SCOTUS CENTRAL

Rock Bottom

Scotus Central Catholic

Columbus, Nebraska 68601

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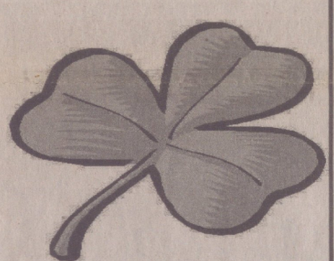

SCOTUS CENTRAL Rock Bottom

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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

New faces from all places

By Stephani Jarecke
Staff Reporter

Every year Scotus has new students, but this year it is different. This year Scotus has ten new students that have transferred to the school from out of town, from Columbus High School, out of State, and even out of the country. This is a higher number than usual, especially with having people come that are not in this area.

This year Scotus welcomed a senior all the way from Chile through the AFS (American Field Service).

"I came here to meet a different way of life, and I have met many interesting people." Bustamante said.

Bustamante says she is happy to be here and to make new friends. Although Bustamante has met many new people, she still keeps in close touch with her old friends back at home including her boyfriend.

Bustamante's previous school was much different than Scotus. Back in Chile, the students are not given the opportunity to do all the extra activities and electives. It is just studying all the time. Bustamante said Scotus is much easier, but she dislikes the early mornings.

Bustamante has also said the towns are especially different. Her city is large compared to Columbus. "The houses here are all equal, and back at home they are either big or small," says Bustamante. She would have to drive thirty minutes to get to school everyday.

Bustamante is all around extremely happy here. She loves that random people say hello to her.

Another student that is not from the area is freshman Christine Reiners from Alabama. This is her third time changing schools and she was upset when her father received a job here at Behlen. "When I found out from my parents that we had to leave, I was not happy about leaving my friends."

Reiners has kept in touch with her old friends through the internet, facebook, and texting. Since she has moved towns twice before her Columbus move, she has friends all around the states. Despite the major adjustments, she is meeting many people.

"It is a whole lot better now that I know people here." Reiners said.

While Scotus has students coming from far places, there are some that

See FACES, page 2

Steph Jarecke/Rock Bottom

Front row (L-R): Kayla Rinkol, Tayler Merrill, Samantha Slegl, Christine Reiners
Back Row (L-R): Koni Valencia, Bibiana Lopez, Alan Segura, Jordan Howard, Jennifer Devila Not Pictured: Amber Fraundorfer

Coulter adds to Scotus staff

By Stephen Pandorf
Staff Reporter

Scotus has a new teacher in the history department this year. Wade Coulter is teaching Ancient Civilizations to the 7th Graders and Modern World History to the sophomores and is the only new teacher this year. He is a Columbus High alumni. Coulter graduated from Peru State and played college football there. He did not decide to be a teacher until his sophomore year in college.

He was teaching at St. Wenceslaus Middle School in Omaha before he came to teach at Scotus. The middle school told Coulter they would not renew his contract until July so he came to Columbus on the offer of coaching girl's basketball. He knew there were opportunities in the Columbus Public School System and is well acquainted with Columbus High's head tennis coach Mr. Buffoon.

" I came to Columbus for the opportunity to coach at the high school level and to teach at the high school level because that's where I am more comfortable," Coulter said. Over the summer the opportunity came he was waiting for. When Sean Wickham left Coulter sought the position in the history department. He was given a job offer and took the position.

Coulter was also in the area over the summer because of his summer job, detasseling. He has detasseled during the summer for the last six years. Coulter says detasseling is the perfect job for a teacher because it is only during July-early August; and it pays good money. He stated that he enjoys detasseling because of all the crazy stuff that can happen in the cornfield while working.

Coulter has already been accepted by the student body. This year he was asked to go on the senior retreat at Camp Timberlake. Coulter was surprised that he was voted to go on the retreat because he does not have any of the seniors in his classes and it is his first year teaching. Coulter is also helping with coaching football and will be an assistant for girl's basketball.

Peter Heusinkvelt/Yearbook Staff

Mr. Coulter plays volleyball at the senior retreat.

Scotus feeling fall time flu

By Kyle Benesch
Staff Reporter

After its springtime scare, the H1N1 virus is once again a main cause of illness for people worldwide. The World Health Organization, or WHO, in early June declared the H1N1 virus to be a Phase 6 on the pandemic scale. This is the highest and most contagious level of the Pandemic Influenza Phases. This highly contagious disease has recently began to reach Columbus.

A large part of Columbus' population that has been getting sick is students. Scotus Central Catholic is no exception to the recent illnesses. Starting in late August, students began catching the flu at Scotus. Shortly after it started, the amount of students leaving school began to pick up. According to Scotus attendance keeping, on average at the beginning of September, anywhere from 10 to13 students were ill. In the third week of September on average 25 students were missing per day. One of these students included Ryan Becker, who was confirmed by the State to have H1N1 earlier this month.

"Getting the Swine flu was not fun," said junior Ryan Becker, "It felt awful." The Confirmation of H1N1 meant total isolation for Becker. "I had to stay in my room, and wear a protective mask and gloves," Becker said.

Ryan was out of school for a week, but he says the teachers did a good job of getting him caught up. With the high number of people gone, teachers are helping students make the process easier.

See FLU, page 2

Making it a family affair

By Stacia Rawhouser
Staff Reporter

Olivia Sonderman/Rock Bottom Staff

The Ohnoutka Family: Jeff, Deb, Ryan, Katie, Kristen

Everyday, Scotus hallways are swarming with students and teachers that bring family life to the classrooms. Mothers, fathers, brothers, and sisters share in the opportunity to see each other throughout the day. Though the rest of the student body and staff cannot imagine this as a lifestyle, for these families, it is simply their daily routine.

There are three families at Scotus that can truly call life at Scotus a family affair. The Salyard family has both Mr. and Mrs. Salyard teaching, while children Laura and Jeremiah attend school as a junior and a freshman. Both Mr. and Mrs. Lahm currently teach at Scotus, as two of their children, Derek and Grant, are present as a freshman and a seventh grader. Another name heard frequently around the school is "Ohnoutka." Mr. Ohnoutka and his wife Mrs. Ohnoutka both teach here as well. Three of their children, Katie, Ryan, and Kristen represent Scotus as a junior, sophomore, and an eighth grader. These families manage to live day by day with something that other students may consider a burden or a hassle. However, these families approach the situation with an open mind and an open heart.

"It's nice to have my entire family here. It's a blessing," Mr. Salyard said.

As for the rest of the student body, school is a place apart from being with parents.

"I think it's a lot easier for me because I'm a forgetful person so my parents back me up a lot," Kristen Ohnoutka said.

Most children have this obsession with thinking that their parents' goal in life is to embarrass them. With both Mother and Father at school, it seems these children would be easy targets.

"He doesn't go out of his way to embarrass me, it just kind of happens naturally. It's the way our family works," answers Laura Salyard about her father, Mr. Salyard.

With the occasional occurrence of embarrassment between the families, it is no surprise that what most students consider a "normal" school day may differ from what these children call "normal." School is usually a place of education that students learn from instructors and spend time with their friends in the learning environment. However, for these students that know their instructors personally, the learning environment is slightly altered and different from that of other students.

When asked about the effects of having his mother as an instructor, Derek Lahm answered, "Well, sometimes she brings 'home' into the classroom. Like, one time in class, she threatened to take my phone away."

Equally disciplining their own child as a student has to be more difficult than most think.

Confirming this, science teacher Mrs. Lahm confessed, "Absolutely it is hard. Sometimes their behavior at school requires discipline at home, whereas I can't discipline the other children at home," Lahm said, "It hasn't been easy teaching my own child."

With the difficulties of treating their own child as "just another student" in mind, would these teachers ever think to send their kids to another school in hopes of avoiding the hassle? All of these teachers agreed that despite the circumstances, they would never choose another school for their children simply because they want them to receive the most adequate faith-filled educations possible.

"Scotus is a great place with great teachers and great students. I am thankful that my children are students here," Mr. Ohnoutka said, "I believe in Catholic Schools, and I wouldn't change that for anything."

The Lahm Family: Joan, Derek, Grant, Merlin

Olivia Sonderman/Rock Bottom Staff

The Salyard Family: Patti, Tom, Jeremiah, Laura

FLU

Continued from page 1

"Earlier this month, we had a teachers meeting to discuss how Scotus teachers can help this situation," said Superintendent Wayne Morfeld. "We made a four part plan in order to help students and teachers avoid getting sick."

One plan was to have teachers discuss hygiene. Students were reminded by teachers to take care of their bodies in the best way possible.

Teachers also talked about "adjusting expectations". Part of this adjustment came in order to help students get back into school without being left too far behind to catch up. "This also puts responsibility on the student to get work done," Morfeld said. "We all need to work on making adjustments."

Another step Scotus is taking in order to beat the flu bug is to organize a free clinic for immunizations in school. Morfeld has been told that as soon as the vaccine for H1N1 is ready, high schools including Scotus will be given free vaccination shots during school.

"The age group that is most in concern right now is ages 5 to 24. This means that all Scotus students are at risk. Part of preventing this disease is to give this vaccine to the students," Morfeld said. Along with junior and senior high, the three Catholic grade schools in town will also be involved in this free clinic.

The main way for students to stay healthy now is to take care of themselves. Having good hygiene and avoiding germs is an easy way to avoid illness.

"Students need to be washing their hands and avoid sharing germs with each other," Morfeld said.

Avoiding sharing water bottles, unnecessary skin contact with others, and disinfecting all working areas are also easy ways for students to stay healthy.

Another big part of helping Scotus to be safe is to avoid other people when being sick.

All students who are feeling ill are encouraged to go home for their health and the health of other students.

"I realize there are students who want to stay in school and who don't want to miss their activities, but staying in school if your sick brings other people down. Help your classmates or your team by going home," said Morfeld. "One student being sick is better than the whole group not being able to participate."

FACES

Continued from page 1

are from the area such as freshman Sam Slegl. She transferred from Schuyler.

"My parents made me come here, and I really did not want to," Slegl said.

There are a few students in the school that travel everyday from Schuyler and other places. Slegl started off doing this, but just recently she has moved to Columbus.

Slegl can see the difference going from a public school to a Catholic school. "We were not allowed to mention God in my old school," Slegl said. Although the uniforms are new for her also, she does not mind wearing them.

Another major difference is education. "Scotus is a lot harder than what Schuyler ever was. Scotus is stricter than Schuyler too." Slegl said. She said that with Scotus being stricter there are fewer problems between students here.

Freshman Bibiana Lopez has also transferred from Schuylar, and senior Amber Frauendorfer is back again from Lakeview. Sophomore Kayla Rinkol transferred from Elkhorn, and there are four new students from Columbus High School: junior Taylor Merrill, sophomores Jordan Howard and Jenny Davila, and eighth grader Alan Segura.

Opinion

Restroom Oppression

By Levi McPhillips
Staff Reporter

Imagine with me. Little Jimmy Osgood is in the middle of English class. It is a cold, rainy day in Columbus, Nebraska. Jimmy would be doing well on his quiz if he did not have to go the restroom. He did not have to go during the beginning of the period, but he has the sudden urge to go. He goes up to the teacher and asks if he can go to the restroom. The teacher says, "Absolutely not. You should have gone before the class started. It is too late now. Go and do your quiz." Little Osgood reverently obeys his superior. Jimmy does an unsatisfactory job on his quiz due to his inability to focus.

It is a tragedy that Little Jimmy should have to suffer through a class because he is not allowed to use the facilities. However, Jimmy's story is one that occurs all too often here at Scotus Central Catholic. Going to the restroom is a routine everyone must take part in every day.

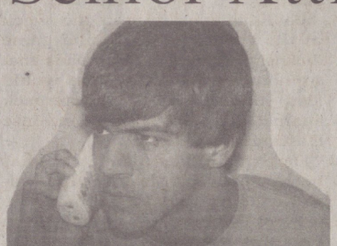
Many teachers have different policies when it comes to going to the restroom. Some, within reason, let you go when you want, while others only let you go before class. Lastly, there are a few teachers that only give you a few passes per quarter or semester. The teachers need to have a consistent policy. A few passes per quarter is too hard on the students. Some students, myself included, are on a regular schedule; these students go the same time everyday. If that time happens to fall during a class with a few passes per quarter, then the student is left to suffer a great deal during the school year.

Not only does "holding it" hinder your ability to focus, it also damages you physically. According to Nebraska Medical Center's website, a good way to prevent Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) is to "urinate when you feel the need and do not resist the urge to urinate." Therefore, holding it could cause urinary tract infection. It is in the best interest of the students to permit them restroom use when needed.

With all of these adverse effects one might ask why do we have these rules in the first place? According to the student handbook, a student may go the restroom during class with teacher permission as long as they are using appropriate behavior while in the restroom. Therefore, as long as no one is roaming the halls, purposely overflowing the sinks, or making a mess in the restrooms, pupils should be allowed to utilize the facilities whenever necessary.

Furthering restroom privileges is not only up the teachers and staff, but it is also up to the students. Class can be quite boring, but that does not give students the right to roam the halls and whistle nursery rhymes. Putting paper towels in the sinks creating a flood requiring Noah's Ark in order to return to class is not funny. Actions such as these are immature and everyone suffers the consequences. Obey these three rules. First, kindly ask the teacher if you can use the facilities. Second, quietly go to the restroom and get the job done. Lastly, wash your hands and go back to class immediately. For those of you who need an acronym to remember use AGB (Ask-Go- Back to Class). If students all obey these three rules, no restroom limitations will some day be a reality, and everyday students will not have to suffer as Little Jimmy Osgood did.

Senior Attitudes Portrayed Through Photos



By Kyle Benesch
Staff Reporter

Wanting to stay, wanting an easier year, wanting to get involved, all are emotions felt by already stressed seniors. Although senior year may be hectic for all, students handle their final year in different ways. The processes of tests, applications, and college searching can destroy kids while others simply love easy classes, privileges, and closer parking. This variety of emotions felt towards senior year is shown throughout its duration, but a person's true colors come out during their senior photos.

After becoming "acquainted" with the Goc family this past spring, I was offered a job at Goc's Photography over the summer. After starting the job, it did not take long for me to realize that like fingerprints, no two seniors are alike. My strategic view point of light reflector boy allowed me to observe the various behaviors displayed by students. During a photo shoot, a person's true colors were shown; what interests they had, what their plans were, who they had become, who they wanted to become, and what they were looking forward to with their final year.

The students who had been kept on a leash their whole lives by their parents were the easiest to pick out. They had no choice in their outfits or ideas. Often parents would bring in pictures from magazines or past siblings demanding that their child be posed the exact same as the two-dimensional image that was presented to us. These kids most likely have been kept under constant scrutiny and watched by their parents their entire lives.

Other kids had parents who didn't care how the photos looked. This freedom came out in two different ways. Some would bring minimal changes, and want to get the session done as fast as possible. They would give us no ideas and we would struggle to take photos that truly represented them. Most likely these kids have had the opposite parenting of the "leash family", and they are the kids who have the "don't care about life" attitude.

Others were more creative and expressed themselves well by taking direction of their photo shoot. Without the pressure from their parents or the photographer, these kids were able to be free and ended up taking fun pictures. The kids would tell us their future goals of going to the college they wanted and wanting to study their dream major. It was apparent that these kids had put serious thought into not only their photos, but their future as well.

When it came down to the last of the photos, the activities shot, a living resúme of what students had accomplished was shown, the involved kids filled the room with their prized possessions. Many of the seniors brought their sports gear, or their band instruments, and decorated the area around them with T-shirts from the many years they have been involved with their activities. Medals and trophies helped brighten photos, truly making the work of the individual look worthwhile. Also, there were other kids who did not have quite as many outstanding achievements.

There were not many, but some kids came with what little they had. Their moms had to search and pry for the slightest sense of achievement to put in the photo. The seniors would bring in a baseball glove from the last time they played in the third grade, or a boy scout uniform that had not been worn since it was first bought. It was an opportunity for these kids to see how little their involvement was. With senior year in full swing, the message of becoming involved is thrown around everything, and these were the kids who the message was aimed at.

For me, I formed a category of my own. Working at Goc's gave me a rather open time to do my photos. The problem for me was that I did not want to take them, and not because I didn't want to take the time, or I did not want to smile, but because I don't want to admit that I am a senior. Already these simple tasks of completing this year are becoming difficult for me, and I know it is because I don't want to move on. The friends, family, teachers, and coaches that have helped me throughout high school have made life easy for me. This easy life is what I want to have forever, but working at Goc's helped me to realize that eventually like your pictures, you just have to get it done and move on.

Teacher's Lounge

By Bill Leng

I was surprised to be asked to contribute an article for this *Rock Bottom*. Others might be speechless. I'm rarely ever that.

The first 21 years of my life I wasn't Roman Catholic, so I never had the benefit of a Catholic education. The first three school years I worked overnight, so I rarely got to see anyone. This year I'm seeing more people I have known about. I'm not surprised how many students I've come to know, especially from my first year in Columbus when I was at St. Isidore school. What does surprise is how many students and teachers know who I am, since I've never even been in a yearbook!

I am most impressed with the dedication of everyone here at Scotus. I see photos and yearbooks showing the number of teachers and staff who have been here many years. I see students whose parents graduated from Scotus. It is a personal honor for me just to do my job here, being around all these people who know how important a Catholic education is, and what a difference it makes in a person's life. Believe me, I know this difference first hand. You not only get a well rounded education here, but in the really important matters of ultimate importance (life, death, heaven God, etc). here you learn the truth. "You shall know the truth, and THE TRUTH shall make you free" (John 8:32). Anyone who presumes to tell you that there is another "truth" either doesn't know any better or is lying!

I also know how much work it takes, especially during the summers, so that Scotus looks great at the start of the school year as well as the start of every school day. Since it is my job to clean up after everyone leaves, I notice something else. I can tell that there are some people here (no need to say who) that don't fully appreciate Scotus, how it looks and how to keep things looking good all the time. Think past the end of your own nose! Before you leave any area, think "What would my parents think if they saw this?"

"It is a personal honor for me just to do my job here, being around all these people who know how important a Catholic education is, and what a difference it makes in a person's life."

~Bill Leng

Don't leave a mess. Pick up after yourself. Gum is wadded up in a tissue or scrap of paper before it is put in a waste basket. It does NOT go on the floor, tiled or carpeted, or under a seat or desk! Flush a toilet after you use it. Scotus has a Green Club that RECYCLES – paper, and plastic bottles (which should not go in the trash, especially next to a recycling bin!)

Do your part so that your life or someone else's life or work isn't harder than it needs to be. Make sure others, including your parents, know how proud you are to be here at Scotus.

Have a good school year. GO SHAMROCKS!

Letter to the Editor

By Ms. Ploetz

Singing in Mass. Why?

Several year ago, when I was in NY, my sisters and their Sunday School class were singing in church. There was a little girl who couldn't stop smiling the entire time. She never sang in key and rarely hit a right note, but she loved singing about God. She loved singing *for God*.

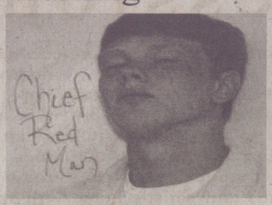
Okay, so the little girl was cute and all, but why the singing in Mass topic again? I've got a new thought process for you: when you sing in Mass, you shouldn't sing because you want your friends to hear. You shouldn't sing because your teachers have told you to. So why sing then? Lifting our voices in song is our opportunity to praise God, to talk to God. Music is another form of praying. God doesn't care if you are a virtuoso or tone-deaf. God simply rejoices that His name is being praised and lifted high in music.

So my plea to the body of Christ at Scotus is - SING. Open the missals, read the words, and lift your voice in song. Not for your friends, teachers, or peers. But sing because God has given you a voice and that voice is *exactly right* when it comes to praising God.

A singer for God,

Ms. Ploetz

Chief Redman is Burning



By Brian Ackman
Layout Editor

As I look back at some of the games and sporting events within the last few weeks, I notice that each sport has had headline news recently. With football season just getting started and other sports in full swing, here are some things that I'm burning on:

· The NFL has proved to be exciting thus far. In week one alone there were some huge games and even bigger plays made. Tom Brady's return is huge for the Patriots. If Brady can return to his 2007 form, then the rest of the NFL is in for a brutal treat. This year, another team lost a key player in week 1. Brian Urlacher is one of the studs on the Bears defense that wins them ballgames. Without him, I can see the Bears as an average team at best, and it will be tough for them to compete in a talented division. As for the Denver Broncos week 1 victory, I have to say that they are in for a rough year if they rely on luck like that to bail them out every week.

· Also in the NFL, Michael Vick will be eligible to play again for the Philadelphia Eagles come week 3. Starting quarterback Donovan McNabb suffered a cracked rib in week 1, and his health will be questionable over the next few weeks. So my question is "Will Michael Vick be the starter for this team?" Eagles coach Andy Reid has already shown he is not confident in backup Kevin Kolb, so it is obvious Vick would play over Kolb. I'm not sure that Vick can be trusted to play though. Vick hasn't played in an NFL game since December 31st 2006. Fans are excited to see his game breaking abilities, but I just don't think that he is ready quite yet.

· Nebraska football started its season with a bang. Some questions surrounded new quarterback Zac Lee, but he has proved he can play at a high level. He has been bailed out though, in my mind, by a talented receiving corps. Receiver Menelik Holt could be a star player this year. I see him as being a big possession receiver that can run those middle routes and take some hits. This will leave the outsides open for quicksters like Niles Paul and Curenski Gilleylen. Husker Nation is already drooling over freshman quarterback Cody Green. From what I've seen, he has a laser rocket arm and is built to run over and around defenders in the future.

· The U.S. Open appeared to be very interesting even to people who don't normally watch tennis like myself. Men's champion Juan Martin del Porto from Argentina went on an epic winning spree to win the tournament. I don't know a lot about tennis, but when someone beats world ranked players Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer within a few days, he deserves first place. Seeing some of this tournament has encouraged me to watch more tennis so that I can witness great matches like these.

· Also in tennis news, I hope that everyone got to see Serena Williams "explode" after a call made by an official in the I won't go into major detail, but I believe some of her tantrum involved a tennis ball being shoved down the line judge's throat. Such a tennis outburst has not been seen since John McEnroe's "You can not be serious!" rant.

Wangler, others step up for football team

By Casey Kessler
Staff Reporter

Despite having a difficult start to the season, the Scotus football team has underclassmen that have made an exclusive impact. Nathan Wangler is one of the juniors that are stepping up this season, as he is starting on the defensive side of the ball. He recently led the team in tackles with eight during their 27-7 loss to David City Aquinas on September 3rd. What makes Wangler an amazing story is he fractured his vertebrae during last year's football season. In other words he broke his back badly. He had to wear a back brace under his school shirt last year, and it was a tough road to recovery.

"The doctor told me to basically not do any physical activity for six months, until my back was better. That included weightlifting and activities like that," Wangler said.

> "I can see the underclassmen playing better and gaining confidence each week."
>
> ~Coach Kreinke

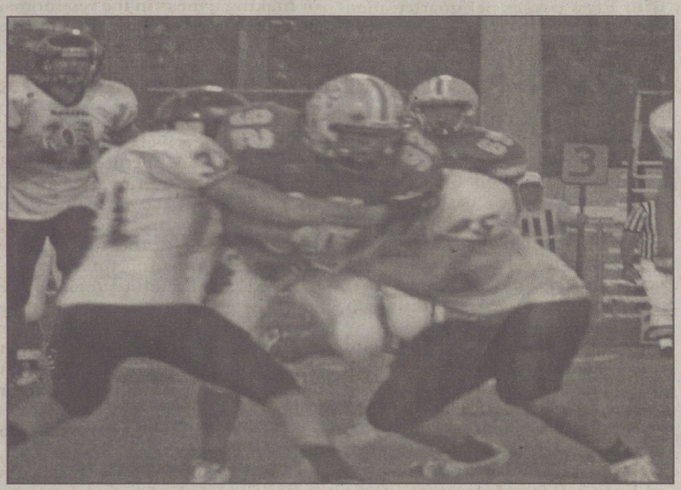
There are also other underclassmen that are stepping up for the football team. Those players include Austin Wortman, Alex Bolte, Ryan Ohnoutka, and Stephen Pandorf who are all sophomores except for the junior Pandorf. All of these players have either had extensive action during varsity games or are actually starting.

"The underclassmen have done a good job this season. Coming into this season, we knew we had to replace a talented senior class that played a key role the last three seasons. I can see the underclassmen playing better and gaining confidence each week," said Kreinke.

The team will need to win at least four or five games to secure a playoff spot for the third consecutive season. Something that has not happened since Jim Puetz retired as head coach in 2001. They play Madison next on Friday.

Injuries in the quarterback position have been one obstacle that the team has had to deal with. The frontrunner for the starting job this year, senior Aaron Boss, who led Scotus to a 17-0 victory over Boone Central in the regular season finale last year, was sidelined due to a leg injury before two a days began mid August. So the reins were thrust upon senior Alex Kuta to lead the team. He started the first two games against Lakeview and David City Aquinas, but then Kuta was injured the week of the Hastings St. Cecilia game during practice. This means that sophomore Josh Spenner would lead the team as quarterback against the C1 #1 powerhouse Hastings St. Cecilia.

"The quarterback position has been a pleasant surprise this season. Going into the summer we felt good about the fact that Aaron Bos was a senior who had game experience and played very well in the playoffs. With the injury to Aaron, Alex Kuta stepped in and did a fine job and was getting better each week After Alex's injury, Josh Spenner stepped in as a sophomore and performed well and will be a good quarterback," Kreinke said.



Casey Kessler./Rock Bottom
Pat Mckay runs through tackles of two Hastings St. Cecilia Bluehawks.

XC "Improved and Improving"

By Levi McPhillips
Staff Reporter

The dedicated Shamrocks have shown great improvement since the start of the season. As of September 9th the cross country boys were ranked 12th, an improvement of four spots in Class C since the start of the season. The girls were ranked 12th and as of September 9th were ranked 10th. At the Boone Central Invitational the girls' team placed 3rd and the boys' team placed 5th out of 10 teams. Both boys and girls teams won the Lakeview-Newman Triangular on September 8th. With results like these, the team has a good outlook for the rest of this season.

There are a few top runners that have taken leading roles on the team. Boys Joel Ostdiek, Kyle Benesch, Adam Moore and Nick Preister have led the team through practices and meets. According to the school website, these runners were the first Shamrocks to come across the finish line at the Scotus Invitational on the 18th. Leaders for the girls' team, Morgan Benesch and Amber Ewers, are both doing wonderful jobs this year. At the Wayne Invitational on September 14th, Morgan Benesch placed 4th and Amber placed 6th. Mr. Lahm said that these two top runners did not even run last year. This shows that even in inexperience, these runners can perform well. Emily Jarecki, a senior on the cross country team, said, "I am very impressed with the underclassmen. They definitely give it all they got in practices and meets." The young team will have to keep up the work to have a successful season and make it to state.

Joel and eight other team members took part in the 200 Club. This program is a way for runners to stay in shape and improve in the off-season. According to Mr. Lahm, the cross country head coach, it is a tremendous improvement in the off-season running. Three times as many runners did the 200 Club this year compared to years past. "We are improved and improving," Lahm said.

The toughest meet for the team this year, according to Lahm, will be the District meet. It is tough because it is so important, and the results tell a great deal about the team and their effort. Joel Ostdiek, when asked if the boys will place in the top three at District, said, "In the tough district, it will take a lot of hard work to finish where we need to be."

The team to beat in the girls' division seems to be Pierce. One of the most important season meets is now behind the Shamrocks. Unfortunately, Pierce was not at the Shamrock invite. The girls placed 2nd and were beat only by Lindsay Holy Family. However, Lindsay Holy Family is a class D school, therefore the Shamrocks do not need to beat this team to get to state. As of September 9th, the top three boys teams in the state were Boone Central, Norfolk Catholic, and Wayne. In order to make it to state the Shamrocks will have to beat one of these three teams. At the Scotus Invite, the Shamrocks did just that. Scotus boys placed 3rd in the meet. The boys showed great improvement compared to previous meets. The cross country team is striving for state. Ostdiek said, "If the cross country team keeps improving and staying healthy, they should see success in the 2009 season." For updates on the team go to scotuscc.org (the school website) for schedule, roster, and meet result information. Follow the links to Sports, Fall Sports, and Cross Country.

Volleyball goals set high

By Stephani Jarecke
Staff Reporter

The volleyball team is trying to keep their standards high and continue from last year. They have started off strong this year. The team has many adjustments to make this year with losing five strong and active seniors last year. They are off to a great start winning the Shamrock Invite and the North Bend Tournament. At this point there are many achievable goals.

Just as every year their goal is to go to state. They have pressure put on them with the fact that the last nineteen out of twenty four years, Scotus has played in the state championship game.

Although the team always strives for state, head coach John Peterson said, "The main goal for the team is to become the best they can be and overachieve."

This year the team has been arranged with many thoughts and considerations. The coaching staff has been deciding continually through summer until the team scrimmage, which is one week before the first game. When Peterson chooses athletes he always looks for the best athletes and most skilled. He has to make sure the team is balanced with the right amount of players for each position, this means there would be a capable back up.

This year some of the pressure has been put on

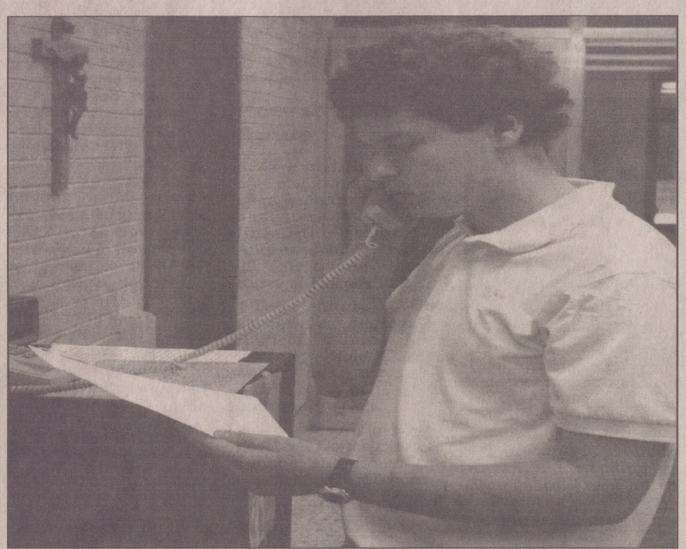
See VOLLEYBALL, page 6

Campus Ministry off to a new start

By Olivia Sonderman
Staff Reporter

Homework, sports, plays, clubs, jobs and social lives fill the schedules of the students here at Scotus. Within this chaotic high school setting, Campus Ministry is there as a way to make Catholic faith more present in students' lives.

This year, Campus Ministry is striving to create an even larger impact at Scotus. "Hopefully, it will be more dynamic than previous years with more being done by students," said Fr. Roza. Some of these leading students include Kyle Benesch, President; Bill Cremers, Social Director; A.J. Bose, Spiritual Director; and Levi McPhillips, Service Director. Under the guidance of Father Roza and these leaders, approximately sixty Campus Ministry members are stepping up to create more opportunities to grow in faith.



Bill Cremers reading daily prayer. OLIVIA SONDERMAN/ROCK BOTTOM

The beginning of this faith-filled revolution did not start on the Scotus campus. In fact, long before the school year began, Scotus students were attending retreats such as J.C. Camp, Quest, and the Steubenville Youth Conference.

Besides these powerful retreats, juniors and seniors have recently been authorized as Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion or Lectors at mass, a process that begins in the spring by filling out an application and concludes with a mandation mass given by the Archbishop in the fall. Father Roza confirmed what force is driving Campus Ministry.

"I think that students have had really powerful experiences over the summer, and they want to come home and help others to have the same experiences."

Another exciting aspect for the coming year is the returning leadership of both Roza and other strong leaders, comments Bill Cremers. "Now that we have more experience we can make our Catholic faith more apparent."

Prayer before and after the school day over the intercom is a change. Besides this, new plans include service days where students go out into the community to volunteer their time.

Every first Friday of the month, Eucharistic Adoration will occur in the chapel during the school hours for students to spend what Father Roza calls "quiet time: to get away from everything going on in school and just be with Jesus for a while".

An increase in food drives and social nights is another hope for the group. Meanwhile, Campus Ministry is also open to ideas from any students who want to contribute. Though membership is no longer available, all students are invited to participate in the events.

While expectations are high for a more active year, Campus Ministry still recognizes that several barriers stand in the way of success. Levi McPhillips admitted, "Lack of attendance at meetings, dedication of members, and not enough involvement and participation in activities will be obstacles for this year."

Looking past these barriers, however, Campus Ministry can see only a year loaded with living out their Catholic faith within school.

"In the midst of everything that goes on, sports, fine arts, and homework, we need to take a look back and see our faith in God in the picture," Cremers said. "That way, we can return to our activities with a greater fire and a greater passion."

Scotus students continue to *Play On!*

By Kelsey Jochum
Copy Editor

Actors acting as actors; a director directing another director; a play within a play. This is the challenge the Scotus theatre department is taking on this fall.

Play On! is the story of a group of amateur actors who are frantically trying to bring their show together before opening night. Stressed out by endless changes that the playwright is making, the group is unable to keep up with who their characters are or what they are supposed to be doing.

In the first two acts, the actors are rehearsing the play that they must perform in a few short nights. While the director tries to keep everyone focused so that the show can be a success, the actors are constantly missing their cues and forgetting their lines. When the group is suddenly visited by the play's overly cheery writer, their nerves run even higher.

Act three brings opening night for these actors, where they must finally pull the show together. But with things going wrong here and there and the playwright making an outrageous speech, the night is sure to be anything but smooth sailing.

EJ Gardner is the director of this year's fall production. She decided to take the directing position after many years of producing.

"I haven't directed in quite a few years, and after working alongside other directors and watching them, I wanted to try it again," Gardner said.

After reading several other plays, Gardner finally settled on *Play On!* for its flexible casting and number of characters. She also commented that she had never done a "play-in-play" before. "I wanted to do a comedy, and I thought the students would enjoy this one most."

The cast represents all the high school classes, including two seniors, five juniors, two sophomores, and one freshman. When asked what junior Jaci Beauvais, who has been involved in the school productions since her freshman year, thought of the younger cast, she said, "It gives everyone the chance to prepare for years to come. Also, I'm glad that the juniors are representing!" Beauvais plays a part of one of the "actors".

Senior Jenna Roh had a similar opinion about the young cast.

"I think it is good because the underclassmen have a chance to build their experience."

Roh has been involved in the theatre department at Scotus since her sophomore year and has thoroughly enjoyed it. Being Roh's last year at Scotus, she commented that it feels different to be a "senior actor."

"Just like anything else, being a senior means being a leader. I feel I need to keep the cast on the right track as well as have a good time."

Another difference in this year's play is that it has many strong leading female roles. The cast is made up of seven women and three men, but Gardner does not think that this will be too different.

"There are a lot of girls in the cast, but the guys have strong parts, so it balances," Gardner said. "Every play has its own personality, and the casting for this one really works."

One of the male leads in *Play On!* belongs to sophomore Ben Heusinkvelt. After being a leading role in last year's spring play, he hopes that this year's theatre department can be just as successful as last year's.

"There are a lot of new faces this year, but they bring a lot of energy," Heusinkvelt said. "This cast has lots of energy and great character performance."

Besides new actors getting a taste of performing, the technical side of this production is seeing new faces as well. Taking over for his older brother, Andy Heusinkvelt has taken the position of technical director for this performance. He will be in charge of sound and lights and any other technical jobs the show might need.

"This play has many challenges that will make my job more involved," Heusinkvelt said. "I'm really looking forward to it though."

Play On! is scheduled to open on Friday, October 30th with another showing on Sunday, November 1st.

✝Our Faith

By Father Roza
Scotus Chaplain

This year I'll be writing for the Rock Bottom, answering questions that can come up from time to time. The first question is common and is a good one:

Q: So, if God will forgive you for anything, doesn't that mean that we can do whatever we want? As long as we eventually go to confession, isn't it ok?

At first glance, this is an extremely appealing way to look at things. "I can do whatever I want, and have no ultimate consequences? Sign me up!" However, things aren't as simple as they seem on the surface, and this is ultimately a false way of understanding God's mercy. It has been found to be false for several reasons. First of all, you don't know when you're going to die. If you're tempted to think that you'll have plenty of time in the nursing home to work on getting right with God, don't bet on it. Class might seem long, but life is short.

Secondly, when we think this way about God we treat Him like he's an ATM machine: put the card through, press the buttons, get the good stuff, get out. God is not a machine that we manipulate for our purposes! He is a living and personal being. We relate to Him as we would to a member of our family, or to a good friend. Along those lines, consider applying the above logic to our relationships with our friends: If you were pretty confident that a friend would forgive you for lying and stealing from them, would you do so? I should hope not. If nothing else, the simple fact that you care about your friend and don't enjoy hurting them should be enough to prevent you from doing so. Or, to put it in a different light, if you had a good friend, and they consistently took advantage of your generosity, would you be good friends for long? Again, I would hope not.

Obviously, God is much more patient and generous than we are. As such, He is *always* ready to forgive. The issue is whether we are truly ready to ask for it. If we act selfishly or sinfully because we are presuming upon God's forgiveness, *we begin to destroy our ability to feel sorry* for having done these things. It is really important to see just how important this is! Contrition is expected in any apology that we make in life, and confession is no different. Did you know that contrition is an *essential* aspect of confession? In other words, if there is no contrition whatsoever, you can't actually be forgiven. Contrition is partly sorrow for what you have done, and partly desiring not to do it again. Any way of thinking or attitude that impedes your ability to experience this sorrow for sin is equivalent to spiritual poison, because the long term effects are always bad.

So, let's live as well as we can and trust that Jesus knows what He's doing when he says, "Go, and sin no more" (Jn 8:11)

Upcoming Events: Month of the Most Holy Rosary
Oct. 5th: Campus Ministry Service Activity
Oct. 17th & 18th: Quest in Lynch
Oct. 18th: Hour of Power

Entertainment

Grinds My Gears

Popular Music

By Stephen Pandorf
Staff Reporter

You know what grinds my gears, mainstream music. Miley Cyrus aka Hannah Montana, the 16-year-old pop superstar has 5 platinum albums in the 2 years. That is the same amount of platinum albums as Johnny Cash achieved in 49 years with 96 albums. Miley's music includes pop songs about boy troubles, how it is tough to live as a celebrity superstar and a normal person at the same time, or about how her teenage problems are like a mountain, while Cash's music was inspired by his relationship with God, his addiction to cocaine, and the loss of his wife. Mainstream music lacks the depth and inspiration that inspires beautiful music. Our generation lacks a Beatles, Pink Floyd, or Led Zeppelin because we give millions to artists who only want to make money and have others write and create their songs.

Such platinum selling artists as Soulja boy, Lady Gaga, Flo Rida, and Taylor Swift write about such personal topics as money, getting women, getting men, or complete nonsense. "Pokerface", a song by Lady Gaga has been on the Billboard top 100 charts for 5 months. "Pokerface" features riveting lyrics such as "I'm just stunnin, with my love-glue-gunning" and 20 lines of "P-p-p-poker face, p-p-poker face" which is roughly a third of the song.

Soulja boy enjoys "Turning His Swag On" and boasts he "fly" rhymes. He evidently dropped out of school in 4th grade because this song contains zero rhyming unless hattin rhymes with hattin. The song then promotes his website SoujaboyXl.com. These artists care for nothing but self-promotion and getting the next big hit. Soulja's Boy's critically acclaimed album souljaboytellem.com features one song title "Bapes", which only promotes the Bathin Ape's Shoe Brand and another titled "Booty Meat" which consists of the line "Gurl Shake Dat Bootymeat Dat Bootymeat Shake Dat Bootymeat Dat Bootymeat Gurl Shake" repeated for about 3 minutes. Artists like Soulja Boy only pollute the music industry with songs that make music seem like a business instead of an art form.

If an artist isn't trying to advance music as a form of art then they should not be creating music. Music is meant to first inspire, then motivate, and lastly entertain. Soulja Boy, Lady Gaga, and Flo Rida only seem to inspire people to be promiscuous and motivate them to buy their favorite brand of shoes. Music should not only be about entertainment. Sure, its ok to hear a couple songs about how a rapper gets all the ladies or have ten mansions, but something is wrong with music when 82 of the top Billboard 100 songs are about being the greatest or the various places rappers/artists get women. Hip hop and rap artists should buy a rhyming dictionary and stop making songs about how gangster or fly they are. My hope is that the music trend moves away from generic lyrics and sounds to embrace a creative and experimental side. Artists such as Muse, Chevelle, and Frost* are not afraid to experiment with their music and as a result create songs that are lyrically deep and feature a wide range of sounds.

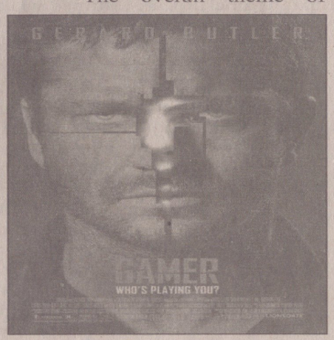
In conclusion I will recommend that more people listen to more Muse, Hurt, or Deltron 3030 and less Pitbull, Lady Gaga, Nickleback, or Miley Cyrus.

Merle's Matinee: *Gamer*

By Merle Mapes
Staff Reporter

This is the key question in *Gamer*. Imagine, a world with no consequences, no pain, this is Society. Ken Castle has created a nano cell that spreads throughout a person's brain and makes them susceptible to the control of whoever pays the most. Pay to play or get paid to get played, this is how Castle has set up his perfect game, Society, but he went a step further and created Slayers. In Slayers you control a real person in real combat; if the combatant wins 30 games, they are set free. This is where the story begins with Kable, finishing his 27th game.

The overall theme of *Gamer* is dark, harsh and gives the viewer an accurate picture of where human nature may lead us, into chaos. Humans have advanced so far in this fictional future, and yet we are even less civilized, living out their lives through other people. Humans controlling other humans, ignoring the feelings or privacy of the one being controlled, this is truly a dark future. Castle takes his 'ultimate sim game' even further with Slayers, a game where each player controls a death row inmate and forces them to fight to survive. While the gamers think of it only as a game, the inmates know that this is a life or death game that nobody has ever won. This is well shown in a conversation between Simon, the controller of Kable, and Kable himself in the middle of a battle where Simon reveals that he only cares if Kable dies because he would lose all of his fame.



Gamer has intense action scenes, but they last only a few moments before something else happens, the focus is not on the game but the people. Kable also deals with numerous moral choices, as do all of the characters, along with a battle of wills. Throughout the movie Kable fights the control but is powerless to stop it, he was forced to fight, despite the resistance he shows. The movie revolves around this control and how to break it, but there is definitely the question of "Should this technology even be allowed?"

All of these great moments in the movie sadly only make up about half of the movie. The sexual content of the movie was random and poorly done, but what can you expect when they name one of the characters Rick Rape? There were times that I was just disgusted with the movie and wanted to walk out, but at the same time I wanted to see who was going to die in the next fight. Near the end, when Kable confronts Castle, there is a rather 'unique' fight; Kable fights numerous mind-controlled slaves while Castle dances to jazz (scary, I know). The final fight between Kable and Castle is an epic moment for anyone to see. Kable is put into a difficult situation and the battle becomes a battle of wills that, with outside assistance, Kable is able to come out on top. Overall, the movie was decent, but I would not pay to watch it again. If you are looking for senseless violence with some moral undertones, this is a great movie, but as for myself, I would have to give it a 2 out of 5.

As Told By A Ginger

By Levi McPhillips
Staff Reporter

This is the first of a series of articles that will outline the perks, points of view, and characteristics of being ginger. Some of you may be asking yourselves "What is a ginger?" A ginger is a human being that is characterized by red hair, light complexion, and freckles. Redheads are few in number. According to an article entitled "Will Rare Redheads be Extinct by 2100?" in the *Seattle Times*, 4% of the world's population is ginger.

I think this statistic is too low. I have personally seen a surge in ginger children. In August I was at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha. As my family and I walked into the entrance, we saw two ginger children walk out of the gift shop with their ginger parents. It was then that I realized I was not alone. Gingers often have brothers and sisters who are redhead; my brother is also a ginger. However there are some gingers that seem to be out of place. Junior Laura Salyard is a perfect example. Where on earth did her pigment, or lack thereof, come from? Apparently she does not even know. She stated that no one in her family has red hair, and she said her parents were very surprised she was born redheaded.

One glaring mistake the writer of the *Seattle Times* article made was that he failed to recognize that recessive genes are very unlikely to die out. They can only die out if all the members of the population die off, or if those who carry the genes fail to reproduce. With families like the one at the zoo and the promising outlook of my engaged brother and his fiancé, I have hope for the future that the gene will live on in hearts, minds, and hair of the babies of the future. I hope these babies embrace their red hair and the lifestyle it creates.

Part of being a ginger is acceptance of the gene. While some brunettes or blondes dye their hair, gingers are uplifted to call themselves redheads. Some of those who dye their hair often do not know the true color of their hair. Redheads never forget their true heritage or their true complexion, no matter how pale it might be.

We are unique, and God made us this way. I plead to my fellow redheads to embrace what they have been blessed with. Having this gene is not something to hide or cover up. We will not dye our hair and conform to society just because we are "different". We prefer to be happy and enjoy our precious time here on Earth as gingers.

VOLLEYBALL

Continued from page 4

sophomore Jordan Chohon. In her first year on varsity, Chohon is the starting setter. Chohon said she had a slight feeling she was going to set for varsity as she started to play on the "varsity court" more and more during practices.

Although Chohon had a feeling, she was not sure about it until the day of the first game when freshman coach Blaser said to her "Congratulations". Chohon was nervous to play her first game.

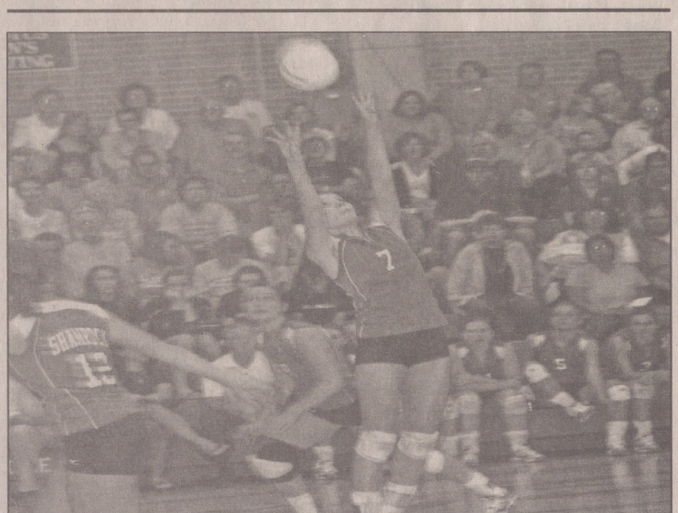
"I take deep breaths and tell myself to take a deep breath, and I make sure I stay focused," Chohon said.

Now she says it is fun, and she loves to hear her name through the speakers. She feels the pressure is on her not because she is young and inexperienced but because she has to set and get the balls to the right hitters.

"It is my job to know exactly which hitters are up and how each hitter wants it, so I have to make them as perfect as possible so they can get a kill," Chohon said.

Besides the new sophomore setter, there are experienced seniors that lead the team. This is Monica Boeding's third year starting for the team. She is the leading hitter in kills. Andrea Odbert also has been working as the libero for the team for three years. Another experienced player is Maggie Hellbusch; this is her second year starting. Although Katelyn Kerkman has never started, she has had some experience on varsity from last year. Laura Zach has been seeing some playing time as a defensive specialist.

This weekend Scotus will be playing in the new Columbus Classic tournament at Columbus High. There will be new competition including Blair, Columbus High, and North Platte along with cross-town rival, Lakeview.



Stephani Jarecke/Rock Bottom

Jordan Chohon pushes a set outside during the Scotus game against Aquinas.

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SCOTUS CENTRAL

Rock Bottom

Scotus Central Catholic

Columbus, Nebraska 68601

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Scotus fire drills heating up

KELLY AUGUSTINE/ ROCK BOTTOM

Substitute teacher Chris Mustard, Scotus teachers Deb Ohnoutka and Steph Ress take a count of the students to make sure no one is left in the building. Scotus has had seven fire drill this school year.

By Kelly Augustine
Staff Reporter

The sirens go off and every one is scrambling because they don't know what to do. That is the reason there have been so many fire drills, so everyone knows what to do in case of this hazardous emergency.

Obviously, Scotus has had many fire drills. The reason is because as a school, we are required to have a certain amount of fire drills a year.

President Wayne Morfeld stated, "We are having the same amount of Fire Drills as previous years, but I've stuck them all in the front of the year, and the ones we don't get done in the front, we will have at the end of the year because of weather."

Senior Jenn Gokie expressed what she thought of the fire drills saying, "They are annoying, but it's good to get them done now so we aren't having them in the cold."

The fire drills also have to meet requirements. The School Safety Plan decided some of the requirements, and the rest come from the state.

As some may notice, the teachers all have red, green, and yellow cards they hold up when everyone is standing anxiously outside. All of these different colors have a purpose. The green card is the card that everyone wants to see. It means that the teacher has all of his/her kids there. The red and yellow cards, on the other hand, aren't so positive. The yellow card means the teacher has an extra student in their group, and the red card means a teacher is missing a student.

The Scotus family is getting better at fire drills at the end of a period, but what about passing periods, lunch, and before and after school?

Morfeld had the answer, "[We haven't] Because those are the most confusing [times], once we can do this correctly at an easy time, then we will take on the more challenging times."

Teacher Carmen Johnson agrees, " I think eventually, it probably wouldn't be a bad idea to have one during lunch and passing periods, but first I think we need to get the ones during class time successfully accomplished."

