



# SCOTUS CENTRAL Rock Bottom

Scotus Central Catholic

Columbus, Nebraska 68601

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## Archbishop impressed by Scotus

By Levi McPhillips  
Layout Editor

On November 1<sup>st</sup> the Archbishop of the Omaha Archdiocese, the Most Reverend George Lucas, visited Scotus. In his effort to visit all the schools, the Archbishop made a stop at Scotus to encourage faculty and students alike.

On that Monday morning he led the entire Scotus family in a Mass which commenced at 10:20 A.M. The Scotus Music Department put in extra work for the Mass music. The singing and instrumental groups played "For All the Saints" together as an opening song. The group of band members played "Make me a Channel of Your Peace" for a meditation immediately following Communion.

In his homily, Archbishop Lucas encouraged students to live the saintly life. He related his struggle to feel God's presence as a struggle everyone goes through.

"Sometimes I feel as if God is way up there," the Archbishop said as he reached his arm toward the ceiling of St. Bonaventure Church, "and I feel like I'm way down here."

The Archbishop continued by saying that everyone wants to live forever, and the only way to do that is through Jesus Christ. He concluded his homily by encouraging students to live virtuously as the saints did; they were not perfect people, but they followed Christ and are now living forever.

After the Mass, Lucas

joined the seniors in ethics class for a session of question and answer. The questions ranged from a variety of topics including his vocation story, the challenges of being a bishop, and Star Wars.

"I was impressed with the class's questions," the Archbishop said smiling.

Many of the students were impressed with the Archbishop's charismatic presence during his visit.

"I think he is a very intelligent man, while at the same time he connects well with people," senior A.J. Bose said. "He was very open and approachable."

Senior Jaci Beauvais added, "He encourages us to get excited about our faith, and we should be."

After being head of the Archdiocese for a little more than a year, George Lucas has already found a new home in Nebraska.

"I was so impressed with the generosity of the people," the Archbishop said, "I am happy this is my home."

The Archbishop left with an affirmed opinion of the Catholic community of Scotus and the entire town of Columbus.

"I was impressed by how strong the Catholic faith is in Columbus. That view was reinforced today," Lucas said confidently. "I encourage the students at Scotus to give thanks to God for being able to be part of this school where their human dignity is respected, and they have an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ."



JENN GOKIE/ YEARBOOK STAFF

Archbishop George J. Lucas gives his homily during the All School Mass on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Lucas encouraged Scotus students to live saintly lives as he addressed the entire school body on All Saints Day.

## November marks diabetes awareness

By Alise Perault  
Copy Editor

The month of November is known as a time of elections and giving thanks, but it is also an important month for diabetics around the world. That is because November 14<sup>th</sup> is World Diabetes Day.

Here at Scotus there are four high school students who have this disease: senior Abby Schademann, junior Jake Kratochvil, sophomore Katie Breidenbach, and freshman Jenna Thiele. All four of these students have Type 1 Diabetes, which is a genetically transferred autoimmune disease that causes the immune system to attack the pancreas's insulin-making cells, which in turn results in an inability to control the body's blood sugar.

These students are just four of the almost 300 million people who have been diagnosed with diabetes around the world.

The theme this year for World Diabetes Day is "Diabetes

Education and Prevention". This campaign calls for people around the world to understand the serious impact of diabetes. Although diabetes does have a significant impact on the lives of those who carry it, this doesn't mean that their lives are any worse; they just have to be more careful in monitoring their health.

"I can be a normal teenager; I just have to watch myself and do what the doctor tells me," said Katie Breidenbach, who was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes on June 1<sup>st</sup> of 2008. Abby Schademann agreed with Breidenbach's stance.

"Having diabetes doesn't make you any different; you just have an extra responsibility to take care of, kind of like brushing your teeth or having a job." Abby was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes on December 26, 2004.

Although this disease does not make diabetics' lives too different from anyone else's, it is still a serious issue. Not monitoring and controlling one's blood sugar can have potentially fatal results.

"Bad control of diabetes can really shorten someone's life. People can die in their twenties and thirties because of complications from it," Jake Kratochvil said. Kratochvil was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes when he was just five years old. A greater awareness that diabetes can lead to death is one of the goals of the World Diabetes Day's mission.

As of now, there is no cure for Type 1 Diabetes, so those who have it will have to monitor their blood sugar for the rest of their lives. But what does that consist of? First of all, at every meal diabetics have to check their blood sugar. Diabetics have what they call a meter, which, when their blood is placed inside, can take a reading of their blood sugar level.

The second step involves giving themselves insulin. Due to recent improvements in technology, it has become easier for diabetics to do this. About six or seven years ago, the FDA approved the insulin

~See DIABETES, Page 2

## Scotus welcomes community

By Stephani Jarecke  
Staff Reporter

This school year many Scotus classes have been reaching out to the community to help with their studies. Scotus is involving the community through new classes, hands-on experience, and continual involvement.

Scotus has offered a new class to seniors and juniors. The class, Career Awareness, is a semester class full of open ideas toward different fields of study.

"There are a variety of areas that the students are interested in, so I try to get somebody in from every area, even if only one student is interested in it," teacher Jeff Ohnoutka said.

The class has had eleven speakers that have come from big factories to small businesses to college reps. The class also prepares for college organization.

"This class really helps them get organized in terms of applying for schools, figuring out financial aid, and finding something that interests them and what it would all entail," Ohnoutka said.

Career Awareness is ultimately a class designed for the community to reach to the students as they prepare for their futures.

The Science-Community class is also a semester class geared to help students choose their field of study. Sci-Comm focuses more on science related subjects with more hands-on experiences.

"The students get to see things they haven't seen before. Some of them haven't even stepped foot in the big factories so it's a good experience for them," Sci-Comm teacher Joan Lahm said.

Sci-Comm has speakers come in to talk to the students about

~See COMMUNITY, Page 2



ALISE PERAULT/ ROCK BOTTOM

Senior Abby Schademann enters her blood sugar level into her insulin pump. Abby is one of the four high school students here at Scotus that has Type 1 Diabetes.

COMMUNITY

Continued from Page 1

each unit they do as well as touring some local factories. The students also had the opportunity to go to CCC for a mechatronic lab first quarter, and they will be visiting Southeast Community College for a workshop in December.

The senior government class has also been working with the community. Every month Extension Educator for Youth Development Lisa Kaslon brings in a speaker from Columbus through her involvement with the Chamber of Commerce.

"The purpose for the speakers is to inform the students about what Columbus has to offer and what they are trying to make of it in the future," modern government teacher Pat Brockhaus said.

These speakers want to give

young people more of a role, and to get them informed with what is going on in Columbus. Brockhaus was able to send two students, seniors Olivia Sonderman and Jon Otte, to a Chamber of Commerce meeting.

"It was interesting to hear what was going on in Columbus," Otte said.

All students from the three classes are excited to learn about the speakers. The speakers are also always more than willing to come in and speak.

"I can tell when it is a good speaker as the teens are laughing and having fun, but still getting done with what they are supposed to do," Lahm said.

The teachers will also be learning about the community during their Educators in Industry Day in



STEPHANI JARECKE/ ROCK BOTTOM

Senior Theresa Thalken uses her handheld device while DeVry University representative Daneen Landis lectures to the senior modern government class. Landis visited the class to help the seniors match their personalities with suitable careers.

DIABETES

Continued from Page 1

pen, which is a syringe containing insulin that can be used more than once to administer insulin. Doctors give diabetics a chart that tells them how many units of insulin to give themselves in relationship to the amount of carbohydrates they eat at each meal.

An even newer technology is the insulin pump. This pump is even easier to use than the pen. Diabetics can simply type in the number of carbs they consumed and their blood sugar

number, and the pump will calculate the amount of insulin it needs to inject into the body.

In the words of Schademann, "The pump works pretty much like a pancreas, except that you are in control."

Diabetics have to worry about monitoring their blood sugar everyday, and if there is one thing that all diabetics want, it is a cure to their lifelong disease, and Breidenbach would have to agree.

"Even though diabetes is treatable, a cure is still in need."

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# Opinion

## Devaluing Labor



### Clothes for Thought

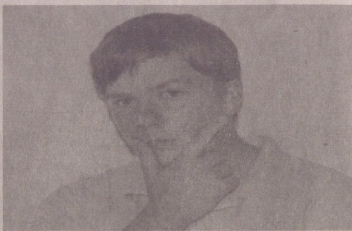
By Alise Perault  
Copy Editor

When I am having a downer day, what do I do? Throw on a cute outfit of course! Sporting cute clothing and accessories can make me feel better in an instant. But why is this? Do clothes emit a sort of therapeutic gas that can help one relax? Of course not! Nevertheless, I do believe that the way one dresses can have psychological effects on that person. It is my belief that the way one behaves and feels can be deeply influenced by the way they dress. I think there are a couple of ways in which our clothes can affect us.

Firstly, I believe that clothing can alter our emotions. For instance, one morning this school year I woke up with six hours of sleep on my plate, two tests yet to study for, an interview yet to complete, and I was *not* in a good mood. I instinctively put on my favorite headband and my biggest ring when I got ready that morning. I didn't realize at first the gravity of my actions. But, as the day wore on, I realized that it was my fashionable accessories that had gotten me through the day. I had left my house that day with the attitude that if I wasn't going to have a good day then at least I was going to look good. In a way, it was that mindset that made my day better. The fact that I felt good about the way I accessorized drastically altered my mood from foul to facetious. Maybe our minds subconsciously crave the feeling of knowing that we are well-dressed. It is not only our emotions that our clothes affect however, but also our actions.

Clothing, as I see it, can also affect the way we act. Have you ever noticed that when you stay in your pajamas all day you are lazy and dull, but then when you replace them with some jeans and a cute top you feel pretty and perky? Well I notice it all the time! The mood that my clothes portray is often mirrored by my own mood and actions. Maybe that is the reason that I am almost always sociable and quirky; my clothes are different than most that people wear, and they always make a statement. This mirroring of actions applies to other types of clothes as well. When we wear business clothes, we can tend to be more professional and clean cut. We wear baggy sweatpants and a t-shirt, and our inner gangster can come out. There are a whole plethora of clothing combinations that can account for our different behavior.

It is probably more common to assume that it is our personalities – our behaviors and emotions – that affect the clothing choices we make, but maybe it is truly the other way around. Just think about that the next time you go to your closet and are trying to decide what to wear. Maybe the outfit you pick will affect the way you present yourself that day.



By Michael Albin  
Staff Reporter

“Give a man a fish; feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish; feed him for a lifetime” (Lao Tzu).

My father told me this saying years ago. I thought it was just a hokey saying at first, but the more I go through life, the more I think my father was pretty smart for having said it.

The problem with this saying is that in society, especially at Scotus, students are brought up with a different plan in mind. At this school, people are given all of the skills to be great leaders. The problem is, that once you get out into life, you may not be one of the people who is a good leader.

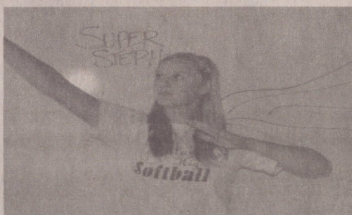
Our education is perfectly fine, but some courses that are offered should be required. I would argue that in school we should be learning more about how to do real world skills, such as paying bills or balancing a

checkbook. Instead, we are learning extremely advanced math equations while doing a literary analysis on some vague English author. If you've ever been bold enough to ask a teacher why we are learning something, the answers are usually all similar. If you become *this* or if you decide to become *that*, then you will use this. But, what about the students that are not going to become architects or engineers?

**“If we're trying to give every person the same education, at least teach things everyone is going to use.”**

~Michael Albin

For the one or two students who are going to end up choosing one of these careers, they are going to be in great shape, but what about the rest? Teachers might argue that everyone is learning the same material, but we're actually learning very specific stuff. If we're trying to give every person the same education, at least teach things that everyone is going to use. We're all going to have to get insurance, file tax returns, and pay off loans, but we're not all going to use the formula to find the volume of a sphere.



By Stephani Jarecke  
Staff Reporter

*What's on your mind?*

Steph Jarecke: is annoyed.

Today Facebook is a top priority among many people in the world. Facebook has many tools of communication, and one of the main applications is Facebook status.

A Facebook status is a way of writing how someone is feeling or to share a person's thoughts with the public. There is then a whole list of everyone's updates called news feed. When statuses first came out they were great to read. I was excited to see what was going on in people's lives. Then, people took advantage of the application.

There are five groups of people based on their status writing skills that get to me. The first group is the book writers: the people who decide to write a whole chapter of their life on Facebook...everyday. I cannot stand when I look at my news feed and have to click on *see more* to finish the status and then click *see more* again.

The next group is the

## Status overload

stataholics: the people who have a horrific addiction to writing statuses. I now know way too much information about some people because of their statuses. People feel as if they need to write their every move on Facebook; going to the bathroom, in the bathroom, fixing my hair, leaving the bathroom, sitting down. When my news feed is clogged with the same person switching their status every thirty minutes, there is a problem.

The third group is the drama-emos. The drama-emos dwell on too many things that no one even cares about. They put a status up about some big issue, but truly no one even cares if they are mad at their boyfriend or girlfriend or dog or whatever else they complain about. The worst is when I see a status where someone is trying to be secretive about who they are talking about just to get people to question it.

**“...no one cares if they are mad at their boyfriend or girlfriend or dog or whatever else...”**

~Steph Jarecke

Another aggravating group is the song-sayers. We might as well rename Facebook as Songbook if this keeps up. People decide to write the whole chorus of a song...and maybe the first verse. I am fine with seeing a

Parents usually only have the best in mind for their children. They always want to keep their child from making the same mistakes that they did. For a parent to tell someone that their child is a successful, big business buff is much easier than telling someone that their child is a construction worker. Why isn't the construction worker talked about with the same amount of satisfaction? Who built the sky rise that the business buff is working in? Who built the road that he uses to drive there? Who built his home?

It's easy for parents to shrug this off, saying they just want the best for their children. Now wait a second, it's not about what you want, but what the child wants.

We need people to build our homes, unclog our toilets, and fix our TV's. The country would grind to a standstill if the garbage man didn't pick up any of our garbage. If everybody were a manager or leader, nothing would actually be getting done. Then why aren't these occupations talked about with the same amount of respect as the people leading them? Stop devaluing labor, and start doing something!

small phrase of a song, but please stop with writing the whole song. No one wants to read a song, especially when no one has heard of the song and it doesn't make sense at all.

The last clan that irritates me is the name-gamers. I do not know what is going through someone's mind as they type the seventeen names (tagged) onto their status in order to let Facebook know who they were with Saturday night. Honestly, no one wants to read six lines full of names.

Although many statuses bother me, I still love reading my news feed. People can statusize things that happened throughout the day as long as it is the appropriate length and is actually “worth reading” for other people. One to two status updates per week is plenty of information to let out.

I have fallen into temptation and put a pointless status up here and there. I sincerely apologize for wasting those two minutes of anyone's life who read any of my fruitless updates.

I want Facebook to become more efficient to the world because it is a site that can do great things for people. But if the news feed is clogged with these outrageous statuses, Facebook will, in my mind, become a waste of time.

I am asking you to please think twice about your next status, and Facebook will be such a happier place. © *What's on your mind?* Steph Jarecke: is relieved.

## Rock Bottom

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# In Depth

# TEENAGE

## Convictions down; drinking not

By Kelcey Robak  
Staff Reporter

Underage drinking occurs in every state, city, county, and school. Underage drinking is a problem everywhere, especially in Platte County. Even though the number of MIPs have dropped in Platte County,

drinking still seems to be an issue. "Platte County has, in the past, received a negative reputation for underage drinking," Columbus Police Officer Gilbert Maschmeier disappointedly stated. Even though Platte County has received a bad reputation, it is the least of everyone's concerns. Deaths,

accidents, and intense punishments have made a bigger impact on the community.

According to Officer Maschmeier, there was a sixteen-year period where twenty-six teens in the community died due to underage drinking. Five of those teens drowned at Wagner's Lake, and two drowned in the canal. The newer generation of Scotus might not be aware, but two of these deaths happened to students that once attended school here.

It does seem to be a good sign that the number of Minor in Possessions (MIPs) have dropped from 2009 to 2010. In 2009, there were 57 MIP citations given to juveniles. That same year, 105 MIP citations were given to adults from ages 18-20. This year, the numbers have dropped. In 2010, 35 MIP citations have been given to juveniles, and 25 MIP citations have been given to adults. All these statistics refer to Platte County.

The drop in statistics might seem hopeful since there have been only six underage drinking party busts since 2009 in Platte County.

Junior Caitlin Wiehn stated with strength though, "Teens are definitely not drinking any less. They have just learned to use their brains to find better places to hide their parties."

People are going to agree and disagree, but the only people who

actually know the truth are the teens themselves.

School President Wayne Morfeld said, "MIP citations are simply what comes to the surface. I think if you'd want to know if it is a real problem, you need to talk to the students and/or their parents."

Statistics show a national problem as well. According to SADD (Students Against Drunk Driving), approximately 5,000 young people under the age of 21 die as a result of underage drinking. Also, according to an annual survey of U.S. youth, 11 percent of 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 22 percent of 10<sup>th</sup> graders, and 29 percent of 12<sup>th</sup> graders had engaged in binge drinking within the past two weeks.

From the same source, more than half (58%) of 12<sup>th</sup> graders report having been drunk at least once in their life. One fifth (20%) of 8<sup>th</sup> graders report having been drunk at least once in their life.

These statistics lead people to point fingers, but Officer Maschmeier's opinion is that everyone is responsible.

"Society is most responsible for underage drinking. Society says it's okay to drink, and because of that we're going to have problems," Officer Maschmeier said. "If I had an answer to end teen drinking, I would be a rich man. I would love to reach every teen out there, but we're not going to reach all of them."

The 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that among high school students, during the past 30 days...



## Scotus: Lenient or Christian?

By Kelly Augustine  
Staff Reporter

Minor in possession, driving under the influence, and procuring to a minor are in the headlines every day, and schools have to deal with the students that are involved in these charges.

"The times of the year with the most reports are now, Christmas Vacation, and at the end of the year," Athletic Director Gary Puetz stated.

As a school, Scotus has many consequences for those who decide to make the decision to drink during their high school career, but the amount of punishment given is put on the students' shoulders. Most school consequences are lessened if the student self-reports, which is when the student tells school officials.

Scotus, Columbus High School, and Lakeview all have policies about self-reporting. Scotus' rule about self-reporting is to report as quickly as possible but within reason. If something happens during the week, try to report the next day. If a situation occurs on the weekend, report on Monday, or the next school day. During the summer, if something happens, Gary Puetz should be contacted as soon as possible to have a meeting with him in his office.

The three high schools also all have consequences for those that are in school activities when in a situation of being caught drinking.

If the problem is self-reported, first offense at Scotus is suspension from activities for 7 calendar days, and the student must still be present at the practices. Second offense is 30 calendar days of suspension from activities. Here too, it is

### Who is responsible for fixing the teen drinking problem?



Michael Tremel

"It is the drinker's choice, therefore it is their problem to fix, but all of those around them need to help support."



Samantha Eoner

"Peers should be responsible. The only reason why teens drink is because their friends do it. When adults say no, teens say yes. It is called rebellion. Teens need to do more."

"Students should be smart. They can have fun without drinking. Parents should enforce the rules."



Hannah Schaecher

"Parents, they are afraid to punish their kids and turn them in; as a result, they project that drinking is fine as long as the authorities don't catch you."



Kyle Baumgart

mandatory to attend practices. Students must also attend four clinical sessions for drug and alcohol abuse or criminal behavior at a program approved by the athletic director. The third offense will be suspension for one calendar year and four clinical sessions for drug and alcohol abuse or criminal behavior at a program approved by the athletic director, and the student may not attend the practices.

The CHS handbook explains, if self-reported, first offense is suspension from activities for 1/4 of the season. Second offense is expulsion from any activity for nine months. Any student getting a third violation will be suspended for a calendar year

from any activity.

Lakeview's rule on the other hand is thirty days of suspension, unless the student agrees to meet with the school counselor and principal for four weeks. If that is the case, there are only 20 days of suspension. Lakeview has similar consequences for the second offense. The student with the violation is suspended from any activities for one calendar year.

Gary Puetz also explains that there are currently about eight first offenses in school right now. Those numbers though are only students involved in activities. Those who are not involved in any activity are not included in those numbers because Puetz, being the athletic director, only has to

deal with those in activities.

"Our strike one is a slap on the wrist; everyone makes mistakes, so go out and make good decisions," Puetz said.

At Scotus, in the sixteen years Puetz has been athletic director, he has only had to deal with one "strike 3," and, as of right now, there are two second offenses in school.

But Scotus' policy still seems more lenient than the other schools.

"I think we do have a good policy. I think by showing a little mercy or Christianity on strike one, a lot of kids think 'If I watch what I am doing and have the right group of friends, it will keep me from getting into more trouble.'"

## Features

## DRINKING

A coach, a student, a parent, and a teacher share their opinions

## Black and White

When I was asked to write this article, I was unsure of how to approach the topic. This is a tough, controversial topic in our society. I was in "your shoes" not too long ago. I will say this, being on "this side" of the topic is harder now than I had imagined when I first sat down to write my point of view. I'm not naïve enough to ignore the fact that teenage drinking occurs, but, like I've said, I've been "there" and I've had too many negative experiences in my lifetime, and I feel it's important that I share my experiences with each player I coach and student I encounter at Scotus.

I was not the "perfect" kid when I was in school. I hung out with a fun group of friends – we did a lot of things and had our fun. I made mistakes, learned from them, and became a better person for it. I truly feel my mistakes helped shape me into the person I am – husband, father, and coach. In between my high school and college years (1995-2002), the city of Columbus lost teenagers in accidents related to teenage drinking. Many of those kids that died were my friends. Friends I think about every day.

When I became the head soccer coach at Scotus,



By Jon Brezenski  
Scotus Coach and  
Alumni

I felt a personal responsibility to make sure current students and athletes at Scotus did not have to experience those same feelings of losing a

childhood friend, teammate, or sibling like I did when I was a student. Fortunately, the death experiences have not occurred, but teenage drinking continues on today. Kids are faced with more stresses now than they were when I was a student at Scotus, but it's still no excuse for allowing it to happen, whether you are the student drinking, the friend or alibi, the parent buying the alcohol, or allowing your child and their friends to drink under your supervision...we all have a responsibility.

As a coach, it's my job to prepare kids

to play to the best of their ability, and alcohol hinders that performance. I firmly believe the message has to start from home. As parents, we cannot condone any such activity – period. I have one rule as a head coach and am looking for parents to always help enforce it, and the rule is this – "Do the right thing. It's either right, or it's wrong. There is no gray area." Teenage drinking follows those same lines, and we all have a part to play to help reduce the frequency and prevent negative experiences and tragedies in which Columbus, unfortunately, has been known for in the past.

## No Excuses

I know students are tired of hearing the same speech over and over again. "Don't drink..." Yeah, yeah, we get it. The point is: there are the people that don't drink, who tend to stay away from it, and there are the people that do, who are going to do what they want regardless.

Trust me, I know what you're thinking: this is just another person telling you how you're wrong and how you shouldn't drink, right? No, I'm not here to lecture you or to write you off; I'm just here to ask a simple question: Why?

Ask someone who drinks that same question

and almost always expect the same answer of "Columbus is boring and there's nothing else to do in this town." Yeah, I'm fully aware that Columbus isn't exactly the most exciting town, but are you really going to tell me drinking is the only thing you can think of to entertain yourself?

I recently heard a saying, "People who are bored are boring." I guess I can say this kind of 'stuck' with me because it's true. If someone is bored, they're most likely too lazy to find something to do. Hmm...boring? Yeah, I think so too. It wouldn't be so bad if there weren't a thousand other things you



By Stacia Rawhouser  
Scotus Student

could be doing. Join a sport, join a club, take up knitting, whatever. I don't know, but do something.

So, that still doesn't answer the question: Why? Why do people drink? Is

it because people think it's cool? Is it to impress other people? Is it to help cope with pain or personal issues; or do people really just result to alcohol for "something to do?"

Well, in my opinion, being 'cool' isn't exactly the most important thing, but if that's what you really want in life... I don't know, maybe you should buy some sunglasses? Or a leather jacket? As far as impressing people goes – trust me, it's not worth it. Be yourself, and if that's not enough, then I doubt those are the people you want to hang out with anyway. If drinking is some sort of 'medicine' that helps people

with depression, that's pretty ironic considering alcohol enhances depression. Be strong; get over it. There are many alternative solutions for people going through hard times; so those who say it's the only thing that helps? I'm sorry, but that is no excuse.

"People who are bored are boring." If you're that desperate for something to do, then get involved. There's no excuse for not making an effort. Yeah, of course there isn't going to be anything to do if you don't give anything a chance. Do something productive. Use your mind please; don't destroy it.

## Avoiding the Inevitable

When my son Levi asked me to write an article for the Scotus newspaper about drinking, I asked him, "Why me?" His reply was that he asked two other adults and they turned him down. But the question he had for me next caught me off guard. He asked "Why don't you drink like you used to when you were younger in high school and college? Did something make you change?"

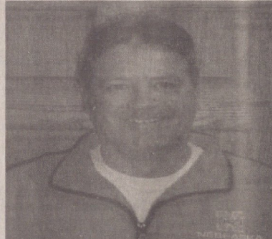
Yes, I admit I used to drink back in those days, probably for many of the same reasons that kids drink today: peer pressure, it was the thing to do at parties, ignorance, lack of parental knowledge, and a culture at the time that didn't crack down on underage drinking.

The culture in the late 70's and early 80's was if you drank and didn't do drugs

it was ok; plus the drinking age was 19, not 21. So alcohol was very available, and kids would have parties, and they would constantly offer it to you. If you didn't drink, they would make fun of you.

At times some parents allowed alcohol, or we didn't think our parents knew. If they found out or if we did get in trouble, there would be a lot more trouble at home from our parents, and they would discipline us severely. But the thing that started to change my attitude toward drinking was seeing the results of drunk drivers.

One night after prom there was a party, and, as usual, there was alcohol there. That night I drank only one or two beers over a five hour period. My friends said the usual jokes like calling me a lightweight or saying I was keeping the bottle warm,



By Bill McPhillips  
Scotus Parent

but I didn't want to drink that night. Some friends got really drunk. One of them took off with his car, and I and another friend went after him. He was so drunk that he fell asleep at the wheel and rolled his car. It was a miracle that he wasn't hurt or killed. To this day I can see the look on his parents' faces when we took

him home and had to explain what happened.

Later that year this same family lost their oldest son to a drunk driver on their daughter's wedding day. The next day I went to help work at their place. The same friend that helped take our classmate home and I were helping the father at a task when he broke down and said to us "Thanks boys, but I really need to be alone now." We left him, but I looked back, and for the first time in my life I watched a man break down and cry in grief. It tore at my heart and soul.

To say that I quit drinking after that would be a lie, but you can ask any of my family or friends and they will say that I only drink a beer or two, and that's it. As parents we have to guide our children to right choices. We have to be parents, not friends. We have

to lead by example, which means we have to have self-control in our use of alcohol and not drink to get drunk. The kids may say they are sorry when they are caught, but as parents we shouldn't allow our kids to have an attitude of "I'm not sorry for drinking, I'm just sorry I got caught." Otherwise, we will be the parent with a child that causes an accident or gets killed in one.

There is a reason that 21 is the age limit for drinking. Don't be ignorant and think you can handle it, or it makes you feel good, or that you feel you have a good time with it. I don't care if you are 16 or 17, 40 or 50 years old; if you drink and get drunk, sooner or later you will hurt or kill yourself or someone else in an accident, and that is unacceptable to me.

## High Expectations

I was not supposed to write this article. As late as yesterday 7<sup>th</sup> period we had an article from a student that we had determined to be more "high interest" than having a teacher write one. I had a candid article from a gifted writer about her struggle with the pressures of drinking, her fall into temptation, and her rebound to better decisions for a better future.

But I had cold feet. There are risks to admitting in your school paper that you broke the law, and I was not willing to ask her to pay those consequences so we could have an award winning layout. It was not worth it.

I've toyed with those words in my head all evening as I tried to plan this article: it was not worth it. Worth.

Value. Price.

I am supposed to be writing this article from the "teacher's" point of view, but it is really hard as I think about teenage drinking to avoid writing from a parent's point of view. As I was fixing supper tonight, I thought about the value I place on the lives of my girls. I dread the years ahead when they will face the challenges of peer pressure. What I would give to keep them from making a life-changing decision for a good time – possibly a life-ending decision. I wonder if the teenagers I see everyday think about the fact that their parents would lay down their lives to keep them safe. They value their lives that much – if only those teens valued their own lives that much.



By Mrs. Angie Rusher  
Scotus Teacher and  
Alumni

What price are kids willing to pay for their lives, or even part of their lives? How much is their integrity worth? Their character? Their innocence? How do we teach that?

I think some of the hardest hits we take as teachers are the disappointments we endure as we value our students' lives and futures more than they do. I find myself daily having to argue with students as they defend behavior that takes away from their self worth.

Luckily for us it isn't always a challenge. I am surrounded by students that understand how hard they have worked to earn and keep their honor. I know others that have made mistakes and have regained some of what they had lost.

What am I going to do as a teacher to discourage teen drinking? I am going to continue to believe in my students even when they don't, and even when they

may not deserve it. I am going to be idealistic and have high expectations even when my students say, "Don't worry so much" or "It's not a big deal". I am going to make them tuck in their shirts and be on time and turn in homework and have good word choice and be nice to each other because it is okay to hold ourselves to the highest standard. It is possible to get through school without lying, cheating, drinking, or giving up the most important parts of yourself.

And today I am going to protect my student that is willing to put her integrity on the line to teach other students a lesson; she doesn't need to pay that price when someone else could teach it to them.

# Sports

## Shamrocks finish strong-3rd at State

By Michael Albin  
Staff Reporter

Finishing strong is almost always the most important thing. The Shamrock Volleyball Team this year finished strong in the NSAA C-1 Volleyball Championships. The Shamrocks finished with a 2-1 record in the state tournament, capping off with a win to secure third place. Although the ultimate goal of winning the State Championship was not attained, Head Coach John Petersen wasn't discouraged.

"I think we had a great State Tournament. Our first game against Ogallala we played nearly as well as we could," Petersen said.

The Shamrocks swept the Indians 25-10, 25-11, 25-11.

"We passed, we hit, and we played well," Petersen praised.

A solid win for Scotus to be sure, but the real game was the following day. A rematch of the barn burner State Championship from last year; another meeting with the Grand Island Crusaders was inbound. Just as the year before, the Crusaders had defeated the Shamrocks in the three

previous meetings in the regular season.

"The first three matches we played against GICC, we didn't believe we played as well as we could. Grand Island is a tremendous team, but we were able to beat them one set which was only the second set they had lost all year. I don't know if it was that we couldn't maintain our intensity, or if they just turned up theirs," Petersen commented.

Either way, things didn't turn out like the previous year, where Scotus managed to take Grand Island in 5 sets. Many still believe that without the immense cheering and passion from the Rowdy Dowdies, the Crusaders would have won last year too.

"Our student section is the best in the state. They just do a tremendous job," Petersen added, "I'm into a game, and all I hear is noise, but when I happen to catch something, those cheers are pretty clever. If the student body can go to the game and have a great time too and help us win, that is a huge advantage," praised Petersen.

But, even with the help of the Rowdy Dowdies, the Crusaders came out on top after 4 sets.

"They are just such a solid team; it's just hard to beat that kind of talent," Petersen said.

One of the hardest things to do in sports is to rebound after a hard loss and focus for the following challenges. But, even with a hard loss, the Shamrocks came back focused and ready for the Saturday consolation game.

"The team regrouped so well; I am very pleased with how they maintained such focus and regenerated

-See VOLLEYBALL, Page 8



STEPH JARECKE/ROCK BOTTOM SAFF  
Lauran Hellbusch attempts a jump-serve during the first round of the Class C-1 state volleyball playoffs at Hastings College on November 11th.

## Scotus ends season with hard fought loss in playoffs

By Casey Kessler  
Staff Reporter

The 2010 Scotus Football Team began the season in hopes of making the state tournament and building on their 2-6 record from the year before. The team was able to improve, and eventually finished with a birth in the playoffs and a 3-6 record.

Scotus received their bye week before their first game, so they had extra preparation for their big game at David City Aquinas. The Aquinas game did not go as Scotus had planned, and it resulted in a 6-37 loss. The next two games did not go well either, as they lost to Battle Creek and were crushed in their first home game against Pierce.

Even at this point, Krienke knew that the teams he had played were all top quality competition, and he was not ready to cash it in on the season.

"The 0-3 start was discouraging, but our coaches and athletes continued to work and do things the right way and continued to improve. I give much of the credit to our Seniors for not allowing the team to feel sorry for itself," Krienke said.

After the Pierce game, Scotus had a great week of practice and came out ready to play against their first district foe Raymond Central. Scotus was up 35-0 against the Bison at halftime and did not look back as they cruised to a 49-0 victory.

The team felt extremely confident and had much momentum going into a tussle at home against 3-1 Tekamah-Herman. Tekamah was not located in Scotus's district, so this was a good opportunity to build power points if Scotus would get a good seed in the playoffs. Sadly, it was not meant to be as Scotus lost 3-20.

Scotus bounced back the next week during district play as they won in North Bend 28-8 and felt a district title could be in grasp with a win against David City the next week. Sadly, the next week was not a good Homecoming for the Rocks as they

were trounced 6-40 by David City and Seth Behrens, who ran for over 300 yards, most of which were accounted for in the first half.

A win in the last game of the regular season against Lakeview would put Scotus into the playoffs, but a loss would end the season in a disappointing fashion. As we all know, Scotus beat Lakeview on a Ryan Becker game-winning field goal with twenty seconds left, and Scotus went on to win 23-21.

Krienke loved the effort from his players but also enjoyed the crowd and the entire atmosphere of the game.

"I think our student body, parents, and alumni did a fantastic job as they gave us a great home field advantage," Krienke said.

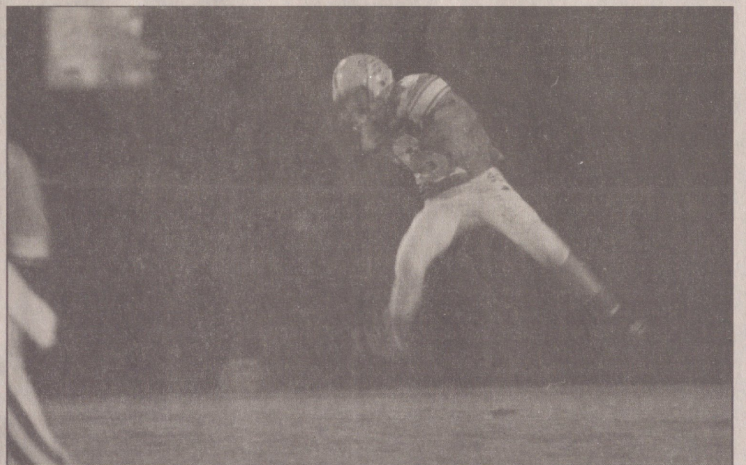
Scotus was set to play C-1 number eight powerhouse Ashland-

Greenwood in Ashland in the first round of the playoffs. Scotus ran all over the second best defense in the state, but couldn't quite cash it in inside the red zone as their season ended with a 7-17 loss and a 3-6 record.

At the end of the season, Krienke hoped his team would play its best and Scotus was able to do that.

"I wanted our football team to play its best at the end of the year, and we definitely played our best football in the Lakeview game and in the playoffs," Krienke said.

