

October, 1989

"The sure way to miss success
is to miss the opportunity."
--Philarete Chasles

THE ROCK

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Friday the 13th Part '89

by Chris Placzek

Friday the 13th - a time for ghosts, goblins, and Homecoming. Homecoming?! This year Homecoming week was celebrated with the football game, coronation, and a dance held on Friday, October 13.

Seniors Travis Brock and Tiffany Codling were crowned King and Queen at Memorial Stadium following the 19-6 victory over Boystown. Candidates were Karey Keeshan, Traci Langan, Gina Lesiak, Megan Liebentritt, Angie Wessel, Brad Hatcher, Rick Horne, Corby Kudron, Chad Pinger, and Matt Rinkol. The Homecoming dance was held in the cafeteria following the coronation.

Although the Homecoming game and dance are over, memories of the week of preparation will linger. Spirit week gave students the opportunity to see double on Twins' Day, kill the Cowboys, in western attire on Cowboy Day, relive Halloween memories on Costume Day and show off their school spirit by donning green clothing on Spirit Day.

Hallways were decorated around such themes as Haunted Homecoming, Sesame Street, Crazy Nights, and Wild in the Streets. The cafeteria was decorated with a twist of terror, yet the only screams heard were those of laughter and enjoyment.

Friday the 13th is known for bringing about misfortune, but the only misfortune on Homecoming was that the night came and left so quickly.



1989 Homecoming candidates were: Angie Wessel, Gina Lesiak; back row: Rick Horne, Traci Langan, Matt Rinkol, King Travis Brock, Queen Tiffany Codling, Corby Kudron, Chad Pinger, Megan Liebentritt, Brad Hatcher, and Karey Keeshan.

"Voices", "Seven Nuns At Las Vegas" Double Dose of Entertainment

by Amy Whitehead

Voices and *Seven Nuns at Las Vegas* were presented on October 27 in Memorial Hall. Mrs. Sandie Bernt, the director of both plays, said that two plays were performed because both were rather short.

Voices, by Richard Lortz, was a serious drama about a couple who tragically lost their son. Clair, played by Jenny Sadle, heard voices and saw people that her husband Robert didn't see or hear. Robert, played by Craig Evans, assumed Clair was losing her sanity and just tried to piece their marriage back together. Other characters were Brenda Kolas as Mother, Jenni O'Neill as Jessica, and Jeff Loseke as John Sadle said, "I was pleased how well the cast worked together and met our deadlines."

Seven Nuns at Las Vegas, a comedy by Natalie E. White, told about the adventures seven nuns encountered when they were mysteriously moved, convent and all, from Columbus to Las Vegas. It humorously showed the effects the nuns had on Las Vegas and how Las Vegas affected them. Andrea Duren, Christina Held, Brenda Kolas, Amy Rosno, Julie Swanson, Lori Sypal, and Sarah Wemhoff played the seven nuns. Brenda Kolas said, "The entire cast is very pleased about how the play turned out." Andrea Duren said, "It was fun just to see how people reacted to the title!"

Angie Wessel, a show girl in *Seven Nuns at Las Vegas*, said, "It was different and fun experience being in my first play."

Bernt said, "The cast did a wonderful job. Even though most of the cast members were new to the drama scene, I feel that they performed well together."

Seniors Named EME'S

by Lisa Motley

Ten senior members of Campus Ministry were chosen to be Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist (EME's). Tiffany Codling, Andy Hittner, Brian Hittner, Gina Lesiak, Megan Liebentritt, Lisa Motley, Chad Pinger, Matt Rinkol, Jenny Sadle and Audra Sansoni were selected for this leadership role in Campus Ministry. Father Wayne used opinion surveys from teachers and students to help him in the selection process. EME's are expected to be leaders on the Campus Ministry team and to practice good Christian morals and ideals at all times. These leaders also distribute the Eucharist at mass.

Principal Kobza Sets Major Goal

by Suzanna George

"All the girls cried at graduation and I was happy." Not a sentiment one might expect to hear from a high school principal, but one memory shared by Mr. Robert Kobza, the new senior high principal.

Having completed almost a quarter of the school year, Kobza says, "The students are very nice and friendly, there is great parental support, and the staff is super." He has no dislikes so far, except for one most students could identify with: "Getting up to be here on time."

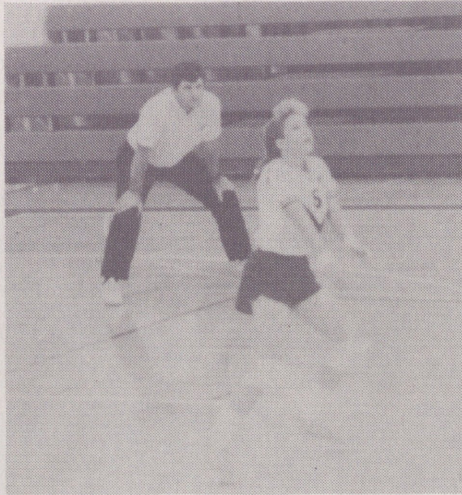
Getting to school on time may be a challenge, but a larger challenge is Kobza's goal of making Scotus Central Catholic the best high school in Nebraska. To become the best requires change and improvement; Kobza says, "We're always trying to improve. When you stop growing, you get worse."

Another goal he has is establishing good rapport with the students. "I want the students to see me as somebody who wants them to succeed." A piece of advice he has for people, especially students, is to pray daily.

Prior to becoming principal at Scotus, Kobza taught science for six years at Whiting, Iowa. He was principal at Hurly, South Dakota, for one year; Anthan-Otto, Iowa, for three years; Brainard, Nebraska, for six years; and St. Mary's in David City for two years. Kobza applied at Scotus because he wanted to remain in Catholic education.

Kobza grew up in Ulysses, a town fifteen miles southwest of David City. He attended school there until eighth grade, went to Seward for ninth and tenth grade, and graduated from David City Aquinas. He received his B.A. in physics and education from Wayne State.

He and his wife Jane have five children: Kent - 21, Shawn - 19, Robby - 18, Ryan, who is a 9th grader at Scotus, and Aaron, who is in second grade at St. Bonaventure's.



Principal Robert Kobza line judges during the Scotus-Fremont Bergan volleyball game as Brenda Silva prepares to receive.



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Volleyball Sets Up For Districts

by Diana Sypal

"You bump to set, you set to spike, you bump, set, spike!" This familiar phrase from a cheer describes the usual play of the 1989 volleyball team.

This team entered the NCC Tournament with a record of 13 wins and 3 losses. They won both the Scotus and North Bend Invites and finished 2nd in the Raymond Central Invite. The volleyball team "showed that we were competitive and had a chance for a successful year when we defeated Grand Island Central Catholic, the 1988 State Champions, at the Scotus Tournament," said Traci Langan, one of the injured players on the team.

