it makes it easy to see all the athletic tradition every day walking down the halls. All the pictures of champions past and all the banners hanging in the Activity Center are constant reminders of the athletes who have gone before us. I think in recent years, we have gotten away from what it truly means to be a champion.

There are so many people out there who are champions in so many ways, and do they ever get the recognition they deserve? Many would say this is part of life, but why? One person sticks out in my mind that is constantly getting overlooked. This person is Mrs. Kristen Cox. I cannot imagine coming into a school with only 17 people in junior and senior high band combined, but she did. Now the band is almost 100 strong, and in a school like Scotus this is a major change. She works day in and day out (nearly to the point of insanity) trying to keep things straight, along with almost all of our teachers.

We all need to take a little time to smell the roses and realize it could be a lot worse.

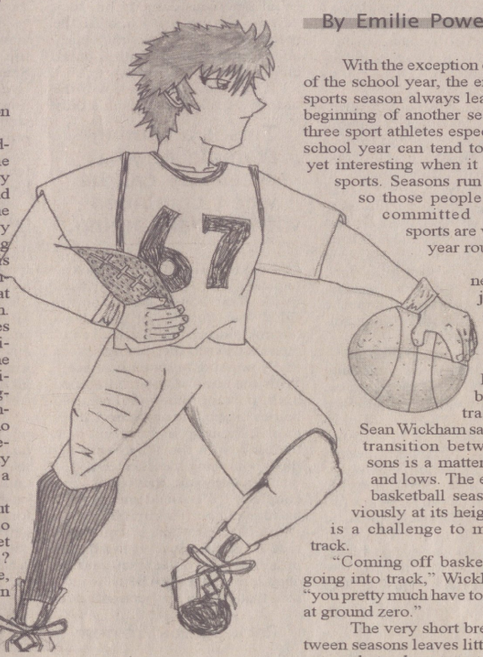
I know there is the occasional day when a teacher is in a bad mood and no one wants to be around him or her but contrary to popular belief, they are human too. This is a major reason why Scotus is so successful in everything from sports, to academics, to fine arts. By the way, *Seussical* was awesome!

After six years at Scotus, it is hard to say goodbye (sometimes), but I know that whatever has been going on here for the last 79 years will continue because of the great people we have here. We all need to take a little time to smell the roses and realize it could be a lot worse. The values we that we have learned here, and maybe even ignored here, will stick with us the rest of our lives.

This is why Scotus is quite possibly the best high school in Columbus. With the best academic standings overall and an untouchable tradition of extracurricular activities, it is certainly the place to be. Scotus's mission statement could be changed a little to say, "We build champions for the every day world," because that is truly what they do.

Switching Gears

Moving from season to season brings change for athletes



By Emilie Powers
Editor

With the exception of the end of the school year, the end of one sports season always leads to the beginning of another season. For three sport athletes especially, the school year can tend to get long yet interesting when it comes to sports. Seasons run together, so those people who are committed to three sports are very busy year round.

Coaches need to adjust to the switch in seasons as well as athletes. Basketball and track coach Sean Wickham said that the transition between seasons is a matter of highs and lows. The end of the basketball season is obviously at its height, and it is a challenge to move into track.

"Coming off basketball and going into track," Wickham said, "you pretty much have to start over at ground zero."

The very short break in between seasons leaves little time to get ready to almost start over. Often, track starts the Monday after basketball ends.

"It's nice when you get a little break," sophomore Kellie Johnson said, "even if it is just for a few days."

Most athletes love all the sports they participate in, but they also look forward to the coming of a new season.

"It's kind of exciting," junior Jared Rickert said. "You go through a sport and it wears on you."

For these athletes, it's fun to try something new during the year, but when fellow athletes don't participate in three sports, it can make things difficult for three-sport athletes who are used to going hard.

"You're used to being committed to a sport," Rickert said. "You know what needs to be done, and you have to adjust to your teammates."

Not to say all new teammates for that season aren't quite committed, but seasons start off a little rockier than the fairly smooth pattern of the rest of the season because teammates are all at different physical levels. Obviously, those who just came off another sport have a better chance of being in shape than someone who perhaps had the winter off.

> **"[Athletes] should get conditioned or don't plan on doing well."**
>
> -Jared Rickert

"[Athletes] should get conditioned," Rickert said, "or don't plan on doing well."

All seasons require at least a little difference in the type of conditioning and physical stamina that is required, and some sports are harder to transition into than others.

"You have to be conditioned most for track," Rickert said, "because it's a lot of running. You don't get breath time or have free throws or time outs to rest."

For other reasons, girls may be more interested in transitioning in and out of other sports.

"Volleyball is probably the hardest to move into because two-a-days gets really hot," Johnson said, "but basketball is a long season so you're happy to be done."

As the summer comes to a close, the boys are eager for football season to begin.

"Fall is the easiest season to come into," Rickert said, "because we're coming off lifting all summer and we're ready to play football."

A combination of new teams and coaches mixed with a newfound excitement and readiness for a change, the switch in sports seasons brings a sense of enthusiasm to the whole school.

Superstition: the other side of sports

By Heidi Sobota
Editor

For those who are superstitious, it is a good idea to never leave the house without a two by four. That way, there is always something to knock on when something controversial is said or done.

For junior Jen Haney, superstition has become a normal part of her athletic career.

"Me and Katie (Novicki) wear our lucky sports bras to every game," Haney said.

It is this kind of superstition that seems to rule over many people's minds in athletics. Haney said that if a player does something before or during a game, and they win, they have to keep doing it. This is the basis for superstitions.

> **"Luck is a factor in almost every game you play. You have to have some luck to be successful."**
>
> -Jen Haney

Many people have a lucky pair of underwear, or they carry around a rabbit's foot with them. There are so many sides to superstition that the possibilities are endless. Some people have even gone so far as to only do things in even numbers.

"Luck is a factor in almost every game you play," Haney said. "You have to have some luck to be successful."

On the opposite side of things, there is more to winning than pure luck. In most cases, there has to be some talent involved as well.

"There really isn't a reason to be superstitious," sophomore Jozef Robak said, "because it doesn't work. The best people will always win anyway."

Freshman Mollie Jones also said that she believes that being superstitious does not gain you anything.

"God controls your life," Jones said, "not an object."

Having a lucky item or doing things the same way will more than likely not affect the outcome of the game or event, but it sure does make people feel a whole lot better. Coaches have even been known to do some fairly silly things like Coach Sean Wickham wearing a pair of Shamrock boxers to big games.

It is actually against Catholic doctrine to believe in any superstition. Why then do people always get pulled into the belief that anything other than performance makes a difference?

It all comes down to one thing. Normal people thinking they can control the supernatural, but other than a person's individual performance, it is hard to control anything.

SADIE BOLTE/ROCK BOTTOM

One basket short...

Senior Katie Novicki jumps over an Ashland-Greenwood defender in the district final. Scotus was defeated by the top-ranked Bluejays 26-24.

Watch for RB Tournament Challenge updates

Hopefully, by now you have all entered the Rock Bottom Tournament Challenge. Check outside of Mr. Arneal's room for updates. Look for the winners in next month's issue, and see the method to the madness that the winner used.

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Chess club places 3rd in state competition... Page 4

SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC

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World mourns pope's death

John Paul II leaves far-reaching legacy on Catholic faith, world

John Beauvais
Editor

The world mourns the loss Karol Wojtyla, the man better known as Pope John Paul II. The third longest reigning pope in the history of the Roman Catholic Church, his influence will be felt in the church for years to come.

The election of the pope is of vital importance to the whole world as he is the leader of the largest and oldest continuous organization in the world. With over 1 billion believers and over 2,000 years of tradition, whoever leads the Church will instantly become a player on the world stage.

The Conclave, the legislative body made of cardinals that elects the new pope, is set to convene April 18. Pope John Paul II sway is strong in this decision since ninety-seventy percent of those cardinals eligible to vote were appointed by him.

The candidates for pope need not be a cardinal or even a member of the clergy. Church law simply requires that it be a practicing Catholic man. However, it traditionally has been a member of the Conclave.

When John Paul was the first elected he was the first non-Italian pontiff in over 450 years. This new election brings the possibility of the first non-European pope in over 1800 years and could mean for first time in history that papacy could be held by someone not from the Western hemisphere.

"Politicking" for candidacy is strictly forbidden and the election is held in great secreey. In keeping with the idea of breaking with tradition, several media outlets have been touting Cardinal Francis Arnize of Nigeria and Cardinal Claudio Hummes of Brazil as strong possibilities. Arnize has been especially of note within the Vatican for his diplomatic skills in Catholic-Islamic relations.

The speculations of the geographic origin of the next pope might be a result of the orientation of the dispersal of believer of the Catholic faith. Europe is no longer largest concentration of believers in the world. Almost two thirds of the Church's membership comes from the Southern Hemisphere while only one third comes from Europe and the United States combined. Latin America, possessing a solid third of the faithful, could be called the new heartland of Roman Catholic believers.

The next pope will face a variety of issues concerning the Catholic Church. Pope John Paul II, while radically changing the face of the papacy, was orthodox on many issues. Whoever succeeds him will be questions of abortion, women in the clergy, the marriage of priest, and, in America, child molestation. Whether they hold on to the precedents of the Holy See or take it to a new direction will surely be seen.

SADIE BOLTE/ROCK BOTTOM

Ouch!

Junior Jen Haney reacts as a nurse puts the needle in her arm. Scotus' March 15 blood drive was successful with 123 volunteer donors, ending the day with a total of 101 units of blood.

Band prepares for District Music

Sadie Bolte
Editor-in-Chief

They line up in the hallway, with their legs extended and their noses in homework, magazines, or just up in the air. As they all sit by the closed doors, they wait for their names to be called, almost as if it is a doctor's office.

Scotus band members wait every morning to practice for the most important band event of the year. They have played numerous concerts. They have marched in countless parades. But these and everything else the band has done all year is preparation for the District Music competition.

The date of competition for the band as a whole is April 22nd and solos, duets, and small groups will perform on the 23rd.

Although the concerts and parades are an advantage to being well-prepared, it is also a disadvantage just the same.

"It's difficult to push that hard without any breaks," band director Kristen Cox said. "It's constantly on my mind trying to find new ways to motivate [students] and keep them going."

Junior Michelle Moore is part of the clarinet quartet and will also be playing a solo piece at districts. She said that the hardest part of getting ready for the music competition is getting the members of the quartet together to practice.

"We all have a set [practice] schedule," Moore said, "and we all try to make it."

Along with having scheduled practice dates, Cox said it helps to have section leaders.

Section leaders are ideally upperclassmen who assist band members having the same instrument as them. These leaders watch and listen to their own section and offer help to those who need it.

Cox said she mixes up the students' positions so that they can hear one another.

"Once they start hearing all of the parts [of a song]," Cox said, "it will help them blend together."

One thing that makes the Scotus band stand out at District Music is that Cox requires all soloists and small groups to research their music piece or pieces. At the competition, students then give a brief introduction about the music piece and the composer.

"It's part of the whole process," Cox said. "It's about how you play, and it's about music history too."

Though districts may be the most stressful time of the year, it comes with great rewards.

Senior Jessi Ryan said it is fun to see all of the other competition at districts.

"When you're there," Ryan said, "you get this feeling of rush. A lot of people come to watch, and it's really exciting."

Cox agrees that District Music is a good experience, and she emphasizes its importance.

"It's good for each member to witness others and get better," she said. "It's important for students to reach a higer level of music appreciation and unerstanding."

Students scramble for service hours as deadline nears

Emilie Powers
Editor

Many opportunities arise throughout the year for students to complete Living the Faith hours, yet it seems popular for students to wait until the very last minute to complete their required hours.

As all students should know, Living the Faith hours are due in May, with dates that differ for seniors and the rest of the students. Eighth grade hours were due April 8, seniors' hours are due May 13, and all other grades' hours are due May 20. With little over a month remaining (except for eighth grade) to finish these required hours, students are looking for ways to reach their goal.

Senior Eugene Bichlmeier said that he has yet to complete 17 of his 20 hours. Some of this is due to procrastination, but he also has good reasons for waiting until the spring to finish.

"I wait," Bichlmeier said, "because it would be smarter to do them earlier, but I honestly don't care right away. There also seems to be more opportunities in April."

For Bichlmeier, April seems to be "the month of getting hours done," especially because there always seems to be a big need for help for the Gala. Bichlmeier said he received ten hours alone from helping at the Gala last year.

"I've been doing this since I was in seventh grade," Bichlmeier said. "It used to bother me, but I've gotten used to it so it doesn't really bother me anymore."

Although students like Bichlmeier recognize that Living the Faith hours help others and teach them how to be good Catholics, this aspect of Scotus frustrates some students, but theology teacher Joan Lahm said it is only for a good cause.

"The purpose of Living the Faith hours is to live your faith," Lahm said. "Christ told us that to live our faith we are to serve others. This is part of being Christian."

In the approximate ten years that Living the Faith hours have been around, students have made a positive impact.

"They learn to serve their community and others," Lahm said.

Father Jeff Loseke also thinks that part of the effects of the hours is to show the relationship and opinion of Scotus students to the community.

"I hope it makes a difference," Loseke said. "It also helps students get an idea of what's out there. They may not like what they did, but in doing it they may find something that is available to get involved with."

The purpose of the hours is rarely argued with, but frustration with the hours arises from the consequences of not completing the hours.

In some years students have been given a grace period or a chance to redeem themselves by turning in additional hours. However, the procedure outlined in the handbook is that students, no matter their class standing, who do not complete their hours, will not get credit for that particular theology class. In other words, the student will be required to retake that theology class in order to graduate, and a senior will not be eligible to graduate.

> **"[Students] may not like what they did, but in doing it they may find something that is abailable to get involved with."**
>
> - Fr. Jeff Loseke

Students like senior Rebecca Shademann do not necessarily agree with this procedure.

"I think that if you have a good grade in the class, you should not get in trouble for not turning in all your hours," Shademann said.

Students have little room to say that there is no help in completing the hours because many teachers remind students of what is available.

"I point out [opportunities] in the announcements," Lahm said.

