

SCOTUS CENTRAL ROCK BOTTOM

SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC

COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA 68601

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Full Tank, Empty Wallet

Global events affect gas prices, student's driving

Jake Staroscik
— Editor —

In a generation long before the students of Scotus were even born, it was once possible to purchase a gallon of gas for \$0.53. Unfortunately for the American public, these prices have risen in the last 30 years and skyrocketed in the last three.

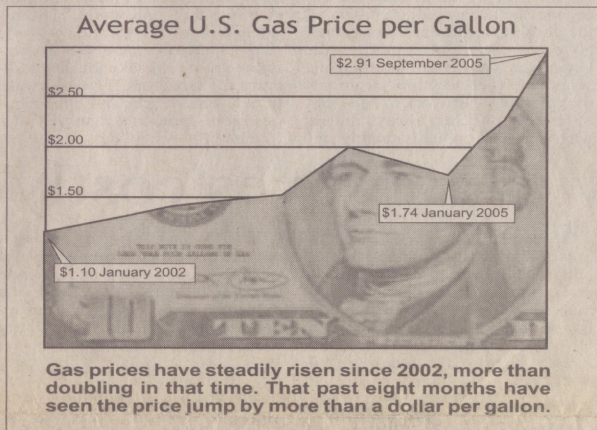
A gallon of gas today will run somewhere in the range of \$2.75, with prices peaking at about \$3.07 per gallon immediately after Hurricane Katrina. This price seems outrageous to many students here at Scotus, including junior Kristin Murray. She said the high cost of gas stinks.

Causes of the sudden increase are far too many to number. Many blame the recent natural disaster in New Orleans caused by the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Others point to inflation due to the lack of insufficient oil supplies. Still others claim that price gouging of OPEC oil restrictions play a major part in the cost. Even junior Rob Baer has his own ideas on the surge.

"The war has a lot to do with it," Baer said, referring to the war on terrorism in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Whatever the reason, high gas prices have played a major role in the lives of students today.

"I have to limit where I go," said Baer. "I used to fill up on Wednesdays, and it would cost me around



\$20 every week. Now it will cost me more."

To some students though, the gas prices have little effect on them.

"Basically the only way these high prices affect me," Murray said, "is that I'll have to ask my parents for more money."

Junior Tom Beller also said he felt little from the price, saying it does not affect him at all.

With gas prices so high, many look to the future as the only relief. However, it may be a dim future as prices are expected to rise or stay the same throughout the course of the year. According to Baer, though,

there are many things the student body can do to help lower the cost.

Carpooling, driving more fuel-efficient cars, getting rides, or walking to short distances are all things he said drivers could do to help alleviate the demand for oil.

Murray, Baer, and Beller all said that the cost has not made them limit the money they spend on other things in order to save for gas. However, experts say that the rise in oil prices could have a major effect of the economy.

This gas crisis might be made easier by just following the sage advice of Murray, "Just drive less."

Nine-period day arrives at Scotus

Sam Zabawa
— Editor —

Homework-packed, lecture-filled, sleep-deprived days seemingly drag on. Add to that before morning and after school practices, games, work, and whatever social life can be squeezed in. How is everything going to get finished? This sums up the life of most every Scotus student. Life is stressful and demanding—so how are nine periods going to help with an added class to an already hectic schedule?

According to Principal, Wayne Morfeld,

the idea was to first of all, allow the students more access to the curriculum. Secondly, to give teachers more time to prepare their classes, especially since their lists of requirements for each year continues to grow. And lastly, to expand the Theology classes to Freshman and Sophomores as an every day class instead of the usual odd/even schedule.

Morfeld was particularly pleased with the final adjustment with the nine-period day.

"I believe Religion should be a core subject in the lives of our students," Morfeld said.

He stated that an extreme amount of planning was put into the change, especially with allowing Speech class, a requirement to graduate from Scotus, to be open to sophomores and juniors. The outlook is positive and hopefully this adjustment will be a permanent change.

"I see nothing but good stuff," Morfeld said at the end of his interview.

Along with Morfeld and his opinion, other people needed to be taken into consideration. Teachers, for example, obviously had an opinion and Mrs. Lahm, a science and theology teacher, more than gladly gave hers. Originally Mrs. Lahm had planned on teaching Theology and was excited for the new change, but when she got switched over to Science, she was somewhat weary on time amounts for accomplishing all requirements as well as preparing for her next classes. Complications

smoothed themselves out and all began to fall into place, according to Lahm. She does like the nine-period days now, especially since she has two planning periods which helps to keep her more organized. Also, she believes the days go by faster and relieves stress.

She, too, was in favor of keeping the new schedule if all stayed on track, but if not there are always other ways to solve issues.

"I'm happy the students seem to have less stress," said Lahm.

Thus far, from the aspects of a well-respected administrator and teacher, all seems to be going well and the positive outlook is definitely not diminishing. However, the students cannot be forgotten and one should wonder how the school days stroll along for them. In the opinion of senior Michael Gokie, he was both excited, but angry about the news of the nine-period day. He felt happy because he thought all students would have an extra study hall, but his fury came when he found he needed to add an extra class.

Gokie was both right and wrong. All students have the option of an extra study hall or two, but they may also have extra classes with no study hall, if they choose. The school days are much slower now, but the opportunity for extra classes is a perk, according to Gokie.

"It would be a good idea for this change to continue because it gives people a better opportunity to let them take more classes they want," stated Gokie.

The general opinion seems to favor the nine-period change for one reason or another. After the chaos of schedules shuffling and unorganized lives, the hope is for the nine-period day to help relieve a good portion of the stress and help the students, teachers, and administrators live happier, energetic lives. Every person has his/her own opinion, but for the time being, adaption to the schedule will be important because the trial stage will last for two years and if all cooperate, the hectic, messy lives will straighten themselves out eventually.

I'M HAPPY THAT THE STUDENTS SEEM TO HAVE LESS STRESS.
— JOAN LAHM

Seventh graders bond at retreat

Event eases transition into junior and senior high school, provides fun setting to meet, get to know classmates



Fr. Jeff Loeske says Mass at the seventh grade retreat. Before Mass, he explained the meaning of his vestments he wears.

Chelsea Bartholomew
— Staff Reporter —

On September seventh, the mood of the seventh grade class could not have been clearer. An electric buzz of both excitement and nervousness filled the air. Only one thing could be the cause of it all — the seventh grade retreat was that day.

This retreat is quite possibly the second most important (only to senior year) of all the retreats. School has only just started and not everyone knows each other yet. Even if they do, unless they went to the same elementary school, they probably do not know each other that well. This retreat, all seventh graders interviewed agreed, was an im-

portant bonding experience with their classmates that has left each one excited for the rest of the year.

These new students took part in many activities throughout the afternoon, led by Campus Minister Father Jeff Loseke. They had a scavenger hunt, lifted up their classmates and passed those classmates around on their backs, decoded words, made up short plays to express their opinions about Jesus, and just talked about Scotus in general. The overall favorite activity of those interviewed seems to have been 'the zipper.'

"I wish we could've done it longer," said Rebecca Hall.

The retreat ended, as it always does, with Mass. While the students were preparing themselves for this, Loeske explained to them what all of the different pieces of the vestments he wears to celebrate the Mass meant, making the afternoon not only a bonding experience, but an educational one as well. The Mass opened with the song "Blessed Be."

In closing, Fr. Jeff Loeske said that the seventh grade retreat is a great way to come together as a class and have some fun in the context of faith. It is a way for them to focus themselves on God in the midst of all the changes they are experiencing.

A bazaar day at Isidore's



Freshman Craig Pekarek plays a joke on senior Joe Hanus. Hanus worked at the bazaar for service hours.



JAKE STAROSCIK/ROCK BOTTOM



JAKE STAROSCIK/ROCK BOTTOM

Above, senior Brian Miksch snacks on nachos at the bazaar.

At left, eighth grader Trace Murray shot a basketball during a game at the bazaar. He made the shot.

Dive into something new, you just might like it



BOYS

Anna
Boeding
I mean business

It's amazing how much one little choice can change your life. One tiny, seemingly insignificant choice that you make today could change where you end up years down the

road. Take me for instance. When I was in fourth grade I decided to join the YMCA swim team, not because I liked swimming, but because my totally awesome older sister was in it. I know, excellent basis for a decision that would end up shaping how I am today. The more I swam the more I realized that swimming had become a bit more than just a hobby for me. It was practically my life.

The summer before seventh grade I started swimming in the off-season to keep in shape. One thing led to another. Now I teach swim

lessons, lifeguard, swim on the Columbus High Swim team, the YMCA swim team and still take

One tiny choice that you make today could change where you end up years down the road.

time out for leisure swimming. With all this time I spend in the pool I will probably smell like chlorine for the rest of my life. For those of you

who know me you know that swimming is more than likely part of my genetic makeup. My mom is waiting for me to grow gills any day now.

This swimming passion I've discovered brings me to wondering, where would I be if I had not joined that team eight years ago? I would have had to do something to fill up a mammoth-sized void in my life. This brings me back to the point that I was trying to make earlier: you should give new things a try, whether it is a sport, learning to play a musical instrument, knitting, or a

new class – take the plunge! You will never know what you like until you try it.

I have a challenge for you: dive into something new. If you find someone is "copying" you and your interests, try not to jump to conclusions. Perhaps the reason they tried this was because you inspired them.

So remember, in searching for a hobby or activity to fill your void, try something new, something out of the ordinary. Don't be tempted to brush something off as "not your thing" until you have tried it. I dare you to grow some gills with me.

Senior year offers up new experiences



BOYS

Sam
Zabawa
Holy Helicopter

Walking down senior hallway on the first day of orientation, I am met by a locked door to the Little Theatre for my first meeting as a senior, along with fifteen other students. Some of the more vocal guys in my class decided they needed to express their emotions with clearly enunciated words that left the rest of us with a lesson to be taught.

We were all late by three minutes and were shocked to find our-

selves in this predicament. Nothing like this had ever happened before.

Though we were upset, we needed to realize this incident was to show us we had to learn responsibility. Promptness was key that day, as it will be down the road in our future college courses, jobs, and so on. Though orientation seemed endlessly long, it was jam-packed with fruitful information that will challenge our minds, harvesting our knowledge to prepare us for our future. It was then that it kicked in, for most of us, this would be our last orientation together... forever.

Many people would say who cares, but as a senior every minute detail or activity hits home a little more each time. To me, I still do not feel like I'm a senior. The change just seems to be that there

are no more upper classmen—I'm at the top. For others though, they feel their senior place already and love the superiority.

While all students have unique talents and abilities, the senior class of 2006 is different than many classes here.

Most people find their groups and cliques before graduation, but our class gets along well with everyone and accepts all members as they are. Overall our class is creative, energetic, and alongside with having fun, we are serious about our schoolwork. Everything from senior pictures to artwork to concepts of fashion, our class always finds a way to express our individuality and

style that not all of us understand but are always open-minded and accepting.

With an outlook on our last year together, many have said they will be sad and unhappy to leave their friends. But then again, you have those who are excited to be college-

bound as they are ready to be independent, free from petty drama, and more than willing to take that next step into the "real world." I definitely fall into the second category.

Yes, I have my memories to cherish and more to make this last year, but at the same time, I look forward to new experiences and opportunities more appealing than that of a routine high school day.

So in short, our class will have a year filled with fun creative events, like dances, senior retreat, and graduation, but with that a challenge in our schoolwork and college preparations.

We will conclude our year in May with tears and good-byes, as well as a final farewell to our childhood years. Yet, at the same time, we will be opening doors to a new chapter in our lives. We cannot be late at what life has to offer.

As for now, the Class of 2006 will definitely make our last year an unforgettable moment in time with new memories, ambitions, and aspiring assets to the world beyond Scotus. Good Luck to the senior class of 2006 and make your senior year worth 13 years of accomplishments and pride!

An experiment of my own proves costly to my dog



GIRLS

Jake
Staroscik
Can't touch this

(Now before I get started with explaining to you the ambitions of my free time. I would first like to point out to you that I am not normally such a boastful type of person. There are however, certain circumstances, unavoidable of course, that force me to be less than humble. So for the purpose of this column I ask that you refrain from harsh judgement. Doing so would be greatly appreciated.)

One day this summer while I was alone in my house eating various fruits, a wonderful impulse came upon me. Normally I do not immediately react on such impulses, but this one caused a stir deep within my soul. So after finishing my fruit, and discarding of my apple core, ba-

nana peel, peach pit, and orange peels I made my way to the stove for some cooking. This is something that comes naturally to me; I have a lot of raw talent. I put my raw talent to use by first preparing some

mostaccioli pasta in boiling water. With this difficult task on its way to completion, I poured myself a glass of milk and drank it.

With my mostaccioli nearly done, I had to think of something delicious with which to smother them with flavor. This is where my knack of creative cooking kicks in. I like cheese, I thought to myself, and I like mushrooms, too. So I opened up a can of mushrooms and sliced up about a half brick of Velveeta cheese. With this my cheesy sauce was well on its way to the glory I had imagined in my dreams.

Since I like the taste of fat so much, I threw in a whole stick of butter. To most people the caloric intake on this would be far too much. Fortunately for me though, I happen to be a 140-pound football

player and I need all the fat I can get. I added salt, pepper, and oregano. Not a lot baby girl, just a little bit of each, and then topped it off with a bit of milk.

Now my gourmet masterpiece was ready for my consumption. I had made this mouth-watering dish with the sole purpose of eating it in the stillness of a quiet home all by myself and not having to share any of it. However, the assortment of fruit I had recently eaten put quite a strain on my appetite. I tried to eat a little of my great creation, but could not get it all down. It was delicious of course, but I was too full. But what to do with the leftovers?

To be honest, I did not know what to do with the remains. No one else was home to eat it, so I just left

it there for a while before I thought of what to do. Not wanting to waste it I had to find a solution. Someone that would not make too harsh of a judgement on its taste, a willing appetite that would eat it no matter what, leaving criticism to the wayside.

All of a sudden my ears were startled by a soft clicking noise. I turned to look and there was my dog. A tiny little underfed runt. Her eyes were deeply sunken and her head had drooped down as she ambled into the kitchen. I could see her ribs through her skin and fur. As soon as she caught scent of the incredible aroma from my pasta, her eyes lit up and her little tail began to wag. I was overwhelmed with pity and had no choice but to give it to her. All of it.

As soon as the first bit of mostaccioli hit her doggie bowl she was on top of it. I had to pull her away just so I could finish pouring it into her dish. She then proceeded inhaling it. She did not stop to breathe or even to swallow which I still find amazing to this day.

This instant consumption gave me a sense of hope for my future in

the cooking world. I had a brief vision of me cooking live, primetime, on Food Network. "Stars' Cooking for Their Dogs." I knew it was good, she confirmed it was great.

Was it wrong for me to have a dog judge the taste of something? Yes, it probably was. Why? Because my dog was sick the following day. The voracious eating wore her out. She slept the entire day and when she did wake up she spent most of her time sulking around the house, walking slower than usual.

My dad, noticed her behaving out-of-the ordinary and attributed it to her scavenging around the yard again. He asked me if I had any idea what was wrong with her, but I just shook my head and held a silent giggle in my stomach.

I haven't cooked since then, not because I don't want to get anyone sick. More so because I have not been able to look at a pile of cheesy noodles without picturing my dog reversing it onto the carpet. It was an unfortunate end to my blossoming career in cooking. Or perhaps not, I am feeling that impulse again. Dinner anyone? Cheesy pasta? I'll cook.

Normally I do not immediately react on such impulses but, this one caused a stir deep within my soul.

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Seniors Katie Klimes, far left, Amberle Zuerlein, second from right, and two of their new friends strike a pose with a young boy from Kid's Club.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMBERLE ZUERLEIN AND KATIE WOZNY

Seniors Zeph Swope, Michael Gokie, junior Lauren Schumacher, and other youth from the mission trip play an intense game of lacrosse. Lacrosse is an ancient Native American sport originally played for entertainment, physical conditioning as well as a religious celebration.



On a MISSION

Some Scotus students head to Minnesota while others head to St. Louis to lend a helping hand

Kellie Johnson
— Staff Reporter —

United States to provide assistance for people who are not as fortunate as we are.

Junior Lauren Schumacher, who went to Red Lake, said, "It made me thankful that my parents were good influences on me."

In Red Lake teams were assigned to paint houses one day and the next play with the children at Kid's Club, which is a summer-long Bible school. While in St. Louis the groups cleaned up parks that were completely trashed with glass and other debris. Even though the park was dirty, children still played in it everyday.

"It made me thankful for clean playing grounds," said Lahm. These trips made students, as well as adults, thankful for what they have.

During this past summer many Scotus students as well as adults devoted six days of their lives to help communities who have faced poverty and unemployment. Some went to Red Lake Nation in Minnesota and others went to St. Louis, Mo.

Science teacher Joan Lahm, who accompanied a group, said that her trip to St. Louis "was a new and spiritual experience, which is hard to understand until you experience it yourself."

For these six days the students and adults teamed up with other youth groups from around the

“IT MADE ME THANKFUL THAT MY PARENTS WERE GOOD INFLUENCES ON ME

— LAUREN SCHUMACHER



Senior Zeph Swope and a Youth Works staff member proudly displays a giant fish from Red Lake. Incidentally, Swope did not catch the fish.



Junior Lauren Schumacher hugs her new friend from Kid's Club.



Amberle Zuerlein takes time from playing with a girl from Kid's Club.

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Rich & Donette Jablonski

New teachers bring enthusiasm to Scotus

Katie Michaelsen
Editor

As a new string of teachers come in, students learn a little more about them. The new teachers include: Mrs. Angie Rusher, Mrs. Carrie Smoots, Mr. Jeff Ohnoutka, and Mr. Troy Shively. These teachers after being at Scotus for a month can already tell a difference in Scotus compared to other schools, but for one teacher, they have already been here as a student.

Mrs. Rusher a 1995 Scotus graduate said that since she left, 16 of the teachers here now were here when she was a student at Scotus. Rusher participated in volleyball, basketball, and track as a Scotus student. Rusher attended Hastings College where she played volleyball for three years, then helped coach two years.

Rusher said she moved back to Columbus to be somewhere where she and her family could stay awhile and be close to family.

For the past five years of being a teacher, Rusher has taught at Salina South High (Public) School in Kansas. She was an English teacher, taught P.E., and was a volleyball coach at Salina South High School.

After having taught both English and P.E., Rusher said, "I enjoy English class more with the themes and topics you get to discuss."

In Kansas, Rusher's school consisted of about 1,200 students. After asked how other schools compare to Scotus, Rusher said that there is less discipline in other schools and because they are bigger, it is harder to get a sense of family.

Rusher's goal is to get her masters degree and continue to raise her family and stay in Columbus for a few years.

"I am really excited to incorporate faith and religion into the English curriculum," Rusher said.

Rusher's final thought was: "When moving back, you never know what to expect. It has been better than what I dreamed of. My former teachers treat me as an adult and I feel privileged to work with them."

Ohnoutka, on the other hand, has never been to Scotus. Ohnoutka said he came to Scotus because it has an excellent reputation as a Catholic school.

Ohnoutka has been a teacher for 12 years but for the past seven years he has been teaching at Hartington



KATIE MICHAELSEN/ROCK BOTTOM

Newcomer Jeff Ohnoutka fills the void at the front of Mr. Mahoney's old classroom. Ohnoutka, who taught at Hartington Cedar Catholic last year, took over as the geography and junior theology teacher.

Cedar Catholic as a social studies teacher, head boys basketball and track coach, and assistant football coach. Ohnoutka said he teaches what he teaches because he has always enjoyed the social sciences and really enjoys history.

As a student Ohnoutka said he loved sports and played just about everything. Now he enjoys playing golf and watching his children's activities.

When Ohnoutka arrived at Scotus he noticed that the teachers and students have a great deal of pride in Scotus.

"There's no comparison to Scotus," Ohnoutka said, "It's the best."

Ohnoutka hopes to help continue the tradition of developing young adults who are strong in their faith and role models for the next generation. He believes that students of today are ready for college.

"The only problem I see, is the development in writing skills," Ohnoutka said. "Schools are working hard on this."

Mr. Shively also a 1995 graduate as is Mrs. Rusher, came from Spencer, Iowa where he at-

tended Spencer High School. Shively participated in football and played a little basketball.

After high school, Shively played football at the University of South Dakota. Shively said he became interested in being a Spanish teacher since his high school Spanish teacher was

"I'd like to be a better teacher," Shively said, "and find where student enthusiasm is."

Mrs. Smoots came to Scotus in fact last year, but as a student teacher. As a high school student, Smoots did not participate in any sports due to traveling 25 miles a day to school, so the distance was prohibitive.

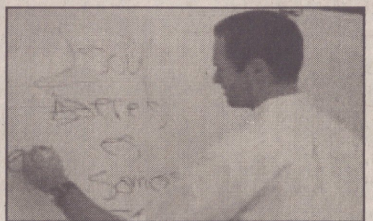
Smoots who attended the University of Nebraska at Kearney was a traditional college student and was working full-time while taking classes. Smoots earned a bachelor's degree and then attended the College of Saint Mary's in Omaha where she got her teaching certificate.

Before coming to Scotus, Smoots said she previously worked at Archer Daniels Midlands for seven years and then decided to pursue her teaching degree. Smoots wanted to teach because she wanted a career change. Smoots had taught computer classes at Platte College part time and the more she did it, the more she liked it.

Smoots said, "I enjoy teaching computer classes because everyday you learn something new."

Smoots said she likes the challenge of learning new programs and being able to teach others what she knows.

Because this is her first year



KATIE MICHAELSEN/ROCK BOTTOM

Spanish teacher Troy Shively instructs his students on Spanish verbs.



KATIE MICHAELSEN/ROCK BOTTOM

Angie Rusher begins her first year as an English teacher at Scotus. Rusher is a '95 graduate of Scotus.



SAM ZABAWA/ROCK BOTTOM

Carrie Smoots starts her first year at Scotus as a full time teacher. Smoots was a student teacher and substitute last year at Scotus.

as a teacher, Smoots cannot compare other schools to Scotus.

Smoots said, "Scotus has a good reputation for focusing on academic excellence."

As Smoots first arrived at Scotus, she said teachers and staff were very helpful, professional, and enthusiastic. While Smoots is here, she said she wants to continue pursuing the academic excellence that Scotus is noted for.

Smoots said, "I would like to build a reputation for myself as a firm and fair teacher."

New motto springs excitement

Katie Wozny
Staff Reporter

Sophomore Sam Wemhoff and three other 2005 Christian Leadership Institute graduates were asked to think of a theme for this school year. After a few minutes of thought, Wemhoff suggested focusing it on the death and resurrection of Christ.

Campus Minister Fr. Jeff Loseke said, "after Sam suggested this I was immediately sold and was struck with this idea."

The goal of the motto is dual. The first is to help students sort

through their hectic lifestyles, in essence to die to oneself and rise with Christ and secondly to emphasize the school's Catholicism.

The theology classes and Campus Ministry are taking steps to help students deepen their catholic faith.

The plan to establish the motto is to have each student write down what they are going to die to on a piece of paper and then fold the paper. After that the papers will be collected and put in a visible spot. This will allow the students to have a visual reminder that we all need to die to ourselves.

Junior Jennifer Fisher said "I want to die to my low self esteem and to start being more confident that I can study for a test and do well on it."

The motto is intended to help people sort through their lives, given everyone's hectic lifestyles.

"Everytime we mess up we need to die to ourselves," Loseke said, "our selfishness and our temptations."

"We will be promoting an environment where God is seen and welcome," Loseke said.

Campus Ministry is looking to be a lot more active than last year by promoting the motto with the elected students from the Core Team to be leaders taking ownership over it.

“DIE TO SELF, RISE TO CHRIST.”

JC Camp is a holy experience

Billy Kurtenbach
Editor

JC Camp, short for Jesus Christ Camp, is an annual event that many current and former Scotus students have attended. This year's Camp took place in June and was held at Tintern Recreational Center located near Neligh. Every year, John Beller, director of the camp, takes a weekend out of his busy schedule to bring young adults closer to God. Beller presents the camp with an entourage of former campers who are asked by him to come back as leaders.

Many who attended would agree they decided to go because their friends were going, or to get out of the house. Everyone expected the camp to be four days of speeches leaving little time for fun. Beller put as much pizzazz in his seminars as possible, keeping everyone's attention.

The food was excellent, because of one special addition to the staff this year: Melody Brunken. A member of the Scotus cafeteria staff, she joined the camp as a chef. Delicious food was served all four days, with plenty of healthy snacks to go along.

A typical Saturday at camp begins with inspirational talks in the morning and early afternoon. This is followed by outdoor activities. Once outside shaving cream pies are set out. Everyone takes off to get a pie and a victim. Then campers run over the sand volleyball court, which is drenched with water. A mud fight breaks out and does not stop until the counselors are forced to step in.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMIE TOOLEY

Freshmen enjoy their weekend at JC Camp. JC Camp was held in June.

The playful mood changes at the nighttime campfire. This is the time everyone gives his or her final testimonies. It is a very somber time because everyone is reflecting on how much closer they have become to God and other people. The tone sets the stage for the next day.

On Sunday everyone's emotions are running full speed. Beller is a regular sofie that day and this year was no different. When his tears started flowing, no one could hold back because this camp changed students' hearts by revealing to them how great God is and how easy it is to get along with others.

When asked if she would attend JC Camp again, freshman Macey Fuhr replied, "I would love to go back to JC Camp because it was great the first time. It would be amazing to help John bring campers closer to God."

For all eighth graders interested in JC camp, Beller will come by school in May with information.




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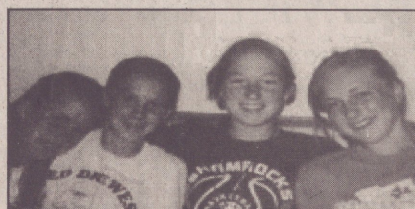


PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMIE TOOLEY

Senior Jamie Tooley poses with freshmen at JC Camp. From left to right: Sara Baer, Macey Fuhr, Jamie Tooley, and Katie Beiermann.

Rock Bottom Review

Brothers Grimm disappoints viewers

Chelsea Bartholomew
— Staff Reporter —

In the corner of a small wooden cottage, a young girl lies coughing. Her mother sits nearby, attempting to soothe her, and her brother glowers impatiently by the door. Their other brother, it appears, has been sent out to sell the family cow for money. Suddenly, he returns and shows the family not money, but beans. 'Magic' beans.

Now forget this ever happened. It apparently has no relevance whatsoever to the rest of the plot. That should give you a pretty good idea of much of the movie.

This movie, *The Brothers Grimm*, portrays brothers William and Jacob Grimm as traveling con artists. They and two associates travel from town to town in search of quote-unquote monsters to be slain. Though they work together, the brothers seem to be after entirely different things. Jacob wants to write a great book of fairytales, and Will just seems to want easy money. A glance at their personalities doesn't make it difficult to see why. Jacob is a dreamer and idealist, whilst Will remains firmly down to earth, scoffing, for example, at that book of folktales and legends Jacob is forever editing.

One night, after a hard day's conning, Will and Jacob are

captured by the French army, which is occupying their native Germany. An officer with, for some reason, an unintelligible Italian accent

spends the next scene barking orders at them.

The basic gist of it all seems to be that the brothers are to go to a village called Marbaden and try to get to the bottom of an epidemic of missing girls.

(Maybe this is the elusive plot?)

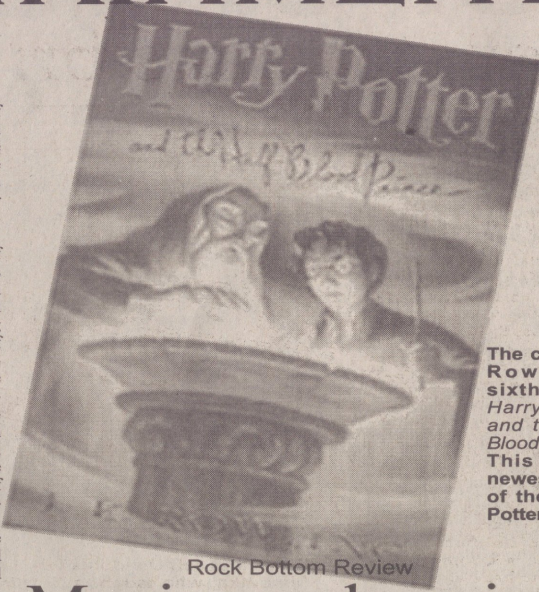
So, being swayed by the alternative of a torturous death at the hands of the French army, they head to Marbaden, the officer and several of his men in close pursuit. There they meet Angelica, referred to as the 'Cursed One' by her fellow villagers. Jacob is almost immediately taken with her. Enter that old friend everyone loves to hate, Mr. Movie Cliché. Trite romance.

Hey, trite romance just blossomed in a b o u t two seconds! I

glanced around the theater to see if anyone was as bored as me; a scan of the audience reveals that maybe the only thing they find redeemable about this movie is their tub of popcorn.

The rest of the movie is centered on trying to find the missing girls (two of whom are revealed to be Angelica's sisters), with gratuitous fairytale allusions thrown in. If you get bored with the plot, you can always play a rousing game of 'spot-the-references.' Most of them seem to only have been inserted for such a purpose anyway. The only thing worth paying more than passing attention to is a legend about a beautiful queen living—and dying—in a tower.

Of course, the movie was not all that bad. Most of the acting itself was solid, and the relationship between Jacob and Will, especially, was well-done and believable. The music carried the audience through most of the scenes, as did the setting. To be perfectly honest, the only thing that sank this movie was the plot. In the hands of another writer, it could have been so much better. Perhaps that is the most disappointing aspect of *The Brothers Grimm*—the latent unfulfilled potential. Save your money and wait to rent it. The magic fizzled up and dissipated in this one.



The cover of Rowling's sixth book, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*. This is the newest book of the Harry Potter series.

Rock Bottom Review

Magic sparks minds of avid Potter fans
Rowling's Sixth book of series presents popular interests.

Nicole Sobotka

— Editor-in-Chief —

Action! Mystery! Romance!

The latest installment to the Harry Potter series does not disappoint. 652 pages fly by faster than Harry's firebolt.

Here is a quick recap of the previous books for those of you who are not faithful Harry Potter readers. Harry is a wizard orphan whose parents were killed by the evil wizard Lord Voldemort. Harry is the only person who ever survived the curse that killed his parents and many others. All he got was a scar. Harry discovered he was a wizard, went to Hogwarts, and faced Voldemort some way or another in every book, and defeated him every time. Harry finds out he has a godfather, but sadly, Sirius is killed in the fifth book.

Following the pattern of her last two books, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* is an amazing read. It is a testimony to J.K. Rowling's ability that she has not lost steam after five books. There is always something new and different to keep the readers hooked.

The books have become more mature and a little darker as the series goes along, and this book is no different. Harry, Hermione, and

Ron are dealing with typical teenage romance, filled with high emotions and love triangles. Harry, in particular, deals with more emotional and psychological trauma from his meetings with Voldemort.

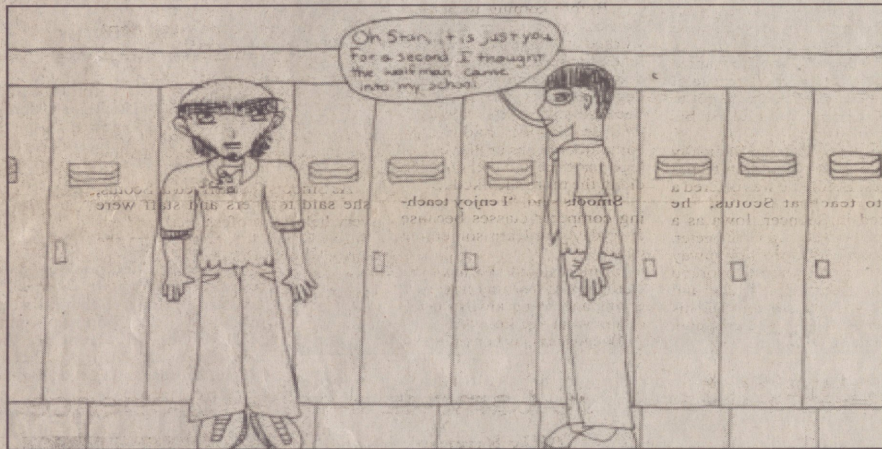
The theme of this book takes everyone back to the beginning; it's very simple. It's all about the triumph of good over evil and Harry's understanding of Voldemort's particular type of evil.

J.K. Rowling is a gifted writer because she understands her readers. She knows what they will like and gives it to them with a twist. It is because of this that her series is so popular. She has made it so that when people, young and old, read the book, the outside world falls away. The readers are rooting for Harry and feeling angry at one of his professors, Snape. They cheer Harry on during Quidditch (a game played on broomsticks) and cry when someone dies. Harry Potter and his friends have become family to some of their readers.

I recommend this book for anyone because of its appealing content and interesting writing style.

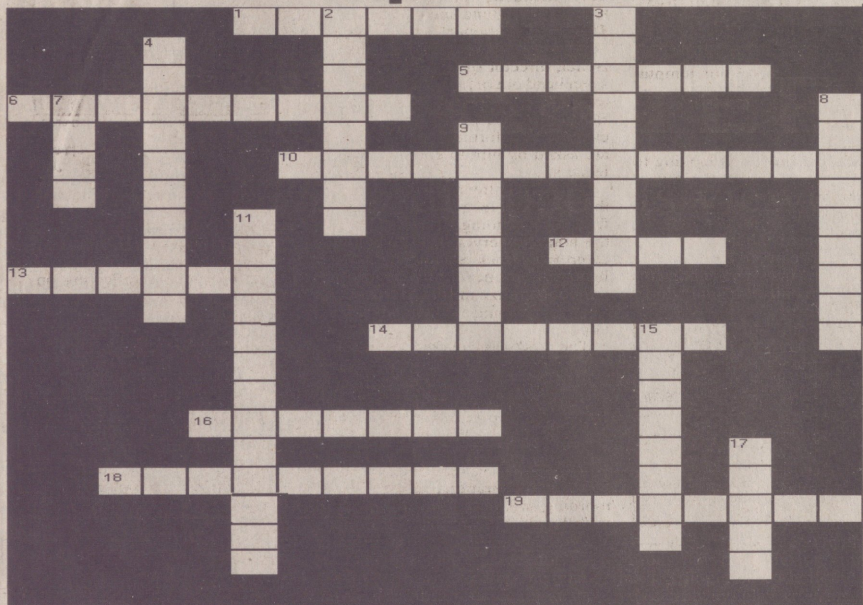
Take these books for what they are: a fictional story not to be taken seriously or reproduced in real life. They are strictly entertaining.

CARTOON BY ASHLEY KUTA



SCOTUS + WORD

By: Jake Staroscik



Random Words of Thought

- ACROSS**
1. Math teacher who surprised students with new facial hair
 5. Writes Goosebumps, a series of scary books for kids
 6. Everyone's favorite biology teacher; known for his enthusiasm and awesome bug collection
 10. The football team's most recent home victory
 12. Its chemical symbol is Au
 13. Scientific term for the amount of space something takes up
 14. A person from Britain's capital

- DOWN**
2. A high school in North Columbus
 3. Main character in *The Land Before Time*
 4. New religion and geography teacher
 7. Movie about how anyone can
 16. 35th President of the USA, assassinated on November 22, 1963
 18. A great place to camp, fish, and boat, located north of Columbus
 19. Small freshwater fish, named for color of its gills

- play on the Notre Dame through hard work and determination
8. His resume includes: junior high football coach, chess club instructor, physics, calculus, and theology teacher
9. Lincoln native, head football coach of Wyoming
11. Song from the *Rocky* series, title deals with an animal's eye
15. Name for the driver of a locomotive
17. Russia's largest neighbor to the South

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Bill Kurtenbach
NEXT TO THE PLATE

World of sports taken over by steroid users

Anybody got a needle? Here in the 21st century so much has changed in the world of sports, most notoriously baseball. Athletes feel the urge to up their game by taking illegal supplements so they can crank out those homers. But what ever happened to the game of small ball? It is amazing how rarely we see the suicide squeeze in today's games. Babe Ruth never had the chance to use steroids, and if he could hit 60 home runs in a shorter season than they play now, what

Babe Ruth never had the chance to use steroids and he still hit 60 home runs.

could he do in a full season with steroids?

Recently, possible future Hall of Famer Rafael Palmeiro tested positive for steroids. He is the most notable player to be caught using steroids since the government stepped in on Major League Baseball's action to start cracking down on steroid use. The positive test came in just a couple weeks after he recorded his monumental 3,000th hit, becoming only the 26th player in history to do so. Now everything that he accomplished throughout his career is questioned. Not only has baseball changed, but also almost every other major sport has seen an altering of the style of play because of the discovery of a new playing tactic or more competitive players.

The NFL has random drug screening for its players, testing for illegal drug and steroid use. But in football, college or professional, the style of play is changing because of the forward pass. Sure you cannot win without a good running back, but a solid signal caller is on most teams' minds when the draft rolls around. More and more teams are moving to the West Coast Offense, including the former master of the option the Nebraska Cornhuskers.

We should pay homage to the fellows in the committee that legalized the forward pass way back in 1906, especially because this coming January 12th is the 100th birthday for the pass. Without their idea making it legal for the ball to be thrown across the line of scrimmage, we would have limited game changing plays. Game winning Hail Mary's would not exist. Gerard Phelan would not have made a spectacular catch from Doug Flutie to beat Miami. This is one of many very memorable plays in football history. Even girls' sports, such as volleyball, have changed.

Girls' sports are becoming more and more competitive and their level of skill is continually increasing as new techniques are being founded and old techniques are being improved. Steroid use is not as common in women's sports, but it is still there. In years past, Scotus has always been a step ahead of its competition, but as shown by last year's heartbreaking defeat in the state finals, the competition is getting better by the day. At the collegiate level, Nebraska is a hot spot for volleyball. The Cornhuskers are now 11-0 with wins coming against the number three, four and five national teams.

Basketball has never had problems with steroids, but they have enough problems with their players jumping into the crowd, assaulting fans, and then trying to rap about it.

Track and field seems to attract steroid users by the baker's dozen. Since it is an individual sport these athletes cannot rely on others to help them win; they have to be at 100 percent every time they perform. In effect, these athletes are looking for ways to get their game to the top all the time. Steroids can help athletes perform in either power events or running events.