The future of the Scotus program looks bright and has numerous returning letter winners going into next season. Only losing nine Seniors compared to fifteen the year before is definitely a positive aspect for the future.



KATIE OHNOUTKA/YEARBOOK STAFF  
Ryan Becker goes airborne after kicking off the ball during a recent game against Lakeview at Memorial Stadium in Columbus on October 21st.

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Nebraska escapes; Nebraska basketball; LeBron in the news (again)

By Casey Kessler  
Staff Reporter

\*The final game played between Nebraska and Iowa State, which ended in a thrilling win by the Cornhuskers 31-30 in overtime. I will remember this game because ironically the two-point conversion was held up "in the wind" at "Cyclone" Stadium.

\*The Colorado Buffalos recently blew a 28-point lead in the fourth quarter and lost to the Kansas Jayhawks 52-45. All I have to say is hahahahahaha.

\*Is it just me, or does playing college football for the Oregon Ducks look amazingly fun?

\*One of the best college football players in the nation, Cam Newton, allegedly was paid to play for the Auburn Tigers. Before his commitment to the Tigers, he had actually played for the Florida Gators. I don't know why he wanted to get paid to get away from Tim Tebow. I would have left for free.

\*The Big 12 suspended Nebraska player Eric Martin for one game for an illegal helmet to helmet hit. Last time I checked, football was a contact sport.

\*In other news, the NFL has decided to not only suspend, but also fine defensive players who make illegal helmet-to-helmet hits. Last time I checked, football was a contact sport.

\*A Miami linebacker was allegedly spit in the face during a recent loss to the Baltimore Ravens. Last time I checked football wasn't called "Flavor of Love."

\*Ndamukong Suh attempted an extra point recently for the Detroit Lions. Even though he missed, he showed excellent form and was said to have played soccer while in high school. Turns out USA soccer needs a new striker for Brazil 2014.

\*Dallas Cowboys head coach Wade Phillips was fired after a 1-7 start. Colorado head coach Dan Hawkins was fired mid-season after a 19-39 record through five seasons. It turns out the vultures finally decided to swoop down.

\*Randy Moss has been in three different team relationships the last two months. He repeatedly acts childish and starts drama. He also has a mean tan and six pack abs. Sign him up for Jersey Shore Season 3.

\*The Los Angeles Kings have the best record in the NHL at 10-3 (that is all).

\*Nebraska basketball will defeat Creighton 112-110 in triple overtime. The good news is that both of these teams will qualify for the NCAA Tournament in March. Sadly, both of them will get beat down in the second round.

\*Lebron James recently made a one-minute and thirty-second commercial for Nike. The commercial has Lebron in numerous careers asking, "Should I do what you want me to do or should I do what I want to do?" Seriously Nike, save that money for a Super Bowl commercial.

\*So I was wrong about the Yankees winning the World Series, but, I mean, they have won it 27 times. My chances of being wrong were only 1 in 4.

\*On a final note, it turns out Prince Amukamara does not have the coolest name on the Husker Football Team. That award is a tie between Offensive Lineman Seung Hoon Choi and Defensive Lineman Faron Klingelhoefer.

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# Activities

## Cheerleaders step it up

By **Stacia Rawhouser**  
Staff Reporter

The Scotus cheerleaders have been making improvements on their performances and working hard to gain the respect of the school and parents.

This summer the squad attended cheer camp at UNL, a much more challenging camp than they have attended in previous years. There, they competed well and received a spirit stick as well as the superior ribbon for their final evaluation.

Scotus' cheerleaders also participated in the Spirit Day at the

Kansas City Chiefs pre-season football game. They worked hard to learn the dance in less than a week, and then performed it at halftime along with the KC Chief's cheerleaders.

One of the senior captains Hannah Schaecher said, "This summer was good for us; we grew closer and improved a lot as a squad. The KC experience was a once in a lifetime thing that gave us confidence and showed us what cheerleading was all about."

When the school year began, it was time for the cheerleaders to use all they had learned from the summer and put it together for the fall sports seasons. With four more girls than last year's squad, the cheerleaders have managed to adapt and work together.

"I feel that everyone on the squad is getting along well this year, and we're getting excited to start basketball season," Schaecher said.

Having a large group of girls together is tough to do without the presence of team unity.

Junior cheerleader Abbey Schieffer said, "This year the squad is more of a 'family' than we have been in past years. We get along and try to help each other the best we can because we're a team."

With basketball season already on its way, the cheerleaders have been making new additions to their performances in hopes of 'wow-

ing' the crowd.

"We've really been stepping it up when it comes to getting the student body involved, and we have been using a lot of the cheers we learned at camp this summer," Schieffer said.

In using these new cheers and routines, the squad has also noticed a drastic change in the parents' participation. "By adding more sideline cheers to choose from, the cheerleaders have been able to limit the older cheers such as "Go big green" and include newer, more complex cheers to get the crowd involved.

"The crowds have been more supportive of us this year than they have been in the past. They stand up and clap to show team spirit and really get involved with our cheers. Cheering is a lot more fun when the students and parents are on our side," Schaecher said.

With the cheerleading squad making progress, it is no secret that they hope to keep moving forward throughout the year. With the fall season out of the way, the girls do not anticipate any less progress during the winter season.

"We have a lot of different cheers that we use for basketball season, so we're excited to bring those out, and we look forward to showing our team spirit for the Shamrocks in what we hope to be another successful season," Schieffer said.



KATIE OHNOUTKA/YEARBOOK STAFF

The cheerleaders are doing "TRUCKIN" towards the student body. The cheerleaders have added several new sideline cheers this year.

## Mock trial becoming not so debatable

By **Kelcey Robak**  
Staff Reporter

Mock trial is becoming a bigger hit at Scotus each fall. For many years, there have only been three mock trial teams. The teams were separated by grade level starting with sophomores. Only two years ago did that change when freshmen were allowed to join mock trial making four teams. This year was the first year ever that Scotus has had five mock trial teams. The success of the Scotus mock trial teams at districts and the different concepts that come from mock trial are part of the reason for such a high interest in it lately.

Mock trial is an activity where high school students take on the role of a court case including attorneys and witnesses. Each team in the state is given the same case, and each team has to prepare for both sides: the defense and the prosecution. Each side has three witnesses and an attorney to each witness. The team who is more prepared and better polished usually wins the rounds. The mock trial participants compete in their own district, and then the winner of districts move on to state competition.

Twelve freshmen wanted to be in mock trial this year, so mock trial sponsor, Mrs. Rambour, had to hold tryouts for all that wanted to be part of the program. It was the first time in a long time that tryouts had to be done because too many people wanted to join.

Carly Burkhardt, a freshmen mock trial member, states her reason for going out as, "I argue a lot as it is; I figured that if I could do something that encouraged me to argue, why

not?"

Another member on her team, freshman Zach Jepsen said, "I wanted to experience what court is really like, and I heard it was a ton of fun acting like you are being accused of something."

There were five mock trial teams this year, which is the most any school has in the district. The highest amount after that is two teams, which came from Lakeview and Columbus High. The members were divided by a senior team, a junior team, a junior/senior team, a sophomore/junior

team, and a freshmen team. Last year, there were four Scotus teams, and this year's senior team placed second in the district while this year's junior team placed third in the district.

One coach that has had much success in the past is Gene Schumacher. He coached his daughters Lauren and Kelly, and he now coaches his son, Thomas. Both of his daughters' teams went to state their junior and senior years. Schumacher's success comes from his love of mock trial.

"It's neat to see kids grow and develop into their knowledge

of the law and how the legal system works. I love coaching mock trial," Schumacher said.

The senior team and junior team competed against each other in the district semi-finals, and the juniors won the round to move on and compete in the district finals on November 16.

"Even though I know there is a chance of losing first-round in districts and maybe never being able to compete as my witness, I take that risk because I love mock trial that much," junior Rachel Rambour said.



JACI BEAUVAIS/YEARBOOK STAFF

At the Platte County courthouse, junior Trenton Kuta hands sophomore Lauren Kuta an exhibit to examine. Trenton will be competing in the district finals coached by Gene Schumacher on Thursday, November 17.

## WHAT WE'RE 2

### Deer Hunting Discipline

By **Levi McPhillips**  
Layout Editor

I was planning on writing an article about my successful deer hunting story, but since I have not killed my trophy as of Sunday November 14th, that is not entirely possible.

I hunted from dawn until dusk yesterday, and it was the most emotionally up and down day of my life. I was so frustrated, mad, disappointed, and physically exhausted that I wanted to cry.

If you do not hunt, you may

be asking, "Why do you do it if it causes you so much pain?"

In all honesty, I cannot put it into words. The best way I can describe it is that it is addicting. It's not just some activity that I do a couple times a year. It has made me who I am. It's not just a sport, but rather, it is an ancient tradition as old as mankind.

I'm not saying that hunting is this macho activity where men try to be manly and kill animals; in fact, just the opposite. Men are sometimes called to act out of a deeper discipline while hunting. We put aside our own personal well-being and often ignore pain for the sake of the hunt, and we often have to act without emotion. I firmly believe that few things in life can teach us as many life lessons as hunting can. It teaches patience,

determination, responsibility, physical stamina, and as I was taught yesterday, discipline.

To better explain my claims of how hunting makes men better men, I will give an example from my own hunting experiences. The sun was setting, and I spotted two deer a mile away in my binoculars. I drove my ATV the first half mile to where I could see them more clearly. I ran another 400 yards to a center irrigation pivot in hope for a better shot, but when I stopped there, I realized they were crossing the bridge, and I was going to have to chase them. Running out of daylight, I arrived at the bridge. As I emerged out of the ditch I saw about twelve deer on the other side of the gravel road in a harvested field. By this time, daylight was dwindling, and

the hunt started to slip through my fingers. Because it was so dark, I could not distinguish doe from buck, there was a chance that I had dirt in my rifle barrel, and I was hunting on a road which is less than legal. The odds were stacked against me, and I had no choice but to let them go. After months of work and an entire day of disappointment, every cell in my body wanted to pull that trigger.

I did not write this to say that I am an awesome man's man, but I am trying to say that it was really hard for me to not pull that trigger. Men are to be disciplined in all areas of their lives, and hunting teaches us that, even if it is unpleasant and painful.

To all those hunters out there, I wish you luck. Be safe, be disciplined, and most importantly, enjoy yourselves.



## Black Friday Craziiness

By Alise Perault  
Copy Editor

It's five o'clock in the morning, fifteen degrees below zero, and you are surrounded by hundreds of shivering shoppers on the same mission as you: nab those crazy pre-Christmas deals. Yes, it's Black Friday; a day that I think could be more appropriately titled early-waking, people-pushing, deal-stealing Friday. This fateful Friday of the year is a favorite of the many smart shoppers out there who will go to any length to get their low-priced Christmas gifts almost a month before the holiday. But if you truly get into the excitement of this day, you realize that there is more to Black Friday shopping than storming the doors of a department store.

The insanity all starts the Thursday before. Folks gather all of the flyers advertising the store's amazing deals, and then they draw up the crucial list of items that they are determined to get. Here's the clincher, these people are then willing to get up at four o'clock in the morning, only to be forced to wait in line for another two hours. Black Friday shoppers also usually take companions with them because, heaven forbid, they might not be able to carry everything they want in one cart, but I guess they also are great for helping push through the doors with the throngs of other desperate shoving people. But that's not all; you also have to account for the really crazy people who try to break the rules.

**...you also have to account for the really crazy people who try to break the rules.**

**-Alise Perault**

My family has told me numerous stories of just how crazy these events can become. There was one time when an eighty-year-old lady almost plowed my sister over in her desperation to reach the threshold of the Wal-Mart doors. Then there is the story of the people who drove their cars up to the doors, and as soon as they opened, made a run for it to try and dash in past the people who had already been waiting there for hours. All I can say is: how far can this insanity go? Well, in New York it was enough to have one Wal-Mart employee killed, but can the need to buy cheaply priced goods really account for the rash behavior of these bargain buyers? I'd have to say no.

I personally have never taken part in Black Friday shopping because I would rather sleep in and miss out on great deals than be shoved to death by sleep-deprived loons. Here in America we have begun to place the value of our dollar over the values of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We are constantly trying to find ways to get more bang for our buck. Now, one may argue that pursuing great deals in turn leads to the pursuing of happiness, but material things never lead to happiness. I think we should just skip out on Black Friday, and while we're at it, just forget about Christmas gifts altogether. It's about time we started to celebrate the holidays in a way that matters, surrounded not by fifteen-dollar toasters, but by the family and friends who love us.

## KellyTube A Top Ten Ranking of Youtube's Finest

By Kelly Augustine  
Staff Reporter

Some like to listen to music, some need to learn how to tie a tie, and others like to watch Youtube videos just for a laugh to make their day a little more cheery.

As of right now, the number one viewed video is Justin Bieber's "Baby ft. Ludacris". It is the first video on Youtube that has gone over three hundred million views. Every video on the top ten most viewed Youtube videos is a music video, except for one, which is "Charlie bit my finger". But, everyone has their own top ten Youtube videos, whether they have the most views or not.

Here are ten videos that I think are quite funny myself.

### 10. doglover199709

This is not one video on Youtube, but a Youtuber. She lip syncs and dances to songs. Doesn't sound funny? Check her and her pretty sweet dance moves out.

### 9. Horse Running on two legs

A lot of people don't understand why this next video is so funny. I guess you just need a certain sense of humor to

understand the hilarity behind it. The title is pretty self-explanatory.

### 8. David after Dentist

Is very cute. A little boy is still medicated from the surgery he got at the dentist. His reaction to the medicine is priceless.

### 7. Trigon Commercial

Other videos are just so cute that they are funny. This one is pretty funny because there is a little black boy using adult slang on camera.

### 6. Guy gets hit by ice-cream truck

Some guy thinks he is cool and decides to dance in the middle of the road. I'm sure everyone can guess what happens next.

### 5. Fat girl falls on treadmill

Some videos may be mean or making fun of someone, but that doesn't mean they can't be funny.

### 4. Where's the Chapstick

Have you ever wondered where your chapstick was? Maybe if you sing the song that is sung in this video, you will find it. This video is completely stupid, yet comical.

### 3. TheComputerNerd01

This is another great Youtuber. He is mostly known for his parodies. One of the better ones might be his "Tik Tok Parody". In this video, he makes up his own lyrics to the song "Tik Tok" by Ke\$ha.

### 2. Beenerkeekee19952

This Youtuber is a little person who is fifteen years old. He likes to lip sync music and every once in a while you will get to hear his voice actually singing a song. He is also known for his video called "Fishy Crackers". In this video he says "Fishy Crackers" in a hysterical way.

### 1. The Greatest Freak Out Ever

There are about seventeen "great freak outs", and they are quite hilarious. Some though, are better than others. They are all about a sixteen-year-old who has anger issues, and his brother records his reactions to different scenarios

Now, there are a few things that didn't make the top 10, but definitely deserve some honorable mention: "Fat kid on a Roller Coaster", "Nichole337", and "The Chubby Cupcake Boy."



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## VOLLEYBALL

Continued from Page 6

their efforts." But Sandy Creek High School had talent as well, and beating them was no small feat.

"Sandy Creek was athletic and tall, but we found a way; we had to fight and scrap for every single point."

Despite no championship this year, there is a lot to look forward to next year. With some crucial returning players and some young up-and-coming underclassmen, next season looks just as promising as this one.

"We have a setter that has started two years, Jordan Chohon, and that's a great start. It's like getting your quarterback back. Lauran Hellbusch had a great year and really stepped up, so she is going to become a great player for us."

Plus, both the JV and the

Freshmen went undefeated.

"People are going to have to work hard to maintain the tradition that we have, so it will be interesting to see how it comes out."

A man of habit, Coach Petersen doesn't take the tradition here at Scotus for granted.

"I would like to thank the

school, the student body, the band, the cheerleaders, the faculty, and the administration for all that they have and all that they do. They support us, just like they do in every sport. That's a tribute to the kind of kids and the kind of people we have here at Scotus."

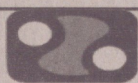


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# SCOTUS CENTRAL Rock Bottom

Scotus Central Catholic

Columbus, Nebraska 68601

Volume 12 • Issue 3 • December 20, 2010

## Scotus takes part in holiday giving

By Kelcey Robak  
Staff Reporter

Christmas is a time of giving. It is a time to demonstrate generosity to neighbors by giving to people in the most need. The Scotus community has demonstrated this generosity annually by participating in the Miracle Minute, the food drive, and the Holiday Co-op.

The Miracle Minute is sponsored by the Student Council. The Miracle Minute this year took place at halftime during the boys' varsity game against Hastings Saint Cecilia. Scotus earned approximately 520 dollars. The profits were split between Scotus supporters Rich Anderson and Don Strecker. Scotus first took part in the Miracle Minute when junior Trenton Kuta was a cancer patient five years ago. The profits went to Make a Wish Foundation for the first four years. This year, Student Council thought it would be appropriate to donate the money to individual people who were struggling with cancer within our Scotus family.

Student Council sponsor Joan Lahm said, "Nebraska Student Council kind of got us going on Miracle Minute. The Student Council feels really positive about going into the crowd and collecting money."

The food drive also takes place once a year during the Christmas season. Each grade competes to bring in the most of food. The food brought in is divided by points. Different types of food are worth more points based on their value. The grade with the most amount



NATHAN WANGLER / YEARBOOK STAFF

Anxiously putting in money for the annual Miracle Minute, junior high students give their donations during halftime of the boys' varsity game December 2nd. The revenue was donated to Rich Anderson and Don Strecker.

of points receives two free dress down days while taking semester finals. The freshmen class won the competition with the average person bringing in 29.5 points. All the food collected was donated to the Simon House.

Another act of spirit giving that Scotus partakes in is the Holiday Co-op. The Holiday Co-op

is done by the members of National Honor Society. Each member brings a certain amount of money to donate, and then some members of NHS go to Wal-Mart to purchase the gifts. The presents that the NHS members buy are the only presents that the children will receive at Christmas. Each child receives about 35-40 dollars worth of

presents.

Mrs. Dusel, sponsor of the NHS program, said "National Honor Society wanted to do something service-oriented that would get a lot of members involved, and to recognize the needs of others in the community."

## Lunch has a new factor

By Michael Albin  
Staff Reporter

Few things in this world have had such a profound effect on lunch as this year's new addition to Scotus, the Shamrock Factor. Originally called Modern Technology, teacher Aaron Sasges got a new idea for the class just last year.

"I went to a NETA (Nebraska Educational Technology Association) conference last year, and there was a school who had a news program. They had a green screen, a production studio, the whole nine yards, but I thought to myself 'How can I bring this back to Scotus?'"

Then, with that seed of an idea, the Shamrock Factor was born. But, all ten of the members of the Shamrock Factor (nine students

and Sasges) soon found that making a news program is not as easy as it sounds.

"Writing and memorizing the scripts is very difficult. It's hard to keep things interesting," junior Jake Kratochvil said.

The members of the Shamrock Factor managed to adapt and overcome the difficulties and stress that producing a newscast can create.

"The kids were very nervous the first couple of weeks because they were not used to being in front of a camera," Sasges commented, "You could see them stuttering, swaying, and not really knowing what to do. But, you go chronologically through the episodes, and you can see a huge difference in their confidence from episode to episode."

Even with all the success and

enjoyment of the Shamrock Factor, the semester is near its end. Will the Shamrock Factor survive through to next semester?

"I'm combining Modern Technology and Web Page Design so the Shamrock Factor can keep going all year. But, we will see some new faces next semester. I will be taking in a few new people, but I can't have too many kids, there just wouldn't be enough jobs for people," Sasges said.

Fortunately, one very important news anchor will be staying.

"I will be glad to grace the Shamrock Factor for the remainder of the year," Kratochvil said, "I will just have to continue my extreme voice exercises to keep the voice where it is now."

-See FACTOR, Page 2

## Lottery stagnant with economy

By Casey Kessler  
Staff Reporter

Lottery flourishes with help of students

As Scotus took the lead into the half against Hastings St. Cecilia, there was much excitement throughout the crowd. The team surprised the crowd, but most attendees also hoped to be surprised with winning cash prizes during the Shamrock Lottery.

The Shamrock Lottery is a fundraiser that has been around since the early eighties and is a way for Scotus to make money by having their students get out in the community and show what Scotus is all about. There always was a fundraiser involved with Scotus during this time of year, but it was not always called the Shamrock Lottery. The fundraiser used to be a Gala-type event called Shamrock Night, which was held at Ag Park and involved a dance along with a dinner. That later was stopped because of a decrease in attendance over the years, and the Shamrock Lottery was formed.

John Schueth and Annette Hash in the development office at Scotus have been the main organizers of the Shamrock Lottery and feel that it is an excellent way for Scotus to earn money by getting the students involved.

"Students are given one packet of twenty-five raffle tickets, and each ticket is worth two dollars. Even though some parents just buy the tickets, there are still a number of students who love to get out in their neighborhoods and sell," Hash said.

-See LOTTERY, Page 2



ANGIE RUSHER / ROCK BOTTOM

Junior Adam Moore aims the camera towards juniors Jake Kratochvil and Kelsey Newman. The Shamrock Factor produced eleven episodes this semester.

## LOTTERY

Students actually were given a free day off of school in the early years of the Shamrock Lottery for selling all their tickets. The school board later voted it down. But there is still the ability for a free dress down day for everyone who sold all of his or her tickets.

The raffle also used to have actual items donated by certain businesses associated with Scotus Central Catholic, but having only cash prizes donated by alumni and boosters was much easier and more organized.

Mentioned above are many positives associated with the Shamrock Lottery. There are many struggles to this lottery, and it takes much work ethic and organization by the representatives such as Hash.

The amount that was sold this year also declined compared to previous years, and that is not necessarily the students' fault.

## FACTOR

Student members of the Shamrock Factor have plenty of responsibilities.

"I tell the kids, this is your show. They do everything. I might be looking over their shoulder making sure they're doing things right, but I'm just there when they need help," Sasges said.

Despite the determination to make the best news program in Scotus, the students in the Shamrock Factor find time to share a few

"Economically, we were \$230 dollars less in sales than last year, and we actually have more students enrolled at Scotus this year. So in essence, the average amount per student declined relatively. Many parents need assistance, so they may think it defeats the purpose a bit to sell tickets and also get tuition assistance," Hash said.

Though there are a few negatives, the money does go to certain organizations or charities of Scotus each year, and that is definitely much needed. This year, the proceeds go to two brand new banks of lights in Memorial Hall and will also help with tuition assistance and scholarships within the Scotus community.

Tammy Mostek won the \$500 prize and Scotus Les Svatora and Scotus student Levi McPhillips won the two \$250 prizes. Natalie Braun won the \$200 prize, while Darrin Dubas won the \$100 prize.

laughs.

"There was a scene where I slid a chair to Jake, and he completely wiped out. We weren't really expecting it, so we just died laughing," junior Kelsey Newman added, "And the days we actually record are very fun because we mess around and have a good time."


Monday lunch has a new companion, and one that looks to be around for quite a while.

### Shamrock Lottery 2010

**Total Amount Made: \$12,842**

Class	Average Amount Made Per Person
*Senior	\$36.34
Junior	\$32.31
*Sophomore	\$41.46
Freshmen	\$28.77
*Eighth Grade	\$37.65
Seventh Grade	\$25.21

\* Indicates classes that received a free dress down week for exceeding the \$35 average per student.



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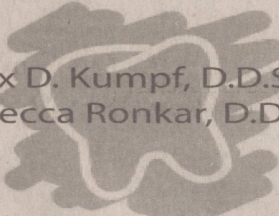
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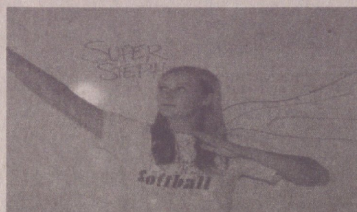
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# Opinion

## Spoiled and undeserving



### I am not my brother

By Stephani Jarecke  
Staff Reporter

"Your brother did this, your brother did that, your brother could do it, oh and don't forget your brother was good at that."

I have heard this too many times from too many people.

Siblings are compared in almost everything today by parents, teachers, and coaches. The youngest child in the family is always at a deficit. Often, others put down teens because their effort is not as good as an older sibling's.

It is hard being compared to siblings and still trying to remember that you are working hard for yourself and not for your siblings.

Parents use the excuse too many times for schoolwork. They know that their children's minds are each different, but they still continue to harp at their kids about the comparison of grades. The title sibling is not defined as one who has the exact brain as another.

Also, when my mom says, "Your brother got an A in that class," I think in my head, I remember him not getting an A in that class.

The problem with parents comparing grades is that sometimes you can't help it if you can't get a better grade. If the effort is there, sometimes it doesn't meet up to the same as others.

Competing against yourself ultimately brings out success. Using the talents God gave you to the fullest is what truly matters. Everyone has his or her own special talents and weaknesses.

In sports, the comparisons are aggravating to hear. When I come home from a basketball or soccer game that I didn't do well in, the last thing I want to hear is "come on your brother could do it".

People think it makes a person work harder by telling them a sibling could do it better. Basically, they are saying you're not good enough, and as that roars through the brain repeatedly, it gets annoying.

I play sports for fun and to improve myself, not to be better than my brother or sister. As parents and coaches compare a player to their sibling, it doesn't make them work harder because that's not what their goal is.

Parents also try to pull the "friends" trick. When you want to do something fun on the weekend, they try shutting it down with an excuse of "your brother and sister never got to do that".

My parents must think that when I was ten years old I didn't pay attention to what my older siblings did because I remember what they did on the weekends. My brother had a lot more freedom than I do.

It is really frustrating being compared to older siblings. It is definitely not worth fighting over though. Too many times I have argued with my parents about being compared, yet they still haven't stopped. It would be nice not to hear it, but every time the topic comes by I try to breeze past it and not dwell upon it.

Focus on what you want and how to make yourself better. Be yourself and don't let the comparison of other siblings bring you down.



By Kelly Augustine  
Staff Reporter

Some kids just get away with more than they deserve. Spoiled kids and their parents drive me insane. The definition in the dictionary for the word spoiled is to impair, damage, or harm the character or nature of (someone) by unwise treatment, excessive indulgence.

I personally think there are three groups of children. There is the *not earning it* group, the *earning money from parents* group, and the *earning it from work* group.

The not earning it group is the group that gets on my nerves the most. Like, for real? If kids aren't doing anything to deserve the money, they shouldn't have it. The fact that kids think they can get everything for free without any work, just drives me insane. I feel that if a kid gets everything he/she wants then they are going to have a lack of skills when

they get older.

If a child can sit on the couch all day and just play video games, or just sit there and play barbies, and still get a 20 dollar allowance a week, they are never going to learn how to get money themselves. Also, when they get older, they are going to have zero independence. They are obviously too lazy to do anything besides playing video games, so how are they ever going to actually get a job if they are too lazy to even do anything for their parents.

**"Granted, they are working to get this money, but they should still get out in the world and try to get a job."**

~Kelly Augustine

The next group is earning their money from parents. These people are the ones that actually do something, but they are earning money from their parents. For example, maybe they do chores, or they are getting on the A honor roll. The one thing I don't like about this group is that they are depending on their parents for money. Granted, they are working to get this money, but they should still get out in the world and try to get a job. Without getting a job, the child will never learn how to deal with a boss, or a coworker. That, in my opinion, is a huge part of growing up.

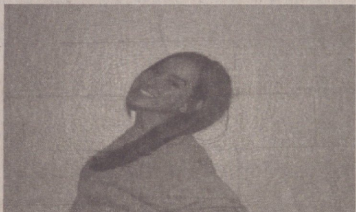
The last group, the earning it from work group, can be split into two sub-groups. The first group is for the children that have jobs and have to pay for absolutely EVERYTHING. For example, if the kid wants to go to the March For Life, they would have to pay for the whole event, without any help from their parents.

The second group though, can be those kids that have a job, and get money, but their parents still help them out.

For example, the child could have a good job that they go to, but if they want to go on the March For Life, I think it would be completely acceptable for the parents to pay for that. The kids classified in this group, when they go out with friends, should be able to pay for what they are doing. This, to me, is the most reasonable group. I think kids should be able to pay for their own leisure activities. This will help them in the long run. If they learn how to save money and use it for what they need now, when they grow up and go to collage, they will take those skills with them.

To wrap up this big hullabaloo, I think kids should have to earn their money. Go get a job, or deal with being poor. Don't beg your parents for money, and if you want money from them, do something for them first. Don't be selfish and receive what you deserve without complaints.

## They'll know we are christians by our...



By Kelcey Robak  
Staff Reporter

they go to church weekly, and they don't drink because they say it is so bad, but others know that they have sex whenever they want. That is what is irritating. When they go around calling themselves good Christians when other people know they have sex all the time. That is when Christians as a whole get looked down upon. It's completely hypocritical because saving sex for marriage is a main law of our Church.

Another act that some Christians, including myself, can admit to doing, and that is being convenient. We all might admit to being a little bit convenient during some time throughout our life, whether it is cutting our prayer time short because we want to get right to our food, or sleeping in instead of going to mass because we are exhausted, or even leaving at communion because we have "better" things to do. During the Christmas season, I think it is our job as Christians to be less convenient and more active in our faith.

Some Christians also do crazy acts that draw attention to themselves

in a negative way. As Christians, we are taught to be inviting, and when people are overly enthusiastic and a little bit pushy, it kind of turns people away. Also, when people that are known to be good Christians judge others for maybe not being as good of Christians as them, people may think that they don't belong in the faith because they aren't good enough for it. I think we need to be more open to other people, whether they are on the same faith level as us or not.

Obviously, not every Christian is or can be perfect. I have only sought out the negative types of Christian acts that could use some work. I know, in fact, that there are more positive Christians than negative Christians which are very inspiring.

As Billy Graham stated, "Being Christian is a daily process whereby you grow to be more and more like Christ." We all have our ups and downs in the learning process, and we should all take the opportunity to improve ourselves daily to be more and more like Christ.

**Rock Bottom**

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# Sports

## Boys begin with win

By **Stacia Rawhouser**  
Staff Reporter

The Shamrock boys' basketball team opened up their season with an exhilarating win against 3-time defending state champs, Hastings St. Cecilia, which was much more than expected of them that night. The

Dowd Activity Center was full of Scotus fans that were able to leave the gym with smiles of accomplishment and cheers of support for the team.

"I was very excited and overwhelmed," junior starter Ryan Ohnoutka said, "I was so proud of all my teammates; we have been waiting for a moment like that for a long

time." Of course that is the way that every team wants to start off a season, with a big win that fires up the team as well as the crowd. Coach Ohnoutka of the Shamrocks described the changes made in practices this year.

"We've made the practices more competitive. The drills are designed to give the team more depth to improve our bench players as well because we know we need them," Coach Ohnoutka said. "The team has done a good job staying focused and we've had good senior leadership in pushing all players to do well."

After losing their games to West Point CC and GICC, it is clear that these boys have a tough schedule ahead of them. Though the Shamrocks defeated Omaha Concordia, they still have Pierce, Battle Creek, and Wayne in their sights before the holiday season.

With only three returning players that have varsity experience, the team bench consists of a young group compared to previous years. Senior starter Brady Vancura has high hopes for the Shamrocks this season.

"I want to make it to the State Tournament," Vancura said, "but for that to happen, we have to work hard all of the time. We can't let up at any point."

The basketball team has grown in success over the past couple of years. In order to achieve a successful season this year, the Shamrocks need to find that confidence they had during their first game.

Coach Ohnoutka said, "My goal is to be competitive in every game. We need to understand that one game doesn't make a season."



"My Top 10 most disappointing losses Nebraska ever endured in Big 12 Conference Play."

By **Casey Kessler**  
Staff Reporter

10. *Nebraska at Kansas State 1998.* Nebraska came in as underdogs for the "first time ever" against the Purple People. Nebraska, though only down 33-30 late, was driving in Kansas State territory. On fourth down, freshman quarterback Eric Crouch was thrown down violently by the facemask, but no penalty was called. Kansas State won 40-30.

9. *Texas at Nebraska 2002.* Nebraska came in unranked and Texas came in ranked seventh hoping to sneak into the national title. Nebraska was down 17-27 late in the fourth quarter when Dejuan "No You're Not" Groce took a punt return to the house for the Huskers to make it 24-27. The Huskers then got the ball within striking distance of the end zone at the Longhorn 15 when Jammal "Praise The Lord" threw an ill-advised pass that was picked off by the Longhorns. Texas won 27-24.

8. *Texas Tech at Nebraska 2005.* Nebraska Defensive Tackle, Le Kevin Smith, fumbled an interception late in the game that could have iced it for the Huskers. Tech recovered and later scored a touchdown on 4<sup>th</sup> and 15. Tech won 34-31.

7. *Nebraska at Colorado 2001.* Nebraska came in undefeated hoping to blow out the Buffaloes and company. The Cornhuskers came out extremely flat and were scorched by Colorado's Bobby Purify and Chris Johnson. This was a bad loss, but in the end Nebraska snuck into the National Championship. Colorado won 62-36.

6. *Iowa State at Nebraska 2009.* Eight turnovers and incredibly bad quarterback play resulted. Iowa State won 9-7.

5. *Nebraska at Texas A&M 2010.* We all know what exactly happened in this game in College Station. The "12<sup>th</sup> Man" really did bother Nebraska, and he was wearing black and white. Texas A&M won 9-6.

4. *Texas at Nebraska 2010.* Everyone wanted it. I wanted it, you wanted it, shoot, you're great grandmother buried in Tarnov wanted it. What we all wanted was "Stick-Em" for the hands of Rex, Niles, and Brandon. End Result: Texas won 20-13.

3. *Texas vs. Nebraska 1996.* Nebraska was playing for a birth in the National Championship down in St. Louis. Win and the Cornhuskers play in their third straight National Championship. James Brown had other ideas on 4<sup>th</sup> and 1 from his own 20. Texas completed the pass. Nebraska fell. Texas won 37-27.

2. *Texas at Nebraska 2006.* Nebraska had come back. All they needed was a first down completion. Terrance "Bar" Nunn fumbled late, Texas recovered, kicked a short field goal, and Nebraska fell once again to the Longhorns. But, sadly, this would not be the most disappointing loss. Texas won 22-20.

1. *Nebraska vs. Texas 2009.* No one gave Nebraska a chance. Ndamukong "My Aunt" Suh led an onslaught of sacks upon Heisman candidate Colt McCoy. Zac "Perfect" Lee completed a pass or two. Alex "King" Henery was clutch once again. Nebraska took the lead 12-10. Texas somehow matriculated the ball down the field, but the clock had hit zero! Nebraska had pulled the upset. Too good to be true...there was one-second left... Texas somehow went on to Pasadena, and Nebraska went down I-80 in defeat. Nebraska won 12-10.\*

\*-The clock hit zero for around a minute; thus, in essence, Nebraska won the game for a period of time.



Brady Vancura shoots the ball over a Hastings St. Cecilia player during a recent game at Dowd Activity Center on December 2nd.

NATHAN WANGLER/YEARBOOK STAFF

## Junior High finds niche in wrestling

By **Levi McPhillips**  
Layout Editor

The selection of winter sports for junior high athletes has always been limited. Seventh and eighth grade boys are restricted to playing basketball to stay in shape during the winter months. However, the winter of 2010 gave junior high boy athletes another choice, wrestling.

A group of parents of junior high boys approached the School Board last school year about junior high wrestling. According to Athletic Director Gary Puetz, the School Board granted two years to the program to see how successful the team becomes and to determine if the program can be continued for years to come.

Tracy Dodson, former head coach of the Columbus High varsity wrestling team, was asked by a parent to coach the junior high at Scotus. Dodson gratefully accepted, and he began giving the seventh and eighth grade boys their first taste of wrestling.