While opportunities are consistently listed in the daily announcements, students always have the option of approaching anyone that they know is in need as long as they don't receive pay for the services.

In the rush to turn in hours at the last minute, teachers like Lahm have come across some unusual forms.

"People who haven't turned in hours all year long suddenly turn in many hours with suspicious names or phone numbers," Lahm said.

By filling out a form with a suspiciously large amount of hours in a short period of time or a bogus phone number, teachers sometimes suspect that the hours were, in fact, not actually completed.

For students who do turn in their hours before the due date, Lahm said that some have turned in forms showing them being a part of very promising activities.

"I see students being junior leaders in things like 4-H clubs," Lahm said, "and it is great that students are so actively involved at such an early age."

Shademan agreed with this idea that the Living the Faith hours do show students how to help others.

Just as Lahm said, students are following in the footsteps of Christ. They are able to learn about more practical applications of their faith not just in the classroom or in church. Loseke sees this fairly new program as beneficial.

"It's good for students to live the faith we profess," he said.

Although the students who leave Scotus may not volunteer as much as they were required to during school, they will still have the knowledge of the benefits of helping others.

Spring fever may be cause for senioritis

-Brutally Honest-

Ahhh. The smell of spring.

Actually, to me it smells like a big fat joke. I can tell—it's just laughing right in my face.

It smells like summer, but then I wake up and realize I still have an entire month and a half of school left. It may sound like a little for seniors (*sniff*, *tear*, ***not!***), but the weather is so inviting. The warm sun, the birds chirping, children playing at the park, weekend trips to the cabin, squirrels getting electrocuted by the power lines…it's all toying with my mind.

Everyone and everything is all involved in a big conspiracy to make me go crazy…more like *crazier*.

This blows. Big time.

I'm talking about the wind. Sure it's extremely windy most of the time, but that's just another thing that taunts me. I can even hear the wind mock me. "Saaaaadie, look how nice it is out here! Don't you just want to relax in the nice, warm sun? Oh, but that's too bad that you have to do 12 physics worksheets, write a five-page report for the Archdioces of Omaha, complete two stories for the newspaper, study nine pages of physiology notes, read just a few chapters for AP English…" Yeah, that's right. The wind said all of that, in one gust too!

It's not that I'm lazy, and it's not that I don't care-actually it's a combination of both.

Who says winter is the depressing season? It's spring that gets you all excited for summer, then the giant stack of homework waiting inside crushes your dreams of freedom like a sumo wrestler stepping on an oyster cracker.

My senioritis is at its all-time peak. It's gotten to the point where not only do I not want to do the last question on a worksheet, but why even start the worksheet in the first place? Soon it's going to be: "What semester test? Oh yea, now I remember. Oh well, though."

It's not that I'm lazy, and it's not that I don't care—actually it's a combination of both. If this is the case, then there'se got to be some kind of reason I go to school every day. There is a reason—my parents' fists…calm down social services, it's a joke. Besides, they use their belts…

Who's idea was it to allow seniors to take hard classes? Don't blame me for signing up for them—I'm the victim here! Realizing that mostly all of my classes I'm currently taking has nothing to do with my major isn't helping me focus too much either.

And what's all this graduation junk? Why do we as seniors have to be the ones to plan what all of the mysterious relatives want to eat and drink? (You know the only reason they come to see this one time is to get some free stuff to shove down their tubes.)

"What color do you want your cake?" Uh…green? I don't care—they'll eat it. All I know is that if you don't give this soon-to-be poor college student some moolah, you ain't eating nothing! (By the way, the address to my graduation party is…)

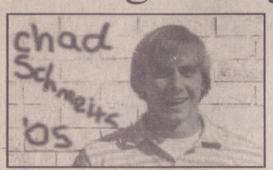
One of the things I'll miss about good ol' Columbus is the *vast* amount of things to do. But I guess that's all changing. With C-town growing as fast as it is, we're likely to be the next Vegas.

Here are some of the new attractions—The wet, the wild, Pawnee Plunge! It's a bird, it's a plane, it's Super-giant-unnecessary-Wal-Mart! What's that hanging over the curb and onto the road? Why, it's the new Sap Bros.! And finally, hold on to your hats for the widening of the main intersection!

This must be spring fever.

This "spring fever" is making me jabber faster than Jessi Ryan, so I guess I'll make like a tree and bark…I mean…make like a banana and peel…whatever.

Thoughts of graduation start to come to pass for seniors



- - - - Earmuffs! - - - -

Time is now dwindling down, down to only four months left at home for the seniors. That means only four months left for us being able to eat home-cooked meals every night, having our moms do our laundry, coming home at 10 o'clock on weekdays, hearing our parents tell us to do our homework, and so on and so forth. Most of us probably can't wait to live on our own, but I'm guessing that there are a lot of us that are going to miss relying on our parents for so much.

I think the things that we are going to miss the most are the little things that we take for granted. For me it will be little things such as hearing my mom say, "Chad, I need your dirty clothes," or, "Chad, I couldn't get to the closet in your room because there was so much stuff on the floor." Ya, I really think I'm going to miss that when I hear my roommate say the same things, but in a way such as this, "Chad, my girlfriend wouldn't come in our room because your dirty clothes were covering the floor," or, "Chad, pick up your stuff or I'm going to burn it."

I think the things that we are going to miss the most are the little things that we now take for granted.

Another thing that I am really going to miss is my mom bringing me packed lunches to soccer games, even if I do have to risk my life by jumping out of the back of the bus to get it. When I am on the way back from soccer games in college, it is going to be tough to make it the whole way home without a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and an Aquafina bottle full of orange juice.

On the other hand, the things that we are going to miss may be slightly outnumbered by the amount of freedom and the advantages that we are going to have.

Never again are we going to have to worry about coming home early on school nights, calling our parents if we are going to be home late on weekends, or trying to make up excuses for why we came home late (not saying that I do that). Not only these, but just the amount of freedom that we are going to have living on our own and making all of our own decisions.

Graduation day is the day that almost all students looks forward to all throughout their academic career, and now that we are coming down to that day we can't forget all the fun that was had in our lives here at Scotus.

We are never going to forget events such as the chicken fiasco in junior high, attending numerous state tournaments, going on our senior class retreat, and planning our senior skip day.

So, even though we could not be more excited to finally get out of this place (Columbus and Scotus) and move on to college, there are definitely going to be many things that are going to be missed about our school and our town. Even if we don't want to admit it now, there are probably going to be times in college when we are going to miss being able to sleep in our own beds, or being able to wake up in a room that is not only our bedroom, but also our living room and study room too. In other words, there is always going to be a special place in our hearts for home sweet home.

Newspaper class proves to be like a box of chocolates

- - Once in a while - -

This is my last column of the year and I have not much to say. There are seven students in Creative Writing and I am the only sophomore; the rest are seniors. The first day of school I felt a little left out, but I knew most of the seniors, and we all got along well.

Class has never been dull and with Sadie Bolte in the room we always seem to manage a few laughs during the day. Sadie has always made sure the final paper looks perfect and that everybody has helped with making it that way.

Before each paper comes out we all sit down and throw in ideas to see what the next paper will be about. Sometimes we have many ideas and the next we have two and we are stuck for a few more days trying to think of more ideas. Once the paper comes out the following day we have what you call "Party Day." This is where you see us all at our best just goofing around while playing games on the board.

So, for the most part, they keep all of our heads on straight, or maybe not.

With John Beauvais and Chad Schmeits in the room things never get out of hand. They are the calm ones who work hard and make sure we are all on task. So, for the most part, they keep all our heads on straight, or maybe not.

Emilie Powers and Heidi Sobota seem to always be laughing and most of the time nobody knows why. One minute they will be sitting there quiet and the next they are laughing so loud you can literally hear them all the way down the hall. At one point a teacher came in and asked if everything was okay. I guess you could say that they keep you second-guessing every minute of class.

Karla Jarecke on the other hand is always quite and working on something whether it is for Creative Writing or another class. Every once in awhile she will be laughing along with Heidi and Emilie.

With our newspaper staff you could say we have been extremely successful with the papers that have come out. Sure, we have a few misspellings here and there but the stories are great and students are always excited to receive their monthly paper during their sixth period class.

I am constantly asked when the next paper will be out and what it is about by classmates, which makes me, and I am sure the other members of newspaper, feel pretty good. With one more paper to come out in May, I will be relieved in the end because it was a good year.

On May 17 the seniors will be dismissed from high school forever and I will be alone in the newspaper room by myself for a week. It will be different not having the seniors there, but I will know that that was probably the best class to go to during the day. This class gave me a relief from all the others and it was nice to be around other people besides the students in my class.

I got to know a little bit more about the seniors and they about me and of course we all learned a little more about Mr. Arneal. It was a fun year and until next time, as Napoleon Dynamite's brother says, "Peace Out."

Editorial Briefs

Water fountain returns to second floor

Teachers and students had to wait nearly two months to get a functioning water fountain back on second floor. Anytime anybody on the second floor was thirsty, they were forced to go up to third floor in order to quench their thirst. The water coming out of it still leaves a dreadful taste in your mouth, but at least there is one.

Now the only fountain that needs to be worked on is the one in the senior hallway. If you ever wanted a drink out of that one, the only way you could do it was by sucking on the spout. The reason for that could have either been that it was ancient, or that there was such a build up of mineral deposits that water was virtually unable to come out. The school has started the first major step in making a workable water fountain- installing a newer fountain, but a water fountain really does not do too much good if no water is able to come out of it.

It probably was not too good of an idea to start work on the senior water fountain now anyway, because there is just over one month of school left. The smart thing would have been to start work on it last summer, like before it started to get extremely hot and muggy in the beginning of the school year. Hopefully next year's seniors will have a well functioning water fountain in their hallway all year, because one would have probably been greatly appreciated this year.

Maybe we should just consider ourselves lucky that the fountain on second floor was finally fixed, and that it has not been too hot or muggy the past couple of months. Just think if it would have been as miserably hot as it was in the beginning of the year, because then there would have been a lot more complaining about the lack of a water fountain on second floor. We can only hope that either the senior water fountain gets fixed by the end of the year, or that we can have favorable weather, otherwise there may be some more complaining to come.

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ROCK BOTTOM

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Senior Katie Swanson hands off the baton to sophomore Kristin Osdiek. Seniors Kayla Engel and Karla Jarecke teamed up with these two to win the 3200 relay.

A Day at the Track

PHOTOS BY NICOLE SOBOTKA/ROCK BOTTOM

By Nikki Sobotka
Staff Reporter

The meet started off as a nice day and ended with clouds and wind. Both the girls' track team and the boy's track team competed hard and did well.

As with any sport, injuries play pivotal role in the outcome of any track meet. On this day the girls were missing the services one of their top runners in junior Jamie Tooley. Senior Katie Swanson, a state champion sprinter, competed and placed in the 800 meters in an effort to ease stress on her injured hamstring.

Despite missing some of its top performers, the girls were able to hold off Pierce for the team title. The tone was set by the first race of the day, the 3200 meter relay, which placed first.

In a tight race, the boys finished sixth but were just three points out of fourth. A loaded David City Aquinas boys team ran away with the championship.

Junior Kelly Ingram gets her breath back after the 800 meter run. Katie Swanson and Jaisa Gutierrez also ran that race.

Senior Katie Novicki marks the beginning of her lomg jump approach. Whitney Beller also competed in the long jump.

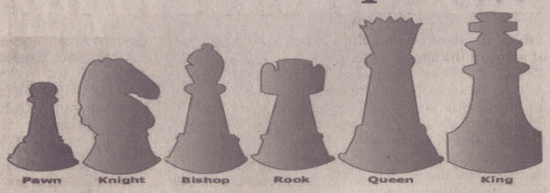
Coach Janet Tooley times a race. Along with being head girls coach, she coaches the distance crew.

Drew Gannon long jumps. He also triple jumped and ran the 300 meter hurdles and the mile relay.

Senior Katie Swanson ices her injured hamstring before competing. She ran middle distance instead of sprinting because of her leg.

Brent Albracht tapes his foot before warming up. Albracht placed third in the pole vault by equalling a personal best vault of 10' 6" and was edged out by teammate Ethan Schaecher at the wire for a place in the 3200m.

Chess team places third in the state tournament



Emilie Powers
Editor

A truly unique group has recently added to the long line of success at Scotus. They have made big strides in a little amount of time.

At the Nebraska State Scholastic Team Tournament in Columbus, the Scotus chess club earned a third place trophy. The Scotus team was among four competing teams, including Lincoln and Omaha teams.

Junior member Justin Schaf said that each team could bring up to six people, but the results reflected the top four scores.

"It's different than chess club practices," Schaf said, "because it's more intense. [The tournament] takes longer because you're thinking the whole time about what your next move will be and paying attention to the other person."

The team's coach Tom Salyard said the outcome was all right.

"There's lots of room for improvement," Salyard said.

Senior member Nate Staroscik said he felt that though the competition was stiff, they still played well.

For those who are not familiar with the chess club, new members are always welcome. Some members come often, while others come more infrequently.

"I think we're unique," Schaf said, "because some weeks we have lots of members and other weeks we don't. Anyone can walk in."

"Chess club is for those who have an interest in playing chess," Salyard said. "They show up and participate. There are no mandatory requirements. It's something that's simply available to students if they choose to do it."

About ten or twelve years ago, a group of students attempted to organize a chess club during activity period. Salyard said the current chess club has been consistently organized for three years.

The Wednesday morning chess club meetings have a reputation for running longer than other group meetings. The chess club has taught members like senior Nate Staroscik more than just game skills.

"I've learned patience," Staroscik said. "You also have to have a willingness to learn."

While the games may be too long for some people's attention spans, Staroscik likes that the games take him a while.

"It's a good way to relieve anxiety," Staroscik said.

Both Staroscik and Schaf said that the chess club is a good place for anyone who enjoys playing chess. It's a place where students learn to obtain new friendships through similar interests.