Injuries have been a problem this year with four players out for part of the season. Because of these injuries, there is only one senior still playing. Coach John Petersen felt that having only one senior was a very rare situation. Karey Keeshan felt that she had to show more leadership in both the practices and the games since she was the only senior player.

Junior Megan Tooley, primary setter, enjoys playing volleyball because "it's fun, and I like the sport!" Tooley is also looking forward to the District Tournament in Norfolk. "That's what we work for all year," said Tooley. "We strive to play our best and be at the top of our game, and hopefully we will get to State."

Because of a large drop in enrollment, Hartington Cedar Catholic, one of the team's biggest rivals in recent years, will not be in the same district this year. But Petersen's goal for this year is the same as every other year: to "do well in Conference Tournament and to win the District Tournament."

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New members of National Honor Society are: Greg Hegemann, Jenny Fremarek, Tammy Gablenz, Brenda Kolas, Shawn Diederich; back row: Chris Bogus, Jon Kubler, Matt Naughtin, Eric Wemhoff, and Jason Feldhaus.

NHS Inducts Ten Students

by Lisa Motley

Ten members were inducted into National Honor Society at the annual induction ceremony on September 27. Senior Eric Wemhoff, juniors Chris Bogus, Greg Hegemann, Brenda Kolas, and Jon Kubler, and sophomores Shawn Diederich, Jason Feldhaus, Jenni Fremarek, Tammy Gablenz, and Matt Naughtin are the new members.

Students who have maintained a 93% cumulative average and who have not received a grade lower than a "C" in high school are eligible to apply for membership. They are required to fill out an application listing their activities and offices held.

A faculty council reviewed the applications and selected the new members. Members of that council are Father Wayne, Mrs. Melanie Klingelhofer, Mr. John Petersen, Mr. Vern Younger, and Mrs. Jan Went.

Mrs. Jeannie Kiser, sponsor of NHS said, "NHS membership is not just for academic excellence, but also honors outstanding leadership, character, and service." Kiser believes the students "can all be proud of their accomplishments. They are all well-rounded students and take pride in it."

The officers this year include Megan Liebenritt, president; Angie Wessel, vice president; Julie Sleddens, secretary; Nicki Votava, treasurer; and Tara Mohatt, historian. Twenty-six students are NHS members this year.

Boys' CC Run To Improve

by Tiffany Codling

"Try to do your best and work towards improvement," was Father Wayne Pavela's advice to the boys' cross country team. Pavela, who has coached boys' cross country for five years at Scotus, says that the main goal for the year was to keep improving.

Junior Fred Maguire and sophomore Shawn Diederich were returning letterwinners. Other runners were senior Jeff Kresha, juniors Cory Christiansen, Mark Keating, Jeff Vanek, Chris Wiegert, and freshman Matt Hajek.

Pavela praised Maguire and Diederich as the most consistent runners. "We have made obvious improvements this year, but we're still a young team," said Maguire.

The team's best performances were at the Kearney State Meet and the North Bend Invitational. They also competed in six invitationals and two duals. They finished their season with an 8th place finish at the District meet held at the Columbus Lutjelusche course.

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Band, Flag Corp March in Step

by Gina Lesiak

"Forward March!" The band heard this command from Majorette Lisa Motley at the start of marching band competitions. This fall the band has participated in three marching competitions.

In the first competition at Wayne State College, the band competed with 23 other bands and tied for second place among the Class B schools. They also performed with 1300 high school band members during the halftime of the Wayne State football game.

The band also competed in the Columbus Marching Festival. Despite the cold, drizzly weather, the band placed third among the Class B schools. In the Hastings Harvest of Harmony competition, the band marched in a parade with 42 other schools. The band received a superior rating among the Class B schools.

The Flag Corps also participated in the marching competitions. Many hours of practice preceded each competition as both the band and Flag Corps members had 7:00 a.m. marching practices. In addition, Flag Corps members practiced their routines for their performances at football and volleyball games.

"Flag Corps is a lot of fun, and I like how we can all coordinate our ideas to make the routine fit together," commented senior Audra Sansoni.

The band and flags performed a pre-game show during the Homecoming football game. Flag Corps also performed during halftime of the Homecoming game. Pep Band also supported the volleyball and football teams by playing at each home game.

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Ministry Team Serves Others

by Lisa Motley

On a bright, sunny Sunday afternoon, 75 members of Campus Ministry walked between 7 and 10 miles to raise money for the hungry. Some members of the Scotus band marched the first mile of the walk.

Those Campus Ministers joined approximately 100 others from Columbus on the annual Crop Walk, just one of the service projects of Campus Ministry. "The walk helps a lot of people plus it's good for your health," said Chris Mustard. Mike Woerth believes that it helped both himself and the needy. Mustard and Woerth each raised about \$15.00 from persons who sponsored them on the walk.

"Campus Ministry is an organization of students who want to minister to the needs of others in school and in the community," said Father Wayne Pavela. Campus Ministers also plan school liturgies and prayer services, sell concessions at games, and work on the garden project.

Pavela, assigned to Scotus in 1981, is very proud of the Campus Ministry Team and their accomplishments. "The one service project that has been the biggest success for the team has been the annual garden," said Pavela. "It touches the lives of many poor and needy in the area."

Involved on the team are 80% of the student body, 80% of the faculty, and 10 parents.

SHAMROCKS TACKLE WAY TO VICTORY!

by Amy Whitehead

The pulse quickens, the helmets and pads smack together, the ball carrier dashes into the endzone, and the fans cheer. The Scotus football team scores again!

This year's football team has depth, leadership, and experience. With these three qualities, the team might achieve their goal of making the state playoffs, as did last year's team, according to Head Coach Jim Puetz.

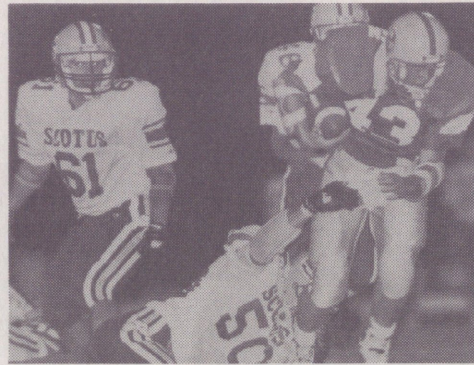
Travis Brock, senior lineman, said, "One of the team's major strengths is its depth." Puetz claims that if injuries do occur, there are strong back-up players to replace those who are injured.

The team also has experience with nineteen returning lettermen. They include seniors Travis Brock, Shane Borer, Jim Euteneuer, Tom Fehringer, Jeff Fremarek, Brad Hatcher, Andy Hittner, Brian Hittner, Rick Horne, Corby Kudron, Chad Pinger, Aaron Rickert, Thad Rosenthal, Dean Valish, and Eric Wemhoff, and juniors Brad Bertsch, John Iossi, Chris Mustard, and Eric Pinger.

John Iossi said that with all of the experienced players, this year's team has strong leadership. "The captains (Brock, Hatcher, and Rinkol) get everyone working together, and they get people motivated," said Iossi, defensive back.