These fire drills have helped the teachers realize what has been done wrong and what needs to be improved.

"We are more aware of where the holes are in our fire drills," Morfeld said.

So far there have been seven fire drills, and there are three left to come.

Wieser keeps tabs on latest bracelet fads

By Alise Perault
Copy Editor

Walking through the school hallways, it is easy to spot bracelets on the wrists of passing students. Recently, silly bands, a fad that have taken America by storm, have become popular, but a new form of bracelets is beginning to emerge. Bracelets that are a greener alternative to throwing away pop tabs, and anyone can make them. These pop tab bracelets have become the new fashion in going green, and all that's needed to make them are some pop tabs and some string.

This new trend in bracelets arrived at Scotus when junior Angie Wieser decided she wanted to take on the pop tab bracelet.

"I saw Hannah Harrington wearing one," Wieser stated matter-of-factly, "And that made me want one too."

Shortly after seeing the bracelet, Wieser hit the Internet, searching for a design that she would like to make.

To make her bracelets, Wieser uses 24 to 26 pop tabs, colorful strings, and a bold button. It usually takes her about twenty minutes to make each bracelet. Seeing as she has already made around eighty, that would mean she has spent approximately twenty-seven hours of her life making bracelets! That also means she has used quite a bit of pop can tabs. She would have to drink a great deal of pop to be able to make all those bracelets, but Wieser has some help. Not only does she use the pop tabs from her family's finished sodas, she also gets them from people who collect them for recycling.

"That's the hardest thing, finding the pop tabs," Wieser said.

This problem can definitely

-See BRACELETS, Page 2

Student triumphs over struggle

By Stacia Rawhouser
Staff Reporter

Freshman Alycia Alt can be seen at Scotus whether it is in the hallway or cheering at games and pep rallies, but most do not know the girl behind the smile. At first glance, Alycia's confident, happy-go-lucky attitude is hard to miss; however, those who know her story also know that she has not always been so "put together."

In fact, at age four, Alycia was diagnosed with an intestinal disease know as *Crohn's disease*. According to the Mayo Clinic staff, it is a type of inflammatory bowel disease that causes inflammation of the lining of one's digestive tract. Symptoms include stomach pains, leg aches, severe headaches, and high fevers.

"After the intense symptoms were too much, I went to the doctor, and he told me it was Crohn's. I was suffering from the symptoms since before I can remember," Alt said.

At such a young age, all of the chaos was hard to understand. Alycia was forced to learn the lessons of life and death much earlier than most.

"I was scared and worried. I didn't know what to think. I was only four years old," Alt said.

The news was life changing for Alycia. It was something she could not hide from while growing up, but she knew she had to accept it as part of her life.

"I felt so different from everyone. I was really insecure and I didn't know if people would accept me," Alt said.

"I felt so different from everyone. I was really insecure and I didn't know if people would accept me."

~Alycia Alt

Last year, as an eighth grader, Alycia spent parts of the year with her life on the line. She was unable to attend the first day of school due to one of the ten surgeries she has had in her lifetime. Throughout the school

-See TRIUMPH, Page 2

KELCEY NEWMAN/ YEARKBOOK

Freshman Alycia Alt smiles as she cheers at the homecoming football game held on October 15.

BRACELETS

Continued from page 1

limit how fast she puts out new bracelets, seeing as the number of bracelets she can make is greatly dependent on the number of tabs she has.

Wieser usually just makes a bulk number of bracelets, but she is not averse to special orders. If someone wants a certain color and she doesn't have it, she will specially make that color of bracelet for that person. She sells them for less than most people too. She has heard of people selling them for eight dollars before, but Wieser sells hers for a mere three dollars. However, she doesn't plan on turning her bracelet making into a business.

"I'm not trying to make money; making bracelets out of pop tabs is just something I enjoy."

KELLY AUGUSTINE/ROCK BOTTOM

Junior Angie Wieser holds a few of the pop tab bracelets she has made.

TRIUMPH

Continued from page 1

year, Alycia missed over a month; absent for Crohn's related illnesses. This year, however, she is doing much better. The surgeries have helped to decrease inflammation and relieve some of the symptoms. Her smiling face was present for the first day of her freshman year. She does not let Crohn's keep her from living her life. She made the cheerleading squad, and now uses her happy-go-lucky attitude to promote others around her.

"This experience has taught me to accept myself and to always stay positive. It doesn't seem like it, but I'm a really lucky girl."

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Opinion

Getting over it

By Kelly Augustine
Staff Reporter

You walk in the room, and everything is silent. The eerie feeling gets everyone in the family wondering what the big news is. Your parents finally break the news. It's time for them to split up.

Divorce is a tough situation to go through. I have been through this situation, and I know how hard it can be to deal with. Therefore, I want to tell you what to do when you have a friend that is going through parents' divorce, or for those who are currently going through it.

When fellow classmates walk through the hall, you may not know that something is going on in their lives. Not everyone realizes how sensitive and how complicated this topic can be.

One thing to be cautious of when you are talking to a child whose parents are divorced is to not ask why. Asking why opens a big can of worms, and it can make the child realize that they don't know why. It could make the kid confused and more worried about the problem.

There are many reasons why parents get divorced. Some causes may seem less damaging than others, but if it caused a divorce, it was a big problem for the family.

Many teens that have gone through this may feel like it is their fault. Don't worry because it's not. If your parents are making you feel that way, talk to them about it. Your parents probably don't notice that you feel like it is all on your shoulders.

Another problem is the teen being the mediator between the two parents. Don't get caught in between your parents' disputes. If one parent tells you to speak to the other, kindly ask if you could stay out of it. Maybe, suggest to them that they can call the other to talk. It shouldn't be up to the kid to solve their parents' problems.

Although this process is hard to cope with in the beginning, it gets easier. I once had to explain to a counselor how this situation was like hard candy. I simply said, "When it all begins it is hard, just like the candy is when you first get it. As you keep living with the problem, it gets easier to deal with. Just like when you keep the candy in your mouth, it gets easier and easier to eat." Remember, you may be mad at your parents at first, but the longer you are living in the situation, you realize that the divorce probably was the better decision.

Quality vs. Quantity

By Levi McPhillips
Layout Editor

Walk around Scotus and it won't take long to find a conversation involving the words "I'm so busy".

Over the last six months I have made several observations that have opened my eyes to a better way of life. This may be shocking to some of you, but you do not have to do *everything*. Teenagers, especially Scotus students, feel a need to be involved in everything. I used to think that this was the case, but the fact is, we do too much.

During my years at Scotus, I have been overworked, overschooled, and underslept. I have been involved in fall play, football, one act play, National Honor Society, winter musical, basketball, spring play, track, Revolution (Speaker's Bureau), Hour of Power, Godparents, and every retreat that is available. Over the last five years of stress, I was not good at any of these. I was involved in so much that I could never focus on one activity.

In retrospect, others have not made the mistakes I have made. A perfect example is none other than my good friend Bill Cremers. Everyone knows Bill is talented, and he has cultivated those talents over his entire life. Known as the class genius, Bill is first in his class. He is a talented actor, and he is the best drummer I have ever seen. All of these will get him far in life. However, I wonder how many times I have asked Bill if he was taking part in some activity, and then I would sigh and kick the dirt when he would say no for the hundredth time.

Now we are seniors and Bill is on his way to going to some expensive school like Creighton with a full ride scholarship, and I have spent the last seventeen years of my life being mediocre at everything. Bill has been focused and dedicated, and my previous belief that quantity is better than quality was completely false.

This year I have become determined to find a better way of life. I have never known what it means to say "no" to people. I could not find it in me to turn people down, even if I was busy. I felt that I was letting everyone down if I said no. The truth is, it was worse for me to overextend myself because it was damaging to my health, and, therefore, it made everything I did less effective.

Then I realized that life does not have to be a full schedule. I had to show God I learned my lesson. So I started saying no to people solely for the reason of being less stressed. I am confident that I said no to the right activities, and I am definitely seeing the advantages of my decision. I am a much better football player, guitar player, son, boyfriend, and student because of it. I am more relaxed, and everything I do is much more fulfilling. It took my parents and I some time to realize that doing less is not being lazy, it's being responsible.

I cannot believe the difference it has made in my life since I changed to quality. Quantity can be good, but quality is what we are destined for. It is good to be involved, but it is sinful for us to needlessly fill our lives with earthly activities just because we are afraid of free time. We can simply be. It feels great to say something else besides "I'm busy" every time someone asks me how I am doing. Take it from me; it's time for quality.

Wishin' Away

By Stacia Rawhouser
Staff Reporter

Looking back, way back, I can distinctly remember a conversation I had when I was in the first grade. It went a little something like, "I can't wait 'til I'm sixteen. I'll be all grown up and get to do whatever I want."

Now that sixteen has come and almost passed, I realize it's not all it's cracked up to be. Yeah sure, the driving is nice. Let's face it, it's a big step up from having my mom drive me around everywhere, and then me walking home when she forgets to pick me up. However, I can honestly say that I am far from being "all grown up," and I definitely do not get to do whatever I want.

Now that I am in high school, my wish has changed. After hearing my brothers talk about all the fun of college life, I've already been awaiting college for quite some time. High school is supposed to be the best years of our lives, right? Then why do we feel the need to constantly wish our lives away?

This is the time when we should be making lifelong friendships and memories. All the crazy shenanigans we get ourselves into with our friends are exactly the kind of memories we're going to look back on. As high school students, we are young, and we like to have fun; it's what we do. Though it is hard, we shouldn't let the stress of high school get the better of us to the point where we want to 'fast-forward.' Instead, we need to slow down and live it up one day at a time. We get four years, and we deserve the chance to make the best of them.

As we grow up, we are making the decisions that affect who we are now and who we will be in the future. When I was in first grade, if I would have 'skipped' immediately to sixteen, I would have missed out on so much life. I would not have had the personal experiences necessary to grow and learn from. For example, I never would have learned that you can't shoot a squirt gun at the people on TV without ruining it; you can't put a metal cup in the microwave without it starting on fire, and you can't call 911 just because your older brother took the channel changer. I could have done without the multiple 'fender-benders' this last year though. Sorry, Levi. Either way, I lived it, I learned from it, and I'm glad I didn't miss it. I know it isn't actually possible to 'skip' ahead, but it's the principle of the matter.

Wishing the days away isn't going to make us anything but miserable. Time moves fast enough without our help. We shouldn't waste it; rather, we should enjoy it.

Our time here at Scotus is short, so we need to get out of it what we can and seize every opportunity. I'm glad my first grade wish didn't come true because I'm still not quite ready to grow up. I'm liking it here, and I'm just fine with the way things are right now.

Rock Bottom

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Homecoming

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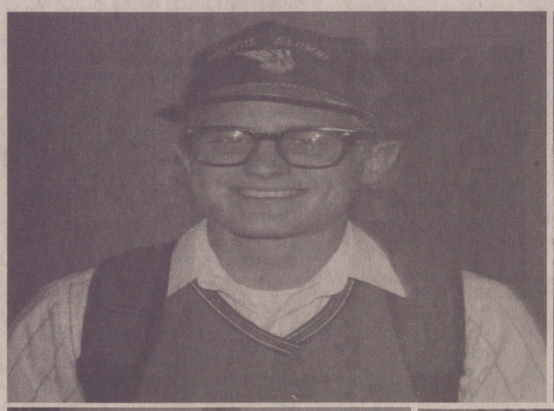
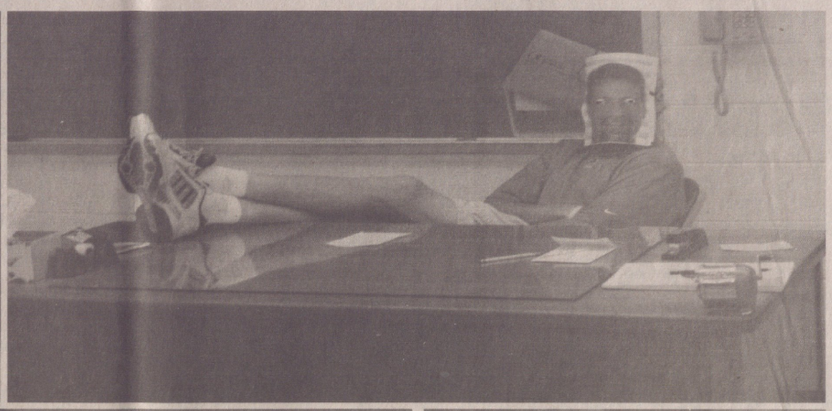




Homecoming

Saturday homecoming stifles excitement

By Stacia Rawhouser
Staff Reporter

Waking up in the morning, I can always feel the excitement brewing in my stomach when I know it's Spirit Day. Finally, the last day of the Homecoming Week countdown ultimately leads to Homecoming. Guys are pumped for the game tonight, and the girls are pumped to wear the dress that's been taunting them in their closets for weeks. After tolerating my patience for so long, it's about time the dance rolls around; don't you think…or would you rather wait another 24 hours?

Student Council had been debating this year on whether or not to switch the Homecoming dance to Saturday, rather than the traditional Friday night. In fact, it was discussed as a possibility this year; however, it was too late to make any changes.

I suppose it's obvious which side of the argument I'm pushing for. I'm not trying to be negative, but as an impatient person, by the time I wait for the game to get over and all the candidates to get off the field, I feel like I have waited long enough for the dance.

Let's face it; Homecoming on Friday is so much more exciting. It makes the game twice as exhilarating because the student body is pumped up, and you can feel the school spirit radiating throughout the crowd. Girls get to go to the game with their hair curled, looking all cute and wearing some guy's jersey to support our team and look their best for the dance.

On the other hand, if Homecoming is switched to Saturday, I feel like it's going to take up my entire weekend. Don't get me wrong, I love Homecoming and the anticipation of it all is fun, but I do not want it to be both my days off from school. Think about it: if the game is on Friday, the dance is Saturday night, then you sleep the day away and wake up Sunday around noon, and there goes your weekend; back to school on Monday.

In addition to people wanting to just "hang out" on that weekend, there are also some activities that would need to be rescheduled or sacrificed in order to fit the new Homecoming arrangement. *Quest*, for example, is usually scheduled for the Saturday after. If the date is changed, people will have to choose between the two. I love both *Quest* and Homecoming , so that puts me in bit of a pickle.

I've already mentioned that I'm not exactly what you'd call a "morning person," seeing as how I would want to sleep in on Sunday if we change the day of Homecoming, but what do we do about church then? Moving Homecoming takes away the Sunday morning mass option altogether, forcing everyone to go on Saturday before the dance. The congregation would be full of anxious teenagers on a Saturday evening, and I prefer 11:00A.M. Sunday instead.

I don't want to lose that feeling of enthusiasm when I wake up on Spirit Day. I want to get my hair done, put on some guy's jersey, and cheer at the game that everyone is pumped for. Then, I want to dance my Friday night away at Homecoming.

WHATDOYOUTHINK?

Q: Should the Homecoming dance be moved to Saturday?

"I like it Friday because if we do win, which doesn't happen often, then we can go party at the dance."
-Jake Gilson

"It's ridiculous how after the football game and coronation, getting dressed, and taking pictures, you get to the dance too late to enjoy it."
-Craig Ackman

"Candidates would have to get ready twice if it was on Saturday!"
-Summer Kresha

Memories for infinity and beyond

By Kelcey Robak
Staff Reporter

Homecoming is a time of great excitement, much energy, celebration for the end of the quarter, and a time to make lasting memories with the best of friends. Homecoming 2010 lived up to all of these.

Homecoming started with a great week. Students had fun dressing up in costumes to each day's crazy theme.

"All the themes this year were a lot of fun. They seemed really unique compared to past years," junior Allison Jepsen said.

This year's Homecoming theme was Toy Story. Kathe Beauvais made the Buzz Lightyear and alien background that was placed in the senior hallway during the week and then moved to the cafeteria for the background of the Homecoming pictures. The freshmen hallway was decorated as a crime scene. The sophomore hallway was decorated based off the movie *UP*. The sophomores won the hallway decoration contest. The junior hallway was decorated as roadwork/ construction. Abbey Schieffer's dad, Tim, made all the signs for the junior hallway.

The Homecoming football game against David City High was a disappointment, losing 40-6…but that didn't ruin anyone's mood for the night ahead.

The Homecoming coronation took place after the football game. The candidates included Jaci Beauvais, Alise Perault, Katie Ohnoutka, Olivia Sonderman, Lindsay McElhose, Rebecca Hall, Cale Albracht, Dana Fuchs, James Euteneuer, Ryan Becker, Levi McPhillips, and Alex Beller. Last year's Homecoming king and queen, Pat McKay and Maggie Hellbusch, crowned James Euteneur and Lindsay McElhose homecoming royalty.

James Euteneur said during homecoming week, "Winning would mean nothing short of anything to me. It would be a great honor.

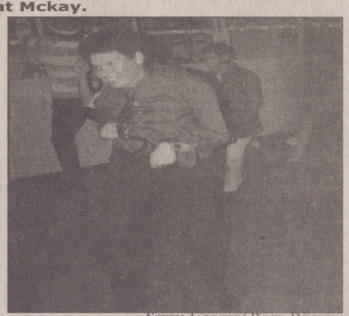
Lindsay McElhose stated after the crowning, "I was really surprised, but it was a great feeling. All the candidates were deserving, so it was awesome to be chosen from the group."

Shortly after coronation, people arrived at the dance. Tayler Bock no longer DJ's, so Scotus got its own, Peter Heusinkvelt and Eric Diamond to DJ the dance.

Mrs. Lahm explained that at the end of last year, the Student Council decided to buy a new sound system so they wouldn't have to pay for a DJ every year. Peter and Eric DJ'ed the dance because they knew how to run the new sound system. The sound system can also be used for the dances to come.

HANNAH SCHAECHER/YEARBOOKSTAFF
Homecoming king and queen Lindsay McElhose and James Euteneuer pose for pictures after coronation with last year's king and queen Maggie Hellbusch and Pat Mckay.

STEPH JARECKE/ ROCK BOTTOM
Students enjoy themselves jamming out to the music during the dance homecoming night.



STEPH JARECKE/ ROCK BOTTOM
Senior Bill Cremers busts a move at the homecoming dance.

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Nebraska falls flat; The scandelous Farve; MLB playoffs begin

By Casey Kessler
Staff Reporter

*Sorry Husker nation, after a disappointing loss to Texas, Nebraska will not be playing for the National Championship this season. T-Magic was virtually invisible whether it came to running or passing the ball. The state of Nebraska thought Martinez would eventually pull something out of his bag of tricks, but once again Texas got the last laugh in the "Longhorn Football Conference."

*Zac Lee was solid after Martinez was benched, but there is one major difference. If Zac Lee runs a good zone read, he picks up seven yards; if Martinez runs a good zone read, he scores seven touchdowns.

*Reports throughout the NFL have told of Brett Farve allegedly sending "dirty" pictures through his cell phone and e-mail to a former New York Jets female representative. Maybe the Columbus Police Department should have talked to him about Internet safety.

*I will be the first to tell everyone that Sir Michael Vick is back. After Philadelphia Eagles starting quarterback Kevin Kolb went down due to an injury in week two, Vick has been off and running. In his first start since 2007, he accounted for four touchdowns and gashed the Lions with his legs and arm. The only chance Detroit had was if PETA found another allegation about Vick and escorted him off the field.

*As the NBA season begins, one cannot help but be excited for the Miami Heat. The Heat picked up Lebron James and Chris Bosh during the off-season and already have superstar Dwayne Wade. Virtually everywhere, the Heat have the best odds to win the NBA Finals in June. Sorry South Beach, I'm not buying it: Lakers over Heat in 7.

*This summer, our nation was captivated by the performance of our World Cup national team. Landon Donovan and company made every game exciting from start to finish. We also had a little help from the English goalkeeper. Thanks for that point in group play Robert. Green.

*The NHL season began a few weeks ago (that is all).

*For all those golf lovers out there, the Ryder Cup came down to the final match. United States had victory slip from their grasps during days three and four. Well, I guess Europe needs to beat us at something besides curling and water polo.

*You heard it here first: Tiger Woods will not win another major championship.

*You heard it here first: Tiger Woods' ex-wife received the biggest free agent salary this off-season.

*A Nebraska football recruit, Braylon Heard, signed with the Cornhuskers last February and was expected to enroll in Nebraska this fall. His ACT score was reportedly too low for admission specifics. If Heard mixed my 27 with his football talents, we have a winner.

*The National and American League Championships in baseball are currently taking place. Or for better understanding, "The Teams in Contention to Lose to the Yankees."

*On a final note, I recently attended the "How to catch a football clinic" at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln. Niles Paul was nowhere to be found.

Leaders push each other to the top

By Stephani Jarecke
Staff Reporter

The Shamrock cross-country teams have pushed to the top as the season progressed. Both girls and boys have a wide variety of great runners helping to win points for the teams.

The boys' team started off the season unranked and now has moved to the top ten. The team has placed runner-up in three major meets this season. They have a record of 69-17, meaning within all the meets, the team has beat a total of 69 teams, and 17 teams have placed ahead of them.

The two top runners, junior Joel Ostdiek and freshman Ivan Chilapa have excelled to help the team with more points.

"Ivan has really been a nice edition to the team," coach Merlin Lahm said.

This is Chilapa's first year at Scotus Central Catholic, and he has already placed in 12 meets pushing his fellow teammates.

"Every time the gun goes off, it is always an unpredictable battle. We are competing and running as a team at the same time," Ostdiek said.

Ostdiek has medalled in every major meet, and Chilapa has definitely helped Ostdiek compete in practice to get better.

"With Joel knowing the courses and being experienced, he helps Ivan on race days with his pace, but they help each other during practices," Lahm said.

The girls' team has also stepped up from the beginning of the season with the help of the two leaders senior Amber Ewers and sophomore Morgan Benesch.

"The top two runners for girls are some of the best in the state, and they are very high quality," Lahm said.

Ewers is the team leader in lettering points, and Benesch is following shortly behind her. Both girls have placed in every meet and most times end up in the top ten.

With the top runners placing high, the team has many runners doing well and is able to place as a team in many meets. The girls' team is 81-5 for the season, and they have won three major meets and placed runner-up in two meets. They also placed first as a team at Conference.

"On race day they are competitors; but they are training partners on any other given day of practice," Lahm says.

Benesch pressures Ewers to keep her top spot, as well as Ewers pushing Benesch to keep up with her.

"Amber has always helped me in my races. I always push to stay with her," Benesch said.

The girls have also given the drive for many other teammates to help Scotus cross country as a whole.

"Every runner is helping the team out, and that's why we are having success. I am excited to see what happens at state," Benesch said.

KELLY AUGUSTINE/ROCK BOTTM

Senior Amber Ewers strides out as sophomore Morgan Benesch follows shortly behind at Lutjelusche course. The Scotus Invite was held on Septemeber 17; the girls placed first, and the boys received second place.

Weight room renovations help athletic program

By Levi McPhillips
Layout Editor

Before August of this year, Scotus Alumni who graduated 30 years ago would have found the weight room nearly unchanged from their days at Scotus. However, former Scotus athletes would be proud of the new machines that are making an impact on Scotus athletics. The latest improvements to the weight room are long overdue.

The weight room has not been renovated since 1998, and the machines have not been updated on a large scale since the weight program started in 1980. The room has been expanded several times, but there is still not much room for athletes to move around. The Scotus coaches wanted to maximize the space they had available.

The most important additions are the new double racks. These new stations are more versatile than the older machines. Instead of going to different places for different lifts, athletes are able to bench, squat, and power clean at the same place.

Each of the double racks cost $3,000, and there are only two currently in the weight room. The football coaches hope to get five or six of the double racks when everything is complete. All the money had to be donated because there is no money budgeted for the weight room. According to football coach Roger Krienke, friends of Scotus, Scotus coaches, and members of Scotus Alumni Soccer donated the money.

Mr. Puetz and other members of Scotus are satisfied with the way the room has been improved.

"I think that Coach Krienke and Coach Brezenski showed great leadership getting the project done," Activities Director Gary Puetz said.

The old weight room machines were insufficient to fit the needs of the Scotus Athletic Program.

"The old machines took up a bulk of the room, and we wanted to maximize the space," head boys soccer coach Jon Brezenski said.

The new machines are better for the health of Scotus athletes, and, according to Mr. Puetz, they are also safer because they focus on ground based lifting. One of the goals of the new machines, according to Coach Brezenski, was to make more groundbased lifting available to athletes.

Ground based lifting focuses on lifting from the ground. The old machines used pulley systems to lift weights. The new machines in the weight room focus on base lifts such as bench, squat, and hang clean. These have no pulleys; instead, they are free weight exercises.

"Research shows that ground based lifting gives better results," said Janet Tooley. She coaches volleyball and track and teaches Physical Education. The coaches hope the new machines will help athletes focus on form and technique.

Scotus athletes and students have welcomed the renovations. Many of them have noticed the improvements the coaches were trying to bring about.

Senior Nathan Wangler, who is also a captain of the football team, said, "I like it. There's a lot more room and you can fit more people. You don't have to stand in line and wait."

Senior Olivia Sonderman, who is also a team captain for the volleyball team, said, "The new ones are a lot cleaner and more sanitary."

Other athletes have also recognized the cleanliness of the new machines.

"It's not dusty like the old stuff," said Caitlin Wiehn, a junior volleyball player.

The renovations are not finished. More machines are on the way, and the organizers of the project want to get air conditioning and replace the windows and carpet.

"It's not done," Mr. Puetz commented.

Coaches and athletes alike are looking forward to seeing the renovations completed. The renovations were long overdue, and the benefactors of the new machines hope to see it become a great facility for the future of Scotus athletics.

"It's a good facility, and they are working to make it a great facility," said Puetz.

LEVI MCPHILLIPS/ROCK BOTTOM

One of the $3000 double racks that Scotus placed in its recently renovated weight room.

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Band puts best foot foward

By Michael Albin
Staff Reporter

The Scotus Band returned to one of the biggest High School Music Contests in Nebraska, namely the Harvest of Harmony. After a one year hiatus, the Band went to Grand Island with hopes of their first Superior Rating in the parade. Although the Shamrocks may have fell a little short of their ultimate goal, they definitely put their best foot forward.

" From banner carriers, through to the cheerleaders, they really gave their best effort. It was the best the band could have performed at the time," Band Director Kristen Cox explained.

Many hours of preparation go into performing in a parade, especially the amount in such a prestigious parade as the Harvest of Harmony.

"Actually, we started way back in May, we used the same song we played at the Harvest of Harmony when we went to Chicago, and during the summer we worked on certain parts of the music and marching, all of which were preparing us for the Harvest of Harmony," Cox said.

Mrs. Cox also mentioned a few people's names, including new Drum Magers Joel Ostiek and Cale Albracht, and Drum line leader Bill Cremers.

"I lead by example, I show up on time, and I do things right," Senior Cale Albracht enlightend.

"All of the Juniors and Seniors are leaders, and there are even some sophomore leaders among the sections," Cox continued, " and every section has a point or weakness, and if it wasn't for the section leaders, it would be impossible to reach the point we're at because one person can't fix all of it."

With such a young band, Cox was pleased with the bands overall performance.

"Musically we need to get stronger, but the majority of the band is freshmen and sophomores, and they need to improve their tone and sound, and that comes with experience. But that's where I really see us improving. As the year goes on, everyone, especially the freshmen and sophomores will gain more endurance."

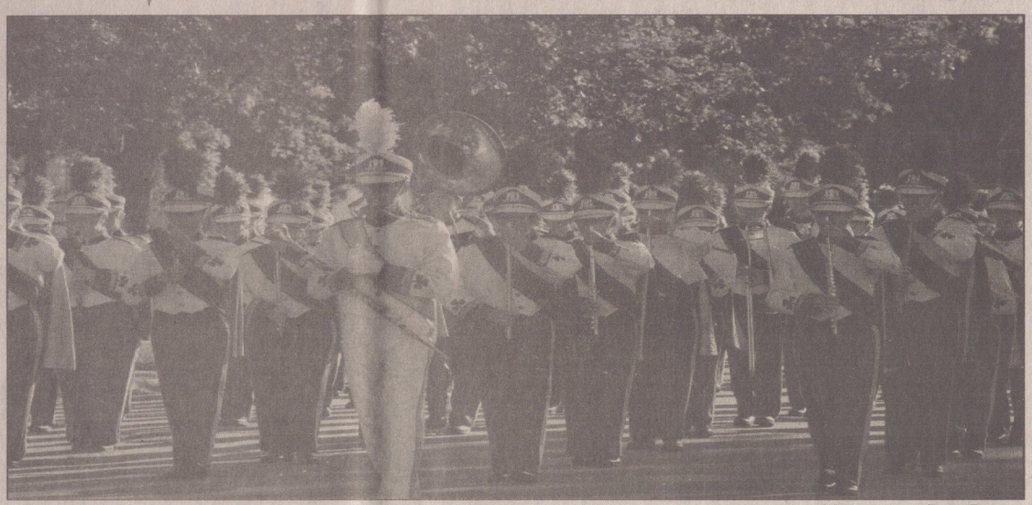
The parade itself took a lot of individual effort as well, as each member of band, flag corp, and cheerleading all had to be in uniform and at attention at 5:30am. The parade was approximately 30 blocks, which took both mental and physical endurance.

But, the effort did not go unnoticed, as Cox explained.

"People who knew the band, like parents and family of band members who were there thought we looked really sharp. Even some old friends from High School commented that we looked really good, and we all looked unified."

When asked whether or not the band would be attending next year, Mrs. Cox smiled.

"...Possibly... but there are a lot of people who want us to attend the Columbus Parade instead of the Harvest of Harmony. It's not all about the rating, because we are learning so much by preparing and performing in the Harvest of Harmony. Sure, its nice to get a Superior, but that's just not what its all about."



MICHAEL ALBIN/ROCK BOTTOM

Senior Cale Albracht leads the band down the street during practice. The Shamrocks performed in the Harvest of Harmony Parade on October 2nd.

Fajman finds home at fall play

By Alise Perault
Copy Editor

Only a week to go and the fall play is on the fast track to production day. This year's play is a comedic murder mystery from the nineteen-fifties called *Who Dunnit?* In this play Alexander Arlington, a famous mystery writer, ends up in Heaven after being killed. But he is not satisfied to die without knowing who his murderer was, so he is allowed to go back to earth and solve the mystery of his own death.

The cast members include Jaci Beauvais, Bill Cremers, Alise Perault, Laura Salyard, Andy Heusikvelt, Ben Heusinkvelt, Joel Ostdiek, Thomas Schumacher, Christine Reiners, Taylor Wiester, and Megan Wright. All have all taken part in previous productions, but for the new assistant director, Jeremy Fajman, this is the first time he has taken part in a Scotus play production. Fresh out of college, Fajman is taking on his first part-time job. Fajman met with President Wayne Morfeld this summer looking for a substitute teacher position, and he got more than that. Fajman is also an assistant coach for the speech team.

"Mr. Morfeld saw that I had an endorsement in theater, and I said I had a masters, so he asked me if I wanted to help coach the speech team," Fajman said

He is also the assistant director of the fall play and the musical.

"At the start of the school year, Ms. Gardener and I got to talking, and I asked her if she needed any help with the fall play and the spring musical."

Fajman happens to be qualified for these jobs as well. He has a bachelor's degree in history and theater education, and a master's in theater. He also specialized in dramaturge, which is a position one holds in a theater company, involving the research of plays to be performed. While attending the University of Central Missouri, Fajman taught some college courses as a graduate assistant and was also the box office manager for the play *Little Women*. So with all this experience, why would Mr. Fajman choose to come and substitute teach in little old Columbus? Fajman was actually born and raised in Columbus and is a graduate of CHS.

Although he does not know what the future holds for him, he is content to work with high school students here at Scotus.

"I enjoy working with students who are just beginning their acting experience. I can give them the basic skills they need to be successful in college life if they choose to explore the arts and also to help their confidence," Fajman said.

Helping with the fall play has also been a learning experience for Fajman. He helped with plays at Wayne High School, but as assistant director for this year's fall play he has learned what will work better for next time. Assistant directing has also helped him recall some of the lessons he learned at UCM.

"I find myself jumping up on stage a lot, but I was taught that this is not what is best for the actors."

As for the play, Fajman is confident in the student's progress.

"I think we are doing great. We are to the point where blocking is taken care of and the students are starting to get that submission of the development of their character."

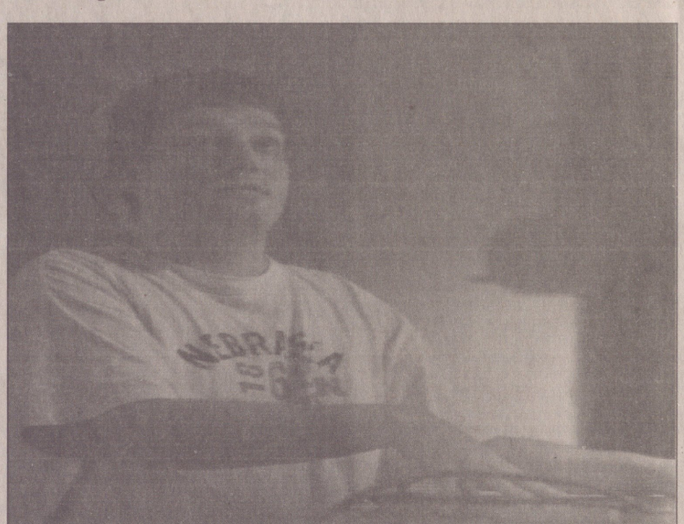
Cast members are also confident with Mr. Fajman as their director.

"Fr. Fajman is great. He has been a very constructive director, I think he'll do good things for Scotus," said Jaci Beauvais of working with Mr. Fajman.

Bill Cremers agreed as well.

"He has many great ideas and has enthusiasm for what he does."

The performance dates for the play are October 29th and 30th at 7:00 P.M.



JENN GOKIE/YEARBOOK STAFF

Assistant director Jeremy Fajman leads practice in the Scotus Gymnasium. This is Fajmans first year with the shamrocks.

WHAT WE'RE 2

Students revive retro card game

By Michael Albin
Staff Reporter

Ten high school boys sitting in a dark basement, laughing, yelling, eating skittles, and drinking Mountain Dew. Wondering what is occurring yet? The card game Magic has quickly become a favorite activity for some students at Scotus these past few years.

The game is simple; two players try to diminish each other's life points to zero by casting various spells and summoning creatures from a player's deck to damage them.

Each player has a unique deck that they "built" out of their personal collection of cards. This allows people to play their preferred style, using aggressive cards to quickly defeat the other person, or defensive, long-term cards to bring them down over time.

Nearly two years ago when seniors James Euteneuer, Dana Fuchs, and Connor Sackett were hanging out at Euteneuer's house, they happened to stumble upon some old Yu-Gi-oh cards and Fuchs started talking about this game he used to play. Euteneuer's older brother had some old Magic cards from his high school days and within two weeks; they began to meet to play.

"What I find interesting is how many people have come to love the game," Euteneuer explained.

At least fifteen people are regular players; a number that Euteneuer hopes grows with time.

"It just brings people together, in a magical way," Euteneuer continued.

And there are no signs of slowing down. As with other similar activities, this game was expected to fizzle out, and people were going to find some other, more interesting thing to do.

Junior Mark Ternus was one of the ten people who recently chipped in to buy a huge set of Magic Cards.

"Ten people, Fifty-four dollars a piece. We got a whole bunch of cards for $540," Ternus explained, " There were 210 packs of cards all together, and at 15 cards per pack, that's over 3,000 cards between us."

Even though $540 is expensive, junior Jens Paprocki looks for the bright side.

"We're actually saving money, because individual packs are about $4.50," Paprocki added.

Euteneuer has no plans of stopping after his Senior year.

"I plan on taking it with me to college," Euteneuer elaborated, "Some people party, some guys have girlfriends, I play Magic."

Frisbee Golf adds more opportunity to park

By Casey Kessler
Staff Reporter

What should we do? Gosh, Friday night and nothing to do. Why can't we live in Omaha? Columbus natives ask these questions numerous times every weekend. Columbus recently added a new activity that these people could try. It doesn't quite compare to looking at pandas at the Henry Doorley Zoo, or shopping in Oakview Mall, but at first glance appears to be something everyone should give a chance.

Columbus did a little renovating this summer and added a frisbee golf course in Pawnee Park. This course has nine holes, consisting of three par threes, five par fours, and one par five. Frisbee golf is when you throw Frisbees and try to get them into a chain-linked hole that is located on a small pole that comes out of the ground.

This course is fun, yet challenging for numerous reasons. You must be able to throw a Frisbee with somewhat ease in order to play, which is a bit of a challenge. It is also challenging because you must be able to aim the Frisbee at the hole, and also have to realize which way the wind may be blowing.

This sport is also fairly original and offers something new for the athletic gurus of Columbus. Citizens who play backyard football or try basketball leagues may want to see what this course has to offer. But don't get me wrong; people who are not exactly athletes can play this sport too, as long as they know how to throw a Frisbee.

This sport also gives you an opportunity that basketball, volleyball, and indoor soccer cannot. This sport is played outside at a beautiful park. So when your mom tells you to quit playing video games, go try out this new course, and who knows, you might actually like it.

The addition of the course also makes Pawnee Park seem more family oriented and not a grafitied filled alley. This gives one the opportunity to walk through a gorgeous park that looks absolutely perpetual in early fall. The leaves are changing colors, and the weather is just warm enough to leave your sweatshirt at home. Obviously in the winter this might get a bit cold, so I would tell you to leave the disc at home during the months of December to March.

The course also brings a new activity to Columbus, which was dreadfully needed. The Pawnee Plunge has not exactly had that "it" factor since 2006, the first year it opened. Bowling and going to a movie are always a way to kill time, but can you get fresh air that way? There are numerous ways to have fun in Columbus, but the frisbee golf course offers numerous positive factors to someone looking for something new, fun, and somewhat unusual.

This sport has brought a new sort of attitude towards not only the sporting community in Columbus, but the perception of Pawnee Park. Frisbee Golf will give people not only in Columbus, but also in surrounding towns something else to do. So on weekend evenings, people may start playing frisbee golf as a means of entertainment. Take that Omaha. (Special discs for this sport can be purchased at Nebraska Sports and Scheels located throughout Nebraska.)

Beiber Fever:

Makes me sing

By Kelcey Robak
Staff Reporter

"Baby baby baby ohhhhhh, baby baby baby nooooooooooooo, baby baby baby ohhhhhhh…I thought you'd always be mine miiiine." Justin Bieber has got the eyes of many teenage girls on hiim due to his great singing voice, his personality, and most of all… his great looks! If Bieber fever were a crime, I would be convicted!

Justin Bieber became famous after the release of his hit song "One Time," but he was originally discovered on Youtube by Usher. Most teen boys seemed to admire Usher and look up to him, but by disliking Justin Bieber, they are doubting Usher's music knowledge. That doesn't seem right to me. To be honest, I think the teen boys that dislike Justin Bieber are just jealous of him because all the girls are in awe over him. Being discovered on Youtube proves that he is not like most stars that can only sing well on their albums. Justin Bieber is a great live performer. After attending his concert in July, I not only noticed that he is a great live singer, but also a great dancer.

"To be honest, I think the teen boys that dislike Justin Bieber are just jealous of him..."
~Kelcey Robak

Most people that don't like his music can even admit that he can dance however, Justin Bieber is not only admired for his great dancing and singing skills, but also because he is a great role model to all teenagers, children, and even other celebrities.

Justin Bieber has a personality that shines throughout the world. From watching editorials and hearing other people, such as his family and other celebrities talk about him, he seems to be loving, caring, sensitive, intelligent, and down to earth. Teen guys often tend to call Justin Bieber "gay." This upsets me because just because he doesn't sing about "getting dirty with girls", or making money, or how messed up life is, doesn't mean he is gay. He sings about what his fans want to hear at their age…love! That is what sets him apart from most famous singers. He cares about all of his fans and takes time to do a nice deed for some of his fans at random. That is why all of his fans truly care about him.

All of these reasons make part of who Justin Bieber really is, but the characteristic that girls adore most about him is his looks!

Justin Bieber is super good looking. He has a great smile, perfect hair, pretty eyes, and a great body! It is sad to say that his looks are probably the main reason for his fame, but when you put his looks, his personality, and his voice together… you get perfection!

Coming from a small town in Canada, making his way to America to become the "Best Breakthrough Artist", Justin Bieber has come a long way and has worked hard for everything he has earned. He deserves every ounce of praise he gets!

Makes me sick

By Stephani Jarecke
Staff Reporter

Bieber fever has been the biggest illness in the U.S. this year. The definition of Bieber fever is the obsession for the American teen pop star, Justin Bieber, mostly from teenage girls.

Justin Bieber stepped into the celebrity world with his first huge hit "One Time" as a fifteen year old. His songs are written to express love and to make girls feel good about themselves.

His plan definitely worked, as millions of girls obsess over him today. There are girls those ranges from ages five to eighteen who love him.

I am a former JB fan. It was great until all the girls got out of hand. What has the world come to when I walk around and see girls are putting his face on their pillows, shirts, school supplies, posters, and so many more products?

Girls have been found crying because they want to be with him so badly. They feel as if Bieber loves them in particular. The funny part is he doesn't even know them.

When someone knows every song word for word, it is getting extremely out of hand. Teen girls say that they learn so much about love from him. The kid is fifteen, and he is writing about love. I sure wouldn't trust him to help me with my love problems.

Almost every song is about girls and how to treat them well. JB can not even drive, and he is singing about dating.

It blows my mind how girls can think he is the perfect boyfriend when they are twelve. They do not even go on dates at this age. There are girls who actually think they will someday marry him. Reality hits, there are millions of girls in the same situation, and JB most likely will not pick any of the over obsessive girls.

"I sure wouldn't trust him to help me with my love problems."
~Stephani Jarecke

Another issue with Bieber is his attitude. Last time I checked he was not a gangster. He uses "shawty", the meaning used by gangsters to name a young, sexy girl, in every verse in his songs. A fifteen-year-old boy from Canada cannot go around shouting "shawty" and talking as he if he is a gangster. Canada is not the ghetto land.

I can tell by the way he acts and looks that he definitely takes longer time to get ready for the day than me. Bieber's hair is so long, I'm surprised he can see through his hair.

I give him credit for his lyrics and his sound. I think he can be good someday, but it needs to be when he is older and knows what love is.

I would like his songs if the fans were not so obsessing and annoying about Bieber. Bieber fever is overplayed. When I turn sixty-five, he will probably be writing about retirement and growing old to keep his fans today happy.

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SCOTUS CENTRAL

Rock Bottom

Scotus Central Catholic

Columbus, Nebraska 68601

Volume 11 • Issue 2 • November 2nd, 2009

A Trip to Pirates Paradise

Scotus plays dress up

By Kelsey Jochum
Copy Editor

This school year, Scotus students took a trip to Broadway, Greece, their futures, Blackbeard's ship, and back to Scotus itself, and all in one week's time.

Homecoming Week is a yearly tradition at Scotus, where students and faculty dress up in anticipation of the Homecoming football game at the end of the week. Each day has a different theme, which the school dresses to. This year, the themes were well received by the student body, and the majority dressed up everyday.

Some of the costumes were very creative. On career day, senior Kyle Benesch sported an "Evil Knievel" costume of tight spandex, claiming himself to be a stunt man. Complete with his Razor scooter, Benesch rode through the halls, showing his moves to passing students.

Many teachers also look forward to Homecoming Week and dress up in quite creative costumes. One of these is Ms. Ploetz, who dressed up each day of the week.

"I jokingly said that I became a teacher for Spirit Week," Ploetz said. "I think it is awesome to be able to show school spirit the same as the students."

Ploetz said her favorite day during Homecoming Week was Broadway Day, when she dressed up as Madame Butterfly from *Ba Dum Bum Butterfly.*

Another exciting aspect about Homecoming Week is the pep rally on Friday, and this year, the pep rally was full of new events.

The stands were filled with a sea of green, and everyone was getting pumped for the game that night. The rally started out with the introduction of the new school mascot, Tony the Leprechaun. Tony will be attending Scotus sport events and helping to cheer on the Shamrocks.

After the unveiling of the new mascot, the Shamrock Singers performed "Don't Stop Believing" with the accompaniment of Levi McPhillips on the guitar and Craig Ackman on the drums. Scotus students, being quite familiar with the song, joined in singing the song as well. This performance gave the Singers a chance to show their own kind of support for the football team that night.

Freshman Taylor Wiester was one of the members of Shamrock Singers who performed at the pep rally.

"I think it went pretty well," Wiester said. "We were a little quiet, but we sounded awesome! The students in the stands really seemed to enjoy it too."

Once the Singers had finished their performance, the students were anticipating the usual flag corps routine. But this year, they were surprised to see that the cheerleaders were dancing right along with them. The flag corps and cheerleaders had practiced for weeks on a routine that they could perform together at Homecoming. Wiester, who is also a member of flag corps, commented on the routine.

"It was a new experience, but I enjoyed it," Wiester said. "I think everyone did a good job."

The pep rally concluded with an activity done by the royalty candidates. The candidates split up into pairs, and the girls put makeup on the boys, but there was a catch: the girls were blindfolded. The student body then cheered for which boy they deemed "prettiest." The winning pair was Emily Jarecki and Dylan Thompson, and their prize was a package of candy bars. Even through the thick blush and glossy lipstick, the smile on Thompson's face was obvious.

As the boys left school still washing the makeup off their faces, the girls were heading home, ready to apply their own and head off to a night in Pirate's Paradise. "Yaaaarrr!"

Rebecca Hall/ Yearbook Staff

Homecoming candidate Dylan Thompson shows his feminine side after getting a makeover from Emily Jarecki.

Angie Rusher/ Rock Bottom

On Broadway day, Ms. Ploetz sports a homemade kimono.

Rocks kick it up on & off the field

By Kelsey Jochum
Copy Editor

October 16th was a beautiful night for football, as Scotus students, parents, faculty, and alums made their way to Memorial Stadium for one of the most anticipated games of the year.

The Shamrocks got off to a good start, scoring a touchdown on their first drive. The Shamrocks held off the Titans the entire night, allowing them only one touchdown which they scored in the first quarter. The game ended with a score of 59 to 7, creating the perfect start to the festive evening.

Senior Trace Murray, a starter on both offense and defense, said that winning the game was nice because it started the night off on a good note. Being a senior made this game different for Murray.

"This was the last homecoming game that I will play in," Murray said. "It was also the last home game for us seniors, so it made it that much more special."

Once the game was over, the crowd remained in the stands to watch the coronation of the new Homecoming King and Queen. Last year's royalty, Jared Ostdiek and Megan Kresha, returned home to pass on the crowns to seniors Pat McKay and Maggie Hellbusch. Both candidates were very surprised to be voted king and queen.

"All of the candidates were very deserving," Hellbusch said. "I'm honored to be picked!"

After coronation, students returned home, where they got ready and took pictures before the dance.

The dance was once again held in the gym instead of the cafeteria. The reason for the switch last year was the new lighting equipment that the DJ Tayler Bock was using. The lights need to be a certain height above the tallest student's head, which just so happens to be Murray. Even though the change was made on his behalf, it doesn't make any difference to Murray whether the dance is held in the gym or the cafeteria.

"It doesn't matter; I'm huge, so I stand out wherever it is," Murray said.

Most students seem willing to have the dance in the gym if it means having a good DJ. Tayler Bock owns the business DJ Infinity, which has been playing at Scotus dances since December of 2007.

"He's a better DJ because he listens to us and plays what we want to hear," Murray said.

This was the first high-school dance for the freshmen this year, and they seemed to enjoy it.

"At Junior High dances, if you don't know how to dance, you go do something else," said freshman Kelcey Stutzman. "In high school, you want to be part of the group, so everyone dances."

One of the chaperones of the dance was Ms. Ploetz, who also thought it went over very well.

"I was so happy to see that many students at the dance," Ploetz said. "It was a great way to celebrate the win of our football team."

Peter Heusinkvelt/ Yearbook Staff

Homecoming candidates Laura Zach, Austin Wallick, Andrea Odbert, Aaron Bos, Pat McKay, Maggie Hellbusch, Dylan Thompson, Amy Steiner, Emily Jarecki, Dillon Clarey, Brian Ackman, and Molly Forney pose after the crowning of king and queen.

Speaking for those who don't have a voice

By Stephani Jarecke
Staff Reporter

Teens for Life is making an impact on students by being more active this year compared to years passed. They have already participated in four events ranging from fundraising to silent protesting.

Teens for Life is an organization for students who are interested in taking a stand on abortion. There are about sixty students involved. Teens for Life advisor Cheryl Rambour felt the need to make Scotus involved when she attended a Columbus Right to Life meeting. Rambour realized at this meeting that Scotus was missing out and decided to get involved. Last year was her first year as sponsor.

Teens for Life did a Mad Minute at one of the early volleyball games against David City Aquinas. Both schools contributed to make a total of $300. This money went towards funding for a bus to Lincoln for a protest at the abortion clinic. "When I learned that we made $300, I was so surprised and very thankful. It enabled us to rent the bus," Rambour said.

A few Aquinas students along with one teacher, and two Humphrey St. Francis students also rode the bus to the clinic. Teens for Life arrived at the abortion clinic only to find out that it was closed.

There was a bus full of students, some returners and some first timers. One of those students, sophomore Kelly Augustine, was one who was excited and did not know what to expect.

"I thought it was interesting how Planned Parenthood is in a regular neighborhood," Augustine said.

Next to the abortion clinic is a house Lincoln Right to Life owns. Since Planned Parenthood was closed the students toured the Lincoln Right to Life's house, and pro-life volunteers and counselors talked to the students.

The next stop for the Lincoln trip was to a silent protest outside a stem cell research meeting. The students were informed about embryonic stem cell research, and then they went outside to hold signs as cars drove by.