A rough guide to chess

Purpose: Move your pieces to ultimately captured opponent's king.
Before Capturing King: Warn opponent you may be inclined to capture their king.
Check: Warning opponent that you are capable of capturing their king. To avoid capture, opponent must move their king from that position in their next turn.
Checkmate: Opponent is in check and without any legal moves, resulting in a win for you.
Stalemate: Opponent is not in check but has no legal moves, so the game results in a tie.

The beginning of April brings about many fun pranks

Katie Michaelsen
Staff Reporter

For many students April Fools Day is a good day to get back at their friends for something they have done in the past. If a dirty joke has been played against you, this day is made especially to all those looking for revenge.

Many people forget about April Fools Day and will believe whatever their friends say to them. Some jokes can last all day and others, nobody believes them.

According to a "Top 100 April Fool's Day Hoaxes of All Time" by Alex Boese, the number four on the list was called "The Taco Liberty Bell." Taco Bell's Corporation said that they had bought the Liberty Bell from the federal government and renamed it Taco Liberty Bell.

Many people were mad and called the Historical Park in Philadelphia where the Liberty Bell is located trying to figure out what was going on. Hours later Taco Bell's Corporation gave a press release that said it was a joke.

The number eight on the list was called "The Left-Handed Whopper." It was 1998 when Burger King advertised in USA Today saying that there was now a Left-Handed Whopper made for the many left-handed people in America.

In the advertisement it said that the whopper had the same ingredients, but all the condiments were rotated 180 degrees. People actually went to Burger King and actually asked for a Left-Handed Whopper. Later the American people found out it was a big joke. This shows how gullible people can really be and some Scotus students happen to be this way too.

Some sophomore students were asked what the best April Fools day joke played on them was. Meg Harrington said the best joke was when one soccer coach acted like he was choking.

Rob Baer said his boss said he was fired. Luckily it was April Fools Day. Whitney Beller said she and Liz Hadland were talking about making up April Fools jokes when Hadland told her she was moving. Beller said she totally fell for it.

According to Jerry Wilson off of an April Fools Day website, April Fools Day never actually had a "First April Fools Day." For many people this day is plainly a crazy day. Nobody can trust anybody and some cannot trust themselves. Whether you are gullible or not, there will always that special day in April to hopefully make up for it and make others a little more gullible themselves.

Rock Talk

In a super-scientific survey of semi-random Scotus students, we asked:

What is the worst day of the week and why?

"Tuesday, because whoever spelled it spelled two wrong."
-John Bierbower, 11th

"Wednesday, because it is too long of a word to spell."
-Stacy Held, 8th

"On a bun Monday, because we always have something on a bun and I have to do my chemistry homework that I didn't do over the weekend."
-Thomas Roh, 11th

"Wednesday, a typically boring day in the middle of the week."
-Meghann Smith, 11th

"Thursday, because the school week is coming to an end, but its not over yet."
-Anne Price, 9th

"Every day except Friday and Saturday."
-Ben Jones, 9th

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Rock Bottom review

McCounaughey, Zahn, and Cruz top off *Sahara*

By Heidi Sobota
Editor

Every time there is a movie with three things, a person knows it will be an instant hit. Matthew McCounaughey, Steve Zahn, and Penelope Cruz are the three "things" that it will take for *Sahara* to rise to the top.

There is something for everyone in this must-see flick of the spring. For all of the ladies out there that cannot get enough of extremely gorgeous men, there is Matthew McCounaughey with his shirt off saving the day. For all those comedy freaks, there is Steve Zahn that many of you would know from *Saving Silverman*, and for all of the guys there is Penelope Cruz. Enough said.

Away from all of the huge stars that are shining brightly on the screen, there is actually a plot (which rarely happens in major action flicks). Starting off in Africa (obviously), Dirk (McCounaughey) saves Dr. Eva Rojas (Cruz) from the bad guys. Dr. Rojas is trying to find out the source of an outbreak of a very serious disease. One is able to tell instantly the connection between Dirk and Dr. Rojas, but unlike many other movies that start out this way, Sahara gives the watcher a chance to see the great desert and a few action scenes in between. What ultimately bring Dirk and Dr. Rojas back together again is the fact that Dirk, as a young boy, was fascinated with this tale of an old Civil War ship crossing the Atlantic Ocean. Since these ironclad ships were not meant to travel great distances, many people did not believe him. This is where he and his best friend, Al, are at their best. Steve Zahn basically steals the show by using his normal humor. All of his hilarious facial expressions and one-liners keeps the audience on their toes waiting for the next moment to laugh. Although he plays the part of the typical sidekick, he also gets into his share of the action. Of course, Dirk always ends up coming up with the plan, but what hero could save the day without his No. 2 man. He also becomes the victim of many of the attacks which befall them throughout the movie.

Another positive about this movie is, although it is considered an action film, it is not completely flowing with foul language. It actually makes the movie tolerable because you do not have to listen to 25 men running around shouting out the f-bomb every chance they get. All in all, this is a movie definitely worth seeing at least once (if only for the fact that Matthew McCounaughey is starring in it). There is definitely more to the movie than that of course, but this will always be a positive. This movie truly does have something for everyone that is looking for a good Saturday night flick.

Rock Bottom review

Taste of Chaos sets crowd wild with incredible energy

By Sadie Bolte
Editor-in-cheif

If I hear about a concert featuring a band that I like, I really want to go. But when I heard about a tour that boasted three of my favorite bands, I knew I just *had* to go.

The Used, My Chemical Romance, and Senses Fail teamed up to make the Taste of Chaos tour. Other bands playing on the main stage included Killswitch Engage, A Static Lullaby, and Saosin. Along with the main stage at Omaha's Sokol Auditorium, in the basement there was another stage set up known as the acoustic stage. Bands featured here consisted of Bleed the Dream, Opiate for the Masses, My American Heart, and Omaha's Asking Abby. This acoustic stage gave concert goers alternate choices of bands to watch.

The $25 asked for tickets was practically nothing when compared to how much fun this concert sounded. Unfortunately though, procrastination and "small" dilemmas forced me to search far and wide on the beloved Ebay after the tickets became sold out in the blink of an eye. The cheapest ticket we could find was $60, but I didn't care. I was going to that concert no matter what. I knew I couldn't waste a perfect opportunity—after all, Nebraska is pretty sheltered, and choices for decent entertainment are limited.

So I paid the $60 and was I on my way. My friends and I arrived at the March 17 concert at Sokol just as Saosin was finishing on the main stage—I'm guessing they started early because there was still a line outside to get in, and I thought we were somewhat early for once.

The first band that I saw was A Static Lullaby. I'm a little embarrassed to say that at first, I didn't know who the band was. I mean, I've heard a few of their songs before, but I didn't recognize their first few songs, and I've never seen the actual band members before.

After A Static Lullaby, we made our way to the stage—more like, as close as possible without being punched for stepping in someone's territory. Being satisfied with our much-closer spot, we were ready for Senses Fail to begin their show.

However, once the band started playing, our "spot" kept moving around. The entire mass of bodies constantly shifted back and forth, side to side, and every which-way possible. Instead of being able to watch one of my favorite bands perform, I was forced to pay more attention to whether or not I was going to fall and be crushed…or crush someone else.

Senses Fail put on a great show, and the crowd had plenty of energy, but from where we were standing it was too bad that we had to worry about our safety before we could watch the band play.

Getting that close to the performers really makes a show unique.

The next performer on the main stage was a hardcore band called Killswitch Engage. I really didn't want to hear a bunch of annoying bass and relentless screaming, so we headed to the basement where the acoustic stage was set up. Right when we got there, Bleed the Dream had just started playing. They aren't usually an acoustic band, but since they aren't one of the headlining bands, they have to play on the acoustic stage for the tour.

Compared to upstairs, there weren't many people in the basement, and most were walking around or coming and going. We were standing right next to the stage, almost on it along with the band. Getting that close to the performers really makes a show unique. I wouldn't say that Bleed the Dream is one of my favorite bands, but their music is pretty decent.

Killswitch Engage was still playing upstairs when Bleed the Dream finished, so we decided to take a look at all of the bands' merchandise, which was also in the basement. One of my favorite things about the Taste of Chaos tour is that we could have a one-on-one basis with some of the band members before or after they had played. We talked to a few of the members from Bleed the Dream, and we got signatures from them and Senses Fail.

The main stage was almost ready for My Chemical Romance, so we hurried upstairs to try to get a good spot. Being kicked in the head again was not a preference after what was experienced during Senses Fail, so we went up to the balcony to find out if we could actually see the show this time. We found a place where we could see the entire stage, and we did not have to worry about the "tallest guy in the world" standing right in front of us.

The show started off with a huge bang. Gerrard Way, lead singer for My Chemical Romance, is such a character. He had so much energy and he grabbed everyone's attention in the strangest ways. I'll have to admit that at first I did not think that MCR would be very good live because of a somewhat poor live performance I saw on TV, but no doubt about it, this concert proved me wrong—way wrong. Way strutted around the entire stage making some pretty unique faces and actions, so it was just as entertaining as anything.

It was not much longer that The Used would wrap up the night. We liked being able to see the whole stage and everything that was going on, so we kept our balcony place.

The band came out, and the entire room's energy level intensified. The Used's front-man acts very similar to MCR's, so their show was equally entertaining, if not more. Bert McCracken was all over the place, whether it was on top of the drum set, rolling around on stage, or even surfing the crowd.

At the very end, MCR and The Used teamed up for one last song together. The energy in the balcony was not nearly as great as that of the crowd, but I still had an awesome time.

Rock Bottom review

Gore and nudity bring shame to *Sin City*

By John Beauvias
Editor

Sin City had three directors and one of them was Quentin Tarantino, enough said. His name on any movie is reason enough to stay home and save yourself a few dollars and some time.

The sad thing about this is, this movie, based on a graphic novel, could have been a wonderful piece of art streaked with themes of sacrifice and redemption. Instead Tarantino twisted it into another excuse for copious amounts of near comical violence. Surprise, surprise, another one of his movies features a woman brandishing a samurai sword.

With all of his signature twisting of timelines, there is no cohesive plot line to this story. My dad might have put it best when he said, "What was the point of that movie, 'Don't mess with hookers?'"

In one plot line you have Marv (Mickey Rourke), the ultimate tough guy, trying to avenge the death of a prostitute at the hands of a cannibalistic mad man portrayed by Elijah Wood. In another, you have a murderer, Dwight (Clive Owen), scrambling to save the prostitutes of Sin City from the mafia.

Straddling the two is a two parter that is the most complex of the plot lines involving Bruce Willis's character, Hartigan. Hartigan, at the beginning of the movie, saves a little girl, Nancy, from a sadistic pedophile that is a senator's son. In the second part, Hartigan, being framed as a cover-up for the senator, is in solitary confinement. His only human contact comes in the form of letters once a week from Nancy, who uses a secret identity to save herself from the senator's thugs.

Eight years later, he is led to believe that Nancy has been found and killed. In exchange for a signed confession, to cover for the senator's son's crimes, he is released and he immediately starts out to find Nancy's killer. Instead,

Taratino's over-the-top violence makes the film far too one-dimensional.

he finds her (now played by Jessica Alba) working in a strip club and realizes he has led the assassins right to her. Before he can leave, she notices him and Hartigan soon realizes how wildly in love the girl is with him.

He whisks her away, trying to save her from a terrible fate. Hartigan must simultaneously fend off the hit men and Nancy's advances. Eventually it is revealed the pursuer is the senator's son seeking to finish what had started eight years ago. In the end, he is stopped and Hartigan, fearing Nancy could be used as a pawn against him, takes his own life to protect her.

Despite these interesting and tragic heroes, this movie has few redeeming qualities. Despite very solid performance from all the actors, Taratino's over-the-top violence makes the film far too one-dimensional and in the end, one of the characters, Marv, is too brutal to like. Beauty, however, can be found in the movie where the other directors manage to interject too add their styling to that megalomaniac's butchery of the film.

The dialogue is beyond edgy and is reminiscent of the black and white films of a bygone era. It is Dick Tracey with Casablanca style on steroids. The only negative point to this aspect might be that the script maybe too loyal to the graphic novel on which it is based for some people's taste.

Sin City's biggest attraction is its cinematography. The film's black and white with dabbles of color make it more worthy of an art festival than a movie theatre. However, here too is a problem. The mixing of dozens of classic cars with nineties' clothing often one wondering about the timeline. Somehow though, it works.

In the end, this film is all edge, no substance. It is a tragedy that a story that had the possibility to be the best film of the year has become one of the worst. Too much gore and nudity steal the show from the film's few positive pieces. If I were you I would see it on video if at all.

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Swing and a miss!!

Attitude is everything

Choosing what to do after high school can be a huge decision. O.K....it is a huge decision. There are so many factors to keep in mind.

Cost, location, and academics are only three of the many aspects of choosing a college that come to mind. Add on top of that (if you are an athlete) the fact that you could possibly be playing at a higher level. College sports are not for everyone because some people just do not have the attitude. This attitude is what will be brought up in this month's session of "Swing and a Miss!!"

There is always a different attitude between people who are athletes and people who are not. All those involved in the fine arts will know that it also takes a great deal of time and practice to be good, and athletes have to endure the same process. Of course, there are always going to be schools out there that say they do so much more work than others, but in the end it comes down to who wins the game (or meet).

Athletics is not only about winning and losing. It is also about the joy of the game, and I think lately we have gotten away from this. Winning state championships is nice, but there is always something more important. Being a part of a team and showing that camaraderie can overcome all obstacles is truly what athletics is about. The Greeks did it in the Olympics, and we need to get back to that attitude.

Much more can come out than taking home a piece of hardware, and so much more can be learned.

Much more can come out than taking home a piece of hardware, and so much more can be learned about what it takes to be the best athlete possible. Not only the physical aspect, but everything that goes through your mind when you step up to the line to serve in the state championship on match point, or when you throw up that three-pointer at the end of the game to knock off the No. 1 team.

Those that are not athletes miss out on what can truly be found. Starting on varsity is minute compared to the friendships you build, the people you meet, and the things you learn about life. That is what high school is all about, and now I am beginning to sound like a sap.