The team had their first practice on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Dodson was expecting to see five wrestlers for the team, and he was surprised to find eighteen boys at the first practice. Their last meet was on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.

The team of rookies has competed very well for their first year. The team finished with multiple second and third place finishes at the Madison Invite, five victories at the Howells Invite and then seven championships at the Schuyler Invite. Some of the rookie wrestlers were champions in their weight class along with many others placing 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> at all the tournaments.

"We have won a lot matches that we shouldn't have, and when you do that you're competitive and know you have something really good happening," Dodson said.

The players enjoyed their first season as Scotus wrestlers. Gage Speicher, one of the team leaders, had a good experience during his first year wrestling for Scotus.

"Wrestling is just fun to

do. Some people think it's a waist of time, but it has given me some great friendships."

Speicher is already a veteran wrestler, and he was excited to wrestle for his school.

"I've been wrestling my whole life. This is my tenth year wrestling."

Other members of the junior high boys wrestling team enjoyed themselves, and Coach Dodson helped them along.

Seventh grader Jonathan Lovell, who had not wrestled since he was age six, commented, "He (Dodson) encouraged us a lot, and I am glad I came back to do it again."

The future of this young program looks positive.



LEVI MCPHILLIPS/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Junior high wrestling coach Tracy Dodson and team manager Tanner Specker watch closely as Christian Stutzman and Baeley Pelster practice a wrestling drill. The wrestling team practiced in several different places including the St. Bon's Social Hall, the Taekwondo Academy, and Columbus Middle School.

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# Activities

## Lessons learned from defeat at districts

By Alise Perault  
Copy Editor

It was 10:05 on the third of December, but on stage it was after *Midnight, Before Dawn*, as this year's One-Act play is appropriately titled. It is the late seventeenth century: the time of the Salem Witch Trials. As the District One-Act competition continued on, the audience was engrossed in the disturbing story of six Puritans accused of witchcraft, awaiting their date with a scaffold and noose the next morning.

The Scotus One-Act this year was about a dark subject: Satan. In the thirty-minute play, six prisoners are all condemned to hang as witches. One of them truly is a witch, and with her help, the others call on the devil to try and save themselves from the gallows. Of all the plays at districts, this one was the darkest, but according to Mrs. Bernt, it still teaches a valuable lesson.

"The characters learned that it doesn't matter what they do, they can always rebound, they can always come back, and they can always be forgiven."

With this being said, Mrs. Bernt was confident that the group would do well. When it came to districts, the group knew that they were going up against some tough competition, specifically Norfolk

Catholic and Pierce. Not seeing either of them perform, the One-Act group knew they had to have a solid performance, and that they did. Mrs. Bernt and the cast all felt confident about the performance. Mrs. Bernt was expecting at least a third place finish, but when she received the results, she quickly learned that it was not to be.

"I was very surprised. I pulled it out of the envelope and thought 'this can't be'."

The rest of the cast felt the same way. Scotus had tied for sixth place with Schuyler and only received fifth place after they won the tiebreaker. No one could understand how they could have placed so poorly. When they read the judges' comments, their confusion grew even more.

"I don't think [the critiques] were based on our performance," Bernt said.

The comments were all about technical issues, such as the set up of the stage, the music, and the intensity of the play, not the quality of acting. But this, Mrs. Bernt says, is to be expected at a One-Acts competition.

"It's such a subjective art; all art is subjective."

One-Acts is not at all like sports. When it comes to sports, athletes score the points by aing a serve, or shooting a basket, or scoring a goal. They win because of the points they scored themselves. With



JACI BEAUVAIS/YEARBOOK STAFF

Seniors A.J. Bose and Abby Shademann rehearse the play *After Midnight, Before Dawn* at One-Acts practice. The cast spent up to three hours a day preparing for the District One-Act competition.

One-Acts, the actors are given a rating based on a judge's opinion, and it is that judge's opinion that determines whether they win or lose.

But, with all bad feelings aside, Mrs. Bernt believes that they performed to their best potential, and

that the cast learned a valuable lesson from the experience.

"You learn that not everything in life turns out the way you want, and if you learn that lesson early, then you are not so upset when it happens to you in bigger things."

## Concerts conquer space challenge

By Kelly Augustine  
Staff Reporter

It is that busy time of the year again with basketball, winter conditioning, and shopping. With the

hustle and bustle of the season comes lots of preparation, especially for the band and vocal classes.

High school band usually starts preparation when they are done with parades, and when they are done learning pep band songs for volleyball.

"We usually have to hit it hard right away after state volleyball," band director Kristin Cox explained.

They are usually given a couple of songs, which they sight-read. After sight-reading the songs, it is a group effort to decide which songs will be performed. This year the high school is playing Celebration and Fresh Aire Christmas.

Jazz band, on the other hand, has more of a struggle finding time to prepare than the high school band. Jazz band is only scheduled one day of the week to practice during 1<sup>st</sup> period of the school day. Being in jazz band requires quite a bit of time before school practice. This year, Jazz band will be performing 3 different pieces.

The Shamrock Singers start preparing towards the end of October. They too are given songs that are usually sight-read. Then, a selection of those songs are picked to sing. After picking the songs to sing, everyone has to learn their parts. Learning these parts usually involves many sectionals in class so all of the singers are confident singing them. Finally, after learning the parts to every song, it is time to memorize it.

John Duns Choir also prepares a lot like the Shamrock Singers do. They meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays to prepare for the concert. They too have to learn their parts and then memorize the songs for

the concert.

These four groups put a great amount of hard work into preparing for the concerts, especially as it gets closer to the concert days. Preparation for these days may be one thing to worry about, but setting up the concert is always a huge obstacle for the performance.

Only having two gyms, having to find a way to manage and split up the time between the spaces, is a challenge.

"Set up is a big challenge, especially when we share our performing space with a lot of other people," Cox said.

The band and vocal concerts always have to be next to each other on the calendar, so the chairs in Memorial Hall only have to be set up once. Also, if they are right next to each other, that is less time that the gym is held up.

This year there is a game the night before the Band concert. Because fifth and sixth graders, Jr. High, Sr. High, and Jazz band all have to rehearse on the stage the day of the performance, there has to be a time to set up. The only time that can happen is after the basketball game.

Although there is a lot of preparation and setting up for band and vocal music concerts, it is a big relief when everyone has performed, and all of the preparation is finally over.

Choir Director Ms. Gardner said, "This Christmas concert is going to be awesome, I have really good groups in which all of the students enjoy to sing, and so I think we will rock the house!"



ALISE PERAULT/NEWSPAPER STAFF

The trumpet section plays for final round of district volleyball. The band concert was post-poned due to the weather.

## WHAT WE'RE 2

### Xbox 360 vs. PS3

Which console  
is  
really  
better?

By Michael Albin  
Staff Reporter

Throughout history, there have been many great conflicts. Hitler vs. the Jews, Democrats vs. Republicans, and Chiefs vs. Raiders. But in the modern era, there is one conflict that rises above the rest: PS3 vs. Xbox 360. Since November of 2006, a war has been raging between gamers, and one question has stirred more arguments than any other. Which console is better? At least, that is what people claim the question is.

Each console has its own legitimate argument for its superiority.

"People who play Xbox are kids. There are too many people who yell and throw their controllers at the T.V.," junior Jens Paprocki commented.

PS3, the newer of the two, has more power and graphics capability. It offers smooth game play and is easy for people who played the PS2 (the best selling videogame console of all time) to transition into.

Xbox uses the same argument against PS3 fans.

"Xbox is for more mature gamers, like us," juniors Austin Wortman and Nick Preister said, "PS3 is for little kids, Xbox is for mature adults."

The Xbox has been around longer, so even though the PS3 may have more power, the wide variety

of games (such as the Halo series, one of the highest grossing video game franchises of all time) allows for a better experience. Also, Xbox is compatible with many of the PS3's most popular games, such as Call of Duty: Black Ops.

The supporters of their respective gaming system are defiantly passionate, but the source of the conflict seems to be entirely different than "Which console is better?" It seems, as in history, that stereotypes are to blame. The question was asked, "Which console is better and why?" Most of the answers were why the other system was too childish or immature. It seems most are concerned with what people will think about them if they play a certain console, not the console itself. But, each system has its own benefits and drawbacks.

"PS3 has raw power. But, Xbox 360 has the game play. One system isn't better than the other. They're both good in their own right," junior Grant Pontow said.

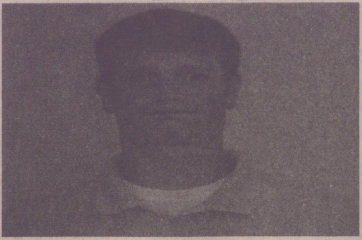
Pontow owns both a PS3 and Xbox 360, a choice which he claims gives the full gaming experience.

"I like Xbox because of the games, and the online seems to be superior. I bought a PS3 because of the smooth game play and the amazing graphics."

The source of this problem is the same as many conflicts throughout history. Some might rather be a Republican because they don't want to be associated with Democrats. Others might rather be a Chiefs fan because who would want to be associated with the Raiders? But, as with these conflicts, "which is better?" is a question that will never be answered.

# Entertainment

## Thank God for old people



By Levi McPhillips  
Layout Editor

Family gatherings, Christmas gifts, and traveling hundreds of miles to see relatives over the holidays often involve one thing, old people. Chances are your mother will drag you away from your new iPod touch or the massive amounts of Christmas cookies to go visit that great-aunt you have not seen since last Christmas. For the next two hours you desperately find ways to entertain yourself while your mother converses with a relative that doesn't remember you. We have all experienced a visit to a nursing home, and visiting the elderly happens more often over the holidays.

I have had an abnormal amount of exposure to elderly people in my lifetime. I have mowed lawns and scooped driveways my entire life for those who are incapable. I have found that the elderly customers fall into two categories. The first category is those customers who pay as if you are the god of snow removal (which I am, by the way). They will pay you so much that you feel guilty for taking the cash. The second group of elderly is those who pay the wage that existed in 1950. I appreciate the money, but getting paid fifty cents for scooping a driveway is comically ridiculous.

Of course, there are more categories of old people than those who pay and those who don't. There are righteous church ladies, bigoted farmers, stubborn retired factory workers, and talkative quilt makers. I can't forget those war veterans who constantly talk about the "good old days" when they fought "those Japs all the way back to Tokyo."

They may be old, and they may drive slowly, but our grandparents are people to cherish. I am reminded of the famous quote from the movie classic *Dumb and Dumber*. "Senior citizens, although slow and dangerous behind the wheel really can serve a purpose." My grandfather is evidence that old people contribute a great deal to our lives. My grandfather has raised ten incredible children and, in turn, contributed to the raising of his dozens of grandchildren. He has inspired me to work hard for the ones

**They may be old,  
and they may drive  
slowly, but our  
grandparents are  
people to cherish.**

- Levi McPhillips

I love, and he makes me laugh until it hurts every time I see him.

The whole point of me writing this article is that I have come to appreciate old people a great deal over the years. Their wisdom and humor makes me optimistic about growing old. Our bodies may age, but my grandparents have shown me that our attitudes and outlooks on life don't have to. Over the years I have come to value their truthful words of wisdom more than their monetary gifts, and it is their advice and company that I am most looking forward to this Christmas.

This holiday season, I encourage you to make it a point to appreciate the elderly. Whether it be your beloved grandparents or an old lady crossing the street with a walker, show your appreciation to your elders. Most importantly, enjoy the aged members of society while they are still here. Time flies, and before you know it you will be old and slow just like them.

## Presents for Parents

By Alise Perault  
Copy Editor

Christmas is just down the lane, and while most thoughts of Christmas are merry, the thought of what to get your parents can be a truly discouraging one. But don't let those scary thoughts turn your Christmas blue; here are a few ideas for homemade gifts that won't break your wallet, require no sewing, and are made with love. Yes, I said made with love. Now make sure you throw all your worries about homemade gifts out in the snow. Lacking creative juices? No problem! Crafts aren't your thing? Have no fear! Not of the female gender? Man-up, it's this or some lame gift card!

Now your mom and dad will most likely not respond the same to homemade potpourri, so here are some fun ideas for her and him, and they all will cost you no more than ten dollars.

For Mom:

Lunchbox Coupon Organizer. If your mom is anything like my mom, then she cuts coupons like it's nobody's business, and when you have as many coupons as my mom does, you don't use half of them because they are thrown together with five hundred others. So why not make something

that can help her stay organized and save a little money too? All it takes is a lunchbox and some imagination to help you decorate it. For more detailed instructions go to <http://reviews.ebay.com/How-to-Make-an-Altered-Lunch-Box> Personalized Calendar. If your mother constantly refers to her calendar in order to keep track of her children's crazy schedules, then this gift would be perfect for her. Why make her look at a picture some woodland creature every time she goes to check a date? I'd say let her see the bright shining faces of her very own kids every time! Now there are no limits as to how simple or complex you go with this gift because either way, it's a calendar and mom will appreciate it. Just look up personalized calendars on the Internet and you will find hundreds of easy ways to make a calendar that will make mom smile.

For Dad:

Homemade Tie Clip. Now dad may not appreciate a homemade gift as much as mom will, but just remember, it is the thought that counts. Just think: if you are going to Christmas Mass, your dad is most likely going to be wearing a tie. So keep your dad looking sharp with this easy-to-make-gift. You simply

need to buy a plain tie clip. After that, the only work required is to glue on a stylish bead or charm, but nothing too crazy that will clash with the pattern of his tie. For the whole down low on how to make this little gift, go to <http://blog.tinyprints.com/diy/diy-gifts-for-fathers-day/>. Clothespin Hat Rack. I don't know about you, but every man that I know owns at least one ball cap. Whether they are a sports fan, an outdoorsman, or a computer savvy man, they all have need of a good ball cap. Any man who has ball caps is also in need of a good rack to hang his ball caps on. It's as easy as a yardstick, clothespins, some glue, and some creative flair to give it that personal touch. Check out these simple instructions for making this personalized hat organizer I found at <http://familycrafts.about.com/cs/homecrafts/a/blhatholder.htm>.

Now these are just a few of the thousands of ideas out there for gifts that you can make for your mom or dad. If you feel like a craft is not the way to go, then just buy a cute card and write a special message to your mom or dad to let them know you love them. All I'm trying to say is that getting a gift for your parent does not have to be a chore, and it does not have to cost you a fortune. As long as you do your best to be a loving daughter or son, your mom or dad will love your gift no matter what!



Olivia Sonderman

## Buddy brings out the joy

By Stephani Jarecke  
Staff Reporter

The movie *Elf* hit the big screen in 2003, but it is still the best Christmas movie ever made.

The movie is so popular because there is nothing like it. All the Christmas movies have the same story plot: sad, miracles, and love. The movie has all the same Christmas themes, but it is not depressing. While other movies are only watched once or twice, *Elf* is always funny even after the seventy-sixth time.

No one sits through *Elf* balling about the joy that Christmas brings to people. Watching *Elf*, people realize that Christmas is about being yourself and having a good time.

Buddy (the main character) sets a whole new competition level for Christmas movies. In this movie, Buddy is traveling to New York City from the North Pole to find his long lost father. Buddy has, no doubt, made this movie the best it can be.

First off, the name Buddy is a funny name. Also, his tights and elf suit make everything funny in this movie. Walking around in an elf suit in downtown New York sets the mood for people quickly.

The fact that he thinks he is an elf is another hilarious part. Buddy repeatedly says he is an elf from the North Pole, and he never gives up on the fact that Santa is true.

Besides Buddy's appearance, his clueless mind to the real world causes him to do some of the funniest acts ever. He doesn't know how to act in the real world, so he often is put in many awkward situations. For instance, Buddy has never ridden an escalator, so as his first ride approaches he becomes very scared and ends up with his two feet spread completely out.

His long lost father is in total denial of having an insane son. He tries hard to accept him, but no one wants to have a weird child running around the streets of New York City dressed as an Elf. His father is completely embarrassed by him

especially when Buddy comes to his work with him. In most movies when a father and son relationship is bad it is really sad, but Buddy and his dad are simply hilarious.

*Elf* also has the special meaning of Christmas tied to all the funny parts. While Buddy is entertaining millions of people with his lack of common sense, it truly shows that Christmas is the time for everyone to come together and be happy.

There are millions of Christmas movies that are excellent to watch, but *Elf* is by far the best Christmas movie.

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Movie Review

*Black Swan:*  
Movie favorite

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# Scotus Central Catholic Rock Bottom

SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC VOLUME 12 · ISSUE 4 · FEBRUARY 3, 2011 COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA 68601

## March for Life



JACY GASPER/ YEARBOOK STAFF

Over 400,000 people attended the March for Life on January 24th at the Capitol. (Inset) Sophomores Morgan Benesch and Hannah Harrington use megaphones to chant with fellow marchers juniors Whitney Hank and Abbey Schieffer. (Photo by Kelly Augustine/Rock Bottom Staff)

## Marchers reborn for babies unborn

By Kelly Augustine  
Staff Reporter

Many students went to Washington D.C. for the March for Life. The March for Life is around the time of the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. Hundreds of thousands of pro-life people come together in Washington D.C. to march and protest against abortion.

In the past three years, students and staff from Scotus have been privileged enough to go on the March with other teens and adults from the Archdiocese of Omaha. This year, thirty-three teens from Scotus went, along with teachers Cheryl Rambour and Fr. Andrew Roza.

Most people don't know exactly what to expect when they start their journey to D.C. with a

thirty-hour bus ride.

"I was just expecting to go to a march and protest abortion; I didn't realize all of the stuff I would experience," senior Ryan Becker explained.

That is what a lot of people expect, but it is more than just marching and protesting. This year, many of the stops on the itinerary were faith based.

The group went to two

shrines: St. Katherine Drexel and St. John Neumann, a seminary, and they attended Mass at the eighth biggest church in the world. All of these places opened up an opportunity to reflect and pray about faith. They also attended a youth rally. At the youth rally there was Mass, adoration, and famous singer Matt Maher lead praise and

See MARCH, Page 2

## Scotus reacts to Millard shooting

By Casey Kessler  
Staff Reporter

On January 5, 2011, a school shooting rocked Millard South High School and the state of Nebraska. Robert Butler Jr., a senior from Millard South, entered his school after a suspension and fatally wounded his vice principal before taking his own life later that day. Since this incident, there has been much debate over the topic of safety issues inside Nebraska schools.

Wayne Morfeld, president at Scotus, feels that one incident really made people realize how much security should be enforced throughout schools.

"I think the Columbine incident brought attention to everyone that security is a major issue. Columbine made us realize that things happen, and even if all believe these kinds of incidents happen some place else, we still have to remain prepared," Morfeld said.

Schools in Nebraska had thought of changing security measures since the Columbine massacre in 2000, Virginia Tech shootings in 2007, and the more recent Von Maur shooting, but had never thought a massacre like these were possible in their fair state. So how do schools prevent these shootings?

Security cameras are one item that could help. Scotus has cameras at four of their entrances around the school, and the school entrances are locked during the school day. If someone really wanted to get into the school as a threat, they would be able to while doors

See SHOOTING, Page 2

## Rock Bottom shows its true COLORS

By Alise Perault  
Copy Editor

The time has come to say goodbye to news in just black and white, farewell drab uncolored front page, and hello to a new and vibrant dimension of the *Rock Bottom*! The paper is now being printed in stunningly vibrant color! Two spreads of it that is! What is to be credited for this wonderful change in scenery? Why a change in printing locations, that's what!

Before now, the Journalism class has coordinated with the *Columbus Telegram* to get their papers printed. However, because they are run by a larger corporation, they do not have their own printing machine and are forced to have their papers printed in Fremont. For the class, this meant having to fit their release time to the *Telegram's* schedule and a slower turnaround time.

Turnaround is the time it takes for the class to turn in the layouts for their newspaper pages and for the newspaper company to have it printed and returned to them. With the *Columbus Telegram*, turnaround time could be anywhere

from three to four days.

"By the time the papers were back to us and we had passed them out to classes, the papers were already outdated because of activities or events that occurred in that short time," Mrs. Rusher said.

Seeing as they only turn out one paper a month, it is already hard for them to keep their news current and up to date, so this three to four day delay made the situation even worse.

Then, one day, it came to the journalism class's attention that the *Columbus Telegram* would soon no longer be able to print in Fremont and would have to go even farther to Lincoln in order to have their paper printed. This put them in a tough spot. The move to Lincoln would mean an even longer turnaround time and possibly a more expensive transaction. With the future of the *Rock Bottom* at stake, Mrs. Rusher looked to a nearby colleague for help.

"I am still new to journalism, and I am always looking for suggestions from more seasoned advisors," Rusher said.

One seasoned advisor, Lakeview's newspaper advisor See COLORS, Page 2



KELLY AUGUSTINE/ ROCK BOTTOM

Seniors Casey Kessler and Alise Perault of journalism class feel the smoothness of a newspaper plate along with juniors Stacia Rawhouser, Steph Jarecke, and Kelcey Robak. The journalism class took a fieldtrip to the *Norfolk Daily News* where the *Rock Bottom* will now be printed.

# News

## SHOOTING

Continued from Page 1

are unlocked before and after school.

Morfeld feels that through the general budget, Scotus will be able to make the security system more legitimate in the future. Possibly in certain jumps in technology like metal detectors.

"All security measures increase through the amount of money we have in our general budget. We have planned ahead, and the biggest thing is we have security system in check," Morfeld said.

Students around Scotus are not worried, and many students still think Scotus does not need any more security improvements and feel Scotus has a safe learning environment.

**"We do not need metal detectors because Scotus does not have any problems that require them."**

~Nathan Wangler

"We do not need metal detectors because Scotus does not have any problems that require them," senior Nathan Wangler said.

"Since we go to a Catholic school, we shouldn't worry about it, instead we could use the money for a more reasonable cause," said fellow senior Rebecca Hall.

There was one incident at Scotus a while back that has since been prevented. Several years ago, a woman came in through a door located by the south office door. She seemed very excited and asked if she could use the restroom. Soon after, a gentleman entered the building who looked extremely agitated, and he seemed to be looking for the lady who had entered the building. It turns out the woman had just passed through the building and exited the opposite side. After contacting law enforcement officials, Scotus had found out that whatever was going on between these two people was an extremely hostile situation. Mr. Morfeld claimed that if she had been found hiding in the building by the man, then it could have turned into a bad situation. Since this occurred, Scotus has been very delicate in handling who enters the building.

Mr. Morfeld feels that Scotus is a safe environment, and no student should be worried about his or her well-being within the school.

"We actually instituted all our cameras and lockdowns way before it became a requirement in this state. We tried to be ahead of the ball game and will continue to try to stay ahead of the ball game," Morfeld said.

According to the National Center of Vital Statistics, students are less at risk for incidents of serious crime while at school than they are outside of school. Nonviolent crimes such as thefts and less serious incidents such as simple assaults occur more frequently at school.

Morfeld wants students to help keep Scotus safe and even has a few plans for them in the future.

"We currently have a crisis committee that meets once a month that involves teachers and staff, but next year we hope to get students to join the committee and see what ideas they have."

## COLORS

Continued from Page 1

Melanie Gustafson, informed Mrs. Rusher that they print at *Norfolk Daily News*.

Mrs. Rusher contacted *Norfolk Daily News*, and the paper's production manager Mike Jones and Tyler Eisenbraun visited the journalism class to let them know a little about the paper. They even invited the class to tour their facility.

On Thursday, the thirteenth of January, they had the opportunity to take a tour of the facility. Three of their staff, Joel Spittigerber, Tyler Eisenbraun and Matt Petersen showed the class the nuts and bolts of their operation. They learned about everything from the development of the paper to its plating, pressing, wrapping, and delivery.

The *Norfolk Daily News* was started in 1887 by the Hugh's family, and because of their independent

ownership of the newspaper, they do not face the strict rules and regulations of corporate newspapers. For the journalism class, this means overnight turnaround, and because they print the paper for a cheaper cost than the corporate-run *Columbus Telegram*, they were able to upgrade to two spreads in color, even though that was not the original goal.

"Our main goal was to improve the quality of our printing," Rusher stated. "The journalism students have been taking quality pictures, and printing in color will show off their work."

So far, the class has had a wonderful experience working with the *Norfolk Daily News*.

"It's a good partnership and hopefully it will go on for a long time."

## MARCH

Continued from Page 1

worship. "The youth vigil the evening before the March was like an hour of power on extremely strong steroids," Scotus Chaplin Fr. Roza said.

Going to an abortion mill in Philadelphia was another big part in the pilgrimage. All 6 busses from the Archdiocese of Omaha stood outside of the Philadelphia abortion clinic and prayed. They prayed rosaries and Divine Mercy Chaplets for a change of heart for the abortionist, all those working at the clinic, and those who are trying to decide if they should get an abortion.

"At the abortion clinic, I felt very impacted by the fact that many people were there just to pray in front of it, and also to see people walk

in," freshman Hannah Merrill said.


Towards the end of the pilgrimage, the teens marched by the Capitol to protest abortion. There were thousands of people who held signs to show their beliefs, such as: "Women do regret abortion," "Men do regret lost fatherhood," "Pro-Vida," and "Choose Life." There were also people who protested by praying, singing, or even saying made-up chants. One chant that was popular for the Archdiocese of Omaha was, "Who's on the march? Nebraska's on the march, and when Nebraska's on the march, we're gonna DEFEND life!"

After the March, the teens met with Nebraska's state representatives. They talked about ways that they

are trying to make Nebraska a pro-life state. After meeting with them and eating a good meal at Golden Corral, they began their long journey back to the Midwest.

Fr. Roza said of the trip, "Each student's experience is unique, and different aspects of the trip impact each student differently. Whether it was new people that were met, an experience of deeper prayer at the youth rally, being struck by the experience of praying at the abortion clinic in Philadelphia, or just enjoying the energy of the March itself, there was a lot that the students will remember for a long time. Hopefully they will be left with a more real sense of the evil of abortion, but with a renewed hope that things can and will be changed."

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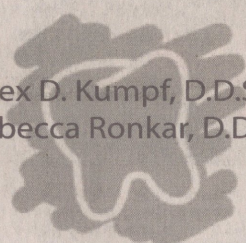
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# Opinion

## Thank you Mom and Dad



By Levi McPhillips  
Layout Editor

As my college decision looms, I can't help but stop myself from being caught up in the future. I can't help but realize something significant: I love my parents. I must appreciate the fact that

I have the opportunity to not only attend college, but I also have the financial and moral support of two awesome parents. Our parents love us, and the older I get, the more I realize that we have no idea what they have done to raise us in stable, loving homes since birth. Two months ago, Father Roza told our ethics class that we (Scotus students) are Harvard. We have it just as good as those ivy leaguers I refer to as rich snobs; we have it made. We live in a financially stable country where we can worship and pursue our dreams freely. But here at Scotus we are spoiled rotten. Most of us

never have to worry about helping our parents pay bills. A large majority of us preps never have to deal with a problem bigger than our next algebra test, basketball game, or personal problem with a friend. I consider myself even more blessed than the average Scotus student. My parents, though they were probably clueless when they started raising my older brother (sorry Justin), still managed to raise two incredible young men because they *sacrificed everything*. I have never gone hungry, been abused, or had to experience divorce because of my parents' selflessness. I am

disciplined now because I was disciplined well as a child. Though it did not happen very often, I was spanked as a child (thank God! Seriously). I was never allowed to have a video game console, and my parents made me do chores and work (it's not child labor, it's called childhood obligation). The most important reason that I am thankful for my parents is the way they showed me how to be a son. People see me as a person with a faith in God, and I am not ashamed to say that my life has become completely dedicated to Him, but that never would have happened if my parents would have

lived their lives as lukewarm Catholics. The reason I have such a belief and love for God is because I know what fatherhood and motherhood look like. It is all too easy for me to call God "father", and even "Dad", and that has made God more than a god; it has made Him a very part of my being. I feel such sincere pity for those who have parents that are hypocritical, abusive, or neglecting because it will be much harder for them to realize what it means to call God "dad". My parents did not raise me perfectly, but I could not ask for a better pair of people to have been my mom and dad.

Their example makes me want to raise children that love themselves, love their parents, and love their God as much as I do. Writing this, it almost brings tears to my eyes when I break down the different areas of my life and realize that my parents had a hand in everything, from helping me with scholarship applications right down to changing my diaper. I love you Mom and Dad, and I will not forget what you have done for me. Believe me when I say that I owe you everything, and I intend to pay it back with a future of following your example.

## Debacle of adolescence



By Alise Perault  
Copy Editor

Recently, I was faced with my eleven-year-old sister's incessant complaints of having nothing to do with her friends. I responded with my usual annoyed, "Then FIND something to do," but this time it was different. Something inside of me

just snapped! I went on a rampage and began accusing her and her friend of having no imagination. I suggested they play house, and my sister responded with a snooty, "House?" as if to say she was too old for that.

I finally felt a glimmer of hope when they later decided to play Barbies. If they could play with Barbies then they must have some imagination left! The day after that she even played Barbies again with another friend. This was it; her creativity had come back to her! That is when I truly felt bad. I realized my angered accusations of their lack of imagination had been false. It wasn't that she and her friends

had no sense of imagination; they simply felt it was no longer necessary to use that brain function. For them, the idea of playing house was something they did as a kid, and they, of course, no longer consider themselves to fit that human genre of a kid.

I have come to believe this is no fault of theirs either. I believe that in today's society, kids are expected to grow up faster than they should. They are expected to trade in their dolls and action figures for cell phones and planners in an attempt to make them more "mature" at a younger age. Children are being forced to grow up faster in order to adjust to the fast-paced life of our modern

culture. But, instead of these kids growing in maturity, these attempts to turn them into mini adults have had the opposite effect.

I think that kids are actually more immature because they are not ready to move beyond the comfort and security of their childhood innocence. I have seen this in my little sister. When I was eleven-years-old, I could have cared less what I looked like or how many friends I had. I was content to still possess the innocent pleasure of being a kid. My little sister, on the other hand, constantly questions me about her appearance, and has emotional breakdowns if she is forced to do something that

she thinks will cause other people to make fun of her. She has an obsessive fear of being late, and it would be a crime if she didn't go on Facebook or WeeWorld ten times a day to talk to her friends. It is as if her life has become an insecure dead sprint to keep up with society's expectations.

I have seen it in other kids her age and a little older. They are always antsy and can't seem to sit still or shut their mouths. They are constantly fighting for attention and have no respect for people who are older than them. It is as if they believe they are too old to be told what to do or to just relax and be calm.

So when will this

insanity stop? When two-year-olds are being given cell phones so they can call their mom to come pick them up from the babysitter? Or when "Your Baby Can Read" becomes "Your Embryo Can Speak"? I say we all just need to step back and just take some time to relax. Just sit and daydream or go on a walk. Remember what it felt like to be a kid. They are great memories aren't they? So the next time your little sister says she has nothing to do, offer to play house with her or to pull out your old Barbie dolls, because sometimes we could all just use some kid time of our own.

## Auditorium benefits all



By Kelly Augustine  
Staff Reporter

What do Scotus sports need right now? Your guess was probably more basketballs, volleyballs, weights, or even a serving machine, but no, they need an auditorium. Some people may believe that only the people in the musicals, plays, and those performing in music concerts would benefit from an auditorium, but those in sports will also benefit.

One reason is because, right now, all the space is shared with the gym. This causes many problems when it comes to practice times. It always seems like sports come before "the arts" at Scotus; therefore, sport practices come before musical and play practice. This results in musical and play practices going until 9 or 9:30 because they were started so late. If Scotus had an auditorium, both practices could be held at the same time. That would be nice for students who might want to go to bed early before a test, or just absolutely do not want to sit at school until 9:30 at night.

Another conflict is seating. An auditorium would be beneficial to us because putting up chairs for every performance is a hassle. There are about three concerts, one musical, and one play that chairs need to be set up for.

Not only do the chairs need to be set up, they need to be taken down. If an auditorium was built, there would be no need for laying out tarps and for setting up chairs. This also brings us back to conflicting with sports. If chairs are set up in Memorial Hall, practices cannot be held in there, which causes conflict with when and where sporting practices will be held.

One more reason why Scotus needs an auditorium is because of stage set up. If we had an auditorium, we could leave some of the equipment in the auditorium. It seems to be a problem when people are constantly hauling pianos, amps, and microphones down

the stairs, up the stairs, and on to the stage. Having an auditorium would eliminate some of these problems. We could keep a keyboard there, and the microphones would be stored there. Also, lighting and stage backgrounds would be easier to deal with because we have the correct set up for it.

Not only would an auditorium be beneficial for the people in the musicals and plays, but it will also be convenient for the whole Scotus family. Most of us know the very uncomfortable feeling of sitting on the bleachers for over an hour during assemblies. Everybody ends up laying back on their

friends or kicking the people in front of them. If Scotus had an auditorium, assemblies could be there, and everyone could sit in nice comfy seats. It would be a much more

comfortable environment for all of us.

An auditorium would be a great addition for Scotus. I believe that it would help the

arts department in many ways and make life for everyone involved in programs, musicals, plays, and even sports, less stressful.

### Rock Bottom

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## In Depth



## Battle of

## Finding the match for you

By Stephani Jarecke  
Staff Reporter

"Men..."  
"Women..." Who's to blame? Too often, fights between men and women are targeted at the opposite sex, but the real issue is personality. Boys and girls have their differences, but, all in all, personality is what differs between the whole human race.

Finding the right personality can be hard for many teens, especially as their personalities are changing. There are many ways to help find a perfect match. Some are complex, such as deep

classes or counseling sessions, but there are many easy ways, such as quizzes or books.

Gary Chapman introduced a whole new way to help understand men and women. Chapman wrote the book *The Five Love Languages*.

The book explains five ways people feel loved. The five love languages include acts of service, physical touch, words of affirmation, quality times, and receiving gifts.

Every language fits a category of people and how they react to others. What makes the opposite sex feel loved can help you build a better relationship.

On the lighter side, iFlurtz is an easy-access quiz that is all about personalities and interests. iFlurtz quiz is offered at Scotus for only two dollars. The quiz not only gets you thinking about possible matches, but also enables teens to see their true interests. Although many students take the iFlurtz matches as a joke, it can really show the "type" of boy or girl a certain person is interested in based upon their personality, as well as the appearances he or she may be looking for.

Another fun quiz many people take is the color quiz. The color quiz is a personality test to see what "color" a person is. Different

colors represent different stereotypical groups of personalities.

The four colors are blue: warm, caring, people-pleasing personality; gold: responsible, dependent, stable personality; green: logical, objective, visionary personality; and orange: adventurous, fun-loving, spontaneous personality.

Knowing a person's "color" can help give you insight to know what makes your "partner" happy, as well as what really "grinds their gears."