Season highlights include being ranked number one at the beginning of the season, a winning record and numerous long touchdown runs. Hatcher's first carry of the season in the Wahoo Neumann game went 80 yards for a touchdown, Eric Pinger ran an interception 32 yards for a touchdown in the Schuyler game, Joey Quattrocchi returned a punt 84 yards for a goal against Hartington Cedar Catholic and Mike Henggeler, sophomore wingback, ran 41 yards for a touchdown in the Homecoming game against Boystown. Disappointments include the loss to Omaha Roncalli and numerous injuries.

Aaron Shunk summed up the season when he said, "No matter how the year turns out, it was a lot of fun and a good learning experience for all of us."



Brad Bertsch (50) and Chris Mustard (68) tackle the Lakeview ball carrier while Brian Dohmen (61) looks on.

Girls' CC Run To State

by Suzanna George

The girls' cross-country team qualified for the State Meet by finishing second in the District Meet. The team was led by Holly Hunter's fourth-place finish. Eight teams competed in the District meet held at the Columbus Lutjelusche course on the morning after Homecoming. O'Neill finished first.

Coach Dan Mahoney made no predictions concerning State, but said, "We're going to go down there and do the best we can. That's where we peak, where we get our best times."

During the season, the team has placed in the top half in six of seven meets: Albion-4th, North Bend Quadrangle-1st, Lincoln Pius-6th, Scotus Invitational-1st, North Bend Invitational-4th, and Conference at Boystown-3rd. Coach Mahoney said he is pleased with how well the girls have done.

There were only seven runners on the team: senior Tiffany Codling, juniors Kelly Peterson, Nicki Votava, and Wendy Whalen, sophomores Holly Hunter and Kristen Haenggi, and freshman Keri Stopak. Coach Mahoney said that there was not a best runner on the team, although Codling, Hunter and Whalen generally led the Scotus team.

"The girls were very team-oriented. Everything they did was for the team," said Coach Mahoney. This team spirit was needed for the State Meet on October 20, in Kearney. However, Whalen summed up the year when she said, "It's not what place we finish as long as we run to our best ability."

That Is NO EXCUSE

by Amy Whitehead

"Late again," the teacher states. "You know that is three times in a row. What's your excuse this time?" The student taps his foot as he frantically tries to think of a creative and believable excuse. "I, uh, had weights this morning, and I dropped a ten pound, no, a hundred pound weight on my foot. I can barely walk!"

Sound familiar? Everybody has an excuse, whether it is for tardies, homework, or falling asleep in class. To some students, excuses are just a way of getting by, but to others, it is an art form.

Excuses some students use to "get by" are: 1) I lost my homework. Can I hand another in later? 2) My locker would not open; that is why I am late. 3) I was talking to Mrs. Bernt. 4) I went to the wrong class. 5) I forgot it in my locker. These are typical and reliable. Several students use this approach daily, and some are quite successful.

Some people have been making up excuses since birth. To them it is a battle of the wits; who can come up with the best excuse? Some of their excuses are: 1) Some idiot slammed my hair in my locker. 2) I'm late because I was up all night trying to finish all the homework I was assigned. 3) My parents thought my essay was so brilliant that they sent it to be published; it should be in the next issue of *Newsweek*. 4) I can't dissect the frog because I'm a vegetarian, and I'm against cruelty to animals. In fact, I might have to report this. 5) My blow dryer exploded this morning, so I had to bury it in my back yard. We've been through so much together! (sniff, sniff). These excuses take a little more imagination, and a lot more nerve.

Excuses students should definitely avoid are: 1) My dog ate it. (Too old) 2) I'm late? But I was in the room... (Too whiny) 3) Oh, it's due today, Thursday? I thought today was Wednesday. (Too stupid) 4) PLEASE! I'll NEVER do it again! (Too pathetic)

So excuses are very important for student survival, and knowing the right excuse at the right time can save a person much grief. Believe me.

--Uh-oh. Well, my article is late because, uh, I got this massive writer's cramp in my hand, and then my pen exploded all over my paper, so then I tried to type it all into my computer, and my dog came in and unplugged it, it is a new trick my dad taught him, and it was all erased, and then...

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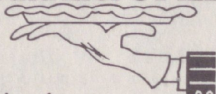
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Columbus: Home Away From Home

by Diana Sypal

Imagine traveling to a different country where no friends or relatives live. Patty Cervantes is attending Scotus as an AFS foreign exchange student from Bolivia and is living with the John Larsen family in Columbus.

Cervantes decided to come to the United States because "it is important to speak English in Bolivia. If you speak several languages, it is easier to find work." Cervantes lives with her parents and three sisters in a city of about 200,000 people.

Here and in Bolivia, Cervantes enjoys going to movies, driving around with her friends, and going to parties to watch movies on the weekends. One weekend activity that can only take place in Bolivia is going to the Plaza, a place where all the young people and teenagers go to "hang-out".

School life in Bolivia is very different. Everyone is required to attend high school. The public all-girls' school she attends has about 600 senior high students. Teachers there go from classroom to classroom instead of the students changing classrooms. Students there do not have lockers and must carry their books to all of their classes. In Bolivia, Cervantes would take math, English, physics, religion, and biology. Although the differences between schools are numerous, Cervantes says, "We have quizzes almost every week, too!"

The similarities vary from sports to holidays. "Bolivia has only basketball and volleyball, which are school activities played like these sports here," says Cervantes. They also celebrate Christmas, New Year's, Labor Day, and the beginning of spring, which is similar to our Homecoming. The only thing different in these celebrations is that people in the U.S. eat large meals, whereas people in Bolivia eat dry foods and soups. Bolivia also has a problem with drugs and alcohol, but these are not as big a problem to people as they are in the United States.

Although Cervantes may have a few problems adjusting here, she is glad that she chose the United States because "it is different!"

Vocal Groups Say It With Music

by Tiffany Codling

The Fall Vocal Music Concert was held October 23 in Memorial Hall.

"Wind Beneath My Wings" and "Groovy Kind of Love" were performed by the Swing Choir. The audience immediately recognized a big change in the Swing Choir with the addition of male voices. "Previously, Scotus was one of the very few Nebraska schools who had an all-girl Swing Choir," said Mrs. Ginny Schnabel, vocal music instructor.

"I like having the guys in Swing Choir this year," said Cory Legenza. "After watching other schools perform last year, it seemed they were able to do more dance moves with male partners," continued Legenza, a member of Swing Choir for two years.

The Girls' Glee slowed down the beat when they sang Lionel Richie's "Truly", "Before My Heart Finds Out," and "Blessing". Girls' Glee also sang and danced to "Jubilate Deo".

"Iko Iko", and "Shut De Do" were loudly belted out by the Concert Choir. The singers and audience enjoyed refreshments in the cafeteria following the concert.