"It makes it real when you are standing along the road receiving negative and positive attitudes; compared to talking about abortion within the school," Rambour stated.

The students received honks but also gestures of disapproval.

Many students also attended a silent protest in Columbus on October 4th. The Columbus Life Chain is similar to the Lincoln protest.

"I went to the Life Chain, because I want to save a life," sophomore Sadee Lassek said.

There were about forty students to attend this Life Chain. Rambour said it was a great turn out compared to years past. The students along with many citizens in Columbus stood along highway 30 with signs in silence for one hour. Students also participated in a silent protest during school on October 20th.

Silent Day requires red duck tape and a black marker. Students came early in the morning to put tape on their mouths. The tape read LIFE. They did this to be silent in honor of the lives that never got a chance.

"When I first got here last year I wanted to do it. I thought it was cool because it was for a good cause," freshmen Paige Harmeier said.

Teens for Life has started off with many activities this year. They are also involved with planning for the March for Life in December. This is a national event where each state comes together to march in Washington D.C. for a week. Teens for Life welcomes any student 7th through 12th to join.

Stephanie Jarecke/ Rock Bottom

Amy Pekarek, Taylor Wiester, Tara Starzec, and Gina Bose pose in the 'crow's nest', a structure looking over the fence to the Planned Parenthood building.

Angie Rusher/ Rock Bottom

Gina Bose works silently during English class on Silent Day. Students were allowed to take the tape off to work on their academics, but many students chose not to.

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Opinion

Awaiting 2012

By Casey Kessler
Staff Reporter

As I watch trailers for the new movie 2012, I start to wonder if the world could actually end in a little over three years. My belief is that people should live life to the fullest because the end of the world in the year 2012 is a distinct possibility.

At first, I had no understanding about the year 2012, so I researched a bit and found out that the 2012 World Rowing Championships will be held at Plodiv, Bulgaria on July 18-21, 2012. Get your tickets now. That could very well be the last time the best rowers in the world are together to compete. What a shame that is. So the possible end of the life of these rowers got me thinking of all the aspects of life I would not be able to accomplish if the world were to end.

I would not be able to live to the age of twenty or better yet twenty-one. I honestly only have three Christmases left for Santa to give me presents. If the world ends, does Santa end? Would I live long enough for Blink 182 to break up and reunite again? Going out for more extracurricular activities would be my first order of business. Then I would take out all my money from my savings account and spend it on all the objects I always wanted to buy, but never needed. These include a soda drink hat, an HDTV, and a Nintendo 64. Specifically I would start performing various acts of extreme sports. I would definitely learn how to skateboard, so I could grind some railage because that looks cool. Learning to play Frisbee golf would be another one of my goals before "the end". Teaching my dog to surf or better yet create a surfboard specifically designed for my dog (totally dude) would be cool too. There would also be no more Little Caeser's. How can one possibly go without crazy bread and crazy sauce?

But on a more serious note, what would you do with your family situation? I am not exactly a huge fan of family vacations as I have grown up. But going on a few family vacations would be something that I would love to do with my family before "the end". I would get my parents to buy tickets to all Nebraska football games and I would spend my last few falls traveling and cheering on Cody Green. Then being able to have more family get-togethers with my cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents.

Obviously friends are a big deal too. We all love our families, but we would also like to spend time with our friends during our last few years on earth. When I am not spending time with my family, I would be spending time with my friends. Sitting home every once in a while and watching TV or playing video games would be a complete waste of time as the world would be coming to an end.

Now let me ask you one question about the possible end of the world. Would you be ready to embrace it?

Judging the difference

By Stacia Rawhouser
Staff Reporter

Everyone is guilty of forming opinions of others without sparing a second glance. What is it about people's styles or appearances that trigger our minds into thinking that because they are different, they are in the wrong?

I have experienced both sides of the spectrum. For example, certain actions of others have caused me to judge them as well, such as dying their hair black. I do not know why, but it somewhat scares me when people do this. Though I know that the color of their hair is simply a choice in appearance, rather than a direct reflection of their personality, I need to remind myself that this is nothing but a commonly developed stereotype. Unnaturally black hair, to me, describes someone who indulges in self-pity and depressive behavior. This is my unforced first impression of these people, though they most likely do not deserve it. In fact, I know they do not deserve these stereotypes directed towards them because I have been judged in the same manner. No, my hair is not black, but it is different, making me a frequent victim to such judgments.

Everyday, I get new comments, strange looks, and labels from people because of how I look, mostly because of my hair. I do not know if it is because it does not look like everyone else's or because it is obviously not natural, but that does not give anyone the reason to think they know me.

In making the choice to look different, I have submitted myself to the daily remarks of others. One of my favorites is me being "emo." For those of you who do not know, an emo is often defined as someone who generally has a gloomy outlook on life and harbors very strong emotions, usually emotions of hate and discontentment. I suppose this hits a "spot" within me because I know that does not define me at all.

I am a positive person, for the most part, and I enjoy having fun. I dye my hair, not because I am emo, but simply because I want to be different. I do not like the idea of being like everyone else. I guess the real reason is that it was time for a change, one that was fun and crazy. This is one of my ways of showing my unique personality, so I do not appreciate the judgment. It is a bit hypocritical of me to point fingers ,however, when earlier I gave people with unnaturally black hair a sort of emo description. That is my first instinct of thought when I see these people, but it is true that I need to keep an open mind, just as I wish others would do for me.

Think of how often each of us notices something different about someone else and this "something" registers negatively within our mind set. Because of this, we automatically assume we know this person based completely on their appearance. If only some of us took the time to give that second glance, maybe we would be able to understand people more, rather than draw up our own false conclusions about them.

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

A Thank You to Scotus

By Jenna Clark
Adolescent Advocate

What? Did she just say cancer? Now, while I'm pregnant? What about my baby boy? Seriously...cancer? I'm only 25.

Well, that is where we were at two months ago. Thankfully, I am more at peace with what is going on and I wanted to take a moment to send out an update and thank you all.

Initially, being diagnosed with cancer was definitely unexpected and scary, but we feel that we are in good hands. My husband and I are currently awaiting the arrival of our second child, a baby boy, due December 26th. Once we have the baby, we will wait approximately 6-8 weeks and then will proceed with treatment. The treatment process for thyroid cancer is 'better' than some of the others, so I am trying to keep that in mind. However, there will be a time when I have to be away from my family and it is unknown how many rounds we will have to do. The treatment process will be a challenge, especially having a new baby in the home, but we are ready for it. We are hoping that I will only have to go through one round of treatment, but time will tell what is needed.

Scotus Rocks - - everyone has been incredibly supportive and encouraging. I want to thank you all; the administration, staff and students for all of your support. I had to cancel two of our Building Healthy Relationships groups for this semester, which I felt horrible about, but everyone was extremely understanding and supportive. Thank you for all of the encouraging words and prayers you have sent our way. We feel truly blessed to be a part of such a wonderful community and I love that I'm able to be a part of your school.

Thank you!
Jenna Clark

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Features

The year in horror

By Stephen Pandorf
Staff Reporter

Now that you can't scare the little kids anymore the only way to incite fear in others or yourself is to watch some scary movies. 2009 is a plentiful year for horror movies. This year features a variety of horror movies including remakes, sequels, sequels to remakes, and some original features. The plots range from torture to slashers mixed in with some supernatural scare fests.

There are no shortages of remakes with *My Bloody Valentine*, *Sorority Row*, *and the Stepfather*, which are remakes of popular horror movies from the 80s. *The Last House on the Left* is a remake a 1972 cult classic. The remakes aren't going to stop anytime soon and such names as *Nightmare on Elm Street*, *Stephen King's IT*, *Poltergeist*, and *Scream* are in production.

There are several big name sequels this year with *Halloween 2*,*The Final Destination*, and *Saw 6*. *Halloween 2* is the conclusion to Rob Zombie's remake of *Halloween*. *The Final Destination* is the 4th movie in the Final Destination series and is making the jump to 3D. Saw 6 is another thrilling entry in the yearly Saw series and details the legacy of the serial killer Jigsaw.

There are two big original horror efforts for the year. *Drag Me to Hell* is the story of a saleswoman who becomes cursed and will be tormented by a demon before being taken to hell. Sam Raimi, known for the *Evil Dead* and *Spiderman* trilogies, directed it. *Paranormal Activity* is about a couple that experiences ghosts during the nights and sets up a videotape to record it. It was well received at the Sundance Film festival and then given a limited release to cities that received enough votes from its website. It has been met with success and is on its way to become one of the highest grossing films released in fewer than 200 theaters.

The Haunting In Connecticut is based on a "true" story and a Discovery Channel documentary on a family with an ill son who move into a new house hoping to help him, but they find out the house is haunted. If you need a dose of fear there shouldn't be a problem with all the new offerings horror this year.

Horror Movies 2009

The Unborn	*Orphan*
My Bloody Valentine	*Paranormal Activiy*
Friday the 13th	*Drag Me to Hell*
Halloween 2	*Saw 6*
The Final Destination	*Last House on the Left*
Haunting in Connecticut	*The Stepfather*

What is the scariest movie that you've seen?

Paranormal Activity because of the realism with the handheld camera.

-Dalton Leu 12

Paranormal Activity because it was so scary it made me cry.

-Hannah Harrington 9

Prom Night because the guy kills those girls and I haven't seen very many scary movies.

-Marina Karel 11

Where the Wild Things Are because I'm afraid the of the big furry monsters.

-Jake Kratochvil 10

From horror to holy

By Levi McPhillips
Staff Reporter

Walk the streets of any American town on the night of October 31st, and witness a strange ritual taking place. Goblins, monsters, nurses, nuns, demons, and angels go from door to door asking for little treats of chocolaty goodness. Along with the desperate quest for candy, dozens of horror films hit the big screen each year trying to give their audiences shivers down their spines. Halloween has become a celebration of death and horror. How many people dressed up as witches, wallabies, or whoopee cushions know why they are dressed up? Do any of them know what the true meaning of Halloween is? Why take part in festivities when the importance of it all is not apparent?

The history of Halloween goes back thousands of years. According to the History Channel's website, History.com, the holiday has its roots in the Irish Celtic festival. These ancient peoples lived in the British Isles 2,000 years ago. It would mark the beginning of their new year, the coming of winter and a time of death. They would wear "costumes" with animal heads and furs. They wore these to tell each other's futures.

The Romans conquered the area of what is now the United Kingdom in the 1st century. Over a few hundred years, Roman and Celtic cultures mixed into a single festival. This festival would celebrate the passing of the dead. A few hundred years later, the Christian culture had spread throughout Europe, including Ireland. A new feast day was established by the Church to make a related festival that would honor all the saints. Pope Boniface IV established the day to be November 1st. It was called All-hallows, making October 31st All-Hallows Eve. Later in 1000 A.D., the Church established the feast of All Souls' Day. This event celebrates and honors our beloved dead on November 2nd.

So it turns out that Halloween is on the eve of a great celebration

"These three days are important to knowing our destiny and to knowing heaven."
-Fr. Andrew Roza

of the most inspiring examples of Christian life. We are in communion with our saints, and this should be a celebration of life. "These three days are important to knowing our destiny and to knowing heaven," Scotus Chaplain Fr. Andrew Roza said. He also said that celebrating Halloween does not make sense without All Saints and All Souls' Days; the problem with the holiday is that "we have fun with hell without celebrating heaven".

Fr. Roza celebrated Halloween as a child just like everyone else. He dressed up as a football player, monster, and a construction worker.

"After a while though, I figured out it was all about the candy and I got lazy," Roza said.

When he was in seminary, there was a bigger celebration, not on the 31st, but on Nov. 1st. There would be activities and costumes celebrating the lives of the saints.

In light of Scotus' chaplain words, Halloween activities this year should be done while keeping in mind the deeper meaning of heaven and hell.

Fr. Roza summed it up best; "We need to be aware that God is all powerful so we can make fun of evil. We laugh at the devil because we laugh with God."

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Beyond the Game

Taking the trash out of the game

By Kyle Benesch
Staff Reporter

It distracts from games, makes players angry, and is unwanted by coaches; a few of the many reasons why trash talking is discouraged in athletics. Most professional sports have strict taunting or trash talking rules. An excessive amount of either can result in harsh penalties. In the NFL a penalty of 15 yards is given to the team, and a possible fine can be dealt to the player who committed the penalty. In the NBA a technical foul is assessed to the player, and an automatic fine is also given.

Trash talking in sports is not something that has just recently started to develop. One example of a historic notorious trash talker is "The Greatest" Muhammad Ali. Ali, to many, was a young, cocky, arrogant punk who ran his mouth too much. For others he was the greatest man they had ever seen, and they admired his bold antics. Ali once told the boxing world "If you ever dream of beating me you'd better wake up and apologize." It was comments like this that made not only other boxers angry, but fans as well. With all the extras aside, Ali's record was an outstanding 56 wins, 37 of those being knockouts, and only 5 losses.

This unsportsman-like behavior takes place outside of professional sports; high school teams also deal with trash talk, in their activities. Shawn Schumacher, leading receiver for the Shamrocks football team has a strong view on trash talking.

"If you do it and you get killed then you just look stupid," said Schumacher, "for some people it gives them motivation, but you lose respect from the other team."

This respect is what Athletic Director Gary Puetz wants at Scotus.

"People should respect you for what you do on the field, not for running your mouth," Puetz said. "If someone is running their mouth, that doesn't mean that you talk back, keep your mouth shut and on the next play knock their head off."

Puetz later commented that taunting has no place at Scotus or in high school sports in general.

"I would certainly hope that any coach would discourage that kind of behavior"

Although most people agree that trash talking is unnecessary, boy's basketball coach Jeff Ohnoutka has had a different outcome from his players trash talking. Once before a key basketball game, one of Ohnoutka's players told the opposing team's star player that he would not score four points the whole game. This comment got inside the player's head, and sure enough come fourth quarter, the player had only managed to tack on two points. The player was too flustered to play, and throughout the game he was kept in this mood by the players telling him constantly how many points he had scored.

"Although I do not condone trash talking, we won the game, so the players motives had its desired effect," said Ohnoutka.

Trash talking in sports today is one of the many things that gets taken too far. Part of having better sportsmanship in the game is for athletes to watch what they say. There is a line where an athlete crosses from saying competitive comments, to taunting antics. Although athletes can not change the way others run their mouth on the field, by refraining from returning comments helps take the trash out of the game.

Amber Ewers/Yearbook Staff

Senior Kyle Benesch leads the student section in the rollercoaster at the September 29th volleyball match against Lakeview. The S-CLub has continued the theme tradition with the students all dressed in green for the "Green Machine."

Shall we don our speedos?

By Olivia Sonderman
Staff Reporter

February 5, 2003. In a home game, Duke is challenging UNC in men's basketball. Jackie Manual, guard for the Tar Heels, draws a foul from a Duke player early in the game. With Manuel at the free throw line, the entire Duke student section takes a seat, but not Patrick King. There is nothing special about King, except the fact that he is wearing nothing but a Speedo. According to the article "A Brief History of Heckling" written by Eddie Matz, published in ESPN magazine, King begins what was described as an "interpretive dance", and Manual misses both of his shots. Duke goes on to win the game 87-74.

Patrick King, to be eternally remembered as Speedo Guy, is a perfect example of the extremes fans reach to support their team. Though most spectators do not regularly don a Speedo to cheer on their players, fans are known to carry out some pretty rowdy ideas to add energy to the game (waving a Hogwarts flag, creating a knight from aluminum foil, etc.). But why do fans bother to go to such extremes to cheer on a sports team?

James C. McKinly Jr. of the New York Times states in his article "Sports Psychology; It Isn't Just a Game: Clues to Avid Rooting" that the respect and love fans display for their players is the equivalent of the devotion early tribes showed to the warriors who protected and fed them. A certain player or team may be a fan's modern day savior because humans are genetically programmed to praise them.

The article added that fans do not only admire these individuals; they feel truly represented by their team. If a spectator's team has a winning record or wins a big game, it is possible for the spectator to gain respect from others through association or to feel as if he or she had achieved the win. On the other hand, if a spectator's team is performing poorly, he or she may have a lower self-esteem and may be less optimistic about events in their own life.

In the story of Patrick King, Speedo Guy also exemplifies how spectators at an athletic event can affect the result of the game. Though it cannot be proven, Patrick King, as a spectator, may have influenced the outcome of that game. Those two free throw shots could have been the deciding points of the match, missed because King's wild dance destroyed Manuals' focus.

The same situation occurs in Scotus athletic programs, most notably in volleyball. Mr. Puetz believes the large number of students attending games, the organized, positive cheering, and the involvement of parents are the forces that drive the student section. Numerous people agree cheering loud and proud causes the team to perform better.

"I do believe it is the student section that carries our volleyball team," Senior Pat McKay stated. "The crowd brings energy and excitement; it keeps the players in it."

Volleyball players definitely feel the affect of the fans' support. "The student section is always very positive and gives our other fans energy as well as the volleyball team," defensive specialist Andrea Odbert said.

As for improving the already magnificent student body, Mr. Puetz gave some great advice. "We want all the support we can get from the student body. However, the fans come to watch the players, not the student section. The student section needs to be support for the players, and respect what is happening on the court."

In light of this advice, the student body is always inventing rowdy chants to give support to their team. However, McKay, an S-club leader, noted that no new cheers are being planned at the moment.

"We're just going to keep going with what we got, and if any new cheers come, it will be in the heat of battle."

However, it is probably obvious to assume that anyone who arrives at a game wearing a Speedo in tribute of Patrick King will be asked to leave.

Initiation to play the game

By Casey Kessler
Staff Reporter

It is hard to determine what athletes may do to each other behind the scenes. Hazing hit closer to home this year with the Columbus High wrestling team. A Columbus high wrestler was hazed at a wrestling summer camp by other wrestlers from his team. Punishments were made to the CHS wrestling program. The head coach was forced to step down from his position, but was later asked to stay on as an assistant coach. Some of the Columbus High wrestlers involved in the hazing accident cannot wrestle until a specified date in the middle of January. The issue has brought up much debate at other schools about team trips and supervision.

Scotus Athletic Director Gary Puetz said,

"Obviously I don't know the whole story about it. One was that it was a non-school camp, and two you have to expect that these types of things can happen. Now a days, taking kids out of school is always a risk."

"Now a days, taking kids out of school is always a risk."
~Gary Puetz

Scotus has a strict policy on the bullying and hazing situation. The Scotus student handbook states "bullying/harassment is unwanted attention, words, or actions that hurt people emotionally, socially, or physically. Bullying, harassment, and sexual harassment is not a joke and the excuse "I was just kidding" will not be accepted" (page 35). Bullying and harassment are both forms of hazing. The first offense allows the student to be counseled, the second offense is a minimum of three days out of school suspension, and the third offense is expulsion.

Mr. Puetz remembered years ago when there were accepted types of hazing at Scotus, but mostly these were not related to bullying in any way.

"Absolutely there was hazing at Scotus. Years ago the initiation of S-Club required the guys usually to do all types of crazy stuff. It was sort of like an initiation into a college fraternity. The Superintendent actually used to be there at this type of initiation. Today that sort of stuff isn't accepted."

Columbus is not the only place that hazing goes on across the country or even across the state. There have been many hazing incidents in Nebraska colleges and high schools over the past three years. One of the latest incidents happened on the campus of UNL where pledges were emotionally and physically traumatized. These students were forced to sleep in an attic in the fraternity in the middle of January with all of the windows open. Then they were woken up in the middle of the night and pelted with mustard, ketchup, and pickles by members of the fraternity. They were finally able to go back to sleep, but at five in the morning they were later summoned to take cold showers while the windows remained open. There were many other such accidents involving this fraternity and their pledges. Eight of the members of the fraternity are currently on trial for this incident, and the fraternity is suspended from the school for four years.

Hazing is obviously something that is not handled with minimum punishment. The UNL fraternity and Columbus High wrestling team both had major blows to their respected organizations. Suspensions were given out to both groups of students. Scotus also has a strict policy when it comes to bullying, harassment, and hazing. This shows that whether the incident is small or large, that there is mostly a zero tolerance policy in many schools, groups, and activities when it comes to hazing, but it seems that most of these incidents occur when a certain adult figure is lacking. It is difficult to control all of these incidents that occur beyond the game.

Chief Redman is Burning

By Brian Ackman
Layout Editor

Several sports are beginning to come down to crunch time not only in our national news, but also in worldwide sports. The sporting world is busy with MLB, NCAA football, World Cup soccer, and much more. Here are some things that I'm burning on:

The Major League Baseball playoffs have been interesting so far. Honestly, I am no baseball fan, but some of these games are catching my eye. The Yankees-Angels series definitely was in interesting one. Game 2 went into 13 innings while the Angels won game 3 in 11 innings. With these scores being so close, I am amazed at how the Yankees came back and dominated game 4 in winning by 9 runs. I question the Angels' players after such an embarrassing loss. These players must be able to compete at a high level all the time if they want to win a playoff series.

"The Nebaraska defense has proved itself time and time again this season."
-Brian Ackman

World Cup soccer qualifying matches are winding down to a close. Many teams have already locked down their spots for the 2010 tournament, such as world powerhouses Italy, England, and Spain. The United States has also earned a spot in the 2010 World Cup by winning its conference. As an avid soccer fan, I wish the best to the American men when they face some of the stiffest competition in the world. The U.S. has proved itself on the big stage recently in the Confederations Cup, but failed to close out the tournament strongly. This team has solid leaders in Landon Donovan and Tim Howard, but the key to victory will be confidence in some of the younger players. If they trust in their skills and play up to their potential, I can see the U.S. making a real splash in the tournament and boosting the reputation of American soccer.

Nebraska football has definitely been exciting to watch this year. I am always eager to see which team will show up every week. It appears that Zac Lee is losing his popularity among fans after sub-par performances against Virginia Tech, Texas Tech, and most of the Missouri game. I am calling for the coaching staff to prepare Cody Green for a starting role at some point in this season. Green has been above average in his few minutes this year, mostly in blowout games. He is the quarterback of the future, and Husker Nation will begin to riot if he doesn't at least get a chance to prove himself. Also among the offensive woes for Nebraska are instability at running back. Backups like Marcus Mendoza and Austin Jones need to fill in for an injured Rex Burkhead. Roy Helu can be a bright spot in our offense, but I don't think he can carry a team on his shoulders.

The Nebraska defense has proved itself time and time again this season. The only reason the Huskers have stayed in close games is because the defensive unit refuses to give up points. Ndamukong Suh is heading a defensive line that is Nebraska's greatest strength in my eyes. I applaud Carl Pelini for rotating our secondary players and linebackers enough to keep them fresh. Many fans don't realize how important these rotations will be as the season stretches on and players become worn down from tough Big 12 games. Bo Pelini has turned around a defense that ashamed Husker fans a few years ago. Keep up the good work on defense, Bo.

Shamrocks place 8th at state

By Kyle Benesch
Staff Reporter

The 2nd ranked girls cross-country team was looking for a golden opportunity at state. Having a great chance at placing in the top three and a great chance of the gold, a great day looked promising for the Shamrocks. This pre-race outlook wasn't what the outcome was.

"As a team we didn't run our best," said freshman Morgan Benesch. "Our previous times from that course were way faster, and we got beat by some girls that we normally beat."

Benesch placed 3rd for the Shamrocks, which wasn't a big surprise for head coach Merlin Lahm. "Morgan ran really well, I had no doubt in my mind that she would place high, possibly even win."

"This experience is going to help me my next two years."
-Joel Ostdiek

One unfortunate event for the Shamrocks was the loss of district champion Amber Ewers towards the very end of the race. At roughly 2 miles, Ewers was leading the class C state meet, but at the 800 mark Ewers dropped out of the race.

"I had a lack of oxygen, and my body shut down," said junior Amber Ewers. "We still don't know exactly why it happened."

Ewers was near the finish when she collapsed and was unable to hear or see anything, "I remember running most of the race, but the last five minuets I don't remember at all."

With this setback, the girls finished in a still respectable 8th place, but every team who beat the Shamrocks at state had previously lost to Scotus earlier in the year.

"Our girls ran extremely well for having a top runner drop out. For them to get 8th place without Amber is phenomenal," Lahm said.

With the state meet over, and cross-country done for the year, Scotus' XC teams can only look forward. Both teams are returning five varsity members each, with only seniors Emily Jarecki and Kyle Benesch leaving.

"For both teams, this year is a great stepping stone for the next couple of years," said lead boys runner, Joel Ostdiek.

Ostdiek was the only Shamrock boy to qualify to state.

"This experience is going to help me in my next two years," Ostdiek said.

Coach Lahm is also optimistic about the future of Scotus' cross-country programs.

"This sport is hard, and we work hard, but also we have a lot of fun," said Lahm. "No doubt in my mind we are going to improve for next year, our teams are going to be committed and hopefully they will work during the summer."

KYLE BENESCH/ROCK BOTTOM

Morgan Benesch passes Amber Ewers as she collapses during the state cross county meet.

Girls golf cold at state

By Kyle Benesch
Staff Reporter

Harsh course conditions made the already difficult state meet an extra challenge for the Shamrocks. The normally two-day tournament was changed to a one-day tournament due to the expected bad weather. "It was so cold my hands felt like they were going to fall off," said senior golfer Jenna Roh.

"It was 35 degrees throughout the day," said head coach Tanya Neidbalski, "It rained, hailed, and sleeted, making it a pretty miserable state meet."

These conditions affected the Shamrocks, by having the 2nd ranked Shamrocks finish 5th overall in the tournament

"What was disappointing was that we had already beaten three of the four teams who placed ahead of us, but I admire these girls for playing in these conditions for five hours," said Niedbalski.

Even though the Shamrocks didn't get the desired result they were looking for, overall they were happy with how they played.

"5th in the state is still very good, I am proud of our girls for how they played" said Niedbalski.

Despite struggling on a couple of holes, Junior Jacy Gasper finished in 7th place.

"I could have done better, but I am happy with placing 7th," said Gasper.

With the season being done, the Shamrocks are able to look back on it and be happy.

"I admire these girls for playing in these conditions for five hours."
-Tonya Niedbalski

"We did very well during the season. The girls were more consistent and had more confidence; a lot of this was because our girls entered a lot of summer tournament play. I really believe this helped them in the long run," said Niedbalski

The Lady Shamrocks were able to win some big meets this year, placing first at the Scotus Invite, Oakland-Craig, and winning Districts for the second year in a row.

"We also beat some quality class A and B teams. Defeating teams like Piux and Beatrice is awesome," Niedbalski said.

With three of her five starters returning, Niedbalski is looking forward to next year already.

"We just need more golfers, for the golf team," said Niedbalski, "and girls who are interested in golfing should join us next year."

PHOTO BY TORI ENGQUIST

Jenna Roh aims for the green at state.

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Marching band continues tradition to success

By Stacia Rawhouser
Staff Reporter

Everyone has bowed their head in reverence during the instrumental national anthem, and everyone has clapped with adrenaline during the school song, but the Scotus band does not get near the recognition they deserve. The hard work and perseverance that the members put in are unimaginable to most.

The band has a prestigious reputation built from past years of having good leadership and developing much success throughout the year. Though a loss of many talented seniors last year came as a concern to the progress of this year's performance, the band has not shown any sign of weakness. In order to uphold the bar set from previous years, higher expectations needed to be reached, but band director, Kristen Cox said this year, the band members expect more out of each other and have stepped up well into the much needed leadership roles that were left empty after last year.

"We're all one family, one unit. Everyone holds everyone else accountable," Cox said.

Cox gives credit to the underclassmen that have joined the band's "family" this year and contributed to the loss of seniors last year.

"The incoming freshmen have done a very good job at stepping into high school expectations. The sophomores have developed leadership in their class as well."

With so many students involved in the band, there is no question that sometimes it gets a little chaotic when it comes to sharpness. The two drum majors, Molly Forney and Morgan Gilson share the responsibility of leading the band.

"It is our job to use discipline and self control," Forney said.

Sharpness and discipline both play large rolls in marching, which is where the Scotus marching band gains much of its success and recognition. The marching band made its first parade appearance on August 23rd during the Columbus Days Parade. The Scotus band marched along with Columbus High and Lakeview. During this parade, the band included the flag corps and the cheerleaders in their marching activity in order to add to its presentation.

"They give it a lot of color and something else to look at," said Forney.

Because the Columbus Days Parade was not a judged performance, it served as practice for the more competitive parades that were to come.

The Scotus marching band also appeared in the Hastings Parade on September 26th. They competed and impressed the judges enough to receive the "Superior" ratings from all of the judges, along with the "Outstanding Band Award" and the "Outstanding Flag/Color Guard Award."

The marching band made its final marching appearance of the fall in the Columbus Marching Festival Parade on Sunday, October 3. They received "Excellent" ratings from the judges.

Though the fall marching season has come to an end, the band will remain competitive in the St. Patrick's Day Parade this March, as well as the District Music Contest coming in April.

"I feel they're maybe not up to their full potential," Cox said, "but as the year goes on I know they will more than exceed my expectations."

STACIA RAWHOUSER/ROCK BOTTOM

Scotus marchers (l to r) Adam Starzec, Colby Engquist, Quinn Goodrich, and Craig Ackman keep the beat at the Columbus Marching Festival.

Domestic violence awareness groups educate students

By Kelsey Jochum
Copy Editor

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and Scotus students have armed themselves with knowledge. Through groups such as Revolution and Building Healthy Relationships, Scotus students are becoming more aware and knowledgeable about the violence and assault that can happen so commonly within their age group.

This year, many Scotus students have joined an out-of-school organization called Revolution. Led by Revolution Supervisor Abbie Tessendorf and Children's Services Director Erin Nahorny, Revolution is a group of teens ages fourteen to twenty who raise awareness of dating violence and sexual assault. Ran through the Center for Survivors here in Columbus, the group meets monthly to plan events in which they can teach or speak about violence and assault.

Currently, there are eleven Scotus students in Revolution. Of these eleven, six are returning members. One such member is junior Laura Salyard, who has been in the group for two years. She joined Revolution because she felt that there weren't enough kids who knew about dating violence.

"Scotus kids need to know the statistics and the 'red flags' in relationships," Salyard said.

Another aspect of Revolution is the smaller, theatre group. Made up of Revolution members, the theatre group spends additional time writing and rehearsing a dramatization about dating violence and sexual assault. This dramatization is then performed for high school students around the area. Senior Catie Wiese is one of the performers in the drama.

"We have an amazing group of actors who want to help others and spread the word that this type of violence happens everywhere, even in Columbus," Wiese said.

Wiese feels that one of the key messages Revolution sends is belief. Many victims of abuse never feel they can share their stories because they fear they won't be believed.

"When a friend comes to you and tells you they were abused or assaulted, believe them," Wiese said. "That is the most important thing a friend can do."

Junior Cale Albracht, a first-year member of Revolution, is also involved in the theatre group. He plays the role of the "good friend" who is supportive towards the victims of violence. Albracht believes that the drama is incredibly powerful and that Scotus kids should care about this subject.

"They should be concerned about domestic violence because it can happen to anyone," Albracht said.

The theatre group's first performance was on October 21st in Polk, Nebraska for about 120 students and teachers. The students responded well to the group and approached them after the performance, giving words of praise and sharing their own stories. The group will continue to have performances throughout the year and are scheduled to come to the three Columbus high schools in the spring.

Another program run through the Center for Survivors is Building Healthy Relationships. In this group, high school students meet in small groups with an adult leader to talk about mature relationships. The groups meet once a week, eight weeks out of the semester, and discuss topics such as healthy dating, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The groups have received much positive feedback from students.

"I think it's really important to have group because we learn so much more about what is going on," said senior Taylor Baumgart. Baumgart was a part of Building Healthy Relationships her freshman year and became a member of Revolution this year. Through all this, she has become a strong advocate for victims of domestic violence.

"Scotus students should know that there are people like us out there who want to help or talk to anyone who may be going through anything related to domestic violence or sexual assault."

At Scotus, Building Healthy Relationships is offered for high school girls and is led by Center for Survivors' Adolescent Advocate, Jenna Clark.

"I love the size of Scotus," Clark said, "Just big enough that we have lots of girls interested, yet small enough that I am really able to get to know a lot of the girls."

With half-a-semester of group under her belt, Clark hopes that the students are taking something away from it. She always hopes that girls can learn some of the basic knowledge about healthy and unhealthy relationships.

"Domestic violence happens everywhere, even Scotus. I think we are all guilty of thinking it doesn't happen here, but it does. We need to come together as a community to stand up against dating violence and support our victims. They need to know we are here for them."

KELSEY JOCHUM/ROCK BOTTOM

Levi McPhillips plays the role of an abusive boyfriend during the Revolution dramatization at Polk High School.

Our Faith

By Father Roza
Scotus Chaplain

It is my pleasure to try to manage three different questions today, so I'll do my best.

1. If you drop the Eucharist, what should you do? Is there a three-second rule or something like that?

If you happen to drop the Eucharist, you should pick it up and consume it as soon as you can. If that's simply not acceptable to you, then you should give it to the EMHC or the priest, and they will consume it for you. I have never had a person drop the host and then give it back to me, so if you do that, you might take the EMHC or priest by surprise, but that's how it works.

2. Why do you drop a little tiny piece of the host into the chalice just before people begin receiving communion?

It is a tradition that goes back at least 1500 years. In Rome, the pope would celebrate Mass each morning at a different parish, and people from parishes all over the city would converge in processions upon that celebration. At that morning Mass, a small piece of the Eucharist would be given to each parish group. The groups would then process back with the Eucharist, and at evening Masses in their own parishes, the piece of the Eucharist from the Pope's Mass would be dropped into the chalices at all the parish Masses. This meant that the people who were unable to go to Mass with the pope because of other obligations were still able to recognize how real their connection was to him in Christ. Today, it can still serve for us as a reminder of the closeness of our connection to the Holy Father and to the rest of the Church.

3. Is it a sin to eat unconsecrated hosts, as though they were chips or table food?

It depends on why you're doing it. Obviously they are food like most any other food, so on one level, they could be eaten without it being sinful. But you have to admit, downing them like chips would have to be a little weird. It would be sinful insofar as it could make it more difficult for you to take the real Eucharist seriously. If you got used to seeing hosts along side Doritos and cookies, then it could make praying during the Mass a little bit tougher. It could also become a distraction during Eucharistic adoration. The fact is that the Eucharist is a gift that has no parallel in existence, and we wouldn't want anything to get in the way of us recognizing that.

Finally, there are a lot of people who would think it disgusting and sacrilegious to have unconsecrated communion wafers just sitting around out there with the salsa. A lot of people would interpret that as reflecting an indifference or a disdain for what Catholics actually believe about the Eucharist.

Grinds My Gears

Horror Movies

By Stephen Pandorf
Staff Reporter

You know what grinds my gears, Horror Movies. If you see any movie this year see Saw XII-The Torture Continues Eight Movies After the Main Character Dies or Jennifer's Body aka Megan Fox Kills Teenagers in Skimpy Clothing. It's no surprise that the horror genre hold some of the worst reviewed movies of the year. It has been this way for years. It seems that the only things Hollywood can release are 80s horror remakes, Japanese scary child remakes, or teen slashers.

By Metacritic averages there are only 4 horror movies this year with positive scores: Zombieland, Drag Me To Hell, A Perfect Getaway, and Paranormal Activity. Zombieland is closer to a comedy than a horror movie. Drag Me To Hell, A Perfect Getaway, and Paranormal Activity all have one thing in common, they are original features. The other 35 horror movies this year received negative reception. Originality is something that the horror genre lacks. It seems that every other horror movie is a remake or a sequel.

"It seems that the only things Hollywood can release are 80s horror remakes, Japanese scary child remakes, or teen slashers."
-Steven Pandorf

Hollywood seems to be caught on the motion of just remaking movies rather than creating original works. There are 71 horror remakes in production now. Not only are these remakes of 70s and 80s movies, but also American studios seem to think that foreign movies need to be remade. *The Host*, a 2007, Korean monster movie is being remade by universal for 2011. Instead of just using subtitles and re-releasing the movie (which was critically acclaimed) to Americans the studio decided to release an American version 4 years later. *REC* is a 2007 Spanish film about a reporter and cameraman being shut inside a building with a zombie. It was remade for 2008 as *Quarantine*. Just because a movie is Spanish does not mean it needs to be remade a year after it came out. *REC* was well reviewed by all critics while *Quarantine* was given mixed reviews. It seems that the remake could not even improve upon its predecessor. Hollywood can even go as far as trying to remake a movie the year it came out.

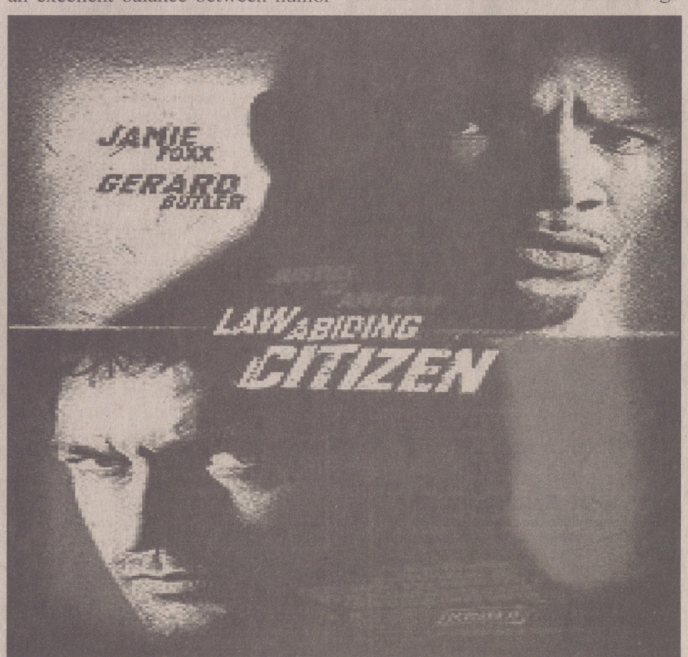
Paranormal Activity was screened at film festivals and received glowing reviews. DreamWorks picked up the movie and got Steven Spielberg involved to produce a remake by the original staff. The director pleaded with the studio to just test the movie with a few audiences because he did not know how he would create the remake. While screening the movie to its first audience people started walking out of the theater. Oren Peli, the director was discouraged because he thought that people were leaving because the movie was horrible. To his surprise people were leaving the theater because the movie was too scary. The film went from being released in less than 200 theaters to being released worldwide where it is received incredible grosses. If you are going to watch a horror movie this year watch the one that keeps state soccer champs up till 6 A.M. or junior girls from sleeping in their own houses.

Merle's Matinee: *Law Abiding Citizen*

By Merle Mapes
Staff Reporter

The Man Who Has Lost Everything is Capable of Anything. *Law Abiding Citizen*, at first glance looked like a good movie, but it turned out to be an amazing movie. It had a plot that captured the viewer's interest and refused to let it go. There were some scenes that were rather gruesome, but they were done with a humorous undertone to dull the horror. It may have been the specific audience of college guys there, but even during murders and horror there was still laughter. There was an excellent balance between humor and seriousness, though much of the humor was surrounded by swearing, and in some cases death. *Law Abiding Citizen* brings out the corruption and deceit that is spreading through the justice system like a plague. It also shows how easily the system can be manipulated. There were some scenes that were truly moving and others that were simply filler, but overall the movie definitely gave the viewer something to think about.

Law Abiding Citizen begins with a simple family with a daughter making beaded bracelets for her parents, a father working, and a mother making supper. This scene is interrupted when the father goes to answer the door. Two men barge in and knock the father to the floor, stabbing him, proceeding to rape and kill his wife, and killing his young girl. The man, who is revealed to be Clyde Shelton, takes these men to court, but in a bad deal made by his attorney, Nick Rice, one man gets away. Years later, at the execution of the accomplice, the man is murdered. While unraveling this mystery, it leads them to find the other man killed as well. Clyde then offers a set of deals, his confessions for a few luxuries in the penitentiary.



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"The Man Who Has Lost Everything is Capable of Anything."
-Movie Tagline

The cast of *Law Abiding Citizen* hosts many familiar faces, such as Gerard Butler and Jamie Foxx. Gerard (who played Kable from *Gamer*) plays Clyde Shelton, an average man with a family who owns a few patents to help pay the bills. Foxx (who is most famous for his portrayal as Ray Charles) plays Nick Rice, an attorney with a 96% conviction rate. Along with these two, several other actors join from popular movies, such as Leslie Bibb from *Iron Man* and *Star Trek's* Colm Meaney. Leslie plays a vital role as Nick's co-worker and a close friend to him. She becomes one of the reasons Nick tries so hard to stop Clyde. Colm, acting as Detective Dunnigan, helps Rice throughout the movie to stop Clyde.

I found *Law Abiding Citizen* to be entertaining, as well as an excellent source of ethical and political questioning. Many found the movie to be overdone and too gruesome, or that it was absurd and pointless; I find these statements tend to come from narrow minded people who tend to blindly follow what they hear on the news. I will leave you to form your own opinion about the movie, but I would personally recommend it and give it a solid 5/5.

As told by a ginger

By Brian Ackman
Layout Editor

In our last issue, Levi discussed the world's belief that the ginger gene is dying out. For all of you who are unfamiliar with just what a ginger looks like, I will enlighten you on the topic. What are some of the physical traits of being a ginger? How do you even become a ginger? The answer to these questions lies within the complex subject of genes.

The most obvious trait of a ginger is his/her red hair. This hair color can range from an extreme fiery red to a more dull brownish orange. The beautiful thing about our hair is that it will never fade. Studies have shown that red heads will maintain their brilliant hair longer than the average person. Red heads tend to not bald as fast as the average person. So while all of you blondes and brunettes are balding in later years, us red heads will still have a head full of hair.

Another common trait of a ginger is freckles. It is a rare occasion to find a red head that doesn't have freckles. But what are freckles exactly? My mom always told me that freckles are angel kisses, and this fact always brightened my day. Webster's Dictionary defines a freckle as a small brownish spot in the skin usually due to precipitation of pigment that increase in number and intensity on exposure to sunlight. In layman's terms this means that freckles are blotches on the skin that you can get more of from being outside. This explains why I have so many. I love to be outside, and being the ginger that I am, I have tons of freckles. An old myth about freckles is that if you try to count a ginger's freckles for too long, it is like staring into the sun and your eyes will be severely damaged. I am unsure whether this myth is true, but I caution anyone who tries to count freckles.

Pale skin is also a physical trait of gingers. Obviously, we all know that red heads get sunburns much easier than the average person. Scientists say this is because a pale skinned person lacks pigments in their skin to block UV rays. This makes sense to me. If a ginger stays outside for too long, I can almost guarantee they will be feeling the sun's wrath. However, pale skin is not a trait of only red heads. Often times blondes or brunettes can have pale skin, so we gingers are not so different in this category.

"I caution anyone who tries to count freckles."
-Brian Ackman

The question comes to hand: where do all of these traits come from? The answer is genetics. Mr. Younger has always explained the red head gene as a recessive gene. This means that it will not show up if someone has a brown or blonde hair gene. The red head gene can skip generations, though. For instance, I have red hair but anyone who knows my family realizes that no one else in my family does. My grandfather had red hair until it turned white in his later years.

Red heads are a unique race. We gingers have our own characteristics that set us off from the rest of the world. To all of you gingers out there, I tell you to be proud of the way you look. Don't let anyone put you down because of your ginger genes.

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Volume 11 • Issue 3 • December 22, 2009

Student becomes teacher

By Kelsey Jochum
Copy Editor

Next semester, a new class will be added to the Scotus curriculum: Network Management. In this class, students will learn basic network and computer troubleshooting skills that will enable them to maintain the school network. Perhaps the most interesting thing about this new class is that it will be taught by senior Peter Heusinkvelt.

The school decided to create this class because the school needed someone to help maintain the network after Mike Petersen left.

"Mrs. Podliska asked me if I would help her, so I started last year helping for three periods and this year helping for two periods," Heusinkvelt said. "The class was created so that we could train some other students to help Mrs. Podliska in the years to come."

The class will take place 6th period and will be taught in both the Media Center and the third floor storage room, which Heusinkvelt uses as his office.

The third floor storage room is located on the third floor landing of the main staircase. It's used as storage for old computer hardware and is also where Heusinkvelt programs new computers. During the class, students will use this room for hardware work and repair. The Media Center will be used for software and working with the network.

In order to maintain the face-paced and hands-on nature of this class, there will be a limited number of students that can take it. Students will have to go through an application process to show their interest in computers and desire to take this class. Heusinkvelt said that he doesn't want more than ten people in the class.

"My goal is to teach a select few students the basics of network management so that they can help Mrs. Podliska maintain the network," Heusinkvelt said.

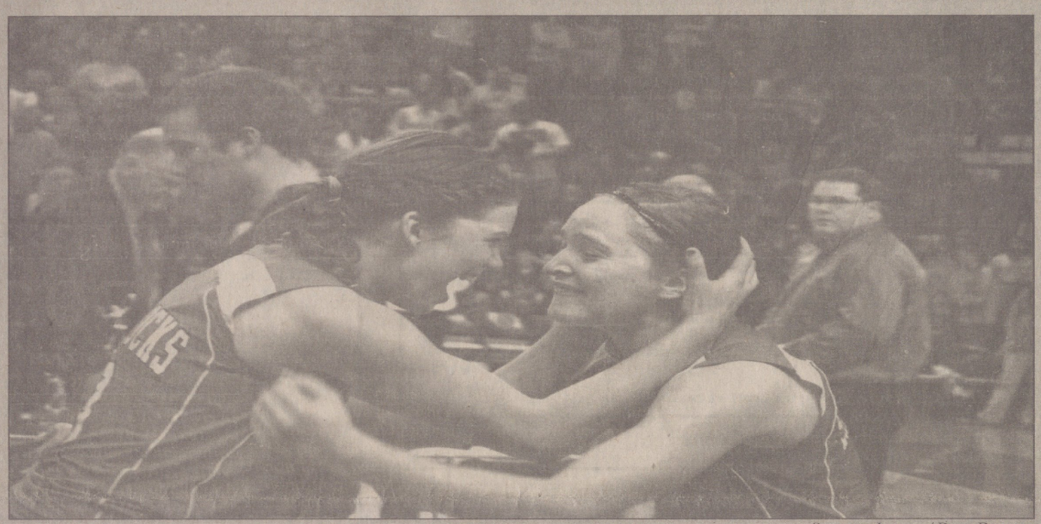
Mrs. Lahm will also be helping with the class, acting as supervisor. Though she will be monitoring the class, she also hopes to get something from it.

"I really hope to learn right along with the students," Lahm said.

The future of Network Management has not been set. Whether or not it will remain in the curriculum and be taught by another willing student in years to come has not been decided, but much of that will depend on the successfulness of this year.

"As far as I know, there are no plans to continue this class past this year," Heusinkvelt said, "but plans change."

Grand Island Championship Cancelled



STEPHANI JARECKE/ ROCK BOTTOM

Seniors Maggie Hellbusch and Monica Boading celebrate after earning the State Champ title.

Shamrock Volleyball Team Keeps Tradition Alive

By Kyle Benesch
Staff Reporter

There are many things in life that people are expected to do. Expected to be successful, expected to work hard, expected to be smart, and expected to win. For the Scotus Central Catholic volleyball team, competing well at state is just another expectation, a tradition one could say. Before the season started, the Shamrocks knew their goal: keep the tradition alive. Having won state the year before, pressure was on the Scotus girls to be repeat state champions.

Only one team looked to kill the Shamrock dream: Grand Island Central Catholic. "They had six of their top seven back, and plenty of options, they were very experienced and we knew they would be the most talented team we would play this year," said head coach John Petersen.

The Shamrocks dropped five games going into the state tournament, three times to the Crusaders. With three straight losses to G.I.C.C., another yellow championship banner in the Dowd Activity center looked unattainable.

The final match before state against Grand Island came at district finals. With a win against St. Paul in sub district finals, the Shamrocks had already secured a place in the state tournament. Going into finals the Crusaders had only dropped two previous sets. They looked to sweep the Shamrocks, defeating them in the first two sets. The Shamrocks rallied back and took the game into five sets. After a hard effort, the Shamrocks lost the 5th set.

"It was disappointing to lose, but we knew we were getting closer and closer each time we played them, and we had begun to really figure their team out," Petersen said.

Although Scotus dropped the match, the Lady Shamrocks knew that they could play with, and even possibly beat, the undefeated Crusaders.

"It proved we could beat them; it was a giant confidence booster," said senior Monica Boeding.

The determined Shamrocks entered the state tournament for the 24th time as an "underdog" in Petersen's eyes.

In the first round they easily downed Wisner-Pilger in three sets. In the semi-finals, Syracuse fell in the same three set manor as the Gators. The win put the Shamrocks into the championship round. After Grand Island Central Catholic crushed Kearny Catholic, the Shamrocks knew they would be battling the Crusaders in the state championship.

Due to an early game the next day, the team stayed in Lincoln together. This gave the Shamrocks additional time to strategize and focus. "We got together in the hotel that night for about an hour and just reviewed. We went over our strategy, and we said our goal was to get to finals, after that, no matter what happened, we would be happy. We felt good about the way were playing already in the tournament and we felt good about ourselves," said Petersen

The next day the team, along with the entire Scotus community, woke up to the familiar anticipation of Championship Saturday for the 20th time in school history. Before the game, with the Coliseum packed, the two teams lined up across from each other and prepared to face off for one final game.

Scotus opened up the first set and was ahead 13-7 before a well needed time out by Grand Island. The Crusaders were able to rally back and win set one, with a score of 21-25.

"To lose the first set was disappointing, but we still felt good and confident that we could beat them," said Petersen.

The second set

See Tradition, Page 6

207 served at H1N1 clinic

By Merle Mapes
Staff Reporter

Just a few weeks ago, Scotus took part in a large-scale vaccination for the H1N1 virus. Two hundred and seven people lined up on November 19th to get the vaccination shot; this includes junior and senior high students, certain members of the Scotus staff, and a few people who merely signed up at the Scotus site for the shot.