For the sprint, athletes use steroids to manipulate their bodies which make you run at top speeds. Long distance runners are being tested for blood doping. Blood doping is when athletes increase the

See Kurtenbach, next column

Cross Country off to fast start



NIKKI SOBOTKA/ROCK BOTTOM

Junior Brent Albracht, right, and sophomore Ethan Schraecher, left, run toward the inish line in the Scotus Invite on Sept. 16. The two runners helped the boys' team to a runner-up finish.

Nikki Sobotka

— Editor-in-Chief —

Success, that is what comes to mind after last year's cross country season. The boys' and girls' teams competed hard and competed well.

In every meet but three, including the state meet, the boys finished in the top three during last year's season. By placing sixth at state, the boys can boast the highest place of a boy's team ever at Scotus. With eight senior girls to lead the team, the girls carried on their tradition of victory and placed below first at only one meet.

This year's runners on the boys' team includes seniors Kyle Clarey, Cole Seckel, Zeph Swope, Clint Torczon, and Austin Zach, and juniors Brent Albrecht, Tom Beller, Lance Schmidt, Ryan Rosenquist, Danny Johnson, and Josh Otte. Sophomores Cody Bruns, Kip Kudron, and Ethan Schraecher run on the team, as well as freshmen Mitchell Kwapnioski, Nick Raimondo, Luke Olmer, and Adam Niedbalski.

On the girls' team are seniors Kelly Ingram, Michelle Moore, and Melissa Steiner, along with juniors Kelsey Beiermann, Michaela Duffy,

Jennifer Fisher, and Katie Michaelson. Only two sophomores, Rachel Smith and Tiffany Spies, run for the girls.

Both teams started out well this season at their first meet in Albion on September 2nd. The boys' team ran hard and finished second out of 12 teams. Torczon and Swope finished third and fourth, respectively. Fourth was the spot that the girls' team received with their faster runner, Rachel Smith, placing 13th. Since then the boys have finished first in two meets. The girls have done almost as good, finishing second in the same events.

"We've really been performing well," Coach Merlin Lahm said, "maybe even above my expectations. We've had a good start."

Former coach Dan Mahoney started a dynasty which Lahm plans to carry on. He is working with a combination of Mahoney's training and his own methods and is confident in his ability.

Lahm will undoubtedly have a different style and have different training techniques, but as he said, change can be healthy.

Both the girls' and boys' teams will have a tough season, but with their talent and Coach Lahm, they have a great start.

WE'VE BEEN PERFORMING WELL. WE'VE HAD A GOOD START.

— COACH LAHM —

Volleyball team aims for the top

Nikki Sobotka

— Editor-in-Chief —

The perfect season eluded them, but last year's state tournament is long over. Despite this the volleyball team is ready to work harder than ever.

The season started off winningly with the team sweeping the Shamrock Invite in straight sets. Beating Wahoo Neumann, Twin River, and Norfolk Catholic instilled confidence in the players.

"I'm excited about how we did," senior Jamie Tooley said. "There will always be things to work on, but it's a good start to what will hopefully be a good season ending at the state tournament."

Volleyball at Scotus has been a successful sport since the early '90s and if they work hard enough, this year's team could continue this tradition.

This is almost a whole new starting team. The only people left from last year are senior Jen Haney and Tooley. Coach John Petersen said this year's team needs to establish a whole new identity and work hard.

Petersen said that he would always rather have the target on his team's back then be chasing it. Is the target gone after last year's heartbreaking loss? No, according to junior setter Liz Hadland.

"Teams will always want to beat us," Hadland said, "because of the successes we've had."

The team started off solid with a 7-0 start and is looking forward to going back to the state tournament.

Kurtenbach

from column at left
number of red blood cells in their body, which results in oxygen getting to muscles more efficiently and reduces fatigue. Cyclist Lance Armstrong has also been accused of blood doping on many occasions due to his wonderful performances in his seven wins at the Tour de France. Strongmen in field events are using steroids to bulk up and throw the shot or disc as far as possible.

Going low enough to cheat at the sport you "love" must mean you do not really love the sport. Hopefully the answer to my first question is a "no" because it would ruin the world of sports if the youth mindlessly followed their "heroes."



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NIKKI SOBOTKA/ROCK BOTTOM

Senior quarterback Eric Puckett breaks through a wave of Aquinas defenders. Top-ranked Aquinas gave Scotus their first loss of the season.

Football team sees highs, lows in start

Anna Boeding

— Staff Reporter —

Last year, for the first time in four years, the Scotus football team reached the playoffs. It was also Roger Krienke's first year as head coach of the team.

Could this be the beginning of a new era in Scotus football? Only time will tell, but they are off to a promising start, defeating the Schuyler Warriors 28-7 in their first game and the Milford Eagles 27-21 in their second game, while recently falling to top ranked Aquinas 50-13. The possibilities of this new season have the whole school excited.

Junior Jennifer Augustine enjoys watching a good game of football, and she says she is "pumped to see

what this year's team is going to bring." She certainly isn't the only one. The coaches and players are also anxious to see what this year will bring, and many of them are hoping for the best.

Krienke is happy with the team's work ethic. "The athletes are excited," Krienke says, "I am confident they will continue to play well."

What goals has the team set for themselves this year? "I hope we make it past to first round of playoffs," junior lineman Dana Czaplak says. "Everybody's cheering for Krienke '05."

For the first time ever, practices will include the freshman class. They are used in preparing the Varsity players for the upcoming team.

THE ATHLETES ARE CONFIDENT. I AM CONFIDENT...
— COACH KRIENKE —

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Softball fun for several of Scotus' female athletes

Anna Boeding

— Staff Reporter —

Scotus girls contribute more players to the softball team than to any other of the Columbus High co-op sports. This year's softball girls have set high goals for themselves and their team.

"We hope to make it to State," junior Natasha Scholz says, "We have been playing really well this year."

On their respective teams (varsity and junior varsity), all of the girls are starters. Team members include Scholz, Tammie Kozak, Mollie Jones, Jaisa Gutierrez, Autumn Kresha, Melissa Pekny, Megan Kresha, and Leslie Douglas.

Golf team tees off new year

Anna Boeding

— Staff Reporter —

One senior, one junior, three sophomores and two freshmen make up the Scotus girls golf team this year.

Four newcomers make up over half of the golf team. They replaced the three seniors that graduated last year. Each member will be putting in plenty of practice hours on her sport.

"Golf is hard because the practices are so time-consuming," sophomore Anne Price says, "And the invitations take all day." She also said, "You miss a lot of school for golf."

Their first meet took place on August 26 and the season will end with state finals on October 10 and 11. Members of the team are Price, Andria Kobus, Paige Kelly, Schalise Vancura, Liz Zabawa, Sara Zyweic, and Sara Zoucha.

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VOLUME 8 — ISSUE 2 — OCTOBER 28, 2005

Construction causes lanes of confusion

Jake Staroscik
— Editor —



JAKE STAROSCICK/ROCK BOTTOM

Barriers block off traffic by the corner of 25th street and 33rd avenue. Most construction, a hassle for many, is supposed to be done by the end of the year. Many different construction projects are going on around town.

It is impossible to drive through Columbus and not notice the obvious signs of chaos. Beeping horns, angry looks, and unmentionable gestures have become the daily norm. Everywhere you look men in yellow hats and orange vests line the streets busy at work. This has become all too familiar in our small town and despite the hassle it may cause, many students here at Scotus are growing use to it.

Some students however, like junior Kevin Micek, are fed up with the lengthy project.

"They have been working on it forever," he complained, "and it is still going to take them twenty more years."

Fortunately for the people of Columbus though, Micek's prediction of twenty years is highly unlikely. In fact, according to City Councilmen Ron Bogus, the end is in sight.

"Primarily all that is left to do is pouring concrete," Bogus stated. "They may be a week behind schedule, but this is the amount of time they expected it to take, and it still should be finished by the end of the year."

The work that Bogus was referring to was the construction on 33rd Avenue and 23rd Street.

"Anyone that has driven through there (before construction began) knows it is a problem area," Bogus commented, "and the State, which is paying for 90 percent of the project, stepped in to make it a safer and easier intersection."

There are however two other major projects and several minor ones taking place in Columbus right now. The creation of 22nd Street near BD Medical which was recently completed, and the upgrading of 38th Street north of Columbus are also part of the project. This has caused some problems for students as construction is spread out throughout

the town.

"They should have done one part at a time," junior Raven Ebner commented.

Junior Kayla Duffy agreed, "I don't think it was necessary to do it all over town at once."

Road construction brings with it the hope that one day the roads will be easier and smoother to drive on. Most students though, look past that and instead at the negatives of the situation now.

"Instead of taking the highway, (23rd Street) I have to go past Columbus High and it takes a lot longer," Duffy said.

Others shared her views. "Road construction has caused more of a hassle now then the benefit it will create," junior Ashley Micek said. "We need more lanes. People cut out in front of you and it is annoying."

She even went as far to describe one specific problem.

"Semi-trailers take forever to turn because they only have one lane and then the light changes when it is under it and everyone gets jammed."

Also, the construction has restricted local businesses from being accessible to their customers. This has caused a drop in sales for many.

"Every effort is being made to make these businesses available, it has been difficult though," Bogus said.

Despite the positive outlook of safer roads and smoother traffic the mood in the school and in the city is unfavorable. Kevin Micek may have done the best to summarize the thoughts of most students:

"Road construction, I wish I could really tell you what I thought of road construction, but then it couldn't be put in the paper."

The students should keep in mind, though, that this was done for the good of the city and eventually things will be considerably better than they are now. Even than they were before.

Abortion Facts

Abortion. It is a scary word and the cause of death for many babies around the world. It even affects people in Nebraska. The annual Life Chain was held on Sunday, October 2, which is the National Pro-Life Day. People stand along highways, holding signs and praying silently for an end to abortion.

Abortion facts:

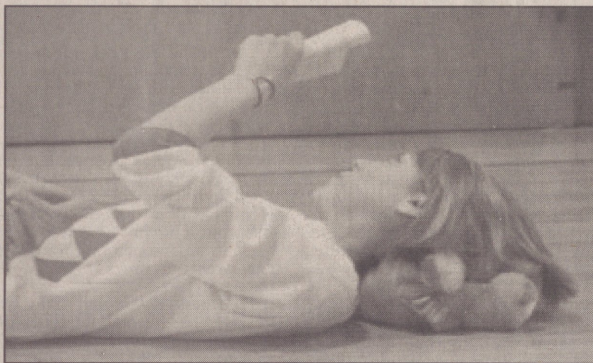
1. On average, 11 babies are aborted every day in Nebraska.
2. There are currently two abortion clinics in Nebraska. Abortion is not a "quick fix" to a problem. It can cause physical and psychological problems in both the woman who aborted and her boyfriend/husband.
3. Ways to abort babies are jamming scissors into its skull, having its brain sucked out, or the body is cut up piece by piece until it is all removed.
4. Over two million couples across America are waiting to adopt. 40 couples are waiting for every one infant adoption.
5. The average wait for an adoption takes two to ten years, while one baby dies every second from abortion.
6. For every 1,000 abortions there are only 15.5 adoptions

"No woman wants an abortion as she wants an ice cream cone or a Porsche. She wants an abortion as an animal caught in a trap wants to gnaw off it's own leg."

Frederica Mathewes-Green of Feminists for Life of America said that. She is turning the subject of abortion into a feminist problem, asserting that women should have the right to abort like they have the right to vote and have equal rights. The Catholic Church does not agree with this.

"What the quote is trying to get at is that abortion is a solution when a woman has no other choice," Fr. Jeff Loeske said. "She is desperate. That's why we need to give other options. Abortions helps neither the woman or the child, it just seems like a quick fix."

Drama, drama, drama. The Fall play returns to Scotus



KATIE WOZNY/ROCK BOTTOM

Senior Katie Cheloha studies her lines at play practice. Katie won the part of Barbara Pearson who captures Henry's heart, the main character, played by Nathan Hotovy.

Anna Boeding
— Staff Reporter —

One, two, three break a leg! The fall play has been revived! Under the direction of Ms. E.J. Gardner and Fr. Jeff Loeske, *What a Life*, this

year's fall play, is the first to be performed at Scotus since fall 2002.

Because several students answered the call and came to auditions, this year's play cast varies in age. Freshman Nathan Hotovy landed the principal role of Henry Aldrich, a troublemaker who falls for

the all around good student Barbara Pearson, played by senior Katie Cheloha. Henry runs into some trouble with a jock named George Bigelow (played by Lance Schimdt) does everything he can to get in the way. Besides Hotovy and Cheloha, the cast includes four seniors, six juniors, six sophomores, and four freshmen.

The play is a comedy about the drama of high school life. But that doesn't mean that the cast is taking the play lightly. Memorizing lines can be a daunting task for some.

For Junior Mark Siegel, memorizing lines is a bit difficult. Siegel plays Mr. Bradley, the school principal, and has plenty of lines to memorize. Getting into character, however, is not quite as difficult.

"It's not hard to get into character," says Siegel, "My character is a jerk."

Junior Lauren Schumacher plays a student named Gertie, whom she described as a hyped-up, caffeinated, obsessive-compulsive freak. For Schumacher, the revival of the fall play was exactly what she had hoped for.

"I always wanted to be in a high-school play," said Schumacher, "And now we finally have one."

CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS:

Boys:

Zeph Swope	10th place
Clint Torzon	27th place
Lance Schmidt	82th place
Ethan Schaecher	40th place
Brent Albracht	58th place
Danny Johnson	84th place
	Overall team place: 5th

Girls:

Jennifer Fisher	31st place
Kayla Duffy	64th place
Rachel Smith	49th place
Melissa Steiner	46th place
Kelly Ingram	59th place
Tiffany Spies	85th place
	Overall team place: 7th



NIKKI SOBOTKA/ROCK BOTTOM

Above, junior Mikayla Duffy runs at the state meet. Right, the boys starts their race.



NIKKI SOBOTKA/ROCK BOTTOM

Silence fills void left by brothers



BOYS
Katie
Michealsen

I'm watching you

I walk through my door every day after school and the stillness of the house knocks me off my feet. The noise of my brothers' presence is gone. It's vanished through thin air. What has happened? The past is the past but the present presently isn't right. For those who do not know me, I have three brothers who no longer live at home because they are off to college.

One is a senior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, one is a freshman at the University of Nebraska-Omaha and his twin is at Kansas University. Now that they have left, life as I knew it at home has been swept away. The noise that used to be there has now departed. When I come home day after day the noise seems to get quieter and quieter and the weekends are what I miss most. They were filled with laughter, joking, and teasing. I remember walking down to the basement and see-

ing them intent with their PS2 games determined to win. Oh, but when they lost you were sure to hear noisy nonsense ricocheting through the walls. You immediately knew when they lost. Their laughs roared and cheers rumbled when touchdowns were made and screams ripped when they lost the ball. Now that noise is gone.

Growing up with a family of six, a noisy six, it was expected to be loud. Now that it's gone, I find it difficult to adjust to the sudden silence. It's hard to not be bored sometimes because with three brothers that never happened. There were jokes played all the time and mostly on me. For that, I think now, most of the time I can take anything. The environment of our house was uplifting when they were around and now when you walk into every room a memory begins replaying and I hear that noise once again.

Dinnertime was hysterical for us and each meal brought lots of laughter to the table. With four boys, yes boys (which included my dad), at the table it was rare to see a crumb left. One brother usually finished what the rest of us didn't. There was never a silenced moment due to the constant crunching of food in their

mouths or the inhaling of food. Facial expressions and stories filled the air at every meal. It was a time that brought the best out of us. Now, dinner consists of my mom, dad, and me silently eating while slipping in a word here and there. Because of my brothers' love for food

I find it difficult to adjust to the sudden silence.

the kitchen always clattered with pots and pans.

In order to please their hungry appetites, baking was what my mom and I did best. We baked cookies almost every day and before they were baked, three hungry boys tumbled down to the kitchen to sample. As the dough kept piling in their mouths that was the only moment of true silence which didn't last for long, because moments later they were back to their usual selves.

My brothers were the kind of boys that goofed around so when there were loud crashes or noises, my mom generally thought nothing of it. She just smiled inside. I, on the other hand, laughed hysterically, not because it was funny, but be-

cause those were their personalities. My oldest brother was one who enjoyed throwing comments at somebody all the time. The other two were busy playing PS2 and challenging each other for a quick dual of PS2 football.

They haven't changed much since they left. One brother has claimed to make it to level 103 out of 111 levels of his PS2 game since he has been at college. Apparently he has plenty of time on his hands. Surely this is part of his weekend routine, not his weeknights. Another brother seems to enjoy the recreational part of college where he plays long hours of basketball. I've got to see this. The third is still his silly self. While working and taking classes he happens to find time to think of some funny comment to throw at me every now and then.

This is what I'm missing out on the most—the long hours of simply hanging around the house, but we were never caught doing nothing. It was unusual for all four of us kids to sit down and talk. We more often just messed around and had a good time. Now that has all changed.

Although they were rarely home because they attended a boarding school in Elkhorn, I saw them ev-

ery weekend. Now, they've left and do not come back as often. The silence pierces my ears because when they were home there were never any dull moments.

I guess I'll have the holidays to look forward to now. I'll hear the racket all over again and the clamor coming from the basement. I'll get to experience the dinners, the PS2 games and of course cookie time. The noise will never be the same and silence is what I'm going to have to get used to.

Life changes as you get older and it's all part of growing up. I can't change the fact that they are gone and that I miss the noise, but I can look at it in good way. Since they have gone I seem to talk to them more. We usually send at least two e-mails a week to each other and a couple of them actually call almost every other day. So, I still get the noise, but it's muted now through e-mail. It won't be the same, but maybe they'll stop by now and then for a quick "Hi" or two. As the silence continues and the noise lingers away with the wind, I'll try to impress the noise into my memory that was once there and cling to those memories as well as the silence that draws near.

Growing up brings changes, stress



BOYS
Kellie
Johnson

I don't care

Did it not seem that when you were younger you wanted to be just like the older kids? I would always go to my mom and complain because my brothers got to go out and I didn't. Now I'm grown up and all I want to do is be young again. I'm sure my friends would agree.

As a young kid, no matter where you were you always had a friend with you. It may be a real friend or one of the many dolls such as Barbie or a baby doll or even Batman if you

were a boy. Wherever I went when I was little I made sure I had a baby with me because I could talk to it and it would talk back to me. Right? But no one cared that you talked to a doll that held the same facial expression the entire time.

Also, being young meant no one would be criticizing you all the time. It did not matter that you picked your nose. You could even wear an orange shirt with bright pink pants and nice dress shoes and no one would say a thing. They would think that it's cute you didn't match, but as a grown up you would be setting the worst fashion statement known to mankind.

The pre-school years meant there was nothing about focusing on eight-hour-five-days-a-week schedules. And, whatever happened to

the days with recess three times, milk in the afternoon, and most importantly, naps? I remember the fights over who got to play with whom and what team you were on,

You didn't have to worry about homework — you could just go outside and play.

but the best was who was going to touch the booger bar. The booger bar was the bar on the merry-go-round that sported the freshly picked nose contents. Even today the infamous booger bar is still at St. Isidore's playground.

Were those not the days? After school, you didn't have to worry about homework — you could just

go outside and play until suppertime.

Although being young was fun there was one downfall to it: the fights. Everywhere we went a fight took place. Whether it would be over who got to go first, who won or who got to sit by the teacher. Some fights were so bad there would be hair pulling, name calling, and scratching. After the fighting we would have to sit in our separate corners then apologize. Funny thing about the fights was the next day the two that were fighting would be best friends. But then that was grade school.

Growing up is just a memory. There are some good and some not so good. Those good memories are

something we should cherish. Have you ever thought that growing up might not be so bad after all? I have because I know that I cannot be young forever. So grab onto the best times and take them everywhere you go. Don't let baby steps hold you back. Stride into being a grown up taking with you a little something from your childhood because you would not be who you are without it.

Yes, being younger was less stressful, but growing up can be a fun experience if you make it one. I know I will always look back and say were those not the days or what? But that was then and as I get older, I will be taking every memory I can remember by the hand and putting it in my back pocket to pull out someday and smile.

True happiness, only a daydream away



GIRLS
Jake
Staroscik

Can't touch this

One day while I was daydreaming in chemistry an incredible thought came to me. This thought was so ridiculous at first that I had trouble believing it. I scoffed and laughed at myself. I just couldn't grasp the enormity of it. For a split second my mind was so overwhelmed with this sudden burst of knowledge that it shut down, and my entire body was completely zoned out. For the first time in my life I had a moment where no thought was taking place inside of me. It was relaxing and killing me at the same time, and it might have stayed this way forever if not for the timely interruption of Mrs. Dusek-Misfeldt's pleasant voice.

Now I cannot remember what she inquired of me and more than likely I answered it incorrectly, but I feel this is an appropriate time to indirectly thank her for saving my

mind from forever being tortured with thoughtlessness.

This may have been the first time my mind went completely blank, but it is most certainly not the first time I was caught daydreaming in class. My mind has been wandering since the first monotonous lecture of my pre-school teacher. You see, there came a time in my life when learning the days of the week, practicing my numbers, and drawing pictures of my family became boring to me, and since then daydreams have grown far beyond the reaches of pre-school education.

It seems that every chance I get I take the time to have a little daydream, and the funny thing is, every time I have one, I think of some radical new idea that I believe will forever change the course of history. However, as with most dreams, as soon as they are finished, it is hard for me to retain that thought which is what exactly happened in the situation I described earlier. For all I know my daydream in chemistry could have solved world hunger or perhaps led to the abolishment of AIDS, and I'm sure many people other than myself have daydreams with many of the same ideas.

Daydreams have become such a part of me that I look forward to certain classes with the lone source of anticipation centered on the daydream I will create in it. I am certain that the majority of the teachers here at Scotus have caught me daydreaming, and I am sorry that I failed to thrust my entire mind into learning. I don't mean any disrespect, but it is very hard for me to concentrate on one thing for more than twenty minutes. Well, more like five.

Teachers, if you feel that daydreaming has become too much of a problem in your class, you may want to try removing all colorful posters from your wall, this will not only make it difficult for daydreamers like myself to wander off, but it may also create a source of revenue for you as you could sell them on eBay or perhaps your annual garage sale.

Of course if you really want to crack down on daydreamers, you could always just take away the one thing every one of us thrives on: the window. The window is everything a daydreamer needs to create the perfect dream: sunlight, fresh air, trees, and of course squirrels, rab-

bits, and birds. You would be surprised how much closing the blinds would do to the attention span of your class.

In fact it has come to the point for me when sitting by the window can be the difference in at least three points on my grade. I've seen B's change to A's and then back to B's based solely on where I sat each quarter.

Daydreaming is, however, a wonderful experience for all of us students and teachers should not be so quick to eliminate it. It is a great

You would be surprised how much closing the blinds would do to the attention span of a class.

use of the imagination and imagination is good for all forms of education. It allows us to use our creativity in a way that no other activity can give us. How else can you experience the battles of the Revolutionary war and the adventures of a furry rabbit frolicking in dandelions during the same period? There

is no other way but through a daydream. Daydreams broaden the mind and liberate us from routine thinking bringing us into a world where anything is possible.

So teachers, if you feel it is necessary to deplete your room of color and close the window blinds, go right ahead, but if some student still manages to daydream despite the bleakness of your room, don't be so quick to scold or to revive them. Think for just one moment of all the places that mind could be, it could be walking the streets of Italy or bullfighting in Spain. It could be climbing Mount Everest or exploring the depths of the ocean. It could be scoring the winning touchdown or marrying Orlando Bloom.

Before you wake that student think of what might be going through that mind and if you feel that inventing a new super computer has nothing to do with what you're teaching, then by all means go right ahead and bring them back reality.

Teachers, just give it a little thought, and if you are lucky, and the correct mixture of fatigue and excitement accompanies you during your thought, you might have a daydream of your own.

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Corpse Bride Review

Ashley Kuta
— Staff Reporter —

In a 19th century village, a bell-shaped man is shouting to the village about a soon-to-be wedding. The village is black, gray and white. Everything seems to be dead in this movie; maybe it's because everything is made of clay. The main character, Victor, who is a pianist and an artist who sketches, is getting nervous because he is marrying Victoria, a girl he recently met at Victoria's house.

Victor and his parents went over to Victoria's big black and gray house that somewhat looks like an old church to do the wedding rehearsal. As Victor's parents went with Victoria's parents to have a chat, Victor sits down to play the piano. While he is doing so, Victoria quietly comes down the stairs, and sneaks behind him. She surprises him once she taps him on his back. Victor jumps up out of his seat almost knocking over the vase of flowers that was on top of the piano. After a mere thought, he puts the flowers in his coat pocket to remember Victoria because he instantly fell in love.

In a room in Victoria's house that looks like a small church, Victor keeps messing up all the wedding vows during rehearsal. The minister starts getting annoyed by Victor's mistakes and Victoria's parents start thinking that he will never get the vows right and that Victoria and Victor will never get married. No one knows why they are getting married since they just met.

After the rehearsal, Victor decides to take a walk through the dark woods. All the trees are black, their branches void of leaves. A crow's

eye follows him along as he ventures down the path. As he is walking, he is rehearsing his vows. Then he pulls out the ring for practice. He places the ring on what he thinks is a stick, but he is wrong. Dead wrong. For that stick is a finger that belongs

around. Victor faints and wakes up in a town where even though everything is dead, it's alive. He is unable to escape the living dead town. Because of the unfortunate accident mistaking-a-stick-for-a-finger in the woods, Victor is married to

and allows them to leave. When they want to return to the underground, all they have to say is *hopsotch*.

Soon after, Emily and Victor are back on the surface. Victor tells Emily to wait in the woods so he can inform his parents about Emily before he brings her to meet them. Actually, that was a lie. He was going to go tell Victoria about what happened over the past hours of his absence. In the meantime Emily gets impatient and goes looking for Victor. She finds him talking to Victoria so she says the magic word that takes them back underground.

The wisest skeleton figures out that Emily and Victor's marriage isn't official after all. Turns out, Victor has to be dead, or Emily has to be living. So now, Victor has to make the most important choice of his life, to drink the potion to kill him instantly to officially marry Emily, or to rot away underground for all eternity.

In all, the movie was good. If you saw and liked *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, then you should like *Corpse Bride* given the ending is somewhat predictable. The violin music carried us through all the scenes. Every scene was dark and spooky without much color, just black, gray, and white. The underground town was more colorful than the surface and everything looked so real, even though it was made of clay. The special effects on their facial expressions were believable, as though people played the part. The voice actors brought all their characters to life making their part theirs. I would rate this movie 4 for great music, scenes, and acting. I would give it a 5 if the ending wasn't so predictable.

Rock Bottom Movie Rating

★★★★☆



The Corpse Bride was all in all a good movie Ashley Kuta said. Corpse Bride came to the theatres on October 18, 2005.

Emily, the corpse bride. Her bony hand reaches through the mud to grab Victor. With her corpse might she tries pulling him underground. But he escapes and runs for his life.

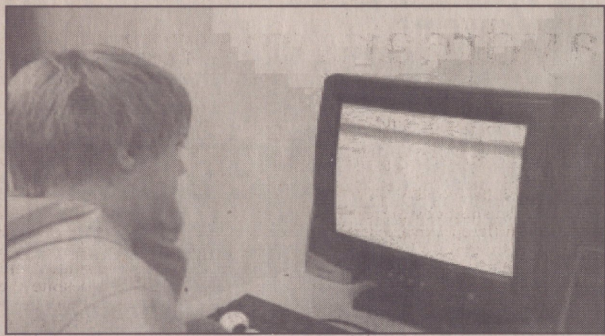
If you saw and liked *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, then you should like the Corpse Bride given the ending is somewhat predictable.

Emily quickly emerges from the muck and chases after him. Her clothes are ripped up, her face is blue, and the skin around her eyes is dark. As he is running, he is looking back and doesn't see the tree that he runs into twice. Victor runs to the bridge and looks back again; the decaying woman is not there. He turns

Emily. In a tavern underground the skeletons sing a song that tells the tale of how Emily became the corpse bride. She was in love with a man, who told her to go into the dark woods to meet. Instead of it being a friendly welcome, the mysterious man kills Emily then robs her for her money. Now she must wait in the corpse state until her real true love sets her free.

Emily now wants to meet Victor's parents, but since they are still living, they can't. So, Victor and Emily go to the oldest and wisest skeleton, who can take them back up to the surface

Blogging revolutionizes the journal



Adam Niedbalski blogs on the computer during his free time. Blogging has become the new journal online.

Chelsea Bartholomew
— Staff Reporter —

Blog. Blogging. Bloggers. Some students know what they are — they keep them, in fact. Others do not even know what the word means.

For those who fall into the latter category of not knowing what the definition of the word is, a blog (shortened version of "Weblog") is, in the simplest terms, an online journal. People as young as ten and as old as eighty keep them. Sometimes the person the blog is about is not even the one who writes it; new parents sometimes keep blogs monitoring their baby's progress. These blogs and many others are highly personal. However, there are other reasons to keep a blog.

"I use mine to talk about college football," said Freshman Adam Niedbalski.

Nowadays, the varied number of reasons one may keep a blog is matched only by the various places that provide them. Services such as Livejournal, Xanga, GreatestJournal, and MSN Spaces have provided an ever-increasing

amount of people with their own personal corner of the Internet for no charge at all. Every service has features unique to it.

On Livejournal, for example, users can keep a friends' list — abbreviated by most users to "flist" — and format their entries so that only users on that list can view them. An administrator from the site said that about one-quarter of users have taken advantage of this. Most who have done so keep a public entry where visitors can comment if they want to be part of that user's flist, and thus privy to journal entries. There is the option of "filtering" an entry — choosing specifically which users, added to one's flist or not, can view an entry. This is often used for a particularly private or depressing entry that the user wants only his or her very close friends to see.

In addition, most services offer what are known as communities on

Livejournal and bloggings on Xanga. This is a group of people devoted to a specific topic, such as a band or television show, or a cluster of people who all live in the same area. Even Columbus, small blip on the map as it is, has its own. On Xanga, there is a group for people who live in or around the area; it is called *C-Town Nebraska*. Livejournal, while not having a town-specific community, does have one called *Nebraskans*.

Niedbalski uses Livejournal. Other students, such as Junior Elizabeth Suess and Senior Amberle Zuerlein, use MSN Spaces.

"I think it's the most easy to use, because I don't have a lot of time to commit to it," Zuerlein said.

Blogging has really taken off with teenagers within the last two years; Niedbalski and Suess both started to blog last year. Zuerlein also began hers within the past two years — three months ago, to be precise. Most students, such as Zuerlein, update theirs once or twice a week. Others, like Niedbalski and Suess, update theirs daily.

"Last year, I did it, like, once or twice a week. Over the summer the computer broke, so I didn't have access until about a week ago. Then I started updating almost every day," Suess said.

Blogging is not only becoming increasingly common in America. Teenagers from Great Britain to Japan and everywhere else between and beyond have begun their own blogs. With just one click of the mouse, students from Columbus can see blogs by people from all around the world.

"It's crazy," Zuerlein said. So why do these Scotus students choose to blog?

"It lets people know what's go-

ing on in my life," said Zuerlein. "It's just a way to express yourself."

Suess was very frank about her reason. "Because I've got nothing better to do."

Zuerlein and Suess both keep their blogs for at least semi-personal reasons.

"Mine is usually just a summary of what happened that week. If I'm depressed, though, I'll write about more personal things," Zuerlein said.

"How personal mine gets depends on what's going on in my life," Suess said. "If nothing big is going on, it's just randomness."

Because blogging looks to be a trend that is not going to go away anytime soon, some English teachers across the country have taken advantage of it. They do things such as having students post some assignments — essays, poetry, short stories and the like, on a blog where they can then receive comments for improvement from the teacher and fellow classmates.

Despite the response among those teachers, the majority of adults are worried about teenagers blogging. Most are primarily concerned with the possibility of preda-

tors befriending unsuspecting youth through their blogs, and perhaps with good reason. At least 20 percent of teenagers using blogs have revealed their full names, and 59 percent their location. This especially worries adults if the blogs are completely public. Most students seem unconcerned about this, however.

"My blog won't make sense to anyone but me, so I don't care who reads it," said Suess.

Niedbalski agreed with this opinion. "As long as they have something relevant to say, I don't really care if they read it and comment."

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Homecoming changes for sophomores

Kellie Johnson
— Staff Reporter —

Homecoming is a gradually changing experience for most sophomores. Many students make this the day that they look fabulous.

Sophomore Ellen Rambour said, "Homecoming as a freshman you are just really excited and that is all you talk about. But as a sophomore you know what to expect."

This is true for most sophomores. They know what to expect after having a year of homecoming under their belts. As a freshman many girls go all out with the hair, the nails, and the tanning. Whereas sophomores are more likely to spend less because it is not their first big dance. Also, freshmen are so picky with what dress goes with what shoes and if their necklace matches and if a date is in tow.

Yes, these things are all true as a freshman, but when you become a sophomore you are taking a big step in knowledge about dances. Maybe you spent a lot of money freshman year, but as a sophomore you are less likely to.

Sophomore Ben Jones said, "I do not spend that much just however much a Hollister shirt costs."

Twin sister sophomore Molly Jones said, "Yeah, right you spend like \$50!"

Brothers and sisters do not always have the same points of view. Many sophomores have more savvy to know not to spend \$200 on homecoming. It is a possibility that guys do spend more than girls if girls wear a dress and jewelry they already have. So the only money spent is possibly tanning and a flower for a date, adding up to about \$45.

Dates are a big thing as a freshman, but not so much as a sophomore because going stag can be pretty fun, but a date may be more fun.

Rambour said, "I think that having a date is part of the homecoming experience."

There are positive things about being a sophomore at Homecoming. For one thing, most people can drive alleviating the need for parents acting as escorts. Then there are the after parties where breakfast is served: pancakes, waffles, breakfast casseroles, and staying up late to be with your friends.

Sophomore Paige Pillen said, "The after party is the funnest part of homecoming."



Kellie Johnson/Rock Bottom

Zeph Swope and Kim Whalen are crowned Homecoming King and Queen 2005. Shortly after being named they smiled for the camera.

Freshmen excited for Homecoming

Chelsea Bartholomew
— Staff Reporter —

Freshman. The very word suggests that something is going to be new. During freshman year, there are many new experiences. One is Homecoming. They could dress up on Spirit Day in Junior High, but this year Spirit Week was open to them, as was the Homecoming dance.

"I'm really excited about going," said freshman Lori Fehr. Many other freshmen echoed this sentiment.

To many freshmen girls, the dance would be nothing without a new dress, and cost was unimportant. Some, such as Kelsey Seckel, got their dresses as early as last June while others, such as Fehr, bought theirs within the past few weeks. Some girls also got accessories to go along with their outfits.

"I have a necklace, earrings,

shoes and a bracelet," said Seckel.

Others, like Sara Baer, had none at all.

"I'm not an accessorized person," she said, laughing.

Besides accessories, hair was another important aspect of the night for girls. Fehr and Seckel both said

“I'M NOT GOING WITH ANYONE YET, BUT I'M OKAY WITH THAT.”

— NICHOLAS RAIMONDO

that above everything else, they wanted theirs to be just right. Seckel also said that she planned to tan, as did several other freshmen girls. Many of them also got their nails

done as well.

All of the above considered, this is where gender differences part company.

The boys' approach to Homecoming was, on the whole, more laid back. None interviewed had spent anything on the night.

"I got a tie for free, though," said Nathan Hotovy.

However, one aspect that concerned boys and girls both was whom, if anyone, they would be going with. Hearts raced and hearts broke, in some cases. Huddled girls discussed the latest gossip on who was going with whom. Not everyone took it so seriously, though.

"I'm not going with anyone yet, but I'm okay with that," Nicholas Raimondo said before Homecoming.

Hotovy felt the same. "I'm going stag," he said.

Baer went with a date, and Fehr and Seckel went with a friend or two.

"I think it'll be more fun that way," Fehr speculated.

Scooping out the goop on Halloween!

Katie Wozny
— Staff Reporter —

Booo! Ahhhhh! Wait, where did all these scares come from? Did the thought of this holiday really come from ghosts and goblins? Why do children go knocking door to door to stranger's houses asking the famous words "trick or treat?" What's the difference between Halloween, All Saints Day, and All Souls day?

The Halloween tradition started among the Celtic people somewhere between 1000 and 100 B.C. The celebration of the Celtic god of spring and summer, Baal, ended on November 1, and the Lord of the Dead began his reign. It was during this time period that the Celtic people started to believe in the supernatural and they believed that the spirits in people began to float freely between each other.

Also, the Druids believed that the dead would play tricks on them causing them to panic. Leading them to the idea that they needed to keep the spirits happy. Thus, they would leave out food for the spirits to take,

as they wished. These two ideas created the traditions that are known today: the saying "trick or treat," and the tradition of receiving candy on Halloween night.

The traditional idea of wearing costumes came from the Celtic belief that those who had died the previous year had been transferred into animals. The Celts would then welcome the dead on this night by dressing up like animals.

Later, the Romans adopted these Celtic ideas and practices. They added their own traditions, such as bobbing for apples and drinking cider. It was centuries later that Pope Gregory IV moved the celebration from May 13 to November 1. But the night before was known as All Hallow's Ev'n or "holy evening." Which subsequently was shortened to Halloween.

The next day November 1, the Catholic Church celebrates All Saints Day. Then on November 2, the Catholic Church celebrates All Souls Day. These days are to remember all those in the communion

of saints who have died, and all of those who are deceased, respectively.

Halloween was not celebrated in the United States until the 1840's when Irish immigrants fleeing the potato famine brought the customs of Halloween with them. Before the Irish came over they used turnips as their jack-o-lanterns, but when they came to America they found pumpkins. This tradition created the jack-o-lantern pumpkins known today.

In actuality, the Halloween holiday didn't originate from the belief in ghosts or goblins, but the beliefs that the Celtic people held in the spirits of the dead, the alterations the Romans added to the holiday and the influence that Pope Gregory IV had on the Halloween. (For more Halloween stories see Page 5)

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Junior Sized Thoughts on Homecoming

Anna Boeding
— Staff Reporter —

Even though it was the third Homecoming dance for the junior class, the excitement and anticipation of the dance did not decrease.

Though he did not spend much money on the dance, Kyle Mroczek still enjoyed the dance as a chance to socialize with friends.

"I like Homecoming more than Sweetheart," says Mroczek, "All I have to pay for is the girl's flower."

Some junior girls, like Kristin Wrubel, procrastinate and leave dress shopping until it is almost too late. Wrubel didn't have a dress a week and a half before the dance and said that borrowing a dress was always an option.