Choir officers are Rick Horne - president; Corby Kudron - vice president; and Audra Sansoni - secretary. Representatives from the three vocal groups are Jenny Sadle, Julie Sleddens, and Angie Wessel.

Girls Aim for Par

by Megan Liebenritt

The girls' golf team opened their season with a win over Stanton, which was an important key to start the year. But that win was the only one the girls managed to capture throughout their season.

"Consistency was something the team lacked," said Mrs. Barb Malicky, first-year golf coach. That lack of consistency was a big factor in their performance all season.

"We didn't play enough over the summer and we didn't play 18 holes often enough to prepare us for the big meets," commented junior Marilu Peck about the season.

Throughout the entire season the team won only one medal. Tara Mohatt, also a junior, placed 7th at the Aurora Invite. "Nobody had placed before and I didn't even think about it before the meet," said Mohatt, "so I was really surprised when I got 7th because there were only 15 medals given out."

At the start of the season, the girls set individual and team goals to work towards during the season. According to Coach Malicky, a team goal was to "fare well in the duals and triangulars" so they could use those meets as practice for the bigger invitationals. Julie Sleddens said her own personal goal was "to shoot in the high 50's at every meet."

This was only the third year for the girls' golf program. With only one senior on the team, four letter-winners will return next year. "A big plus to the team," said senior Amy Whitehead, "was our dedication and that we all got along very well." She also added, "Winning wasn't everything as long as we had fun."

Varsity golfers included Mohatt, Peck, Sleddens, Shannon Ternus, and Whitehead. Other team members were junior Jenny Hansen, sophomores Jenna Mullin, and Demetria Wade, and freshman Laura Liss, Susan Riley, Stacey Swierczek, Amy Tubbs, and Christi Wachal.

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Scotus Welcomes New English Teachers

by Suzanna George

Mrs. Linda Kosch has returned to Scotus for the third time. She attended Scotus and graduated in 1966, taught social studies and English part-time from 1977 until 1980, and now has returned to teach English 8 and English 10. When asked about returning this time, Kosch responded, "All my children are in school and I enjoy teaching."

Kosch was born in Omaha, lived there until eighth grade and spent her high school years in Columbus. She received her B.A. in education from Creighton University in Omaha, married Bill Kosch, and lived in Omaha until 1976 when she moved back to Columbus.

Kosch has also taught at Omaha Northwest and Norfolk Catholic. She has taught psychology, history, social studies, and English.

Kosch has seen many changes since she was a student here in the 1960's. The girls first began to wear uniforms during the second semester of the 1965-1966 school year. The more-defined dress code for boys is another change. In the 1960's there was also a large pep club with a completely different uniform from the girls' new uniforms. She still sees lots of school spirit and an enjoyable student body.

Kosch has five children: Jesse-15, Laura-13, Jill-11, Becky-9, and Jeffrey-7. In addition to family activities and schoolwork, Kosch is an avid reader. She prefers historical fiction and biographies, but enjoys a variety of books. Kosch also likes to travel. She has traveled through Europe, to the Caribbean, and around the United States. Yet no matter where she goes, Kosch always seems to come back to Columbus and back to Scotus.



Mrs. Kathy Ewers



Mrs. Linda Kosch

by Megan Liebenritt

Scotus welcomed two new English teachers, Mrs. Kathy Ewers and Mrs. Linda Kosch, to its faculty this year. Mrs. Ewers teaches English 9, English 12A, and Senior Advanced Placement English, a new class in the curriculum this year. She will also be assistant coach for junior high girls' basketball and junior high track.

Ewers is excited about teaching at Scotus and enjoys the friendly atmosphere. She is especially excited about the challenges of teaching Advanced Placement English.

One of the disadvantages of her job is not having much time with her husband. She has been married to her high school sweetheart for three years. But Ewers, not one to complain, says, "The rewards (of teaching) far outweigh the disadvantages."

Ewers said, "I realize that many students perceive English as a boring and unnecessary, and I thought the same when I was in high school. But I hope to change that view." Her goals for her students are to prepare them for college, to help them accept others' points of view, and to teach them how to express themselves and be creative. "Learning is a lifelong process; therefore, we must be excited about learning."

Although teaching takes up most of her time, Ewers also enjoys playing volleyball, bike riding, running, and reading. Ewers is a May graduate of Kearney State College where she earned her B.A. in education with a major in English Language Arts.

Speech Team Rehearses for Meets

by Chris Placzek

Sweaty palms, shaking knees, and difficulty swallowing are characteristics of many speech team members before a competition.

According to Mrs. Sandie Bernt, speech team coach, there are a number of individuals who will experience such anxiety. There are 18 new members and 17 returning members this year. Bernt added, "Those returning competitors make up a lot of the strong areas, yet all the members' efforts will be needed to aid the team at the Platte College competition on November 18."

"I think this competition will help us a lot because Platte is experimental; many of the new members are just trying different areas to find which ones they are most comfortable with," commented Suzanne George, a state competitor last year.

However, competitors are limited to two categories. "Because of that two category limit, students tend to participate in easier areas," added senior Andrea Duren.

Bernt would like more students to compete in extemporaneous speech. Extemp is a difficult area because each competitor has only an hour to prepare his speech after selecting a topic. "This area causes more anxiety than some students are willing to take on," said Bernt.

"In the past, Scotus has earned superior ratings in competition with exceptional schools like Hartington Cedar Catholic, Raymond Central, and Lakeview," said Bernt.

With November 18 approaching, anxiety levels will be rising.

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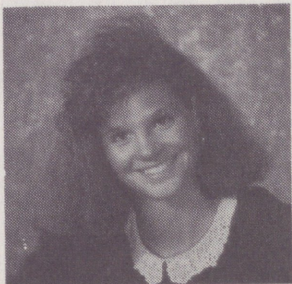
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Concert Evokes Christmas Feelings

by Diana Sypal

"... Santa Claus is coming to town!" The feeling of Christmas was in the air-and in Memorial Hall-for the Christmas Concert on December 19. Hearts were filled with love as both the band and various vocal groups performed their Christmas melodies that night.

Many students anxiously looked forward to the concert because it was such a special time. Senior band member Jenny Sadle waited for the concert in anticipation because "we had a nice ensemble of songs this year, and it was my last Christmas Concert with this instructor and the band members. It was a time for me to remember, and it makes me sad to know that it is over."

The vocal music groups were also anxious for this concert. Swing Choir member Megan Liebenritt felt that "it got us into the Christmas spirit and the songs were fun." Girls' Glee sang "White Christmas", "Winter Wonderland", and "Monotone Angel" with a solo by Jenni Styskal; Concert Choir sang "Do You Hear What I Hear", "The Procession", and "Gaudeamus Hodie". Rick Horne, a member of the Concert Choir, also performed a solo. The Swing Choir sang and danced to "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree", "Carol of the Bells", and "A Christmas Song".