All students were eligible for the vaccination, but only those with parental consent could receive it. Scotus staff members and adults with underlying conditions such as asthma and diabetes were also eligible for the shot. Registar, Kathy Kruse, helped oversee the clinic. She stated that it went extremely well, and that thanks to the many nurses helping make the clinic run smoothly, Scotus was the fastest school to finish the clinic.

"Cooperation from students getting the shot and teachers was very much appreciated, thus providing a smooth and expedient process," Kruse said.

This vaccination is a rather serious business though, H1N1 is much more dangerous for certain age groups and people with asthma or diabetes. Vaccinations of this scale haven't been administered since the Polio vaccination. Life Science teacher, Barb Malicky, recounted her experiences with the Polio vaccination when she was five. People would line up in front of a building that had been designated by the city to receive the shot. She then went on to say that instead of shots, the children were given the

See H1N1, Page 2

H1N1

Continued from Page 1

vaccination in a different way.

"Back then, the children were given sugar cubes with the vaccination in them," Malicky said, "I was excited about that because I didn't like shots."

"When I asked my pediatrician if my 18 month old should get the shot, she told me, 'Just imagine your child dying in your arms wishing you would have given her the shot."
-Mrs. Rusher

There is still some debate over the vaccine and whether or not people should get it. Even here at Scotus, the opinions vary. Art teacher, Nancy Shadle, also gave her two cents worth. She said that her doctor recommended getting the shot because people with asthma are at a larger risk of complications. She also said that she barely even felt the shot.

"I questioned if I even got it," Shadle stated.

English teacher, Kelly Schaad, had an interesting story of having her children vaccinated. Her daughter Emily, who was afraid of needles, happened to get a defective needle and had to get the shot twice; she felt, however, that the shot was necessary. She spoke with several doctors who recommended the shot, and she had a sister who was at risk of contracting H1N1.

"I didn't want to chance it," Shaad said.

Journalism instructor, Angie Rusher, also had an interesting chat with her doctor concerning her own children. She went for some advice, but received a warning instead.

"When I asked my pediatrician if my 18 month old should get the shot," Rusher said, "she told me, 'Just imagine your child dying in your arms wishing you would have given her the shot.'"

There is no question that any flu shot is worth getting, but did the H1N1 vaccine deserve all of the hype it got?

"I think the news media, with anything in the world anymore," Malicky said, "gets blown out of proportion."

She went on to say that if someone actually looked at the statistics, mortality rates were not as high as people thought and that it had been "overplayed." Out of the 22 million people in the U.S. that have contracted the disease, only around 3,900 people have actually died.

Some people hold that even that percentage is too great and that the shot is even more necessary. There is no doubt by either group, however, that H1N1 is a serious epidemic that must be stopped, but the agreement on how is still open.

Merle Mapes/ Rock Bottom

Eigth-grader Conner Moran winces as he receives his H1N1 vaccine.

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Opinion

There's more to hunting

By Olivia Sonderman
Staff Reporter

It's that time of year. My dad and I load up our truck with camouflage clothes, face paint, our bows, our arrows, scent killer, and rattling antlers. We drive an hour to a farm place in Stanton where our tree stands are set up. My dad walks me about a ¼ mile to my tree stand, and then he continues on to set up his ground blind. Once up in the stand, I strap on my tree harness and knock an arrow. Then, I settle in and wait for the moment when I have a perfect shot at a nice buck or doe.

When it comes to hunting, the general public seems to focus on the killing of animals or the trophies. Personally, I have found those aspects of hunting are exhilarating, but there are several things about hunting that people should not overlook.

I love bow hunting because of the time I get to spend with my dad. He travels often for work, so hunting trips are some of the few times we actually sit down and talk. Two weeks ago on the way home from a hunting trip, my dad taught me about the finer points of rugby, the sport he played in high school and college. It is these learning experiences with my dad that makes my hunting experience so unique.

When I am sitting in my tree stand, there is sometimes hours that pass between the sighting of a deer. The closest sign of civilization is about two miles away from where my tree stand is located. I am so far removed from the chaotic scene of cars, people, homework, and extracurricular activities. The calm gives me time to think and work out any problems in my life.

During all this time of waiting, I notice features of nature that I would miss if I were not in my stand. The perspective from ten to fifteen feet up in a tree is completely unlike any other viewpoint I have ever experienced. I notice the way a spider web glimmers in the fading sunlight, or the way the cornstalks in the nearby cornfield ruffle in the breeze. I hear the gobbles of noisy turkeys all through out the forest. I am amused by the awkward waddle of a fat opossum.

Then, I see a small patch of white amidst the browns and greens of the forest. It is the tail of a buck, and my heartbeat spikes. If you have never thought about taking another creature's life, you are missing out. In all of the activities I am involved in, whether I am on the court, up on stage, or out on the field, I have never experienced an adrenaline rush so intense as the moment when I draw back my bow and aim for the kill spot. My heart is pounding; my nerves are electric. The only two living beings that exist in the world are that deer and I.

The one shot I did take at a doe last year, I missed because I misjudged the yardage and shot low. Still, I cannot wait for the moment of taking down a deer. Some people would gripe about the "careless slaughtering of a poor, helpless animal." However, it has to be understood that the killing of that deer is the embodiment, the ultimate goal of all the practice time, all the endless hours of waiting, all the money spent of equipment and travel.

Next weekend, I'll find the time to pack up my camouflage, my bow and arrows, and be out in my stand again. I will hope for that well-aimed shot, but whether or not I get a deer, I will enjoy my hunting experience.

America is working hard at the wrong things

By Levi McPhillips
Staff Reporter

America is often identified with apple pie, baseball, freedom, elaborate lifestyles, etc. All of these aspects have made America great. However, they are also pushing America to its ultimate demise. When I say this, I am implying that we have abused these characteristics of American life and made them work, instead of fun. This attitude of pressure and stress has spread to all areas of American life.

Sports have become the defining part of America on the downhill slide of Armageddon. High school students have been pushed too hard. During sports seasons the athletes go to practice everyday, sometimes twice a day. Not to mention that their summers are just as busy as the school year. They go to dozens of camps and are in the weight room several times a week. After athletes go to these "non mandatory" camps and activities, the coaches and parents question their children why they are drinking and taking part in fornication. The athletes do nothing but sports. They have no hobbies to enjoy, so they turn to drugs and alcohol; or they are so sick of the daily routine of sports that they need some sort of release to have some fun. Alcohol or drugs becomes this release for them. Keep in mind that I am not condemning coaches and parents for creating the teen-drinking crisis in America. Athletes are responsible for keeping themselves in check. However, I think teens should enjoy this part of their childhood, and if that means that they do not play two or three sports a year, then so be it. We have taken everything to extremes until we have forgotten to play the game for enjoyment.

Sports are not the only thing we are working too hard at. Americans work too hard at others' opinions of them. The cars we drive, the clothes we wear, and the things we say are all done to impress. People are too afraid to go out on a limb and be themselves. Christmas is a perfect example of this. Husbands are so concerned about making their homes light up, wives are worried that their turkey won't live up to their mother-in-law's standards, and children are worried they won't be good enough to get something better than coal. We are working too hard at what others think of us; instead, simply be genuine. Decorate because you love your home, cook because you love your family, and be good for your parents because they deserve your best.

"Decorate because you love your home, cook because you love your family, and be good for your parents because they deserve your best."
~Levi McPhillips

We are not working hard enough at our morals. Morals are lacking and they determine our actions and our character. Americans are influenced too much by books, movies, magazines, supermarket tabloids, and television programs. For example, imagine your definition of beautiful. Chances are, if you are a guy, you imagined a girl who wears a size zero dress, and if you are a girl, you imagined someone like Orlando Bloom, ripped and girly. These media-publicized ideals may be beautiful, but what is wrong with seeing beauty in the average person who isn't skinny enough to slide through the crack under the front door?

America needs to go back to the basics. Spending time with family, especially this time of year, is crucial. Everyone is a gift from God, including our family members. America needs to have faith; belief in a higher power during these days of trial and tribulation should be our number one priority. And finally, we should remember to enjoy ourselves. Apple pie and baseball should never be seen as work but as life's simple pleasures. Life is too short to for us to lose touch with happiness, because once we lose it, it may never be found again.

Mr. Petersen doesn't know squat

By Coach Petersen
Head Volleyball Coach

One would think that after coaching volleyball for thirty-six years that the coach would have all the techniques, all the strategies, and all the nuances of the game figured out. The fact is that I continually learn from those around me, from clinics attended, or from articles and books read. This season I learned the true meaning of mental toughness.

Coach Joe Held shared an article with me entitled "Defining toughness in college hoops" written by ESPN basketball analyst Jay Bilas. That article was an eye opener for myself and was one of the major factors in this season's successful march to a state championship. Although the article was directed towards basketball, many of the lessons to be learned were applicable to the volleyball team, and maybe to each and every one of us as well.

Mr. Bilas stresses that toughness has nothing to do with size, physical strength or athleticism. He believes that toughness is a skill, and it is a skill that can be developed and improved. In the article he quotes Michigan State coach Tom Izzo "Players play, but tough players win".

So what is toughness? Webster's dictionary defines toughness as "uncompromising determination and the capability of enduring strain and hardship". You constantly hear people say "You have to be tough, toughen up," but what does that mean to each of us? What we are really talking about is mental toughness, the ability to compete at our maximum, our ability to give it our best at all times, and the ability to make our teammates better.

This season we stressed some of Mr. Bilas's basic ideas. This volleyball team worked hard to take responsibility for their teammates, always making sure their teammates received credit before taking it themselves. Each player was encouraged to handle criticism the right way by not making excuses and without trying to explain why they did not have success in what they tried to do. The team tried to show strength in their body language. If they failed to execute an attack, failed to make a dig, failed to connect on a serve, they held their heads up, and focused on the next play, never letting a past mistake have a bearing on what occurred next. It is so important to realize the most important play is the next one. Each individual worked hard to encourage their teammates to focus, to communicate before and during play, and to take responsibility for their actions.

Our volleyball team tried to become the best we could be, but isn't that what we should try to do no matter what we are doing? No matter if it is in each of our classes, each painting we do, each concert we perform, each speech we give, and each relationship we have with our classmates - the goal should be to get better every day. Improvement may be painstakingly slow, sometimes in such small increments that it is almost indiscernible. We have to be mentally tough to make such improvements happen. Some people quit when times are difficult, when we lose a big match, when we do not win the top rating in 1-act competition, when our first attempt is a failure on a paper we write, or when we do poorly on a test. Mentally tough people get up, refocus, and find a way to perform at a higher level. This season's volleyball team is a classic example of never giving up, after losing three times to a very talented GICC team it could have stopped believing the ultimate goal, to get better every day.

In a recent article in Sports Illustrated, Derek Jeter of the New York Yankees was quoted as saying, "It is not difficult to give a hundred percent. It's effort. You do not have to have talent for effort." People with mental toughness are willing to give an effort to accomplish their goals. A quote I have seen states, "if you have faith even as tiny as a mustard seed, all things are possible." Each of us must have the mental toughness necessary to accomplish what we set out to achieve. Remember that mental toughness is a mindset that we will take responsibility for our actions and our teammates, that we can accept criticism and learn from it, that we show strength in our body language, and that we encourage those around us. Each of us must have the discipline and the dedication to give our best each and every day. All of these lessons have to be learned and relearned, even by an old coach such as myself. Fortunately this season the volleyball team taught me that mental toughness is crucial to the success of any team.

I would be remiss if I did not compliment the band, the cheerleaders, the flag corp, the faculty, and most importantly the student body for the unbelievable support you gave the 2009 Scotus volleyball team this past season. To have all of you along for the ride made winning a state championship especially exhilarating and more meaningful. Thank you!

SCOTUS CENTRAL
Rock Bottom

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Send to Scotus care of the Rock Bottom

Features

Scotus? Diverse? What?

Stereotyping brings diversity down

By Stephani Jarecke
Staff Reporter

From religion to race to gender, stereotyping happens everywhere in the world, and high school students are, at times, the worst. Scotus Central Catholic does not have the diversity of students that a public school would have, but there is still a blend of students. Scotus often gets stereotyped as a whole because of the small numbers the school has. Scotus has been given many names from the "perfect athletes" to the "rich and snobby kids".

"Many people think that everyone who goes to Scotus has to be some major athlete in three sports," junior Emily Schieffer said. Questions concerning whether or not everyone is in the athletic program frustrate Schieffer because "there is a lot more to Scotus than just athletic championships."

The name calling of "snobby rich kids" comes from the other high school students in the area. Sophomore Whitney Hank hears many funny remarks from her friends outside of Scotus.

"They say stuff about the school, but they don't even know a lot of Scotus students. It comes from years passed of making fun of the school itself. They have never treated me or any Scotus student I know differently," Hank said.

Many students stereotype Scotus because they have heard others do it before. Most students know and think the opposite of it or they do not know anyone from Scotus. Students feel that their friends from Scotus never fit the stereotypes.

"I often times hear people say, 'Well you're not like the rest of them,' and I always answer, 'You say that to every Scotus person you know,'" freshmen Alyssa Foltz said.

Not only are schools stereotyped as a whole, but stereotypes can also occur within the school. It is especially easy in Scotus because the groups in Scotus are distinct. Stereotypes quickly spread throughout the small number of Scotus students. A small problem can quickly become a big dilemma.

"Stereotypes just cause drama," junior Lindsay McElhose said.

Junior Katie Ohnoutka said stereotypes are made from students with low self-esteem, or they simply want attention from others.

"Stereotypes are just used to make students feel good themselves," Ohnoutka said.

"People stereotype me as being 'emo-ish' from my looks, but I am not even close to that because I am always laughing and smiling," freshmen Quinn Goodrich said. People stereotype others because they may dress like a certain group, but in reality, they could be the total opposite. The problem is that students get one thing in their head, and then they use it toward everyone close to that category.

Spanish teacher Gail Bomar notices that the stereotyping within Scotus is better than the high school she attended. She feels that no one excludes others from what she sees.

"In my high school, there were about a dozen girls that pulled themselves out of the school to create their own clique. They even named themselves," Bomar said.

Stereotypes usually bring the different types of groups apart. Sophomore Michael Albin feels stereotypes often bring two opposite groups distant instead of using the two great activities to make the school better.

"I love what diversity the school has, but we should use it as means to get closer," Albin said.

How do you feel about stereotypes?

"Stereopes are overplayed in society."
-Derrick Dierman

"I often times hear people say, 'well you're not like the rest of them,' and I always answer, 'You say that to every Scotus person you know.'"

"People get carried away with stereotypes even when there are not a big deal."
-Brady Vancura

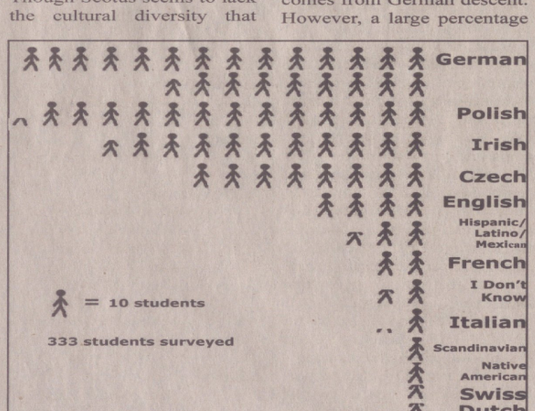
"Stereotypes of a group usually only represent a small portion of that group."
-Catie Wiese

America described as a melting pot

By Olivia Sonderman
Staff Reporter

America is described as a melting pot: the blended combination of thousands of years of immigrants from countries all over the world. Each culture has brought its own identity to the U.S. Though Scotus seems to lack the cultural diversity that America retains, a survey filled out by 333 students concludes that the Shamrocks share in numerous diverse backgrounds (see survey figures, left).

German, Polish, Irish, and Czech are the most dominant cultures in our school. 68% percent of the student body comes from German descent. However, a large percentage of students also have English, Hispanic/Mexican, French, Italian, Scandinavian, or Native American heritage. Other cultures that account for a smaller portion of students include Russian, Swiss, Dutch, and African.



Only 4.8% of students did not know their descent, showing that the majority of students are curious or knowledgeable about their background. However, today, heritage does not seem to play a large role in traditions for families who immigrated years ago. When asked if their heritage carried over into family traditions, student responses were almost identical.

Andy Heusinkvelt: "Ummm. I don't think so."

James Euteneur: "No."

Mikaela Cardenas: "Not really."

Katie Breidenbach: "Not anymore. But they used to when my grandpa's dad was still alive."

Culture lives on, not in traditions, language, or appearances, but mostly in the telling of one generation to the next of where they came from. For many people, it seems that being American is first and foremost.

Katie Breidenbach said, "People don't look at me and think about me as German or Native American."

Remembering heritage is interesting, but as generations past, European, Asian, or African ties have been left behind, and people truly become American. Students are divided about the value of remembering their receding heritage.

Senior Mikaela Cardenas said, "I think it's important because it lets people know who you are."

On the other hand, junior James Euteneur makes a good point about the precedence of American ties before other backgrounds. "I don't think it's important to know at all. I'm American, homes."

Though most students' families have immigrated years before, there are still immigrants pouring into America every year. These people bring their prominent customs, similar to the tremendous European culture that was brought in past centuries.

Media Center Specialist Cathy Podliska feels that heritage holds different meaning depending on when a person or person's family immigrated.

"For those who have come to this country a long time ago, heritage is probably less important. For immigrants who have just come, they still have a direct connection to their home culture," Podliska said.

Whether immigration occurred years ago or recently, every person in America has a unique heritage that preceded their American customs. The mixture of customs, languages, fashion, and music from all around the world has created the progressive thriving nation that millions now call home.

Activities give school diversity

By Stacia Rawhouser
Staff Reporter

Why is it that Scotus students always seem to be lumped together in description? People look at the student body and immediately classify the athletic people, the theatre people, and those who uphold an above average GPA, without even considering the diversity of the students. With the numerous activities that Scotus has to offer, who is to say that the line between "groups" has to be so distinctly drawn.

There are many students that are involved in more than one activity. 41.3% of Scotus students, in fact participate in three or more NSAA activities. Sophomore, Joel Ostdiek, for example, displays diversity by participating in cross-country, band, NHS, and 7 other school-related activities.

"Each group has something different to offer, and I don't like to limit myself," Ostdiek said.

Though people seem to think that those involved in certain activities are only dedicated to that specific genre of activities, Scotus students prove them wrong. Scotus offers different clubs and teams to satisfy the variety of interests requested by the students.

"Band is relaxing, sports are nerve-racking, mock trial allows me to argue, and the musical allows me to pretend," said junior Amber Ewers, who will also participate in ten different school activities throughout the year.

"In a school our size, people are able to participate in a variety of activities," Ostdiek said.

The students have a wide range of interests. At Scotus, there is something different that appeals to everyone. Out of the entire student body, 96.36% are involved in at least one NSAA activity. That leaves fourteen students not involved, however six of the fourteen are involved in at least one non-NSAA school sponsored activity. These statistics prove that almost everyone at Scotus is involved in something, and almost half of them are involved in three or more activities. Scotus obviously keeps their students busy, but being busy is not necessarily a bad thing.

"I like being busy. I like being involved and being a part of something," Ewers said.

Scotus is a place where students can satisfy their needs by means of interests and education. To be a "shamrock," means being a part of something big, something worthwhile. Though students here are different in many ways, that is something that binds them all together.

In Depth

~~Merry Christmas~~

~~Happy Holidays~~

FESTIVE SEASONS

Taking Christ out of Christmas

By Kelsey Jochum
Copy Editor

It's Christmas 2009, and an average American family is browsing through Wal-mart, looking for the perfect tree to decorate their living room. As they approach the seasonal department, adorned with lights, garland, and Santa Claus sleighs, they notice that the store no longer sells Christmas trees or Christmas lights, but that they have restocked their shelves with holiday trees, holiday lights, and many other "holiday" supplies. 6-year-old Billy looks up at his mother and asks, "Mommy, does this mean we can't have Christmas anymore?"

Although this story may be a little far-fetched, the current practice of eliminating religion from the holiday season has caused controversy for many people. The holiday of Christmas is celebrated by 95% of Americans, yet not all of these celebrate it as a religious holiday. Christmas has been a national holiday since 1870, and some Americans celebrate it as a strictly secular holiday, no different than New Year's or Independence Day. This has some Christians in an uproar, claiming that they are losing their religious holiday.

The most recurring argument of the holiday season is whether or not the abbreviation "Xmas" is a way to take Christ out of Christmas. Many Christians argue that it is a way for businesses to make Christmas entirely commercial while the businesses insist that it is used for convenience. According to the article, "The Origin of Xmas," by Dennis Bratcher, businesses find advantages to using "Xmas" in advertisements "because it can be larger and more attention getting in the same amount of space." Even so, Christians still argue that there is something wrong with taking out the word "Christ." The truth to this whole argument is that using "X" in place of "Christ" has its roots in Christian history.

In the early Church, letters of the word "Christ" in Greek and various other titles for Jesus were symbols for Christianity. The first two letters of "Christ" in Greek are chi (X) and rho (P), which were used to make the chi-rho monogram. This symbol is used to represent Christ today.

The word "Xmas" was first used as a symbol for Christmas in the fifteenth century when the printing press was invented. Since all of the typesetting was done by hand, it became very expensive, and abbreviations were often used. The Church began to use the symbol "X" to replace Christ, since it was the first letter of the Greek word "Christ." This cut down the price of religious printings, and "Xmas" became an accepted way of writing "Christmas."

Another argument that arises with regard to taking Christ out of Christmas is the recent transition from "Merry Christmas" to "Happy Holidays." In 2005, department stores like Wal-Mart, Target, and Kohl's decided to greet their customers with "Happy Holidays" in effort to eliminate specific references to Christmas. According to Rasmussen Reports, "69% of Americans prefer stores to use the phrase 'Merry Christmas'" and only 23% prefer "Happy Holidays." After seeing these numbers, some stores decided to switch back to the greeting of "Merry Christmas." In the future, it seems as though stores will choose the greeting that is more popular for that year.

For some Christians, being greeted by the phrase "Happy Holidays" seems to take the meaning out of the holiday season. According to Rasmussen Reports, "the American Family Association and the Catholic League boycotted Wal-Mart and other stores" that took "Merry Christmas" out of their holiday advertising. Scotus students have opposing views about this.

Sophomore Grant Pontow commented that Christmas isn't the only holiday going on during December. "There's lots of holidays going on, and we need to include all of them," Pontow said.

Junior Morgan Duren disagrees with Pontow. "There's lots of holidays, but this is Christmas. We need to keep Christ in Christmas," Duren said.

Along with welcoming customers with a more generic greeting, some stores have gone so far as to change some of their Christmas inventory to "holiday" inventory. This raises even more arguments from Christians about their religious holiday being taken from them. Freshman Ian Robak agrees. Robak, along with many other Christians, finds no reason to change the names of these things because they are used for Christmas.

"They are used for Christmas, not other holidays," Robak said. "If you're going to celebrate Christmas, you shouldn't have a problem calling it a Christmas tree."

When it all comes down to it, some celebrate Christmas religiously, and some celebrate it as strictly another holiday. Either way, the Christmas spirit has hit, and stores and homes are filled with Christmas supplies. Whether families will be buying a Christmas tree or a holiday tree this year, the 25th can still be celebrated as strongly as ever.

Holiday shopping horror

By Stephen Pandorf
Staff Reporter

Christmas is supposed to be the season of love and goodwill but with tramplings, shootings, and crowds, people are fearful instead of jolly. The holidays are upon us and with it comes the buying season. The day after Thanksgiving, appropriately named Black Friday, starts off the season with possibly the most brutal shopping day of the year. Between droves of people lining up outside stores in the middle of the night and shopping websites crashing because of too much activity, retail businesses have their hands full. Black Friday takes its name from retailers who go from the red, which is losing money, to the black, which is showing a profit.

In recent years though, the name can also be taken literally because of the death toll on Black Friday. In 2008, three people were killed trying to shop on Black Friday. According to the *Huffington Post*, two local men shot each other to death in a California Toys R Us when their women erupted into a fight over a toy. In Long Island, an estimated 2000 people smashed through the doors of a Wal-Mart and trampled a maintenance worker who later died at a nearby hospital. Four others were injured including a woman eight months pregnant. Shoppers will do anything for a good deal on electronics or toys.

The Monday following Thanksgiving is Cyber Monday. It refers to the beginning of the Christmas shopping season with customers buying what they could not acquire on Black Friday. After kicking off the holiday season, stores hire additional employees, acquire larger inventories, and prepare for the Christmas shoppers. As December progresses so does the rush of shoppers trying to get Christmas gifts. Typically December 18-23 are the busiest days for shopping because of people buying last minute gifts. According to SIFMA Foundation, this year clothing will be the most bought gift with 63% of people saying they are giving clothing for gifts. Books, CDs, and DVDs followed a close second with 60%.

The closing for the holiday shopping season is the day after Christmas or Boxing Day. Stores offer huge deals to get shoppers up early on the day after Christmas. The crowds show the same madness exhibited on Black Friday with stampedes or trampling. Some areas of Canada have prohibited stores from opening to prevent injuries to shoppers, and instead allow stores to run the sales from the 27th to New Years. The holidays are about good will and caring, but when shoppers abandon all principles to get a good deal on a TV, chaos ensues.

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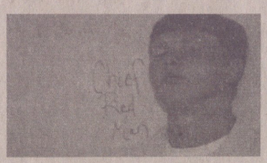


By Brian Ackman
Layout Editor

The biggest event in recent sports has been the Tiger Woods scandal. For those of you unfamiliar, Woods supposedly cheated on his wife with multiple women, and when she found out, let's just say it wasn't too pretty. This is disappointing to me because just last year I wrote about how great a role model a man like Tiger Woods is. I guess you can't trust anyone anymore. Besides Woods, there are a few other things that I am burning on:

With the NCAA bowl games set, I have a few concerns. My first is that I disagree with Texas being put in the national championship. In my opinion, Texas did not prove themselves against Nebraska, and do not deserve to be there. I think Texas Christian University (TCU) should be given a chance to show that a nonconference school can compete with the big dogs of the SEC, Big 12, and Pac-10 conferences. Another mishap by the BCS is putting two undefeated nonconference teams against each other. Boise State and TCU are both undefeated and deserve a chance to play against a top program like Florida or Alabama. I guess this is just another mess up by the BCS which I do not agree with.

I'll throw in my two cents on the Heisman ceremony on December 12th. Alabama running back Mark Ingram won the award by the closest margin ever. Nebraska defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh finished in 4th place. I think he should have finished higher, maybe third. I guess it will still be a few years before the voters realize that a defensive player can be the most dominant player in college football.

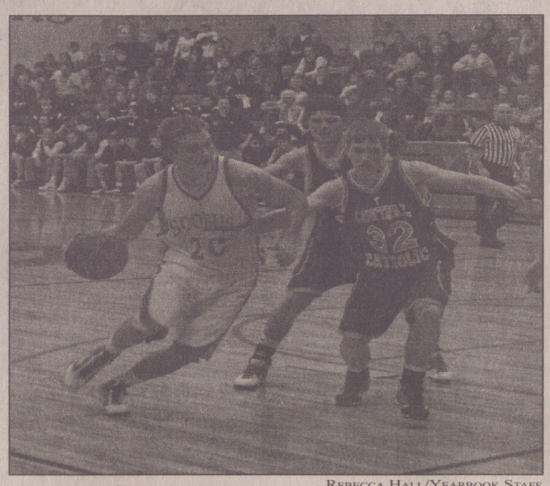
In other college football news, Cincinnati head coach Brian Kelly will be leaving the team for Notre Dame. I completely disagree with his decision here. Why would a coach who has a 34-6 record at a school in three years want to leave? He has practically built the football program over the past years and now he is going to abandon his team right before a BCS bowl game. Is it for a little extra money? Probably, but this shows a lack of dedication and commitment on Coach Kelly's part. Stick with your team, at least until the end of the season.

Because I am an avid soccer player and fan, I have to throw something in here about the World Cup. The groups were picked just a couple weeks ago, and the United States got a great draw. The U.S. will play against England, Slovenia, and Algeria. All three are quality opponents with England being the best of the group on paper. I predict the U.S. making it out of the group in second place. This will pit the Americans up against a tough opponent in the second round, though, like Germany. The U.S. proved itself in the Confederations Cup against world powers like Spain and Brazil, but this World Cup will be the toughest challenge yet for Coach Bob Bradley's young, talented squad.

Shamrocks rely on experience

By Brian Ackman
Layout Editor

The Scotus boys' basketball team has had a rough start to the year. The team opened the year with two top ten teams in Hastings St. Cecilia and Grand Island Central Catholic. Both were close games, but the Rocks ended up dropping their first two games. This year the Shamrocks are looking to rely on senior leadership to right the ship as the season progresses.



Rebecca Hall/Yearbook Staff

Shawn Schumacher drives past a GICC Crusader on his way to the basket.

The boys' team has four players with starting experience in seniors Alex Kuta, Aaron Bos, Shawn Schumacher, and Trace Murray. Coach Jeff Ohnoutka said that the team is looking to these four players to lead the team and be the top scorers.

"We lost a great group of seniors from last year, but we also have experience in four returning starters," said Ohnoutka.

These seniors are the main point producers for the Shamrocks this year. Through the first two games, Columbus Telegram Super Senior Trace Murray had 26 points, 19 coming against GICC. Alex Kuta had 14 against HSC and 13 against GICC to lead all scorers for the Rocks.

In order to have a successful year, the team knows that some younger players and those with less experience will have to step up big. Sophomore Ryan Ohnoutka has earned a starting spot, and fellow sophomore Alex Bolte has seen good minutes in the player rotation. Ohnoutka has been a contributor already, adding 3 points in the first game and another 7 in the second game.

Coach Ohnoutka said, "Those younger players are really going to have to learn under fire."

The Shamrocks face a tough schedule again this year. Already the team has two top ten opponents under their belts and more are on the way. Murray said he is looking forward to the stretch of games that includes Norfolk Catholic, Lincoln Christian, and Fremont Bergan. Kuta said that as the season progresses, the team will build chemistry and see more victories. With solid leadership, the team is hoping for a successful season. Kuta said that the team has a great shot at winning their district and making it to the state tournament.

VOLLEYBALL

Continued from Page 1

went much better for the Shamrocks, who were able to build a solid lead early in the set. Maggie Hellbusch helped keep the teams momentum up by recording three straight blocks. This helped the shamrocks keep the lead and end the set 25-17.

"Our senior blockers were incredible, Maggie, Katelyn, and Monica were making it difficult for their offense to work," Petersen said.

Once again the third set tested the Shamrocks, who had built a 14-9 lead. The aggressive Crusader offense came screaming back by scoring 8 consecutive points. Scotus was able to hold strong though, ending the set 25-23.

This 2-1 lead put pressure on the Crusaders. A dropped Grand Island set would have ended their perfect season, which motivated them to come out and beat the Shamrocks 15-25.

"Losing badly in the fourth set didn't affect us; we had anticipated that and practiced playing them in a fifth set. We knew the game would be a race, we had to eliminate our errors and play the game point by point, I told the girls to forget about the first four sets and to make them earn every point," Petersen said.

Grand Island won the coin toss and chose to serve first, but had to play the fifth set on the side of the Shamrock student section. This decision pleased Coach Petersen.

"We knew we wanted them in the student section; the noise was so much louder on that side, and we knew it would affect them."

In this fifth set "race", the Crusaders came out swinging and went ahead 4-1. This resulted in a strategic time out by Coach Petersen. The Shamrocks came out ready to play, scoring 4 straight. This momentum switch helped the Shamrocks to focus, and slowly they started chipping their way ahead. Grand Island struggled and committed six errors, three of which were serving errors. Everyone in green was standing on their seats, slowly watching their shamrocks point by point take down the crusaders. Tied at 11, Grand Island made one last crucial mistake, and after this the shamrocks didn't look back.

On game point the noise was deafening; one last point and the game was over. A set came from Sophomore Jordan Chohon, the crowd, knowing what was coming, went quiet, the ball met Monica Boeding and came crushing down in a power kill. The crowd erupted, and the players stormed the court. The team, coaches, students, parents, and rest of the shamrocks were all shocked that Scotus had just pulled out the upset.

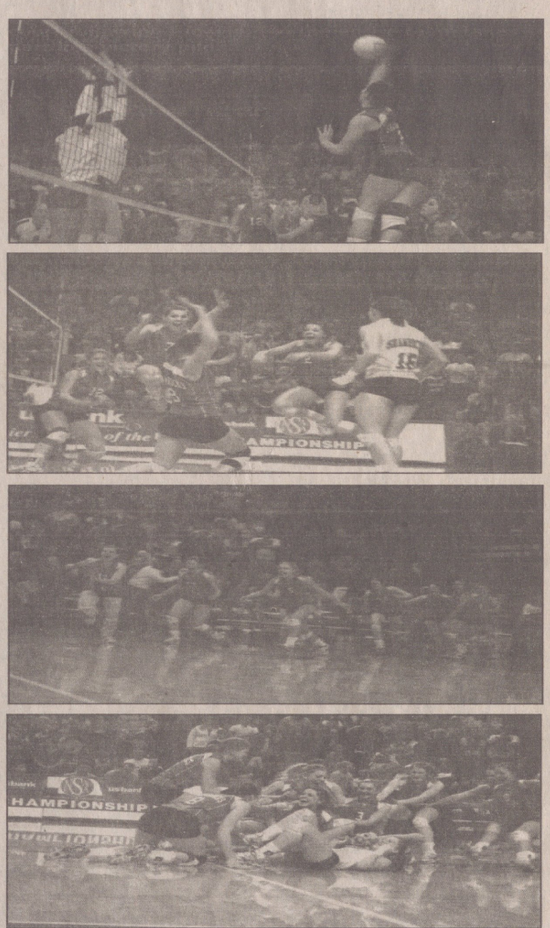
This included Coach Petersen, "I was stunned; I knew we could win, and the players knew they could win, but once we won, we were still stunned. It was completely surreal."

The Nebraska Schools Activities Association presented the Scotus girls with the State Volleyball Championship trophy, and for the 14th time in history, the Shamrocks were the champions.

"I was stunned, I knew we could win, and the players knew they could win, but once we won we were still stunned. It was completely surreal."
-Mr. Peterson

Looking back over the season as a whole, Coach Petersen could do nothing but smile. "Our main goal was just to improve and to be a strong team; I am sad to see the season be over, but to end it like this is fathomable, I couldn't be happier."

"It was expected of us," Monica Boeding said. "Nobody thought we could do it, but that's what is nice about being the nderdogs." Filling this expectation, the 2009 Scotus volleyball team remained part of a long lasting Shamrock tradition.



Steph Jarecki/Rock Bottom Staff

(1) The final point of the state championship match, (2) the players on the court celebrate the victory, (3) the players on the bench rush onto the court following the win, (4) the entire team takes part in a victory pile.

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One Act falls short of State

By Brian Ackman
Layout Editor

The Scotus One Act team finished off an interesting season at the district meet on December 4th. The cast had to overcome some inexperience, technical difficulties, and a difficult play throughout the season. However, the team put on a strong performance and took 2nd place at Seward High School for districts. Throughout the season, the team struggled to fight its way to the top.

This year, the One Act team performed a play entitled "A Plague of Angels" by Mark St. Germain. Mrs. Bernt, the lead director, ended up choosing this play after reading about thirty plays over the summer. She ended up choosing this serious play and introduced it to her Drama II class. The play was much different than last year's comedy, "The Bald Soprano." Mrs. Bernt said that it wasn't a difficult transition between play types, and she actually prefers to do a more serious play. Also, the play corresponded well with the "swine flu" scare because the main character is "Typhoid Mary." One concern that Bernt had with the play, however, was the ratings it would receive. She was concerned that biased judges would give higher ratings to a more comical play. When it came down to crunch time, though, a set of unbiased judges ended up awarding the play its due respect.

A major concern for the One Act cast was technical difficulties. Seniors Peter Heusinkvelt and Eric Diamond were the sound and tech leaders. They introduced to Bernt a new type of chilled fog machine that could be used during the play. However, the machine had some malfunctions and didn't work at all during the conference meet and the public performance. The machine did come through during districts, and the judges seemed to love the added effects. Also, the cast experienced some problems with stage lights and spotlights. The spotlight crew was more involved this year with constant movement of the characters. Yet again, the crew came together at district time to boost the team's ratings.

Perhaps the most difficult thing for the cast was to overcome a wide range of experience. Senior Kelsey Jochum was the lead actress, and she has had a few years of experience with One Act. Sophomore Andy Heusinkvelt had some experience last year, but he had to adapt to a new acting style. Juniors Cale Albracht and Abby Schademann also had experience in last year's One Act. Freshman Taylor Wiester has had no past experience, but she played a key part in this year's One Act. She was nervous at the beginning of the year, not knowing what to expect. As the year progressed, she became more comfortable, and she even received Outstanding Acting at districts.

Wiester said, "At first it was nerve-wracking, but once you start performing, it gets easier."

Bernt said that the biggest thing for these young actors was learning from the senior class.

"Kelsey really plays a big part. Everyone else seems to follow her example. It is going to be hard to replace Peter and Eric next year. They are always throwing new ideas at me," Bernt said.

Other seniors on this year's crew were Taylor Baumgart and Catie Wiese. Both played a part in the "germ" chorus along with juniors A.J. Bose, Alise Perault, and Hannah Schaecher. The germs played a crucial role in creating dramatic scenes in the play. The germs boosted ratings and had a difficult part, according to Bernt.

Even though the team did not make it to state, a 2nd place finish at districts was a tremendous accomplishment. The One Act cast improved throughout the season, and Bernt was proud of how they finished.

BRIAN ACKMAN/ROCKBOTTOM

Dr. Saltzer (Abby Schademann) disagrees with Dr. Mills (Andy Heusinknvelt) whether or not they should release "Typhoid Mary."

BRIAN ACKMAN/ROCKBOTTOM

Fr. McKuen (Cale Albracht) is puzzled about Mary Mallon's (Kelsey Jochum) theory that germs are God's angels.

Character class makes a difference

By Casey Kessler
Staff Reporter

The future of Thanksgiving in Columbus will take a turn for the better during the next couple of years. Jeff Ohnoutka's Character class decided to perform a special project to help the community around Thanksgiving time. The Character class at Scotus decided to buy and distribute meals to less fortunate families who needed them.

"After talking to the Simon House and our parish priests, it became clear that there were some people in our community that needed help," said Ohnoutka.

Letters were sent to those people giving them the option to participate in the buffet at the New World Inn or to have meals delivered to their homes. On Thanksgiving there were fifty individuals fed because of this project. Ohnoutka thought the Character class came up with a great idea to help others in Columbus.

"There seems to be a large number of people in need around Columbus, and by helping them out, it may make their own Thanksgiving better than usual," Ohnoutka said.

This is not the first time that the Character class has helped out the community during the wintertime. The past few years this class held a coat drive for Scotus. Students could bring in numerous winter clothing items such as coats, mittens, and stocking hats. All of these items would then go to the Simon House to benefit those people who may not have had these items during the cold of winter.

By performing this Thanksgiving project, it gives not only the Character class, but also Scotus the chance to help others throughout their respected community.

"After people hear about what we are doing, it may give them the opportunity of helping out in the future. Not only students from Scotus, but parents from Scotus, and people around the community could join in this act."

Kori Wendt was one of those members of the community to help out with this project. She is the General Manager of the New World Inn who volunteered to sponsor the project.

"I am thankful to Kori Wendt and the staff of New World Inn for their help in this project. We couldn't have done it without them. I am also very proud of the Scotus students who assisted in this project. Their desire to help others made me feel good about our students," said Mr. Ohnoutka.

There were eight students from Ohnoutka's Character class that helped out with this project by coming up with the idea and distributing the food.

Dylan Kuta was one of those students who helped.

"It was really cool to help others during the holiday season. We all felt like we were doing something special while helping others that are less fortunate," Kuta said.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DEB OHNOUTKA

Dylan Kuta and Jake Gilson take part in the Character Class' project that helped feed fifty individuals over Thanksgiving.

Our Faith

By Father Roza
Scotus Chaplain

Christmas is all about traditions. It is the holiday that we celebrate with more vigor than any other. Christmas, more than any other season of the year, has its own decorations, its own songs, its own foods, and its own activities. For this reason, Christmas is a season that produces really strong emotions and memories.

The activity that is probably the most strongly associated with Christmas is the practice of gift giving. I remember being absurdly excited as a kid waiting the long days for Christmas morning when Santa would finally have dropped off his gifts under the tree. I would wake up on Christmas morning and bolt down to our living room to see all the new loot. I think that most people have traditions in their families surrounding gifts, like when they are opened, in what order (youngest to oldest, oldest to youngest, or every man, woman, and child for themselves?)

As important as gift giving is at Christmas, you would think that we would have a clearer idea of just WHY we are doing all this stuff. Giving gifts is often one of those things that we just do without ever considering what the point of it all might be.

What is it that makes a gift "good"? If you think about it, the best gifts are usually the gifts that communicate something of the person who gave them.

"He owes us nothing, yet he has given us a greater gift than anything we could ever... give to someone else."

-Fr. Andrew Roza

We spend our money, our time, and our energy trying to find something that expresses the value we place on the relationship we have with a person. That would be why your parents spend time considering what they're going to get you. Even if they might not say it as such, they want the gifts they give you to be good, because they want them to be a symbol of how important you are to them.

So, apply this to how we relate to God. He owes us nothing, yet he has given us a greater gift than anything we could ever hope to give to someone else. At Christmas, we celebrate the fact that God gave himself in the most crazy way possible. He didn't just give us a symbol of how He thinks of us – a nice fruitcake would have sufficed for that – but rather, He went way beyond that and actually gave us *himself*. Love itself came down and made itself loveable, and He really couldn't possibly have done anything better or more profound than that. When we give gifts during this season, we imitate in an extremely small way what God has already done for us on an immense scale.

So, live it up this Christmas season! Enjoy all the traditions and the gifts that are given to you over the next few days. Keep in mind, however, that the only reason that we are giving and receiving gifts now is because we have all received The Gift. God became one just like you; someone you can know and care for like you would care for a friend or a family member. And that is something that is really worth celebrating. Merry Christmas!

Grinds My Gears: Guido Beach

By Stephen Pandorf
Staff Reporter

You know what really grinds my gears, MTV. I may not remember the good days of music television, but at least I can remember when MTV played music other than from 2 A.M. to 8 A.M. This show, *AMtv*, is currently the only source of music videos airing on MTV and from late 2008 to early 2009 the channel did not air any music programs unless you count *Making the Band 4*. P. Diddy plans on doing two more *Making the Band* spin-offs, one with an all girl band and another titled *Making His Band*, which will be Diddy's own personal live band. Soon we will see Making the Band 8: The Ocho and Making the Band: Tila Tequila edition.

This year, MTV has aired or is currently airing thirty reality shows. Quality reality shows like *Bromance*, *Real World/Road Rules Challenge 18: The Ruins*, and *16 and Pregnant* are indicators of the excellent programming that MTV provides. MTV yet again shows its quality programming with shows like *the Hills* and its spin-off *The City*. These "reality" shows follow the lives of young Californian women as they deal with the drama of being young adults without any real world problems.

Nothing can top the cake on MTV's newest reality show, *Jersey Shore*. *Jersey Shore* documents the lives of eight guidos and guidettes while they vacation at a New Jersey beach during the summer. A guido is a man of Italian descent or one who lies about it who acts macho and tans until he is the color orange. Guidos wear wife beaters and buy cologne by the gallons. A guidette is woman of the same minority who cakes on makeup and is often promiscuous. *Jersey Shore* puts eight of these people in house together and follows them as they get in bar fights, get thrown out of clubs, and fight among themselves in the house. The housemates even guidofy their names with nicknames such as The Situation, J-Woww, Snooki, and DJ Pauli D.

MTV seems to have an attraction to the jerkbag subculture of America. They keep airing shows like *Gs to Gents*, *Is She Really Going Out With Him?*, and *Girls of Hedsor Hall* that are all about jerkbag guys that are dating nice girls. MTV picks the scummiest of people and puts them on these shows just to watch them fail at being civilized. How entertaining can these shows be when we've seen it before on previous seasons or other shows?

MTV should change its name RTV or ITV because it only airs reality programs for idiots with the lowest common denominator of comedy.

Little Caesars makes a big impact

By Kyle Benesch
Staff Reporter

"These huge franchise pizza places have gotten away from the basics."
-Kyle Benesch

In a city already packed with pizza parlors, Little Caesars is the newest restaurant sensation. The once Pizza Hut and Godfathers dominated town of Columbus now has to compete with this revolutionary pizza franchise. There are multiple reasons why Little Caesars has become such a hit in Columbus. The price, speed, and quality of the pizza has the citizens of Columbus waiting in line just to order from Little Caesars.

Lets start of with the price, six dollars for a "Hot-N-Ready" pizza. Right away a full sized pizza priced at six dollars grabs my attention. In today's world where a sub sandwich is praised for being five dollars, a possible meal for three can be purchased at only six. Also, compared to other pizza restaurants this is a steal. A large pepperoni pizza at the "scandal hut" costs a staggering $14.49. To me spending an extra ten dollars is ridiculous, especially since Little Caesars is located less than 50 yards east of Pizza Hut.

The timeliness of the Caesars pizza also adds to the popularity of the business. The "Hot-N-Ready" pizza is already made when you get there, and with no line a person can order a pizza and be back in their car in under a minute. Now on a pizza popular Husker game day, this speedy pizza preparation can come into handy, where it might be a half hour at Pizza Hut before your pizza is ready for pick up.

Now time for the quality. The basic, greasy, one topping pizza at Little Caesars has mixed feelings in peoples eyes. They offer the basic one topping choices of pepperoni, sausage, hamburger, cheese, or a person can upgrade to the ultimate supreme. Another fine aspect of Little Caesars is the popular Crazy Bread. Crazy Bread is the Little Caesars version of breadsticks. Offered with "crazy sauce." this scrumptious treat costs only a mind blowing $2.50.

For me, its my favorite in town, although the ten dollar cheaper and instant acquiring of the food also helps to enforce my opinion. For me though, spending fifteen dollars for a pizza that has crust stuffed with cheese, or cheese stuffed with crust is ridiculous. These huge franchise pizzas have gotten away from the basics. For me, I would rather take my greasy pepperoni Caesar over the giant franchise cluster pie.

One thing Little Caesar's lacks is the restaurant dining atmosphere. The restaurant only consists of a small waiting room with a plasma TV. Those who want to sit down and order a pizza while conversing with their family would be disappointed by the no tables and little chairs available in Little Caesars. If you would rather take your pizza and go, this shouldn't bother you.

Overall I will give Little Caesars I respectable 4 out of 5. The revolutionary idea of fast food, cheap, slightly greasy pizza is highly attractive. For those who have not ordered from Little Caesars, I highly recommend at least trying it. Go with my favored ordering method and split the cost with a friend, getting yourself half a pizza. It costs three bucks, and if you are really hungry, spend an extra two dollars and upgrade to split a bottle of soda and a delicious bag of crazy bread.

As told by a ginger

By Levi McPhillips
Staff Reporter

"I am sick of being called souless and that I cant marry by some block-headed Germanwho thinks he owns the world."
-Levi McPhillips

Welcome back folks to the best article in the newspaper. Last time Brian amused all you Shamrock Craniums with his article about the physical characteristics of a ginger. In this article I will tell you all about the unique traits that set gingers apart besides their hair colors and complexions, particularly their toughness.

After reading two articles about gingers, you may still believe that redheads are inferior. I disagree wholeheartedly; redheads are tough old birds. Our bodies are known to be physically sturdy. According to an article in the *New York Times*, redheads have been found to require 20% more anesthesia than brunettes or blondes. This proves that gingers are better. Try and sedate us, just go ahead, and see what happens.

Dr. Wise Young, a well-known doctor at Rutgers University, says that redheads have a higher pain threshold. He also says that we can withstand 25% more electrical shock than the average person. Keeping in mind that Dr. Young is Asian and not a ginger, we can say with confidence that his research is unbiased.

All of these advantages we have over the average person has caused us to be discriminated against due to our gingerness. Adolf Hitler allegedly prohibited the marriage of two redheads because he thought the children made by these two would be abnormal. Mr. Hitler, you were absolutely right. Gingers are abnormal, abnormally hearty. Normal is boring, and ginger is beautiful. In theory, Hitler was afraid that gingers would be more potent and finer physical specimens than his "Arian race". Step aside Hitler; gingers are here and here to stay.

I am sick of being called soulless and that I can't marry by some block-headed German who thinks he owns the world. No matter what you think of redheads, discrimination is not the answer. Do not try to fight against us, because you can't win. Gingers have survived for thousands of years. A *New York Times* article informs the public about 43,000 year old Neanderthal bones that were found of two specimens. Both of these ancient beings were missing a skin pigment. That's right, scientists have found ancient gingers. We have survived for over 43,000 years, and we will survive for another 43,000 more.

No matter how much we may be put down, cussed at, or physically beaten, we will not feel the pain. We have a higher pain threshold, and we know how to use it.

The hate that we experience is not exclusively received from humans. Bees are known to sting redheads more than other people. Even the bees hate us! I myself have had some narrow escapes from charging cattle. Could it be that cattle, due to their distaste for the color red, want to stomp me into the ground like a helpless squirrel? Even if they do, I enjoy eating all kinds of beef from brisket to prime rib; so I think we know who comes out on top.

In conclusion I encourage everyone young and old to cherish redheads. In Denmark it is an honor to have a redheaded baby. So I say, be like the Dutch, honor us gingers and be proud of and admire the redheads that walk amongst you. Our physical advantages are not to be justification for hate crimes. Rather, they should be envied.

