

SCOTUS CENTRAL Rock Bottom

Scotus Central Catholic

Columbus, Nebraska 68601

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**SCOTUS CENTRAL
Rock Bottom**

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The Rock Bottom accepts letters to the editor.

Letters should be 250 words or less in length and must be signed. All letters are subject to editing for content and space.

Send to Scotus care of the Rock Bottom

Mission trips lead to rewarding experiences

By Taylour Kumpf
Staff Reporter

For many Scotus students, summer means a hiatus from school, summer jobs, and mission trips. This summer was no different, as a number of Scotus students traveled to different parts of the country to do mission work. The St. Isidore Youth Group had groups travel to St. Louis, Missouri, San Francisco, California, and Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Some students even ventured outside the country, such as those who went to the Dominican Republic.

Because of Tiffany Spies' accident in the DR, this summer brought mission work into the spotlight. More and more students go on mission trips each year; are they being put at risk? Virgil Tworek-Hofstetter, the St. Isidore Coordinator of Youth Ministry, says that now, "it may be difficult for parents to allow their kids to go," but he adds, "Accidents can happen anywhere." Mission work is not thought of as being easy work in the first place, and possible liabilities are taken into consideration well before the trip begins.

Before making most decisions, people come up with a mental list of pros and cons. After deciding to go on a mission trip, making the decision of where to go can be difficult. Staying in the country or going farther away is the main decision. Both Kelly Zegar, who went to the Dominican Republic last year, and Tony Duren, who traveled to San Francisco, agreed that going



COURTESY OF YOUTHWORKS 2008

A group of Scotus students pose with some children while on a mission trip

on a mission trip was a faith-filled experience in which they learned to appreciate all that they are blessed with. About his experience in San Francisco, Duren said he "gained better insight into the lives of those less fortunate than him, and learned about their cultural lifestyle." Zegar said her trip to the Dominican Republic was "an eye-opener before college," and although the distance was hard, she learned a great deal about how wasteful her lifestyle was.

Each trip presents different opportunities. One is in a third world country, where most of the people live below the poverty level, and the other is in an urban setting, with thousands of people out on the streets.

Having had the opportunity to make both kinds of trips, Tworek-Hofstetter says to "attempt to do both." Throughout the many trips he has taken, Tworek-Hofstetter remarks that he has learned to "integrate service work with faith, appreciate different ethnic groups, and value the ability of young people to step up to the plate in different environments."

Virgil Tworek-Hofstetter, wants to "reinforce the mission idea" throughout the community. He supports both mission trips within the country and without. Tworek-Hofstetter likes to think of it as an "abundance mentality" because wherever you decide to go you are sure to have a "profound experience."

Out with the old in with the new

By Megan Kresha
Staff Reporter

On August 6, 2008 the Columbus McDonalds closed its doors to customers for the first time in 32 years. Upon hearing this news, a loyal customer, Amy Pekarek responded, "Lets just say it brought tears to my eyes."

Closing the doors was not the only thing to happen to McDonalds. On August 18, 2008 McDonalds was brought to the ground, all of it, even the play place. When asked, Denny Hall, the manager of McDonalds, about removing the play place he responded, "It was a hard decision to make, but hopefully it will not affect business." He believes that the new additions will make up for the loss of the play place. The new McDonalds

USA wins olympic medal count

By Callen Schwank
Staff Reporter

USA Olympians were victorious with medal count in this year's Olympics. The medal count was fantastic; however, this did not overshadow the new world records that were set and the athletes that set them. Perhaps two of the most memorable record holders and gold medalists were Michael Phelps and Usain Bolt.

In 2004 the United States claimed the most gold and silver medals while at the same time leading in medal count with 102 overall medals. China came in second with medal count. This year the United States claimed the most medals, with a count of 110. China trailed right behind with 100 medals. China, however, did claim 51 gold medals compared to the United States count of 36 gold medals. Although China and the United States had a phenomenal medal count this did not defeat the fact that some incredible athletes broke many world records.

One of the most recognized athletes this year was, Michael Phelps. Not only did Phelps claim 8 gold medals, but with the help of his teammates, he was also able to break 7 world records in the process. He broke records in all of his events except for the 200-meter butterfly, which is said to be his weakest stroke by his coach, but he still won. He

broke records single handedly in the 400 meter, 200 meter freestyle, 200 individual medley, and in the men's 100 meter. With the help of his teammates he was able to claim the gold and record in the 4x100 meter relay, 4x100 medley relay, and the 4x100 meter relay. The names of Phelps' teammates are Aaron Peirsol, Brendan Hansen, and Jason Lezak. Michael Phelps was not the only athlete this year to astonish the world.

Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt broke the world record in the 100-meter dash without even breaking a sweat. He also broke the 200-meter dash record by one-hundredth of a second. The previous record of the 200 meter dash was considered to be and unbreakable record with a time of 19.31. Although Bolt was able to break the 100-meter dash with ease, his 200-meter dash was a different story, at the end of his 200-meter people could tell he was giving it his all. Some people wondered why he wouldn't give it his all in the 100-meter dash, and this indeed caused some controversy in the stands and

around the world as well. If Bolt would have given it his all in the 100-meter dash, it is said he may have been able to shave off another tenth of a second.



MEGAN KRESHA/ROCK BOTTOM

Work site of the future McDonald's; I'm lovin' it

The next Olympics are going to take place in 2012 in London, England. Perhaps these great athletes are going to provide as good of a show then as they did this year.

Facts from this article can be found at the USA today website at www.usatoday.com or FoxNews at <http://www.foxnews.com>.

will include a double drive thru, wireless internet (WiFi), and 3 flat screen TVs. A new coffee line will be added to the McMenu in addition to the building being remodeled.

The grand reopening for McDonalds is expected to be in mid November. When asked if she would be attending this grand reopening Pekarek responded, "Is that even a question?"

The New Faces of

New teachers welcomed into the Scotus family

By Kelsey Jochum
Staff Reporter

The Scotus teachers' lounge is full of new faces this year. From theology to the language department, many new teachers have joined our Scotus family. But not all of them are strangers.

After being a substitute here last year, Ms. Anneliese Ploetz, originally from New York, has eagerly returned to Scotus not only to teach 8th and 11th grade English classes, but also to coach the Speech team and the drum line. When asked what she thinks of her first teaching job, she responded, "I enjoy it. It's fun, but a whole new

level of exhaustion." Even so, Ms. Ploetz said she is excited to become part of the Scotus family.

On the other end of the language spectrum (Spanish, that is), there is another new face ready to fill students' heads with knowledge. Mrs. Gail Bomar, who previously taught at Schuyler Central, has filled Mr. Dierman's shoes as the Spanish guru. Having taught for thirty years, Mrs. Bomar looks forward to developing Scotus's Spanish program and

hopes that, eventually, every student will take all four years of Spanish. Besides teaching, she also looks forward to working with the "friendly and helpful staff" that she said welcomed her with open arms.

A third new face that may be seen roaming the halls of Scotus belongs to Fr. Andrew Roza. Originally from Omaha and after studying in Rome for five years, Fr. Roza has joined the Scotus staff as the new campus' chaplain. This being his first assignment, he said he

didn't have many expectations, but one thing that stood out to him right away was how hardworking the students are. "It's amazing how much is going on and how all the students are involved and doing well in everything." This year, along with heading Campus Ministry, Fr. Roza hopes to learn how Scotus works and help students grow in their faith along the way.

With all the new faces around school, the '08-'09 school year promises to be interesting.



FR. ROZA KYLE BENESCH/ROCK BOTTOM



MS. PLOETZ KYLE BENESCH/ROCK BOTTOM



MRS. BOMAR KYLE BENESCH/ROCK BOTTOM

Whether it be language or faith, leadership or school spirit, each one of these new teachers are sure to have something to bring to Scotus.

New students adjusting to Scotus well

By Chelsea Bartholomew
Editor

The seventh graders are not the only new faces at Scotus this year. Five other students have transferred into various grades of the school. Two of them joined the Junior class, while the other three joined the Freshmen.

Michael Miya, from Tanzania, is one of the new Juniors. He transferred to Scotus to have better educational and sports opportunities and because his uncle lives in Columbus. He said his first impression of Scotus was simply that it was "different."

old school, the buildings were a lot more open; there wasn't just one building like there is here. There was much less variety in the classes you could choose from, and we followed the British school curriculum."

Trevor Thiele, from Elkhorn, is the other new Junior. Scotus is somewhat different from his old school, he said, in that it has less people, but more structure. Still, he does not think this is a bad thing.

"I came here because it

looked fun, and I still think that it's really fun so far," he said.

District 24 is the school that Freshman Forrest Casarez attended before coming to Scotus. His family moved to Columbus recently, and he decided that he wanted to go to a private school.

"I liked it from the beginning; it looked like a good school. Before, I wasn't getting a private education, and most of my teachers couldn't express Christian faith," he said.

Morgan Pernicke came to Scotus from Schuyler. She switched schools to have a different, safer learning environment.

"At my old school, there was a lot more violence and drama than there is here. Sometimes, it was scary just to be there," she said.

Fritz Hoppe, who formerly lived in Malcolm, chose to attend Scotus when his family moved to Columbus because all of his friends

were going to be attending Pius (in Lincoln). It was too far away for him to go to, and he thought that Scotus seemed "most welcoming" out of the choices he did have.

Hoppe's first impression, upon starting the school year? "Scotus goes into way more detail in their math and science classes. They really seem to expect a lot of you here."

Just this week, another new student, Antero Mendez, who previously attended Lakeview High School, has also joined the Freshman class.

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New Students

Scotus Central Catholic

Scotus gets a facelift

By Arturo Spindola
Staff Reporter

A miraculous thing has happened at Scotus. At approximately 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 26, 2008, after 7 months of hard work, the new heating and air conditioning units all around the school whirred to life and spewed out cold air.

Yes, big things are happening at Scotus. Not just new heating and air conditioning, but new boilers, remodeled locker rooms, windows, a renovated courtyard, a new sound system in the old gym, even fresh paint all over the school. The list is extensive.

All of these renovations were not cheap. The air conditioning itself costs \$1,418,000. Yes, over one million. Most students are aware of the Scotus Legacy Campaign. It is a fund drive combining the annual SEF (Scotus Education Fund) drive, which helps keep tuition down and pays for annual school needs, and the A/C drive. Held last year, the goal of the drive was to raise \$1.8 million for tuition and costs for the years 2008-11, remodeling of the locker rooms, costs of new boilers, and the down payment for the air conditioning. More than 1000 people came together to raise over \$2 million, and people are still donating.

"The community really believes in what we're doing here," stated Scotus Development Director John Schueth. Even some

contractors themselves made huge contributions to the locker rooms, completely free of charge. However, this isn't where it ends. This year is just phase 1 of 2 of the locker room renovation. Next summer will begin phase 2. A rock surface will be put down in the lot where the house was torn down last year across from the north doors to serve as a bus parking lot. This year's Shamrock Lottery will fund the remodeling of the Memorial Hall (old gym) roof. In December, Scotus' annual appeal, which includes the phonathon, will fund for

the complete renovation of the Dowd Activity Center floor, which is supposed to be redone every 15 years; Scotus is on its 28th. It was in such poor condition that Ed Goerlinger, Scotus' head custodian, had to hand-grind the wax off on his hands and knees. At some points, the wax "came up like cellophane, in big sheets" as Schueth said.

Even farther down the line is landscaping work that needs to be done, mortaring the school's outer bricks, and replacing all of the lighting in the halls. These renovations

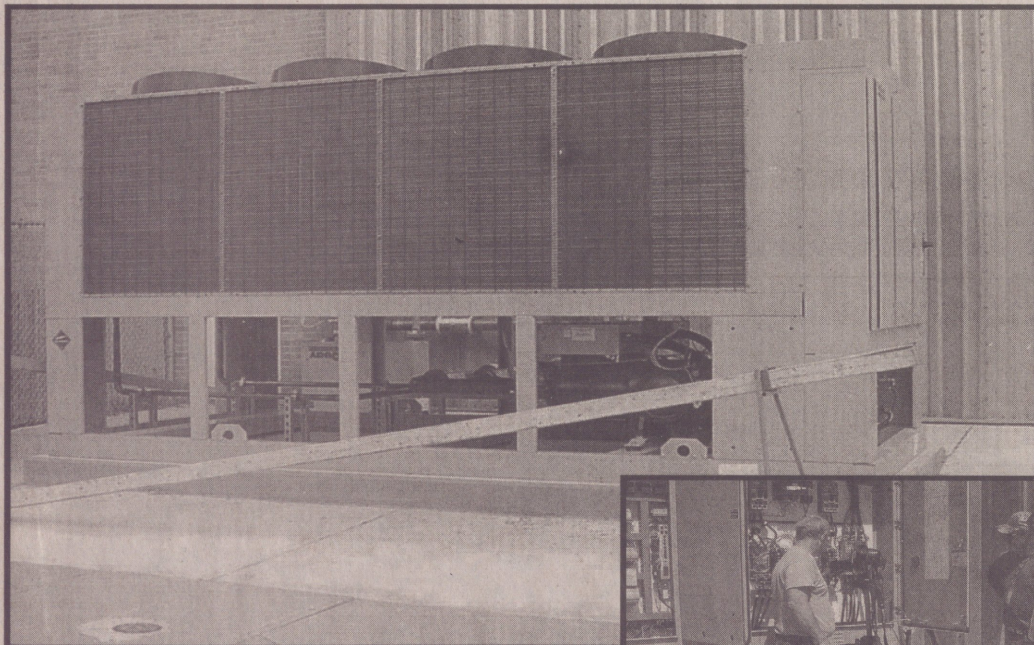
won't come this year or the next, but they're still on the list of things to make Scotus better, and like mentioned earlier, it's an extensive list. "We're not done, we've got a lot of projects coming up," said Schueth.

The air conditioning itself has been a long time coming. The fact that heat days are a thing of the past is a comforting thought, and Scotus' well-needed facelift is just the thing to keep it a facility of excellence. After 125 years of Catholic education, these renovations will help to keep Scotus going for 125 more.

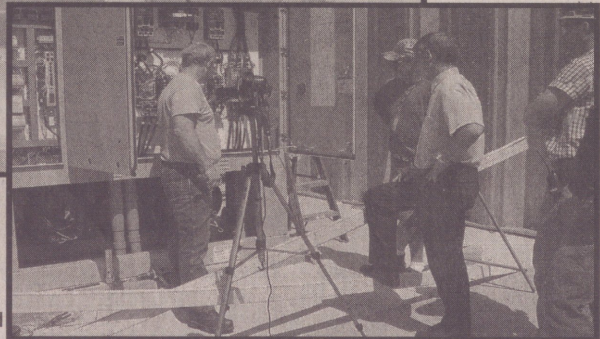


The Senior Hallway during the summer. These tubes are to contain the asbestos the workers had to expose during their remodeling.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOHN SCHUETH.



Scotus' new air conditioning unit located next to the West doors of the Dowd Activity Center. It was first turned on August 26th and after test runs it now runs smoothly whenever it is needed.



This was taken just after the new air conditioning system was started at Scotus for the first time and when Scotus staff members were receiving training on the system by the chilling unit factory representative. From left-to-right: Jim Zieg, Group Supervisor for McQuay Air Conditioning Factory Services (the company that made the ac unit), Ed Goerlinger, Scotus maintenance supervisor, Wayne Morfeld, Scotus President and Butch Masek of Shanahan Mechanical and Electrical.

TEACHERS' LOUNGE

New, yet very, very much the same

By Angie Rusher
Rock Bottom Adviser

If you had asked me in 1995 as I headed off to college if I would ever move back to Columbus, NE, I would have given a definite, "NO WAY!" Yet, here I sit on second floor in the journalism room at Scotus Central Catholic wondering if I will run into the Scotus Ghost and writing an article for the school newspaper.

Many things have changed in thirteen years: the walls are beige instead of the mint green I knew; the girls can wear skorts (with pockets!) instead of skirts; and I can now sit in class without sweating thanks to the new air conditioning.

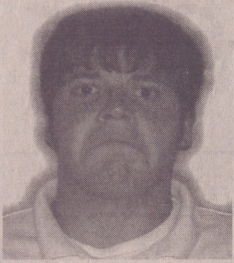
With all the changes though, I have to say that Scotus is mostly the same. When I arrived four years ago there were sixteen teachers/staff that I knew as a student, and that did not include the lunch staff—and though I have to stifle a chuckle when students discuss teacher idiosyncrasies that I have witnessed, I know the students are lucky to have those dedicated teachers still around.

Even though I am not the sport driven homecoming queen I was all those years ago, I am pleased to be back here as a wife, mom, teacher, and colleague enjoying the constants at Scotus: family, faith, and dedication. After teaching in a public school for four years, saying prayer at the beginning of class, having students in uniform, and even eating the spaghetti lunch with powder sugar brownies are all a comfort to me. I hope that even though I have changed in many ways, that I can become another constant at Scotus, and students returning in years to come will find me very, very much the same.

The Scotus Rock Bottom would like to feature a Scotus teacher as a guest writer in the Teachers' Lounge column each week. Contact Mrs. Rusher if you are interested, or she will be contacting you!

Opinion

Homework meant to be done at home, not the period before



By Arturo Spindola
Staff Reporter

There's an old saying that goes: "if you fail, it's because you took a chance. If you succeed, it's because you grasped an opportunity." I know first hand what it means to take unnecessary chances and letting

opportunity slip by you. When it comes to needless risk, ask any other senior and they'll tell you I'm the best. The majority of these risks for me are procrastination and taking an inferior grade over instant gratification. What I mean, of course, is putting off homework and watching tv or browsing the web instead.

I have completely and utterly mastered this technique. I'm like a black belt Japanese-born ninja trained since birth in the art of having irresponsible study habits. For the last six years at Scotus, I'd go home after school or practice and sit around, knowing I've had to do my homework but not doing it. Then, late at night, I'd finally get around to it, sacrificing sleep and doing a half-baked job. But that was

then, and this is now. Every year school gets harder and harder. I was able to cruise academically, pulling in an A minus average, and while some would kill for that and others see it as inferior, I was always content with it. However, in the back of my mind, I knew I could do better. I began to realize this in my sophomore year during speech class.

I was up at four in the morning not doing my final speech for the year. I fell asleep, and upon waking up, I begged my parents to let me stay home and finish it so I could actually have something resembling a speech by 7th period that day. Long story short, I got it done and received a B minus. The point of that story is not the grade I received in the end, but to illustrate what kind of

a slump I was in. I am sharing my experience with others so that they may learn from it and not make the same ignorant mistakes I did.

Mistakes like these are what kept me from advancing academically. Here I am my senior year with my A minus GPA, a good enough grade. But I know how much wasted potential I had now. This year might be too late, but I'll still try harder than ever before. With classes like Calculus, Physics, and Physiology, I won't be able to cruise anymore. In short, try at school, get your homework done, don't cheat, give it your all. Why? Because it pays off. Honestly, truthfully, it pays off. Some may not think that they'll need to learn about Shakespeare's *Hamlet* or know

the formula for compounding interest continuously, or know the names and outcomes of each major battle in the Civil War, but those things all come together in the real world and help you immensely. As we start to look for colleges, jobs, careers, we find that the things we are taught do apply in real life. Some may not be at this point yet, but experience has taught me otherwise, and trust me when I say give it your all.

That is what Scotus is and that is what we must do, excellence 24/7. Unfortunately, I have not been always true to that ideal. I am through taking unnecessary risks, and am instead grasping every opportunity that comes my way. I suggest you do the same.

More than mass

being more active in the Church, the faith can actually be quite fun.

The Godparents program is a great way to mix fun and faith. The program helps high school kids experience God through a relaxed, social way. Students from the same grade meet at their Godparents house to talk, play games, share ideas, and pray. It gives students an opportunity to grow closer to God, and their "family" of students.

More chances for students to deeply experience God are through retreats. For incoming freshmen, JC camp is the best summer retreat ever. Quest for freshmen and

sophomores takes a person's faith life to a next level. Also, another plus to Quest is being able to meet new people from other towns. TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) is for juniors and seniors. All three of these retreats are a fun way to grow in a deep relationship with Christ. The great thing about these retreats is once you go to them, often times you are asked to come back and help. This gives you a chance to go to the retreat again, and get a new experience by helping.

Many Christian activities involve a large number of Christians. Youth rallies are huge events, and mainly focus on just having fun. Steubenville

College out of Ohio offers retreats all over the country. A Scotus group recently went to Saint Louis's Steubenville retreat and was part of over 4,000 teenage Catholics attending. The experience was a great way to meet others who share our beliefs, and to really have fun with the Big Man. Another huge festival, Lifelight, took a spin on the faith that many Catholics don't recognize: music. Over 100 Christian bands performed including As I Lay Dying, Family Force 5, Switchfoot, Casting Crowns, and Day of Fire. Over 400,000 people attended the festival, all praising God in their own individual way.

By doing more than

just Mass, our faith life gets strengthened. We are able to pray in more ways than just one. Also, meeting more people who have the same faith helps us as well; we all know everything is more fun when you are not alone. The whole focus of these retreats, festivals, and youth rallies is to have tons of fun, but at the same time have fun with God. Being able to have fun with God helps make the mass more enjoyable, and makes it easier to be able to pray in church. An opportunity to have some God fun is coming up on October 26; the Archdiocesan Youth Rally is being held at our very own Scotus Central Catholic high school.



By Kyle Benesch
Staff Reporter

Because they only go to church on Sundays, many people find their faith life boring. Some people even dread Sunday mass. So how are they able to connect with God if they don't enjoy it? There is more to being a Christian than just attending mass, and by

Back and more ambitious than ever

of years now. I don't know about you, but this school needs a paper, and not just any paper, a paper that is worthy of the school it resides in. Senior Janessa Ellis responded to the absence of the newspaper by saying, "The school needs a school newspaper. We have nothing else to give us the information about what's going on." The *Rock Bottom* should give our students the news, the opinions, and the entertainment they need to get through the day.

There are ten dedicated Journalism students aiming to put the *Rock Bottom* on the top. There's probably isn't a more diverse group of ten students than the 2008-2009 Journalism class. The class consists of: loud, outgoing, opinionated, stubborn, active, and intelligent high school students. We will be the voices of the students of Scotus, to give them stories that are worth their time and eye shifting energy. With the guidance of Mrs. Rusher, the

staff's focus is 100% on a great school newspaper. The *Rock Bottom* was a state runner-up in the Journalism competition in 2003. Those quality papers are what the students are going to receive and read.

This year we will be asking for tons of help from you, the student. Whether it's writing in to voice your opinion, or helping us out with various polls, you are a big part of the success of this newspaper. If the effort is there, the paper will be

remembered, and the journalism's feat will be accomplished.

The *Rock Bottom* is back, and will be a great source of information for the students here and any readers that get their hands on it. The process will be time consuming, but the end result should leave this Journalism class proud and more than satisfied. It's going to be a memorable year at Scotus, and we'll be there every step of the way reporting it.



By Adam Niedbalski
Staff Reporter

The absence of a commendable school newspaper has plagued Scotus for a couple

other makes life a drag and usually results in creating a poor situation and real problems. Student body, I am truly impressed with how you have started this year. Your attitude has been great. Senior class I applaud you for the POSITIVE leadership you have displayed! You have chosen to make this a great school year.

Mr. Morfeld

Letter to the Editor

As I walk about the building this fall and visit with both students and staff and observe as they go about their daily business, one thing is very obvious to me. The positive attitude being permeated throughout the building is tremendous and contagious. A spirit of cooperation and positive attitude is prevalent and you can't help but feel its presence.

Life is about choices. We can wisely decide to make the best of a situation (positive outlook on life) or we can search to find fault in every situation. (negative outlook on life). It is all a matter of attitude. One choice makes life a lot of fun and allows things to grow and improve. The



Rock Bottom Staff From L-R: (Backrow) Brian Ackman, Kyle Benesch, Aaron Wrigley, Arturo Spindola, Adam Niedbalski, & Megan Kresha. (Front Row) Callen Schwank, Taylour Kumpf, Chelsea Bartholomew, Kelsey Jochum, & Mrs. Rusher.

In-Depth

Bleeding green, more than Scotus pride

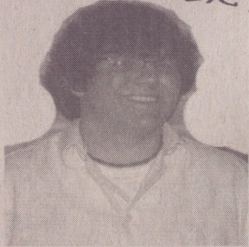
By **Taylor Kumpf**
Staff Reporter

Going green is a hot topic in today's society. With the Green Club back in action for its third year, Scotus is making its mark in the race to save the environment. It

Recycle! The slogan that says is all. Reduce, meaning limit the amount of trash in the first place. Buy durable, long-lasting products; quality does count. Reuse containers and grocery bags. Donate old clothes and toys to the Good Will or the Simon House. Of course, recycle. Paper, glass, aluminum cans, and plastic hardly make

trees a year in paper, that's about 680 pounds per person. If all paper was recycled, 2 billion trees could be saved each year. By reducing the amount of paper that is thrown away, the amount of landfill space needed could also be reduced. About one-third of an average landfill is composed of paper. Whether its paper, plas-

Shamrock Power



Stay green and gold, Pony Boy

By **Aaron Wrigley**

It is a well-known fact that the students who attend Scotus Central Catholic bleed green. Why our veins pump such a magnificent color, however, may be the most difficult question to answer.

Of course, I have my own opinions about Scotus Pride. In fact, I'm often quite vocal about what the Pride means to me. I am foremost a student who puts academics first, followed closely by my status as a Thespian who promotes Scotus Fine Arts. Still, these are merely two rungs of the ladder that I climb as a student and avid supporter

Ryba thinks about football. "Of course, because I'm a football player. My academic performance is nothing to be proud of," he jokes. "But Scotus Pride is not just caring about the things you're in. You have to care about all aspects of the school." On the other hand, freshman Trey Stuthman says, "I think more about music and fine arts." He thinks that it is also important for everyone to come together and cheer on their team. More unique still is senior Nathan Hotovy's backbone to the Pride, "Rob Baer and J-Pod."

The truth is simple: what causes the Pride to dwell within us may differ,

"Believe in everything we do... and want to be the best"

~Mr. Brockhaus

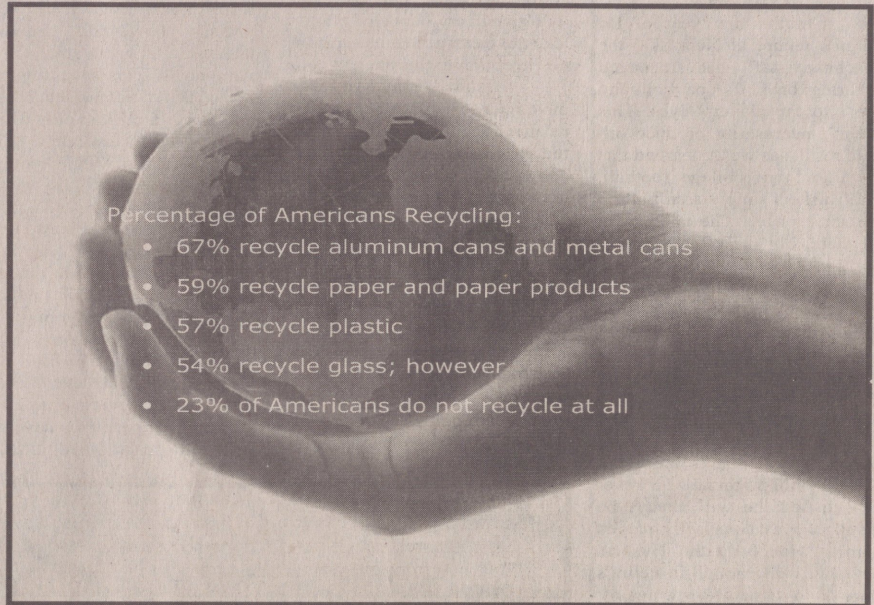
of the Pride. Although I have matured in the ways of the Shamrock, there was once a time when curriculum and theatre were all that Scotus meant to me, and I suppose each person has experienced such a stage of division.

What Scotus Pride means to people in this school varies from person to person. One student may be involved in sports, while another spends his or her time building the foundation of a school organization, or yet another might be taking the stage. Perhaps the most wonderful part about being a Scotus Shamrock is the fact that you can be involved in a little bit of everything if you so choose. Because of the active nature of our students, the Pride swells through the hallways of our school.

It is when we attempt to define the Pride that we run into the different driving forces behind this green beast. On the topic of Scotus, senior Josh

yet the message the Pride sends remains the same. Mr. Brockhaus may have described this message best, "Believe in everything we do - whether it's fine arts, the math department, athletics, and want to be the best. We should care about, be interested in, and support what everybody is doing." Senior Kaitlynn Klaassen agrees, "It's about giving Scotus your all. Always being there to beat the other team, on and off the court," and senior Nicholas Raimondo adds, "It's about being a good representative of Scotus outside of school."

The students and faculty at Scotus have given their hearts to this school. Scotus, be proud of the Pride you bring to the world, yet never forget there is always room for more. As a convert to Scotus Pride, I am ready to show this school what I have to offer, and I recommend you do, too. Go to a sporting event. See a play. Join a club. Do your homework. Go forth in the spirit of the Shamrock.



Percentage of Americans Recycling:

- 67% recycle aluminum cans and metal cans
- 59% recycle paper and paper products
- 57% recycle plastic
- 54% recycle glass; however
- 23% of Americans do not recycle at all

may seem that the small effort doesn't make a difference, but every bit counts. As more and more schools and businesses are becoming eco-friendly, society as a whole is taking a step in the right direction.

There are a number of different ways that the world is "going green" (recycling isn't the only way). Reduce, Reuse,

a dent in the list of all that can be recycled. According to squidoo.com, up to 60% of the items that end up in the garbage can actually be recycled.

Because paper-recycling bins are readily available at Scotus, students should understand the difference being made. According to recycling-revolution.com, the average American uses seven

recyclable material, local recycling centers are worth the stop. Local recyclable pick-up spots include: the Columbus Recycling Center, Keep Columbus Beautiful, and S&D Metal Recycling. If recycling seems at all worthwhile, give this newfound knowledge a thought. Reminder: in the spirit of recycling, April 22nd is Earth Day.

FBLA highway litter pick-up

By **Callen Schwank**
Staff Reporter

Recently great emphasis has been put on protecting the world's environment. Mainly recycling and using biodegradable products has been the emphasis. Scotus Green Club does much to help keep the world's environment safe, but FBLA does their

part as well with the help of Mrs. Salyard and the Nebraska Road Department.

FBLA has been performing the highway litter pickup since former FBLA leader, Mrs. Went, started it. Mrs. Went now heads Lakeview FBLA. Mrs. Salyard has been leading FBLA since she started her career at Scotus fourteen years ago as a Computer Applications teacher. Mrs. Salyard said that she has enjoyed her chapters leading Scotus FBLA and when asked how much longer she thought she would continue her leadership she jokingly stated "A lifetime." Scotus FBLA does the highway litter pickup not only to promote acts of leadership throughout the group, but also to promote emphasis on being green. Although Mrs. Salyard and the president, Callen Schwank, do their part to organize

the highway litter pickup they always get aid from Janice Strong with the Nebraska Road Department.

Janice Strong has been with the Nebraska Road Department for ten years and she organizes the highway litter pickups for the Albion, Clarkson, St. Ed, Humphrey, Schuyler, and Columbus areas. One concern with performing the highway litter pickup is the safety of the people picking up the litter. In order to establish a safer environment for the people contributing to the pickup, the Nebraska Roads Departments provides a contract that is signed by the group leaders. This contract states the groups will be provided with orange vests and orange flags to make them more visible to traffic. However, the contract also states that the Nebraska Roads Department cannot be held responsible for any injuries that may occur with this project. Each contract is signed and then expires every two years. Some other groups that take part in the highway litter pickup are the Legion Club, 4-H groups, churches, kids' groups, and realtors. Not only do the realtors help keep the world green, but they can increase their property value as well. All kids' groups are required by the state to have adult supervision with them.



Rowdy Dowdies in action at the Scotus vs. GICC volleyball game

BRIAN ACKMAN/ROCK BOTTOM



Adam's Big Apple

Results won't be instant for Pelini and the Huskers

In the first year of Bo Pelini's tenure at Nebraska, the coaching staff has managed to bring back the passion and fire into the players' eyes. This doesn't necessarily produce on-field results as we've learned this first month of college football. The Huskers simply aren't all on the same page. The talent isn't all there, but the effort is. Fans need to give Bo some time to get this ship on the right course. Something I heard in the post game coverage of the Western Michigan game was that unlike in the Callahan era, players *respect* Bo more than they *like* Bo. That is what this team needs, an animate coach about getting everything right. What reassures me about Coach Pelini is that he won't ever be satisfied; he will always be lusty for that perfectly played game. Hopefully the Huskers can play well enough in Pelini's eyes for a signature win against Virginia Tech this weekend!

- Dear Bernard Pollard of the Kansas City Chiefs, thank you for doing what we all have dreamed of doing for the past seven years. Taking Tom Brady out. From the knees. For the season...

- Saturday, October 4, mark it on your calendar boys and girls. Clear your work schedules because the Missouri Tigers and Nebraska Cornhuskers will square off in Lincoln for a pivotal game for both teams. If Missouri wants to keep its National Championship dreams alive they will need to get past the pesky Huskers. Nebraska, with a win against Missouri would propel the Huskers back into the national spotlight.

- Anyone else think the Tampa Bay Rays are looking more and more like a probable World Series contender, and the New York Yankees are looking more like a bottom feeder in the American League East? The North Side of Chicago should be in an absolute frenzy as the weather cools. I'm looking forward to a brisk October with a World Series with the Rays and my beloved Cubs.

- As hard as it is for me to say this, the Creighton Bluejays basketball team will be a force in the Missouri Valley this year. Doc Sadler and the Cornhuskers will have a tough conference schedule that will produce more jeers than cheers, but the competitiveness in both teams will result in a pair of twenty win seasons (Nebraska will have a big head start with an easy non-conference schedule). Creighton will be back in the Big Dance, count on it.

- A good lesson we can all take out of the 2008 Olympics is not anything like sacrificing for the greater good or what-not, it's that I can proudly showboat in the waning moments of a race when I know I have already demolished the competitors, and if I don't like the result, I can always kick the judge in the face.

A rivalry renewed

By Brian Ackman
Staff Reporter

Since the beginning of sporting activities in the world, there have been heated rivalries. There has always and forever been a special drive to beat that one competitor or team. When the teams meet on the field or court, they know that both sides will give every ounce of effort to take the victory. Scotus sports are no exception to this ancient code.

Football may just be the most intense sport at Scotus. The rivalries seem to be bigger than the sport itself. When asked what comes to his mind at the mention of a rivalry, senior quarterback, Lucas Backman, said, "One word: Lakeview." Everyone at this school seems to know of that one special game every year that brings the inner shamrock out of players, coaches, teachers, students, and even the team manager. Each individual has his/her own opinion of the Lakeview rivalry. Some think it is just a game. To others, however, it is much more than a silly football game. Senior Chase

Beiermann's face went grim at even the mention of the word Lakeview, "The rivalry to me is personal. I have a strong dislike for Lakeview."

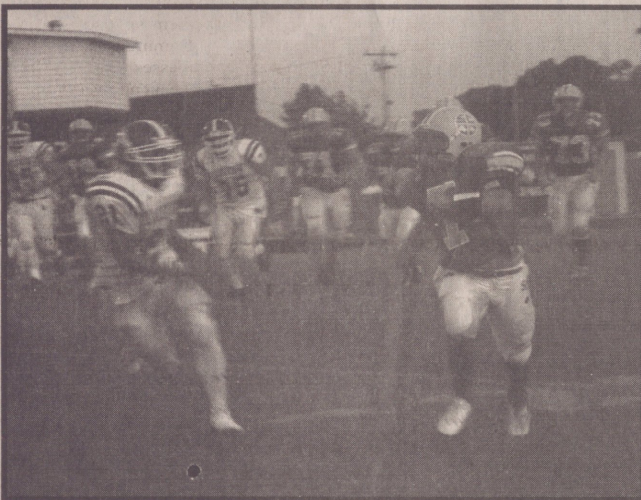
The Lakeview football rivalry is much older than anyone would think. Scotus and Lakeview have been playing against each other for over 30 years. Scotus holds the all time series record at 28-7. In recent years, however, Lakeview has made a great statement by winning 4 years in a row from 2004-2007. Scotus legends Jim and Gary Puetz lost only 3 times in 31 years to Lakeview. These losses came in 1970, '79, and '90. Josh Ryba said he just wants to win his senior year since Scotus hasn't beaten Lakeview in his high school career. Taylor Suess, on the other hand, didn't mention the past at all. He said that a win to him means everything for a great start to the season.