The band performed "Tritsch-Tratsch Polka", "Vortex", "Still, Still, Still," and "A Christmas Fantasia" under the direction of Mr. Steve Niles, band instructor. After both groups performed separately, they combined to play and sing "A Christmas Finale", which consisted of three famous Christmas carols: "Joy to the World", "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear", and "O, Come All Ye



Swing Choir members are (left to right): Rachelle Schieffer, Corby Kudron, Cory Legenza, Chris Mustard, Megan Liebenritt, Chad Pinger, Accompanist Julie Sleddens, Aaron Rickert, Angie Wessel, Rick Horne, Michelle Herdzina, Aaron Shunk, and Traci Langan.

Faithful".

Many people are anxiously awaiting the arrival of Christmas, but on December 19, many performers felt that special moment was already here.

Vocal music instructor Ginny Schnabel enjoyed directing the students that night because "I wanted to help students be more human, recognize the beauty, and be more sensitive people. Music helps people become better people, and I wanted to be a part of that."

Students Perform In Honor Concert

by Megan Liebenritt

Outstanding music students participated in the 5th Annual High School Honor Band and Chorus at the Platte Campus on Dec. 3 and 4.

Seniors Rick Horne, Amy Rosno, and junior Peter Wemhoff sang in the choir. Playing in the band were seniors Suzanna George, Lisa Motley, and Amy Whitehead, and junior Greg Hegemann. Rosno commented that she was "very happy to be selected. It's a lot of fun and you meet many new people."

The groups performed together in a concert Dec. 4. Mr. David Anderson, a staff member for the Summer Music Clinic at the University of Wisconsin, conducted the Honor Chorus. Directing the Honor Band was Mr. Stanley Finck, Director of Bands and Assistant Professor of Percussion at Kansas State University.

Activities on Sunday, Dec. 3, included sectional rehearsals for chorus, seating auditions and placement for band, and group rehearsals for both. All day Monday was also spent rehearsing for the concert held that evening.

Whitehead summed up the whole event by saying, "It was a very educational experience to play with other students who had the desire to excel in music."

CAMPUS MINISTRY SURPASSES GOAL

by Amy Whitehead

What organization has 185 members working to help out our community? Campus Ministry, of course! Campus Ministry has been involved with several activities to serve the community while having fun.

Campus Ministry held their annual food drive in November. They collected a total of 2,333 food items for the Columbus Food Pantry, exceeding their goal of 2,000 items. Mr. Vern Younger's T.A. contributed the most with 529 items. Andy Hittner and Matt Rinkol, members of Younger's T.A., both agreed, "Mr. Younger deserves most of the credit. He not only inspired us, he contributed greatly also."

On Christmas Eve, Campus Ministry will go Christmas caroling at four nursing homes. They will visit, carol, and give a stuffed animal to each elderly person at Columbus Manor and Mory's Haven in Columbus, Clover Lodge in St. Edward, and St. Joseph's Villa in David City.

Campus Ministry is also starting a peer counseling group. Fr. Wayne Pavela, Campus Ministry sponsor, is planning a workshop for those students interested in helping their peers with problems. Pavela said, "I think the peer counseling group will add a new dimension to the organization."

This Christmas season the Campus Ministers have served in many ways. Pavela asked, "What more can we do?"

Christmas is Near There Goes My Cheer

by Amy Whitehead

"Ho! Ho! Ho! Merry Christmas!" Merry Christmas. That is all I ever hear anymore. Well, every Christmas is a disaster for me. Now, don't get me wrong, I like Christmas — the birth of Christ, the receiving of gifts, the parties, the receiving of gifts, the vacation, the receiving — uh, I mean, giving of gifts. But every year when Christmas rolls around, I just know the tragic saga of the holiday season will begin.

It all begins when the stores start decorating for Christmas — before Halloween! This year on Halloween, three kids came to my house dressed as Santa! That wouldn't have bothered me as much if they would have come to the door instead of climbing down my chimney.

Then, instead of saying, "Trick or treat," they started singing Christmas carols! When they started singing "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer," I quickly gave them my wallet and shoved them out the door.

Students Prepare For Semester Blues

by Diana Sypal

Books, pencils, pens, notes, paper, study guides, tapes, food, pop, and a comfortable place are the necessary supplies for a student preparing to study for semester tests.

Three styles of preparing for these tests include: 1) studying two to three weeks in advance after taking pages and pages of notes, 2) studying a few days before the tests, and 3) cramming for these tests the night before.

Many students do not like to study for semester tests, so they find other things to do, between reading chapters, to keep them awake. Talking to friends on the phone, listening to favorite tapes over and over again, munching on potato chips and candy bars, drinking pop, or setting the books down to catch the next episode of "Knots Landing" are common diversions.

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Then comes the terror of shopping for that "perfect" gift (as if one exists). It takes me seven hours to find the gift, two hours just to fight off the lady who is trying to claim the last one in that size, and one hour waiting to buy it, only to discover that my check is about to bounce. Finally, when I give it to him, he says one of the following: "It is not my size," "Does it come in another color?" "I bought one just like it at the Second Time Around," or "Gee, you really, really, really shouldn't have."

Finally, I always get stiffed by Santa. On Christmas Eve, I leave out mineral water and rice cakes for his snack. (I think he should be on a diet.) However, every Christmas morning beside the water and uneaten rice cakes are an empty can of pop and a half eaten bag of pretzels. How rude to eat my dad's favorite snack!

Then, for presents, I asked for a car, vacation, jewelry, tapes, and clothes — I get underwear, a doll (collector's item of course), a bike, a new bookbag, and a five-pound fruit cake. "Gee, thanks A LOT Santa!!"

So, those are the reasons why I don't like Christmas. But, if you want to make Christmas a better time for me, just give me a smile in the hall or a pat on the back. That would really help. But, if you truly want to help me even more, just remember:

I want a red Porsche, a condo in Miami, diamonds or pearls (I'm not picky), the new B-52's tape, and that cute sweater in the Brass Buckle window.

What is the purpose for semester tests? Have you ever thought about it? According to Senior High Principal Robert Kobza, semester tests are given for two reasons: "They test the knowledge of what the student remembers from the semester, and getting ready for the tests forces both the teachers and students to have scheduled practice sessions of what has been previously learned."

Now that we know why we take semester tests, how can teachers expect us to know all of the facts from four months of instruction in seven different classes? How essential will the information be for our futures? Who knows! These tests will come, people will study, the tests will pass, and life will go on: with or without previous knowledge.

.... (10 years later): "Hi, honey, I'm home! Guess what? My boss asked me the stage directions of the Vietnam War with Edgar Allen Poe and the Beatles and the religious aspects of it all! By the way, where are all my high school notebooks? Thank heavens I took those semester tests!"



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Those Were The 80's

by Chris Placzek

"Hello, my name is Oprah Winfrey, and today we're going to talk about . . ." The Oprah Winfrey Show was just one of the many products of the '80s.

Entertainment was improved with the debut of MTV, VCRs (the average price was \$500), and remote controls for television. "Kramer vs. Kramer", "First Blood", "Lethal Weapon", "Who Framed Roger Rabbit", and "Batman" were tops among movie-goers.