Zodiac signs also have matches that are more "compatible". The twelve signs of the zodiac are divided

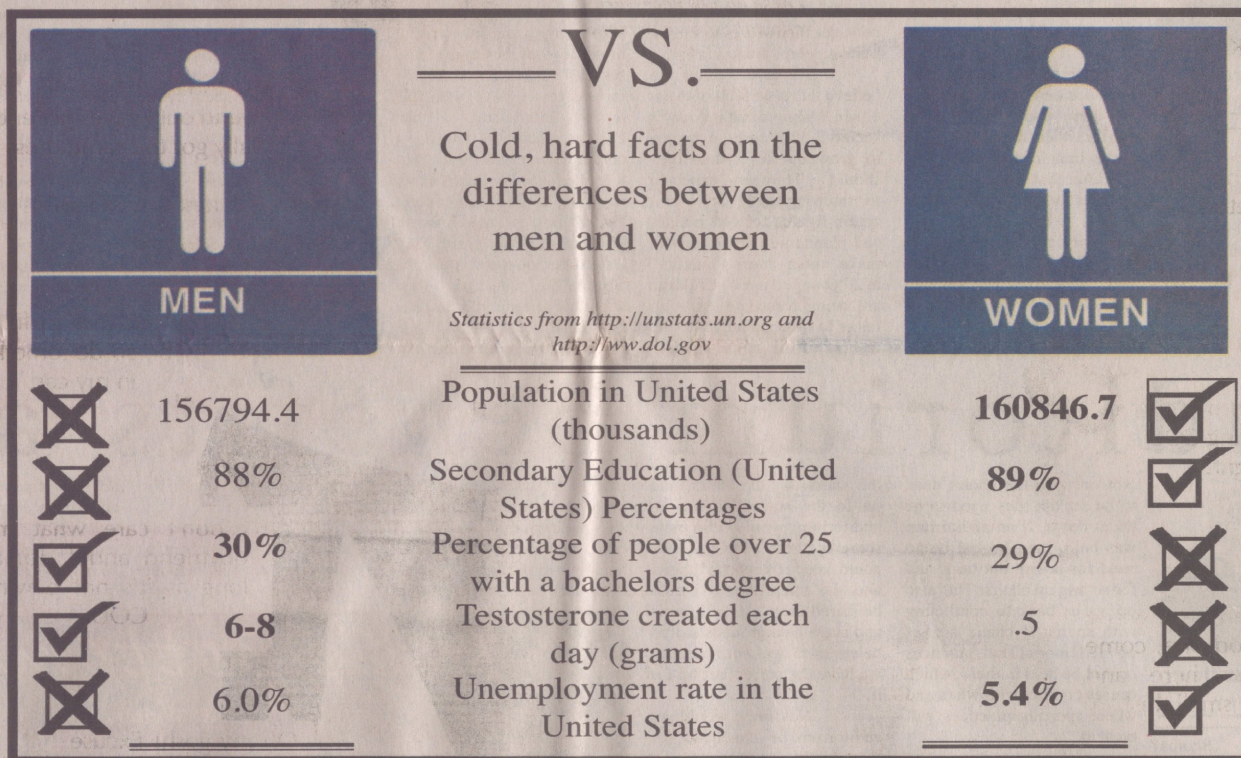
into four different groups: fire, air, water, and earth. Those with the fire sign tend to be more creative and aggressive. Air are more idealists and truth-seekers. The water sign are said to be more emotional and spontaneous, and the earth signs tend to be ambitious and sincere.

Members of the same "group" are compatible because they share common interests; however, those that belong to the fire group are actually most compatible with those of the air group. The same goes for water and earth because when you combine these two groups, insistent personalities are matched with more passive personalities. In

other words, they compliment each other, which is how it should be.

iFlurtz and the color quiz are both popular "compatibility" tests. Almost everyone knows their zodiac sign which permits them to base their "love" matches on them too.

The majority of people may consider these results as "phony", but too many times love fails because of mismatched personalities. People think it's all from gender differences, but what really matters is who you are and who you desire to be.



## Father's thoughts on high school dating

Teenagers are often the subjects of confusing and conflicting lives. Many decisions are made in high school, and the body is going through drastic changes as it matures. With this maturity comes the natural attraction to the opposite sex, but what does the Church say about this attraction?

Fr. Andrew Roza was more than happy to share the Church's teachings and some of his own opinions on high school dating.

### What does the Church say about high school dating?

The Church says very little specifically about high school dating. There are a couple rules that the Church gives us that we can apply to it, however. The first is that we are not supposed to use people. So, the Church is going to be against dating someone because they raise your social status or because you just want to "have some fun". Using people, in any way, is always a no-no.

The second rule that we're given is that sex is proper to marriage. Why? Because sex is really powerful, and it makes sense that it would be. Anything that can lead to the creation of a new person (like you) has to be a really big deal. Sex communicates total commitment, openness, and vulnerability before the other person, whether we want it to or not. Therefore, it is best enjoyed within a relationship that is totally committed, open to life, and mature in being a gift of yourself to the other person. When we try to enjoy this really amazing gift outside of the way it is supposed to be, it unfortunately usually ends up causing a lot more pain than joy and pleasure.

### What do you think about high school dating?

I think that dating in high school is a good thing for most people, but for it to be good you have to set limits. I learned a ton from dating in high school, and I am grateful for those experiences. That said, I feel for people who make choices that they end up really regretting later on. It's hard for a teenager to understand just what the impact of their choices might be later in their lives.

### What do you have against high school dating?

It saddens me when people are not able to control themselves sexually and end up really paying the price for it. The emotional impact of sexual activity, for both guys and girls, is so high! When things don't work out - and more often than not, they don't - it can leave a pretty deep wound. Sometimes we think we're ready for things before we really are, and it's impossible to realize it until it's too late.

### What is beneficial about high school dating?

High school dating teaches us a lot about ourselves. It is often the first form of serious vocational discernment that people do. Every relationship forces a person to think about the future and about their motives. Why am I dating this person? Where does our relationship go from here? What happens when we go to college? Were we made for each other, or are we just killing time together for a while? These are really deep questions, and when we're in a relationship we have to ask them, often without realizing just how deep they are.

Dating also teaches us a lot about the opposite sex. Men and women's minds are wired very differently, and I think that some of the confusion and conflicts that take place in dating really help us understand those differences. Why doesn't he know how to listen to me? Why does it matter so much if I don't get her anything for Valentine's Day? Why does she talk so much? Why is it so hard for him to talk about how he feels about me?

Features

# the Sexes



## We are who we are

By Levi McPhillips  
Layout Editor

We've been called insensitive, foolish, macho, and careless, but we are nothing of the sort (careless maybe). Women always try to change men to their standards or beliefs of what a man should be. Men are much better than what women give them credit for. All women have their opinions about men, but now it's my turn to speak my mind about the other half of the population. The point of this article is not to persuade

anyone into thinking men are better, but there are a few things I would like to rant and rave about.

I have heard women complain about childbirth more times than I can count. Blah blah blah it's painful. Blah blah blah it hurts. Blah blah blah it's like pulling your bottom lip over your head. Ok, we get it; it hurts. What do you want us to do about it? Do you want us to become seahorses and do all the work for you? It's not like labor keeps women from having more than one kid, so it must

be worth it.

In addition, women always complain about the lack of time that men spend on their looks. I spend a minimal amount of time in front of the mirror every morning. The average woman, on the other hand, spends a lot more time perfecting her physical appearance. Don't get mad at men because we have more self-esteem. On that note, I will give all you ladies a bit of advice on your looks. Men like women that are all natural. Forget the fake baking, make up, and highlights; show us a

woman who loves the body God gave her.

Now that I've burst out of my shell about women, I'll get down to relationships. Every guy has been accused of saying something insensitive. We have been perceived as not caring about what women are going through or struggling with. Women get mad at us because we can't play CSI for two hours and figure out what is bothering them. Why does it have to be such a guessing game? It's not that we don't care; it's that we don't understand "girl code".

Quite frankly, we don't want to. There is nothing wrong with simplicity, and that is just how guys view the world.

Simplicity does not equal stupidity. Men are not foolish, and we can find the keys to your heart. It takes a man time to learn the interests of a woman, and each man has his own way of wooing his lady friend. But sooner or later we will woo you, and we will woo you well.

In all honesty, men could not live without women. We need you in our lives to counterbalance our

tosterone. A world without women is like a world without oxygen. We need you (Oh don't worry, I'm not done wooing yet). You're beautiful, you're fun to be with, and you were made for us. Thank you ladies for cooking our food, for making our babies, and putting smiles on our faces. Men aren't perfect, and we never will be. You just have to accept that we will never conform to your idea of the perfect man, because we are who we are, and you are attracted to us just the way we are.

I have to wake up at 8 to shower and change.

K.

Tonight I am changing the carburetor in my car.

Chillin with my girl today, playing COD all night!

Man, that was a good one, come over here and smell this!

Must we take pictures at every stop sign?

Senior Levi McPhillips and junior Kelcey Robak are playing the roles of the stereotypical boy and girl for the Battle of the Sexes page. These do not necessarily reflect their own personal views.

I have to wake up at 6 to shower, fix my hair, put on my makeup, find the perfect outfit, AND decide what shoes I am going to wear tomorrow!

So today, I broke a nail, found out I have split ends, Sally got the same dress as me, and my best friend has a new best friend!

My dad has to fix the hy-bo-so-do something in my car.

I don't care what my boyfriend and I do, as long as it's not playing COD.

Oh my gosh! Excuse me! That is so embarrassing!

Oh my gosh! It's the first time I drove out of town! Let's take a picture: scared face, excited face, happy face, sad face!

## Boys, bOyS, BOYS

By Kelcey Robak  
Staff Reporter

Every girl looks and prays for her prince charming to come along, take her by the hand, sweep her off her feet, and in the end, to live with her happily ever after. Unfortunately, not all relationships between a girl and a boy turn out to be perfect Disney movies. Who's fault might we say this is? Well, according to girls, it is the opposite sex's...BOYS.

Boys are the main reason for a girl's good or

bad mood. They either make or break it. If a girl is just having an average day, and her boyfriend walks up to her and says, "Hey babe. You look cute today..." the girl's day is made. If a girl is having an average day and her boyfriend short talks her during the day, the girl is probably going to have a bad day. Boys should not determine whether a girl has a good or bad day, but it is sad to say that, most of the time, this is true.

Boys do not show any sensitivity towards girls' emotions. As girls, we think guys should sense when something is wrong with us.

We basically make it obvious for them to figure it out when we give them all the clues in the world; such as replying "K", "fine", or "whatever", or just giving them that "are you kidding me?" look. Another obvious clue is even saying, "I'm not mad" while looking down at the floor. Guys, be a little more aware of these kinds of hints. Although guys may not always seem so perfect at times, they sure know how to make girls think they are the best thing that ever happened to them.

Guys can be the source of a girl's happiness. Most girls know the feeling,

the heart leaping feeling when a cute guy says the most amazing thing ever. You think about a special boy all day at school, and you wish at 11:11 that he'll text you. Then you rush home from school, check your phone, and see if he texted you. If he did, all you do is smile and think about it all night. It's so important to the girl to say the perfect line, not too flirty, not too boring. Guys also have to make the moment special. They can know exactly what to say to make a girl feel better. It's like part of their nature. Guys, one word can change the whole tone of a message, even if you

don't mean for it to be that way. Girls are more sensitive to tone, so be careful with your words. With your effort, both the girl and the guy can be happy!

There are just some things that both guys and girls say, but they have completely different impacts on us. When your best friend tells you you're pretty, it doesn't feel the same as when your boyfriend tells you you're pretty. Guys' words mean more to us. Guys can bring out a side of girls that other girls can't bring out, whether it's a sporty side or even a flirty, fun side. Going to a baseball

or football game with your boyfriend is, without a doubt, more fun than with your best friend. What can I say, girls need guys.

Girls have a love/hate attitude towards guys that can change by the hour. Not every relationship between a boy and girl is going to be perfect, but what fun or excitement would that be anyway? Every girl dreams of a fairytale. A fairytale doesn't have to be a white horse and carriage with complete peace and happiness; but with a little help from the guys, it can be somewhere close!©

# Sports

## Swim team makes a splash



### CK: The Cliche

By Casey Kessler  
Staff Reporter

\*The Nebraska vs. Washington game on December 30th was the only Husker game I can remember where there were absolutely no positives to speak of. Well, unless you count the part where the game actually ended.

\*Taylor Martinez is coming back to Nebraska after numerous rumors of a possible transfer. Well, at least his dad says he is.

\*Nebraska kicker Alex Henery, the statistically best kicker in NCAA history, did not win the Lou Groza award for the best kicker in college football. This is the equivalent of Lou Groza not winning the Lou Groza award.

\*Brett Favre is reportedly marketing a new type of jeans from Wrangler amid his dirty picture controversy. Brett Favre with the new "Open-Fly Jeans." Real. Open-Fly. Jeans.

\*Speaking of fallen stars, Tiger Woods began his tournament schedule on the PGA last week. He was allegedly charged again for another crime. Double Bogeys.

\*The Nebraska basketball team has decided to put its fans on yet another roller coaster of emotions. Coming to Worlds of Fun next year: The "Doc" Saddler.

\*Jay Cutler left the NFC Championship after a sprained MCL injury. Many critics claim that almost any other quarterback would have stayed in the game. Well, of course they would have in the world of Vicodin, Valium, and getting shot up in the locker room.

\*Cam Newton and Auburn won the BCS National Championship on January 10th. There reportedly was a laptop stolen within the Oregon locker room.

\*LaMichael James...where'd you go? I missed you so.

\*The NHL All Star Game captains can pick the players for their teams this year. That is incredibly interesting.

\*There was a Bo Pelini sighting at one of Scotus's recent basketball games against Hastings St. Cecilia. Pelini was there to watch his four star football recruit, Zach Sterup. But, after the game he decided to get tape of our very own Brady Vancura to give to Doc Sadler. Doc is set to make a scholarship offer to Vancura over the next few weeks. Ha...I had you going didn't I?

\*The Pittsburgh Steelers play the Green Bay Packers for Super Bowl 45. It is set to be a great game with excellent teams that include perpetual storylines. My prediction: Green Bay will be victorious in a 10-9 squeaker. The MVP will be Clay Matthews with 6 tackles, 2 sacks, an interception, and a blocked field goal as time expires.

\*Head and Shoulders products should be making loads of money during the Super Bowl because of Green Bay's Clay Matthews and Pittsburgh's Troy Polamalu. Their hair combined makes Rapunzel look like a Rogaine model.

\*Bold Prediction: Nebraska Football will win the BCS National Championship next year over the LSU Tigers.

By Stacia Rawhouser  
Staff Reporter

The CHS Swim Team has less room in the pool this year with a total of nineteen Scotus competitors. With thirteen in the 2008-2009 season and fourteen last season, the increase has definitely affected the team in a positive way. People always say "the more the merrier," but less room in the pool means more important, productive

practices. "I think over these last six years that I have coached, each practice has gradually been more intense. This is especially true this season," Coach Jan Boeding said.

As the team's size increases, so do the feelings present in the pool.

"We laugh a lot, which is good because it shows how close we are," sophomore Brittany Steiner said.

Team unity appears to play an essential role in competitive swimming because the guys' and girls' swim teams have to work together.

"Both guys and girls have fast relays this year, and we all push and motivate each other to get faster," junior Ryan Miksch said.

This year's seniors have also brought a positive contribution to the team. Team togetherness is often based upon the leadership

provided. "The seniors are a huge part of our relays," Miksch said. "They are good leaders, and they really keep the team together."

The team has come together this year to add a new way of earning points at the meets. Diving is now a part of the competition for the first time ever.

"We never really stopped wanting to compete in diving. We just didn't have anyone step forward to coach

it," Boeding said.

Thanks to Coach Chris Lovci, the team has a coach that was able to make the idea of the dive team a reality. Because of the cooperation of the Columbus Aquatics Association, the city of Columbus, and CHS, the team has a brand new board for competition.

With this being the first year CHS had made a diving splash, the nerves and fears of the competitors needed to first be conquered.

"I was so scared that I would splat in the water and hurt myself. You always see people flip so close to the board, and I didn't know if I could do that," Steiner said.

Diving is more than simply "jumping with style."

"It takes a lot of time and commitment, especially in the mornings; but diving allowed me to try something new that I never thought I'd be able to do," Steiner said.

The new points from diving and the progress of all the swimmers have deeply impacted the scores of the team and have led to positive goals for the rest of the season.

"Everyone has worked really hard on the team this season, and many have shown great improvement. This season our team shows promise to have the highest number of entries in the state meet in many years," Boeding said. "Our goal is always the same—to swim a personal best every time we get in the water."



Freshman Carly Burkhardt competes in the 100 M breaststroke for the Columbus High Swimming Team during a recent meet on January 20th. Burkhardt is one of nineteen swimmers on the team from Scotus.

## Scotus fights back with mid-season win streak

By Stephani Jarecke  
Staff Reporter

The girls' basketball team had struggled at the beginning of the season, but has found a way to start winning.

The team was 0-4 to start the season. The first four teams were hard competition for the Shamrocks, and the girls couldn't get around them.

"Injuries and illnesses have hurt the team. It has really caused us to be inconsistent because we have not been able to practice with the whole team participating," Coach Jared Ridder said.

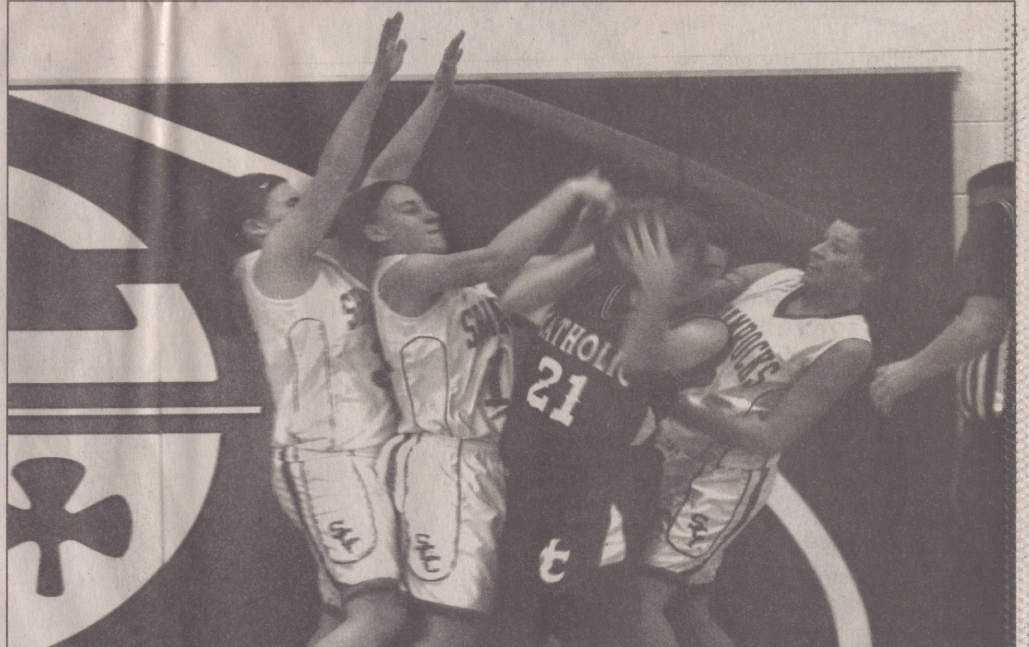
For many games, the girls had to work their way around playing with fewer players.

"The girls have done a good job of working hard and not letting the injuries and distractions get in their way," Ridder said.

Their first win against Pierce gave them a lot of confidence, and followed with a defeat against Battle Creek. They then upset Wayne, which boosted the team tremendously.

The girls fell into an inconsistent streak after the loss to Twin River in overtime. Despite the struggles, the team fought back and found a way to start winning again.

Shamrocks came against Boone Central in mid-January and got the win in overtime. Their spark carried into the next game to defeat top



Kenzie Leu, Morgan Duren, and Tiffany Haney converge on a defensive trifecta to fluster a Norfolk Catholic player during a recent victory on January 17th.

ten ranked Norfolk Catholic. These two wins gave the girls the drive to keep winning.

"We needed senior leaders to step up, and we have seniors that stepped into those roles," Ridder said.

As well as seniors stepping up, sophomores and juniors have gotten the chance to play many minutes this year in varsity. Sophomore Alyssa Foltz tied the record of most individual steals in

a game during the Schuyler game. Every player on the team has an important role and has a chance to make the Shamrocks better.

"Our team has much potential to finish strong with

very great chances at districts, but we have to keep playing our game," senior McKenzie Leu said.

The team is 9-4 in the last thirteen games. They have overcome many struggles, and

they will keep working hard to prepare for districts.

"We are excited about the opportunities we have at the end of the year," Ridder said.

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## Activities

# Speech team finds flurry of firsts

By Levi McPhillips  
Layout Editor

Walking through the hallways, they can be recognized by their triple black t-shirts with a simple statement on the back, "Cuz we talks real good". This humorous statement speaks volumes about the abilities and attitudes of the 2011 Scotus Speech Team. The team has had a successful season thus far, and an early highlight of the season was the first ever speech meet held at Scotus in the regular season.

"I really enjoyed going to other schools, and I thought that Scotus would be capable of hosting a meet," said Ms. Anneliese Ploetz, the head coach of the Scotus Speech Team. Ms. Ploetz instructs and organizes the team with the help of her assistant Mr. Fajman.

"It was a great opportunity for our school to welcome in other schools and show what Scotus Speech Team is about," Ploetz commented.

The Scotus

Invitational was held on January 7th. Scotus students were dismissed at 12:10 to accommodate for the several schools that came to compete.

Several members of the speech team were happy with the way the meet went.

"It went surprisingly smooth," senior Cale Albracht said.

There are 21 novices on the team this year, and they are enjoying their first year on the team.

Junior Rachel Rambour, one of the novices, said, "This year has been a great learning experience for me." Rambour has enjoyed being involved in an activity besides sports. "I like being around different people."

Claire Fuchser, a sophomore member of the team, feels upbeat about the young members of the team. "I love my freshies. They are doing very well."

There are several veteran members that are leading the team in practices and in meets. One of those team leaders is Cale Albracht. He has noticed an improvement

in the team since he joined in 9th grade.

"The team has grown quite a bit. It has grown in quantity and quality. Freshman year there were only six members," said Albracht.

There are several other experienced members of the team that have led the team to success in meets this season. The season has gone well so far, and three different competitors from Scotus earned first place awards in different meets. Junior Joel Ostdiek earned first place in Entertainment Speaking for his speech on perspectives at the Raymond Central Invitational. Junior Tom Schumacher earned first place in Humorous Interpretation at the Concordia University Invitational meet for his speech entitled "Senior Year Survivor". Finally, freshman Valerie Borer received the top honor at the Scotus Invitational in Informative Speaking with her speech on designer babies.

Ms. Ploetz is excited for the rest of the season. "For Conference I would like to

take a full squad. There is a limited number of entries. I would like all 9 events to be filled to the max. For Districts we are competing in Class B because enrollment jumped

at Scotus by 22 students this year. We are going against bigger schools, but we still have a good shot at state."

Even though they are competing against bigger

schools and in a different district, the Shamrock speakers will do what they do best. Each one of them talks real good, but they are out to prove that they can also speak



Freshman Valerie Borer gives her speech in the first round at the Raymond Central Invitational on January 15th. The Scotus Speech Team is hoping to compete well at the remaining meets in February. Head coach Ms. Ploetz is looking to send a full team to the Conference meet and compete well at Districts.

# Flag corps brings change to new year



Sophomores Kyle Baumgart, Christine Reiners, and Teresa Tira and Freshmen Amy Price, Connor Lusche, and Jacob Nienaber prepare for the guy/girl routine. The performance will take place tonight during half time of the boys' varsity game.

By Kelcey Robak  
Staff Reporter

From new costumes to new members to new routines, the flag corps has sought out changes for this year. Something new, different, and fun includes boys...and lots of them!

The flag team is doing two new types of routines this

year, both of them involving boys. First, the flag corps will be performing "Drummer Boy" with the drum line, choreographed by dance instructor Desiree Johnson. The flag corps has never done a production like this.

"The drum line and flag production has been on my mind for several years, and we have gotten several requests from Scotus supporters to do this. I thought this year would

be a good year to do it," flag corps coach Kristen Cox said.

The flag corps and drum line learned the choreography this summer, and it has been practiced in the mornings during the week throughout the year.

Flag corps captain Emily Schieffer said, "The routine looks great. We had a lot of fun learning it and preparing for it!"

The drum line and

flag corps production took place on January 21 during half time of the boys' varsity game.

Another new flag routine that will take place in February is the guy/girl routine. Each flag member recruited a high school boy to dance with her. The song is "I've got a girl", choreographed by alum Shalise Vancura and Barb's dance instructor Kayla Robertson. The participants

spent the last day of Christmas break learning the routine.

The last time a guy/girl dance took place at Scotus was in 2006. In recent years, the flag corps has tried to get another guy/girl dance routine going, but it has fallen through. This year's planning has been more of a success.

"The planning process started earlier this year recruiting guys and the whole

planning process in general. For me, I didn't realize how many years have gone by where students didn't really remember what it was about or the excitement it brought. Once we do it again, it will catch on, and people will really enjoy watching and participating in it," Cox said.

The flag corps also participated in the annual 'Jam the Gym' held by the CHS Diamond Dancers. Scotus stood out being the only flag team participating. The flag corps has attended 'Jam the Gym' in the past but not last year due to the interference of March for Life. The flag corps performed "Blame it on the Pop" and "Ramalama."

"We go to 'Jam the Gym' to show our routines because we had fun performing them this year. I like it because we are local, so there are more people supporting us and watching us. We aren't just performing in front of a Scotus audience," Schieffer said.

The guy/girl dance and drum line production brought a major change to the flag corps.

"This group has been working hard this whole year. They give their best effort, and I am SO proud of them," Schieffer said.

## WHAT WE'RE 2

### Slippin' and slidin'

By Michael Albin  
Staff Reporter

It was 8:15 A.M. on January 17, 2010, and junior Michael Albin was well on his way to school. Of course, when Albin drives to school, his windows are foggy and his eyes are almost closed. Not to mention, the roads were the slickest they had been all year, so it was only a matter of time. He slipped off the road, and skillfully wedged himself into a small drainage ditch with no chance of escape. "NO!" Albin thought to himself, "Now I

am going to miss the algebra review!" But fortunately enough, the volunteer firemen were following closely behind and hoisted him right out of the ditch (narrowly missing a mailbox). His story is not common, because Albin managed to almost immediately rectify his predicament, whereas most people drive off the road and miss the Algebra review... or is it daylight savings time? Dang it!

It's true that most drivers are guilty of slipping and sliding during icy weather, but young teenage drivers (such as Albin) are particularly susceptible to careening through an intersection.

"Teenagers haven't been driving for very long. The number one reason teenagers get in accidents is because of inexperience," Officer Gilbert Maschmeier said.

But it was many mistakes that led to the plunge into the ditch, not just one specific error.

"You want to make sure that your windows are not foggy, your eyes are wide open, and you give yourself much more time than usual," Maschmeier said. "Leave a half an hour earlier than you usually do. If you're there fifteen minutes early, you have some time to relax."

But, Albin was running late that morning,

and driving a little too fast. Everyone is late from time to time, and a life is not worth saving a third tardy.

"Drive slowly, at least 10mph less than the speed limit when you think conditions will be slick," Maschmeier added.

"The type of vehicle you drive also has a big effect on your ability to maintain control on the ice," Maschmeier stated.

Albin, the proud owner of an F-150 rear-wheel drive truck, didn't have the advantage over mother nature on his way to school that day.

"Four-wheel drive is usually the best, but most of the accidents that are reported

usually involve a four-wheel drive vehicle," Maschmeier explained, "It's quite comical when a four-wheel drive vehicle passes you at 70mph on the highway, and then ten or fifteen minutes later, you see them in a ditch."

So if a rear-wheel drive is dangerous, and four-wheel drive can make people a little too cocky, what is Maschmeier's vehicle of choice?

"Front-wheel drive is vastly superior to rear wheel drive on the ice, and I get around in the Explorer with front wheel drive better than most people do in four-wheel drive," Maschmeier said.

"Another thing

most people don't know, is that if you put your car into neutral when slowing down at an intersection, you have a much easier time coming to a complete stop," Maschmeier added.

One thing Albin did realize though, was that everyone makes mistakes. Most people are going to have an accident at one time or another during their driving career, but whether or not they learn from their mistakes is what makes them a good driver.

"I consider myself very lucky," Albin said, "and as it turned out, there wasn't an Algebra quiz today after all."

# Entertainment

## Black Swan Breaks A Wing

By Kelcey Robak  
Staff Reporter

If you go into *Black Swan* expecting a movie about a dedicated dance company revisiting a classic 19<sup>th</sup> century ballet while examining the strained relationship between a mother and daughter, you won't have a complaint. If you go into *Black Swan* expecting a movie about sex, drugs, jealousy, psychosis, and self-destruction, you won't be denied. If you go into *Black Swan* expecting a movie deserving of a Best Picture, you won't be disappointed.

*Black Swan* is about Nina, played by Natalie

Portman, who is completely absorbed in the New York City Ballet Company. She auditions and receives the role of the 'Swan' in the ballet, *Swan Lake*. While she is the perfect ballerina for the innocent and pure role of the 'White Swan', she has a hard time dancing the role of the evil, possessed 'Black Swan'. Nina starts to lose her mind as she tries to become the perfect ballerina for both the 'White Swan' and 'Black Swan'.

What helps make *Black Swan* such an amazing film is the terrific acting. Natalie Portman won a Golden Globe for her performance. She is given a role where a good and evil character

has to be portrayed. She did nothing but nail it. Even in the most confusing scenes, it is impossible to tell she is acting. She stayed in character throughout the entire film.

Another outstanding actress in *Black Swan* is Mila Kunis, who plays Lily, another terrific ballerina in the New York City Ballet Company. Nina soon becomes jealous of Lily and her threat to take over her lead role in the ballet.

Vincent Cassel performs the role of Thomas Leroy, who is the lead teacher of the New York City Ballet Company. He also does an amazing job playing his harsh and pushy character in *Black Swan*.

A main reason why *Black Swan* is up for a Best Picture is because its plot is unlike others. The plot includes important symbolism that is dispersed throughout the entire film. The symbolism helps make the plot fall in place. An important piece of symbolism is how the events that take place in the actual ballet itself, take place in Nina's life. The symbolism also gives the film way more meaning and intensity. The whole storyline of the movie is dramatic and intense.

Critics of *Black Swan* say that it is too dramatic and intense. There are a couple of graphic and sexual scenes in the movie that may

seem inappropriate. I think, however, without some of the graphic scenes, the point of the plot would not get across. The main theme is how a dedicated ballerina transforms into an evil figure, and without these scenes in the film, the new transformed character would not be shown.

Another reason why some people may not like *Black Swan* is because of its perplexity. I must admit, *Black Swan* can get somewhat confusing, but in my opinion that is what made it so great. It's not one of those movies where you can space off and text throughout it. It has a great deal of depth, and it

takes some concentrating. It may be one of those movies that you have to see more than once to understand every bit of confusing detail.

*Black Swan* was the best movie I have seen in a long time. Every bit of detail seemed to work perfectly for me. The meaning and depth were incredible. The symbolism and plot were perfect. The acting was terrific. I don't have anything bad to say about it. I strongly recommend everyone who is old enough to see it. All I ask is that everyone has an open mind before watching it, and with that, I'm sure no one will be disappointed!



## -Horoscopes-



By Stacia Rawhouser  
Staff Reporter

### Aquarius- The Water Carrier

**January 21-February 19**  
Born to stand out, you avoid the ordinary and create your own image. Though you are full of trust, be sure you are careful of who you give it to. Over the next couple of days, someone you always thought was your friend will prove to be untrustworthy. As the lies start pouring out, don't be afraid of the false witnesses. Remember to keep being yourself and trust no one, especially men. They lie a lot.

### Pisces- The Fish

**February 20-March 20**  
When I say "jump", you say "how high?" Anything your friends say, you immediately agree with. Within the next five days, one of your so-called "friends" is going to lead you right off a cliff. No, not an actual "cliff", but into a situation that would be wise to avoid. In other words, don't be such a follower. Step out of your shell and let loose.

Who knows, you might even find five dollars.

### Aries-The Ram

**March 21-April 20**  
You are a champion, better than the best; however, this month someone is going to take you down a notch and destroy your supposedly undefeated nature. It would be in your best interest to tone down your selfish ways and pass the controller to someone else for a change. I also advise you not to make any drastic bets for a while; luck isn't exactly "in the cards" for you.

### Taurus-The Bull

**April 21-May 21**  
You have been in your comfort zone for far too long. This week, you will be pushed to your limits both mentally and physically. Don't be jealous of another's grades; instead, work hard for your own. You just might attract that special someone who still has their natural hair color and who shares your interest in hard work.

### Gemini- The Twins

**May 22-June 21**  
You have been rushing through your days too quickly

to even notice that pair of blue eyes that's always staring at you in the hallway. You love multi-tasking and keeping things "fresh", but you are too busy. Take this month to slow things down and stop being so preoccupied with sports. Start focusing on the one that's always there for you. Ask yourself if you had to walk alone for a day, who would be the one insisting to come along? Austin Wortman will you go to Sweetheart with Stacia Rawhouser?

### Cancer- The Crab

**June 22-July 22**  
You know it all. You always have, but not this month. You have a lot of opposition waiting in the days ahead. Stay loyal to your friends and don't let the things you hear in the bathroom get under your skin. Let go of the grudges you've been holding for way too long. Stay strong because there's someone out there who hates drama just as much as you do.

### Leo- The Lion

**July 23-August 21**  
You want it, you got it. That's

how it's always been. For the next 2 weeks, however, money won't be of the same convenience to you. If you have a dollar in your pocket, I suggest you hold onto it because it could get windy. If you think the computers at school are "broke", you're about to learn a whole new meaning to the word. Stop giving away the change you get back from your purchases. Money isn't everything, but it's a big part of your lifestyle. Spend it wisely.

### Virgo- The Virgin

**August 22-September 23**  
No, the jeans don't make you but look big. You worry too much. Stop being so insecure. Everyone knows you look at your reflection in the trophy case every time you walk by. Trust me, you look fine. This month you will realize that nobody is perfect, so you don't have to hold yourself to that standard either. Lower your expectations of others, as well as yourself, and maybe that annoying kid sitting next to you in math is the one for you. I bet that kid thinks your jeans look good.

### Libra- The Scales

**September 24-October 23**  
Sharing is caring, and you care a lot. For the next 3 weeks, I highly suggest stocking up on pencils because you will be lending them left and right. I wouldn't count on getting them back either. However, don't let people take advantage of your kind nature. Stand up for yourself and anyone else who may need your help. Don't worry about being a slave to fashion; trust me, hun, the sweat pants are just as cute. However, stay away from the color brown, it looks bad on everyone. My mom likes brown...

### Scorpio- The Scorpion

**October 24-November 22**  
You're the jealous one. Well, I have news for you: green is not a good color for anyone. Take a step back and don't always think the worst. Keep in mind that the way you think isn't the same as everyone else. This month, try not to be so stubborn. The one who loves you most is going to get tired of being pushed away. Seriously, just relax because the weight of the world is too heavy for one person all the

time anyway. Be your own boss, not everyone else's.

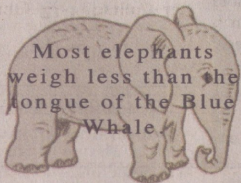
**Sagittarius- The Archer**  
**November 23-December 22**  
Short, sweet, and to the point. That's you. However, in the next few days a certain little "detail" will make a world of difference. Start taking some responsibility and listen. Keep looking on the bright side like you always do, but don't overlook reality. Your unlimited freedom is about to get a leash and collar. Don't be angry, it's only for the best. Look at it as an opportunity to get some sleep.

### Capricorn- The Goat

**December 23-January 20**  
You always play it safe and shelter yourself from adventure. Accept this week as an open door opportunity to "let your hair down", but don't get it stuck in any fan blades. Instead, settle any tensions you have with your friends, parents, teachers, and pets that have been eating away at you for quite some time. Quit hiding in the dark corners and start chasing your dreams. They do come true, just ask Justin Beiber...

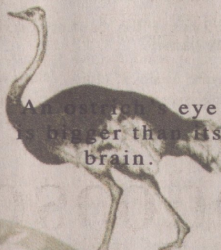
## RANDOM FACTS!