Athletic Director Gary Puetz said that even though Scotus vs. Lakeview is an intense rivalry, both programs have great respect for each other. "A lot of

great athletes have gone through both Lakeview and Scotus. I believe that Coach Frenzen has done an outstanding job at Lakeview. Coach Roger Krienke has been outstanding here and has the football program on the right track." Indeed, Coach Krienke and his staff do have the Shamrock program on the rise. Last year the Shamrocks made the state playoffs for the first time since 2005. They advanced to the 2nd round with an astonishing overtime-upset win over Falls City.

Many people don't realize that Scotus was lucky to even play the Vikings this year. Lakeview made a move this year from C-1 to class B. The NSAA, however, considered the rivalry and great tradition of the match up and paired the 2 teams together.

Another chapter was written in Scotus-Lakeview history on Friday, August 29, 2008. Both teams were fired up and ready to beat their cross-town rival. The first half consisted of big plays by both squads and resulted in a stalemate at halftime with the score 21-21. Scotus Coach Roger Krienke stuck to the game plan in the second half with a solid running game. The Shamrock offensive line led Lucas Backman, Billy Kurtenbach, and Chase Beiermann each to a touchdown in the second half. Even though the Scotus defense played well in the 3rd and 4th quarters, Lakeview fought back to within a touchdown. The Shamrocks were able to run the clock out and earn the first victory against Lakeview for the senior class and head coach Roger Krienke. The Shamrocks hope to play hard the rest of the season and beat the Vikings for what may be the last time next year.



TAYLOR KUMPF/ROCK BOTTOM
Lucas Backman scrambles from a Lakeview defender

New cheerleaders to help Shamrocks

By Kyle Benesch
Staff Reporter

As this year starts, "new" seems to label almost everything at Scotus, and the cheerleaders are no exception. With new coaches, members, and a new attitude, Scotus Cheerleaders are looking forward to a great year. This year there are four returning members and eleven total cheerleaders. With such a large number of cheerleaders, the squad is going to be divided in two teams. One team is going to fire up the football and boys basketball games, while the other is going to cheer at volleyball and girls basketball games.

Kaitlynn Klaassen, Scotus' new cheerleading captain, said, "the new members are going help the team in a positive way. More cheerleaders means more spirit." Many people may not know that Klaassen is actually the first "official" cheer captain for Scotus. Klaassen said, "I am happy to be the head of the squad, and I am hoping to set good standards for my team."

On the other end, new freshman Kelly Augustine is happy to be part of the cheerleading crew. "I have wanted to be a cheerleader since the first grade, when I was the mascot," said Augustine. "Now that I am in high school I am looking forward to being at games and adding to school spirit." Kelly is one of the seven new cheerleaders to join the shamrock cheer squad.

Pam Spady, the new cheer coach, is looking forward to being part of Scotus cheerleading. Although she has already had a

good experience, she wants some changes. "I want the school to be involved in spirit," said Spady, "not working against each other." Ideas to help spread school spirit have already been created by the cheerleaders. A junior high rock club is going to be a new addition to the student section, hopefully adding more excitement to cheering.

Fans will have many opportunities to be involved with the cheerleaders, as they will be performing at every volleyball and football games this season.



TAYLOR KUMPF/ROCK BOTTOM
2008 Scotus Cheerleaders being r-o-w-d-y at a football game

October rush for girls golf

By Adam Niedbalski
Staff Reporter

For sophomore Jacy Gasper the time is now. The girls believe that if they play up to their potential in any given stretch they can take down any competitors. Gasper is coming off an 11th place finish last year from the state tournament. The team, which returns four from the team last year, finished 6th at the state tournament in 2007, which was held at Indianhead Golf Course in Grand Island. Senior Schalise Vancura stated, "The team is capable of doing special things, we need to concentrate on getting better every day, and try to be at the pinnacle of our game during Districts."

The month of October will test the wits of the determined girls; they face crucial meets that will measure where they stand against the best from across the state. October 1 is the Scotus Invite, and later that week the Oakland-Craig Invitational awaits. Districts lie on the next Tuesday; any extra baggage will need to be discarded as the aspirations for a state title rely on the performance at districts. Golf is indeed an individual sport, but this year the Scotus Girls Golf Team will be relying on a full team effort to not only make the state tournament, but also take a shot at a state championship. The goal is lofty, flawless execution is a must, and a little luck will be needed.

The varsity squad is made up of: seniors Schalise Vancura and Liz Zabawa, junior Jenna Roh, sophomore Jacy Gasper, and freshman Nicole Gasper. Vancura and Zabawa provide senior leadership that helps younger talent like Nicole Gasper. The Gasper duo is one that should keep Scotus a contender for the next three years.

If anyone is not aware, the state tournament for boys and girls golf is spread out over two days. To perform well, the team must simultaneously play up to their certain potential. "Last year, we all played pretty bad the first day at state," Senior Liz Zabawa said, "We really did a great job coming back the second day with a positive attitude and as a result we all shot better." If the Shamrocks can continue to work on shooting consistent scores as a team, the hopes for a strong end of the season finish is inevitable.

Activities

Campus ministry

Christ alive in Scotus

By Kelsey Jochum
Staff Reporter

Scotus operates on the idea of working the Christian faith into every aspect of daily life through extracurricular activities as well as academics. Campus Ministry is just one of these activities.

In the past, the Scotus Campus Ministry has been working behind the scenes without any students knowing much about it, but this year, they are hoping to change that. Lead by seniors Nicholas Raimondo, David Gokie, and Aaron Wrigley, and sophomore AJ Bose, Campus Ministry has many new and returning members. Raimondo, who is

President, said that they are hoping to have more activities that, not only the Campus Ministry, but the whole school can be involved with. One of these activities is a movie night. This will take place on a Saturday night, in which there will be a mass and then a movie in the Little Theater to watch and discuss afterward. "There will be food too, so that's a

plus," Raimondo said.

One problem that Campus Ministry has faced in the past is that students don't know much about it, and therefore, don't know how to be involved. Any student in ninth through twelfth grade can join and help with the activities throughout the year. Campus Ministry is looking for new faces with new ideas of how to bring Christ into

Scotus. Students are not the only ones involved in Campus Ministry. Fr. Roza, the new campus chaplain this year, and Mr. Salyard are both adult sponsors. They are both excited for this year because they too want to see Campus Ministry be more active at Scotus. On Wednesday, September 10th, there was an EMHC mandation in Norfolk that many Scotus students attended. This was the final step for them to become EMHCs, now allowing them to distribute Holy Communion at school masses as well as weekend masses.

Seeing the popularity of this event only heightens the spirits of those in Campus Ministry, whose goal is simply, to bring Christ into our everyday life. "The mission of Campus Ministry is like the Church's mission, to make Christ more alive, but more specifically, to make Christ more alive in Scotus," Raimondo said.

In the shoes of a lawyer

By Brian Ackman
Staff Reporter

Students at Scotus are extremely busy with extracurricular activities. Most of the students are involved in some sort of before or after school activity. Whether it is band, cheerleading, flag corps, sports, or a school club, teenagers are involved in more than just their schoolwork. One program that few people actually know about is Mock Trial.

Mock Trial is a program where students are given the opportunity to "step into the shoes" of a lawyer. Many students do not understand what actually goes on in Mock Trial. However, once people learn what it is all about and how it works, they see that Mock Trial is a great activity to be involved in. Senior Taylour Kumpf says that Mock Trial isn't as well known at Scotus because people don't go to the cases and there is only a small group of people that do it.

"The team can do well this year because we all are experienced with how it works and we know the competition well."

~Taylour Kumpf

Mock Trial is much more complex than people would think. A team appoints lawyers and witnesses for the case. The lawyers for the Scotus senior team are Nathan Hotovy, Kelly Schumacher, and Taylour Kumpf. The witnesses are Chelsea Bartholomew, Sara Baer, Kirby Reardon, David Gokie, and Kaitlynn Klassen. The team is given a legal case that can be from two categories, criminal or civil. An example of a criminal case is attempted shooting or murder. A civil case might be about copyright infringement or illegal downloading. In a criminal case the suspect can be convicted if there is proof beyond a reasonable doubt. A civil case is won by the greater weight of the evidence.

Kumpf said, "The team can do well this year because we all are experienced with how it works and we know the competition well." Chelsea Bartholomew says that she hopes the team can go "all the way" to nationals in Georgia. Experienced coach Gene Schumacher leads the senior and freshman teams. Jason Mielek coaches the junior team, while Bob Dierman coaches the sophomores. This is the first year that there are more than 2 teams. Sponsor Cheryl Rambour said that the great thing about this year is that she didn't have to make any cuts. She is in her 2nd year with the program, and she hopes that the senior team can place in the top 3 at state, which is a huge honor. The team hopes to build off its success from last year and have a great year.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURA ZACH

New EMHCs pose with the bishop after being mandated on September 10, 2008.

Enter stage right

The legacy lives on

By Aaron Wrigley
Editor

The lights come up as the curtain opens, revealing another year of performing arts at Scotus. As the actors take the stage, the audience will be pleased to know that the Theatre is starting out strong.

The Fall Play for 2008 is a farce based on mistake identity, and suited for any lover of fast-paced comedy. *Lend Me a Tenor*, written by Ken Ludwig, is the script, and the cast and crew are warming up for what this play has to offer.

Lend Me a Tenor is the story of a performance at the Cleveland Opera House. World-renown opera star Tito Merelli, A.K.A. "Il Stupendo," is the man who is supposed to be performing. As he arrives, his relations with his wife, Maria, are wearing thin. Saunders, the theatre's General Manager, is using all the power he has to make sure that the show goes off without a hitch. His assistant, Max, does what he can to help Tito, seemingly to satisfy Saunders. Simple as this should be, whatever hopes they had for the show begin falling apart.

This year's fall play will bring back some familiar faces to the stage, as well as add some new ones to the crew. Lori Sinovic is the person heading up the legacy that Father Jeff Loseke left behind. Fr. Loseke revived Scotus fall plays three years ago, and as

year four unfolds, so do many new, exciting opportunities for the Theatre. Although the play lives on, the question on the tip of everyone's tongue remains: how will Scotus Theatre be different now that Fr. Loseke is gone?

"Well, we won't have a guy in a collar around," jokes Ms. Gardner. "Still, we'll miss him here."

Mrs. Sinovic found herself in the director's chair after Ms. Gardner asked her if she would want to help the Theatre Department. "She caught me last year at the end of

the musical," says Sinovic. "She knew I couldn't say no."

Lori is far from new to the whole experience. Her undergraduate degree was in Theatre. She spent some time at the Black Hills Playhouse and on the east coast.

The choice of *Lend Me a Tenor* is the result of countless hours of work on Mrs. Sinovic's part. "I read a lot of plays...about thirty before I decided to go with this one...it's very funny."

As well as deciding upon a well-written script, she was looking for a play that

could accommodate the smaller number of players this year. This year's fall play has only eight characters. "We needed broad characters for the younger actors," says Sinovic. "We wanted to do a comedy, but the old comedies had more numbers, around fifteen to twenty people. The contemporary comedies are smaller."

Many of the actors and actresses that were veterans in the Theatre Department graduated last year, so finding new people to fill those shoes became one of the main issues. Ms. Gardner thinks, "These

younger actors benefit from watching the others. The experience they had is good. They are more confident and show more emotion. When I think about when I started doing the plays twelve years ago and compare it to now, the actors have improved a lot."

As the days go by and opening night draws closer, Mrs. Sinovic and Ms. Gardner both agree, "It's very exciting."

Lend Me a Tenor is directed by Lori Sinovic and produced by E.J. Gardner. It is expected to open the last weekend of October.



AARON WRIGLEY/ROCK BOTTOM

Lori Sinovic and E.J. Gardner give feedback at Fall Play tryouts.

Entertainment

Thunder goes out with a whimper

Grinds My Gears



Fashion fads

By Megan Kresha

You know what grinds my gears? Weird fashion trends. Day after day I see the most ridiculous clothing on people, and I just can't handle it. Years from now, people are going to look back on pictures and wonder why they wore some of the things they did.

Oversized shirts. It is as simple as that. Those shirts you see on the rack that are just way too big for any normal sized human being. The big striped polo's that hang down to people's knees. What kind of fashion statement is that? Do you plan on gaining a couple hundred pounds to fill that shirt out, or are you just trying to look "cool"? Most of the guys I see wearing these kinds of shirts probably could wear a youth small, but instead they're buying sizes XXXL and bigger. How about we save some fabric, and buy a smaller shirt; or pants for that matter.

Our eco friendly people who are trying to "Go Green" save fabric by buying pants that are probably two or three sizes too SMALL. Can we not find a happy medium in our society? Who in their right mind is going to go out in public with size zero pants, when you clearly wear a size three? People these days are running around in clothes that just don't fit. What is more awkward than running into a guy, in the women's pants section? Let me tell you, it is awkward, but there is no need for that these days, there is a new style of pants called "skinny jeans" for those guys who like to wear pants that cling to them like Saran wrap. People, just wear a normal sized shirt with a normal sized pair of pants, you can go crazy with your shoes; just wear your size, that is all I ask. Please?

By Chelsea Bartholomew
Editor

Movies that parody Hollywood aren't exactly new. Neither is the news that quite a few of them fail miserably. Does the recent satirical film *Tropic Thunder* fall into that category? Not exactly. So is it, then, a resounding success? Well...not exactly.

Tropic Thunder follows the story of five arrogant actors making a big budget, blood-'n-guts film about the Vietnam War that is "already a month behind schedule after five days of shooting." When their primadonna antics lead to a four million dollar stunt going terribly wrong, their fed-up director, at the prompting of a grizzled old man whose memoirs the movie-within-the-movie is based off of,

decides to dump them in a remote jungle in Southeast Asia. There, they accidentally become mixed up in a *real* struggle with local drug lords, who believe they have been sent in by the D.E.A. (Drug Enforcement Administration). Four of the five actors wise up to the fact that things aren't exactly going according to plan when their

that it's all a hoax. After several more conflicts with his fellow actors over the true nature of their current predicament, he goes off on his own and is soon kidnapped by a gang of heroin manufacturers that call themselves Flaming Dragon. The other actors see him being taken to the gang's camp and realize that they must save him.

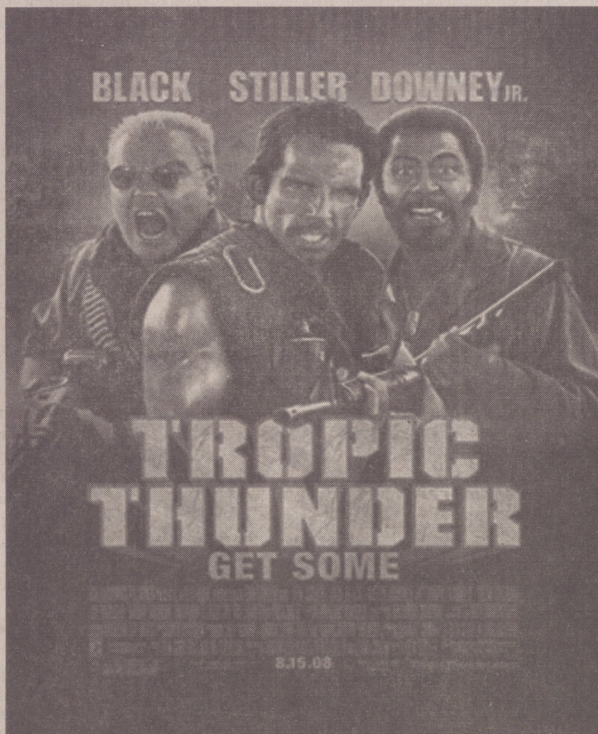
It's the real actors, though, not their characters, who made this movie.

Everyone involved did at least a respectable job, and a few did *beyond* their best with the material they were given. Robert Downey Jr., who plays Australian actor Kirk Lazarus, a five-time Oscar winner so into method acting that he has skin pigmentation surgery done to portray a black man, is simply amazing and hilarious. So is Tom Cruise, looking completely unrecognizable in an extended cameo as...I'm not even going to say. It's the sort of thing you have to see, for yourself, because the moment that you realize that is Tom Cruise will possibly be one of the most glorious moments of your life.

Really. Another standout is a new young actor named Brandon Soo Hoo, who plays a delightfully vicious 12-year-old drug lord.

Much has been said about the controversial treatment of mental disabilities in this film. Before I saw the movie, I honestly thought that it was probably a total overreaction. After seeing it, I'm not completely sure. The story behind it is that Speedman, in an attempt to broaden his range and earn critical acclaim, once played the title character in a movie called *Simple Jack*. That One R Word is used liberally when the characters discuss it. I can tell that it wasn't intended to be offensive; it was meant to parody the typical Touching Movie about a Mentally Impaired Person that many stars attempt to use as a vehicle to the Oscars, and Speedman's repeated use of The Word That Must Not Be Named was meant to highlight his insensitivity. I could pick this up as I was watching the movie, but somehow, it still felt uncomfortable and clumsily executed. I think the major problem comes from something being lost between intent and delivery (unlike, say, Downey Jr.'s blackface, which also had the potential to be contentious, but came off perfectly).

All in all, this movie had great acting, nice effects, and some good, solid comedic moments. What it got right, it got *very* right. But it's not quite enough to make up for all the other jokes that fell flat, the unfocused, uneven tone, and the fact that, for a movie poking fun at the self-importance of Hollywood, it seems to pat itself smugly on the back just a little too much.

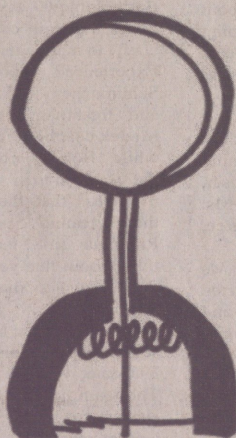


ATTENTION: Scotus Central Catholic, there have been reports of a shamrock guy running amuck about the newspaper. He is about two centimeters tall, and has a big smile. If you sight him, you are to report his presence to Callen Schwank. There will be a bounty for his capture, dead or alive. Here is his enlarged photo...

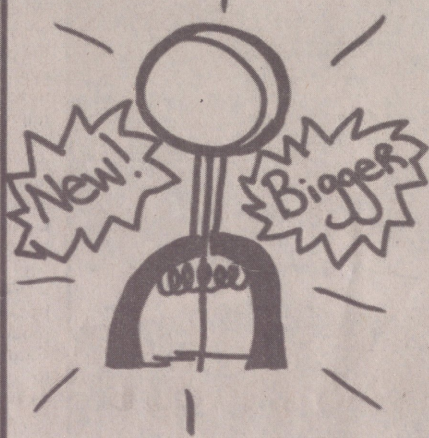


Comic by Megan Kresha

The Reason We Only Get One Cookie



OLD SCOOP



! NEW SCOOP! #

Grow, Learn, Lead

If you would like to be part of an organization that will help you learn leadership, teamwork, and service to the community, please come to an informational meeting of the

COLUMBUS YOUTH COUNCIL

on Sunday, 10/12/2008 at 5:00PM
in the Columbus City Council
Chambers,
1369 25th Avenue.

SCOTUS CENTRAL Rock Bottom

Scotus Central Catholic

Columbus, Nebraska 68601

Volume 10 • Issue 2 • October 15, 2008

SCC Crowns 2008 Royalty

By **Taylor Kumpf**
Staff Reporter

As in years past, twelve seniors took the field on Homecoming night to represent Scotus for the King/Queen court. But the whole process started weeks before with the nomination of candidates from the senior class. Each senior voted for six girls and six guys out of the whole senior class to be up for Homecoming. This year the senior class chose Macey Fuhr, Taylour Kumpf, Megan Kresha, Ashley Paprocki, Kelli Schumacher, and Jen Williams for the girls, and Chase Beiermann, Tony Durne, David, Gokie Bill Kurtenbach, Jared Ostdiek, and Kirby Reardon for the guys.

Soon after being nominated, the twelve seniors were approached by the Student Council and asked to fill out

an informational sheet, which would be used for the program at the football game and would be sent to the Telegram. As the week of Homecoming drew near, Scotus students began preparing for the week's activities. Costumes for Disco Day, Disney Day, and Dance Crew Day were put together, girls made hair and nail appointments, and everyone got in the Scotus spirit as the night of October 3rd approached.

Early in the week of Homecoming, the freshman through senior classes voted for the two seniors they thought should be King and Queen. Contrary to some students' beliefs, the teachers do not get to vote or make any final decisions on who wins. The word in the halls was that it was going to be a close race.

On Friday the Scotus

family revealed their true colors as they dressed in green and white. As part of the day's activities, the Cheerleaders organized a pep rally in which the Homecoming candidates were tested on their knowledge of each other. The highlight of the pep rally, however, was the dance performed by the senior boys to Nsync's "Bye Bye Bye". Unfortunately there were some technical difficulties, so the dance was cut short, but that took little away from its applauded success.

Finally, the evening everyone had been preparing for arrived. The football team was playing Utica, and they were expected to win. The former King Joel Fuchs and Queen Ellen Rambour were in attendance and ready to pass on their titles to the 2008 royalty. It was a beautiful

night, and everything looked like it would go smoothly. Just before the third quarter of the football game, however, the plans changed just slightly.

The Shamrocks were winning by thirty-five and the call was made to run the clock. It was a hectic situation because the female candidates had just left to get ready for the coronation and thought they had plenty of time to make it back to the stadium. After numerous phone calls, the girls got the word to hurry up, and thankfully everyone made it back just in time.

The coronation ended up going off without a hitch. Jared Ostdiek and Megan Kresha were named the 2008 Homecoming King and Queen. After the ceremony, the Scotus students made their way over to the dance at school.

New spin on old tradition

By **Arturo Spindola**
Staff Reporter

Homecoming this year saw a break in the norm, being hosted in Memorial Hall as opposed to the cafeteria.

The decision to move it began with Tayler Bock, the disk jockey for the dance, speaking to Aaron Wrigley and Kyle Benesch about his new light setup. "It's a lot bigger," says Bock, "and the lasers have to be a certain height above people." By law the new lasers in the setup have to be seven feet above the tallest student's head so they wouldn't harm people's eyes with their radiation. The cafeteria ceiling would not have allowed for that kind of setup. "We had always talked about it," said Student

Council president Taylour Kumpf on the decision to move Homecoming into the gym. "Other schools have their dances in their gyms, and this new light system gave us a legitimate reason to seriously consider having the dance in the gym."

The dance was therefore hosted in the gym, giving a new atmosphere to an old tradition. But how has this change affected the dance? "I appreciate Homecoming being in the gym," says freshman class

sponsor Angie Rusher. "As sponsor, I organize the freshman class cleaning up after homecoming. The cafeteria was difficult to clean up because of all the tables and chairs." Long-time chaperone and art teacher Nancy Shadle says there are a number of advantages to hosting the dance in the gym. "There is more space to dance. Before, you'd have a lot of kids sitting around. This time more are dancing. It's easy to chaperone, the stands give a great view of the dance floor."

The general consensus among the senior class was positive. Most people favored the new location. A separate area for dancing and rest is a good idea, with the cool cafeteria letting kids rest themselves for more dancing upstairs. The only negative things seemed to be the temperature towards the center of the dancing area, the ominous shaking of the cafeteria ceiling during the more active songs, and according to Shadle, the appropriateness of some songs.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TONY KRESHA

Scotus Homecoming Court: (L-R) Macey Fuhr, Chase Beiermann, Taylour Kumpf, David Gokie, Kellie Schumacher, Jared Ostdiek, Megan Kresha, Bill Kurtenbach, Jen Williams, Tony Durne, Ashley Paprocki, Kirby Reardon

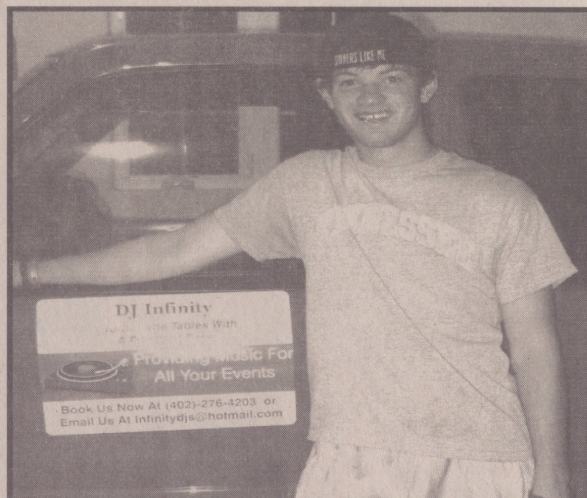
To infinity and beyond

By **Megan Kresha**
Staff Reporter

Taylor Bock is taking over the Columbus DJ scene. In the past two years DJ Infinity has rocked three Scotus dances. Students are demanding Tayler Bock for every dance. Tayler Bock, now a sophomore at CHS, started his business "DJ Infinity" in the summer of 2007 with his buddies John Humphrey and Joey Pfeifer. At that time Tayler was 15. It was a big task for a guy that could not even drive yet. Starting was the hardest part, getting all the lights, speakers, lining up the music, and then getting it all to work together. Tayler was surprised with how fast people had found out about him, "I had a gig two days after I got my set up." Tayler gets

most of his business for kids' sweet-sixteen birthday parties. Although he only has had about ten customers this year, he expects more and more as he gets the word out.

Tayler actually got his start writing music. He read a letter that involved sending written music in for a contest. When asked about the contest Bock responded, "I sent in some of my music as a joke, and then two weeks later a contract came in the mail." Tayler signed with a famous label company, and has been busy ever since. This record company is signed with people like Dirks Bentley and other major country stars. Tayler is now a full time writer for this producer, and his start at such a young age has helped him tremendously with his career in the DJ business.



MEGAN KRESHA/ROCK BOTTOM

DJ Tayler Bock creator of DJ Infinity

Features

Homecoming dance goes over well

By Chelsea Bartholomew
Editor

On October 3rd, 2008, Scotus was rockin' the Rubik's Cube. Students in grades nine through twelve gathered at the school for the annual Homecoming dance. One major change to the dance this year was the decision to have it in the gym rather than the cafeteria. Most students were in agreement about the move.

"I really liked having it in the gym," said senior Kathy Smith.

Freshman Trey Stuthman felt the same way. "There was more space to move there."

The music is obviously one of the most important factors in whether a dance is a success or not. What did Scotus students think of this year's selection?

"I liked the music," said junior Brittany Bader. "It was better than last year's."

Smith did not fully agree. "There was too much techno," she said.

"I didn't think so," replied senior David Gokie. "I think there could've even been a little more."

The dance's most memorable moments included seeing the floor shaking from the pressure of the dancing and the colorful lighting

effects provided. Another unforgettable moment came when the student body was treated to the dance moves of the group Hooked on Phonics, made up of seniors Craig Pekarek, Jared Ostdiek, Taylor Suess, David Gokie, and Tony Duren, who also performed earlier that day at the pep rally. Most students interviewed had an overall positive opinion of the night. However, that doesn't mean there aren't things they would change.

"There needed to be less techno and more cups for water," said senior Hannah Bolte.

Freshman Jenna Dubas

thought that there should be more (and different kinds of) food available. Stuthman went a step further, suggesting, "Maybe we could open up the concession stand, and the chaperones could work at it."

In the end, some - especially freshmen, going to their first high school dance - had expectations so high that nothing could match them. "It was a lot of fun, but not as fun as I thought it would be," said Dubas.

Bolte, on the other hand, seems to have had her expectations exceeded. "Homecoming was *epic* win," she said.

Shamrock Power



The week of win

By Aaron Wrigley
Editor

Homecoming is a time-honored tradition, but for what reason? What brings students back to this festival of epic proportions?

The meaning of Homecoming is just as the name implies: coming home. Although this "coming home" was originally intended for alums, Homecoming has since become a tradition for the current students of a high school or college.

The students here at Scotus are always prepared to make the most of this annual celebration. As soon as the dress-up days are announced, you can be sure to see many students scattered throughout Goodwill to find costumes. The girls find their dresses early, the guys get their dates, and the football team gives it their all on the night that comes around only one time a year.

Scotus students today have established their own meaning to Homecoming. Senior Jordan Janda says, "It's to bring us together - to make us one spirit." He believes that this week means that he is "coming home, from anywhere." Senior Jen Williams adds, "Homecoming is about having a good time...with your hands frolicking up in the air."

Homecoming gives the Shamrocks a lot to look forward to. Some students enjoy dressing up for the week, others love the football game, and still others look forward to the dance. Williams agrees, "Dressing up, the dance, staying out late, and eating breakfast," are what make Homecoming an awesome experience.

Maybe the original meaning of Homecoming has changed, but I believe that the true meaning is what we make it today. Scotus, after you graduate, never forget the times you had at this school. Remember that you can come home anytime.



Many took full advantage of the free dress-up days of Homecoming week. Left to right: Freshmen Mike Albin, Brandon Nicholson, Trenton Kuta, Jens Paprocki, and Mark Ternus show off their Mario Bros. costumes on Dance Crew Day.

JANESSA ELLIS/ROCK BOTTOM

Homecoming week: a step in imaginationland

By Brian Ackman
Staff Reporter

Homecoming is a way for students to dress and act out of the ordinary for a week. The themes of the hallways, dress-up days, and the pep rally are a great change for stressed students. The hallway themes are always creative. This year's themes were no exception. Senior Nathan Hotovy said that the senior hallway theme of "Rocking the Rubics Cube" was great, but the entire school had great ideas for their hallways. The junior hall was decorated like *Alice in Wonderland* and the sophomore hallway was decorated like a crime scene. The freshman put forth a great effort with their outer space theme.

Homecoming week consists of dress up days, which allow students to wear costumes. The school took a trip back to the 70s on Monday for Disco Day. Students wore colorful afros, tie-dye shirts, and leather pants. On Tuesday Disney characters roamed the school. Hotovy wore a Jack Skellington outfit while Macey Fuhr wore a Mickey Mouse costume. Hotovy said the most creative costume was Senior Liz Zabawa's teapot suit from Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*. Dance Crew Day was an opportunity for friends to dress as if they were amazing dance teams from the MTV show *America's Best Dance Crew*. On Friday the entire school showed their spirit by dressing in the school colors.

Also on Friday, the student body gathered at the pep rally to boost their spirit for the game later that night. The gym was shaking with excitement as the cheerleaders and band aroused the school's spirit. The dance crews got a chance to show off their routines in front of the whole school. The senior girls' group had a great performance to Britney Spears, but the senior boys blew the school away with their routine to N Sync.

Homecoming Week was a great experience for all students, especially the freshman class. The freshmen decorated their hallway and were allowed to participate in the dress up days for the first time. Freshman Ryan Ohnoutka said, "The senior

hallway was the best, but we hope to do a lot better next year with our hallway." A group of freshman also had a great idea for Dance Crew Day when they wore Mario Bros. costumes. Brandon Nicholson, Trenton Kuta, Mark Ternus, Jens Paprocki, and Mike Albin showed great creativity by drawing mustaches and dressing like famous video game characters.

The teachers became involved in the week by dressing up in their own costumes. Ms. Ploetz showed school spirit when she made her entire fairy costume the night before Disney Day. Junior Tom Rambour said that the school showed great spirit for the week.

SCOTUS CENTRAL Rock Bottom

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Send to Scotus care of the Rock Bottom



Sophomores Katie Ohnoutka, Levi McPhillips, and Morgan Duren smile for the camera on Disney Day.

JANESSA ELLIS/ROCK BOTTOM

Features

The Scotus ghost of homecomings past

By Kelsey Jochum
Staff Reporter

Every year, Homecoming seems like the same week, the same game, the same dance. It's an annual tradition that Scotus has had since 1941, but over the years, it has changed greatly.

Scotus didn't have a Homecoming dance until 1941. This dance was scheduled to be after one of the season football games so that a deserving football player could be crowned "Homecoming King."

This is still true today except that the honor of Homecoming King and Queen can be given to any seniors, not just football players.

Another major difference in Homecoming then and now is that it used to be a much larger celebration. Thirty years ago, Homecoming was considered a very important event for the whole town, not just the Scotus students. The night before the Homecoming game, students, parents, and other volunteers would decorate the windows

of downtown businesses to get ready for the town pep rally the next day. This pep rally included the entire town and was set up downtown. During the pep rally, there was a parade that the school band played in and that students created floats for. Each grade in the high school would create their own float and ride them in the parade. The pep rally became a daylong celebration that lasted until the game that night.

Even in recent years, Homecoming has changed a lot in regard to Homecoming

Week. In the early years of Homecoming Week, the seniors were the only ones who dressed up. Now, all high school students are encouraged to join in dressing up during Homecoming Week. Seeing all the students dress up creatively for the week is what Bonnie Eikmeier said is her favorite part of Homecoming. "It's fun to see everyone dress up and be involved," Eikmeier said.

In some ways, Homecoming has become less of a celebration than what it used to be in that there is no

parade or town celebration, but in other ways, it is more anticipated than ever before. Every year, students look forward to dressing up for Homecoming Week, going to the game, and dancing the night away. Even though it's become an annual routine, it is still a tradition that the students of Scotus look forward to celebrating every year.

TEACHERS' LOUNGE

Coming home

By Nancy Shadle
Scotus Art Instructor

It was October 1968. We were groovin' to the sounds of Cream, the Rascals, the Rolling Stones, Steppenwolf, and the Doors. American songs began to deluge the airwaves and Motown was exploding on our Hi Fi's. We were still enamored with the British Invasion. The Beatles ruled and Hey Jude was the number one song as we prepared for homecoming at O'Neil St. Mary's.

Most of the girls had made silent pledges to name their first-born sons Jude. I was smitten with anything British. My haircut was Sassoon and my makeup Yardley. My outfit, inspired by London designer Mary Quant, included a purple velvet, lace-trimmed high collared mini dress with matching purple suede shoes.

For the boys the occasion was cause for celebration (as they went on to win the state football championship that season) and trepidation as each held their breath not wanting their 18th birthday to approach. The U.S. was smack in the middle of the Vietnam War.

It's been 40 years since that homecoming and times have changed ... it's okay today to not have a date when going to a school dance. Not so, back then. As I chaperoned Scotus' homecoming dance this year and other years, I noticed that several students did not have dates and were okay with that. When everyone dances as a group, it's less noticeable that one is dateless.

With the exception of one guy asking me to a dance my freshman year, I always went solo. By the time senior homecoming came around I wanted to rid myself the agony of high school dances. I was tired of being a wallflower. But that year homecoming was different. No, I was still dateless. But, for the first time St. Mary's decided to open

the dance to alumni.

Coincidentally, my brother Pat was home on leave from the army before he was being shipped to Vietnam. I was excited to have him share my senior homecoming with me. I anxiously waited for him to show up running up and down the stairs from the dance in Parish Hall every two minutes. When he did make his appearance he wasn't able to join me at the dance because on his way in, he was asked to leave. And, rightfully so -- he'd been drinking, but he was 21. Being the challenging person I can be and ready to confront the administration about their decision, the principal saw my frustration and beat feet out of there running a sprint. I only caught a glimpse of her black veil as she disappeared behind her locked office door. The superintendent conveniently slipped into the boy's restroom. Angry, I left the dance and spent the rest of the night with my brother, his wife and their friends talking and laughing over old times.

It had been a wet, cold fall. I lived on a farm and that night we took the less-traveled road home. About a quarter of a mile from there, we got stuck. I volunteered to walk home and get the tractor. As I opened the car door, I could see this wasn't going to be easy. Barefooted, I sank up to my knees in cold mud, but there was no other choice. I got the tractor, we got the car pulled out and made it safely home. Afterwards as I soaked my frozen feet in hot water, my brother begged for me to join them in town for a midnight breakfast. But, for whatever reason, I said no.

Homecoming. What a nebulous word for me. It was Pat's last time to come home. It was the last time I spent time with him, my only brother. Shortly thereafter he left for his tour of duty in Vietnam. He was killed the following March during an enemy air raid.