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SCOTUS CENTRAL

Rock Bottom

Scotus Central Catholic
Columbus, Nebraska 68601
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Scotus works to deepen faith

By Kyle Benesch
Staff Reporter

Throughout the year, Scotus Central Catholic has been focusing on being a little bit more Catholic. This week at Scotus, Catholic Schools Week is being celebrated. During each day, a different theme will be focused on, along with a variety of spiritual activities.

On Monday the teachers had a nice change to their schedule, an all staff day retreat. The day was given to the teachers to focus on their faith and relaxation from their normal school week.

For Kelly Schaad, the retreat is a way to see teachers on the other end of the building, "It's a chance to catch up with the teachers that I don't see in the normal week," Schaad said.

Student faith was the center theme on Tuesday. The perfect beginning for a faith filled week was an all school mass. Also, a nice ice cream addition to lunch was given to the students.

Today's theme focuses on knowledge, and students will be tested upon their own with a Scotus trivia game. Also cunning skills and strategy will challenge students in a lunchtime Limbo face off.

Along with the fun and activities, students are encouraged to have a deeper encounter with their faith by going to Perpetual Adoration that will be offered in the chapel throughout the day.

Discipline will be the theme on Thursday, bringing in Christian speaker Eric Davis.

On Friday students are encouraged to express their Catholic morals. Students can wear a Catholic t-shirt on that day. Also different genres of Christian music will be played throughout the day.

Along with celebrating Catholic schools week, Scotus students have recently begun preparing for a pilgrimage to the Steubenville conference which will be held on July 9th, 10th, and 11th. Many students are helping make the trip possible.

"The Hours of Power have been amazing, and they have helped to make my faith a lot stronger."
-Laura Zach

A few Scotus students have helped by speaking to many different groups such as the Knights of Columbus and Columbus Parishes. Other students have began to help prepare for the pilgrimage in a spiritual way.

Monthly "Hours of Power" have become popular at Scotus partially for its teen led band.

"The diversity of the instruments and the talent of the musicians is helping bring students to a deeper spiritual experience," junior guitar player Levi McPhillips said.

The Hours of Power have been used to prep students for the Steubenville experience by an hour of praise and worship, speakers, and Adoration.

"The Hours of Power have been amazing, and they have helped to make my faith a lot stronger," senior Laura Zach said.

The Pilgrimage will officially begin on July 9th and depart from Columbus to Springfield, Missouri. What is different about this year's conference is the growth in participation from Columbus. Columbus, only two years previously started going to the conference with six people. The next year, that group grew immensely and Columbus sent a bus full of kids. This year Columbus, in addition with surrounding areas, hopes to fill three busses. With this expansion, the chance for large Scotus involvement at Steubenville is great.

"Towns like Dodge, West Point, Schuyler, and Humphrey are all joining Columbus," Fr. Roza said. "The program is just good, and the experience is even better."

This conference, along with Catholic Schools Week, is allowing Scotus students to have a deeper understanding of their Catholic faith.

Scotus students have felt the impact of full-force winter weather.

Levi McPhillips/ Rock Bottom Staff

Ready for spring weather

By Levi McPhillips
Staff Reporter

The winter of 2009-2010 has been a record breaking one. For some it has been nothing but a nuisance with all of the snow. For others it has been a money-making season especially for snow removal companies and road crews.

The snow has caused trouble for nearly everyone in this part of the country. Holiday plans had to be cancelled when the "storm of the decade" ravaged the Midwest on Christmas Eve and Christmas day. Many people were snowed in and were unable to join their families to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

It is especially hard for Nebraskans. The state has seen relatively mild winters in recent years. Having to shovel two feet of snow off the driveway can prove difficult if unprepared. Snow-plowing pickups and snow blowers have become rather valuable to those trying to remove the snow from their driveways and sidewalks. Even some snow blowers were not large or efficient enough to remove the drifts experienced after the Christmas storm. Keep in mind that Nebraskans get both extremes. It is not unusual to experience 100°F temperatures and -20°F temperatures throughout the course of a year. Going through both extremes makes fairly decent days seem to be heavenly gifts.

The winter of 2009-2010 is already turning out to be a record setting one. According to the NCDC (National Climatic Data Center) average Nebraska snowfall is thirty inches. In Omaha, according to the Omaha World Herald, 35.8 inches have fallen since October. The average yearly snowfall in Omaha is only 30.3 inches. There is much more yet to come. Considering winter is only half over, there seems to be no end in sight.

Winter weather has also delayed school activities. A speech meet on the 8th of January was cancelled, and girls' basketball games were postponed on the 7th. With all of the postponements and cancellations, it puts a damper on winter season activities. Three snow days have already happened this winter, and both students and faculty are hoping for more.

Many students are excited about all the snow days they have had.

Junior Michael Tremel said, "Snow days are amazing because I like snow and sleeping… I pay people to scoop my snow."

Jim Puetz and Roger Kreinke employ some Scotus students for snow removal. Dana Fuchs, another junior, is one of those students scooping snow.

"I enjoy snow days because I make money and there is no school. However, I cannot get anywhere in my truck," chuckled Fuchs.

Seventh grader Joe Sonderman commented, "Snow days are the best."

For many students it is a day to make money, but some students like them for other reasons.

"I like snow days because I like to sleep, and on snow days I sleep," said Catherine Swope.

Even the teachers enjoy snow days.

"I like and dislike snow days," Mrs. Dusel-Misfeldt commented. "I get to enjoy a day at home, but it creates conflicts in schedules. But I mostly like them."

Winter is both a time of rest and work for students and faculty. No matter how much snow or how many snow days may come this winter, everyone is looking forward to warmer temperatures and the spring activities season.

Dance breaks up a dull winter

By Stacia Rawhouser
Staff Reporter

"The girls ask the guys. It's always a surprise. There's nothing better…" Indeed there was nothing better than this year's Sadie Hawkins Dance. Put on by student council, the dance was a complete success.

Though this has only been the third year Scotus has had this dance, it appears to be a more than promising tradition. Student Council member Peter Heusinkvelt believes it is necessary to get students out of the rut of boredom between Homecoming and Sweetheart.

"Everybody's bored during the winter. After coming back from break, students have nothing to look forward to," Heusinkvelt said.

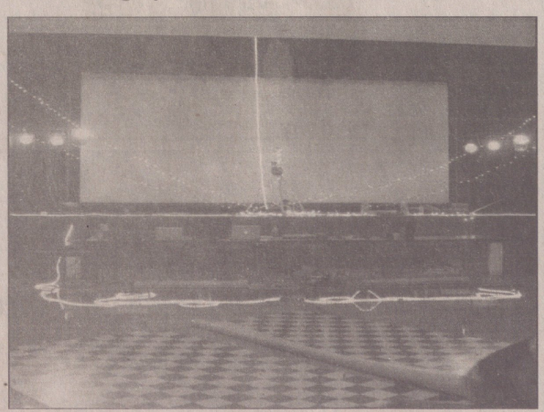
The students anticipated the dance, to see how it would compare to the previous Sadie Hawkins. Last year, the dance was a bit unorganized; however, this year, was planned to be much more exciting by means of better music and atmosphere.

Heusinkvelt said, "Student council definitely did their homework on the music this year. We have more variety, and some new lighting effects we've been dying to try."

The dance had a good turnout, and the dance floor was full of students who were ready to let loose after a stressful week. The goal of setting a fun-filled atmosphere was achieved by adding some new accessories such as the checkered dance floor, the colorful light shows, and the projection screen that flashed pictures to the music. Sophomore Allison Jepsen was among those students who were pleasantly surprised.

"When I showed up, I have to admit I wasn't expecting much, but after I started dancing, I had a lot of fun. It was definitely better than last year's," Jepsen said.

This year's Sadie Hawkins definitely raised the bar, and will be tough to top but with Scotus' student council, there is no doubt next year's will exceed student expectations as well.



Stacia Rawhouser/ Rock Bottom Staff

A sweet set-up lead to the success of the Sadie Hawkins dance.

Favorite Snow Memories

"Scooping snow for Krienke, and some lady yelled at me for not scooping a path for her dog."

Senior Austin Wallick

"Drifting."

Senior Tom Rambour

"My aunt's dog running on top of their snow drifts onto the roof and peeing off of it."

Junior Devin Iwan

"In junior high and high school we went sledding on a minimum maintenance road. Awesome, awesome, awesome."

Teacher Pat Brockhaus

"Everybody getting stuck on Christmas, and the three snow days we have had."

Senior Amy Pekarek

"My favorite memory is going sledding at Camp Luther. We were the oldest kids there and all the little kids were staring at us."

Freshman Claire Fuschser

"My favorite memory is running up a snow mountain in heels."

Freshman Taylor Johnson

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Surviving the love of the game

By Stephani Jarecke
Staff Reporter

The worst day possible was about to get worse as I stepped on to the court. School dragged on forever from my bombed English quiz. Now I am expected to shake that off and focus on basketball. I know practice is not going to be good from all the turnovers last game. I hope I survive. I average about two of these days every seven days.

I love sports and that is exactly why I play them all year long. Even though I love sports, I can definitely say I get frustrated many times. There are times when I am standing in practice trying to focus but keep hearing the play cast laughing in the hallway.

It is hard to be in other activities when you are in a sport. Practice takes up everyday after school, so athletes would miss any meetings of other activities after school. Sometimes, a group will go out of town for a convention of some sort. Then several days of practice or games would be missed. Missing practice is not a good choice, so athletes end up having a tough time deciding to go or to stay.

Another decision athletes have to think about is school and grades. Committing to sports is saying athletes are able to miss classes and still keep their grades high. Some weeks there are two games that are away; this means they are going to miss some school and homework. Athletes have to find other times to come in and do their work or they have to do it on their own.

Homework is another struggle with sports. Some days practice gets out late, I have to go home, shower, eat, and by the time I start my homework it is 7:45. There can be late nights when there is a lot of homework.

Besides weekdays, weekends frustrate athletes also. Athletes are the same as any teenager; they want to go out on weekends. This usually means spending money, but it is hard for athletes to make money. A job usually wants a worker who can work a lot and where they need the hours. Weekdays do not work for athletes because of practices. Their only choice is to work on the weekend. Athletes are limited to only so many places that offer only weekend jobs. Also they want to be going out on the weekend instead of working. Managers get aggravated sometimes when games during the weekend interfere with the work schedule.

"I am not going to lie; being an athlete here puts me under a lot of stress and frustration."
-Stephani Jarecke

Their other option is a summer job. That is the reasonable choice for finding money. They have to still be careful about their hours because of summer leagues, open gym, and weights. Athletes have to be able to manage a heavy schedule.

Living up to all these expectations can be hard. Athletes have to be on top of everything they are involved in. They also have to practice outside of the gym in order to get better. Scotus has high standards with the athletic department. I am not going to lie; being an athlete here puts me under a lot of stress and frustration.

I will never give up sports. I absolutely love working out and playing sports. I am very competitive, and sports are my time to relax and do what I love to do. Even though I do not think I could live without sports, there are days where I wish that sports were not such a big commitment or I would be able to do more high school activities.

Getting a little "emo"tional

By Kelsey Jochum
Copy Editor

It's August 23rd, 2006. I'm walking into Scotus with brand new checkered Vans and a sweet "Postal Service" book bag, ready to start my freshman year of high school. Fast-forward to this morning and not a lot has changed, except for the numerous holes in my shoes and the safety pins holding my book bag together. What's changed is the person sporting them.

As a freshman, I thought I had it all together. I had a great group of new friends and was ready to get a new start. Many of my good friends came from Columbus High, so I found myself distanced from Scotus. I formed new opinions that clashed with those of the majority of my class. As the year went on, I separated myself from almost everything Scotus. I convinced myself that everyone here was stuck up and not accepting of anyone different than themselves, and that's when the "emo" debate began.

When I was in Jr. High, my brother played in a band at local shows, which got me involved in that scene. I also had a few good friends that played in bands, so when the topic of those kids being "emo" came up my freshman year, I took it very personally. Again and again I fought with the other kids in my class about who these kids really were and what "emo" means. Even as recently as junior year, people were still bugging me about it. One memory that sticks out the most in my mind is my junior year when Tom Rambour would write something about "emos" on the English board almost every day, so that when I walked in, I would see it. Or when the guys would bring it up without even meaning to, and then everyone would look at me to see my reaction.

"Not a lot has changed, except for the numerous holes in my shoes and the safety pins holding my book bag together."
-Kelsey Jochum

Along with the people at Scotus, I began to question the rules. I thought every rule was too conservative and sheltered students from the "real world". Many times, I fought with my dad about letting me go to Columbus High. I came up with excuses like "It's closer to our house" and "It will let me meet a bigger variety of people" when I knew it was just to be closer to my friends.

Needless to say, my freshman year ended at Scotus, and, much to my surprise, I survived. I've spent my sophomore, junior, and now senior years here as well and come to realize that it's not such a horrible place after all. Even though I still don't agree with some of the rules, I understand them and know why they are there.

I've even grown closer to my class over the years and, dare I say it, actually enjoy spending time with them. Senior girl sleepovers are now something I look forward too, and the senior retreat was a blast! Though the "emo" debate doesn't come up very much anymore, when it does, I can laugh along with everyone else. No, I'm not laughing at the people being accused; I'm just able to laugh about the whole situation. I realize that, since I used to get so fired up about it, people in my class would bring it up just to set me off. Today, I can look back on those memories and laugh because I realize they were just joking around.

So what am I getting at with all this? I guess I'm just saying that I'm glad I didn't give up on Scotus. My attitude towards it has done a 180 since my freshman year, but I think that had to do with my age at the time. I think that, since I was so young, I didn't appreciate the education I was getting or the people surrounding me. Also, once I started my sophomore year, I got involved in school activities, which introduced me to a completely different group of people. Scotus has been a great place to go to school, no matter how many faults I thought it had at the time.

So here's my challenge to everyone else at Scotus. Appreciate what you have. Don't find so many faults with it that you miss the things that are really great. Sure, you might want open lunch; appreciate the time and work it takes for the cafeteria workers to make you a *homemade* lunch every single day. You don't like the dress code; appreciate the fact that you don't have half naked students running around on dress down day. I know you might not like Scotus right now and think that the world's out to get you, but give it time. Get involved. Join a club, sport, fine art, something. Only then will you be able to see what's really great about your future alma mater.

SCOTUS CENTRAL
Rock Bottom

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- 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

Giving outside of ourselves

By Father Roza
Scotus Chaplain

The events that have taken place recently in Haiti have served to focus a spotlight on the tremendous suffering and pain that is present in so many different parts of the world today. Before the earthquake, Haiti was already a place of great poverty and pain. When the earthquake struck, it turned the capital city of Haiti, Port-au-Prince, into the equivalent of a living nightmare. The description of some areas involves details that we might expect from a medieval writer who is seeking to creatively describe the horrors of hell: all social order is collapsed, the bodies of loved ones decay on the streets, there is no drinkable water available, and little to no communication with the outside world. Without a doubt, it is a grim reality and it is not an easy one to consider.

"It is a sign of maturity as a human being to be able to look at the suffering of another and respond with love."
-Father Roza

Many of us would have been horrified to spend a week in Haiti *before* the earthquake, but now the thought of spending time in such a place is made even more difficult. In the face of such difficult stuff, it sometimes is easier to simply "change the channel", and turn away from such realities.

Yet, it is times like these though that remind me of what it really means to say that I'm a follower of Jesus Christ. Jesus had a special concern and love for those who were poor. In fact, in a powerful passage from Matthew 25, he tells us that we will be judged in part by how we treat those who lack the basic necessities of life. It can be summarized briefly by verse 40 of Mt. 25, where Christ says, "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me." Christ wants for us to see Him in others, and especially in those who are suffering and in difficulty.

Fortunately for you and I, there are already thousands of people in Haiti who are willing to risk their lives and their health in order to provide help to those who are in need. In fact, even before the earthquake, there were already 10,000(!) charitable organizations present in the country, many of which were motivated by a desire to imitate Christ in bringing comfort to those who are in need. What this means is that we can make a huge difference in a person's life in Haiti or in other areas of grim poverty by making even the smallest of donations. For example, for $3, a child who is sleeping outside can be provided with a blanket. For less than 10 cents, a person who has no drinking water can have their thirst quenched. Donating is not hard either. It can be done simply by texting "Haiti" to 90999, which will automatically add a donation of $10 to your phone bill.

It is a sign of maturity as a human being to be able to look at the suffering of another and respond with love. Please consider making a small sacrifice so that others can have some of the basic necessities of life.

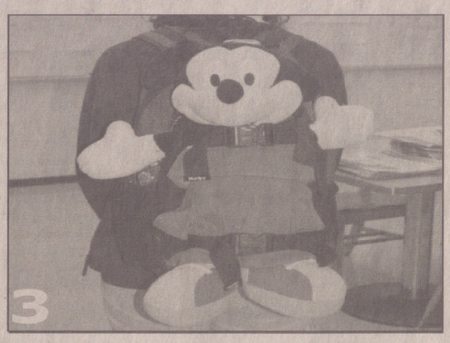
Want to be a part of the Rock Bottom staff for the 2010-2011 school year? Contact Mrs. Rusher in Room 24 to join the greatest newspaper squad around!

Guess Who?

Guess which Scotus students these bookbags belong to

1

2


3

4

5

6

Guess which Scotus students can be seen sporting these kicks

1

2

3

4

5

6

Guess which teacher has which handwriting

Match each teacher with their handwriting sample

One of my favorite movies is Jane Eyre — **Mr. Sasges**

My favorite movie is A Knight's Tale. — **Mr. Petersen**

My favorite movie is Gran Torino — **Mrs. Shadle**

My favorite movie is The Hangover. — **Mrs. Blaser**

My favorite movie is The Last of the Mohicans. — **Mrs. Rusher**

My favorite movie is Fireproof. — **Ms. Ploetz**

My favorite movie is Empire Records. — **Mrs. Schaad**

Band Cryptogram

Directions: Unscramble each of the clue words. Copy the letters in the numbered boxes into the boxes on the bottom with the same number.

KITNAG CAKB NYSDUA

COBAR TAHSIPRS

NIPK LYDOF

DETTWSI RISTES

HYESAWZ

NSALGE NAD WERVAASI

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	11	18	19	20

Movies Word Search

L	K	D	Q	R	M	R	W	N	D	E	M	E	K	C
S	O	H	X	E	U	J	E	P	C	L	A	E	F	H
P	E	R	O	T	N	E	M	E	M	R	R	H	S	T
A	X	V	D	T	W	F	L	O	N	C	M	T	X	L
K	Y	F	E	O	T	P	Y	L	A	C	O	P	A	G
E	C	N	L	N	F	E	Y	D	V	C	R	G	V	E
L	P	L	I	O	Q	T	D	N	A	L	E	B	D	M
M	A	I	V	J	K	Y	H	I	T	N	D	V	W	E
H	L	T	E	I	S	L	D	E	A	X	U	G	T	E
R	V	K	R	H	E	O	D	H	R	Z	V	C	Z	K
J	G	S	A	W	Z	F	T	J	O	I	R	E	R	M
T	W	C	N	C	Y	L	S	W	B	Y	N	U	B	Y
K	K	K	C	E	S	C	T	H	M	U	Y	G	A	K
V	P	B	E	O	W	H	Z	F	X	N	M	K	S	O
A	R	W	O	F	T	Y	O	U	Y	C	A	R	P	K

Find the following movies in the box at the left:

Apocalypto
Avatar
Borat
Caddyshack
Deliverance
Halloween
Lord of the Rings
Memento
Saw
Seven

Sudoku Puzzle

	8		3	9			5	6
1		9				4	3	7
	3	6			1	2		
			5	8				
3			2	1	7			8
				4	6			
		5	8			3	1	
7	9	1				8		2
8	4			6	2		7	

Daily Sudoku: Wed 6-Jan-2010

The object is to fill the empty boxes with numbers between 1 and 9 (1 number only in each box) according the following guidlines:

1. Number can appear only once in each row
2. Number can appear only once in each column
3. Number can appear only once in each box

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Sports

Chief Redman is Burning

By Brian Ackman
Layout Editor

Well the sporting world is keeping me busy with breaking news almost daily. There are almost too many topics to cover these days in sports, so I'll dive right into what I'm burning on.

Former Major League Baseball player Mark McGwire has finally admitted to using steroids. McGwire retired from baseball in 2001, but he is most famous for cranking home runs. He broke the single season record for home runs in 1998 with a staggering 70 pitches blasted into the stands. I'm glad that someone like this would finally admit to using steroids, but I am fully disappointed. It seems like every baseball player these days is accused of "juicing." Apparently, MLB fans aren't even offended anymore by a baseball legend getting caught using performance-enhancing drugs. St. Louis Cardinals fans cheered McGwire during a public appearance just a week ago. If the MLB is going to just accept the "steroid era", then I will admit that I am thoroughly disgusted, and I'm sure some of you out there are too.

USC football coach Pete Carroll has left the program to join the Seattle Seahawks. This move seems kind of fishy to me because USC is facing some serious allegations about some former players. Two former USC running backs (Joe McKnight and Reggie Bush) have been accused of accepting illegal recruiting deals from the USC football program. Also, the Trojans turned in a sub-par season compared to their recent success. The Trojans finished 9-4 last year and failed to capture the Pac-10 trophy that they are so used to holding. In my opinion, Carroll is bailing out on a program that is about to go up in flames. He is running from the accusations, and he sees this season as a potential slide for the program, so he is turning to the NFL. I question Carroll's dedication to any team if he is going to bail out on them when the chips are down.

I'm not a huge NBA fan, but I do enjoy watching some of those superstar basketball players every now and then. Recently I attended the Cleveland Cavaliers at the Denver Nuggets and was very impressed. These players are almost too athletic. Everyone knows how amazing LeBron James is, but I was most surprised by the talent of the Nuggets. The Nuggets played without their top player Carmelo Anthony and also a key reserve Ty Lawson, but they still played a ridiculous game. Seeing some of those crazy dunks and blocked shots in person made me realize that the talent level in the NBA is crazy good. Now with a healthy team, the Nuggets are looking to take control of the Western Conference. The NBA is still just a show to most people, but to me it's a bit more than that. I can appreciate how hard these players have worked in the past to perfect their games now. Also, the atmosphere of this game was outrageous. At every time out, performers are on the court and at one point, the Nuggets' mascot threw a woman's shoe all the way across the court. Now that's entertainment!

Scotus students splash with swim team

By Olivia Sonderman
Staff Reporter

The Aquatic Center is filled with chanting supporters. As the swimmers close in on the last lap, tension grows in the crowd, and the noise swells. Times flash on the scoreboard when the swimmers complete their final lap, exhausted, but hopefully satisfied with their race.

This year, the CHS/Scotus swim team is greatly impacted by the fifteen Scotus students participating in swimming, a large percentage of the forty-nine total swimmers. Returning members include senior Jen Hall, juniors Molly Smith, Marina Karel, Theresa Thalken, and Brett Brune, and sophomores Ryan Miksch, Jens Paprocki, Trenton Kuta, and Kelsey Newman. The seven freshman contributors include Jill Bonk, Katie Breidenbach, Bridgette Brune, Catherine Swope, Megan Wright, and Brandon Hahn.

Swim coach Jan Boeding said, "The Scotus swimmers have a tremendous impact on the team, and it is a positive one. Many of the Scotus swimmers are long time club swimmers who bring a lot of talent to the team. Even the beginners are great kids and hard workers."

Though some swimmers have experience through club, others had no background in swimming before they tried the sport for the first time.

Jen Hall said, "The first year, I just showed up to practice and didn't know anything about it. I started out in the slow lanes, but I got better."

The challenging practices are the driving force behind the improvement of all the swimmers.

Brandon Hahn said, "Practices last from four to six after school. They are tough: swimming is the second hardest after cross country."

However, strenuous practices pay off when the goal is to make it to the state competition. According to Boeding, swimmers are allowed to compete in four events at state: no more than two events can be individual. It is possible to qualify at any NSAA sanctioned meet. The first qualifying standard is automatic, which guarantees a spot. The standard used to fill the slate after autos is secondary.

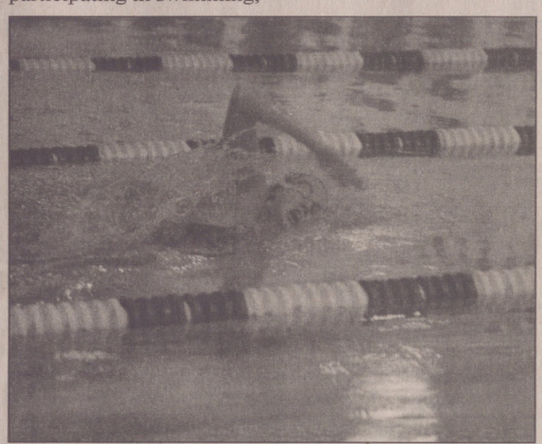
Several Scotus students have qualified for the meet, and others have potential to qualify. Sophomore Ryan Miksch has already qualified in the 200 Free, 200 Individual Medley, 50 Free, 200 Free Relay, and the 100 Backstroke. Because Miksch can only participate in four events at state, he is able to choose his races.

Miksch said, "I can pretty much pick my events. I just choose the races I am the most comfortable with and the ones I can score the most points with for the team."

Junior Marina Karel will most likely go to state in one or two relays, but it is not a definite. Junior Brett Brune also has an excellent chance to go in at least one relay.

Ryan Miksch said about his goals for the season, "I just want to continue to get better and keep working hard. I want to finish the best I can and see if I can finish with personal records at state."

The state meet is scheduled for February 26th and 27th. Between now and then, several swim meets occur amidst weeks of practice, giving swimmers the chance to improve before the major meet.



Olivia Sonderman/Rock bottom Staff

Molly Smith swims at a meet on January 12th for the Columbus High Swim Team against Norfolk High and Lincoln High.

Scotus girls working to improve

By Casey Kessler
Staff Reporter

The girls' basketball team is trudging through the season with a new coach under the reigns from last year. The girls had to adjust to a new coach for the first time since the year 2003. That new coach is Jarrod Ridder, who previously coached the freshman girls' basketball team last year. Not only does he coach basketball, but he is also an assistant coach for varsity football and helps out with junior high track. Obviously, the team has had to adjust in many aspects to a new coach.

"It was a little tough to adjust at first, but as the season has gone on we have progressed well as a team," junior post Mckenzie Leu said.

The new coaches expect much out of these girls because they know that all the players have excellent potential and work ethic.

"The biggest adjustment the girls had to make was the way we practiced and some of the new drills and expectations we as coaches have for them," Ridder said.

The beginning of the season started out with a loss to Hastings St. Cecilia, which was a battle between two C1 top ten teams. Scotus then lost two more games during a stretch and entered the Columbus Holiday Tournament with a 2-3 record.

Scotus had won the Holiday Tournament seven out of the last eight years in the girls division. Scotus' first round match was against the Twin River Titans. They overcame a 13-23 deficit late in the third quarter to win the game 27-25. The championship match was against Scotus' archrival the Lakeview Vikings. Scotus dominated from the get go in this title game. At halftime the score was 25-10 Scotus, and then they later cruised to an easy win and the championship by a score of 43-27. After the tournament was over, Scotus had won its eighth Holiday Tournament in the past nine years. This built much confidence for upcoming months.

"I think that winning the Holiday Tournament really helped with the girls confidence. Offensively we played well and we have been a different team since that tournament," Ridder said.

The team has been working hard throughout all their practices and put in much extra time during the off-season to try to get better.

"We are continually working on all areas of the game. We have been struggling offensively and handling any types of press, so we will send extra practice time working on those areas," Ridder said.

The Scotus girls are hoping to make a run at a possible state tournament berth, but they know that it will not be easy, and they want to make a name for themselves once district and conference time hits.

Ridder said, "We want to be known as a team that refuses to be out worked and out hustled on the basketball court. Reputation must be earned through hard work and dedication every second during practice. I believe the future is bright for our program and I am excited to be a part of what is to come."

Hannah Schaecher/Yearbook Staff

Jarrod Ridder coaches the girls team before a game against Grand Island Central Catholic on December 11th.

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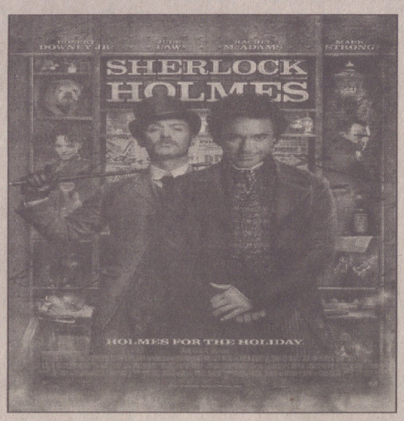
Merle's Matinee: *Sherlock Holmes*

By Merle Mapes
Staff Reporter

Holmes for the Holiday. The legendary detective made a triumphant return this Christmas; that's right, Sherlock Holmes is back. Magic, murder, and a bit of tomfoolery work together to make *Sherlock Holmes* an exhilarating and enchanting movie. It is 1891 in London, the great Tower Bridge is still under construction, and a murderer has come back from the dead. Lord Blackwood, a man caught by Holmes in the beginning of the movie and hanged has seemingly risen from the grave. Dr. Watson has chosen to stop helping Holmes and settle down with his girlfriend, but is somehow dragged along by Holmes's antics. Meanwhile, Holmes is confounded as to how this "resurrection" is possible when someone from his past appears and asks for assistance. Is magic real, is anyone going to survive, and most importantly, who is the real threat?

Sherlock Holmes features several familiar faces. Holmes himself is portrayed by Robert Downey, Jr. from *Iron Man*. He makes an excellent Holmes with his mixture of charm, intellect, and a bit of luck. Dr. John Watson is portrayed by Jude Law from *The Talented Mr. Rigby*. Interestingly, Jude Law also participated in the 1991 TV series, *The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes*, though not as Watson. Then the infamous Irene Adler is portrayed byRachel McAdams from *The Time Traveler's Wife* and *The Notebook*.



Like all movies there are good points and bad points, but in this case, the latter is rather insubstantial. There are certain parts of the movie that were difficult to follow without having some prior knowledge about the books, but they were merely unimportant facts about the past, such as a stolen jewel around Irene's neck.

The movie shows an interesting side of the famous detective; it shows him as a calculating, swift, and efficient fighter, while still retaining his detective skills and humor. The beginning of the movie shows his fighting skill incredibly well, as well as his good humor, as he incapacitates a thug and takes his hat in a swift course of action. The humor in the movie is also shown as he chases after someone by jumping out the second story window of his house screaming "Ka-Kaw!" and crashing through a shed of some kind.

I must say that *Sherlock Holmes* was one of the better movies that I have seen this season and it shows as it raked in $65,380,000 in the box office, just under *Avatar*. If you are planning on seeing a movie anytime soon, I would recommend that you watch *Sherlock Holmes*. I would just like to remind you that there is profanity, partial nudity, and drinking so leave the kids at home. Overall I would say that *Sherlock Holmes* deserves a solid 4.5/5.

Understanding the dos and don'ts of sequels

By Kyle Benesch
Staff Reporter

Rambo, Alvin and the Chipmunks, and *Star Wars* are all alike in one way. Besides the annoying dialects of the characters, they all have made sequels to their original films. This recreation of original works has been used in the movie business for a while now. Many sequels were created in the 40's and even more are produced today. Just like their originals, a sequel's success may vary. There are two types of sequels: a sequel that betters the first, and a sequel that never should have been made because it is worse than the first.

Many built up sequels in Hollywood result in complete busts. This poor review of a movie can be because of many reasons. On many occasions the first or original is too good. Before watching the sequel, a viewer is going to have high expectations for the second movie. This high expectation has resulted in many moviegoers being disappointed with movies such as *Dumb and Dumberer: When Harry Met Lloyd, Caddy Shack II, and Stewart Little 2.*

Other movies beat the dead horse with constant sequels of their movies. Hilarious ones and twos become old when they turn into fours and fives such as the *Scary Movies.* Movies like *Rambo 5, Matrix 3, Land Before Time 9, Spiderman 3, and Friday the 13th part VIII* are giant stretches and leave the viewer wishing that the movie wouldn't have been made.

Other movie originals were terrible, and a remake should never have been considered. It is easy to have your second movie be better than the first, but if the first one is down right awful, then nobody wants to see the second (yes that's you *Leprechaun: Back 2 Tha' Hood.)*

Now for other movies, a huge original success inspires the movie creator to produce a follow up of the original. A great sequel can blow the original out of the water, leaving the audience with a high satisfaction of the second film. *The Dark Knight* brought in over $533,000,000 making it the second largest grossing film of all time. *Transformers 2: Revenge of the Fallen,* was also one of the all time greatest reviewed sequels. What makes these two movies great is that they are not "surface films." The storyline and message of both movies is deep, adding more to the movie than what is just presented on the screen. Also these movies worked with their originals. The sequel flows and is birthed through many doors that the first movie opened. Even "kid movies" have mastered the art of a good sequel. Disney Pixar's *Toy Story 2* was one of the most successful Disney recreations, partially for its well-mannered character behavior. Buzz, Woody, and Rex along with many other Disney sequel characters have taken part in helping shape basic sets of morals in American children's lives.

"If the original is awful, then don't try to save the movie's reputation by making a sequel."
-Kyle Benesch

Today in Hollywood, a steady number of both terrible and amazing sequels are produced. In order to cut down on worthless sequels, movie producers need to take a look at the original film. There need to be two golden rules when it comes to deciding the big question, to make the sequel or not to make the sequel?

The first general rule is that if the original is awful, then don't try to save the movie's reputation by making a sequel. Also, producers need to learn some movies just aren't made to have a sequel. Movies that are already deep and have a good one-conclusion ending don't need to have a follow up.

By looking at both types of sequels, any decision by a movie producer to make a sequel is a huge risk. Large amounts of pressure are placed on the entire crew, and, once in a while, a sequel produces a huge hit. These heavy hitters are what have movie viewers always hungry for the next best sequel.

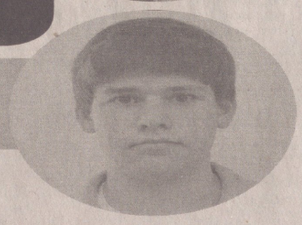
What is your favorite movie quote?

"It's powdered sugar. Its delicious."
Super Troopers
-Kylee Soulliere

"That's so funny, last time I heard it I almost fell off my dinosaur."
Step Brothers
-Jake Huss

"My practices aren't designed for fun!"
Hoosiers
-Grant Lahm

"You'll have to excuse my friend, he's a little slow.."
Dumb & Dumber
-Hannah Schaecher



"It smells like pure gasoline."
Anchorman
-Ryan Fehr

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As told by a ginger

By Brian Ackman
Layout Editor

Over the past few months, all you Shamrocks have been learning many facts about the ginger race. You have learned many physical traits of gingers, but you may be asking yourself "How does one become a ginger?"

Anyone that has taken Mr. Younger's 10th grade Biology class could tell you this. It's all a matter of genes. The redheaded gene is a recessive gene, which means it will only show up in a person if they lack a dominant gene. Based on this scientific fact of genes, gingers have been around since the beginning of time right? Correct.

The ginger gene can be traced back to Biblical times. How many of you knew that King David was a redhead? Not many, I'm sure. So, even in 1000 BC gingers were ruling supreme. Another early example of ginger royalty is Cleopatra. She lived from about 70 BC to 30 BC, and I'm sure that her flamboyant hair was what brought her to power in Egypt.

As the years wore on, the ginger race did not die down from its powerful rule. The entire American country owes its respect to the great redheaded Christopher Columbus. Also, redheads have made great strides in science. Galileo is probably the most famous redhead of the late 1500's and 1600's. Great political and military figures were redheads during the 1700's and 1800's. Napoleon Bonaparte was a great military leader in France, and everyone knows that Thomas Jefferson was a tremendous American president.

Somewhere along the ginger timeline, gingers did lose their status as supreme, however. In my opinion this time came at The Great Potato Famine in Ireland in 1845. I will not get into detail of this catastrophic experience because I might break down in tears at the hardships our redheaded ancestors dealt with. But, I realize that since this incident, not many gingers have come to supremacy in the world. It seems that since this event, gingers have taken on a larger entertainment role in society.

> ***"I might break down in tears at the hardships our redheaded ancestors dealt with."***
> *-Brian Ackman*

The 1900's have shown us many famous gingers, but none of them were as powerful as our ancestors. These post-potato famine gingers were seeking to change the earth through the world of entertainment. Arguably the most famous ginger ever, Lucille Ball, came to great fame during the 1950's. Her hit show *I Love Lucy* is still watched today by diehard ginger fans. Revolutionizing the musical world was the Spice Girls of the 1990's. Who could forget Geri "Ginger Spice" Halliwell? These redheads became famous unlike any gingers before. The ginger timeline continues on into the 21st century with the great Ronald Weasley. It is true that Weasley is a fictional character, but it is phenomenal to me that a main character in perhaps the most famous book series ever, *Harry Potter*, is a ginger. Other entertainers like Lindsey Lohan and Carrot Top have amused the world during the early 2000's.

Well, that brings us up to date on the ginger timeline. All of these gingers mentioned are on the www.listverse.com top 25 redheads list. In review, gingers were extremely powerful up until the traumatizing event that was The Great Potato Famine. Since then, we gingers have been licking our wounds a bit, and we shall wait to rise to power again.

WWZ revolutionizes zombie genre

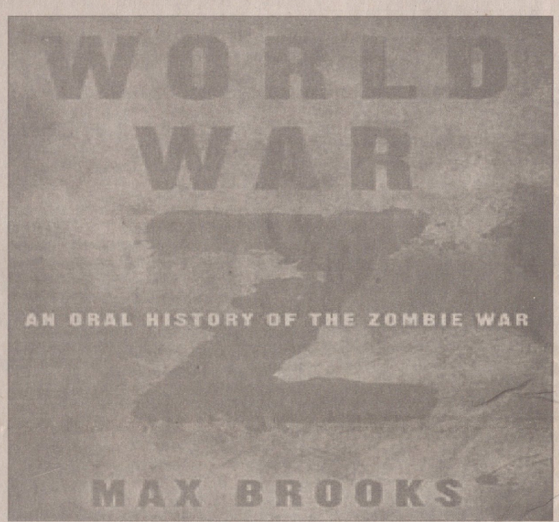
By Stephen Pandorf
Staff Reporter

What happens when the son of a famous comedy director writes a novel? You get one of the most highly regarded novels of the decade, and zombies. These aren't the *I am Legend* or *28 Days Later* fast zombies; these are the Romero original zombies. Slow, mindless, and hungry for flesh, they are the perfect depiction of living dead.

Max Brooks, son of famous director Mel Brooks (*Blazing Saddles*, *Spaceballs*), released his debut novel with *World War Z*. The book shines with its unique style of writing and setting. The book does not actually take place during the zombie apocalypse but in the aftermath. The novel details the travels of the author, Max Brooks, as an UN agent, as he interviews people of various nationalities, races, and religions about their experiences during the undead outbreak. He hears the stories of a Russian priest, a Japanese otaku (nerd), a Brazilian organ trader, and others. The reader forms a picture of a realistic world in crisis and its aftermath. This format allows the author to create a fictional future with believability and still jump from story to story.

The book is more about how people and nations survive rather than horror stories with zombies. It details how nations and peoples banded together to repel the would-be apocalypse. No longer are people living alone or separated from their communities. Night watches are formed and the army is bolstered beyond belief. The psychological aspect of a zombie infection plays a large role in the rebuilding of nations. Without escapism ,U.S. citizens start dying in their sleep. This mysterious ailment is not cured by some miracle drug but by giving the people hope through movies.

By far the shining point of *World War Z* is how people adapt and evolve to their environment and zombies. People adapt from working in offices to farming or crafting. Militaries abandon modern warfare for the marching lines. Missiles and warheads are abandoned for an improved shovel. Priests bear the sins of their flock by giving last rights and taking the life of the infected. Through the stories of survivors we are taught of people's courage and everyday heroes are made. *World War Z* is a modern novel that accurately crafts a realistic and enthralling world that survived the zombie apocalypse.



http://thehumansaredead.files.wordpress.com/2008/06/world_war_z_book_cover.jpg

Answer Key

Guess Who Answers
Bookbags
1. Austin Wendt (9)
2. Austin Wortman (10)
3. Bibiana Lopez (9)
4. Vanessa Cox (9)
5. Payton Clohon (8)
6. Breanna Walker (7)

Shoes
1. Eric Tubbs (12)
2. Ryan Milksch (10)
3. Michael Esch (10)
4. Molly Forney (12)
5. Tara Siarzec (9)
6. Kaitlyn Kobak (12)

Handwriting
1. Mrs. Shadle
2. Mrs. Kusber
3. Mrs. Blaser
4. Mr. Sagers
5. Mr. Petersen
6. Mrs. Ploetz
7. Mrs. Schaad

Cryptogram Answers
1. Taking Back Sunday
2. Cobra Starship
3. Pink Floyd
4. Twisted Sister
5. Shwayze
6. Angels and Airwaves
**Dashboard Confessional

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SCOTUS CENTRAL

Rock Bottom

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Willy Wonka musical takes the stage

By Levi McPhillips
Staff Reporter

Candy, little orange men, snot-nosed brats, and exploding blueberry-colored gum chewers. What do all of these things have in common? All of them are part of Scotus' latest theatre production. For the past two months, Scotus students have been working on the winter musical. The production that was chosen this year was *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*. It is based on the 1964 film starring Peter Ostrum, Jack Albertson, and Gene Wilder. With great actors like those portraying the imaginary characters, Scotus actors and actresses had their work cut out for them. On December 3rd and 4th, students tried out for the roles they wanted. Many of the cast members were surprised by the casting choices.

Junior Cale Albracht, who was chosen for the part of Mike Teavee, said, "I was confused at first, but everyone seems to fit their part now." Junior A.J. Bose was especially surprised with his role.

"I wasn't really expecting to get that role," Bose said after being chosen to be the main character Willy Wonka.

"The biggest challenge for me was memorizing lines," Bose said. Everyone in the musical was worried when A.J. came down with strep throat two days before the performance.

However, he overcame his sickness and had great performances Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Willy Wonka is a large production that involves over fifty members of the cast and crew. It is also a relatively new musical. According to Ms. Gardner, this version of Willy Wonka was written in 2004, and new songs were added.

One of the changes from past years is that Ms. Gardner took on the musical without the help of a director. Creating the musical has made more work for the vocal music director of Scotus.

"It has been more work, but I have had a lot of help, and I have really enjoyed it," Gardner said.

Willy Wonka poses many problems with all of the scene changes.

"Originally I thought it would be impossible to do. But the technical people have done a really good job," senior Kelsey Jochum commented. "I think it will be one of the better musicals. Everyone is working hard to make it look good."

Like all performances, this production has made it difficult to get good attendance at practices.

"The problem is that people have so much going on it's hard to get everyone there," Ms. Gardner said.

Many of the students are involved in sports, speech team, and many other extracurricular activities. Even with all of the challenges, the cast and crew have overcome them to create an incredible musical.

Willy Wonka has many scenes that are pleasing to the eye and ear.

"I like the end of Act 1 when Charlie finds the golden ticket," said sophomore Joel Ostdiek. He was given the part of Charlie Bucket in the production.

"I'm thrilled. I've always enjoyed being apart of Scotus musicals since the 7th grade. I'm honored," Ostdiek smiled.

Ms. Gardner thinks the future looks bright for Scotus theatre. "So many things have happened since I got here. We get more and more talented actors."

With quantity and quality of actors at Scotus increasing, the Scotus theatre program will continue to wow audiences with risky productions and high quality performances.

Rebecca Hall/ Yearbook Staff

Joe Bucket (Bill Cremers) gives a surprise present to Charlie Bucket (Joel Ostdiek) on his birthday: a Wonka candy bar.

Rebecca Hall/ Yearbook Staff

In the Wonka Chocolate factory, Willy Wonka (A.J. Bose) displays a piece of Wonka gum to Violet Bearegarde (Summer Kresha) as a concerned Mrs. Beauregarde (Alise Perault) looks on.

Scotus: farewell to skirts

By Kyle Benesch
Staff Reporter

Scotus Central Catholic is planning to change up the way it looks. Starting next year, students will no longer be able to buy skirts from Dennis Company. This decision was made to eventually ban skirts from Scotus. On February 19th, the School Board Policy Committee ruled that a new skort would eventually replace the popular skirt at Scotus. The more modest look of the new skort was approved by the Student Council and Policy Committee, and the decision was made to determine a grandfather clause. The group decided that families would be able to use already purchased skirts for a reasonable amount of time, around three years.

The decision to eventually eliminate skirts from Scotus is raising a couple of questions concerning where the idea originated. What is causing some concern is the manor in which the issue was handled.

On February 3rd, Student Council was told from its sponsor Joan Lahm that skirts would no longer be able to be purchased for school wear. This statement came as a shock to the Student Council, who were unaware of the drastic change. In the previous meeting, the branch of student government viewed and a few members modeled the new skorts. The group decided the skort would be an appropriate option, but later found out that the skort would be the only option.

According to President Wayne Morfeld, the discussions to eliminate skirts were on going for multiple years. Morfeld believed that removing skirts from the dress code option at Scotus was good because of "how the skirts are worn."

"Its an appearance issue, and an issue of how the girls walk up and down our stairways," Morfeld said.

Morfeld believes that the decision was determined by students.

"The decision was purely handled within the Student Council. It came to me through them, and I try to support the Student Council as much as I can. On this issue, I one-hundred percent support the Student Council," Morfeld said.

The Student Council on the other hahd, was left wondering how they became involved in the decision.

Student Council sponsor Joan Lahm said, "Several years ago the staff discussed eliminating skirts. It was an issue because they were immodest."

Lahm, along with Scotus staff, tried to determine what could be done as an alternative.

"The only thing Student Council did was look at a new skort and gave an opinion. Had they not liked them, skirts would probably still be banned, but the ban would be driven by the staff more than the Student Council," Lahm said.

Lahm thinks the idea is good because girls do not wear skirts the way they should. Other Student Council members, along with Lahm, are supportive of the idea also.

"I thought the idea to find new options for the skirts was good, and I liked the new skort," senior Maggie Hellbusch said. "But the way the decision to get rid of the skirts was handled bothered me."

Hellbusch, along with other Student Council members, was asked to model the new skort.

"The skort was comfortable and modest, and I liked it," Hellbusch said.

The plan for now is to discontinue selling skirts at Scotus. According to Mrs. Lahm, students could still wear skirts they already have, or buy hand-me-down skirts from other people. Students will have three years to wear these skirts, but by the start of the 2013 school year, students will no longer be able to wear skirts at Scotus.

Spending a night in New York

By Kelsey Jochum
Copy Editor

As the clock struck 8:00 on the eve of February 12th, two deserving Shamrocks were crowned King and Queen of the dance floor. Seniors Trace Murray and Tiffany Wieser accepted their crowns from last year's King, Nicholas Raimondo and Homecoming Queen, Maggie Hellbusch, who was standing in for last year's Queen, Tina Sultonova.

"I don't really remember what my first thought was. It's kind of a big blur; it all happened so fast!"
Tiffany Wieser

"I don't really remember what my first thought was," Wieser said. "It's kind of a big blur; it all happened so fast!"

Murray has a similar experience when he realized he had won the crown.

"I was happy to be chosen," Murray said. "I wasn't expecting to win, so it was quite a surprise."

After coronation was over and pictures were taken, Scotus students headed down to the cafeteria where they were welcomed by the auto-tuned voice of Jay Sean. Being convinced that "tonight's gunna be a good night", most of the Shamrocks and their dates found their spots on the dance floor and began movin' and a'shakin'.

The theme of the dance was *A Night in New York* chosen by the sophomore class. The sophomore class officers, who head the decoration committee for Sweetheart each year, chose the theme based on previous inspiration.

"We wanted to do an old Hollywood theme, but we didn't want to go into movies because the seniors has already done a movie theme," said class officer Jenna Moore. "We decided on a New York theme instead."

According to most students, the dance went over very well. Being used to the style of Tayler Bock, who has DJed every Scotus dance since Sadie Hawkins in 2007, the students found it hard to adjust to the new DJ at first.

"The DJ got off to a rocky start with some of the older and country music, but I think he learned his lesson," senior James Landholm said.

For Landholm,

See Dance, Page 2

DANCE

Continued from page 1

Sweetheart was his ninth high school dance. With only his senior Prom left, Landholm has big expectations for the night.

"I am expecting to go out with a bang. I already can't wait for Prom; it's going to be an amazing night."

While most seniors have also been through nine previous dances, for Sonia Soen, a student in the AFS-YES program who has just recently come to the States, Sweetheart was her first.

"It was my first high school dance, and I definitely had fun," Soen said. "Dressing up and getting the groove of things with friends was a little awkward, but awesome."

Coming from the country of Malaysia, Soen commented that the closest her school has come to a formal dance like Sweetheart is a formal school dinner, which may, in fact, resemble the Scotus Prom dinner.

"I'm really looking forward to Prom in April," Soen said. "The shopping spree, getting my nails done, the makeup, and maybe, having a date!"

As April 10th approaches, it seems like more and more seniors are getting excited for their final high school dance.

"I just hope everyone will show up and have a good time," Wieser said. "As long as we have a good DJ that plays the music we like, it should be fun."

PETER HEUSINKVELT/ YEARBOOK STAFF

Andy Heusinkvelt and Mrs. Carmen Johnson enjoy a dance at Sweetheart.

Sweetheart Royalty

STEPHANI JARECKE/ ROCK BOTTOM

Sweetheart candidates Lindsey Gasper, Alex Kuta, Nadia Morales, Matt Pucket, Tiffany Wieser, Trace Murray, Tom Rambour, Kaitlyn Robak, Eric Tubbs, Katelyn Kerkman, Kyle Benesch, and Monica Boeding pose after the coronation.