Courtney Frei, however, got her dress back in August. She, like Mroczek, does not spend too much money on the dance.

"All I spend money on is my hair and my dress," says Frei, "And my parents pay for that."

However, she disagrees with Mroczek when it comes to which dance is the better of the two. Frei says she "prefers Sweetheart, but does not know why."

And finally, what does the junior class feel about having a date for Homecoming? A table of assorted juniors in ninth period study hall felt that having a date was not essential, but "about 50.7349 percent important" to having a good time at the dance.

Wrubel feels that who does the asking is unimportant.

"Some guys are too chicken," says Wrubel, "and some girls are too desperate. Or even the other way around."

Whether or not they have a date, or whether or not Homecoming is their favorite dance, many Juniors agreed that Homecoming is an important event to the class of '07.

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Halloween Fun

SAY WHAT!!

Sam Zabawa
Editor

Superstitions are beliefs or practices that are kept for reasons pertaining to good or bad luck or for fear of certain situations. Here are some superstitions of a few Scotus seniors:

For baseball I always wear the exact same set of socks, underwear, undershirt, and shoes. When I put my shoes away in my bag, I always put one shoe right side up and one upside-down. If the game goes bad, I will switch which shoe is up and which shoe is down.
Zach Ramaekers

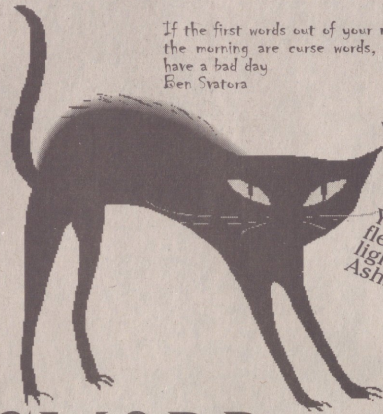
Seeing the time at 11:11 is bad luck!
Kim Whalen

If the first words out of your mouth in the morning are curse words, you will have a bad day.
Ben Statora

No balloons are allowed on the bus or on the bench at state because any team that does have balloons loses.
Jamie Tooley

Friday the 13th is lucky!
Kristina Flint

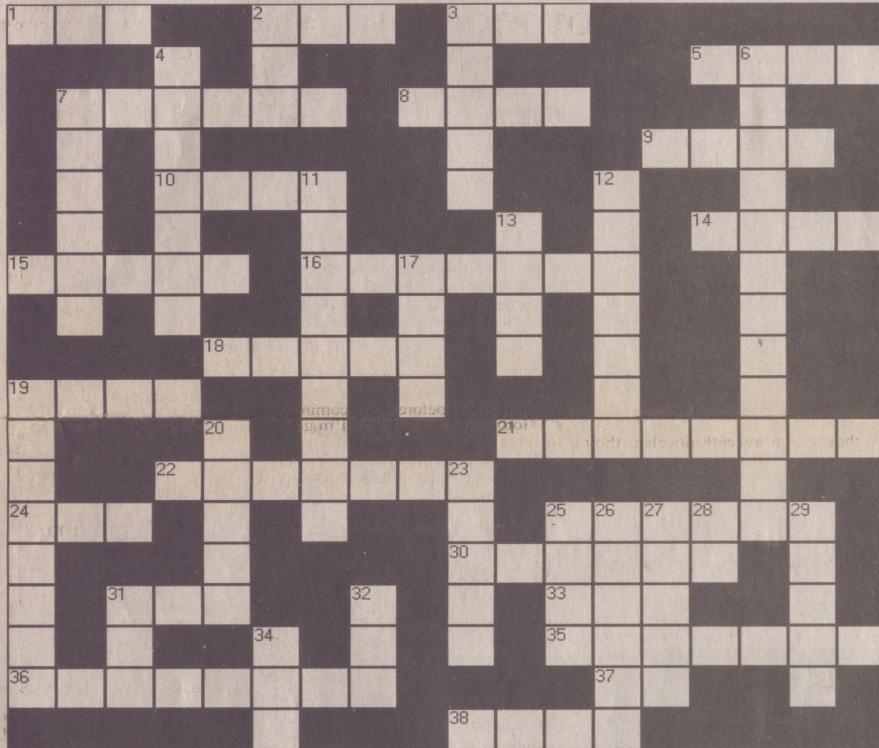
You can never have a candle that is reflected in a mirror for the reflection is false.
Ashley Bowns



CREEPY CROSSWORD

Jake Staroscik
Editor

The first person to submit correct answers to the crossword to Mrs. Shadle will receive a prize!!



Across

1. What some naughty kids throw at houses and cars
2. Three letter word to describe the entire Halloween experience
3. You might say this when you scare someone from behind the corner
5. Never leave your door ____ or scary creatures will torment you in your sleep
7. Your house may be haunted by
8. You wear this to make yourself look scary; some people don't need one
9. Parasite that sucks your blood; arachnid
10. _____, and tigers, and bears. Oh my!
14. Many kids become this after trick-or-treating far away from home. Also, a popular TV show
15. Argh! Mate, you must now walk the _____
16. Evil characters in stories
18. Scary Alfred Hitchcock movie, deals with animals of flight
19. Christopher Robin's favorite teddy bear
21. Scary creatures that hide in closets and under beds
22. Scotus is _____ by a ghost
24. Made with pumpkins, circular and crumbly crust
25. Jesus drove these out of afflicted people
30. Black magic
31. Witches, bats, and ghost all do

Down

2. Gordo (a)
3. The symbolic color of evil
4. Ghosts and _____
6. A pumpkin with a face
7. Start with the letters gh; not ghosts they are weakened by sunlight
11. Go here and you will never grow old, or you can hang out with Peter Pan
12. Didn't have a heart and went along with Dorothy to get one (and an extra n at the end)
13. Eat too much candy and you will get _____
17. Kids make one of these for a different holiday and send them to a jolly old man
19. Smashing P _____
20. Most common gift on Halloween
23. Originator of all evil
25. Female deer
26. Youngest boy in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*; very mischievous
27. Tiny rodent with pointed snout, rather small ears, elongated body, and slender tail
28. Double 0 Beginning of all secret agent numbers.
29. Sugar and _____
31. Friend or _____
32. You confess this
34. Past tense of eat

Mystery Lurking Around the Town

Sam Zabawa
Editor

The Glowing Graveyard ~ Located in the rural northwestern part of Columbus, this cemetery supposedly has glowing tombstones when there is a full moon. Most people believe this is just the effect of the moonlight reflected off the limestone in the rock. Right outside of the northwestern edge of the graveyard, a small bridge is built over the Loup Canal. According to legend, years ago a bus full of school children drove off the bridge into the canal and they died. Supposedly, if a car is covered with some kind of powder and left on the bridge in neutral, handprints of small children can be seen. The other belief is turning off a car in the middle of the bridge and the car will not start again.

Hy-Vee ~ There is suspicion that Hy-Vee is haunted by a ghost named Scooter. He has been said to come out around 2 a.m. and people have claimed to hear screeching noises in the back room near the dairy section. (Rumor has it this is a rumor.)

Scotus Central Catholic ~ A nun, a small boy, and a former student are said to roam the halls of this old building. To add to the story, there are tunnels under the school that ghost hunters were brought in to investigate in 1980. Several presences were supposedly discovered.

Posey's ~ North of town, past a hill and a small creek, sometimes five or

six orange lights can be seen close to the creek. There is a diesel tank for running irrigation systems near the road. The road becomes narrower and bumpier as the destination nears. There is a "No Trespassing" sign near the opening of the clearing. A stack of pipes can be seen and southeast up the hill a huge hole in the ground becomes visible. According to legend, Posey, the former owner of the property after being gone one day, came home to find his wife, daughter, and two sons murdered. Being upset, he went ballistic and started the house on fire while he was in it, and he then shot himself. The foundation of the house is all that remains and in some places there is no foundation which creates an easy fall to the very bottom of the hole to where the basement used to be. Supposedly his spirit, searching for the murderer who took the lives of his family, haunts this spot.

Old Penfield House ~ In the upstairs of the house doors will open even though they are shut and locked and turned-off lights dim and flicker. There have been strange sounds and, supposedly, the house is said to be "haunted" by the late Keith Penfield, who passed away there unexpectedly one morning. The basement also has unusual sounds and there is always the feeling of being watched, even when a person is trying to sleep. Apparently, if a person is walking around the house at night, he or she may have the opportunity to see mysteri-

ous shadows of people who were not present earlier.

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Homecoming

from page 3

Whether they win or loose their moods are a factor towards the dance. Do they matter?

That's not the only factor that counts towards their good moods. What about dates though? And the cost of dresses? Do they matter? Dates are not as big of a deal for homecoming and many prefer to go single because this dance is not as big of a deal as prom. Senior girls and boys both agreed that they have spent less and less on homecoming each year because they find less expensive clothes. Dates, dresses, and professional pictures seem to be not as important each year as teens grow and mature.

"For my first homecoming, I went out and bought a dress for over a \$100 because I was excited and I didn't know what I was doing," senior Shayla Christensen said, "but now I usually only pay about \$40 or \$50 for it."

This homecoming was little unlike most years because there were only four days leading up to homecoming so spirit week began on the Friday a week before the game. State cross country was also on the same Friday so runners who are candidates, escorts, or in flag corps were sprinting home to primp and prepare.

One milestone down, many to go. With one of the major events of the school year over, it is really the beginning of the end now.

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Scotus students gave 100 percent to cheer on the volleyball team to a win over the Lakeview Viqueens. Before the game, a tailgating party was held outside the North Doors of the school. The Shamrocks won in three sets.

NIKKI SOBOTKA/ROCK BOTTOM

Scotus students burst with excitement

Nikki Sobotka
— Editor-in-Chief —

We've got spirit, yes we do! We've got spirit, how about you? School spirit has been coming back to Scotus the last couple years after a lull. Teachers, players, and students alike are all noticing the change and are happy about it.

Scotus, in general, has successful and talented sports programs, but for some reason, the school lacks school spirit. This is all changing. A lot of credit goes to teacher and coach Sean Wickham who jump-started it last year with the revival of S-Club, but the most change has come about this year.

Compared to previous years, there has been a dramatic jump in involvement and excitement for sports.

"We're going to do it for everything," senior Zach Ramaekers said. "Dressing up and tailgating is going to become the norm."

Even younger classes are notice-

ing a difference in the fervor at games. Sophomore Mitch Bierbower said that it's a lot better than it used to be and more exciting. School spirit is the best since he's been here he said. So far this year, there has been tailgating and themed dress up for games.

Up to this point, dress-up themes have been preppy or suits and ties, spirit, and emo or gothic. Emo stands for emotional, which is a way of life for some kids. At the Lakeview-Scotus volleyball game

tailgate, parent Kim Schumacher donated 100 hamburger patties for the event from Carneco. Students grilled in the parking spots on the north side of the school before and

after the game. Credit for the tailgating goes to the junior boys for thinking of the idea.

Teachers and faculty have also noticed a difference. Many think that we have a chance to set a new standard for school spirit higher than it has been in the past few years. Athletic director Gary Puetz said senior leadership is the reason behind the increase in school spirit. Seniors set the tone and standard for school spirit. If the seniors lead in a positive way and go to the games, good things will happen. It works its way down so then the younger classes will join in and have school spirit too.

"I think that our class brought it

back," senior Kelly Ingram said. "I hope it's not just for volleyball and football but for everything this year."

The Nebraska School Activities Association, and the Centennial Conference are very concerned about sportsmanship. School spirit has to have a big regard for sportsmanship. Students need to show respect for their own school by showing respect for others. They want schools to be respectful of the opponents. They also want students to know that officials are trying to eliminate the negative attitude towards the other team not the fun. So far, Scotus has been doing pretty good in the sportsmanship department.

"School spirit has been tremendous," Puetz said, "but I did have a concern about turning our backs at Lakeview. I want us to represent the school in a positive manner, but I want to let people to know that 98 percent of that volleyball game was great."

“DRESSING UP AND TAILGATING IS GOING TO BECOME THE NORM.”

— ZACH RAMAEKERS,

Cross County teams run wild, but finish with disappointment

Bill Kurtenbach
— Editor —

Running over three miles for sheer enjoyment may not sound enjoyable to many students here at Scotus. Most people dread their ten-minute run in P.E. class. But the select few people at Scotus that run cross country are used to running great distances. According to their results this year and years past, they are good at it, too. Earlier this month, the girls' finished first in the District meet at Logan View's course. Scoring points for the girls' team were Jennifer Fisher coming in 6th, Michaela Duffy coming in 9th, Melissa Steiner coming in 10th, and Kelly Ingram coming in 15th. At the end of the day, Scotus girls' team finished 11 points ahead of their nearest foe, O'Neill.

Unfortunately, after running a hard race, the boys' team finished 3rd at the District meet. They also ran at Logan View's course. Although Clint Torczon came in 4th and Zeph Swope followed just three seconds behind in 5th, their efforts were not strong enough as the next two Scotus runners came in 20th and 21st.

When he was asked what the strong finishes at the District meet did for the teams, Coach Merlin Lahm said, "Performing well in any sport gives you confidence and confidence is always a factor."

The girls' success was not long lived as hoped. A week later they finished 7th at the State track meet in Kearney. The top finish for the girls' was Fisher, who finished 31st. Winning the Class C State Cross Country meet for girls' was Bishop Neumann, who finished with a mere 38 points, compared to the Shamrocks who added up 118 points.

The boys' team ran hard finish-



NIKKI SOBOTKA/ROCK BOTTOM

Scotus' Jennifer Fisher runs at the State Cross Country meet in Kearney. Fisher was top runner for the girls, finishing 31st.

ing 5th out of 12 teams. Representing Scotus in the Top Ten was senior Zeph Swope. The boys' State meet was won by Syracuse, who finished with 58 points, which is 32 points less than the Shamrocks' total.

"I try to deemphasize team finishes and put the individual goals

of running the best you can first," Lahm said. "Nine of our 12 runners did so."

Although the girls' season was not as planned, they still reached a first place finish at Districts, and although the boys' season was good, they would have liked a better finish at State.

Kurtenbach

from column at right

in store like the game last year at Texas Tech. The Red Raiders came out firing, as they do to every team, and scored twenty-one unanswered points. But the Huskers struck back and changed the score to 21-14 at the half. The Huskers were doing something amazing again against Tech. They were showing the ability to recover and come back from a deficit. With five minutes and ten seconds left in the game, the Huskers took the lead. Memorial Stadium was going crazy. With a minute and thirteen seconds left, the Huskers had the game in the bag when LeKevin Smith intercepted a pass

from Texas Tech quarterback Corey Hodges. Yet, for some reason unknown to anyone, even Smith himself, he tried to run. Unfortunately the defensive linemen do not spend much time at practice working on ball handling and the big man fumbled giving Tech the ball back on the Nebraska eighteen-yard line. With 19 seconds left, everyone's hopes were dashed when Hodges completed yet another pass in the end zone. The Huskers never recovered from that punch.

Maybe the rivalries of the Big XII will not be as big this year from a national standpoint, but they will still be enormous momentum factors for the season of teams as a whole. Yet, this year may be good for the Huskers, as they will have reasons to play and will have to keep working in order to be the best they can be.

Even though the Huskers' first four wins are shaky, they are still winners.

Even though the Huskers' first four wins so far this year looked slightly shaky, they are still wins, with one coming against last year's Big XII North Champ Iowa State on October 1st. During this game, the fans finally saw a glimpse of what the West Coast Offense is supposed to look like, as Zac Taylor threw for 431 yards, finally realizing that you don't have to gain them sixty yards at a time. Thankfully, Iowa State also played very loose from the line and allowed the underneath pass to be thrown. But when we play more experienced teams with better coaching, they will realize that if they cut off the short

pass, Taylor will not hurt you with the long ball. Especially with the amazing hands our receiving corps has! I am not saying that the season in present is not good; in fact I am impressed with the results. In time, Coach Bill Callahan will get the talent he needs at all the skill positions, and at tackle, so he can pass and run at will.

Kudos to Ross in the Iowa State game. He ran for a mere thirty-seven yards, but also had a seventy yard catch and run on a screen play for a touchdown. All of the Huskers touchdowns were compliments of Ross. And two of his three touchdowns came in the crucial overtime that gave the Huskers the victory.

The Huskers and their visitors from Texas Tech showed another great game. At first, the game appeared as if another blow out was

See Kurtenbach, column at left

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VOLUME 8 — ISSUE — NOVEMBER 22, 2005

Alumni returns from Iraq



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH BIRKEL

Josh Birkel and fellow soldier, Jay Schrad, are standing by their trucks. Birkel was in Iraq for exactly one year to the day. He has been seen back at Scotus using the weight room.

Sam Zabawa
— Editor —

On September 27, 2005, Josh Birkel, a 2002 graduate of Scotus, returned to the United States after serving military time, a year to the day, in Iraq and Kuwait. He is in the 1075th unit of the National Guard, Birkel was located in Kuwait, but traveled almost daily to Iraq.

“Kuwait is nothing but sand, that’s it,” Birkel said when asked to describe the environment of Kuwait and Iraq. Depending upon where you go in Iraq, it’s different from region to region. In the South, there’s a lot of sand and shrubs, in the middle near Baghdad, there’s rivers, farms, and some cities, and near the Syrian border there’s rolling green grass hills—it reminds you of being back at home.”

Birkel was located in Iraq and Kuwait because his unit was assigned to the area; in other words, he didn’t have a choice as to where he could go.

Along with differing environmental settings, Birkel said the people were different from region to region as well. “When we were in Kuwait, we were only five minutes from the port. We’d haul supplies to Iraq wherever they were needed, almost everyday. The people in Kuwait loved us—they were always so nice and understood we were there to help them; same with Southern Iraq. But moving further north into Iraq, there was a lot of tension. The radical people lived in the area and you could tell.”

According to Birkel, the war is

over. Now the troops are there to keep peace, help the people set up a government, and oversee the whole situation.

Birkel explained his days in Iraq were mostly routine, just a variation of duties between camp and route.

agree with. There are definitely things that get you down, but interacting with the people is awesome. Their smiles, happiness, and gratitude make you feel good, like you’re doing something right.”

Birkel said no one watches the news or reads the paper over there because it’s all too depressing and no one wants to think about death and destruction when you are in the middle of it all. Though, he said they watched tons of movies and just had good times together. They were always preoccupied with work, activities, and fun when they could.

Since he’s been home, however, Birkel feels slightly out of swing.

“Everyday over there I had responsibilities and duties to complete. I was never bored and always had something to do. Being home, I’m not working and not at school, so my days are just kind of lazy and boring. I like spending time with my friends and family, but a lot of my days just seem to be wasting away.”

Birkel is not scheduled to be sent away soon or maybe not all, but there is always a possibility.

“If I do get sent back, it won’t be for awhile,” stated Birkel.

When asked if he misses anything, he simply said, “Yeah, I miss the guys I got to know who I spent my time with day after day for a year. We had some good times together,” and walked away with a smile of fond memories.

Currently, there are about 152,000 soliders in Iraq.

2,027 of American soldiers killed in Iraq and 15,220 injured.



“What do you have for #8? Let me see yours...”
“oh, it’s cheating.”

Katie Wozny
— Staff Reporter —

You are sitting in your classroom trying to remember anything and everything on your notes. The only thing you can picture is a blank piece of paper, therefore, the only thing you remember is nothing. In a panic, you look to see if the teacher is watching you, he/she’s not. PSST. What’s the answer to number 3, 5, and 9, you whisper?

Cheating is something that happens at Scotus and across the world. Here are some facts and ideas on cheating.

Cheating has significantly increased from the 1940s when 20 percent of college students admitted to cheating in high school. Today between 75 and 98 percent of college students admitted to cheating in high school. Math and science are the classes where cheating happens the most often according to www.plagiarism.org.

Scotus’ cheating policy is the first offense results in a zero on that quiz, test, or assignment. The second offense results in failure of that class.

According to Campus Minister Fr. Jeff Loseke, “Cheating is stealing someone else’s answer. It’s lying and an act of cowardice rather than just admitting and being who you are.”

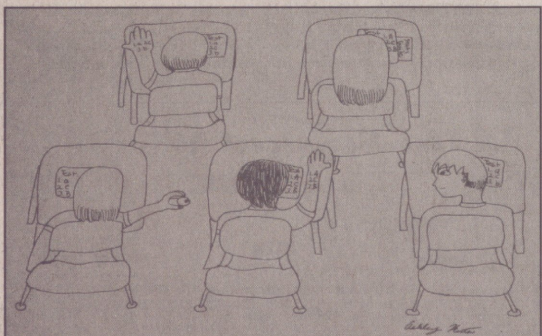
Principal Wayne Morfeld agreed saying, “Cheating is admitting defeat as a person. You will feel guilty even if you don’t get caught.”

High school cheating is less likely to be reported because students are worried of being called a “nark.”

Loseke and Morfeld both agreed in saying, a “nark” is one who tattles to achieve personal gain, while reporting is trying to keep someone out of trouble or to fight for justice.

Loseke said, “I would rather see someone get a 10 percent on something and be who they are and grow from it.”

In Proverbs 11:1 it says, “The Lord hates cheating, but he delights in honesty.” In Mark 12:40 it says, “They shamelessly cheat widows out of their property, and then, to cover up the kind of people they really are, they make long prayers in public. Because of this, their punishment will be the greater.”



ASHLEY KUTA/ROCK BOTTOM

Draft just a fact of life for students

Sam Zabawa
— Editor —

Starting and ending with the Vietnam War, the United States issued a military draft to help with active service. The Draft was required for all men as young as 18 to register with the government to be sent over to Vietnam. The Draft was created due to lack of volunteer help in the military. The Draft ended in 1973 as U.S. commitment in Vietnam waned during the War. The Draft has not been reissued since it came into effect during Vietnam.

Men between the ages of 18 and 25 must still register for the Selective Service.

Selective Service is the name given to what used to be the Draft, and men are required to register for cases of extreme national emergency, though the possibility of the Draft being reissued is slim. According to Senior Eric Puckett, registering doesn’t make a difference and he has no fear of the draft returning.

“I know it won’t come back because Mr. Brockhaus said it wouldn’t and even if it did and I was drafted, I’d want to do it for my country. My opinion would not be influenced by other people even if they disagreed with me.”

Senior Kyle Clarey stated, “I’m

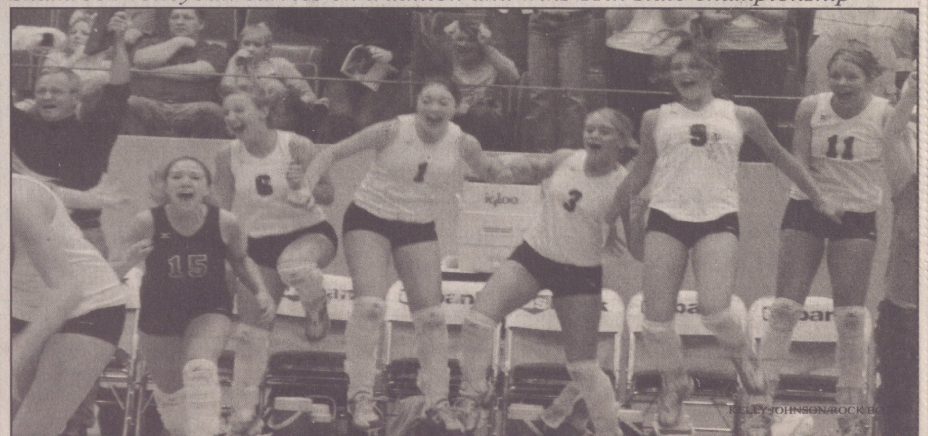
not worried about registering. It’s just something you have to do, especially if you want to have your Driver’s License and according to Mr. Brockhaus, there are so many other military personnel to get through first that there’s no need in worrying about the draft coming back.” Puckett and Clarey both expressed registering as equivalent to learning to drive—it’s a part of life.

Senior Cole Seckel said, “I don’t care about registering especially since I know if it were reissued, it would never get to us. But I really disagree with it because we’re not

see *Draft continued, page 4*

Shamrocks take home the gold

Shamrock volleyball carries on tradition and wins 11th state championship



JOHNSON/ROCK BOTTOM

Right, the volleyball teams celebrates winning the state championship. They won the game 25-23, 21-25, 25-19, 25-19.

Writing a novel, becoming obsessed



BOYS
Chelsea Bartholomew

Everything and nothing

Obsession, like a great many other things, can be blind. Very blind.

Then when you can finally see, you sometimes wish you hadn't. It tends to make you feel incredibly pathetic all of a sudden.

Unfortunately, I've been in such a situation quite a few times. Over a show, over a crush, over a lot of rather weird things. This time, it's over a book. Well, a book-in-the-making. Author: Me.

It starts slowly. An idea creeps into your head and makes itself at home. You shrug; it's happened

before. Your mind is like a hotel -- ideas come, but sooner or later, they go. As characters form, you find yourself flipping to the back of a rarely used school notebook and doodling them, because you just have to have an easily accessible reference to what they look like. One day during study hall, you're suddenly discarding your half finished Geometry homework, pulling out a blank piece of paper, and starting in on that scene that's been clawing at the front of your consciousness for a week now.

Well, you say to yourself, *perhaps this will be the one that goes somewhere*. Pleased, you begin encouraging yourself to think about it even more (if that's possible). Pretty soon, the afore-mentioned notebook is unsalvageable, at least in terms of doing actual schoolwork in it. What began as a few innocent drawings has become a mini-mu-

seum, a tribute to your efforts. There are little biographies of ev-

Your mind is like a hotel -- ideas come, but sooner or later, they go.

ery character, a smattering of first drafts of this or that, assorted plot details, and pieces of research among other things.

Somehow, it doesn't seem so bizarre anymore that J.K. Rowling has notebook upon notebook full of *Harry Potter*-related material.

It's only a small step from there to relating real life things and people to something or someone you've written. *That is...totally Jack. Barring the fact that Jack is a figment of my imagination, of course.*

Pause.
...Uh-oh.

Why 'uh-oh'? Well, when you start thinking that, you know you're in trouble. There's a certain line between 'casually interested' and 'obsessed,' and with such thoughts, you've effectively crossed the threshold. It's the point of no return. You're going to write this thing, and even when you do you will never be completely free again. Ever, ever again.

These characters, this plot, this world, they'll all be hanging out in your cranium forever now. Somehow, this idea has forked over the metaphorical money to change its section of your mind from a hotel into a cozy and ever-expanding apartment. Moreover, the real bugger is the fact that it can get away with anything - interrupting your thought process during a test, not feeding you the necessary prose to write when you actually want to (ideas tends to be far more inclined

to bounce up and down shouting, "Write me, write me!" during the middle of the night or another time of similar inconvenience), and so forth - and you can't 'kick them out' so to speak. At the risk of sounding totally insane, they know it too. All right, there's no 'risk' about it; it does sound insane.

In the end, though, they grow on you. Maybe it's Stockholm Syndrome. Yes, my mind has been kidnapped by these ideas, and in order to cope with such tragic circumstances, I've grown fond of them; it's all very unfortunate.

Okay, maybe not. As much as I seem to whine, I really do like *this* sort of obsession. I can't imagine not having an idea and a drive to see it through, nor do I want to. As Albert Einstein once said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited - imagination encircles the world."

Leaves lead to falling into happy thoughts



BOYS
Kaite Wozny

Under His construction

I have a confession to make. Hi... uh... my name is Katie, and I'm a leaf hugger! I don't know how my fascination with leaves came about; all I know is that it happened. I guess you could say it was love at first fall.

My first memory of my passion for leaves came when I was in first grade. It was that time of year again, and I loved it! I had this idea to make something out of leaves. Like any other first grader, I ran home and told my mommy my new genius idea. She thought I was crazy, but did one of those "sounds interesting," responses that I've grown to know is her way of saying, "I HAVE NO CLUE WHAT YOU WANT TO DO, BUT I SUPPORT YOU." My idea seemed quite simple: I was going to make an umbrella out of leaves. I

started collecting leaves and placing them oh so carefully in my green bucket labeled "Leaves only, don't throw away!" And I placed the bucket of leaves on the backdoor steps.

So, the plan was set. Since I was a first grader the only plan I had was to use my imagination! Then, on a blustery windy day, a very tragic thing happened. My dad came home from work, tipped over the green bucket, and the leaves that I had so carefully selected flew out the door!

Part of my love for leaves had blown out of my back door that day. It was as if I had lost my favorite toy or stuffed animal that I loved so much. Since that unfortunate event I had not had a leafy thought like that fall into my head again until my freshmen year.

During that time, I was afraid to completely be me. I had not completely found out who I wanted to be. And I did not want anyone to think I was someone other than who I was. One warm, fall day as I was walking through the courtyard, I

picked up a leaf. It was pretty much the coolest leaf that I have ever seen. It was green and had this awesome leafy smell to it! The chlorophyll was so vibrant; it could have

Leaves are something you can count on to make you smile as you go outside.

colored the sidewalk green. This leaf must have had guts or something because all the other leaves in the courtyard were brown, red, orange, or yellow. But not this leaf, it was different.

I carried it with me to my next class, which happened to be English. I set it on my desk, and it was not long before people asked why I had a leaf on my desk. The ideas ran through the maze in my head. I tried to find an answer that would make me appear halfway smart, but came up short and directed my mouth the answer, "it's my pet leaf!"

The pet leaf, which I named Leafy, stayed with me for about a week. On the days passed, Leafy had be-

come as fragile as Grandma's china. However, Leafy and I were doing well, until that horrible day when an anonymous person shut my locker, where Leafy was sleeping, a little too violently! Leafy's funeral followed soon after. I try not to look back at that day, but every fall I'm left with no other choice.

This autumn was no different. I remembered Leafy and the fun we had, but it occurred to me this year the reason for Leafy and my desire to create a leaf umbrella. It was not to try to deplete the population of leaves those two years. And, it was not because I needed a new umbrella, or that I desired a new pet. It was simply because I love leaves! It's hard to explain this craze. It comes and goes, but the love for leaves is something to look forward to. Every fall you know that the leaves are going to change color, and for a short time our world's palette isn't just green, blue, and a little bit of other colors mixed in, it's green, sky blue, pumpkin orange, red, yellow, and autumn brown. They bravely fall from the tree, ready to go out into the big world by them-

selves. Leaves are something you can count on to make you smile as you go outside. They provide an excellent cushion to land on and in. They make a distinct sound that lets us know when they are traveling down the street.

And for everything that the leaf is or is not, I love it for that. Each leaf is not perfect. Each one is unique. Each one comes from one creator. Each are bonded with the tree. Each one tries to make it on their own. Each leaf is just like us.

We are not perfect. We are unique. God creates us all. We all come from the tree that Jesus was crucified on that bonds us together with him and others. We all are trying to make it on our own.

So, as I collect my autumn leaves this year, no not in a green bucket as I did when I was in first grade, but rather in the front seat of my car, I realize that leaves and I will become as regular as the season itself. That wherever an autumn leaf is, there I will be pulled over on the side of the road or running violently through a park looking for a leaf to capture my heart all over again.

The shortcomings of the English language



GIRLS
Jake Staroscik

Can't touch this

I have a problem with the English language. It is not the punctuation, grammar, or spelling. The simple fact is there are not enough words to express myself. Countless times I have found myself literally "at a loss of words." For instance, I search the deepest cavities of my brain and only come up with "awesome" or "amazing" to describe my mom's peach pie. Or, I become angry with someone and only call him or her "stupid" or "dumb" to express my dislike. Everyday it seems I am using the same words over and over to describe how I feel.

This is my own fault, other words such as dazzling or stupendous are good alternative words for pie. Yet, they do not immediately

come to mind. The greater question is not whether enough words exist for my literary needs, it is why I haven't introduced new words to my vocabulary.

I found those words I was looking for in the most unlikely of sources. The dictionary. When Webster or whoever created the first dictionary he did not think about the average person like me. He made it so big that it would be impossible to comprehend the entire thing. So, because of the enormity of the dictionary, and my lack of sufficient time to pursue it, I am stuck with using inadequate vocabulary in my speaking and writing. Because I cannot possibly know every word I only use about 50 entries out of the dictionary. If I wanted to read the entire dictionary I am sure I could, but the time it would take would be better spent sleeping or even doing my homework.

Another thing that irks me about this English language is that a word

for every situation does not exist. Like when you take potatoes and mash them. This results in the creation of mashed potatoes, but what if you have only one potato and you mash it. Mashed potato? Or, mashed potatoes? You tell me. I am not sure if there is such thing as a mashed potato. Or, what about this sentence, "I fed the goat oats." Which sounds okay, but what if you only fed the goat one oat. "I fed the goat an oat."

Countless times I have found myself literally "at a loss of words."

only oats. I could go on and on with examples of the sort.

Like this sentence: "Your hair looks nice today." Is hair singular or can it be used to describe every hair on your head? I have heard people say, "Look at all those hairs," when referring an abundant growth on the back or forearms. Yet, never before have heard someone say,

"Your hairs look nice today" when commenting on the hairs of the head.

It is these descriptions that will forever puzzle me. Surely there is a correct way to say these, but until the entire English-speaking population begins incorporating proper usage into their speech, I will be forever plagued by it's nonsense.

I should not be so quick to point my finger at the English language. I'm sure that if I were fluent in Spanish, French, Chinese, or any other language I would encounter similar if not identical problems. Whenever something as large as a language is developed, it's nearly impossible for it to be perfect. It is just human nature to naturally create things with fault, and even if the language were perfect, it would take correct speaking of it by everyone in the world to make it work. That is impossible.

For the first 16 years of my life I thought I was learning and using my language the right way, and now that I have discovered my faults, I do not know where to turn. I have, however, a few options: The first of

which I will overlook because it involves not talking for the rest of my life. The second, which is a noble path, is one I will embark on. I'll use more expressive adjectives to make my words sharpened, finer, and more useful. I will use mightier verbs to enhance, amplify, and embellish my sentences. Most of all though, I will continue to pursue perfection. Giving up would be a monstrosity, that I refuse to let surmount my motives. I simply cannot crumble into mediocrity. Starting now, well no, tomorrow, I will read a page out of the dictionary every day, and in a few years, I will know the entire thing. Your grandchildren will not be studying Shakespeare, Hemmingway, or Poe. They will be studying my work....Fat chance!

I will have to overcome the shortcomings of the English language. This will be difficult because I still will become angry with myself for using the same words over and over again, and I will continue to be puzzled by an oat or a mashed potato. Put that all aside, and the future looks spectacular.

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If you like:

RED means you like to stay on top of things. You are a winner, an achiever, intense, impulsive, active, competitive, daring, aggressive, and passionate. Routine drives you crazy and you can be opinionated. Patience is not a virtue of yours.

ORANGE means you work and play hard and are adventurous and enthusiastic. You are good-natured and like to be around people. Your ideas are unique and you have strong determination. You are more agreeable than aggressive. Success in business can come easily.

YELLOW means you are highly original, imaginative, idealistic, creative, artistic and often spiritual. You love novelty and challenges; you are a reliable friend, and confidant. You are egotistical, yet you don't like second best. You are shy at heart and appear somewhat aloof because of it. Yellow people are perfectionists.

GREEN means you are stable and balanced. You are the joiner of clubs and organizations and a kind and generous person. You are a caring companion, loyal friend, and sensitive to doing the right thing. You are intelligent, but the bad thing is that you often have big appetites for food. The worst is you have a tendency to gossip.

BLUE means you are trusted and need to be trusted. You are sensitive to the needs of others and form strong attachments, and are hurt if your trust has been betrayed. You aspire to harmony, serenity, patience, perseverance, and peace. You are social but would rather stick with your close circle of friends and think twice before speaking.

PURPLE means you are highly creative, this color is usually preferred by artists. You are generous, super sensitive, moody, at times charming, and have conflicting traits. It is said that purple people are easy to live with but hard to know. You can be secretive, so friends may not actually know you.

PINK means you are associated with romance, sweetness, delicacy, refinement and tenderness. You are interested in the world around you, but violence in any form is upsetting to you. You are talented and have subtlety, charm and warmth, and are probably an incurable romantic. You are friendly yet you tend to keep inner feelings to yourself.

BLACK means you may have a few conflicting attitudes. You may be conservative and serious, may like to think of yourself as rather worldly or sophisticated, a cut above everyone else, or very dignified. Wit, cleverness, personal security and prestige are very important to you.

BROWN means you are reliable and have a keen sense of duty and responsibility. You are down-to-earth and love to have comfort, quality, harmony, hearth and home. You are a loyal friend, understanding yet firm. You work hard to change a situation that seems unjust or unfair. Family life is important to you.

If you dislike:

RED means you may be bothered by the aggressiveness and intensity that red signifies. Those that are irritable, ill exhausted, or bothered by many problems many times reject red and turn to the calmer colors for rest and relaxation. You are very self-protective.

ORANGE means you don't like a lot of partying, hilarity, loud laughter, showing off and obvious intimacy. You may be difficult to get to know and prefer a few close friends to a large circle of acquaintance. When you make a friend, they are your friends forever.

YELLOW means you are a realist - a practical, down-to-earth person. You are skeptical of new ideas and prefer to concentrate on things you know you can accomplish.

GREEN means you may have an unfulfilled need to be recognized that causes you to pull away from people rather than join them. You don't like doing things that the majority people do. You do not like staying at home on a Saturday night.

BLUE means you are restless and need a break from whatever bores you. Perhaps you would like to change your job, or even your life, and long for more excitement. You wish you were either wealthy or brilliant so you wouldn't have to work so hard.

PURPLE means you may not have any desire to be artistic or creative. You feel purple represents snobbery, falseness, exaggeration and vanity. You sometimes misjudge others because you do not like them or approve of them. It is hard for you to build your self-confidence, and you must learn you cannot build it by condemning others.

PINK means you are plainly looking for excitement in life and pink simply will not do this for you.

BLACK may represent death and mourning to you. Any past experience may still be buried in the back of your mind and may still haunt you. Black may just be too depressing and you prefer to be around real people.

BROWN means you probably fantasize about a lot of things, perhaps traveling with a circus or racing cars. You enjoy novelty and routine drives you crazy. You are witty, impetuous and generous. Living on the farm is not for you. You enjoy people but they must be bright and outgoing.

- Passionate
- Enthusiastic
- Imaginative
- Loyal
- Trusted
- Charming
- Talented
- Witty
- Reliable

All Information found at:
<http://www.geocities.com/buddychai/Misc/ColorProfiles.html?200531>
 By: Buddy Bee

How often do students at Scotus make their beds?

After asking a number of students if they make their beds, these are the statistics that were found.

Are you ever alone?