Many people know that I am not one of the easiest people to get along with, and I will be the first to admit that. I tend to be a little bit opinionated, and many times I am too stubborn to get anything through my thick skull. Let's not forget that we are all human, and we all make mistakes. I just want everyone that I have ever played with or coached to know (who actually read my column) that I appreciate all that you have done for me, even if I am too scared to say it to your face. You all have taught me things I will never forget, even if you did not know it.

Most of all I would like to thank Mr. Petersen for the tremendous amount of guidance he has given us (and I know there are more people out there that think that way). His attitude has changed the way I think about myself, and the things I do. For this, I am truly grateful.

85 POINTS BRINGS HOME THE WIN

2005 NCAA tournament challenge comes down the the very last game

By Heidi Sobota
Editor

Something this good can only come once a year. Something where a school can almost stop just to check the score on the Internet or television. This something is March Madness.

Over the past three years the *Rock Bottom* has held a NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament Challenge to see who is the smartest (or the luckiest) basketball watcher in the school. This year's winner was junior Josh Smith. He won with a total of 85 points over sophomore Kevin Micek who finished with 84.

Smith

"It feels wonderful," Smith said when asked of how he felt being the winner.

This year's tournament challenge came down to one point, which is the closest in its three-year history. Only seven people had 3 teams picked in the Final Four, and no one picked all four teams.

Since there was no money involved in this bracket, Smith will only be able to gloat until next year when we will again try to see whom the king of NCAA basketball is.

In 2003 Brandon Esch won with a score of 79, and in 2004 Mr. Petersen won with a score of 84. This year both finished slightly below where they were last year at this time. Brandon Esch had a score of 75, and Mr. Petersen had a score of 65.

"It's really disappointing," Petersen said, "because I thought my skills were WAY better than the rest of the contestants, but I was humbled."

Two years ago Smith finished 29th with a score of 62, and he did not turn in a bracket in last year's competition. This is a quick jump to take over the crown.

Smith claims that he does not watch any basketball and that he filled out his bracket by sheer guessing. One would wonder if he actually had divine intervention.

When next year's contest rolls around Petersen said that from the beginning of the season he will study the scores intently. This might help him in reclaiming his throne.

This year's tournament challenge also had the second most contestants entered with a total of 64. This compares to 57 in 2003 and 69 in 2004.

Next year we can hopefully break the record of 69 with getting nearly everyone in school to participate.

Tournament Challenge Results

2005 Top 10 Finishers

1. Josh Smith-85
2. Kevin Micek-84
3. Michael Gokie-83
4. Tony Zakrzewski-80
5. Mr. Wickham-79
   Quenten Birkel-79
6. T.J. Wrigley-79
7. Mr. Brockhaus- 76
8. Brandon Esch- 75
   Chris Herdzina- 75
9. Drew Gannon- 74
10. Dillon Clarey-73
    Amanda Blair-73
    Paul Mlinar-73

2005 Top 3 Faculty

5. Mr. Wickham-79
8. Mr. Brockhaus- 76
21. Mr. Ameal- 69

2005 Top 3 Girls

12. Amanda Blair-73
28. Melissa Pekny- 67
32. Jen Haney- 66

2004 Top 5 Finishers

1. Mr. Petersen-84
2. Tony Duren-76
3. Mrs. Rambour-75
4. Craig Pekarek-74
5. Michael Novicki-73

2003 Top 5 Finishers

1. Brandon Esch-79
2. Mark Siegel-77
3. Melissa Pekny-74
   Ryan Grubaugh-74
4. Ryan Zegar-73
5. Kyle Cleary-72

All Time Finishers Top 5

1. Josh Smith (2005)
2. Mr. Petersen (2004)
   Kevin Micek (2005)
3. Michael Gokie (2005)
4. Tony Zakrzewski (2005)
5. Brandon Esch (2003)
   Mr. Wickham (2005)
   Quenten Birkel (2005)

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Scotus alumni return for annual basketball tournament

KARLA JARECKE/ROCK BOTTOM

Josh Rickert ('01) and Chad Burbach ('93) fight for the rebound at the Alumni Basketball Tournament. The class of 2001 was the champion of the three division tournament.

By Karla Jarecke
Editor

Games consist of 20-minute halves, with the clock stopping only the last two minutes of the second half. Each team is allowed one time out only during the last two minutes of the game.

This year's twenty-second annual Scotus Central Catholic Men's Basketball Tournament, held March 18th and 19th, attracted 190 alumni from graduating classes in the 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's, and 00's. For some of the 1968 graduates participating in the alumni basketball tournament, the continuous running up and down the court was a bit tiring. Even the out-of-shape college students found those 20 minutes of basketball harder than they had anticipated.

"It's fun to be competitive, but it's not do or die."
-Rick Ebel

Although many alumni came back physically unprepared for this tournament, that is not the main reason they're out there. Mike Cielocha, who has been chairing the event for the last 15 of the 22 years of alumni basketball tourneys, said that it is more of a social reunion than anything. He said that guys make it an annual thing to come back and hold on to the tradition.

The 2005 tournament consisted of 27 teams, which were split into the green (A), white (B), and gold (C) divisions. The teams ranged from 1968-72 alumni to 2004 alumni.

2001 graduate Jesse Benda, who was part of the A division champion team, was very confident in his teams ability to take the gold. Benda, a fourth year participant in the tournament, said that he comes back to play because it is fun, and he enjoys seeing all the graduating classes. This team, however, was there for more than just a social gathering. They made it to the championship game against 2001 and managed to pull the victory at the overtime buzzer with a 3-pointer from Brock Pillen.

1980 graduate Rick Ebel, who has been playing alumni basketball for the last 15 years, said that he likes to participate because he gets to see old friends who he hasn't seen in awhile. Ebel said that the older you get the more competitive you are.

"It's fun to be competitive, but it's not do or die," Ebel said.

Ebel takes a little time to prepare before the tournament with a little driveway basketball, but his skills are nothing what they used to be. Ebel said he does not take the game too seriously, but he hates losing to older guys.

Both Benda and Ebel said that they play the game for fun more than anything. However, both played their way into the championship game, with Benda taking home the championship and Ebel settling for runner-up, losing to the class of 1985-86.

The tournament has grown immensely from it first year in 1983. The 20th annual tournament held in 2003 was the biggest yet, attracting more than 225 alumni. As a traditional success, the tournament hopes to attract many more Scotus alumni in years to come.

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When moles attack! Dusel comments on losing limbs and mole money embezzlement... Page N3

ATHLETICS CENTRAL

MOCK BOTTOM

SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC — NO ONE CARES, NEBRASKA 68601

VOLUME: DON'T KNOW-ASK MR. LAHM TO CALCULATE IT ◆ ISSUE: LYING ◆ SATIREDAY, APRIL 1, 2005

Liars, liars, pants on fires!

Rock Bottom staff accused of lying! Find out the real truth

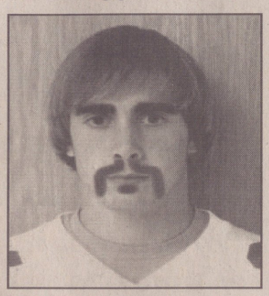
By Detective saLIE
Boxers-or-Chiefs

It's 4:55 pm as I finally get the time to sit back and enjoy the *Rock Bottom*. I pick up the paper, anticipating each and every intriguing story that the RB-staffers complete each month. As I scan the front page, I notice that something was different. Something smelled fishy. So I pulled out the Long John's Sliver coupon and threw it in the trash.

But there was more. On the very front page was a peculiar story on changes that were to take place the following year at Scotus. It told of a shocking change from 8 periods a day to 9 full periods a day. I knew this couldn't possibly be possible. There's just no possibility. Nine periods in one day? I was just shocked. Shocked, I tell you!

Who are these Rock Bottom staffers, and why would they publish such lies?

The next day I checked a few of their backgrounds. These are the shocking results.



Name: Poo Man-chew
Alias: Chadley Schmietz
Wanted for: Mr. Man-chew is wanted for theft. Some items may include fish food, razor patties, and meat blades. He has been known for shocking females ranging 12-13 years in age. Man-chew is also wanted for lying...so is everyone else.
Unusual characteristics: There is a scar on his back in the shape of a dove crying in the moonlight. His Chinese tatoo on his left thigh is interpreted as "pink golashes."

Name: Shifty-Eyes
Alias: Charla Jetski
Wanted for: This human wonder is wanted for her numerous mild but chilling threats. Some of her threats are "Get out of my sights, or else," or the popular "I've got one of my eyes on you!" During Lent, this scandalous woman is known for eating big, juicy double Whoppers every Friday.
Unusual characteristics: Are you kidding me?...look at her eyes. Oh yea, and that giant trench between her teeth.

Name: Mistress of Disguise
Alias: Emily Austin Powerz
Wanted for: Miss Disguise is obsessed with identity theft. Be careful-she's a pro. She has been seen dressed as Shaquille O'Neal, Martha Stewart, Charles Manson, Chimney Rock, and even Greg the janitor. (Watch out Philipe Powerz, with her new outfit she is pictured in above, you just may be next.)
Unusual characteristics: Her giant 'MD bling-bling.' It stands for 'Mistress of Disguise,' not 'Medical Doctor.'

Name: Tickles the Klown
Alias: S80 "lightning" Bolt
Wanted for: Ms. Klown is being searched high and low for cracking jokes at a funeral. She is also wanted for noisily making balloon animals in the middle of the library. This jokester is *not* clowning around, so if you see her, run.
Unusual characteristics: Her hands have become crippled and callussed from the intricate art of twising balloons into giraffes and swords

Fashizzle M. Nizzle/Mock Bottom

Scotus's new mascot, cleverly named Rocky the Rock, cheers at a recent speech meet. The graffiti on the rock is painted in the new school colors.

It's no sham! New mascot, colors rock the house

By Bullwinkle
Friend of Rocky

The green and gold Shamrocks are about to go down in Scotus history. The school board and cheerleaders recently voted in favor of changing the school colors. This change, which was introduced by Athletic Director Gary Puetz, has got many students riled up.

"It's got to be done," Puetz said. "I'm so sick of green and gold. There's got to be a change."

Cheerleader Susy Bubbles said that she is extremely excited about the change.

"It will be totally awesome to have more upbeat colors," Bubbles said, "which we are totally going for."

The student body will be voting on the colors next Wednesday. The colors choices include: dandelion, fuchsia, periwinkle, tangerine, and turquoise.

"I cannot believe these colors were chosen," said junior Zeph Swope. "This is just ridiculous."

The colors were decided Friday night at a meeting open to any incoming Scotus high school students. Due to a poker tournament held at senior John Beauvais' and Halo tournament held at junior Josh Jepsen's, only four boys showed up for the meeting.

Senior football player Tony Korth said that it is a good thing he isn't playing for Scotus next year because he would not wear a jersey with any of the new colors.

"They are going to look like a bunch of pansies," Korth said.

Many of next year's football players are protesting this change. Several boys have already decided to quit because of the color picks.

> "They did *what*?!."
> - Longtime booster

Because of the drastic change the school is making with the colors, they have decided to officially change the school's nickname to the Rocks. The school's mascot will be a rock spray-painted with the two chosen colors.

"Everyone pretty much calls us the Rocks anyway," said seventh grader Pete Hemmerling. "This just makes it offical. Besides, who wants an inanimate object like a Shamrock for a mascot anyway?"

Although the class of 2006 is very upset about the sudden change, Superintendent Bill Gannon said that students must accept the change and make the most of it.

Diversity Explodes!

Scotus's minority population on rise with transfer of new student into Scotus population

By George, he's Right
Stuff Reporter

Calvin Draper hears the whispers, the snickers, the comments that are supposed to be behind his back. He pretends they don't bother him, and most of the time they don't. But sometimes, he admits, they do hurt.

When Draper recently transferred into Scotus Central Catholic, he knew he would be in the minority. However, he sees being at Scotus as a chance to add diversity to the school and increase the awareness of minority cultures.

You see, Calvin Draper is left-handed.

Draper may look like any other Scotus student: he's white and comes from an upper-middle class family. However, his left-handedness has opened the eyes of his classmates.

"Before meeting Calvin," senior Brian Hannon said, "I hadn't really known anyone left-handed. I mean, I had met them before, and seen them on TV, but this is the first time I've really gotten to know a right-impaired person up close."

The school has had to make some adjustments to support its increasingly diverse student population. Just last week the art department had to order two new pairs of left-handed scissors. The school is also looking into purchasing a supply of left-handed pencils, computers and forks for the lunchroom.

While Scotus students are getting used to their new classmate, the transition has been at times eye-opening.

"I remember the first time I saw him write with his left hand," sophomore Julie Twightski said. "To be honest, it kind of freaked me out a little bit. But I'm sure I'll get used to it."

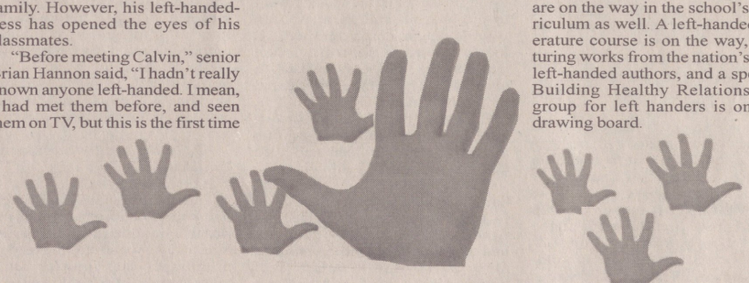
Even though he is a minority, Draper has found someone in the Scotus community that has faced the challenges Draper sees every day.

"Mr. Petersen has been an inspiration to me," Draper said. "It's good to know that when things get rough, I can go to him and he can help me through it. He's like a pioneer. It's people like him who fought for the opportunities that left-handed people of my generation now enjoy."

Math teacher John Petersen has been left-handed since birth.

"It's good to see our school getting more diverse," student body president Shelly Nemaha said. "I think we could all learn something about today's world from someone with Calvin's background."

With the ever-increasing diversity of its student body, changes are on the way in the school's curriculum as well. A left-handed literature course is on the way, featuring works from the nation's best left-handed authors, and a special Building Healthy Relationships group for left handers is on the drawing board.