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Forget the fortunes

By Stacia Rawhouser
Staff Reporter

"You will prosper in the future of medicine." "A promising relationship will flourish in your life." Yeah, we have seen these poor attempts of motivation every time we crack open one of those Pac-man shaped cookies. Fortune cookies are delicious, but can they really know what will happen in our futures? I think not. That cookie does not know me, and it certainly will not tell me what I am going to do.

God can see the future, and maybe some psychics can see the future, but a lifeless chunk of flour, sugar, vanilla, and oil does not know what is going to happen. For people that open fortunes promising success or great wealth, I am sorry. It is nothing but a piece of paper, written by someone who gets paid to say something ridiculously positive.

Think about it, would people honestly put so much trust in these things if the outcomes were not always so positive? For example, if you crack open an "unfortunate" cookie, and it says "your life is going nowhere" or "why don't you just give up already?" That would be discouraging. Maybe then people would understand that just because a piece of paper inside of a Chinese cracker says it, does not mean it is true.

"God can see the future, and maybe some psychics can see the future, but a lifeless chunk of flour, sugar, vanilla, and oil does not know what is going to happen."
-Stacia Rawhouser

Some people put so much trust into these lifeless objects. Take Horoscopes for example, I know people that buy magazines only to read the horoscopes. Then they come and brag about how they are going to find love, and I am going to get demoted in my job. Seriously, get over yourselves. Horoscopes are generated from the stars right? Well, a star is simply a giant burning ball of gas, so if that is where you are getting your information, you should reconsider your sources. I am so glad that a giant gas ball told you that your life will be filled with endless happiness.

Would you believe those words if they came from your parents? If my mom told me "honey, your radiant smile will attract true friends." I would raise one eyebrow and give her that "wow, did you really just say that" kind of look. However, if it came from a fortune cookie or the monthly horoscope, people tend to take them a little more seriously. Why is that?

It is not like these wonderful things are just going to "happen" for you. Health, friendships, and great wealth are fortunes that are earned. If you want something, you need to work hard for it. You cannot just "stay" healthy; you need to treat your body right so it can be in shape. Friends do not come out of nowhere; you meet them and build relationships. Money does not fall from the sky; you earn it.

These silly fortunes and horoscopes cannot grant us anything more than a quick smile. They do not predict the future. We predict our future.

Hop on the Bandwagon

By Casey Kessler
Staff Reporter

I first got into Husker football when my dad took me to my first game back when I was seven years old. I was hooked right away to each and every detail about it. I loved the atmosphere, the tunnel walk, the releasing of the balloons, and, of course, the playing of "Go Big Red" after each touchdown. When I first entered the stadium, it was like a whole new world had been opened to me, and it was called planet Husker. Since that fateful day back in 2000, I have simply been addicted to Nebraska football. I have been to over 80 Husker football games. Every time there is an autograph opportunity I am there, and on each latest version of NCAA Football I play with one team: Nebraska.

It is safe to say that all of us have seen the downfall of Husker Football from the years 2002-2007. It is also safe to say that people have disbanded from this fan base, since the team has stopped winning national championships. I was so disgusted with the team in 2007 that I skipped a Nebraska football home game for a Madden 08 tournament in Omaha. But even at the lowest low of Nebraska football in recent history, I did not give up on this team.

One example of giving up on a team is certain fans of Creighton basketball. I have no problem if someone is an "honest" fan of Creighton basketball and Nebraska football. But I hear certain Creighton fans that love Nebraska football yet hates Husker basketball because they haven't had the winning style of Creighton over the past decade. I hear this all the time on the radio of Creighton sports talk debating how great beating Nebraska is. This is a complete and utter joke and those people are hypocrites. The reasons fans hop on certain bandwagons are because everyone likes a winner, which is okay in some respects.

I always thought that Nebraska football could be that winner again. That team that all of the state of Nebraska could unite to cheer for again. I am one hundred percent sure most people in Nebraska who are not huge fans of Husker football did not know about Ndamukong Suh before this season, or even the Texas game. But after the Big 12 Championship, I hop on Facebook and have about twenty group invites that all have something in the description about "Suh for Heisman". I am perfectly fine with that because this means that Nebraska is gaining prominence back, not only in Nebraska, but also nationally.

"This is a complete and utter joke and those people are hypocrites.."
-Casey Kessler

Husker football needs all the fan support it can get because, in case you didn't realize, we have one of the best programs in the nation, yet one of the smallest state populations.

This program needs the media and the state both thinking positively about them. Not whether or not Zac Lee or Cody Green should be playing. All the fan support will have the media and the state asking different sorts of questions. Instead of will we beat Texas; the new question will be by how much will we beat Texas?

I attended the Big 12 championship in Dallas this year, and we all know how that game ended, but as the Huskers limped off the field after that 12-10 loss, it seemed that all of the state of Nebraska has realized what they have to do. So for the sake of Zac Lee, Bo Pelini, and Husker football in general, I ask the state to hop back on the bandwagon.

Following the rules

By Kyle Benesch
Staff Reporter

What is the meaning of life? For many people they believe it is to follow (or break) the rules and don't ask questions. On one level I think they are right because rules are important in today's society. There are rules for everything, at school, in a relationship, in a hostage situation, for the Church, and rules our parents set for us. Yes, I will be the first to agree that all of these demands and restrictions are not always enjoyable to follow, but I think there are reasons why we need to follow them.

No one makes rules "just because." They are like old people; they still do serve a purpose. Our dress codes are established to make us look legit. If we had kids walking around school with untucked baggy shirts and daisy duke short shorts, then we would be contradicting the image that Scotus and its faculty are trying to present.

"No one makes rules 'just because.' They are like old people; they still do serve a purpose."
-Kyle Benesch

Another popular "why do I have to follow this?" rule in Nebraska is the helmet law. Like the helmet law there are many other rules that are for the safety of people. In Nebraska, motorcycle riders are by law required to ride with a helmet on. Many bikers go around the state for the sole purpose of not having to wear a helmet. I don't even think I need to argue how stupid this act is. If you crash your bike going 50, then your tough stubborn head won't do much good. Helmets save lives, so wear them.

The helmet law is not the only rule people complain about; Americans are constantly scrutinizing driving laws. The "I can drive how ever I want" attitude is ridiculous. People drive like they are competing for Daytona and complain when they get popped by the fuzz. Cops don't just look to ticket you, so follow the rules and you won't get fined.

Yes, I do realize that some things are just flat out fun. It seems like authorities are just trying to ruin our lives. I have rules that I hate to, the NCAA celebration rule. If Niles Paul wants to flex, then I think let the man flex, but I see their reasoning for why they wont allow this kind of behavior. Like a business, or even like Scotus, the NCAA has an image that they need to protect. Penalties and rules that discourage excessive celebration are in order to show the sportsmanship of the NCAA.

I think that is how we need to look at rules, at its reasoning rather than the actual rule itself. Our parents, teachers, and government all love us, and they want us to be happy. That is why you need to follow the rules, because America loves you.

Rock Bottom

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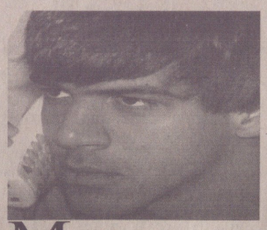

Mmm... Love

By Kyle Benesch
Staff Reporter

It's March 4th and the middle of dating season; Valentine's Day has past, and spring is right around the corner. Yes, love is in the air. Right now, many people are panicking. I am here to tell you it's going to be all right.

If you are single, it's okay. I know this is contradicting to almost everything you have ever learned, but it's okay. I have spent much of my Scotus life a "singleman." This sense of freedom and being loose can actually be enjoyable. Being single means you will have more spare time. Use it. Quit sitting at home and moping, Sally, because you don't want to be a third wheel with your friends. Take this opportunity to do things that you want to do.

Another great concept of the single life is the abundance of money that you will have to spend on the most important person in the world, yourself. Lets face it people; dating kills the wallet. Dinners are not cheap; February 14th is not cheap; birthdays definitely are not cheap. These things cost money; money that you can spend, or save, for yourself. So treat yourself once and awhile. Go to McDonald's and splurge a little. Remember you're single, so who cares what you look like?

"Quit sitting at home and moping, Sally, because you don't want to be a third wheel with your friends."
-Kyle Benesch

Now don't get me wrong; dating is great too, but it has to be taken carefully. Listen up junior high. Rule number one is don't rush things. Just because she said you were cute, or he sent you a crush note does not mean that you need to start immediately dating. Take it slow. Learn her favorite color or what her idea of a likeable guy is. Talk about his football team and briefly compliment his muscles. It's easy to do if you take the right amount of time. I like to call this phase of dating "pre-game."

If you work hard in pre-game, a healthy relationship can follow. Now I am not exactly a guru at "healthy relationships." I am currently on day 124 of my longest relationship ever, so I still have some learning to do. What I have learned is not to treat high school relationships like marriage. Girls, don't scare the guy off right away by expecting huge gifts or lifetime commitments. Guys, don't be obsessive or possessive; give her space. Also, remember that she has other friends too. Don't fly off the handle and knock out the helpless guy who is having a friendly conversation with her.

Most importantly, the golden rule for everyone is to have fun. If you want to date, then have at it young lovers. If you want to play the single life, then stay free. Either way, remember: you are still in high school, so focus on the most important thing in the world. You.

For the love of Valentine

By Stephani Jarecke
Staff Reporter

From beginning to end, Valentine's Day has been the "lovers" day across the world. Many men and woman go out of their way to show their special appreciation for each other. Customs have come and gone through the many years of this special day.

A couple of people did not decide to make the 14th of February so special. According to *The Holiday Spot*, this day originated from Lupercalia, which was an ancient Roman festival on February 15th. Pope Gelasis decided to make the day before that in honor of St. Valentine. Even though Lupercalia festival did not last, Valentine's Day lived on.

St. Valentine was one of the three saints named Valentine. He was a priest in 270 A.D. At this time, Claudius II was ruling in the Roman Empire. Claudius was beginning to recruit more and more young men to the army. He soon realized the men were going downhill because they did not want to leave their wives or children. Because of that, Claudius II banned marriage for young men. Valentine did not approve of this restriction, so he set up secret marriages for young lovers. Claudius II soon found out about his secret marriages, and Valentine was thrown into jail.

While Valentine was in jail, he became great friends with the jailor's daughter. When they took Valentine away to kill him, she was very upset. He wrote her a farewell note and signed it saying, "From your Valentine." Ever since, the term has been popular.

From that time on Valentine's Day has been a day to honor your true love. As time went by, different customs came about such as cards and candy. Flowers have also been a tradition for young lovers.

Although many lovers celebrate this day, it has died down from the early years.

Spanish teacher Connie Gibson remembers passing treats around in grade school, but never remembers celebrating Valentine's Day in high school.

"I remember receiving flowers, candy, and jewelry from guys, but I do not ever remember getting a guy something." Gibson says.

Gibson feels it has never been much of a big deal to her. Her husband, on the other hand, loves to celebrate it; he gets her nice gifts and takes her out to eat.

"I believe it is a holiday for females, and the males just get dragged into it," business teacher Aaron Sasges says.

Sasges does celebrate it, and he feels everyone should spend Valentine's Day with his or her significant other.

Most students feel it is not a big deal. Senior Eric Tubbs says girls make Valentine's Day important a lot more than guys do.

"I do not really know why I celebrate it. I just do," Tubbs says. Many students feel the same way as Tubbs. Tubbs gets his girlfriend gifts, and they go out to eat.

One fun activity Scotus does for Valentine's Day is iFlurtz. Almost all the students pay two dollars to see their perfect matches. iFlurtz is a compatibility test to see who the perfect match and best friend is, along with the worst matches for a student. Everyone takes the test ahead of time, and a couple months later, students can choose to pay for their results. Although almost all students pay the two dollars to see their ridiculous results, no one believes in the compatibility.

"I do not really know why I celebrate it. I just do."
-Eric Tubbs

"I know it is fake, I just buy them for the laughs," junior Katie Ohnoutka says.

Despite some students' lack of participation on Valentine's Day, everyone loves getting a special something from someone signed with "Your Valentine".

"I was so happy to see my boyfriend coming to my door with flowers on Valentine's Day," sophomore Morgan Prokupek says.

✝ Our Faith

By Father Roza
Scotus Chaplain

What is love?
(Baby don't hurt me no more)

What is love? This has been the basic question that people have been asking since the beginning of time. When the Trinidadian nurse and recording artist Haddaway released his tremendously tremendous one-hit wonder, "What is Love" in 1993, I'm not sure that he was concerned about asking deep questions. All the same, it expresses a question that we can't really avoid. What *is* love, and if it's so great, then why *does* it have to be so difficult?

There is a lot of confusion about love these days. We definitely refer to it in a lot of different ways. I love chocolate; I love the winter Olympics; I love my parents; I love my friends; I love you…all phrases that we use to express different kinds and qualities of love. We often think of love as a feeling, but it clearly has to be more than that. For example, we recognize that a mother who wakes up at all hours because she has to care for her baby is clearly expressing love, even if she doesn't feel amazing while she does so.

"What is love, and if it's so great, then why does it have to be so difficult?"
-Fr. Roza

The simple truth is that love means to want or desire the true good of the other. Sometimes that feels great – but not always. At times it's going to be easy. When things are going well with friends or in the family, or when you find a particular someone who you're interested in and who just happens to have an interest in you, then love can feel amazing. Likewise, when someone goes on a retreat or has an intensely personal experience of the love of God, it can make them feel happy in a way that is simply different from anything else they have experienced.

However, there are times when desiring the good of the other is tough. To give an easy example, when I was a small kid, I loved vanilla malts. If my parents had given me a malt every time I asked for one, I would probably be dead right now. My parents loved me, so they had to tell me that I couldn't have one whenever I wanted. I'm sure that there were times when it didn't feel good to tell me no, or to watch me get kind of upset when I couldn't have one. Sometimes when we love people, because we desire their good, we have to tell them things that are difficult. This can be as simple as having to tell your friend about something they do that irritates people, or as complicated and painful as having to tell someone you've dated for a long time that it's about time you stopped dating.

Learning how to love is basically the same as learning how to live. We figure it out as we go. It is made a lot easier by the fact that we are loved by God more than we could be loved by any other person. Because of that, we don't have to be afraid of what will happen when we seek to authentically love others. Where there is love, there is no room for fear (1 Jn 4:18), and if we want real love, whether it be romantic or otherwise, we will benefit from learning from the Guy who created it. Jesus, we trust in you!

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In Depth

Keep the business in Columbus

By Kelsey Jochum
Copy Editor

In today's tough economy, it may be difficult for people to bring themselves to spend money the way they used to. People are encouraged to be more conservative with their money, and the younger generation is learning to save rather than spend. However, when money must be spent, the people of Columbus are encouraged to shop locally. With the creation of Columbus Bucks and the increasing number of new businesses, Columbus citizens are given incentive to keep the business right here in their hometown.

Even so, Columbus citizens seem to find it hard to spend money in their own community. They argue that Columbus doesn't offer the same selection as far as shopping, restaurants, and entertainment that the larger cities do.

Buckle

"Honestly, the only store in Columbus that I will shop at is the Buckle," said junior Alise Perault. "I need a little variety." Perault is one of the many people in Columbus who frequently goes out of town to shop.

"On average, I'd say I go out of town about every two weeks; sometimes more often than that."

Nevertheless, Perault says there are aspects of the Columbus shopping scene that cannot be overlooked.

"I love the employees and the friendly atmosphere. I always feel more inclined to buy something from people when they are nice to me."

Senior Amy Pekarek has a different outlook on the Columbus shopping scene. After deciding to do all her Christmas shopping in town this year, Pekarek found that the town has a lot to offer.

"I spent one day over Christmas break shopping around town," Pekarek said. "I went to the mall out east and browsed through every store, and, to my surprise, I found many of my gifts at places I never would have thought to go into before."

Pekarek, who likes to go out of town to shop every so often, appreciates the businesses here in Columbus as well.

"I like to shop around here, so that when I get to go out of town, it makes it more special."

Though Columbus has seen quite a bit of expansion in the past few years, the hopes for new businesses

TARGET

haven't died yet. Area consumers want to see retail stores such as Target, Von Maur, and Forever 21 establish themselves in Columbus. Restaurants are also a keen topic, with places such as HuHot, Panera Bread, and Goodrich Dairy keeping consumers hopeful.

If so many people want these new businesses, why can't Columbus get them? Sandie Fischer, the Retail and Membership Development Chairperson at the Chamber of Commerce here in Columbus, has the answer. According to Fischer, retail is right on the mark based on our population, and, as we grow, opportunities for more stores will arise.

Since Columbus is also the home to Behlen's World Headquarters and many other big industries such as BD's and Katana, it makes our community very successful.

"Places across Nebraska are envious of these industrial opportunities," Fischer said. "These industries create job opportunities in which people come to work, get a pay check, and then spend that pay check right back into our community."

However, despite Columbus' strong industrial field, there are commercial businesses that sometimes can't make it. Last year,

claire's

Claire's Boutique closed down in Columbus after being open for only a few years. Fischer can explain the cause for that as well.

"Claire's was owned by a larger corporation on the east coast, which was losing money. Even though the store in Columbus was actually doing very well, the parent company was going under, and they had to choose certain stores to close. Columbus was one of them."

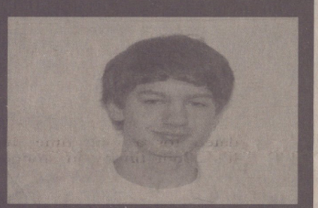
As far as seeing new businesses arrive in Columbus, Fischer says that it all has to do with how much we support our community.

"The more you shop here, the more our retail sales will go up, and companies look at that. They will know how much we are spending in our community and whether or not we support our local businesses. Likewise, if we go out of town to shop, that only shows those companies that we are willing to travel the distance to shop there, and they won't see a need to open a store here in Columbus."

So what's the answer? Simple, shop locally. Go to those stores in Columbus that people wouldn't normally think to go into. It might be surprising to see that all of the things people feel they must go out of town to buy can be found right here in good ol' C-town.

What business would you like to have in Columbus and why?

IN MY OPINION...



"Popeye's because we all need a taste of southern fried culture."
- Ian Robak

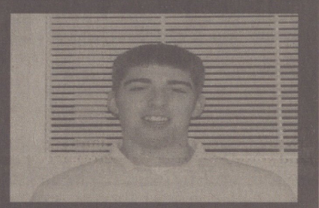
IN MY OPINION...

"American Eagle because they have good clothes."
-Hannah Fuchs

IN MY OPINION...

"Olive Garden because of their awesome breadsticks. You can walk in, get them, and walk out."
-Alex Wallick

IN MY OPINION...



"Scheel's because they have all your sporting needs. That way I don't have to order my shoes. They're huge."
- Trace Murray

Respect the money system

By Olivia Sonderman
Staff Reporter

It's a question that resonates within thousands, maybe millions of Americans' heads each day: where did our economy go wrong? What choices led our country into the seemingly bottomless pit of debt that we are in now? The answer is simple: the abuse of the money system.

When money is treated with a certain level of respect, it is a symbol of one of the highest moral codes man can claim. A worthless piece of paper with a man's face printed on it has value only because humans give it value.

For example, it is a universal belief that when a dollar or any other currency is spent, the person spending his or her money expects to acquire a product they want or need in return for that piece of paper. Yet, why would anyone give away a car, a house, or candy bar for a piece of paper? People only make this ridiculous trade because that piece of paper is backed by humanity's choice to make it worth something.

And here is where the money system failed and where the economy began its downhill slide. What has been dubbed a 'recession' began in September 2008 with people choosing to not treat money with reverence. Consumers used credit and loans when they had no money to pay back their debts.

Then, the banks that lent money to customers failed to pay back loans because of the number of their customers who had been unable to pay their loans. The massive losses of banks lead to the buying out or crashing of these financial institutes.

Next, those same people who obtained a loan without means to pay it back realized their house prices were decreasing. Money would be loss if they sold their homes for less than their mortgage, so instead they foreclosed. Foreclosure rates escalated and the housing market began to decline.

All of the above led to elevated food and utility prices and higher unemployment. Debt forced consumers to stop spending, or else they turned to buying cheaper foreign products. The result was a lower GDP (Gross Domestic Product) for the United States. The country faced a bottomless pit of debt.

Ironically, the government's remedy for the country's debt and the failing economy was spending even more money. From insignificant seventeen billion dollar bail outs to a mind blowing seven hundred eighty four billion dollar economic stimulus package, the government seemed to be handing out alms for any failing system.

Overall, this period of spending seems to have been a success. In August 2009, the Federal Reserve Bank made a statement declaring an end to the recession was in sight. The proclamation seems correct; the economy is slowly but steadily being restored.

However, Americans must ask themselves this: can the United States government continue to spend billions upon trillions of dollars on the economy and get positive results? The economy can be improved with financial aid, but sooner or later the government will be unable to continue pumping billions into businesses.

"Ironically, the government's remedy for the country's debt and failing economy was spending even more money."
-Olivia Sonderman

Thus, the government should be more conservative about its spending practices and allow the economy to survive on its own. It should be stricter about the regulations used for spending.

Should the United States send millions of dollars to Haiti to aid its refugees when there are millions of Americans living in extreme poverty? Does the United States have a duty to its own people before taking care of the global community? What about the huge sums of money that are poured into health care? Should a health care reform be instated if it will cost another trillion dollars?

The government must learn to draw the line; the outrageous spending must stop if the United States wants to continue to thrive as a nation. However, it starts with all Americans. Spend wisely; buy American products; pay back loans. Above all, respect the money system.

For more information on the economic situation, go to these sites:
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/7748874.stm
http://www.morebusiness.com/10-signs-recession
http://www.usaspending.gov/

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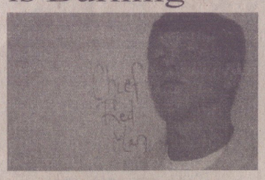


By Brian Ackman
Layout Editor

It seems that Tiger Woods has stolen the spotlight of the sporting world yet again with his public statements on February 19th. I am here to fill all of you sports fanatics in on what is happening outside of the golfing world, so here are a few things I am burning on:

The athletes of the world have come together for the winter Olympics. I'm not a die-hard fan of the Olympics, but I have seen a few events on television. Fr. Roza has interested me with his knowledge of curling, so I had to watch a few of the U.S. matches. They seem to be struggling, but I am not going to pretend to be an expert curler. What really intrigues me about the Olympics is the fan support. People from all over the globe come to cheer on their nation at the highest level of competition. It must be exhilarating for these athletes to have an entire country behind them cheering them on.

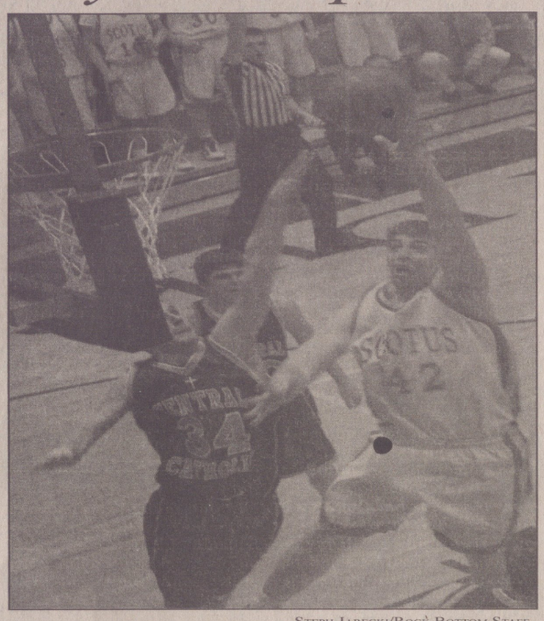
The NFL offseason is beginning to heat up. With the combine fast approaching, prospects are looking for any ways of boosting their draft stock. Ndamukong Suh is looking like the top draft pick for the St. Louis Rams right now, but they could swing their pick in the direction of another player. To me, Suh is the best player in the draft, but I would like to see him go to a better team than the Rams. I think that Suh will make an impact wherever he goes, but it would be nice if he could be surrounded by a quality team.

NBA teams are in a final sprint towards the playoffs. The All-Star break and trade deadline have passed, and teams are looking to make a final push towards the post-season. Some big names were shipped around before the trade deadline. Antawn Jamison left Washington for the Cleveland Cavaliers. As a Cavaliers fan, I love this move. Jamison is a strong defensive player, and he can match up well with opposing power forwards. The Cavaliers are always mismatched against opposing forwards that can post up well and make perimeter shots. Jamison is athletic enough to guard these players, but can still have a presence inside. Other teams made moves to try to boost their roster in the hopes of upsetting the defending world champion Lakers. Some of the moves I liked were the Celtics picking up back-up point guard Nate Robinson, the Mavericks getting a scoring threat in Caron Butler, and the Trailblazers acquiring a post man in Marcus Camby. I also credit some of the top teams like the Nuggets and Jazz for sticking with their players and the chemistry they've built.

With the NCAA tournament fast approaching, one thing I have realized about college basketball is that it is unpredictable. To me, there is no clear-cut favorite to win the tournament because of so many upsets and close games. Even top teams like Kansas and Kentucky have to scratch and claw their way to wins. This should make for an exciting tournament that I am looking forward to watching.

Winter Wrap up

Boys show promise with district wins



Steph Jarecki/Rock Bottom Staff

Trace Murray looks to make a basket during the District Final in York against Grand Island Central Catholic.

By Stephen Pandorf
Staff Reporter

The boys' hopes for state basketball were dashed in the final minute of the district championship against Grand Island Central Catholic. After beating Boone Central in sub districts, the team went on to play Lakeview in the first round of districts. Finally, following two overtimes the boys' beat Lakeview 66-56. With the win against the cross-town rival, the boys hoped to use the momentum to beat GICC and take state.

Scotus took control early in the game against GICC and abused the holes in their defense with being aggressive play. GICC fixed their defense over half time and came out with something to prove. Scotus was unable and penetrate the defense of GICC in the second half, but fought until the last seconds. The boys lost 34-32 in the close game.

Head coach Jeff Ohnoutka was disappointed in the loss, but pleased with their effort.

"It was a tough way to end the year. We fought hard to put ourselves in position to win the game, but came up short," Ohnoutka said.

With a great end of the season, the team hopes to jump into next season with intensity and hard work. "We will start all over and create a good team with chemistry and use this year as a springboard," Ohnoutka said.

"It was a tough way to end the year. We fought hard to put ourselves in position to win the game but came up short."
-Coach Ohnoutka

Girls win rematch, lose in subdistrict finals

By Stephen Pandorf
Staff Reporter

Stephen Pandorf/Rock Bottom Staff

Tiffany Haney looks to make a pass during the girls final game of the season, which ended in a loss to Boone Central in the subdistricts at Columbus high School.

Even with injuries affecting the leadership and a young team, the girls' basketball team ended the year with a sense of accomplishment and hopes for next year.

The Rocks overcame a losing streak to win the first round of sub districts against rival Lakeview. The win was important to the team because of their loss to Lakeview just the week before. The team went on to lose to (19-3) Boone Central, but they were not disappointed with their performance.

According to senior Monica Boeding, "Even though we lost, the season was ended on a good note because no one on our team let up, and every person played hard all the way to the end."

The team suffered injuries in the middle of the season with senior Monica Boeding out for several games with back injuries, and senior starter Katelyn Kerkman taken out at the end of the season with a torn ACL.

With injuries hindering the team, they used this season to gain chemistry and experience.

The team has high hopes for next year, and with a strong returning roster, the girls are gunning for state.

According to junior Morgan Duren "With young starters this year, it will give us a bunch of experience and a head start for next year. Our bench will be deep next year."

Miksch, relay medal at state

By Casey Kessler
Staff Reporter

With high expectations going into the state meet, the Columbus High Swim Team finished with mixed results. Some were first time times while others had been there before, but each one of them seemed to dwell in and cherish the experience. The boy's team finished ninth with the help of Ryan Miksch, Brett Brune, and Brandon Hahn, while the girls team did not have a swimmer in the finals on Saturday.

The team started in a disappointing manner when the 200-medley relay team, which featured Jennifer Hall from Scotus, was disqualified. Ryan Miksch just missed placing third in the 50 free, and he also finished sixth in the 100 free with a time of 47.68.

This disappointment did not stop the CHS swimmers from making a comeback and finishing well. Columbus High's boys 200 free relay with Miksch and Brett Brune, along with Tommy Ernst and Matt Boeding from Columbus High finished sixth place and earned the first swimming relay medal since Jan Boeding took over as head coach. On Friday during preliminaries the team broke the school record in the 200 free relay and shattered their own record from the previous day with a time of 1:30.26 in finals. Miksch was also a part of the 400 freestyle relay, which set a new school record in the event for the first time in sixteen years.

Miksch was happy with not only how he performed, but also how his relay team helped reduce the times in the Columbus High record books.

"The record was a good way to end the season on a high note, and we are all excited about next year with all the returning swimmers."

Brett Brune, who was also a part of the 200 free relay record-breaking time, was glad to represent Columbus High at state.

"It was definitely cool to be a part of Columbus High School history, especially as being a first time state swimmer."

All the state qualifying swimmers from Scotus except senior Jennifer Hall will be back on the Columbus High swim team next year, from a team that took a total of eighteen swimmers to state.

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Rocks rock the annual dinner concert

By Olivia Sonderman
Staff Reporter

On February 1st, a crowd of 900 joined the Scotus band in rocking out to the groovy music of the "Flower Power" period.

The concert kicked off with a dinner that lasted from 5:30 until 7:30, when the concert began. Band President, senior Eric Diamond, was MC of the evening; he addressed the audience with a brief introduction speech before the Jazz band entertained with "Light My Fire" and "Proud Mary". The fifth and sixth grade performed next, followed by the pounding rhythms of the drum line. Junior High band stepped up to play "The Loco-Motion" and "Louie, Louie". The senior high band finished the concert with "Build Me Up, Buttercup", "Help Me Rhonda", and "I Want You Back".

Amidst the radical tunes, senior band members gave the audience a blast from the past with a timeline of events during 1960s and 1970s. The concert concluded at 9:00 with the rowdy applause of a delighted audience. However, the behind the scenes work not witnessed by the audience deserves applause in itself.

Planning began years ago when senior Molly Forney mentioned to Mrs. Cox and Concert Decorator Mrs. Levos that it would be fun to do a concert involving Tie-Dye t-shirts. The idea was written down and stored away for use when Forney's class were seniors.

Several aspects of the concert had to come together for success. Milan and Linda Levos were in charge of decoration; Moni Albracht and Cheryl Tira headed the dining room; and Terri Morrison and Mary Powers supervised the kitchen.

Mrs. Cox said about the biggest challenge of this concert, "I don't know if there's any one thing. There is the preplanning of math for the number of people coming. We have to get parents working, and we have to contact Wal-Mart and Hyvee. Mrs. Levos decorates, and a committee puts it all together. And then there's the little thing: the music."

The music is the purpose for all the labor put into the concert. The 184 students in band, grades five through twelve, spend large amounts of time working to perfect their songs in order to perform their best.

The set at the dinner concert and a section of the band.

Rock Bottom/Olivia Sonderman

Junior High learns the music at the beginning of the year, and, as the concert draws near, the seventh and eighth grades have more combined practices. The senior high and jazz bands come in early before class for the whole month of January to work on their songs. The hard work pays off.

Senior Amy Reisdorff said, "I thought we did a really good job, and people enjoyed it, but I am sad because it was my last dinner concert."

For seniors, it is a bittersweet time; they have fun with the knowledge that it is their final concert. However, they can always look back and enjoy the memories and learning experiences through the years.

Senior Eric Diamond said, "With band, I learned about leading and how to motivate people, especially with the drum line."

Mrs. Cox feels that in addition to a learning experience, the band takes away a feeling of belonging and fellowship.

Mrs. Cox said, "I don't mean this as a cliché, but we are a family. We have a connection through our music. They work together as a team. It is neat to be a part of that."

Still, seniors have more activities before they say goodbye to band. The band's focus has switched to preparation for the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Omaha on March 13th, and District Music the 22nd through 24th of April.

Athletes head back to the weight room

By Stacia Rawhouser
Staff Reporter

Every athlete dreads the off-season because it is the time of year when they gain a couple pounds and lose motivation to work hard on their own. Without someone pushing them, they often fall a bit lazy during this time of year. However, athletes from all the area schools, including Scotus, have taken initiative and joined in the Athletic Republic training program.

What is Athletic Republic (AR)? It is a program that began three years ago in 2007 by a man named Mike Sloup that wanted to have such a training system in the town of Columbus. Athletic Republic consists of a friendly, persistent staff that is ready to train those who want to advance.

"AR is designed to master athletes' skills, making them bigger, faster, and stronger. Our job is to motivate and push them to reach their desired athletic goals," said athletic trainer, Denise Rieck.

Their goal is to improve athletes that have the desire to work hard. They find joy in progressing the performance of young competitors through the intricate exercises that make up the program. AR devises its mastermind exercises from the Salt Lake City Training Center.

"The workout is designed based on individuals rather than a group. We train you according to what you do, and how you wish to compete," Rieck said.

Athletic Republic does not guide all athletes in the same direction. They personalize the drills to inspire and improve individuals in specific areas, making it easier to progress. Joe Warth, a freshman at Scotus, is one of many who have taken up AR as a way to train during the off-season.

"AR provides an intense workout every session and it's good for people that want to push themselves to achieve their athletic goals," Warth said.

Each session consists of a different set of exercises. Depending on what the athlete is training for, the sessions increase in difficulty. As the training gets harder, athletes often notice a positive change in their athletic performance. Freshmen Nick Pandorf, for example, has noticed a change after participating in the program.

Freshman Sam Slegl working out at the Athletic Republic.

Rock Bottom/Stacia Rawhouser

"Denise is really motivating; she gives me workouts that fit my body and push me to the limits. AR has helped me to run faster and has increased my endurance," Pandorf said.

During the off-season, it helps when there is someone pushing the athletes to their full potential. Athletic Republic provides that "someone."

"Being an athlete through high school and college, I have a certain passion for training and sports," Rieck said. "We are more than willing to motivate and push athletes so that they may succeed in their athletic goals."

The trainers at AR want to help athletes improve. Their determination to make athletes better shines through during every exercise.

Most people that have participated in the program have had good results and have committed themselves to taking part in it again during the next off-season. Nick Pandorf encourages others to give the program a try.

"I would recommend Athletic Republic for any athlete that wishes to succeed in their athletic performance, or just anybody that wants to get in shape," Pandorf said.

FBLA Week succeeds once again

By Merle Mapes
Staff Reporter

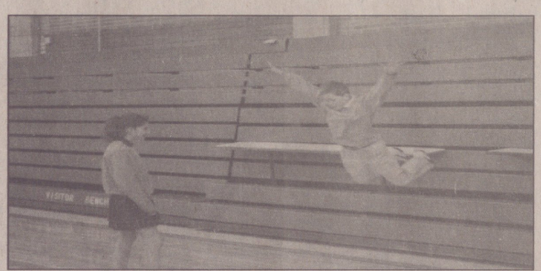
Two weeks ago the Scotus FBLA chapter hosted FBLA Week even though it was a bit late. FBLA Week is a week for members to promote FBLA and encourage others to join.

The FBLA sponsor, Patti Salyard, said, "We try to do some fun things during that week; some are business related, and some are not."

FBLA Week was to be held from February 7th through the 13th, but Scotus decided to celebrate a week late.

"It fit better with the activities going on this week," Salyard explained.

In the past the week included various events such as FBLA fugitives, FBLA trivia, and business attire day. These activities were fun and actively participated in, but the timing of the Winter Olympics led to a change of pace.



Marshal Obal participating in the ski jump.

Rock Bottom/Merle Mapes

Salyard stated, "It's good to change every now and then."

The events held this year included Winter Olympics, Business Olympics, a rock-paper-scissors tournament, and an FBLA meeting. Business Olympics were a three-part relay including a race in high-heels, untangling paperclips, and tie tying. Winter Olympics included a ski jump, a bobsled race, speed skating, and a biathlon.

These activities may sound silly, but they turned out to be quite fun for those participating as well as those who watched. The meeting was more or less a time to regroup and come up with ideas for the coming month, just as any other meeting is, but this time there was a special treat. Several members baked king cakes, as a tribute to Mardi Gras being held that same day.

The rock-paper-scissors tournament took the activities to the next level, bringing participants from every class to fight for supremacy. The matches were held between best friends and rivals both, giving them all a chance to show their true skill at ro-sham-bo. Despite the ferocity of the matches, everyone was in good humor; they were there for fun more than anything.

"I had two kids come in that wanted to finish their match out," Salyard said.

All of the events drew attention, and everybody had fun participating in the events, but one question remains: "What was the best event of all?" There are many opinions as to what was the best and what was the most fun, but no consensus was found.

Marshal Obal stated, "The ski jump because on the last jump, I beat Hailey (Luebe) by probably an inch."

FBLA Week seems to have been a success this year, with more participation from junior high and the younger classes. Several of the activities show promise for future FBLA Weeks to improve upon, such as the rock-paper-scissors tournament being held as an actual tournament. Overall, FBLA Week was a success, leading to more awareness about FBLA, fun for students, and a chance for members to come up with new and exciting activities for the future.

Grinds my gears
Online Gaming

By Stephen Pandorf
Staff Reporter

You know what really grinds my gears, how people suddenly become complete tools when they are anonymous online. Whether it is gaming or just chatting, putting on a different face seems to bring out the negative aspects of everyone. The biggest offenders are games like Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2 and Halo 3 , which

"The amount of cussing in these games is unrivaled."
-Stephen Pandorf

are extremely popular.

If I counted every game that I finished without hearing the n-word, then I would not have finished a game. The amount of cussing in these games is unrivaled. Most of these blatant abusers aren't the 17+ age group the games are rated for, but the 8 to 14 demographic of children whose parents buy them whatever games they desire. Sure my mom has bought me M rated games, but I wasn't getting them at 8 or even 12. My parents bought me my first M rated game when I spent my sweat and blood-earned money on a Playstation 3 when I was 14. I didn't run straight online and start spewing out cuss words because that's what all the cool kids did. I had learned from my former days of playing on the computer where the voice chat was restricted to those mature enough to set up and run a Ventrillo server. If anyone started meticulously cussing or insulting people, they would simply be kicked from the server. This is something that has changed when every random person can use voice chat in a game and there is no option to remove somebody for language or abuse.

Gamers, children especially, are drawn to insult and berate people through the internet that they would not insult in real life. They are hidden behind a mask of screen names and gamertags. For instance, my own brother is a common offender of this. His constant yelling and cussing has brought an enlightenment about the subject. He gets on the game every night and doesn't go a match without cussing somebody out for "camping" or "tubing". Then if the other team is lucky, he will cuss to a particular person enough that he challenges them to a duel. More often than not, he will lose horribly to the person and then replies with "I wasn't trying" or "you just camped". This syndrome is an infection and from my observations it spreads to people that frequently play with my brother, usually the younger ones.

Although vital to most games, the chat or voice features have spawned a new generation of harassers and annoying kids that infect everything with an online community or some kind of killing and ruin the experience for everybody else.

Merle's Matinee: *The Lightning Thief*

By Merle Mapes
Staff Reporter

Going from paperback to the silver screen, *Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief* has made quite a splash. For a young man suffering from dyslexia and ADHD and who has no father, life can be pretty rough. Percy Jackson was a normal kid until he discovered the truth about his lineage; he is the son of Poseidon. The movie starts in New York City, but quickly moves to Camp Half Blood. There, Percy finds out that he has been framed for the theft of Zeus's Bolt and, on the way there, his mother was been taken hostage by Hades; what a way to start off your new life. He sets off with his protector, Grover, and another demigod, Annabeth, to find his mother and the Bolt. It is a classic quest story line, but it is still tastefully done.

Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief featured some incredible animation, namely the mystical creatures. They had to create a centaur and a satyr, both half man and half beast, not to mention the Minotaur, the hydra, the fury, the hellhounds, and the medusa. All of these creatures had to be somewhat, if not all, animated. Grover needed goat legs, Chiron needed the torso of a horse, and Medusa needed a head full of snakes. Other than that, the gods needed to be made large using classic green screen technology. They did an excellent job with making the myths fit seamlessly into the picture and making everything seem natural.

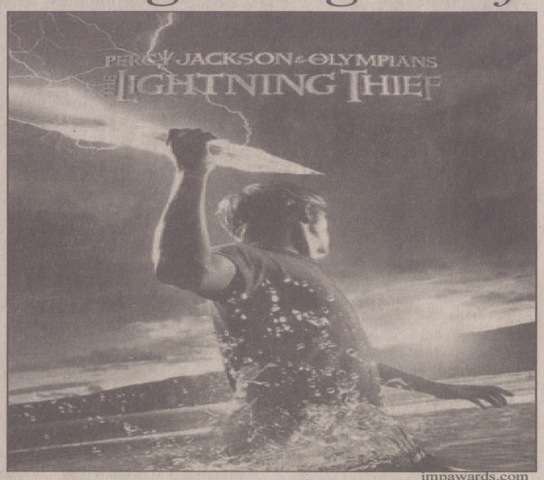
After reading the book and seeing the movie, I have found several rather blatant discrepancies. First is the age of the characters: Percy, Annabeth, and Grover were supposed to be 12, and Luke was supposed to be 19, but in the movie they all appear to be about 17. Another thing was the camp; the book made it sound like an actual summer camp, but the movie makes it look far different. Percy's cabin, for one, was changed to be more like an open air pavilion, but in the book it was a large stone structure. In the book it's a regular summer camp with demigod campers, but in the movie it is more of an army camp with large open buildings and practice ranges

"It is a classic quest storyline, but it is still tastefully done."
~Merle Mapes

everywhere.

They also change the way events play out, including Percy's meeting with Annabeth, capture the flag, and the way Percy gets his quest. They also leave out several parts of his quest such as the Saint Louis Archway, the beach, and the Furies on the bus.

Several of the characters, such as Ares and Dionysus, and any mention of how Grover wants to find Pan were left out of the movie completely. These are little instances, and I understand that things needed to be cut out, but this movie seems to



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be taking the route of *Eragon*. They seem to be straying a bit too far from the original storyline, from little battles or events to how he obtains Persephone's pearls. I don't know how this may change the storyline of the next few movies, but if it's anything like *Eragon*, it may end up ruining the story for fans of the book.

This movie hosts some newcomers to the acting world as the major characters. The lead role of Percy Jackson went to Logan Lerman; Annabeth, daughter of Athena, is portrayed by Alexandra Daddario; and the spunky satyr, Grover, is played by Brandon T. Jackson. Jake Abel plays another of the main characters, Luke, son of Hermes. In addition to these somewhat new actors, there are a few well-known faces as well. Poseidon, Percy's father, is played by Kevin Mckidd who is probably best recognized as the voice of Soap in *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2*. Zeus, ruler of Olympus, is played by Sean Bean, best known as Boromir from *The Lord of the Rings*. Finally we have the wise centaur, Chiron who is played by Pierce Brosnan, better known as James Bond in the 007 movies.

Overall, *Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief* was a great movie with plenty of action, conspiracy, and even a touch of romance. Independently I would give the movie a perfect rating, but after reading the book and comparing the two, I have to give it a lower score. In the end, I give *Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief* a 2.5/5.

As told by a ginger

By Levi McPhillips
Staff Reporter

"Thou shall not covet thy neighbor's belongings." It's quite a commandment. However, God's tenth command can prove to be next to impossible to obey when your neighbor belongs to Ginger Nation.

This envy has caused many people to make the drastic decision to dye their hair red. These ginger wannabes have to realize that their place in society is not among the chosen redhead race. I really can't blame anyone for going ginger; it's fantastically fun being one of us, but you have to be born a ginger. Once a ginger, always a ginger, and if these indecisive people don't realize what they're getting themselves into, they just might change their minds. Becoming ginger is a life decision, not a test run. There are no prolonged engagements to red hair. You're either married to it or a not-so-good friend to red hair; you are either soul mates or friends who talk about the weather or the Huskers in an awkward moment.

The point I'm trying to make is that being ginger is not for everyone. If it were, I would run through the streets in the middle of the night with a megaphone announcing ,"I want YOU for the Ginger Army!" But alas, I can't. People can't just change their hair color to red. That's like getting married at the Little White Chapel in Vegas; you really have no comprehension of what you're getting into.

On the other hand, there are ginger backstabbers, or as I like to call them, gackstabbers. These traitors are those who used to be redheaded, and then in a nonsensical moment, turned their back on Ginger Nation. I'm talking to you ,Mrs. Lahm! That's right, our very own Mrs. Lahm used to be a ginger. Keep in mind, she dyed it because it turned gray. Nevertheless, she misses her red hair.

If a ginger decides to no longer be a redhead, they've betrayed an entire people. It's like slapping God in the face. Lindsay Lohan had some of the most beautiful red locks I have ever seen. I nearly cried at the sight of her hair in *Parent Trap* and *Mean Girls*. Then low and behold, Ms. Lohan changed her hair color. That's a huge step backwards on society's scales of intelligence and beauty.

From the day I was conceived, God gave me the opportunity to accept or to shoo the redness way, and I embraced it like Jesus embraces a lost sheep. I encourage everyone to hold on to whatever hair color they have. I know that red hair is better, but that gives no one the right to go red. No matter how much you may want to know what it's like to be a ginger, it's for me and Brian to know and you to never find out.

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SCOTUS CENTRAL

Rock Bottom

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Volume 11 • Issue 6 • April 6, 2010

Revolution uncovers truth about dating

By Stephen Pandorf
Staff Reporter

Statistics say that 1 out of every 3 women will be physically, emotionally, or sexually assaulted during high school. Revolution is aiming to make students aware of abuse going on in relationships, and they brought their message to Scotus to spread awareness of the issue.

Revolution, a domestic violence and sexual assault awareness group, was started in 1998 by the Center for Survivors. It created presentations to perform to small groups about relationship abuse. In 2008, Abbie Tessendorf took over the group and wanted to change it to an assembly-oriented presentation. Since then, the group has visited 27 different organizations and schools to help spread awareness of relationship abuse. The group uses teens to teach teens because she believes it has more of an impact.

"Revolution makes people reevalutae their own relationships, and I hope they are more aware of their own behaviors."
Levi McPhillips

"I know that kids learn better from other kids and make better decisions" Tessendorf said.

Revolution's visit at Scotus on March 8 was met with middling results. Four of six members of the presentation group are Scotus students: Two juniors Cale Albracht and Levi McPhillips, and two seniors Catie Wiese and Kelsey Jochum. The members go through two days of training during the summer to become educated about abuse and to write their presentations and multiple hours during the school year rehearsing for the presentation.

The Revolution presentation consisted of a dramatization, questions, educational points, and a slideshow about abuse. In the dramatization the characters acted out a realistic interpretation of a situation in which alcohol was used to take advantage of a girl, and an abusive boyfriend fought with his girlfriend, which resulted in physical violence. After the dramatization the group sat down and was open to questions from the audience as their respective characters. The Revolution group felt the presentation had less of an impact on the audience because of their questions to the characters. The group believed that the characters were less believable.

"The dramatization had less of an impact [than at other schools] because the characters in it are completely opposite from who we really are, and everyone knows we don't really act like that," Albracht said.

The presentation ended with a slideshow about relationship abuse by Tayler Bock. McPhillips concluded the assembly with a speech about abuse and the presentation. He elaborated on the effect of revolution and the school's reaction to the presentation.

In his first year of Revolution, McPhillips appreciates the effect it has on its audience.

"Revolution makes people reevaluate their own relationships, and I hope they are more aware of their own behaviors," McPhillips said.

Revolution's positive message and realism is helping students become aware of relationship abuse and the problems of using alcohol as a date rape drug. If anyone is interested in joining Revolution, contact Abbie Tessendorf at the Center for Survivors or senior Kelsey Jochum.

Tiff Wieser/ Yearbook Staff

Stations of the Cross

In keeping with Scotus tradition, students and staff viewed the stations of the cross orchestrated by Campus Ministry before leaving for Easter Break. This year Campus Ministry performed the Vatican's modernization of the stations using personal reflections showing Jesus' path to the cross.

Picture: Condemned criminals (Joel Ostdiek and Michael Albin) question and defend Jesus (Kyle Benesch).

Faculty takes to the court for charity

By Kyle Benesch
Staff Reporter

Basketball's March Madness got a face-lift this month when the Scotus Central Catholic faculty took home the gold. Two area teachers Columbus High's Patrick Clark and Scotus' Wade Coulter put together the four team tournament to raise money for charity. Team coach and captain, Coulter, took this mission upon his shoulders. "I wanted to raise a lot of money," Coulter said, "and win."

This win looked to be difficult for the Shamrock coaches, being the only team that belonged to a private school in the tournament.

"We knew we had a good chance at winning, but we knew we needed to come out and play hard," business teacher Aaron Sasges said.

In the first round, the Shamrocks took on a tough Columbus High Discoverer's team.

"They had a lot of size, and a couple of guys could really shoot, plus home court advantage," Coulter said.

This advantage might have helped Columbus High early, but after an early three by teacher Pat Brockhaus, the Shamrocks didn't look back. The Scotus coaches combined draining six 3-pointers in the opening game. Half of these came from leading scorer assistant football coach Chad Gonka, who finished the game with 17 points.

Staunch defense also aided the 'Rocks, aggressively controlled by Jon Brezenski. The Shamrocks pulled out the upset winning 67 to 54.

"I was glad to get a win," Coulter said, "being as I am an alumni of Columbus High, I think a lot of those guys were gunning for me."

With the win, the Scotus coaches moved into the finals against Lakeview. Knowing very well what the rivalry meant to the school, the teachers knew that a win was the only option.