For those who share a room with some member of your family you know you are never alone. Here are some statistics for students at Scotus who share a room.

Yes:

- * 9% share a room with one person
- * 4% share a room with two people
- * 2% share a room with their pets

No:

- * 85% do not share a room

Room enough for you in your room

Katie Michaelsen & Anna Boeding
 Editors

Your room is more than just a space in your house; it is your life, your personality, and most importantly yours and only yours. A room can hide your darkest secret or express who you truly are in ways many won't understand. You will spend nearly a third of your life in your bedroom, and the color of your walls can often determine how you feel when you start the day. Soft colors are said to be the most relaxing, and help you to start the day feeling positive. If you spend much time barefoot in your bedroom, carpet might be a nice idea. According to *Decorating the Bedroom* at midvalleyfurniture.com, carpet is the most popular choice for flooring mostly because it is



PHOTO COURTESY OF BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS

soft and provides something warm for your feet in the winter. Wood is second most popular followed by vinyl, cork, tile, and marble. Themed rooms are generally popular, and having a theme makes decorating and finding accessories much easier. Hobbies, sports, the Caribbean and country are all popular themes that help to make your room a comfortable place.

Popular Themes:

- Hobbies
- Sports
- Beach
- Caribbean
- Country
- Animals
- COLOR

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Miracle in our midst

Nicole Sobotka
Editor

Some say this is a miracle, and it is. Sophomore Abbi Placzek should have been paralyzed after her recent car crash but she was saved by an abnormality in her body. Her spinal column is bigger than a normal person's: the size of a 300-pound football player's to be exact. It's even more amazing because of her body's small stature. Mere days after the crash, she is already back at school for a few periods a day and walking.

The crash has not affected her as much as one might think. She does not suffer from nightmares or post-traumatic stress disorder. The only effect is that she is a little nervous to start driving again, but not scared.

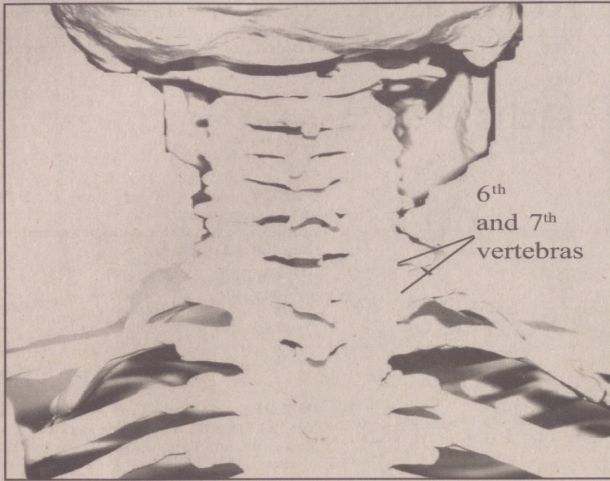
"It affected my friends, Abbi said. "They were all scared and understood that I could've been seriously hurt."

She said that it has made her friends realize that they should be more cautious when driving because this could happen to anyone. Now they know what could happen if they do not wear their seat belts or if they mess around when they drive.

"It just happened so fast, Abbi said. "It didn't hit me that I broke my neck and could have been paralyzed until I was in the hospital."

Being in the hospital was the worst part for Abbi. Immediately after the crash she had blacked out and did not know what was going on. After that she was on strong painkillers.

The doctors were amazed. Abbi's surgeon told her that he had never done that type of surgery on a patient who was not



6th and 7th vertebrae

already paralyzed. They were also amazed that she only needed

Counting down, her sixth and seventh vertebrae, which are

“IT JUST HAPPENED SO FAST”
ABBI PLACZEK

called cervical vertebrae, were fractured

two surgeries. Her family is very happy that this major of a crash will affect her life so little, physically.

It will take about a year for Abbi to fully recover. Eventually, when she is well enough, Abbi will start physical therapy but she will never have full range of motion in her neck again.

ured and the disks between them crushed. She had to have the disks removed and disks from a cadaver were put in. Metal plates were screwed to the front and back of her column to help support her neck. Ideally, all the new disks and metal will fuse together like they're normal bones. Abbi suffered more than bro-

Last hurrah for manager Miksch

Jake Starosick
Editor

The bell rings and school is out. Many people go home, some to work, but many of us find ourselves in the locker rooms getting ready for after school practices. Even though he hasn't played football or any other fall sport for the last four years, the same can be said for senior Brian Miksch.

the way back to his days in Junior High football.

"I started playing as a tight-end and linebacker, but I switched to manager my freshman year," said Miksch. "I wanted to support the school and still be part of the team."

Miksch's duties as manager range from the normal like setting up cones, preparing dum-

me, I am always there for them," Miksch said.

“HE'S THE BEST GUY FOR THE JOB...WE COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN FAR WITHOUT HIM”
SCOTT JARECKE

Many people wonder why some-

to help the team out," he said. "I have the attitude to play."

Certainly this is no lie in the case of Miksch. His support of the team can be heard and seen at every football game, and cheers and water bottle refilling have aided the team for the past four years. Unfortunately though all good things must come to end, and as for Miksch, his senior year draws to an end and therefore he will no longer grace the sidelines.

"I'll be praying for you guys next year," Miksch said.

This sums up the respect and support Miksch has for the team. He will always go the extra distance to make sure they can play to the best of their ability.

"You get an understanding of what a team is all about," Miksch remarked, "and I like being part of that."

When Brian Miksch leaves this school and no longer manages, there is no doubt the football team will survive. The players and the coaches will be there next year to start a new season. One thing will be missing though -- the upbeat attitude of a certain manager, the dedication he brought to the team, and his support of the players and coaches. Others will come and go, but it will be hard for anyone to match Brian Miksch.



Brian Miksch closes out the season as football manager.

Jake Starosick/Rock Bottom

Miksch has been a football manager since his freshman year, and not only this, but the self-proclaimed biggest fan on the team.

The world of high school sports managing is not an easy one, and football is probably one of the hardest sports to manage, but Miksch has managed to overcome this and become more than just a manager. He has become a unique and valuable asset to the team.

"He is the best guy for the job," commented junior Scott Jarecke, "I don't think we could have gotten far without him."

Miksch's start can be traced all

mies, and helping the coaches, to the unusual like being sort of the first medic on the practice field. If someone has a cut or scrape, Miksch is the first person they go to.

"Miksch is a heck of a team manager," said junior Joe Robak.

The support from the players and coaches has helped Miksch continue his demanding job.

"I feel like the team appreciates

one would volunteer themselves for such a rigorous and time consuming job, but for Miksch there is no question about his motives.

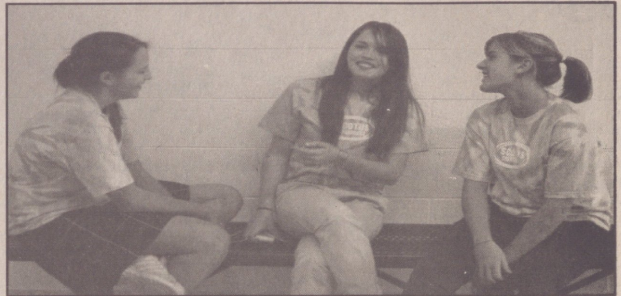
"My grandpa is a great supporter of Scotus athletics," Miksch commented. "A lot of it comes from him."

Miksch also attributes it to his love of the game.

"I am a fan of football, and I want

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Sophomore Abbi Placzek laughs with friends. Placzek recently returned to school after a life-altering crash.

Nikki Sobotka/Rock Bottom

Moving on up

Katie Wozny
Staff Reporter

ken bones, muscles in her neck and back were also torn from being slammed to the side when her car flipped. This means that just sitting up is tiring because it takes energy so even though Abbi is amazingly healthy for what she has been through, she can only attend school for a couple periods at a time. She doesn't want to push her body too far, too soon. Abbi also has to have help carrying things because she cannot lift over 15 pounds.

Abbi now has a new perspective on life and she is thankful everyday that she is not paralyzed. She said that she would not be able to live her life the way she wants if she had been paralyzed.

Limitations she has to deal with will restrict her for a long time. She can never play contact sports again for her entire life. She also has to sit out the rest of the year for flag corps unless her doctor changes his mind. Abbi is a gymnastics teacher and she said that she might never be able to do that again because there is a possibility that she could re-injure herself.

"I definitely think different now, Abbi said. "I think that it kind of happened for a reason. It shows everyone at Scotus that they need to be careful and slow down because something like this could've been way worse than it is."

The Rock Bottom hit top. Last year's Creative Writing class won the Cornhusker. The Cornhusker is a prestigious award that only one out of four Class B school newspapers receive. It is the highest award given out by Nebraska High School Press Association. The Rock Bottom won this award two out of three times. The current Rock Bottom Staff congratulates all of last year's staff and Mr. Arneal, the adviser.

Draft

from page one

21. If the government doesn't think we are responsible enough to consume alcohol at the age of 18, how can they possibly expect us to kill someone and be mature enough to handle it? I think the government should think that one through before they consider reissuing the draft.

Zach Ramaekers has already registered since he turned 18 in early October.

"I registered online and it was really easy. I'm not worried about it being reissued. If that was the case though, I would go because it has to be and should be done."

Government teacher Pat Brockhaus stated, "I firmly believe the draft will not happen. I believe it is very politically unpopular and very unnecessary. Also, I think we have enough volunteers to not worry about the draft being reissued." Along with registering for a non-existent draft, should women be allowed, or more so, required to register for Selective Service? According to Ramaekers, it is not a great plan.

"I think women registering would be a bad idea. Not to be stereotypical, but there are a lot of things most women would probably have difficulties with. Physical strength, using guns, and killing people, for example would be difficult experiences for most women to handle, in my opinion," Ramaekers said.

According to Kristina Flint, Sarah Marik, and Jessica Koza, they all agreed that it would be okay to sign up, but definitely not preferred, and if women were included, they would be scared to death. Their biggest fears of being sent away to fight were death and lacking necessary skills and strength.

"Out of everything that comes with war, I think the hardest thing to cope with would be seeing people die right in front of you. It would be overwhelming," Flint replied.



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Emma Earns 5 Stars

Chelsea Bartholomew
Editor

Dances, gossip, and enough 'who-will-end-up-with-whom' drama to keep you guessing for pages. No, we're not talking a new teen novel. This book is the classic, *Emma*, written by widely acclaimed author Jane Austen in 1816.

The title character, Ms. Emma Woodhouse, is a smart, beautiful, and vivacious woman with just a little too much confidence in her matchmaking abilities. When she was young her mother died and ever since, she was taken care of primarily by her governess Ms. Taylor. However, at the start of the novel Ms. Taylor just married Mr. Weston, another denizen of the English town of Highbury, where the novel is set; and thus moved away from Hartfield (the home of Emma's family). Emma consoles herself by telling everyone that she made the match herself, something highly doubted by Mr. Knightley, an old family friend and the only person who ever calls Emma out on her faults.

At a dinner party soon after the wedding Emma meets Harriet Smith, a pretty seventeen-year-old. She is a boarder at a school in Highbury run by a woman named Mrs. Goddard. Harriet is eager to please Emma, and Emma is eager to take Harriet on as a sort of project; she feels that with some work on her part, she can make Harriet a part of high society.

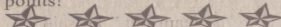
The first thing she does is try to set up Harriet with the town preacher, Mr. Elton, a well-to-do young bachelor. She carefully sets up times for them to be together, and as the months go by she feels encouraged that her efforts are paying off. In the meantime, Robert Martin, a young farmer whose family lives near Mrs. Goddard's school and whose sisters are Harriet's friends, proposes to her via a beautifully written letter. Harriet comes to Emma for advice on what to do and Emma advises her to reject Mr. Martin. When Mr. Knightley hears of this, he is furious with Emma; from the beginning, he was convinced that Emma and Harriet's friendship would do more

harm than good, especially to the latter. He tells Emma that she's going to make Harriet think too highly of herself, and set her up for a large disappointment. Emma remains stalwartly convinced that he's wrong, and that Harriet will marry Mr. Elton, raising her social status enormously. Unfortunately, on the way home from a Christmas party at the Westons', she's in for a rude surprise. Let's just say that he is rather taken with someone, a someone who, to Emma's dismay, is decidedly not Harriet Smith.

But the book's not even half over. Later on, the readers will meet Frank Churchill (Mr. Weston's handsome son from his first marriage), Jane Fairfax (the granddaughter and niece of Highbury's Mrs. Bates and Ms. Bates, respectively) and other characters that are equally fascinating.

Emma is widely considered to be Jane Austen's finest work, and I must agree. Emma is less perfect than many of Austen's other heroines, and this tends to make her more sympathetic and likable (though Austen herself apparently didn't think she would be - when Emma was first published, she reportedly said something akin to, "I am writing a heroine only I myself will like.") Characters used mainly for comic effect, such as Emma's father and Ms. Bates, really are amusing to the reader, showing that despite the fact that nearly two centuries have passed since its publication, some things are funny no matter what time period you're from. Other things, however, are not so successfully translated. The prose used in *Emma*, for example, is magnificent, but it can seem a bit overly flowery compared to the contemporary novels we are used to reading. It's not for those who have a short attention span, unless they're die-hard romance fans.

In conclusion, *Emma* was a wonderful and interesting read. By the end of the book you will care about the characters within, which is, in my opinion, the highest achievement an author can attain. And if you're still not convinced, hey, it's worth 30 Accelerated Reader points!

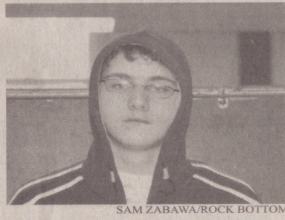


Hoodies--Yay or Nay

Sam Zabawa
Editor



SAM ZABAWA/ROCK BOTTOM



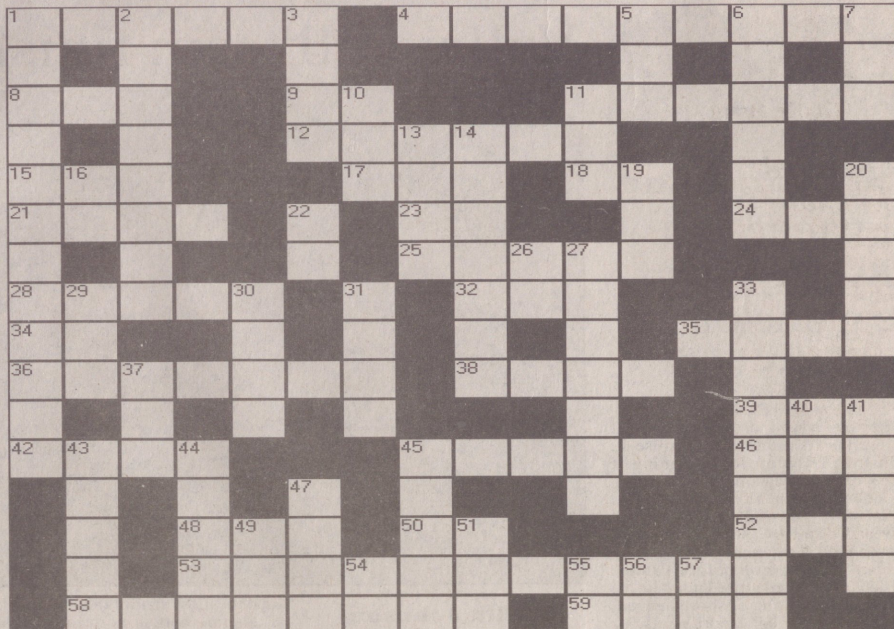
SAM ZABAWA/ROCK BOTTOM

Above left, Kelly Ingram is pictured with the current style of Scotus sweatshirts. Above right, Kevin Micek is pictured with a hoodie sweatshirt, an example of the type of sweatshirt students voted to add to Scotus attire. (Hoods would not be allowed to be worn during school hours.)

Hooded sweatshirts are the preference of most Scotus students, according to a recently conducted *Rock Bottom* survey. The overall approval rating fared far above those opposed to hooded sweatshirts, with 95 percent of the students participating in the survey voting in favor of the notion, while only a meager 5 percent opposed.

The top five choice colors were: green, gray, blue, black, and any color, in that ranking order.

Disclaimer: This survey is for mere opinion poll only. The idea of hooded sweatshirts has not been raised as an option for attire change at Scotus.



Scotus Crossword

Thanksgiving and Other Arbitrary Ideas

Jake Staroscik
Editor

Across:

1. What you eat on Thanksgiving; fowl
4. Little red morsel, sauced or gelled
8. "_____ in the Family." T.V. show
9. State of Montana postal abbreviation
11. Give _____ to the Lord
12. Another word for dinner
15. Kit_____
17. Better Engineers United (abbreviation)
18. What _____ God was one of us?
21. To thrust saliva from the mouth
23. In the morning
24. _____ of corn
25. You might name your dog this
28. What you think of
32. Your family
34. Abbreviation for the state that these men were from: Jefferson, Washington, and Madison
35. Sorrow towards something
36. The age of Iron
38. If you are not far you are this
39. What you did when under your

blankets when monsters came

42. Precious metal
45. Land of milk and _____
46. Slang for brother
48. United States of America
50. Post Script (abbreviation.)
52. Teachers do this
53. What you smash and then eat (singular)
58. We (en español)
59. I had _____ of fun this weekend

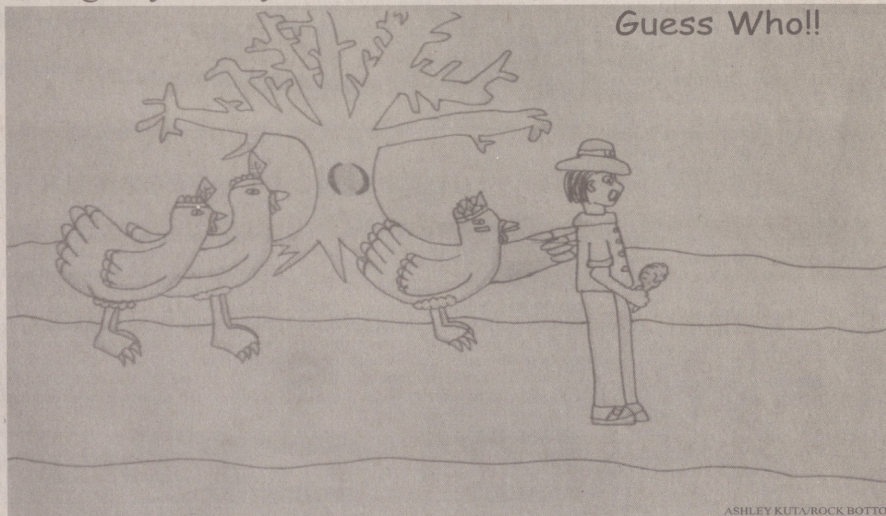
Down:

1. Holiday in November
2. A person you almost always have to see on Thanksgiving
3. Sweet potatoes with marshmallows
5. A sheep says this
6. Rhymes with "handle" begins with "R"
7. Opposite of no
10. You take a bath in it
11. Prefix meaning three
13. _____ and carrots
14. Large orange vegetable
16. Associated Press
19. Friend or _____
20. You put this on mashed pota-


toes

22. _____, myself, and I
26. John Paul _____
27. Your mom did this to the bread dough before she baked it
29. To give (en español)
30. To hit someone
31. To read (en español)
33. Place west of Columbus, known for its roller skating
37. Black gold
40. To go (en español)
41. This is what you have before you have bread
43. Vegetable that makes you cry when you cut into it
44. Instruments that you pound on
45. Slang for Hippopotamus
47. Don't dwell on the _____
49. Student Activities Organization (abbreviation)
51. Save our ship
54. Hank Aaron hit the most of these in his career
55. Meet me _____ the pier
56. Terrell Owens
57. Turn the light _____, I can't see

Inkings By Ashley




ASHLEY KUTA/ROCK BOTTOM




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BILL Kurtenbach
NEXT TO THE PLATE

League and its players in a game of "Dress Up"

The National Basketball Association has a new dress code, and I love the idea, but also despise it. Just weeks before the beginning of the regular season, the commissioner sent a memo to all the teams and players stating all players must wear "Business Casual" attire whenever they participate in league or team business, or before games. Business Casual attire includes: (1) a dress shirt, long or short sleeved, (2) dress slacks, khaki pants, or dress jeans, and (3) appropriate shoes and socks. Unacceptable shoes would include sneakers, sandals, flip-flops, or work boots. Once the players enter the locker room, they change into their jerseys, unless they are not playing for whatever reason and just sitting on the bench. If they are not playing, they must dress according to the new guidelines, but a sport coat and dress shoes are mandatory.

Some reasons to love the idea are that just because they are making the most money of any athletes playing professional sports does

After the game in which Ron Artest attacked a fan in the stands, everyone has been questioning the integrity of the NBA.

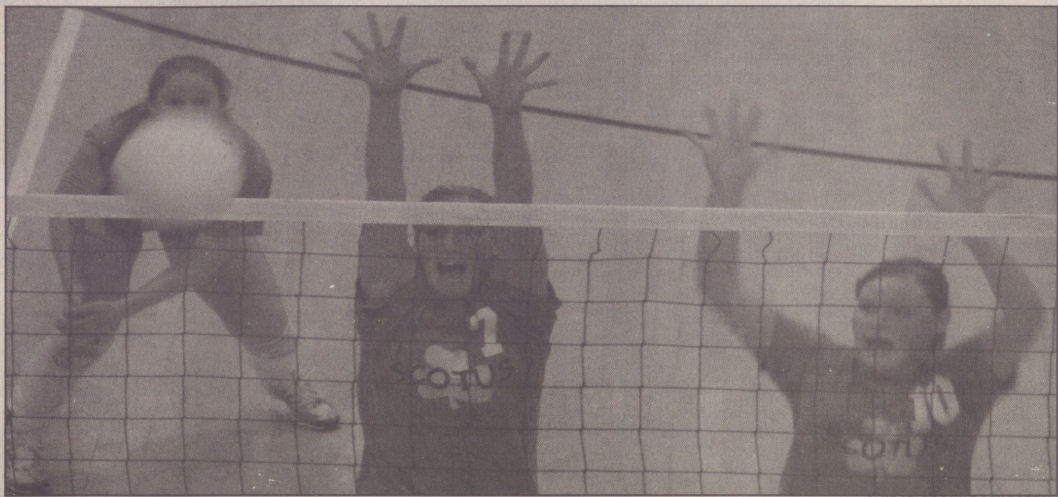
not mean they do not have to be appropriate in the way they dress. Millions of little kids look up to these men. Some become obsessed with every aspect of a player's life. They could easily get the impression that if the men playing professional sports can show up to work in torn jeans, sleeveless shirts, and their finest bling, then they should be able to when they get a job.

Besides sending a professional image, the NBA also is showing the players where they stand in relation to the people running the actual business. After last year's game where Ron Artest went on a rampage in The Palace of Auburn Hills during a game against Detroit, everyone has been questioning the integrity of the league, and I think this is a good move to help keep the players in check and give a more professional look.

On the other side of the discussion, you could say that the players' jerseys are the actual apparel they wear when they are working. The players do not get paid to walk to the arena, and they do not get paid until the game starts. The court is their office, and their jerseys are their suits. This is a very weak side to be on, and even I take the leagues side.

Because of the greed the players in the NBA have, I prefer college basketball. In college basketball, no one has egos. Everyone plays for the team and only the team. The players give 100 percent every game because they have to prove to everyone that they can play at the next level. Once players get to the NBA, they feel they have nothing left to prove and say to themselves, "I do not need them, but they need me." The players are trying to provoke the team's owner into contemplating a trade involving the player. This is the same with some players in all professional sports. College keeps the players honest, and honest players are good players.

Volleyball team finishes on highest of highs



JAKE STAROSCICK/ROCK BOTTOM

Junior Liz Hadland, center, and Senior Kim Whalen, right, jump in an attempt to block a spike. Senior Jamie Tooley, left, prepares to dig for the ball. Below, Tooley hugs teammates after the state championship volleyball game. The Shamrocks won the tournament, defeating last year's champions Lincoln Lutheran in four sets.

Kellie Johnson
Staff Reporter

It all started on August 26, 2005 at 8:00 a.m. - the drive for six to the state volleyball final. This team was different in the sense that they had refused to lose in the state championship again. Someone might say they had a little unfinished business.

Through the long, hard grueling practices they prevailed even when they thought death was ahead of them.

Coach John Petersen said, "The work ethic of this team is great and their desire to excel."

This showed many times throughout the season especially in matches against Norfolk Catholic and Wahoo Neumann who was ranked 6th in the state. Later on they overcame North Bend, Grand Island Northwest, Beatrice, Omaha Skutt,

and the most memorable—Lincoln Lutheran, both at home and in the state championship, where it mattered most.

The talent of this 26-3 team was shown greatly not only on the court but off the court, too.

Petersen said, "This year's seniors did a nice job, they lead by example vocally and work ethic on and off the court."

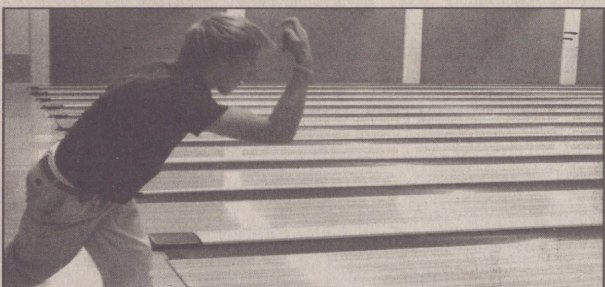
Petersen was not only grateful about the team in what they had accomplished, but about the enthusiasm of the students, band, and cheerleaders.

The road to state was long and hard, but these players had one thing in mind, which was to win state, and they did. The players knew when they excelled and when they did not. From game to game the mood getting on the bus home depended on how well they did.

When a win was in the air they were happy and talkative, but when

“THE WORK ETHIC OF THIS TEAM IS GREAT, AND THEIR DESIRE IS TO EXCEL.”

— COACH PETERSEN



JAKE STAROSCICK/ROCK BOTTOM



KELLIE JOHNSON/ROCK BOTTOM

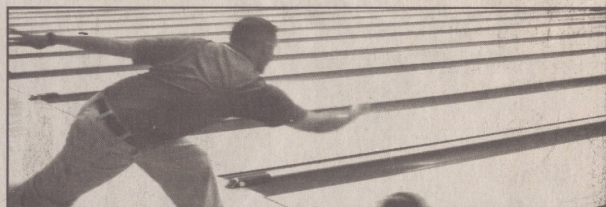
a loss arose, the team was quiet and depressed just thinking about their loss and how it could have been prevented made them sick.

The state tournament came around the corner. Their voices were shaky yet excited. They knew they were in for a big challenge. Getting on that bus after Friday night's wins, there was relief in the air, but it only lasted for so long, until they realized they had to face Lincoln Lutheran again.

Saturday morning the bus left early so the team could have a walk-through at Lincoln High. From there,

the team headed to Pershing Auditorium or as some would call it "home." The ride was great with the players feeling confident while coaches were nervous. Watching the games before theirs made the team focus even more. The time had come to play the biggest rival game in volleyball against Lincoln Lutheran.

The bus ride home was amazing that night, the noise did not end. There was constant smiling and sighs of relief. The celebration will not end until the season starts again in August 2006.



JAKE STAROSCICK/ROCK BOTTOM

At right, Scotus junior Ben Broxterman releases the ball down the lane. Above, Scotus teacher Sean Wickham lets go of his bowling ball. Broxterman defeated his American History teacher in a best-of-three series.

Bowling battle between student and teacher draws big crowd

Jake Staroscik
Editor

In a battle of American History trivia, Mr. Sean Wickham would most certainly have the upper hand on his students. Of course, this is expected because he is the teacher. Change the battle field though, from a classroom to a bowling alley, and

change the fight from one waged with the mind to one with pins and bowling balls and some of the students here at Scotus might have a chance. Such was the case when Junior Ben Broxterman faced off with Wickham recently at Boulevard Lanes.

The hype for the match was incredible. Broxterman, who has aspi-

rations to join the PBA, is known for his dominance with a bowling ball, his refusal to be sub-par, and his never ending string of strikes. Wickham, too, is a strong bowler, and in recent years he has proved that to many of the students he has faced. However, Broxterman's quick wrists and smooth slide were too much for Wickham to handle. The

first game went to Wickham by a mere three pins, but after that it was Broxterman all the way. His ball almost seemed to slice through the pins, chewing them down one by one. He was too good for Wickham to handle. Strike after strike Broxterman proved he was Scotus Central Catholic's king of bowling.

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VOLUME 8 ISSUE 4 DECEMBER 21, 2005

MOCK TRIAL SUSTAINS WAY TO STATE

Katie Wozny

— Staff Reporter —

Objection, your Honor! Relevance? Ah, the sound of a courtroom, oh wait, that's just a Mock Trial competition. Mock Trial is an activity where students learn their way around the courtroom.

Each year the Nebraska State Bar Foundation administers and funds the Mock Trial Project. Each team is made up of six witnesses that are gender neutral. There is a maximum of eight students and minimum of six. Only six team members can participate in any trial.

Mock Trial teams start the season by reading the case. This year's case was Pat Christianson vs. William Jennings Bryan Public High School, Eddy U. Cation. It was a case centered on the U.S. Constitution's 1st Amendment. Each team is required to be able to present both sides of the case.

Pat Christianson, a witness on the Plaintiff side, is a senior at William Jennings Bryan Public High School. Christianson was running for student body president with a Christian platform. Sal Lantro was also running for student body president with a vegan platform. The Plaintiff tried to prove that if Sal Lantro was able to run on his/her vegan lifestyle, so too should Pat Christianson be able to run on his/her Christian beliefs.

On the defense side, Sami/Sammie Slang, a student at William Jennings Bryan Public High school, testified that she had to play at the Student Council Assembly because of her Pep Band Contract. Sami/Sammie was offended when Pat gave her speech because he/she believed religious was being forced on him/her in a public school.

Mock Trial is a single elimination competition. This year Scotus' junior team went up against Twin

River, York, and finally Columbus High. The winner of the Scotus vs. Columbus High trial would advance to State. The team beat Columbus High, allowing them to compete at State in Omaha.

This is the first Scotus team to do that in several years. The lawyers include Lauren Schumacher, Lance Schmidt, and Courtney Frei. Katie Wozny, Katie Michaelson, Kellie Johnson, Katie Schueth, and Jen Fisher are the witnesses.

Attorney Gene Schumacher acted as the juniors' coach. After reading about the case the team prepared by practicing against the senior team. They also met with each other to go over questions, rules, and strategies.

Katie Schueth played the parts of both Sal Lantro and Sammie Slang.

Schueth said, "I enjoyed State Mock Trial. Mock Trial helped me to learn to think quickly on my feet.

It was fun and I really wasn't that nervous at all."

The team placed 10th out of 12 teams. And although they wish they would have done better, they are

promising better things to come next year. They are hoping to advance to State again, but place better. There are a total of 144 Mock Trial Teams from Nebraska.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIE WOZNY
The Mock Trial team prepares to compete at the state tournament.

Must have item of the season: your very own winter kit

Jake Staroscik

— Editor —



It's good to have candles for a little extra light and heat. These could also be used to melt snow or ice to make water.



These supplies are to make a fire. Put the toilet paper in the canister shown below, pour the rubbing alcohol over it, and then use the matches to start a fire. This should help you to stay warm when the car is turned off.



Winter has arrived. Snow will fall, roads will ice, and the weather will become unbearably cold. All of these factors contribute to winter being a dangerous time, more so than any other season. No place is this more apparent than on the roadways. Whether through light or heavy traffic on either a long or a short trip, every time people enter a vehicle they put their life and any of their passenger's lives at risk. Sudden gusts of wind can roll any vehicle over, snowdrifts can block the path, ice can cause the vehicle to slide off the road, and whit-outs can reduce visibility. These unfortunate circumstances may be out of one's control and impossible to prevent, but if they do happen, there is a way to be ready; a way to prepare for every winter road emergency. A safeguard to have in the vehicle for protection from these tragedies is a winter kit.

A winter kit is designed to aid if trouble is encountered on the road during winter and a person is unable to reach help. These kits can be a lifesaver when stranded in a vehicle during a blizzard, or if someone is lost on the highway and the vehicle breaks down.

According to Mrs. Wolken, Senior High Guidance Counselor, a winter kit is just what she needs in her car.

"I don't have a cell phone," she said, "and I travel long distances a lot. If I ever get stranded, I'll be prepared."

The advantages to having one

in a vehicle are so great; it is a wonder so few people have one.

These kits come in a variety of shapes and sizes, and they can be purchased or made at home. Either way, they all serve the same purpose: to keep people alive when they are stranded in cold weather. Most kits should be equipped with useful items such as candles, matches, food (canned-soup, peanuts, candy bars, and granola bars), blankets, extra socks, a flashlight, scissors, and bright ribbon to tie to the antenna to make the vehicle more visible to vehicles driving by. For water it's possible to use a candle and an empty can to melt the

There is no timetable for hypothermia. It can set in after a matter of minutes.

snow. Be careful not to drink the water before it is warm because cold water can drop body temperature very quickly.

Items like these are the necessities in a winter kit, but many more items can be added to them.

Such is the case with Wolken's kit. "It has granola bars, a flashlight, transistor radio, candles, matches, sleeping bags, coveralls, boots, and gloves."

As Wolken's case demonstrates, winter kits vary depending on the user. You should choose or prepare a kit that best suits your needs.

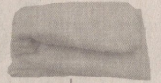
Use common sense, if you often travel with more than one person, prepare your winter kit in that matter. Likewise, if caught in an emer-

gency, it is always a good idea to use conservation. Do not waste any of the food or matches. In some cases it can be days before rescuers are able to reach a vehicle, so take the necessary precautions. Another thing to remember is to always dress appropriately when driving. Wear a coat, pants, and sufficient shoes no matter how short the distance. You can never be too cautious. During winter a simple rear-ender could stall the trip by as much as an hour, and being properly dressed is a good idea.

Also, an important note to remember when stranded on the road is to never leave the vehicle unless a visible building is within a short walking distance. It is easy to get disoriented in a blizzard, and if you leave your car you might never return. Leaving the vehicle can also severely affect body temperature resulting in hypothermia. There is no timetable for hypothermia as it varies from person to person, but

it can set in in a matter of minutes. All it takes is a drop in body temperature of five degrees and death becomes a serious threat. Muscle coordination falters, hands become useless, speech and thought becomes slow and sluggish, and amnesia sets in. The brain temperature slows down and causes confusion throughout the whole body.

If you do become the unfortunate victim of a terrible blizzard, make sure your misfortune stops there. Equip your vehicle with a winter kit today. Kits are simple and easy to make, or you can buy them at an affordable price. All it takes is a little time, and it just might save you later on down the road, that is a snow covered road.



Any kind of blanket will work, but heavy duty blankets like a sleeping bag are best.



In situations like these, candy bars give more nutrients and energy than healthy food, like apples.



A big plastic tub should hold all or most of your winter kit supplies and be easily placed in the trunk or back seat of a car.

'Tis the season for icy roads

Nikki Sobotka

— Editor-in-chief —

Snowy conditions, gusting wind, and icy roads both accompany Nebraska winters and make driving impossible at times. It is just something that people have to learn to deal with. Scotus students seem fairly acclimated with these conditions because very few have gotten into car crashes because of them. One problem that seems harder to deal with is getting cars caught in snow drifts, which has happened to seniors Jen Haney and Jessica Koza. Koza had this happen to her recently after work. She said that two guys she works with shoveled the snow and then pushed her car out of it.

"When I was a sophomore I got stuck in a snow drift down by Perault's," Haney said. "I had to call Joe Held and Ryan Ames to come and dig me out." Common safety practices of driving on ice or snow are braking

sooner, taking turns slower and more carefully, and taking more time to accelerate than usual to prevent fishtailing. If these precautions are not taken, then people could slide through stop signs or intersections and sometimes into other cars. While people might think this is a fun pastime, it could turn into a dan-

gerous accident. Almost every student has seen an accident caused by snow or ice at one point or another; it's a common occurrence in wintery Nebraska. Black ice especially is dangerous because it's very hard to see. Senior Kristina Flint was in the car

when her older sister, Michelle, ran into a light pole while sliding around a corner after taking it too fast. Luckily, the damage was minimal. Junior Liz Hadland and her family see cars in the ditches or in pile-ups ever year when they go skiing she said. Luckily snow and ice are not a huge problem because Scotus is located in town and not along a gravel country road, but it's still something to deal with. People get in accidents everyday because of factors like not paying attentions or trying to do too many different things while driving but when icy roads are added into that, the risk increases exponentially. Seat belts and cautious driving could make all the difference in the world. Learning to be a defensive driver and looking out for other drivers making mistakes also helps people stay out of accidents way. The difference between a fender bender and a head-on collision could be the difference between life and death.

“I GOT STUCK IN A SNOW DRIFT.”

— JEN HANEY



KATIE WOZNY/ROCK BOTTOM
Katie Cheloha portrayed a nun who hid Jewish children, played by Elizabeth Suess and Eric Sinovic, in the One Act play.

Word of the month

Noun: honorificabilitudinitatibus

1. The quality of deserving honour or respect; characterized by honour
- honorableness [US], honourableness [Brit, Cdn]

<http://www.wordwebonline.com/>
HONORIFICABILITUDINITATIBUS

Genealogy, a trip into my past



BOYS
Chelsea
Bartholomew

Everything and nothing

It's a commonly accepted saying that "everyone needs to know where they come from." And it seems to me that some need to know more than others. Usually, they satisfy this need in one way: Genealogy. You know the type, every family has one. Asking extensive questions about your grandparents and great-grandparents and anyone else you might just possibly know about, and maybe even self-publishing one of those big family history books every few years, chronicling all that they've found. For as long as I can remember, I met these members of my own family with the encouraging smile and nod combo that tended to be reserved for the terminally insane; if they started actually trying -- heaven forbid -- to talk to me about great-great grandpa so-and-so, they also received the benefit of seeing my best glassy-eyed expression. Now, though, in

one of those beautiful ironies the universe has shown itself to love so much, it looks like I'm going to be on the other end of such conversations from now on.

One day this summer, my mom came across some papers on my father's family, stuffed haphazardly in a drawer. Looking through them, we became slightly confused about how it all fit together, so I grabbed a pencil and paper and made a chart. I got as far back as my great-great grandfather, Heber Charles Bartholomew. I'll give you a minute here to stop laughing at the name of the poor, dead man (Feel sufficiently guilty now?). No name had been provided for either of his parents, so I was pretty stuck; due to this, I completely forgot about it for a while.