Lunch program axed, 10th period may be added

With a growing concern for the shortened class periods next year because of the nine-period day, administration has discussed a way to solve many school-wide problems.

Although the lunch program has been tweaked, the cost of lunch is still up, and so is the weight of the Scotus population. Many teachers and students have protested by eating little or not at all at lunch. As a result, administration has decided to no longer serve lunch during the school day.

"I won't remember what day it is without on-a-bun Monday," student Patty McPhatty said.

Unlike McPhatty, other students don't mind the change.

"Lunch was a waste of my time anyway," student Ann O'Rexia said. "I was always finished before everyone else."

Teachers are likewise divided in reactions. Health teacher Ivanna Run was outraged at the thought of a loss of nutrients.

"I am outwaged!" the Austrian native cried. "In my countwy, we eat not only to nourish our minds but to nourish our muscles. Now I will never make it to the Mr. Universe competition. I will also miss the chicken fajitas."

Everything's perfect at Scotus

By Too Many Names for One Line
Editor

Today, Scotus students were thanked for their great honesty, especially in regards to homework, and good behavior. The Scotus administration is especially proud of their students.

"There has simply been no cheating what-so-ever," Principal Dwight Ritcher said. "I have not had to deal with anything resembling cheating once this year."

This year Scotus students have been particularly good examples. The old problems of old tests handed down, copied assignments, and cheat sheets are simply not to be seen at this school. Some forms of cheating, such as plagiarism of research papers off the Internet, have been completely eradicated. It is a golden age of Scotus education.

"Students have been really obedient," history teacher Vladimir Illich Lannin said. "Despite very similar test year after year, the junior class has refrained from using last year's test as 'study aides.'"

Seniors this year have been exceptionally kind to this year's underclassmen. Those who accidentally find they parked in "senior row" were just talked to and were kindly asked to move their cars.

"I'm glad that no one has acted rash or stupidly," Officer Gelding said. "It is great that no one from the CPD has had to call students out of class for such incidents."

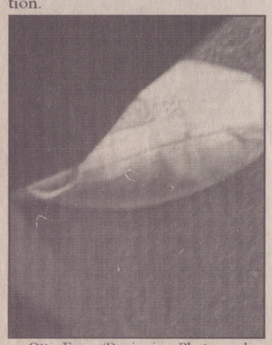
Much has improved from last year when there were many rumors, though eventually proved to be unfounded, of cheating in the 11th grade English class.

"I heard something about that," senior Ann Dwark said. "But I never saw anything to prove it."

Not only in academics but also in athletics, Scotus students have been awarded for their good character. Senior Juan Buvas has been singled out for his great example. He was first recognized at the first home football game as he kindly helped up an opposing player and gave him a pat on a back.

"Honestly, I thought my creative, kind-hearted cheering at basketball games deserves more praise," Buvas said.

With so much promise in the students, next years schedule is going to offer a variety of honors classes to further the Scotus academic challenge. Nothing has been finalized yet but AP Leisure Activities, an Honor Weight Lifting course, and Applied Math 3. Undoubtedly, rewards such as this will keep cheating out of our cafeteria, hallways, and classrooms.



Otto Focus/Beginning Photographer
The shoe of someone playing Old Maid, or something.

Old Maid a hit

By The Dawn's *Early Light*

Thanks to the growing popularity of the World Series of Old Maid, Scotus students have finally found a new pastime.

It used to be that every time you walked down the hall at this school, you could hear numerous students talking about a huge poker tournament. Nowadays, there seems to be a new trend sweeping through the air: Old Maid.

Students have been known to lose $20-$30 in one game, but that doesn't stop any of them.

"When we sit down to play, nobody cares about the money because it's so gosh dang fun!" said senior Andrue Dahland.

Sometimes an Old Maid tournament could include up to 35 people. If each person pays $20 a piece, which would mean that the winner could take home $700. Who wouldn't want a chance at winning that huge lump sum?

Junior Pocket Yandiss added, "Nobody ain't going nowhere in life if they ain't takin' no chances. Y'all need to get up off yo' bottoms and live a little."

Local retail stores have been running out of decks of Old Maid cards almost as soon as the new shipment comes in. There are quite a few stories floating around that students had to travel to Omaha or Lincoln just to pick up a deck.

Old Maid is all about strategy and a little bit of luck. The best players are those who catch the right cards and know how to use them.

"I probably have to best strategy around these parts," said senior Benny Burnis. "34% of the time it works every time."

Although Old Maid tends to be a male dominated sport, there have been a few girls that have built a notorious image for themselves among all the male powerhouses.

"All it takes is one girl to step up and prove themselves to all the boys, then before you know it, you'll be able smell the fear building inside of the guys," said senior Cathryn Samsonite.

Samsonite says that she plays for the sheer "thrill of the game." She also added that seeing Anny Dube, the top girl in the World Series of Old Maid, succeed over all the men is what drove her to be where she is now.

It's funny how something can become so widespread so quickly. All it took is one person to start the first Old Maid game, and before anybody could see it was coming, this "disease" is overtaking Scotus.

New dollar store to save Columbus economy

By Clark Kent
Super Man

Columbus will soon have a new competitor in the high-stakes game of dollar stores.

Dollar Barrel will be opening its doors in an attempt to fill what it sees as a void in the dollar store market in Columbus. The newest addition to Columbus's economy will be a Super Dollar Barrel, in order to compete with the new Super Wal-Mart and Super Hy-Vee going up.

"We were surprised that a town the size of Columbus is able to exist with only three dollar stores," said Dollar Barrel General Manager William Whitstone, "As soon as I saw that, the dollar signs started flashing before my eyes."

Whitstone, whose nickname is "Dollar Bill," called the dollar store business "a goldmine waiting to be plucked."

Whitstone's wife, Susan Whitstone, said that the idea of another dollar store would be a great idea. She had been dreaming of owning one since she was in grade school.

"This is such a wonderful opportunity for my family and the city of Columbus," she said. "You just can't beat the honest-to-goodness value of a dollar store."

The new store could bring statewide fame to the city.

"The opening of our store will make Columbus the dollar store capital of Nebraska," William Whitstone said. "Just think of the tourism possibilities that could open up."

Not everyone is as excited as the Whitstones about another dollar store in our town.

"Back in my day we had *dime* stores." Jimmy Fizer, 68, said. "Now you can't drive a block in this town without stubbing your toe against another dollar store."

Giant sequoias investigated

By Bill Nye
Science Guy

Contrary to popular belief, the Scotus Central Catholic volleyball team has been determined to be Giant Sequoias.

Coach John Petersen has been found guilty of "doping his team with bark," and he will be sentenced to three years without attending the state championship game.

"NO," Petersen wailed when he heard his sentence. "I WAS ONLY TRYING TO WIN!"

This entire scandal came about after Coach Petersen was said to have destroyed two key volleyball state championship medals.

Suspicion arose when the athletic trainer noticed irregularities in the growth of Fern Redwood's limbs. In a moment of rage and frustration over her injury, she cried out, "Leaf me alone!"

This has become known as the WaterMe Scandal of 2004. There is no possible way to describe the terror going through the halls of Scotus. All the students believe that Coach Petersen is innocent, but one will ever know.

This scandal has caught the eye of the United States Congress. Congress is now beginning to have hearings over whether or not Scotus will be allowed to have a volleyball team anymore. If Scotus does not have a volleyball team, they will therefore not have athletics anymore.

Everything not perfect at Scotus

Scotus has recently been exposed to a half toilet seat in one of the bathrooms. For those who have noticed, or have sat on it, it may not be comfortable. But this is not the only traumatizing event that has occurred here at Scotus.

The other day on the second floor, freshman Betsy Watson went to get a drink and there was no water fountain; it had vanished. All there was was a pipe with a bucket underneath. Watson went back to class with a pale face and passed out, dehydrated.

"I was so thirsty and the brown stuff coming out of the pipe was not appetizing," Watson said, "so I decided to walk back to class."

Teachers later the same week had a period of time when they had to use gas masks on the second floor because the girl's restroom had a rotten scent coming from it. One particular teacher had breathed in the fumes and was later sent to the hospital. She had suffered from a toxic lung infection.

Teachers got scared and went into the bathroom to see how bad the fumes actually were. Approximately four teachers were gone so their classes were cancelled.

The second floor is not the only place with problems, but some classrooms have broken tile where accidents have happened. Within days after the teacher episode, eighth grader Chris Douglas was seated in his chair before the bell rang minding his own business until he scooted his desk forward while catching the right back leg on the tile floor and tipped over. Douglas broke his wrist trying to catch his fall while also receiving a few staples in his head.

"At least my fall was graceful," Douglas said. "I am lucky all I did was break my wrist."

Finally, principal Dan Rodgers had had enough of all these injuries that he added a better First Aid Kid to every classroom. Rodgers now hopes that injuries can be taken care of at school right away instead of at the hospital.

"What would solve everything," he said, "is more half-doors on the bathrooms. That was a great idea."

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Here is one of the new water conservation centers recently installed in the halls of Scotus. Water consumption has decreased by 70 percent since the water-wasting fountains have been taken out.

School finds water fountains cause disease

Problem solved with installation of water conservation centers

By Charlie Tuna
Chicken of the Sea

Scotus High School recently found that most of its problems could be solved in one easy step: the disablement or outright removal of water-wasting, germ-spreading water fountains.

"The fact that you have to search long and hard in our school for a working water fountain is a tremendous tribute to how safe our kids are," said Scotus Water Czar Howard O. Oman. "It was also pretty convenient that we were also able to convince many of our students to give up water for Lent, so that worked out nice."

Mercy Nary, a biologist working for the Eastern Iowa Educational Independent Organization, said, "We at the E.I.E.I.O. have found that Scotus water fountains were crawling with, um, germs and stuff. We also found that students were drinking enormous amounts of precious water that could have gone to watering the lawn or washing the busses. We also thank the school for its large contribution to our organization."

Any students who venture off in search of a water fountain will also receive the benefit of burning several hundred calories. Students are still allowed to carry water bottles, and are wished good luck trying to find a place to fill them up.

Rumors of a working water fountain somewhere on the third floor are as of yet unconfirmed.

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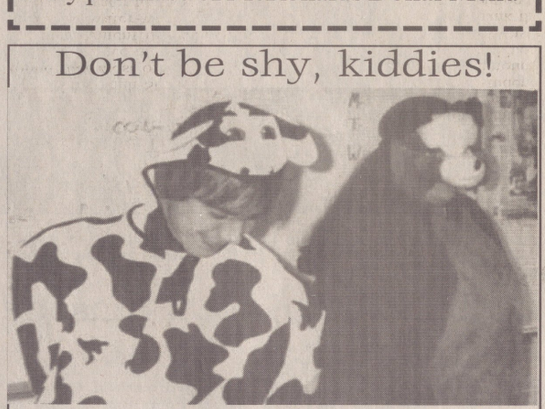

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SCOTUS CENTRAL
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SCOTUS CENTRAL

ROCK BOTTOM

Looking back on 2004-4005... Page 6

SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA 68601

VOLUME 7 ◆ ISSUE 9 ◆ MAY 13, 2005

Relay for Life 2005

JOHN BEAUVAIS/ROCK BOTTOM

Eighth grader Kirby Reardon helps set up luminaries at the 2005 Relay for Life held at Pawnee Park's Memoial Stadium. Each luminary represents a memorial donation to the American Cancer Society in honor of a cancer survivor or victim.

Relay for Life keeps hope alive

John Beauvais
Editor

Hope was in the lights.

That was the scene at this year's Relay for Life, an annual event which raises money for the American Cancer Society by selling luminaries to honor cancer survivors and memorialize those who have fallen to it. They sell luminaries for five dollars apiece and light them at Memorial Stadium at Pawnee Park.

The track was lined with the luminaries and teams made laps around the track, making sure that there was always at least one person from each team walking laps, thus the "Relay." The first lap is walked by those who are surviving or have overcome cancer. Teams spend the night at the track to ensure there are always people to walk.

The participants not currently walking hang out in team camps, most decorated with a certain theme. One campsite even featured a hot tub.

Scotus teams have participated in the past, and this year saw two teams from Scotus, one from the National Honor Society and another led by junior Chris Schumacher and his sister Mandy. Each team raised over $900 dollars for the relay.

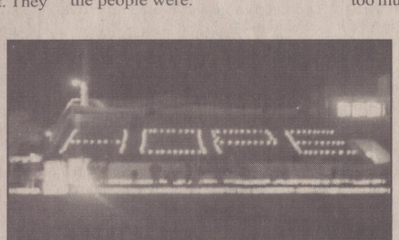
"We would love to see more Scotus students there," Relay Chairman Jeff Gokie said. "I'd personally like to have more freshman and sophomores there, a little more diversity."

Gokie thinks that Scotus students can learn much from the relay.

"Kids can learn from the survivors," Gokie said. "They can learn to appreciate the tragedies and hardship that these people go through."

Senior Crystal Modde participated as a part of the NHS team, who sported a campsite theme of Candyland. The experience made an impression on Modde.

"There were so many people in wheelchairs," she said. "I also didn't realize how young some of the people were."



JOHN BEAUVAIS/ROCK BOTTOM

Shining hope: Luminaries spread the message of hope in face of cancer.

"The relay gave me a chance to reflect on things (cancer sufferers) went through."

- Crystal Modde

People participate for a variety of reasons. Chris Schumacher was candid with his reasons for participating.

"It's something to do on a Friday night," Schumacher said. "It keeps me busy."

His sister was more the driving force behind this year's team.

"She started the team up, but she didn't have time with college to come back and organize," Schumacher said. "So, I was forced to pick up the slack."

Modde had a personal reason for participating in the relay. She lost her grandfather to cancer and two of her aunts have suffered because of breast cancer. For her, the relay is special.

"I really liked the candles spelling 'hope,' " Modde said. "The relay gave me a chance to reflect on things they went through."

Both organizers and teams had one main complaint this year – the weather. Gokie's wife and co-chairman, Cathy, noticed the difference from last year.

"The weather was a lot better last year," Cathy Gokie said. "It was too cold and there was too much wind to light the luminaries."

Schumacher noted that the weather affected him at this year's Relay.