Scotus Homecoming King and Queen

1948

2008



1948-1949 SCOTUS YEARBOOK

Jackie Micek & Paul Gutzmer

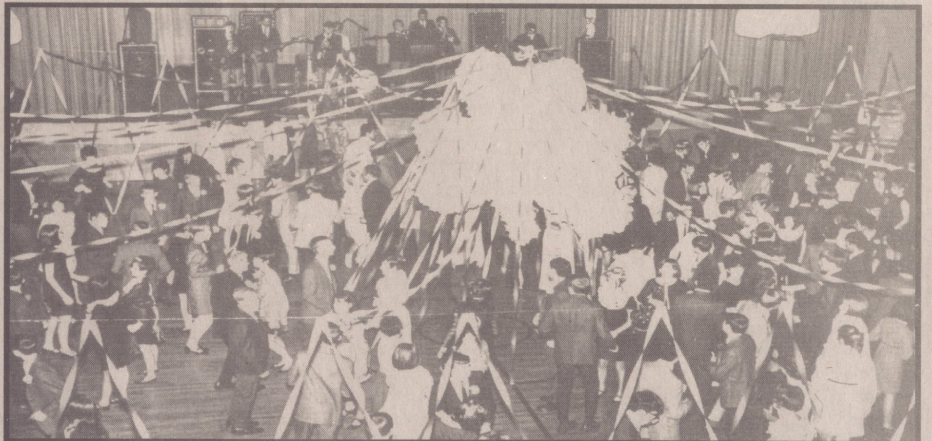


LIZ ZABAWA/YEARBOOK STAFF

Jared Ostdiek & Megan Kresha

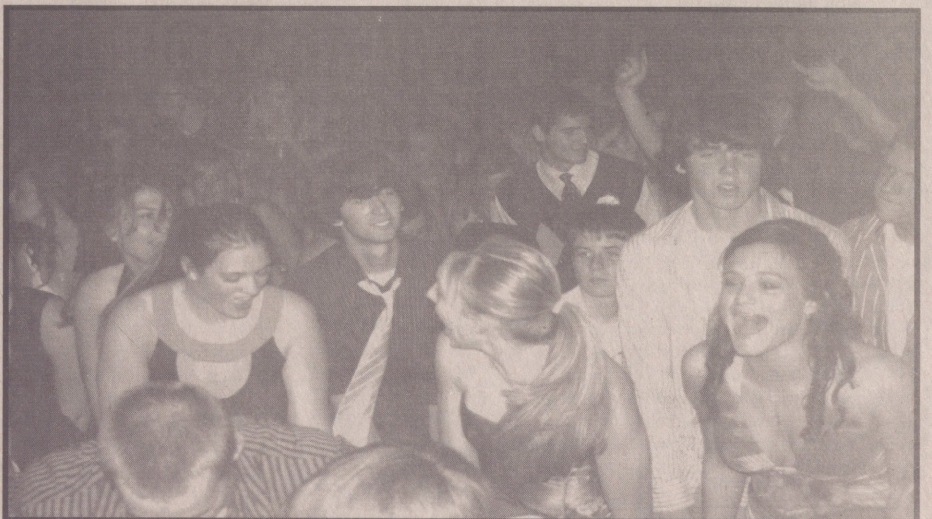
Scotus Homecoming Dance

1968



1968-1969 SCOTUS YEARBOOK

2008



MEGAN KRESHA/ROCK BOTTOM



Adam's Big Apple

One more year of waiting for the Cubs

This was the year it was all going to come to an end, or at least supposed to end. The Chicago Cubs season was filled with accomplishments and excitement.

The players, coaches, and fans all knew the pieces *were* in place for a World Championship in 2008. The pieces *were* in place, but the finished product was ruined by a group of Dodgers from Los Angeles in the blink of an eye. In four days a destined season was gone.

Like every team going into the playoffs, there were question marks hovering around the club. Was the starting pitching going to be strong, was the offense going to prove they were the best in the National League? The National League Division Series answered almost all the questions for the Cubs, except it wasn't the answers the organization wanted to see. The usual great defense squandered silly errors and had horrible communication. The defense gave no support for the pitching, which didn't give a dominant performance in all three of the games. The hitting went dry; the Cubs could not get any production from the big names in the lineup.

The drought now climbs to 101 years without a World Championship on the north side of Chicago. A pathetic performance that led to a sweep was every fans worst nightmare. Our worst dreams were realized, and the tastes in our mouths are still bitter. That will not stop the loyal fans of the Lovable Losers from filling Wrigley Field every game next year, because we still love our Cubs, even if they continually blow it.

- Chase Daniels after the game in Lincoln complained to the press that praises him that Nebraska "was definitely one of the dirtiest teams I've played" because he was spit on before the game. If Daniels doesn't know by now that football is a dirty game then he is in the wrong sport. You may break a nail Chase, but I'm sure your mom Gary will always be there to kiss it and make it better. If you want a clean sport, go ride a bike in cycling. Oh wait...

- Maybe Kevin Cosgrove deserves just a little more credit than he received, maybe the defense really *is* that bad. And maybe the fingers should start pointing at Shaun Watson. Either you get a new game plan, or you take a hike right back into the mountains of Colorado.

- The NFC East is a juggernaut in the NFL. The Cowboys, Eagles, Redskins, and Giants make up the strongest division and it will be a treat to watch which team will prevail to the top at the end of the season.

Shamrocks tame the Broncos

By Callen Schwank
Staff Reporter

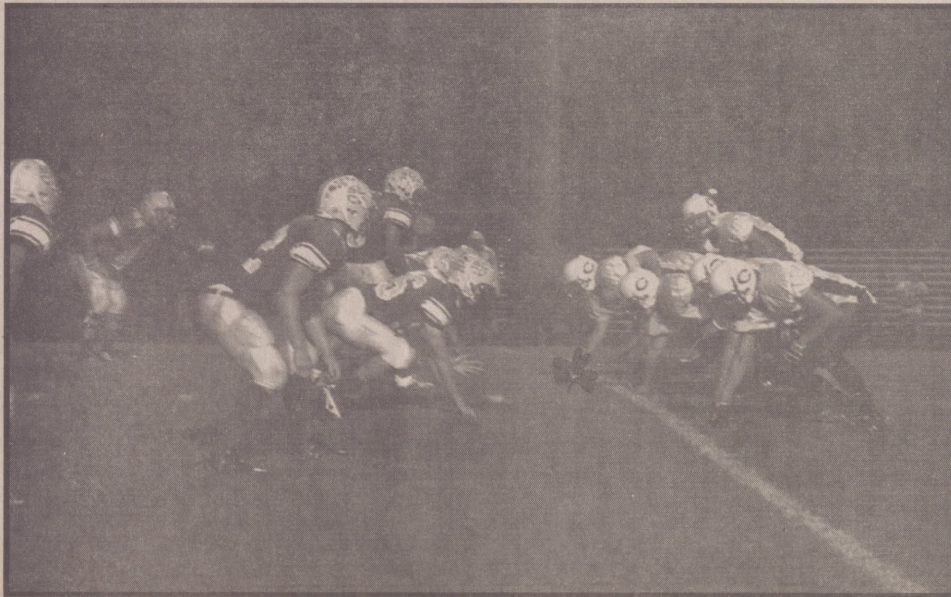
The homecoming football game is probably one of the most anticipated games of the year for a high school football team. Football is one of America's favorite pastimes and the game on homecoming night is one that never tends to be overlooked, especially at Scotus. The Scotus football team showed how important the homecoming game was to them with a 48 to 12 victory

Coach Kreinke began his career at St. Anthony's and has been teaching there for nine years. He started coaching with Scotus his first year and coached the Jr. High and freshman football teams for four years. His fifth year was his first year as head coach for Varsity. When asked what his strategies were going to be for the Utica game he said, "We need to control the ground game because we need to burn clock to keep the ball out of their hands." As a coach and as a former player coach Kreinke feels strongly

is the one game that most alumni come back to see, which is very important. As for being a player it is a terrible feeling to lose, and winning on homecoming really sets a tone for a great night." Coach Kreinke had his strategies down alright, and they worked quite well for the Scotus Shamrocks.

Scotus Shamrocks tamed the Broncos, homecoming night, with a 48-12 victory. To take the lead early, the Scotus Shamrocks kicked off and forced a punt to have Bill Kurtenbach score with a 2-yard touchdown run after a

play that resulted with a 43-yard touchdown. With magnificent blocking from the offensive line, the Shamrocks were able to take a 35-0 lead over Utica into the second half. With such a lead Coach Kreinke was able to have everyone play homecoming night (even some freshman in the mixture). After Jordan Janda scored with his 17-yard touchdown run in the second half, Coach Kreinke decided to sub in the rest of the Scotus Football team. Quarterback Austin Kuta threw a pass to Dylan Thompson,



Shamrock defense gets ready against another Utica play

over Utica Centennial. Coach Kreinke shares the players' views on the importance of a victory on homecoming night.

about the homecoming game. "As a coach Homecoming is a great opportunity to showcase a team for all the alumni, being that this

seven-play drive. The Shamrocks didn't stop there. Within minutes Lucas Backman ran an option

"As a coach, Homecoming is a great opportunity to showcase a team for all the alumni, being that this is the one game that most alumni come back to see."

~Coach Kreinke

which resulted in touchdown in the second half. Utica didn't give up, however, and managed to drive the ball down the field to score two touchdowns on the second team Shamrock defense. Coach Kreinke was pleased at the end of the game and said, "This is what we can do when we do things right boys."

Student Council Remaining consistent in helping out Scotus

By Kyle Benesch
Staff Reporter

Even with numerous changes taking part at Scotus, Student Council remains in charge of homecoming. During the fall, Student Council spends most of its time on homecoming. Student Council has been in charge of homecoming for many years and has been in charge of organizing many things such as the homecoming themes, coronation process, candidate trivia, dance decorations, the DJ, and refreshments. This year, Student Council was also responsible for moving the dance to the old gym. Overall it takes about three months to organize, starting in early summer. "It sounds like a lot to worry about," said Ms. Lahm, "but I know that if I assign a job it will get done."

After the fall, Student Council gets to focus on more topics. Student Council donates to the *Make A Wish* foundation, a cancer charity for children. Large amounts of the profits made by Student Council from Sadie Hawkins, Miracle for a Minute, and dress down days are donated to the charity. Student Council donates to local charities as well, including the Simon House. The favorite of all donation activities

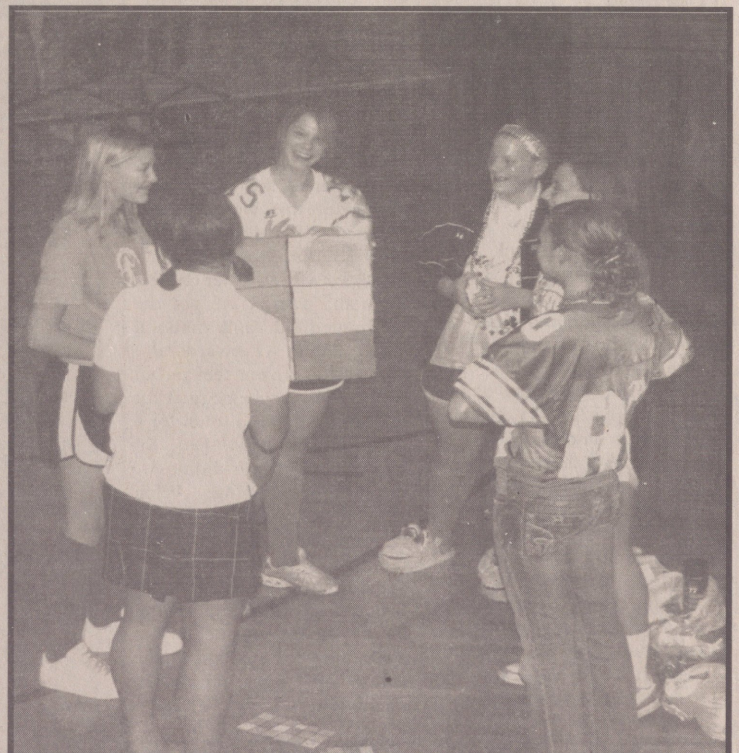
is the Mr. Shamrock contest. Four times in the past five years, the Scotus body has been getting cheap laughs from witty senior boys all at the expense of a couple cans of food, or some pocket change. The small donations add up to be a large gift that student council can give to the Simon House.

When the student leaders are not busy raising money, or designing dances, they focus on how the school can be made better. Student Council has been credited for changing many school rules in the past, including dress code, water bottles, and school policy. These processes take time, and involve working with Mr. Morfeld and the school board.

The job of being a Student Council representative is to be the voice of the students. Even though the Student

Council voices these opinions, the student body still can talk to their class representatives about changes or ideas that they have. They will take the advice,

suggestions, ideas, and opinion of the entire student body. Students can do this by directly talking to a representative, or placing ideas in the suggestion box in the office.



Student Council members prepare for the Homecoming dance.

AARON WRIGLEY/ROCK BOTTOM

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Lucky number thirteen

By Taylour Kumpf
 Staff Reporter

The Shamrocks won their thirteenth state volleyball title at this year's state tournament making that the most won by any high school team in Nebraska. They were previously tied with Bellevue West's twelve state championships in Class A.

According to the *Columbus Telegram*, Coach Petersen didn't know if they could do it back in August, but his players proved him wrong when it mattered most. After just missing the state tournament last year, this year's victory couldn't have been sweeter for the Shamrocks. "The players improved all year. We had

enough talent and chemistry, it was just a matter of doing everything at the right time," Mr. Petersen commented. And things did come together for the Shamrocks. Scotus made it back to the state tournament this year after being knocked out in a sub district game the previous season. At state, the Shamrocks defeated Kearney Catholic and St. Paul to advance to the finals. The St. Paul game was a grudge match because they were the team that had defeated Scotus in the sub district match last year. On the final day of the tournament, Scotus was up against Grand Island Central Catholic in the State Volleyball Championship game. This was the seventh time the two teams had met in the finals, and both teams knew

the competition would be tight. Coming into the tournament, Scotus and GICC both had one win against each other under their belts. It would seem the game could have gone either way at that point, but Shamrock Pride smothered the gym that afternoon and Scotus came away with the 25-23, 25-21, 25-21 victory over the Crusaders.

Winning this year was an exciting moment for all of the players, but for the seniors it meant everything. Senior middle blocker Kelli Schumacher said, "It was like a final goal we achieved after years of practice and playing. Everyone wants to end on a good note and we did."

Fellow senior defensive specialist Whitney Ebel added,

"It was a perfect way to end."

The senior girls were glad to be back at the state tournament and attributed their success to chemistry. Senior outside hitter Ashley Paprocki commented on this year's teamwork. "Last year we had problems with team chemistry and people noticed that when they watched us play," she said, "This year everyone got along and worked well together on the court."

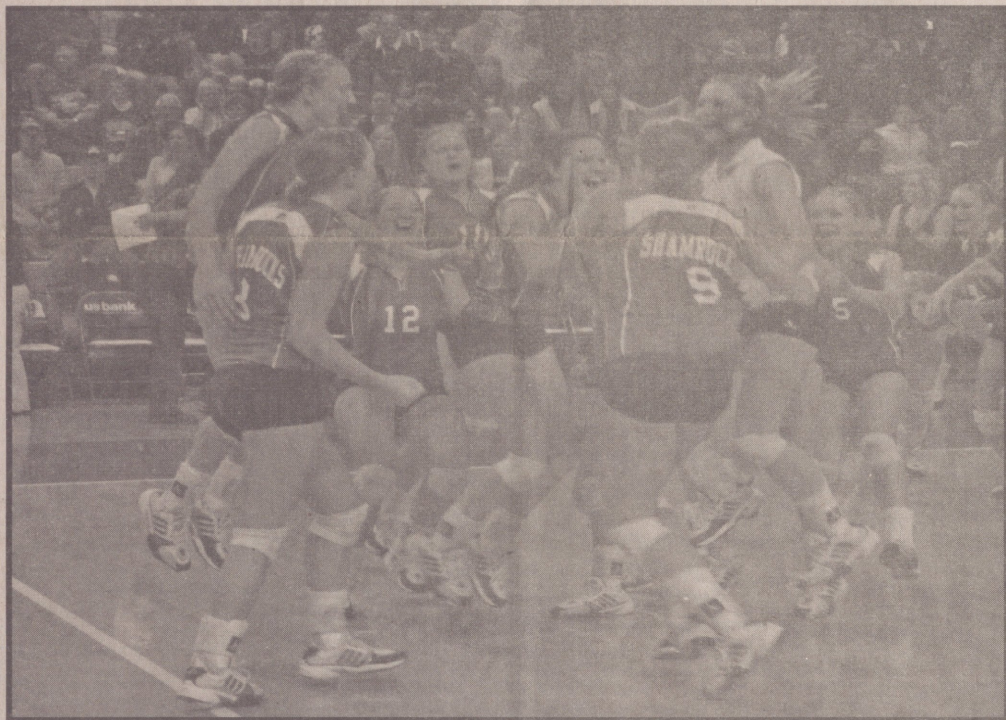
Senior team manager, Jen Williams continued that, "Nobody was dominant over anyone else."

Katie Beiermann, senior middle blocker thought improvements were made throughout the season. "We focused really hard every day to get better. We listened to what Mr. Petersen had to say and really tried hard to correct our mistakes at every practice," Beiermann said.

According to the *Columbus Telegram*, Coach Petersen thought it might not be possible, but he couldn't have been more excited about the win. "After the final point I thought, 'yes we did it.' I'm going to enjoy this one for a while," he said.

Schumacher said the win, "fulfilled a dream they had all had for a long time." It was a great accomplishment for the entire Shamrock volleyball team.

Beiermann concluded, "Coming from a team known for its winning tradition, it was great to be a part of it all."



ARTURO SPINDOLA/ROCK BOTTOM

Scotus volleyball players celebrate after winning class C-1 State Championship title.

Pottery no longer available at Scotus

By Taylour Kumpf
 Staff Reporter

Noticeable changes have been taking place in the art room due to health concerns for Mrs. Shadle. Pottery for all grades will no longer be offered, and instead a printmaking class will be available in its place.

In the past couple years Mrs. Shadle had started to notice a change in her health. She originally thought it could have been from the glaze for the pots, but after looking into pottery-related health hazards, she found that extended exposure (in her case over 20 years) in a confined space to clay dust can be hazardous. Mrs. Shadle does not want students to be alarmed, however, because there is no concern for their short-term exposure to the dust. After going to pulmonologist, a specialist in lung conditions, Mrs. Shadle

found she has hypersensitivity to some art materials, which would explain her heightened asthmatic symptoms as of late. The pulmonologist said it would be for the betterment of her health to eliminate exposure to clay dust. Therefore, the decision was made to pack up the clay and the kiln, clean out as much of the clay dust as possible, and cut pottery.

Mrs. Shadle said, "It was a difficult decision to cut pottery. At first I thought maybe another teacher could come take my place, but after researching the health hazards related to pottery, I found that clay shouldn't be in the same class room as the rest of the art supplies unless there is proper ventilation." After working with the

administration, which was extremely supportive and understanding, it was decided that Mrs. Shadle would stay and pottery would not. To her students who were ever aware

of her absence, Mrs. Shadle would like to say, "Take precaution in whatever you do. Look into the health and safety hazards of whatever you do before you do it."



TAYLOUR KUMPF/ROCK BOTTOM

Mrs. Shadle back in action after noticeable absence.

Features

Obama wins in historic election

By Chelsea Bartholomew
Editor

At approximately 10:00 P.M. on November 4th, 2008, the news was announced: Democrat Barack Obama will be the 44th president of the United States of America. According to CNN, Obama came away with 53% of the popular vote and 364 electoral votes next to Republican John McCain's 46% and 162, respectively. Across America and the world, millions celebrated the landmark election; this is the first time an African American has been elected to the presidency. Voter turnout is initially being estimated at 126.5 to 128.5 million, or approximately 61% of the electorate. These numbers are the highest in years.

If the election had taken place here at Scotus, the results would have been quite different. 79% of Scotus students voted for McCain, while only 15% voted for Obama (6% voted 'other'). Many in this Catholic school supported McCain based

solely on one issue: abortion.

"I didn't like either candidate. But if I could've voted, I would have voted for McCain, because he's pro-life," said Senior Sam Spenner. "I didn't really look at any other aspects."

Freshman Michael Albin agreed. "I supported McCain because I think he's the good Catholic vote, being pro-life."

Other students, however, believed that a wider range of issues needed to be considered. Senior Mikayla Karel supported Obama, saying that she believes he will have a better impact on all of the country's other current issues. "I hope he'll help us get out of debt, for one thing," she said.

Spanish teacher Gail Bomar, who supported McCain, also hoped that the economy would get fixed under Obama's presidency. "I also want him to get the war in Iraq straightened out," she said.

Karel and Albin were both watching the coverage of the election on television at the moment that, based on the

projected results from several key states, it was announced that Obama had won.

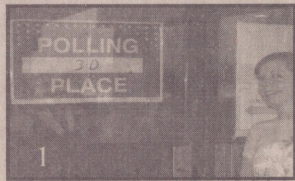
"They were covering Johanss, and then they interrupted that to say Obama won," said Karel. "It made me feel proud, even though I kind of guessed that he would win by the numbers that were already in."

Bomar was also fairly certain before the definitive announcement that Obama was going to win. "It wasn't what I wanted, but I was prepared for it," she said.

"I was disappointed that McCain lost, and I hope Obama won't do anything bad," said Albin, "but I think people think he's going to be way more liberal than he is."

"I've voted enough that I know that even when we have a dramatic change in the presidency, real change in society takes time," said Bomar. "I think we all need to be patient and give Obama a chance to do what he needs to do for the country."

Down at the polls

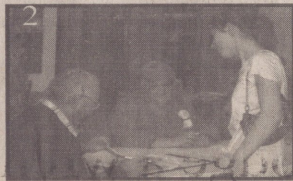


Senior Chelsea Bartholomew goes through the voting process:

- (1) Arriving at polling place
- (2) and (3) Getting signed in
- (4) Receiving ballot
- (5) Voting
- (6) Receiving the very last 'Nebraska Votes' sticker from a poll worker for being a good young citizen



Photos courtesy of Sara Baer.



Krista Mulligan
Senior

Eligible and voted in actual election
John McCain because I don't trust Obama and think it's totally wrong to let a baby be born and leave it in a back room to die. McCain has had experience in war and we are in a war. I thought it was odd other countries wanted Obama so bad, and there is no released record Obama was born in Hawaii.



Sara Baer
Senior

Eligible and voted in actual election
I voted for McCain. The pro-life factor was what sealed the deal for me. It was a hard time picking who to vote for. It took me a while to decide because I liked different things about each candidate. But McCain being a pro-life candidate helped make my decision.

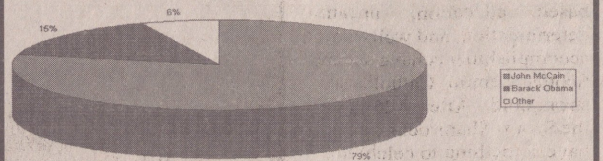


Nathan Hotovy
Senior

Eligible and voted in actual election
I voted for Obama. Basically, I agreed with him on almost all issues except abortion. I was not going to allow myself to become a single issue voter.

SCC votes '08

Overall School Election Results



7th Grade Results



8th Grade Results



9th Grade Results



10th Grade Results



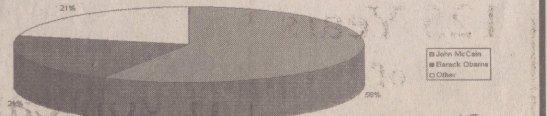
11th Grade Results



12th Grade Results



Seniors Eligible to Vote



In the Scotus presidential election, John McCain unanimously won the popular vote. In each individual grade, McCain continued the trend by winning every class.

Older students voiced more of a diverse opinion. The senior class had the high mark for Barack Obama with 34 percent going in his favor. Out of eligible voters both Obama and the other (write-in) category took in 21 percent of the vote.



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Scotus celebrates 125 years of education

By Aaron Wrigley
Editor

The years of faith-based education, uncanny determination, and well-earned accomplishments have secured Scotus Central Catholic as a stronghold. After 125 years, the Scotus Shamrocks certainly have something to celebrate.

The first day of the first year for Saint Francis Academy was indeed a momentous feat. As the doors creaked open and the building came to life, the family consisting of students and faculty joined together. They assumed the same goals and ideals, if only for a few moments of their lives.

The 125th anniversary of this establishment is the time to admire such thoughts; to celebrate the goals achieved and the ideals accepted. The Scotus Shamrocks have been given a chance to appreciate what those people have accomplished in the past and hope for what others will do in the years to come.

English teacher Kelly Schaad understands what this year means. As an alum



Saint Francis Academy in 1909

PHOTO COURTESY SCOTUS ARCHIVES

of Scotus and current staff member, she has had what some might call "the ultimate Shamrock experience." Schaad has enjoyed the close-knit group of people she has known while at Scotus.

"As a teacher and alum, you get to know a large span of people," Schaad remarks. "My classmates, the students now, it's like a family." She

particularly admires how this family interacts with one another. She has gone through some hardships within her immediate family, and the students at Scotus have been more than caring. "People have been concerned about it all, and it's really meaningful to me."

On the other side of the table is Senior Kris Fleeman. He ponders over his own

experience at Scotus.

"I'll always remember theatre class. This year, I miss that the most." The friendships Fleeman has made in theatre class, as well as certain other activities, have been most important to him. Fleeman adds about Scotus, "I'm proud of its existence."

125 years after the first day of the first year, Scotus

still stands strong against the odds. This occasion calls for a celebration on the Scotus family's part. Schaad hopes to see her classmates again. However, there will be plenty of opportunities for the other students and staff to celebrate in their own ways as well, be it dodgeball, mass, Gala, or any other number of activities.

Celebrate 125 Years of SCOTUS

- Trivia Contest at home basketball games

- Annual Appeal fund drive began this month with the goal to fund the complete refinishing of the Dowd Activity Center floor

- Open House during January's Catholic School's Week feat. archive displays and school tours

- John Duns Scotus prayer cards being printed and distributed

- Volleyball Tourney - Students vs. Faculty / Alumnae in March

- The April Gala dinner / auction theme will incorporate the school's 125th Anniversary

OTHER POSSIBLE EVENTS:

- The commission of a Blessed John Duns Scotus icon

- Living rosary at Scotus

- Guest speakers

- CD of archive photos and profiles of famous graduates

- Commemorative gifts

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If you can dodge a wrench, you can dodge a ball

By Arturo Spindola
Staff Reporter

Scotus celebrates its 125th anniversary as a school this year, and what better way to celebrate that history and heritage with a good old fashioned dodgeball tournament? Initially proposed by the 125 committee, the committee dedicated to organizing events celebrating Scotus' 125th year, the tournament took place on the evening of November 17th at 7 p.m. With admission being only one dollar for students and two dollars for adults, it was not surprising to see over 200 spectators show up to witness students, alumni, faculty, coaches, and parents competing against each other.

The tournament was off to a rocky start when the team PJ Peace in the first match nearly forfeited the game due to missing players that were at basketball practice. However at the last second the team got some help from faculty members Sean Wickham and John Peterson, and the tournament began. There were twenty-two teams in all. There were seventeen student teams, one alumni team, two faculty teams, and two parent teams.

The majority of the rounds were quick and fast, with teams often being eliminated before the three

minute time limit. The rounds moved on a reverse seniority basis, with junior high teams leading off. The most exciting round was perhaps the one that pitted the SCC Coaches against the Juniors. The round was furious, with both teams picking away at each other's member one by one until both teams were at 1 vs. 1 with Shawn Schumacher on the Juniors and Julie Blaser on the Coaches. The time limit expired and they were forced on a one minute elimination match between Schumacher and Blaser. At the count, Schumacher sprinted for the balls in the middle of the court, while Blaser stayed back and dodged the first few dodgeballs thrown her way. Her teammates quickly retrieved them for her and she and Schumacher proceeded to battle until Schumacher came out victorious.

The Juniors progressed to the finals to face Glass of Cookie and a Side of Juice, a freshman team, in the finals. The freshmen put up a valiant fight but were no match for the Juniors, whose members consisted of Katelyn Kerman, Laura Zach, Monica Boeding, Shawn Schumacher, Maggie Hellbusch, and James Landholm. "Winning two championships in one week



Dana Fuchs jumps out of the way of a ball at the Dodgeball Tournament Monday

ARTURO SPINDOLA/ROCK BOTTOM

is pretty cool" comments Hellbusch, referring to the Shamrocks' state volleyball championship this year.

The tournament not only brought enjoyment to the players and spectators, but also brought \$127 to Scotus. "The tournament is helping fund John Duns Scotus prayer cards for all the catholic students in town," says Scotus Development Director John Schueth. The cards will be distributed during Catholic Schools Week.

The dodgeball

tournament is only one of many activities Scotus is doing to celebrate its long existence. Along with the tournament, Scotus is hosting an Open House during January's Catholic School's Week, which will feature archive displays and school tours. The Gala will also be host to the school's 125th year Anniversary commemoration, and in March there will be a Student vs. Faculty/Alumnae volleyball tournament.

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Opinion

Times they are a changin'



By Brian Ackman
Staff Reporter

The times are changing here at Scotus. Changes don't only include new teachers, students, and heating/air conditioning, but the seasons are changing too. A season change here at Scotus is a lot more than snow and cold weather. Athletes must now

make a total switch to a new sport. Students have to deal with the frosty weather. Hard working kids go from mowing yards and raking leaves to scooping snow and scraping ice off windshields. Are these changes for the better? Is the winter season better than the summer, fall, or spring? I think that the winter can in some ways be the greatest season, but in others the worst.

For me, work changes completely. I go from mowing for Roger Kreinke in the summer and fall to scooping snow for Jim Puetz. I do enjoy both of these jobs even if some say the pay is terrible, but scooping snow is better in my eyes. Mowing

seems so boring to be walking behind a mower for tedious hours. In scooping snow, I have to always be on alert for slipping on ice. Also, scooping is a great physical activity to help build muscle.

Another change for me is in sports. Football takes countless hours away from me during the summer and fall, but I really do enjoy it. I may complain during the season about hard practices or early morning film sessions, but once it's over I wish I were still playing. I do, however, greatly enjoy the winter sports season. The funny thing about that statement is that I don't even play a winter sport. I love cheering and

watching basketball games. Also, for me the winter is a way for me to get a jumpstart on soccer season. I lift more often in the winter and play indoor soccer. All these things are what make the winter so great.

There are a certain things that make the winter displeasing, however. One thing that I personally think is a downfall is all this extra time I have on my hands. A lot of people may think that more time is better, but I disagree. All this extra time off is only more time for me to procrastinate homework. My parents expect my grades to shoot up during the winter because my focus isn't on sports, but in reality my focus isn't

anywhere.

The winter also brings harsh weather here in Nebraska. It seems like snow falls every other day and I'm the one scooping it. Early morning scooping hours are not my favorite activity. With the snow comes ice covered roads. The roads aren't so great for me, or any other driver at that matter.

It appears that I lean both ways in this argument of the winter being the best season. But it is too hard to judge how great one season is. Is winter the greatest of them all? I think that for me the best season is the one I'm in at that time.



By Kelsey Jochum
Staff Reporter

The chaos of conversation

"Remember the time when..." "No, this one time..." "Wait, how did we even get on this topic?" The Journalism class asked this same question a few weeks ago. It was a Monday, and students were reluctantly beginning the new topics they would write about for the week. As can be expected, the focus on writing slowly decreased as more and more conversation came up. For some reason, Mrs. Rusher noticed that the class was very dominated by past St. Isidore's students. This led

into a conversation about elementary school at St. Isidore's, and in particular, memories of 6th grade. The students looked back with fond memories of History Day/NEED, massive amounts of homework, and running daily errands for the Greens. By the end of the period, the students had moved from their computer chairs to form a tight circle around Mrs. Rusher's desk, sharing their own stories and laughing about others. But when the bell rang and everyone was brought back to reality, the question

was asked, "How did that even come up?!"

This happens all the time in conversation but isn't noticed. By progressing through topics and making connections between them, the conversation can veer off in a completely different direction. Take the Journalism class. The conversation started off discussing the presidential election and the trends that can be found in support of the candidates. Then, as it was noticed that there were trends based on past elementary

schools, the class realized that 6 of its 10 members were from St. Isidore's.

School could be one of the best places to get off topic. In classes with teachers like Mr. Brockhaus, Mrs. Lahm, and the memorable Mr. Dierman, bringing up a random topic means another 20 minutes less class time. So go out there and change the subject. You just might get out of some homework. "...Wait, we had homework?"



By Callen Schwank
Staff Reporter

The newly founded Rowdy Dowdies had a successful season in cheering on the Scotus volleyball team this year. For student cheering, this year has been different from past years in the cheering section. It proved to be one of the greatest student cheering sections in Scotus history. With their creative ideas, respect for the other teams, ambition, and pure Rowdy Dowdiness, they were able to cheer this year's volleyball team to another well deserved state victory.

With the renaming of the Activity Center to the Dowd Activity Center the students knew they could do more for the Dowd family. In honor of the Dowd family and all they have done for Scotus, the Rowdy Dowdies were formed. This group of Rowdy Dowdies wasn't for just the

upperclassman either, as most Scotus cheering sections have been in the past. Everyone was included to create a unity among the students while at the same time maximizing the loudness and intensity of the cheering section. Not only were the students involved more than ever with the cheering, but the parents contributed as well with some of the cheers. Even though some of the students, parents and cheers may have gotten a little too "Rowdy" at times they still maintained a sense of respect for the other teams. Win or lose the Rowdies always remembered to pray after games to thank God for the absence of injuries and gift of victory. This year there was always a theme for each game that the Rowdy Dowdies had. Whether it be a whiteout, blackout, rainbow theme, or costume party the main theme was to always cheer louder and be more creative than the other team. For the most part the Rowdy Dowdies performed their themes very well.

Now comes the question of what is going to happen with the Rowdy Dowdies now that another volleyball season is over. With the leaving of the senior class many wonder how the Rowdy Dowdies



The Rowdie Dowdies lead a cheer at the state volleyball championship

ARTURO SPINDOLA/KOCK BOTTOM

will perform next year with the new upcoming senior leaders. Some think it won't be quite the same, but others say that the Rowdies could be bigger and better next year. The year isn't

over yet, however, and basketball season is right around the corner. Now is the time to show Columbus what the Rowdy Dowdies are all about. Just because volleyball is over

doesn't mean that the Rowdies will stay in the shadows until next year. Instead the Rowdy Dowdies need to be bigger and louder than ever.

TEACHERS' LOUNGE

By Pat Brockhaus

When I was approached to write an article for the paper I was very hesitant and downright adamant. Bottom-line I didn't want to do it because I had nothing to say. Then I received an e-mail from a teacher about David Letterman's views on America and I started to rethink the request. Mrs. Rusher pleaded with me and I showed her the e-mail. She said it was good, that it was me, and that I could do it. So here goes nothing with the help of David Letterman and Newsweek.

Newsweek recently had a poll that declared that 67% of the U.S. population is unhappy with the direction the country is headed in and 70% are unhappy with the performance of the President. So

basically 2/3 of the U.S. just aren't happy and want a change. So what are we so unhappy about? David Letterman says:

1. Is it that we have electricity and running water 24 hours a day, 7 days a week?
2. Is our unhappiness the result of having air conditioning in the summer and heating in the winter?
3. Could it be that 94% of these unhappy folks have a job?
4. Is it the ability to walk into a grocery store at any time and see more food in moments than Darfur has seen in the last year?
5. Is it the ability to drive our cars and trucks from one coast to the other without having to present identification papers as we move through each

state?

6. I guess having thousands of restaurants with varying cuisine from around the world is just not good enough either.
7. Could it be that when we wreck our car, emergency workers show up and provide services to help all those injured?
8. Maybe we are upset with knowing that in the unfortunate case of a fire, a group of trained firefighters will appear in moments and use top-notch equipment to extinguish the flames, saving you, your family, and your belongings.
9. Or if, while at home watching one of our many flat screen TVs, a burglar or prowler intrudes, an officer

equipped with a gun will come to defend you and your family against attack or loss.

10. This all in the backdrop of a neighborhood free of bombs or militias raping and pillaging the residents. Neighborhoods where 90% of teenagers own cell phones and computers.
11. How about the complete religious, social, and political freedoms we enjoy that are the envy of everyone in the world?

Maybe, just maybe, are we the largest group of ungrateful, spoiled people the world has ever seen? No wonder the world loves the U.S., yet has a great disdain for its citizens. They see us for what we are. The most blessed people in the world who do nothing but complain about what we

don't have, and what we hate about the country instead of thanking the good Lord we live here.

We need to start being grateful for all we have as a country. There is exponentially more good than bad. We are among the most blessed people on Earth and should thank God several times a day, or at least be thankful and appreciative.

With Thanksgiving fast approaching, let us be thankful, not just for the aforementioned, but especially for the people who make it possible. Our families, teachers, neighbors, friends, and those close to us need to be thanked, but so do those who aren't close to us, the newspaper carrier, the checkers at Hy-Vee, the bank teller, etc. Above all else, thank a veteran because without their sacrifices, who knows where the U.S. would be.

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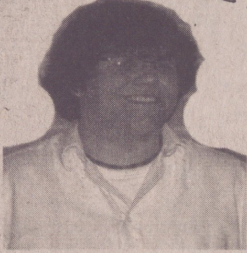
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In-Depth

Thanksgiving - November 27th, 2008

Shamrock Power



Give 'em a break

By Aaron Wrigley
The weather outside is beginning to look grim. As the summer sun is cast away above the grey autumn clouds, thoughts of glistening snowmen, flourishing Christmas trees, and impossible semester tests are right around the corner.

But wait! There is still that special time of year when families come together for some greater purpose, be it eating food, watching football, admiring parades, or taking a nap (perhaps even a combination of these activities).

Thanksgiving is approaching faster than ever. With only one month left in the second quarter of the school year, this Shamrock is definitely looking forward to his break from all the stresses of his last year at Scotus.