"I know how much it means when we play Lakeview, if we would have lost, I wouldn't have been able to show my face in school" Coulter said, "it would have been unacceptable."

With this goal on his shoulders, Coulter came out screaming, dropping an outstanding 31 points.

"I was just really feeling it, but I really have to thank my team; we did a good job of finding the open man and making great passes," Coulter said.

Scotus used this offensive fury to down Lakeview 66-57.

With the final game over, the teachers at Scotus all agree that the tournament was a terrific event. The four games had a good turn out, bringing in a little over $2,300.

"Great event, what a terrific way to make money," said Brockhaus. "The amount of students that were there was amazing; it was a lot of fun."

Coulter agreed with Brockhaus, pleased that his Cinderella team could come out victorious, "We really worked hard, and it was great that we could get a lot of money; I want to thank the students for their support and especially thank my teammates for putting up with my grueling practices."

As defending champions, the Shamrocks will get the privilege of hosting the tournament in 2011. With the next tournament a year away, the Shamrock teachers can only wait for the repeat.

Tournament Box Score
Field Goals, Free Throws, 3-Pointers, Total Points
P. Brockhaus 2 2-2 1 7
J. Brezenski 0 0-0 0 0
W. Coulter 17 11-12 1 47
C. Gonka 6 4-4 3.19
J. Held 0 0-0 0 0
B. Hill 6 2-3 1 15
R. Krienke 4 0-2 1 9
J. Pelan 4 0-0 2 10
J. Ridder 3 5-5 1 12
A. Sasges 3 6-11 2 14

Stephani Jarecke/ Rock Bottom

Volleyball and girls basketball assistant coach Joe Held goes up for a basket as Coach Brezenski and Coach Ridder look on at the Scotus vs. CHS faculty game.

Students Remember Mr. Peters

Eric Diamond — Mr. Peters always made class interesting and broke up the mundane routines.

Jenn Gokie — Mr. Peters was always teasing the lunch ladies.

Brittany Bader — Mr. Peters always had "duck hair" and always told us random jokes about ostriches.

James Euteneuer — It was awesome when Mr. Peters let us listen to his stories.

Cameron Wiehn — My favorite memory was when Pat told Mr. Peters the penguin joke, and Mr. Peters laughed.

Scotus misses Mr. Peters: teacher & friend

By Kelsey Jochum
Copy Editor

On February 26th, 2010, the Scotus faculty and student body was shocked to learn that Mr. Reinhart Peters, a well-known substitute teacher at the school, had passed away that morning. Working for the school for nearly fifteen years, Peters, as a teacher, would surely be missed, but his person would be missed even more.

Even before Peters worked as a substitute, he was always involved in school systems across the Midwest. He started as a teacher in Kansas, then moved to Millard, Nebraska where he was the principal of an elementary school. After this start in education, Peters began working for the Ginn Book Company, selling textbooks to schools all around. When he finally did move to Columbus thirty years ago and retired later on, he started to drive buses for Scotus. After a few years of that, he began substitute teaching, which is what most Scotus students remember about him today.

"I liked having him as a sub," senior Eric Diamond said. "He always made class interesting and broke up the mundane routines."

Senior Brittany Bader couldn't help but agree with Diamond.

"There was something about him that made everyone happy," Bader said. "There will never be another sub like Mr. Peters."

Scotus was not the only school to feel Peters' absence. While he subbed at Scotus quite frequently, he substituted at the other two high schools in Columbus as well. As a testimony to his memory, a FaceBook group was made shortly after his death. The group, which people join on their own, has already accumulated 1,300 members, most of whom are students in the Columbus area, both in high school and alumni. The group's "wall" is filled with posts from members about Peters and, simply put, how great he was. The group reflects the person that Peters was, and, rightly so, is named "We miss you Mr. Peters."

> ***"He always had a smile on his face. He was very, very positive. I never heard him say a bad thing about anybody."***
> ***Mr. Gary Puetz***

Similar to the outstanding effect he had on his students, Peters affected the faculty at Scotus as well. Althletic Director Mr. Gary Puetz is in charge of finding substitutes. Puetz remembers when Peters first came to Scotus working as a bus driver and has fond memories of him.

"He always had a smile on his face," Puetz said. "He was very, very positive. I never heard him say a bad thing about anybody."

Though he will be missed at Scotus, he will not soon be forgotten. With a FaceBook group dedicated to him, whose member count continues to grow, and the memories of the faculty and student body, Scotus will always be home to the smile and story of Mr. Peters.

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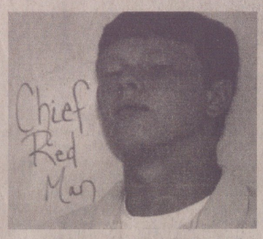

By Brian Ackman
Layout Editor

Scotus is known for having a vast majority of its students participating in athletics or activities. Over the years, Scotus has had great involvement in sports. Scotus also has had great success in the fine arts department. It seems to me, however, that there is a great dividing line between the fine arts and athletics. Well, I am here to say that it is fully possible for any student to be involved in athletics and other activities, and people should do this more.

As I look toward the future, I wish that I had been involved in more activities. Some could refer me to as a "jock", but I would disagree with them. I have done my fair share of other activities at Scotus. As a junior, I joined the One Act crew during my time off in the winter and loved it. My only regret is that I never tried out for an acting role in the play. So for all of you doubters out there, it is possible to be involved in both sports and fine arts; you just need to manage your time.

Also, I would encourage more people to join Scotus organizations. Too often I see people who join Campus Ministry, NHS, or Green Club and don't do anything. They just join so that they can put it on a resume later. To me it is fine to join up with these organizations, but if you join, you should commit yourself. Be involved with the group's activities rather than skipping meetings or sitting in the back of the room daydreaming. Too often I see students in meetings who sit in the back and do their homework, not paying attention at all. What good is this doing anyone? You are not helping the club at all by refusing to volunteer or help out. Also, you are not giving yourself the chance to be a part of the group. The reason these clubs and organizations look good on resumes is because people assume that you are active with the group's activities, so do yourself a favor by actually taking part in the group.

Now that I have to fill out scholarship applications and perfect my resume, I wish I could go back in time. I would have joined more clubs and done some new things with my free time. I never tried out for a musical or play, and I wish I had given it a shot. I'm sure I would have had fun with this. Also, there are various clubs that I didn't join such as Green Club or Book Club. As I look at my resume, it seems like I have some good things to say about myself, but it isn't enough to separate me from the other applicants.

The most common excuse for not joining more activities is "Well, I'm too busy." In some cases, this is true. I see some students who are involved in multiple sports, numerous organizations, and the fine arts, but often times students are not too busy to try something new. They are just resistant to the change. I know this because I myself have used this excuse countless times. I consider myself "involved", and I know that I have plenty of free time that I could be using in other ways.

As my senior year winds down, I know that there isn't much I could do to be more involved at Scotus, so my message is to the younger students. Don't be afraid to join a sport just to try it out, or join the fall play despite what your friends will think of you. You may find a new group of friends or a fun new activity.

My main message to all of you out there is: be more involved and "broaden your horizon." Don't limit yourself because you think you are too busy. In reality, you probably have a little time to join a new club or activity.

Music is my life

By Olivia Sonderman
Staff Reporter

I have those days when the world seems a little crazy. Thoughts are whizzing through my head at a trillion miles a minute, and I am overcome by strong emotions that need to be expressed. For me, music is the outlet.

When I feel sad or upset, I grab my guitar. If I am tired, I strike up a tune on the piano. When I am overjoyed, it is time to pop in my headphones and jam out to a rock song. If uncertainty is consuming me, I sing.

In those times when I reach out to music, I realize exactly how influential it is in my life. Music is constantly present in everything I do. The radio, CDs, advertisement jingles, or annoying classmates fill my head with lyrics or a melody. Somehow, I relate to bands or singers I have never met. My T-shirts bear the logos of those bands or singers, and my style reflects the music I listen to. The walls of my room are decorated with posters of music artists. I pretty much live my entire life in a world that is directly affected by song.

I know I am not alone in my obsession with music. Music has been around for millennia; in the past, its unique harmonies included everything from medieval court songs to tribal chants. Today, the music industry is a multi-billion dollar industry; obviously all of humanity, past and present, shares in my love for a melody.

Because humans' love for music is so obvious, I find myself asking these questions. What is it about music that is so addicting? What is it about music that all humans, no matter what age, find irresistible? Personally, why do I find myself turning to music when I am most emotional? I believe there is something intense and powerful about a lyric or a note. The words we cannot say or the actions we are incapable of performing are better conveyed by music. Whether a person enjoys raging screams or mellow acoustic, there is something in the words or beat of a song that expresses a deeper meaning than a word or action.

The lyrics of a song have brought tears to my eyes. An upbeat rhythm has created a feeling of exhilaration when I am out with friends. A hardcore metal blare has compelled me to work relentlessly while I am exercising. Music has power to reach something inside of people more intensely than any other means of expression.

Because such intensity accompanies music, I have the utmost respect for all those who excel in instrumental or vocal pursuits. They have reached a level of expression that is awe-inspiring. Whether natural talent or hard work produced their skill, they have the incredible ability to relate to people, to change their thoughts or bring them to a new understanding.

My entire life is, in a sense, controlled by music. I am immersed in the production and listening to of music. However, this is a fact I am proud of, a testament to my capacity for expression.

As I finish writing this article, *Learn to Fly* by Foo Fighters is ringing in my head, and I desperately want to look up the tab for the guitar chords. Music is my life.

Malicky completes another mission

By Barb Malicky
Life Science Teacher

Por favor, mira las lettras, no mira la luz. These were familiar words heard during our recent trip into Mexico. VOSH stands for Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity. It is a worldwide organization that supplies eye glasses and eye care to the poor and needy people of the world. My husband Larry, an optometrist, and I recently returned from our third VOSH mission trip. As each year passes, crossing the border into Mexico becomes a little more disturbing and concerning.

Traveling from Tucson, we crossed the border and drove six hours to the town of Sahuaripa. It is, like most small villages in Mexico, one filled with people that are very poor. The houses are one room huts, many have no electricity, no running water, and dirt streets. In spite of this, they are a really proud people. As we would travel to the work site, we would witness people sweeping the dirt "lawns" in front of their house to keep it looking nice.

This year we had ten doctors and a support staff of twenty-five.. The doctors and support staff come from all areas of the United States. Many volunteers, like us, have been on several of these trips. It never ceases to amaze us of all the needy people we see, and the things we are able to do to help them. The patients vary from babies to people in their wheel chairs. Everyone has their own needs and what they would like to do with a new found vision. Each year we have a special patient that captures our hearts. This year it was an elderly female that could not see well enough to cook. She told us her desire was to be able to see well enough to pick the rocks out of the beans she cooks for her family. Fortunately, we were able to meet her needs.

For those of you that have the need for eye correction, can you imagine how you would function in school and in life if you did not have your vision corrected? Imagine driving. Imagine reading.

"...Can you imagine how you would function in school and in life if you did not have your vision corrected?"
Barb Malicky

Collecting eyeglasses is a year long process. They are sent to the VOSH group, the power is checked, they are divided up according to children's, adults, near sighted, far sighted, those with and without astigmatism, bifocals or no bifocals. We had at our disposal 14,000 pairs of eye glasses. From this selection we were able to meet the needs of most of the 2200 patients we saw.

We open the door to our facility at eight a.m. People are registered, see the doctor, get their glasses, and leave with smiles. Each day the door is closed at four p.m. We do this for one week. The only thing that is kind of a heart break is that at four o'clock the last evening, the door is closed. The people wanting to see us will never again in their life have eye care or glasses.

A few of the things we experienced on our trip were no cell phones, no newspapers, and no television. There is running water in your room but not for drinking. Make sure you keep your mouth shut when you shower. No fast food, and no one in our group speaks Spanish.

This is what we have experienced on our VOSH trips. All the work and planning pays off in the end and the feeling you get from changing a person's life by giving them the gift of sight is something that is never forgotten.

As these mission trips reach every part of the world, there are many opportunities to serve. If anyone, students or adults, would like an opportunity to help us on these mission trips, the donation of used eyeglasses would be greatly appreciated. We will accept used eyeglasses from anyone wishing to donate them regardless of age. The eyeglasses we are desperately in need of are children's eyeglasses. Hopefully, with everyone's support of donating used eyeglasses, we will be able to continue going on these mission trips each year.

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Rock Bottom

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

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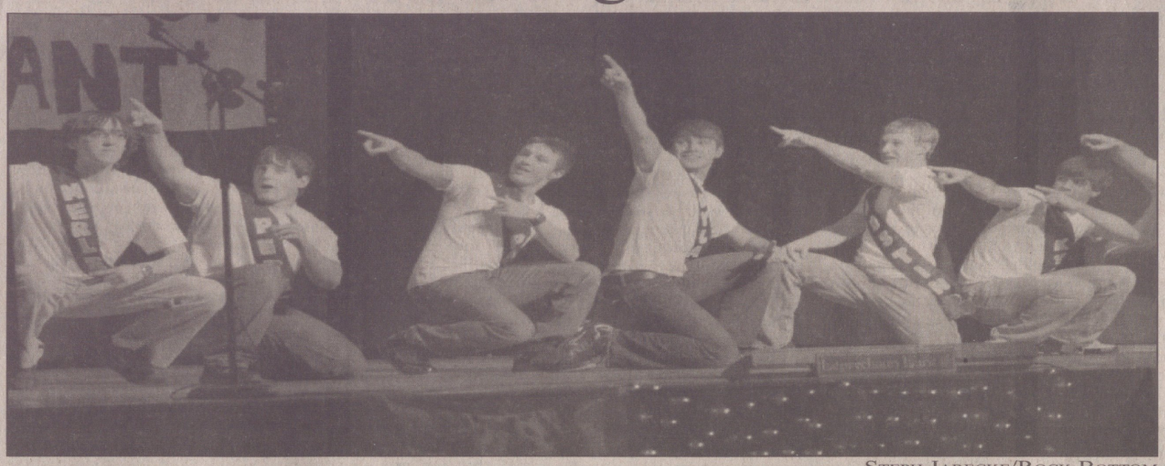
Mr. Shamrock brings out talents and laughs



Mr. Shamrock contestants Merle Mapes, Peter Heusinkvelt, Pat McKay, Dylan Thompson, Austin Wallick, and Kyle Benesch point to their right during the group dance at the beginning of the Mr. Shamrock Contest held on March 15th.

The nine senior boys spent many days practicing prior to the event preparing for their dance.

STEPH JARECKE/ROCK BOTTOM

By Stephani Jarecke
Staff Reporter

Scotus held its 6th Mr. Shamrock on March 15th at 7:00 pm. Nine senior boys boasted about themselves through interviews, talents, and the catwalk. Three hundred people including students, parents, and faculty, came to watch this event put on by Student Council. Admission was two dollars or two cans of food, and after paying expenses, the left over money was sent to Simon House along with the two hundred cans of food collected. The judges this year included English teacher Kelly Schaad, head custodian Ed Goerlinger, Chaplain Father Roza, former Mr. Shamrock Craig Pekarek, and Sandie Fischer, the Retail and Membership Development Chairperson at the Chamber of Commerce in Columbus.

The boys used humor to keep the audience alive. Each one did a great job, but Dylan Thompson came out on top by blowing the audience in each category. During the interview, Thompsons' answers were smooth and funny. Thompson dressed in jeans and his motorcycle jacket along with a helmet to impress the judges during "catch that dream girl" outfit catwalk. Although his answers and catwalk were great, Thompson's talent blew the crowd away. He presented himself as a "little man" to dance to a variety of random songs. Senior James Landholm was behind the curtains helping him with this hard act. Along with his outstanding moves, Thompson's facial expressions grabbed many laughs that night. Austin Wallick also pulled the audience's attention with his talent, which resulted him with second place. Wallick danced to the Evolution of Dance, a series of popular songs throughout time. For his "Catch that dream girl" outfit, he wore a chef outfit. Kyle Benesch was the 3rd runner-up with his talent being prank calls. As the judges were making their decisions, the boys made their last appearance by singing to the song "Wonderwal" by Oais.

Merle Mapes

Merle Mapes sang his heart out to "White Night, True Light" by Vic Mignogna in his talent. To impress the ladies during the catwalk, Mapes dressed in all black with a red tie.

Trace Murray

Trace Murray lip synced with attitude to the song "In the Air Tonight" by Phil Collins. Murray felt gardening could "catch that dream girl", and dressed in overalls with a basket of flowers.

Eric Tubbs

Eric Tubbs chowed down a pizza in under two minutes to impress the judges during his talent. His official timing was one minute and eight seconds. Tubbs wore a firefighting outfit to heat up the compition on the cat walk.

Pat McKay

Pat McKay rapped to the song "A Millie" by Lil' Wayne while also throwing his own verse in the middle of the song. McKay dressed as Guido from *Jersey Shore* to impress the ladies.

Dylan Thompson

STEPH JARECKE/ROCK BOTTOM

Above: Dylan Thompson waves to the crowd as he recieves the Mr. Shamrock crown.
Below: Thompson shows off his dance moves during his talent.

STEPH JARECKE/ROCK BOTTOM

Dylan Thompson had the audience's full attention with his "Little Man" dance. Thompson wore a motorcycle jacket with jeans to win the judges during "catch that dream girl".

Austin Wallick

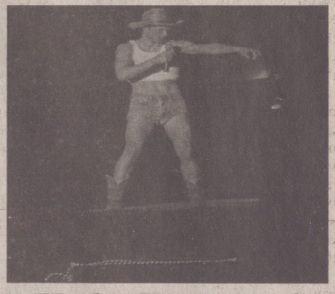
Austin Wallick danced his heart out to the Evolution of Dance. Wallick dressed in his fantastic chef oufit to impress the ladies on the catwalk.

Peter Heusinkvelt

Peter Heusinkvelt built a tent and made cookies during his talent. To add to his camping skills, Heusinkvelt wore a camping outfit on the catwalk.

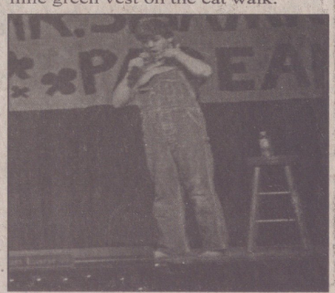
Tom Rambour

"She thinks my Tractor's Sexy" by Kenny Chesney was was performed by Tom Rambour. For his dream girl outfit, Rambour wore a large fur coat showing more leg than his cowboy outfit.



Kyle Benesch

Kyle Benesch taught the crowd the importance of the Art of Prank Calling with examples of prank calls. Benesch sported a white tux with a lime green vest on the cat walk.



Merle's Matinee: *The Bounty Hunter*

By Merle Mapes
Staff Reporter

"It's a job. It isn't personal. Well, maybe a little..." The recent film, *The Bounty Hunter*, is the comedic tale of two ex's. Nicole Hurley, a successful reporter, is investigating a suicide that seems to be hiding something, but to do so skips her court date resulting in an open bench warrant on her. Milo Boyd, Nicole's ex-husband, is working as a bounty hunter and is overjoyed at the chance to take his ex to jail, but she won't go until she gets to the bottom of the story.

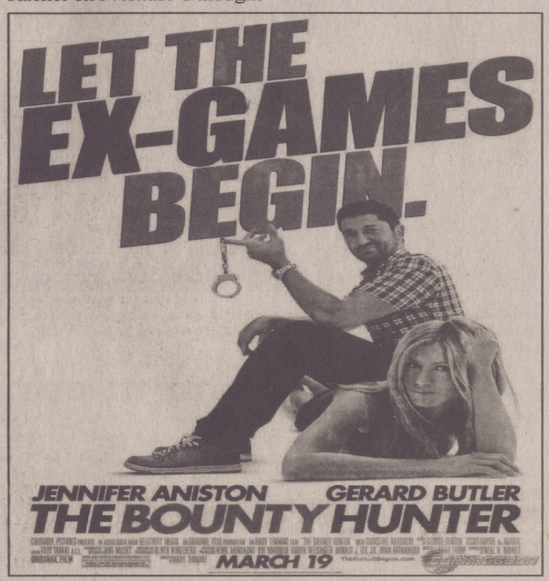
I had mixed feelings about *The Bounty Hunter*. I didn't know whether they were tying to make me to laugh or if they were trying to be serious. They did an excellent job of blending the action into the humor so completely that they were nearly one-in-the-same. The plot was different in that there seemed to be several plots going on at once, which at some points intersect. There is the plot of Milo and Nicole's relationship, which intersects with the other plots such as Milo's job and debt and Nicole's story and her stalker.

There was the constant feeling of comedy, but during some scenes of the film there were romantic tones. They even went so far as to have the two return to their honeymoon spot and get to know each other again. Even when they are having this romantic moment, it is never without the serious-comedy that they seem to have created in this movie.

While all of these points are wonderful, the movie was a bit over the top. They seemed to fall into circumstances that would never happen in real life. The film is also home to classic clichés ranging from the dimwitted criminal duo tracking Milo to the cop turned criminal. These are rather old clichés that seem to be making a come back in this movie; they could have done better.

Milo Boyd is played by a rather familiar face of late, Gerard Butler, who has been active in recent films such as *Law Abiding Citizen, 300,* and *Gamer*. His ex-wife, Nicole Hurley, is played by Jennifer Aniston, most famous for her role as Rachel on *Friends*. I thought that these two worked quite well together. They made an interesting couple, while at the same time managed to keep up the strange blend of comedy and seriousness. It was also quite refreshing to see Butler in a less serious role than "king of the Spartans."

The Bounty Hunter had me laughing, captivated, and then hanging my head in shame. The movie was decent and a good source of laughs, but not much more. I recommend that if you're bored some night and have money to waste, this is the movie for you, but if you want an amazing movie I'd look elsewhere. In the end I would have to rate *The Bounty Hunter* 1.5/5.



Father Joe reflects on life!

By Levi McPhillips
Staff Reporter

As a Columbus Catholic who has attended St. Isidore Church and Elementary School, I have known Fr. Joe Miksch my entire life. He baptized me, gave me my First Communion and Reconciliation, and has taught me in the classroom and in his homilies for seventeen years. When I heard that Fr. Joe had written a book, I had to get my hands on a copy and read this reflection on his life.

I was impressed by the content of the book. It was not written in the quality of a famous novel. He did not wow me with his word choice, story line or even conventions, but I was blown away by his honesty, deepness, and incredible stories of faith. I knew that priests were busy, but I had not realized all their responsibilities. As someone who is involved in dozens of activities, I understand why Fr. Joe is so tired. He has spent countless hours hearing confessions, praying over the sick and the dying, and his phone is always ringing. There are always people asking for money, advice, or calling to tell him there was a death in the family and his assistance is needed. After reading the book, I know him much more now, and I respect him all the more as a friend and father in faith.

When I started reading the book, I couldn't help but notice the extensive use of exclamation points. Many times it seemed he was putting exclamation points where they did not belong. It was distracting and frustrating for the first few chapters, and I wished I had edited the book for him. However, as I continued my way through the book, I realized why he was using so many exclamation points.

This great and righteous man has experienced so much in his life. He has seen the best of the best and the worst of the worst. He persevered through dozens of near death experiences. He has brought literally thousands of people to God through his example of holiness for 46 years. Through all of these experiences, his strong emotion is shown through his exclamation points. He believes so strongly in what he is saying. He wants the world to understand that God is here, among us, and intricately working in every part of our lives.

"I know him much more now, and I respect him all the more as a friend and father in faith."
-Levi McPhillps

I would suggest this book to anyone who wants to deepen his or her faith life and appreciation for priests, ministers, and those who serve us on a spiritual level. There are many stories that are great for prayer and reflection. I have learned so much about this holy man, and I will value his service to me as my parish priest. When I read this book, I was reminded how grateful I am to be a Christian, and how fantastic it is to live everyday in our vocations as God's sons and daughters! It doesn't get much better than that. Well done Father Joe!

Skeeter Barnes puts Columbus in hog heaven

By Kyle Benesch
Staff Reporter

Columbus has once again opened its progressive arms to a new restaurant franchise. The third Skeeter Barnes in Nebraska opened early this month, bringing a new taste to town. In my opinion Skeeter's was the prayer of Columbus that was answered, a good ol' root scootin, barbeque serving business.

The popular restaurant in Lincoln and Kearney raised ears when there was talk of the chain coming to town. I had tasted their catering before, so I anxiously awaited the start of the new business. The first question that was raised in my mind was how successful would the business be in their new location? The previous business, Signatures, struggled through different owners before finally closing their doors.

This struggle has many Columbus people already doubting the success of the new business. But before people judge the place, I think you should walk through the doors and try the experience out yourself. In my opinion, the Barn is the best place in town. It has a unique look to it, appearing almost as if to be a mix of Applebee's and Famous Dave's. It looks classy on the inside, but it brings a nice homelike Nebraska feeling along with it. Many small town diners will enjoy the building with country road signs along the walls, and windmills scattered throughout the restaurant.

What also hits you when you walk in the door is the rich smell of Nebraskan cooked BBQ. You will get to enjoy this scent before eating for awhile because Skeeter's has poor amounts of seating. Large booths and party size tables make it difficult for two people to try to have a quick meal. I would try to avoid Skeeter's at rush hours; many people have left grumbling about hour waiting lines.

If you can survive the wait, the food is worth it. The menu for the restaurant is filled with four full flavorful pages. Meat lovers will love seeing a variety of steaks, ranging from the "Happy Mushroom Chopped Steak" at $9.99 to a succulent 8oz. bacon-wrapped tenderloin filet costing $22.99. Skeeter's also serves many different kinds of country style chicken, including Nebraskan favorite chicken fried steak.

"The easiest choice to make at Skeeter Barnes is if you want bread or not. If you are still thinking about this choice in your head, stop thinking. Take the bread."
-Kyle Benesch

Burger fans can also find their paradise inside the Barn with a choice between seven gut busting burgers. The thick half-pound burgers are all around nine dollars, or the big daddy of them all, the "Big Wrangler," with a full pound of beef costs around eleven bucks.

The food that made the Barn famous is their mouth watering barbeque. Skeeter's offers a smorgasbord of meats, rubbed down in their own dry rub. The franchise believes that their BBQ is so tender and delicious, that it would be a sin to cover it up with sauce. I agree because the ribs at Skeeter Barns are to die for. Now I know many weird people in this school who don't like meat, so Skeeter's has put a nice soups, salads, and pastas section in their menu. All the meals come with a choice of sides where a variety of potatoes, salads, veggies, and famous sweet potato chips make the choosing process difficult.

The easiest choice to make at Skeeter Barnes is if you want bread or not. If you are still thinking about this choice in your head, stop thinking. Take the bread.

The Skeeter waiters are fun and helpful people. Since the business is new though, some of them are still trying to figure the place. Give them time, and I think that the service there can be top of the line.

Overall, I really like Skeeter Barnes; it isn't exactly a cheap eat, but for family dining, it hits the spot. The atmosphere and style of the place is very enjoyable, and the service is good too. I know some people might think this is high, but I am taking a risk here and I giving Skeeter Barnes a 5 out of 5.

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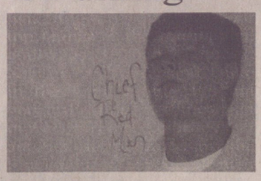


By Brian Ackman
Layout Editor

For the past few weeks, there has only been one thing on The Chief's mind: basketball. I have been entertained by March Madness, and here are a few things I'm burning on:

I don't think anyone can say that the March Madness tournament has been boring. This year, every game has been unpredictable. Top teams were never safe throughout the entire event. The upsets in the first round were an omen to all the top dogs. This year, the underdogs were out for glory. My personal bracket was busted after the first two rounds. I didn't pick underdogs like Cornell, St. Mary's, Northern Iowa, and Washington to even make it past the first round. These teams not only pulled off their first round upsets, but also took the second round away from the favorite teams. Even though I lost pretty much all of my games the first two rounds, I was enthused about the tournament. If top teams like Kansas, Georgetown, and Villanova couldn't even make the Sweet 16, then the tournament wasn't going to disappoint.

At the start of the tournament, I figured there was no way that the four top teams in the tournament could lose. I had Kentucky, Kansas, Syracuse, and Duke in the Final Four. It's not very thrilling I know; I picked all the favorites. I am not disappointed by the Final Four when I look at it now, though. Two #5 seeds, Butler and Michigan State, were matched up, while #1 seed Duke and #2 seed West Virginia were matched up on the opposite side. Michigan State and Duke are rich basketball programs that made it through the madness, while West Virginia gained tremendous respect throughout the year. Butler is a team that I am impressed by. They won 24 straight games to reach the Final Four, and they are the only team from a non-powerhouse conference. With all of the excitement of this year's March Madness tournament, I am looking forward to future college basketball games even more.

I am not going to claim that I am a girls' basketball fan, and I can honestly say that I didn't watch more than ten minutes of a Nebraska women's basketball game this year. Do I call myself a disgrace to Husker Nation? No, I don't think so. To be truthful, I didn't really even watch much of the Husker men's team this year. I do know, however, that the men's team was a disgrace this year while the women had a phenomenal year. The women went 32-2 on the season and were bounced in the Sweet 16 as a #1 seed in the women's tournament. On the other hand, the men finished 15-18 and last in the Big 12 conference. It seems things are looking up for the girls' team. Coach Connie Yori has built a strong program that will continue to grow. Men's coach Doc Sadler seems to be headed in the wrong direction. Maybe the Husker men should take a page out of the women's playbook based on this past year's performance.

Scotus players a hit with CHS baseball team

By Olivia Sonderman
Staff Reporter

After a lengthy Nebraska winter, the long-awaited arrival of spring brings with it the season for America's favorite pastime.

The CHS/Scotus baseball team is taking advantage of the good weather and starting their season off strong.

There are three varsity players from Scotus who contribute to the team: senior James Landholm, pitcher and second base; senior Vince Tira, catcher; and junior Connor Sackett, pitcher and shortstop. Levi Gasper and Patrick Raimondo play on the junior varsity team, and Ian Baumgart, Nathan Schacher, and Austin Wendt are reserve players.

Each of the three varsity players has an impact on the game. "They are all major contributors; each one of them plays positions in the middle of the field," Coach Mark Mueller said.

The team began the season with wins against Norfolk, Mount Michael, and Arlington with only one loss to Omaha Skutt in a double header.

According to senior James Landholm, "Norfolk went well. We were patient at the plate. We handled Mount Michael easily; we only allowed five runs in the game. We were pretty happy with a one and one against Skutt because they are probably the best team in class B."

However, Landholm noted that the team has not faced its toughest competition. The hardest games for the team will be against Millard West, Creighton Prep, and Lincoln Southeast. In these upcoming games, both the offense and defense will have to step up in order to compete.

According to junior Connor Sackett, "We have five solid starters for pitching and we are pretty even through out the whole line-up for hitting. Defensively, we are average."

To play at the top of their game, practices consist of concentrating on areas that need improvement.

"Our fielding needs the most work, so we do a lot of infield and outfield work," said senior Vince Tira.

While the team is working hard on the field, this year they are also focusing on aspects outside of the actual game.

"This year, we have more team unity, and we have a team night once a week. We all get along, and there are no cliques," senior James Landholm said.

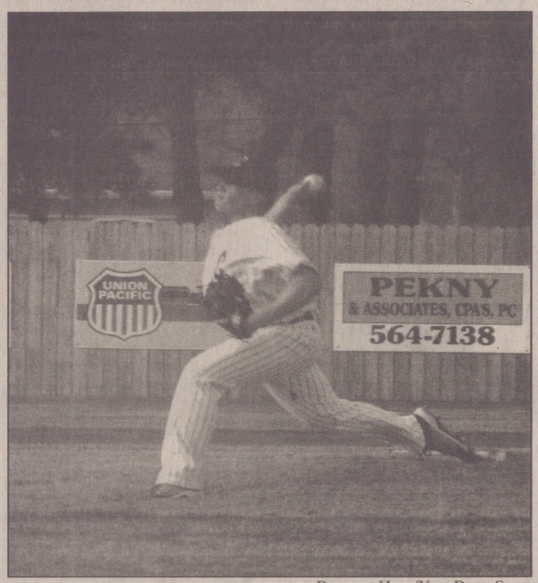
Hopefully, relentless effort and unity among the players will lead to success and the accomplishment of team goals.

Coach Mueller said, "We hope to stay away from injuries, play to the best of our ability, and compete with all the teams that we play. Over the last six seasons we have averaged eighteen wins per year."

The relatively new program, which has been at CHS for ten years, also hopes to earn a trip to state for the first time.

Vince Tira said, "To make it to state would be nice. Personally, I want to do whatever I can to make the team better."

Until state, which takes place on May 15-20, the team will focus on taking each game one at a time. Upcoming games are against Waverly on April 6, and there is a triangular against Omaha Gross and Omaha Northwest on April 10.



Rebecca Hall/YearBook Staff

James Landholm throws a pitch at a recent home baseball game against Grand Island on March 29, 2010.

Track teams see improvement early in season

By Stacia Rawhouser
Staff Reporter

"The best inspiration is to not out do others, but to out do ourselves." That is the inspiration of the 2010 Scotus girls and boys track team. Coaches and athletes agree that, in order to be successful, you have to strive for your personal bests.

"Our goal this season is to continue to improve ourselves and our performances. We want to be competitive in every meet we attend," Coach Jeff Ohnoutka said.

After losing many experienced seniors due to injury and graduation, this year's track team is considered very young. This may increase the difficulties of competing with other teams; however, it does not detract from the team's goal of improving one another. Of the 40 athletes that make up the team, 31 of them are freshmen and sophomores.

"In order to step it up, we have to place high expectations on our freshmen and sophomores, which isn't fair to them," Ohnoutka said.

The season had a late start due to the weather preventing travel to the first scheduled indoor meet at UNK. The next meet was another indoor meet at Nebraska Wesleyan.

"I was extremely pleased with the effort at Wesleyan. I feel that we competed well above our expectations," Coach Janet Tooley said.

According to the *Columbus Telegram*, there were eight athletes that medaled in multiple events. Morgan Benesch, Emily Jarecki, Katelyn Baumgart, Alyssa Foltz, Nick Pandorf, Stacia Rawhouser, Ryan Ohnoutka, and Austin Wallick all returned with more than one top-six finish. Trace Murray and Angie Weiser each accomplished a new personal best in the shot put.

With the first meet under their belts, the team continued on to the David City Triangular later that week.

"Normally, that meet is considered a workout for us. We trained right through it, so fatigue was a possible factor for the athletes," Tooley said.

The girls' team was able to win the meet, and the boys' team finished strong as well, finishing second. Again, there were many athletes medaling multiple times. Austin Wortman also achieved his personal best in the shot put. Overall, it was a good meet that allowed the coaches to see the athletes' potential.

"After these first two meets, I'd say we're starting to get a feel for what events the younger people will compete in to balance out our returning letter winners," Tooley said.

Upper classmen are expected to be supportive role models for the rest of the team. Scotus track does not divide itself among grades; rather, they are considered one unit. Whether it is working hard at practice, cheering each other on at meets, or cleaning up the bus on the ride home, the team does it together.

Team unity is an important quality when you are returning state champs. Last year's 2009 girls track team placed first at the state meet, which adds pressure to the new team.

"It is a good kind of pressure though. It is the kind of pressure that means being a part of something successful. Because of that, people want to join in and be a part of that success," Ohnoutka said.

With the 2010 track season underway, there is no doubt that the team will push itself above and beyond. The goal is to work hard, push themselves, and be the best athletes they can be.

Amber Ewers/Yearbook Staff

Ryan Miksch hands off the baton to Pat McKay during the 4 x 800 relay at the Scotus Relays on March 30, 2010 at Memorial Stadium.

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Scotus speech members take state

By Casey Kessler
Staff Reporter

The 2009-2010 Scotus Speech team has made significant progress with the coaching of Ms. Anneliese Ploetz and Mrs. Gail Bomar. Two years ago, the Speech team had only four members. Last year the team consisted of only seven members, which included only freshmen and sophomores. This year the team has grown to over twenty participants. One reason for the growth of the team is the recruiting by Ploetz. She said that she likes teaching the eight graders, so she can possible recruit kids she would like to have on the speech team.

Ms. Ploetz loves how the team has grown since she became head coach, and she really appreciates the commitment from all members of the squad.

"From the beginning until the end of the season, I hold numerous meetings and practices. For a full season we average around ten hours of practice. A full meet lasts about thirteen hours and is usually on the weekends, so this involves a lot of commitment from the entire team," Ploetz said.

Two participants from Scotus qualified for State Speech. Sophomore Thomas Schumacher qualified in humorous prose. A humorous speech is when a participant finds a script that is funny, and then that person creates different voices and different characters. In essence, one is to add humor to the speech. Schumacher and sophomore Joel Ostdiek qualified in duet acting. In duet acting the two used a script found by Schumacher about two feuding parents and brothers. Ms. Ploetz was excited about the two students making it to state.

"I am very excited about Joel and Thomas making it to state. Thomas worked very hard on his humorous speech this year. We are a very young team and have had much individual growth throughout the year," Ploetz said.

Thomas and Joel competed in state speech on Thursday, March 18th at the University of Kearney. At the end of the day, Schumacher came away with a fourth place finish in his humorous, while the duet combined for a 17th place.

Thomas said that state speech was a good experience, but not as intense as he thought it would be.

"I thought state speech would be a lot more tense because that is how districts was. This was because we had a very tough district. State was actually a lot easier than districts," Schumacher said.

Joel thought that the experience was a bit different than making it to state in a sport.

"I thought it was interesting to be at state in something other than a sport because everyone had high quality speeches and everyone had a chance," Ostdiek said.

Ploetz enjoyed state speech and thought that whatever the turnout, Schumacher and Ostdiek deserved to be recognized.

"Making it to state was just an honor in itself. No matter where we placed I knew that both the speeches were very good," Ploetz said.

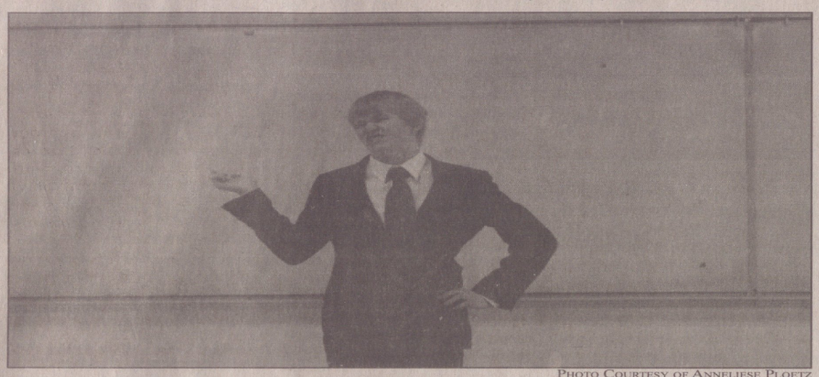


PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNELIESE PLOETZ

Thomas Schumacher presenting his speech at state.

Thespian initiates "act through the ages"

By Kelsey Jochum
Copy Editor

Embracing the 1900's in their full glory, Thespian Week was a success from beginning to end. The theme this year was "Acting Through the Ages", and the characters for the initiates were given as such. From the nine eligible students, five accepted the invitation to join the International Thespian Society: junior A.J. Bose, sophomore Mark Ternus, and freshmen Tara Starzec, Taylor Wiester, and Megan Wright. The week was filled with both surprises and old traditions.

After being given their own decade, each initiate was told to prepare a short speech about why their decade was the best in America's history. Ternus, who had forgotten to prepare his speech in advance, gave a surprisingly good impromptu speech.

"My impromptu was definitely my favorite part of the week," Ternus said.

After giving their speeches, each initiate was assigned a character, which they had to portray throughout the rest of the week.

Wednesday brought an exciting day for initiates, in which they had to engage the rest of the student body in the week. Each initiate was given a specific "mission" corresponding to his or her character and decade. From getting a peace petition signed to begging for spare change, the initiates played their parts well and accomplished their missions.

Thursday was the traditional "window-posing" day where initiates take turns posing in the windows outside Mrs. Johnson's room during passing periods. Each initiate must pose as their character and retain complete focus all while ignoring the distractions of those passing by in the hallway.

On Friday, initiates finally got a break from the busyness of the week. The Thespian officers distributed gifts to the initiates, who then took the oath and signed the official Thespian registry. After the formalities were complete, the new members were treated to breakfast, courtesy of the officers.

Junior Alise Perault, who is one of the officers, commented on the week.

"We had a nice batch of initiates this year," Perault said. "They were all really creative with their costumes and played their parts well."

Mrs. Bernt, who is the Thespian supervisor, agreed with Perault, but also commented on her favorite part of the week.

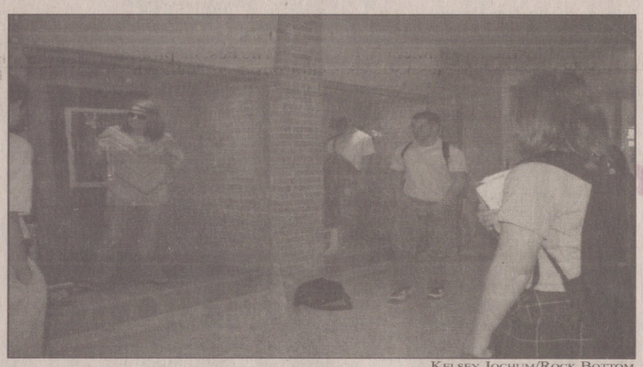
"My favorite part was seeing the rest of the troupe be involved in the week," Bernt said. "They still got their turn to act and do fun stuff."

Though Initiation Week seems to be nothing but an opportunity for the Thespian members to pick on the initiates, in the end, the initiates are always glad that they have joined.

"I'm glad I joined Thespians," freshman Megan Wright said. "It gives us a chance to be recognized for our hard work in the theatre program."

Initiates already look forward to next year, in which they will be able to watch a new group of initiates go through a similar week.

Freshman Tara Starzec said, "I'm really looking forward to picking on these kids who think all y'all are being serious."



KELSEY JOCHUM/ROCK BOTTOM

Mark Ternus and Taylor Wiester pose for Thespian Initiation Week during passing period.

✝ Our Faith

By Father Roza
Scotus Chaplain

We have just celebrated the most holy days of the year with the Triduum, and we remain in the glow of Easter. Easter is actually celebrated solemnly for eight days on the Church calendar, and if our society were Catholic, we would still be off school right now…and for the rest of this week. Unfortunately, our society is not Catholic, so we have to get back to work well before we probably should.

That said, if we're going to be back at work, we might as well make the most of it. First of all, ever wonder why it's called "Easter"? When you think about it, it is a strange name. What does it have to do with Christ's resurrection? Well, the English word "easter" actually comes from the German language. Before Germany was Christian, they worshipped a pagan god of the dawn named Aestre. Why take the name of a god of the dawn? Because the rising of the sun as it conquers darkness was seen as the most powerful natural reminder of what Christ did. Christ is the son who rises and who is the hope of all for light and warmth. However, not all languages refer to this aspect of the mystery. Those who have studied Spanish might know that Easter is referred to as "Pascua", which refers to the Paschal Mystery, to the mystery of the new Passover of Christ, the Lamb of God whose blood brings us freedom.

Another Easter tradition that I had always wondered about is the searching for eggs. We search for Easter eggs because they are a sign of the resurrection; just as Christ burst free from the darkness of his tomb, the little chick breaks free from the constraints of the egg and begins life. I'm not sure when we decided that putting money in the Easter egg would be the proper way to reward finding this sign of new life, but I have a feeling that it was a development that was more American than Christian in origin.

The other major tradition of the Easter season that we grow up with is the easter bunny. Bunnies don't lay eggs, so it's a little strange that they've been connected with Easter egg hunts and everything else. When it comes down to it, nobody really knows why the Easter bunny is a big deal. There is no clear Christian connection to the Easter bunny. Bunnies are a sign of fertility because they reproduce so much, so they have long been a symbol of spring. Easter is a celebration of new life, but when it comes down to it, the Easter bunny really doesn't mean anything to us as Catholics.

So, there's some background to some of the different things that mark the Easter season. No matter how one marks the holiday, the thing that remains important is the fact that the tomb is empty, that the cross is not the end of the story. It wasn't the end in Christ's life, so we can turn to Him in hope that it won't be the end of our story either.

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Entertainment

Grinds My Gears Movie Trailers

By Stephen Pandorf
Staff Reporter

You know what really grinds my gears, movie advertising. The worst part of movie advertising is the fact that a studio buys 1000 TV spots for the same movie and starts playing them a month before it comes out. A present example is *Hot Tub Time Machine*. The movie comes out on March 26 but has been advertising since early February. The ads have been airing almost every commercial break and consists of Craig Robinson (Darryl from the office) saying, "It must be a hot tub time machine" and starring into the camera. This might have been funny the first, or maybe the second time I saw the ad, but after fifty times the ad just becomes redundant.

The Hangover did the same thing when it came out last year. Every commercial break I would be greeted with the Mike Tyson punching scene, which heavily repulsed me from wanting to see the movie. Like *Hot Tub Time Machine*, it seemed like the movie put all the good jokes into the trailers. If I see the same jokes in all the trailers then those must be the only funny jokes in the movie. The viewer does not want to hear the same jokes every comerrcial. Of course, some movies may break the stereotype and contain some actual substance. *The Hangover* would not have the fame it has if it was not for good word of mouth. Every trailer made the movie look like the bland comedy we have seen a thousand times. Good word of mouth drove me into the theaters and resulted in *the Hangover* being the most profitable comedy of last year. Although I hate trailers being thrown in my face, trailers that reveal the whole plot are a whole other piece of pie.

Nothing is worse than watching the first trailer for a movie I am interested in then feeling like I have seen the entire movie after the trailer finishes. For example, *Funny People* had a trailer that revealed the entire basic plot, even showing the "twist" of the movie. What could possibly draw people to watch the movie in the theater if they have already seen the entire movie?

Another example of this is *Quarantine*, which was trying to mooch off of *Cloverfield's* success with a handheld camera and is a remake of a the 2006 Spanish film *Rec*. Every TV commercial for *Quarantine* showed the final scene of movie in which the zombie pulls the main protagonist away screaming from the camera. Instead of further mimicking *Cloverfield* and keeping the entire plot under wraps, *Quarantine* revealed everything. A reporter and cameraman investigate an incident in an apartment, reporter gets "quarantined" inside the apartment, reporter is chased around by a zombie and then is dragged away by it at the end. I have not seen nor read anything about the plot, and I know what happens throughout the entire movie.

Movies are better left teasing the viewer into watching it. Look at *Shutter Island* and *The Book of Eli*. Both of the movies leave out the real depth of the film from the trailer. Trailers should just be a tease that makes the viewer want more. If studios want people to go see their movie then they need to lay back on shoving the ads downs everyone's throats.

Horoscopes: *What will the future bring*

By Kelsey Jochum & Stacia Rawhouser: *Staff Reporters*

ARIES *March 21st - April 19th*
Stress has been your shadow the past few weeks, and a change of pace would do you well. Extra vigor on the 12th will allow you to make such a change. Embrace it. You may soon find that you have less to worry about than what you once thought.

TAURUS *April 20th - May 20th*
As spring approaches and Venus becomes stronger, you begin to notice the simplistic beauty of the world around you. Do something nice for yourself on the 8th. Becoming part of the beauty of the season will make your self-esteem skyrocket.

GEMINI *May 21st - June 20th*
A recent break causes you to feel tired and unmotivated. However, the later part of the month will require a lot from you, so use your intellect to make the right choice. The 10th will be an especially important decision-making day for you.

CANCER *June 21st - July 22nd*
The full moon from the 29th puts you at your highest potential. Use this opportunity to do all the things you've been putting off. Whether that be household chores, homework, or personal matters, your drive will be at an ultimate high.

LEO *July 23rd - August 22nd*
You like all the extra attention and praise you've been getting from your peers lately and don't want to see it come to an end. Nevertheless, beware of being too self-centered; otherwise, the end of the month will bring a definite reality check for you.

VIRGO *August 23rd - Sept. 22nd*
Your perfectionist attitude has served you well the past few months, helping you do your work well and not settle for less than you deserve. Watch that it doesn't get in the way of your relationships, however, or you could find yourself lonesome and abandoned.

LIBRA *Sept. 23rd - Oct. 22nd*
Your easygoing, social attitude has provided you with countless faces you call your friends. Be wary that you don't let just anyone influence you. Be yourself and let the rest come naturally. Only then will you find true happiness.

SCORPIO *Oct. 23rd - Nov. 21st*
You have been known to be a bit obsessive, and lately, it seems to be at an ultimate high. Like a child, learn to share, or this month will be a loss of something or someone you find important. Use your determination in the right way to keep the people and things you love close.

SAGITTARIUS *Nov. 22nd - Dec. 21st*
Being honest and straightforward are normally good qualities to have, but you are in danger of crossing the line. Try to be a critic in a way that respects others feelings or the 31st will be your much-needed wake up call.

CAPRICORN *Dec. 22nd - Jan 19th*
Now is the time to learn that things will not always go your way. Be practical in what is possible and don't expect so much out of others. The 16th will be your day to practice patience. Though things may go wrong, try to stay positive and keep looking up.

AQUARIUS *Jan. 20th - Feb. 18th*
Your honest and loyal qualities make you easy to befriend. However, beware of being too unpredictable with your inside feelings. Don't be afraid to let others share in your emotions. You never know who may be able to help.

PISCES *Feb. 19th - March 20th*
This month your sympathetic and compassionate nature will be much needed. Because you tend to put others before yourself, be careful of those who take advantage of your weak will. The 14th is your day. Put yourself first, and treat yourself for a change.

As told by a ginger

By Brian Ackman
Layout Editor

Throughout the school year, Levi and I have been discussing what makes the ginger race so awesome. In this issue, however, I am going to take a different approach. I think Scotus needs a little wake up call on ginger prejudice.