"I probably only walked 16 laps this year," Schumacher said. "It was too cold to stay out for much longer than that."

Other than the weather, only one other occurrence seemed to be any problem.

"We ran out of candles," Cathy Gokie said, "Those that wanted to buy last-minute luminaries couldn't this year."

The NHS team had problems on a less serious level.

"We had a problem in the morning," Modde said. "Everyone left and I had to pick up the tent and everything inside by myself."

Despite the weather and the luminary shortages, future participation amongst Scotus students at the relay looks likely.

"I don't know if I will be on a team next year," Schumacher said, "but I know I will be out there either way."

Scotus students have participated in the Relay for Life for years and the students' efforts have not gone unnoticed.

"I'd like to thank Scotus for its participation," Mrs. Gokie said. "Its good to see them out there, hope to see more of them next year."

Rusher named boys basketball coach

Emilie Powers
Editor

While Scotus Central Catholic administration continues to look to fill positions for the next school year, the athletic department is already a bit ahead. The announcement of the new boys basketball coach has raised many questions from students, parents, and the community about who this new addition to the Scotus family is.

After interviews, it was announced that the new senior high boys basketball coach would be Brett Rusher.

Brett Rusher and his wife Angie, a 1995 graduate of Scotus, moved to Columbus from Salina, Kan. It was there that Brett gained coaching experience in football, basketball, and track. He also coached football during his fifth year at Hastings College.

Although the boys' basketball team does not have the best record from the past few years, Rusher said that he really does not know a lot about Scotus boys basketball.

"I'm excited about next year," Rusher said. "I want to get people excited about Scotus boys basketball again."

The knowledge that Rusher does have about the team has brought him mostly positive hopes for the years to come.

"I understand there've been a few down years as far as wins and losses go," Rusher said, "but I still want to go out there and do our best. It's not all about wins and losses."

The decision in choosing a new coach was a difficult one. Activities director Gary Puetz said there were many different things that went into the consideration of choosing a new coach.

"Our goal was to ultimately use someone from the teaching staff," Puetz said. "It was a very tough decision."

Rusher owns a landscaping business in Columbus, and he said that he will substitute teach at Scotus next year. In striving to mold a team that will live up to their potential, one of the main concerns Rusher has is getting to know the boys.

"It will be a challenge to get to know the kids," Rusher said. "I won't be in the building much, so I want to get to know them as soon as possible over the summer. I need to see what people can do."

The change in coaches will begin to play into the team this summer.

"We have to get into my way and what we want to do," Rusher said. "The way they've been doing things isn't wrong, my way will just be different."

Puetz also shared the concern that Rusher will be a coach from outside the building, but Rusher knows that his goal of getting to know the students while not being in the building is attainable.

"It will be a challenge to get to know everyone," Rusher said, "but obviously they wouldn't have hired me if it wasn't possible."

While there was some apprehension towards hiring another coach from outside the building, Rusher had an impressive background.

"He had tremendous references we found in talking to his previous coaches and administrators," Puetz said. "He has had great experience and success that was very impressive. There were other outstanding candidates, but Brett stood out in the interview."

Puetz and Rusher both hope this change turns into a positive thing for the school and community. As long as students and parents can accept the change, the new coach will bring a new era to Scotus boys basketball.

Last-minute changes don't spoil Prom

Chad Schmeits
Editor

When the lunch windows are blocked off and the area is surrounded by curtains, the Scotus cafeteria actually looks more like a dance hall than a lunchroom.

After hearing the news that Prom could no longer take place at the Knights of Columbus hall less than a day before the event was scheduled, the Scotus juniors did a pretty good job of dealing with the only venue left, the Scotus cafeteria. Prom is supposed to be a special night, something that one will remember for a long time to come, but that becomes a challenge when you are forced to have it in the same place you have been eating school lunch for the past five or six years. However, when that place is completely transformed "A Night Under the Sea," it becomes nearly unrecognizable.

"It was a lot easier to have Prom here at school as opposed to anywhere else," junior Kristina Flint said. "All of our decorations were already here at school."

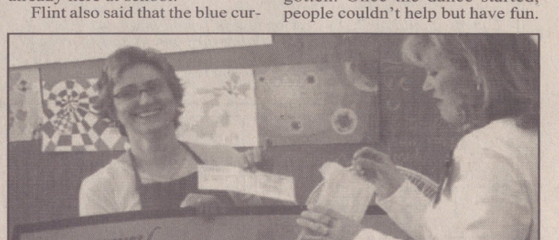
Flint also said that the blue curtains that surrounded the dance floor, which made the room appear as if it was not a cafeteria, would not have been used if the dance had been anywhere else. The curtains were a last-second idea that turned out to match the under-the-sea decorations perfectly.

Not only did the backdrop and the rest of the decorations improve the look of the cafeteria, they also added to the lively atmosphere. Not since the seniors were freshman has there been a dance where so many people were dancing at once.

"It just seemed like everyone was a lot more into it than they usually are," senior Eugene Bichlmeier said. "There were a lot more people dancing and singing along to every song."

Bichlmeier said the reason why this prom seemed so much better to the seniors was the fact that they knew that it was their last high school dance.

The disappointment felt by some at having Prom at Scotus because it would be too much like every other dance, was quickly forgotten. Once the dance started, people couldn't help but have fun.



HEIDI SOBOTA/ROCK BOTTOM

Art teacher Nacy Shadle recieves the Columbus Wal-Mart's Teacher of the Year Award on May 3. Shadle, who was nominated by a student, accepted a $1,000 grant from Wal-Mart on Scotus's behalf as part of the award.

"Last" column takes a look at lessons "learned"

- -Brutally Honest- - -

This is my last column. The last…

As the school year wraps up, we tend to think of "lasts." The *last* time you walk down that hallway as a freshman, the *last* time you shut your half of a locker (ahh, junior high), the *last* time you doze off in this classroom, the *last* time I pull out of my driveway at 8:27.

No one thinks of "lasts" as much as seniors. But honestly, does any of this irrational thinking really matter? I can see it—at the 25-year-reunion everyone will be saying, "I remember the last time I put my foot on *that* tile;" "…the last time I chewed gum in this classroom…" *or not*.

Though these mind-clustering thoughts don't seem to have huge significance to our future, they do help time to quickly pass. The faster time goes by, the faster we all get out of here. Think about it—that was the last time you had to fight with someone about how long your hair could be—unless you get yourself into something ridiculous, like a job or something.

This "college thing" is right around the corner for us seniors, so I guess that means goodbye to the extreme immaturity that has been haunting me and most of my fellow classmates for years.

I'd rather look back at what a total dork I made out of myself.

No more giggling when someone farts, no more catapulting wads of paper across the room every time the teacher leaves, no more slamming Haley into the lockers just to see how much she laughs about it, no more "ooh's" when someone drops their cup at lunch. I can feel my immaturity point level slowly dwindling down…

Over these past years at Scotus, I've learned some very important things that I'll need later in life. Such as: It costs a dollar to wear my own clothes. It's dangerous to chew gum in junior high, Spanish class, and the Media Center. Imitating the teachers should be done on my own time, and only on my own time. Salad bars consist of lettuce, dressing, and Jell-O. Failure to be tucked in, zipped up, covered up, buttoned up, combed back, shaved clean, undecorated, or by simply standing out from the rest, will cost you.

Okay, so maybe these won't help me in my future, but they sure gave me something to live by…*or not*. When I get out of here (in approximately 4 days, yea!), I pray the day never comes when I fear my bank account will run dry after never, ever tucking my shirt in (sorry Mrs. Dusel and the school board, but it's true).

So what can the rest of you slaves do while you are still locked in high school (maybe slaves is the wrong word…more like, prisoners…*kidding.*)? I don't think I have *too much* useful advice. A few things: Don't to be so busy that you can't hang out with your friends, but do enough clubs, organizations, etc. to create fun memories, keep you busy, and help pass time. Don't freak out about college stuff, or anything else for that matter—ulcers hurt. If you want to get super good grades so you can get your picture plastered in the newspaper and recieve praise by the community, go ahead.

But honestly, in my opinion, grades don't really matter. I don't want to look back and see someone with her face in books, sweating over an A or and A+. That's just not me. I'd rather look back and remember what a total dork I made out of myself, which I did.

I guess what I'm trying to say is that you shouldn't try to put on an image for anyone, not even yourself. Do what you want to do; don't let anything hold you back. Hold on...is this *Sadie* being serious? Okay, enough of that!

One "last" thing—you can still call me saDIE although I can't publish it that way...oops too late. Rules were always meant to be broken anyway.

Scotus memories to leave a lasting impression

- - - - Earmuffs! - - - -

It is finally over! No more homework, no more waking up at 7 a.m. five days out of the week, no more seven hour school days, no more school bells, no more school uniforms, and no more dollar fines. Even with all the negative aspects of Scotus that we can all think of, I am still going to have plenty of good memories from my four and a half years here.

Take junior high for example. Our class was told numerous times that we were the worst class ever, which may have been somewhat true at the time. I definitely didn't help out too much either because I think just about every day of my seventh grade year I ended up in a trash can somewhere in the school. I was without doubt one of the mouthiest kids in our class, and I ACTED like I wasn't afraid of anyone.

About halfway through my seventh grade year, Matt Skarka putting me in a trashcan became a daily ritual. It finally got to the point where I would just put myself in the trashcan so that Skarka wouldn't have to. At first, getting put in the trash just made me feel humiliated, but when everyone in study hall started to become just as used to it as I was, it wasn't so bad anymore.

Because I think just about everyday of my seventh grade year I ended up in a trashcan somewhere in the school.

I would have to say that my fondest memory of my junior high career would have to be the whole chicken fiasco. For all of you who don't know what that is, it was when a bunch of other guys and I piled all of our chicken bones and skin onto one tray, mine of course, and got in trouble for it.

I have had numerous lasting memories in high school. For example, Ryan Zegar's lotion will always leave a lasting impression in my mind. Also I will always remember my sophomore and senior years of soccer and my junior and senior years of football.

There are also the memories that happened outside of the school building. A few weeks ago at John Beauvais' house we managed to fit 12 guys, and no girls, into an 8-man hot tub. Also the time that we accidentally caught John's pants on fire, and he proceeded to jump around screaming random profanities not putting the fire out when he was surrounded by long stretch of beach sand and a lake.

So, although we all dread going to high school and can't wait for it to be over, just think of all the fond memories that we will have forever. True, most of the memories are due to the high degree of immaturity in our class, but hey, at least we haven't gotten in too much trouble-*yet*.

In the end, when I look back and remember all the time I spent inside of a trash can, trying to think of a way to get out of trouble, or being immature, I do not regret any of it. My high school career has let me build myself to be who I am now, even though I don't really know what that is yet, but at least I am not afraid to be myself.

Scotus says goodbye to teachers as well as students

- - Once in a while - -

It was over in a flash—7th grade memories blending with those of today. I can still remember truckin' it up to 3rd floor everyday and kneeling down to my little locker with my fifty-pound book bag hanging off my shoulder. Memories of early morning practices, geography poster boards at the public library, Mrs. Johnson's anti-bacterial lotions, and Mrs. Riley's AR videos are much too vivid to believe that it was six years ago I first stepped foot in this school.

As the end of the school year rapidly approaches, however, I am constantly reminded that the last days will be my *last ever* at Scotus. I guess it hasn't really hit me yet that I will be graduating in only a matter of days and that my existence at Scotus is coming to an end. There will be many sad farewells, but this will also be a time for rejoicing as it has been one of the most anticipated moments in my life thus far.

Students will have a new routine as people adjust to the new school year in the fall.

2005 can definitely be marked as a year of change though. The town of Columbus is dramatically evolving as it expands its roads and continues to grow eastward with the addition of the gigantic Wal-Mart. C-town can inevitably add another 2,000 people to its population as people from all over the place (including Genoa, Schuyler, and Duncan) flee to this fascinating place.

As we all know, Scotus will also be experiencing quite a change next year as they look to replace six fabulous teachers. A change like this might be hard to adjust to because Scotus is known for keeping the same teachers for more than twenty years. After all, many of us are learning from the same teachers that our parents did.

Mrs. Zanardi—the mother figure for many students—many will miss her constant concern and crazy laugh. Miss Felger and Mrs. Hruska, their Spanish skills have inspired students to take interest in the ever-growing language. Mr. Arneal, how will the Rock Bottom ever survive without his ingenious creativity? Mrs. K, no one will ever forget about her beautiful smile and her willingness to listen to our problems. And Mr. Mahoney, or better known to his runners as Mahondog, cross-country will never be the same without you, but I'm certain your quotes will still be heard next cross country season and remembered always.

There is no doubt Scotus will be losing some amazing teachers. However, with change always comes progression, and Scotus will hopefully progress with the addition of new faculty. People will adjust to a new routine and move ahead in life.

These teachers have certainly touched many students at Scotus in some way. Scotus, however, will be the same old school in the fall, but with many new voices heard in the classrooms. The class of 2005 will diminish along with these teachers, but memories of our time together at Scotus will live on for many years to come—years that will without warning go much too fast as the first 18 years of my life have already proved me.

-Swing and a miss!!-

Give new Pope a chance

Recently, as you all know, our Church has elected a new Pope. I guess I should say, our Cardinals have elected a new Pope, but as soon as Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger was elected, the media had a tantrum that could be compared to that of a two-year old. The thing that bothers me about this is that all the people on CNN.com that answered the poll about how much they approve of Cardinal Ratzinger being appointed as Pope Benedict XVI did not know what they were talking about. He had been Pope for a total of two minutes, and they were complaining about things he'd figuratively accomplished.

I was recently watching *The O'Reilly Factor*, and I became fairly angry at what I was hearing. It seems that many newspapers, who happen to have the reputation of being fairly liberal, were not being very fair to our new Pope. When the ratio of negative articles to positive articles is 7 to 1, you know there is a little bit of one-sidedness. I would like every author of the negative articles to tell us the last time that they met Pope Benedict XVI, or perhaps even tell us the last time that they talked to him.