The Thanksgiving break brings back more than a few memories on my part. I remember the days on break in years past that my family spent traveling to the city of Decatur, IL, to visit the Wrigley family. I would lug my book bag along the way as well, lying to myself that "I'll get my homework done early this time." The food I know and love so much would be piled up Thursday afternoon. The next day my family would wake up early to beat everyone else to the best prices that Black Friday had to offer. Of course, I can't leave out how great sleeping late felt.

Perhaps being a senior has opened my eyes to the importance of traditions like Thanksgiving. Clearly this holiday holds similar standards for other seniors as well.

The general views of the senior class regarding this holiday are similar. Most people enjoy eating food all day long and sleeping in over the break. The traditions, however, are quite unique from one person to the next.

Mitch Kwapnaski spends his Thanksgiving hunting with his

brother and his cousin. "We go to my relatives' house...there's usually about 70 people there that day."

Schalise Vancura and Liz Zabawa, on the other hand, find their tradition of eating dinner with their families appealing. Unfortunately, Vancura says, "I spend most of my break working." Well, a tradition is a tradition.

Macey Fuhr spends her break playing pitch with her family. She looks forward to the annual pitch tourney her family holds.

When asked what he thinks of regarding Thanksgiving, Chase Beiermann recalls Basketball practice. What is his tradition? "Doing the turkey trot in basketball."

"Perhaps being a senior has opened my eyes to the importance of traditions like Thanksgiving."

Even new traditions might be formed this year. Amanda Zywiec is traveling to the Mall of America this break. "Over break, I usually go shopping." She is also looking forward to another tradition. "I plan on watching movies all day long with the fam-fam."

Several different ways to celebrate Turkey Day this year, yet all seem connected in some way. The traditions, family, food, and fun make for wonderful nostalgic thoughts.

Do not get too comfortable on the long break, however, because the Shamrocks will return to their busy school lives in less than a week. Now that's a thought that is welcome to be repressed.

Tummy-Bulging Thursday

By Kyle Benesch
Staff Reporter

Smells of roasted turkey, creamy mashed potatoes, warm pies, sweet candy yams; finally, November 27 is coming around, along with beloved Thanksgiving dinner. Everybody has different holiday traditions, but for the most part Thanksgiving dinners find their place in most families. This gut stuffing tradition has been around before this country was created. According to the *History Channel*, the first Thanksgiving dinner was held in 1621, and it was shared with the colonists of Plymouth and the Wampanoag Indians.

Even though this tradition is almost 400 years old, many things have stayed the same. The pilgrims gathered together, along with their

Indian companions, and gave thanks for their friendship, and plentiful bounty of food. Many food items are still kept around today, such as: duck, goose, pumpkin, vegetables, and the famous turkey. Other menu offerings have been turned away from in later years, including eel, partridge, eagles, seal, lobster, and crane. Many people who would want to travel back in time to share in this feast might be somewhat disappointed. Ham was not on the table, nor was mashed potatoes, milk, corn on the cob, or the ever so popular, pumpkin pie.

In 21st century America, Thanksgiving dinner still takes priority on Thanksgiving Day, but because of America's changing culture, different Thanksgiving meals are also made. For Czechs, dumplings and gravy are usually served along with turkey and duck. "In my family, we honor the traditional turkey, and wait until

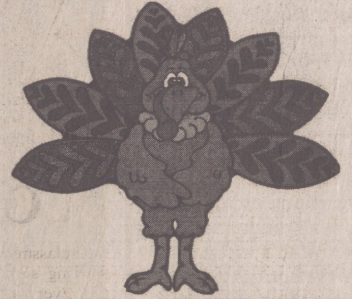
Christmas to serve the manicotti and lasagna," said Italian, Nick Raimondo.

"Thanksgiving meal is not part of Mexican tradition," said Nadia Moralez, "but many families choose to have a traditional turkey dinner."

Michael Miya stated, "In Tanzania, we don't really celebrate a big Thanksgiving festival, but we do have a big turkey dinner."

When it comes down to it, the majority of America is going to sit down and share some kind of a meal on Thanksgiving Day. It is a tradition that has been a part of American culture for many years, and one that will continue into the future. "What beats a holiday where all you do is eat food, sit in your fat splendor, and watch football? Nothing," concludes Brian Ackman.

"Turkeys Can Drown If They Look Up When It's Raining..."



What you may not know about Thanksgiving

By Kelsey Jochum
Staff Reporter

To most, Thanksgiving is just another yearly celebration. An excuse to travel, take off work and school, and reunite with family and friends. It is observed as a national holiday in the United States, but it has not always been that way. In fact, there are many facts about Thanksgiving that are not well known.

Thanksgiving

1. Thanksgiving was not a national holiday until 1941.
2. Sarah Josepha Hale, a magazine editor, was the one who campaigned to make Thanksgiving a national holiday.
3. Thomas Jefferson thought the concept of Thanksgiving was "the most ridiculous idea I've ever heard."
4. In the years 1939, 1940, and 1941, Franklin Roosevelt changed Thanksgiving to the third Thursday in November to lengthen the holiday shopping season.
5. Ben Franklin wanted the national bird to be a turkey.

Turkey Trivia

1. Wild turkeys can fly up to 55 miles per hour.
2. Only male turkeys gobble.
3. Turkeys can drown if they look up when it's raining.
4. A turkey under 16 weeks of age is called a **fryer**. A five to seven month old turkey is called a **roaster**.
5. A turkey's field of vision is 270 degrees.
6. Turkeys have heart attacks.

Thanksgiving Food

1. On Thanksgiving Day...
 - Over 40 million green bean casseroles are served.
 - 20% of cranberries eaten are eaten.
 - Americans eat 535 million pounds of turkey.
2. There was no milk, cheese, bread, butter, or pumpkin pie at the original Thanksgiving Day feast.
3. The average person consumes 4,500 calories on Thanksgiving Day.

All facts from "Coolest Thanksgiving Facts, Traditions, and History." *Coolest Holiday Parties.com*. 2003-2008. Coolest Parties.com 5 November 2008. <<http://www.coolest-holiday-parties.com/thanksgiving-facts.html>>

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Sports

Adam's Big Apple



Annual holiday sports-a-thon

By Adam Niedbalski
Staff Reporter

The holiday season is approaching fast and you know what that means! No, not family, food and presents; but constant sports action on every channel. Maybe you like season defining college football games. Maybe you're more of a fantasy football buff and need to get your NFL fix. Is basketball the sport for you? You're in luck because college basketball and the NBA are in full swing! I got to say that I enjoy everything going on this time of the year in sports. The holidays bring out the best in the sporting world, so let's get comfortably cozy and get our remote ready for a marathon of switching between games on different channels.

Win or lose against Colorado, Bo Pelini and the Huskers have achieved a successful season. A guaranteed winning record, a second-place finish in the Big XII North, and a possible New Years bowl; gosh this took Callahan years to do. Nebraska has lost two games by a slim margin that could have easily gone their way. Give Pelini credit, he has officially brought back passion and desire for winning back into the eyes of the Huskers. Hopefully everything falls in place for Nebraska in the last stretch of the season.

Nebrasketball is finally here! The scrappy, hustle driven Huskers bring a talented young squad to the floor in the 2008-2009 campaign. Until Head Coach Doc Sadler gets the level of talent he needs to compete legitimately in the Big XII, don't necessarily look at the record of the Huskers. Instead watch the effort and intensity that never fails to make its way to the court. Santa, could I please ask for an early Christmas present? I desperately would love a Nebraska victory over Creighton on Saturday, November 29!

Last year you had to be completely oblivious to know that the Patriots weren't undefeated. This year the Titans are 10-0, and no one is giving them the respect they deserve.

Could someone please give me the same hook up as Mr. Sasges for some NBA tickets? He not only got to sit some three rows above the Dallas Maverick's, but he also was within reaching distance from Mavericks Owner and recently rumored to be felon, Mark Cuban!

Football team improves; abrupt end to season

By Arturo Spindola
Staff Reporter

Finishing with a 6-3 record, there is no doubt the football program has progressed by leaps and bounds in recent years. Four years ago all football players did was lifting and conditioning, but that has changed and the results certainly show it. The work began early summer with the lifting program, and it only got harder with 7-on-7 passing league, which Scotus finished with a record of 8-0, Scotus camp, UNO camp, and even seniors helping coach at the little kids' camp, all done over last summer. Everyone knows football is hard work, but along with that hard work comes the fun and joy of performing to

the fullest.

"I had a great time," says defensive coordinator John Brezenski, "it was fun watching you guys (seniors) grow. You were the first class I coached." When asked what his favorite game of the season was, senior Chase Beiermann simply responded "Lakeview." Seniors Nathan Hotovy and Quentin Siemek share Twin River as their favorite. Hotovy says, "As a senior, practice was more fun than in previous years, especially when we got watermelons." "Being at practice was a highlight every day," says head coach Roger Krienke, "going and being excited, you can't put a price on that."

Of course as with everything, there were downs to accompany the ups. Scotus lost

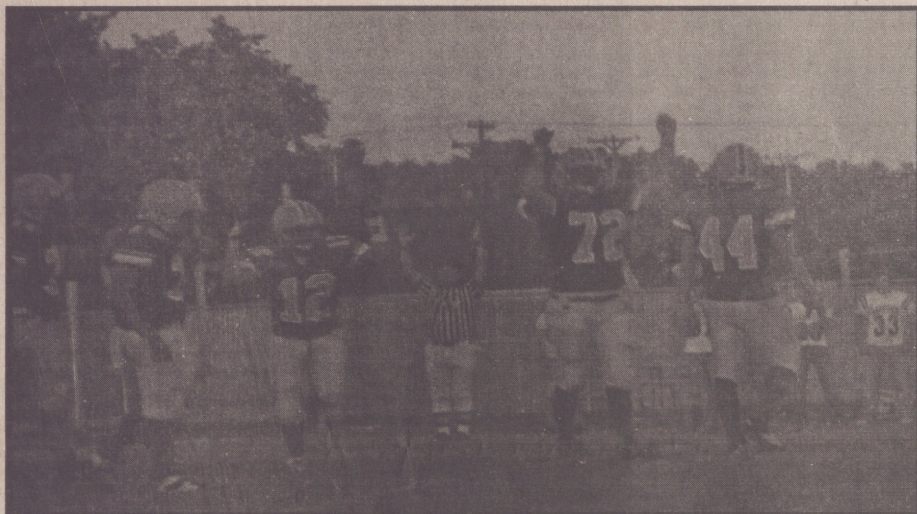
to Hastings St. Cecilia, Madison, and to David City Public in the first round of playoffs. "Madison was a tough, tough loss," comments Hotovy. His tone and facial expression captured what the entire team must have been feeling that night. The losses were mostly due to mental mistakes and lack of spirit and mental preparation. For the David City game, Krienke attributes some of the loss to confidence. "We got a big lead and got into a comfort zone."

Injuries, like last year, also played a big factor. Senior Lucas Backman broke his collarbone for the third time since last fall during the Boone Central game. Senior Callen Schwank was plagued all year by a weak shoulder that dislo-

cated frequently and suffering concussions throughout the season, including a major concussion during the David City playoff game. Senior Chase Beiermann pulled a hip flexor and suffered a concussion. Junior Tom Rambour suffered a fractured fibula, junior Brian Ackman had a sprained shoulder, and sophomore Nathan Wangler had a fractured vertebrae. "Injuries are part of the game," says Krienke. There is no doubt that each of these players would play again in a heartbeat if given the chance, and while the seniors will not get that chance, the rest of the team will.

"The hardest thing we will have to do for next year is replacing the senior class," says Krienke. "The juniors have got to make a big step, and they could be great leaders."

Krienke says his goal is to get 70 kids out for football next year. With big wins against Aquinas and Lakeview back to back, beating traditional power football team Boone Central, and having six of eight opponents make it to the playoffs, the juniors will need to be great leaders. When asked what advice they would give to next year's players, Siemek says, "Make the most out of it. What you put into it, you get out of it." Beiermann says, "Work hard. When you're across the line from someone, know that you're going to dominate them." Krienke says the loss against David City is only motivation for next year.



The Shamrocks celebrate a touchdown during the game against Lakeview. Lakeview was the first game of the season and the Shamrocks beat down the Vikings 42-35.

Fall sports wrap up

By Brian Ackman
Staff Reporter

Football

This year's Scotus football team finished with a 6-3 record. The Shamrocks went to the playoffs for the 2nd year in a row and lost to David City Public first round. The Shamrocks had a successful year, beating Class B Lakeview. Five of the eight opponents the team played made the Class C-1 state playoffs, and another made the playoffs in C-2.

Tennis

Scotus students coped with CHS again this year in tennis. Three seniors played varsity tennis this year: Simon Schacher, David Gokie, and Jared Ostdieck. The team placed 1st at the Lincoln North Star Invite and 2nd at the Quad Tournament. One of the highlights of the year was making it to state and placing 17th.

Softball

Scotus students also coped with CHS in softball this year. Megan Kresha was the only senior from Scotus who played on the varsity team. The team finished with an 11-20 record and finished 2nd in the district tournament. Paige Sprunk, Summer Kresha, and Emily Schieffer were the other Scotus students who played on the CHS softball team.

Volleyball

The Shamrock volleyball team finished the year #1 in Class C-1 with a 27-2 record.

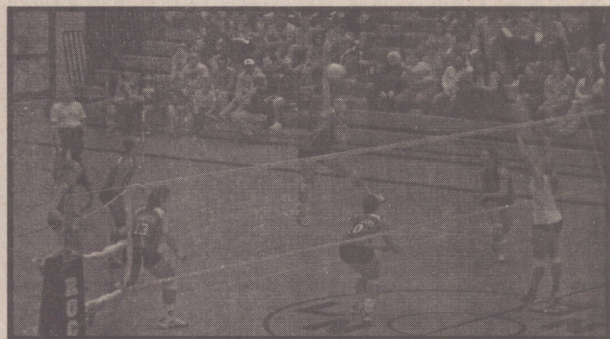
The team had notable victories over Class C-2 #2 David City Aquinas and Class B #7 Omaha Skutt. The team was district champion and made the state tournament for the 19th time in the past 20 years and won the state title for the 13th time. Five seniors, Katie Beiermann, Ashley Paprocki, Kelli Schumacher, Whitney Ebel, and Sami Spenner led the team.

Cross-country

The boys and girls cross-country teams had a successful year again this year. The girl's team had two seniors, Taylour Kumpf and Sara Baer. The boy's team was led by seniors Tony Duren, Adam Niedbalski, Mitch Kwapnioski, and Nick Raimondo. Some of the best meets for the Shamrocks were the Lakeview-Neumann Triangular where the boys placed 1st and the girls placed 3rd, and the North Bend Invitational where the girls finished 3rd of seven teams while the boys finished 1st. The boys placed 3rd of fifteen teams at the Scotus Invite while the girls scored 9th of fourteen. Emily Jarecki was the lone runner to qualify for state, and she finished 46th. The team had great numbers this year with 10 girls and 19 boys, and they hope to continue their success next year.

Girls Golf

The girl's golf team had another great season this year. The team had five 1st place finishes at invites and an-



Junior Monica Boeding spikes the ball over the net. The Shamrocks beat Kearney Catholic and went on to win the class C-1 state championship.



Boys' Cross-country celebrate their first place victory in the North Bend Invitational.

other four 2nd place finishes. The team had four top ten finishers at the district meet, Jacy Gasper-5th, Liz Zabawa-6th, Nicole Gasper-8th, Schalise Vancura-9th. The Shamrocks

qualified as a team for the state tournament and finished in 4th place. Jacy Gasper was the top golfer at state, finishing with a 15th place medal.

Activities

Big changes with this year's Shamrock Singers group

By Callen Schwank
Staff Reporter

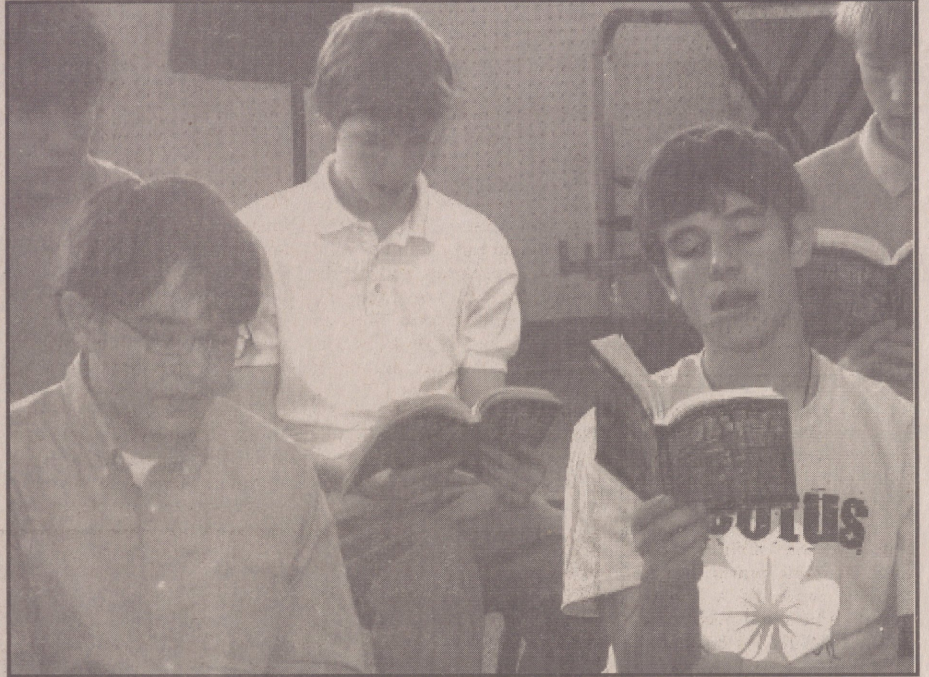
The Shamrock Singers have been around for a long time, but changes this year have not inhibited success. Ms Gardener has been teaching at Scotus for twelve years and decided to rename the singing group to Shamrock Singers her second year at Scotus. The Shamrock Singers have a lot of returning veterans this year along many young faces as well. The singers also have some upcoming events and fundraisers.

This year has been different from any other year at Scotus for the Shamrock Singers. The Shamrock Singers have combined with the chorus group to form a much larger group than in past years. However to be part of the Shamrock Singers auditions must be held. The Shamrock Singers meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays and the larger group meets on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The larger group has been named Jon Duns Chorus in commemoration of the beloved Jon Dun Scotus.

One member that stands out this year is senior Nicholas Raimondo. On November 21st Rai-

mondo will be taking part in singing with the All State Choir in Lincoln at the Lead Center. The All Star Choir consists of the top 430 singers in the state. Raimondo started practicing in August to prepare himself for auditions that took place on October 11th and had to practice six songs. On audition day the judges were able to pick one song by random that Nicholas would have to sing in front of them. Also, Laura Salyard, a sophomore at Scotus, has been named an alternate for the All-State Choir. In case of the absence of a member in the Choir she will be asked to attend.

For years the Shamrock Singers have been singing the national anthem at football, volleyball, and basketball games to get them started. However, the Shamrock Singers are not just limited to school functions. On November 25th they will be singing for the United Way and will also be going to the Meridian Gardens the 1st week of December for fundraising. Anyone is welcome to attend these events to watch the singers in action. The Shamrock Singers will also be singing December 14th for the vocal music concert in Scotus' Memorial Hall at 2:00.



Shamrock Singers prepare music for an all school mass

KYLE BENESCH/ROCK BOTTOM

SCC hosts archdiocesan youth rally

By Kyle Benesch
Staff Reporter

For the 4th time, the Omaha Archdiocese's Youth Rally returned to Scotus. Seven hundred youth from all over the Archdiocese gathered into the Dowd Activity Center. People from different areas had time to mix and meet with others while playing various ice breaking activities. When it came time for people to take their seats, the gym floor was completely filled.

"It was interesting to see people filling the gym in different places than just the bleachers," said Sarah Swope.

The group led by the master of ceremony Nathan Hotovy. The rally's first speaker was Scotus' own Fr. Roza. A skit, formed to fit the Scripture Readings and led by father, had Tony Duren and Nick Raimondo portraying the story of Jesus and the Apostles fishing in the Sea of Galilee. After the Scotus led introduction,

award winning Steven Angrisano took stage and immediately captivated the audience's attention. Steven formed Praise and Worship songs into "Catholic Calisthenics" with intense body actions. After all the goofiness, it was time to get down to business with an 800-person game of Simon Says.

When Steven began giving some of his life stories, it was obvious as to why he has gained world attention. His personal stories gave a real Catholic example of how people can live their lives. One particular story was his account on the Columbine shooting. He lived in Littleton, Colorado; the town of the high school where the tragedy took place. In fact he personally knew many students who died or were injured. He was able to make people appreciate what they have after he talked about how his community was able to rally together after the shootings.

Thought provoking speakers continued throughout the day, ranging

from local youth ministers, state patrol men, teachers, retired priests, and even Scotus alum Tiffany Spies, Austin Zach, Melissa Steiner, and Katie Wozny.

"Every speaker challenged us to think about how we view our lives, and how much we take things for granted," said Kelsey Jochem.

The Rally's climax came at the time of mass. It was different to see the gym, which usually is the site for intense volleyball action and rowdy cheering sections, be used as an 800-person chapel. Archbishop Eldin Curtis led the mass along with help from about fifteen other priests.

"It was interesting to see how such a diverse crowd could come together and form a mass," said Father Roza. Overall the rally brought the youth of the archdiocese together, and with such a strong youth gathering there was no other way to end the rally than with doing the electric slide and Macarena in a closing dance.

Senior mock trial team makes it to state

By Megan Kresha
Staff Reporter

The Senior Mock Trial team is going to state for the second year in a row. Scotus was matched up with CHS, who had proved to be quite a challenge early in the competition. Taylour Kumpf commented by saying, "When you are in the courtroom, you really have to be able to think on your feet, and they had a lot people that were good at that." When asked about the win, Chelsea Bartholomew responded, "To be quite honest, I

didn't think we were going to win; none of us did." This case proved to be a tough one, but all their hard work paid off.

The seniors were not the only ones to be successful at districts, the freshman made a surprising appearance winning their first 2 cases against Lakeview and the Scotus Junior team, before losing to CHS in the third round. The sophomores lost their first case while the juniors made it to round two. Experience is something that these teams will carry with them next year. State is going to be held in Lincoln on December 8th and 9th.

Scotus students take on parenting



Hannah Bolte and Sara Baer take hold of not only their trays, but the responsibilities of taking care of children as well. The Child Development I students had to realize this week that caring for children is not as easy as it looks. These little bringers of noise and chaos have made their presence known not only in the lunchroom of Scotus, but in the students' homes as well. One thing is for certain; however, students at Scotus Central Catholic have taken on the task of making sure these babies have a pleasant stay.

By Callen Schwank

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Entertainment

Role Models brings plenty of laughs

By Chelsea Bartholomew
Editor

It's not hard to notice that for the past few years, vulgar-but-heartwarming comedies have been the "in" thing. Popularized by Judd Apatow films like *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*, *Knocked Up*, and *Superbad*, the list of movies in this sub-genre has only been increasing. But how long before they outstay their welcome? Does the movie *Role Models*, as some feared, do just that?

Well, thankfully, no. It's not an Apatow movie (although it features actors who have been in them, such as Christopher Mintz-Plasse, who played McLovin in *Superbad*), and it's not quite as all-around good as one, but it's still pretty hilarious in its own right. The story begins with two co-workers, Danny and Wheeler, who go from school to school peddling energy drinks as a safe alternative to drugs. Danny has grown dissatisfied with the purposelessness and dull

nature of his life; he has begun lashing out at everyone around him, from the girl behind the counter at the coffee shop to his longtime girlfriend, Beth. After she dumps him because she can't stand how joyless he has become, he drives the energy drink company car into a statue of a horse. Beth, who is a lawyer, works out a deal whereby instead of going to jail, they can instead mentor troubled children for an organization called Sturdy Wings.

Sturdy Wings is run by a former drug addict who never fails to bring up her terrible addiction and the seedy depths it led her to in conversation. Even if said conversation is about something else entirely. She assigns Wheeler to mentor a trash-talking, trouble-making eight-year-old named Ronnie and Danny to a socially awkward teenager named Augie who spends most of his free time participating in a live action roleplay called *Laire*.

All of the actors involved in *Role Models* were great, and I can't think of one who

didn't seem to be doing just about everything he (or she) could do with his (or her) role. The script delivers lots of funny dialogue, which is made even better due to the fact that you can actually imagine real people saying many of the lines. The ending sequence is...well, I don't know how else to

put it...pretty freaking EPIC.

The major criticism I have of the movie is that it's a little too formulaic. Almost from the beginning, you know exactly how everything will turn out in the end. In fact, you can guess half of the things that

will happen in between, too. Movies like *Role Models* and its ilk are going to need to start experimenting and reinventing very soon if they want to stay fresh.

Grinds My Gears



By Megan Kresha
Staff Reporter

Bad drivers

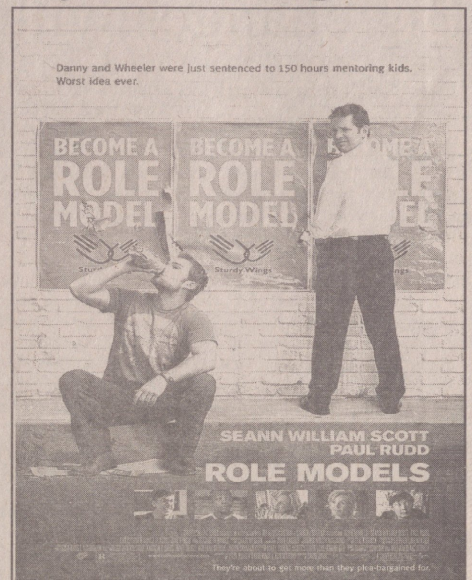
Do you know what grinds my gears? Bad drivers. Those people who think blinkers are just a waste of time. Or how about those people who think that their sandwich is more important than the road? Who needs hands when you can clearly drive better with your knees? Where in this world are our good drivers? They are definitely not in Columbus.

Every person that is driving is trying to get somewhere, and usually it is in a rush. So, why don't we use some common signals to avoid very angry drivers? Blinkers. I cannot stand it when people do not use their blinker, if you are turning - at any time - your blinker should be on. But do not abuse this blinker power that you hold, there is a time and place to use your blinker, and it is exactly 100 feet before you intend to turn; state law people, use your blinker!

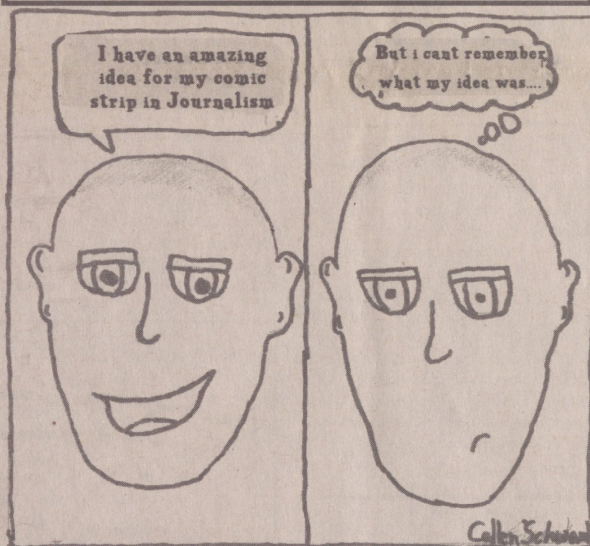
I know ketchup is really important to put on French fries, but please, do not do it when you are driving. I hate it when people are driving all over the road because they are trying to devour a five-dollar foot long in record time. Take it easy Kobayashi, no one is timing you; take your food home and enjoy it. When you are driving you should be focused on your surroundings, but when you eat and drive, you cannot do that.

On a long road trip some people's knees magically transform into hands. Just pop it into cruise control, sit back, and let your knees do the work. No, that does not fly with me, what do you do when a deer jumps out in front of you? Cover your eyes with your hands and hope you miss it?

I just wish I could find some good drivers out there, that use their HANDS on the wheel, and their eyes on the road. If everyone could drive as good as I can while I'm putting on my make up, doing my hair, and messing with the radio in the morning, I think there would be a lot less accidents.



Comic by Callen Schwank



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SCOTUS CENTRAL Rock Bottom

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MERRY CHRISTMAS



FROM THE ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

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Rock Bottom

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The Rock Bottom accepts letters to the editor.

Letters should be 250 words or less in length and must be signed. All letters are subject to editing for content and space.

Send to Scotus care of the Rock Bottom

Finals move before Christmas

By Kelsey Jochum
Staff Reporter

This year, along with the many other changes at Scotus, it has been decided to end the 1st semester before Christmas break, which means moving the semester tests. In the past, students took semester tests the week after they got back from Christmas break. Now, students will take them before they leave for break. This change has received much feedback from students and teachers, both positive and negative.

Generally, students like the change. Senior Mikayla Karel said she likes semester tests being before break because she remembers more.

Trying to come back after a long break and remembering everything for a test can be difficult, so she thinks the change will be better as far as testing goes. Also, she doesn't have to worry about studying over the break and can enjoy the holidays more.

Junior Dylan Thompson shared this opinion. When asked how he feels about the tests moving before break, he said, "It's real nice. I don't gotta break a sweat knowing that I have to study over my break."

Besides studying for the tests themselves, there are other reasons students favor the change. Sophomore Levi McPhillips said, "I like the change because I can get rid of all the worry and feast at Christmas

without stress which allows me to eat more. And the more I eat, the more I eat."

Whether it be the freedom from studying or just relaxing in general, students overall seem to approve of this change in Christmas break.

Teachers, on the other hand, have a variety of opinions. Some agree with the students and believe it a wise choice to move the tests before break. Mr. Salyard, for example, has always found it difficult to come back after break and try to get back on track. "The old system was inane. It makes a lot of sense to move them," Salyard said.

In contrast, there are some teachers who didn't want the change.

Mrs. Bernt doesn't like the change because it doesn't leave any time to enjoy Christmas. She thinks that all the studying and testing will spoil the Christmas season for both students and teachers.

The change has also affected the teachers who coach in the fall. Mr. Peterson said that he feels rushed to get things done now. He used to have the Christmas break to make up his tests, and now he has to get that done beforehand.

The decision to end 1st semester before Christmas break has both positive and negative aspects. Being able to have the tests done and relax during the break is a definite pro, but the rush beforehand is something everyone will have to get used to.

Scotus athletes plagued with injuries

By Megan Kresha
Staff Reporter

The fall season proved to be a tough one after many athletes fell to injuries. Starting quarterback Lucas Backman has been struggling with a broken collarbone; this football season was the third time he has broken it in one year. This injury was a big blow to the Scotus football team. "As a quarterback Lucas held the team together, losing him wounded our spirit," commented senior Arturo Spindola.

The football team got beat up this season with multiple head injuries, sprains and strains. Tom Rambour had a stress fracture, Chase Beiermann and Kirby Reardon both had minor concussions, Dalton Leu separated his shoulder, and Callen Schwank still suffers from the after affects of a dislocated shoulder and severe concussion. He dislocated his shoulder last year against Bennington, and it has made playing football a difficult task. "I won't be able to play college football because of it," said Schwank. When asked to give advice to other athletes Schwank replied, "Do the exercises that your therapist gives you faithfully so you can heal faster."

Football was not the only sport suffering from injuries, Megan



LORI FEHR/YEARBOOK STAFF

Matt Puckett hobbles his way down the school hallway after injuring his ankle.

Kresha, starting pitcher for the CHS softball team, tore her ACL early in the season. The injury set her back a while, but she finished the season strong. She had ACL reconstruction surgery in early November, and is on the road to recovery. Lots of Physical

Therapy and braces are in her future.

Matt Puckett is yet another Scotus athlete that suffers from a major injury. Matt tore a ligament in his ankle during a basketball scrimmage. He is hoping to make a comeback after the Holiday

Tournament on December 29th. Puckett advises other athletes, "Wear ankle braces and stretch before you play. It is the best way to avoid injury." Injuries seemed to be a major factor in the fall sports; hopefully the winter season proves to be a safer one.

Snow removal employs many students

By Adam Niedbalski
Staff Reporter

In the stillness of night, when only the howling wind makes a sound, snow removal services everywhere have their shining moment. Roughly fifteen students work for Mr. Jim Puetz and Mr. Roger Krienke's snow removal business in the winter. Reliability is the key attribute Mr. Krienke is looking for in a snow remover. "We are very fortunate at Scotus to have hard working, reliable kids. This may be our finest crew yet."

The kids are usually alerted the night before to be on "snow-alert" and the decision to go out in the morning to scoop is made by Mr. Puetz and Mr. Krienke together.

The calling starts in the early morning of the snow, "I get up at 3:30 a.m. and usually start calling at 3:45 a.m. I call each crew leader, and they are responsible for their own crew," Krienke said.

Junior Eric Tubbs says he does snow removal, "for the money, and I love hearing Coach Krienke's voice at four in the morning."

Mr. Krienke preaches that, "when you look up the word reliable in the Webster's Dictionary, you will find a picture of Eric Tubbs."

The pay depends on the snow and wind conditions, and how efficient the workers scoop. Krienke

said after everything is said and done he would estimate that the average pay falls around \$15 an hour. Mr. Puetz handles the money, and to get paid the crew leaders must somehow get a hold of Mr. Puetz to receive their share. Tubbs said that giving up sleep to make a little extra cash was worth it. "The first time we went out I made about \$20 an hour."

Responsibility is vital because the students are on their own in the morning. Slick road conditions and machinery are two of the hazards that are exposed to everyone working in snow removal. Krienke stressed that removing snow is relatively safe when you take your time and exercise extreme caution. Another responsibility is for the separate crews to organize themselves enough to not miss any school. Tubbs has never had an issue with getting to school on time. If scooping is done with diligence and a sense of speed, making the tardy bell should not be a problem.

Krienke is trying to get across to the Scotus students involved with this is more than about just making money. "I believe there is a great benefit in doing manual labor. [Snow removal] teaches them organizational skills that will be important throughout their lives." Next time it snows and driveways are already scooped early in the morning, know that Scotus students have already done their part in helping others.



BRIAN ACKMAN/ROCK BOTTOM

Junior Eric Tubbs enjoying the winter weather while moving snow.

Features

The Giving Season

Godparents holds annual "Giving Tree"

By Taylour Kumpf
Staff Reporter

Godparent groups took over Wal-Mart on Wednesday, December 3, to participate in the annual "Giving Tree". Each year the Columbus area Godparent program teams up with the three Catholic parishes in Columbus in order to purchase Christmas gifts for less fortunate children in the community. Godparent coordinator Belinda Keiter receives names of Catholic families in Columbus that are struggling to make it through the holidays. She works with the pastors from St. Isidore, St. Bonaventure, and St. Anthony's to coordinate the families that are in the most need of help.

As part of the "Giving Tree," all the Godparent groups, which include Catholic freshmen through seniors from Scotus and other area high schools, are given

a specific child to shop for. The information given is anonymous, but the children's age, size, and Christmas wishes are listed. Children of all ages are included in the program, anywhere from newborn babies to high school age kids. Many of the wishes are winter necessities, such as coats, gloves, and hats.

Senior Megan Kresha said, "It's rewarding to know that our small contribution does make a difference, and a child will get presents Christmas morning that he or she would otherwise not get."

Belinda Keiter added, "When the teens do this, it gives them a sense of satisfaction. They are excited to do this for other families." She also said, "It makes me happy that we have such giving high school kids in our community. The teens are far more compassionate and kind than people give them credit for. There is a goodness in them that people don't realize."

Coat Drive enhances character

By Taylour Kumpf
Staff Reporter

This winter, like many that the state of Nebraska sees, is predicted to long and unbearably cold. The unfortunate truth is that, in this community, there is a prevailing need for the basic winter necessities, including coats. Mr. Ohnoutka's Character Class held a coat drive to help meet the need.

After being contacted by Patsy Konecky at the Simon House, Mr. Ohnoutka saw an opportunity to teach his students a life lesson.

Ohnoutka said, "The real goal of the coat drive was for the students to recognize the need for this and to realize they really could

make a difference for someone else." The Character Class' coat drive was a success. The goal was to collect over 100 items in the drive, and when the coats were taken to the Simon House, there were over 150 items.

"We have to have a servant mentality. By serving others' needs, we live out our Catholic faith," concluded Ohnoutka.

Along with the coat drive, the Character Class also participated in the Holiday Coop. They bought gifts for two children who will not receive other presents Christmas morning. The students learned that Christmas is not just about themselves; they could also provide a good experience for someone else this Christmas.

FBLA's annual "Secret Santa"

By Kelsey Jochum
Staff Reporter

Every year in the weeks before Christmas, teachers can be seen opening gifts and deciphering clues from their "Secret Santa." At the end of the week, if they haven't discovered who's been giving them these gifts, their Secret Santa will reveal themselves, and hopefully, get a present in return.