However, about two weeks ago, I came across an Internet forum specifically for people with my surname. Though I thought it was a long shot, I asked if anyone had any information on Heber's parents or grandparents. And even if they did, I didn't expect to find much more than a few more stodgy old farmers (nothing wrong with farmers, of course, but you just want a little variation after a while). Not a day

later, I got an e-mail directing me to an archive with the information I was seeking -- and more. Every time I thought I was at the end of the line, another name popped up. Since it was nearly midnight and I was rather tired, this was, at the time, a bit more irksome than exhilarating. That night, I got all the way back to John Bartholomew, born in 1472 in Warborough, Oxfordshire, England. My inner Anglophile was bouncing up and down to finally receive

**I am a direct
descendent
of
Charlemagne, Em-
peror of the West.**

confirmation that my dad's family was English, but I shushed it; English they may have been, but that didn't mean they weren't dull. The next day, I was poking around the Net again when I found a Web site with further information on the Bartholomew family; I was interested, but figured it couldn't have been about my ancestors. As a rule, the only people who ever make those big Web sites about their families have something to brag about. So obviously it couldn't have been my family. Or,

so I thought, before I saw the words "Westhill Manor: Home of John Bartholomew, envoy to King Henry VIII."

"Ah, so he had a twin," I thought, ever the optimist. But further reading proved me wrong, once again. Hmm...wonder if you can still inherit a house by birthright...?

At the time, this was exciting enough. I'd been beginning to think my family was entirely comprised of farmers with the odd merchant here and there. Not to mention the fact that I've had a bizarre fixation with all the Tudor monarchs, Henry VIII especially, since I was eight or so (a fixation still strong enough, admittedly, that I let out a little squeak of delight

when I found out my ancestor knew him). As I soon discovered, though, John wasn't the most interesting ancestor I possessed. Another ancestor's maiden name was Culpepper, a name that intrigued me because I knew of several Culpeppers throughout history who were of considerably high standing in society. So I began to investigate that line, and was pleased enough when it turned up lord, and earls, and more pretty, old manor houses.

Something infinitely more eye-popping was about to reach my eyes yet, however. In fact, if someone had told me this even a month before I saw the link for myself, I'd have assumed there was something wrong with them.

I am a direct descendent of Charlemagne, Emperor of the West. Not to mention two of his sons (whose lines had crossed paths several generations later in the form of two very great-grandparents), and, also, St. Arnulf of Metz, and King Alfred the Great. Wow. Wow, wow, wow. It should go without saying that it's only proper for all of you to bow to me in the halls.

Yeah, right. To be honest, I know that who my ancestors were doesn't make me any better or worse than anyone else. Other than the fact that whenever discussion of Charlemagne comes up, I now reserve the right to nod in a nonchalant sort of way and say, "Oh yeah, my grandpa. Cool guy" there aren't actually any perks. It is kind of awesome, though, you have to admit.

Maybe you should look up your family history; it sounds like a complete and utter platitude, but you really never know what you're going to find.

Mindless rambling, victim of writer's block



BOYS
Sam
Zabawa

Holy Helicopter

A White Christmas... Or Almost
Relaxing beside a cozy fire with mugs of eggnog and gingerbread cookies, all are gathered around a Christmas tree that crowds the ceiling. Stacked beneath are beautifully wrapped packages and candy bouquets. Christmas joy is present in the early

morning hours and admiration of the loveliness of glistening snow...

Wow this is a trite start to what was supposed to be my *Features* article for this month's *Rock Bottom* issue. Considering I have no thought, my mind is empty, and I am spouting out words that are going nowhere - Oh my, I have come down with *Writer's Block!* What am I going to do? The insanity will drive me to my death.

Between English Composition and Newspaper I have enough writing to take away every last bit of contemplation for a "nothing to

say" article in the newspaper.

One may ask what exactly writer's block is. My response is

**I have no thought,
my mind is empty,
and I am sprouting
out words that are
going nowhere.**

when the task of writing is no longer possible due to lack of words and hindering thought, with fingers frozen on the keyboard and my thoughts drifting everywhere...except on the topic I am assigned to be composing.

Ummm...Christmas today is still

Christmas spent with family. Most people still have Christmas trees and gifts are sure to be piled beneath. There may not be gingerbread cookies and eggnog, but cider, coffee, and Christmas breakfast suit many just fine...

Yet again another 50-50 start to a thought-to-be "superb article." My mind is filled with nothingness and I am only rarely enlightened with random ideas that quickly turn back to nothingness. I'm wedged in a writer's block and when I'm caught in this trap, I simply free-write until I have an idea. What can I do, what can I say? I have nowhere to go, but circles of the same purposeless thoughts.

Christmas break is almost here and I can't wait to sleep in every morning. No school, no homework, no early curfews. Plus, tons of food, a lot of fun, and giving and receiving gifts! Oh, I'm sorry--free writing...newspaper article...right.

No matter what the tradition, *Christmas should be a time of giving and family togetherness. Keep Christmas spirit alive with the heart of a "White Christmas."*

Writer's block is a nasty state that can clench your mind, but I believe I shall manage. This article is mind-wrenching and I have only edited it four times already. Let's hope it is worth a lesson on *Writer's Block. Au Revoir, Ciao Bella!*

The most unwonderful time of the year



GIRLS
Jake
Staroscik

Can't touch this

A small snowflake trickles down toward the ground. It seems to bounce through the sky as it catches a gust of arctic chill that sends it twirling in different directions. Then, as it seemingly has a mind of its own, it spots the top of your head and decides to play a trick on you. Down, downward it falls, faster till it is mere feet away from your poor unprotected mind, your mind, your poor mind. It is not ready for what the snowflake is about to do. It is not ready for this caliber of a shock. The snowflake slows down, stops the descent, and looks for a place to land. Then, right between your eyes and your mouth it spots the perfect landing point, your

nose, and softly cradles itself right on the tip. This ever so graceful landing announces to me the one thing I've been dreading since the first sign of life perked up from the soil earlier this year.

It is winter, unfortunately. Soon I'll be trudging through ankle-high snow, scraping layers of ice off my windshield, and sliding my truck into parked cars. I'll have to adapt to the sudden change in temperature. Getting the mail will be more of South Pole expedition than the casual walk it once was. Merely sticking my hand out the window could threaten frostbite. I'll have to bury myself in clothing just to find enough warmth to eat my cereal in the morning. It will once again be a dreaded winter.

I don't like winter. For me, it is like a constant state of depression. From the moment the first snowfall accumulates, through all the wind, snow, and ice. To when puddles of melted snow finally dot the street giving me the first hope for spring, I have trouble thinking straight.

Maybe it is because I never get to see the sun. On the way to school it is dark, inside of school the windows don't seem to let enough light in, and on the way home from school the sun is already setting.

I'm the kind of person who likes excitement in my life. I like to look outside and see little animals running around. I like warm sunny days because something is always going on. The winter seems to take this away from me. It takes my little animal friends away. It makes it too cold to be outside and too boring to be inside.

At times I go so long without excitement that nearly anything can do the trick. Even a brightly colored light can send my mind into joyous dancing. Winter just naturally is the time of year when everything slows down.

Some people like winter. Why? I don't know. Maybe they like being

cold, wet, and tired. Good for them, maybe they think it is fun to have their toes frozen, their cheeks numbed, and their eyes blinded by perfectly white snow reflecting the only source of heat, the sun, right back in their eyes. Did you know that many doctors advise wearing sunscreen during sunny winter days because the reflection of the sun's light can cause sunburn? Not only do I have to worry about my uncommonly white skin getting fried during summer, but I have to

be cautious during the winter months too.

I like some of the aspects of winter, but not winter itself. Nestling up in a warm chair with hot cocoa and reading a Stephen King horror is an enjoyable activity I do during winter, but I cannot say I like winter because of that. That is not winter. I like Christmas, presents, and seeing my family, but that is not winter either. As far as I am concerned it is

impossible to like winter.

Snow is okay, if it is not being hurled toward my face by the wind, and if I do not have to shovel it off my sidewalk. But for the most part I don't really like it. It is too wet and heavy. It also manages to find the tiny little crevices in your clothing and sneak its way onto your skin for a chilly surprise. I especially hate when I get snow into my boots. It melts, freezes your toes and then your entire day is ruined because you now have cold stinky feet.

When I look outside and see dreary landscape, blanketed in snow. I want to cry, but I know I shouldn't, because my tears might freeze. This is how winter is, it drains the life out of you, and it makes it hard for you to think, talk, and operate. That is the goal of winter, to kill everything.

Sure, without winter we wouldn't have spring and summer would get boring, but without winter, I wouldn't be cold all the time. I wouldn't have to stare at a bright light just for something to do.

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IN-DEPTH

The true meaning of Christmas

Katie Michaelsen & Kellie Johnson — Editors

(An opinion)

It is not about the presents, the food, or Christmas break, it is the celebration of the birth of our Savior. We get caught up in what we want rather than what Christmas is truly about. So, what is Christmas about?

It's quite simple, if you think about it. Christmas is a time to think about how fortunate we are. It's a time to appreciate our families, our warm clothes, and a roof that shelters us from the cold. Yet, Christmas is also a time to think about those who can't celebrate.

While we are enjoying a warm Christmas dinner others less fortunate are barely surviving a winter storm. Simply take a moment away from a celebration to not only say a prayer, but also make donations for those less fortunate than we are.

We spend more time decorating and preparing for the holiday than

Christ's birth that we so selfishly forget about its importance. Instead, we should be glorifying the importance of our Saviors' birth. December 25th is not a day for presents but a day for reflecting on the presence of Jesus. It is okay to exchange gifts but we do not want the fury of shopping getting in the way of what truly matters.

What is worse than not getting a present? It is simple; try being alone, out in the cold on Christmas day.

If Christmas would not be the same without presents and decorations, then what does it mean to you? Do you care more about receiving rather than giving? Do you worry



And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7

about getting more than spending time with your family? If you answered yes to all, then the true meaning of Christmas is lost.

Holiday's are time for family Traditions

Katie Wozny — Staff Reporter

Before Santa Claus, before reindeer, before the presents, comes the real meaning of Christmas. The true meaning of Christmas comes from a little baby boy named Jesus born in Bethlehem. That's where the Christmas tradition starts, and thus comes our family traditions during the Christmas season.

Family Christmas traditions are shared among many Scotus students.

For most people putting up Christmas decorations is simply a "family tradition." But for Junior Carly Kucera's family it was not so. Putting up Christmas decorations was strictly a "Santa Claus tradition." Kucera said, "It was a big thing after Thanksgiving for my sisters and me to be on the hunt after school to see if you could see any of the decorations upstairs in the living room."

Kucera explained how exciting it was to see the decorations. "It was amazing! We would leave in the morning and come back and the house would be completely redone."

Another "Santa Claus tradition" for the Kucera family was to have Santa leave a treat for them. "We always had this Santa Claus Mouse ornament that opened up and throughout December Santa would mysteriously find a way to get a Hershey Kiss into the mouse. It was always fun trying to find it before anyone else did."

Year after year, there is a battle that goes on. This battle is between

the diehard REAL Christmas tree owners and the stubborn FAKE Christmas tree owners. Courtney Frei is one of the diehard Real tree owners.

Frei said, "I've always had a real Christmas tree. I think it's neat that people make the effort to go out and buy a real one. Every year each tree has their own personality, but a fake tree is the same year after year."

Senior Jamie Tooley said, "Every year my brother Jake and I help our younger brother Toby sprinkle oatmeal with glitter in our yard because Toby thinks its reindeer food."

Some Christmas traditions are common in other families. Senior Megan Zuerlein said, "We find the pickle on our Christmas tree." Hiding a pickle ornament on the Christmas tree is an old German tradition. The ornament is hung just before Christmas Day among the branches. The first child to find the pickle on Christmas day receives special blessings for the year and an extra gift. Gift giving is one common tradition between families, but one student's family gives the gift of kindness.

Junior Kristin Ostdiek said, "We have 'Ostdiek angels' where we draw someone's name from our family, and we are nice to them from the beginning of the Advent season until Christmas."

Christmas traditions are special because they are something you do with your family. So whether your family has Santa decorate for Christmas, your family has a fake or real Christmas tree, reindeer know what house is yours, or you have "Ostdiek Angels," it's your tradition. It's what makes Christmas, Christmas at your house.

Santa not real? How or when did you find out Mr. Claus was only a myth? A few students reveal the heartbreak.



"When I found out Santa was not real I sent my wish list to my mom." said freshman Chase Beiermann.



"When I set out cookies in the second grade I found my dad eating them." said freshman Lizzie Zabawa.



"My parents out of no where just told me. It was quite random." said junior Travis Wieser.



"When I found out Santa was not real I cried my little heart out." said freshman Lori Fehr.

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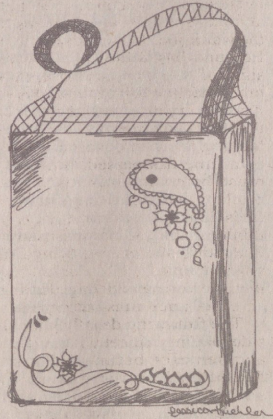
Christmas shopping for the procrastinator

Sam Zabawa
Editor

It's 9:00 pm on Christmas Eve and you still have half of your gifts to shop for. Nothing is open and you are too lazy to even bother to go out in the icy, cold winter night to buy meaningless gifts due to your lack of preparation. What to do? What to do! You are starting to experience shakiness and anxiety attacks, but luckily you remember the article in the *Rock Bottom* about Last Minute Christmas Shopping and feel relieved.

There are several things you can do when you are in a rut. You can "get" gifts simply by using talents. Yes, you've guessed it—homemade gifts! It is not as scary a concept as you'd imagine. If you like to bake, then candies, treats, or desserts would prove worthy...everyone enjoys food! If art is your knack, a painting or drawing could definitely be admired. Almost any hobby enjoyed could be put to use. Any person who receives that gift could love anything from unique bracelets to in-style purses to picture frames to lemon cookies. A gift that takes more time and thought is generally appreciated more than a gift that was just bought with and paid for with effortless contemplation.

But if you are too lazy to even make your gifts, if worst comes to worst, grab some mistletoe and offer your love instead!



Sam Zabawa/Rock Bottom

Senior Jessica Kuehler holds a tote she made. Such crafts are a nifty and inexpensive way to show loved ones that you care. The pattern is shown below and to the left.

Tote Pattern:

Obtain two different colors of fabric, 2 yards of each. Measure four pieces to the same size (however large you would like your purse to be, for example, 19" x 15" makes a large tote). Sew the bottom of the purse by sewing one side of the fabric together. Flip material inside out and sew the sides together. Sew straps in. Add design to make it uniquely yours.

Web sites to aid the short in \$:

- www.allfreecrafts.com/homemade-gifts/index.shtml
- <http://www.betterbudgeting.com/homemadegifts.htm> (Christmas section)
- http://www.familyfun.go.com/arts-and-crafts/season/specialfeature/holiday_gifts_ms/
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- http://magazines.ivillage.com/countryliving/cookbook/articles/0,,284670_551853,00.html

Godparent students make a merrier holidays for others

Nicole Sobotka
Editor-in-chief

"Oh my gosh, do we get presents this year? Cool!" Most of us never hear these words on Christmas morning because none of us are usually deprived from Christmas presents. Some people in the community are suffering, because of divorce, sickness, death, or illness and they do not have the money to spend on anything that's not a necessity. Unfortunately for the little kids in those families, Christmas presents usually get shoved aside for more important things, like the electricity bill.

The Godparent program that many Scotus students are involved in started buying presents about 10 years ago. What they do is find families that need help and buy them Christmas presents so they can save their money for the important stuff. Youth Ministry Coordinator Belinda Keiter finds out about families who might need extra help during Christmas time and calls them to see if it's okay for the Godparent program to help and most people are happy with the idea.



Sam Zabawa/Rock Bottom



Sam Zabawa/Rock Bottom

Above and above to right, Godparents' students shop for Christmas gifts for their family.

“ I THINK IT'S GOOD THAT THE KIDS CARE

BELINDA KEITER

The teens and their sponsors go to Wal-Mart on a designated Wednesday to shop and it's usually a fun night. They can wrap the presents at the store but some sponsors take their group back to their house and do it there.

"The teens are supportive and that's a good thing," Keiter said. "In the Scotus community there aren't many families that don't have needs met, but these people do. I think it's good that the kids care."

Keiter said that the families that Godparents gives to are deserving people who are just down on their luck.

"The look on those kids' faces when they get their presents is just heartwarming," Keiter said. "They are thrilled."

Quote of the month

You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give.

-Winston Churchill

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Potter movie wows again

Anna Boeding
Editor

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire is an amazing book, so I was skeptical about seeing 734 pages compressed into two and a half hours of special effects and drama. The movie, however, did not detract from the book in the slightest. You may want to read the book before seeing the movie. However, the plot doesn't slow down for those unfamiliar with Harry Potter.

The movie opens in an ugly graveyard containing a statue of what seems to be the Grim Reaper. Through a horrible sequence of events a poor, old man (who's name you will only know if you read the book) dies. Suddenly Harry wakes up in a bed, in a house, which apparently belongs to the redheaded, freckle-faced Weasley family. Once again, they never really tell you, but you can guess if you've read the book or seen any of the other movies. Hermione arrives and tells Ron and Harry to get out of bed because breakfast is ready and it's nearly time to go (to where we aren't quite sure.)

Next thing you know, the three are off (to where we do not know yet) and they walk to a hill where they meet up with Cedric Diggory and his father and find a dirty old boot that happens to be their transportation. The portkey, as they tell you the boot is called, takes them flying through the air until they get to go and all land flat on their backs, with the exception of Cedric, Mr. Weasley, and Mr. Diggory.

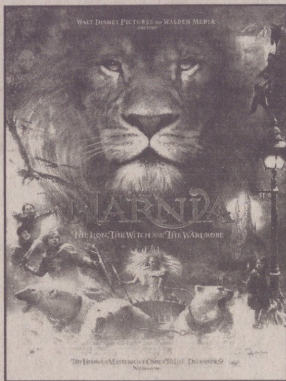
It is now that we find out that they are at the Quidditch World Cup. Quidditch is the wizarding world's one and only sport, played on broomsticks. Team members include a Keeper, a Seeker, two Beaters, and three Chasers. If you want to fully understand the sport, I highly recommend reading the

books or watching the other movies. Here we get to see many wonderful, magical things, such as the inside of their tent being disproportionately large and fireworks that form a dancing leprechaun. It is also here that we meet Victor Krum. Little to none is said about him during the movie, but the book dedicates many words to elaborating on the Bulgarian Seeker, who happens to be one of the most famous Quidditch players in the world. For now, however, he is of little importance to the plot line.

Suddenly, we are at the end of the match, and we have seen nothing of the beloved game of Quidditch. After a disturbing scene involving the Death Eaters, who are Voldemort's followers who dressed in pointy hooded robes and skull masks, the film takes little time to reach the arrival at Hogwarts, pausing only briefly to reveal Harry's crush on Cho Chang.

Without much delay the other wizard and witches from the opposing schools, Drumstrang and Beauxbatons, have arrived and the three champions for the Triwizard Tournament are to be selected. It is to Harry's great surprise and dismay when he ends up the fourth champion, forced by a "magical, binding contract" formed by the Goblet of Fire to compete in three dangerous and sometimes fatal tasks. From there, Harry has to rely on his wits, magic, and a little help from Mad-Eye Moody to get him through alive.

For having to cram the magic of the incredible fourth book into a movie, I feel that Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire is worth seeing. The plot does differ from the book in a few ways, and several scenes you may have been hoping to see are not included in this movie. However, if you liked the book, I am sure you will find some magic in the movie just for you.



Lewis continues to enchant youth

Chelsea Bartholomew
Editor

For generations now, C.S. Lewis's *The Chronicles of Narnia* have enchanted children and adults alike, so it was only inevitable there would be a movie, especially with the box office success of films like *Harry Potter* and *The Lord of the Rings*. There have, of course, been adaptations before, but that was in the era before digital special effects; therefore, any live action version was somewhat limited in making the world of Narnia seem real. Not so any longer.

The books have been so widely read, the story hardly needs telling. The English Pevensie children, Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy, are sent away from their city home because of the frequent bombings carried out by Nazi Germany. In the country they live under the care of the mysterious Professor, in his massive home. One day, Lucy -- the youngest -- suggests that they play hide-and-seek to pass the time. There being nothing else to do on such a dreary day, the other children comply and the game begins. Lucy, searching for a place to hide, finds a room in which the only object is a massive wardrobe. Quite an ideal hiding place. She ventures in, only to discover that the wardrobe just doesn't seem to end. Suddenly, she is touching a pine tree and standing on snow. The wardrobe, obviously, is just a bit more spacious than it appears on the outside.

Lucy soon meets a faun named Mr. Tumnus, and he takes her to his home. After a while, he confesses that White Witch, who fancies herself queen of Narnia, has told the citizens that if they ever find a Son

of Adam or a Daughter of Eve -- a human, in other words -- they are to bring him or her to her at once. But Mr. Tumnus has grown so fond of Lucy that he cannot bring himself to do it, so he takes her back to the entrance she came from.

When Lucy returns, she realizes that though she was in Narnia for hours, not even a minute has passed in our world. She tries to explain what has happened to her siblings, but none of them believe her. Later, at night, she once again creeps into the wardrobe. Unbeknownst to her, Edmund has followed. He loses sight of her soon, and meets none other than the White Witch herself. Acting very maternal, she tells him that he is just the sort of boy she's looking for to rule Narnia after her own time has passed, but first he must bring her his sisters and brother. Then she is gone. Lucy finds Edmund, and becomes excited, thinking she can show Susan and Peter that she wasn't lying. But when they go back, Edmund tells them he was just playing along, and an upset Lucy runs out crying.

The following day, they are outside playing cricket when Edmund accidentally breaks a window. Frightened of the percussions should the Professor's stuffy housekeeper see them near the scene of the crime, they hide in the wardrobe...and find themselves in Narnia. They play about in the snow for a minute, but soon a beaver intrudes upon them, carrying Lucy's handkerchief, the handkerchief she had earlier given to Mr. Tumnus. The beaver (ingeniously called Mr. Beaver) has grave news: the White Witch's secret police have taken away Mr. Tumnus for consorting with a human -- Lucy.

Mr. Beaver takes the children to his home, and he and his wife talk to them of Aslan, the true ruler of Narnia, who will soon return, and of the prophecy that involves the four of them. There is a war involved, and Susan insists that they should just go home. After all, didn't they

come to the country in the first place to get away from a war? But in turning to leave, they notice Edmund is missing. He has gone to the White Witch.

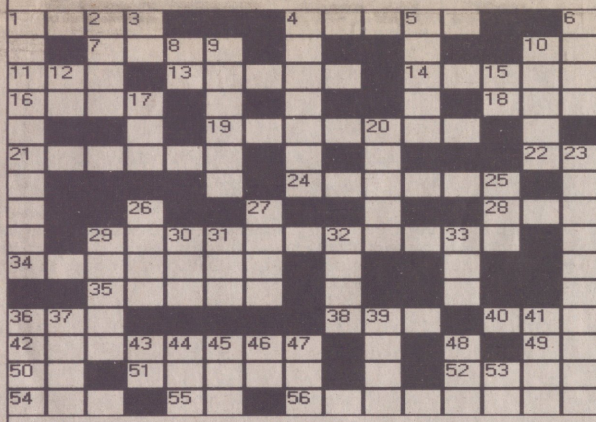
As with all movie adaptations, *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* doesn't measure up to the book, fancy digital effects or not. This doesn't mean it's a bad movie, not at all, but no movie can quite capture a book as we see it in our imaginations. It's more a basic truth than a failing particular to this film. Some of the cinematography is simply spectacular, and I imagine it would have been even more so if the massive crowd hadn't forced me to sit right in front, thereby effectively straining my eyes more than a little.

The music was blandly average; it didn't ruin anything, it didn't add to anything. Thirty minutes later, I couldn't even recall it. Though the overall story is captivating, some scenes were a little predictable. After thousands of years of human literature, it's probably borderline impossible to avoid some kind of predictability, though; the part, for example, during the battle when the White Witch nearly fatally wounds Edmund. You know -- you just know -- that it's going to give Peter the rage to do his part in finishing her off. Evil overlords are so disappointingly slow in learning what happens when you kill/maim a hero's loved one.

Most people know that *Narnia* is an allegory to Christianity, though C.S. Lewis, an adult convert, always vehemently denied that he'd deliberately planned it to be such. (Interestingly enough, he was also vehemently against Disney making a movie out of it, but guess who was behind this version?) Aslan is Jesus, the White Witch is evil, so on and so forth. But whether you see the movie through the lens of Christianity, or that of secularism, it's worth the ticket price!

Christmas Crossword

Jake Staroscik
Editor



- Across
- In the night sky or on a stage
 - Sugars, sweets and chocolates, too
 - Pound this to achieve it's purpose
 - Smell from working out
 - Organization dealing with firearms
 - Sing one of these to your neighbors
 - If something is inspiring
 - George Bush was this magazine's person of the year in 2004
 - You are this if you've been around along time
 - "All that ___s is gold"
 - This can support a flame
 - Saturday night
 - Stop your ___ ways, turn to God
 - Mrs. Shadle, Ms. Gardner, Mrs. Cox, and Mrs. Bernt are all teachers of a form of this
 - A house can be made out of this, then eaten
 - The main character in Charles Dickens' most famous Christmas story
 - A popular bedtime prayer deals with one of these
 - Gil Grissom, Catherine Willows, Warrick Brown, and Sarah Sidle are all characters in this TV series
 - The day before a special holiday
 - Channel 45 on Time Warner Basic Cable
 - A Jewish holiday
 - I know
 - Between midnight and noon
 - You never eat the whole pie, just a ___
 - A married woman
 - "Tiny" character in Charles

- Dickens' most famous Christmas story
- Thank you
 - You could shoot your eye out with this brand of BB guns
- Down
- Owens a herd of deer
 - Blocks the flow of water
 - Pennsylvania, B&O, Shortline, and Reading
 - Baked dough usually coated in some sort of sweet topping
 - Curtains do this
 - Forns on old turkey
 - You see
 - A Christmas song deals with being away in one of these
 - You put these on your house
 - Rhode Island
 - U. ___
 - Worst part of Christmas break
 - Type of saxophone
 - The name of this play can also break a shell open
 - Don't get mad get glad and be a happy ___
 - Ferocious beast of
 - Your hand has nerves that can do this
 - Corn is classified as this
 - Second word in the name of a Christmas beverage
 - Egg spelled backwards
 - What to do to get dough turned into cookies
 - This is touching you right now
 - What you can do on the Internet
 - Students Against Modern Inventions
 - If something is nullified
 - What you are going through right now
 - In a higher position
 - A container for implements

- that serve a specific purpose
- You need this to drive a car
- You see
- Passive form of she
- Fun With You
- You need this to receive a passport

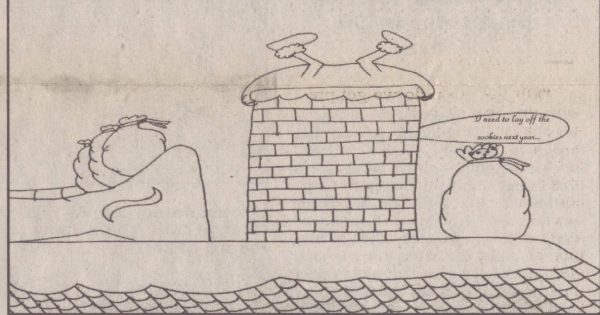
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Bill Kurtenbach
NEXT TO THE PLATE

Huskers, fifty-one others, go bowling

Over Christmas break, if you turn on the television to any of the multiple forms ESPN has created for itself, you will most likely see a college football bowl game. At one time in the history of college football, it was an honor to be invited to a college bowl game.

There will be 26 bowl games this year, which means 52 of the 117 Division I-A teams will be invited to a game. The list of bowl games is long, including the San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl, the Gaylord Hotel Music City Bowl Presented by Bridgestone, and the Pioneer PureVision Las Vegas Bowl. That is a mouthful. To be eligible for a bowl, a team must have a winning record. Since college football teams play 11 regular season games, they only need six wins. And these wins could come against any team. A team may beat the worst six teams in the country and still be eligible for a bowl. Though the selection committees from the bowl games may not find interest in them if they win six close games and lose five blowouts. The only thing the committees from the bowl games are interested in is the TV ratings they receive. In order to receive good ratings, a good game must be played, and a blowout is definitely not a good game.

Last year, the Huskers did not go to a bowl game for the first time

Last year, the Huskers did not go to a bowl game for the first time in 35 years.

in 35 years. Many fans were not pleased with this, but were told it was because the team was learning a new offense under a new head coach. Might I say the West Coast Offense is slightly different from the option attack of the Nebraska teams in the past? In years past, coaches drilled the quite simple plays into the heads of the offensive players. The 1995 team with Tommie Frazier and Lawrence Phillips had the play down to a science from the rigorous training they went through with the coaches. The coaches made sure the players knew the play like the back of their hand. It was a main component of the 62-24 blowout win against the Florida Gators in the Fiesta Bowl that year. This game produced a single memory in my mind, when Frazier ran 75 yards, breaking seven tackles, for a touchdown, which was a dagger to the heart of the Gators.

The Huskers also dismantled the Tennessee Volunteers in the championship game two years later. Peyton Manning was held to 187 yards passing and one passing touchdown. This game was the game that former Coach Tom Osborne closed his career on, and rightfully so.

Osborne waited 21 years to win a National Championship, and won three in his last four years. He almost won his first championship in his 11th season, when he faced the Miami Hurricanes in the championship game. He rallied the Huskers to a touchdown drive that put the score to 31-30 with only 48 seconds left. Now, as the head coach, he had to choose to go for the win or go for the tie. Since college football didn't have a very good overtime system in 1983, Osborne decided to go for the win. This game was also the Orange Bowl, which is played in Miami, so it was almost a home game for the 'Canes.

According to the cardinal rules of coaching, you go for the tie at home, but you must go for the win on the road. Osborne was keeping up with this philosophy and decided to go for the win. Quarterback Turner Gill placed a beautiful ball into I-back Jeff Smith's hands, but the ball was jarred from his grasp by 'Canes Safety Ken Calhoun. Osborne was heartbroken, along with all of Husker Nation.

Although the Huskers may not reach a game of this magnitude until we get the players we need at the skill positions, we can only pray that the days of the past will return. It would not hurt to have a left tackle either, not to bash our current line. Ah, the wonders of sarcasm.

Swimmers endure tough practice schedule

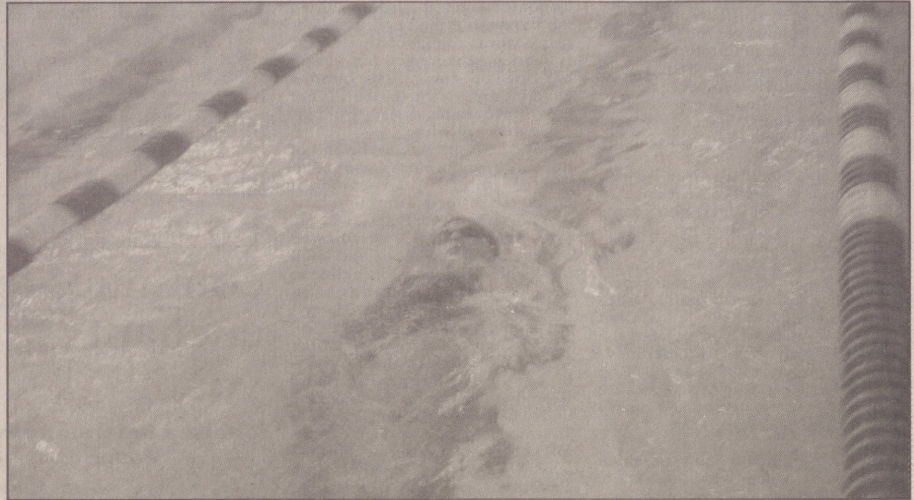
Self-proclaimed "toughest sport" requires much strength from athletes

Anna Boeding
— Staff Reporter —

The Columbus High Swim Team, for the third time in three years, welcomes a new head coach into their midst. Jan Boeding, a mother of four Scotus students, will be stepping up to the challenge of coaching this year's swimmers.

Six Scotus girls currently make up part of the 27 girls on the team, and no Scotus boys supplement the ten boys out for swimming. The fact that they come from different schools seems to have no effect on

“SWIMMING INVOLVES YOUR WHOLE BODY.”
— JARED SHARMAN



NIKKI SOBOTKA/ROCK BOTTOM

Freshman swimmer Moe Jackson tears through the water by performing a backstroke during a duel against Fremont High School. The girls won their end of the duel.

any of the team members. In fact, the response has been nothing but positive.

"All of the Columbus High people are awesome," says Scotus sophomore Sarah Jackson, "We all get along so well."

Jackson's sister, freshman Maureen Jackson, agreed saying, "You meet a lot of new people." The Columbus High swimmers also enjoy the arrangements between the schools. All of the swimmers, from

Columbus High and Scotus alike, agree that swimming is quite a challenging sport.

"Swimming involves your whole body," says Columbus High junior Jared Sharman, "And you have to control your breathing because you practice in the water."

Coach Boeding concurred say-

ing swimming "tends to be a whole body exercise." Working hard and doing your best is something that, for the swimmers, "makes the sport so satisfying." However much they enjoy swimming, the Jackson sisters, Sharman, and Coach Boeding all agree that one of the worst parts of the swim season is getting up at

five in the morning to go to practice.

The swim season began with a home meet on December 1 and ends with the state meet on February 24 and 25. Scotus swimmers include the Jackson sisters, Kathy Smith, Meg Harrington, Anna Boeding, and Nicole Sobotka.



JAKE STAROSCICK/ROCK BOTTOM

Scotus senior Jamie Tooley guards the ball in a game against Central City. The girls' won their game 39-21 to improve to a record of 2-0.

Girls look to get back to gold medal status; boys start a new tradition at Scotus

Bill Kurtenbach
— Editor —

The last memory of girls' basketball at Scotus is of a last second shot by then senior Ann Beiermann that had the line, but not the distance. The shot was to tie the game, but it was not meant to go in. The Shamrocks fell to Ashland-Greenwood, and hearts were broken. For the first time in as long as anyone could remember, Scotus girls were not going to wear gold medals in either volleyball or basketball.

But the girls are back. Not all of them, but the ones who have returned are fresh off of a gold place finish in volleyball and want more.

The girls' season started out with three solid wins, coming against Hastings Saint Cecilia, Central City, and Seward. State basketball is a long time away from now, with many deceiving roads along the way. And several mishaps, especially late in

the season, can result in an absence from the girls' State basketball tournament picture.

On the opposite side of the gender table, the boys are looking to build a strong team at Scotus. After hiring a new coach, putting in a new offense, and installing a new dress code on game days, the boys are at a rough 0-3.

The boys' team are still waiting for a boys' State basketball appearance since their last visit to Lincoln in 1996, when they lost an overtime thriller to Wahoo by a score of 56-55. The next time they go to Lincoln, they will look good doing it.

New Head Coach Brett Rusher has brought with him many philosophies from his previous coaching job. On game days, the players must wear a white button-down shirt with a tie. He also has a strict haircut policy, which includes being able to see skin between the eyebrows and bangs and no hair on the ears.



BILL KURTENBACH/ROCK BOTTOM

A group of players, including Scotus' John Bierbower (far left) and Zach Ramaekers (#44) await the ball on a rebound in a game against Grand Island Central Catholic. Scotus lost the game by a score of 60-53.

Lone wrestler keeps his head held high

Bill Kurtenbach
— Editor —

When the dust settles to the mat and the final whistle blows, there is only one man from Scotus left standing. Junior Brent Albracht is the only Scotus member of the Columbus High wrestling team this year. Because of this, this "Lone Wrestler"

has no "Silver" to call on when he needs help.

Albracht, a member of the JV team, has wrestled for Columbus High since he was a freshman at Scotus. The past few years, Scotus has contributed to the Columbus High team, which last year finished tenth at the State wrestling meet.

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Domestic violence:

The secret that needs to be told

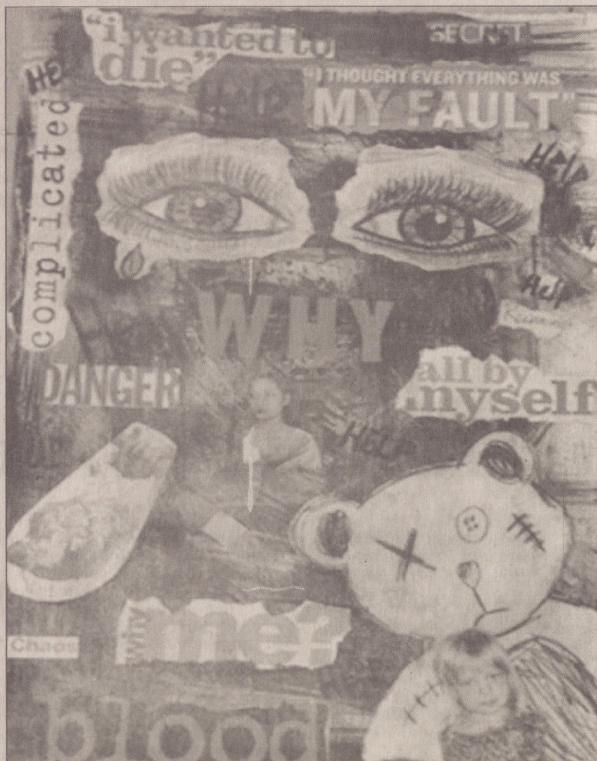
Sam Zabawa, Katie Michaelsen, Jake Staroscik
Staff Reporters

Domestic violence is violence committed by one partner against another in any given relationship. It knows no boundaries. It includes all ages, races, religions, income levels, and educational backgrounds.

In the vast majority of domestic violence cases, women are the vic-

timized targets. Oftentimes children, however, are the unintended victims of abuse. Almost half of the men who abuse their female partners also abuse their children. While three to four million children and adolescents witness violence in their own homes, many do not realize the impact it has on them when they grow up and most often do not realize it is not their fault.

Recognizing the difference between a healthy and unhealthy relationship is the key to spotting an abusive relationship.