Ginger hating first became popular back in 2005 when the popular comedy show *South Park* aired an episode about red heads. To sum up the episode, the main character, Eric Cartman, goes around telling everyone gingers have no souls. The other characters decide to teach him a lesson by dying his hair red and tattooing freckles on his skin while he is sleeping. Now convinced he is a ginger, Cartman proclaims that gingers are the chosen people and starts a ginger pride movement that spirals out of control. This episode has stimulated ginger discrimination throughout the United States. One form of prejudice against red heads came last year on "Kick a Ginger Day."

"Kick a Ginger Day" first began last fall with a Facebook group. The members of the group messaged all of their online friends and told them that on a certain day, everyone was to kick a ginger. Red heads across the country came to school on that day in fear of being physically attacked, and the attacks did come. At A.E. Wright Middle School in Los Angeles, California, red heads were attacked and beaten by classmates. What really gets me about this is that Los Angeles police passed off the incident as "harmless play." Wake up people, this is a hate crime. Do you really think it is appropriate for 12 year olds to go home crying because their friends are now not only making fun of them, but also beating them? I think we all know the obvious answer.

Ginger discrimination goes further back than this Facebook group's joke. In 2003, a man was stabbed three times outside of a bar because he had red hair. The man had received taunts while he was in the bar because of his hair color, and as he went to leave, he was stabbed. Another case of discrimination against gingers occurred last year when Vince Fitzpatrick, a red headed man, was struck by an egg as a car passed by and shouted, "Gingers suck!"

As a ginger, I can't really understand all of these attacks. It blows my mind that anyone would ever set aside a specific day for abusing gingers. Also, past incidents have gone too far with someone eventually being stabbed. That is flat out ridiculous. No one should ever be tormented because of his or her hair color, just as we should not pick on someone because of his or her race, culture, or religion. That is why I am so convinced that ginger hating is a serious issue. Ginger haters would argue that it is humorous to poke fun at red heads, but is it really that funny?

I myself have seen some ginger hating. My friends are constantly poking fun at my red hair, but I never take it too seriously. It is my friends making a harmless joke, not some random stranger hitting me with an egg or assaulting me because I have red hair. If this ever did happen to me, I would most certainly freak out. I don't feel that ginger racism is a major issue at this school so let's keep it that way. Many of you think that it is just a joke, and I would agree that ginger hating is absurd.

> ***"Another case of discrimination against gingers occurred last year when Vince Fitzpatrick, a red headed man, was struck by an egg as a car passed by and shouted, "Gingers suck!"***
> ***-Brian Ackman***

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SCOTUS CENTRAL

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Volume 11 • Issue 7 • May 7, 2010

Skipping a day becomes a privelege

By Stephen Pandorf
Staff Reporter

One day every year, the senior classes around the country skip out on school in what is often referred to as Senior Skip Day. This leads to problems for the students, parents, and school officials because of almost entire classes being absent.

Scotus' main problem with Senior Skip Day was that the majority of the class was often involved in extracurricular activities. The handbook states that a student must be present 5 periods of the day to take part in an extracurricular activity. The seniors had to make a choice between sports and the day off. Students would be forced to show up for school on Senior Skip Day because of activities after school.

Senior Skip Day also causes many problems for teachers and school officials. Teachers would be faced with the few students that showed up. They would have a choice between honoring the day or taking a grade that would potentially hurt the seniors. In some cases teachers would take a large grade to reward the students that showed up.

School officials' problem with Senior Skip Day was whether or not to count it as skipping school. In Scotus' case this would be giving an unexcused absence. Unexcused absences can be dangerous to seniors because they can result in a lower letter grade or detentions. Senior Skip Day was a problem when current President Wayne Morfeld became principal, so he came up with a solution. He changed Senior Skip Day into Senior Privilege Day. The day off would become officially scheduled as a day off for the seniors.

"I thought it would be more productive for everyone if it was organized," Morfeld said.

Senior Privilege Day is arranged between the school and the senior class. Naturally, the Monday after prom was chosen, so the seniors would get some junior-envied sleep. This eliminated the problem of unexcused absences and grades missed. The seniors would now be eligible for school activities because it was an official day off.

The school now utilizes Senior Privilege Day as a preview of next year. The sixth grade classes come into the school and get a feeling for what 7th grade will be like next year. Guidance Counselor Pam Weir organizes the event and brings the sixth graders into the little theater to start with a pre-orientation. They then go to lunch and experience what it's like to have a salad bar and peanut butter sandwiches. The 6th graders visit the 7th grade classes during 7th and 8th period and then end the day with a campus ministry activity with Fr. Roza in the old gym.

"They can get a feel for how the school is going to be in the fall," Morfeld said.

Senior Privilege Day is a much-needed renovation to Senior Skip Day that eliminates the problems associated with it and opens up the school to a preview of what classes will be like next year.

"Senior Privilege Day was great. Instead of worrying about running for soccer or missing homework I played *World of Warcraft* all day," Trevor Thiele said.

Pandorf, others place in state journalism

By Olivia Sonderman
Staff Reporter

Each year, the efforts of the journalism class—the articles and editing of *The Rock Bottom*—are judged at district and state journalism.

This year, three journalism entries placed in Class C competition. Junior Stephen Pandorf received first for column writing. Senior Brian Ackman, senior Kelsey Jochum, and junior Olivia Sonderman received second for their in-depth layout on money and spending from Issue five. Lastly, Kelsey Jochum received third for news writing.

Pandorf also placed in the top 12 from all classes for column writing, while Ackman, Jochum and Sonderman's In-depth page received tenth in the top 12.

Journalism competition works differently than other sport or fine art contests. Students are required to send in one to three examples of their work in categories ranging from photography and articles to layouts and graphics. The examples are judged and placed in each class. Then, the top twelve entries from all classes compete at state.

However, for some categories, the class placing is the final competition. In-depth news coverage, info graphic, sports & action photography, and photo illustration do not compete at state because their construction requires more time and research.

Thus, Pandorf will be the only student headed to state. At state, he and the other eleven top columnists in the state will be given the same topic to write about in a limited amount of time. The articles will be judged and placed accordingly. At state, the top six receive medals.

In a category such as editorial cartooning, the top twelve cartoonists will have to draw a cartoon about a chosen topic in a limited

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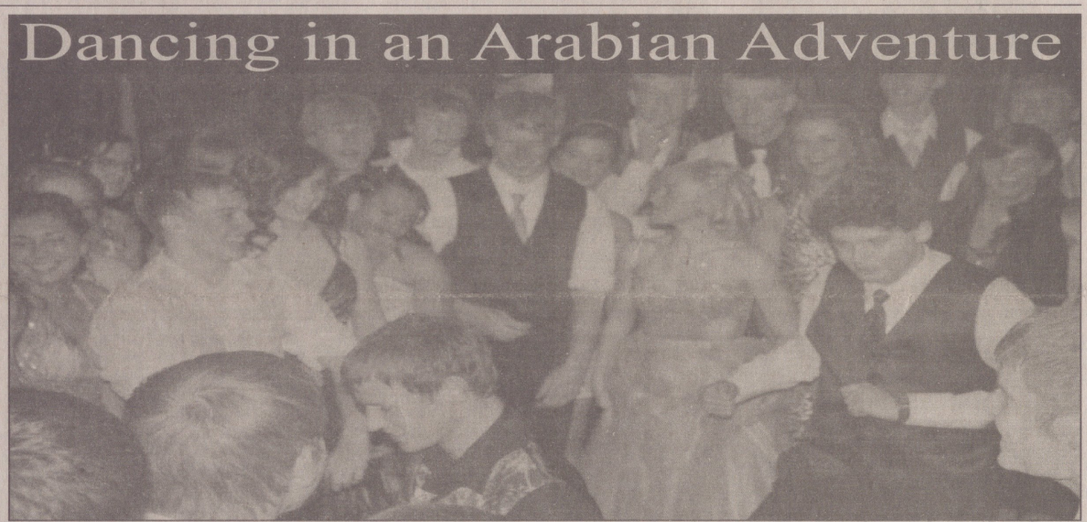
Dancing in an Arabian Adventure



Stephani Jarecke/ Rock Bottom

Senior Tom Rambour and junior Bill Cremers show off their dance skills to a circle of Scotus students.

Prom 2010 memorable for students

By Stephani Jarecke
Staff Reporter

On Saturday April 10th, many students gathered into the Scotus cafeteria to start their Arabian adventures at the Scotus Prom. The Arabian decorations spread out beyond the cafeteria were put up by the junior class.

The juniors along with English teacher Kelly Schaad started planning Prom and Post Prom in February up until the weekend of Prom day.

"This year the officers worked together with open minds toward everyone, and they planned everything out so smoothly," Schaad said.

The junior class officers include Olivia Sonderman, Bill Cremers, Alise Perault, and Jaci Beauvais. Becky Svatora and many other juniors helped decorate.

"We met many times, and every time we worked really hard to get Prom to come together," Sonderman said.

Although the decorations filled the room, many were too worried about outfits and pictures to pay attention to the theme. Many of the girls wore long, colorful dresses along with the boys wearing tuxedos ranging from camouflage worn by Tom Rambour to white with a bright pink vest worn by Kyle Benesch.

Husker House catered the meal. Students could choose from steak or a chicken and pasta meal. The dessert was changed from cheesecakes to brownie Sundays this year. The Sundays were a big hit with the students and adults. Just as the boys and girls were filling full, DJ Tayler Bock cranked up the music.

"Bock once again had a great show with great music. His selection was really good," senior Matt Pucket said.

This is Bock's third year DJing the Scotus prom. He has also DJed two Scotus Homecomings and one Sweetheart.

"This is my first Prom, and it cannot compare with any other dances," senior Sonia Soen said.

Most everyone danced the whole night to slow songs, hip-hop, and techno. Whether the teenagers were from Scotus or a different school, everyone had a great time. When *Come a Little Closer* by Dierks Bentley ended, the dance was officially over, and Post Prom was awaiting the students at Boulevard Lanes.

Post Prom included games, food, a general store, a hypnotist, and a prize drawing. The students could play a variety of games such as black jack, bowling, and mini golf. They won "money" in the games that could be used at the general store. The store was full of gifts such as gift certificates to clothing stores, sunglasses, and tents. If they did not want to play games, the teens could hang out and eat snacks.

The highlight of the night was the hypnotist Doug McGraw. He had twelve people come up to the stage to get hypnotized. While he worked on gaining the control of the teens on stage, some fell under in the audience.

"It was so crazy because I knew what was going on but I couldn't control it," junior Sam Ebner said.

Despite the crazy actions done by the students, some felt it was fake.

"Some people faked it to be funny, and some were really hypnotized," sophomore Chloe Kucera said.

After the hypnotist, they drew the large raffle prizes. Junior Paige Sprunk won a 32-inch television. Junior Kenzie Leu won an iTouch. The laptop was given to junior Marina Karel. All the students left with envelopes that included gift certificates to Walmart and McDonalds, and a Scotus Post Prom 2010 key chain.

"I think our efforts were worth it; everyone had a good prom with fun, lasting memories," Sonderman said.

Stephani Jarecke/ Rock Bottom

Seniors Pat McKay, Emily Jarecki, Kyle Benesch, Tiffany Wieser, and Austin Wallick pose for a picture before the dance.

What Happens on Senior Skip Day:

Cleaned.
Did homework.
Spent time with my boyfriend.
--Amy Reisdorff

Mowed.
--Eric Tubbs

-Slept
-Completed assignments
-Sleep
-Sleep
-Sleep
--Sonia Soen

I went to my girlfriend's house.
--Dillon Clarey

IT WAS MY BIRTHDAY!! I went to eat at Applebee's with friends.
--Nadia Morales

Rode my bike to McDonalds wearing my tuxedo.
--Kyle Benesch

I returned my tux and played a game of tennis. (Really wanted to go fishing, but it was too windy)
--Trace Murray

My Dad made me help him pave a driveway.
--Emily Jarecki

I mowed all day.
--Austin Wallick

I sat around at home. I helped a man push his car into the Wal-mart parking lot. I ate at Applebee's with Nadia & company.
--Kelsey Jochum

Seniors struggle to survive final weeks

By Kyle Benesch
Staff Reporter

With their high school careers coming to an end, this year's seniors will be relieved when May 16th roles around. The date of graduation has been marked on every senior calendar since school began. This anticipation for the final days of school have had an effect on many of the students, commonly referred to as senioritis. The behavior normally characterized with seniors usually results in procrastination, poor studying habits, and undone homework.

Senioritis has had its different effects on various students. Some people like Dillon Clarey don't notice change at all. "I haven't really changed because I am still doing the same on my school work. That and its hard to get senioritis when I spend every afternoon at the YMCA."

Senior English teacher Kelly Schaad also believes that some students are still continuing normal school habits at Scotus.

"There are many students who are doing alright and doing their work," Schaad said, "but there are several students who have completely shut down; they are fine with failing."

One of these students suffering the full effects of senioritis is Alex Kuta. Kuta struggles with the main problem with senioritis, not accomplishing work.

"I don't do my work anymore because no matter what I do now, it doesn't matter for college."

National Honor Society member Brian Ackman, disagrees with Kuta. "School work is still very important; what you do now still carries over to next year."

Kuta, along with most of his senior class, is anticipating graduation "very highly". Like many others, Kuta has been counting down the days until the last day of school for quite awhile.

"I try to imagine that I'm not here and try to get by with it one day at a time. It has been very serious."

With a long senior year behind them, this year's senior class certainly will be glad when 3:35 roles around, ending their high school careers and effects of senioritis.

Journalism

Continued from page 1

amount of time.

Journalism teacher Mrs. Angie Rusher was pleased with the outcome for her journalism class.

"You always hope to have every student go to state, but to have four students place in Class C is still a good showing for Scotus," Rusher said.

For Pandorf, the results are exciting, but he sarcastically pointed out his disappointment with one result.

"The rest of journalism class needed to step it up so I did not have to go alone," said Pandorf.

Pandorf was judged on his "Grinds My Gears" column in the Class C competition. His articles on online gaming from Issue Five and popular music in Issue One were the entries he sent in. Column writing has been entertaining for Pandorf.

"I enjoy the fact that I can bash things and tell my own opinion," Pandorf said.

As for the rest of the student body, it seems that Pandorf's column has received only positive feedback.

Senior Pat McKay said, "I like Pandorf's article because it makes me chuckle. I agree with him—a lot of that stuff grinds my gears too."

State Journalism is on May 10th, and Mrs. Rusher has high expectations for Pandorf.

"I think since Stephen placed first in Class C and made the original top 12, he definitely has the opportunity to medal."

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Finishing the not-so-challenging race

By Kyle Benesch
Staff Reporter

I came into this school six years ago on a hot August day. The rumors of how hard Scotus' learning was haunted my seventh grade dreams the night before my first day of junior high; when that first day ended, I realized something that I find myself realizing again today: it wasn't that bad.

After all my grumbling and complaining about this school, I now think that I overreacted a little. Don't get me wrong; these last six years have challenged me both mentally and physically, and at times spiritually. Finishing this challenge today, though, I feel like Scotus wasn't as hard as everyone before me made it sound.

The teachers that were described to me as headhunters, who were hungry to crack down on kids and hand out homework, turned out to be some of the most helpful and influential people in my life. Yes, along the way I had a couple of challenging teachers, Mrs. Blaser, Mr. Peterson, and Mr. Lahm, (the thunderous math trio), but every teacher was willing to help me if I had any questions.

After about freshman year, I realized that rather than having to constantly be a nuisance in class and actually working with the teacher, that the classroom could be enjoyable. Now I know most teachers will read this and ask, "When did Kyle Benesch quit being annoying?" The truth is I gave teachers at this school grief because I enjoyed them. It has been fun for me to joke around with the teachers, occasionally getting into heated arguments as this years senior teachers know quite well.

Not only do I feel like the education I have received has been a huge pay out, but the activities at this school have shaped me and have helped me build my character. As much as I moaned about them, I am going to miss those scorching days of cross-country and the frigid soaking wet track practices that I have grown to enjoy. However, sports were not the only thing I found myself getting into at school.

Having the privilege to head Campus Ministry this year, I was determined to fill this school with faith-filled and enjoyable activities. At the beginning of the year, Bill Cremers and I attacked Fr. Roza with well over a hundred ideas. He on the other hand took a more conservative approach to this year's goals, and we decided to set up some small steps: morning prayer, first Friday adoration, and the traditional the Lenten festivities.

My true love was the student section, and, as Mr. Younger frequently has told me, cheering was perfect for me. It was a bonding experience for the entire school that came packed with terrific memories: singing table of plenty, the infamous fifth set of G.I.C.C, and beating Lakeview in double overtime to name a few.

With events like these, it was hard to believe that I was in school this year. A couple of teachers tried, but no matter how many projects or papers we were assigned this year, none of them were able to make my senior year hard. Bird walking and laughter have taken the place of equations and thesis papers, and after realizing all of this, I can say that my senior year, and most of my time at Scotus, wasn't that bad.

"Bird walking and laughter have taken the place of equations and thesis papers..."
~Kyle Benesch

Even though I have been counting down the days since mid-February, and I have been going crazy waiting for this day, I am going to miss this school.

Just like all the other ones

By Kelsey Jochum
Copy Editor

It's my last day as a senior in high school. 1,354 days ago (give or take), I could only dream about this day arriving; now, it just seems like another day.

My senior year has been great. I feel like I was more involved than I ever have been before and gained the most "life experience" from this year. Yet, at the same time, I feel like this year was pretty "run of the mill" in comparison with other years. Maybe it is because I was a returning member in all my activities rather than experiencing them for the first time. Maybe it is because I expected too much from my senior year.

The only new activity I was a part of this year was being an officer for Thespians and, therefore, planning Thespian Week. Other than that, my activities were very similar to those of the previous year. I was a *Rock Bottom* reporter (go Journalism!), a member of the One-Act cast, a Shamrock Singer/Chorus member, and a musical cast member, all of which I enjoyed very much. However, they all still felt like extensions of the year before.

In some of these activities, I got "promotions" so to speak. I transitioned from a Chorus member to a Shamrock Singer and became the Copy Editor of the *Rock Bottom* in addition to reporting. On the other side, I also feel like my junior year highly surpassed my senior year. I received a significantly smaller part in this year's musical than I did in the last, and, after making it to State Journalism last May, I came up short this year. Does it all even itself out? Probably, so why worry about it?

"In the end, it just makes a person wonder if senior year is all it's cracked up to be."
~Kelsey Jochum

In the end, it just makes a person wonder if senior year is all it's cracked up to be. When I try to find the most positive things that happened this year, the ones that stand out are those that involve people rather than extracurriculars.

By being involved in the same activities for more than one year, I was able to grow closer to the people in those activities, which was definitely a positive experience. I also grew closer to my class as a whole and experienced some life lessons in friendship.

In the end, it wasn't about what I was involved in or how much recognition I got; it was about the relationships I gained. I urge everyone to make the most of their senior year by strengthening their friendships and tying up loose ends because, before you know it, your May 7th is going to come.

Seniors: a turn of the page

By Merle Mapes
Staff Reporter

So here we are. The long, arduous journey through high school has come to a close, and for what? We are seniors, the kings and queens of the school, but what comes next? We move on to college, start again at the bottom of the hierarchy, and I'm afraid some people might not be ready for this shock. They look ahead and see freedom, opportunity, and success. I look forward and see exactly the same thing, but I also see failure, hardship, and disappointment that plague so many people.

"We are seniors, the kings and queens of the school, but what comes next?"
~Merle Mapes

Some people may be prepared, but others may find it difficult to adapt to the real world. They prefer to remain as close to home as possible, to remain in the protective shadow of their previous lives, but they also do it to put off goodbyes.

Throughout high school people make friends that they think will be with them forever, but they soon realize that they are wrong. Senior year is the year where everyone decides where to go to college, and many friends end up going to different colleges. They cry and hug and wish they could just stay in high school, but they wish the impossible. Some elect to go to community college to remain with friends or go with friends to college, but they eventually must part.

It may sound strange to you, but I don't understand it. I don't hold much sentiment for this town and look forward to heading out. Don't get me wrong, I will miss my home and my friends, but now due to things like Facebook and Xbox Live I can stay in contact with my friends.

Imagine this, if you will; life before high school is like life in an egg; you are sheltered and protected from the world outside. Then we break that shell and enter into high school, but we remain in the nest ignorant and still protected from the world. Graduation is our chance; we must take flight and go boldly into the world or we fail from the start, and our journey is over before it begins. It is a harsh truth that many hide behind a romanticized vision of graduation, but it is there if you are willing to open your eyes.

I will leave you with these final words: What happens in high school is only a prologue to your story; graduation is simply a turn of the page.

SCOTUS CENTRAL
Rock Bottom

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- Brian Ackman

Editor:
- Kelsey Jochum

Staff Writers:
- Kyle Benesch
-Olivia Sonderman
- Stephani Jarecke
- Levi McPhillips
- Casey Kessler
- Stephen Pandorf
- Stacia Rawhouser
- Merle Mapes

Advisor:
- Mrs. Angie Rusher

Inspiration:
- Jesus Christ

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

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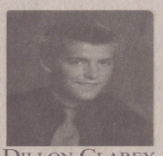
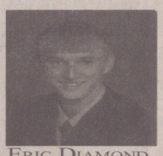

Dillon Clarey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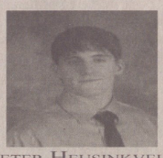
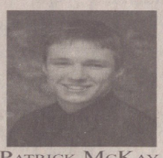
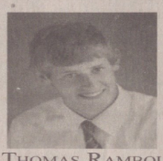

Peter Heusinkvelt


Patrick McKay

Matthew Puckett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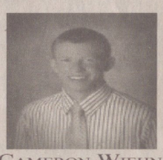

Cameron Wiehn

Tiffany Wieser

Majors:

Kyle Benesch: Biology
Dillon Clarey: Pre-Med
Eric Diamond: Mechanical Engineering
Victoria Engquist: Elementary Education
Lindsey Gasper: General Studies
Peter Heusinkvelt: Computer Engineering
Pat McKay: Biology
Matthew Puckett: Criminal Justice
Thomas Rambour: Agribusiness
Jenna Roh: General Studies
Shawn Schumacher: Engineering
Amy Steiner: Pre-Med
Sarah Swope: Undecided (Minor in Music)
Dylan Thompson: Mechanical Engineering
Cameron Wiehn: General Studies
Tiffany Wieser: Business

Central Community College

Brittany Bader

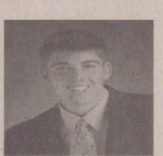
Mikaela Cardenas

Derrick Dierman

Morgan Gilson

Maggie Hellbusch

Michael Miya


Trace Murray

Andrea Odbert

Amy Pekarek

Amy Reisdorff

Kaitlyn Robak

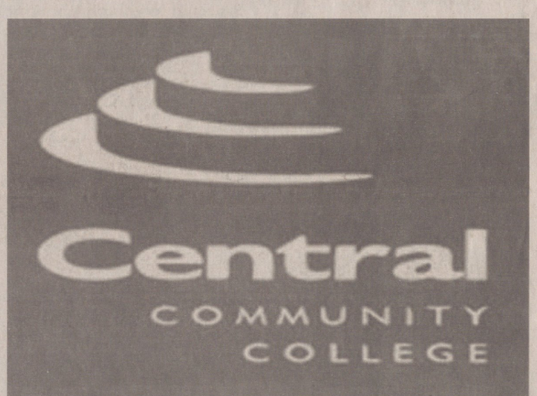
Samantha Sorell

Michaela Streit

Eric Tubbs

Favorite Scotus Memory: Michael's favorite memory is the joking and teasing with the guys at lunch.

Miss Most About Scotus: Kaitlyn will miss telling Mr. Coulter, "Move it or lose it, sister!"



Majors:

Brittany Bader: Photography/Graphic Design
Mikaela Cardenas: Drug Addiction Counseling
Derrick Dierman: Architectural Drafting
Morgan Gilson: Elementary Education
Maggie Hellbusch: Pre-Dental Hygiene
Michael Miya: Creative Writing
Trace Murry: Education
Andrea Odbert: Nutrition/Physical Therapy
Amy Pekarek: Nursing
Amy Reisdorff: Elementary Education
Kaitlyn Robak: Elementary Education
Samantha Sorell: Biology
Michaela Streit: Chemistry
Eric Tubbs: Electrical Engineering

Nebraska Wesleyan

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Brian Ackman

James Landholm

Nadia Morales

Austin Wallick

Miss Most About Scotus: Brian will miss the ginger article in the paper and Mrs. Rusher always hating on gingers.

Favorite Scotus Memory: James's favorite memory is Mr. Younger's great stories of his rebellious young life.

Favorite Scotus Memory: Nadia's favorite memory is Molly Forney giving her her first hug ever at Scotus.

Interesting Fact: Austin plans to work at Chip N' Dale's for a college job.

Majors:

Brian Ackman: Biology
James Landholm: Physical Therapy/Athletic Training
Nadia Morales: Pre-Med/Special Ed.
Austin Wallick: Athletic Training

Life After the Shamrock

University of Nebraska-Kearney

Emily Jarecki

Laura Zach

Majors:
Emily Jarecki: Elementary Education
Laura Zach: Business or Multimedia

Interesting Fact:
Emily loves the actress Lucille Ball!

University of Nebraska-Omaha

Kelsey Jochum

Trevor Thiele

Favorite Scotus Memory:
Kelsey's favorite memory can be summed up in two words: Josh Ryan.

Majors:
Kelsey Jochum: Journalism
Trevor Thiele: General Studies

Concordia University

Major:
Catie Wiese: Forensic Science/ Psychology

Catie Wiese

Midland Lutheran College

Katelyn Kerkman

Major:
Katelyn Kerkman: Athletic Training/ Physical Therapy

Iowa Western Community College

Major:
Shelby Johnson: Nursing

Interesting Fact:
Shelby loves to always be smiling and laughing!

Shelby Johnson

Johnson County Community College

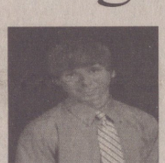
Interesting Fact:
Merle is a big fan of anime, such as the show *Bleach*.

Merle Mapes

Major:
Merle Mapes: Video Game Design

Hastings College

Major:
Aaron Bos: Business Administration


Aaron Bos

Interesting Fact:
Aaron will be playing soccer in college

U.S. Marine Corps

Interesting Fact:
Vincent has an orange belt in takewondo.

Vincent Tira

University Adolfo Ibáñez

Koni Valencia Bustamante

Miss Most About Scotus:
Koni will miss the desserts at Scotus lunch.

Major:
Koni Valencia Bustamante: Commercial Engineer

Briar Cliff University

Monica Boeding

Jen Hall

Interesting Fact:
Jen gives random facts and asks awkward questions at lunch.

Majors:
Jen Hall:Biology/Spanish
Monica Boeding: Accounting

Wayne State College

Matt Alexander

Taylor Baumgart

Favorite Scotus Memory:
Alex's favorite memory is Cameron Wiehn mooning people on the football bus and getting called in because he was wearing his jersery.

Alex Kuta

Dalton Leu

Majors:
Matthew Alexander: Secondary Education
Taylor Baumgart: Psychology
Alex Kuta: Medicine
Dalton Leu: Elementary Education

Miss Most About Scotus:
Dalton will miss Mrs. Schaad's English tests.

Interesting Fact:
Matt likes to sit in his tree in the summer and watch the cluds fly by in the sky.

Favorite Scotus Memory:
Taylor's favorite memory can be summed up in two words: Alec Prokupek

Undecided Future Plans

Molly Forney

Amber Frauendorfer

Sonia Soen Nahar

Interesting Fact:
Amber enjoys washing cars on nice days and has an obsession for Hummer H2s.

Miss Most About Scotus:
Molly will miss the conversations at the lunch table.

Interesting Fact:
Sonia is probably the only malaysian in Nebraska!

Majors:
Molly Forney: Fine/Performing Arts
Amber Frauendorfer: Undecided
Sonia Soen Nahar: International Business Management

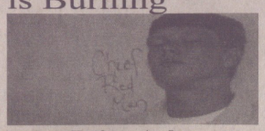
Favorite Scotus Memory:
Sonia's favorite memory is the opportunity to speak up in classes and the dances at Scotus.

Favorite Scotus Memory:
Molly's favorite memory is the stength training class this year.

Favorite Scotus Memory:
Amber's Favorite Memories are her and Amy Pekarek's antics.

Sports

Chief Redman is Burning



By Brian Ackman
Layout Editor

There is one huge issue that I have been burning on for a long time: the lack of honest players in the sporting world. In today's sporting world it's all about the money. I am always hearing about players holding out on contracts or being traded from team to team in order to get a better deal. Where are the honest, hard working athletes anymore? What happened to the franchise player who will play the sport he or she loves for a little less money?

The NFL offseason has been filled with big names being traded. Receiver Brandon Marshall recently joined the Miami Dolphins and signed the most expensive contract ever for a receiver. I agree, Marshall is a great receiver, but he doesn't deserve this money based on his character and attitude problems.. Quarterback Donovan McNabb was traded from Philadelphia to Washington. I don't understand why the Eagles would want to trade their quarterback who has started for them for years to a team within their division. McNabb wasn't seeking a trade; the organization was trying to save a little money rather than keeping a solid quarterback.

The basketball world is even worse than the football world in its lack of honest players. The NBA is filled with selfish "thugs." These players are crazy athletes, but they are far overpaid. NBA teams are constantly swapping players and building up their contracts in order to keep them around. Players on the court are regularly talking trash and taking cheap shots at the other team. Take the Los Angeles Lakers, for example. I witnessed in the first round of this year's playoffs Lakers' center Andrew Bynum throw an elbow into the chest of another player completely away from the ball. The announcers, players, and fans all saw the cheap shot, but the officials have come to let things like this slide. Even the Lakers' coach Phil Jackson was doing his fair share of trash talking when he criticized Kevin Durant before the playoffs.

Judging by the direction that college basketball is headed, I'm not predicting a turnaround in NBA character. It is extremely common these days for a player to enter the NBA draft after his freshman season in college. The players have the talent to succeed in the pros, but it seems that an education isn't important anymore. I admire Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski for his recruiting in today's basketball world. Coach K passes up on the superstar athletes that leave school early; he only recruits players who can contribute to his program over their 4-year career at his school.

Maybe it is because of global inflation, but athletes everywhere are far overpaid, not just in the U.S. Every now and then, a big name soccer player will transfer teams and sign a fat new contract. Real Madrid signed two of the best players in the world in Kaka and Christiano Ronaldo, but spent hundreds of millions of dollars to buy the players.

Professional athletes are living the good life. They are making millions of dollars every year to play a sport that they love, but some give up their honest reputation in order to make it in the pros.

New look for Scotus boys

By Brian Ackman
Layout Editor

The Shamrock boys' team has seen an up and down year. After winning a state championship last year, the team lost a large, experienced senior class. Coach Jon Brezenski said that the team has had to rely on new people stepping up in different positions and roles from last season. One move that was made at the beginning of the year was to move All-State goalkeeper Shawn Schumacher to the field and put James Euteneuer in the goal box.

"James has done an excellent job in the net for us, coming up with some tremendous saves to keep us in some very close games," Brezenski said.

Euteneuer even broke a school record for saves in a game with 21 against Omaha Creighton Prep, the #2 team in Class A.

Other players have moved to new positions also. Aaron Bos has been a starter in the midfield for two years and is now seeing time at center forward. Tom Rambour was a starting defender on last year's championship team and is now playing in the midfield with Schumacher and junior Ryan Becker. Fellow junior Michael Tremel has been swapping positions all year, moving between forward and midfield. The entire defensive back line consists of players playing new positions. Seniors Alex Kuta, Dylan Thompson, Brian Ackman, and Cameron Wiehn are starting fullbacks, and junior Alex Beller has also seen time there during the season.

PETER HEUSINKVELT/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Alex Kuta chases down a loose ball against Schuyler on April 27th.

A major concern for Brezenski and the boys' team has been simple skill with the ball.

"Our touches on the ball must be good all the time, and that has been the biggest thing for us to overcome this season."

The boys have also had a tough schedule, and Brezenski stresses consistency against this strong competition. Six of the team's losses came to ranked teams. One to Creighton Prep, two against Class B #3 Omaha Skutt, two against Class B #6 Grand Island Central Catholic, and another against Class B #5 Lincoln Lutheran.

Entering the final weekend of the regular season, the Shamrocks were 7-6 and ranked #10 in Class B by the *Omaha World Herald*.

Overall, Brezenski is proud of the team for never giving up and always working hard.

"I have been proud of this team because we had to replace some very strong seniors from last year and the guys have stepped up and answered the challenge. This is a very fun team to be around, and they've worked hard and earned the right to be successful," Brezenski said.

Girls' soccer overcomes inexperience

By Brian Ackman
Layout Editor

The girls' soccer team is seeing success this year as the spring season comes to a close. Entering the last weekend of the regular season, the team was 8-2 and ranked #4 in Class B by the *Omaha World Herald*.

The team has had to overcome several challenges, including replacing last year's top goal scorer. Coach Kevin Stout said that the team needed to find a player or several who would be able to step up as an offensive threat with the loss of Katie Beiermann. So far, the Lady Shamrocks have had a balanced scoring attack, led by seniors Laura Zach and Shelby Johnson.

The girls had to overcome more than just the loss of offense; they had to overcome inexperience across the field. There are only four seniors on the team (Johnson, Zach, Andrea Odbert, and Maggie Hellbusch), and a majority of the team consists of freshmen and sophomores. Coach Stout said that it may be difficult for these younger girls to transition to varsity soccer, but he doesn't shy away from starting an underclassman.

PETER HEUSINKVELT/YEARBOOK STAFF

Junior Lindsay Staroscik dribbles by a Schuyler defender on April 27th.

"We are intent on putting the 11 players on the field who give us the best chance of winning a match. That may mean no underclassmen, or it might mean that a majority are underclassmen," Stout said.

The experience that the young team has gained throughout the season is key as the state tournament approaches. A tough schedule has helped the girls to develop solid team chemistry and skill. The team is 2-1 against top ten teams in Class B. The end of the season will be bittersweet for the girls, no matter how they finish. Coach Stout announced earlier in the season that this would be his last year coaching, and the girls are seeking to send him out on top.

"With this being my last year, I feel very fortunate to have a group of girls who work very hard and who support one another. They are a great group to work with, and that makes it even more difficult to step aside."

Scotus girls swing with tennis team

By Casey Kessler
Staff Reporter

The Scotus girls have made a significant impact on the Columbus High Tennis team this year. Currently, Scotus has three of the six varsity singles players on the team. These participants consist of junior Jenn Gokie, junior Becky Svatora, and sophomore Kelcey Robak. Gokie and Svatora are both returning competitors, while this is Robak's first year and has made varsity in her first season.

Jenn Gokie has a family history of tennis, as both her brothers David and Michael, played for the boys teams a few years ago. Gokie has also been on varsity since her freshman year, and feels that the Scotus players can compete just as well with the Columbus High players.

"Right now three of the five people from Scotus are on varsity, and I think we also make the team more fun," Gokie said.

"Right now three of the five people from Scotus are on varsity, and I think we also make the team more fun"
Jenn Gokie

Dave Licari is the head girls' tennis coach at Columbus High and says that Gokie and Svatora have definitely improved since last year.

"Jenn and Becky both have much more confidence this year than last. That comes with being a year older and knowing more of what to expect when playing in certain matches. Also, all three players have contributed this year by their play and attitude," Licari said.

Becky Svatora likes that the Scotus students have decided to go out and represent Scotus extremely well with the tennis team.

"We have had more Scotus players on the team this year than any of the other years I have played. It also helps that three of the players are on varsity," Svatora said.

Tennis is different than other sports when qualifying because all teams compete at state, and the coach can basically decide the best players he wants at state. Both the number one and number two singles players make it to state, while both the number one and number two doubles teams qualify. Something that is the same about state tennis is the teams must play well during the season to get a good seed at state on either side of the bracket.

Performing well at state is an obvious goal, but the team also has other goals along the way.

"Three big goals would be to place in the top three teams at the conference meet, to win at least seven dual matches out of ten, and to score in double figure points at the state meet," Licari said.

Currently the team is 3-1 in dual matches and hopes to match the schools dual record of 7-3, which the team did last year.

Spring play returns with new focus

By Stacia Rawhouser
Staff Reporter

From last year's promiscuous performance to this year's biblical story, the spring play is promised to be a "total shift in theme." Because the previous spring play proved to be a bit risque with the messages it was sending to the audience, this time the cast and crew are not taking any risks with the plot.

Sophomore actress Summer Kresha said, "It's 100% cleaner than last year. No bad words, no bad sexual references; it's kid friendly and a good story for a Catholic school."

The play titled *God's Favorite* is a modern day story, inspired by the book of Job from the Bible. It is a comedy described as a challenge of faith that makes people think.

Bill Cremers, student director of the play, said, "The play deals with tough questions in life I think we can all relate to."

In order to make the play a success, the cast and crew start planning immediately after the musical. Though the play is produced in such a short time, it still takes hard work and dedication from everyone that is involved.

"I'm not concerned about it being ready since I know that the actors will put on a great show," Cremers said. "There have been many great rehearsals that I'll always laugh at. The reward is much greater than the stress."

Everyone has managed to stay organized with the help of the student director.

Sophomore Actor Trenton Kuta said, "It's not very different being directed by a student rather than Ms. Gardner. Bill has been a great director."

Cremers' job is to keep the cast and crew focused during rehearsals and to make sure the production is a success.

"Most of us have worked together before, so we know how each person acts and can relate to each other," Cremers said. "The cast has put all their effort into this, making each practice productive."

Because Cremers and the crew have worked together through other performances, their bond helps the chaos run smoothly. They must work quickly as the play is scheduled to debut on May 14th.

"We are expecting good things for this play. Bill has been giving us advice on how to be better rather than just telling us exactly how he wants it," Kresha said.

The actors and actresses are all excited to show off everything they have been working for; however, Bill seems to be the most excited. He has confidence in the play as well as everyone that is a part of it. *God's Favorite* is sure to be a good show.

"I know they'll give a great performance, and I hope they learn new things about theatre along the way," Cremers said.

Stephani Jarecke/Rock Bottom

Anddy Heusinkvelt, Jaci Beauvais, Summer Kresha, and Alise Perault practice a stressful scene from the spring play *God's Favorite*.

Scotus musicians superior, again

By Levi McPhillips
Staff Reporter

Few classes at Scotus Central Catholic allow for students to compete and prove themselves. The Scotus Music Program gives students opportunities to have their musical skills judged at District Music in April. District Music started on the evening of Thursday April 22nd and lasted until the evening of April 24th. Schools competed in various events in instrumental and vocal music. The Scotus musicians represented their school well against other schools. The other District schools that competed were Lakeview, David City, Humphrey St. Francis, Osceola, Shelby, and Schuyler.

Though they are all at a competition together, the Scotus band members and singers do not compete against other schools. All competitors compete against a standard. A student can receive a superior, excellent, good, fair, or poor rating. Shamrock musicians most often receive superior and excellent ratings at the competition.

The Scotus Band and Choruses did just that. Despite the varying experience levels, the band members finished with consistent achievement. There are new students in ensembles, but the members of the clarinet quartet have been playing together since the 8th grade. Out of the sixteen band categories that competed, thirteen received superior ratings. The remaining three received excellents.

Superiors

Drum line
Joel Ostdiek Piano
Joel Ostdiek Violin
Marina Karel
Saxophone Solo
Flute Duet
Bill Cremers
Xylophone Solo
Bill Cremers
Snare Drum Solo
Mass Chamber Ensemble
Vanessa Cox
Clarinet Solo
Laura Salyard
Flute Solo
Saxophone Duet
Molly Forney
Clarinet Solo
Concert Band
John Dunn Chorus
Shamrock Singers

Excellents

Clarinet Trio
Clarinet Quartet
Saxophone ensemble

The two choruses competing at District Music also found success.

"It was the first time that the Shamrock Singers and the John Dun Chorus had received superior ratings from all of the judges," Ms. Gardner said. This significant success made it a memorable competition.

Eric Diamond is a senior member of the band, and he is a veteran member of the drum line. "It went very well. I was happy that the drum line received a superior. Everyone performed great," Diamond said.

Lauren Kuta, a freshman band member said, "I had a lot of fun. I competed in the chorus and the band, and I was excited that we got superiors overall."

The Scotus Central Catholic musicians practiced extensively for the competition. Both Mrs. Cox and Ms. Gardner felt their students were well prepared for District Music. They prepared their playing and style all year; however, immediately after the St. Patrick's Day parade, Mrs. Cox expected the band students to transition from marching to concert performing.

"It's a big change. I expected them to make it in one day, and they did," Cox said. She continued by stating, "This performance is different because we are being judged by professionals. Other performances are to audiences that have invested in you as people. We need to let our personalities come out in our music."

These Scotus students performed well at District Music, and they seized the opportunity to prove themselves at the competition.

SPORTS

Shamrocks improve with new coach

By Kyle Benesch
Staff Reporter

The Scotus Central Catholic Boys Golf Team members are finding their season come to an end. Rather than having a sad finish though, the team is looking to close the season strongly. Backed by a successful season, the golf team is looking towards state with high hopes. With a new coach and a solid returning team, the boys are looking to place at the State tournament.

First Year Coach Karl Dierman, is happy with his team's success so far. "This year has been awesome, I have enjoyed leading and teaching some really good young men."

Two of these young men who have continued last year's golfing success into this year are junior Brady Vancura and senior Derrick Dierman. With a solid season this year, both have decided to continue the sport in college. However, what makes this year's team a threat at state isn't their top two players, but the depth of the entire team.

"Our depth is our most important team asset we have right now, we have 'six starters,' we can only start five for each varsity meet so there is great internal competition to improve and get into the starting lineup," Dierman said.

This desire for improvement has significantly helped the Shamrock team.

"We have had a lot more competition in our three to seven spots making not only them better, but make the team better," Vancura said.

The Shamrock depth has helped to shave around 20 shots per tournament compared to last year. "We are pretty much the same team as last year, we are just that much better," Derrick Dierman said, "that and coach has helped us to be better."

Vancura agrees that this year's coaching has helped with the team's success, "Coach has helped a lot by giving us good instruction, and helping us in our mental game."

"Coach has helped a lot by giving us good instruction, and helping us in our mental game."
~Brady Vancura

With a good returning team and a new coach, the Shamrocks have been competing well. The team placed 2nd at the Ashland invite and 3rd at a very challenging Lincoln Pius Invite. The best finish for the Shamrocks came last week when they brought home a first place finishing at Lakeview's invite.

With a major invite win under their belts, the Shamrocks feel like they are right on track.

"As a team we wanted to win at least one invite," said Coach Dierman.

With the solid beginning of the season over, the Shamrocks are looking to win districts and attempt a possible top three placing at the state meet.

No matter how the year ends, Coach Dierman will be pleased, "It's been fun watching the guys improve. I am blessed with this opportunity to coach Shamrock Golf."

With high optimism, the team looks to continue their success with the last meet of the regular season being hosted by the Shamrocks at districts on May 17th.

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Entertainment

As Told By a Ginger

By Stephen Pandorf
Staff Reporter

You know what really grinds my gears. Too many things. So many that seven columns cannot contain them. For instance school could fill twelve columns on its own.

What really grinds me most about school is homework. We spend 8 hours at school every day not counting extra curricular activities. The one thing I enjoy most in the 5-6 hours I get to myself at home is spending a third of those doing homework. It's a bit of an overestimation, but quite true in meaning. After coming home from football, basketball, or volleyball is homework really something we need to be worrying about? Most normal students involved in extracurriculars or sports do their homework later in the night, which results in less sleep. It usually becomes a choice as whether or not I am going to do my homework at 11 or sleep and still get less than the "expert" recommended amount of sleep. This brings me to the next thing that really grinds my gears.

Don't play more than an hour of video games. TV rots your brain. Trampolines are death traps if you don't have a safety net. Violent entertainment turns children into killing machines. Somewhere a bunch of old men in suits are inventing these crazy ideas to cause paranoia in people. Of course TV or video games make kids stupid if they sit in front them 12 hours a day. It isn't the TV's fault that kids are getting stupider it's the fact that someone is letting their kids watch 4 episodes of SpongeBob in a row. Of course you can hurt yourself on a trampoline; it's a device that launches people in the air. You can also crack your head open riding a bike or break your arm from playing on the playground. Why do people need experts to tell them what common sense dictates? When I step into my car I know that I could be killed in a freak accident at any moment. Does this stop me from driving? No, common sense tells me that everything can be dangerous.

While I could fill the entire paper with things that grind my gears, not all of them are worthy of elaboration. Why do people want to free Wheezy? He's a horrible entertainer and went to jail because he was convicted of carrying illegal firearms just to further his "gangsta" persona. Why was Tim Tebow considered the best quarterback in the NCAA? He is nothing but a whiney little baby that got attention because he goes on missionary trips in the summer. Why are the plastic tips of shoelaces call aglets, and is their purpose sinister? How did Sarah Palin ever make it past elementry school? Why do people ask what's up when they can plainly see what you're doing? Grind My Gears even grinds my gears when I struggle to come up with a filling topic. You know what doesn't grind my gears, the end of my Grinds My Gears column.

By Levi McPhillips
Staff Reporter

You may be thinking "Alright Levi we get the idea, gingers are better. Now stop writing your articles about your oversized red ego!" I will be honest, I am not going to lecture you anymore. I hope everyone sees the upside of being ginger after six issues of educating articles written by Brian and myself. Brian and I are confident in our skin color, and our potential to be powerful. I am the National Honor Society President for the 2010-2011 school year, and Brian is the current NHS Secretary. We have come this far, what is stopping us from taking over. Think about it. Who knows? Maybe I'll become governor, president, or World Conqueror. Think about the possibilities. A red-headed president would bring a whole new side to American politics. A ginger Commander-in-Chief would be morally, ethically, and physically superior to all other world leaders. Look out Hugo Chavez, red heads are ready to strike.

I think there will be a ginger chosen one. Somebody has to fulfill the prophecy. Despite the recessiveness of our genes, we will not hesitate to enforce our physical dominance upon the entire world. I have highlighted our dominant physical traits in another issue. However, we have another secret weapon.

Scientists have just begun to discover the health benefits of the ginger plant. As redheads we have first dibs on the plant. It is our food, our livelihood, and our power to extend our dominance over others. It is a versatile plant, and it has many benefits to the body. According to CBSMoneyWatch.com, the ginger root is a powerful antioxidant, it can help with pain relief, and it supports your digestive system. However, the most remarkable ability is the root's ability to prevent cancer. Yes! We gingers are immune to malignanty! Let's keep in mind that the power of gingers does not come from the plant, but the power of the plant comes from fiery redheads like myself.

In 2001 a study showed that the ginger plant is effective in preventing pregnancy related symptoms such as vomiting and nausea. With an ability like that, we can populate the world faster. Pregnancies that are easier on women will promote married couples to have more babies. More babies means more gingers, and more gingers means world domination. By the transitive property, we will take over the world using the Most Holy Plant God has provided for us.

ANGIE RUSHER/ROCK BOTTOM
Ginger writers Brian Ackman(top) and Levi McPhillips(bottom) pose at prom.

Chances are you are thinking that we are not serious. Brian and I are very serious about our ginger. Just look at the picture, we have never been more serious about our red hair. We love it and it loves us back. We are ginger, and we will not apologize.

Casey's Cinema

By Casey Kessler
Staff Reporter

When a movie comes out that has a bad word in it, you can either think it is going to be extremely bad or a movie about a bunch of idiots doing idiotic things. Well, lucky for everyone, the movie Kick-Ass was about neither of these aspects.

The movie is about a certain young man who wants to become a super hero, yet he has no superpowers at all. At first the whole idea is not going very well, but after getting beat up to the brink of death, his muscles and organs are replaced with metal and artificial organs. After this he becomes a new and improved actual superhero. The story follows his struggles to become a trademarked superhero.

Aaron Johnson plays this new and improved superhero whose name is "Kick-Ass", and this is the first big time movie that Johnson has been in throughout his acting career. This movie also stars Nicholas Cage, who many of you could recognize from *National Treasure* and *Gone in 60 Seconds*. Cage plays a superhero with the nickname "Big Daddy" who eventually joins forces with Johnson along with his own daughter. Chloe Moretz plays his daughter "Hit-Girl" who is called to help right along side of Johnson. The weekend after this movie came out, viewers loved Moretz so much that she was searched more in one week than Brittany Spears was. The other main character "Red Mist" is played by Christopher Mintz-Plasse. One could recognize him as "McLovin" from *Superbad* and as Augie Farks from *Role Models*. But instead of being an underage teenager trying to get alcohol and hitting on attractive girls, Plasse's character plays the sidekick to the main character.

This movie has an amazing plotline and uses every minute of its two hours to get the point and detail across. The characters are all developed well and do not leave you asking questions on who or what they are. The killing in this movie also gives it a bigger climax than from other superhero movies. Obviously killing is not a joke or a punch line, but this film has great action. An example of this is the fact that "Hit-Girl" basically jump kicks someone in the air while shooting at the bad guys. I also think that every good movie has a twist, and by the end of the movie, you'll be wondering what actually happened, a bit like *Shutter Island*.

The soundtrack for this film is what put it over the top. Honestly, I can tell you that I did not know any of the songs before I heard them in this film, but after seeing this film, I did want to jump on iTunes right away. They were all very catchy and seemed to fit right in with the film and all of its aspects.

This film is easily the best superhero film since *The Dark Knight* and could be considered better than the third *Spiderman* film. This is the funniest superhero movie I have seen and is definitely worth the eight-dollar price of admission at your local theater. But all you children under 17 need a parental guardian to go with you because this movie is rated R for righteously awesome. I would give this film a good 4 out of 5.

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