This is a tradition that Scotus has had for many years. It is organized by both the FBLA members and Mrs. Salyard, the sponsor of FBLA. Mrs. Salyard has been organizing this event for 14 years, continuing an already established project. The project has been very successful so far. Mrs. Salyard commented that both the teachers and students enjoy it. "This is a fun project for the FBLA members because they get to be creative while giving."

Salyard said. The students come up with creative clues to hint their identities to their teachers.

Two of the students involved in the Secret Santas are Monica Boeding and Morgan Duren. "The teachers' smiling faces is what encourages me to be involved in Secret Santas," Boeding said. "We also get creative with our clues because we rhyme... We do it all the time," Duren said. They both agreed that they give their teachers mostly random things that they think they will like. Some of the teachers even give back to their Secret Santas to continue the spirit of giving.

When asked what the teachers think of Secret Santas, Salyard stated, "The teachers enjoy getting the daily clues and gifts. They find it fun to guess who their Santa is. But if the Santa doesn't put much effort into their giving, it isn't as fun."

NHS Members get in the "Holiday Spirit"

By Taylour Kumpf
Staff Reporter

Approximately ten years ago, National Honor Society sponsor, Mrs. Dusel-Misfeldt received a letter from the Columbus area "Holiday Spirit Coop" group inquiring about possible interest in participating in their program. Today, Scotus' National Honor Society has grown accustomed to the annual "Holiday Coop". Each Christmas season the Coop group collects names and information, mostly of children, from less fortunate families in the community. Oftentimes parents approach "Holiday Spirit" volunteers with requests for assistance in buying Christmas presents for their children. The parents cannot afford to purchase presents on their own, so the gifts bought by different organizations and families, including NHS, are the only gifts the children will receive Christmas morning.

This year, as in years past, Scotus NHS members had the opportunity to take part in this seasonal "act of kindness". The students received anonymous information regarding a child; the information included the child's Christmas wishes. Mrs. Dusel-

Misfeldt commented on the National Honor Society's involvement in this program.

She said, "It's important to think about others. My hope is that the students participate because it's the right thing to do. There are people in need, and nothing needs to be given to us in return."

This Christmas season in particular the need is dire, especially with the state of the economy. It's not only student organizations that can participate; individuals and families can also sponsor a child. Scotus teachers are doing their part this Christmas. Mrs. Schaad's family has decided to sponsor a child, and Mrs. Gibson will be sponsoring a child with some of her family members.

Dusel-Misfeldt believes it's important that people know there are people who are less fortunate and it's our job to help them in whatever little ways we can, especially the children.

When NHS began their "Holiday Coop", there were 187 kids still in need of families or organizations to sponsor them. The Scotus Student Council, Band, and Character Class took up the offer and assisted in the "Holiday Coop" this year. However, there is still a need for volunteers.

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Opinion

A Merry Christmas

TEACHERS' LOUNGE

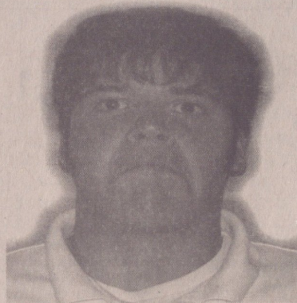
By Fr. Andrew Roza

I have had a lot of fun thus far getting accustomed to how life works here at Scotus. While I can't compete with the kind of experience and Scotus pride that most of your faculty have, I feel like I'm well on my way to bleeding green with the best of them. Just last week, I heard the name of the blue team mentioned and an intense feeling of disgust welled up from deep within me, and I wasn't even sure why! So, I'd say that on the whole, things are going pretty well.

Yet, there are certain mysteries that as a new person here I have yet to fully come to grips with. First of all, our mascot is a shamrock. This means that when we cheer on our teams, we end up saying certain phrases over and over like, "Shamrock power", and, "Let's go Rocks!" Now, for those who have grown up with this, I'm sure it makes perfect sense, but to one who comes in from outside, there is something mildly bizarre about it all. In nature, shamrocks grow, sit there, and then die. They get blown by the wind a little bit, and they look nice, and that's great, but I would hope for a better fate than that for our basketball teams. That other word we use so much, "Rocks", isn't any better. Rocks, unlike shamrocks, do not grow and do not die, but boy do they ever sit there.

I have also been struck by a question that has been haunting me from my first days at Scotus. How does one refer to a person who is part of the Scotus Community? Are we Scotans, Scotusites, Scotites, Scoticians? Could women be called "Scotettes"? Or do we simply avoid this terrible issue altogether and simply call ourselves shamrocks? If anyone has insight into this question, please feel free to stop into my office and shed some light upon my interior darkness.

For all of my frustration at these mysteries of Scotus, it really hasn't been a big problem for me. I am learning how to fear/respect the clover, and I am sure that I will be able to continue to avoid the Scotan/Scotusite/Scotite/Scotician issue for as long as is necessary. Sometimes we have to live with a little bit of mystery in our lives. At this time of year we celebrate the fact that our Big God became a little baby, which is about as deep a mystery as you're ever going to encounter. It is real mystery, because it can never be resolved, completed, or figured out - it can only be entered into with a healthy dose of wonder and humility. God wanted us to love Him, so he made himself small enough that we could hold Him. If you find yourself outside at all on one of these crisp and clear winter nights, take a look to the sky and check out the stars, all of which were made by God. The creator of billions and trillions of miles of created space, of galaxies and supernovas, rested in a manger and cried, simply so that you could relate to him. I hope you have an awesome Christmas, and I look forward to seeing you in 2009.



By Arturo Spindola
Staff Reporter

When you hear Christmas, what do you think of? Do you think of sitting by the fireplace opening presents with members of the family? Eggnog, cookies, and fruitcake? Quiet reflection on a silent night? Or is it shoppers fighting each other

for the best deals, Christmas light competitions between neighbors, and Christmas songs being played in July?

Around Christmas time, your local Wal-Mart, Kmart, or other stores that offers consumer goods become packed with throngs of hectic shoppers. You've got people buying groceries for the holiday meal, casual shoppers and the like. And then you've got the psychos. Have you ever heard of the phrase mob mentality? Well that's exactly what happens during the Christmas season, and especially on Black Friday. People transform from polite shoppers to angry, raving zombie shoppers not unlike *28 Days Later*. A New York Daily News article reports that on Black Friday, in Valley Stream on Long Island, New York, a Walmart employee was trampled to death by over 200 shoppers as he was opening the doors. Shoppers broke windows, took doors off

hinges, and would not stop as the mob ran over the man along with other coworkers and an 8-month pregnant woman. Then, when the store had to be closed because it was a crime scene, shoppers expressed outrage at not being allowed to shop on Black Friday.

Excuse me? What? People are being killed over great deals now? This truly disgusts me. Incidents like these show just how far we've come from the good ol' Christmas spirit of the past.

Every year, Christmas anticipation balloons to cover more and more time. In all honesty, the fact that I'm seeing Christmas lights being put up before Thanksgiving is ridiculous. It should be a crime. Yes, they are pretty, and yes, it's fun to drive around with your family on a Sunday evening checking out the houses of the maniacs who decide to quadruple their monthly electricity bill for the

sole reason that lights are pretty, but Christmas lights are taken a little too seriously.

A CBS Morning News article says that people are starting to choreograph their Christmas lights with music, which seems pretty cool. The fact that the director of the power company comes over to say "Hi and thank you" every Christmas isn't so cool, however. Maybe it's due to my procrastinating abilities and affinity for being late to almost every sort of deadline I am given, but it just seems to me Christmas comes too early and too much every year.

The ghosts of Christmas need to appear and give a verbal lashing to all of us, because the Christmas madness has taken over the Christmas spirit. We can't just blame corporations and advertising; it's us as well. Merry Christmas to all and to all a 20% off night.

Some thoughts as we approach the halfway mark



By Chelsea Bartholomew
Editor

I shouldn't be writing this.

Quite frankly, I should be working on my college admissions essays. All...five or

six-ish of them. Agh. And I've hardly even started thinking about scholarships. The deadlines for all of these things are looming above my head like a dark, ominous... looming thing. Half of it's pretty silly, actually. I don't understand why the colleges I'm applying to go through the trouble of having a Common Application with an essay portion included if all except one then want you to write an additional essay especially for them. Really? That's just mean.

But maybe I'm only doing all this superficial whining to take my mind off of something else. Namely the fact that, well, the whole college thing is making me feel kind of lonely right now.

Don't get me wrong; I know for a fact that I want to get out of Nebraska, and I know that if I have the opportunity to do that and don't take it, I'll hate myself. But...

Getting into a conversation with classmates and having almost all of them talk about going to UNL, UNO, or UNK. Seeing an empty seat when one of them is gone on a campus visit to the afore-mentioned. Hearing who all plans to room with whom. Etcetera, etcetera. All of it reminds me that, while I may want to leave, I don't want to say goodbye.

It was easy to decide that it would be right to get away when I

was younger and shyer and, you know, had a paranoid conviction that 95% of our class hated me. But things change and people grow and paranoid convictions grudgingly retreat to the back of your mind until before you know it, your emotions are trying to sabotage you and all of your plans. Mine won't succeed. I have to say, though, their effort is admirable.

Thanks for making it difficult, everyone. I honestly mean that, and not in an angry, sarcastic way or anything. After all, it means that I like you and I'll miss you next year. So, hey...good luck, have fun, be awesome. I know you will.

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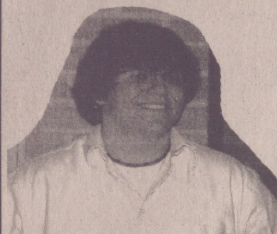
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“Obsessions of the moment”

Shamrock Power



Let's get a little bit rowdy

By Aaron Wrigley
Editor

We have spirit, yes we do. It seems to me that the students at Scotus this year are obsessed with supporting Shamrock activities with more devotion than ever. Yet the burning question regards whether or not this green flame will flicker out in the upcoming seasons.

The Rowdy Dowdies began their escapade with football when school started, and the most recent, well, success of these Shamrock fans was the State Championship of the volleyball team. Their undying devotion to the Shamrock has even gained publicity in local media groups.

All eyes are on the Rowdy Dowdies as the basketball team begins its run for the year. People all over are wondering if the sea of green will be loud and proud at these upcoming games.

“Definitely,” says Junior Peter Heusinkvelt. “The Rowdy Dowdies will still be there. And next year, the new senior class will take over leading it.” Heusinkvelt believes that the sudden uproar of support for Shamrock teams is due to the senior leadership this year, and he hopes it will carry over to future seasons.

“It's been a good year. People get excited for games. It's a place to just hang out and get a little bit rowdy,” says Heusinkvelt.

Senior Hannah Bolte agrees that the senior class has led the Rowdy Dowdies brilliantly. “Our senior class has the leadership. I hope it carries over with the junior class.” According to Bolte, the obsession with cheering on the Shamrocks for all it's worth is simple. “It's because of how awesome we are.”

Some people might wonder if the Rowdy Dowdies even make a difference at games. Heusinkvelt says, “Did you see State Volleyball?”

However optimistic students may be, the outcome of whether or not the obsession for being rowdy is here to stay is just around the corner. If all goes well, then the legacy of the Rowdy Dowdies will live on for years to come.

Hunting for an obsession

By Kyle Benesch
Staff Reporter

As winter is approaching, many people have to put away their beach gear and change from their summer activities. For some, the extreme change from warm summer outdoor activities to finding entertainment in the winter is difficult. For others, the change is an easy one to make, because they know that their winter obsessions have arrived. One winter craze is hunting season.

As soon as the leaves begin to fall, Nebraska hunters know to get the camouflage out of the closet, and find their guns. Hunting seasons start around the end of September and end mainly

towards the end of January. Nebraska offers a wide variety of hunting seasons including the popular duck, goose, deer, coyote, and turkey, and fur trapping. Many people in Scotus have taken advantage of Nebraska's ultimate outdoor sport.

For Senior Chase Beiermann, it is no question as to if he likes hunting. “Hunting for me is right below God, it is a part of my life.” Beiermann, who said raccoon hunting is his favorite, also said that shooting a few ducks makes him happy. “I would be willing to sacrifice watching a Husker football game if it meant going duck hunting.”

Junior Tom Rambour said that he doesn't even remember when he started hunting. “There

is a pretty good chance I was wearing camouflage diapers,” said Rambour. An avid deer hunter, Rambour likes hunting because he gets to do it with his family. “It is a good way to get close with your family. My dad and I share quality bonding time while hunting.”

Hunting frenzies affect

“Hunting for me is right below God, it is a part of my life.”

Chase Beiermann

more than just students. Mr. Younger, a well-known hunting fanatic, says that he absolutely loves to duck hunt. Even Mrs. Schaad says that hunting finds its way into her lifestyle. “My husband has taken me coyote hunting, and now that my boys are getting older, I am learning to shoot with them.” Schaad also was proud to admit that her 18-year old niece is currently ranked third in national pistol shooting.

It is no doubt that hunting is a widespread craze. Living in Nebraska, there are great chances to hunt. “Outside of Husker football, hunting could be the greatest thing this state has to offer,” said Junior Austin Wallick.

Cell phones, a dangerous obsession?

By Callen Schwank
Staff Reporter

One obsession that is taking America by storm is texting and using cell phones constantly. Texting has become the new rave of the 21st century. Not only are people texting at work and in school, but when they are driving as well. Texting and using phones during school can be a distraction, but texting while driving can be dangerous.

Texting and the use of phones in school has been a problem between students and teachers. Rules have been enforced, however, to keep students from using their phones: First offense- The device will be confiscated and taken to the office and held for one week. The parents will be notified by mail. The parents will have the option of coming to school and picking up the electronic device. Second offense- The device will be confiscated and taken to the office and held for six weeks. The parents will be notified by mail. Third offense- The device will be confiscated and taken to the office. The student may pick up the device at the end of the school year, and the parents will be notified.

Depending on the circumstances of the violation, the teacher or the Central office may administer additional disciplinary action.

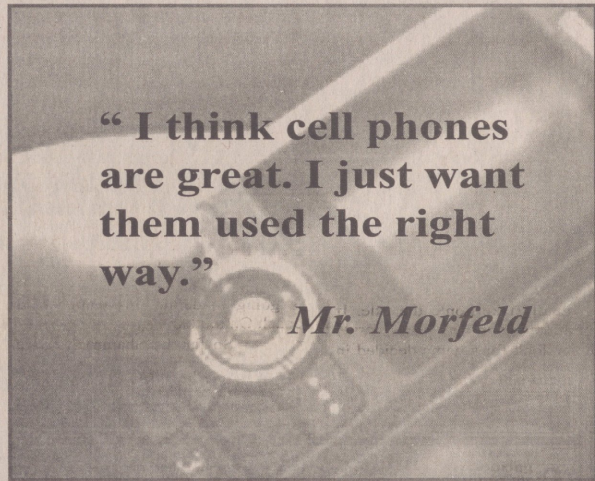
Mr. Morfeld gave examples of when a phone could be used during school. In case of an emergency a student will be allowed to use their phone, but the teacher has to be aware of the situation. Also in the case of a family crisis the parent may call the school and ask for the student to have their phone on if the student needs to be reached during any time of the day.

Mr. Morfeld stated that the rules have been changed to be more severe since last year because the school board didn't think that students were taking the old rule seriously. With the old rule the student would only have their phone taken away from them for a day the first time they were caught. With the change of the rules, however, there has been a decline in phones taken away. Most of the students that have been caught were unaware of the new rule. “I think cell phones are great. I just want them used the right way,” said Morfeld.

Some students will take risks of using their phones no matter what the rules or dangers

“I think cell phones are great. I just want them used the right way.”

Mr. Morfeld



are. Cheerleader Kaitlynn Klaassen is a prime example of going to the next level when it comes to texting. When asked how often she texts while in her car she replied with “every time.” Even though this cheerleader knows the dangers of texting while driving, she does it anyway because she can text without even looking at her phone. However, its safe to say that she isn't the only one that

texts or uses the phone while driving. According to Good Morning America in a study done in April 2006, teens said that that texting is their no. 1 distraction while driving. Scotus isn't the only one changing their rules when it comes to phones; states are cracking down on the problem as well. Washington was the first state to ban “driving while texting.”

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Sports/Activities

One Act team turns in another year

By Brian Ackman
Staff Reporter

An exciting and successful year has come and gone for the Scotus One Act team. The team performed a classical absurdity, *The Bald Soprano*, by Eugene Ionesco. The main theme of the play is the flaw in communication skills, but the unorthodox jokes are what catch the eye of the audience.

This year's team experienced some turbulence when the One Act competition at Ord was canceled due to poor weather. This had a major impact on the team because it would have allowed the actors to receive feedback and would serve as a preparation to conference and district competition. The team gave a strong performance at conference at David City Aquinas. The team received 3rd place at the end of the competition, but were informed the next day that a mistake had been made in the judges' calculations. They had actually received 2nd place behind David City Aquinas.

This gave the cast confidence going into their district performance. Districts were at David City Public, the state champion the year before. The team gave an incredible performance and hoped that the judges would award them first place and a trip back to state. The team came up just short, however, and received 2nd place to David City Public.

Senior Aaron Wrigley was the only returning actor from last year's state qualifying team. He had to take on the role of model and leader to the new Theatre students. The play had five lead actors that had no previous experience with One Act.

Wrigley said, "Even though it was different with new members, we did better than I originally thought."

Although the team was young, their acting skills went beyond expectations with the guidance of Mrs. Sandie Bern, the One Act director. Three of the five new actors were given superior acting awards at the district performance. They were Freshmen Andy Heusinkvelt, Sophomore Alise Perault, and Junior Kelsey Jochum. Wrigley received a superior acting performance at districts, as well as overall best actor at conference.

Other seniors also contributed to the program this year. Holly Broxterman has been helping with set and tech work in the past, but this year was promoted to working the stage lights. Kris Fleeman was a part of the One Act play last year



The One Act cast poses after their district performance.

PHOTO COURTESY TOM WRIGLEY

that made it to state, but was unable to participate in Theatre this year because of a scheduling conflict. However, he stuck on the crew and helped Mrs. Bern by co-directing the play. Callen Schwank helped with set moving and technical work. His experience with stage and set preparation was a key piece to the team's success according to Bern.

Bern said that the team exceeded expectations that were set before the year started. She had trouble choosing a play this year with students dropping and adding Theatre class before the school year started. She couldn't choose the

play until her class was decided. She bases her play choice on the amount of students in her class. Also, she is a fan of absurd theatre which inspired her to choose an unusual play such as *The Bald Soprano*.

Wrigley said that the One Act program has been a major part of his high school career. He said that One Act has helped to develop his acting skill and prepare him for a possible college acting experience. Some of the fondest memories to him are performing at state and having fun at practices with his friends. The One Act program has truly changed his life for the better.

Scotus boys start season slowly

By Kyle Benesch
Staff Reporter

It's been a slow start for the boys' basketball team this year. 0-2 isn't exactly the way the Shamrocks wanted things to begin the season. "We want to win games, but its how we play at the end of the season that is going to define this team," said coach Ohnoutka.

So far the Shamrocks have played with intensity, the exact word Ohnoutka used to describe the start of the season. The problem hasn't been playing with heart, but putting the little things together. The Shamrocks had a tough first game playing number one Hastings Saint Cecilia, who definitely proved that they deserve to be on top. The Blue Hawks made it nearly impossible for the Shamrocks to get in the rhythm of an offense. The final score of their first game was 37-58.

The Shamrocks were able to pick up their game somewhat against Grand Island Central Catholic, but still struggled with easy shots on offense. "We couldn't hit shots, and towards the end of the game our defense fell apart," said starter Aaron Bos. Bos was right about

the struggling offense. The boys only shot 34% from the field. The Shamrocks went through the same problems as against Hastings, with struggling to put things together. "It was a more even game, but when it came down to it we couldn't finish."

"There is no doubt in mind that we will be good at the end of the season," said Junior Trace Murray. "We play with too much passion to continue getting beat." The Shamrocks all agree that they want a winning season, but more importantly they want to play their best at the end of the season. The days of losing should be coming to an end for Scotus. Having possibly the best two teams on their schedule done with the Shamrocks are doing nothing else but looking ahead. "We are going to continue to play hard, and work together as a team," said Senior Kirby Reardon. "We have team chemistry that is better than any team we play."

The Shamrocks will continue their season with two more road games against 2-1 Pierce, and 1-3 West Point Central Catholic. The boys come back to town next Tuesday to play Wayne in the beloved Dowd Activity Center.

Girls start season with two close ones

By Kyle Benesch
Staff Reporter

The Lady Shamrocks have started their season with a couple of nail biters. Scotus Girls, now 1-1 have had quite the exciting start for the year. The girls have had to play both games down to the wire.

The girls were able to deliver quite a show in the Dowd Activity Center when they played Hastings St. Cecilia. Poor offense put the girls in a struggle, being down by 12 at the end of the third quarter. The girls were able to get a break by being fouled towards the end of the quarter, and made eleven points off of free throws. Their offensive shooting didn't get much better, but the Shamrocks were able to keep Hastings to only seven points in the fourth quarter. The Shamrocks came back to win the game 46-43.

Scotus girls were not as lucky against G.I.C.C. as they were against the Blue Hawks. The girls played

a close game, going into overtime being tied at 32 points at the end of regulation. "We should have won the game in the fourth quarter," said Junior Monica Boeding, "but we turned it over three times, and they were able to send it into overtime." The game was close in overtime, and after a free throw, the Scotus Girls were up by two points in the closing seconds of the game. This was quickly toppled by a buzzer shot three pointer that put the Shamrocks down by one as time expired.

Overall, Coach Wickham said he is happy with the team. "Right now its early in the season, and as soon as we learn to play with some consistency we will be playing at the level we should be." Wickham said that right now its too early to judge his team, and that his goal for the team is to be playing their best come time for conference and districts. "We need to do a better job of playing together," said Senior Sami Spenner, "and if we can do that we will be able to make it rain."

A day in a life of a speechie

By Adam Niedbalski
Staff Reporter

Everyone knows there is a speech team here at Scotus, but not many of really know what the speech team is. The speech team is a group of talented high school speakers who compete at events across Nebraska against other elite speakers. Speakers don't just have random speeches, there are actually a wide variety of events to compete in. There is Extemporaneous Speaking, Persuasion, Informative, Impromptu, Humorous Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, Poetry Interpretation, Prose Interpretation, Duet Acting, Duo Interpretation, Oral Interpretation of Drama, and Entertainment Speaking.

The speech meets consist of usually three different preliminary rounds. Each speaker goes to a specific room and orally gives the speech to

judges and to fellow competitors. Depending on how the speaker does, he/she may "break" to "out rounds." Breaking is used to describe a speaker who advances through the preliminaries. Some people are in two, maybe even three events at one meet. It can get hectic if competitors don't stay on top of information that is being thrown at every which way from coaches, judges, and other opposing speakers.

The speech team is one of the hardest extracurricular activities Scotus has to offer. It takes long hours of practice alone (most likely in front of a mirror or wall) and meticulous revision of speeches without help from coaches. Ms. Ploetz is the first year head coach of Speech team, and Mrs. Borgman has been a long time assistant coach for Scotus.

Ploetz is pleased with her numbers for this year and hopes they continue to grow in years to come.

Speech Team Events

- Extemporaneous Speaking – current event topic, draw format, 30-60 minute prep time, limited notes
- Persuasion – speech intended to persuade, convince, or inspire
- Informative – speech on a timely topic with visual aids
- Impromptu – humorous, creative topics, draw format, 3 minute prep time
- Humorous Interpretation – humorous cutting from a play, short story, or novel containing two or more characters, usually delivered from memory
- Dramatic Interpretation – same as humorous, expect with serious content
- Poetry Interpretation – two or more poems based on a theme with transitional comments delivered from a manuscript
- Prose Interpretation – short story or novel cutting delivered from a manuscript
- Duet Acting/Duo Interpretation – cutting from a play containing two characters delivered from memory – no props or costumes – a table and two chairs may be used
- Oral Interpretation of Drama – three to five person humorous or serious play cutting delivered from manuscript
- Entertainment Speaking – a humorous speech on a topic of your choice with visual aids

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Adam's Big Apple



BCS gets it right for National Championship

By Adam Niedbalski
Staff Reporter

The computers and voters got it right to bail out the BCS once again. Oklahoma and Florida will square off January 8 in the BCS National Championship in Miami, Florida. These two teams have proven to the people who matter that they are the best two teams in the country. To all the Texas fans out there – yes, you got worked over, but so did Texas Tech if you want to put Texas in the Big XII Championship game.

The Florida Gators (12-1) and the Oklahoma Sooners (12-1) will test each other with high-powered offenses and fast, tenacious defense. Florida has a quarterback-orientated offense; it all revolves around Tim Tebow. If Tebow gets hot, the Gators have a great chance to win the game. Oklahoma's offense is loaded with big time threats and it all starts with quarterback Sam Bradford.

If Oklahoma's offense proves it can move the ball early on Florida, look for the Sooners to control most of the game and eventually take home the title. If Tebow maintains the pace Florida wants, look for a game decided in the fourth quarter. Oklahoma will eventually pull away and finally give viewers a National Championship game worth watching.

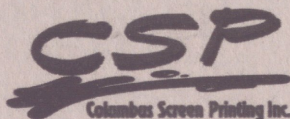
Final Score: Oklahoma – 38, Florida 28

Give Bo credit, the Huskers are 8-4 (with a chance at 9-4) in the first year of the new regime. Nebraska battled back after tough losses and ended the year off strong. The season could have been even better with close losses to Virginia Tech and Texas Tech. All of Nebraska's losses came to bowl teams, and two of the four were invited to BCS games (Virginia Tech and Oklahoma). Expect big things from the Huskers in the future. Bo will learn more and more about being a head coach as the years go on, and he will only get better. The players will come, we may not be getting five star recruits that came for Callahan, but Pelini will get every ounce of effort from the players he gets. Here are five honors I think should be awarded to outstanding performers for the Huskers.

- Offensive Player of the Year: Joe Ganz
- Defensive Player of the Year: Ndamukong Suh
- Bailout Player of the Year: Roy Helu Jr.
- Newcomer of the Year: Menelik Holt
- Clutch Performer: Alex Hery



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Making History leaves an impression

By Chelsea Bartholomew
Editor

If Hitler had never been born, the world would be a better place.

Or would it? This is the question answered in the book *Making History* by Stephen Fry. Surprising and cleverly written, the book provides its readers with some definite food for thought. Michael Young, the book's protagonist, is a graduate student studying history at the University of Cambridge. He is doing his doctoral thesis on the early life of Adolf Hitler. He meets Leo Zuckerman, an aging German physicist, who takes an interest in him upon learning of the focus of his research. The reason? Leo has built a time machine. Before long, the two decide to tamper with circumstances in the past to ensure that Hitler was never born. After they finish this work, the world around them changes completely...for the worse. With horror, Michael realizes that in getting rid of Hitler, he and Leo have allowed an even worse man to rise to power.

I finished *Making History* in less than two days. Not because it was light and easy reading, but because it is utterly gripping. It's

one of those books you just don't want to put down. Out of all the books written by Stephen Fry (who, in addition to being an author, is also an actor, comedian, director, and television presenter), I have to say it's my second favorite, losing only to his autobiography, *Moab is my Washpot*. The characters are believable and well-crafted, especially Michael and the monomaniacal Rudolf Gloder (frighteningly enough). Despite the serious subject matter, Fry's wit still shines through the pages. You'll probably laugh aloud more than once. Furthermore, you'll probably learn something, not just from the main story, but also from the little historical facts that Fry - through the character of Michael - has sprinkled throughout the book.

I only have several small criticisms. Despite the fact that, overall, it's a page-turner, the first 75 or so pages of the book drag a little. The novel changes perspectives and time periods quickly, especially during the first half, and this was sort of confusing the first two or three times that it happened. Overall, though, *Making History* is a great book and well worth buying. If you're a fan of the alternative history genre, you'll definitely want to read it. Even if you aren't, it's still compelling enough to merit a read...or five.

Stephen Fry

Making History



A Novel

[A] bright, engaging, fast-paced novel terrific

Grinds My Gears



Weird-shaped foods

By Megan Kresha
Staff Reporter

You know what really grinds my gears? The shape of lunch meat. For the love of sandwiches, why must it go against everything? Do not get me wrong; chopped ham has it together, in its nice square form, but everything else - come on! Look at the facts: bread is square, cheese slices are square, if mayonnaise could be a shape, it would be square, and then we have something like bologna or smoked turkey, circle. What is wrong with this picture? Let me tell you - it is the lunch meat! Conform like the rest of the sandwich! All I want is for my sandwich to be symmetrical. Hot dogs fit in nice buns which were made for them, hamburgers (unless you are Wendy's) sit nicely in their hamburger buns, why can't my piece of bologna sit nicely on a piece of bread? America, all you non-conformists have caused this outbreak of random shaped foods. I am disappointed.

For whatever reason it is, (probably lunch meat's act of rebelling) noodle factories everywhere have been battling to come out with the craziest noodle shape. Ok, maybe not, but it sure feels like it. Have you been to a grocery store lately, for crying out loud, there is an entire aisle for noodles! Originally we had maybe 3 or 4 noodle shapes: elbow macaroni, alfredo, and maybe straight up linguini. Stick with the basics. Today we have bow tie noodles, SpongeBob noodles, twirly whirly noodles, ABC noodles, Spaghetti O's, the list just keeps going on, and on. I wouldn't be surprised to see Barack Obama noodles. I mean he is the best president ever...(cough)...so doesn't he deserve his face to be turned into a noodle? I think so.

Speaking of things that bother me...the weird shaped food industry has gotten way out of hand. I want all the madness to stop! If you won't stop it, I will! In other news, have you seen my starburst sculptures? I know for a fact that everyone wants to eat Starbursts sculpted into weird shapes. Everyone.

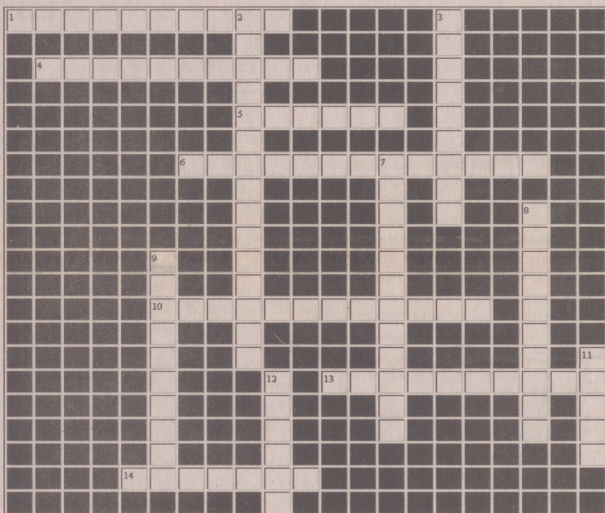
The Rockword by Arturo Spindola

Across

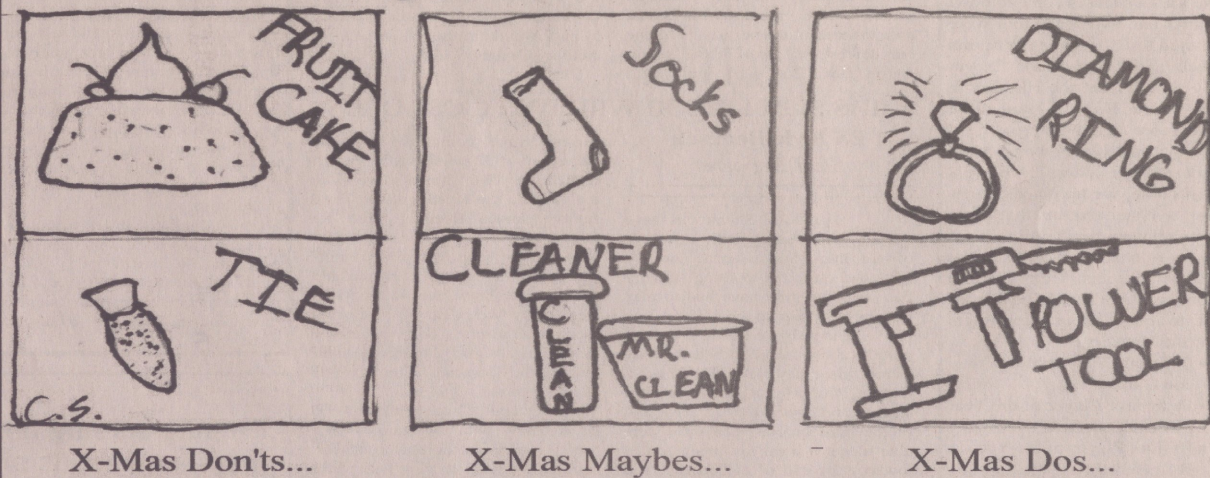
- The One Act play had five actors that had none of this
- The Godparent program took part in this on December 3rd
- This English teacher and her family are sponsoring a child for the Holiday Spirit Co-op
- These take place before Christmas Break this year
- The protagonist in the book *Making History*
- The percentage of shots from the field the Boys Varsity Shamrocks had against GICC
- Cellphone feature many teens use constantly

Down

- These are being put up before Thanksgiving, well before their due time
- The shape of this bothers Megan Kresha
- New group formed by the student body this year
- He doesn't even remember when he started hunting
- The destination of the coats of this year's coat drive after they leave Scotus
- Spans Christmas and New Year's; Longest one Scotus has had in a while
- The place eventually awarded to the Scotus One Act team at Conference



Comic by Callen Schwank



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SCOTUS CENTRAL Rock Bottom

Scotus Central Catholic

Columbus, Nebraska 68601

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SCOTUS CENTRAL
Rock Bottom

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The Rock Bottom accepts letters to the editor.

Letters should be 250 words or less in length and must be signed. All letters are subject to editing for content and space.

Send to Scotus care of the Rock Bottom

Miksch Breaks 32-year old Record

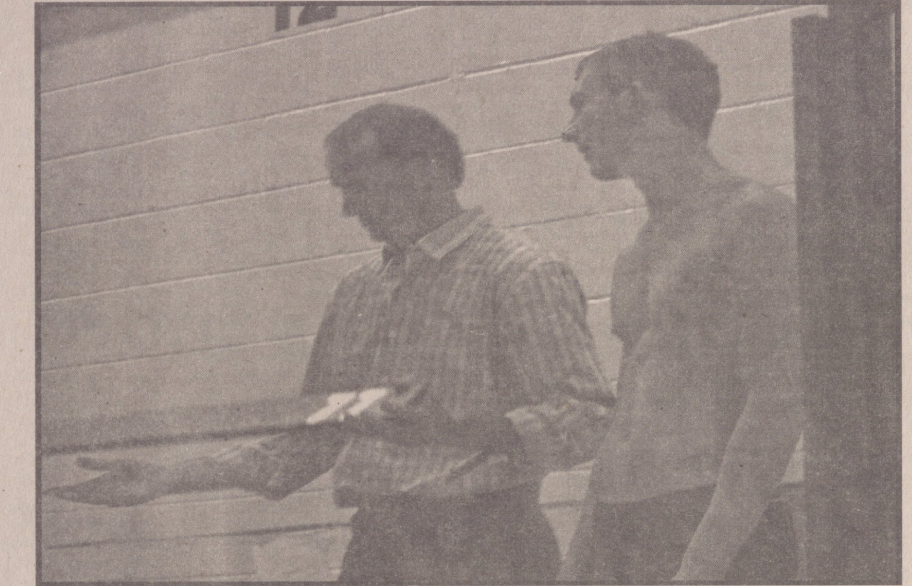
By Taylour Kumpf
Staff Reporter

Michael Phelps isn't the only swimmer making headlines; Columbus has its very own record-breaker. Scotus freshman Ryan Miksch has begun his high school swimming career with quite a splash. Miksch has broken two CHS swimming records and has qualified in eight events for this year's state meet.

At a recent swimming dual against Hastings, Ryan Miksch was honored for breaking the 32 year old 50- freestyle record. Miksch broke the record at the Elkhorn invite earlier in the season with a time of 21.77 seconds. The previous record, held by Scott Harsh of Columbus, was set in 1977 at 21.9 seconds. Harsh made an appearance at the changing of the board ceremony, which was preceded by a surprising twist. Miksch re-broke his infant record with a time of 21.39 seconds in the Columbus v. Hastings dual. That same day, Miksch also broke the 100- freestyle record set in 2000 by Joel Travnicek. Miksch, who presently holds the second fastest 50- freestyle time in the state, said his success doesn't prove anything just yet.

"I'll wait until the state meet to see if I have the fastest time," Miksch said.

The state meet, which is about a month away, will be an opportunity for the ten-year competitive swimmer to put his hard work into action. Miksch has qualified



Ryan Miksch observes Scott Harsh as they take down his old record board

in a wide range of events for the state meet. Not only has he qualified individually in the 50- freestyle, 100- freestyle, 200- freestyle, 100- butterfly, 100- backstroke, and 200- individual medley, he has also led two relay teams to state qualifying times.