From *The Random Book of Useless Information* and Dylan.net

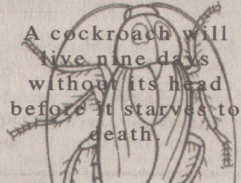


Most elephants weigh less than the tongue of the Blue Whale.

On average, 100 people choke to death on ball-point pens every year.



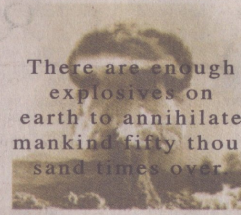
An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.



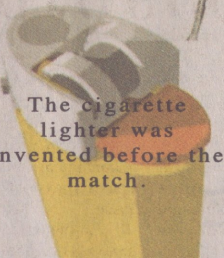
A cockroach will live nine days without its head before it starves to death.



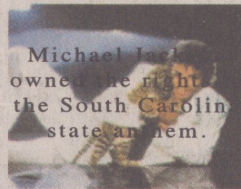
'Go' is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.



There are enough explosives on earth to annihilate mankind fifty thousand times over.



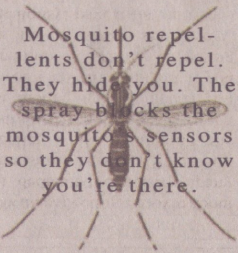
The cigarette lighter was invented before the match.



Michael Jordan owned the rights to the South Carolina state anthem.

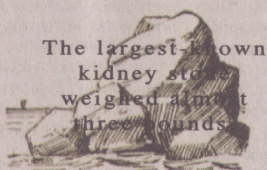


Weezer's 'World' was the first song to be released on YouTube.



Mosquito repellents don't repel. They hide you. The spray blocks the mosquito's sensors so they don't know you're there.

Women blink nearly twice as much as men.



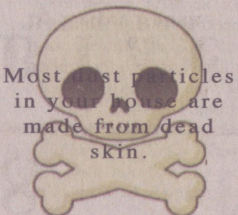
The largest human kidney stone weighed almost three pounds.



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"Proud to be a 'Rock!'"



Most dust particles in your house are made from dead skin.



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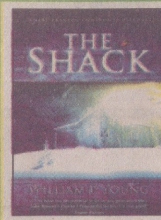
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# RockBottom

*Scotus Central Catholic*

SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC VOLUME 12 · ISSUE 5 · MARCH 2, 2011 COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA 68601

## Musical closes the curtain on a successful production



JENN GOKIE/ YEARBOOK STAFF

Above: Jens Paprocki, Trenton Kuta, Cale Albracht, Joel Ostdiek, Bill Cremers, and Dan Strecker do a heal click while dancing in a scene from the first act. Below: Levi McPhillips returns home as his character Adam Pontipee hugs his wife Millie (Olivia Sonderman) at the end of the play.



JENN GOKIE/ YEARBOOK STAFF

By Stacia Rawhouser  
Staff Reporter

This year's musical production, directed by Ms. E.J. Gardner, was *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*. It is a comedy about seven ill-mannered, country folk brothers, and how they manage to each kidnap a wife. Throughout the story, the wives transform the brothers into suitable husbands, and the brothers escape the consequences for their kidnappings.

"Though it was an unusual play, I wanted a musical that would allow more of an ensemble cast; one where more people could have bigger parts," Gardner said.

There were many more people willing to try out for the musical this year than in past years, and because the musical does not deny anyone a part, the cast was plentiful. Seniors Levi McPhillips and Olivia Sonderman both experienced their first musical in which they played a lead role.

"I wasn't nervous, rather, I was concerned about what I had to do to my schedule to make sure I had time to do everything," McPhillips said.

With such a large cast, it was hard finding a time to practice and rehearse that would not conflict with anyone's schedule.

"Not everybody was dedicated-and some didn't need to be-but trying to get the walk-ons and minor roles to show up and pay attention was a struggle.

"I was understanding to a degree, but sometimes we had to "snap" when the performance was close," McPhillips said.

This production consisted of a lot of choreography that the cast had to learn. Because of the many changes made to the routines, it was hard for all of the members to keep up with the different dances.

"Though it was very stressful at times, all of the

See MUSICAL, Page 2

## SCC overcomes the fear to save lives

By Levi McPhillips  
Layout Editor

Blood was on everyone's mind yesterday as students left their classes to donate vital body fluids at the 2011 Scotus Central Catholic Blood Drive. The annual event is put on with the help of the Red Cross, National Honor Society, student volunteers, and all of the student and adult donors.

There are several members of NHS and the Red Cross who come at 7 A. M. the morning of the Drive to set up the Activity Center. National Honor Society members are required to bring soft drinks, sandwiches, or juice to provide to donors after they give blood. Some honor students also tear down or set up chairs and tables in the gym.

The first appointment for donating was at 8:30 A.M., and the last donation was scheduled for 2:15 in the afternoon. However, they often get behind schedule for several reasons. Nurses sometimes have to spend more time if it is the donor's first time donating, and sometimes there are not enough volunteers to handle all of the donors.

There are a number of students who helped with the Blood Drive this year. A majority of the volunteers are seniors in Mr. Younger's physiology class. A total of thirty students help tend to donors, retrieve donors from classes, and help move the traffic in the gym. Guidance Counselor Mrs. Weir also volunteers to help during the Drive.

The Blood Drive has been very successful in years past. Last year's goal was to accumulate 100 units of usable blood. Every donor helped surpass that goal, and last year the Scotus Blood Drive was able to give 103 units of blood to the Red Cross. Because of the success last year, the Red Cross has given a goal of 103 units for the 2011 Drive.

See BLOOD DRIVE, Page 2

## America opens windows for Wang

By Stephani Jarecke  
Staff Reporter

Many students from other countries dream about the opportunity of coming to America for schooling.

Junior Huanging Wang, better known as Mike Wang, was given the chance of a lifetime to attend school at Scotus, and he came to America looking for new opportunities.

"I wanted to come to school in America to experience a different culture," Wang said.

Wang has found out that America is great for his interests.

He said, in China, the schools focus more attention on studies rather than extracurricular activities and do not have a lot of activities to choose from. Students spend most of their time in the classroom and even have classes on

Saturdays.

"Scotus is a very fun school to be at; it is very laid-back compared to my schooling in China," Wang said.

Wang is involved in football, winter conditioning, and soccer. He enjoys working out in the weight room and getting stronger. He loves to play soccer and has become better since the beginning of the school year by practicing and working hard every day.

**"Scotus is a very fun school to be at; it is very laid-back compared to my schooling in China."**

~Mike Wang

Though Wang is involved in many activities, he still takes a full load of classes with no study halls.

"Sometimes it is really hard to understand what needs to be done

in some classes, but my English has gotten a lot better over these past months," Wang said.

This semester, Wang has also joined the Shamrock Factor. He is now doing funny commercials every segment to get a chuckle out of the students during lunch.

"I love Shamrock Factor and the people in it. I love making people laugh with my commercials," Wang said.

But is this the real Mike Wang?

"In China, I am still funny, but some teachers just do not like it," Wang said.

Unlike most foreign exchange students, Wang will be staying at Scotus through his senior year, with hopes of attending college in the United States.

Wang's further plans whether to stay in America or go back home will be determined.



JENN GOKIE/ YEARBOOK STAFF

Junior Mike Wang poses for the camera during the Sweetheart dance. Wang's first year at Scotus has been filled with many activities and sports.

**BLOOD DRIVE**

Continued from Page 1

"Every Red Cross person says how well our students conduct themselves. A lot of Red Cross people are brought to this Drive to see how well it can go, and that is a huge compliment to our student body," Mrs. Dusel-Misfeldt said.

In late January, high school students were informed about the Drive, donating blood, and the good that giving does for hospital patients. Each pint of blood donated has the potential to save three lives. Potential donors are educated on reasons for not donating, and they also learn that, surprisingly, the number one reason that people do not donate is because they were not asked to. However, with every 10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grader being asked in class, that excuse no longer has any water.

One of the most common reasons that eligible donors do not give is because they are afraid of needles or

the concept of letting blood drain from their bodies. Students are encouraged to overcome the fear, but the choice is completely up to each student.

"Please suck it up and donate because I will try, and I pass out every time I see a needle," senior Olivia Sonderman said encouragingly.

Another reason that donors are turned away is the weight requirements. According to the American Red Cross website, if a female student is under 155 lbs. or if a male is under 130 lbs., they may be unable to donate depending on their height. Individuals who do not meet the requirements are at risk due to the large amount of blood they are donating from their small bodies.

Despite all the reasons to not donate, voluntary or involuntary, 70% of Seniors, 56% of Juniors, and 45% of Sophomores were signed up to donate for the 2011 Drive. Students have had positive experiences in



STEPHANI JARECKE/JOURNALISM STAFF

**Sophomore Quinn Goodrich cringes as a Red Cross volunteer searches for a suitable vein to extract her blood. Students, staff, alumni, and parents all donated at the 2011 Scotus Blood Drive on Tuesday March 1st.**

the past, and they are looking forward to donating again.

Senior Nathan Wangler, who was one of the few able to donate two units

last year, said, "I was glad I was able to make an impact on someone else's life."

Even with queezy stomachs, students want to

donate and make a difference in the lives of needy patients they have never met.

Senior Laura Salyard said, "I'm terrified

because I hate needles, but it's something worth doing and worth the self-sacrifice."

**MUSICAL**

Continued from Page 1

practice we did really paid off. The repetition of the lines and the moves was the best way to practice," junior Summer Kresha, one of the seven brides, said.

With a large group of kids dancing and singing, the musical practices were by no means "all work and no play".

"There were several times I had to step in for people that weren't at rehearsal; most of the time it was a girl's role. There were definitely some uncomfortable, yet comical scenes of me playing a woman's part," McPhillips said.

McPhillips's humor was appreciated by the cast and crew as he helped ease the tension before opening day.

"I couldn't believe all the laughing we did. We really had a great time and Levi is such a funny guy. The kids really kept the mood light and nobody was mad at anybody," Gardner said.

When Friday night had arrived, the play drew a large crowd. The large cast had many people come and support them.

"There was a lot more people this year that watched the play. There were about a thousand people over the three performances, and there were over five-hundred in the audience on opening night," Gardner said.

As the curtain closed on the final Sunday production, all of the hard work had paid off and the cast was pleased with their performance.

"Every single person did a great job. Though the freshmen were shy at first, it was really cool to see them transform and become themselves on stage," Kresha said.

After witnessing the many tears that were shed by the seniors after their last musical, it is safe to say they were proud of themselves as well as the rest of the cast.

"I had an unforgettable time leading everyone in this production. I never would've dreamed how much was demanded of me in time, dedication, and especially leading by example. I really think we owe a lot to Olivia for getting props, organizing choreography, and her passion for the musical," McPhillips said. "I couldn't have asked for a better senior year in musical."

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# Chill Zone

## Girls: you need to chill



By Stephani Jarecke  
Staff Reporter

High school: the place for learning, growing, and developing. But the truth is, high school is so much more than that. There are friends, gossip, looks, parties, and lots of pressure. Girls especially put a great deal of pressure on each other.

Every girl has, at one time, gotten caught up in high school drama. Girls can be so mean, but it's not obvious. They find ways to be "nice" in a "mean" way. With society today, girls have found many ways to accomplish breaking down another girl.

A common attack is exclusion. Too often, girls get left out of parties or even simple conversation. Girls can use the excuse of saying, "we weren't talking about her", but it hurts almost worse to be ignored, especially if it is obvious.

Another heart-breaking moment is hearing about gossip. Girls think it's in their best interest to go tell someone something that was said about them. It honestly does not help one bit. It causes fights between everyone, and also makes that person feel so bad. If a girl hears a rumor about herself, the thought of that floats in her head the rest of the week because girls take everything to heart.

Another sensitive topic that is probably worried about the most is looks. Almost every girl in school wears make-up about every day. It's not even about impressing boys anymore, but, rather, the girls. It's a huge competition as to who is pretty or not. Girls can say they don't care, but there's not one girl in high school that has not worried about what they look like. This is because girls are the ones to point out the flaws in each other. They don't say, "you are ugly", but only remind you of zits or hair just to make you worry about it.

It is very hard to let the comments go in one ear and out the other, but girls are trying to impress the wrong people.

There's a point where girls need to figure out that it's not always about who has the best dress or who is the prettiest. It is hard to look past high school issues. I've had hard times myself from the stress drama puts on a girl. Every girl has the same issues, so we need to help each other not bring each other down. It only takes one random act of kindness at a time.

Those tempting rumors or bullying can be difficult, but remembering the times when you felt that same way can help stop it. I have hurt my own friends many times by mistake, and I am truly sorry for those actions. I am trying everyday to make high school a little easier with less drama.

Every girl in the high school can also set aside the issues and cherish the people we are blessed with.

# Single and ready to...chill



By Casey Kessler  
Staff Reporter

Have you ever heard one of those stories where high school sweethearts get married, grow old together, and live happily ever after? Yes, I have as well. This does not need to be the case for numerous reasons. Some teenagers hear that they should not date because of

the pressure to have sex, they are too young, and they do not need their hearts broken. Well, the truth is that high school dating should be stopped, and for other reasons than the numerous parental excuses mentioned above.

Why should young adults be tied down in a relationship at the adolescent ages of fourteen through eighteen? A young person that finds him or herself in a relationship feels that they have some sort of charisma or chemistry with a certain member of the opposite sex. It turns out that the other person might feel that way as well. I am here to tell you that that is not true. Yes, you may get along with said member of the opposite sex,

but are you really going to get married? Do not people date so they can possibly have a long lasting relationship in the future? Young people are not ready for these kinds of relationships. Most high school relationships do not last more than a couple months anyway, so why waste the time? Once these breakups occur, both sides are in some way saddened or hurt.

Another advantage of not dating in high school is the ability to have more money. Who wants to spend \$50 on a birthday or Valentine's Day present when you can help yourself towards college tuition or that new Call of Duty video game? People then spend time wondering if he or she will like a certain

gift they give. It turns out that nothing anyone gets could compare to a brand new car or bringing back a dead pet. Keep your money in the cupholder or the purse and spend it in a better way.

Having more free time is yet another positive of not dating in high school. Not all people who date have to be together 24/7, and some like to be, which is fine. But what is bad is when someone wants to be with his or her boy/girlfriend all the time, while the other member of the relationship only wants to hang occasionally. It turns into a complete and total epic fail. If one does happen to hang out with the opposite sex, at least keep it cheap. It's called free time for a reason.

The final advantage of not dating in high school includes the worry factor. It turns out that there isn't one. One does not need to worry if they are making their partner mad, glad, or sad all at the same time. People already have busy lives; dating in high school does not need to be a hassle, but sometimes it turns into one.

For all of those people who are single in high school, keep on keeping on! For all of you daters that are "in a relationship" on Facebook, more power to you, but there are plenty of fish in the sea, and no one needs to go searching for Nemó in their high school hallways.

## Mom, you're so chill



By Stacia Rawhouser  
Staff Reporter

"I cook, I clean, I try to look nice for you!" These are the words of a stereotypical, naggy housewife; but has anyone ever honestly heard their mom say this? If so, she probably has a good reason to complain. It's true, my mom does it all: she cooks, cleans, and carries herself very well, and she does it all under the radar.

My mom is the one who always seems to be passing the "spotlight" onto someone else. So many of us spend our free time thinking

of what we can do to make ourselves happy. Well, whatever it is that makes people, like me, so selfish, my mom doesn't have it; she goes miles out of her way to make the slightest difference in someone else's life. If she were a car, she would run on smiles instead of gasoline.

I don't think there could ever be a "brighter side" than the one my mom constantly talks about. Seriously, our house could fall down, everyone could be on fire, and no matter what my mom is still going to be assuring everyone that "it's all going to be ok."

I'm not going to lie, some days I just want to scream because when I'm having a bad day, the last thing I want to hear is "everything is going to be ok." I'm a seventeen-year-old girl who thinks that every little set back is the end of the world, and though the rest of the world completely understands that I want to be

left alone, there's my mom-in my face-constantly reminding me of that "brighter side".

Yeah, we all get irritated with our moms because it's what teenagers do; we assume that we know everything when, in reality, we don't have a clue. Whenever we're forced to admit that the weight of the world is too heavy for one set of shoulders, our mom is the one person we can always count on to listen if we ask her to. Yeah, they are pretty much obligated to love us, but let's face it: that's not the reason they drop everything in their lives just to help us out.

I don't understand, and I probably never will understand, how my mom can accomplish so many tasks in one day. Though I'm probably the first to complain about supper being cold or my jeans not being washed, I am beginning to realize just how important my mom is to me and to my family.

Yes, we love her, but that's not the point; the point is that she is literally the "glue" that holds my family together. She wakes up at a quarter to five every morning in hopes of conquering the mountains of laundry the rest of my family seems to ignore at the bottom of the stairs.

Since she's the first one up, she wakes everyone else up on time. I am not afraid to admit that I'm the worst at getting up in the morning. I tell her to wake me up at

6:30 and no later. When the time comes, however, I respond to her cheerful good mornings with "what are you doing in my room?!" or "Leave me alone, I'm not going to school!". I don't know how she puts up with it, but she does. Everyday.

Though she's the first one up, she's the last to shower because she doesn't want anyone else to have cold water; she doesn't mind it. She doesn't mind doing anything as long as it makes life easier for someone else. One time she literally told me, "Stacia, you know I would give you the whole world if I could."

What she doesn't understand is that she has given me the world; she's my world and I'm hers. I know I don't always keep that in mind when I'm upset with her, but lately, more than ever, I've noticed how much I need her.

## Here's a story...

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## Features

## Sweetheart 2011...sweet or sour?

By Kelcey Robak  
Staff Reporter

Sweetheart was stricter this year with new rules put in place for recent and upcoming Scotus dances. New rules included guest permission from his/her school principal, new dress guidelines, and new dancing restrictions. Although there were a few changes, one tradition never left, and that was the crowning of sweetheart royalty before the dance.

Last year's Sweetheart Queen, Tiffany Wieser, crowned Jenn Gokie the 2011 Sweetheart Queen. Kyle Benesch, a Sweetheart candidate from last year, crowned Nathan Wangler Sweetheart King.

After coronation, the dance took place in the cafeteria. The dance this year did not go like previous years. One of the main reasons was because of the new dancing restrictions. The chaperones enforced "no back to front" or "grinding" that usually occurs at dances.

"The new rules came about because of parent response, parent comments, school board comments who happened to be parents, and national media. In the fall, there was a Lincoln school and a Millard school who had

controversies at their dances which made local news because of the inappropriate methods of dancing," Student Council President Joan Lahm said.

There were mixed emotions on the new dancing enforcements. Some thought it caused more problems, but others didn't let it stop them from having fun.

Senior Jaci Beauvais said, "I understand the concern for wanting to keep it clean, but I think if it comes to that or leaving and drinking, the rules might need to be less strict."

A different reason on why the new rules may not have been a good idea comes from junior Abbey Schieffer who said, "I think chaperones need to accept our style of dancing. It's just the way our generation has come to dance. It doesn't mean we are dirty people."

Even the 2011 Sweetheart royalty had their opinions on the dance.

Wangler said, "I think some of the teachers there took it a little over-the-top when it came to people dancing. The dance was okay. It wasn't as fun as past years because most people left really early."

On the same note, Gokie said, "They were good rules to have, but some people left because of them,

so I could have gone without them."

On the other hand, others still had a good time, and the rules did not affect their fun at the dance.

Junior Sara Dolezal said, "I thought the rules were fine. I still had a lot of fun regardless of the new restrictions."

In conclusion, Lahm

said, "It depends on who you talk to to determine if the dance was fun. There were two seniors who voiced their opinions in a negative way, but then later, I spoke with some

freshmen who thought it was a very positive experience. Keep in mind the two that complained stayed the whole time."



JACI BEAUVAIS/ YEARBOOK STAFF

The 2011 Sweetheart Queen, Jenn Gokie, stands next to her king, Nathan Wangler. Tiffany Wieser and Kyle Benesch crowned the 2011 Sweetheart Royalty on February 11th with crownbearers Calder and Lyndon Obal and Mia Stuart.



# In-Depth

## Alumni respond to a higher calling

By Alise Perault  
Copy Editor

Hearing of people and their experience of coming to know their vocational calling is not a regular occurrence. In fact, the only mention ever heard of vocations is usually at Mass when praying for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

But vocations are more than just the priesthood and religious life. Vocations include, not only those two, but also the single and the married life.

“Put simply, vocations are a calling from

God and our understanding of what God made us for,” Father Roza said.

These vocations developed, in part, because they are applications of Christ’s life and teachings.

“All the primary vocations have sprung from Christ’s teachings. They are all different ways of imitating Christ and entering into the mystery,” Roza said.

Recently, numerous Scotus graduates have begun to discern or have entered into that mystery. Katie Wozny, now Sister Theresa Marie, and Michael Gokie have found their calling in the religious life; in the married life, Ben Beller, Justin McPhillips, and

Melissa Steiner have found their calling; and Kelly Ingram has devoted her life to mission work; and there are currently a few students at Scotus considering the priesthood.

All of these people have learned what it means to believe in and follow God’s plan for them and to embrace their vocation.

However, for most people, thoughts of their vocation are often shrouded in mystery and, for some people, fear. It is not always an easy mystery to enter into. For Michael Gokie, accepting his vocation was definitely a challenge. A few years ago, Gokie realized that

he was being called to the Sodalitium Christianae Vitae, or in English, the Sodalits: a society of apostolic life.

“We are called to continue the work of the apostles, to be apostles ourselves,” Gokie said.

When he realized that God might be calling him to the religious life, he wasn’t exactly ready for it, especially if it meant living in Peru for three to four years.

“At first it was super hard for me to take. I wanted a family. But I came to realize that I needed to be completely open and give that up with the knowledge that God was going to make me as happy as I could be.”

With time, he realized that he really wasn’t living his life to the extent that God wanted.

“I realized very deeply that I needed to live completely for Him, even if that meant I need to do things that weren’t very comfortable for me.”

Now Gokie is in Peru preparing for his formation as a Sodalit, which is about two weeks away. Formation is basically preparation to become a Sodalit.

“Formation is super intense and very challenging, but it sounds like it is going to be the best three or four years of my life.”

Being away from his family has not only been hard on him, but on his family as well. They are all very understanding, however, and the sacrifice they have all made has drawn them closer to each other.

“Them allowing me to follow the Lord is a gift to Him.”

However, accepting a vocation isn’t always this great of a challenge. Father Roza felt a strong conviction that he was being called to the priesthood, and he knew that he wouldn’t be content unless he was serving the Church and Christ.

“Once I figured out that being a professional athlete wouldn’t do the trick, the priesthood came in.”

For Father Roza, the priesthood has brought him an incredible amount of happiness.

“I love seeing people come to understand that Jesus

Christ is real and to experience him for who He really is.”

This includes going on retreats like J. C. Camp, Quest, Steubenville, and March for Life. For him, seeing how much healing and help confession provides is a highlight of being a priest too. He also enjoys teaching here at Scotus, even though teaching junior high was the one thing he did not want to do while he was in Seminary.

“I remember being in junior high, and we were really mean to the priest who came into my classroom, so I thought that would be one thing that would be really hard.”

It turns out that being able to teach eighth graders has been one of the greatest joys of teaching at Scotus.

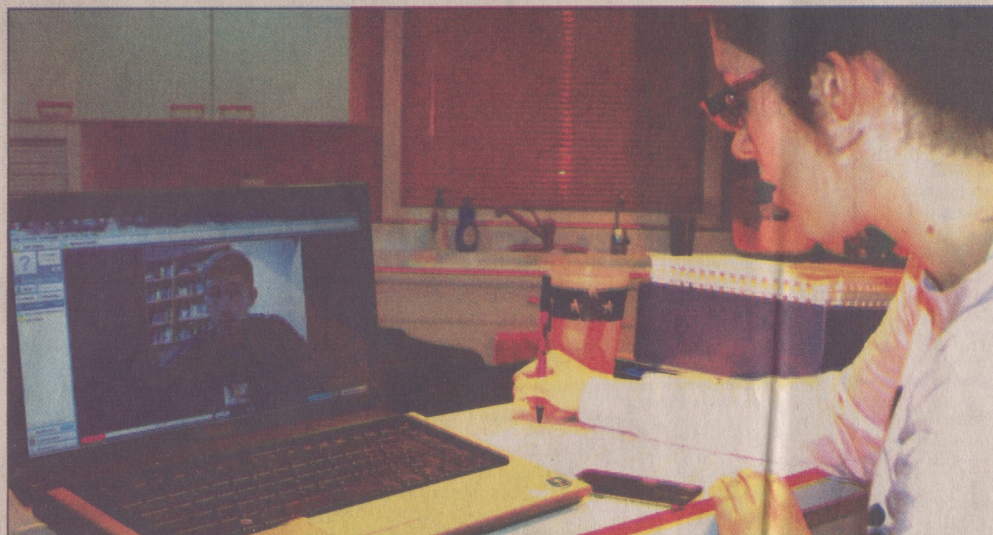
“It is funny how things turn out sometimes.”

In fact, the way life is going to turn out is not usually known to anybody; and not knowing what the future hold can be a scary thought, especially when it comes to vocational callings. But fear doesn’t have to be part of the picture.

In the words of Father Roza, “We don’t have to feel afraid of the choice we might make or what we might be pulled to because if it’s what He wants, it is where we are going to be happy.”

Gokie shared the same advice.

“It is important to realize you will probably be afraid, but don’t live through that fear; let the Lord, through his love, conquer that fear.”



JENN GOKIE YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Alise Perault interviews Michael Gokie via Skype. Gokie, who is in Peru, can only speak with his family through Skype once a week while preparing to become a Sodalit.

## Question and Answer with Fr. Roza!

### Why the obsession with Germ-X?

I started having the stuff around last year when so many people were getting sick. Strange to say, it was kind of fun giving the stuff out, so I’ve kept it in the office since then. I bring it out into the halls every once in a while so I can make myself useful. You hate the flu, I hate the flu, why not do something about it?

### What is your favorite Scotus Lunch?

Runza day. It’s solid top to bottom.

### What was your favorite trip you have ever been on?

My Senior year of high school my team qualified for the World Jr. Curling Championships in Sweden. It was a 10-day, all expenses paid trip. We didn’t see much of the country, but it was my first time outside of North America, and everything was just so new and cool. We did alright at the tournament and met a bunch of awesome folks from all over the place. It probably wasn’t the trip that changed or taught me the most, but it probably was the most fun.

### What languages do you speak?

I can still speak Italian, though I am gradually losing it. I can understand a decent amount of Spanish, but struggle to actually speak it. I also can read a bit of Latin, but I’m no pro at it.

### What do you like to do in your spare time?

Watch movies, sports, read news and novels, spend time with my family, see old friends...my spare time tends to be pretty low-key.



KELLY AUGUSTINE ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Fr. Roza cheerfully gives sophomore Bibiana Lopez a squirt of Germ - X as she walks to her sixth period class.

### Does being around teenagers all day ever get annoying?

It’s kind of funny. I don’t even notice it until I get back around adults, and then I realize how different my life is that way. I enjoy teenagers. When you’re with teenagers, fun can break out at any time, and I really like that. I love the older folks who are involved in Church stuff, but they don’t have the spontaneity that makes young people so much fun. Do I ever get tired of it? Yeah, but I think that I get tired of being around teenagers less than teenagers themselves do. Being older is nice...I don’t have to worry as much about what people think, but I can still enjoy the fact that people who are young are tons of fun.

# Sports

## Miksich takes state with two golds

By Kelly Augustine  
Staff Reporter



**CK: The best thing since toaster strudel**

By Casey Kessler  
Staff Reporter

\*Nebraska football finished off its Top 20 ranked recruiting class on signing day back in February. Those stars we got from the East Coast must not have watched the Holiday Bowl, considering it started at midnight their time.

\*Nebraska also begins spring practice on March 14<sup>th</sup>. There is a rumor going around that Pelini may "transfer" the date to March 15<sup>th</sup> because of another rumor that Taylor Martinez may transfer out of his first grade finger painting class to switch to third grade phonics because of another rumor that Nathan Wangler has accepted a scholarship to play football at the University of Nebraska. Dang, the powers of media.

\*The Nebraska basketball team upset the #2 ranked Texas Longhorns 70-67. It turns out that karma does exist.

\*This victory also put Nebraska on the "Bubble Watch" of teams that may make it in to the NCAA Tournament. Of course this bubble is equivalent to one of those little spit bubbles that some babies blow when they are bored.

\*Nebraska baseball also began its season in mid-February. The team motto: "Disappointing fans since 2003."

\*Super Bowl XLV went to the Green Bay Packers who defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers 31-25. I saw Jay Cutler in the stands. He looked uninterested.

\*Carmello Anthony has finally been traded to the New York Knicks from his former team the Denver Nuggets after months of speculation. This leaves the Nuggets with no star power. Honestly, their players are equivalent to (chicken) nuggets. At least their team now has literal meaning.

\*Brady watch: This month in Brady Vancura news is pretty chill. He recently signed a letter of intent to play college golf next year at Bellevue University. He has possible aspirations of becoming a Class B state champion this year and leading the Scotus Golf Team to another state appearance. Jon Otte, another member of the Scotus Golf team, summed up Brady's leadership. "He leads us," Otte said. This has been another month in Brady Vancura news.

\*The NFL may have a lockout next season, which means no games will be played. The education of some of these players may require them to get a job that does not require moaning to their agents, tackling with their head down, or doing the dougie in the end zone.

\*Albert Pujols of the St. Louis Cardinals wants to be paid the largest salary in Major League Baseball History. The Cubs may sign him, and would have a great chance to win the World Series (yeah right).

\*The Cleveland Cavaliers recently ended a 26 game losing streak in the NBA. Before Lebron was traded to the Heat, Dan Gilbert, the Cavaliers owner, claimed his team would win a title before the Heat. He was right: the title of Worst Team in NBA History.

\*I predict that the Final Four will consist of Duke, Kansas, Ohio State, and Cleveland State. Duke will defeat Ohio State for the title. Take it to the bank: Cleveland State is wearing the glass slipper this year.

\*Rumor Mill: Nebraska also hired four new coaches. From my sources within the program, former offensive coordinator Shawn Watson reportedly had a nervous break down during the Holiday Bowl, and former secondary coach, Marvin Sanders, apparently was let go due to a "disturbance" in Las Vegas.

This past weekend, five students from Scotus went to State Swimming with the Columbus Swim Team, and all in all, the Scotus students did very well. The five teens who went were seniors Brett Brune and Marina Karel, junior Ryan Miksch, sophomore Brandon Hahn, and freshman Laura Miksch.

Miksich brought home two golds from individual events, Brune and Miksch also brought home a silver and bronze in their relays, and Laura Miksch brought home a sixth place medal in her event.

Everyone started on Friday morning at preliminary rounds. Ryan Miksch got first in his one hundred beating a record and getting an All-American time of 45.09.

"Its fantastic, he swam very well, and it is an All - American time which is another feather in his cap that he has accomplished. He really had a great swim," swimming coach Jan Boeding said.

Columbus had a great day at the finals on Saturday. Laura Miksch placed sixth in the 50 free with a time of 24.60, and she also placed seventh in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:08.9.

Brune and Ryan Miksch were in two relays along with Columbus High's Matt Boeding and Tommy Ernst. In the 200, they placed second with 1:28.09 time. They placed third in the 400 relay with a time of 3:15.04.

"Brett is one that has really worked hard and has improved a lot. He broke 50 in his 100 freestyle leg in the relay which was huge," Coach Boeding said.

Ryan Miksch competed in the 50 and 100 freestyle. He placed first in both of those races. He took the gold in the 50 with a time of



KELSEY NEWMAN/YEARBOOK STAFF

Junior Ryan Miksch prepares for the State Swimming Competiiton. Ryan competed in two individual events and two relays.

21.09, and a time of 45.45 in the 100.

Were these results what they were expecting?

"It is kind of hard to go in with any expectation, it was sure what we were hoping would happen,

but you never know until you get down there, how people are going to swim," Coach Boeding said.

Not only did Columbus have big achievements during State, but they also had great accomplishments through out the whole swimming

season.

"It was a great season, and it was great to have so many swimmers at state, and the majority of times were best times, and that is what we are usually after," Coach Boeding concluded.

## Girls' basketball fights 'til the end

By Michael Albin  
Staff Reporter

"Sports do not build character, they reveal it." - John Wooden. The Scotus Central Catholic girls' basketball team revealed their true character this year. From the

beginning to the very end, the girls fought and clawed for every ounce of their success. A rough start to the season and last second losses can derail a program, but through trial and tribulation, the girls managed to get to the district finals. Unfortunately, that was all she wrote.

Coach Jarrod Ridder led his

team this season to a 14-10 record, and showed the same "can-do" attitude as his team.

"I was very proud of the toughness the girls showed throughout the year. We had a bumpy start, but our girls kept fighting and finished strong," Ridder said.

14-10 may not seem like a good record to some, but the season started with a 0-4 crash, and with no foreseeable relief. But the old adage of "Play hard, practice harder" really describes the Scotus girls basketball team because through hard work and determination, they got back on their feet and had a winning season.

**"I was very proud of the toughness the girls showed throughout the year. We had a bumpy start, but our girls kept fighting and finished strong."**

~Coach Jarrod Ridder

Solid defense and great leadership is what the Scotus girls basketball team is founded on. With those two things, any team can win games, but offensively, Ridder thought is where they needed the

most improvement.

"We had too many turnovers and did not execute on offense the way we needed. I thought, though, that our girls did a great job of handling the pressure and guarding Hastings St. Cecilia" Ridder explained, "Our seniors really provided great leadership and work ethic for our younger players. They all knew their roles, and filled it to the fullest."

Even though St. Cecilia was favored, with a rank of no. 4, the Shamrocks were never in doubt that they could win the game. Neck and neck almost the entire game, the Shamrocks were left with one last chance, a game winning shot. But, more often than not, the game winner doesn't fall, and that was the case for the Shamrocks that night.

"I am proud of the way our girls competed throughout the game. They never gave up, and showed a lot of toughness," Ridder added.

It's never a good thing to loose your last game by only two points, but with a young basketball team, it's only up hill from here. With key returns next year, a more experienced basketball coach, and a rising program, the future looks bright for the Shamrocks.



KELSEY NEWMAN/YEARBOOK STAFF

Jordan Chohon looks for an open teammate while surrounded by Hastings St. Cecilia players on February 25th at York High School in the district final.

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# Activities

## Band's year o' Ireland

By Levi McPhillips  
Layout Editor

The luck of the Irish rings true with the Shamrock Band. This year, the Scotus Central Catholic band has had several competitions and performances with Ireland as the theme. On Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, the Band Dinner Concert was held. The theme of this year's concert was "A wee bit o' Ireland".

"The concert was very well attended this year," Mrs. Cox, the Scotus band director, said. "We had to get out more chairs."

The band concert in February is different from the concert in December. This concert also features a dinner for band members, their families, and others who want to see the fruits of the band's labor. "A wee bit o' Ireland" featured performances by all 190 band members in high school, junior high, and elementary school. The concert is scripted, and the seniors play a special part in the concert production.

"The seniors did an outstanding job," Cox

said. "All of them knew the material to learn very well."

This year posed a particularly difficult challenge to Mrs. Cox and the band members.

"We had to find music for the Jazz Band, elementary schools, and high school that fits the theme," Mrs. Cox said.

It was difficult to find music for this year's theme because there is very little Irish music for them to work with. However, they overcame, and they are looking forward to playing some of the same music for the St. Pat's Parade in Omaha on March 12<sup>th</sup>. This year, the band has been able to use a song from the concert that works well for the parade, and they are excited to play songs that are unlike years past.