Movies, television, and reading material reflect the political, medical, and controversial issues that faced Americans in the '80s.

1980: Mount St. Helens' eruption was 500 times more powerful than the Hiroshima A-Bomb. Former President Jimmy Carter also dropped a "bomb" when he boycotted the Moscow Olympics.

1981: Pope John Paul II and Ronald Reagan, who had been president for only a year, survived attempted assassinations. 269 people died of AIDS, a newly identified disease.

1982: Seven years after the last American was helicoptered out of Saigon, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in Washington D.C.

1983: Cabbage Patch dolls were introduced and Chrysler Motors made their first profit in four years.

1984: The U.S.S.R. came back with revenge by boycotting the Los Angeles Olympics. A new equality brought more women into politics when Geraldine Ferraro became the first female vice presidential candidate for a major party.

1985: The Titanic was found 73 years after it sank. Gorbachev became the fourth Soviet leader in 28 months.

1986: America and Russia dealt with major accidents when seven American astronauts died in the Challenger explosion and when the Soviet nuclear reactor at Chernobyl exploded.

1987: Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North proudly admitted his involvement in the Iran-Contra affair, but insisted his actions were patriotically motivated. Black Monday was a day of financial panic when the Dow Jones dropped 508 points.

1988: Fire broke out in Yellowstone National Park and the U.S.S.R. withdrew troops from Afghanistan.

1989: Communist governments in China, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and East Germany were challenged to make reforms. The Berlin Wall was opened to allow free travel between East and West Germany.

With the new year approaching people will be making New Year's resolutions. Hopefully somewhere in their hearts they will find room for peace and equality for all persons in the new decade of the '90s.


(Ideas for this story came from a special issue of Life entitled "The '80s".)



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Thespians Initiate Members

by Lisa Motley

"Act well your part - therein all honor lies," is the motto for all Thespians. Thespian initiation took place the week of December 10 with the closing ceremony on December 14.

This year there are a total of 17 members, 10 of whom are new inductees. These include seniors Gina Lesiak and Diana Sypal; juniors Dave Boryca, Brenda Kolas, and Joe McPhillips; sophomores Holly Hunter, Jeff Loseke, Jenna Mullin, Jenny O'Neill, and Sarah Wemhoff. The 7 carry-over members are seniors Andrea Duren, Suzanna George, Jenny Sadle, Angie Wessel, and Amy Whitehead; and juniors Craig Evans and Marilu Peck.

Thespian initiation activities were created by the carry-over members of Thespians and had to be approved by the principal. "Every activity assigned to an inductee has a reason. It could be a certain skill we are trying to develop in that person. Initiation isn't designed to make a person look stupid," said Mrs. Sandie Bernt, speech instructor, about the initiation week.

George Attends All-State

by Amy Whitehead

Talent, determination, and practice are necessary to qualify for All-State Band. Senior Suzanna George has these qualities, and she performed in the woodwind section of the 175-member All-State Band. The concert was held at Grand Island Central High School in November.

George, who has been playing the clarinet for six years, was selected to play third-part clarinet after rigorous auditions. "Prior to the concert the band practiced intensely for a total of 11 to 12 hours throughout a three day period," said Mr. Steve Niles, Scotus' band director.

Niles was present at the performance and said, "They were an exceptional group of students. They played difficult music and performed it well. I was impressed with what I saw."

"I think the total initiation experience was positive for the initiates and the whole school," added Craig Evans, Thespian president.

Special activities for Thespians are reading the afternoon announcements, participating in the VFW and American Legion Speech Contests, and taking a theater field trip.

Bernt has set up a point system to determine who qualifies for membership. Points are earned by participating in two plays, participating in one play and being on speech team one year, or being on speech team two years. "Those chosen are invited only once, and if the invitation is turned down, they are not re-invited," said Bernt.

Thespians is an honorary society for students who actively participate in speech and drama. The name for the organization refers to a man named Thespis who was a well-known expert in Greek theater. Thespian membership is not only for the duration of the high school years, but can be continued for the rest of the member's life. Each new initiate has the opportunity to apply for a lifetime membership, according to Bernt.

Niles continued, "Suzanna was the first to qualify since Jenny Naughtin was selected for All-State Band in 1987."

George said, "It was the neatest experience I've had. All of us were there because we like music and in that we had a common bond."

The All-State Orchestra, Choir, and Jazz Band also performed. Myren Welch, band director for Iowa State University, directed the All-State Band.

All-State students are picked from all across Nebraska. The student must either be a junior or senior in high school.

George plans to major in music performance and communications, hoping to make a career performing for small audiences and special occasions. George said, "I feel that my experience at All-State will be a positive influence on my future plans."

Dear Santa: Is It True...?

by Suzanna George

"Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!" This famous line is delivered every Christmas Eve from good old St. Nick. However, have you ever wondered what is behind the red suit, the red-nosed reindeer, and the cheery smile? I took a trip to the North Pole with letters from our readers to interview the man behind the smile. Here are those letters and Santa's responses:

Dear Santa Claus,

How do you deliver all the Christmas gifts in the entire world in just one night?

Curious

Dear Curious,

I'll let you in on a secret; I don't deliver all the gifts. I once did, but neither Rudolph nor I are as young and spry as we once were. In addition, all that air pollution in the atmosphere is bad for our health. Now I use Federal Express Overnight Mail and United Parcel Service. They really get the job done. Naturally, they're sworn to secrecy.

Signed,
Santa

Dear Santa,

How do you get down all those chimneys and back up again?

Bewildered

Dear Bewildered,

Actually, I don't do chimneys very much now. Not many people have them anymore. Of course, that makes Mrs. Claus happy. She formerly used industrial strength soot remover to get my suits clean. Now, instead of going down a chimney, if there is one, I just use a 10XE Illusory Gamma Stabilizer to play a hologram of myself coming down the chimney. That way I can use a skeleton key to get in the front door and keep the illusion that I still climb down chimneys. Isn't technology wonderful?

Signed,
Santa

Dear Santa,

Is it true that your elves work all year to make toys for Christmas?

E. Quality

Dear E,

Actually it's not true. Mrs. Claus and I take all the elves to the Bahamas every summer. If we don't, they'll strike. So we loll around down there and get jolly red. The North Pole does tend to get a bit nippy.

Signed,
Santa

If you have any more questions for Santa, please write to Santa Claus, North Pole or call, 1-800-SANTA-CLAUS.

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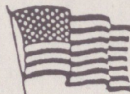
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Teams Earn Top Ten Rankings

by Brad Bertsch and Chris Placzek

The 1989-1990 basketball season started with two back-to-back wins. The Shamrocks beat Boystown 61-54. In that game, Tom Fehringer scored 18 points and grabbed 12 rebounds. Head Coach Merlin Lahm was pleased with the victory and the way the team played, especially with free-throw shooting. Joe Quattrochi made 4 key free-throws to clinch the game.