Signs of Child Abuse

Physical Signs

- Somatic complaints- headaches, stomachaches, asthma, tired, lethargic (seems lazy)
- Sick often with cold, flu
- Regressive behaviors—bedwetting, thumb sucking, clinging, baby talk
- No reaction to physical pain
- Unexplained bruises

Behavioral Signs

- Acting-out vs. Withdrawing
- Overachieving vs. Underachieving
- Refusing to go to school vs. not wanting to leave school
- Bedwetting, nightmares, unable to fall asleep
- Caretaking of entire family vs. apathy

Social Signs

- Isolated
- Difficulty trusting others
- Poor conflict resolution skills
- May be excessively involved in activities outside of the home

Emotional Signs

- Guilt
- Shame
- Fear
- Need for adult attention
- Overburdened

Cognitive Signs (what the child has learned or is learning about the abuse they see)

- Feeling responsible for the violence
- Blaming others for their behavior
- Believing it is OK to hit anyone
- Having a low self-concept
- No one can be trusted
- To be a boy means... it's OK to beat up females, you can't "act like a girl."
- All families act his way

Types of Abuse

Physical - slaps and pushes, kicking, punching, choking, and permanent physical harm

Sexual - forced sexual activity

Psychological - verbal abuse and behavior that threatens physical assault

When a dating relationship doesn't work

- ◆ One partner is afraid of another
- ◆ One partner bullies or controls the other
- ◆ Someone uses threats or intimidation to get his/her way
- ◆ One partner is jealous of the time the other spends with family or friends.
- ◆ One person intentionally hits or verbally abuses the other

■ 97% of all abusers are male. The majority of all abusers are male, but the majority of all males are not abusers

■ Men can be powerful advocates in influencing other men's attitudes towards women

■ Men should never degrade women in anyway, this could become the start of something more

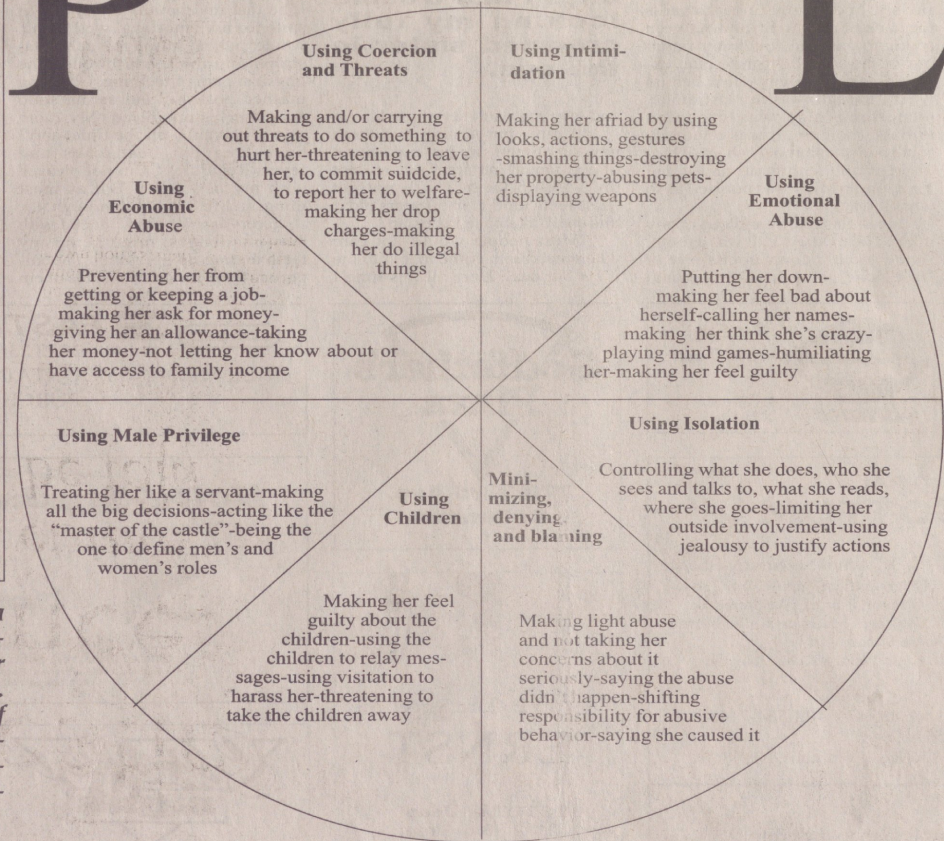
■ Although not as common, men can be victims of abuse

■ Women abuse men to gain control over them

■ Although women may use physical violence against men, psychological and emotional abuse is much more common

■ Due to the social pressures regarding the masculinity of men, few male victims seek help in an abusive relationship

Power and control wheel



What should be known about Domestic violence:

- ◆ You are not to blame
- ◆ You are an important human being
- ◆ You deserve to be treated with respect
- ◆ You do have power over your own life
- ◆ You are not alone. Ask others for help
- ◆ You are worth working for and changing for
- ◆ You deserve a healthy and safe life

Over a period of time, a child's exposure to violence may lead to later violence in their lives. Seventy five percent of boys who witness parental abuse have demonstrable behavioral problems.

Information courtesy of The Center for Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Survivors of Columbus. If help is needed for a domestic assault situation, The Center for Survivors may be contacted (free of charge) by calling (402) 564-2155.

Also, Scotus offers help through our sr. and jr. High counselors, Mrs. Judi Wolken, and Mrs. Pamela Weir, respectively.

(when women are the victims)

Confessions of a horrible driver

BOYS

Nikki Sobotka

Just do it for me

I was sitting in religion class listening everyone talk about male and female stereotypes. One girl mentioned that she hated how all guys think that girls are bad drivers. Because we're not. Girls in general are not bad drivers, but the senior girls have kind of fostered that stereotype. Kristina Flint, for example, has gotten one speeding ticket and been in two minor car crashes, including hitting Tyler Micek's car. Jen Haney once backed into a car. Kim Whalen backed into a lightpole in Movie Gallery's parking lot at age 15. Hailee Sahs once backed into her mom's

car right after someone told her that it was behind her. There was one day when I went the wrong way on a one-way street, twice. See what I mean? The girls in our class are prone to be bad drivers. We're getting a lot better, most of that stuff happened when we were sophomores and juniors.

There was one time this year though, that I got in a minor car crash. It's the only crash I've ever been in, aside from a few people rolling into the back of my car which has happened three different times. What can I say? Cars frequently roll into me at stoplights or stop signs. OK, and the time that I hit the lawnmower with my dad's truck, or scraped the side of my mom's Isuzu with the side of the garage.

One day, I was innocently backing my car out of my spot in the St. Bon's parking lot after school, and all of a sudden my car jerked to a stop. I got minor whiplash and

looked up, surprised. What was that? I asked myself. I looked in the rearview mirror and saw a car, Lauren Jablonski's car to be exact. We had both backed out without looking. Oops.

We got out of our cars to assess the damage. Her bumper had put a huge dent in the side of my car. We're talking like the size of a vol-

Girls in general are not bad drivers, but the senior girls have kind of fostered that stereotype.

leyball. Huge. I burst out laughing, I don't even know why. I was probably hysterical. Lauren was stumbling over her words she was apologizing so fast. I told Lauren that I didn't care and I didn't. I was just happy we were both OK because

health is way more important than cars. Right? Well, I guess, but those thoughts didn't even enter my head. I just didn't care; I mean it's just a car. I'm not a car lover and I do not have a special bond with my car or anything like that. Whenever I get a new car, I'm not going to be sad about my old car. I'll just be like, thanks, we had good times, and that'll be the end of it.

Lauren and I stood there looking at the dent in my car for probably five minutes, just laughing and making jokes. By that time people had noticed something was going on and were stopping to stare. Thoughts such as "why are those ditzy girls laughing at a minor car crash? What is their problem?" were probably running through their heads.

Similar thoughts were running through my mind. "I wonder if my dad is going to be mad at me for putting a dent in my car. Oh well,

it'll be worth it to see the look on his face," was my train of thought.

I had to get to swim practice so Lauren and I decided to move our cars. Since Lauren's bumper was in the side of my car we decided to have her pull away first. We got in our cars and I pulled away. People who had been watching us started yelling and pointing at my car. I was thinking OK guys, I know I have a dent, I was there, remember? I stopped anyway to shut them up.

When I rolled down my window I could hear people saying that it was gone. I didn't know what "it" was so I just looked at them. It turns out the dent was gone; it had just popped out when Lauren pulled away. How crazy is that? My car is amazing. Apparently my car is dent resistant, even though I have lots of hail damage. I never did get to see the look on my dad's face though. Oh well, there's still time.

You want my opinion? Here it is

BOYS

Lauren Jablonski

I'm completely kidding

I found out on my first day of Newspaper class that I had been assigned an opinion column. I was told that an opinion column was to be *my* opinion on whatever I wanted. Wow. Talk about an amazing opportunity. Now, for those of you who do not know me very well, I have an opinion on just about everything. No, actually, I have an opinion on...everything. From A to Z, I'm your opinion gal. In fact, there have been several occasions where teachers have requested that I try to withhold my opinions while work-

ing on some activity or assignment. My mom is going to be amazed that I was actually *asked* to give my opinion before giving it this time.

Now, I'm sitting here trying to give you my opinion on something important, something that will completely enlighten you and knock your socks off. Hmmm...right. I'm having what some would call writer's block and nothing is coming to mind. So, instead of - wait - I'm actually going to pass up an opportunity to publish my opinion. I don't think so. So...here goes. It is my firm belief that there is a false sense of coolness in this school.

Some of you smarties out there are probably thinking, "Yes Lauren we all know how cool you think you are." Well, that may be a story for another issue, but for now, remember that I am a senior, and therefore

am smarter than all of you (except of course for my fellow senior classmates) so just be quiet and listen.

No, I'm not talking about myself, but rather underclassmen. To all of you who think you are, "super cool" take it easy. Believe it or not, but I

It is my firm belief that there is a false sense of coolness in this school.

was not the coolest cat in junior high. This may be due to my awesome Dennis Uniform shorts that violated the length regulation for boys or my aqua blue eye shadow and royal blue mascara. I'm under the assumption (and I could be wrong) that it is for these reasons that I was not given a one-way ticket to be part of the "in-crowd." I also had my share of embarrassing moments that made

me...well...not cool.

The second day of seventh grade at lunch I filled my water glass COMPLETELY FULL and then walked over to the salad bar. Just as I was plopping some Jell-o onto my tray my FULL glass of water spilled onto the hind parts of the humongous senior right in front of me.

Needless to say I ran to my table and cried. The so-called popular girls at my table saw this as an opportunity to laugh at me. Well, I have to admit, that if a little seventh grader spilled water on the rear end of one of the guys in my class, I'm sure I would laugh. But, for me, a seventh grader, I was mortified. Don't get me wrong; I'm not saying that you should think you are completely worthless because you are underclassmen. Rather, I want you to realize that people can and will change.

When I was in Junior High, my

friends and I thought that we would never change. We thought we would look and act the same forever. What a scary thought! So, give yourself time before you become a self-proclaimed big shot or babe because time has the ability to change everything.

You will never know what your future holds. Make the most out of your time in high school. Don't spend your time looking down on someone else because he or she doesn't fit your definition of cool. Most importantly, don't ever look down on yourself. Yes, you will look back on these days and say, "Mom, why did you let me out of the house looking like that?" It happens to the best of us. So, remember to always be nice and get to know someone before you pass judgment...especially if they wear long shorts and blue eye shadow.

Gums bleeding, head aching, I'll be okay

GIRLS

Jake Staroscik

Can't touch this

About a month ago I came to realize that I was immature in more ways than I had already known. I knew that I laugh at almost anything; I have trouble staying on task, and I hold a fork like a club. But, I am okay with these shortcomings. They do not bother me. It was when I found out that I was not yet physically mature that I became distressed.

You see, about three months ago the back of my gums started to hurt

for no apparent reason. I shrugged it off and tried not to think about it. Then the pain receded, so naturally I completely forgot about it. That was until I woke up one morning with what felt like a jackhammer piercing the back of my mouth. Curiously, I poked my finger towards the back of my throat, and between trying to gag and cough my finger out of my mouth I came to an extraordinary discovery. Just behind what I thought was my last molar, something else was creeping through the gum. It was relatively small and uncommonly sharp. It hurt to press on the gum around it and for a long while I was puzzled as to what it was.

Idea flashed in and out of my mind. Then I knew it. It was a tooth. A new tooth! I could not believe it. Here I was, going on seventeen and

my mouth, which apparently failed to grasp the whole puberty thing, decided that it would do what it should have done three years ago

For a couple of days I had trouble looking my fully crowned sister in the eye.

and give me a full set of teeth.

It turns out though that these new set of teeth are just my last set of permanent molars. They are not my wisdom teeth. I will not get those teeth until I am 50 years old if this snail-like pace keeps up.

Most people would not care when their teeth come in, but to me it's a big deal. Here all this time I

thought I was such a manly man only to find out that little Besty Sue down the hall had more teeth than me. It was a devastating blow to my self-confidence. For a couple of days I had trouble looking my fully crowned sister in the eye. How could it be that my mouth, purely out of spite for my emotional well being, would put me through such catastrophic turmoil, and through the physical pain of teething. Chewing mashed potatoes and eating soup makes my gums bleed. My mom says I'm cranky all the time, and I have frequent headaches and fevers. Regardless, I'm not pleased with my new teeth. But as most things in life, I will get through it.

Everyday we are all faced with new challenges, mine being my teeth tearing up my gums. The important thing for me is to not let them

bring me down. I found that a happy face can go a long way, even if I am faking it. I have a lot of life to live. My teeth should not get in my way. The more I dwell on a negative situation, the more negative it becomes. My advice, do not let little things control your life.

With this new attitude, I have had a complete change of thought on my new teeth. Sure it is inconvenient for me, but big deal. Once my mouth stops bleeding and my head stops throbbing I will completely forget about it all. If I can get through puberty, I can get through this.

Of course it still hurts to walk down the hall and pass kids several grades lower than mine knowing that they have more teeth than I do. However, I will not let it control me, and guess what? I'll keep smiling.

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Groovin' thru music technology



Nikki Sobotka
— Editor-in-Chief —

What's your poison? Is it rap? Beethoven, perhaps? Maybe a little alternative rock? Janis Joplin has always been an old-time favorite. The face of music is fluid and ever-changing. Music is a huge market due to the variety of different tastes and the music executives wanting to capitalize from it. That brings about changes because of the competition to have the newest and most technologically advanced electronics. That's why technology evolves; everyone wants to find the next big thing like the iPod.

Music technology hasn't changed much in the last few decades since the disco days of the '70s. I mean, everyone knows what an 8-track player is. Right? OK, maybe not. Technology has gone from LPs to cassette tapes, to 8 tracks to CDs to - currently - the iPod.

Music plays a bigger part in

people's lives now more than ever. The rising influence is due to the growing accessibility. Don't have an iPod? How about a cell phone? Music can be downloaded onto most cell phones. Music surrounds us.

The ability to download songs from the Internet, beginning with

Napster, started the iPod craze. It revolutionized the music industry and the way people get their music. People used to go to stores and buy CDs but that is lessening all the time. And, is it any wonder? The iPod completely annihilates CDs in terms of technology. Not only can people now buy songs from the

comfort of their own home off the Internet, but the new iPod can hold 15,000 songs, 25,000 photos, and 150 hours of video. No CD or record can even hope to compete with that.

"I got a new iPod for Christmas and I use it all the time," sophomore Sarah Jackson said. "I also use it to keep pictures on; I have tons that I downloaded from my computer."

Size is also transforming - disappearing, more like it. LP records were thin but they were about 11 3/4 inches in diameter. The smaller CDs were about five inches in diameter. Still smaller, iPods are less than half an inch wide and about three and a half inches long; the small size makes it easy to fit into pockets and purses.

The last generation's idea of technology was cassette tapes, while today's technology-obsessed generation has little electronic gadgets that can hold thousands of songs, pictures, and even short video clips that can be taken anywhere. Nowadays people can lis-

ten to their favorite songs any time, anywhere because music can be confined to the individual person via earphones.

The size is different, the sound is different, and the look is different. The effect it has on people, however, is the same.

Teachers' Music Picks



Mrs. Bernt

Favorite Groups: The Kinks, the Doors, the Rolling Stones



Mrs. Schaad

Favorite Groups: Kiss, AC/DC, Poison, Violent Femmes and Bon Jovi.



Mr. Wickham

Favorite Group: Motley Crue

Tuning in to students' interests



Nathan Hotovy, 9th grade
The Beatles and John Lennon

"Because it's simple, classic music."



Casey Gasper, 7th grade
Country Rock

"Because that's what my parents listen to."



Tiffany Wieser, 8th grade
Whatever's on Channel 94.1

"I just like what they play."

Scott Ackman, 11th grade
Rap

"I listen to rap because it makes me feel all fuzzy inside."

Amberle Zuerlein, 12th grade
Punk Rock

"I'm usually in a bad mood and it pumps me up."

The mental mystery of Mozart

Chelsea Bartholomew
— Editor —

Does an increasing IQ make a sound? According to some researchers, yes, and that sound is Mozart. First proposed in 1993, it came to be called the Mozart Effect. This theory states that listening to Mozart or any other classical music raised one's intelligence; more specifically, spatial intelligence, but only for ten minutes or so at that. Great for test taking, but anyone looking for an easy ride to genius is out of luck. As far as older students go, that is. The effect on infants is more extreme - and more debated. Skeptics insist that the initial, unconfirmed findings were blown out of proportion. They say that overeager people took those findings and perpetrated them as absolute truth, some because they really wanted to help people.

Yet the other side is just as vehement. According to Sound Beginnings (<http://www.soundbeginnings.co.uk/>), "Music provides an extraordinarily comprehensive 'map' of the human condition - a map whose contours are laid down before birth and rendered perfect in the first few weeks and months of life." They cite numerous studies, which have come up with a number of theories on the positive effects of Mozart, and classical music in general. Some say the music builds neural bridges that thoughts and information travel on, some say they stimulate alpha waves, causing a feeling of calm, and some even say it improves health. (Skeptics ask how the last claim can be possible if Mozart himself was so frequently ill.)

Whether or not it's true, the Mozart Effect has definitely taken off. All state-funded preschools in Florida are required to play classical music. In Britain, a series of concerts just for mothers and babies is beginning. At many hospitals, new mothers are given CDs of classical music.

Music teacher EJ Gardener had the following to say on the phe-

nomenon: "In ancient Greece, the idea of music affecting mood was

part of their philosophy. Plato even wrote a paper on it. But the idea of music affecting intelligence is new and still to be proven. A variety of factors could affect the test performance of people who had listened to classical music beforehand. But I can tell you, I'd rather listen to

Mozart for ten minutes before a test than rock-and-roll."



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THE TRUTH ABOUT GREENLAND

Kellie Johnson
— Staff Reporter —

Springy, beautiful, and warm is how one may describe Greenland, but the truth about Greenland is that it is cold and the winter temperatures are around 40 below. But *The Truth About Greenland* lies within seniors Zeph Swope, Chad Jochum, Joey Beauvais, and sophomore Ethan Schaecher.

This group of four men formed a rock band, *The Truth About Greenland*, earlier this school year. After starting their band, they have found the difficulties in balancing schoolwork with practicing and performing.

Swope and Jochum, the guitar players, needed to make the band complete by auditioning for a singer and a drummer. Schaecher and Beauvais won the parts as lead singer and lead drummer, respectively.

When asked why they started a band, Swope said, "We started this band to let emotion out."



Maybe playing is not enough to let out emotion. During practices apparently good is not enough; as Swope said "we yell and scream at each other." So the tasks of being in a band are not easy, yet the dream is another.

They all have a dream to let people know about their band. Swope wants to make it big...tour nationally. Jochum wants to make people feel good. Beauvais wants to play because it massages a person's soul.

Though they are not nationally recognized, so far they have played at Central Community College, The Armory, and the KC Hall as a start. Someday the group would like to hit it big, however they must start out at the bottom at in-town concerts hoping to tour nationally sometime in the future. There is one thing to remember if you do attend.

"Don't come to our shows unless you want your face melted off," Swope said.



Zeph Swope



Joey Beauvais

The Truth About Greenland thanks Mrs. Beauvais for the wonderful food and the use of her home.



Ethan Schaecher



Chad Jochum

KELLIE JOHNSON/ROCK BOTTOM

Sweetheart

The
R
o
y
a
l



JAKE STAROSCICK/ROCK BOTTOM

Sweetheart candidates Autumn Kresha (above) and Shane Reardon (far left) win the crown as King and Queen. Sweetheart was held February 11, 2006.

Into The Woods



LAUREN JABLONSKI/ROCK BOTTOM

Kate Cheloha (Jack's mother) and Josh Ryan (Jack) practice their scene together. *Into The Woods* is a musical that intertwines fairy tale stories as the characters enter into the woods. The musical was performed on February 17 and 18, 2006.



LAUREN JABLONSKI/ROCK BOTTOM

Jennifer Fisher and Michael Gokie bust a move during their performance of Sadie Hawkins Dance at half-time of the varsity girls basketball game. Flag Corps performed January 19, 2006.

Sadie Hawkins Dance

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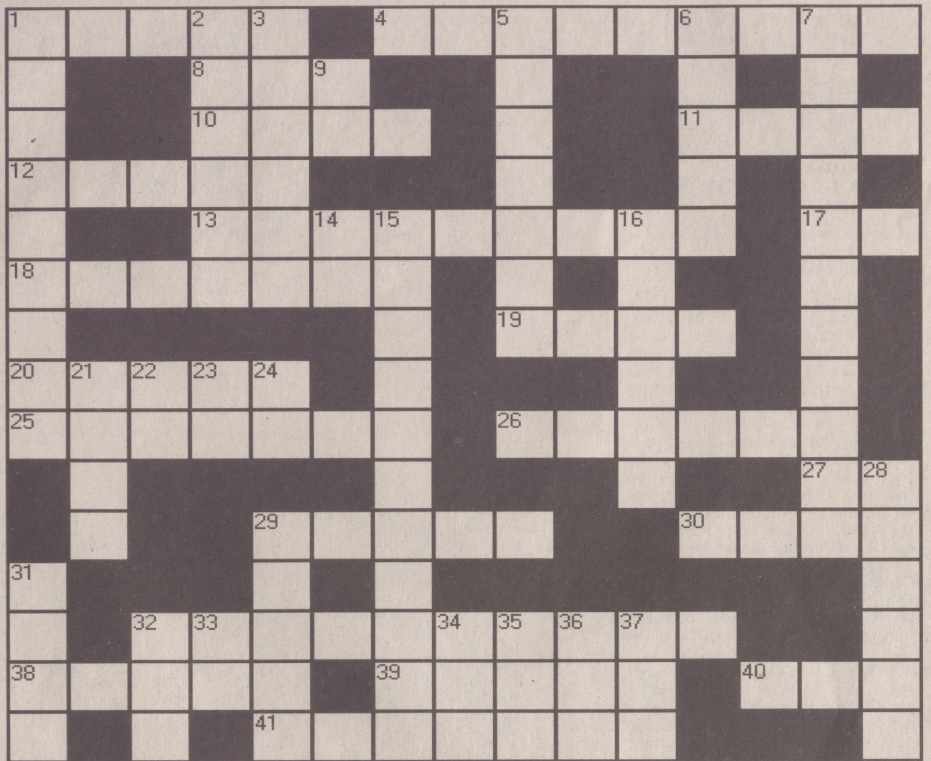
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Puzzle Pandemonium

- Across
1. Fashion Magazine
 4. When something happens
 8. Tender Loving Care
 10. Those final words: We're _____
 11. Red meat
 12. To run away and get married
 13. Tending to irritate
 17. A mother
 18. Betray your nation
 19. What you need after a big day
 20. Under no circumstances
 25. To shout; blurt
 26. _____ P.I.
 27. Soy, eres, _____, somos, son
 29. A wimp
 30. A house
 32. The study of the heart
 38. Sound of a metal pan
 39. Cherub with arrows
 40. Love, MSN style
 41. State of overwhelming emotion
- Down
1. Sweetheart on February 14
 2. A perfect place
 3. A group of young eels
 5. How girls talk
 6. An uncomfortable, scary feeling
 7. Girls have XX and boys have XY of _____
 9. Current Events
 14. First two letter of the word to describe what the earth does on its axis
 15. Guys that forget about Valentine's day are _____
 16. Your appearance
 21. To leave
 22. Vacuum cleaner
 23. Spanish article
 24. Egyptian Sun god
 28. Liquid of the mouth
 31. Dinner and a movie
 32. Kick the _____
 33. English article
 34. Three strikes = one _____
 35. Lion Protection Agency
 36. L _____ is a name
 37. Goody without vowels



Word of the Month

poseur

Pronunciation: pO-' z&r

Function: noun

Etymology: French, literally, poser, from *poser*

: a person who pretends to be what he or she is not : an affected or insincere person

<http://www.m-w.com/dictionary/poseur>

Hugh Laurie: man of many talents

Chelsea Bartholomew
Editor

It seems that every celebrity these days is writing. In fact, even people who've only had five, never mind fifteen, minutes of fame have suddenly been divinely inspired to slap some words to a document and call it a book. "It's what all the cool kids are doing, ma!"

There's one important difference between these people and the author of *The Gun Seller*, Hugh Laurie. He can actually write.

Laurie, who recently won a Golden Globe for his role as the misanthropic title role of Fox's hit medical drama *House*, submitted the manuscript under a pseudonym because he wanted to be sure it was judged on its merit as opposed to his recognizable name. He needn't have worried. He has fashioned a novel both hilarious and suspenseful; intelligent, yet understood by the average Joe. There's a course of action, with a side helping of wit and a sprinkling of romance. In short, it's a keeper.

The hero of the tale, Thomas Lang, is a former Captain of the Scots Guard (think National Guard, but Scottish), who now makes most of his living as a hired gun. When he's guarding a man in Amsterdam, a mysterious fellow offers him a load of money to assassinate Alexander Woolf, an American industrialist. Thomas refuses on principle and goes to warn Woolf. At the residence of the man in question, he finds himself accosted in a less than kind manner by a man named Rayner. After knocking him unconscious in the scuffle, Thomas meets Woolf's daughter, Sarah. He per-

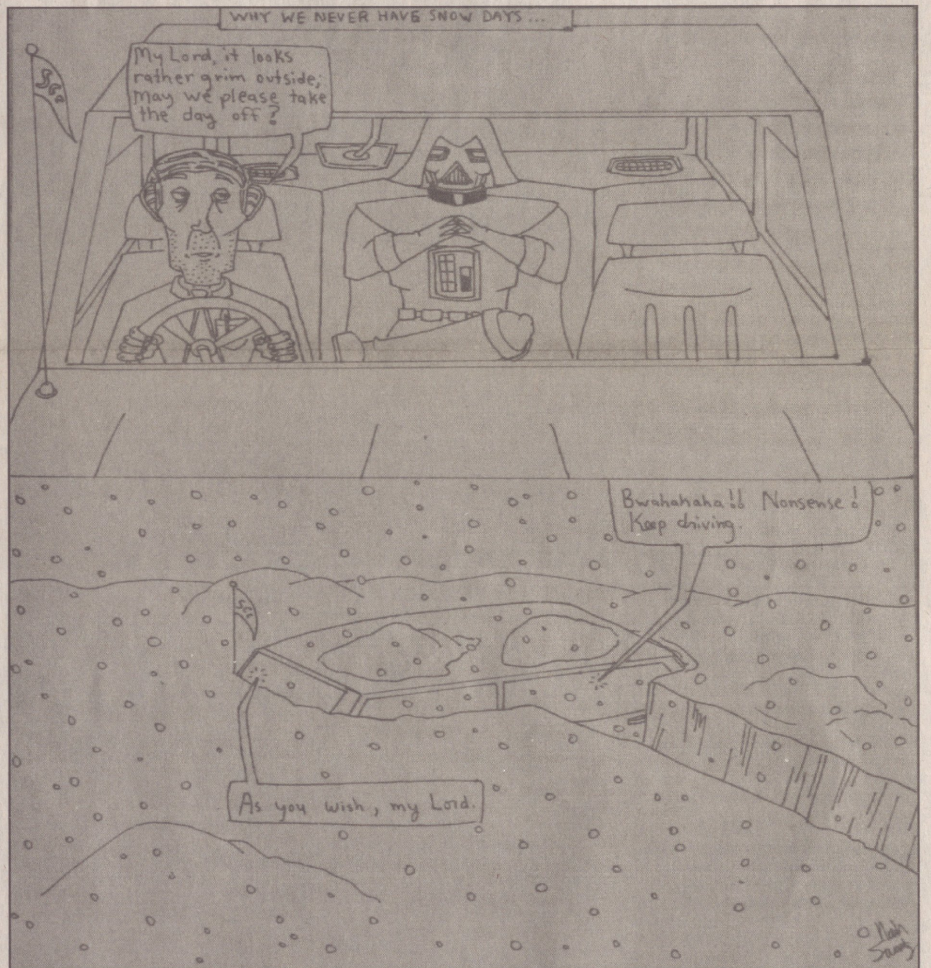
suares her not to call the police - on him at least - after some discussion. Thomas goes home to London, is soon hauled to the Ministry of Defense, accused of conspiracy to murder (to which he unfortunately responds, "Conspiracy?" rather than, "Murder?"). Not long after comes a puzzling revelation - Rayner was Woolf's bodyguard. But why, as Thomas himself asks, didn't his own daughter know that?

That's only one of the twists *The Gun Seller* throws at you in the course of its 340 pages. The book is, in many ways, a spoof of the spy genre, but that doesn't stop it at all from being surprising or gripping.

The jokes tickle your funny bone exactly the way they're supposed to: "She turned toward me and narrowed her eyes....Narrowed them horizontally, not vertically. Also, "Carl wasn't just Carl. He was CARL. He was an inch-and-a-half taller than me, and he lifted weights in his spare time, of which he obviously had quite a lot. He was also a United States Marine, and wore a uniform so new I half expected to see someone finishing off a hem down by his ankles." is another winner.

The only thing that I found myself skimming were descriptions of various weapons, though I suspect that has far more to do with my total disinterest in the subject than anything else.

The short and sweet of it is: Read this book. And don't stop there, re-read it. Rinse and repeat this formula at your pleasure. I'd call it time well spent.



Phrase of the Month

Whenever I get the energy to exercise, I sit down until it passes.
— author: unknown



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Bill
Kurtenbach
NEXT TO THE PLATE

Two sports down, one more to go

For almost two months now, college football has been in its annual dormant stage. This signals my time for hibernation, until soccer season that is. But for now I must wait. This season between football and soccer is not my favorite time because I am not exactly wild about basketball. The players work hard and give 100 percent, but the game just is not for me. One of the reasons I dislike the sport is because the NBA has unfortunately fallen into the trap of the superstar player, and the lack of hustle on defense makes the offensive game much easier. In the 2004 Olympics, Team USA did not perform to the level of play people expected. The reason was because they did not play as a team, and not shooting well did not help either.

Also, basketball is an indoor sport, and because of the kind of person I am I cannot be fulfilled by the lights in the gym. I prefer the outdoors and the real sunlight it provides. Besides, fresh air is at a minimum indoors, and a nice breeze is rare unless someone opens the side exits and an arctic chill rushes

The sun is the only real light bulb, and no sport is complete without the chance of feeling its warmth against your skin.

though the stands. Another reason I am not keen on indoor sports is because the advantage goes to the home team in a game indoors because, unlike in an open stadium, the noise is trapped inside the closed dome above the playing surface, making communication and concentration difficult.

I do play basketball though, and at times it has its highs. The main reasons I indulge in a nice game of basketball is not voluntary. My father, an accomplished lawyer, always brings the best of his game when in a heated debate over our quite different outlooks on the basketball. Somehow I always come out of the confrontation with a thought of "Hey, maybe basketball isn't that bad." The thought lasts for a mere five minutes, then I regain my previous state of mind, so to speak, and end up thinking the same thoughts I had before our confrontation.

The other reason I play is to stay in shape, because who knows what would happen to my hardly wonderful body if I should take a sports season off. I could just join winter conditioning but because of my competitive nature, I would rather do activities that have winners and losers than condition all season. And who knows, maybe basketball will strike my fancy one day. Ah, who am I kidding? But one of my favorite seasons is rolling around soon and I cannot wait any longer.

Spring activities season, or, as I prefer to call it, soccer season, is starting in a short time. After months of being confined like a prisoner inside, the nice open field of soccer will be a pleasant refuge for my eyes that have permanently been tampered with by the artificial glow of the indoor lights. The sun is the only real light bulb. No sport is complete without the chance of feeling the warmth of the sun against your skin, although in the early part of the season rain and sleet are possible. The sun is one thing that keeps me moving. Sports without the sun are like peanut butter without the jelly.

For some strange and unknown reason, my father and I cannot agree on soccer either. He states soccer is a communist sport and that it is impure to play it. I strongly oppose this ludicrous idea and divulge myself completely in the game. I guess the only sport that my dad and I agree on is football and at the current stage of the calendar it appears there will not be peace in the Kurtenbach household for another six months.

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At left, senior Jen Haney holds the ball above her head while looking for an open team mate in a game against Aquinas. Below, sophomore Kellie Korth drives past her defender. The Shamrocks won the game 51-22.



At left, junior Laura Blair looks to pass the ball to a teammate in an attempt to score. Below, senior Jamie Tooley defends her team's basket in a game against school rival Aquinas. The girls played Aquinas two times this year, and they won both by scores of 46-25 in the first game and 51-22 in the second game.



Above, junior Kristin Ostdiek sets up the offense against Aquinas.



PHOTOS BY JAKE STAROSCIK/ROCK BOTTOM

Athletes stay fit with program

Bill Kurtenbach
Editor

The clock counts down the seconds to 5:45. As it reaches the desired time set by the owner on the previous night, it emits a loud shriek, waking that very owner and dragging them out of bed. The recently sleeping one arises and scrambles over to the clock as quickly as possible while still in a trance to mute the annoying noise. Early Monday morning, most students would like nothing more than to sleep in and put off school, but for the off-season athletes in winter conditioning, it is time to hustle out of bed and work out.

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday of this winter sports season, male off-season athletes force themselves out of bed in order to stay in shape for their upcoming spring season sport. The conditioning session is at the prime time of 6:15 a.m.

and continues until around 7:30 a.m. Head Soccer Coach John Brezinski is at the helm of the sessions, directing the participants through a rigorous work out.

"The worst part of winter conditioning is waking up," sophomore Nick Zarek said. In the spring, Zarek will be trying out for soccer.

Adding to this, Zarek said, "The running is bad, too. I wake up at 5:45 so I can pick up Joel Fuchs on the way and still make it in time."

Junior Paul Mlinar is also an off-season athlete and is in winter conditioning to prepare himself for track. When he was asked if he thought Brezinski was doing a good job with the winter conditioning program, Mlinar said, "He is real tough on us, and he is also one of the fastest people in the sprints." Zarek added to Mlinar's statement, saying Brezinski is "crazy."

The thorough sessions include a series of jumping exercises, lad-

der exercises, sprints, lifting, and medicine ball workouts. The jumping builds leg muscles, while the ladders improve agility. Medicine balls can be used in many ways as a form of weight resistance. The sessions need to be rigorous in order to force the athlete to dig deep and find the will to finish the task at hand, and to keep the athlete in shape for the respective upcoming sport in the spring season.

Zarek is happy with the program for the most part, but there is something he would change.

"I wish the workouts were after school instead of in the morning so I didn't have to wake up so early," Zarek said.

Unfortunately, until the spring sports season starts, off-season athletes will be setting their alarm clocks for the dawning hours of the day.

Basketball Update

■ The girls continue their successful tradition this season, grabbing a #1 ranking during the season and posting a record of 16-3.

■ Recently, the boys added their first win of the season in a game against Lincoln Lutheran. Clutch free throws down the stretch helped the Shamrocks pull off a 54-46 victory.

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VOLUME 9 — ISSUE 6 — MARCH 22, 2006

Order Birth: Fiction or Fact

Nikki Sobotka

— Editor-in-chief —

First-born, that is the worst, second is the best, and third is the nerd. (Mrs. Shadle wouldn't let us use our rhyming word of choice.) Maybe not, but it depends on your point of view - or should I say your place on the totem pole. Birth order is something that everyone, even an only child, has to deal with. People have always speculated the effect birth order has on people, if any at all.

Birth order isn't a concrete science. There are people who defy the set characteristics. We all know everyone is unique. The facts of birth order are a list of characteristics displayed by children of a certain spot in the family as studied by psychologists.

Three other factors can affect how families relate. They are gender, age, and number of children in the family. For example, if a girl grows up with all boys then she will probably have little interest in girls at all, even for friendship. She was brought up around boys and thus is more comfortable with them. Age can affect a family differently if there are a lot of years between siblings. A youngest child will probably have the characteristics of an only child if his or her siblings are seven or more years older than him or her. The number of children in a family plays a big role on how the children end up. There may not be a clear

cut middle child. Those children have a combination of characteristics between middle and youngest children.

Birth order can even affect marriage and serious relationships according to Dr. Kevin Leman, author of *The Birth Order Book*. Studies have shown that marriages will have problems if it is between two conflicting children, such as two first-born. Characteristics of the two would be extremely similar causing them to frequently fight.

People do not realize how much birth order shapes them. For example, if two siblings frequently fight and their mom always sides with the youngest girl, there may be a subconscious reason for that. The mom is probably the youngest girl in her family and is unintentionally siding with the child in her same position. She probably assumes that her little girl feels the same way she did when she was little and wants to protect her from that.

For those who scoff at birth order, here is something to think about: Would your personality be different if you were the first-born child? The answer is probably yes because birth order affects how people relate to others.

Though birth order may mean nothing at all to some people, read through the characteristics of your place in the family, and do not be surprised if they sound eerily familiar...almost like your own.

OLDEST CHILD CHARACTERISTICS

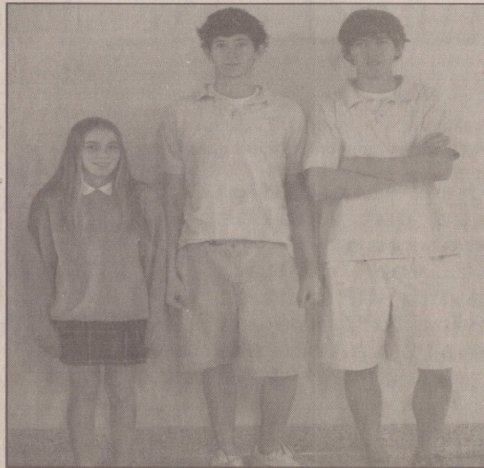
perfectionist
serious
responsible
bossy
determined
nurturing
cautious
confident

MIDDLE CHILD CHARACTERISTICS

may feel overlooked
or inferior
diplomatic
social
realistic
competitive
flexible
independent

YOUNGEST CHILD CHARACTERISTICS

charming
"baby"
center of attention
easygoing
indecisive
self-centered
confident
adventurous



NIKKI SOBOTKA/ROCK BOTTOM

Jenn, David, and Michael Gokie, seen at left, are children in one of the few Scotus families that currently has every child enrolled. Each one of them looked through the characteristics for their own birth order and here's what they had to say...