He had not even been Pope for a total of 48 hours, and people were already passing judgment on him. I do not know about the rest of you, but it bothers me when people (who probably aren't even Catholic) are passing judgment on our leader. I know that he is a leader for the entire Christian community, but when it comes down to it, I don't care what other Christian denominations think about our Pope. To be incredibly honest (yet again), I don't care that he may be very conservative. This is just another chance for screaming liberals to take a shot at the Catholic Church.

I do not mean this disrespect to all liberals, simply because I do have a few liberal viewpoints myself, but after all of this commotion I am beginning to feel that this has got to stop. Partisan politics and partisan media have taken a step too far when they began to complain about something that really has nothing to do with them. The media and non-Christians simply need to stay away from fights that do not need to be fought because I know that Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger was chosen as Pope Benedict XVI for a reason.

Since I am, shall I say, complaining about how people are . . . complaining . . . I hope that most people will not continue to torment Pope Benedict XVI's pontificate because it has barely just begun. We have to realize that he is following one of the most popular popes of all time. Yes, he is 78 years old and will most likely not be in Vatican City for as long as Pope John Paul II, but he still has the potential to do great things for the Catholic Church.

We as Catholics have to support Pope Benedict XVI because it is our duty, even if we might have wanted another candidate. It is going to be a hard road ahead for the Holy Father, but he can do it. All it takes is a little faith.

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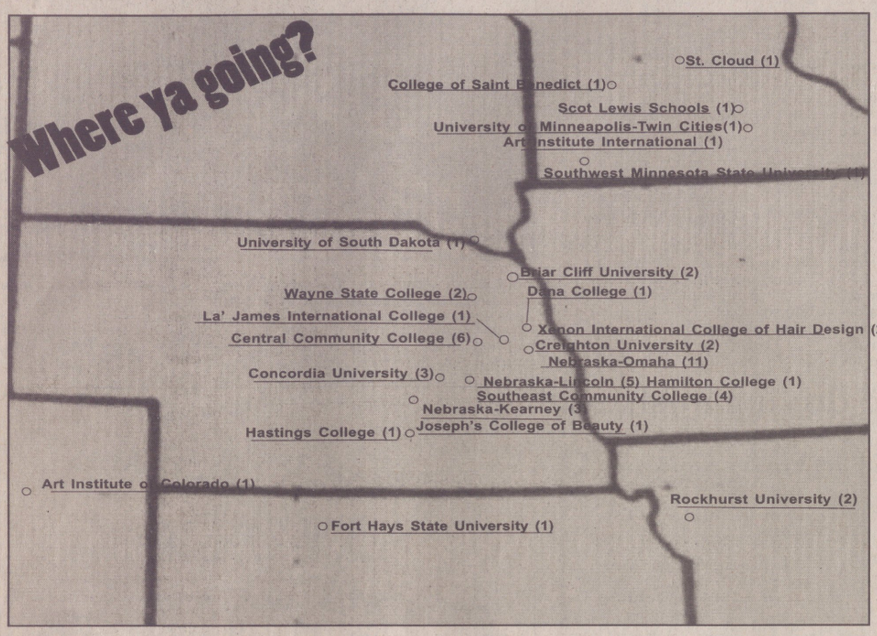


Future Plans*

* Plans subject to change on a whim

Nebraska-Lincoln
Haley Buelt, Sadie Bolte, Greg Niedbalski, Nathan Staroscik, Beth Niedbalski

Nebraska-Omaha
Jessi Ryan, Ashlee Ebel, Amanda Blair, Nicki Van Ackeren, Adam Bergland,Andy Hadland, Tony Korth, Tony Lange, Megan Rosenquist, Pat Schaecher, Kevin Stachura

Nebraska-Kearney
Gene Bichlmeier, Vanessa Engquist, Amy Beiermann

Hamilton College
Alecia Zarek

Rockhurst University
Karla Jarecke, Brittany Williams

Central Community College
Tyler Hahn, Cassie Hall, Bret Lower, Gary Lux, Jessy Stoecklein, John Svatora

Creighton University
Ben Beller, Katie Connolly

Scot Lewis Schools
Cesili Forney

Art Institute of Colorado
Sandra Wemhoff

Minnesota-Twin Cities
Cody Bonk

Minnesota-St. Cloud
Becky Johnson

Concordia University
Ben Bruns, Kayla Engel, Katie Swanson

Southeast Community College
Michaela Engler, Aris Micek, Eric Mulligan, Jeff Olmer

Hastings College
Emilie Powers

Briar Cliff University
John Beauvais, Heidi Sobota

Dana College
Chad Schmeits

University of South Dakota
Rebecca Schademann

Fort Hays State University
Drew Gannon

Joseph's College of Beauty
Tonya Boman

Southwest Minnesota State
Brett Fry

ITT Tech-Omaha
Michael Korger

Xenon International College
Liz Jarecki , Chelsea Reardon

College of Saint Benedict
Steph Hall

Wayne State College
Ann Beiermann, Kyle Mulligan

Nebraska Wesleyan University
Katie Novicki, Crystal Modde

La' James International College
Kylie Kranz

Art Institute International
Elizabeth Otte

Seniors reflect on ups and downs of last six years at Scotus

By Karla Jarecke
Editor

For many seniors, May 23 is a day they have been waiting for ever since they were freshman. They become anxious and find themselves counting down the days as graduation approaches. Everyone experiences this anticipation for summer, but for seniors graduation means freedom and transition into a new phase of their lives.

So how was the whole high school experience? Many seniors said that high school definitely has its ups and downs, but their overall experiences depended on how they dealt with things.

Many of the seniors said they are leaving Scotus with no major regrets from high school. Senior Ben Beller said that high school was great once he discovered who he was and found a group of friends he fit in with. His advice to the underclassmen would be to always try your hardest and not let failure get you down.

"You have to try hard in school because you have to be concerned about your future," he said. "Don't accept that you're never going to do good, and just give up."

Senior Megan Rosenquist also said the it is important to do your very best, and not just get by doing the bare minimum.

"If I were to start high school again, I would work harder outside of school and sports to become a better student and athlete," Rosenquist said. "If you really want something, you must put forth the effort so you don't have any regrets when it's all over."

Although Rosenquist thought it was important to do well in school, she also said it was important not to stress out about things.

Senior Amanda Blair is just one of the many who said there is more to high school than studying, and too much time spent on homework can take away from the social aspect of high school.

"Students sometimes forget there is more to life than grades," Blair said. "People need to have fun and not worry about school so much."

Senior Haley Buelt agreed high school is meant to be fun and at the same time prepare you for your future. There needs to be a balance between schoolwork and outside activities.

"Try to balance fun and school," Buelt said. "You will be missing out if you do one and not the other."

Buelt also said it is important to be friends with everyone and to bond as a class.

"Our class never really bonded from the beginning," Buelt said, "and that is something I wish could have been different."

Seniors agreed high school goes quickly, and the time we have should not be wasted. They said high school is a chance to figure out our interests and talents and to express our individuality. The outlook we have on life will make or break our everyday experiences.

"It [high school] should be a chance to learn while having fun, not stressing out because of grades," Buelt said.

As the seniors count down the final days of high school, some will look back and see lasting friendships and great successes, and others may look back with remorse and regret. The outlook students have will ultimately determine whether they will smile or frown upon their high school experience years from their graduation.

Opinion

Moments over six Scotus years impress upon the mind

By Nate Staroscik
Guest Columnist

Sweat dripped from my brow as I rounded the corner of the last stairwell. I stopped; my head slowly positioned itself at perfect 45-degree angle to look up to the final steps of my destination. The dreaded third floor, I thought to myself. Meticulously, my right foot crept down upon the first step, left foot to follow. "Seventh grade," I sighed. Suddenly I felt a cool breeze across my neck, my whimpering voice squeaked as I strained to dive. I manage to pull my legs to my chest and resume the fetal position as I slid across the finely polished floor.

Looking around I saw clusters of people, people I never met, people I don't want to meet, people that look important, but no people that I knew. Hold on to yourself, I said, but I felt it coming. I stepped back and leaned my backpack against the wall....

I slammed my locker shut, and began strutting down the freshman hallway. I cringed as I heard the bell ring. Late again. All during Spanish my mind kept wondering. It would creep into a Brazilian countryside as I herded wild water buffalo on my majestic white stallion. Wahbam! Suddenly I would be back in Spanish, learning the occasions to use ser and estar. Slowly, Homecoming slid into my thoughts. Who am I going to ask? Who can I ask? Should I ask anybody? All questions that needed answering. This, after all, was my first dance. I had been practicing my dance moves at home. I was getting pretty good until I strained my lower leg doing a sweet 360-jump twist. My mind raced back to Spanish and I noticed my face turning red. Everyone was looking directly at me. I felt cotton in my throat and my back began to slide down my olive green chair. "Well?!" screamed a booming voice from the front of the room. Slowly, my eyes linked with hers. Her stare burned a ring of guilt in me. I felt disowned. A small bead of sweat slid down my neck onto my pressed white polo. Meekly, I asked, "What was the question?" The minute I said it I regretted it. No words were necessary, I was dead meat....

My eyes opened, I had a massive headache. I picked my head from the table. I pulled off a paper that was stuck to my face. A string of saliva followed. As my eyes adjusted, I realized it was just another scholarship form. It was 1:30 in the morning and I still had a stack of eight scholarship applications to fill out. I groaned with obvious agony as I reached for the typewriter. I sat for minutes, just staring off at the wall. Then my attention fell on the TV where they were selling a sweet ladder that you can flip and flop and rotate to make 18 different ladders. It was made with cast platinum titanium alloy, the lightest, strongest metal known to man. Stop, you need to focus, I said to myself. I looked down at the J. B. Doodle Scholarship for young men and women entering secondary education who carry a B average and own snakeskin boots. I pace through the general layout of the form until I reach a blank page. At the top, in small, black text reads "List your accomplishments and achievements."

My what? I had never won state wrestling, never broke the school squatting record, and certainly never read an entire Shakespeare play with out depending on Spark notes. I can't sing, my dancing is disoriented and random, and my fingers fumble through a piano barely enough to poke out *The Simpson's* theme song. I can cook a spectacular grilled cheese sandwich and know a few good jokes, other than that my achievements run pretty bare.

I slid the paper from the typewriter's gentle grasp and began to crumple it up. I thought to myself, I have lived for 18 years and accomplished nothing? Surely I was mistaking. I slotted the paper back into the typewriter and positioned the first line. 'Empathetic friend, honest son, considerate brother, and responsible student. I have always tried to do my best and let nothing hold me back.' No other achievements seemed important. No other goals in life seemed important when compared to these. I climbed out of my wooden chair and crawled into bed. My mind drifted in and out of conscience as I dream of a dragon taking me to a mystical pirate ship where I learn to perform breathtaking magic tricks like David Blane.

Opinion

One year out: College freshman reflects

By Danielle Bernt
Guest Columnist, Fomer Editor

College.

One simple word, a few lessons learned and even more friends made. I can't tell you what to do but I can send you off with more advice than I received...or more so actually listened to.

I didn't think too much about college before I left. I thought about summer, good times, and not leaving C-town without being able to say that we finished it off well. I'm sure some of you seniors are at least a little bit worried about leaving friends you've known since kindergarten. If you are like I was, you might not want to admit it yet. That's normal.

In response to that, despite how close you are to your friends, DO NOT choose a school based on whether or not your friends will be there. In some cases, I understand there is no way around it, and to that I say DO NOT room with your best friends. Part of me wants to call those people cowards, too afraid to put themselves out there. I realize that coming from a school like Scotus that it might be hard for some of you to leave your little groups. Grow up. Scotus is NOT the real world; it's not even the fake world. It's more like a little cubbyhole in society that's a safe environment for kids to not be tested with real-life questions.

Living with friends results in one of two things. One:you will become enemies. Being friends beforehand makes it easier to be blunt...even to the point of a cruel, mental-breakdown-causing comment. Or two: it will seriously hinder your ability to meet new people and will retard your social life. Living with someone you've just met forces you to be social beyond a high school buddy. I'm not saying forget about all the friends you've had. I still talk to mine weekly. What I am saying is build upon that foundation. College gives you the opportunity to meet new people, whether it be from a hick village or a city where drive-bys are not uncommon. It blows my mind when I think about the things that my roommate has taught me that I will never learn in a classroom.

This leads me to my next point. Keep an open mind. You don't have to change your views, but listen and think about where someone is coming from and people will do the same for you. When I first moved to Hastings, people asked where I went to high school. Of course, I said Columbus Scotus. Right off the bat people had this impression of me from the stereotype that Scotus has received...true or not. I had to work twice as hard as say someone from Omaha or even Cedar Rapids to overcome these predetermined opinions. Non-seniors and faculty: face it. You know it's true that Scotus does not have the best reputation. You can blame it on success in sports or maybe you should look closer, within the walls of the building.

I *know* harassment goes on even within the heart of the institution from students and faculty alike. Change this. Reputations are hard to change. It must start within before people without change their opinions.

I'm sure you've all head the Sunscreen songin abundance, so I'm going to sum this up promptly. Don't wait over a week to do dishes- you roomate will hate you; I got lucky. Clean clothes aren't necessary for class. And.. (drum roll).. here's the big one, seniors: don't study too much. College is college. Time management, get it done, go out. Gook luck-- I miss you guys!

Former teachers recall time, lessons of Scotus

By Heidi Sobota
Editor

The Class of 2005 has seen many teachers come and go. Many they will never forget, and some they wish they could forget.

The teachers that left while the Class of 2005 was at Scotus were: Marsha Riley (Adolescent Relationships and Theology), Chris McGill (Study Skills), Brian Fuchser (Theology), Linda Kosch (History), Steve Cozad (English), and Heather Rojas (Spanish).

When asked about the Class of 2005, Cozad said that he especially remembers his sixth period class.

"That was the most fun I had teaching any period of the day," Cozad said. "All the kids in that class were fun people."

Right now Cozad is teaching English at Washington High School in Washington, Kan. He is also the head varsity football coach. He said he enjoys living in Washington because it is a nice, small town.