The next evening at home the boys beat Omaha Cathedral, 78-64. Travis Brock scored 26 points and grabbed 14 rebounds. Cory Christiansen added another 21 points and had 4 steals. Lahm commented, "They reacted well to the pressure, but they have a lot to improve on. My main concern was that they let the opponents get back into the game late in the fourth quarter."

Returning lettermen are: seniors Brock and Fehringer and juniors Christiansen, Eric Pinger, and Quattrochi. Lahm said that the team's biggest weakness is "their lack of playing time on the varsity level. The players' work ethics may help them overcome their shortcomings, though."

Christiansen said, "I think the attitude is that we have the potential to do well in the season and our work habits reflect that in practice."

"The Holiday Tournament on December 27-28 will present tremendous competition that will require the team to prove what a positive attitude can achieve," said Lahm. Yet attitude is not the only factor that motivates them.

"At the beginning of the season we took each player aside and asked them about their individual goals. We then try to focus on that," Lahm said.

With the Shamrocks' focus on improvement and their goals, winning could become a habit.

by Gina Lesiak

Scotus girls opened their basketball season against Lincoln Pius losing 56 to 37. They played Omaha Cathedral two nights later and won the game 52 to 14.

"This year the team is a young one," Coach John Petersen said. "Because of this, there will need to be extra support from the sophomore players." There are only twenty-one girls out for basketball on the ninth, junior varsity, and varsity teams. Petersen continued, "We need a lot of time and practice to be prepared for the games."

The team has five returning letter winners: senior Karey Keeshan, and juniors Kari Beiermann, Darlene Rinkol, Kristi Sobota, and Megan Tooley. Rinkol, Sobota, and Tooley were starters last year. "I think if we play the best we can, we will be able to do well at our games," Sobota commented.

Petersen and the team had already set their goal before the season opened. "We want to play the best we can," Petersen said. "We want to do our best in conference and then again in districts."

Last year, the girls' basketball team placed second in the Columbus Holiday Tournament at Lakeview. This year, Scotus hosts the tournament on December 27 and 28. During the past seven years, the girls have won the Holiday Tournament four times.

"Basketball creates a lot of pressure when you are a sophomore and playing against juniors and seniors," commented sophomore Tammy Gablenz, "but overall, it is a lot of fun."



Seniors Suzanna George, Brian Hittner, Andy Hittner, and Eric Wemhoff were honored as UNL Distinguished Scholars, based on high ACT scores. These students were invited to tour the campus, visit with faculty about the honors program, and attend the recognition dinner hosted by the Omaha World-Herald.

Students Recall Santa Gifts

by Lisa Motley

With the holiday season upon us, many students and teachers were asked to name their favorite gift from Santa Claus. Computer Systems and radio/tape recorders have been the most popular gifts mentioned.

The senior high students may have had to think back a few years to their Santa days to dig up a favorite gift.

Shane Borer
Andrea Duren
Jim Euteneuer
Brad Hatcher
Karey Keeshan

Amy Rosno
Mike Haenggi
Greg Hegemann
Eric Liebig
Joe McPhillips
Darlene Rinkol
Peter Wemhoff
Jenny Braun
Craig Foreman
Scott Harmeyer

Amy Kroenke
Matt Naughtin
Kelly Slusarski
Jeff Tooley
Kari Becker
Matt Gonka
John Hain

Some of the teachers also took part in telling about their special gifts from Santa. A few of them can also recall many memories with their own children.

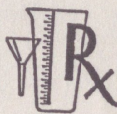
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Mr. Niles
Mrs. Pekarek
Mrs. Rambour
Mr. Sadle
Mrs. Whitely

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Darlene
Pink Teddy Bear from
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Stereo System
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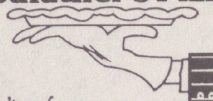


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New Teachers Become Familiar Faces



Mrs. Hueschen



Mrs. Johnson



Miss Felger

by Gina Lesiak

This year, Scotus welcomed two new home-economics teachers and a Spanish teacher to the staff. Mrs. Janice Hueschen teaches senior home-economics, parenting, foods and eighth grade art.

Hueschen has 7½ years of teaching experience. She taught at Columbus Jr. High and at Platte Campus of Central Community College. "I always liked school and now I like working with younger kids," Hueschen said about her teaching.

Hueschen grew up near Monroe and graduated from Monroe High School. She attended Kearney State College and received her B.S. degree. She returned to the Monroe area and married Lee, her high school sweetheart, eighteen years ago.

She has four children: Amy-13, Quinn-10, and Scott and Derek two-year old twins. Hueschen enjoys spending time with her family, quilting, reading, skiing, and cooking. After her children grow up, she would like to pursue her long-term goals of getting her master's degree and traveling with her husband. "I also want a clean house and a chance to get a little extra sleep," commented Hueschen with a laugh.

* * *

by Tiffany Codling

Mrs. Carmen Johnson, a new teacher at Scotus, is teaching 7th and 8th grade home economics, Religion 8, and Religion 10, which focuses on social issues.

After receiving her B.A. degree in Home Economics from UNL in 1983, Johnson worked as a teachers' aide at York Middle School.

After 4 months at Scotus, Johnson commented, "I like it at Scotus; I like the students and the staff, and I really feel Scotus has a lot going for it. It's really neat to see all the support Scotus receives from the parents and the community."

Johnson's major goal for the year is to get her students to feel that they can achieve and succeed in her classes. "I want them to get a positive self-concept of themselves and realize their own uniqueness."

Johnson's hobbies include sewing, swimming, and refunding by using coupons and rebates.

Johnson was born in Osceola and graduated from high school there. She and her husband Randy live in Stromsburg and belong to St. Vincent's Catholic Church in Osceola. "We live in Stromsburg because my husband teaches in York, and during the summer he farms with his dad 10 miles west of Stromsburg."

* * *

by Chris Placzek

One hundred one dalmations?! Not quite, but Miss Connie Felger, the new Spanish teacher, does own three dalmations: Jamy, Magnum, and Pepper. Felger's three dogs are only a small part of her busy schedule.

"Teaching is very time-consuming," Felger commented. She teaches five classes of Spanish I, II, and III. Felger first became interested in foreign language when her sister and brother-in-law moved to Germany. She learned through previous experiences that there are many Spanish-speaking people in the United States. Those experiences include many of the jobs she has held.

"I have been a candy packer in California, a computer librarian for an accounting firm, a bar manager and cocktail waitress in Lincoln and Missouri, and a police officer in Lincoln," said Felger.

She was the first uniformed police officer on the UNL campus following her graduation from the Grand Island Police Academy. Felger enjoyed the duties of a police officer, but the long days and irregular hours prevented her from spending time with family and friends. "I didn't like the crazy hours. It was too exhausting," Felger added.