Miksch said there is no secret to his success other than

practicing hard; however, he does get some extra work in early in the mornings.

Miksch commented, "Even though swimming doesn't get as much publicity as other sports, we practice just as hard."

Miksch is one of the thirteen Scotus swimmers on the team this year; nearly double the size of last

year's Scotus contributors. Along with Miksch, there are a number of other freshmen out, including Joel Ostdiek, Trenton Kuta, Kelsey Newman, Jens Paprocki, and Mitchell Peterson. Other swimmers, some returning and some new are Taylour Kumpf, Kathy Smith, Mikayla Karel, Jen Hall, Marina Karel, Brett Brune, and Theresa Thalken.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK



Pat McKay (left) limbos his way to a victory during one of the many activities that Scotus participated in during Catholic Schools Week. Some of the activities include: Perpetual adoration, rosary bead trivia, Catholic T-shirt day, all school mass.

BRIAN ACKMAN/ROCK BOTTOM

Scotus welcomes new student

By Callen Schwank
Staff Reporter

On January 12th, Scotus welcomed its newest foreign exchange student, Tekhima Sultonova, from Tajikistan. She is in the Senior class and is staying with Kevin and Cheryl Harpham. The Harphams are a Scotus Family with a daughter, Melissa, who graduated in 2004.

Before coming to Scotus, she was enrolled at a school in Saudi Arabia. Due to the hot weather in Saudi Arabia, she requested a place a bit cooler. Sultonova decided that she wanted to come to the United States because it would be more comfortable and would be a great place for her to gain her diploma. With her diploma Sultonova plans on going to college to pursue a career in interior designing.

In Tajikistan, there are no private schools, only public. When first coming to Scotus, Sultonova said that it was very different from the schools that she is used to. At her old school, the students stay in one room the whole time and each day consists of a different course of study. When asked how different the people are here compared to Tajikistan she said, "I like the people because they are very nice, but sometimes they speak too fast." She also commented

on how much taller and bigger the people are here in the U.S. and how everyone dresses differently.

Sultonova also commented on how different the food was in the U.S. compared to Tajikistan. Sultonova said how they don't have hamburgers and the most famous meal is called Pilav. Pilav consists of hot rice with ground beef and is popular with people in Tajikistan.

Sultonova is of the Muslim faith and prays five times a day. At Scotus, this can be hard to do with the schedule, so she prays in the morning and at home. In Tajikistan Sultonova would normally be wearing the traditional dress for her Muslim faith. Due to the dress code at Scotus, Sultonova wears the school uniform. Eventually Sultonova plans on wearing her traditional dress on a dress down day.

It wouldn't be possible for Sultonova to stay here if it weren't for the Harphams who are Sultonova's host parents. The Harphams decided to welcome Sultonova into their home when Kevin was asked to work if he would be interested in being a host parent. This is their first time being host parents and so far they have really enjoyed having Sultonova with them. Since the Harphams are Catholic and Sultonova is Muslim



Tekhima Sultonova (Tina) adjusts to life at Scotus

it can be quite a different experience for Sultonova and the Harphams. The Harphams welcome the change however and enjoy asking Sultonova questions so they can get to know her better. Mr. Harpham says how before meals that they will always pray with Sultonova and they give her a chance

to say her own prayer.

Sultonova has enjoyed her stay here in Columbus so far and is planning on going to college somewhere in the United States but first will be returning to Tajikistan on June 1st.

ANGIE RUSHER/ROCK BOTTOM

Features

The Final Battle: Xbox vs Playstation

By Kyle Benesch
Staff Reporter

Xbox and Playstation are arguably the two largest gaming consoles in the world today. Because of this, gamers feud amongst themselves over which one of the two is better. Even in the halls of Scotus this argument takes place. Each of the gaming systems packs their own strengths and weaknesses. To fully understand which of the two is better, a good look at the information of the two is needed.

According to the official Playstation website, the Sony Playstation was first released in 1994 in Japan, and in 1995 to the rest of the world. After its release it completely dominated the gaming world of the late 90's because of lack

of competition. Sony wanted to carry their gaming dynasty into the new millennium. Because of this desire, the Playstation 2 was released. After two years of its release, 1 out of 5 European households owned a Playstation. After almost a decade of complete gaming domination Sony became challenged by the Microsoft Xbox.

Xbox was first released in toy stores everywhere in November 2001. In its first three weeks it sold over one million units. Gamers were amazed at Xbox's graphics, and soon Xbox became a contender for the best gaming console in the world. After battling in the gaming world in 2005, Microsoft released the Xbox 360. This high definition gaming system pushed Xbox over the top. The new system became sold out almost everywhere it was released. This glory was soon

once again ended with Sony's release of the Playstation 3.

Knowing the history of both might help some decide which is better, but others need to take a long hard look at the statistics. Right now the cheapest Playstation 3 sells for about 399 dollars. This is completely overshadowed by Xbox 360's jaw dropping price of only 199 dollars. Even though it's more expensive, the Playstation has the best hard drive, with its Blu-Ray abilities. Xbox on the other hand, has struggled with the notorious "Ring of Death." According to Suite101.com roughly 16% of Xbox 360s become infected by the red light. The "Red Death" results in complete shutdown of the console, and it must be sent in for over a month for repairs.

As of now, there is no clear-cut winner for which is better. In

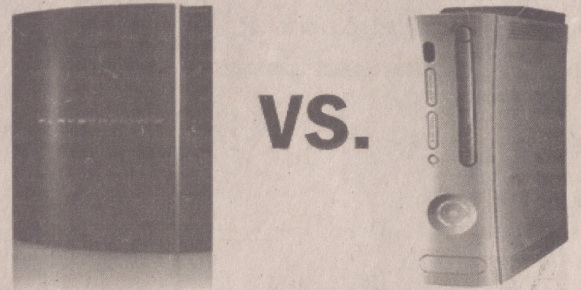


PHOTO FROM THE FROSTY BLOG AT BLOG.FROSTY-GEEK.NET/2006/11/BLACK-VS-WHITE.HTML

Scotus, Xbox takes the title with a 61% favor over the Playstation. Even though Scotus decided the Xbox was better, what system is best depends on the buyer. Some like the inexpensive Xbox 360, while others are willing

to pay a little extra for the supreme Playstation 3. This is one battle that may never be resolved. One thing is known for sure: neither is going down without a fight.

Facebook draws more teens than ever

By Chelsea Bartholomew
Editor

In a little less than five years, one type of website has managed more than any other to change the way that young people communicate and interact. Social networking sites. A recent school-wide surveyed showed that 80% of the high school students and 66% of the junior high students at Scotus use them.

The craze for social networking sites began with MySpace, which is still a fairly popular website. But the true giant of social

networking at Scotus is Facebook. According to "A brief history of Facebook" from the newspaper *The Guardian*, the site was started by Harvard student Mark Zuckerberg in 2004. Membership was at first restricted to his fellow Harvard students. Within several months, it was open to the whole Ivy League, and soon after, to most universities in North America. In September 2005, high school students were allowed to join. By April 2008, Facebook had overtaken MySpace in terms of monthly visitors.

The site is popular with many for its simple, uncluttered layout, privacy settings, and the ease with which it allows users to keep up

with their friends. One of the site's other draws is its variety of different features and applications. Some of the core features include the Wall, which shows all of a given user's activity on the site and also provides a place where their friends can leave them messages; the News Feed, which allows users to see a random peppering of their friends' recent activity; and Photos, where users can upload their pictures for others to view and comment on. Users can also create their own applications, which interact with the main Facebook features.

Some of these applications are senior Sara Baer's favorite aspect of the site. "I like Bumper Stickers

and Picnik," she said. Bumper Stickers allows users to send each other icons with various sayings or images, whilst Picnik helps users edit their pictures to incorporate text or special effects. "With Bumper Stickers, it's just interesting to see what stickers made people think of you. And Picnik is good for making your pictures look cool and for inside jokes with friends."

On the other hand, applications can also be a downside. "It's annoying when you get updates and spam from applications that you don't really want to use," said Baer.

An aspect of the site that most users do not consider is its safety. A recent episode of a BBC

program called *Click* showed that it is very easy to create an application that, once added by a person, allows those who made it to access their data. Some of these malicious applications can also collect the personal details of friends of the users who downloaded it. There is no telling how many of these covert data mining applications are out there.

Nevertheless, Baer is not overly concerned. "I don't display too much personal information or add people I don't know as friends. I think your safety all depends on how smart you are with guarding your information."

Columbus explodes in a flurry of technology

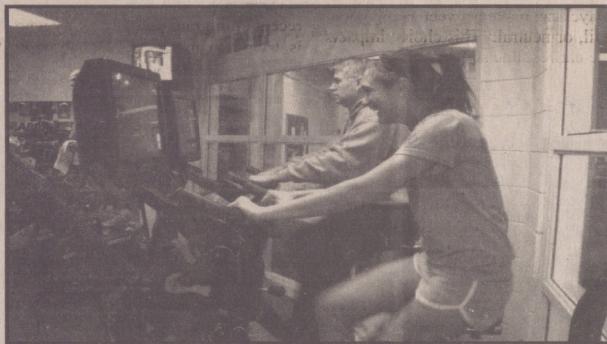
By Arturo Spindola
Staff Reporter

Technological wonders are ever-present in society. Not just in the lives of New Yorkers or the Japanese in Tokyo, but in the lives of people right here in Columbus. One major tool that has been a catalyst in the evolution of technology has been the Internet.

The Internet has transformed from a communications tool to an integral part in the everyday lives of people. Nearly every business has an Internet website or connection to the Internet. Food chains like Pizza Hut, Domino's, and Papa John's let patrons order pizza from their website, giving customers the option to pick it up or even deliver it, all without leaving the computer desk.

The Internet is useful for students and teachers as well. Just six years ago, students could not check their grades at will. They had to either ask the teacher personally, or wait every quarter for the teacher to post the grade sheet on the wall. Teachers use Powerschool to post homework assignments and announcements, as well as help them calculate grade averages and communicate with students outside of school in case the student has a question or has to let the teacher know they will be gone for class.

Even money has become electronic with the advent of credit and debit cards that allow people carry vast funds on a small piece of plastic. While that sounds dangerous, measures have been taken to make it secure. Online banking lets people get account inquiries or transfer funds with the click of a button in their own home. Every major bank in Columbus has this feature.



ARTURO SPINDOLA/ROCK BOTTOM

Senior Kaitlynn Klaassen uses the bicycle simulator at the YMCA.

Computers have been part of people's lives for a long time now, but they have recently expanded to areas not usually equated with electronic gadgetry. Burger King and McDonald's both have full-color displays when ordering via drive-thru. The recent reconstruction of McDonald's gave way to video screens at the tables where customers can entertain themselves and children by playing fun games while eating. The next step is to have at-table ordering. A Real Tech News article reported a KFC/Taco Bell hybrid restaurant in North Carolina took care of all ordering via a touch screen machine; no humans took orders there. Exercise bicycles in Anytime Fitness and the YMCA have video screens to simulate real biking expeditions, or even have a video game that simulates a charioteer chasing a dragon.

Portability is growing in digital cameras and camcorders. Teenagers often carry them wherever they go, giving them the ability to record nearly every aspect of their lives, something unheard of ten years

ago. Their use has risen significantly and it shows at Scotus, with 64 percent of the student population owning either a camcorder or digital camera. It's not just the public who has this ability to record. Lincoln and Omaha have cameras adorning every traffic light, ready to snap pictures of would-be perpetrators.

Cell phones have become increasingly common with 76 percent of all Scotus students, and every single Scotus teacher, owning one. New cell phones come equipped with cameras, music players, weather services, Internet, communication networks, e-mail, and many other features. They have become a base of operations of sorts, as kids are being exposed to technology at younger and younger ages.

At Scotus, 61 percent of junior high and 87 percent of high school students own their own phones. 88 percent of all students own an mp3 player and 75 percent use some sort of social networking website. To see the far-reaching effects of technology, one simply needs to look around right here in Columbus Nebraska.

We love the Wii

By Megan Kresha
Staff Reporter

A new generation of interactive gaming is here, and Nintendo is to blame. The outbreak of Nintendo's Wii has changed the way gaming is experienced. With this new console, gaming has become easier. Lev Grossman from *Time* magazines says, "To non-gamers, video games are really hard. Like hard as in homework." The Wii has changed this confusion and "work"; it has simplified gaming and has made it easy to use. This simplified gaming system has made it more attractive to a variety of people, including grandpa and grandma.

Although Nintendo has struck the heart of grandma and grandpa, other companies are racing to come out with the best gaming console out there. Microsoft came out with the Xbox 360. Sony came out with the Playstation 3. The goal was to create a console with faster chips and better online services. Although both are great systems, the Wii still comes out on top. Why is this? Nintendo created an easier way to game; there is no

learning what buttons to press or having to learn the ways-of the controller. Nintendo compacted a bunch of complex gadgetry into a simple remote. The Wii remote is part laser pointer and part motion sensor, so in essence it knows where it is being aimed, when and how fast it is being moved, and how far it is from the TV screen. The Wii makes gaming a physical activity, the gamers have to engage in what they are doing, this aspect of the Wii makes it more attractive to parents, which is always a plus for kids who want a gaming system.

The Rock Bottom created a survey to see what Scotus students thought was the best gaming system. The Wii came out on top with 41 percent, and the Xbox 360 came in second with 28 percent. The newspaper decided to take this one step further and see how results differed between genders. Of the 137 people who thought that the Wii was the best system 79 percent of them were female, while of the 94 people who thought the Xbox 360 was better 75 percent of them were males. The polls showed an interesting turn out, but once again the Wii has been favored as the best console.

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Features

You can't beat the classics

By Callen Schwank
Staff Reporter

Video games have been lighting up the lives of Americans since 1958 when the first video game was introduced to the world. According to Brookhaven History, William Higinbotham, a nuclear physicist, developed the first video game. He noticed how the places he worked at were non-interactive and stressful. He wanted to liven up the place with a game he developed on one of the computers in lab. He called his game "Tennis For Two," the game now known as "Pong" to the rest of the world. Little did he know that he had started a revolution in the gaming world.

New games are coming out every year with bigger, better, and more advanced features. Although these newer games are sweeping the world, there are still the games that paved the way for the future. These games are known to many as "The Classics."

According to a poll taken by International Gaming News (IGN) in 2008, *The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time* ranks as the number one game and is considered to be an instant classic. Although this game was created in 1998, it instantly stole the show and became the most popular game for the Nintendo 64 console. *Zelda* became so popular that the creators decided to remake it for the Gamecube console.

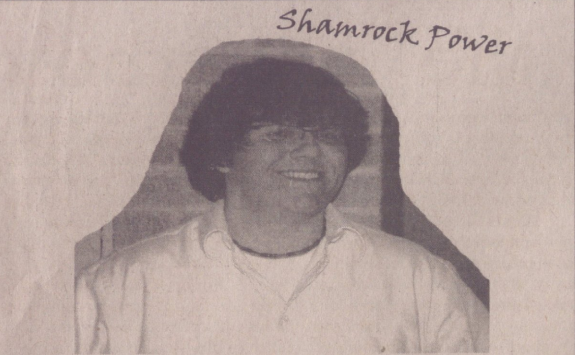
Tetris comes in at number

two for the most popular arcade game. Its simplistic play of stacking blocks in order to earn points makes it a popular game for all. Today this game is even downloaded into students' calculators to be played in school.

Civilization Two comes in at number three. With its advanced style of strategy play, the gamer controls a civilization from the dawn of time and watches it grow and develop.

Coming in at number four is the famous *Goldeneye 007*. This game opened up a new style of multiplayer gaming. This instant classic was the beginning of the Bond game series.

The video game industry is constantly looking to create newer and better games. It will be interesting to see the future entails for the classics.



Aftermath of a gamer

By Aaron Wrigley
Editor

A wise man once said, "IRL is just like a video game, but with better graphics." If you've been a gamer for more than two minutes, you understand this statement and often abide by it.

A vast majority of today's youth have filled that empty hole in their lives with hours of fast-paced, action-packed, gloriously majestic games. This time spent must have affected these growing minds in some way, for better or for worse.

I am certainly no exception to the effects of prolonged exposure to electronic entertainment. I've been playing video games for over half of my life. In fact, I define various stages of my life by the games I loved and played during those years. My grade school years slipped by while playing all the original consoles. Nintendo Entertainment System, Super Nintendo, N-64, Gameboy, and Sega. My arsenal was well stocked back then. My junior high and early high school careers were lived with the thought of coming home every day to my PC and playing some FPS or RPG with my buddies online. Now at the age of eighteen, I enjoy any type of game really. Console to PC, Interactive to MMO, I've played a fair share of games in my day.

Gaming has certainly changed my life in many ways. I developed certain motor skills by devoting time to Interactive titles like *Dance Dance Revolution* and *Guitar Hero*. Mental activity has increased for the better through strategy games such as *Command & Conquer*. I do believe that playing certain video games can be extraordinarily beneficial to developing thinking skills early in a child's life. Today's games are being developed to be more complex than ever. Games such as *The Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion* and *Fall Out 3* are recent titles that can take hundreds of hours to complete (trust me, I've been there). They make the player plan ahead and strategize far more than games did that were released a decade ago.

To be fair, there have been some downsides to my avid gaming career. There have been many nights where sleep has come second to finishing out another quest or map. I might start a sleep at 4pm and turn it off at 4am. Sleep deprivation is common among my

kind, and this lifestyle is not exactly healthy by any means. A good game may also consume parts of my life while out in the real world. I could be in school taking a test, but my mind is off in de_dust2 fighting off CT's so they don't defuse the bomb. Another downside is active snacking while playing video games. When a gamer is "in the mode," he or she may mindlessly feast for hours on end while sitting around and playing games. This is a difficult habit to break if it is not caught early on in the gamer's career.

I have taught myself some sweet skills, lost sleep, and learned some lingo all while playing video games. The goods and bads seem to balance themselves out in the end. Other people have experienced similar run-ins with gaming.

Senior Mitch Kwapioski has fallen under the spell of gaming for a good while as well. He has been a "serious" gamer for over four years. He is primarily an online gamer, too. The WWII shooter genre is his fancy, and these games have affected him in many positive ways.

"You learn a lot of stuff playing games. The WWII games have a lot of history in them." Another upside, according to Kwapioski, is the development of hand-eye coordination. Although some great benefits come from games, he admits that certain titles can have a negative impact in the wrong hands. "It all depends. Games like *Grand Theft Auto* can affect people if they let it. But I know it's fake, so it doesn't bother me. I could see how it could affect other people, though."

Freshman Seth Janicek agrees, "Gory games are not for little kids." Janicek has been gaming since he was about four years old. "I grew up playing the N64. Games like *Mario 64*, *Star Fox 64*, stuff like that." He primarily played games because he was bored, and they gave him something to do.

As video games expand and progress through the years, many changes will certainly come to game consoles. Breakthrough titles such as *Mario 64* have introduced new concepts to the gaming world. What's next to come one can only imagine. Janicek says, "I think it'll be virtual games, where you literally are the character in the game." No matter what happens to the gaming world, however, there will always be opportunities for people IRL as well.

Fallout 3, Guitar Hero top games of 2008

By Brian Ackman
Staff Reporter

A new generation of video games is sweeping the nation. Advances to gaming systems have brought about more highly developed game play. Companies are producing more challenging and realistic games in order to please the ever-growing population of gamers. The hottest games of today according to KOMO News in Seattle, Washington are *Fallout 3*, *Guitar Hero* and *Rock Band*, and *Grand Theft Auto*.

The best game of 2008, according to KOMO news, was *Fallout 3*. This is also a popular game here at Scotus. Junior Vincent Tira said he loves the game because he can create his own character and make all the choices about the character himself. This game is classified as a war/adventure game. The setting is 200 years in the future in Washington D.C. after a nuclear attack. One great feature of the game is the choice the player can make between being good, evil, or neutral. This choice impacts the entire game style.

Guitar Hero and *Rock Band* are quickly becoming the top interactive games on the market. The original *Rock Band* was released in December of 2007 by Harmonix games. The second version and the AC/DC version were released in 2008. *Guitar Hero* is produced by RedOctane and has created eight games since 2005. These games have gone from originally just playing a guitar and less than 100 songs to playing the drums and using a microphone. Now there are hundreds of songs on the games with even more options being available on the Internet. These games can relate to those gamers who don't prefer the fighting and blood of some games, but just want to rock out.

Grand Theft Auto has put a new spin on gaming. The GTA series is considered to be an extremely mature game, only meant for those who can handle this extreme violence. *Grand Theft Auto IV* was released in April of 2008 and was number four on KOMO's top games of 2008. The storyline is based on a recent immigrant to Liberty City who is trying to make his way through

life as a criminal. He must protect his friends from drug lords and mobsters while trying to maintain his own reputation on the streets. In this game, the player must make quick decisions on how to react in certain situations that will impact the game later.

According to *The Rock Bottom* survey of Scotus students, the most popular game is *Mario Kart* with 12 percent. *Mario Kart* was the top ranked game among females at 19 percent, while *Halo* is the most popular game among males at 18 percent. Interactive games appear to be popular at Scotus with 15 percent of students voting for *Guitar Hero*, *Rock Band*, or *Dance Dance Revolution* as their favorite game. Shooting/war games were also popular, with 17 percent of Scotus students voting for *Gears of War*, *Halo*, or *Call of Duty*. Video games are a big part of the recreation of students here at Scotus. "Without video games I'd have no inspiration to get up and live life," said Junior Kyle Benesch.

Zelda commemorates ten-year mark

By Kelsey Jochum
Staff Reporter

Throughout video game history, new "eras" have been ushered in through advancements in design and gameplay. Each "era" is typically remembered for the impact its games have made on today's video games. But it is rare to find a game that can be credited with shaping nearly every game to come after it. Ten years ago, such a game was born.

On November 23rd, 1998, Nintendo released *The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time* for the Nintendo 64, its first installment of the *Zelda* series for that console. It was also the first game of the series to be taken from 2-D to 3-D gameplay, which was a major factor in its success. To this day, ten years after its release, *Ocarina of Time* is still considered, by many, to be "the best and most influential game ever made," as quoted from the Holiday 2008 issue of *Nintendo Power* magazine.

But what is it that has *Zelda* fans hooked? Juniors Pat McKay and Dylan Thompson shared their

opinions.

"*Ocarina of Time* is the most noble adventure partaken by a gallant hero willing to face demeaning enemies, daunting task, and a story line worthy of Arthurian legend study," McKay said. When asked what makes it stand out in video game history, McKay answered, "The irrevocable sense of heroism intricately weaved into the confides of the plot make it a mystical experience to be cherished by all."

McKay and Thompson have combined forces to defeat many games in the *Zelda* series, and *Ocarina of Time* was their main focus last year.

Thompson also agreed that *Ocarina of Time* stands out from the rest. "The feeling of great adventure you get from beginning to end makes it a great game," Thompson said. "It's the greatest waste of time ever."

Now that these two *Zelda* fans have finished *Ocarina of Time*, they are working on *Twilight Princess*, the latest adventure in the series. "We have reached over ninety hours of playtime on the game timer," Thompson said. "It is similar to the previous adventures, but with a huge

twist."

One of the major factors behind *Ocarina of Time's* success is the 3-D graphics. In *Ocarina*, the main character Link moves around freely in the 3-D land of Hyrule. Link's interactions with the land, other characters, and enemies make the player feel as though they are the hero behind the sword.

Another new feature introduced in *Ocarina of Time* was lock-on targeting. Referred to as "Z-targeting" in the game (named after the button used), lock-on targeting allowed players to not only improve accuracy when fighting an opponent, but to keep the opponent in sight at all times. This was essential to the game, which featured many swordfights in 3-D space that would have been very difficult otherwise.

Ocarina of Time was not a game that simply made its mark and faded from memory. Gamers to this day still remember and even continue to play *Ocarina*, only to uncover more secrets about the game that changed gaming forever.

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Opinion

Give a nod to the paperboy



By Taylour Kumpf
Staff Reporter

The generation gap between my parents and me is evident in our knowledge of modern technology and in the way we write. When I sit down to write an essay, it's on a chair in front of the computer. My parents, however, still believe it's necessary

to write papers out long hand, and a couple revisions, also long hand, are no big deal. Even though this seems like a waste of time, I have learned that there are a number of reasons why having a hard copy of the words right in front of you is beneficial.

First of all, being able to spread out your work in front of you allows for better collaboration in the work place, especially when comparing ideas, brainstorming, and creating storyboards and layouts. Working together on a project makes it more personal and yields better end products because it is easier to weigh the pros and cons.

With the shift towards online availability in the journalism world,

there are those people, including my family, who find the daily paper on the doorstep a timeless commodity. Journalists depend on people reading newspapers and magazines featuring their articles, not only because it gives them motivation to continue putting out quality work, but it is also their reward and ultimately how they get paid. To a journalist, there is nothing more frustrating than having their articles read for free online. My uncle writes for the *San Francisco Chronicle* and tells me all the time how hard it is to make a living in today's journalism world. He told me that journalism is something you do for the "experiences" not for the "comforts". Because I have

thought about going into journalism in my future, that is something I will definitely have to consider. Besides the benefits, some things are lost because of the online shift.

First, there is a loss of a certain ambiance in today's world of the Internet-driven information highway where everyone has to stay connected through email, Facebook, texting, and Myspace. We know too much about each other; nothing is personal or private and everything is instantaneous. There is no more anticipation or things to look forward to.

Also, we lose those mementos we can look back on when we are old and those memories are

next to forgotten. The newspaper clippings from winning the big game, the love letters between a now elderly husband and wife, or the postcards from some faraway place, they are all lost. In today's generation, no one saves texts or emails, so what will we have to look back on?

For these reasons, maybe the older generations have the right idea. Maybe it's okay to send someone a letter in the mail instead of a quick text. I'm sure any porcelain throne reader would agree that it's okay to let some habits live on. The timeless art of journalism deserves some respect, so if you haven't already, give a nod to the paperboy.



By Adam Niedbalski
Staff Reporter

Life seems to be a blur sometimes; I find myself always looking ahead and never enjoying or soaking in the moment at hand. Here I am, eighteen years old, looking forward to college and not really

Soak in the everyday grind and enjoy it

realizing that I only have a little over a quarter left in high school. I do want to be done with high school (I mean, who doesn't), but I am starting to realize how much I am going to miss this town, school, and this comfortable way of life. I hope everyone else doesn't just get into a groove and let some of the best years of their lives just pass by.

For everyone who complains about how boring Columbus is, accept the fact that this is your hometown and it won't change. A town can only be as fun as you make it. Stop complaining and start making memories and having random, spontaneous fun that you will never

forget.

For everyone who bickers and wishes they were anywhere else but Scotus, stop! I bet every student who has ever enrolled at Scotus has sometime wished they were at another school or longed for a complete overhaul of the rules, teachers, etc... Start finding out that Scotus provides a great high school experience and prepares students for their futures better than most schools. Accept the rules, accept all the supposed downfalls of Scotus and turn them into positives. I'm pretty sure Mr. Morfeld doesn't just make random rules to create anxiety for students; they are all for a reason. Enjoy Scotus

for what it is, because the first step you take outside the school after graduation, you will already miss it.

For everyone who takes for granted your family, shelter, faith, and relatively unchallenged morals, take the time to realize all that you have and how thankful you really should be. Personally, I do take for granted these things and I'm really starting to appreciate all that my mom and dad do for me and the easy lifestyle I've had. So next time your mom or dad asks you to mow the lawn or take care of the dog, know that once you leave home, you're on your own and they won't be there to do these simple, everyday chores.

Take advantage of all the opportunities given to you in high school. Don't let the clock be your enemy. Fill your days with prayer, humor, and responsibility because the attitude you take on now will be the only thing you have to go off of in college or whatever is on your path after high school. I know things for myself are going to start to seem crazy and overwhelming. Know what you can and can't control at the time, and give yourself enough downtime to enjoy these high school years.

TEACHERS' LOUNGE

By Mrs. Angie Rusher

I hate videogames, but I happened to rock the Wii over Christmas.

Growing up we had an Atari, and I can remember my brother getting blisters using the joystick. When my brother and I had a paper route, our parents thought the route took an hour when it really took fifteen minutes, and we spent the other forty-five minutes wasting our paper route money at the arcade in the 7-11. So I am not without some video game experience.

Sometime since then

I never thought I'd say this, but...

though, I have come to have a sort of disdain towards videogames. I have never been very good at them, not very many people can play at once, and there is always something I need to be doing besides sitting in front of the television for hours. I suppose I am a bit jealous of all the people that can spend so much time playing videogames when I can't even find time to read a book.

Then there is the debate as to whether playing certain types of videogames isn't downright immoral. My students assure me

that it is not the immorality in the game that attracts them, but the fact that games like *Grand Theft Auto* are challenging games. They tell me there are actually games that are more violent but less popular because they are not done as well. It concerns me that the morality of the game doesn't play a part in their choices. Spending that much time on anything with immoral components, be it videogames, music, internet sites, even friends, can't be a good thing. I have trouble drawing the line without sounding like a fundamentalist.

Then along came the Wii. It was definitely a craze I did not want to be a part of. People waiting in lines for hours to spend hundreds of dollars on another videogame console annoyed me. But then I started hearing good things about it. My sister brought theirs home over Thanksgiving, and I watched my five year old beat my fifty-eight year old dad at boxing. My husband showed all the nieces and nephews how to play MarioKart, and they played four at a time taking turns for hours. I actually enjoyed watching them play.

When my mom asked if our family would like a Wii for Christmas, I was hesitant but agreed. The unheard of happened; I was given a videogame for Christmas. When I opened it, I thought, "Are you kidding me? Aren't these supposed to be the people that know me best, and they gave me a videogame for Christmas?" I won't go into any needless details, but I will take on anyone in playing beach volleyball on *Wii Summer Sports*.

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Sports/Activities

Adam's Big Apple



Pac-Man in more trouble, imagine that

By Adam Niedbalski
Staff Reporter

The Florida Gators, aided by countless Oklahoma mistakes, eventually won the BCS National Championship Game on Thursday, January 8. Percy Harvin and Tim Tebow each had memorable performances to help lead the Gators to their second title in three years. Is Florida the best team in the land? Voters said yes (but not unanimously, even after winning the BCS National Championship Game). The debate for a playoff will only heat up after this college football season. Utah, USC, and Texas all had valid arguments to have a shot at the national championship in the 2008-2009 season. College football does need a playoff, but don't expect anything changing soon. Until then, let's enjoy all the parody, controversy, and the bowl season (should get your fix with all these bowl games) for years to come.

Adam "Pac-Man" Jones is in more "supposed" trouble. He is once again denying the allegations. I'm getting tired of hearing of this overrated NFL player. Assuming he will sue for these "false" claims, I will be hearing his name for months to come.

Expect a repeat of the Heisman candidates next year, because all three are returning. Tim Tebow, Sam Bradford, and Colt McCoy all will be back for another run for the championship. For Tebow, he is gunning for his third national championship and second Heisman Trophy, something that has never been done before.

Nebraska ended up 9-4 in Bo Pelini's first year as the head coach. There were big defeats (Virginia Tech, Missouri, & Oklahoma), but the victories far outweigh the defeats. The coaching staff brought back the passion and intensity that will help Nebraska gets its program back to what is expected. Next season (barring no injuries), expect the Blackshirts to be dominant and rival the Sooners as the best defense in the Big XII. The offense needs a quarterback first and foremost. Once the Huskers find a leader, the offense should be poised to score a lot of points again in the 2009-2010 season. I'm already itching for Florida Atlantic on September 5!

Scotus wrestlers continue to help CHS Wrestling Team

By Kyle Benesch
Staff Reporter

This season, Scotus wrestlers have been able to contribute to the success of the CHS wrestling team. Each of the three shamrock wrestlers have been able to help the team in their own way. Junior Tom

Rambour and Senior Josh Ryba, the two varsity wrestlers have scored major points for the team. Freshmen Grant Pontow in his first season of wrestling is learning the ropes and working hard to be part of the team.

The Discoverers have had a few close duels this year. Rambour and Ryba both contributed to a Columbus victory by winning both of their matches in two of the duels.

Against Norfolk High, Rambour was able to set the bar high for his team with a huge victory at 125 over then ranked 5th Nick Korth. Rambour against the Kearny Bearcats, won the second to last match by 8 points. This blowout gave Columbus 4 points for the major decision rather than 3. This extra point came in handy when the last match was dropped by Columbus. Columbus was able to end

the duel one point on top, defeating the Bearcats for the first time since 2001.

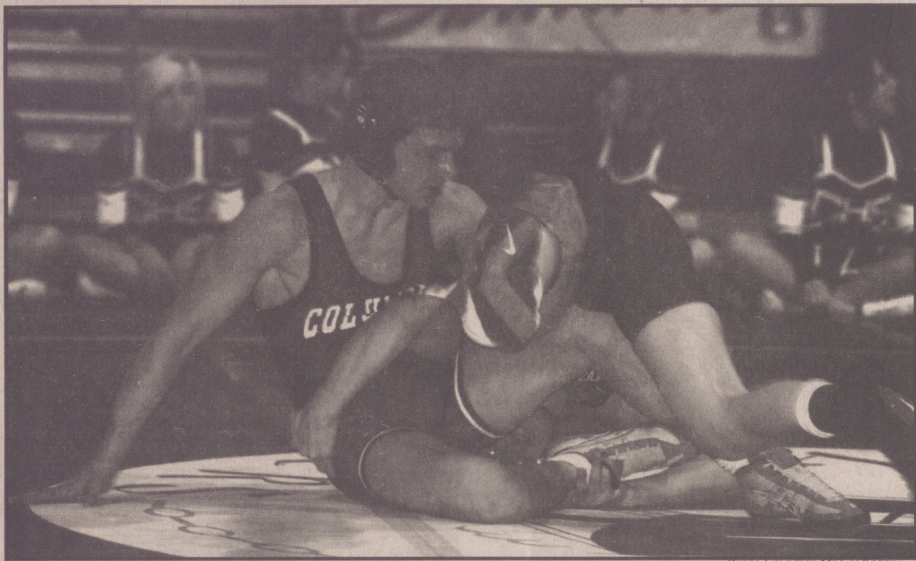
"It was a huge victory for us, these guys were tough and it's a fun victory for the team," said Rambour. The wrestling team was so exuberant after the duel that head coach Tracey Dotson held a Diet Pepsi party at his house.

Heavyweight Ryba also has had some key matches this year. After being down 18-9 to Kearney, Columbus needed to answer back with a pin. Ryba answered this call by pinning his man, Joe Allen, in 54 seconds. This helped get the momentum going that eventually led to a Discoverer victory. Ryba also cashed in big for Columbus by pinning all four of his opponents in the LPS classic. Ryba tacked another win to his record by pinning his opponent, pre season ranked number four, in 32 seconds against Omaha Burke.

"I am ranked number four, and I am going to keep fighting until I am number one," stated Ryba.

During his first season, Pontow is still trying to learn the ropes. "Tom and Josh are doing a good job of helping me, and my goal is just to do the best that I can." This attitude will help Pontow battle in the tough 185 weight class.

"To everyone's surprise, the team is doing really well. We have high expectations and our goal is hopefully to win a state championship," said Rambour.



Tom Rambour wrestles at the dual with Papillon-LaVista High on January 8

Scotus boys on a power streak

By Kyle Benesch
Staff Reporter

It was January tenth, and for the second time this season the Scotus Boys basketball team had dropped a game to Schuyler. A 3-5 record was cast over them with only a tougher schedule to come. "We weren't playing to our ability, we were playing as if defense was unimportant to us," said Coach Ohnoutka. "I told them that games needed to start being won." Even though the odds seemed against them, the Shamrocks were able to start winning, and were able to turn their season around, completely.

Scotus defeated Lincoln Christian and Norfolk Catholic in two back to back ranked games. The Shamrocks were responsible for one of only two losses that Norfolk Catholic had endured in the season.

"Beating Norfolk and Lincoln started to bring back the confidence in the team," said Shawn Schumacher, "we started to realize that many of the tough teams we play are not unbeatable." "We knew we would need to pick up our defense, and this is what helped us start of our streak."

The streak continued by crushing Madison 60-26, tying the record for least points allowed. With the building momentum, the Shamrocks felt confident going into a game against C-2 number one Fremont Bergan. After a defensive first quarter, the Shamrocks were able to start hitting shots and soon pulled away from the 12-1 Knights. With the clock winding down and 60 fouls into the game, Scotus found themselves up by 16 and the feeling of a complete upset was felt round the Dowd Activity Center.

"The crowd was wild the entire game, especially when we started to kill them," said Rowdy Austin Wallick, "but nothing will ever come close to the double dunks

in the end." The double dunks were performed by Senior Chase Beiermann and Junior Trace Murray. Even though Murray could not connect with the power dunk, the display of athleticism and strength was enough to put the crowd into a frenzy.