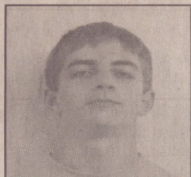
Michael: I would say that some of these fit me pretty well except for being a perfectionist, serious, nurturing, and bossiness.

David: All of the characteristics fit me except I'm not that social.

Jenn: (with help from Michael) I am not easygoing or rebellious.

Birth Order Survey

What spot is best? these students share



— **Jeff Svatora**

my place: 6 out of 7
coveted spot: middle child



— **Mollie Jones**

my place: youngest
coveted spot: middle, actually just older than Ben



— **Tiffany Spies**

my place: youngest
coveted spot: oldest



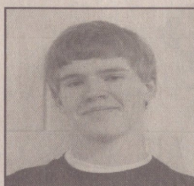
— **Nick Zarek**

my place: 3 out of 4
coveted spot: oldest



— **Katie Klimes**

my place: middle
coveted spot: youngest, because they get the easy way out of everything



— **Ben Jones**

my place: second to youngest
coveted spot: youngest because they get spoiled



— **Austin Zach**

my place: middle
coveted spot: middle equals awesome, Austin equals middle, so by the Transitive Property of Equality, Austin equals awesome, and that is a direct quote

Best Birth Order Marriages

Only child and the youngest child
First-born child and youngest child
Middle child and youngest child

ONLY CHILD CHARACTERISTICS

confidence
high expectations
pampered
can feel more comfortable around adults
creative
wants to please others
self-reliant
craves attention

ADOPTED CHILD CHARACTERISTICS

spoiled
demanding
craves attention
feels pressure to succeed the rest of their
characteristics will then correspond to tplace they have in the family



NIKKI SOBOTKA/ROCK BOTTOM

TWINS CHARACTERISTICS

can have identity problems
one twin becomes "leader"
unique
creative
craves attention
can be resentful if gets lack of attention

Mary and Monica Boeding, respectively, are one set of twins that attend Scotus. They both agreed that the characteristics of twins fit them and their situation very well.

Parlez-vous français? I sure do



Chelsea Bartholomew

Everything and nothing

It's basically a given for me by now that, every few months, I need something new to occupy my time. If I do not find anything, I am in serious danger of accidentally poking out my own eyeballs with the miniature Japanese flag resting on my dresser in a vain attempt to break the monotony of life. I call this 'the hallmark of an active and restless mind.' Almost everyone else calls it 'as close as you can get to ADD without the doctor writing up a Ritalin prescription.'

Therefore, it was no great shock

to me or those in close proximity when I decided to take up French. What is a tad surprising is that it's been about a month, and I'm still at it. In days bygone, I considered with scorn those people who opted to study French.

It didn't seem to be much but a mess of oohla-ing, scoring cheap points with the romantic sort, and coming up with weird ways to pronounce the last syllables of perfectly straightforward words. But I suppose French, like the common cold, could creep under everyone's door sooner or later. Of course, learning a language is much preferable to sniffing and coughing, but you get my point.

Now, this being the age of the Internet, the first stop for me was Google, where I very creatively searched for 'free online French programs.' And Hallelujah, it delivered within the second. Filled to the brim

with hopeful naïveté, I signed myself up. Easy. This was going to be so easy. I clicked over to a page that explained the alphabet, and how letters were generally pronounced.

Oh dear. Not so easy. Who decided to pronounce 'u' like *that*? The Marquis de Sade? (In which case the fact that his name is the root of the word 'sadism' would be all the more fitting.)

And the actual course, as structured, wasn't exactly helpful either. "Hello!" they said during week one, "we're going to teach you how to conjugate regular French verbs!" All right.

"Okay then, now we'll teach you how to conjugate 'to do,' 'to be,' and 'to have,' which are basically

the most important verbs EVER." So how come I didn't learn them first? This was week two.

"Hey, hey!" at week three now, "let's talk about subject pronouns! Oh, and have a completely random vocabulary list." Because, of course, it wouldn't have made sense to concentrate on that first. Note to self -- things on the Internet are usually free for a reason.

Despite the totally nonsensical layout of the lessons, I think I'm doing reasonably well with it. I even have to admit that French sounds quite pretty when pronounced properly. Sadly, if I'm the one doing the pronouncing, that's still kind of on the rare side.

Some people have wondered if throwing myself headlong into

French wouldn't be detrimental to my Spanish grade. Thus far, however, the only symptom I have noticed is the passing urge to pronounce an 'r' like an 'h,' but I always catch myself before I actually say it. If anything, it's helped. While French seems to have a far more wacky grammatical system going on, many of the words are similar. Étudier as opposed to estudiar, un livre as opposed to un libro, etc. And when I come across several words on the new vocabulary list that are nearly identical to words I just saw in a new lesson, it causes me to remember both of them.

Besides, no language is as horrible and convoluted as our very own English. My take is that if you can master that, you can balance a couple of little romance languages at the same time, no sweat.

Au revoir!

Values figured out, future wide open



Katie Michealsen

I'm watching you

I have trouble figuring out what I want to do with my life and I'm certain many others are in the same situation. Although I am only a junior I am already stressing over what college to pick and what I want to major in, all the while keeping my current grades up. To some, this is a walk in the park, but for me, I'm a worrier and feel that this nonstop train of thought will derail me.

Whether it is for school, a sport, fine arts, or a job, attitude is everything. This is one saying that we hear throughout life. With attitude comes courage, and that is simply because with a smile, like the one

Jake Staroscik wears, you can have the courage to do anything. Now that I'm off the subject of talking about what I want to do with my life I'll continue on with a few pointers in life I have learned.

My parents always taught me to do what it is that I want to do and I think for the most part I have accomplished it thus far. If a person is not doing something that makes them happy then what are they telling those around them? I'd rather have fun at something I truly enjoy rather than pretend like I'm having fun. I find this interesting because for so many years I thought that sports were the most important part

I just finally figured out what is important to me...yet I still am having difficulties trying to figure out what I want to do.

in my life and to tell you the truth I was not happy when I played three sports. Because I'm sensitive to certain things, the yelling during practices made me dislike some aspects of sports therefore it made me try less and it resulted in me not playing very often.

Now I know why I did not live up to my full potential. It is simply because I was not enjoying what I was doing.

This year I've struggled with hip problems resulting in me not being able to play the one sport I enjoy, soccer. For those who have been injured, they know that it is not fun sitting out and watching friends have fun. The same thing goes for those in fine arts. When people cannot do what they enjoy, it's as if life is put on hold.

For so long I was scared to apply for a job, scared to do bad on a

test, and scared to try out for the musical. I've finally found out through trying different things what it is I truly enjoy doing.

So, since I have been part of the recent musical, had a job, and have done not so well on a few tests, which is normal for any student, I can say I have figured out what I love to do and I learned that through the musical.

In the meantime of being scared to do this, I've come to learn more about myself and therefore have little idea what it is I want to do with my life. Well, I like to think I know what I want to do.

For the past two months I've been taking a C.N.A. (Certified Nursing Assistant) course at Platte College. Nursing is what I originally wanted to do and I believe this is what I still want to do, but for some reason or another a voice keeps popping in my head and it quite frankly is confusing. This voice almost gives me a headache only be-

cause I start over not knowing what I want to do with my life.

Now I'm not saying I have everything figured out because I am far from it. I just finally figured out what is important to me and what I enjoy doing, yet I still am having difficulties trying to figure out what I want to do. I have a year to go and if nursing is what I want to do then that is great and if it is not, I will have to wait and see what life throws my way.

Who knows, maybe by this fall I'll have everything figured out about what I want to do and who knows, maybe my hip will be healed so I can play at least one more year of soccer. For now, I've found what I do enjoy when not in sports and I think everyone needs to find a happy medium and take whatever curveball life throws his or her way.

Our conscience is tricky. You just need to open our eyes and get to know the world a little better and let that train of thought stay on track.

Procrastination, a vital part of what I do



Jake Staroscik

Can't touch this

Most mornings I wake up at 4 a.m. and finish my homework from the night before. This is procrastination and for as long as I can remember it has been a part of me. Numerous math assignments and heaps of English essays have all been completed in the wee hours of the morning they were due. I have this weird sense of work ethic that seems to flow from me soon after I get up. I think the realization that I have to do my homework now or it won't ever get done, combined with the challenge of fitting a two-hour project into a half an hour time slot excites me. In fact this very column was written while most of you were snug in your warm, cozy beds with homework long finished.

I realize that this may not be the most intelligent thing I do. How wise is it to finish a five-page research paper four hours before it is due? Somehow, it works for me. Whether it is the adrenaline pumping through my veins or a good night sleep, I don't know, but something gets me clicking. I know that it works for a lot of other people, too.

Teachers and parents have told us countless times not to wait until the last minute to do something. Mainly because the mad dash to finish it often leads to a sloppy turnout. Unfortunately for me, though, I have the undesirable knack of always churning out something sloppy whether I finish it long before it is due or the morning before. That is really how my procrastination came about.

You see, as a young boy it didn't take me long to figure out that I lacked the fine motor skills. My handwriting was horrendous, I was an unorganized mess, and my art work stunk up the room. Basically everything I did, every homework assignment I turned in was, well,

rough around the edges, if you know what I mean. Then I figured out I could do my homework right before it was due with the same disorderly appearance as if I actually spent time on it. It didn't matter how fast I rushed through it or at what time I did it, it always turned out the same.

Whether this still holds true for today, I can be certain for I rarely do things slowly. Quick and painless is the way to go.

Anyway, this habit kind of stuck on me, and before I knew it I was a full-blown elementary school procrastinator. Day after day, or should I say morning after morning, I would do my homework. It became almost like a habit, a drug. However, it was a hard life for me.

In grade school procrastination is heavily looked down upon. In my day grade school teachers despised kids-in fact hated kids-that

waited until the last minute. They did everything in their power to force my fragile, sheltered brain into believing procrastination was as bad as the devil. Anyone caught finishing an assignment right before class was immediately scolded and

doing homework during the morning at school was unheard of. So I kept my dirty little secret under the covers. The teachers never suspected it. They just assumed that I was a messy kid. I didn't tell anyone otherwise.

To be completely honest, I was scared of what my friends would think of me. That they too, like my teachers, believed of the horrors of procrastination. I thought they might think I was different, and I surely didn't want to be an outcast. That all changed though, when the most wonderful thing happened to me... I came to Scotus.

Now Scotus is not an ordinary place. The gym walls are lined with state championship posters. A trophy

case stretches form one hallway to another celebrating achievements in band, journalism, speech, drama, art, and athletics. But among all these glorious things was something more comforting to my seventh grade eye. I found it scattered throughout Scotus, in the hallways, the cafeteria, the courtyard, and even an empty classroom. There were people just like me. People whom, for some reason or another, didn't do their homework until the morning. I felt right at home. Students depend on the morning to finish their homework, and I am certainly one of them.

Whether we're doing the right thing or not, and no matter how many teachers tell us not to, procrastinators like me will keep on doing what we've been doing. That is getting our stuff done, and with no care of when we do it so long as it is done before class. Sometimes it's a dangerous game to play and often I lose, but I don't see any other way for me right now. I can't help but take the highway through the danger zone.

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Mr. Shamrock 2006

Let's meet our contestants

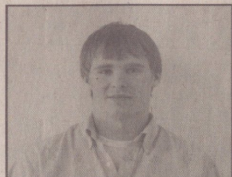


Thomas Roh

What is your worst fear about performing?
Being so good that everyone breaks down in tears.

How would you explain your amazing talents?
Jimmy-Hendrix like

Will your fashion sense woo the women watching you?
Yes, I wear sunglasses.



Zach Ramaekers

Why are you qualified to participate in this competition? Explain.
Because I am the best person for Mr. Shamrock.

If words could express your amazing talents, how would you explain them?
Indescribable.



Michael Gokie

What qualities would your dream girl possess?
She must be extremely intelligent, pretty, and...that's it.

Does your talent have the capacity to overwhelm the audience with your skills? Explain.
No, because I do not have one but if I did it would be because everything I do overwhelms everyone.



Pat Morrison

Do you possess any weaknesses within all three stages of the competition? If so, what would they be?
Catch that dream girl outfit because I don't know what to wear. My sisters tell me that I never match.

What qualities would your dream girl have?
Smart, funny, not two-faced, pretty, honest, shorter than me.



Tyler Micek

What qualities would your dream girl possess?
She has to be funny, intelligent, be able to carry on a nice conversation, and most of all, able to be spontaneous and random.

Does your talent have the capacity to overwhelm the audience with your skills? Explain.
Heck Yes! It does because it is so incredibly amazing it defies description.



Austin Zach

If words could express your amazing talent, how would you explain them?
pneumonultramicroscopicsilicovolcano-koniosis

Why are you qualified to participate in this competition?
Most popular in this school.

Will your fashion sense woo the women watching you at the competition? Explain.
Of course- dress smart.



Joey Beauvais

What is your worst fear about performing in front of so many adoring fans?
Beef it- Dancing like a maniac- you know I will be.

Do you possess any weaknesses within all three stages of the competition? If so, what would they be?
Dress up part- have trouble getting my pants on in the morning.

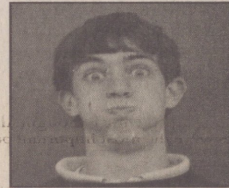


Clint Torczon

What qualities would your dream girl have?
Long brown hair, about 5'8", a dimple, and dancing ability.

How would you explain your talents?
I'm like a knight on top of a castle...can't bring me down.

Will your fashion sense woo the women watching you?
Yes, because I wear lotion.

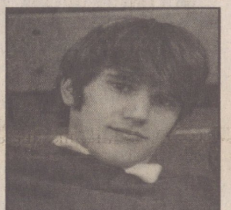


Zeph Swope

Do you have any secret strategies to prepare for your success in the competition? If so, what would they be?
Sleep for an entire week without interruption before the competition.

What qualities would your dream girl possess?
She has to be Aphrodite, or I should not be able to tell the difference.

Will your fashion sense woo the women watching you at the competition? Explain.
Absolutely not because I use chap stick.



John Bierbower

Why are you qualified to participate in this competition?
I'm a good person.

Does your talent have the capacity to overwhelm the audience?
Pcch...ya! No one else can dunk a basketball!

What qualities would your dream girl possess?
Nice. Good personality. Looks don't hurt either.

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Jared Rickert

What qualities would your dream girl possess?
She has to have a big heart, be snuggly like the Downy Bear, and be able to cook.

Why are you qualified to participate in this competition?
Because I got skills that kills.

What is your biggest fear about performing in front of so many adoring fans?
My bold moves may stun everyone and make them comatose.

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Josh Jepsen

Do you possess any weaknesses in the competition?
No.

Do you have any strategies to prepare you for success?
No. I'll just wing it.

Why are you qualified to participate in this competition?
No one else will represent our school besides me.

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Behind the Lunchline

Katie Wozny
Staff Reporter

Whether it's your favorite lunch or your least, the amount of energy and time it takes to serve over 700 students is about the same. The Scotus Central Catholic cafeteria staff work fiercely every day to get that many students fed. From 21 years of dedication to just a few months, these ladies enjoy their jobs.

Now the questions many might be wondering. Why the Scotus Cafeteria? And for so many years. Why? The cafeteria staff all said the same thing. "We do it because of the students. Just hearing 'thank you' once in a while is great. And the crew here is fun to work with."

Underneath the hairnets, behind the cafeteria line, and beneath the rubber gloves are hard working, dedicated women. Some of them well known, others remain a mystery. No longer will these people go unknown or unappreciated. Let's meet the women who keep us fed.

Cathy Hoops
32 years
Nutrition Services Manager
President of the Nebraska School Food Service Association

Bonnie Eikmeier
17 years
Nutrition Services and Lunch Account Manager
Favorite Meal: The Christmas din-



Marge Zegar
3 years
Cook and baker
Favorite Meal: Chicken nuggets and snicker doodle cookies
Hobbies: Gardening, sewing, and working part-time at the hospital kitchen

Pat Matteo
9 years
Helps Peg with the Salad Bar
Hobbies: Reading and sewing

Helen Zocholl
10 years
For two weeks is a baker, two weeks is a cook
Favorite Cookie: Chocolate crinkles
Hobbies: Master Gardener, outdoors, walking, and working in the

Peg Keep
21 years
Salad Bar and helps out wherever she is needed
She likes to make the cinnamon rolls.
Hobbies: Collecting antiques and



NIKKI SOBOTKA/ROCK BOTTOM

dishes, and shopping

Melodee Brunken
3 years
Cook and baker
Favorite Meal: Nachos and Runzas
Hobbies: Collecting angels, spending time with her family, and

Betty Watts
8 years
Helps out wherever needed
Hobbies: Spending time with grandchildren and great grandchildren, playing cards, especially Euchre, Sheephead, and Pitch

AKA: Also Known As



"People think I have fish eyes so they call me Fish." - Steph Spies 11



"I ran around naked a lot when I was little and so my sisters called me Bunz." - Sarah Jackson 10

"A rose by any other name would smell as sweet." While Shakespeare may have hit the nail on the head with this quote in his play *Romeo and Juliet*, it illuminates the fact that a rose will remain a rose even if scientists decide to call it something else a few years down the road. The underlying message in this thought provoking quote is that a name alteration doesn't change the nature of the beast. However, does the quote hold true for other things besides botanical flowers? The answer is obviously yes. You could call Joe

Bob, Bob Joe and he would indeed be the same person.

The same holds true for nicknames. According to a current survey conducted by the Rock Bottom there is an abundance of "name calling" going on in Scotus. From Junior Scott Jarecke's infamous nickname of Smoke to Senior Jessica Daley's innocent ~~too~~ bear, there is a wealth of creative nicknames roaming the halls of Scotus. Nicknames are fun to exchange between friends. Whether it is derived from the name itself or just some-

thing random, a true nickname generally sticks.

Nicknames can vary from name shortening to accentuating a physical appearance or personality trait. The more creative the name, the better chance at it staying with the person it was given to.

What would happen if scientists decide to rename the rose tomorrow? What if the new name they choose is red-thorny-good-smelling plant? Besides people being massively confused by an extremely long name, the beautiful scent of the rose would remain.



"My dad calls me Jaybird." - Jay Klimes 9



"I don't know why, but people call me Stick." - Nick Daley 9



"When I was little, I was very hyper and never shut up. My brothers said I was giddy, and eventually it was shortened to Gids." - Kevin Micek 11

Lauren Jablonski
Staff Reporter

Guess Who?

Below are some sayings students hear the teachers repeating. Can you guess who said what? The first correct answers turned into Mrs. Shadle will win a prize.

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. All right. All right! _____ | a. Mr. Brockhaus |
| 2. All of the suddenly. _____ | b. Mrs. Schaad |
| 3. All right big boy. _____ | c. Mr. Lahm |
| 4. Blah, blah, blah, blah, that's all I hear. Raise your hand! _____ | d. Mrs. Tooley |
| 5. Count, number, and circle. _____ | e. Mr. Salyard |
| 6. No day is complete without a proof.. _____ | g. Mrs. Dusel |
| 7. Oh! Shut up! _____ | h. Mr. Younger |
| 8. Guys, guys. _____ | i. Mr. Petersen |
| 9. Two minutes girls. _____ | j. Mrs. Gibson |
| 10. Get that shirt tucked in. _____ | k. Mrs. Lahm |
| 11. Guys, are you with me? _____ | l. Mrs. C. Johnson |
| 12. Guys, focus! _____ | m. Mr. Mahoney |

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Chelsea Bartholomew
— Editor —

Looking for a quirky little book, not too challenging but plenty amusing? As it happens, this is your lucky month. Sue Limb's *Girl, 15, Charming But Insane* might be just what you're looking for.

Jess Jones is, as the title would suggest, a fifteen-year-old girl with an imagination that could power North America if creativity were able to be converted into energy. This could be good, bad, or a bit of both depending on how one looks at it. She would much rather daydream about being adopted by a rich old woman with no heir and connections to Hollywood, or the possibility of a third gender, than do her homework. Because Jess is, in fact, rather intelligent, this penchant for slacking has more than one of her teachers constantly on her case for not living up to her potential. Her only response is to silently envision them all sitting together in the teacher's lounge weeping over what a tragedy her underachieving ways are.

Her two best friends, Flora and Fred, are polar opposites. Fred is a witty loner, who prefers sitting at

home watching movies over the weekend to mixing with his classmates. Flora is a dainty, popular, princess of a girl who comes from that peculiar brand of frighteningly successful, rich, and blonde family. Naturally, they do not tend to mix with each other.

Jess's mom and dad are divorced, and her mom is the one who has custody. She is a vocal anti-war, anti-poverty activist, who goes to protest against the war ("There was usually always a war to protest against," Jess thinks) every Saturday. At one point, upon coming home and finding nothing to eat, Jess wonders how a headline announcing that the daughter of a woman who fights against third world hunger on a daily basis had starved to death at home would look.

Relatively soon in the book another character, Jess's grandma, is introduced. She is a sweet old woman, albeit, with a decidedly macabre side. "Jess! Sweetheart! You look so grown up! Goodness, you're wet! Have a bath straight-away, lovey, or you'll get a chill. By the way, they've found a human head in Grimsby." This is a woman who, apparently, watched *Pulp Fiction* while knitting fluffy pink socks

for a charity.

The plot rolls along at a leisurely pace. Sometimes this makes things seem to be going a little slow, and at other times, a little fast. It's not particularly gripping or innovative, though, so that doesn't matter. The characters are what really make the book, each with their own little - or big - eccentricities. Jess, particularly, is very entertaining. A character like her could have gotten annoying if handled the wrong way, but done right, she's brilliant. The mental images she gets will keep you laughing from the first page to the last. But then again, I could just be laughing because her mind reminds me a little too much of my own at times. (At age nine, for instance, I became convinced for several weeks that eating at Whiskey Creek allowed tiny aliens to implant mind-control chips in your brain, but I digress).

In the end, the front flap, of all places, says it best: this book is a wonderful tribute to the kind of insanity that keeps a girl sane.



Phrase of the Month

Those who are not willing to bleed and sacrifice for what they believe in, will always be held hostage by those who are.

~Anonymous

Word of the Month

Tuchun - 1. a chinese military governor (as of a province) 2. A chinese warlord

R5 takes 60 minutes to teach students lifelong values

Kellie Johnson
— Staff Reporter —

Rap music, funny clips, and a strong message. This is what R5 productions brought to Scotus. They not only brought many stories of people who have encountered many things, but they have also incorporated the five R's. The five R's are Relevant Reconnect, Rethink, Rediscover, and Remember. Mike Donahue, head of R5, presented his speech in a way that kids could relate to. He had some of his closest friends tell their story of how they overcame abuse, drugs, and someone telling them they cannot do something.

Senior Jamie Tooley said, "I wasn't there on Friday, but I've seen them before and I thought they had a very strong message. They put things into our terms and our language so it was easy to relate," about R5.

Tooley was not the only one who liked R5. Senior Katie Klimes said,

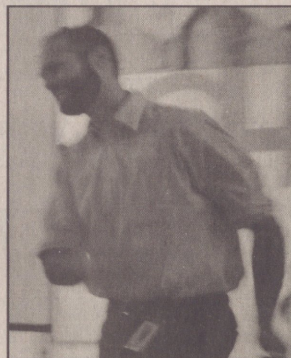
"They're really good, and gave us a different perspective into what we'd been taught. They showed us a totally different view on the way we should look at drugs, alcohol, and people."

From the moment that people walked into the gym and heard their favorite songs such as "Laffy Taffy" and "My Humps" they knew that it was going to be a good presentation.

Junior Courtney Fri said, "R5 was one of the better ones that I've seen."

Also, senior Zach Ramakers echoed the same thing, "I liked R5 a lot, and they were better than most groups we have had."

Whether it was the loud music, funny jokes, or the teachers' dance off, the students payed close attention to the group as everyone laughed at jokes. Overall, there were many laughs, and even a few tears that trickled down students' cheeks to make for a conclusion to the R5 presentation.



KATIE MICHAELSEN

Pictures from the R5 assembly: (Above), Mr. Shively dancing, (above right), the poster all students signed, (right), one of the members of R5 playing guitar and singing *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*

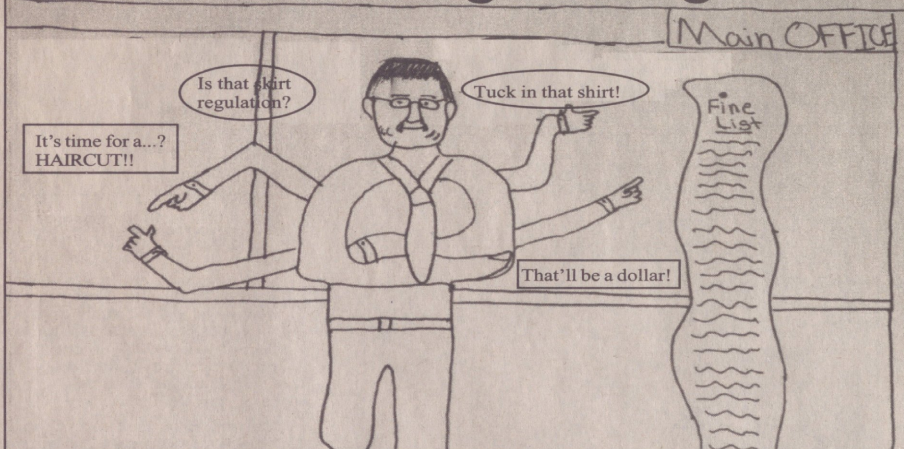


KELLIE JOHNSON

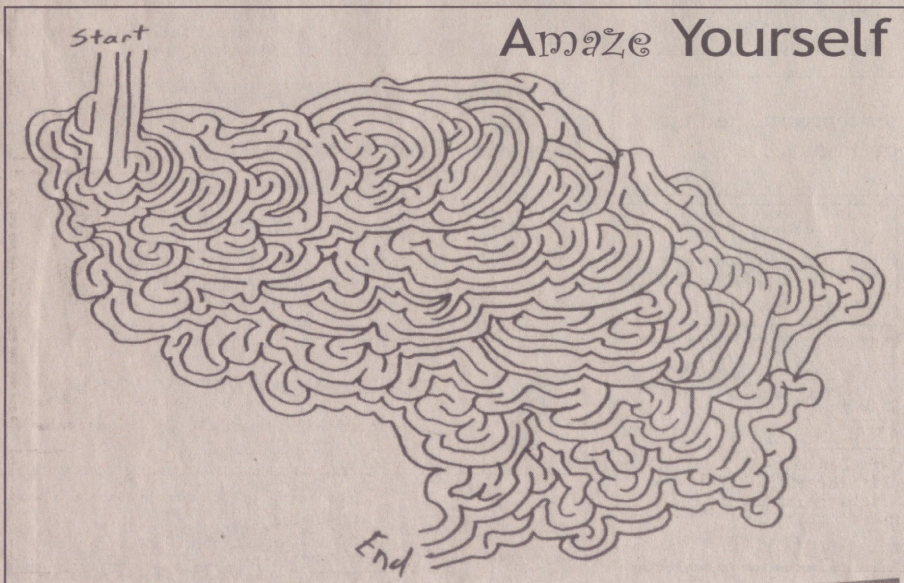


KATIE MICHAELSEN

Mr. Morfeld During Passing Period



CALLEN SCHWANK



CRAIG PEKAREK

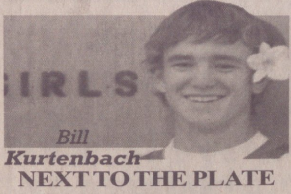
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Bill Kurtenbach
NEXT TO THE PLATE

Sporting Scramble

Bill Kurtenbach & Jake Staroscik
— Editors

Absence of action in March sports

Recently, while trying to think of a stellar topic to write about for this month, I came to the conclusion that there is nothing happening in March. Alright, maybe there is the single largest tournament out of the four major sports in the U.S., yet I would have trouble writing about the Big Dance because I do not consider myself an expert on the topic.

While on the subject of tournaments, I can talk about a "cup" that satisfies my thirst. World Cup '06 will be taking place this summer in Germany. This may be the Germans' chance to take the Cup in front of their home crowd after not being in possession of the Cup for 16 years. Brazil, the other favorite and winner of World Cup '04, will be looking to repeat as champions, which will put their all-time total for Cup Championships at five, more than anyone else in the history of the Cup.

Although, a quality that may lessen Brazil's chance to win is the age factor. All of Brazil's stars are aging rapidly and they do not have a wave of young talent coming in. Any of the teams in the tournament

Without the presence of Big 12 teams, this year's March Madness will have room for teams from smaller conferences.

has a chance to win, supposedly, but the other teams with a slightly greater chance than the rest would have to be Argentina and England. The United States should advance past its group, which includes Italy, the favorite to win the group, Ghana, and the Czech Republic. However, they most likely will not advance any further than the Quarterfinals at best. Before this takes place halfway around the world, there will be a larger tournament with an even greater American fan base taking place this upcoming month. Since the calendar says March and people are mad about basketball, the tournament is rightfully named "March Madness."

As reluctant as I am to talk about March Madness, I feel it is my obligation as the sports editor I must do so. This year's Final Four will take place in Atlanta. If the four "best" teams make it, Duke, Connecticut, Villanova, and Tennessee will square off leaving everything on the court in a winner take all match up. However, this may just be the year that a 16 seed beats a number one seed, but it is not very likely.

With the Big 12 having a "down season," or the beginning of a downfall, only about three teams will represent the conference in the Big Dance, after sending six teams to the tournament last year. With the absence of Big 12 teams, more teams from small divisions will have the chance to advance to the next round, or just be a warm-up game for the later rounds. The newly reformed, and newly improved, Big East may take several of the open positions, sending seven or eight teams to the postseason tourney.

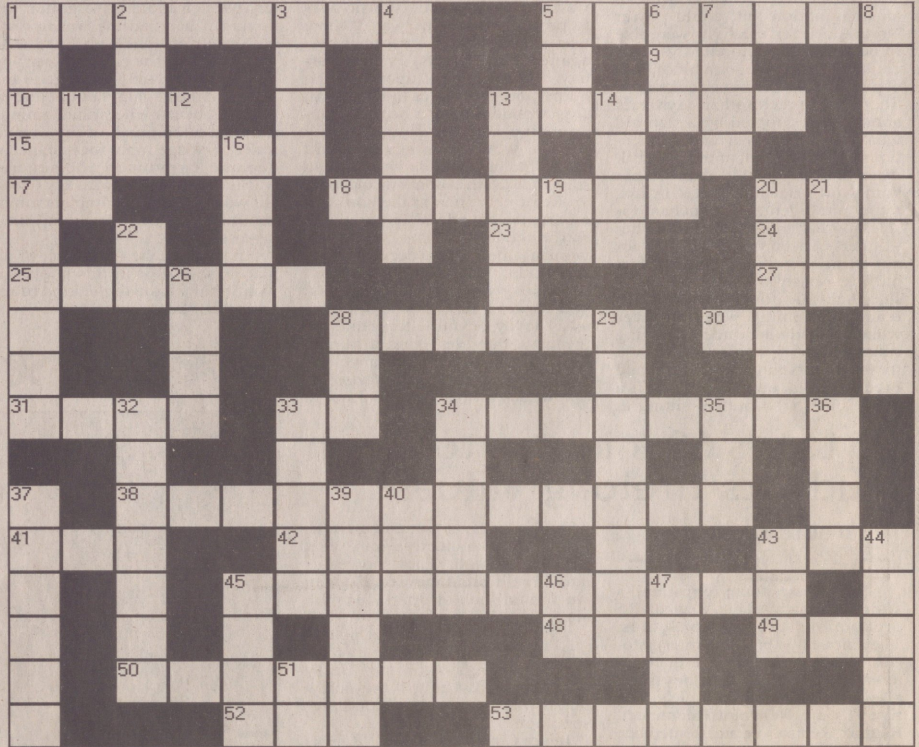
As unpredictable as the tournament is, I do have a prediction for the tournament. This year's winner will not be a #1 seed. This may sound crazy to some, but I could have gone a couple of steps, maybe even a mile further and said a 16 seed will beat a #1 seed. But even though I know so little about basketball, I have enough common sense not to say this.

- Across
- Ozzie Smith's sport
 - Baseball is played on this
 - Atomic symbol for lithium
 - Downy
 - Word used in both baseball and bowling
 - Goalie
 - You go here when you get injured playing a sport
 - Played with a flat bat
 - Parker Bohn's league
 - Hamilton Tiger-Cats are in this
 - Mike Tyson eats this part of the human body
 - Basketballs do this
 - Main poll used in forming Madness bracket
 - REAL
 - Famous magazine
 - Zero
 - Tim Couch
 - Pool
 - Final game of tournament
 - Tag or force
 - Made of compressed rubber
 - Mascot is The Bulls
 - Forrest Gump played this
 - Marcus Allen, O.J. Simpson are alumni
 - All-terrain Vehicle
 - Arguably China's best athlete
 - Shamrocks
 - Protein supplement

- Down
- Dr. Naismith's passion
 - Reach base
 - Athletes buy this when they get a signing bonus
 - Every game has one of these
 - Spot
 - Cassius Clay

- Air Jordan's name
- Holds career TD passes record
- Poet's word for over
- Toilet paper
- Futbal
- Winding tool on a fishing pole
- 2001 Heisman winner
- Korean Football
- Hockey has three
- Baseball's Average Person
- Huskers
- Major sponsor
- McGwire is Big
- Only team in NFL to go undefeated
- A win
- Buccaneers' city
- Joe Theisman's leg
- Ron Artest and Shaq tried to do this
- Soap makes this
- Canada's sport

- Many athletes live this life style
- Illegal Clothes Line
- Finished second in medal count at '06 Olympics
- Former Southern Miss QB turned pro
- Most shots in basketball are these
- Eastern University
- Main college sports association
- Hammer



Boys look to restore respect

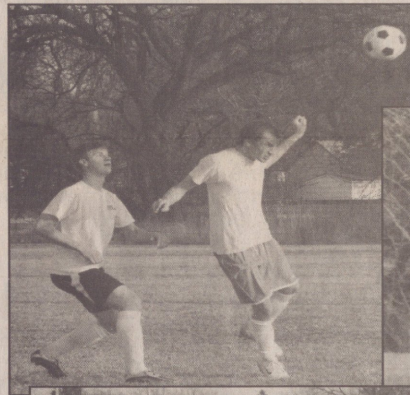
Bill Kurtenbach
Editor

With a new coach comes new drills. In some cases, a new coach also brings along new conditioning drills. Especially if your coach is a physical therapist who has studied how far the human body can be pushed. The boys' soccer team is adapting to both new drills and tougher conditioning brought upon by Coach John Brezinski. Last years team recalls little conditioning, and from two years ago almost no conditioning. Brezinski was once a Scotus student and played soccer in high school. His plans at Scotus are to restore the order of statewide respect as a soccer program, as well as having his team be known for their sportsmanship.

Brezinski is very strict in his teaching and discipline. Because foul language is a red card in soccer, he does not allow it on the practice field. Not paying attention to him while he is talking is also a mistake, and doing so may result in thorough disciplinary actions. Although the conditioning may be exhausting, he does so to make sure that his team is in good enough shape to play a full soccer game, plus extra.

The conditioning was tested in the season opening tournament at Elkhorn. The boys played an opening round game against Omaha Skutt on Friday at 4:00 pm, just before the girls played their first game of the season against Skutt at 6:00 p.m.

See Soccer, column at far right



At left, senior Clint Torczon (right) heads the ball back where it came from while junior Ryan Rosenquist (left) watches in awe. Below, senior Chris Schumacher approaches the ball on a goal kick at practice.



PHOTOS BY LAUREN JABLONSKI/ROCK BOTTOM

Soccer

from column at left

While immediate results may be hard to come by in one year, the new boys' coach seems to expect them. His boys are loyal to him and do not disappoint. So for all the opposing teams, good luck, because there will be a new team to respect in Nebraska.

Senior Eric Puckett creates space for himself by getting away from junior teammate Joe Robak at practice preparation for the Elkhorn Invite that took place on March 17 and 18.

Amigos. 99 cent soft shell tacos on Friday.