"We wanted something different. This year we are doing 'Lord of the Dance'. There are a few pieces we had to rearrange for the parade, and Bill and Cale will write the percussion for the song," Mrs. Cox said.

The timeline is different this year for the band. Normally, the band has

time to prepare for District band, but they have had to deal with a schedule change. Easter falls at the end of April, so District band is held a few weeks earlier. This means that the band students needed to start preparing for District band in early February. The band has overcome adversity such as this in the past, and Mrs. Cox is confident in the band members.

"The kids work hard, work together, and are open-minded to new concepts and ideas, and these have been key to their success," Mrs. Cox commented.

There are several experienced members of the band such as Bill Cremer and Cale Albracht. Every year poses challenges for instructors and band members to overcome due to the seniors that are graduating, but Mrs. Cox has confidence and knows the underclassman have learned how to lead from the five seniors.

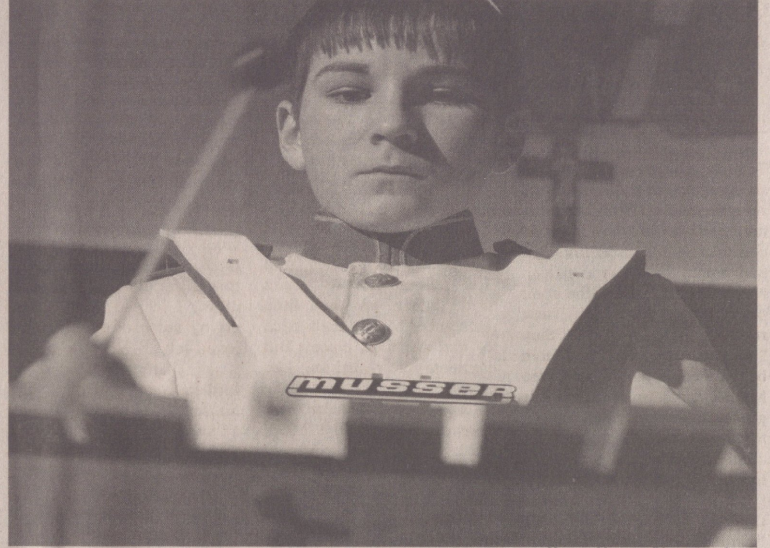
"It may seem cliché, but it comes down to faith. I can fret and try to have control over as much as possible, but if I just let it be, it works out," Mrs. Cox said smiling.

"It's gone really well, and I'm thrilled with everything. I hope they continue to improve and do their best," senior Laura

Salyard said.

If history repeats itself, the 2011-2012 school year will see new leaders emerge in Scotus band. In the

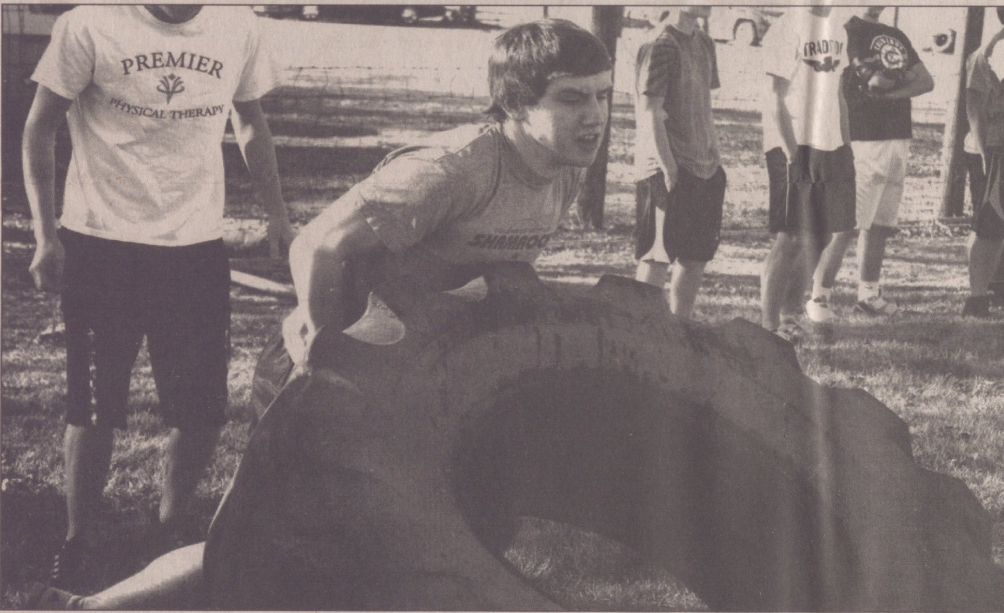
end, the luck o' the Irish will be with the Shamrocks, and they will play on to new endeavors with new leadership.



KELSEY NEWMAN/YEARBOOK STAFF

Eighth grader Joe Sonderman plays the xylophone during the Scotus band dinner concert on Monday February 7<sup>th</sup>. The theme of this year's concert was "A Wee Bit O' Ireland". The band will take part in the St. Patrick's Parade in Omaha on March 12<sup>th</sup>.

## Winter conditioning adds flavor



CASEY KESSLER/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Sophomore Nick Pandorf flips a truck tire during a recent winter conditioning competition on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Pandorf is one of the numerous athletes involved in winter conditioning.

By Casey Kessler  
Staff Reporter

As the temperature heats up during these next few months, the Scotus Central Catholic coaches also hope that their teams will continue the hot streak. But before the season begins, many

spring athletes must undergo a grueling and intensity-filled winter conditioning program.

Winter conditioning at Scotus has been going on for as long as anyone can remember. Most of this consisted of a normal lift week of three to four days, and at times the athletes would endure a running or calisthenics program. The

coaches of some spring sports teams decided to add certain aspects to the conditioning program already in use.

Roger Krienke, head football coach at Scotus, sat all of the senior football players down after this season was over and asked for a few suggestions or ideas to add a little pizzazz to keep the athletes interested. With the

help of Jon Brezenski, head boys soccer coach and football assistant, Krienke came up with a few new ideas to put in his already conformed agenda.

Krienke thought that conditioning is a very important way to try to keep athletes involved in physical activity year-round.

"Our first objective

is to encourage our students to compete in multiple sports, but if they do not, I believe it is extremely important for our athletes to be actively involved in a strength and conditioning program year-round," Krienke said.

Before winter conditioning starts, all the male athletes are put on a team. The seniors pick their teams, which consist of every age down to freshman. The team who has the biggest improvement in their maximum lifting ability of bench, squat, and clean wins a free steak dinner from the coaches. That is not all the coaches have improved. To keep competitiveness going outside the weight room, every Friday the teams compete in strength competitions. These range from flipping truck tires, to doing one hundred pushups in a certain amount of time. There are also many more skills or competitions that they do every Friday during the winter.

Krienke feels that some of the improvements Brezenski made with the skills challenges were extremely important in keeping the lifters focused.

"I think the competitions that Coach Brezenski added to our program have spiced things up and have improved the overall intensity," Krienke said.

Many of the athletes also feel that these changes

helped bring more intensity and improve the program.

James Eutenuer, who is a member of the football and soccer team, felt that the expansion of the winter conditioning program not only helped him as a spring athlete, but also all sports programs around Scotus.

"I always lifted hard during the past few years, but these competitions really make me want to improve and help not only my sports teams, but also my lifting team. It also brings a fun, yet intensified version of conditioning to all of the athletes," Eutenuer said.

Nathan Wangler, who played football in the fall as well as golf in the spring, feels the same way.

"My whole attitude towards lifting has drastically improved. I was never negative towards the whole program, but these new improvements make it more enjoyable," Wangler said.

Krienke feels that work ethic is a major part of the program. Commitment and giving full effort in every phase of the program will greatly benefit the athletes in the future.

"I think that the kids who worked hard and made a commitment will see positive results. The results that our athletes get will be a direct result of the work they put in," Krienke said.

## Channel Surfing

By Michael Albin  
Staff Reporter

Facts from <http://www.csun.edu/science/health/docs/tv&health.html>

In modern history, one invention has risen above the rest. It captivates

us, it informs us, and, most importantly, it entertains us. Television sets are spreading like wild fire throughout the nation, with an average of 2.24 televisions per house. Everyone watches TV now and then, but most are guilty of having a "can't miss" show. Whether it's a drama, a sports cast, or even the occasional cartoon, people go to great lengths to make sure they don't miss their favorite program.

Of the 100-plus students asked about their favorite TV programs, only two said they were too busy

to watch TV. This reflects the national average, as 99% of all American households own a television. So, it's true that students watch a huge amount of TV, but, the shows students watch are more diverse than the United Nations.

It did not matter what the person was like, or their sex, people had their favorite TV programs. Girls almost always had the same shows as people in their own age group. *One Tree Hill* and *Glee* were among some of the more common responses, the majority of which then added, "Because

it is just AMAZING." But the surprising thing was that girls are not the only ones who think that way.

Boys were not afraid to write down that they like to watch *Glee*, or as one brave man said *Pretty Little Liars* (and yes, you are a man if you can admit that). Of course, there were more boys that said shows like *South Park* and *Family Guy*, but, honestly, the amount of guys who liked the more "girly" shows was impressive. But girls were also guilty of watching shows preferred by the other sex.

Many girls (more

than the boys actually) said their favorite shows were programs that most would consider to be more "boy-ish." *American Pickers* and *Mythbusters* were among some of the favorites, but more often than not, most of the girls said the same shows. Sure, some of these shows popped up more commonly than others, but the interesting thing was the wide variety of shows people watch.

*Pokemon*, *Billy the Exterminator*, and *Wonder Pets* are all some of the shows people said were their favorite.

It just goes to show that people are not always as they seem, and that everyone has their own unique obsessions. Older television programs like *Walker, Texas Ranger* were also fairly common. People watch what interests them, and some people are interested by weird things.

Of the 6.5 hours the TV is on during the average day, people manage to watch the one hour of their favorite show. Whether its *Family Guy* or *Pretty Little Liars* (or both!), people go to great lengths to watch them.

## WHAT WE'RE 2

# Entertainment

## The Shack clarifies Christian concepts

By Alise Perault  
Copy Editor

As teenagers in junior high and high school, we are just starting to dip our toes into the beautiful and mysterious aspect of our lives that we call faith. We are just beginning to uncover the path that will lead us on our long and arduous faith journey.

This being so, we have numerous questions about faith and just about our lives in general. Why do I have to go to Mass every weekend? Religion class is so boring, why am I forced to take it? If God loves us so much, then why is life so hard? Heck, what is the point of living anyway? These aren't stupid questions; they actually hold a lot of weight in our lives. In fact, I have even found myself asking these same questions of "why?" Why do we have to suffer, and why would God possibly want to put us on this earth?

There are no simple answers to these questions, but I know an incredible book that truly helped me sort out some of the questions bothering me.

This year, the senior book club had the opportunity to read the book *The Shack*. This book tells the true story of a man named Mackenzie Phillip, written by his friend and neighbor William Young. While on a family vacation, his youngest daughter is kidnapped and killed, and the only evidence left is a bloodstain on the floor of an old abandoned shack.

Four years after the accident, a grief-filled Mack receives a letter from God telling him to return to the shack. With a little reluctance, Mack heads back to that terrible place. But moments after arriving, he meets face-to-face with none other than God himself. Over the period of a few days, Mack speaks with the three different persons of the Trinity and finds the understanding and

healing he needs to break out of the sadness that shrouds his life.

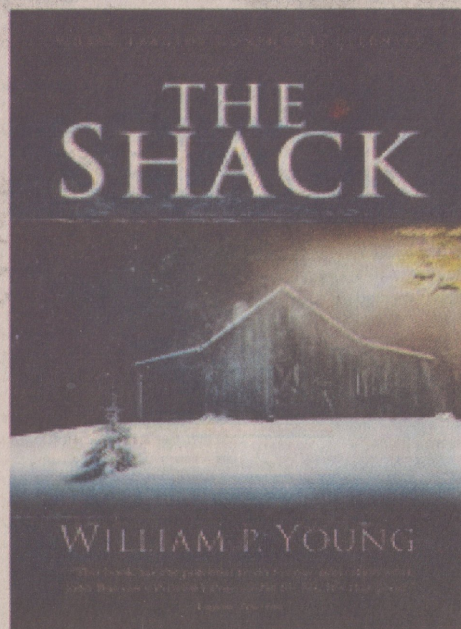
This story, however, is not just about Mack's bumpy journey of faith; it is about ours too. This book provides the opportunity to examine some of our beliefs and to learn new and mind-boggling ideas about the Trinity and our purpose in life.

While reading about what Mack was learning while on his trip to the shack, I was also learning new things about my faith. It was through the eyes of Mack that I was able to have an indirect glance at God. At times, I even felt like God was speaking directly to me through the book. At night, I would find myself crying because of the joy and love I felt.

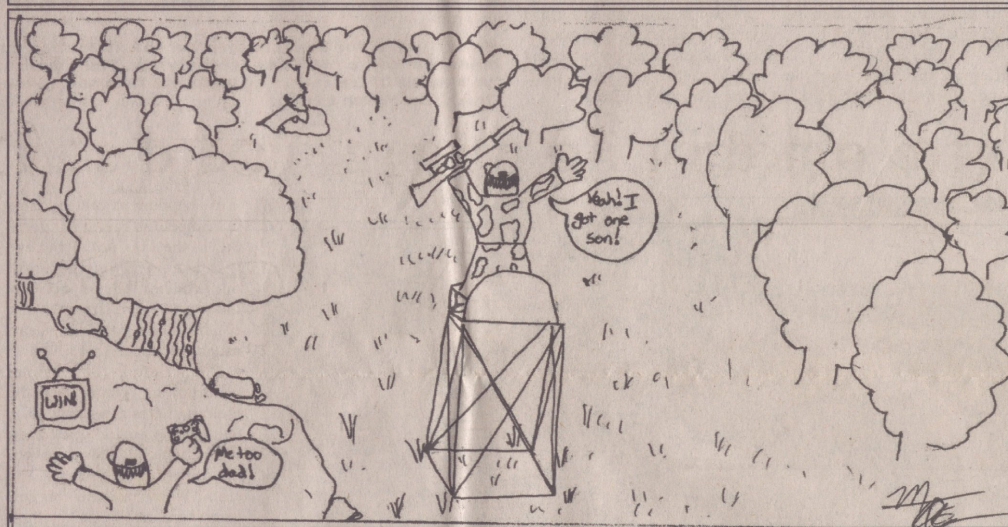
Through the author's brilliant imagery, God reveals himself to be more than just a stereotypical image and uncovers the mystery of his three different persons, Father,

Son, and Holy Spirit, all distinctly different, but one in the same. The author explains to us his interpretations of God's reasons for giving us life. The answers to why there is pain and suffering in the world are made infinitely clear. The new insight gained from this book is unlike any religion class you will ever take because this is a true story of God revealing himself to a human being and giving him true knowledge and wisdom.

However, there are some people who question the truthfulness of the story and the accuracy of the details. In my opinion, I don't think there is any way this book could be just a figment of William Young's imagination. But I don't think you need to question how believable this book is; the true question I think needs to be asked is whether or not you will choose to let this insightful book change the course of your faith journey.

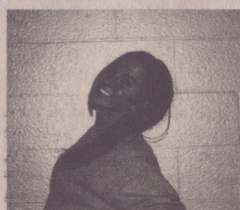


### The Family Hunting Trip



## Loyalty: The gift that keeps on giving

By Kelcey Robak  
Staff Reporter



Harvey Fierstein said, "Never be bullied into silence. Never allow yourself to be made a victim. Accept no one's definition of your life; define yourself." This quote can be hard to live up to in a modern world with all the peer pressure and media around us today, but being loyal to oneself is the most important quality a person can have.

Life is much happier when you're loyal to yourself. It's always a good feeling knowing you made a decision based on what you thought was right rather than basing it on what others wanted.

A time where being true to oneself can be hard is when dealing with peer pressure. Say you're with a group of peers, and you don't know them well, so you don't feel comfortable being your normal self. Maybe a couple of them are conversing about drinking, or smoking, or stealing, and you just happen to be stuck in the sketchy situation. At this point, your head is spinning 100 times per second. You know in your head that you don't

want to get involved in this type of situation, but it's just so hard to SAY something. This is where being loyal to yourself can be challenging. At this point, it's time to think about consequences. A consequence doesn't have to be getting in trouble with the law or even by your parents, but it can be as simple as a feeling of regret. What people seem to sometimes forget is that decisions lead to consequences, and those consequences can have a huge impact on your future. Surround yourself with people whom you aren't afraid to be your true self in front of. It's much easier to take a stand in front of people you are comfortable around.

When it comes to relationships, most people seem to instantly forget who they are to become the person their boyfriend wants them to be. This can only lead to a

broken heart.

When you're in one of those relationships where you feel like you are forced to be a completely different person, you are not truly respecting yourself. Even if you think you really really like someone, and you feel like you would do ANYTHING to stay with them...just know that it's not worth it. Don't try to push the "I know I'm going to end up being hurt" thought in the back of your head. Bring it to the front and have enough will power, so it can be beneficial for YOU, not someone else. Many of you can say you have wasted your time with people that you knew weren't right for you. Some of you have been given the "They're not good for you" lecture by your parents or friends. It can get old, but every time you hear someone say it, you think about it. Maybe you want to try to get over them, but you

just don't. Obviously, in the end, you get hurt.

Every experience should be a learning experience. It is good to use what you have learned in past relationships to help friends in unhealthy relationships they are in today.

It's hard to see our friends get treated poorly because you know that they deserve so much better. It seems so unfair how a controlled relationship can make a person seem so weak.


Don't let your boyfriend or crush create a new you; be true to you. Nothing

good can come out of being someone else.

If you aren't loyal to yourself, you can't expect anyone to be loyal to you. Like I said before, it's easier said than done, and it can take a long time to really figure

out how important it is. As Fanny Brice stated, "Let the world know you as you are, not as you think you should be because, sooner or later, if you are posing, you will forget the pose, and then where are you?"

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# RockBottom

Scotus Central Catholic

SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC VOLUME 12 • ISSUE 6 • APRIL 8, 2011 COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA 68601

## Prom singles on the rise



By Alise Perault  
Copy Editor

Whether you prefer to hit the dance floor solo, with friends, or to bring a partner of the opposite sex along, prom is an event where everyone can let loose and have fun on the dance floor or in a game of water pong. But the prom everyone knows today is a far cry from the prom of yesteryear.

In the days of our predecessors, prom at Scotus was not the prom we know now. Even as recent as the 80s, if a student brought a date, they dressed up and got to dance. If they didn't go with a date, they were not so fortunate; they would wear their Sunday best, but nothing like the "prom" dresses and tuxes the people with dates wore. If they went by themselves, they wouldn't even dance!

Scotus alumni Lynette

Hogelin experienced this side of prom culture when she was at school.

"We didn't go together in big groups like you guys do. You went with your date and you only danced if you had a date."

Since Lynette's high school years, prom's social customs have taken a dramatic turn. If there were only couples on the dance floor of Scotus prom this year, half of the people who really were on the dance floor wouldn't have been there.

This year especially, single prom-goers have made their mark on prom night. In fact, 28 out of the 45 Seniors and 33 out of the 65 Juniors that went to prom brought someone along with them, whether a date or a good friend. That means that about 40 percent of the Senior class and 50 percent of the Junior class went without dates.

And it is not as if those who go without a date wish they could. See Prom, Page 2



JENN GOKIE/YEARBOOK STAFF

(r-l) James Euteneuer, Patrick Raimondo, Caitlin Wiehn, and Stephen Pandorf try their luck at the horse races at post prom.

(Above) Students sing and dance their hearts out to "Don't Stop Believin'" on the dance floor at prom.

## On a Quest to find faith

By Kelly Augustine  
Staff Reporter

People may be searching for God in their lives, especially during their years in high school. Some students may use the excuse that they don't have time, but this past weekend, students chose to go to Quest, which was a way to get away from school and sports and to focus on their faith.

Quest is a twenty-eight hour Catholic retreat for kids generally in their freshman or sophomore years of high school. It is at Tinturn in Oakdale, Nebraska, about an hour and a half away from Columbus.

**"I would recommend this to all of the upcoming freshmen and sophomores who want to grow in their faith"**

~Tom Schumacher

Gene Schumacher organizes the Quest in Tinturn. Gene is the father of Scotus student Thomas Schumacher, and Scotus Alumni Lauren Schumacher and Kelli Schumacher. He also has a daughter Megan that goes to school at St. Isidore. Gene became involved in Quest because a friend of his introduced him to the Quest in Lynch, Nebraska.

"He [John Beller] invited me to work a Quest weekend in Lynch. I was amazed by what I

See Quest, Page 2

## Sonderman and Cremers achieve greatness

By Casey Kessler  
Staff Reporter

Scotus Central Catholic is often publicized as a private school that prepares its students for the new challenges they will face in college. Scotus now has another title to its name and that is home of two National Merit Scholar Finalists.

According to its website, the National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. Sonderman and Cremers' journeys began with taking the PSAT, an early form of the SAT, optional for sophomores at Scotus. They received high scores on the PSAT, which basically opened the eyes of the National Merit Foundation, and Sonderman and Cremers received a national merit letter in the mail.

After the letter is received, nominees have the option of taking the SAT and filling out a scholarship application to become a semifinalist.

After this is done, the foundation then chooses only 15,000 out of a possible 1.5 million seniors to become finalists, which is approximately one percent of the seniors who receive the national merit letter. This program then awards a total of \$36 million worth of scholarships to approximately 8,000 students.

Once the finalists are chosen, they can either receive a college scholarship, a national merit scholarship, and/or a business scholarship. Sonderman and Cremers achieved greatness.

Cremers and Sonderman are both finalists for these scholarships, but Sonderman is the first to receive an actual scholarship. Since she was a National Merit Finalist, UNL decided to give her a chancellor scholarship, which would pay for the majority of her college expenses.

Cremers is still waiting on a scholarship, but since he may attend the seminary, the Omaha Archdiocese will pay for the bulk of his expenses.

Cremers was excited about receiving the scholarship, and

realized that this scholarship is not just given to anyone.

"It was pretty exciting; I know it took me a while to get used to it because there are only 15,000 seniors in the nation that get chosen. I didn't really realize how small of a percentage that was," Cremers said.

Sonderman at first did not realize the extent of the scholarship.

"Actually when I first heard, I didn't really know what it was so it didn't really matter to me, but now that I know how big of a deal it makes, I realized how exciting this really is," Sonderman said.

Sonderman and Cremers both agreed that this scholarship is really a result of their hard work and dedication towards their studies in high school, but they also said that this also was the result of a little luck along the way.

They both felt that this is a big accomplishment, but also do not want to brag about this achievement or feel that this was thrust upon them

See Achievement, Page 2



CASEY KESSLER/ROCK BOTTOM

Seniors Olivia Sonderman and Bill Cremers are the sixth and seventh students in Scotus history to be candidates for the National Merit Scholarship.

Achievement QUEST

Continued from Page 1

by good fortune. "To me personally, it's not a huge deal. I don't want to flaunt this around to everyone that I meet. This is something good that I did, but I don't want it to be known as the only thing I've ever done at Scotus," Cremers said.

Sonderman feels the same way as Cremers as she is excited, but does not want to brag about this reward.

"I have worked very hard in school to receive the scholarship, but like Bill said, I don't want to flaunt it around, but in the end I am very happy I received the scholarship," Sonderman said.

Bill Cremers and Olivia Sonderman are the first finalists from Scotus since the year 2003, and also the sixth and seventh in Scotus to receive this honor.

Prom

Continued from Page 1

There are many people who prefer to go just so they can have fun with friends.

Junior Grant Pontow went stag to prom this year and said he just likes to go with friends.

"You are going to see them there anyway."

For Grant, the idea of going with a date is nothing special.

"If you get a date, cool. If not, whatever."

**"I went to prom on my own because there were too many ladies that wanted me. I didn't want to start any fights."**

~Tyler Zimmerman

Even students who went to prom with dates did not necessarily prefer to go with someone. One of these students, senior Jenn Gokie, went to prom with a date and good friend Adrian Corral. She, however, prefers to go without a date.

"It is a relief not to be tied down to someone at the dance."

Another man who decided to go solo to prom was junior Tyler Zimmerman; but his reasoning was all for the ladies.

"I went to prom on my own because there were too many ladies that wanted me. I didn't want to start any fights."

A girl who also went with a date to prom was junior Hannah Spencer, and she, however, prefers it that way.

"I like going with a date because it makes slow songs less awkward."

While everyone's true preference is not entirely clear, what is obvious is that more and more people are going to prom without a date and having fun with their friends.

Mrs. Schaad even made the observation, "I have noticed that in recent years that people have not seemed to care about going with a date, especially this year."

Whether students care whether or not they go with a date or friends or just by themselves, it can be certain that they all enjoyed themselves at prom this year.

Continued from Page 1

experienced. That entire experience convinced me that we needed to bring Quest closer to Columbus so it would be more easily accessible to the youth from our area."

That was when Quest was brought to Tinturn. Schumacher has been helping with Quest since 2004, but it did not come to Tinturn until 2006. Not only did Schumacher help run this year's Quest, he was also able spend the weekend with three of his four children.

"It was great for our family. We grew spiritually closer together. It isn't very often that we can all make a difference together," junior Tom Schumacher said.

This year twenty-two people went to Quest from Scotus. Eleven went as candidates, and eleven went to help work the weekend. The workers went down on Friday night to get the retreat center set up and ready for the candidates. The candidates then came Saturday morning

around 9 o'clock. After that, the weekend begins. A lot of what happens at Quest stays at Quest, but like many retreats students go to, there is adoration and confession.

"My favorite part was having adoration in the chapel," freshman Valerie Borer said.

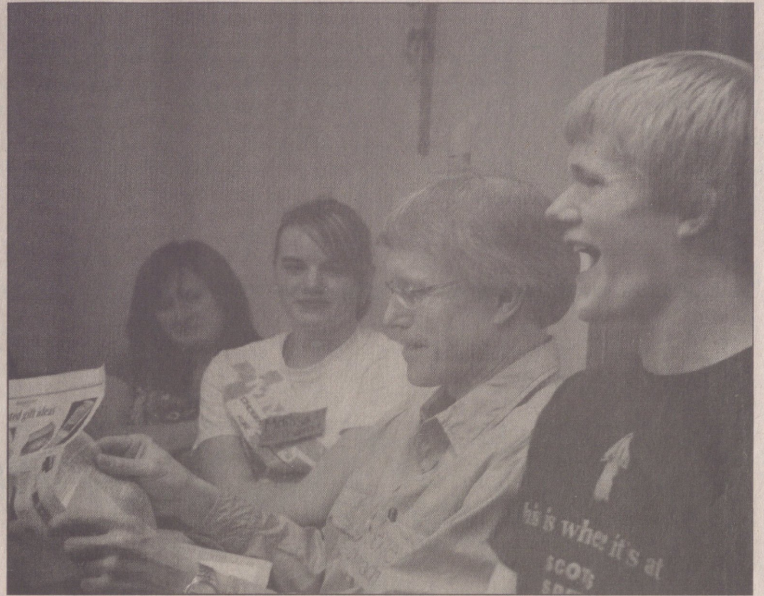
To some people, the weekend was so moving that they couldn't decide what their favorite part was, but they just knew it was an all great experience.

"I liked everything about Quest. It is too hard to choose the best thing that happened," freshman Valerie Borer said.

Not only did those who went as candidates have a good experience, but those who worked were also moved.

"Quest this year was amazing, I love the great feeling you get when you go," junior Jenna Dubas said.

Quest is an opportunity that comes around three times a year. These Quest's are held in Lynch,



KELLY AUGUSTINE/ROCK BOTTOM

Freshman Melissa Thalken listens to Gene Schumacher and his son junior Tom Schumacher as they talk to a group at quest. Twenty-two Scotus students attended Quest at Tinturn on the weekend of March 25.

Osmond, and at Tinturn. This to all of the upcoming who want to grow in their "I would recommend freshmen and sophomores faith," Tom said.

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# Opinion

## Farm kids: we ain't stupid



**Giving back, not giving up**

By Kelcey Robak  
Staff Reporter

"The purpose of life is not to be happy-but to matter, to be productive, to be useful, to have it make some difference that you have lived at all" (Leo Rosten). Is this the checklist you have on your own life? Or does it consist of living in the moment, taking one day at a time, or living without regrets? It's hard to focus on what is really important in our lives considering there are distractions like friends, or boyfriends, or even our extra activities, but what about the people that don't have friends, or boyfriends, or even the extra money to participate in extracurricular activities? Do we ever think about them or what it would be like to spend a day in their shoes? During Lent, we should pray to focus on the important aspects of our lives and pray to want to help those who aren't as fortunate as we are.

Lent is a time to sacrifice for God, but I think more importantly, to give back to God by helping his own children. It's always hard to hear about or see situations where kids around our age aren't able to get two or three meals a day or not even be able to go to prom because they can't afford a dress or tux. These are the types of opportunities we take for granted because it seems so normal that we don't even think about it. So what can we do about this? Can we really make a difference? The answer is yes. Helping one family or even one kid at a time is a great achievement. One person's life is worth so much.

One way to make a difference is by donating to the Simon House. By doing this, a whole community can be helped. There is even an option to give a money donation to the Simon House. At Church, there are times when a second collection is being offered to help a certain cause. It is always a good idea to donate money to those causes because there is a reason why a collection is being taken up in the first place.

If you're thinking about wanting to help on a more personal level, the Big Pal Little Pal program is a great way to get involved. This is a good option because a ton of money isn't needed to be given or donated, but only time which is just as good of a gift. Sometimes, that is all a person needs, a little time. We all can relate to this. A simply bad day can be so simply turned around by just seeing our best friends, or hearing a nice compliment, or even hearing our favorite supper is being made.

It's strange to think that most of our problems aren't even close to being on the same "bad" level as others, so if we can spend a few bucks here or there or even a few hours out of our week, we can make a huge difference. All of our own successes and accomplishments don't even matter if we don't help others succeed that are in need.



By Levi McPhillips  
Layout Editor

Ask anyone to impersonate a southerner or farm kid, and it won't take long until they start making them sound like a backwards, stupid, inbreeding hillbilly. The modern attitude is that country boys, farm kids, or whoever is remotely involved in agriculture, country music, or anything unurban must have an IQ of 7, maybe 8. Yes, I wear a John Deere hat, listen to country music, and get elbow deep in manure every Saturday at the farm, but does that make me mentally inferior?

Making us sound so unintelligent is disrespectful, and in turn it makes the

insulter look ridiculous. Show some respect towards us; don't insult the people that feed you.

Most people have no idea how much agriculture has changed in the last 50 years, even in the last 10. Farmers are no longer backwards men who talk funny, dump trash on the side of the road, and beat their children. If you knew how much technology and knowledge we use on a daily basis, you would realize that farmers are skilled workers and scientists who have to use extensive knowledge to be successful in their jobs.

**"Show some respect towards us; don't insult the people that feed you."**  
~Levi McPhillips

A friend of mine, Ernie Meistrick, is a 94-year-old retired farmer who lives at the nursing home in Madison, NE. He used to plow a field

with a team of horses back in the 1930's. I now use tractors that can do the same job in a matter of hours without touching the steering wheel. GPS systems give us the ability to be accurate within a matter of inches. My grandfather picked corn by hand in the 1920's on our family farm. According to ClaasofAmerica.com, the world's largest combine, the Lexion 590R, can harvest 4,800 bushels of corn per hour.

The newest advances in livestock breeding give us abilities we never before imagined. In early March I job-shadowed Dr. Phil Buhman who is the owner of Preferred Genetics for Bovine located about 10 miles north of Columbus. Dr. Buhman specializes in embryo-transfer. This procedure allows fertilized eggs from a genetically superior cow to be put into potentially dozens of inferior cows. These surrogate mothers allow that purebred

cow to have 20 cows a year instead of one.

Crop genetics are constantly being updated and improved. The modern corn plant is a miracle of science. It is weed resistant, fungus resistant, and bug resistant. With all of these new genetics, 400 bushels per acre is now a realistic goal. Of course, all of these strides in technology, breeding, and genetics are just a few of the advances farmers and researchers have made in the last 20 years.

Modern farmers and ranchers are part scientist, part stockbroker, part technician, and part mechanic. We are smart, educated people, and many of us have gone to college to learn how to ensure that your next meal is safe, healthy, and nutritious. We are not careless people who are not concerned about the land. We accept our responsibility as stewards of the land.

So we smell funny, drive old rusty trucks, and have the most extreme farmer's tans you have ever seen (it's called a farmer's tan for a reason). Those are things we have come to enjoy and cherish. We have come to appreciate the simple things in life; we have come to love the slow life.

We are farmers: proud, strong, and weathered. We're tired, beat up, and we will never stop complaining about the weather. But we love our jobs, we love our land, and we love the lives we live.

## The dysfunction with assumption



By Michael Albin  
Staff Reporter

If there is one thing we should give up for lent, it should be assuming things. I'm guessing (or assuming) that everybody has made an assumption today. Even if you think you have not made an assumption, you've assumed that this article is dumb and not worth reading. We assume things because of a common pattern throughout our lives, and we assume that the pattern will continue. Most of the time, assumptions are correct because the pattern continues. But people are not as reliable as we assume sometimes, and that can lead to problems.

There are three basic types of assumptions, although I am sure that there are many other types. The first type is the harmless assumptions we make everyday, like assuming the milk will not go bad if I put it back in the refrigerator. The

second type is the stereotypical assumption, like assuming men are better than women at sports. Finally, the potentially most dangerous type is the vengeful assumption.

As I assumed earlier, everyone made an assumption today. These types are most likely the harmless assumptions, or maybe a better name for it would be the unconscious assumptions. These are the assumptions we make that we don't even notice, like the toilet paper roll will be full, water will come out of the faucet, etc. This is also commonly called "taking things for granted." In a society where almost everything is instantly available, and we live extremely comfortably, we take a ton of things for granted. But this morning you opened the milk, it smelled rancid, and the disappointment started, and it ruined almost the entire day. That's the problem with harmless assumptions; they aren't so harmless after they add up. Mounting disappointment can lead to depression, but one of the worst types of assumptions is stereotypical assumption.

The stereotypical assumption has arguably led to the most hate, hurt, and death. The early American people assumed that African Americans were less than

human, and that they were only good for hard labor. The supporters of the Nazi party assumed that Adolf Hitler was right, and assumed that all Jewish people deserved to die. We make these same assumptions today, maybe not as extreme, but they can cause serious harm. We assume that junior high kids are all immature and annoying. Sometimes, this may be true, but assuming that all junior high kids are immature is just as wrong as assuming Old people are bad drivers, and blondes are dumb. Many people find things like that funny, but it doesn't take long to build up false images and hate towards a group of people. That type of assumption has led to wars, death, and despair for millions of people. But, one type of assumption that many high school students of today suffer from is the vengeful assumption.

Vengeance is a common theme among many of Hollywood's most popular works. We all root for the Punisher because his entire family was murdered, and he punishes the people who did wrong to him. It seems like the right course of action, because there is a major feeling of anger towards the people who do wrong. But, what if the Punisher had been

wrong, and just killed an entire skyscraper full of people that did no wrong. This happens in everyday life, like when you can't find your backpack and you assume it was stolen. So you take vengeance, trying to find the culprit, when the backpack was sitting in your car the entire time. When people think that others are picking on only them, they can often lash out in defense. I'm not advocating pranking people, but don't assume that everyone is out to get you. It will only lead to further hazing if people find out you flip out at every little thing someone says. A safer assumption might be "They just tease me because they like me."