The Shamrocks became 8-5 after defeating David City Aquinas in the first round of the Centennial Conference Tournament. With the rising streak, Scotus was faced to play Grand Island Central Catholic, a team that had already beaten the Shamrocks earlier in the season. "We knew we were playing better, and with our confidence we knew we were capable of beating them in a rematch," said Junior Alex Kuta.

The Shamrocks were able to play a strong back and forth game between the Crusaders, and after a closing shot from Grand Island were taken into overtime. Key free throws were able to keep the Shamrocks on top. The game came down to the wire, having Grand Island take a last second shot for the win. After the ball rolled twice in the rim, it popped out as the horn sounded. The Shamrocks ended the game one point on top, beating the 6th Crusaders 51-50.

This key win advanced the boys to the semi-finals, looking at a tough match up against Council Bluffs Saint Alberts. A win would send the Shamrocks to the championship against the winner between Boys Town and Hastings Saint Cecilia.

Ohnoutka is confident in his players and is happy with the way they are performing. "We are playing with passion and intensity," said Ohnoutka, "our guys are playing with chemistry and our game is improved."

The Shamrocks will finish the season with tough home games against 8th ranked Wahoo Neuman and rival Lakeview. The morale is high for the Shamrocks as they are looking to finish the season as strong as they are now.

Musical brings changes to instrumentalists

By Aaron Wrigley
Editor

As the theatre department kicks off the musical for the 08'-09' school year, new additions to the cast and crew are common sights at rehearsals.

A dramatic change to the production this year is the addition of Senior Lori Fehr as E.J. Gardner's co-pianist.

Traditionally, the music is performed live using two pianos to successfully execute the full accompaniment. A Scotus student has normally occupied the piano bench alongside Gardner. Alum Lizzie Powers wrapped up her several years of playing for the musical three years ago, and Freshman Joel Ostdiek had been the ivory instrumentalist for the last two years.

Fehr is now heading up the legacy left behind by such students as Powers and Ostdiek. She has been playing piano for over ten years of her life. As her final year at Scotus approached, she knew she wanted to perform.

"I always wanted to do it. I did basketball the last few years. I knew I couldn't do the two at the same time." Fortunately for the cast and crew of the musical, Fehr chose

to be involved in the musical this year.

Fehr says, "I'm glad I am since it's my senior year. It's laid back, sort of, but the people can get things done when they want to. It's a lot of work for just one play. I'm content with only doing one."

Little Shop of Horrors is the story of Seymour Krelborn, a meek botanist who works for the owner of Mushnik's Skid Row Florists. He has a love interest in Audrey, but she is under the influence of her boyfriend, violent dentist Orin Scrivello, D.D.S. Fortunately for Seymour, a strange and interesting plant fell into his clutches, and things start to look up for him.

The cast consists of a massive group of students. Lead roles include Senior Aaron Wrigley as Seymour, Freshman Summer Kresha as Audrey, Senior Nathan Hotovy as Mr. Mushnik, Senior Nicholas Raimondo as Orin, and Senior Kris Fleeman as the plant Audrey II.

The musical is *Little Shop of Horrors*, directed by recent Scotus alum Josh Ryan and music director E.J. Gardner. Public performances are February 20th and 21st at 7:00 P.M., and February 22nd at 2:00 P.M.



Lori Fehr as she prepares for the upcoming musical

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Eastwood impresses in *Torino*

By Chelsea Bartholomew
Editor

Some speculate that *Gran Torino* may be Clint Eastwood's last foray onto the big screen. If so, it is a fine swan song.

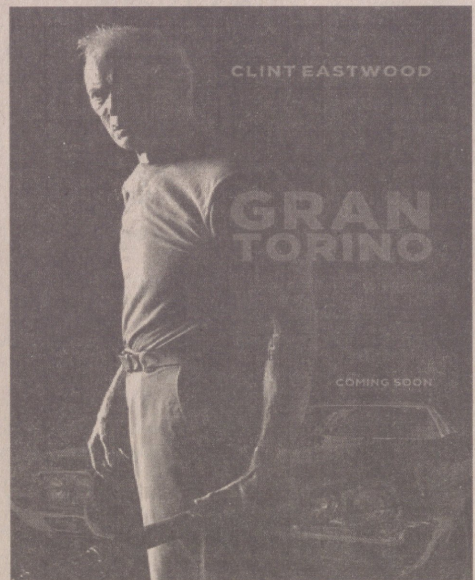
The movie is about a curmudgeonly old Korean War veteran, Walter, and his friendship with the teenage Hmong boy, Tao, who lives next door. Walt's loving wife has just died, and his children and grandchildren are a materialistic, selfish bunch. Tao doesn't know what he wants to do with his life. He has no father figure, and his cousin is trying to make him join a gang.

Their lives intersect when Tao gives in to his cousin's pressure, and the gang decides that his initiation will be to steal Walt's 1972 Gran Torino. Walt catches him in the act and chases him off. Later, the rest of the gang comes back and tries to take Tao away. Walt stops them. This is not really an attempt at heroism on his part; he just wants

to keep the "swamp rats" off of his property. Nevertheless, it wins him the gratitude of the whole Hmong community. Tao's mom decides that Tao must work for Walt both to repay him for chasing off the gang and to repent for his attempt at theft.

Clint Eastwood is, without a doubt, the best thing about *Gran Torino*. Without him, it would be mildly watchable. Nothing more. He gives his all in every scene. From the comedic moments to the tragic ones, Eastwood simply shines. And it is good that he does, because some of the supporting actors give rather weak performances. Tao was hit-and-miss, great at times and grating at others, and the actress who played his sister...well, the less said about her, the better. The storyline is all right, but could have easily been a boring cliché if Walt had been played by anyone else.

All in all, *Gran Torino* is a wonderful movie, worth seeing for Eastwood's performance, if nothing else.



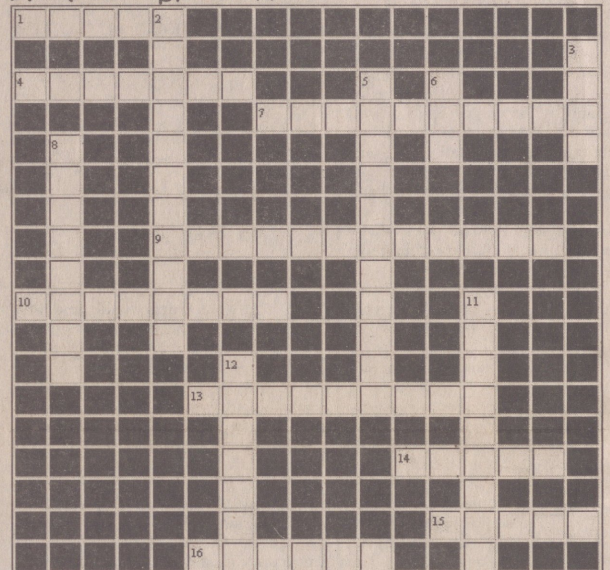
The Rockword by Arturo Spindola

Across:

- Aaron Wrigley has suffered this kind of deprivation if he games too much in one day
- Mark Zuckerberg was at this university when he got the idea to create Facebook
- Tina's country of origin
- What pong was originally called
- The best game of 2008 according to KOMO News
- 87% of high school students own one of these
- The number of years since the Discoverers last beat the Kearney Bearcats in wrestling
- Clint Eastwood's character in *Gran Torino* befriends a boy of this type of ethnicity
- Taylor Kumpf's parents still write their essays like this

Down:

- This game console first came out in 1994 and proceeded to dominate the game market
- The main character in the Legend of Zelda series
- This fatal malfunction plagues 16% of X-Box 360s
- The number of individual events Freshmen Ryan Miksch has qualified for state swimming
- Lori Fehr has been playing the piano for at least this long
- Mrs. Rusher got one of these for Christmas
- These types of shows have horrible acting, stale plots, scripted events, and tasteless humor



Grinds My Gears



Bad TV shows

By Megan Kresha
Staff Reporter

Do you know what grinds my gears? Stupid TV shows. Today there seems to be some of the most ridiculous shows on TV.

For instance, *American Idol*. This show has been going on way too long. It was fine for the first season, maybe even second season, but how on earth have they dragged this on for eight years? All the REALLY bad people, and all the really good people get a chance in front of the judges, but those people who are average get thrown out once they hit the doors. Why? Because apparently it is fun to watch really bad people sing in front of a camera with ridiculous outfits on. Simon Cowell, your idea to keep this show going was HORRIFIC, a complete and utter disaster.

Speaking of bad TV shows, *Tila Tequilla* (also see: *Rock of Love*, *Bromance*, *Flava of Love*, *The Bachelor*, *Paris Hilton: My New BFF*, *Next*, or just MTV in general). Why do people get so excited to watch someone date twelve people at a time and then dump them in an orderly manner? These "reality" TV shows have been dubbed, in my book, the stupidest shows out there. They are almost all scripted, and the acting is absolutely TERRIBLE. There is no reason for ANY of them to exist, and they all have stupid plots. The writers honestly are stretching for ideas, and the shows just keep getting worse. This whole reality TV needs to be put to an end. Stop. Please just stop.

If it is not a reality show, there is some stupid sitcom, or medicine drama, and the ever-famous crime scene investigation. Don't get me wrong, Jerry Bruckheimer, I love *CSI*, but how many more can you make? (See: *CSI: Las Vegas*, *CSI: Miami*, *CSI: New York*, *Cold Case*) They all have the same plot - find the bad guy - they do have different characters, but that is about it. Then there are stupid shows like *Hannah Montana* (also see: *Suite Life of Zac and Cody*, *That's so Raven*, *Wizards of Waverly Place*). These shows are terrible, and to add on to that they have bad actors. It hurts me to watch any of these. I can only hope that my bashing of *Hannah Montana* will sink in on my little sister. Where have all the good shows gone? When you can tape people playing senseless games on an island (a.k.a. *Survivor*) then the opportunities for shows are endless. Who wants to watch stupid people practically starve on an island for days on end?

I'd just like to conclude by saying that everyone should stay tuned to ABC at 8:00 p.m. for my favorite show of all time: *LOST*.



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SCOTUS CENTRAL Rock Bottom

Scotus Central Catholic

Columbus, Nebraska 68601

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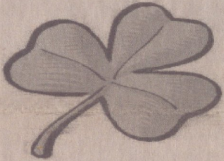
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Happy
St. Patrick's
Day!

FROM THE ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

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Rock Bottom

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- Chelsea Bartholomew

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- Megan Kresha
- Taylour Kumpf
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- Callen Schwank
- Arturo Spindola

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- Mrs. Angie Rusher

Inspiration:

- Jesus Christ

The Rock Bottom accepts letters to the editor.

Letters should be 250 words or less in length and must be signed. All letters are subject to editing for content and space.

Send to Scotus care of the Rock Bottom

Annual blood drive surpasses goal

By Taylour Kumpf
Staff Reporter

After a slow start due to icy roads, this year's blood drive proved to be a success. Through the cooperative effort of the Red Cross, students, teachers, and parents, both whole blood donors and double red donors, 123 productive units of blood were donated, exceeding the goal of 100.

Chemistry teacher, Mrs. Dusel-Misfeldt once again coordinated the Scotus blood drive; this was her sixth year heading the project. However, Scotus has been involved with the Red Cross blood drives for many years. Mr. Younger first encouraged students to give blood by taking them to blood drives in the surrounding area. As there became a greater interest in donating, Scotus began to have a Red Cross truck station itself outside the school each year before finally relocating to the gym as it is now. Younger coordinated the blood drive for 30 years before passing the torch on to Dusel-Misfeldt.

Last year was the first year that sixteen-year-olds were able to participate in the blood drive. Therefore, the opportunity was opened up this year to a number of sophomores who otherwise would not have been able to donate. Jacy Gasper was one such

"IT'S A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE PROCESS AND THE RED CROSS SO WE CAN FEEL COMFORTABLE GIVING BLOOD IN THE FUTURE."
~JACY GASPER

sophomore who donated for her first time. She shared the nervousness that many other donor hopefuls had in gearing up for the experience.

Nervousness aside, Gasper noted, "It's a great opportunity to become familiar with the process and the Red Cross so we can feel comfortable giving blood in the future."

Scotus left a great impression on the Red Cross Staff as a number of nurses complimented the students' on their cooperation and good behavior. Dusel-Misfeldt was pleased with the way the day went.

"Other than starting late due to weather, it went very, very well," she commented.

Her gratitude goes out to all the students, parents, and teachers who donated, volunteered, or helped in any way.



Junior Katelyn Kerkman looks away as Red Cross nurses adjust the needle in her arm.

TAYLOUR KUMPF/ ROCK BOTTOM

Snow delays Sweetheart Dance

By Chelsea Bartholomew
Editor

It was going to take more than a little snow to stop the Scotus Sweetheart dance. The dance, which takes place every February, was supposed to be held on Friday, February 13th. But then the unthinkable happened: there was a snow day. Although students were pleased to get a day off of school, many worried about what would happen to the dance. There was some speculation that it would not be rescheduled.

Before long, however, it was made known that the dance would be held the following day, Saturday, February 14th. Biology teacher Vern Younger, who made the decision, said that he knew having it then would be

an inconvenience for some students, but it had to be done.

"We looked at the calendar, and it was swamped with events in the next few weeks. It was a nightmare to try to reschedule," said Younger. "In the end, it looked like the next day would be the best choice." Younger also pointed to a precedence of having Sweetheart dances after basketball games. "Up until about eight to ten years ago, it was almost always after a basketball game."

Student opinion seems to be split on whether the decision was the right one.

"I'm glad they had it a day later," said sophomore Rebecca Hall. "That way, no one's preparation and efforts went to waste."

Senior Chase Beiermann disagreed. "I think our dances are better

on Fridays. People have more time to get ready then."

Moving the date also meant another thing: that the Sweetheart dance was actually held on Valentine's Day. "I thought that was a great coincidence and that I was lucky to have my first Sweetheart on Valentine's Day," said freshman Joel Ostidick.

The boys' game before the dance went on longer than expected, so many students had to rush to get ready and make it back in time for the coronation of the Sweetheart King and Queen. This year's King and Queen were Nicholas Raimondo and Tina Sultonova.

Raimondo was initially surprised by his victory. "But after I got over the surprise, I was like, 'Hey, this is awesome!' They should invest in *real* crowns next year, though," he said.

Sultonova, who is an exchange student from Tajikistan, was also astonished by her win. "I was surprised! But it was a good surprise. And it was a lot of fun - we don't have anything like that at my old school."

And as for the dance itself? Students seem to think that, after a shaky beginning that included the sound blowing out, it went over fairly well.

"I didn't really have high expectations for Sweetheart," said Raimondo. "But it turned out to be awesome."



Sweetheart candidates pose for a picture after Raimondo and Sultonova were crowned.

PHOTO COURTESY THOMPSON PHOTOGRAPHY

Scotus feels viaduct's absence

By Callen Schwank
Staff Reporter

Many people inside and outside the town of Columbus have felt the effects of the viaduct being closed. This does not exclude the Scotus students and teachers.

With the closing of the viaduct, many people have been struggling to get to work, school, or their general destination on time. One teacher and student in particular have shared their input on the situation and how they have dealt with the problem of having no viaduct.

Fine Arts teacher Mrs. Bernt has said that with the closing of the viaduct, her driving routes have definitely changed. Going to school, however, isn't a problem since she comes to school after the morning rush hour is over. Now going from home takes her nearly 10 to 15 minutes longer. She can no longer take the quick trip over the viaduct, but has to travel down 8th Street and turn at 23rd Avenue.

"The way they have the lights blinking red at the intersection before the viaduct needs to be changed." This was one solution Mrs. Bernt had to solving the buildup of cars that happens every day during the evening rush hour. However, with summer coming up, Bernt isn't worried about the viaduct being gone. She will no longer have to rush to school in the morning and plan for her errands later in the day, but she said that she would have much more time to put off her errands until she can do them all at once. Teachers aren't the only ones being affected by this change in the streets of Columbus.

Junior Austin Wallick has also had his own struggles with the current viaduct situation. He has said how it is a hassle to drive during every rush hour of the day before and after school.

See VIADUCT, Page 2

Telegram changes affect Rock Bottom Viaduct

By Adam Neidbalski
Staff Reporter

The *Rock Bottom* has a much smaller feel to it the sixth time around, literally. The narrower format has been made to accommodate the *Columbus Telegram* now being printed in Fremont effective March 16.

The Journalism class has had to adjust with the new size by recreating all the templates, and even the number of pages. The paper will return to eight pages, a switch from the usual six pages.

Journalism student Kyle Benesch was pretty stressed originally but

came around on the new size, "At first the change was a nuisance because we had to make a lot of changes, but once the changes were made, the new size looked great."

The class primarily agrees with Kyle, and the new size has been welcomed with open arms. Mrs. Rusher was generally happy with the new changes; "It turned out much better than we initially thought because the sizes of the ads did not have to be changed." The change to four columns helped out the Journalism class to not only get everything adjusted, but proud of the sixth issue of the year.

Continued from Page 1

"The lineups at the lights have been killing me; it's so frustrating," he said. This summer will be just as bad for him because he will have a summer job, which will mean he won't have as much time to plan for his errands. To adjust for this inconvenience Wallick said that he would just have to learn to plan for the extra time it will take to get to work.

Not only are people worried about their time schedules, but also there are some concerns with people not being serious about the trains. Wallick has said that he has not only already seen two accidents on 8th street, but people parking on the train tracks as well.

Here at Scotus, there was a speaker to let the students know about

the trains and how to take the situation seriously. On January 22nd the speaker, a representative of Union Pacific, came in to talk to Scotus about railroad safety and how to not try and beat the trains across the tracks. Now that there is a lot more traffic going across the tracks each day, the risk increases for railroad safety.

November 3rd is the targeted date to reopen the viaduct. However, the actual completion date will be sometime in early December. The building of the viaduct has so far been on track, despite some of the weather challenges. According to the *Columbus Telegram*, the construction teams have even said that they are ahead of schedule at the moment.

St. Patrick's Day pep rally kicks off spring sports season



TONY DUREN/YEARBOOK STAFF

The coaches were an integral part of the entertainment at the spring sports pep rally on St. Patrick's Day.

Above: Coach Ohnoutka dances a jig during the coaches' dance competition.

Upper Right: Coach Tooley's awe-inspiring splits finish her off her jig.

Bottom Left: Fr. Roza prepares to kiss Levi McPhillips' pig Petricles after winning the Relay for Life fundraiser.

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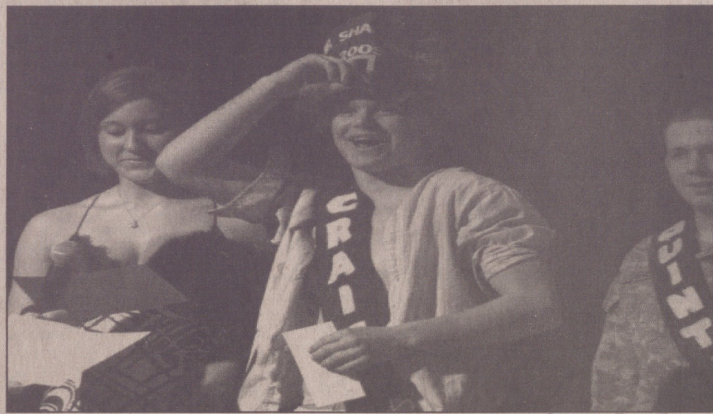
Features

Senior Shamrocks strut stuff 2009 Mr. Shamrock Pageant

Craig Pekarek Mr. Shamrock 2009

Craig Pekarek triumphed over the competition with his witty retorts and charm. His talent was making good old American beef jerky. His dream girl outfit showed

him being an oiled machine walking his dog, prowling for ladies. Craig's charisma propelled him to the top, and he was crowned Mr. Shamrock of 2009.



ARTURO SPINDOLA/ROCK BOTTOM

Craig Pekarek shortly after being awarded the Mr. Shamrock hat



ARTURO SPINDOLA/ROCK BOTTOM

Aaron Wrigley giving the audience a big smile before performing.

Quintin

Quintin Siemek displayed his many talents by playing the piano and singing a self-written song while playing the guitar. He marched down the runway in his army uniform, aiming his sights at ladies' hearts.

Taylor

Taylor Sues proved his manliness by eating an entire pumpkin pie complete with whipped cream - in less than 30 seconds. He also showed his handiness by sporting a chef's hat, apron, and laundry basket.

Adam

Adam Niedbalski held a fierce debate against Nathan Hotovy about who should win Mr. Shamrock. He showed his sporty side as a baseball player, signifying how he always bats for the ladies.

Aaron

Aaron Wrigley performed a beautiful self-written song on his acoustic guitar. He displayed his individuality and freedom by dressing as a "scene kid".

Kirby

Kirby Reardon showed his handiness and great memory by putting together a lawnmower while reciting Dr. Seuss. He also swept the ladies off their feet with his janitor outfit and gigantic broom.



Tony

Tony Duren had a dance routine to the tune of Brittany Spears' "Womanizer". However, towards the end, he showed us the one true lady in his heart. His track attire shows he will overcome any hurdles for his woman.

David

David Gokie showed off his funny side as he did a stand-up routine the audience loved. He showed Cowboy pride when he donned a jersey and hat, hoping to wrassle girls in.

Nick

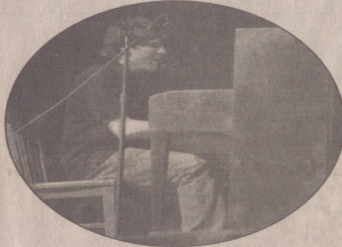
Nick Raimondo's smooth voice and graceful hands were the tools of his trade as he performed a self-written song on an acoustic piano. His Shamrock-Singers outfit showed how classy he is while serenading the ladies.

Nathan

Nathan Hotovy debated Adam Niedbalski and showed his true political and professional self. He also showed he had a fashionable side when he wore his casual pool boy outfit to attract rich women.

Jared

Jared Ostdiek amazed the audience with his flexibility by performing a gymnastics routine and walking on his hands. Jared's lifeguard attire showed how he will administer CPR to all ladies that need to be saved.



KELLI SCHUMACHER/YEARBOOK STAFF

David Gokie drew many laughs with his stand-up routine.



ARTURO SPINDOLA/ROCK BOTTOM

The Mr. Shamrock hopefuls showing off their moves.

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"We're All About People"

Opinion

Dealing with the season of love



By Kyle Benesch
Staff Reporter

It's that time of year again. The time of year where pounds of chocolates are being purchased, and inexpensive jewelry is given away. It's the time of year where love notes flow

throughout study halls, and the junior high hallway smells of Super Saver cologne. Many people are familiar with this very special time of year, the time of year I like to call "love season."

Love season begins each year before the week of Valentine's Day, when those who have any form of relationship at all frantically search for a gift that will please their significant other. This time of love continues into the spring, when the weather gets warmer and the events of prom and school ending highlight the season. Those who are single during this time wildly search for a compatible person to be with. This normally results in hasty hook ups that end rather quick-

ly, thus opening up the doors for a new single life. This pattern of spring fling relationships becomes popular in the romantic world of a junior high student.

Everyone knows that the only way to display your popularity in junior high is to have a relationship at all times. I remember keeping a supply of "Do you like me? Check yes or no," notes in my book bag. These came in handy when my bashful self would be constantly looking for a new girlfriend for the week.

Going through high school I've matured slightly in my dating mentality. I now realize that my status can be based on who I am as a person, not how well I can hold a relationship.

This also comes with the realization that not everything I do in life has to revolve around women. Many people are going through love season single. This is difficult for many people to understand, but yes its true, some people are happy being single. People need to learn to live their lives the way they want, and not constantly try to be someone they are not to attract a temporary lover. True love will find you only when you are yourself. Most importantly, you are in high school; you have an entire lifetime to get tied down. If you are alone during the love season, so what, this is your opportunity to have a season for yourself.

Can we really trust these "role models"?



By Brian Ackman
Staff Reporter

It seems that in this day and age, sports play a major influence in young people's lives. Sports figures are now role models. Kids look up to superstar athletes like Peyton Manning, Shaquille O'Neal, and Roger Federer. These athletes of today are constantly performing at a high level. The question is, however, how do they do it? Some of these superstar competitors have already been caught using per-

formance-enhancing drugs to up their game. On the other hand, some have just shown flat-out stupidity in their decision-making. How many of these "role models" can we really trust?

It seems like every week, some new bit of information is leaked out about the steroid scandal in baseball. In my opinion, no major league baseball player can be trusted. Barry Bonds, the career home run leader, has an everyday struggle to get his name cleared for steroid use. Numerous lists have come out that give names of players who have supposedly "juiced up" on steroids. Alex Rodriguez, a supposed baseball superstar who is going to break all kinds of records, is the latest to get caught for steroids. In reality, though, should any of these records count if you have been caught for steroids? If you're a professional baseball player, you should be able to play the game without performance enhancing drugs. Frankly, this is a

disgrace.

Athletes make mistakes besides taking steroids, however. Numerous football players have been caught for various crimes like drug usage (Travis Henry), strip club shootings (Pacman Jones), and killing dogs (Michael Vick). These guys should know better. Hasn't anyone told these guys that they are in the national spotlight and should behave?

When we think about our role models, we need to keep them in perspective. Swimmer Michael Phelps was the headline of newspapers just weeks ago after being caught using marijuana. I admit that his choice was stupid, but think before you judge Phelps. Loads of people look to Phelps as a superhuman. In reality, though, he is a 23 year old kid who screwed up. We shouldn't hold these "role models" to such high standards. I think we should see them as people, too. They make stupid deci-

sions just like the rest of us. This is a first time offense for Phelps, he faces no criminal charges, and he has been completely open and honest about the whole thing. He knows he screwed up. I'm not saying to let him totally off the hook here, but don't be so quick to label him a bad guy.

When I sit down and think about it, it's tough to find those classy role models in today's sports world. Everybody, it seems, is falling apart. For now, though, I'm going to cherish the few hard working professionals that are still out there. People like Tiger Woods and Lebron James haven't had their reputation tarnished yet from making poor choices. I respect those people in this business that is professional sports that can stay clean and obey the law. In today's society, good character is becoming harder to find. Choose your role models carefully.



COMIC COURTESY OF FRITZ HOPPE

TEACHERS' LOUNGE

By Mrs. Lahm

Do you remember Oscar the Grouch, who lived in a garbage can on Sesame Street? While growing up in Illinois and Minnesota, I experienced a real "Oscar the Grouch" - my uncle. Even though he was always friendly to my family, we observed an angry young man when interacting with his own. Alcohol addiction can do that to a person.

My uncle Oscar passed away last week, and I went to his memorial service in Trenton, Nebraska. The minister of the Church of God, Johnny

Walker (somewhat ironic considering the deceased was an alcoholic), spoke from his heart and gave a great eulogy. It was also wonderful to hear his neighbors share their positive experiences with my uncle. Who speaks up about the negative characteristics of a deceased person at a funeral?

The Scripture passages selected by the minister were perfect for the occasion. People shared some laughs and many tears. What continues to bother me is the question he asked those assembled. "Where did Oscar go?" Reverend Walker said he would not be doing his job without addressing that issue. Yes, we all wonder where Oscar went. His neighbors de-

scribed him as the man who gave a poor widow a TV because she didn't have one. Others remember my uncle as an outstanding 3-sport athlete in high school whom everyone enjoyed playing with or watching. Most of his family didn't share those memories of him.

Where did Oscar go? My response would be, "Only God knows." But that was never said. What the minister did say was "It is not too late for us still living. We have choices to make regarding where we will end up. Make the necessary changes now." He knew the real Oscar.

The Catholic faith was abandoned by my uncle shortly after high school.

He was bound to play college football or basketball, he was that good. Some seemingly simple mistakes he made his senior year ended all that. Drinking beer was too important to him. He got a sophomore girl pregnant, which resulted in a marriage neither really wanted. In order to support his new family, he had to abandon his college plans and find a job. His lost youth continued to haunt him, as he abused his family and continued to drink. I wonder what would have become of Oscar had he kept his faith and allowed God to help ease his pain.

Where did Oscar go? It is not too late for us to determine where we will go. Keep the faith and live by it.

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Observing Lent

Catholics give by giving up

By Kyle Benesch
Staff Reporter

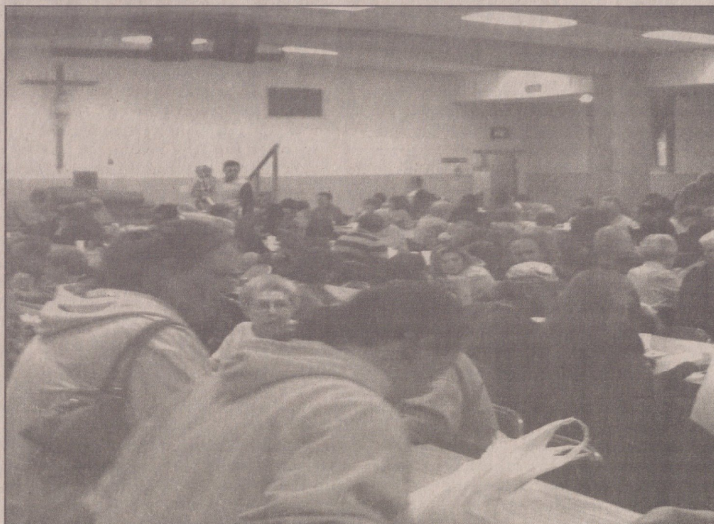
During Lent, Christians find themselves making sacrifices, though many don't realize the meaning behind it, or for that matter, why sacrifice at all?

With the current Lent season, many people reflect on their lives and what they can do to give more to the season. People decide to give a little more, by giving up something in their lives.

Many people around Lent decide to give up something enjoyable in their lives. These sacrifices can come in many forms. Some Christians give up chocolates or other things in their lives that make them happy. Other people take their sacrifices to another level and give up things they take for granted, like television or shoes. "Last year I gave up hot showers. It was pretty difficult," said Junior Molly Forney.

An alternative to giving up is taking up something that you normally wouldn't do. This would be like an extra household chore or driving a younger sibling to school every morning. It is similar to Jesus taking up his cross, a burden he had to go through. Even though the small things people take up don't amount to the great sacrifice of Christ, their spiritual significance still serves a purpose.

There are some people who question why they have to sacrifice. The answer is, they don't. Giving up something for Lent is not a requirement. "You don't have to give something up, but it's like a mother making sacrifices for her child, or an athlete making a sacrifice for his team," said Scotus Chaplain Fr. Roza. "We make these



People enjoying the St. Anthony's fish fry.

Calleen Schwank/Rock Bottom

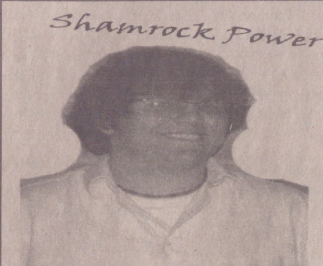
sacrifices in our life to God because we love Him above all things."

Sacrifice season starts on Ash Wednesday, with no meat and fasting. Fasting allows for one normal meal and two smaller meals, with no extra snacking throughout the day. The only other time in Lent when the fasting/no meat combo is required is on Good Friday. Most people realize that the main Lenten sacrifice is no meat on Fridays. To some, this custom might sound a little bizarre, but it is actually a very old tradition. People used to consider eating meat a great luxury. Because of this, many people gave up this privilege for sacrifice and

homage.

Another bizarre twist to Lent is the beloved Sunday sacrifice cheat rule. It's not actually cheating, but on Sundays, Catholics celebrate a little Easter. According to Fr. Roza, "Sundays are supposed to be a day of joy and celebration, not the solemn suffering of the rest of Lent."

Knowing why Christians sacrifice might help them during the season to actually go through with their sacrifices. For many, the fact that their actions connect themselves to the love of Jesus and Mary gives them motivation to give to Lent.



Shamrock Power

Living beyond the sacrifices

By Aaron Wrigley
Editor

For forty days every year, millions of people across the globe prepare for the holiest day of the liturgical year. Sacrifices are made and prayers offered, but are these religious activities enough? Perhaps students and faculty at Scotus could explore their faith with more depth during Lent.

The season of Lent is an essential part of the religious year. This time prepares people for the day of Easter, which is the holiest day of the year. Fr. Andrew Roza says, "Lent affects the impact of our celebration and the reality of Easter."

Although most people practice their faith during Lent by making sacrifices (i.e. giving up candy, not watching TV, etc.), there is much more depth that Christians can explore.

Fr. Roza states that prayer is vital during Lent. "First during Lent is prayer on a daily basis; just some kind of prayer, it's the best thing to do." He also suggests instead of taking away things from yourself in sacrifices, be generous and give something away for others.

"JESUS IS AN AWESOME COMMANDER IN CHIEF."

~A.J. BOSE

Sophomore A.J. Bose has a personal attachment to this season as well. "For me, Lent is one of the most important parts of the year because it keeps me strong throughout the year." Bose suggests that people concentrate on staying away from sin this season, and avoid those guilty pleasures in which they often indulge.

Scotus can do their part to observe Lent this year by practicing their faith in a few different ways. Bose suggests taking advantage of the Sacrament of Confession. Also, he thinks that attending Mass or even a simple prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament is a great stride in honoring Christ during Lent. "I suggest that Catholics stop by the chapel to see our Commander in Chief to prepare for spiritual warfare. Jesus is an awesome Commander and Chief."

Sacrifices and generosity aside, Fr. Roza wants the Scotus family to keep this thought in their hearts and minds: Christ suffered for our sinfulness. He suffered and died for all of us, and we should concentrate on this endless love that He has for us. "God suffered out of love," says Roza, and Scotus should remember this love at all times and return it to our one and only savior, Jesus Christ.

Ring in the Lenten season



King's Cake, a delicious tradition of Mardi Gras.

Angie Rusher/Rock Bottom

By Megan Kresha
Staff Reporter

Masks, beads, doubloons, people wearing green, gold, and purple all are signs that Mardi Gras is just around the corner. People partake in all of these Mardi Gras traditions, but does anyone really know what it all means?

According to Arthur Hardy in his article "History of Mardi Gras" from *NewOrleansOnline.com*, the celebration of Mardi Gras is rooted back to Paris, where people have been celebrating it since the Middle Ages. In fact, it is said to have a possible connection with ancient tribal rituals of fertility that welcomed the arrival of spring. The celebration was circus-like and the Church realized that it would be impossible to make new converts abandon their pagan customs. So instead they took this cel-

ebration and made it a prelude to the penitential season of Lent.

This celebration known as "Fat Tuesday" is a major event for Catholics everywhere. It is a time to indulge in many things before entering into the season of Lent, which consists of forty days of fasting and no meat on Fridays. People also make sacrifices, and "give up" something for Lent, so for many, Mardi Gras is a big deal and many traditions have been created throughout the years.

"FAT TUESDAY" IS A MAJOR EVENT FOR CATHOLICS EVERYWHERE.

The traditional colors of Mardi Gras are green, gold and purple (green for faith, gold for power, and purple for justice). They have been around since the 1800's. These colors, along with the anthem of the Carnival, "If I Ever Cease to Love", doubloons, and the legendary Rex are all dubbed symbols of Mardi Gras. Rex - The King of the Carnival - is an international symbol for Mardi Gras. This

tradition started when a group of men was coming up with an idea to entertain the Grand Duke, and a daytime parade that would attract people from everywhere. The Rex motto, "Pro Bono Publico", which means "For the Public Good", seemed to make their ideas a success. The first King Rex, Lewis J. Solomon, had to borrow a crown, scepter, and costume from an actor who was performing in town at the time. He rode through the parade on horseback, but today the King rides on an embellished float. The tradition of King Rex has spawned many new ideas for celebration. There are many private affairs with elegant decorations, tableaux presentations, and dancing, and guests are to be costumed and masked. The parties are lush with food, and there is the King's Cake that, like other things, has become a tradition during Mardi Gras.

The King's Cake is one of the most popular foods during Mardi Gras. This cake dates back to the Middle Ages, when there was a big devotion on the Three Kings during Christmas time. The celebration of Epiphany, or the end of the Christmas celebration, was a time to have parties and give presents to kids. One of these gifts became the King's Cake. The King's Cake is a braided Danish pastry with cinnamon, and it is always iced with the traditional Mardi Gras colors - green, gold, and purple. Hidden in the cake is a small plastic baby. The person who finds this baby must buy the next cake or host the next party.

Mardi Gras is a favorite holiday around the world. It holds up many traditions and events that make it more exciting. These are just a few traditions that Mardi Gras has. To truly experience Mardi Gras, take a trip down to New Orleans and take in all of the tradition and fun of Mardi Gras.