Cozad left after two years as an English and study skills teacher. He said that Scotus changed him as a person because it was interesting being in a faith-filled environment. Scotus was the first parochial school that he had ever taught in. He also said that he enjoyed teaching with Mrs. Zanardi and Mrs. Schaad.

See ***Teachers,*** *page 4*

Seventh graders reflect on first year at Scotus as it draws to a close

John Beauvais
Editor

More teachers, more homework, more classmates, more troubles. These are things that every seventh grader faces as they first enter Scotus. As the year ends, they have time to look back on their first year at Scotus.

Seventh graders reported mixed feelings about Scotus. One thing some had complaints about was the school's dress code.

"I don't like that we can't wear crocs," seventh grader Amy Pekarek said. "I also don't like how they tell us everything is *gang related*."

Some things, such as the faculty, have gone over well with the seventh graders.

"I like the teachers," seventh grader Kyle Benesch said. "They are really laid back."

Benesch had reservations about some teachers though.

"My least favorite class has to be World Geography," Benesch said. "It's hard to get along with Mr. Puetz."

Sometimes it's the scheduling of classes that cause the discontent.

"I really don't like my study hall," seventh grader Shelby Johnson said. "I really don't like having it 8th period."

Johnson, however, likes some things about Scotus's scheduling.

"I like the half-days," Johnson said. "It's always good when you have no school."

Sometimes school takes a bit more time for some of the seventh graders.

"I really don't like detention," Bensch said. "You can get a detention for almost anything here."

The Scotus schedule cannot accommodate some of the things the seventh graders miss about elementary school. Time for recreation is not abundant at school.

"I miss recess," Pekarek said. "School is just too long."

Most do not regret their decision to go to Scotus.

"I think it's a lot better here than at CMS," Benesch said. "Here we don't have kids beating each other up."

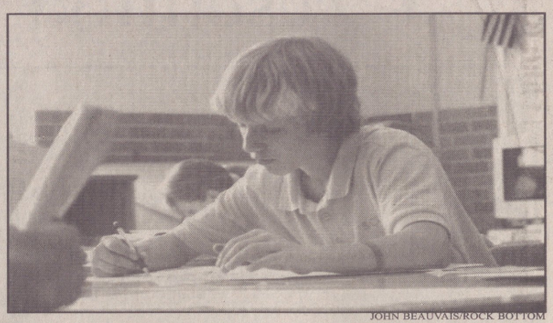
Benesch says that being at Scotus has changed his opinion of the school.

"I like it a lot more now," Benesch said. "Its not so big and scary anymore."

Many of the students are looking forward to eighth grade at Scotus and with good reason.

"I can't wait for next year," Johnson said. "It'll be great not being the youngest."

Though they have been here only a short time at Scotus, they have had time to form a lasting impression of it. They have much time left here and for the next five years, those that stay will have to live with what they have found, both the good and the bad.



JOHN BEAUVAIS/ROCK BOTTOM

Alex Kuta works on his art project. Seventh graders are finishing up their first year at Scotus.

Scotus students no stranger to driving mishaps

Katie Michaelsen
Staff Reporter

It is a known fact that every time people step into their car, they are putting their lives at risk. No matter where one is heading, an accident is waiting to happen.

Forty thousand people a year die from car accidents in the United States. Whether it was due to drugs and alcohol, reckless driving, or not paying attention, the number of deaths keeps taking an increase. So, how can it be solved? It is simple, start by paying attention and avoiding distractions, but most importantly, do not drink and drive.

Driving is a multitasking job for every driver. When people are in their cars, they have a certain task to contend with, such as; adjusting mirrors, having seatbelts on, lights on when dark, keeping distance from other drivers, being aware of your surroundings, and the ability to hear. Without this, people are considered accident-prone.

Columbus has been faced with many deaths ranging in all different ages and with different causes.

Some accidents are as simple as a deer jumping out in front of a car. Junior Michael Gokie said a huge deer jumped out in front of him and demolished the hood, radiator, and windshield. Many times deer accidents can be worse and some have ended in taking the driver's life.

Junior Megan Zuerlein said a handicap grandma thought she could take a left turn on red. Zuerlein had to get a new front bumper and replace her airbags. The good thing though, she said she got a spoiler out of.

Junior Meghann Smith said she has backed into three parked cars with her mom's car, but when she hit an ATM, she had to tell her mom. Smith said her mom was surprisingly not mad.

Accidents, vary in causes and many times it is lack of defensive driving and other times it is no ones fault. It is said many times that when people receive their license, it is a license to kill.

Out of the 44 people asked if they had ever been in an automobile accident, 13 said they have never been involved in an accident, which means 29.5% have been lucky or maybe are just good drivers.

5 Tips to Avoid Auto Accidents

1. Avoid drinking and driving
2. Minimize distractions
3. Maintain your vehicle
4. Avoid aggressive drivers
5. Keep a safe distance between vehicles

Rock Talk

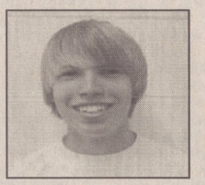
In a super-scientific survey of semi-random Scotus students, we asked ...

What was your most mermorable moment of this school year?

"Our Golf Shirts"
-Junior Andrea Kobus

"Scoring a touchdown as a center."
-8th grader Josh Ryba

"When Evan Schmeits fell over the hurdles many times at the first track meet then got up and finished."
-7th grader Katelyn Kerkman



"Lighting J.P. on fire at Katie Novicki's cabin"
-Senior Nate Staroscik

Teachers: Like students, former teachers move on

from page 3

"Mrs. Z[anardi] and Mrs. Schaad were two of the better English teachers that I've ever taught with," Cozad said.

Brian Fuchser also left last year, after the 2003-2004 school year. He is currently working for *The Catholic Voice*, the Archdiocesan newspaper, in advertising. He also does work as a reporter, writer, and photographer.

Since leaving Scotus last spring he has worked at Bag 'N Save in Omaha before beginning work at *The Catholic Voice*. Fuchser said that teaching at Scotus helped make his faith stronger while being in the Catholic setting.

"I took quite a bit [away from Scotus] actually," Fuchser said. "It helped me to relate to people better and quicker. It made it much easier for me to have the confidence to do that."

The most memorable event for Fuchser was coaching at state soccer his first year.

"It is so much different as a coach," Fuchser said. "(Coach Tonniges) and the seniors just lost it. Sports can create such a bond between people."

Now the Class of 2005 will have to move on just like the teachers that have left during its six years at Scotus Central Catholic.

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2004-2005 Rock Bottom Movie Awards

Best overall movie: *The Notebook*
Other finalists: Dodgeball, Napoleon Dynamite, and Hitch

Funniest movie: *Anchorman*
Other finalists: Napoleon Dynamite and Dodgeball

Scariest movie: *Saw*
Other finalists: The Grudge and Ring 2

Best action movie: *Troy*
Other finalists: The Bourne Sepremacy and The Incredibles

Best chick flick: *The Notebook*
Other finalists: Spanglish and Jersey Girls

Best comic actor: Will Farrel in *Anchorman*
Other finalists: Ben Stiller, John Heder, and Adam Sandler

Best actor: Will Farrel in *Anchorman*
Other finalists: Ryan Goshling, John Heder, and Ben Stiller

Best actress: Rachel McAdams in *The Notebook*
Other finalists: Tina Majorna, Lindsay Lohan, and Halle Berry

Close votes flood ballots

By Karla Jarecke
Editor

The 2004-2005 Movie Awards had some very close races this year. Students voted *The Notebook* for best overall movie edging out *Dodgeball* by two votes. *The Notebook*, which also received best chick flick, is a love story adapted from Nicholas Spark's best-selling novel. Many girls of course went crazy over the romantic story, but boys also admitted to liking the movie.

"Girls are suckers for romantic movies," senior Ashlee Ebel said, "because they want boys to be that romantic to them."

Best action movie was also close this year between *Troy* and *The Incredibles* with *Troy* winning by a single vote. *Troy*, which stars Orlando Bloom and Brad Pitt, tells the story of the passion of two of literature's most notorious lovers, Paris, Prince of Troy and Helen, Queen of Sparta, who ignite a war that will devastate a civilization.

Funniest movie this year was *Anchorman* starring comedic actor Will Farrel beating *Napoleon Dynamite* by three votes.

Past best movies:

2002-2003
The Lord of the Rings: Two Towers

2003-2004
Pirates of the Carribean

Opinion

Effort, responsibility can stop culture of victims, mediocrity

By Nathan Arneal
Adviser

And so it ends.

Looking back on my six years at Scotus, I realize that I have been going here as long as I did to my own school in North Bend. I have now spent more years here than I did in college. I shared my first year here with the current seniors, whom I had in seventh grade P.E. Most of my memories from that class involve me yelling at Tony Korth. Now, Tony and the rest of the seniors and I will be heading out the door together.

I know I learned a lot over those six years, and I hope those in my classes managed to pick up something useful. (Everyone remember how to staple your paper without a staple?) I'll miss the daily dose of Jim Puetz's humor, intentional or not. I'll miss nachos and cheese soup at lunch. I'll miss interacting with the students on a daily basis. I'll miss classes like my fourth-period English 11 class this year. That class has, for the most part, a room full of people who really want to learn and take an active roll in their education, leading to great discussions that in some cases could have gone on for hours. It's probably the closest thing to a college class I've been involved with on the high school level.

Of course, there are parts I won't miss, too. One of those is how we have so many people always trying to make themselves out as a victim. No matter what goes wrong for them, it is never their fault. When they lose, the first thing we hear is how bad the referees/judges/whatever were, followed by a litany of other excuses. What happened to taking responsibility? Sometimes teams just get beat. Sometimes people just don't study, so they fail a test. Sometimes people copy their homework because it saves them 20 minutes, and then end up flunking a course, and it's not the teacher's fault.

For some reason, Scotus has developed two distinct sides of this coin. Since I coach both boys and girls, I get to see both sides. When we are riding home on the bus from a weeknight girls basketball game, almost every seat in the bus will have a flashlight on and homework open; I have never seen that on a boys' bus.

In the summers, open gym will regularly have 20-25 girls there. If someone is not there, everyone knows what their conflict is. Then the boys come in and struggle to get five or six guys. Many times I have seen the alumni at boys' open gym outnumber the high school players. A good portion of these boys can't find their way to the weightroom, either, or when they do show up, they spend more energy trying to look like they're lifting than actually lifting. Then the coaches get blamed when the they don't win many games. Unbelievable. Sure, you may have won some games in junior high, but what have you done to make yourself better since then? Do you honestly bust your butt in the weightroom? Or do you whine and make excuses? Do you spend more time practicing skills or playing video games?

Now I see that several guys who are being counted on to play big roles on the football team next fall aren't getting into the weightroom this spring. No one is forcing them to go, so they so are taking the easy way out and just not showing up. Of course, they have excuses, but the girls are just as busy, and have just as many jobs, and have the same homework, yet they seem to find time to lift and go to open gyms.

I don't want to sound all negative, and there are plenty of boys that are working their tails off to better themselves both in the classroom and on the athletic fields. But the work ethic of the boys in general has got to improve, or we will continue to be mediocre, or worse. Some class out there has got to stand up and say that they will be the ones to return Scotus to the dominance in boys athletics it enjoyed not so long ago. Some class will have to decided that they won't take the easy or fun route. So you may be the biggest or most talented athlete in your class or in the school. Unfortunately, that means nothing, because to win you have to be better than the *other* team.

Everybody wants to be good when the lights are on and the crowd is watching, but what are you doing to prepare yourself for that moment? Too many are just doing the bare minimum. Making excuses. Playing the victim. That has to change.

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Hip, hip, hooray! It's finally May!!!

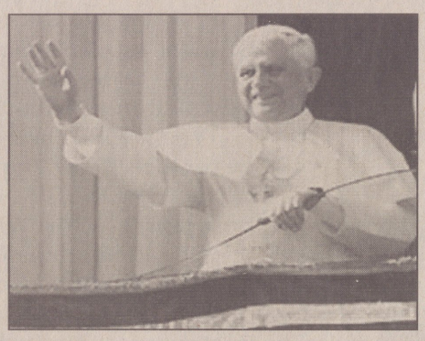
looking back on 04-05

"I prayed to God, 'please don't do this to me.' Evidently, this time He didn't listen to me."

-Pope Benedict XVI on his election

"Instead of being so sad that something comes to an end, you can't forget all the good things that have happened."

-Janet Tooley on state volleyball

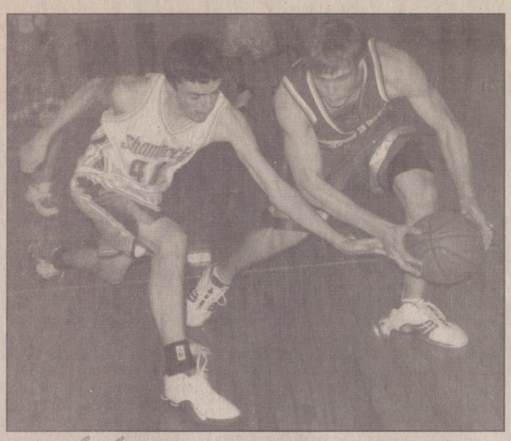


"We all got closer in a way."

-Cesili Forney on the senior retreat

"All you need is a dozen guys or so, and a Frisbee, and you got yourself a good time."

-Shane Reardon on Ultimate Frisbee



"When I first came to Scotus, I was told it would take 10 years to make this band my own. I missed last year, so I guess this year was it."

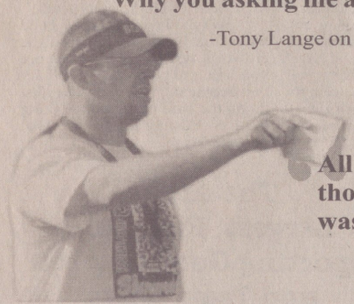
-Kristen Cox on the band's first Superior at District Music

"I don't know nothing about politics. Why you asking me about it?"

-Tony Lange on the 2004 election

"That had to be the biggest disappointment of my life. My mind kept running, but my legs wouldn't."

-Ben Beller on state cross country



"All those hours of practice, and all those hours in the weightroom, it was all worth it."

-Tony Korth on football

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