Assumption is a pandemic in American culture. In a world where everything is instantly gratifying, assuming something is almost as unconscious as breathing. I challenge anyone one person to try and give up assuming for the day. I wonder how many people assumed they could beat this challenge.

### Here's a story...

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# Mr. Shamrock

## Senior boys strut their stuff

By **Stacia Rawhouser**  
Staff Reporter

Monday, March 28, 2011 marked the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Mr. Shamrock Pageant put on by the Scotus Student Council. The pageant began at 7P.M. and lasted a little over an hour. Admission for the audience was \$2.00 or 2 cans of food, all of which was donated to the Simon House (with the exception of a small cash prize for the winner).

The contestants consisted of nine senior boys who competed to be the next "Mr. Shamrock." The scores were determined after the seniors showed off their swag in interviews, talents, and working it on the catwalk.

At the judges table this year were Chaplain Father Roza, English teacher Kelly Schaad, head

custodian Ed Goerlinger, senior Lindsay McElhose, last year's Mr. Shamrock Dylan Thompson, and Sandie Fisher, the Retail and Membership Development Chairperson at the Chamber of Commerce in Columbus.

Throughout the pageant, each senior tried their best to "wow" the crowd with their

personalities to prove they should be given the name of "Mr. Shamrock." Each competitor was unique and entertaining; however, Levi McPhillips won the "crown." McPhillips's interviews were quick and witty. He answered many of his questions using his favorite book, *The Ultimate Book of Useless Information*.

McPhillips was the first of the contestants to demonstrate a talent, and he set a high standard with his electric guitar. Playing "The More We Get Together," McPhillips got the crowd laughing and involved.

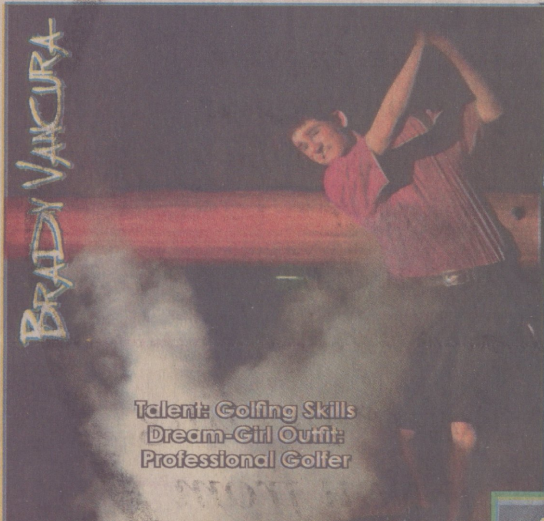
Finally, he won the judges over with his "catch that dream girl"

outfit. McPhillips dressed in a cut-off, jeans, and his farm boots. Not only did he dress like he was on the farm, he also brought a piece of the farm with him. McPhillips was accompanied on stage by his baby pig, Oscar (as in "Oscar Mayer").

In the end, McPhillips was the best in every category. Winning

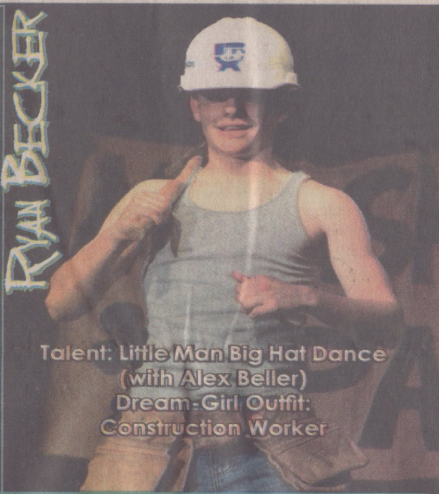
first runner-up was Bill Cremers. He showed his drumming talents while rocking out with his wingman, Craig Ackman on bass guitar. Cremers also sported a full shamrock spirit outfit complete with a green shirt, green pants, and a green afro wig. Second runner-up this year was Cale Albracht. He performed a complex, improv dance routine as his talent and dressed as a nerd that the ladies couldn't resist.

This was the second year that another award was given at the Mr. Shamrock Pageant. The "Best Talent" award was given to Kyle Baumgart. He boasted his fighting skills by "wrestling" Stephen Pandorf, while wearing a stars and stripes Speedo.



BRADY VANCURA

Talent: Golfing Skills  
Dream-Girl Outfit:  
Professional Golfer



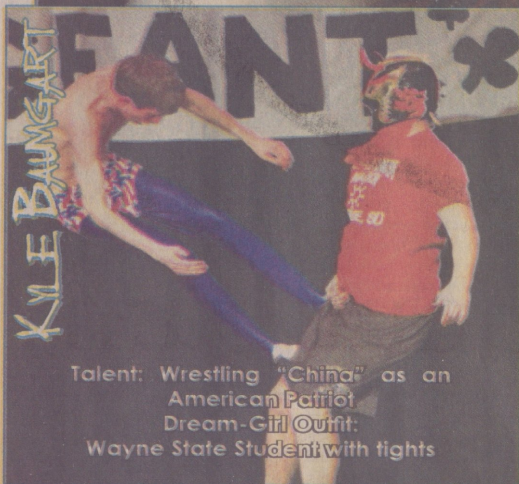
RYAN BECKER

Talent: Little Man Big Hat Dance  
(with Alex Beller)  
Dream-Girl Outfit:  
Construction Worker



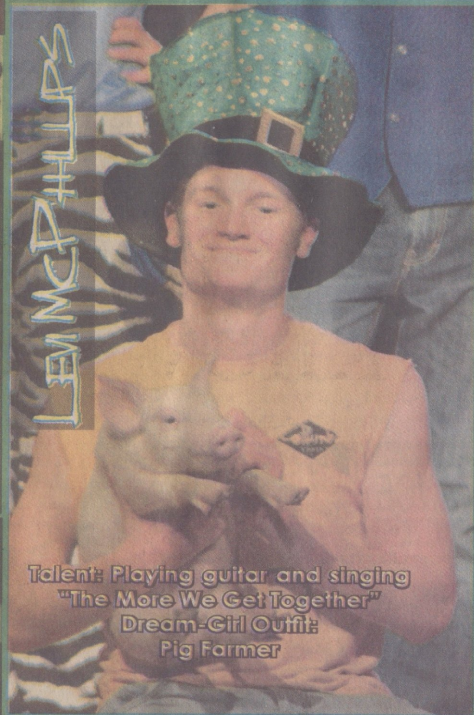
DANA FUCHS

Talent: "The Carlton Dance"  
Dream-Girl Outfit:  
Metro Sexual



KYLE BAUMGART

Talent: Wrestling "China" as an  
American Patriot  
Dream-Girl Outfit:  
Wayne State Student with tights



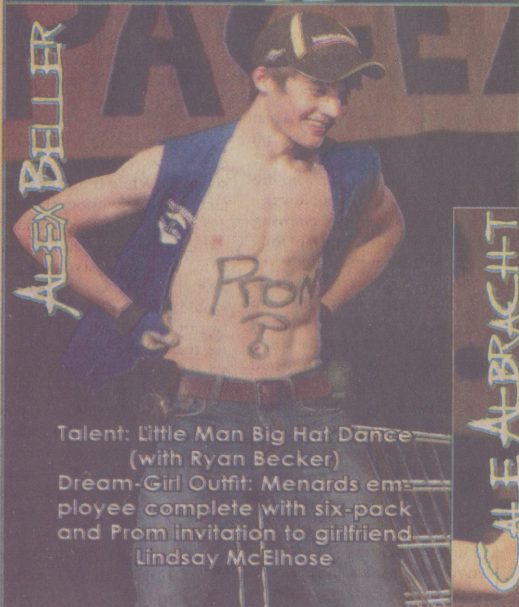
LEM MCPHILLIPS

Talent: Playing guitar and singing  
"The More We Get Together"  
Dream-Girl Outfit:  
Pig Farmer



BILL CREMERS

Talent: Drum Experience  
Dream-Girl Outfit:  
Shamrock Spirit Guru



ALEX BELLER

Talent: Little Man Big Hat Dance  
(with Ryan Becker)  
Dream-Girl Outfit: Menards em-  
ployee complete with six-pack  
and Prom invitation to girlfriend  
Lindsay McElhose



CALE ALBRACHT

Talent: Complex Improv Dance  
Dream-Girl Outfit:  
Sexy Nerd



JAMES EUTENBEVER

Talent: Comedic interpretation  
of "Under Pressure"  
Dream-Girl Outfit:  
Oily Scotus Student

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# Activities

## Close call before Close Up



PHOTO COURTESY: DEB OHNOUTKA

Juniors Ryan Ohnoutka, Kiley Bierman, Fritz Hoppe, Jenny Davila, Trenton Kuta, and Abbey Schieffer stand in front of the Capitol in Washington D.C. The students attended Close Up from March 13 until March 18.

By Kelcey Robak  
Staff Reporter

Six Scotus juniors planned on getting a closer look into the nation's capitol. Due to an injury a week before take off, a major part in that plan was altered.

The Close Up program allows high school students from all over the country to learn about how the government works, meet with representatives and senators on Capitol Hill, discuss real policy issues, and meet other teens in America that share the same interest in the government.

Juniors Abbey Schieffer, Ryan Ohnoutka, Fritz Hoppe, Jenny Davila, Kiley Bierman, and Trenton Kuta had the opportunity to partake in this experience. Scotus Close Up sponsor, Jeff Ohnoutka, has in recent years been the head chaperone for the trip. After playing in an intense basketball game

against Schuyler High's coaches, Ohnoutka tore his Achilles Tendon. This injury led to Deb Ohnoutka taking her husband's place on the trip. Mr. Ohnoutka had mixed thoughts on not being able to go on the trip.

"I was disappointed but very happy that my wife was able to go and enjoy our nation's Capitol," Mr. Ohnoutka said.

Mrs. Ohnoutka was on the same page, feeling a little disappointed, but also grateful for being allowed to go.

"Unfortunately, I got to go along because of Jeff's injury. I am thankful that Mr. Morfeld allowed me to go in his place," Mrs. Ohnoutka said.

Mrs. Ohnoutka, along with the six junior students, had the experience of a lifetime in Washington D.C. Some of the student participants described their favorite parts as being the liberal and conservative debate, the mock Congress session, and the meeting of

other high school students across America. The overall experience went beyond their expectations.

Junior Trenton Kuta said, "The Close Up trip was not what I expected it to be. It was much more."

Mrs. Ohnoutka had a similar reaction to the trip.

"The trip actually exceeded my expectations. I knew it was a great program, but I realized how much work the Close Up organization does to make sure the participants have a great experience from the time they wake up in the morning until they go to bed at night."

Even though the trip did not follow the plans from the beginning, the students, as well as Mrs. Ohnoutka, had a great time getting a closer look into the nation's government.

"It was all great. I could not have asked for better students to have along, and the Close Up organization made it very easy for me. Now I have a great appreciation of history and our government," Mrs. Ohnoutka said.

## A positive week full of performance

By Stephani Jarecke  
Staff Reporter

This year The Thespian group has added new members to the troupe 1909 during Initiation Week March 21<sup>st</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup>. Initiation Week was filled with obstacles the new members had to overcome.

"They are asked to do different kinds of performances. They were invited because they have been active in performance, but they need to show us they can perform," teacher Sandie Bernt said.

The week was put on so the students honored to be in Thespians can prove with their acting skills that they deserve to be in the group. The week involved many different activities about performance and concentration.

"We wanted to find a fun theme that would help us with activity ideas. We chose movie stars because it was positive with promotion of excellence in performance," junior Andy Heusinkvelt said.

The Thespian officers met to decide the different types of activities that would be assigned. The officers also had to meet with Bernt and

President Wayne Morfeld to get permission.

The other members of Thespians also have tasks to do throughout the week.

"Years ago, the officers were the only ones that knew what was going on, so the rest of the troupe weren't involved," Bernt said.

Along with more participation, Initiation Week has changed tremendously for the better.

"Now, the week is more of a positive than a negative experience for the initiates," Bernt said.

As the initiates went through the challenges, the members had positive attitudes to help get through them.

"Every activity I did, all the members were positive about everything. They definitely helped me finish the performances smoothly," sophomore Claire Fuchser said.

Initiation Week has also been changed to be less demanding than previous years. The activities are more positive as well as the mind-sets by all members and initiates in the group.

Another positive part of the week is the secretiveness of the activities.



ALISE PERAULT/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Seventh grader Brandon Johnston and freshman Dan Strecker try to get freshman Phil Levos out of character as he poses during passing period for Thespian Initiation Week. Troupe 1909 added eleven new members during Initiation Week.

The performances are kept secret for the reason of gossip and rumors about how well people had done.

"Some people would get upset and would run to someone else and gossip

about it. That's not positive; that's a negative," Bernt said.

The troupe has decided to keep all activities secret, and all problems and issues are brought to Bernt or the officers so the week

can stay positive with no big problems.

"We had no problems with anyone this year. They were all very good, and all the people in the troupe were good. I have no complaints. It

was well done," Bernt said.

As the Initiation Week came to an end, all new members were accepted into Thespian Troupe 1909 by signing a formal membership roll plaque.

## WHAT WE'RE 2

### SCC students take part in Lenten traditions

By Levi McPhillips  
Layout Editor

On Wednesday March 9<sup>th</sup>, Catholics around the world flocked to churches to receive ashes during Mass

on Ash Wednesday. This solemn celebration marks the beginning of the Lenten season. It is a time to repent our sins and reflect on the death of Jesus Christ in preparation for celebration of the Resurrection.

The putting of ashes on the forehead, fish fries, and other Christian traditions are among those observed during Lent. Fasting is another tradition that has been practiced for thousands of years.

"Fasting is an ancient practice. It was done even in the times of Jesus as a way

of making ourselves aware of the spiritual hunger we have," Scotus Chaplain Father Andrew Roza commented.

There are a variety of ways students are observing Lent.

One self-improving act that students are doing is a prohibited or at least a restricted use of Facebook. Freshman Katie Reisdorff, Sophomore Raquel Vaquez, and English teacher Mrs. Angie Rusher are all giving up or limiting their use of Facebook.

Father Roza has his own take on giving up

Facebook for Lent.

"I think it's a good thing. I think it is a great practice that can help them focus on the people and relationships around them like their family. It can help them do their homework and worry less about the social pressures that they face."

Freshman Emily Allen is giving up another form of mass communication. "I'm giving up social texting, texting friends for no reason at all," Allen said smiling.

Students are also giving up other forms of

technology. Sophomore Jacob Ruskamp is giving up Xbox.

"I'm giving up Xbox because I spend way too much of my life doing it," Ruskamp said.

It is often a common practice for students to abstain from food besides meat on Fridays. Many students are giving up sugary treats such as candy and school desserts.

7<sup>th</sup> grader Ross Bonk and freshman Zach Spencer are both giving up candy.

There are also some out of the ordinary Lenten promises that fit each person and limit their bad habits.

Senior Kyle Baumgart is giving up arguing for Lent.

"It will be very hard for me," Baumgart commented.

Father Roza has some words of wisdom for everyone that is doing something for Lent. "I would encourage everyone to do something that is challenging and realistic that will improve them as a person."

Catholics around the world look forward to Easter and hope that Lent will be a time of self-improvement and spiritual growth.

# Entertainment Pizza Ranch: Stacia Approved

By Stacia Rawhouser  
Staff Reporter

Remember that huge, empty parking lot that used to be at the intersection of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue? The one by the old Hy-Vee? Now, that area is always full of cars and people waiting to experience the new addition to that side of town. Pizza Ranch.

The restaurant opened on Monday, March 7, 2011. I attended Pizza Ranch for the first time later that week on Thursday.

Of course the new restaurant is swarming with people all of the time because everyone is dying to try it. I showed up about 6:30 P.M. and the line was out the door. I had to wait 20 minutes for a seat, which didn't bother me a

bit. With this being the new "hot spot" in town, 20 minutes is not too unreasonable.

The inside of the restaurant definitely fit the theme of Pizza Ranch. There was a wood floor in the buffet area; wagon wheels on the walls, and other décor that made me feel "warm" and "country."

The only part of the atmosphere that didn't seem to "fit" was the music. They played strictly Christian rock. Don't get me wrong, I like that kind of music, just not when I'm eating in a "country-toned" environment.

When I first picked up a plate, I went straight to the pizza. There was the usual hamburger and pepperoni, but there were other varieties such as BLT and chicken-broccoli

alfredo pizza. The BLT had mayonnaise on it. Who puts mayonnaise on pizza? However, after trying a bite, I immediately wanted more. It was delicious and unique.

For my second plate, I returned to the pizza buffet table, and the kind I wanted wasn't there anymore. Being my loud self, I proceeded to state this fact out loud. Immediately after I said, "Wow, the kind I wanted is gone," one of the workers whipped out a notepad and pen and asked what kind I was looking for. This confused me, but supposedly Pizza Ranch has "buffet your way," which means if the pizza you want isn't on the buffet, they will make one and bring it out to your table. This was impressive.

Apart from the pizza, there was a salad bar and another buffet table consisting of chicken, mashed potatoes, corn, and green beans. I'm picky when it comes to my vegetables, but I tried the green beans; they are definitely "Stacia approved." The chicken was a little on the greasy side, but that's the way I personally like it.

For dessert, there was an ice cream machine and two desert pizzas; one was a blueberry dessert and the other was called "cactus bread." I didn't have the blueberry one, but the cactus bread was amazing. I watched some lady put ice cream over the top of it, so I did the same.

The ice cream machine only serves vanilla, not much variety there.

However, the second you pull the lever, there is no waiting for the ice cream to come out. I was surprised how fast it came out; be sure to keep hold of your plate if you plan on getting some.

My waitress did a great job. She was "on top of things" the entire duration of my visit. There was not one time where the plates piled up at all. I also observed, as people left, the staff wiped the table clean and sat down a new customer without delay. I witnessed a piece of lettuce fall to the floor from the salad bar; and the second it touched the ground, a Pizza Ranch employee had it covered. He swept it up and disappeared into the back room. I liked this because I hate when buffets are messy.

I decided to review the bathrooms as well. Because I'm a girl, I can only evaluate the women's restroom. It smelled like coconut; I like coconut. There were only 3 stalls, which would normally be enough, except for the fact that it was packed. I hate waiting in line for the bathroom; it's the worst. It was pretty clean for the most part, but there were some paper towels that should have been disposed of that obviously missed the trashcan.

Over all, I would give Pizza Ranch a thumbs up because I was able to eat - more than I should ever be allowed to - for only \$10.00. I'm a cheap eater, so that sounded a bit pricey to me at first; but when I was leaving, my tummy agreed that it was

## Newspaper Staff: If I were a Disney Character...



## Showtime's *Dexter*, not your childhood laboratory

By Casey Kessler  
Staff Reporter

Every good television show must have millions of viewers. Every good television show must have a morally acceptable plot. Every good television show must have a few big-time actors. Well *Dexter* breaks all these rules, and to me is considered one of the best television shows ever.

Some of you may say Dexter? Isn't that about a little boy who has his own laboratory and gets into quirky situations? The answer is no. This Dexter has nothing to do with that show at all, and this Dexter has a much deeper, darker, and more sinister storyline.

The show begins with Dexter sitting alone in his car outside a few Miami nightclubs. You hear his thoughts as he waits with patience and preparation. "Tonight's the night, it's going to happen again and again. Has to happen." He is watching a man. You hear Dexter's thoughts later in the sequence, which describe a man who abducted little boys and would later rape and murder them in the woods. The catch is that this man was acquitted of all these charges.

The sequence finally shows the man Dexter is watching. The man is the leader of a childhood opera in the middle of a downtown square. After the performance, the man makes his way to his car to drive home. Once he enters the car, you see a long metal rope start to strangle the man from the backseat. It

shows that Dexter is strangling the man, and he tells the man to drive to a remote location within the Everglades while the rope is clenched tightly around his neck.

Dexter finally gets the man to pass out and brings him inside an old cabin. Waiting inside are the bodies of the children that the man had killed. The man eventually wakes up and tries to plead with Dexter offering him money, which Dexter refuses. Dexter then gives the man a shot of tranquilizer, which puts the man to sleep while Dexter tapes and saran wraps the man's body to a bed. Dexter then cuts a long skinny slice of the man's face and puts the blood of the man on a DNA lens and puts it in a collection box full of these lenses. Dexter then starts to drill into the man's brain.

Yes, this may have seemed a bit graphic, but when he is not a serial killer, Dexter works as a forensics expert. When around people like his sister, he is considered the nicest and most polite

guy anyone would know. He is an expert in blood spatter murders and always knows exactly how someone can die. When someone says something to him, he always responds in a normal manner verbally, but when hearing his thoughts you realize he is not your normal CSI investigator.

And yes, Dexter is a murderer, and he has a thirst for killing that must be met. The catch is that he only kills people who get off of a murder charge through the court system. Dexter does not believe in God, but he feels that he is a modern day hero by killing those who deserve it.

One may ask why I would like such a dark and sinister show like this. Well, the reasons are pretty simple. Dexter is sarcastic and witty, which I find awesome, especially in a murdering protagonist.

This show is definitely a guilty pleasure for me as well. Now I'm not a murdering sociopath by any means, but this show almost

makes you want to cheer for a murderer. As a watcher, one knows Dexter is messed up mentally, but I feel that he copes with his issues in the best way possible. For example, have you ever done something that subconsciously you knew was bad but did it anyway? There are many people on this earth that like to get away with doing bad things, and that is what Dexter does.

People who only act like themselves behind closed doors would also like the show *Dexter* because Dexter must put on a show as an amazingly positive person in front of his family and coworkers. But outside these places, he unleashes

his true personality, and he knows who he really is.

Dexter is played by Michael C. Hall who has won Emmys for his award in a modern drama, and many people may know him from the HBO series *Six Feet Under*. Jennifer Carpenter stars as the second main lead as she plays the role of Dexter's younger sister, Debra Morgan. She was the main role in such films as

*The Exorcism of Emily Rose* and *Quarantine*.

This show obviously has a bit of star power, but that is not the reason for watching this show. This show is eating meat on Fridays during Lent. This show is a hit and run incident. This show is sneaking into the YMCA without a membership. This show breaks all the rules, and I absolutely love it.

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## Feature

### Seniors

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## In Depth

### The Gum Truth

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# Rock Bottom

Scotus Central Catholic

SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC VOLUME 12 · ISSUE 7 · MAY 6, 2011 COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA 68601

## New Perspective on Old Tradition

By Kelly Augustine  
Staff Reporter

"We adore you oh Christ and we praise you, because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the World." This line is used every year during Stations of the Cross. Although we continued to say that this year, many parts of the program have changed this year.

This year, there were a couple different aspects of stations than previous years. One of the main differences was the location. Normally, stations are held in the Dowd Activity Center, but this year, they were held in the Memorial Hall. This had to be done because the candles, which were used in the previous years, caused melted wax to get on the gym floor.

"We had it in the old gym, which was different, since we couldn't use the candles in the new gym, but I think it worked out better because we had the lighting system already set up. I think it really worked out well," senior Bill Cremers said.

Another difference was the perspective of the stations. This year, everything was reflected through Mary and Jesus' eyes. It was important to see what they were experiencing through this time of Jesus' burdens.

"I think what we really tried to do was to get Jesus and Mary's perspective speaking directly to them [the audience], so I hope people really entered into that experience and really took it as words from Christ to their heart and really expanded on that," Cremers said.



KELLY AUGUSTINE/NEWSPAPER STAFF

**Soldiers, seniors Dana Fuchs, Cale Albracht, and James Eutneuer pause with Jesus, senior Levi McPhillips, as he meets his mother, senior Olivia Sonderman. This year, the stations of the cross perspective was from Mary and Jesus' point of view.**

Putting together these reflections are not always easy though. Seniors that are in Campus Ministry bring these perspectives forward. Father then reads what the seniors have written, and okayes them.

"The reflections are usually written by the students themselves, so they put a lot of time and thought into considering how to best bring these mysteries of Christ's life to us. Then once those are set, we begin to gather ideas on how we can stage it best and who can help with it," Fr. Roza said.

They then rehearse two

mornings before stations, so they are prepared on the day of.

After stations this year, they also had adoration. People gathered in the chapel to praise God. This was another aspect of stations that was added this year. With some ideas from the seniors, Cremers, Levi McPhillips, and A.J. Bose, adoration was able to happen.

"It was the idea of the seniors, I try to take the ideas our students bring to the extent that I can bring to life. Things like adoration, Bill and Levi are really good at helping lead, so they did that, and it was actually very powerful. Our

chapel is really small, but it's really neat for that kind of thing, it's beautiful," Fr. Roza said.

Stations of the Cross is something that has become tradition at Scotus, and is intended to bring the Scotus family closer to Jesus.

Cremers said, "I think it turned out really well and hopefully people used it to enter their Lenten experience, because I know Stations of the Cross can be really powerful in that way, and if we take advantage of it then it can really help you in your walk of Christ."

## Junior high locked into fun

By Levi McPhillips  
Layout Editor

Scotus junior high students spent the first night of their Easter break burning the midnight oil with games, music, and massive amounts of sugar. The night of fun known as the Junior High Lock-in is a twelve-hour extravaganza for Scotus seventh and eighth graders.

The Junior High Lock-in is an annual event organized by Mrs. Julie Blaser and the junior high student council. Mrs. Blaser reserved the gyms and cafeteria for the night. Students were required to take permission slips home to their parents for the event that took place from 7 p.m. on April 20th to 7 a.m. on April 21st. The students are not allowed to leave the event and are expected to participate for the full twelve hours.

The junior high student council met to brainstorm new ideas to improve the lock-in over last year. This year they added scooter races. Students got in teams of two; one student pushed while the other rode on a four-wheeled cart. Most enjoyed the races, but some preferred other activities.

"The scooter races were fun," seventh grader Anna Wickham said. "I wanted to not have as much activities so we could dance more."

Senior Jaci Beauvais enjoyed supervising the scooter races. "It was fun to watch them do the scooter races. I don't remember having that much energy. At my lock-in we were falling asleep," Beauvais said.

In addition to the scooter races, there were other games that the students could play. Many students enjoyed matball and dodgeball.

"The dodgeball was insane," eighth grader Noah Schacher said excitedly.

"It was very fun, all the activities. It was a blast," said seventh grader Ross Bonk. "I enjoyed dodgeball the most, even though we lost every match."

Several SCC high school students helped ref games and DJ during the lock-in. There are 15-20 high school volunteers and 20-30 parents that help with the event every year. Ben and Andy Heusinkvelt supervised the dance music. The DJ's were surprised by the lack of interest in the music.

"I felt depressed that this generation of junior high students do not like to rock it out on the dance floor," junior Andy Heusinkvelt said. The lack of dancing was caused by the affluent amount of interest in the activities such as volleyball, basketball, dodgeball, and the scooter races.

"There wasn't much dancing going on this year; the activities overrode that," Mrs. Blaser said.

See Lock-In, Page 2

## Younger says farewell after 44 years

By Kelly Augustine  
Staff Reporter

Athletic director, basketball coach, track and football assistant coach, sophomore class sponsor, and a Biology and Physiology Teacher... who could this possibly be? This is describing some of the positions Mr. Vern Younger has held in his career at Scotus.

Younger has been a teacher at Scotus for 44 years. Unfortunately, this is his last. There are some things that Mr. Younger is especially looking forward to after he retires.

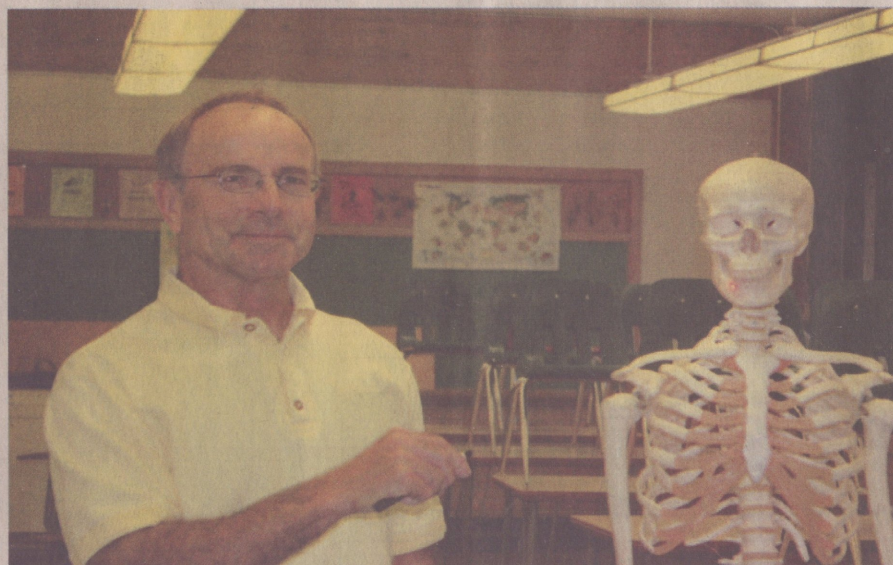
"I am looking forward to rest and relaxation, I am especially interested in hunting, fishing, and hopefully spending time with my kids and grandkids," Younger said.

While his kids were in school though, they got to spend plenty of time together.

"I enjoyed teaching and coaching my kids. In the classroom they got treated no different than anyone else, and we didn't take what happened at school home with us," Younger said.

Mr. Younger has not only taught his children, but he was familiar with parents of his students now, because they were former students of his.

"I know for sure I have taught two generations. An example



KELLY AUGUSTINE/NEWSPAPER STAFF

**Biology and physiology teacher, Vern Younger, points to a skeleton with his laser pointer. Mr. Younger will be retiring of 44 years of teaching.**

would be Dave and Mary (Murphy) Swierczek, and their son Chad," Younger said.

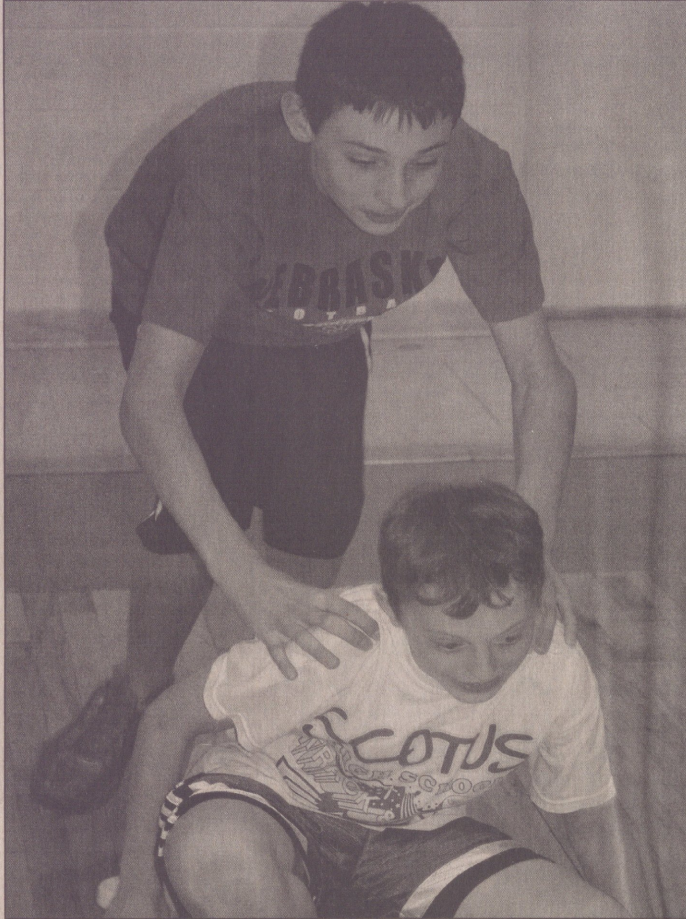
Although Younger has taught some of our parents, he might have taught them something different, or taught them in a different way. In

the 44 years Mr. Younger has taught, there have been many changes. One of the biggest changes has been in technology. Computers are common place, and there are DVD's now instead of VHS.

"As technology changed,

I think I had to change also. I used the computer a lot more, but there is still a lot of the same things that take place in biology and physiology. I do some of the things the same, and

See Younger, Page 2



Seventh grader Darin Rinkol pushes Baily Braun during a scooter race at the Junior High Lock-In on Wednesday April 20th. The scooter races were a new addition to the annual even put on by the junior high student council.

JACI BEAUVAIS/ YEARBOOK STAFF

**LOCK-IN**

Continued from Page 1

The Junior High Fun Nights are another school-sponsored event for the seventh and eighth graders. These events are just a few hours long, and \$3 is charged for admission. However, the lock-in charged \$10 for the twelve hours of games, dancing, pizza, and pop. The proceeds from the event are used by the junior high student council. A total of \$870 was raised. The student council plans to put the money toward school renovations for the third floor bathrooms.

The attendance this year was at an all time high. According to Mrs. Blaser, 53 of the 59 eighth graders and 64 of the 69 seventh graders attended the event. The gratuitous amount of interest in the games, socializing, and the lock-in in general gives a good indication that the event will be both popular and prosperous in years to come.

**YOUNGER**

Continued from Page 1

some different," Younger explained.

But making sure he has everything prepared and ready for the day is something he won't miss so much.

"I don't think I will miss 25 sets of eyes staring at me all the time, and always having to be prepared and making sure I have the tests ready and they are graded," Younger explained.

Younger does not plan on leaving the Scotus family entirely though. His smiling face will still be seen at many games and activities. And, like most people who retire, there will be things he will miss.

"Of course I will miss the camaraderie I had with other members of the staff, and also just being around kids. You know, I'm old, but I don't feel old, because I'm around young people all the time, and I will miss that," Younger said.

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# Opinion

## Casey's last article



By Casey Kessler  
Staff Reporter

Hopefully everyone has heard the old saying "time flies when you're having fun." Well, I wouldn't say this is necessarily true about my time at Scotus, but time definitely has flown like a bird in search of land after "The Great Flood." I can remember many

aspects and memories from my seventh grade year all the way up to my senior year here like it was yesterday. There are little tidbits of memory at Scotus that still keep my mind engulfed in thinking about this place. I can honestly say I have not liked the way I have been treated many times at this school, yet some of my best life lessons were learned in the hallways, on the stairs, and most importantly in the classrooms of Scotus Central Catholic.

I can still remember when I could not open my locker in seventh grade. I tried and tried and tried again, yet could not get the lock to open. Then someone helped me. It turns out I did not realize that you must turn the combination a full circle to

the left before clicking your second number. Needless to say I still remember that combination: 36-6-36. I learned to remember certain words and numbers with acronyms.

I also remember my second period class of my freshman year. The class: Personal Finance I. The teacher: Mr. Aaron Sasges. I really did like Mr. Sasges as a teacher. He taught us well about the nicks and nacks of the stock market. I still remember all of the students in that class: Lindsey Starosick, Alex Bartholomew, Dalton Leu, Alex Gutzmer, Mitch Bierbower, Jen Williams, and myself. Mr. Sasges bloomed as a teacher in front of our very eyes. He also shaved my head that year. I learned

to always have a towel around your neck during a haircut. If not then the hair will go down to your neck and back, and then it gets extremely itchy.

I remember my sophomore year playing football. It was the first year I was introduced to varsity sports. I remember one game where we recovered a fumble. I just stood there because it didn't excite me very much. I still remember Chase Beiermann pushing me and telling me to "get with the game Kessler." I then learned how to fake my emotions on the sideline.

I then quit football my junior year, and joined football again my senior year. During one game, Scotus was losing 42-0, when Coach Kreinke put me in late in the

game. I still remember the play. 21 trap. I got the ball and sprinted 70 yards for a touchdown. I freaked out. My team freaked out. The stands freaked out. I really liked that feeling. It was nice. I learned how to score a touchdown.