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Sports

Winter sports wrapup



Chase Beiermann in triple stance against Madison

Shamrock boys fall short of glory season

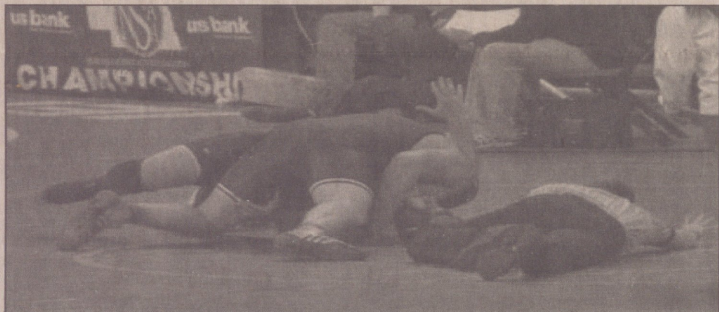
The Scotus boys' basketball team finished the season with a 13-8 record. The Shamrocks had a tough schedule, but came away with many strong wins. The boys had wins against formidable opponents such as Norfolk Catholic, Wahoo Neumann, Fremont Bergan, and Grand Island Central Catholic. Twelve of the boys' eighteen opponents finished the season with winning records. The boys lost

in sub-district play to Boone Central. The boys were led by six seniors: Kirby Reardon, Chase Beiermann, Jared Ostdiek, Taylor Suess, Tony Duren, and Lucas Backman. The team hopes for a strong season next year when they return leading rebounder and scorer Trace Murray and four other juniors with varsity experience: Aaron Bos, Alex Kuta, Dillon Clarey, and Shawn Schumacher.

Scotus wrestlers make impact on CHS team

Three Scotus athletes wrestled at CHS this winter. Junior Tom Rambuour and senior Josh Ryba wrestled on varsity while freshman Grant Pontow wrestled on junior varsity. These wrestlers endured grueling practices with half the season consisting of an hour practice in the morning and a two-hour practice after school. Rambuour qualified for state at 135 pounds, while Ryba qualified for state at 285 pounds. This year was the first time

ever that a Scotus wrestler has placed at state, with Ryba taking 4th. Ryba was also named the most valuable wrestler by the team. Rambuour was the team leader in takedowns this year and finished with 29 varsity wins. Ryba finished with 34 wins and was the team leader in total points. Head wrestling coach Tracy Dodson said that he enjoyed working with the Scotus wrestlers and appreciated all their hard work.



Josh Ryba pins Brandon Yost during State Wrestling

ADAM'S BIG APPLE

By Adam Niedbalski

Over the years of watching sporting events of every way and type, I have come to a general conclusion about what makes them so intriguing. It's not the money involved or on the table, not the individual stars, it's the passion the athletes put on the line. Their passion for their team, state, community, and fans is overwhelming.

College sports have never failed to show me the passion I just explained. We see it every year, in every sport, and with every team. Take for example the six-overtime marathon between Syracuse and Connecticut. The passion the two teams exerted never wavered. There was no real winner and loser to the game, it was just a matter of who would still be standing after all the punches; and even at the end, Syracuse shook the hands of the opposite Huskies and congratulated them on a hard fought

battle. College basketball is the rawest sport in the world. You can have the best athletes or the best coach, but that doesn't mean much of anything if you get a team that has the passion and will to beat you.

Nebraska sporting fans know better than most of the passion college baseball players show during the College World Series in Omaha every year. Fresno St. last year showed us that the underdog can win, and can do so by exerting every amount of passion and ability, leave it on the diamond and if that's enough to win then they did their job (it was obviously enough to win the national championship).

Professional sports lack this passion considerably. In the NFL, NHL, MLB, and NBA, money rules everything. They are not so much sporting events, rather entertainment events. The only professional sports I watch that I can see passion to the extent of college sports is soccer, golf, and tennis.

Soccer teams play for their fans,

District final ends Scotus girls' season

The girls' basketball team ended the season with a 15-7 record. The seven losses the girls suffered were to six opponents with a combined record of 108-31. They won the Columbus Holiday Tournament held at Lakeview and were the only team that beat C-1 #1 Wahoo Neumann. The girls were one step away from state, but

lost in the district finals in a rematch with eventual state champion Wahoo Neumann. Katie Beiermann and Sami Spenner were the two seniors on the team this year. The girls' future looks bright with next year's team returning five juniors, six sophomores, and eleven freshmen.



Katelyn Kerkman tries to ward off defender



Jenn Hall swims the backstroke for CHS swimteam

Shamrock swimmers make a splash at CHS

Thirteen Scotus students participated in CHS swimming this year, and four of them competed at the state swim meet for the Discoverers. Freshman Ryan Miksch broke school records in the 50-meter freestyle and the 100-meter freestyle. He qualified for state in the 50-meter freestyle, 100-meter freestyle, 200-meter medley relay, and the 200-meter freestyle relay. He placed third in the 50-meter freestyle at the state meet. Senior Taylor Kumpf was the girls' team cap-

tain and competed in three events at the state meet: the 200-meter medley relay, 200-meter freestyle relay, and the 400-meter freestyle relay. Senior Kathy Smith competed at state in the 200-meter medley relay. Sophomore Marina Karel competed in the 200-meter freestyle relay and the 400-meter freestyle relay. Other Shamrock swimmers were Brett Brune, Jen Hall, Mikayla Karel, Trenton Kuta, Kelsey Newman, Joel Ostdiek, Jens Paprocki, Mitchell Peterson, and Theresa

country, and the glory. The emotions are high, the talent is world class, and the end result is a global theater for a beautiful game.

Tennis is filled with high-octane personalities. Rafael Nadal entertains everyone who watches him. Roger Federer wows the tennis world and the entire sports world with his amazing ability.

Tiger Woods not only revolutionized the game of golf, but opened golf to the floodgates of mainstream sports. His passion is unheard of, and if onlookers believe he is only there

to get a paycheck, than they are sadly mistaken.

The sports world is constantly changing, but one aspect remains constant. College sports have an enormous amount of passion, something professional sports lack for the most part. There are only a few examples of professional sports that show the raw passion that seeps throughout college athletics. Passion and emotion draws me into sporting events, which is why I consider college sports in essence, to be superior to professional sports.

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Activities

Little Shop faces challenges with success

By Kelsey Jochum
Staff Reporter

"Please whatever they offer you, don't feed the plants!" Whether zombies or doo-wap girls, this was the final line for those involved in this year's musical. And with a finale like this, *Little Shop of Horrors* definitely made its mark.

This year, the Scotus theatre department took on a new challenge with *Little Shop of Horrors*, the story about a giant talking plant, better known as Audrey Two, that has a certain taste for blood. The musical was a big success, with cast, crew, and audience hanging on 'til the end.

But how was the role of a talking, singing plant filled, especially when it was one of the most important characters of the production? That credit goes to Freshman Patrick Raimondo and Senior Kris Fleeman. Raimondo, who provided the movement of the plant, had to learn how to maneuver three different sizes of the Audrey Two while Fleeman provided the vocals. In order to make this work, Raimondo and Fleeman had to learn to synchronize voice and body.

"The two of us had to gain a real trust and bond in a very short

week," Fleeman said. "He could not have done a better job." Fleeman, who has been acting all throughout high school, said that this role was unlike anything he had ever done. "Given the role of the voice of a man-eating plant who sings while taking over the world, I was both honored and confused as to how to approach it."

Another actor who had to reach outside his comfort zone was Senior Nathan Hotovy. Hotovy, who played Mr. Mushnik, owner of Mushnik's Skid Row Florists, took one of his songs and turned it into a dance number. But even more problematic than learning how to dance was losing his voice. Hotovy, along with a few other cast members, got sick and couldn't speak, let alone sing. Hotovy wasn't allowed to talk at

"EVERYBODY WORKED HARD; EVERYBODY ENJOYED IT, AND THAT'S WHAT MATTERS."

~JOSH RYAN

all until performance day, by which, luckily, he had regained most of his voice.

But even after all this, Hotovy, when asked what stood out the most for him this year, said, "The



Audrey (Summer Kresha) looks hopefully into the future.

JEN WILLIAMS/YEARBOOK STAFF

newness of the cast. The cast was full of younger actors, which is great because it means the theatre program is going to stay strong." One of these young actors is Freshman Summer Kresha, who played Audrey, the timid young woman who is living in an abusive relationship and doesn't know how to get out of it. Kresha acted alongside Senior Aaron Wrigley, who played Seymour, the man who loves Audrey but doesn't have the courage to tell her. This was Kresha's first major role in a school production. Both Kresha and the other young actors helped to create what Hotovy calls "one of the most entertaining musicals we have done since I have been here." But another portion of that credit goes to this year's director, Josh Ryan.

As former director Fr. Loseke was reassigned last year, Ryan, a 2008 graduate and veteran of Scotus theatre, stepped up to direct the musical. Ryan, who is currently attending Central Community College here in Columbus with hopes of transferring to a larger school to pursue a theatre major, saw this as an opportunity to work toward that goal and also, to give back to the Scotus theatre department. Coming back to Scotus to direct, Ryan commented that it was "very nostalgic." "Scotus changed a lot, or maybe, I changed a lot."

The transition from acting to directing wasn't hard for Ryan to make. "I thought about what I would do and the emotions I would have in

those situations," Ryan said. "I used what I learned about acting to direct others."

The biggest challenge in directing wasn't directing itself, but was organization. In the end, Ryan was very happy with the finished product. "Everybody worked hard," Ryan said. "Everybody enjoyed it, and that's what matters."

Ryan was right. Audience members had nothing but good things to say about *Little Shop of Horrors*. Junior Monica Boeding, who attended Saturday night, said she "absolutely loved it." "My favorite part was when Seymour 'killed' Orin. I thought it was a really cool scene. Orin was my favorite character," Boeding added. "Nick did a really good job with it."

Another Junior, Austin Wallick, thought the musical was really good and kept the audience's attention throughout. "I liked the fact that Seymour got famous from the plant. My favorite character was definitely Seymour (Aaron), because I thought he was the best actor overall," Wallick said.

As many graduating seniors say goodbye to the Scotus stage, they won't soon forget this year's musical. It will be looked back on as one of the most exciting, interesting, and memorable experiences in Scotus theatre. Because with *Little Shop of Horrors*, Scotus theatre was truly able to bleed green.



Mushnik (Nathan Hotovy) convincing Seymour (Aaron Wrigley) to be his son.

JEN WILLIAMS/YEARBOOK STAFF

FBLA Week promotes activities

By Callen Schwank
Staff Reporter

During February, FBLA hosted their annual FBLA week. FBLA week is a time to bring about business awareness in a less formal way with games and activities.

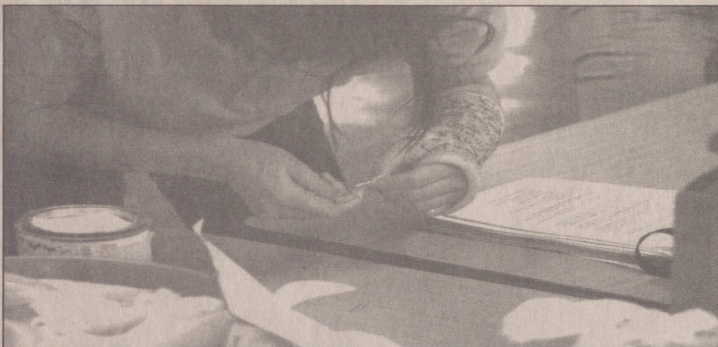
Some activities were performed in the cafeteria during lunch to lighten up the mood, while other activities were performed in a more subtle way. From having students run in high heels while balancing a cup of water to untangling a mess of jumbled paperclips, FBLA caused a ruckus in the cafeteria. However, FBLA also organized their first food drive with all the collected food being donated to the Simon House. Some activities done in the past were FBLA Fugitive, Business Attire Day, and giving away food left over from the concession stand.

According to advisor Mrs.

Salyard, FBLA week is celebrated not just in Scotus, but nationwide as well. FBLA week is not just to promote business awareness, but also to promote FBLA itself. Another way that FBLA is promoted in a large way is State FBLA.

Most people haven't even heard of State FBLA, which is another reason why FBLA week is so important and is celebrated nationwide. At State FBLA students who are involved in FBLA, mostly leaders, gather from all around their state in one place to compete by taking various tests that all relate to business. Some tests that can be taken include: Technology Concepts, Public Speaking II, Business Communication, or Business Ethics.

After those running for State FBLA Office have taken numerous tests and debated and convinced people who they should vote for, the new State FBLA Officers are announced and the awards are given to those who did outstanding in their



Jordan Chohon participates in the FBLA Olympics.

CALLEN SCHWANK/ROCK BOTTOM

tests.

State FBLA officers monitor the offices held for Nebraska's FBLA activities. Those who do well in testing may be able to qualify for

Nationals and compete at the next level of FBLA testing. State FBLA takes place in Omaha and is held on April 2, 3, and 4.

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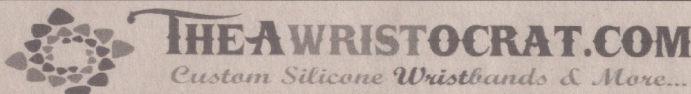


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Entertainment

Slumdog rises to the top

Grinds My Gears



Airports

By Megan Kresha
Staff Reporter

Do you know what really grinds my gears? Airports. People get all excited to go on vacation, and they are all packed up and ready to go, but then someone at the airport has to go and ruin the day. It all starts out with the luggage. Check bags are one thing; for the most part you can have no problems with your check bag unless it is over fifty pounds – or they lose it, which seems to happen more often than not. Although that is a stupid mistake, it is nothing compared to the trouble that comes with the carry on bag. I know that there have been terrible problems with terrorist attacks on planes, but honestly, who is going to attack the flight assistant with tweezers or a nail clipper? No one is, and to be honest, I think that pens or sharpened pencils are more of a threat than those things. To take anything that you really might want is just ridiculous, so just leave it at home.

Another thing you should leave at home might be your clothes. I am just waiting for the day that we are going to have to fly with a robe and that is it. I mean it would make the security checkpoint go much smoother. In order to go through the metal detector you have to take off your shoes, watch, belt, rings, and even though you are half way stripped down, the alarm still goes off. So you have to be taken aside and get violated in front of everyone there. They pat you down head to toe and scan your body with the wand to figure out that the small earring that you are wearing set the thing off. Honestly? I just want flying to be more simplified. Let me fly in peace.

But you can't fly in peace when all you can hear is your stomach growling because eating is almost out of the picture. Why is this? Well in order to get on your flight on time, being at the airport about two hours early is necessary. If you bring along anything to eat or drink, most likely they are going to throw it away when you get to security checkpoint. So by the time you get to the next airport waiting for your layover flight to take off, you realize that your stomach is yearning for something to eat, but you have to pay seven dollars for a muffin, or ten dollars for ham sandwich. This is outlandish, and because they no longer give you food on the plane, you are almost forced to pay this money to hold you over for a little bit. On the plane, you still get the complimentary drink with too much ice, but now you have to pay three dollars for a gross snack to munch on.

Why have airports become such a terrible place to be? The only thing that keeps me going back is the chance that I might crash land on a mystical island that would change my life forever. People can dream.

By Chelsea Bartholomew
Editor

It's hard not to have heard about *Slumdog Millionaire*. The tale of a "slumdog" (a poor person from the big-city slums) who wins the Indian version of *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?* has been captivating audiences worldwide. The film recently won eight Oscars, including Best Picture. There's not much more hype a movie can get than that. So the question on many people's minds is this: is it worthy of the honors it has accumulated?

The movie follows Jamal, a young man on the cusp of rising from serving tea at a tech support office for a living to having to never work again. As the film begins, he has just answered the second-to-last question correctly on *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?*. Time runs out for the day. The police immediately take Jamal away for questioning; no one believes that an uneducated boy from the slums of Mumbai could get so far on the program without cheating. They try to beat a confession out of him. Jamal refuses to admit to something he didn't do, and instead goes about telling his life's story, which explains how he knew the answers. These little vignettes from Jamal's past are interlaced with the narrative of his

present predicament and all lead up to the film's thrilling finale (and bonus Bollywood dance number).

To be honest, I had a lot of expectations going into *Slumdog Millionaire*. Everyone I knew who saw it before I did had nothing but praise, and many wanted to see it again. There's almost no way any movie can live up to as much hype as *Slumdog* has been given. So...I thought it was all right. I can't put my finger on why; the acting, cinematography, the storyline, all of those aspects were fantastic. It effectively captures your attention from beginning to end and every plot thread is

tied up satisfyingly. But the movie just didn't seem *that* great to me. I didn't feel much of an emotional connection to the story the way I did with *Milk*, another Best Picture nominee that I saw.

None of this is to say that



Slumdog Millionaire wasn't a good movie or that it didn't deserve to win its eight awards. It was and (for the most part) it did. But I would say that it's definitely a movie that you'll like better the less you know about it beforehand.

Oscars get a facelift

By Taylour Kumpf
Staff Reporter

The 81st Annual Academy Awards made up for what the show has lacked in the past couple years. Five times the star power and pleasing visual aesthetics replaced the overdone montages that filled the lull between awards last year. And this year's host, Australian native and 2008's Sexiest Man Alive, Hugh Jackman, wowed with his ability to do more than be Wolverine. His song and dance opening act displayed a wider range of talents from the Blockbuster star; it got the ball rolling for a show that

went smoothly from start to finish.

The Oscars this year had definite organization, moving through slower categories more quickly, and therefore leaving time for longer acceptance speeches from emotional winners. The categories swept through the movie making process, awarding the writers, recognizing the artists behind the costume and set designs, the cinematographers, then finally highlighting the visual and sound editors. Also to speed things along, there was a limited number of presenters; instead of having new stars come out for every category, the same two people handed out two or three Oscars.

The winners for the evening were somewhat predictable, but their work was deserving of the accolades. *Slumdog Millionaire* came out on top as expected, winning a total of eight Academy Awards, including Best Director, (Danny Boyle) and Best Motion Picture of the year. For the Best Acting awards, the presenters this year were five previous winners in the specific category, movie greats such as Eva Marie Saint, Sophia Loren, Anthony Hopkins, and Ben Kingsley. It was a meaningful gesture, as the five nominees in each category were individually recognized for their outstanding performances, making everyone feel as if they had won. Penelope Cruz won Best Supporting Actress for her role in *Vicky Cristina Barcelona*, and Heath Ledger's family bravely accepted his posthumous Best Supporting Actor award. Kate Winslet accepted the Best Actress Oscar for her performance in the vulnerable World War II drama, *The Reader*. For *Milk*, the biography about homosexual political activist Harvey Milk, Sean Penn walked away with an Oscar for Best Actor.

Other notables were Jerry Lewis' honorary Oscar and A.R. Rahman's uplifting musical sensation, "Jai Ho", for which he won the award for Best Original Song.



The Rockword by Arturo Spindola

Across

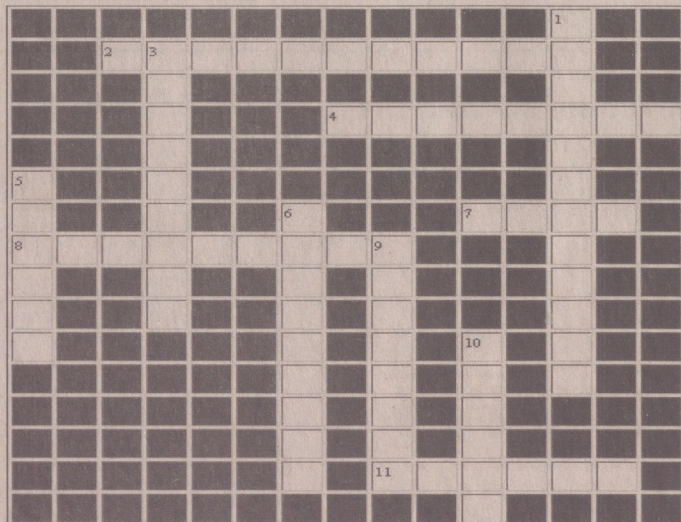
- This year's yield for the blood drive was one hundred _____ units
- Braided danish pastry with cinnamon and icing made during Mardi Gras
- This type of drive was organized and run during FBLA week
- With the closing of the viaduct and subsequent increase in traffic, these

have become more common

- What happens when you refuse to pay for overpriced food at airports
- Having one is the best way to display your popularity in Junior High
- The X-men played by Hugh Jackman, the actor who hosted the Oscars.

5. Father Roza says this is vital during Lent

- Sweetheart was delayed to this type of weather event
- These are the drugs Alex Rodriguez admitted to using
- These days are supposed to be a day of joy and celebration, not the solemn suffering of the rest of Lent



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SCOTUS CENTRAL Rock Bottom

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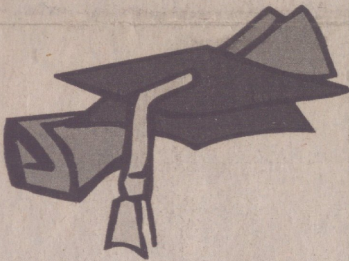
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Congrats to the 2009 Senior Class!!



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Rock Bottom

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Prom memorable for seniors

By Adam Niedbalski
Staff Reporter

The night started with "Crack a Bottle" by Eminem, journeyed on with "Don't Stop Believin'", and ended with a nostalgic "You and

Me" by Lifehouse. For many, the festivities for Prom started early in the afternoon with hair appointments and other beautifications to get ready for the big night. Scotus' Prom for the junior and senior class was a success from beginning to end.

Dinner started with a

greeting from the junior class officers and a birthday song dedicated to Kyle Benesch. The dinner setting for Scotus' prom is quite different from most because everyone from the two classes are together in a personal environment.

Senior Jen Williams enjoyed the dinner experience. "It's nice having the opportunity to be with your whole class and have a formal dinner together."

Once the dinner concluded, DJ Infinity took center stage and once again provided excellent music for the dance.

Senior Quintin Siemek was pleased with the overall experience of the dance. "There was really good music, I really liked our DJ. The only bad thing was it went by too fast."

Post-prom started at 1:00 a.m. at Boulevard Lanes, and ended a little after 4:00 a.m.

In an effort to encourage kids to stay until the end of post-



Seniors Sara Baer, Sam Spenner, Hannah Bolte, and Lori Fehr dance the night away.

ANGIE RUSHER/ROCK BOTTOM

See PROM, Page 2

Bonnie says goodbye after 20 years of service

By Callen Schwank
Staff Reporter

On March 27th, Scotus said goodbye to Bonnie Eikmeier who had been a member of the Scotus family for 20 years.

Eikmeier first started working at Scotus by monitoring study halls and working in the Media Center. She would also help in the cafeteria when needed. Clara Fleisher used to be in control of the lunch program at Scotus and worked there until she was 91. When Fleisher passed away, Eikmeier took over this position in no time and it was history in the making for the Scotus lunch program.

While working hard in the cafeteria, Eikmeier always made sure that the students had fresh salad and peanut butter sandwiches. Eikmeier also recalls fond memories of her children going to Scotus. She remembers how her son was one of the first Scotus kids to play with CHS baseball in co-op, and how he was a performer in the school musical *Sound of Music*. She also recalls how her daughter was

all the schools to find a new position. Homecoming Queen for Scotus. Most of all Bonnie remembers how every day at Scotus was fun, and there was never a bad day.

Eikmeier will be moving to Elkhorn due to her husband's new job location. As soon as she arrives in Elkhorn Eikmeier plans to apply at

Eikmeier is sad to be leaving Scotus and said several times how much she is going to miss the Scotus family. When asked if she had anything else she would like to say before she leaves, she said, "I would like to thank Scotus for the 20 years".



Scotus welcomes new lunch account manager, Shelly Adams.

CALLEN SCHWANK/ROCK BOTTOM

Scotus students go to the source to learn about government

By Chelsea Bartholomew
Editor

On March 29th, six students and one teacher embarked on a journey to Washington D.C. to participate in the Close Up program. Close Up is a program that teaches students about the American government and the role that they play as citizens. This year's trip was the first that Scotus has taken since 2001. Social studies teacher Jeff Ohnoutka, who was the group's teacher sponsor, believed that it went well.

"I think it was a huge success. Everybody got to see the town up close and personal, and our day on Capitol Hill was very informative. It was great to get to meet and talk with our representatives," Ohnoutka said, speaking about the day on the trip when students dress up, explore Capitol Hill, and meet with their state's senators and representatives.

There were three juniors and three seniors on this year's trip. The three juniors were Pat McKay, Eric Tubbs, and Katie Wiese; the seniors were Chelsea Bartholomew, Nathan Hotovy, and Matt Maca. All seemed to enjoy their experience.

"It was awesome," said Tubbs. "I felt that I learned more than I would have learned in a year from a textbook."

Hotovy agreed. "We learned what goes down in D.C., who's doing it, and how they do it. It was a blast."

While on the trip, the Scotus students stayed at the Key Bridge



Students pose in front of the US Capitol.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF OHNOUTKA

Marriott hotel in Arlington, Virginia. Also there were approximately 170 students from other states, including North Dakota, Michigan, California, Minnesota, Montana, and Ohio, and some from other Nebraska schools. Students roomed with one other student from their school and two from another school on the trip.

"I met a good portion of them through random encounters," said Hotovy. "There was a pretty wide variety of people there."

"My roommates were from North Dakota," said Tubbs. "They were fun to hang out with. And it was interesting how the kids from other states all spoke differently and had different big political issues to deal with in their own states."

Some of these issues were explored in activities that included nightly workshops, a debate between a liberal speaker and a conservative speaker, and a mock congress. The students also saw many of D.C.'s monuments, ate lunch at the Air and Space Museum, visited neighborhoods such as Dupont Circle and Chinatown, and had a "night on the town" that included a view of the White House.

Ohnoutka hopes that interest in Close Up continues to rise in the coming years. "I hope to get about twelve to fifteen students going every year. It's a great opportunity to see the city and witness our government in action."

Scotus royalty to see changes?

By Kelsey Jochum
Staff Reporter

As the school year wraps up, students await final events such as the last day of school, graduation, and Prom. Although Prom is another high school dance like Homecoming and Sweetheart, there are things that set it apart. One of these is royalty. Each year, a couple weeks before both Homecoming and Sweetheart, the senior class nominates six boys and six girls from their class to be up for royalty. The high school students then vote on that ballot for whom they deem worthy to be that year's King and Queen. Prom doesn't share this tradition, at least not at Scotus.

There are many different opinions as to why Scotus doesn't have Prom royalty. One opinion is that, because of the small number of students in the classes, it becomes too much of a popularity contest. Another

thought is that the juniors would feel left out if that attention was put on the seniors. The truth, though, is that there is a legitimate reason behind the lack of royalty.

Since its beginning, Prom has never had royalty like the other dances, and this is because it didn't start out as Prom. Originally, at the end of the school year, a dance was held for the seniors alone as a final get-together before graduation. In 1969, that was changed as they replaced that dance with a Junior-Senior Prom. Since the decision to have Prom came later, royalty never became an issue. Even with the juniors invited, Prom was still meant to be a closing dance, not one about achievement, and for this reason, Scotus has never had Prom royalty.

Some students disagree and believe there should be a Prom King and Queen. "Prom is a big deal," said junior Molly Forney. "I don't see why we shouldn't have it." Another

common opinion is that Prom royalty should be swapped for Sweetheart, but Forney disagrees with this as well. "We should have royalty for all three dances," Forney said. "That way, more people can be given the opportunity to shine."

Another issue facing Scotus royalty is the decision to change the requirements. Presently, in order to be nominated for King or Queen, a student may only have one "strike" against them. According to Athletic Director Gary Puetz, to receive a strike, a student must either be ticketed for the possession or use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco, or have a written report from a staff member who witnesses this possession or use. Another way a student can receive a strike is if a parent turns his or her child in. This past year, Student Council has brought an issue to the school board regarding whether to change this policy. They are proposing that once a student receives a first strike, he or she will no longer

be able to be nominated for royalty. There is controversy on whether or not this rule is "fair" for the students who already have strikes, which is actually a very small percentage of the student body. Only 14 out of the nearly 350 students in the school have strikes. Because it is such a small number, changing the policy wouldn't be unreasonable, but it is still up for debate. The issue will be discussed in full at the next school board meeting. If this change goes through, Homecoming and Sweetheart royalty may become regarded as something more significant than simply wearing a crown at a dance.

Though this change may affect the Homecoming and Sweetheart dances, it isn't an issue for Prom. Perhaps someday, Scotus will embrace the concept of Prom royalty, but for now, Prom remains not a time for honor, but a time to remember.

Prom

Continued from Page 1

prom, the prizes were raffled off at the end, along with the cash prizes given to every student as they walk out the door.

"This year's post prom was a lot different than last year's. I would have rather got a cash prize when you

enter, not when you leave," Siemk explained. "The hypnotist was hilarious, though, it was a great idea to hire him."

Steve Mead provided the highlight of the night with his entertainment as a hypnotist. A dozen students were picked out to be hypnotized.

Junior Sarah Swope had her own opinion about the hypnotist. "I loved watching the hypnotist; I just wish more people would have been chosen to get hypnotized."

The post prom activities were put on hold during Mead's hypnotism act, but even if the games still were going on, he would have had the attention of everyone in the room.

The hypnotist supplied many

laughs and made for a great post prom to end the night of prom festivities.

This year's grand prize at post prom was a HP Laptop, which was won by senior Lucas Backman.

Backman was relieved after he realized he was drawn for the laptop. "It's nice knowing I don't have to worry about buying (a laptop) before college. It was a sweet way to end post prom."



Brad Cheloha takes the dance floor during the song "Don't Stop Believin'."

ANGIE RUSHER/ROCK BOTTOM



The senior guys jumpstyle in honor of Lukas Loethmeier.

ANGIE RUSHER/ROCK BOTTOM



Students share conversation and laughter in anticipation of prom dinner.

ANGIE RUSHER/ROCK BOTTOM

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Sports

Scotus spring sports in full swing



BRIAN ACKMAN/ROCK BOTTOM

Nathan Wangler watches as his ball soars down the fairway.

Boys' golf team hopes to qualify for state

By Brian Ackman
Staff Reporter

This year thirteen boys are on the Scotus golf team. The varsity team consists of Brady Vancura at the number one spot; Derrick Dierman at number two; and Adam Niedbalski, Jon Otte, and Casey Kessler rounding out the top five. Dalton Leu, Brad Cheloha, Michael Hefti, Michael Albin, Seth Janicek, Keatan Schmidt, Ryan Fehr, and Nathan Wangler are on the junior varsity squad. The team is a combined 4-1 in duals and has shot some good scores in meets throughout

the year. Vancura is the only returning state qualifier from last year and hopes to qualify again this year. Dierman said that he is hoping to qualify for state as a single. He said that in order for him to make state this year, he will probably have to shoot around an 80 at districts. He also said that he would be glad to see the team qualify for state. "Jon Otte and Casey Kessler will be main factors for the team to qualify for state. They will have to shoot some good scores in districts." The team is hoping to have a good showing at the district tournament on May 18th.

Scotus athletes contribute to CHS teams

By Brian Ackman
Staff Reporter

Like every other sports season, Scotus athletes participated in Columbus High School's sports this spring. Three Scotus girls are on the CHS tennis team: Lori Fehr, Jenn Gokie, and Becky Svatora. Fehr plays No. 1 Singles for the tennis team and No. 3 Doubles with Gokie. She started playing tennis as a sophomore and has been on the varsity since her junior year. The Scotus girls have helped the CHS team to a record of 4-2 in duals this year. Fehr said that the team is having one of its best years ever, even with a small number of girls on the team. She hopes that the team can continue to work hard and do well at

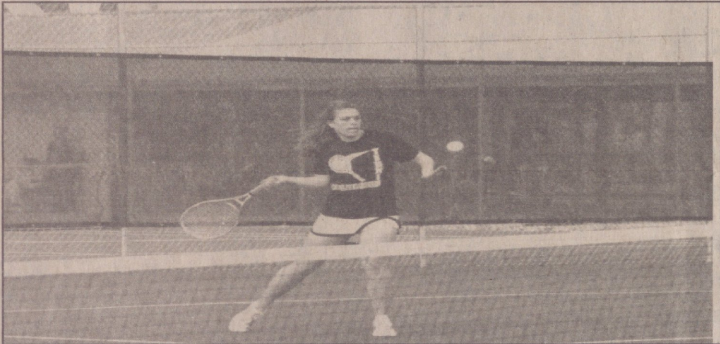
the state tournament on May 21st and 22nd.

Six Scotus athletes are on the Columbus High baseball team. James Landholm and Vincent Tira are the two Shamrocks competing on varsity, while Josh Spenner, Connor Sackett, Patrick Raimondo, and Levi Gasper are on junior varsity. Landholm plays second base for the Discovers and is also one of the starting pitchers for the team. On April 25th, he pitched a no hitter against Lincoln Northeast. He said that the Discovers have had the dream of making the state tournament all year, and that it is a reality for them now toward the end of the season. "I think if we play our best ball at the end of the season we can beat anyone and make it to state and maybe even farther."



MEGAN KRESHA/ROCK BOTTOM

Levi Gasper pitches during a JV baseball game.



Lori Fehr returns a serve at a tennis match. TONY DUREN/YEARBOOK STAFF

Soccer teams hope to make state

By Brian Ackman
Staff Reporter

The boys soccer team is having a good year so far. The team has competed against a tough schedule but has emerged with key victories over Class B top ten Lincoln Lutheran and Class A top five Omaha Creighton Prep. The boys finished second in the Papillion La-Vista Invitational and second at the Mount Michael Tournament. There are seven seniors on the boys' team this year: Chase Beiermann, Lucas Backman, Jared Ostdiek, David Gokie, Simon Schacher, Bill Kurtenbach, and Jay Klimes. Schacher said that the team has been bonding over the past weeks with the big wins and tough games. "I hope that the team can finish on a positive note and go to state." Sophomore James Euteneuer said that even though practices have been tough, the team is growing

stronger. The boys hope to continue winning important games as they move toward districts and the state tournament.

The girls soccer team this year has battled against a tough schedule. The team lost to class B top ten teams like Gretna, Columbus Lakeview, and Omaha Skutt, and they lost to class A top ten Bellevue East in a shootout. Despite these tough losses, the girls are still having a good year and hope to finish strong in the district tournament. Seniors on the team are Taylour Kumpf, Macey Fuhr, Whitney Ebel, and Katie Beiermann. The girls hope to build for the future with a young team that has four juniors, five sophomores, and eight freshmen. Fuhr said that the tough schedule early on is benefiting the team now and hopefully they can keep excelling. "I hope we will win our district and make it back to the state tournament."

Scotus track competing strong

By Kyle Benesch
Staff Reporter

The Scotus Boys and Girls Track Teams are having a strong season. On the boys' side of the field, success has come from the lead of its seniors. "The seniors have made the difference this year," said boys coach Ohnoutka, "The seniors are great athletes, but more importantly, great models for how our team competes."

Every senior on the team this year has scored points for the Shamrocks. Josh Ryba and Taylor Suess have set the bar for the track team, mainly dominating the discus event. Jordan Janda also has proven valuable to the Scotus track team, having run a 10.7 second 100 m dash, one of the fastest times in the state. These points have contributed in earning first place at the Wayne Invite and 2nd at the KC invite. Also, five returning state qualifiers have added to the Shamrock's success. Ohnoutka continued to say, "The guys have really competed this year. Because of injuries, some guys needed to step up and they really showed

their potential."

On the girls' side, things are also going well. The girls have managed to place first at three meets and second in the rest. Like the boys, much of this success is credited to the seniors. "The seniors are outstanding," said Coach Tooley, "We have a great balance of seniors in every area of events."

Many great feats have come out of this season, including four broken records and numerous area and state leading times. These feats have come from the five returning state qualifiers, and a couple of new additions. Senior Sami Spenner, a first year track athlete, earlier in the year broke records in both the long jump and triple jump. The triple jump record was first broken at Kearney by senior Kelli Schumacher, but later overtaken by Spenner.

Both teams plan to carry this success into conference and districts. The Shamrocks hope to compete well in the Centennial Conference meet, possibly the most difficult meet this year. The meet will be held Saturday May 9th at Pawnee Park starting at 10:00 a.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEVIN STOUT

Hannah Schaecher dribbles around a Kearney Catholic defender.



BRIAN ACKMAN/ROCK BOTTOM

Jacy Gasper pole vaults over the bar at the Scotus Relays.

Upcoming spring sports events

Girls Soccer
Districts: May 4 - May 7
State: May 13 - May 19

Boys Soccer
Districts: May 4 - May 7
State: May 13 - May 19

Boys Golf
Conference: May 9
Lakeview Dual: May 11
Districts: May 18
State: May 27 - May 28

Girls Tennis
Greater Nebraska Athletic Conference: May 9
York: May 11
Tri-City Tournament: May 16
State: May 21 - May 22

Baseball
Districts: May 9 and May 11
State: May 16

Boys and Girls Track
Conference Meet: May 9
Districts: May 14
State: May 22 - May 23