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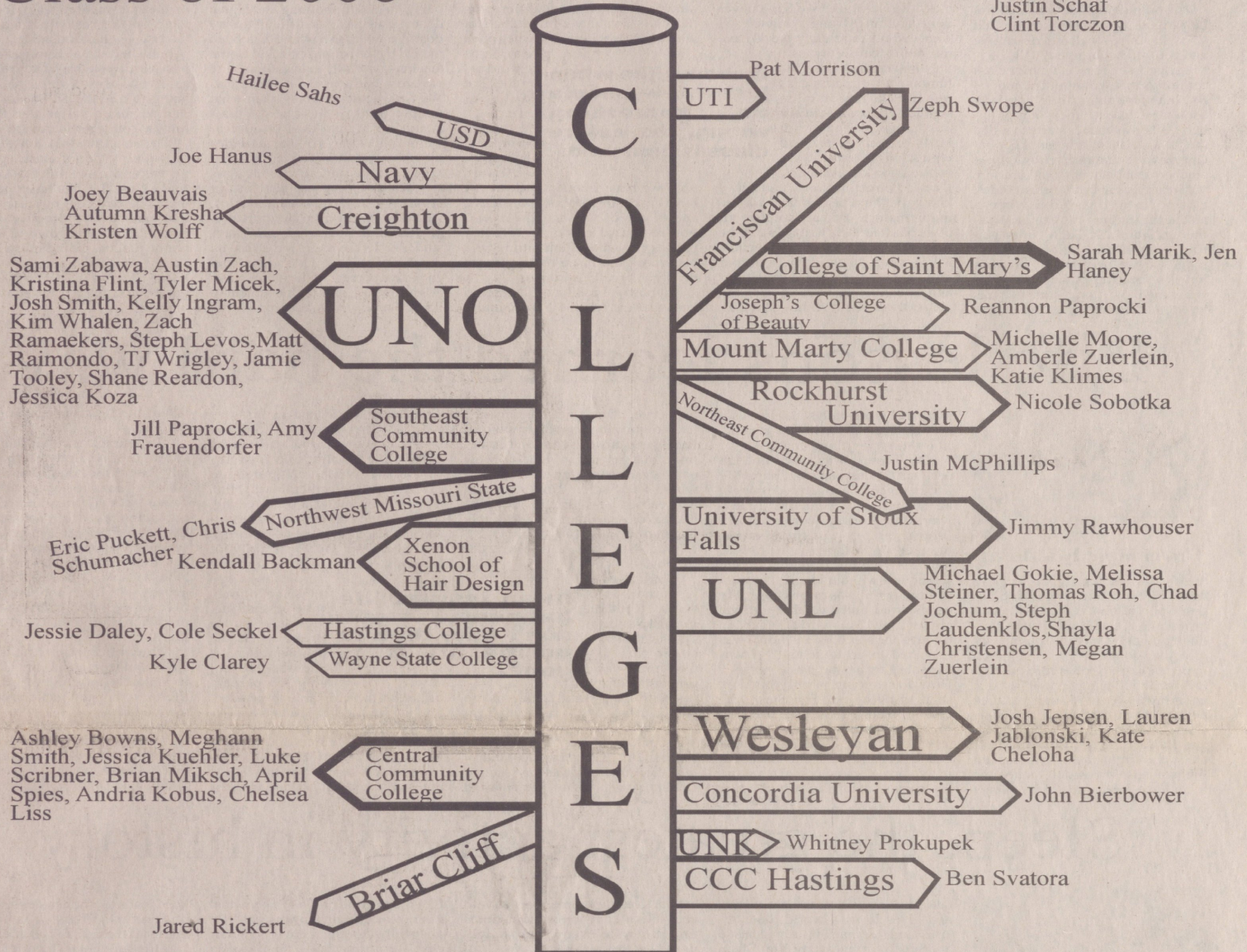
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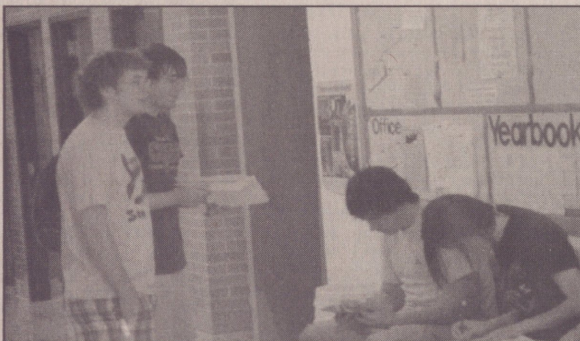
Class of 2006

Undecided

Justin Schaf
Clint Torczon



A Mayhem of Memories



Seniors Tyler Micek, TJ Wrigley, Matt Raimondo, and Melissa Steiner wait for school to start in Senior Hallway.

Class of 2006, What is your best memory from senior year?

"Hanging out with more and different people."
- Tyler Micek

"Tailgating 2005. Yeah!"
- Ben Svatora

"The powerpole from the senior retreat."
- Shayla Christensen

"Graduating!"
- Andria Kobus

"When Joey threw a fireball at me..."
- Justin Schaf

"My true friends and all the good times we had."
- Chris Schumacher

What will you remember about Scotus in 10 years?

"No air-conditioning in the fall or spring and no heat in the winter."
- Sarah Marik

"Mr. B's broken window."
- Michael Gokie

"How amazing the heaters are..."
- Josh Smith

"Spending half of my natural life in the Little Theatre for One-Acts."
- Kate Cheloha

"No handicap accessibility, I suppose I'll donate money for that cause."
- Steph Levos

"The two snow days in a row, on the first two days of spring."
- Pat Morrison

"Almost failing one of Mrs. Johnson's classes a couple of weeks before graduation."
- Hailee Sah

"Good times in football."
- Eric Puckett

"Getting fined for parking in the parking lot on the last day of lent."
- Matt Raimondo

"My friends."
- Kendall Backman

"The uniforms."
- Michelle Moore

Any final thoughts seniors?

"I love my class."
- Melissa Steiner

"It is a great college-prep school."
- Kyle Clarey

"I wish it could've lasted longer."
- Luke Scribner

"Wahooo!"
- Kristina Flint



A group of senior girls pose for pictures at a post-football game bonfire out at Lake Babcock.

Juniors receive unfair reputation



BOYS
Kellie Johnson

I don't care

"Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven." (Lk 7:37) Many people judge the junior class for things that we should be judged for, but some things I do not think should be placed upon our shoulders. When a teacher starts to judge the junior class it is most likely because of a few students. Sometimes teachers can be harsh, but I am sure we are pretty harsh on them at times. Sitting in a classroom when a teacher is judging us, can be frustrating. Truthfully, I don't mind getting judged, but when teachers judge us just because we are juniors is what irritates me more. Yes, we may have done some things wrong in the past years, but people

can change and people have changed over a period of time.

If we just happen to do something wrong some people seem to lose their focus, especially teachers, who are not fond of a particular class, especially the junior class. I know that most of you would never do such a thing as to criticize our class. It is not like we have never done anything wrong. As much as I want to think differently, we do have our faults that follow us.

I think that my class, the juniors, have matured as much as a junior class should. I know that in our past years we have not built ourselves a good reputation. Whether it was we were too loud, or didn't listen to directions, or whatever. I know that I am also at fault for being immature. I do realize that our class has had their faults, but at the same time we have matured greatly. I remember when we were in our younger years we were rebellious and acted like we were so cool, but we really weren't. Although not all

of us were rebellious, but because just a few classmates were, these students set the tone for the rest of our high school careers.

It seems like when just a few people do something wrong, the entire class is punished. I know this is sometimes the only way to punish, but as a student I feel it is unfair. As much as I want to think differently, our class does have its faults. But what really irritates me is when most

It seems like when just a few people do something wrong, the entire class is punished

teachers remind us on the first day of class, "Your reputation precedes you, so listen up." We have frequently heard, "I have heard stories about your class, and if any of you act like a jerk, you're out of my class." It just baffles me when I am sitting in a classroom and I hear this and wonder what it really means.

Honestly, I really don't want to hear that every time I walk into a

classroom just because I am a junior. There really is nothing more irritating than when teachers tell us not to judge each other, but then they are judging us as a whole for the acts of some as far back as eighth grade. I guess that I just don't appreciate walking into a classroom on the first day of class, and already being judged for nothing that I have done. I must say it is difficult to stay positive when the whole has been judged by the actions of a few. Some teachers, not all, just assume that we are a bad class, but we're not. We have achieved more than what people think. I have classmates achieving a great deal in all academic and extracurricular activities they have participated in.

As I have said, the junior class has achieved a great deal in our studies, fine arts, and athletics. About every time the Honor Roll is posted there are seven straight A students, 15 are on A, and 28 are on the B Honor Roll. That's over seventy-five percent of the junior class. To me this is a great achievement in itself. There were six juniors on the

winning volleyball championship team, two on the cross-country team, and seven girls who participated in a good season of basketball. The junior mock trial team also won their first matches ever. They made it to state, the first team in many years to achieve this. There were many junior boys who participated on the state football team, four who were on the basketball team that won two games, including a district game. There are also six juniors that have participated in band, which has received many awards, including being first in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, and a junior won the Nebraska Young Artist Award.

The next time that you are ready to judge the junior class, stop and get to know us. I think that you will find a class that can have their moments of downfall but also a class that can be very productive. Just remember, stop judging and you will not be judged. Going into this next year, I challenge people to get to know THE CLASS OF 2007 as a good class, and not for the actions of a few.

Life lessons learned the hard way



BOYS
Lauren Jablonski

I'm completely kidding

My days at Scotus are winding down. The countdowns have begun and the end is in sight. But how have I ended up at this particular juncture? Where has my senior year gone? There is so much hype leading up to senior year that it is hard to recognize how fast it is zooming by. Bam! Senior pictures are over. Bam! Senior retreat is done. Bam! The last home football game, and Bam! The last time you hear the school fight song. In an instant life happens. If you don't take time to notice it, it is gone. This concept

is not only true with school and activities, but simply life in general. In a flash everything changes.

My brother was killed in a car accident this last summer. Bam! My life changed! Changed is definitely an extreme understatement. In a whirlwind I became a completely different person. As the summer dragged on, I thought to myself, how am I going to have a decent senior year without Ryan? The truth is, I thought it was impossible. My year started, and I hated everything about life. My world had been through the shredder and now I was expected to go to school? I was expected to be the same person? How was I going to pull this little stunt off? Why me? Somehow, with God's grace, I took baby steps at life again. I put on a smile and went to school. But, I was still a mess inside. No one wanted to talk about it. No one acknowledged my pain. Everyone acted like it had never

happened. Don't get me wrong, I had an amazing support system of family and close friends, but sometimes that just doesn't cut it. Most days, I wanted to stay curled in bed where I felt safe. Nothing could happen to me if I didn't go out, right? But, no one saw the sad side of me. Everyone saw the "I'm O.K." Lauren. But, looks can be very deceiving.

In a span of less than two-years, I lost three grandparents and a brother. I spent this last Christmas vacation in the hospital with my grandfather as he passed away. My family didn't really celebrate Christmas this year. We didn't open our gifts until December 30th. Christmas just didn't feel the same. It was my second Christmas without my Grandma and

Grandpa Jablonski, and my first very painful Christmas without my brother. I got numerous calls on my cell phone wishing me a Merry Christmas. While I am grateful to my friends for remembering me, "merry" was not what I was feeling.

I learned something very valuable in these last two years. I learned that God gives you your family for a reason. I was given a mentally handicapped sister to recognize how blessed I am. My sister had a stroke when she was six weeks old. She was left with only ten percent of her brain being able to be used. She is blind in her left eye and legally blind in the other. What good could possibly come out of that? My sister is one of the most amazing people I know. She has taught me so much about life and living it

to the fullest, and disregarding "limitations."

People tell me that they don't know how my family got through it all. Truthfully, I don't know either. I had to do a lot of growing up. These last two years helped me to put things beautifully into perspective. Prior to these events, I was a very temperamental person. I would get angry at the drop of the hat. Now, I think, "who has the time to get angry?" Life's too short to "cry over spilled milk." Life is most definitely too short to miss out on anything.

Take it from me. Life is a precious and wonderful gift. Respect it. Make the most out of life. Live life for today and make every moment count.

Today, I'm still moving on. But, on the lighter side, I have less than a week of school. How exciting is that? Pretty soon, it'll be "Bam! Graduation Day!"

In an instant life happens. If you don't take time to notice it, it is gone.

Sleep, the greatest activity in history



GIRLS
Jake Staroscik

Can't touch this

There used to be a time in my life when I would complain about being bored. That was back in the day when deciding which cereal I would eat was the most exciting occurrence of my day. Nowadays though, it is difficult for me to find the time to do anything. My days are packed with activities from sun up to sun down. I cannot seem to find the time for half of the things I used to do, and because of this, I never have time for one of my favorite activities, sleep.

Sleep is one of the greatest things that God ever blessed us with. Sleep

takes us away from our daily lives and gives to us a world more relaxed and free than the normal hustle and bustle of everyday life. Sleep clears our minds and allows us to forget all about the struggles of the previous day. To me sleep is like an old friend that lately, I haven't spent much time with.

On average, I sleep between six and seven hours a night, it seems like a lot, but for me it is not enough. I have trouble operating if I don't get my proper dosage every night, and I will try to play catch up throughout the day by dozing off in class. This is not a good idea, and although I try hard not to, I can never seem to fight the urge. I feel comfortable, my eyes start to close, and before I know what is happening, the bell rings and I'm off to sleep my next class away.

I think it is the same way for a lot of people in this school. I'm not trying to make excuses or anything,

but our lives are jammed packed with activities all day long. I sometimes find it hard to even do my homework on the weekends. We lead busy lives and contrary to what my parents believe, I do more in a day than they do. Easily. Some days it's lifting in the morning at seven, school until four, practice until six, and work until ten. Not to mention homework, which usually takes no less than one hour. Consequently, I don't get enough sleep and cannot keep my eyes open at school. So I waste away my costly schooling by napping during class. It's an epidemic that has plagued standardized education since its creation.

Now, it is not like I sleep every day at school, not even close. I try to find alternative ways to keep myself awake when I'm tired, like sitting next to someone you know will be chattering away all period long. It is impossible to fall asleep when someone is giggling or whispering

the entire period. It is like a perpetual alarm clock ringing in your ear. Realistically though, there is no better cure for a tired body than a good night's sleep, but unfortunately that

To me sleep is like an old friend that lately, I haven't spent much time with.

isn't always easy to get.

A good sleep can be hard to come by. The kind of sleep that makes you wonder if you will ever have to sleep again. A sleep in which you wake up refreshed and ready to take on the world. There is no better feeling.

I am not sure if there are certain things you can do to assure yourself a perfect sleep, they seem to come and go as they please, but if you told me that sleeping with peanut butter smeared across your fore-

head leads to a better sleep, there is no doubt I'd have a jar on my nightstand ready for each night.

I treasure good sleep. You actually feel like going to school and you are ready for the day. You never think about falling asleep in class because you don't have to, you have all the sleep that you need. I sleep for sleeps like that.

Sleep is something that we all need and use to operate. If we don't get it, our bodies try to force it upon us. It is there for us to use, but just like anything else, it requires time. For a lot of us though, time comes in short supply, and since we don't have the time, we usually don't sleep. We sacrifice it and instead live out our daily routine, a routine that demands us from early morning to late at night. Unfair as it is, we have to live on, and continue to sleep whenever we have time or sometimes in school. Whatever works.

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ROCK BOTTOM

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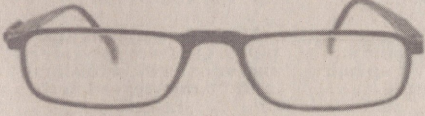


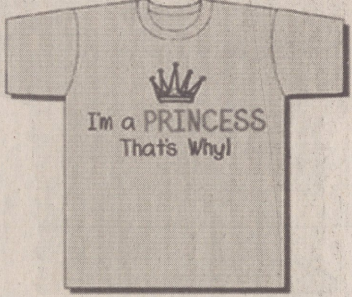
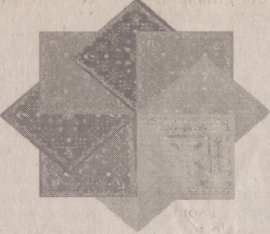

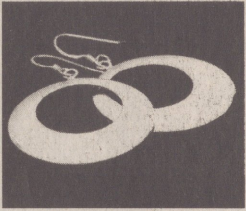
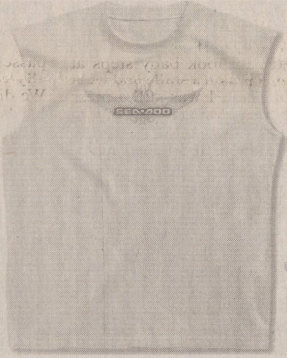



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We surveyed a semi-random selection of the Scotus population to find out what's... (Opinions are just that, and indicative of the views of only a portion of students)

COOL VS. RIDICULOUS
What's Hot vs. What's Not

Ripped jeans	Crocs
Tie-dye	Goth
Emo-glasses 	School uniforms 
Jean skirts	t-shirts with stupid sayings
 Guys in girl jeans	Colored eye makeup
Plaid skirts/shorts	Gangsta Muscle shirts 
Bandanas 	Sparkly everything
Moccasins 	Hoop earrings 
Baggy clothes for boys	Suspenders 
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Scarves 	Huge bead necklaces 

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Dating by generation

Sami Zabawa
Staff Reporter

Over time, hairstyles change, ideas of beauty change, word usages change, and dating habits change. As a part of the cycle of life, most of these issues of change are commonly known. However, the idea of touching upon the issue of dating today versus generations ago was the top pick. To get a general idea of what dating means to the generation of today, a couple of students express their opinions

about the world of love. "When I go out on dates, I usually wear jeans and a nice shirt. I don't ask guys out on dates, but I know there are plenty of girls who do, that's just not me. More often than not, guys will pay, and they will open doors, but not usually car doors," Senior Jessica Koza said. To get both sides of the story, a few guys were interviewed too. "When I go out on a date, I usually wear jeans and a t-shirt and my dates usually take place at the movies, bowling alleys, maybe dinner, too. I will always ask the girl out,

and I have never been asked out by a girl. I open doors and will pay for myself and my date, but there have been times when the girl has offered to pay for things before," senior Jim Rawhouser said. Since the two opinions seem to be generally similar, the idea of dating in the generation of today may be laid out as follows. 1) Guys generally pay, but girls may offer 2) jeans and nice T-shirts are the general dress attire 3) guys tend to open doors, not necessarily the car doors though and 4) around the Columbus area, the popular places to take

a date would include the movies, bowling, and dinner. Along with trend changes in dating, behavior and courtesy changes have occurred as well. Kids today (as seen in the general public eye), seem to have less respect for adults/authority, for the environment, privileges, and their overall demeanor in public. Kids seem to think that it is okay to do what they feel is right or do what they want to do. With dating, although it is not shown too much with the opinions of this article, many kids are "open and free" about how they act with their sig-

nificant others in public. Public Display of Affection (PDA) does not seem to bother many teen couples today, whereas, in the past, "affection" was normally kept behind the scenes. Much of how kids act in public is due from how they were raised or sometimes just because of who they are. In the area of dating it appears general courtesy and tradition that were once seen is rarely seen now. The chart below gives an idea of how things have changed in the dating category over a few generations.

Teacher	Mrs. Pekarek	Mrs. Malicky	Mr. Wickham	Jessica Koza/Jim Rawhouser
Hometown	*Howells, Nebraska	*Palisade, Nebraska	*Kearney, Nebraska	*Columbus, Nebraska
High School Years	*1948-1952	*1964-1968	*1984-1988	*2002-2006
Dress Attire	*Heels, hose, special dress	*Skirts with sweaters, hose, make-up, did up hair in huge curls	*Guys wore jeans and polos, girls wore sweaters and/or oxfords, miniskirts, and "bangs teased to the moon"	*Jeans, T-shirts, nice shirts
Etiquette	*Boys opened doors always and girls never asked out or paid	*Guys paid, opened doors, asked out the girls. If anyone was going steady, the boy's class ring was worn around the girls finger with yarn to fix the size gap	*Girls would call you to show they were interested in you. Guys paid usually, or we would dutch (each pay for your own), guys opened doors if they were raised that way.	*Guys may open doors, not usually car doors, girls or guys may ask for a date, girls or guys may pay (or at least girls do sometimes offer).
Hot Spots	*Dance Hall-danced every Sunday and sometimes during mid-week	*Drive-in movies, teen dances at the Civic Auditorium in McCook (30 miles from Palisade)	*Mall (arcades, food courts, movies), bowling, pool, mini golf, and go-carts	*Movies, bowling, dinner
Dating Mishaps	*Not particularly	*I spilled an entire malt on my skirt at the Max drive in McCook	*Sometimes friends would pull up behind your car if you parked somewhere or what not and would harass you by flashing their car lights and making sure you knew they were there.	*Not particularly

Summer Boredom



KATIE WOZNY/ROCK BOTTOM

Columbus's water park The Pawnee Plunge is opening this summer. The Pawnee Plunge sits over the old Pawnee Pond.

Katie Wozny
— staff reporter —

Summer is a time for students and teachers to kick back, and give way to laziness. A common problem with this time of kicking back is boredom. Summer fun and summer boredom can sometimes go hand in hand. Perhaps this summer will be different.

To the right are some tips for a more active summer.

- Fly a kite*
- Pack a picnic for you and your friends*
- Read a book of your choice*
- Swing on a swing set*
- Go swimming*
- Eat some ice cream*
- Go on a walk*
- Ride your bike*
- Play miniature golf*
- Run through the sprinkler*
- Go to garage sales*
- Play hide and seek*



Tasha Scholz wows UNL art judges and wins prize

Katie Wozny
staff reporter

For centuries art has been more than a means of expressing oneself. Art has been used as one of the main sources of teaching history. Art is a visual language. Tasha Scholz, a junior, recently won a UNL Young Artist Award with her picture of a Phillies Hat, a baseball bat, and a baseball.

Scholz said, "Scotus Art has helped me to become a more well-rounded artist than I used to be. Scotus could have stronger art programs, like having a year round art program would be good. You just don't have enough time."

There were a total of 74 awards handed out to the categories Music, Theater, Dance, and Visual Art. The Visual Art program was the biggest, which is what Scholz was awarded in.

"Art is just like any other activity. You have to practice to get better at it. Practice makes perfect," Scholz said.

The young artist was formed with the help of Scotus' Art classes.

"If I don't major in Art, I'll definitely minor in it."

Scholz is not alone.

Parents, students, and teachers are working hard across the country to enforce stronger art programs.

According to *Ten Lessons the Arts Teach Us* by Elliot Eisner, there are ten main reasons that explain why the arts are so critical to teach children, and teenagers:

The arts teach children to make good judgments about quality rela-

tionships.

The arts teach children that problems can have more than one solution and that questions can have more than one answer.

The arts celebrate multiple perspectives.

The arts teach children that in complex forms of problem solving purposes are seldom fixed.

The arts make vivid the fact that neither words in their literal form nor numbers exhaust what we can know.

The arts teach students that small differences can have large effects.

The arts teach students to think through and within a material.

The arts help children learn to say what cannot be said.

The arts enable us to have experiences we can have from no other source.

The arts' position in the school curriculum symbolizes to the young what adults believe is important.



KATIE WOZNY/ROCK BOTTOM

Tasha Scholz poses with her award-winning artwork. Scholz recently won a UNL Young Artist Award.



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Fry as source of 5 stars for Vendetta

Chelsea Bartholomew
Editor

Can I make a confession?
I didn't go to see *V for Vendetta* because it looked cool, because it is reported to have made people think and debate (no small feat for what was billed as an 'action flick'), or even because I'd liked the original graphic novel. No, I went to see it because Stephen Fry had a role. Now, it is my personal opinion that Mr. Fry is very possibly not only the most talented man alive today, but the best candidate for the 2008 presidential race. No, he's not running, and no, he's not even American, but I'd vote for him anyway. He's just that awesome. The mention of his name in any movie is enough to send me to see it if I have the resources, whether his contribution was acting, directing, writing, or accidentally driving past the set after getting lost. My take is: even if the rest of the production falls flatter than bread without yeast, you know you can count on quality from at least one quarter if Stephen Fry is involved.

So aside from that, it was with no particularly high expectations that I set out to see *Vendetta Boy*, was I in for a shock.

V for Vendetta opens in future Britain, now fascist country, with a young woman named Evey and a mysterious man in a Guy Fawkes mask known as V in separate locations, both getting ready to go out. Lewis Prothero, billed as "The Voice of London," rants away on both their television screens. Prothero is basically a hate spewing, radical ideologue (good thing there are no people like that on our tele - oh, wait) who is, at the moment we see him, telling his viewers that the country should ignore pleas for aid from America (which has collapsed into civil war), "pay them back for a little tea party they threw us once."

On the way to her appointment to see her boss, Dietrich, policemen stop Evey. London is under curfew, and she is breaking it. Breaking even such a little law not being generally smiled upon in totalitarian countries, Evey is in a bit of a hard spot. Enter V. He saves her from the corrupt policemen and introduces himself in a little speech that is definitely brought to you by the letter V. Then he spirits Evey up to a rooftop, whereupon she suddenly hears the 1812 Overture blaring out of every speaker. People open their windows to see what's going on, only to be greeted by the

sight of the Old Bailey (a famous courthouse) being blown up. Rather theatrically, at that. So much so that the next day, the state-run, propaganda-filled news station bills the event as a "scheduled demolition." Say what you will about V, but the man's got style. Later, he reveals to the people that a year from that day, the fifth of November, he is going to blow up Parliament, just as revolutionary Guy Fawkes attempted in 1605.

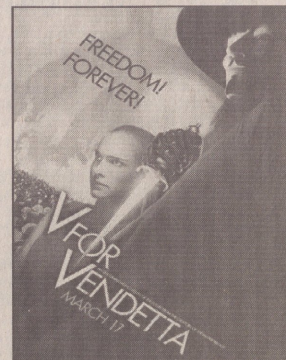
As is to be expected, things take off quite a bit from here, and to say too much would be to spoil a truly amazing movie. All the actors did spectacular jobs, especially Hugo Weaving as V. It's hard to create empathy for a character whose face you never really see, but he pulls it off. As for the other lead, Natalie Portman, the only thing about her performance that bothered me was the fact that she couldn't keep her British accent straight. But then, to notice that you'd probably either have to be British yourself, or like me, spend an obscene amount of time watching BBC America (has anyone ever thought about what an oxymoron that is? Do you think Brits have an ABC Britain?)

The storyline is engrossing, as are the characters themselves. V's

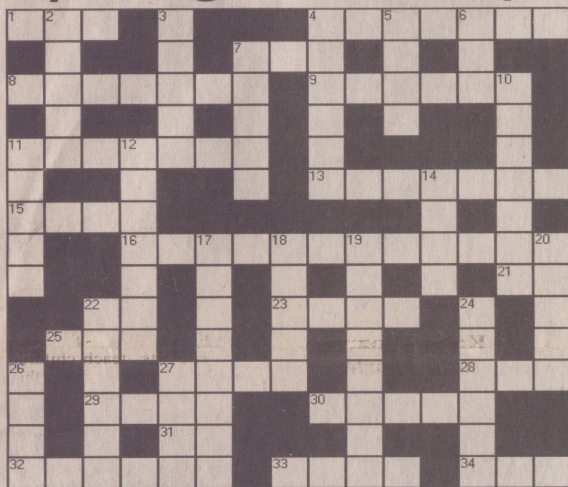
moral ambiguity is especially delightful. Is he good? Not really. But is he bad? Well, can't say that either. Does he really want a better world for everyone, or does he just want revenge for the ways he, personally, was wronged? There are moments when you sympathize with him, and moments when you want to scream at him. I wish there were more protagonists like that; life isn't divided into black-white, and theatrical portrayals of it shouldn't be either. Another appealing thing is the fact that most of the characters change. Actually, the only real major player who doesn't is the despotic Chancellor (ironically played by the same man who once portrayed Winston Smith in 1984). The one thing, in regards to the plot and characters, that I think could have been done without was a romance between V and Evey. In my opinion, it felt both unnecessary and tacked on at the last minute.

Some people are throwing a fit over this movie. They scream, "Anti-American!" "Anti-Christian!" "Anti-All Things You Hold Dear!" You know what? To be blunt, I think they need lives. And maybe they need to stop protesting so much over so little, because that would almost indicate, wouldn't

it, that the problem lies not within the movie, but within them. V for Vendetta is a great movie to see whether you're a fan of action or drama or just great movies. It sticks with you, and it makes you think. After seeing it, you will always "remember, remember, the fifth of November."



Spring Shakeup



- Down
2. Month in Spring
3. Haste makes
4. Popular springtime flower
5. All roads lead to this city
6. Raggedy
7. Senior class flower
10. This leads to may flowers
11. A dance: Spring
12. Wind, snow, rain, sleet, and lightning
- Across
1. Month in spring
4. Weather phenomenon in spring
8. Red, pink, white, or yellow African flower
7. Do you?
9. Sour fruit
11. These are a direct result of April showers
13. These are created from blocked sunlight
15. Our neighbor to the east
16. Frequent during spring and summer
21. San Antonio
22. General Electric
23. Wet, cool, and with a distinct smell
25. Cylinder typically made of glass with a lid
27. Betty minus a 'T'
28. Chief Executive Officer
29. A Barbie
30. Bird that signals the start of spring
31. R on the World Wide Web
32. Spring will melt away the frozen of Canada
33. Melted snow is like this
34. The beginning of everything dairy

Jake Staroscik
Editor

Word of the Month

Nonword: a word that has no meaning, is not known to exist, or is disapproved

Phrase of the Month

"The nice part of living in a small town is that when I don't know what I'm doing, someone else does."

--Source Unknown

Sam's Random Facts

A polar bear's skin is black. Its fur is not white, but actually clear.

The name Wendy was made up for Peter Pan

It takes 3,000 cows to supply the NFL with enough leather for a year's supply of footballs.

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

If the population of China walked past you in single file, the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction.

A snail can sleep for three years.

Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history. Spades-King David; Clubs-Alexander the Great; Hearts-Charlemagne; and Diamonds-Julius Caesar.

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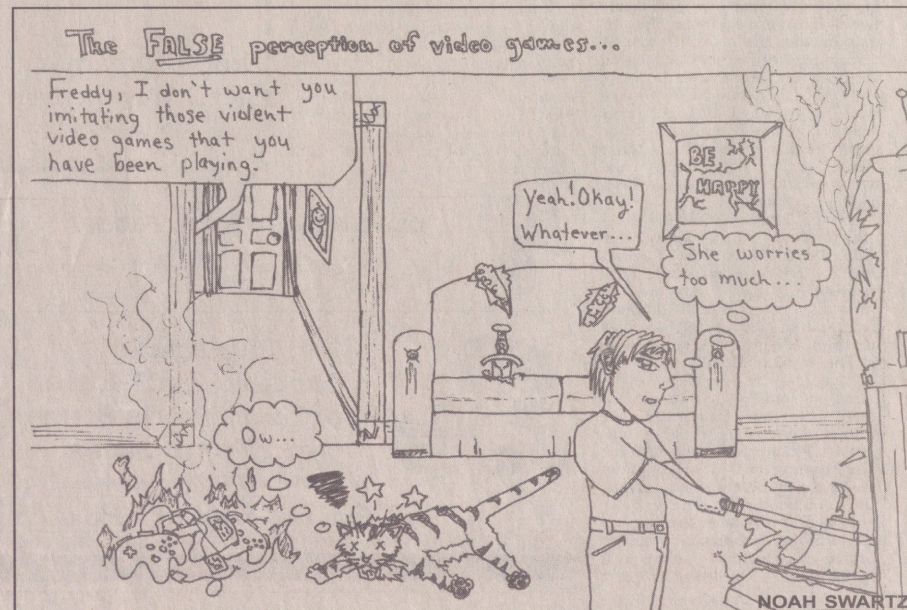
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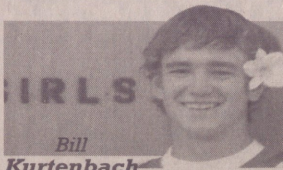
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Bill Kurtenbach
NEXT TO THE PLATE

Arena Football changes the view of football

Everyone knows that soccer led to the development of football. But, because so few people know about the Arena Football League, few people know that the rules of the game were developed from a game of indoor soccer. About 25 years ago, Jim Foster was attending an indoor soccer game at Madison Square Garden in New York City when the idea hit him square in the face. While the exact thoughts that were running through his mind were uncertain, they must have been something along the lines of, "Well, people like football, and people also like to be in small, confined areas." In 1983, he had his first chance to show everyone what Arena Football was about by broadcasting it on NBC, but he decided against it.

Four years later, after losing his job with the United States Football League when the league fell apart, Foster again dug into the well of his idea to play football indoors. In 1987, the AFL put together four teams in Chicago, Denver, Pittsburgh, and Washington to play in the inaugural season. Now, the league has 18 teams in two conferences. They also have a minor league program called af2, which stands for Arena Football 2, that has 23 teams.

Although the AFL has been around for 20 years now, people are only beginning to notice it. In 2003, the league signed a deal with NBC to be broadcasted weekly during their February-May schedule. Attracted by the shorter field, different rules, and faster speed of play, people find the game interesting because balls may be caught off of walls and returned off of nets.

The field is only 50 yards long with an end zone on each side that

Suddenly, the AFL has 18 teams in two conferences, and a minor league program called af2 that has 23 teams.

is eight yards in length, making the total distance from end to end 70 yards. Because of the smaller fields, games can be played in arenas commonly used for hockey and basketball; therefore many more cities are able to host a team. The field is even more so suited for hockey because the field is the same width as a regulation hockey rink. The kicking game is made tougher by the narrow uprights, which are only nine feet wide instead of 18.5 feet wide as they are in the NFL. The crossbar in Arena Football is 15 feet above the ground instead of ten feet, which is standard for the NFL. Also, a rebound net is set up on either side of the uprights, so that a missed field goal may be returned.

There are other rule variations for substitution. Unlike in the NFL, players must play both offense and defense, except for the quarterback, kicker, and offensive specialist, and two defensive specialists. The formation rules are also different. A team must only have four men on the line of scrimmage at the snap, and one player may be moving or running forward as the ball is snapped. On the defensive side there are also rules. The defense must have three down linemen and two linebackers, but only one linebacker can blitz.

An element that adds to the "liveliness" of the game is the rule that states the ball is live until it makes contact with the ground. This means the ball can bounce off of the walls, players, and the rebound nets, and still be completed. This has brought a greater fan base with it. The average attendance for an AFL game is just over 12,800 spectators per game. The average has gone up the past four years after falling for two straight years. Compared with the NFL's attendance after 20 years, the AFL is struggling. However, the average attendance for Arena Football will never be as great as the NFL because of the capacity of the stadiums. With all of the recent popularity of the sport, EA Sports has come out with a game

See Kurtenbach column at right

Injury leads Scotus athlete away from court...into Media Center

Bill Kurtenbach
Editor

On the playing field athletes need to perform various motions in order to compete. Such motions as stopping quickly, pivoting, and landing can cause wear and tear on the knee. When they do POP! The pain is incredible. The first thought is how life will never be the same. The popping sound was that of your Anterior Cruciate Ligament tearing. Not only does the injury require surgery to repair, it requires six to nine months of rehabilitation will also follow. If an ACL tear is left unfixed, it may lead to early arthritis.

Although there are more injuries than ACL and other knee injuries, they are the most serious. Other areas of injury include the Medial Collateral Ligament (MCL), Lateral Collateral Ligament (LCL), and the Posterior Cruciate Ligament. In some cases, when one tears their ACL, they also tear the MCL and the meniscus. Doctors refer to this terrible injury as the "unhappy triad." Knee injuries are the third most common of all injuries suffered in sports such as football, volleyball, basketball, and soccer. Women are more likely to suffer injuries in the knee, more specifically the ACL.

During a research in 1995, studies showed that the most common injury in high school football is to the hip or leg, followed by injuries to the arm, and the injuries to the

knee. According to the study, the most common type of injury in high school football is sprains or strains, accounting for almost 50 percent of all injuries suffered in the sport. Fractures, such as that suffered by Joe Theismann, are the next most common, but they only report for six percent of injuries. Ironically, most injuries experienced playing football occurs during practices. Sixty-one percent of injuries suffered are during practice, leaving only 39 percent for during games.

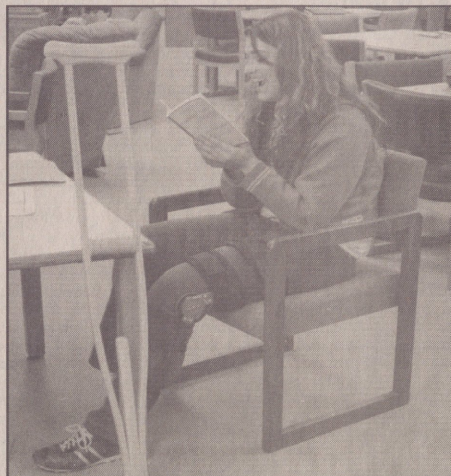
As stated before, girls are more prone to knee injuries, so they suffer more knee injuries in soccer than boys do. While only 14 percent of all injuries suffered by boys during soccer are to the knee, 18 percent of injuries girls suffer are knee related. The study also shows that halfbacks are the most capable of suffering injuries. Out of all injuries, 32 percent are suffered by halfbacks.

In non-contacts sports, such as tennis and softball, the number of knee injuries goes down, along with injuries in general. However, they can still be undergone by landing, such as Steph Levos, or pivoting. Levos recently tore her ACL during a tennis match when she landed incorrectly on the court.

Steps can be taken to prevent possibly career ending injuries. Prevention workouts have been established. Knee injuries do not have to happen. By simply reducing the amount of stress placed on the knee, injuries can be prevented.

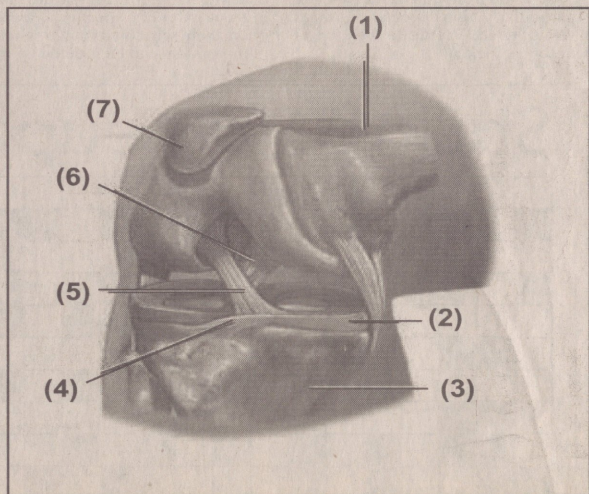
The knee is a modified-hinge joint between the end of the femur (1) and the top of the tibia (3). The ligaments that connect these two bones are the meniscus (2), the ACL (5), and the PCL (6). Cartilage is found in the meniscus (2). The "cap" to the knee is the patella (7).

A torn ACL occurs when the femur and the tibia twist in different directions while under pressure. When in the healthy state, the ACL connects the femur (thigh bone) and the tibia (shin bone). The cruciate part of the name is from the cross-like shape it makes with the PCL.



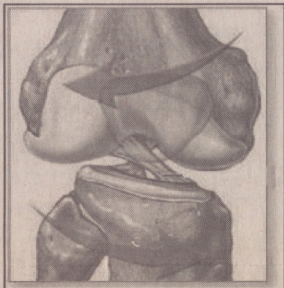
NIKKI SOBOTKA/ROCK BOTTOM

Senior Steph Levos waits to return to the halls of Scotus after being sidelined by a torn ACL. She passes the time in the Media Center by enjoying a good book.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF health.allrefer.com

How it happens



On to State...Go for Gold



KATIE MICHAELSEN/ROCK BOTTOM



NIKKI SOBOTKA/ROCK BOTTOM

Above, senior Eric Puckett sneaks the ball past Lakeview's goalie. At left, sophomore Kortney Bonk lunges for the ball during a game against York. In both games, Scotus was the victor.

Kurtenbach

from column at right

featuring the league, where one can play with teams and players from the league.

Jim Foster is still living the life of the AFL's founder. He later received a patent for his creation, so no other leagues may copy his rules unless they pay him a hefty sum of money. Although the team he owns, the New York Dragons, is only 6-5, something tells me that Foster is happy. After all, not everyone can create a new sport.

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