**"I freaked out. My team freaked out. The stands freaked out. I really liked that feeling. It was nice."**

~Casey Kessler

My senior year has been like a roller coaster somewhat. I joined football again. I also scored two touchdowns. That was nice. I drank and drove. That didn't

work out. I wrote an article about how dating sucks. Then I got a girlfriend. I slacked off. Then I slacked off some more. I know now that I cannot do that in college. I will graduate in a few weeks.

There are two main ideas I want people to remember through this article. The first is to live life in the present. I know that may sound like a cliché, but take one day at a time because time really goes faster than you think. The second is to take the lessons you have learned throughout your experiences to use them later in life.

Only a couple days stand between me and my last day of school. Osama bin Ladin died yesterday. I learned to expect the unexpected.

## Levi Perfection McPhillips



By Levi McPhillips  
Layout Editor

There he goes, the perfect kid. He's the president of National Honor Society, captain of the football team, Mr. Shamrock, and he's nice to everyone. He's a member of Revolution, Campus Ministry, Shamrock Singers, and takes lead roles in musicals and plays. He gives chastity talks, plays guitar in a praise and worship, lectors at Mass, and he never does anything wrong.

When you look at me,

what do you see? Perfection? Sometimes I think that people think this about me. They think I'm a flawless guy who never does anything wrong. That couldn't be farther from the truth. I am not perfect; I am not this guy who has an unattainable life, character, or moral code.

When I first came to Scotus, I was a completely different kid. I was an overweight, ignorant, judgmental, impatient kid who was closed to God in virtually every area of his life.

I've been changed completely, and I have experienced a lot in the last six years. I've been through conditioning that made me want to puke. I've failed Mr. Lahm's advanced math tests. There have been times when my parents were enemy number one. I've lost some friends and made new ones. I've had crushes on several different girls, and I've seen

my romantic dreams crumble into pieces. There have been times when I really wanted to drink, and there have been times when I questioned if saving my virginity for marriage was worth it. Even with a gratuitous amount of friends, there have been some weekends where there was no one to hang out with. There were days when sports, school, friends, and family had me so tired that I didn't want to get up in the morning.

Even now at age 18 I have my bad days. There are days when I am lazy, impatient, lustful and frustrated. There are some days when I feel scared of the future, and others when I really don't feel like doing anything.

Never look at who I am and think you can't be like me. More importantly, never look at me and think you want to be me. You are you. That's good enough for me and it's good enough for God. Become

who you were destined to be. Become what He has created you to be: a perfect version of yourself.

If I have learned one thing over the last six years, it has been to be proud of who I am. God created me for a reason, and I have a purpose.

**"If I have learned one thing over the last six years, it has been to be proud of who I am."**

~Levi McPhillips

What has set me apart the last few years is my dedication to God. When I dedicated my life to Him, it made all the difference in my academic, social, and spiritual life.

At the core of everyone is a soul. You are meant to live in union and in

accordance with your soul. Your soul wants to pray; it wants to love God. Your heart is where everything flows from; let your action flow from it. I became truly happy when I let God make me into a more perfect version of myself. I now live as His child and His child alone, and it has affected every part of my life. It was a huge sacrifice, but I can honestly say it was worth it.

I'll never be perfect, but I have found that when God purifies you, you become more successful, liked, and respected by your parents, friends, and even those who dislike you. Most importantly, you become more liked and loved by yourself. If you can say that at the end of your high school career, then your childhood will be nothing short of perfect.

## Seventeen year-old geezer



By Alise Perault  
Copy Editor

There are certain times in your life when you begin to feel old: when you have children, once you hit the big 4-0, when you actually are old, etc. For me, preparing to graduate has made me feel elderly.

As I look back on all of the new technologies and fads my life has been graced with, I realize that even though I am only seventeen years old, I have already seen numerous changes in the way of life from the early nineties to the year 2011.

Being born in 1992 and 1993, my class was caught between two generations. We experienced the closing of 80s fads and the emergence of the new trends of the 90s. We went from listening to cassette tapes to one track CDs; from watching Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles to Pokémon;

from wearing oversize T-shirts with leggings to overalls.

Remembering the days of my childhood makes me miss all of the more simple pleasures that we used to enjoy. With all of the technology we have today, it is so easy to get a buy a video game or a computer program. I remember the days when you could not buy a new computer game unless you had Windows 98 or higher, or when the number of channels you had did not go beyond double digits, and the networks stopped airing at midnight.

While many kids these days watch shows with real actors or lifelike animation, the shows I watched were all old-fashion cartoon animation. Shows that no longer air on TV like *Sailor Moon*, *Dexter's Laboratory*, *Cat Dog*, *Hey Arnold*, and *Rugrats*. I can remember when I was in kindergarten

watching Nickelodeon, and previews for a new show coming out in two years were playing; that show being what we all now know to be *Spongebob*. I also remember having to fast-forward through credits when watching a VHS tape rather than conveniently skipping them like you can with DVD's.

**"While many kids these days watch shows with real actors or lifelike animation, the shows I watched were all old-fashion cartoon animation."**

~Alise Perault

There are so many other aspects of life back in the nineties that make those years seem like ancient history

compared to today: listening to every song on a CD rather than buying the one or two you like on iTunes; carrying around your bulky portable CD-player rather than slipping your iPod in your pocket; pulling out the atlas when going on trips instead of the Garmin, or turning to the TV Guide channel instead of pressing the guide button on your remote.

Seeing how much our lives have changed because of technology is what makes me feel old. I see all of these young kids with cell phones and watching movies in their vehicles from TVs on the ceiling (we used to lug a TV along with us), and I realize that things have changed immensely from the

time I was a kid, and it only took seventeen years for those changes to take place.

Right now I am graduating from high school, and I feel like so much of my life has gone by, but in all reality, there are so many more days to come. While I may feel old now, my time has not yet come.

There are certain times in your life when you experience new beginnings: Baptism, wearing make-up for the first time, having your first kiss, etc. For me, graduation is the beginning of my new and independent life.

### Here's a story...

### The Rock Bottom

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-Jesus Christ



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# Class of



Zach Christensen



Major: Elementary Education  
Interesting Fact: I like to play hide and go seek at night.



Alex Beller



Major: Undecided  
Interesting Fact: I'm Alex Beller, duh.

Ryan Becker



Major: Audiology and Speech Pathology  
Interesting Fact: I can hold my breath for 2.5 minutes.

Marina Karel



Major: Nursing or Pre-Dental Hygiene  
Interesting Fact: My family owns 10 cars and 2 tractors.

Jena Grubaugh



Major: Undecided  
Best Memory from Scotus: Going out for the school musical this year. I got closer to people.

Devin Iwan



Major: Undecided  
Best Memory from Scotus: Going to State Football senior year even though we went 3-5.

James Euteneuer



Major: Athletic Training  
Best Memory From Scotus: Has yet to happen.

Dana Fuchs



Major: Engineering  
Interesting Fact: I can identify over 20 races and species of Star Wars aliens.

Lindsay McElhose



Major: Accounting  
Interesting Fact: I am deathly afraid of spiders.

McKenzie Leu



Major: Elementary Education  
Best Memory from Scotus: Beating GICC in the State Tournament twice.

Taylor Merrill



Major: ER Nursing or Paramedics  
Looking forward to in college: Hands on paramedic and EMT training at the racetrack and living on my own with my 3 favorite people.

Matt Pandorf



Major: Computer Science  
Interesting Fact: My record for staying awake is 96 hours.

Emily Schieffer



Major: Psychology  
Interesting Fact: I have broken both arms, and I have fallen out of a tree.

Jennifer Gokie



Major: Elementary Education  
Best Memory from Scotus: Mr. Salyard kissing his hand everytime Conner gave him a compliment.

Casey Kessler



Major: Psychology and Minor in Journalism  
Interesting Fact: I was born with a sixth toe on my right foot.

Lindsay Staroscik



Major: General Education  
Looking forward to in college: New friends, new places, new environment.

Theresa Thalken



Major: Nursing  
Looking forward to in college: Wearing whatever i want, meeting new people, and not getting fat.

Nathan Wangler



Major: Undecided  
Best memory from Scotus: Beating Lakeview my senior year of football.

Levi McPhillips



Major: Animal Science  
Looking forward to in college: Studying breeding, calving, nutrition, and all things related to cattle.

Stephen Pandorf



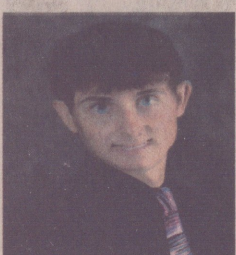
Major: Computer Engineering  
Interesting Fact: Mayo-naise is an instrument.

Olivia Sondertman



Major: Architecture and Minor in Art  
Best memory from Scotus: Sorry Lindsay McElhose, but squirreling her car was ridiculously awesome.

Brady Vancura



Major: Sports Management and a Minor in Business Administration  
Best Memory from Scotus: Throwing up on Mrs. Rusher



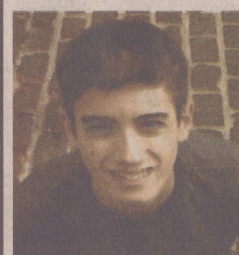
Jacy Gasper



Major: Accounting  
Interesting Fact: My favorite pet was my albino rat named Magic.



A.J. Bose



Future Plans: Joining the Canons Regular of St. John Cantius  
Interesting Fact: In my spare time, I practice doing hand stands.





Cale Albracht



Major: Accounting  
Interesting Fact: I went to prom all four years.

Kyle Baumgart



Major: Undecided  
Best memory from Scotus: Doughnuts in Mr. O's class.

Abby Schademann



Major: Speech Communications  
Interesting Fact: My hair used to be blonde, but then it turned red. It isn't dyed.

Molly Smith



Major: Elementary Education  
Looking forward to in college: Being away from Columbus and starting something new.



Katie Ohnoutka



Major: Speech Language Pathology and Minor in Spanish  
Best memory from Scotus: When Nick Preister sneakily changed the time clock while talking to Mrs. Tooley.

Becky Svatora

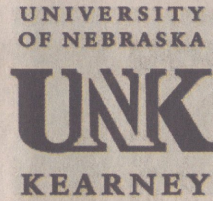


Major: Pre-Med  
Interesting Fact: I always drink milk straight from the jug. I know it's gross, but it's so convenient.

Rebecca Hall



Major: Speech Language Pathology and Minor in Spanish  
Interesting Fact: I have weird skin that welts up when I get scratched and I have had 12 rabbits.



Alise Perault



Major: Studio Art and/or Theatre  
Interesting Fact: I can sing almost the entire *Phantom of the Opera* soundtrack word for word.

Katie Hilton



Major: Pre-Social Work  
Interesting Fact: I have run out of gas in my car six times.

Hannah Schaecher



Major: Nursing  
Best Memory from Scotus: Going to the Kansas City Chiefs game and performing at halftime with the cheer squad.



Jaci Beauvais



Major: EMS/Pre-med  
Interesting Fact: I was inches from touching Lady Gaga's hand at her concert.



Bill Cremers



Major: Philosophy  
Looking forward to in college: Being in an atmosphere of prayer with many other faithful men discerning God's will.



Amber Ewers



Major: Undecided  
Interesting Fact: I never leave my house without a water bottle.



Laura Salyard



Major: Music Education  
Best Memory from Scotus: Everybody loved my dad's beard, but I hated it.



Morgan Duren



Major: Business and Sociology  
Interesting Fact: I fell out of a shopping cart on my 2nd birthday - hence my stupidity.



Brett Brune



Major: Electrical Engineering  
Best Memory from Scotus: Levi snorting Jell-O at lunch.



Jon Otte



Major: Advertising  
Best Memory from Scotus: 8th grade football



Amanda Newman



Major: Art Education and Psychology  
Interesting Fact: I hate chocolate.



Samantha Ebner



Major: Undecided  
Looking forward to in college: All the experiences, really getting started in life, being on my own, and new people.



Tiffany Haney



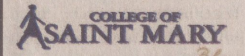
Major: Undecided  
Interesting Fact: I am constantly singing to myself.



Conner Sackett



Major: Electrical Engineering  
Looking forward to college: Loosening the noose of parental guidance.



Paige Sprunk



Major: Nursing  
Interesting Fact: My eye lashes are seriously real. People always ask me if they're fake. I get mad because don't people know you can be born with natural beauty?

# Sports

## Track sees changes in coaching and schedule Golf Swings for State

By Levi McPhillips  
Layout Editor

The 2011 track season is proving to be a successful one for the Scotus boys and girls teams. The teams are experiencing many different changes especially in coaching and in meets.

This year Coach Merlin Lahm is the boys head track coach following Jeff Ohnoutka's resignation as head coach last season. Mrs. Janet Tooley continues her job as girls' head coach.

The track team is happy to welcome some new members to their coaching staff. Danielle Wessel, a Scotus alumnus, is coaching the distance runners. Ron Starzec, a volunteer, has coached the junior high hurdlers for several years, but this is the first years he is helping coach the high school hurdlers.

The first meets of the season are done indoors. At the Wesleyan Indoor meet the boys and girls placed first at the meet, which, according to Mrs. Tooley, is the first time in years.

"Derek Lahm was a 4 gold medal winner which is unusual for a sophomore, and Amber Ewers also placed first in 3 events," Tooley said.

The second indoor meet of the year was held at a brand new facility at Concordia University. The girls placed first at the meet that included Class A teams such as Fremont High School, and the boys finished in 6th place.

The Scotus Relays were held on April 1st after being postponed for 3 days due to the weather. The girls finished in second place and boys finished fourth overall. The track team transitioned into mid-season when they competed at the Wayne Invitational meet on April 5th. The girls had another first place finish while the boys finished 3rd. The boys and girls had identical success at the Knights of Columbus meet on April 12th.

The track team has competed in nine meets this season and has seen significant success. The team finished the regular season on May 3rd at the Boone Central

Quad, and they will begin the postseason at the Conference meet tomorrow, Saturday May 7th.

There are only two senior boys participating in track this year. Stephen Pandorf competes in shot put and discus, and Cale Albracht is a runner in the 4 X 800 meter relay and is the team's leading high jumper. They are pleased with the underclassmen performance this season and neither are concerned about the lack of senior boys.

"I think it is going to be okay because the juniors and sophomores have a lot of talent and they can pick up our slack," Albracht said.

The boys' team has stayed healthy for most of the season, but there are several injuries that are plaguing the girls' track team. Amber Ewers, who signed on as a member of the University of South Dakota Track team for the 2012 season, fractured a bone in her foot and was unable to compete for three weeks. However, she returned to competition at the Lakeview Invitational on April 29th. Katelyn Baumgart, Alyssa Foltz, and Laura Miksch are other quality runners who have been unable to compete due to injury.

But even with these injuries, the track team is looking forward to several events in the coming weeks. The District Track meet is at Lakeview this year on May 12th, hopefully bringing more spectators because it is close.

In the not so distant future the track team will be able to enjoy an improved facility. The city of Columbus passed a bond issue that will give the team a new home track and infield to compete and work out on next season.

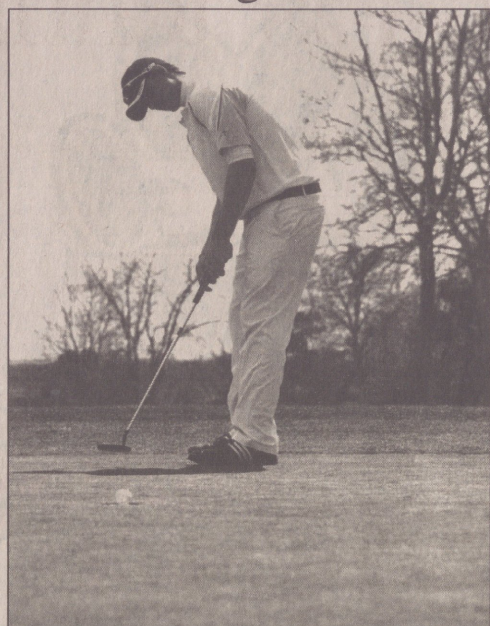
"With the new renovations we will have the number three facility in the state," Tooley said.

Even with all of the changes the track team is hopeful for the future as they continue to work hard in meets and in practices.

Coach Merlin Lahm said it best, "I have been really happy with our work habits in sometimes adverse weather conditions. We've worked hard and I expect good things will come from that."



LEVI McPHILLIPS/ ROCK BOTTOM  
**Sophomore Derek Lahm competes in the triple jump at the Knights of Columbus track meet on April 12th. Lahm led the boys' team to a 3rd place finish at the home meet held at Pawnee Park**



NATHAN WANGLER/ YEARBOOK STAFF  
**Senior Brady Vancura calmly drops his putt. Vancura has led the team to many victories this season**

By Michael Albin  
Staff Reporter

Golf season is in full swing for the Shamrocks. Through snow and rain, the golf squad has practiced hard and has played well. The weeks after practices commenced, snow stalled some of the Shamrocks' practices, but once the snow was melted, the team plopped their shoes in the mud and picked up where they left off.

The season has been a successful one thus far for the Shamrocks. They have placed in the top three in all their invites, and have kept an impressive undefeated streak in duals and triangulars alive, going all the way back to the beginning of last season. The sudden success for the Shamrocks the past two years is no coincidence. Last season the Shamrocks welcomed Coach Karl Dierman to lead the golf team, and he has undoubtedly revitalized the program.

"In this game, there is no substitute for putting the time in and working hard. There is no way around it, no shortcuts," Dierman said.

Shamrock golf is looking for another successful season, and Dierman is hoping to continue the recent success.

"I'm excited that there are kids who want to come out and play. We're building a winning tradition; Shamrock golf is a winning tradition," Dierman explained.

The team did well last year, making it to the State Tournament for the first time in several years. With returning talent from last year, the team expects improvement, especially in the State Tournament; but the real surprise came with how many kids went out this year.

"We have sixteen

kids out this year, including seven freshmen. It bodes well for the future of the program," Dierman said.

Even though golf ultimately boils down to a team sport, the group as a whole is successful based on the performance of individuals. The standout among the team for the past several years has been senior Brady Vancura.

"We have some players that have some individual goals. Brady has a chance to win some invites this year and be a serious factor in state," Dierman said.

This season is looking to be another successful venture for Vancura, but he is not taking anything for granted.

"I'm expecting big things this year, but I still have to go out there and play. I can't expect to just win, I have to go out and compete," Vancura said.

The only obstacle that may prove to be a definite roadblock is the jump to Class B. Since there had been an increase of student population in Scotus, the golf team will be competing against bigger and better teams than previously. Fortunately, the Scotus golf team had a growth spurt of its own.

"We have six or seven guys who have a chance to play on varsity, and they are going to be pushing each other to be better," Dierman explained.

With experience from playing with each other, and a strong start to the season, the optimism is high among the team.

"I think we can be a factor in every tournament. We have three major tournaments on our home course this year, and I expect we can do well," Dierman added, "Our ultimate goal is to go back to the State Tournament and bring home another top 10 finish."

## Brezenskis carry on soccer success

By Stephani Jarecke  
Staff Reporter

With fourteen appearances at state, three state championships, and two state runner-ups, the girls' soccer team has had much success over the years. This year the team has taken a step to continue that success with the hiring of the new head coach Kristi Brezenski.

"I want to continue the success, along with making the girls good soccer players not just good athletes in general," Kristi said.

Kristi has had a lifetime of soccer experiences from her high school soccer as well as college. She was a part of the Scotus soccer team all four years of high school. She went on to play college soccer for St. Mary's College.

"Playing college soccer as well as coaching high school teams was a great learning experience for me," Kristi said.

While attending college, Kristi coached two years as junior varsity coach for Omaha Mercy. She then became varsity assistant for Omaha Westside. Kristi graduated from St. Mary's and began teaching fifth grade at Loveland Elementary. She continued to coach Westside the first three years of her teaching job.

Kristi's husband, boys' head coach Jon Brezenski, was also a Scotus graduate. Jon graduated after playing four years of high school soccer and attended college to play soccer for Briar Cliff. Jon also coached Omaha Westside as varsity assistant for three years.

Two years after their marriage in 2003, the two decided to move back to Columbus, where Jon received head boys' soccer coach at Scotus.

Both Jon and Kristi have changed soccer at Scotus as well as Columbus soccer. The two ran a soccer academy for five years to help kids work on their skills. With the help of Kristi, Jon coached the u10 Columbus boys' club soccer team.

Kristi was assistant coach as Columbus High School for the girls' team for two years, before taking the assistant coaching position at Scotus. She helped coach Scotus girls for three years. This is Kristi's first year as head coach for the Scotus team, and Jon's sixth year as head coach for the boys, which included a state championship in 2009.

"This year has been an interesting challenge in our home. With both of us gone, we've had to rely on our families to help us with our kids," Jon said.

The couple has three girls to raise with another baby coming in the fall. Kristi and Jon have learned to balance family time with the girls and soccer time.

"We try not to bring 'soccer stuff' home with us because when we are home, we like to just focus on our three girls, Libbie, Emma, and Allie," Jon said.

When their family is not able to baby-sit, the girls will come to practice with Kristi. Kristi is able to hold the youngest child, Allie, while being pregnant, and still

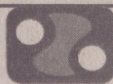


STEPHANI JARECKE/ ROCK BOTTOM  
**The Brezenski family gathers around the soccer net at their house. Jon and Kristi (pictured above with daughters Libbie 6, Allie 1, and Emma 4) coach the boys' and girls' soccer teams at Scotus.**

coach the team during drills.

Kristi's hard work and dedication to coaching has led the girls' team to a 12-2 record in the year, and they played in the district championship Thursday. Win or lose, they would most likely advance to the state

tournament next week with a wild card.



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# Activities

## Girls' tennis team sees the light

By Kelcey Robak  
Staff Reporter

Through the thunder, lightning, snow, rain, and more rain, the Columbus High tennis girls have seen the light.

The weather has not cooperated well with the tennis team this season, but they have still seen success.

Jenn Gokie said, "The weather has pretty much been awful. We have cancelled, postponed more than three matches so far this season."

The rain has more effects on tennis rather than other spring sports because even if it rains enough to make the court damp, matches can't be played because it is easy to slip and fall on the white boundary lines. The tennis team isn't used to making so many changes due to this kind of weather.

"We have had to practice at indoor courts at the YMCA this year more than we ever had to in previous years," Coach Dave Licari said.

Having to practice at the YMCA doesn't give the girls much to work with.

"We have had to practice inside on two courts, split between morning and after school practices, with 25 people for a whole month," Becky Svatora said.

Even though the team has had to make alterations because of the weather, they have still found a way to be successful so far in the season.

The team's record in duals stands at 6-1. The Scotus girls helped contribute to the many wins.

"Half of our varsity team consists of Scotus girls, and all the other Scotus girls are near the top," Jenn Gokie said.

The tennis team still has Conference to be played tomorrow in North Platte. The team won the tournament last

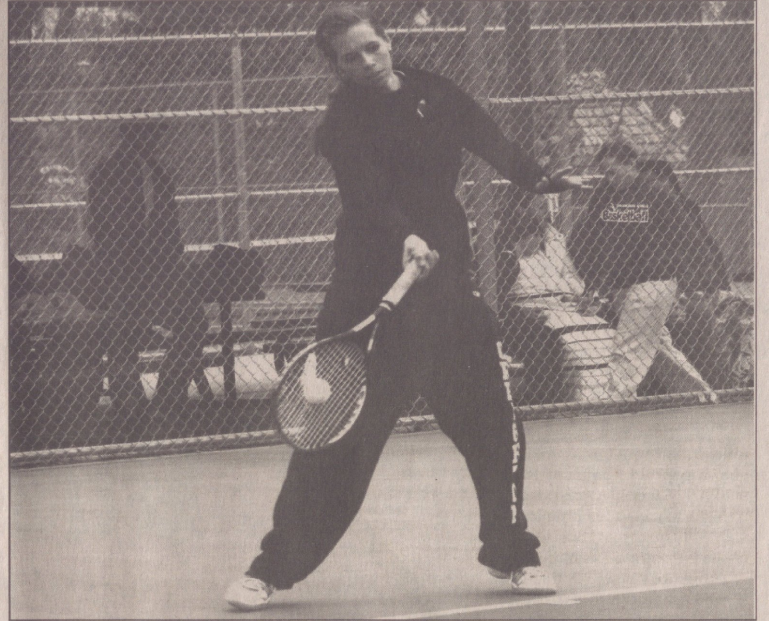
year, but this year will be more difficult without Jenn Gokie who is number two in singles. Jenn will be gone because she is dancing in Lynette's dance recital.

"This year will be much more difficult to win Conference. We will have to replace our number two singles player, and Jenn has given us many points in previous years. We can still do it, but it will be more difficult," Licari said.

State follows Conference on May 19 in Lincoln, and the whole varsity team will be competing at the tournament. Number one and two singles play, and then two doubles teams compete.

Although the team has faced setbacks during the beginning of the season, the optimistic spirit of the players keeps them competing at a high level.

Jenn Gokie said, "It has been the best year so far in terms of actual tennis and how fun it has been, regardless of the weather."



KELCEY ROBAK/NEWSPAPER STAFF

Senior Becky Svatora returns a serve during the Kearney's double's invite. Becky's record in duals stands at 5-1.

## DISTRICT MUSIC CONTEST

### Vocal Music

#### Superior Ratings

- ~Shamrock Singers
- ~John Duns Chorus
- ~Boys Octet
  - Mike Albin
  - Cale Albracht
  - A.J. Bose
  - Trenton Kuta
  - Levi McPhillips
  - Joel Ostdiek
  - Jens Paprocki
  - Trey Stuthman

- ~Girls Quartet
  - Whitney Hank
  - Summer Kresha
  - Laura Salyard
  - Megan Wright
- ~Mixed Duet
  - Levi McPhillips
  - Laura Salyard

- ~Girls Duet
  - Summer Kresha
  - Whitney Hank
- ~Male Solo
  - Joel Ostdiek
- ~Female Solo
  - Laura Salyard.

#### Excellent Ratings

- ~Mixed Duet
  - Lauren Kuta
  - Trenton Kuta
- ~Girls Duet
  - Gina Bose
  - Taylor Wiester
- ~Female Solo
  - Summer Kresha
- ~Female Solo
  - Taylor Sprunk
- ~Female Solo
  - Megan Wright



KELSEY NEWMAN/YEARBOOK STAFF

Laura Salyard sings during the spring music concert on April 28.

### Band



KELLY AUGUSTINE/ROCK BOTTOM

Small group band members, Marina Karel, Taylor Wiester, Charissa Zuerlein, Joel Ostdiek, Amber Ewers, Laura Salyard, and Trey Stuthman perform "I am the Bread of Life" at District music.

#### Superior Ratings

- ~Clarinet Duet
  - Carrie Bartholomew
  - Vanessa Cox
- ~Flute Duet
  - Laura Salyard
  - Amber Ewers
- ~Flute Solo
  - Laura Salyard
- ~Snare Drum
  - Bill Cremers
- ~Saxophone Solo
  - Taylor Wiester
- ~Saxophone Ensemble

#### Excellent Ratings

- ~Soprano Saxophone
  - Marina Karel
- ~Snare Drum
  - Craig Ackman
- ~Trumpet Solo
  - Derek Lahm
- ~Tenor Saxophone
  - Trey Stuthman
- ~Xylophone Solo
  - Bill Cremers
- ~Instrumental Mass Group

#### ~Band

#### ~Drumline

- ~Clarinet Solo
  - Carrie Bartholomew
- ~Piano Solo
  - Joel Ostdiek
- ~Clarinet Solo
  - Vanessa Cox

## Getting Scared

By Michael Albin  
Staff Reporter

Whenever or wherever, it doesn't make a difference, teenagers are trying to get scared, or get their friends scared for cheap entertainment. Renting a

movie like *The Human Centipede* or exploring an abandoned house are just a few mediums that teens in Columbus experience just to have a good time.

"If you're with the right people, it's fun to watch them get scared," senior Morgan Duren said.

Teens enjoy scary movies for the same reason some people enjoy riding roller coasters, because they are adrenaline-filled and get the heart racing. The increase of endorphins keeps the audience excited and engaged, which is why there is an increase in scary movies.

"I don't get scared often because I'm such a man, but when I do, it gets the heart racing; it's exciting," junior Jake Kratochvil.

According to [www.estatevaults.com](http://www.estatevaults.com), the number of films considered to be under the horror genre, has grown six times as large since 2000. With the rapid increase in demand, film producers have tried tons of different ways to scare their audience.

There is the suspense, which uses the unknown to scare the audience by leading them in a false direction, and throws in surprises or things that jump out at the audience.

"The scariest movie I have ever seen is *Paranormal Activity*, because demons scare the crap out of me," junior Patrick Raimondo added. "It's just exciting, and you get a real adrenaline rush."

Another type is the psychological thriller, which makes the audience wonder what is real and what is not. It makes people think and can cause feelings that what is happening in the film is happening to the audience in real life, such as the virus outbreak in the movie *I am Legend*.

"Prom Night is really

scary, because you know it could actually happen," Duren said.

The final type is the slasher, which disturbs the audience with graphic and gory images that scar the mind long after the movie is over.

"The *Human Centipede* is extremely disturbing; the gruesome, sick, and messed up things that happened in that movie just blow my mind," said Kratochvil.

But sometimes, movies are not enough for teenagers, and they attempt to find the things that scare them in real life. But, most people

agreed that reality does not match up to the movies.

"I ran across the glowing graveyard before, but nothing happened," said Raimondo, "It was a little disappointing."

Although some may be disappointed that they didn't have that nail-biting experience, others remain optimistic.

"I've been to the haunted run-down motel across the bridge, because its supposedly haunted. I went during the day, but had I gone at night... there's no telling what might of happened," Kratochvil said.

## WHAT WE'RE 2

## In-Depth

## A piece of gum history

By Stephani Jarecke  
Staff Reporter

Take a piece of gum, put it in the mouth, and chew for hours upon hours. This simple routine happens millions of times every day in America. As the delicious piece of gum starts to get chewed, what does the human mind ponder? Nothing. Americans go through their day chewing gum while doing everything else, and they do not think twice about the piece or where it came from.

Despite the indescribable joy gum brings, chewing gum did not fall from heaven. There is a great deal of history behind the product.

Gum was not only created from a food industry thinking of new products; it all originated from tree bark. According to [www.smithsonian.com](http://www.smithsonian.com), The Mayans and Aztecs found ways to cut bark from

Sapodilla trees to use the resin called "chicle".

To prepare the substance they called "cha", they cooked and dried the chicle. The cha was chomped on day in and day out by the ancient civilizations.

However, there were many rules to chewing the cha. It was disrespectful to chew in public, especially for men. The gum was chewed to indicate where they stood in society, such as single women chewing in public.

The Scandinavians chewed on birch-bark tar as gum. Ancient Greeks found a plant called mastic which could be used

for chewing. The most popular tree was the Spruce Tree that the Northern Native Americans used. Many Europeans took the Spruce Tree resin and added on to the idea of the sticky substance.

Many settlers in America tried to find a way to make the Spruce Tree resin into gum. People were using many different ways to make small business out of chewing gum.

Thomas Adams, an American settler, was determined to find a useful production for gum, but he felt it was not coming from the Spruce Tree resin. Adams was able to get a supply of chicle from an exiled Mexican president. He found a way to boil and hand roll the chicle into pieces of gum. After he brought his production to the manufacturing industries,

Adams' gum was sold worldwide by the 1880s.

After Adams hit big with his invention, Wrigley followed up with starting a gum industry. Wrigley was originally in the soap business and would give his soap vendors a free piece of gum. He then found out that the gum was a bigger product than his soaps.

Wrigley found many different ways to mix up the quality, flavor, and

shape. Wrigley first came out with spearmint flavor and soon moved to Juicy Fruit and many more flavors after. When Wrigley died in 1932, he was one of the richest men in the nation.

After his death, many companies followed with gum production, as well as keeping the Wrigley company running.

Chewing gum, one of the world's most popular items sold, has come a long way, starting with tree bark and ending with huge industrial production. The hard work put into this invention is all for the everlasting fantastic taste each person gets as the many sticks of gum go into mouths.

## Bubble Facts

-The largest bubble ever blown was 23 inches in diameter

-When you swallow gum, it does not stay in your stomach for seven years, it goes right on through your digestive system, leaving your body in the same condition as you swallowed it

-Chewing gum is banned in Singapore

-Chewing gum while peeling onions will keep you from crying

<http://www.debrain.net/2008/gum-facts.html>

<http://www.gumassociation.org/default.aspx?Cat=4>

## Wha' chew know about gum?

By Alise Perault  
Copy Editor

You ask for it every day at school. In between class periods, when the teacher isn't looking, when the teacher is looking. You can't get enough of it. As soon as it loses its flavor, you spit it out and beg for another. No, Napoleon, I'm not talking about tots. I am talking about that finger sticking, lip smacking, saliva producing substance we call gum. We chew it almost every day. In fact, according to the International Chewing Gum Association, each American chews an average of 182 sticks of gum a year! But what is it about gum that has us craving it so often?

In all reality, the reasons for gum chewing are numerous, yet most of the time, we do not even realize what these reasons are; we just reach for another piece.

One of the most obvious reasons to chew gum is to get rid of bad breath, but

there is a much deeper and more psychological reason to gum chewing.

One of the reasons that people chew gum is actually to relieve stress. Surprisingly, there are medical reasons why people chew gum when they are under stress.

When a person gets stressed, his or her muscles tense up, even muscles such as the diaphragm that help with breathing, resulting in less intake of oxygen. And when a person takes in less oxygen, their bodies produce less glucose. According to Patti Wood, a speaker for Communication Dynamics, when people chew gum, their mouths salivate; this saliva tricks their glands, and their bodies begin to produce glucose. The renewed glucose speeds up the heart, sending more oxygen to the brain, stimulating their minds and making them feel better.

And where is one place where we feel stressed most often? At school of course. In fact, 22 percent of people say their favorite place

to chew gum is at school, and there is absolutely nothing wrong with chewing gum there. According to recent studies, chewing gum in school can actually be beneficial to a person's learning experience.

The lead researcher in

nutrition at the Department of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine, Doctor Craig Johnston, found that students who chew gum actually pay better attention in class and require fewer breaks.

Researchers from

Baylor College of Medicine took eighth grade math students from a school in Houston, Texas and split them into two groups – one chewing gum while studying and taking tests over a fourteen-week period, and the other group not – and the results were astounding. The students who chewed gum had a three percent increase on their standardized test scores compared with those who did not chew gum (CNN News).

Incredibly, chewing gum can also improve long and short-term memory.

Professor Andrew Scholey, a specialist in cognitive research, found that participants in his study performed better when tested on their memory when they chewed gum. Those that chewed gum showed a 15% increase in long-term memory. This increase in memory can also be attributed to increased heart rate while chewing gum. When more oxygen is being pumped through the brain, more information can be retained, and the person can

learn faster.

While sugar-free gum is most often recommended to gain these benefits, there is a chemical in sugar-free gum that could render gum chewing's effect of longer attention span and fewer breaks useless.

According to the British Medical Journal, gum contains a potentially dangerous chemical called sorbitol. While it makes gum taste sweeter without the use of real sugar, it can cause chronic diarrhea, abdominal pain, and excessive weight loss. However, a person would have to chew fifteen to twenty pieces of gum a day for these symptoms to occur, so it should not be a huge concern.

No matter how you chew your gum, or what flavor you prefer to chew, don't be afraid to smack on a few pieces (please, no more than 15) every once in a while; it could reduce your stress and help you do better in school: now that's a double whammy!