She also said that she still finds time for her interests even though teaching requires many long hours. Felger was the assistant director of the all-school plays. "I ran all the errands," laughed Felger. As a child, she was "movie-star struck". Her interest in the theatre grew and drama became one of her fondest high school memories.

Teachers, Students Interact in T.A.

by Suzanna George

Charades, donuts, and birthday parties - all are part of the Teacher-Advisor program. T.A. is a time for students in grades seven through twelve to become better acquainted with each other and their T.A. teacher. Each T.A. group has two or three students from each grade and is held daily before first period.

The idea for T.A. came from a program in Seattle, Washington. According to Counselor Melanie Klingelhofer, T.A. was begun here because there was a need for better communication between teachers and students, a better relationship between the senior high and junior high students, and a better link between the school and home.

Last year students were randomly assigned to each T.A. At the end of last year, the students had a chance to select three teachers they would like for T.A., and at least three-fourths of the students got one of their choices. The seventh grade was randomly assigned.

There is a very wide variety of T.A. activities. The most common and best liked are Pictionary, Win, Lose, or Draw, and eating donuts. Some other activities are 4-Dimensional Tic-Tac-Toe, charades and scavenger hunts. There are also basic activities, discussions, and just plain study halls. Contests and tournaments are common between T.A.s, with the losing T.A. bringing donuts. And some T.A.s have special days when the students may invite friends.

When asked how she liked T.A., Jenny Hansen, a junior said, "I like it a lot. A lot of kids really get involved."

Ethan Shunk, a seventh grader, said, "I like it a lot because it's fun to be with my friends."

But, not everyone feels that T.A. is wonderful. Mr. Merlin Lahm, math instructor and T.A. advisor, commented, "As an individual, I like T.A. We have fun. It's probably okay not to always have our noses to the grindstone. On the other hand, as an educator, we often hear about time on task. T.A. is not academic time on task."

However, students feel that T.A. is a terrific activity.

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Mock Trial Season Adjourns

by Gina Lesiak

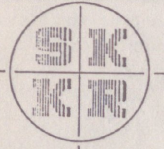
Twenty-four Scotus students competed on three Mock Trial teams this fall. The case involved a freshman girl who was killed during a physical education class. She was hit in the head by a golf club, and her mother sued the school for negligence. The case was true, but was interpreted for the use of Mock Trial teams.

Each team had attorneys, witnesses, and a coach. During the competitions, three students played the roles of attorneys while the remaining students acted as witnesses for the case. Members of the Green Team, coached by Attorney Gene Schumacher, were seniors Tom Fehring, Andy Hittner, Brian Hittner, Traci Langan, Matt Rinkol, Eric Wemhoff, Amy Whitehead, and sophomore Matt Naughtin. Members of the Gold Team, coached by Attorney Clark Grant, were juniors Kris Almquist, Cory Christiansen, Brett Heimes, Mark Keating, Jon Kubler, Joey Quattrocchi, Rachelle Schieffer, and Aaron Shunk. The White Team, coached by Judge John Whitehead, were sophomores Shawn Diederich, Jenny Fremarek, Amy Held, Holly Hunter, Jeff Loseke, Jenna Mullin, Jennifer O'Neill, and Kelly Slusarski.

All teams won their opening round and hoped to win districts. The Green Team defeated Lindsay; the Gold, Monroe, and the White; Silver Creek. But in the next competitions, all three teams lost. Genoa, Albion, and Howells triumphed over the Green, Gold, and White respectively.

Although the Mock Trial teams did not make it to the district competition, senior attorney Tom Fehring said, "Mock Trial is a fun and interesting way to experience court situations." Sophomore witness Holly Hunter said, "It was a real learning experience. I had a lot of fun."

Advisor Jack Sadle feels Mock Trial has a great effect on the future of team members. "I know for sure that anybody who took part in the Mock Trial program will know at least ten times more about the American judicial process than most Americans do," said Sadle.



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Secret Gifts Surprise Teachers

by Megan Liebenritt

With Christmas approaching, FBLA once again played Secret Santas this year. The 120 members of the organization paired up and were assigned a faculty member for whom they secretly left small messages and gifts during the last week of school before Christmas vacation.

The Secret Santa activity has been conducted by the FBLA for several years. The "Santas" have left such gifts as candy, cookies, balloons, and occasional clues to reveal their identities. The teachers then have all week to try to identify their Secret Santas. According to secretary Kathy Kruse, "It doesn't matter what the gift is; it's just the whole idea that makes it really neat."

Not only do the teachers enjoy the surprises, but the students find it very exciting as well. Junior Rachelle Schieffer said, "It's fun to sneak into the teacher's room to leave them little surprises." She also added, "It's fun to play innocent by asking the teacher where they got their gifts, when it's actually from you."

The Secret Santa project was one of the many FBLA activities this semester. Mayor Larry Marik was a guest speaker at a special night meeting in late November. He spoke to the students on the importance of free-enterprise.

The group also took the responsibility of concessions during the football season. Other group activities have included a Fall Leadership Conference in Grand Island and a hayrack ride and hot/dog roast.

FBLA officers are: Tim Schmitt, president; Chad Pinger, vice president; Traci Langan, secretary; Gina Lesiak, treasurer; Angie Wessel, reporter; Brenda Kolas, parliamentarian; and Andrea Duren, historian. Business instructors Jan Went and Cheryl Rambour are the sponsors.



Clara Fletcher is shown taking Shannon Ternus's lunch ticket earlier this year.

Co-Workers Reminisce About Clara

by Tiffany Codling

Mrs. Cathy Hilger, an employee in the Scotus cafeteria for 16 years, was named Food Service Manager following the unexpected death of Mrs. Clara Fletcher last month, according to Superintendent Duane Gross.

Fletcher, who was 91, had managed the food service at Scotus for the past thirty-two years.

When reminiscing about Fletcher, Gross said, "She loved children, and she loved to cook for them. Her absolute joy was coming to work everyday. Clara had a young heart, and she was a tough manager."

Her responsibilities included: ordering food, planning menus, filling out government reports, handling receipts and disbursements, managing personnel, and making certain all meals were nutritious and balanced for the 1,000 people she fed daily. Meals for St. Bonaventure, Head Start, District 10 and Immanuel Lutheran schools were also prepared in the Scotus kitchen.

Her successor provided a more intimate picture of Clara. "Clara always told us that the students were important, and it was important to keep up the quality and get new products to keep students interested," said Hilger. "There will not be any major changes. She was a great teacher; I learned a lot from her," continued Hilger.

Fletcher lived her entire life in Nebraska. She was born and raised in Elba, and in 1937 she moved to Columbus from Millard with her husband. On her 90th birthday Governor Kay Orr made Fletcher an Admiral in the Nebraska Navy. Mayor Larry Marik signed a proclamation making January 5, 1988, Clara Fletcher Day in Columbus.

Gross continued, "Clara was not a proud person who wanted a lot of recognition. She had high expectations of everyone. Clara did what she loved to do until the day she died, and that's the way she wanted it to be."

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